



Volume 26

Summer 2014

Issue 3

The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

Sonnenberg Homecoming

Music, baseball and open house



Can you believe it is already the seventh Homecoming celebrating the Sonnenberg Village? This year's date is Saturday, August 9, 10:00-4:00. Mark it on your calendars.

All five of the buildings in Sonnenberg Village will be open with a host on duty to answer your questions. Each year the excitement builds with all the updates and changes that have taken place since the previous homecoming. Just wait until you see the Welcome Center, which is almost completed. Another highlight will be the special music you can experience when you tour the Tschantz Cabin.

We have added a new vendor this year. Kettle Corn will be sold for the first time, along with items from the Sonnenberg food trailer and Schloneger's ice cream. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, sit under the tent and enjoy old-time and bluegrass music and an old-fashioned baseball game featuring local players. Bring your family and neighbors and enjoy a great day, rain or shine. We hope to see you there!

10:00 – 4:00 Buildings open for tours

11:00 – 1:00 Live music

10:00 – 4:00 Food vendors open

1:00 Baseball game

Website updated

The KCHS and Sonnenberg Village website has been updated. It has been designed to provide pertinent information to those who are unfamiliar with us and looking to plan a visit. For our members, there is an updated news page and a calendar of events. It is also easier to leave messages to be answered. An order sheet for the Heritage Center gift shop also be found on the improved website. We are also planning to set up a Facebook account which will allow us to post pictures and news of our work, family and friends in Kidron and Sonnenberg. In the meantime, check us out at www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org.

Upcoming Events

August 9

Annual Sonnenberg Village Homecoming

October 18

Red Beet Festival at Sonnenberg Village

Sonnenberg Public School reunion planned for September 27

The Sonnenberg Public School #10 (mid-1860s to 1951) reunion will be held on Saturday, September 27 from 2:00 to 4:00 across the road from the school at the Salem Mennonite Church under the carport, as the weather permits. Relive your Sonnenberg days by reminiscing with your classmates and teachers. Family and friends of alumnae are also invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Suggestions for a program are being accepted. Your ideas, comments and questions can be forwarded to Clayton Steiner, 330-857-3066, crsteine@gmail.com; Liz Lehman Augspurger, 330-857-5321, quietlife@centurylink.net; Jay Lehman, 330-857-1671, ejlehman@zoominternet.net; or Mabel Lehman Warfel, 330-683-6907, tmwaf@zoominternet.net. Let one of these persons know if you have not received an invitation. A large turnout is expected with nearly 50 alumnae still living.

Come to remember the softball games with neighboring schools, riding in the trunk of the teacher's car, the water pump stories, the



sledging, being paid to carry coal to heat the school, and being teased by classmates. What do you remember?

Heritage Center's 20th Anniversary Celebration



Dalton Gazette & Kidron News photo

In celebration of the Heritage Center's 20th anniversary, John and Janet Sprunger were honored for their donation of the building that was transformed from an automobile repair business into a museum. A multiple-choice quiz provided interesting facts related to the Heritage Center's formation and the Sprungers' involvement. They were presented with a plaque and tulips.

After a home-cooked meal catered by Roy and Clara Yoder was served to the 240 guests, 45 volunteers were honored for their significant contribution as docents at the Heritage Center. The 18th members banquet was held at the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Building on April 22.

The twelve auction items brought a total of \$2,825 to benefit the KCHS.

Sonnenberg Village

The old is new again

Much of the work in the village this spring and summer has been focused on the Sonnenberg Church/Welcome Center. Kidron Electric has restored the old pendant lights in the Welcome Center, painting and repair of the walls has been completed, part of the old wood floor has been sanded and varnished, and the pews have been returned to the balcony. The office and entrance and the handicap boardwalk are finished, tables and chairs have been added, and the Welcome Center is ready for use.

In May and June we hosted two family reunions in the



Daniel Neiswander of Kidron Electric helped restore the old pendant lights in the church, now known as the Welcome Center.

Welcome Center and a church dinner club from Wooster met in the Tschantz Log Cabin.

Elsewhere in the village, we are finishing the bathrooms in the Lehman House, the

kitchen plumbing fixtures and the floor are ready to be installed, and then a little touch-up painting will be needed. Recently the permanent gravel driveway to the Lehman

Members Banquet Sponsors

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VT Hackney - Kidron Division
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Weaver Commercial Contractor, Inc.
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Weyrauch's Pharmacy
Woodland Mulch

*Thank you for supporting the KCHS
with your generosity.*

New Members

Gladys Amstutz, Dalton OH
Mike and Mim Lehman, Apple Creek OH
Barb (Mrs. Les) Miller, Dalton OH

House was laid, making the house nearly ready for occupancy.

