

Kidron Houses, Businesses, Churches and Schools Moved

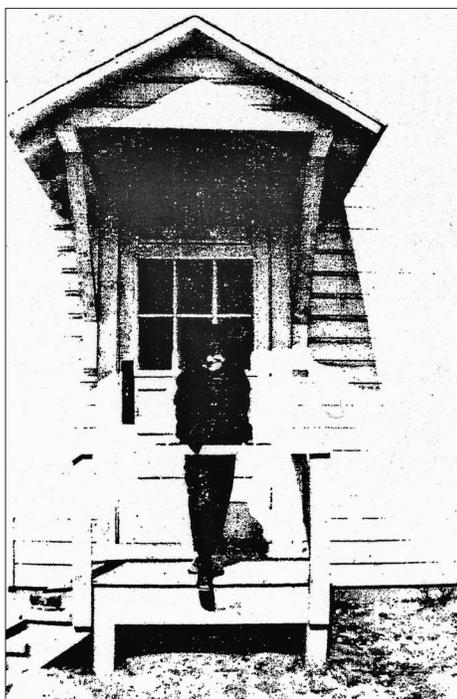
Over the past one hundred years, at least twenty buildings in the Kidron area have been moved: houses (12), businesses (2), churches (3), and schools (3). Many of these were featured at the annual meeting with before and after pictures in the presentation, "Kidron Buildings on the Move," by Fritz Sprunger. The audience participated with enthusiasm and even provided some new information.

The main focus of the presentation at the KCHS annual meeting on February 24 was on a building which had for the most part been "lost to history." Piece by piece, Sprunger unraveled the mystery of what happened to the temporary white frame Kidron School building used in the 1930s and 1940s. The structure, built in 1936 and sold in 1945, was subsequently moved a mile west of Riceland on current Old US Rt. 30, and turned into a residence. It is still there, though the third house west of the Carr Road and East Lincoln Way intersection on the south side of the road is barely recognizable. The front of the little old white school building is now camouflaged by a red brick veneer, but the original entrance door to the school still serves as the door from the garage to the house.

If you were a first or second grade pupil at the Kidron School during the years 1936 to 1940, this is your school building. Ironically, the last pupils to use this building were from Frog Pond. When their school burned in October 1940, students were bused to Kidron until their school was rebuilt.



The white frame Kidron School house, transformed into a residence on Old Lincoln Way, as it appeared in 1968. This is the only known photo of the entire structure. Note the porch on the left side.



Daniel Stutzman on the porch of the school, circa 1937. The porch was located on the east gable end of the temporary school building.



Students on the porch steps circa 1938-39
First step: Esther Nussbaum, Ella Miller, Bessie Lehman
Step 2: Mary Lehman, Dorothy Nussbaum, Mary Rose Sommer
Step 3: Vera Jeanne Nussbaum, Doris Lehman, Florine Lehman, Sally Lou Weaver
Top: Leonard Geiser, Howard Nussbaum, Daniel Stutzman, Marcus Neuschwander

Questions Answered

The 2015 winter Bit o' Vit listed 12 questions. Check your answers below.

1. What is the most recent house that was moved, and where to?
Freeman and Eileen Lehman, Emerson Rd.
2. Who knew that after he passed away, his house would be moved?
Jacob S. Moser
3. What house was moved from behind a business, and where is it now?
Earl and Terry Hofstetter, Emerson Road
4. What building was moved over a hundred years ago, and how was it used?
Second Sonnenberg Church, Sommer Feed Mill
5. Who still lives in the house he/she grew up in, though it was moved?
Marcella (Gerber) Yoder
6. What house in the Sonnenberg valley was moved, but stayed in the valley?
Nick and Matilda Fankhauser
7. Where was the Grossenbacher house, and where did it get moved to?
Second house south of South Side Store, Kohler Road
8. What building was cut in half in order for it to be moved to a new location?
The Tabernacle, Kamp Kidron on Emerson Road
9. What old house has been taken down since it was moved?
Jacob S. Moser (near Route 30)
10. What house was moved from old Route 30 into town, and when?
Lydia Nussbaum, circa 1951
11. What building was moved from town to Route 250? How was it used?
Hofstetter Brothers Store, residence
12. What two decades had the most moves?
1950s and 1970s

Members Banquet and Auction

Internationally acclaimed auctioneer Joseph Mast will put twelve unique items on the block at the annual members banquet on April 28 at the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Building.

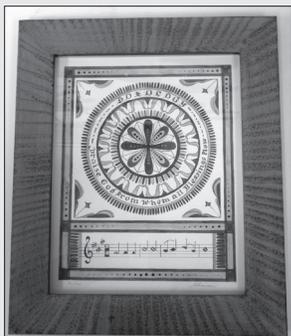
Invitations to the banquet are mailed to Lifetime, Heritage Club and annual members. If you do not receive an invitation, check your Bit o' Vit mailing label for your membership status. Annual members, if any date other than 2015 or 2016 appears on your label, you are not a current member. If no date appears on your label, you are either a Lifetime or Heritage Club member. If there are two slashes (/), please consider becoming a member. Call the Heritage Center if you have questions.

Auction Items

- Jim Spires pottery from Sonnenberg Village clay
- Glenford Gerber wooden bowl
- Lynn Sommer Doxology fraktur
- Glenn Kaufmann Windsor writing arm chair
- Karen Geiser Garden Delights
- Bob Romey workhorse intarsia
- Nicole Myers pottery
- P. Graham Dunn Lord's Prayer 25"x33" carved wood décor
- Quince Bakery and Café goodie basket
- South Side Store 1937 calendar with thermometer
- Leo Gerber wood guitar cutting board
- Terry Shue pottery



Glenford Gerber bowl



Lynn Sommer fraktur



Glenn Kaufmann Windsor chair



Nicole Myers pottery



Leo Gerber cutting mat



South Side Store calendar



P. Graham Dunn carved décor



Terry Shue pottery



Bob Romey intarsia

Sonnenberg Village is Busy Year-round



Hot air ballooning visitors dropped by one evening last summer.



