



## The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

### Annual meeting to answer Sonnenberg Village riddles

Everyone involved in creating Sonnenberg Village is waiting excitedly for the annual business meeting to hear the answer to some questions.

Although historical records give approximate dates of construction for the Lehman House and Spring House, there is no historical information concerning the Wesman Summer House. In fall of 2010, students under the direction of Professor Greg Wiles, Assistant Professor of Geology at the College of Wooster, examined wood beams from the three buildings in an attempt to date each structure.

Two years ago, Professor Wiles and his students established a base line for wood buildings from the Kidron area. At the request of the Tschantz family, Wiles and his proteges confirmed family records showing that the Tschantz Cabin was built in 1824.

Using that same baseline, the students have been able to date all three buildings sampled in 2010. At the 2011 annual meeting, Professor Wiles and his students will explain the wood dating process, and reveal the construction dates of the three buildings in question. Even the KCHS board members have not yet heard his revelations.

This will be an exciting meeting of discovery, so join us on Tuesday, February 22, at 7:00 at the Heritage Center. Refreshments will follow.

### Mennonite Milestones in Kidron

The grand opening of the 2011 KCHS display will follow the members banquet on April 26. This year, the display will celebrate Mennonite organizations in Kidron that are celebrating milestone anniversaries.

The following is a list of featured organizations, their anniversary and the people who will create their organization's exhibit.

- Salem Mennonite Church: 125 years by Carolyn Fitzwater and Maxine Hershberger
- Kidron Mennonite Church: 75 years by Emily Fielitz, Clayton Steiner and Judie Nussbaum
- Central Christian School: 50 years by Bob Troyer and his middle school social studies students
- World Crafts: 20 years by Lisa Zuercher
- MCC Connections: 10 years by Marleen Reinhardt and Bill Ressler

Each organization will create a display including their history, photos, and interesting facts.

### 15th annual members banquet

KCHS's 15th annual members banquet on Tuesday, April 26 will offer all members a delicious meal, a program introducing the new annual display and wonderful auction items to bid on.

One members auction item will be a fraktur by Lynn Sommer in memory of Glen Lapp, who attended her church before being killed in Afghanistan while serving under MCC (see photo at right). It is titled "O Healing River," a song Glen requested that their church sing so he could record it to listen to while gone. A more complete auction list will appear in the spring *Bit o' Vit*.

Invitations will be mailed in March to current members. The address label on this newsletter will help you determine if you are an up-to-date member. If your label reads "2011," you are a current annual member who will receive an invitation. Life or Heritage Club Members will not see any date on their labels, and they will receive an invitation. Anything other than that means your membership needs to be renewed or activated in order to receive an invitation to the banquet. Call 330-857-9111 with questions.

As well as checking the status of your membership, please send us any changes in your address. KCHS is charged a fee each time the post office returns a newsletter with or without an address correction.



## Sonnenberg Village end-of-year project finishes building

The basement of the Lehman Spring House was completed in late 2010. Since funds were unavailable for a last-minute project, KCHS board members and directors successfully undertook the challenge of coming up with funds.

Weather permitting, stop for a look. The work is beautifully done. Someday a water trough will be installed in the basement with a re-circulating pump so people can experience a simulation of a working spring house.



## Thank you to our 2010 donors

Due to the terrific response to our year-end appeal, the board decided to publicly thank in the *Bit o'Vit* our many supporters who were credited with donations to KCHS between January 1 and December 31, 2010. We apologize if we accidentally missed anyone. KCHS thanks you all for your most generous support.

This list does not diminish the donations that so many of you have given in the past that unfortunately have not been publicly acknowledged. All past donations have been so very much appreciated and needed. Neither does the list include our loyal members who pay their dues year after year or have become Life or Heritage Club Members. Truly, our members are the backbone of our society.

### *Ohio Donors:*

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Gerald & Patricia Tschantz  
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Warren & Barbara Tschantz  
Myrle J. Trefney

## Welcome New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

John and Sandy Amstutz–Kidron  
Ken Bixler–Holmesville  
Scott and Glenda Lehman Ervin–Doylestown  
Carol Geiser–Apple Creek  
Wilbur Haas–Navarre  
Lowell and Marty Hostetler–Bluffton  
Amos Lynn Hoover–Blain, Pa.  
Alfred D. and Dora Miller–Apple Creek  
J. Leslie Moser–Dalton  
Stan and Shirley Ross–Apple Creek  
Lavina Showalter–Dalton  
Pearl Taylor–Kidron

See the banquet article on page 1 for important information regarding 2011 membership.

