



## The Kidron Community Historical Society

### Last call: *Kidron Collects* is departing soon!

The 2010 annual display, *Kidron Collects*, is in its sixth month and has grown since its debut in April. The latest addition is a display of small items made by Glenford Gerber from many different kinds of wood, including several exotic varieties. If you haven't seen the display since the night of the members' banquet, be sure to visit again to see all the beautiful and interesting items that have been added since then.



Some of Glenford Gerber's handmade wooden items, several of which are made from exotic woods.

### Old-fashioned fun at Sonnenberg Homecoming

The Swiss Echoes featuring Leora Gerber, Elizabeth Geiser and Barb Steiner played their accordions while wearing authentic Swiss costumes to open the third annual Sonnenberg Homecoming on August 14. Fare from the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church's food trailer and Schloneger's Homemade Ice Cream was available.

The Akron Black Stockings Base Ball Club was on hand to play two local teams. The first game, against the Kidron Nine, went to the Black Stockings with a score of 9-5. The second game, the Black Stockings versus Kidron United, was won by Kidron United, 14-13. When asked why he plays for the Black Stockings rather than a regular team, one player said he prefers the old way of playing—like gentlemen.

According to tradition, the gear used is minimal—no gloves (players catch balls with their bare hands), a slightly larger and softer ball than the type used today, and a thin bat.



The umpire explained the rules of baseball and expectations of good sportsmanship. More photos on page 2.

### Sonnenberg Village fundraising under way

Under the leadership of Milton Troyer and the Sonnenberg Village Planning Committee, fundraising has begun. The focus for 2011 will be moving the Sonnenberg Church and the Saurer Blacksmith Shop to the Sonnenberg Village site.

The campaign is emerging from its planning stages and will be presented to the public in the months ahead. The system that has been designed is to allow donors to designate their contributions, whether monetary, in-kind or labor, toward the completion of specific projects within the village, or to contribute toward a general fund that can be drawn on for upkeep and other costs.

The third Sonnenberg Church, built in 1907, can be moved and restored for a projected cost of \$100,000. It will be open to the public, with possible uses being a prayer chapel and a gathering place for special events such as hymn sings.

Acquiring the Saurer Blacksmith Shop, constructed in 1906, is a unique opportunity for Sonnenberg Village because it still contains all of Floyd R. Saurer's blacksmithing tools. Curt Nussbaum, Eldon Kornhaus, Bob Gerber, Vilas Bixler and Wayne H. Miller have carefully cleaned and cataloged the tools and moved them to storage. The projected cost of dismantling, moving and restoring the blacksmith shop is \$50,000.

Please contact Milt Troyer at 330-857-5193 or the Heritage Center at 330-857-9111 if you would like to hear more about this exciting opportunity to be a part of the Sonnenberg Village legacy.

# Sonnenberg Village update

Looking at Sonnenberg Village from the road may cause one to imagine that nothing much happened this summer to move closer to the dream's fulfillment. But a closer look would reveal a number of exciting changes. The following is a partial list of projects begun or completed in the village in 2010.



1. The front entrance (see photo to the left) was landscaped by volunteers using bright-colored, donated plants.
2. A 400-foot drain line was installed along the rain garden.
3. A second road was created.
4. A retaining berm was installed and has been approved by the EPA.
5. A portion of the village has been seeded with grass and is now being mowed in order to present an orderly appearance to visitors.



6. Two of the seven sections of the rain garden were installed and are operational with plants donated by OARDC. There is a chance that two more sections will be completed soon. (See photo at bottom left.)
7. The plan of completing the grounds in preparation for placement of buildings in the spring of 2011 was accomplished.
8. The Heritage Garden had a successful season and has been harvested. Plans are underway to add a butterfly garden, a period herb garden and a bluebird walk. If you have interest in helping with any of these projects please contact Prudy Steiner at 330-857-9111.

More than one picnicker was spotted in the village this summer. Feel free to visit and enjoy the village too.

## Recently Accessioned

- Ink blotter advertising Kidron News, donated by Jan Sohar
- Crazy comforter, donated by Ethel Zuercher Miller
- E.P. Gerber painting of Jericho, donated by Glenford Gerber
- Barb wire, donated by Lloyd & Esther Lehman
- Scrapbook and record book of Jacob J. Bixler, donated by John Sommer
- Oxen yoke, donated by the David Steffen family
- Post office flag, donated by Donovan Huntsberger
- Dust pan advertising Kenny's Store, donated by Fred Gerber
- Genealogy book, *Descendants of Moses S. Miller & Mary Miller*, donated by Abner & Terry Schlabach

## Welcome New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

- Bud and Cathy Berger–Lebanon
- Dorothy Gerber–Dalton
- Ellis J. Gerber–Mountain Lake, Minn.
- Dorothy Hartzler–Millersburg
- Jeff Lehman–San Francisco, Calif.
- Sandy Moser McIlvaine–Wadsworth
- Conrad Neuenschwander–Apple Creek
- Harry and Viola Neuenschwander –Salem

Renewal of all annual memberships is due on January 1. See page 4 for costs and other renewal information.