Many events in the Welcome Center this winter required snow removal.



Joe Wiegand, Theodore Roosevelt repressor, captivated his President's Day morning and afternoon audiences of homeschool students and Central Christian School students with fascinating stories of Roosevelt's personal life and years in politics.



Kidron Korner

by Celia Lehman

My brother, Ellis Jay Gerber, missionary to Congo now living with his family in Minnesota, has a 63-page notebook. In it are "Autobiographical Narratives" of his life. This account includes a few paragraphs of his encounters with birds.

BIRDS

Dad taught us to have respect for animals and birds. During the Depression he found a hollow branch in the woods while cutting firewood. He sawed it off perpendicular on one end and at an angle on the opposite end. A piece of board made a floor and a shingle on top made a roof. A knot hole, which is what had given Dad the idea of making a bird house, served as the entry place.

He hung it on a low branch of a plum tree between our house and the windmill. A pair of house wrens found it and made it their home. Dad called them "cheerful singers." They came back habitually in the springtime after that.

When a city boy came to the farm with a BB gun, Dad told him it is alright to shoot sparrows. He proudly brought me a wren he had shot. I reprimanded him for killing one of our "cheerful singers." He was sorry. He thought it was a sparrow.

We found a quail nest along the fence row between our land and Jake Zuercher's. We counted 22 eggs. I carefully kept track of the hatching process. One day there were three broken eggshells. Fluffy balls of newly hatched quails were nearby. I tried to catch them, but they ran quickly away among the grass and stubble.

I kept my eye on one of them and had to hurry to get it. One does not expect a newly hatched chick to be so fast. Fuzzy as it was, it had black streaks down its back reminding me of a chipmunk. I carefully replaced it into the nest and hurried away so as not to disturb them even more.

That fall going home from school along the short-cut path through the wheat field, a covey of quails flushed immediately in front of me. It startled me. When I got my bearings I realized that they had flown in all directions.

I went to the place they had left and found droppings in a circle. Much later I read that quails in a covey spend the night in a circle facing outward. When a predator comes they take off simultaneously to confound the predator. I have no reason to doubt this as a fact. I had surely been startled.

Swiss Visitors

A group of 22 visitors from Switzerland under the guidance of Peter Dettwiler will make a stop in Kidron to tour Sonnenberg Village, the Heritage Center, and Lehman's on Tuesday, May 12.

If you wish to be a host for the evening meal for several of the group, please call the Heritage Center.

Upcoming Events

April 10-11, 2015

**SAGA (Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association)
Annual meeting – Goshen, Indiana**

The Saturday morning speaker will be Joe Springer, curator of the Mennonite Historical Library. Visit www.saga-omii.org for more information.

April 28, 2015 | 6:30

Members Banquet – Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall

for members whose dues are current

2015-2016 Heritage Center Exhibit

Gerico, Jerico or Jericho



Confused? Let's hope the upcoming exhibit, "The Crossroads of Jericho," will help! Opening April 2, the newest exhibit features some of the early businesses in Jericho: the Tschantz carpenter/organ shop, a saw mill, grist mill, woolen mill, cider press and a blacksmith shop as well as the Greble, Grabill or Grable home. Other businesses that were in Jericho at one time or another were a sugarcane mill, a livestock scale and tannery.

Researching some of the early records has brought to light many interesting thoughts about this quaint little precursor to Kidron. As stated in one of the newspaper articles, "Kidron is born when Jericho dies." We hope you enjoy the journey east of Kidron to the valley still known as Jericho.

Volunteers Needed at Heritage Center

There is a need for more volunteers to serve as docents at the Heritage Center. Many interesting conversations ensued when visitors from 19 countries and 31 states passed through the museum in 2014.

What is required? A willingness to engage and inspire visitors of all ages with items in our permanent collection and special exhibits, to share your passion for the Kidron-Sonnenberg heritage, to initiate dialog and create connections in an informal learning environment. It is more important that you be a knowledgeable facilitator than an expert. Cheerfulness and smiles are effective in initiating pleasant conversations.

If you are interested in learning more, contact Prudy by phone or with a visit at the Heritage Center.

New Members

Gretchen Curtis, Lakeside OH

E. Keith and Carol Martin, Dalton OH

David A and Brenda Miller, Millersburg OH

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SPRING 2015



Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center

13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

OPEN APRIL through NOVEMBER • THURSDAY and SATURDAY • 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

CLOSED DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH

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

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.

Administration

Board President	Wayne Liechty	Heritage Center Director	Prudy Steiner
Board Vice President	Glenn Gerber	Sonnenberg Village Project Director	Ray Leisy
Board Treasurer.....	Richard Nussbaum	<i>Bit o' Vit</i> Editor.....	Judie Nussbaum
Board Secretary	Gloria Kaufmann		
Board Membership Chairperson	Leora Gerber		
Board Members.....	Fritz Sprunger, J. Augspurger		

Kidron Community Historical Society Membership

Annual memberships are due in January. Membership expiration information is on your mailing label.

Name _____	Individual Annual Member	\$15
Address _____	Husband and Wife Annual Member.....	\$25
_____	Organization Annual Member.....	\$35
Type of Membership _____ <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	Individual Life Member	\$250
Membership Fee \$ _____ General Donation \$ _____	Heritage Club Member	\$1000 or more
Would you like a receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Thank you!</i>		

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