All of the gardens in the village have been improved and cleaned for the summer. We received a storage building for our new

Ventrac and with its arrival, the lawn is looking very nice.

We hope to see you at the homecoming so you can see our accomplishments so far this year.



Kidron Korner

by Celia Lehman

How clothes were laundered back in the 1930s

Did you ever question why clothes were worn a full week instead of changing them every day?

Homemade Lye Soap

Five pounds of used or rendered fat after butchering pigs or cows. One box of lye stirred into one quart of water. Mixture cooked then put in pans/boxes. The next day the soap was cut into cubes.



Water Source

Build a fire under the huge black kettle in the shop. Fill it and the rinse tubs with water carried from the spring house. When the water was hot it was carried into the washer run by a motor. A handful of homemade soap was added.

Sorting Clothes

Every Monday morning the dirty clothes were sorted into piles on the kitchen floor. Then starting with the white, less dirty ones, they were put into the washer and proceeded one load at a time until the last pile of overalls was washed.

Procedure for Washing the Clothes

Starting with the white, less dirty ones, the clothes were put into the washer and after they had washed about 10 minutes, they were lifted onto the wringer with a stick. Clothes were rinsed two times, then dropped into a basket. Meanwhile, the next pile which had been washing is now ready for the same procedure until the last pile of overalls had been washed.

Drying the Clothes

Lines were stretched across the yard. Clothes were fastened upside-down, one at a time with wooden clothes pins. If it rained, lines were stretched in the house and one had to duck under them to get around.

Getting Rid of Dirty Water

A hose was hooked onto the washer. Someone had to climb under the porch to connect it to the drain. Rinse water had to be transferred to the machine.

Ironing the Clothes

Heavy irons heated on the wood cook stove were used to iron clothes. There were more clothes to iron as the wrinkle-free cloth had not yet been in vogue.

Doing the laundry for their large families involved a lot of labor-intensive work and one reason why clothes were not changed every day.



Swiss Visitors

Recently a group of 22 guests from Switzerland spent a day in Kidron. After touring the Heritage Center and Sonnenberg Village, six Kidron families hosted the guests for dinner in their homes and tested their Swiss-speaking skills. Jay and Emma Lehman and Mahlon and Jean Steffen said their enjoyable time with the guests went quickly. J. and Liz Augspurger and Heinz and Rosa Peter heard what their guests had seen while visiting in the States and answered questions about our community and land ownership. Ernie and Jean Geiser and Glenn Neuenschwander's visitors were able, after hearing Ernie and Glenn speak in Swiss, to tell exactly where in Switzerland their ancestors came from because of their dialect.

One of Vern and Shirley Hochstetler and Art and Cheryl Neuenschwander's guests was thrilled to be served pumpkin pie because she had heard it was a special Mennonite dessert. Another was able to communicate a bit in French with Art.

Elton and Phyllis Lehman, Bessie Nussbaum and Esther Neuenschwander conversed in Swiss with their guests, one of whom was a retired doctor. Elton took them all on a tour of the Mt. Eaton Care Center.

Clarence and Esther Neuenschwander and Til Neuenschwander also hosted dinner guests. A minister in the Reformed Church that was instrumental in the persecution of our ancestors apologized and eagerly sought forgiveness from the Kidron-Sonnenberg community.

A focus of the trip was to meet and learn about the Mennonites and Amish in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Kidron was one stop on their two-week tour.

Trachselwald Castle's future is uncertain

Trachselwald Castle is in the canton of Bern, Switzerland. Many Anabaptists visiting Switzerland include a tour of the castle in their itinerary. Learn of changes for this site of early Anabaptist persecution at an meeting at Behalt.

Celebrating Switzerland... Remembering Early Täufer Connections
Meet Paul Veraguth, Pastor at Reform Church of Wattenwil CH

Thursday, July 31, 2014 at 7:00 pm
Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center / Behalt
330-893-3192 | anabaptisthistory@gmail.com



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SUMMER 2014



Administration

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Heritage Center Director Prudy Steiner
Sonnenberg Village Project Manager Ray Leisy
Bit o' Vit Editor Judie Nussbaum

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.

Membership expiration information is on your mailing label.

Thank You!

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

13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

APRIL through NOVEMBER • THURSDAY and SATURDAY

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CLOSED DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH

Call 330-857-9111 for special arrangements or group tours.