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

### *Kevin & Marcia Trent*

Milt & Ann Troyer  
Village Printing Inc.  
Ben & Ada Mae Weaver  
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Harry & Meg Wilkins  
Alvin Withrich  
Steve & Joy Yoder  
Doris Zuercher

### *Out-of-state Donors:*

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## What Kidron farmers did in winter

**Kidron Korner**  
by Celia Lehman

Back in Grandpa's day there were no radios, televisions, driveable roads, or even daily newspapers. What did people back in the 20's do all winter?

In the interviews I conducted to find the answer, the most popular reply was that they butchered meat. A neighbor would come to help butcher a cow or two pigs and process the meat. Hams were either put in brine or salted down and hung on wires in the smoke house. Sausages were stuffed and canned in a canner, and lard rendered in the big black kettle over an open fire.

The second most popular response was chopping wood. The men and boys used a buzz or crosscut saw to cut the wood that was used in the cook stove and the pot-bellied stove in the living room. The excess was piled in long rows close to the house. The ashes from the firing had to be carried out in the coal bucket, thrown into the wind where the down draft would scatter them on the ground.

There were also machines to be fixed. The manure spreader had a broken chain, and the harrow had bent rakes. There were chicken and pig pens to be cleaned, straw and hay to be put down for the cows and horses, and manure to be taken to the pile outside. Twice a day the cows needed to be milked. The milk was not to be sold on Sunday so it was separated. The whey was fed to the pigs, and the cream made into butter or sold to the Orrville Milk Condensery.

There was ice to be cut from the creek or pond to be put into the icehouse for summer refrigeration. When the water froze in the wind pumps, hot water needed to be poured along the pump rods, then rags put around them and corn fodder stacked on top to avoid further freezing.

While the men and boys went into the woods to hunt for rabbits or squirrels and trap for ground hogs, the women and girls sewed or mended clothes or put stitches in a quilt. Each Saturday they baked pies, cake or cookies in the cook-stove oven.

There were walnuts to be cracked in the shop and farm sales to attend. They always took time to entertain the family with homemade games or eat pop corn under the light of a kerosene lamp. Each night the family would gather round to sing and pray together.

Everyone was in bed by 9:00. As the children hurried up the cold stairs, they'd hear a "good night, sleep tight," jump into bed to hear the wind howling through the window cracks, fall asleep and dream of the future that lay ahead of them.

*Thank you to John Gehman, William Nussbaum, Lloyd Lehman, and Frieda Amstutz for agreeing to be interviewed as I researched for this article.*



Celia Gerber Lehman rode this bobsled on a snowy Sunday afternoon in 1944.

### Thank you to our October, November and December volunteers!

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

### In Memoriam



Another treasured KCHS volunteer, Priscilla Falb of Orrville, recently passed away. Priscilla volunteered on and off since 1998 and worked more than 200 hours alongside her husband, George. She enjoyed stitching on the Heritage Center's quilt and sharing the history of Kidron with visitors.

Losing volunteers is a double-loss for KCHS: we not only lose a friend, but also a much-needed co-worker. Please consider stepping up to the challenge of these vibrant and generous people who feel that the work of KCHS is important enough to give their time to staff the Heritage Center. Contact Prudy Steiner at 330-857-9111 for more information.

**Kidron Community Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 234**

**Kidron, Ohio 44636**

330-857-9111

kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com

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Winter 2011



**Board Members**

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Board Members ..... Fritz Sprunger, J. Augspurger  
Director ..... Prudy Steiner  
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**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Would you like a receipt? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no (check one)

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

**Mark your calendars**

**Annual Meeting**

Tuesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m.  
Upstairs of the Heritage Center

**Heritage Center opens for season**

Saturday, April 2 at 11:00 a.m.

**15th Annual Members Banquet**

Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m.  
Kidron Mennonite Church  
Fellowship 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**