



Sonnenberg Village continues to grow

The wet spring season ended on a productive note with the completion of two more sections of the Rain Garden by a group of 12 students and several teachers from Central Christian School. They also completed the grass seeding, while the Interlude Garden, Butterfly Garden and Heritage Garden were all planted by other volunteers.

The Tschantz (Schantz) family have resumed their work on the cabin and expect to have it open for the Sonnenberg Homecoming. Work has also started on the site of the Saurer Blacksmith Shop in preparation for moving the shop to Sonnenberg Village. It is presently planned to have the shop moved and set on its foundation at the Sonnenberg Village before the homecoming.

A group of Amish volunteers are planning a roofing frolic to replace the roof on the Lehman House. In keeping with "going green," the shingles will have the appearance of wood shakes. They are made of the same recycled plastic material as the shingles on the Tschantz Log Cabin, and will carry a 50-year warranty.



A tree in front of the Saurer Blacksmith Shop has been taken down and final permits are being secured in preparation for moving the shop to Sonnenberg Village.



A team of boys from Central Christian School work on the lawn and gardens at Sonnenberg Village.

Sonnenberg Village Homecoming



Up River, a band featuring Dan Moorefield and Teresa Morrison, will perform at the homecoming.

The fourth annual Sonnenberg Homecoming will be held Saturday, August 13, at Sonnenberg Village. Up River will perform a variety of bluegrass, folk and Appalachian mountain music, and the Akron Black Stockings vintage baseball team will return to play a double header with two local teams: The Kidron Nine and Kidron United.

Between the two baseball games, the Interlude Garden will be dedicated in honor of the Leonard and Nada Geiser family.

The Tschantz Log Cabin is expected to be open for its public debut. And there will be great food and homemade ice cream available from stands operated by local folks.

This year we will be setting up a large tent. Bring your friends, and chairs or blankets, and join us for an afternoon of fun at Sonnenberg Village. Music begins at noon and the baseball games will be played at 1:00 and 3:00.

Good news!

Saurer Blacksmith Shop is moving

The project of moving the Saurer Blacksmith Shop to Sonnenberg Village can proceed immediately since it is now fully funded.

\$7,500 grant received

The Kidron Community Historical Society is the recipient of a \$7,500 grant from the John G. Taggart Unrestricted Fund, a component of the Wayne County Community Foundation, designated for the reconstruction and restoration of the Tschantz Log Cabin.

From the Director's Desk



Back in 2006, the KCHS was fortunate to have Kris Nussbaum take the job as editor of this quarterly newsletter. Kris has great talent as a writer and we have enjoyed working together. Five years and 21 issues later, Kris has taken a new part-time job and we wish her well.

We did not have to look far for a new editor; she was right in our midst. Judie Nussbaum is Kris's mother-in-law and the wife of our treasurer, Richard. With Judie's experience in writing and layout, she can easily step into this position. We welcome Judie and look forward to working with her.

Prudy Steiner, KCHS director



Kidron Korner

by Celia Lehman

Remembering Kidron-Sonnenberg traditions Threshing Days in the 1930's

When Johnny Steiner blew the whistle on his threshing machine tractor, all the farmers within a mile radius sprang into action. It was understood by the neighbors that they would take turns helping each other with threshing. Johnny had a schedule—first one farmer, and then the next until all the fields had been harvested.

Each farmer had a binder that he used to cut and bind the oat and wheat stalks into sheaves which were then stacked into shocks to dry. The last sheaf was bent and placed on top of the shock to let the rain run off. After several weeks of drying in the sun, the shocks were ready for threshing.

When Johnny arrived at the farm, he set up his threshing machine in the second story of the barn, close to the granary. A long belt was hooked up to the tractor at the base of the barn bank to power the thresher.

The men with their horses and wagons took turns going into the fields where other men waited to load the shocks onto the wagons. They took turns driving back to the barn bank where they emptied their loads onto the conveyer belt of the threshing machine. Other men filled bushel baskets with grain that they carried to the granary for storage.

The straw stalks blew out of the thresher onto the ground outside, forming a straw stack. A few men, who could tolerate the dust, scattered the straw.

Meanwhile the children of the family supplied drinking water, homemade root beer and lemonade to the thirsty men throughout the long, hard, hot and dusty day of labor in the barn and field.

The woman of the house prepared a dinner for the threshers. She could not be outdone by anyone else, so she labored hard to fry and bake chicken; dig, peel and mash potatoes; and prepare coleslaw, green beans, apple sauce, and lettuce salad from her garden. And of course she baked pies or cake to serve with fruit for dessert. When she set the table, she put on a clean white table cloth and her best china and silverware.

