



2012 Exhibit

Sonnenberg's Attic



Allyson Leisy, curator of the Heritage Center's 2012 exhibit, with a walnut wardrobe that will be displayed.

The attics of early Kidron-Sonnenberg homes often served as closets for outgrown and unused elements of daily living. On April 24 the KCHS will unveil some of its stored treasures at the grand opening of the 2012 exhibit: *Sonnenberg's Attic*.

Homes without closets often had wardrobes used to store the family's clothing. One example of an old Kidron-Sonnenberg piece is a walnut double wardrobe purchased at the Nathan Amstutz auction more than 15 years ago. Too large to go up the stairway, it was hand-sawn into two sections. One section was used in an upstairs bedroom while the other was used in a shed to store tools.

At the auction, the two sections were set side by side and sold as a complete wardrobe, including the crown molding for the top.

The two sections have been rejoined, the crown molding reattached, and the restored wardrobe is ready to be displayed at the exhibit.

Paul Neuenschwander remembered



Paul in 1994 in his work bibs with the artistic rendering of the Swiss chalet-style building and the permits he acquired in order to proceed with the remodeling of the former Lehman Garage to become the Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center.

Paul Neuenschwander (December 31, 1921 – March 13, 2012) was energetic, hardworking, and committed to his family and church, the town of Kidron, and the Kidron Community Historical Society. Paul expressed a remarkable passion to preserve his and Kidron's heritage – a passion that never diminished. He helped found the Kidron Community Historical Society (KCHS) in 1977 and assumed numerous leadership roles in the society, including serving as vice president of the board of directors until 2008.

When a much-needed building became available to create a museum to store and display the many artifacts that had already been accumulating, Paul pursued endless, and sometimes thankless, jobs to ensure the Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center's grand opening in 1994, the same year that Kidron celebrated its 175th anniversary. Paul's amazing vision and tenacity in making the Heritage Center a reality was an incredible gift to the society and community.

Paul was a valuable member of the KCHS because he could relate many historical stories and facts about this area and our Swiss ancestors. But more than that, Paul was a good friend and comrade, and will be greatly missed.

Celia Lehman summed up Paul's contributions to the society in an article written for the October 1999 *Bit o' Vit* titled "Paul A. Neuenschwander: A Key Figure in Kidron." She concluded the article by writing: "The Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center would not be as successful, create as much interest or appreciation of the faith of the forefathers, or have the attractive facility it does if it were not for the inspiration, volunteer hours, and labor of love of Paul Neuenschwander."

2012 annual members banquet and auction

The 2012 annual members banquet and auction will be held on April 24. Following the meal, there will be an auction of unique items from the Kidron community, and members will be introduced to some of the interesting items from *Sonnenberg's Attic* and invited to the grand opening of the 2012 exhibit at the Heritage Center.

KCHS members receive invitations to the annual members banquet. If you do not receive an invitation and are a member, or would like to become a member and attend the banquet, please call Prudy Steiner at 330-857-9111.



Glenford Gerber made this bowl of curly maple, walnut, ebony and bloodwood in 2009.



A Jim Spires pottery cookie jar will be sold at the auction.



Lynn Sommer's ink and watercolor fraktur design was inspired by her grandmother, Anna Verena Sommer Amstutz, who died at the age of 102 in the fall of 2009. Anna loved nothing more than to greet the early morning by checking on her garden or her birds. Thus, Lynn chose the hymn "I Owe The Lord a Morning Song" to remember and honor her grandmother.

2012 AUCTION ITEMS

Karen Geiser heirloom garden package

Lynn Sommer fraktur

Allyson Leisy wreath

Nicole Myers pottery

Glenford Gerber wooden bowl

Bessie Nussbaum homemade bread

Bob Romey intarsia

Tim Shue carved wooden bowl

Jim Spires pottery

Wade Wilcox matted print

Upcoming Events

April 20, 21

Annual SAGA (Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Assoc.) Meeting

SAGA will meet Sat., April 21, at the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Several activities are also scheduled for Friday. For more information, go to <http://saga.ncweb.com/home.htm>.

April 24

Annual Members Banquet

KCHS members receive invitations to the members banquet

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

August 11

Sonnenberg Village Annual Homecoming

New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

Palmer and Joan Steiner
Dalton, OH

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.

Sonnenberg Village Work is scheduled

Ray Leisy, Sonnenberg Village project manager, has retired and expects to begin working in the Sonnenberg Village at least three days a week on the many projects planned for this year. On April 9 at 9:00 and every Monday thereafter, we will be working in the Lehman House and Lehman Spring House, removing failing plaster, sanding woodwork and floors, and installing insulation, and then moving to the exterior as the weather permits.

On April 25, students from Central Christian School will clean and refresh the Heritage and Interlude Gardens, and enlarge the Butterfly Garden.

Volunteers will be needed to paint, install the restored windows and landscape around the Saurer Blacksmith Shop, and to restore the shop to working order. The Tschantz family plans to finish the Tschantz Cabin at a family work day in May.

When the majority of the work on the four buildings is finished, work will begin on other buildings and new projects. A \$50,000 grant from the Muskingum Watershed District will fund the creation of a demonstration project for controlling and cleaning runoff water. The district awarded the grant based on the work already completed in the Rain Garden and sediment pond. The grant will also provide funds to finish the work on the east side of the village, install a pond and satisfy all the EPA's requirements.

Preparation to move the Sonnenberg Church in the fall, when the ground is solid and the crops have been harvested, will occur throughout the summer. Digging a well and constructing restrooms for visitors is also planned. Two groups are considering the reconstruction of the Wesman Summer House and the Bixler House this summer.

If you can help, particularly on Mondays, drop by. We will have work available for every skill level.



Kidron Korner by Fritz Sprunger

Remember the Kidron Depot?



Several years ago Roger Geiser was on a mission to find the Kidron train depot mentioned in James Lehman's book, *Sonnenberg: A Haven and A Heritage*. It was said to be "built from an old passenger coach" in 1902 (p. 214). But no one had a picture, and all the diligent research seemed to be of no avail.

Some time later a photograph given to the Heritage Center by the Anna Gerber (Mrs. Marvin) Miller family came to our attention. The photograph, taken from the northwest of what is now Lehman's, is of the railroad track downtown and labeled "KIDRON IN 1908." Both of the "Ns" on the label are inverted, a trademark of Noah Sommer, indicating he was likely the photographer. In the distance were some buildings, but it was hard to make them out. Still, the picture might hold a clue. A strong jeweler's loupe (magnifying glass) was used to examine the photo. Many surmised that the depot was there, but there were doubters.

J. Augspurger looked at the picture, and suggested we find someone who had a digital camera with a high resolution lens. It turned out Randy Fath was that person. He was able to zero in on the depot, enlarge it and outline it to make it clearly visible. As described, it did indeed have the shape of part of an old passenger coach. On seeing the close-up and enlarged picture, Roger exclaimed, "That's the missing piece!" And in fact it was. But without the initial curiosity, we may never have looked for it; from there it was teamwork all the way.

Solving a mystery is fun, but it often raises other questions. Why did Noah always write the letter "N" backwards? Who is the man standing in the foreground on the tracks? And perhaps the biggest mystery of all: in 1910, when there was a train excursion from Kidron to "the city on the lake," how did "a party of 425 excursionists" get into that tiny depot? (Dalton Gazette 8/4/1910, p.1)

Any leads on answers to these questions would be welcome. If you have or know of a photograph of the Kidron depot taken in the early 1900s, please contact the Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center.

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SPRING 2012



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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 in 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

Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center

Physical address: 13153 Emerson Road • Apple Creek, Ohio 44606

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