



Volume 24

Summer 2012

Issue 3

The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

Fifth Annual Sonnenberg Village Homecoming

Saturday, August 11 • 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

- 12:00 – 4:00 Food stands open
- 12:00 – 4:00 Saurer Blacksmith Shop, Tschantz Cabin, Lehman House and Lehman Spring House open for visitors
- 12:00 – 1:00 Music by Up River
- 1:00 Baseball game Akron Black Stockings vs. local Amish
- 2:30 Baseball game Akron Black Stockings vs. local English



The Akron Black Stockings vintage base ball (yes, it was two words originally) team end their games with a good sportsmanship “hip, hip, hooray” salute.

Sonnenberg Village Homecoming festivities will begin at noon with the group Up River providing great folk-style music followed by a double-header baseball game featuring the Akron Black Stockings and two local teams.

A tent will be set up to shelter the crowd from the sun for this free event. Schloneger's will have homemade ice cream for sale and the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church food wagon will have sandwiches and drinks available. Come early, set up your lawn chairs or blankets (seating is not provided) and eat lunch with Up River and Sonnenberg Village friends.

For the first time, all four of the current Sonnenberg Village buildings will be open. With the exception of the Tschantz Cabin, the buildings are still a work in progress, and this will be your first chance to see how work is progressing.

2012 Exhibit

Sonnenberg's Attic

Recent guests at the Heritage Center from Puerto Rico, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, South Africa, Australia, Serbia and Japan have commented that the Sonnenberg's Attic exhibit has interesting artifacts, beautiful craftsmanship, is very informative, impressive and so fun. The 2012 exhibit is open during regular Heritage Center hours, or call 330-857-9111 for an appointment.



American lore contends that Benjamin Franklin plucked a seed from a French corn broom, planted it in his Philadelphia garden, and thus grew the corn broom industry in America. Broomcorn is a variety of sorghum that, when made into a sturdy broom, could last for decades. This corn broom maker, along with an 1870 dry sink and trundle rope bed with feather tick are among the many Sonnenberg's Attic exhibit items that have not previously been displayed at the Heritage Center.

Sonnenberg Village News

Work started in the village early this spring. With the help of seven students from Central Christian School and their teacher, Von Schrock, and other workers, all the gardens were cleaned up and mulched, the Butterfly Garden was enlarged and many new plants added, the Lehman House was cleaned out, and four bluebird houses were put up.

Because of this work day in April, and quite a bit of watering, the rain gardens, Geiser Interlude Garden and Butterfly Garden are all flourishing. The Heritage Garden has also been planted.

The Tschantz family had a work day in May at the Tschantz Cabin. They finished sealing the exterior and set up furniture in the interior. With the addition of some wiring, the cabin is now finished.

At the Lehman House, work crews are beginning at 9:00 every Monday morning and are making great progress. Quite a bit of the exterior wood is being replaced and all new railings for the front porch have been constructed. New wiring and plumbing is being added. We do not have a time table, but expect to finish by late summer.

After the windows are installed in the Saurer Blacksmith Shop and some siding replaced, the outside will be painted. In July, a work crew will be moving all of the equipment back into the shop and setting up operations. Wayne Liechty will be contacting volunteers for that project.

We have received permission from the state to begin work on the restroom complex and the Sonnenberg Church. An architect and an engineer have been hired to begin the design work, and construction should begin in August.

We have received a grant from the Muskingum Watershed District and will begin the pond construction and finish all of the grading required by the EPA. This work will conclude the major ground work for Sonnenberg Village, and we can begin planting shade trees.

Opportunities for volunteers at Sonnenberg Village

As the Village grounds have been improved, the labor to keep the grounds looking nice has begun to outpace our staff. We are looking for volunteers to “adopt” some of the gardens and do some mowing on occasion. Below is a list of jobs that need someone or a group of people to take responsibility.

There is also an opportunity to volunteer your time and talents for one of our larger projects. Currently, the focus is on remodeling the Lehman House. There are jobs for any skill level and you can volunteer on Mondays for a couple of hours or all day. Almost a dozen workers have been helping regularly and have accomplished a lot. Thank you to Ray and Allyson Leisy, Wayne Liechty, Clifford Lehman, Cindy Strubbe, Bob Romey, Jim Stevenson, Ora Shetler, Don Nussbaum, and Jim and Belinda Holzaphel.

Consider volunteering at the village. Call Prudy at the Heritage Center 330-857-9111 or stop at the village at 9:00 on Monday mornings and talk to Ray Leisy.



After Corbin Schrock and his father, Von, put up four bluebird houses, Central Christian School students have checked the houses every Monday and are delighted to see that bluebirds have established nests in two of the houses.



Ray Leisy and Cliff Lehman installed the new porch railings on the Lehman House.

