Bit o' Vit

Volume 24 Winter 2012 Issue 1

The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

2012 Annual Meeting

Presentation on *The Postal History of Wayne County*

Fred Donley of Shreve will be the featured speaker at our annual meeting. Donley is now retired, but made his living building modern log homes. As a favor to the Kidron Community Historical Society, and particularly his long-time friends, Wayne Liechty and Ray Leisy, Donley advised Abe Troyer on chinking and finishing the Tschantz Log Cabin in Sonnenberg Village.

Donley collects just about anything historic relating to Wayne County, from pencils to buildings. One of his passions is the history of Wayne County post offices, and Donley has accumulated a vast collection of postmarks from these post offices. Dating from 1812 to the present, his more than 100 different postmarks are the most known to be assembled.

Obviously, many of the towns no longer exist. For example, do you know where the towns of Buffalo or Moscow were located? And it seems more Wayne County post offices may be closing in the near future, so other postmarks in his collection may be added to those post offices designated as "no longer exists."

Donley illustrates the history of postmarks, letters and post offices in an entertaining manner with his wealth of information and examples. This fascinating presentation on *The Postal History of Wayne County* should not be missed. Join us at the Heritage Center on Tuesday evening, February 28, at 7:00.

Fred Donley has an impressive collection of Wayne County postmarks dating from 1812 to the present.

2012 Exhibit

What treasures will we find in *Sonnenberg's Attic?*

An attic is a mysterious and exciting place to explore. It is often a treasure trove of items from the past that are no longer needed, but too important to discard. This year the treasures in the Heritage Center's attic will be explored and placed in the annual exhibit at the Heritage Center.

With the help of Wayne Liechty and a few others who are moving surprises out of the Heritage Center attic, we will be displaying some of our treasures that have not previously been on exhibit. These are items that have been donated to the Heritage Center, carefully accessioned and lovingly stored until an exhibit of interest such as this unveils these attic treasures.

One of the items in the 2012 *Sonnenberg's Attic* exhibit will be a cider press (pictured at left) from the Isaac Zuercher family. Treasures from textiles to toys and much in between will be exhibited, along with items that have been in and out of other exhibits in the past.

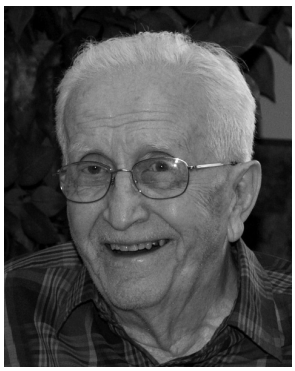
Allyson Leisy is serving as curator of our 2012 exhibit and we anticipate a fascinating display from the Kidron-Sonnenberg past.

The exhibit will open following the annual members banquet on April 24 and run through December 29.

Three docents remembered

Goldie Breneman

Melva Gerber



George Falb

Our volunteer docents bring the unique gifts of their historical perspective to the Heritage Center, and they eagerly share their interesting stories of experience and life-learnings with visitors. They are knowledgeable and able to answer questions and direct visitors to the resources available in the exhibits and reference library. Sadly, three of our valued volunteers passed away in 2011.

Goldie Breneman passed away January 25, 2011. She volunteered 116 hours from 1998-2003.

Melva Gerber volunteered 96 hours from 2003-2007. She passed away December 16, 2011.

George Falb faithfully volunteered 552 hours from 1994-2007. He passed away December 21, 2011.

These three, along with many other volunteers from the past and present, are pillars of our docent staff, and we are extremely grateful for all of them.

New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

Gerald and Sue Gerber
Apple Creek OH

Keith Gerber
Sarasota FL

Bob Graber
Orrville OH

Rodney Hewitt
Apple Creek OH

Harvey Jr. and Diana Lehman
Dalton OH

Paul/Kevin Moore
Reno NV

Fred and Cheryl Myers
Dalton OH

Aldine Nussbaum
Kidron OH

Bob and Leora Troyer
Dalton OH

Ada Mae Weaver
Dalton OH

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, **February 28** – 7:00
Annual Meeting with Fred Donley
Upstairs at the Heritage Center

Tuesday, **April 24** – 6:30
Annual Members Banquet
Current members receive invitations to the Annual Members Banquet

April 24 – December 29
2012 Exhibit: *Sonnenberg's Attic*

January 1 – Memberships Due
Annual memberships are due for renewal on January 1. Check your mailing label to see if your membership is up-to-date. Consider becoming a Heritage or Life Member. See page 4 for renewal information.

Thank you to our 2011 volunteers!

Dean Ab-Hugh
Ada Amstutz
Judy Amstutz
Peg Dorffer
Esther Falb
Nancy Ganyard
Anna Gehman
John Gehman
Amos Geiser
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Carolyn Shoup
Vernon Shoup
Fritz Sprunger
Janet Sprunger
Bud Steiner
Jean Steiner
Clayton Steiner
Walter Steiner
Cindy Strubbe
Meg Wilkins
Carol Yoder

From the Director's Desk

I am not one to make a list of resolutions at the beginning of every year, mostly because I tend to easily break them, but I do think a new year is a good time to mix things up a bit, to make some changes. So after 23 years of folding the *Bit o' Vit* in thirds, it will now be folded in half, tabbed, and–due to USPS cost-cutting measures–mailed from the Wooster Post Office. I know these are small changes, but it feels like just the beginning. Stay tuned.

Another change, pertaining only to this winter issue of the *Bit o' Vit*, is an enclosure. Sonnenberg Village Project Manager Ray Leisy designed this poster to publicize all the exciting things that have been accomplished during this past year at Sonnenberg Village. Plans are to hang this 2011 poster, along with future posters, in the Welcome Center / Sonnenberg Church once it is moved to the village. When you look at the poster while the village is quiet this winter, remember what a big difference just a year can make.

Plans are well on their way for a very productive year in 2012. Whether living close by or out of the area, you can all be involved. We will be asking for volunteers to help accomplish numerous projects at the village and everyone knows that projects need funding. We hope you will want to get involved. What exciting pictures might appear on the 2012 poster?

On another note, we are already planning our 16th annual members banquet. We have discussed the menu, the program and already have more than a dozen great auction items. We are very aware that we have great members and friends who support our efforts to preserve our Kidron-Sonnenberg history. The annual banquet (a meal and program) is a small way of thanking you for your generosity. So I am reminding you to make sure your membership dues are paid (they are due every January). If you receive this *Bit o' Vit* and are not a member, we would love to have you join us in preserving the history of Kidron-Sonnenberg.

One last thing, The board and I are very humbled by your great response to our year-end letter to help pay our monthly bills. Our sincere thanks for your support. Happy New Year!

Prudy Steiner, Heritage Center director

Thank you to our 2011 donors

The board would like to publicly thank our many supporters who were credited with donations to KCHS between January 1 and December 31, 2011. We apologize if we unintentionally missed anyone. KCHS thanks you all for your most generous support.

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WINTER 2012

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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.

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 in January.
Thank You!

Name _____
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Would you like a receipt? (check one) ___yes ___no

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

Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center

13153 Emerson Road ● Kidron, Ohio

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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