



## Sonnenberg Station sing in the Sonnenberg Church



**The old Sonnenberg Church provided a vibrant venue for Sonnenberg Station's "Sacred Spaces: Exploring Wayne County's Historic Buildings with Song" concert on March 28.**

The KCHS hosted Sonnenberg Station, a 16-voice male ensemble, at Sonnenberg Village for their fourth of five 2015 spring performances.

Their varied repertoire included selections from "Grosser Gott, wir loben dich" to Baba Yetu," and "Northwest Passage" to "My God Called Me this Morning," stirring emotions from contemplation to exuberance.

Sonnenberg Station's spring schedule finds them exploring some of the oldest congregations and houses of worship in Wayne County. "I like to think of a sanctuary as a huge instrument," reasons director Tim Shue. "Like strings, we singers do the job of producing the initial sound. We then let the building put its own acoustical stamp on it. Most modern facilities are constructed to optimize and gain total control of sound through the use of technology. But for pure, unaided, acoustical pleasure, it's hard to find a better instrument than an old church."

Of the old Sonnenberg Church, Shue said, "This building carries with it quite a few strong musical memories for many Swiss Mennonites in this area. It has been a goal of mine to make this old structure ring once more with singing, especially with this choir that shares the same first name."

Shue's goal was successfully accomplished and the enthusiastic audience called for an encore at the conclusion of the concert. Shue taught a quick music lesson and then asked the audience to join the singers in a lively rendition of "Lion Sleeps Tonight" before dismissal from their splendid performance in the sacred space of the old Sonnenberg Church.

August 8

## Sonnenberg Village Homecoming



**Eldon Kornhaus and friend reminisce in the Saurer Blacksmith Shop.**

Eric and Barb Mast and friends will open the homecoming activities with toe-tapping Appalachian folk music, providing perfect accompaniment for lunch under the tent or on the lawn. The Sonnenberg Food Trailer, Schloneger's Old-Fashioned Homemade Ice Cream and Kettle Korn will provide plenty to eat.

The ever-popular baseball games following old-time rules and using hand-stitched baseballs and wooden bats—and sans gloves—will begin at 1:00.

Bring your chair or blanket and enjoy a casual day at the Sonnenberg Village Homecoming.

### HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

	AUGUST 8 — 10:00-4:00
10-4:00	all buildings and food stands open
10-1:00	folk music under the tent
1:00	Kidron Nine vs Wayne County vintage baseball team
2:30	Kidron United vs Wayne County vintage baseball team

Have you visited our website at [www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org)?

# Members Banquet and Auction



**Nedra Steiner along with J. Augspurger, Glenn and Phyllis Gerber, Veryl and Miriam Kratzer, Glenn Miller, Katie Miller, Rich Nussbaum, Fritz and Ellen Sprunger, Dean Steiner and Roger Steiner did a top-notch job as servers at the members banquet meal.**

Ray Leisy told guests at the 19th annual KCHS members banquet on April 28 that there is little tangible evidence in the Heritage Center's holdings related to Jericho's existence. Perhaps the most significant is an E.P. Gerber painting in which various Jericho buildings and field crops in the valley are identified. Jacob Grable moved his family on 160 acres he purchased in Jericho in 1820 and subsequently built a grist mill, with other manufacturing businesses to follow. After a dam holding back a branch of Sugar Creek broke the second time in the mid 1880s, destroying the water power needed to operate the various mills, Jericho ultimately vanished. Leisy invited society members to visit "The Crossroads of Jericho," a two-year display at the Heritage Center, to learn more about the rise and fall of the settlement east of Kidron.

Roy and Clara Yoder catered the meal for more than 200 guests, Mel Hathaway, pastor of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church, led the invocation, and Prudy Steiner gave potted pansies to 43 volunteers who logged 743 hours at the Heritage Center during the past year. Capably substituting for Joseph Mast, Drew Turner auctioned 14 items bringing a total of \$2,840 to the society's coffers.

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## SOMETHING NEW

### Members Banquet invitation to be in spring Bit o' Vit

Starting in 2016, invitations to the annual members banquet will be included in the spring "Bit o' Vit" which will be mailed in early April. We will continue to ask for RSVPs by phone or email if you plan to attend. Even though an invite will be included in each "Bit o' Vit," only paid-up annual, Lifetime or Heritage members will be eligible to attend.

The cost and time involved in mailing over 400 invitations to 30 states doesn't seem to be the best use of KCHS money. Be assured that it is special when our long-distance members join us; we always look forward to having many local members attend the banquet year after year.

### THE CROSSROADS OF JERICOHO Jericho's hope destroyed by a broken dam



"The Road to Jericho" exhibit features the cider press, saw mill, grist mill, woolen mill, blacksmith shop and Tschantz Organ Company as well as several paintings of early Jericho and artifacts from the era.