TASK	LOCATION	EQUIPMENT NEEDED
weed	one or two sections of the Rain Garden (7 sections)	provide your own garden tools
weed and mow	Geiser Interlude Garden	walk-behind mower provided
mow	berm along west side	walk-behind mower provided
mow	area around Tschantz Cabin and Butterfly Garden	walk-behind mower provided
mow	area around the Lehman House and Spring House	walk-behind mower provided
mow	any other larger areas	provide your own riding mower

Upcoming Events

Through December 29
2012 Exhibit: *Sonnenberg's Attic*

Saturday, August 11
Sonnenberg Village Annual
Homecoming

200th Anniversary of Wayne County

In honor of Wayne County's bicentennial, our KCHS is one of more than a dozen societies to participate in an exhibit at the Wayne County Historical Society from July 8 to October 27. Each society has chosen items from their museum, highlighting their community's development, to put in their display. Make plans to visit the "200th Anniversary of Wayne County" exhibit in the Wayne County Historical Society's Kister Building at 546 E. Bowman Street in Wooster. See www.waynehistoricalohio.org for details.

New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

Marianne Cameron
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.



Kidron Korner
by Celia Lehman

Kidron's Village Blacksmith

A parody of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, "The Village Blacksmith" composed by Celia Lehman.

Under a shady chestnut tree
The blacksmith shop still stands;
Floyd Saurer, a mighty smith was he
With large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Were strong as iron bands.

His apron was crisp, black and long.
His face was deeply tanned;
His brow was wet with honest sweat,
From the heat of iron spanned,
To sharpen the plowshare to a point,
And cooled down just as planned.

Week in, week out from morn till night,
You could hear the bellows blow,
You could hear him swing with steady beat
With clanging sound and slow,
Like horseshoes neatly nailed on hoofs,
Pounding the ground below.

Lots of farmers waiting in line,
Implements need repair;
Wagon, buggy wheels, blades and points
All would be fixed with care.
Lathing, sawing, drilling, welding
All at minimal fare.

His children Russ, Floris his sis,
Looked in at the open door;
They loved to see the flaming forge,
To watch burning sparks soar.
Estie, his wife, so prim and sweet,
Stopped by on her way to the store.

Once in contest in Toledo
He won the top first prize;
Redressing a plowshare so quickly
It raised competitors' eyes.
When awarded the envious \$5.00
Paid treats for losing guys.

His second floor held your suspense,
Amish buggies were built there;
To get them down he built a ramp
And rolled them down the stair.
When the '20's rolled round, work got slack
He sold cars and other fare.

Kidron Body Company bought the place,
Sold it to Grandson Bill,
Historical society wanted it;
To move it up the hill,
So all the folks who visit there
Grand memories would fill.

2012 Annual Members Banquet and Auction

Forty-eight volunteers who serve as docents at the Heritage Center were honored at the 2012 annual banquet on April 24. Roy and Clara Yoder catered the meal, sponsored by 32 area businesses, for the 216 guests and 26 servers. Auctioneer Joseph Mast brought the gavel down for the 12 items which sold for a total of \$2665. Curator Allyson Leisy introduced the 2012 display, *Sonnenberg's Attic*, with some interesting details related to the many items which were brought out of storage for the exhibit.

Thanks to Our 2012 Banquet Sponsors

Eastwood Manufacturing, Ltd
Everence
First National Bank - Kidron Office
G & G Farms
G & S Titanium
Gerber Feed Service
Gerber Lumber and Hardware
Gerber's Poultry, Inc
Himes, Slater and Hershberger, LLC
Home Appliance Company, Inc.
Hummel Group, Inc.
K & M Builders
Kidron Auction, Inc.
Kidron Electric, Inc.
Kidron Kars, Inc.
Kidron Supply

Kidron Town & Country Store
Kidron Vinyl
L.E. Sommer Kidron, Inc.
Lehman's
Logee, Hostetler, Stutzman & Lehman, LLC
Mast Brothers Construction
P Graham Dunn
R & C Farm
Raber Eye Care & Raber Dental
Real Estate Showcase Auction Co.
Schloneger's Old Fashioned Ice Cream
VT Hackney - Kidron Division
Village Printing, Inc.
Weaver Heritage Communities
Weyrauch's Pharmacy
Woodland Mulch, LLC

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

330-857-9111

kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com

www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit
Organization
Postage Paid
Wooster, Ohio
44691
Permit No. 228

SUMMER 2012



Board Members

President..... Wayne Liechty
Vice President..... Glenn Gerber
Treasurer..... Richard Nussbaum
Secretary..... Gloria Kaufmann
Membership Chairperson..... Leora Gerber
Board Members..... Fritz Sprunger, J. Augspurger
Heritage Center Director Prudy Steiner
Bit o' Vit Editor..... Judie Nussbaum

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