



Sonnenberg Village continues to grow

This summer at Sonnenberg Village has been busier than we had predicted. The Rain Garden was completed thanks to many volunteers. The Butterfly Garden is flourishing and there are plans to double its size in 2012. The Heritage Garden had another successful year and the Interlude Garden was dedicated at the Sonnenberg Homecoming.

Now that the Lehman House has a new roof and the exterior renovation of the Saurer Blacksmith Shop will soon be completed, the village will be ready for winter and work can begin on the insides of both buildings. The first step will be to reinstall all the tools and equipment just as it was when Floyd Saurer closed the doors in 1967.



Saurer Blacksmith Shop moves to Sonnenberg Village

The most noticeable addition to Sonnenberg Village this year has been the Saurer Blacksmith Shop. On September 13, with the help of our Kidron Volunteer Fire Department controlling traffic, the Saurer Blacksmith Shop rolled from its original location westward to the square and north on Kidron Road under the watchful eyes of many who lined the road. After careful maneuvering at the Hackett Road intersection, it was only a short trip to its new home in the Sonnenberg Village.

Sonnenberg Church: Raising \$100,000 to meet a January 2012 deadline



The Sonnenberg Church serves as the strongest reminder of what our forefathers went through in coming to America and settling here, giving us a foundation for all that we enjoy today.

The most important and recognizable building that will reside in the village is the 1907 Sonnenberg Church. Due to the generosity of the Sonnenberg congregation, the building is ours, and we thank them. The church is large and will be costly to move, but be assured, it will be done.

Since most of us from the Kidron/Sonnenberg area have ties to this iconic structure and anticipate adding it to our village, the trustees applied for a \$200,000 grant from the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission. The commission has given us the go-ahead with one stipulation: we need to raise \$100,000 in matching money by January 2012. An added dimension to a donation is that it will technically be tripled. Doing the math, this will mean that a donation of \$10,000 becomes \$30,000 for us, or \$5,000 will become \$15,000, and so on.

We need your help to raise the \$100,000 so we can obtain the \$200,000 grant from the OCFC. Call the museum at 330-857-9111 or Wayne Liechty at 330-464-8866 if you have questions or would like to meet with someone personally.

Now is the time for all those who have ties to Kidron/Sonnenberg to be as generous as possible so this iconic structure may be preserved. Don't expect others to do this. We thank you for getting on board yourself; you will be glad that you helped make this happen. Time is of the essence.



Kidron Korner by Celia Lehman

Remembering Kidron-Sonnenberg traditions

The Blessings of Farm Life

Check the items with which you can identify:

Family Togetherness

- Ate, prayed and sang together
- Knew our aunts, uncles and cousins
- Loved our grandparents
- The neighbor's children were our schoolmates

We Played

- Rode horseback and our bikes
- Played croquet
- Waded in the creek
- Gathered nuts in the woods
- Dressed the cats in doll clothes
- Played in the granary
- Climbed up the hay loft
- Slid down on loose straw
- Swung on rope swings

We Worked

- Planted a garden and mowed lawn
- Took care of animals
- Helped Dad make hay
- Shocked wheat and oats
- Husked corn
- Fixed things that broke
- Washed dishes
- Hung clothes on the line

Pastime Activities

- Entertained guests
- Watched summer storms
- Felt the rain drench our clothes
- Sold eggs to city people
- Took time to smell the flowers
- Ate fresh veggies from garden
- Picked tree-ripened fruit
- Sewed on loose buttons
- Went barefooted

Conclusions

- Work came before play
- Convinced life was worth living
- Found answers to mysteries in life
- Belonged and were loved
- It was a wholesome experience



Roofing crews replaced the roof of the Lehman House in August.

Lehman House gets a new roof

Under the leadership of Junior Miller and Dennis Troyer, nine roofers began working at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 19, to replace the leaking roof of the Lehman House with eco-slate. Seven of these roofers returned the next morning at 6:30 to finish the job. By 1:00 p.m. the roof was finished, everything had been cleaned up and they were on their way home. Many thanks to these nine guys (Dennis Troyer, David Troyer, Paul Troyer, Junior Troyer, Junior Miller, Joe Miller, Paul Kauffman, Duane Mast, and Jered Staples) for not only volunteering their time, but also for the use of their equipment.

Our painter, Ray Leisy, has begun work on the exterior. Work is moving slowly since much of the wood needs to be replaced. The plan is to have the west side painted before winter and the rest finished in the spring.

With the security of a new roof, we would like to start work on the interior to prepare it for full restoration. If you have any interest and time this winter, we could sure use your help to remove wall paper, floor coverings and paint. Please call the center with your name and times that you can volunteer.



The Saurer Blacksmith Shop enters Sonnenberg Village, completing the move from its original location on Emerson Road, east of the square in Kidron.



