



Red Beet Festival

Red beet ice cream, shredded beet salad, red velvet beet cake, and shoe string beets were among the samples available for tasting at the sixth annual Red Beet Festival. Live performances were given by The Swiss Echoes of Kidron, The Madrigal Dancers of Wooster and the Anonymous Bluegrass Band of Canton for the more than 300 red beet enthusiasts.

Rita Shisler judged the 55 entries submitted by 33 contestants in the red beet competition and declared the 2014 winners to be Junior Vaughn, Millersburg, biggest beet; Melvin Comfort, Navarre, best American; Denise Kryah, Shreve, most unique, and Allison Leisy, Wooster, best heirloom beet.

The sixth annual Red Beet Festival was sponsored by Schloneger's Homemade Ice Cream and held at Sonnenberg Village on October 18.

Beets are a good source of folate, manganese, potassium, copper, dietary fiber, magnesium, phosphorus, vitamin C, iron, and vitamin B6. Keith Schloneger enthusiastically encourages gardeners to take advantage of the beet seeds he makes available to interested growers and to try their luck at growing the nutritious root vegetable – and consider submitting an entry at the 2015 Red Beet Festival.



Red beet contest judge Rita Shisler looks over the impressive entries.

Sonnenberg Public School #10 reunion

Sonnenberg School #10 alumni and friends met at the Salem Mennonite Church on September 27, 2014, for the Sonnenberg Public School #10 one-room school reunion. Twenty-nine of forty-seven surviving alumni were present; 50 persons attended. Alumni were present from as far as Kansas, Colorado and Texas.

The oldest alumnus present was Frieda Amstutz at 102 years of age. The youngest alumnus was Robbin Kratzer who was in first grade when the school closed in 1951. Ruth Amstutz, an occasional substitute teacher, is the only surviving teacher.

Alumni shared memories of their one-room school experiences, remembering school whippings by the superintendent, learning from the recitations of the older students, playing ball with neighboring schools, firing up the coal furnace, spring picnics, the outhouses, water fights at the water pump, playing pranks and more.

Clayton Steiner shared the history of the school and showed slides of class pictures and some homesteads that fed into the school. The Sonnenberg School has an approximate 90-year history. It began after 1860 and was closed when the Sugarcreek Township one-room schools were consolidated into either the Kidron or Dalton Schools in 1951. The instruction was entirely in German until 1903 when an edict was proclaimed by the school board to begin teaching in English.

Three school buildings have stood on the present site. The second was built around 1882 and burnt in 1905. Its shell was used to build the present structure at which time the two cloakrooms separated by a hallway were added to the front.

Clayton Steiner, Liz Augspurger, Jay Lehman and Mabel Warfel planned the reunion.



Frieda Amstutz and Linda Sommer look at a yearbook while attending the Sonnenberg School #10 reunion.



Red velvet beet cake was one of the food samples available at the Red Beet Festival.



Junior Vaughn's prize-winning beet weighed in at a whopping 18 pounds.

Sonnenberg Village Homecoming draws nice crowd

The arbitrator (umpire) declared another foul tick (foul ball) and the striker (batter) returned to the plate, eyed the hurler (pitcher) and raised his wooden bat for an opportunity to smack the leather ball in hopes of legging it (running) safely to the grain bag at first. Fielders used their bare hands to catch the ball on the fly or one bounce to put the striker dead (out). The cranks (fans) sat on lawn chairs and blankets and cheered while they snacked on hot dogs and coneys, homemade pie and ice cream and kettle corn from the concession stands.

With three hands down (outs) at the end of the fourth inning, the arbitrator lightheartedly declared the appropriately dressed gentlemen on the Amish team to be leading, 5-4, over the guys playing in their underwear (athletic shorts). While the arbitrator apologized for the attire of the English team, he conceded that they were likely more comfortable than the hot and stinky players who were appropriately dressed.

The weather was perfect for the sixth annual Sonnenberg Homecoming attended by around 200 persons, coming from as close as across the street and as far away as Texas. The Welcome Center, Saurer Blacksmith Shop, Tschantz Log Cabin and the Lehman House at the village were all open for self-guided tours. At the end of the afternoon, the arbitrator had called a striker out at home for sliding (there is no bunting, sliding or spitting) and pronounced the clean-shaven team, with more tallies than the bearded men, as the winners of the friendly and entertaining gentlemen's baseball match (game).

