



The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

Fellowship with President Lincoln following annual meeting

The Kidron Community Historical Society will hold its annual meeting on February 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the upper level of the Heritage Center. Following the business portion of the meeting, Abraham Lincoln impersonator Gerald Payne will appear as if it were April 14, 1865, Good Friday.



Impersonator Gerald Payne in costume as Abraham Lincoln.

On the Sunday before the events of April 14, Palm Sunday, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General U.S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, bringing the long-awaited end of the Civil War.

In the reenactment of the evening of April 14, 1865, President and Mrs. Mary Lincoln will be attending the Ford Theatre in Washington, D.C., to watch their production of *Our American Cousin*. General Grant and his wife will accompany President and Mrs. Lincoln to the theater.

The President is looking forward to a restful evening before beginning to formulate plans to restore our nation to brotherhood and to work toward a future without the division of slavery. The president's time with us will be limited, but he will allow some time for questions.

This may be President Lincoln's only visit to Kidron, so make plans to attend.

Kidron's collections on display in 2010

The 2010 annual display will be titled *Kidron Collects*, featuring collections of our members and/or local residents. If you are interested in loaning your collection for the nine months of the display, please call Wayne Liechty before noon at 330-857-7211 to see if there is still display space available.

Lehman notebook a valuable addition

After years of compiling information about everyone who is buried in the Sonnenberg Church cemetery, James O. Lehman, author of *Sonnenberg: A Haven and A Heritage*, has graciously donated a copy of his work to the Kidron Community Historical Society. The society is thrilled to accept and accession this wonderful record. It is titled *Sonnenberg Mennonite Church Cemetery Grave Markers and Family Connections, Kidron, Ohio*.

Lehman's latest book is a comprehensive report of the cemetery that was begun in 1861 with information from numerous and varied sources. Along with a long list of sources of individual family information, James gives special tribute to the following local sources: Deacon Jacob J. Moser, H. Clair Amstutz and SAGA (Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association), a phenomenal database compiled and maintained by Roger Geiser and his son Robert.

Anyone is welcome to stop in and browse through this priceless record.

Reserve this date

The Kidron Community Historical Society's annual members banquet will be held on Tuesday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Building. Invitations will be mailed in late March. To receive an invitation, members must have paid their 2010 annual dues or be lifetime or Heritage Club members.

The Smithsonian comes to Kidron

The Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center was honored to host the Smithsonian Institution's traveling display *Between Fences* from October 20 through November 17 as part of its Museum on Main Street program. The 2009 KCHS annual display, *Good Fences Make Good Neighbors*, was designed by curator Allyson Leisy to complement the visiting exhibit.

Between Fences contained numerous interactive components such as peepholes, sliding fences, see-through items and interesting signs explaining the significance of different types of boundaries.

Approximately 50 people turned out for the October 19 Grand Opening. During the course of the exhibit, more than 500 people signed the guest book. Additionally five tours, totaling 137 people, were scheduled.

The display examined the history and significance of fences in the United States using hands-on exhibits designed to be interesting to visitors of all ages.

Between Fences was the second Smithsonian display Kidron has hosted. The first was *Barn Again* which was part of the 1997 annual display.



Five-year-old Elizabeth Nussbaum peers through a peephole in a picket fence (left) and experiments with decorative house fences (below) on the night of the grand opening.



Sonnenberg Village develops, despite snow and cold

The Sonnenberg Village site may appear to be dormant as it lies under a blanket of snow, but looks can be deceiving. The village continues to grow as volunteers perform the countless tasks that take place behind the scenes.

The Dan Rufener family spent most of October and November disassembling a summer house on the Dan and Phebe (Steiner) Wesman farm and putting it under cover in Sonnenberg Village. When the weather improves in the spring, the family will begin putting it back up on its new site.

In the spring the College of Wooster will be contracted to do wood testing on some of our buildings to determine their age. Already the Tschantz (Schantz) family has had the Tschantz Log Cabin tested and family lore was verified as the College confirmed that it was built in 1824. This should make the cabin one of the oldest surviving wood structures in Wayne County.

Planning for future growth also is occurring. The first meeting of the Energy Technology Committee was held on January 16 at the Heritage Center. This committee is designing an electric and heating system for the village which should keep us from relying on commercial power suppliers as much as possible and also serve as a test case and a model for others who want to develop environmentally-friendly energy supplies.

Other committees will spend the winter planning for other buildings which may be moved to the village later this year. With so many key projects underway, 2010 should be an exciting year in the village.

Visit our website at
www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

Welcome New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

Janet Berger–Massillon
Dan and Doris Cartwright–
Orrville
Kandace Helmuth–Akron, Pa.
Helen Hofstetter–Apple Creek
Wilbur and Sandra Lehman–
Roaming Shores
Chester and Charlotte Miller–
Dalton
Kay Schlabach–Sarasota, Fla.
Stanley and Ruth Steffen–
Silverton, Ore.

Are you sure you're a member?

If you pay your KCHS membership dues annually, please check the date on your address label. If it says 2009 or earlier, your annual membership for 2010 is past due.

An alternative to paying yearly would be to upgrade to a Life Membership for a one-time payment of \$250 or a Heritage Club Membership for a one-time \$1,000 payment. Heritage Club members' names are listed on the Heritage Club Board at the Center.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please write, phone or email us of your decision to be taken off the mailing list.