Exhibit curators Ray and Allyson Leisy did a substantial amount of research on the once-thriving Jericho settlement. The mystery surrounding its progress and demise begs one to wonder how they may have related to the businesses that were beginning to establish in early Kidron. Could the neighboring settlements have melded to become a thriving industrial community?



## Kidron Korner

by Celia Lehman

*These items were written by my brother, Ellis Gerber (1923-2014). When he lived at home near Kidron, he wrote about life on the farm. He titled this entry "PETS."*

We always had cats. They kept the mouse population down. But we never had them in the house, except for short periods of time when my younger sisters dressed them up as dolls. Their place was in the barn.

What fun it was to find a nest full of new kittens. Sometimes the mother cat had a reason to move them from one place to another. She picked up one at a time by the nape of the neck to carry it to the new location. As soon as they could drink milk from a dish they stayed in the cow stable while we milked.

Dad tied a small piece of corncob to a string and fastened it by the wall so it nearly touched the floor. The kittens found that this object was good exercise to play with. About the time it quit swinging the kittens punching resumed.

I found a picture of a boy milking a stream of milk into a cat's mouth, so I tried it. It was not hard to teach the cat to drink as I streamed milk in the direction of its face. The cat became a nuisance, though, in that he jumped on my knee and insisted on being fed that way. When I tried to shove him off, he dug his claws through my overalls to hold on. The claws didn't stop when they hit my skin.

*Gerber's 1940 diary was all written in rhyming poetry form. Here are a few excerpts:*

For physical ed kick football we did play,  
I made 1 point. Our side won 2-3. Hip-Hip-Hooray!

Dorothy wrote a letter, said, "Chemistry is tough."  
I thought not so, "Of it I could not get enough."

Dad and Mom went away and chores had to be finished.  
It took me longer by myself till they were diminished.

Dad got me a jacket with a zipper.  
Now I can get ready quicker.

## Recent Accessions

- *I Couldn't Fight and Other CO Stories 1917-1960*, donated by Til Neuenschwander
- Spinning wheel and yarn winder, donated by Al and Carol Haven
- *Ancestors of Archie King and S. Fern King*, donated by Eldon King
- 1930s Ivan Nussbaum photos, donated by Colleen Nussbaum Hewitt
- *Rise and Fall of Camp Sherman*, donated by Phyllis Lehman (Vernon)
- Print set, feed sacks and photos, donated by Grace Steffen Bytheway
- 1906-1920 Simon W. Sommer personal ledger, donated by Vivian Crilow Schlabach
- *History of Joseph Conrad and Katherine Krabill*, donated by Eldina Nussbaum

## July Dutch Visitors

A tour group from The Netherlands will visit Kidron and Sonnenberg Village on Saturday, July 18. Contact Leora Gerber at 330-857-9111 if you are interested in their schedule or meeting them.

## Upcoming Events

**August 8, 2015**  
Sonnenberg Village Homecoming

**October 17, 2015**  
Red Beet Festival at Sonnenberg Village

## New Members

Kerry Hayes, Seattle WA  
Loretta M. Miller, Orrville OH  
Dennis P. Nussbaum, Bethel PA  
Tom Olson, Plain City OH

## Around the table



**Bill and Kay Medford hosted an evening with four Swiss tourists in Kidron.**

The twenty Swiss visitors who spent May 12 in Kidron were kept busy touring our town. Their itinerary included lunch at Town and Country Restaurant and shopping in the store, observing quilters at MCC Connections, touring Sonnenberg Village and the Heritage Center and exploring Lehman's. They spent the evening with local hosts for a meal and fellowship.

Elton and Phyllis Lehman hosted four Swiss guests along with Bessie Nussbaum and Ada Amstutz. They sang hymns around the piano and then toured the Mt. Eaton Care Center.

J. and Liz Augspurger enjoyed listening to Heinz and Rosa Peter speak Swiss with their two visitors. The Sweitzers loved the "very American" apple pie with ice cream for dessert.

Clint and Helen had a great time with their four Swiss guests while James and Bernadine Mast hosted Peter and Helen Dettwiler, the group leader and his wife.

Ernie and Jean Geiser's two guests were teachers. Geisers also entertained Jay and Emma Lehman and Glen Neuenschwander.

Jon and Kristen Detweiler had two friends in the group and they spent a delightful evening together.

Bill and Kay Medford hosted four women from Switzerland along with Dave and Leora Gerber. The women were intrigued with Kay's quilt collection.

Leora Gerber served as the local guide and organized the dinner hosts.

**Kidron Community Historical Society**  
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**SUMMER 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

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### 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