The arbitrator represented the Hoover Sweepers Vintage Club Nine of Canton. They are charter members of the Vintage Base Ball Association and perform base ball reenactments. The Hoover Sweepers are a component of the Hoover Historical Center which is owned and operated by Walsh University, North Canton, Ohio.



Visitors on the self-guided tour of the Sonnenberg Village campus were met by hosts stationed in each building.



The arbitrator reviewed the language and rules prior to the start of the 1860's style baseball game.

Work on target to place renters in the house and shop

The KCHS board of trustees asked that the construction committee complete the buildings that are on the Sonnenberg Village campus, including utility hookups and landscaping, before additional buildings are moved to the village and that remains our goal.

The Welcome Center (Sonnenberg Church) assembly room has been completed and an occupancy permit has already allowed three rentals this fall.

The attention has turned to the Lehman House. A family will rent the home with compensation for mowing the grounds and keeping an eye on things. Two rooms have been reserved for display purposes.

Next on the list is the completion of the Saurer Blacksmith Shop. Organizing the tools of the trade and finishing the safety features necessary to allow a working smithy to occupy the shop

are projects in progress.

Recent activities at the village include the 2014 Sonnenberg Homecoming in August and the Beet Festival in October. During the summer we also had a surprise landing of a hot air balloon, and Central Christian School has been using our parking lot for traffic at their new soccer field adjacent to the village.

Central Christian School students helped with restoring the storage shed; the restoration will be completed before winter by volunteers. Significant progress has been made on our landscaping; all of the gardens are well tended and the grounds are attractive. We are still looking for someone to oversee the bird habitat. If you have interest in bluebirds and martins and would like to become involved in this way, call 330-857-9111.

As always, everyone is welcome to stop and visit us in the village.

Storage shed restored by volunteers



Toting tools and using supplies provided by the village, five Central Christian School students and their faculty leader, Bob Troyer, spent October 17 volunteering at Sonnenberg Village.

One group worked with Dan Miller to install new siding and rafters on the storage shed while the second group assisted Cliff Lehman in building a wooden platform and steps to access the restrooms at the Welcome Center.

Corbin Schrock, Bob Troyer (faculty), Jarrod Lepley, Gabriel Raber, Jon Woodrich and Abram Fuller were capable and diligent in fulfilling their assignments for the school's 45th annual community service day.



Winter Hours at the Heritage Center

The Heritage Center will be closed December through March but welcomes appointments to visit the museum or for a tour. Call and leave a message at 330-857-9111 for information or to make an appointment to visit the Heritage Center or Sonnenberg Village.



Sonnenberg Village DVD for sale

A DVD that chronicles the moving of the Lehman House, the Saurer Blacksmith Shop and the Sonnenberg Church as well as the reconstruction of the Tschantz Cabin at Sonnenberg Village is available for purchase at the Heritage Center. The 40-minute Richard Storck Film Design Ltd. production is priced at \$16. Visit or contact the Heritage Center for more information.

New Members

Nancy J. Ernest, Bluffton OH

Recent Acquisitions

- Moser cane with four animals carved on it, donated by Richard Moser
- CPS ring, donated by the Harvey Mumaw Estate
- Tiny's Tiger Ball Team photos, donated by Bob Romey
- Neuenschwander - Biery - Hofstetter genealogy book, donated by Carmen Kenagy Walker
- Sonnenberg Basket, Lester and Jean Feltis auction
- Dan S. Amstutz family photos, donated by Cletus and Lee Gerber
- Music instrument clips, donated by Pearl Sommer Moon

Trachselwald Castle Calendar

Calendars of the Trachselwald Castle are available at the Heritage Center for anyone interested in Switzerland and the castle's significance in Anabaptist history. The calendars are free. Donations designated for the preservation of Trachselwald may be sent to Light of Hope, 426 S. Queen Street, Lancaster PA 17603. Write "Trachselwald Castle" on the memo line.

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

FALL 2014



Administration

Board President Wayne Liechty
Board Vice President Glenn Gerber
Board Treasurer Richard Nussbaum
Board Secretary Gloria Kaufmann
Board Membership Chairperson Leora Gerber
Board Members Fritz Sprunger, J. Augspurger
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.