When dinner was ready, the threshing came to a halt, and the men came to wash their hands and faces under the plum trees where a bench stocked with basins of water, soap and towels was waiting.

The men filed into the kitchen laughing and joking, and ate heartily. When dinner was over, it was evident where each man had sat—dirty smudges from his clothing darkened the tablecloth at his place setting. Only after the men went back to work did the mother and her girls sit down to eat dinner.

What if it rained? Threshing was postponed, and the next farmer had to wait his turn. The prepared food was placed in crocks in the cold water trough in the spring house as there was no refrigeration.

And when they heard the whistle from Johnny's threshing machine coming down the road, the farmers knew the time had come to begin another day of threshing.



This threshing outfit, owned by Jacob Sommers, is much like the one owned by Johnny Steiner.

2011 Exhibit

Mennonite Milestones in Kidron



Children's Sunday School chairs in Kidron Mennonite Church's display celebrating 75 years. Local people are particularly invited to visit the *Mennonite Milestones in Kidron* exhibit during regular Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center hours.

Motorcyclists bike in from Australia



On their way around the world, Mark and Maggie Allenspach made a stop at the Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center.

It is not particularly unusual for summer visitors to arrive at the Heritage Center on a motorcycle, but they haven't, prior to the arrival of the Allenspachs, announced they have cycled in from Australia.

Mark and Maggie quickly filled us in on their captivating story. Married 30 years ago in their home country of Switzerland, they spent their honeymoon in Australia, and fell in love with the continent "down under." During the 30 years they lived in Australia, they ran a restaurant in the mountains and raised two children who are now grown and on their own.

Looking for a mid-life adventure, the Allenspachs sold their restaurant, packed their motorcycle's saddlebags and began the trip of their lives. About a year ago, they began traveling in Australia and have been cycling through Asian countries including Thailand, Iran, Pakistan, all of Europe, and are now traveling in the United States. After continuing through the States and Canada, the Allenspachs will cycle through Central America and into South America. When the time and place is right, they stop and work a bit to earn money so they can keep on traveling. Their plans are to fly back to Australia from Chile in about another 12 months.

On the day that Mark and Maggie visited the Heritage Center, Judy Amstutz and Clarence Neuenschwander were the volunteers on duty. They were thrilled to hear the Allenspach's stories, and Clarence had a terrific time conversing in Swiss with Mark and Maggie, even though they spoke perfect English.

Needless to say, the Allenspachs won the prize for being the guests from the farthest distance on the day in June they motorcycled into Kidron.

Annual members banquet



Auctioneer Joseph Mast declared, "Sold!" 13 times as the items on the auction block at the annual members banquet went to new owners, and brought a sale total of \$2,700. Before the auction, 252 guests enjoyed the meal of meatloaf, noodles, green beans, applesauce, cookies and homemade ice cream catered by Roy and Clara Yoder. Forty-five volunteers were honored with certificates or plaques for hours served at the Heritage Center.

Sincere thanks is extended to 33 local businesses which sponsored tables at the banquet.

MEMBERS BANQUET TABLE SPONSORS

Eastwood Manufacturing, Ltd.
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First National Bank, Kidron Office
G & G Farms
Gerber Feed Service
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Gerber Wood Products
Gerber's Poultry Inc.
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Real Estate Showcase
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Woodland Mulch, LLC

New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

Enos Amstutz, Orrville
Sue Gochnauer, Apple Creek
Ralph and Susan Hofstetter, Dalton

Herman Myers, Wooster
Bill and Edna Ressler, Dalton

Annual memberships are due for renewal on January 1. Check your mailing label to see if your membership is up-to-date. See page 4 for renewal information.

Kidron Community Historical Society
P.O. Box 234
Kidron, Ohio 44636

330-857-9111
 kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com

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Summer 2011



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Membership Fees

Individual Annual Member \$15
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 Individual Life Member \$250
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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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 Membership Fee \$ _____ General Donation \$ _____
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Send checks to Kidron Community Historical Society • Box 234 • Kidron, OH 44636

Upcoming Events

August 13

Sonnenberg Village Homecoming

13515 Hackett Road, Apple Creek
 (.2 mile east of Kidron Road)

11:30 Food stands open
 12:00 noon Live music by Up River
 1:00 Akron Black Stockings vs. Kidron Nine
 Between games Dedication of Interlude Garden
 3:00 Akron Black Stockings vs. Kidron United

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL ACTIVITIES!

December 31

Mennonite Milestones in Kidron exhibit closes

Visit our web site at www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

**Kidron-Sonnenberg
 Heritage Center**

13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

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

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