



The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

Members banquet kicks off KCHS season

The 14th annual KCHS members banquet was held on April 27 at the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Building. Guests sat at tables adorned with floral centerpieces made by Carol Brubaker and were served by local volunteers, including several KCHS board members.

After dinner, Heritage Center Director Prudy Steiner recognized the volunteers who had worked more than ten hours in 2009, and pointed out the many who had worked a remarkable number of hours. Of special note was Bernice Nussbaum with 1,040 hours. Steiner also noted several new volunteers, as well as volunteers who are no longer able to work due to declining health or who have passed away.

Auctioneer Joseph Mast teased and coaxed members as they bid on various items, many of them handmade. A surprise auction item that appeared at the last minute was a loaf of Bessie Nussbaum's homemade bread which sold for \$70. The auction brought in more than \$2,200, with Lynn Sommer's Fraktur print selling for \$700.

Gordon Amstutz shared his collection of slides of vanity license plate with the guests as a devotional and prelude to the grand opening of the 2010 Heritage Center display, *Kidron Collects*. Following the banquet, many banquet attendees enjoyed viewing the display.



Sarah Geiser, one of KCHS's youngest members, views Carol Haven's collection of kitchen primitives.



Everyone is having a good time as auctioneer Joseph Mast playfully prompts bidders into digging a little deeper into their wallets for the privilege of taking home one of Wade Wilcox's matted prints.



Jason Nussbaum investigates Raymond Steiner's advertising pen display—a mere fraction of his entire collection.



From the Director's Desk by Prudy Steiner

A daily practice of our ancestors was to be frugal, and many of us still are today. We at the Historical Society also believe in being frugal, which led to the decision that the board and I have agreed upon.

Over the years our mailing list has grown to be quite large. It is a blessing to have so many friends who take an interest in the work of KCHS. However, fewer than half of the people on this long list are members or supporters.

The obvious conclusion in our current economy and given the cost of producing and sending out our quarterly newsletters, is that it is time to take a serious look at this list. Our plans are to cut it back to include only those who are members or have recently been involved in our society in some way.

This will not be an easy or fun process since it involves the removal of many of our local friends and family members. This is the last *Bit o' Vit* that many of you will be receiving unless you make an effort to reconnect with our KCHS before we mail the next issue in October. I, along with the board, hope you choose to partner with us in keeping our heritage alive.

Sonnenberg Village update

This has already been a busy year. B.E. Hofstetter Excavating began work on a drainage system and the installation of a rain garden. The rain garden will be in the center of the village and was designed by Rebecca Little and OARDC. Other gardening work has been taking place at the village entrance, alongside Hackett Road. The same group of volunteers who planned and installed that landscaping area has also planted a garden near the cabin.



The Akron Black Stockings Base Ball Club will be returning to Kidron to face local teams on August 14.

The Lehman Spring House was moved into the village in May (see opposite page) and work on the foundation is set to begin. Finishing touches on the Tschantz Log Cabin are also expected to take place this summer. Other summer plans include installing underground natural gas and electric lines throughout the village.

Plan to attend the homecoming on August 14 for a fun afternoon of baseball and food in Sonnenberg Village. It will be a good opportunity to see all work that is taking place. Details are listed on page 4.

Recently Accessioned

1908 photo of Barbara Moser's farm sale, donated by Ann (Kratzer) Groh

Toy cupboard, donated by Mary Rose (Sommer) Garman

Late 1940's photo of the Saurer Blacksmith Shop, donated by Ronald Rex Raber

Kidron Mennonite Church's records of their mission work at Dillonvale, donated by Cora (Mrs. Carl) Gerber

Nut Tree advertising items (mug, bag clip, note pads), donated by Ray & Joan Nussbaum

Welcome New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

Doris Begly—Glendale, Ariz.
Amos and Erma Geiser—Dalton
Scott and Nicole Myers—Orrville
Keith and Bev Schloneger—
Dundee
Paul and Janie Snoddy—Wooster
Lyle Troyer—Wellington

Want to continue receiving the *Bit o' Vit*? Renew your membership or join KCHS to stay current on KCHS happenings!

Visit our website at
www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

Annual SAGA meet- ing hosted in Kidron

The annual Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association (SAGA) meeting was held at the Kidron Park Community Building on Saturday, May 1, 2010. Fifty-five persons, the largest group ever, attended from Ohio, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Chairperson Troye Kauffman welcomed the group. Kidron Community Historical Society hosted the event under the direction of Roger Geiser. Heritage Center Director Prudy Steiner brought greetings from the KCHS.

Several local speakers were on the program. James O. Lehman introduced his new Sonnenberg Mennonite Church Cemetery book project. Raymond Leisy gave an update on the Sonnenberg Village historic restoration project and Bob Geiser explained more about SAGA behind the scenes.

In the afternoon many of the participants toured the Heritage Center. This was a great networking opportunity for those who do genealogical work, and a chance to share the work of KCHS.

Sonnenberg Village grows, one road trip at a time



Above: The Lehman Spring House raised up on blocks, next to its original site. Right: Heading up Schneck Hill on Zuercher Road, toward Sonnenberg Village. Below: The spring house arrives at its new home. It is now located to the west of its long-time companion, the Lehman House.



Thank you to our April, May and June volunteers!

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

Thanks to our members banquet sponsors!

Bob Graber Auctioneer
 Eastwood Manufacturing Ltd.
 First National Bank, Kidron Office
 G & G Farms
 Gerber Feed Service
 Gerber Lumber and Hardware
 Gerber Wood Products
 Gerber's Poultry, Inc.
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 P. Graham Dunn
 P.A.W.S. Cheese & Deli Shop
 R & C Farms
 Raber & Raber LLC
 Schloneger Ice Cream
 Village Printing Inc.
 Weyrauch's Pharmacy

In memoriam

Anna Sommer Amstutz volunteered from 1997-2006, putting in almost 100 hours as she passed 100 years of age. Emma Gonter volunteered a total of 256 hours. Both Emma and Anna were avid quilters and always happy to meet people. At age 95, Myron Martin had put in 144 hours and still wanted to volunteer. He was knowledgeable about genealogy and always willing to help out. Their willingness to greet, meet and inform our visitors will be missed.

Kidron Community Historical Society
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Summer 2010



Board Members

President Wayne Liechty
 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.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Type of Membership _____
 General Donation _____

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

Mark your calendars
Third Annual
Sonnenberg Village Homecoming
 Saturday, August 14, 2010

11:00 music

12:00 and 2:00 baseball games:
 local teams vs. Akron Black Stockings

Sonnenberg Mennonite Church food trailer

Schloneger's Homemade Ice Cream

Bring your family and your lawn chairs

Kidron-Sonnenberg
Heritage Center
 13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

HOURS
JUNE–AUGUST
 Thursday, Friday and Saturday
 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

APRIL–MAY, SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER
 Thursday and Saturday
 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CLOSED JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH

Call 330-857-9111
for group tours or special arrangements