Visit our web site at [www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org)

## Scenes from Sonnenberg Village's homecoming



Local players formed Kidron United to play against the Black Stockings. Back: Roger Steiner, Derek Reinhardt, Alex Steiner, William Gerber, Todd Zuercher, Darren Gerber; front: Veryl Kratzer, Brian Steiner, Amos Kratzer and Curvin Steiner.



The Swiss Echoes, Barb Steiner, Leora Gerber and Elizabeth Geiser, played traditional Swiss tunes and hymns.





## Swiss holiday traditions

**Kidron Korner**  
by Celia Lehman

Our Swiss ancestors were practical. They didn't follow secular trends that called for exchanging costly Christmas gifts; nor did they decorate their homes with trees or lavish decorations. If Santa's picture appeared on the front of a magazine, Mom would promptly tear it up and place it in the waste basket.

Instead the family observed the reason for the season—the coming of Jesus Christ to earth—with fellow believers in the church. The service included joyful Christmas carols, reading of the scripture or children performing a special program.

There were many family activities. The night before Christmas, the children were told to place their plates where they usually sat to eat at the table. In the morning they hurried to see what was on their plates. The girls clasped new handkerchiefs, the boys new pencils. All children found an orange and some ribbon candy.

When school was dismissed for vacation, the children would help bake and decorate Christmas cookies. The family would send out Christmas cards to distant relatives and friends. They were always ready to help others, especially those who would have to spend Christmas alone.

Children waited with joyful hope for the gathering of close family circles. Their mouths watered at the thought of the good food and grimaced at the thought that they were expected to sing or have a special poem for all the relatives. They loved playing games such as "Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?" with the cousins. Then Grandma would give each grandchild a small bird that she had made out of scrap material or show Grandpa's painted picture to be hung on the wall.

When the snow was deep, Dad or Grandpa would bring out the horse, clad with bells and hitched to an open sleigh. When all the family wanted to ride, a bobsled was used to slide across the open fields.

The next holiday was the coming of the New Year. On New Year's Eve the young people of the church would serenade each household with a musical home blessing. No one was to be missed so sometimes the children would be awakened at 3:00 in the morning to hear the serenaders.

May we, like our ancestors, create treasured memories that last a lifetime.

### Want to do something fun and rewarding? Volunteer!

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." Volunteering for KCHS is a great way to live that out. Take the opportunity to learn a new skill, meet new people, give back to our community, find a new hobby and develop a sense of achievement. Call Prudy or Leora at 330-857-9111 to discuss ways you can be a part of the ongoing work of KCHS and Sonnenberg Village.

### Year-end giving an important way to support KCHS

With January 1, 2011, looming in the not-so-distant future, it's time to think about charitable tax deductions and year-end gifts. Donations to KCHS help fund displays, the Heritage Center, Sonnenberg Village and a host of other worthwhile projects. We appreciate being included in your year-end giving.

Thank you to our July,  
August and September  
volunteers!

Dean Ab-Hugh  
Ada Amstutz  
Judy Amstutz  
Peg Dorffer  
Esther Falb  
Anna Gehman  
John Gehman  
Amos Geiser  
Dave Gerber  
Glenford Gerber  
Leora Gerber  
Ann Groh  
Glen Groh  
Carolyn Haas  
Gail Johnson  
Eldon King  
Nancy King  
Eileen Lehman  
John Lehman  
Shirley Lehman  
Don Miller  
Glenn Miller  
Bernice Nussbaum  
Bessie Nussbaum  
Judie Nussbaum  
Curt Nussbaum  
Gloria Nussbaum  
Delvin Nussbaum  
Heinz Peter  
Rosa Peter  
Ella Rohrer  
Kay Schlabach  
Carolyn Shoup  
Vernon Shoup  
Fritz Sprunger  
Janet Sprunger  
Bud Steiner  
Jean Steiner  
Clayton Steiner  
Walter Steiner  
Cindy Strubbe  
Sandi Suttle  
Meg Wilkins  
Carol Yoder

**Kidron Community Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 234**

**Kidron, Ohio 44636**

330-857-9111

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Fall 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*

**In the Gift Shop**



See these items and more on our web site,  
[www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org).

To place an order, call the Heritage Center at 330-857-9111 or email [kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com](mailto:kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com).

**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**