Brian Steiner of Kidron United won the foot race rather than the traditional coin toss to determine the home team.

Sonnenberg Homecoming **Bluegrass, Baseball and Dedications**

Up River started the third annual homecoming with their toe-tapping folk music under the yellow-striped tent. The Schloneger's sold their ice cream and Sonnenberg Mennonite Church women sold sandwiches and drinks from their food trailer.

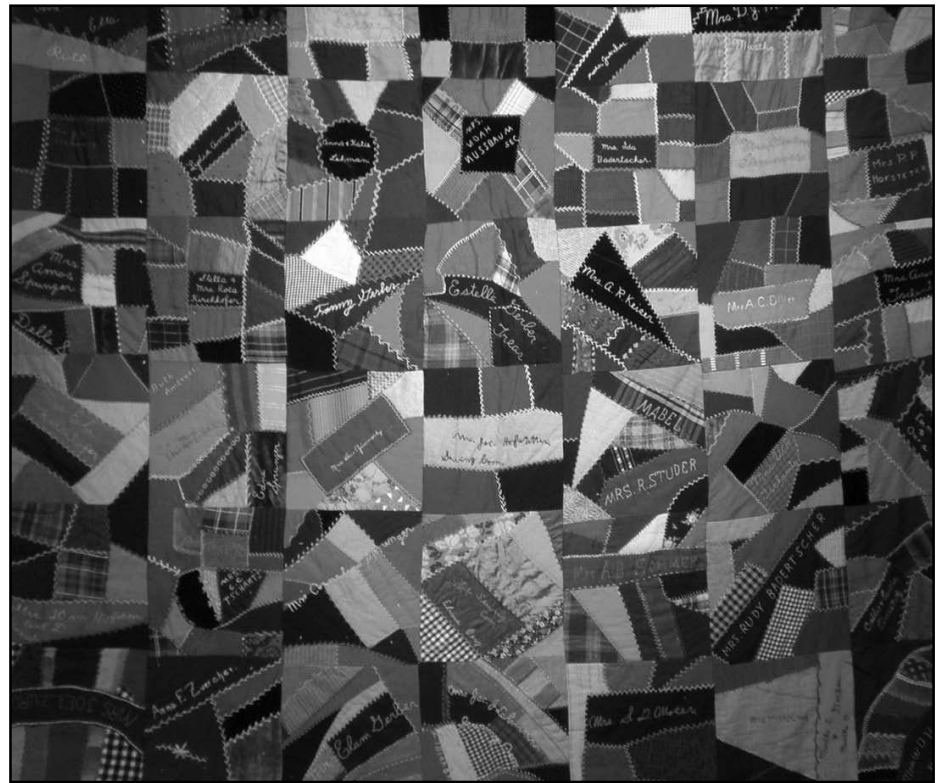
The Tschantz family dedicated the Tschantz Log Cabin which is furnished with period furniture and was open for guests to tour during the afternoon.

Promptly at 2:00 the baseball players and spectators were reminded of the rules of old-time baseball which would be followed in the double header. The Kidron Nine lost to the Akron Black Stockings 14-6 in the first game, and Kidron United tied their game, 7-7 after 11 innings.

Between the two baseball games, the Leonard and Nada Geiser family were honored for their donation of two acres and making it possible to purchase an additional three acres on which the Sonnenberg Village is being constructed.

2011 Exhibit

Mennonite Milestones in Kidron



The Mennonite Milestones in Kidron exhibit at the Heritage Center includes displays from five Kidron organizations that are celebrating significant milestones in 2011. MCC Connections is commemorating their 10-year anniversary, World Crafts has been selling fair trade items for 20 years, Central Christian School is in their 50th year of Christian education, Kidron Mennonite Church is celebrating 75 years, and Salem Mennonite Church is celebrating 125 years.

One of the items in the Salem Mennonite Church display is a signature crazy comforter that includes the names of many of Salem's early 20th century women; it is dated 1928. The comforter was donated to the Heritage Center by Don Miller's daughter Barbara and her husband Phil Hostetler. It was originally owned by Anna and Katie Lehman. Their names are embroidered on one of the 11"x11" blocks.

The Mennonite Milestones in Kidron exhibit will be open until December 29, 2011.

Nada (middle front) and her children Randy and Linda Geiser, Jim Geiser, and Tammy and Chuck Rex were present for the dedication of the Interlude Garden located at the entrance of the village. Kidron Community Historical Society President Wayne Liechty thanked the Geisers for sharing in the vision for Sonnenberg Village.



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Fall 2011



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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 _____
 Address _____

 Type of Membership _____
 Membership Fee \$_____ General Donation \$_____

Would you like a receipt? (check one) yes no

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

Upcoming Events

December 29

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

Call 330-857-9111

for group tours or special arrangements