KCHS to host genealogists

The Kidron Historical Society is hosting this year's Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association (SAGA) annual meeting on Saturday, May 1 at the Kidron Community Building. The event begins at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and donuts. All KCHS members are invited to this important gathering of people devoted to preserving genealogical data. For more information about SAGA, visit their website at saga.ncweb.com/



German Hymn Sings

Kidron Korner
by Celia Lehman

When I was young we always spoke Swiss at home. But when we went to church, all the preaching and singing was done in German. The reason I was given was that Swiss is not a written language so they used the Bible and songbooks written in German. Cleophas Amstutz, Jacob Moser and Jacob Neuenschwander all preached in German. Clifford Gerber's grandfather, David Hofstetter, John P. Lehman and his son David Lehman led the singing using German hymnals.

I can still hear Martha Sommer and her sister Hulda Amstutz resonate their rich alto voices to sing "Ich weisz einen Strom" on page 195 or "Hallelujah! Schoner Morgen" on page 1. At the time, it was taken for granted that everyone knew "Gott ist die Liebe" on page 29.

As time went on, the German language faded from use and the English language became predominant. But the older folks didn't let go of their fervor for four-part harmony. Men on the Kidron Community Council such as Dave Geiser and George Bixler started having community German hymn sings that filled the churches on Sunday afternoons. Paul Neuenschwander invited the German-speaking church in Cleveland to join. They often furnished special music. However, these hymn-sings discontinued after two or three years.

Now it is fortunate to hear the German New Year's Song still used to herald the New Year as new English hymnals have taken the place of German hymnals and rhythmic contemporary singing accompanied by a rhythmic band is rivaling a capella hymn singing. One can find literally hundreds of German books filed away in the Kidron Sonnenberg Heritage Center. Perhaps a revival of interest in the German language will take place in the future.

CommuniTree auction and meal give funds a boost

On October 17, more than 150 people participated in the fundraising meal and CommuniTree auction held at the Kidron Community Building. Twenty-three items made especially for the 2008 annual display were auctioned for a total price tag of \$2,810 which benefitted the KCHS endowment fund. The nearly \$1000 garnered by the fundraising meal went to the KCHS operating fund.



Left: Rich Nussbaum, KCHS treasurer, assists auctioneer Lynn Neuenschwander. The walnut cabinet in front which sold for \$450 was made and donated by Ray Nussbaum. Right: KCHS president Wayne Liechty holds a cherry burl bowl made and donated by Bob Schloneger which sold for \$475.

Thank you to our October, November and December volunteers!

Dean Ab-Hugh
Ada Amstutz
Judy Amstutz
Esther Falb
Nancy Ganyard
Anna Gehman
John Gehman
Amos Geiser
Roger Geiser
Glenford Gerber
Leora Gerber
Ann Groh
Glen Groh
Carolyn Haas
Gail Johnson
Gloria Kaufmann
Eldon King
Nancy King
Eldon Kornhaus
Eileen Lehman
John Lehman
Shirley Lehman
Don Miller
Glenn Miller
Bill Moser
Clarence Neuenschwander
Curt Nussbaum
Gloria Nussbaum
Bernice Nussbaum
Bessie Nussbaum
Delvin Nussbaum
Heinz Peter
Rosa Peter
Ella Rohrer
Vernon Shoup
Ellen Sprunger
Fritz Sprunger
Janet Sprunger
Bud Steiner
Jean Steiner
Clayton Steiner
Walter Steiner
Cindy Strubbe
Carol Yoder

Special thanks to all volunteers who worked the extended hours of the Smithsonian traveling exhibit.

Kidron Community Historical Society
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 kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com

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Winter 2010



Board Members

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 Vice President Glenn Gerber
 Treasurer Richard Nussbaum
 Secretary Gloria Kaufmann
 Membership Chairperson Leora Gerber
 Board Members Fritz Sprunger, J. Augspurger
 Director Prudy Steiner
 Bit o' Vit Editor Kris Nussbaum

Membership Fees

Individual Annual Member \$15
 Husband and Wife Annual Member \$25
 Organization Annual Member \$35
 Individual Life Member \$250
 Heritage Club Member \$1000 or more

**Annual memberships are due every January.
 Thank You!**

The Kidron Community Historical Society of Kidron, Ohio, founded in 1977, operates under the nonprofit charter granted by the State of Ohio. Your tax deductible gifts will help secure the future of the Historical Society and give you a part in preserving the heritage of this unique community. A reminder will be sent when annual memberships become due each January.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Type of Membership _____
 General Donation _____

Send checks to Kidron Community Historical Society • Box 234 • Kidron, OH 44636

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting and Lincoln Presentation

Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.

Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center

Heritage Center opens

Thursday, April 1, 11:00 a.m.

Members Banquet

Tuesday, April 27, 6:30 p.m.

Kidron Mennonite Fellowship Building

followed by 2010 annual display grand opening

SAGA meeting

Saturday, May 1, 9:00 a.m.

Kidron Community Building

**Kidron-Sonnenberg
 Heritage Center**

13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

HOURS

CLOSED JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH

APRIL–MAY, SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER

Thursday and Saturday

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

JUNE–AUGUST

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Call 330-857-9111

for group tours or special arrangements