



You are invited

2016 KCHS Members Banquet

Lifetime and Heritage members
and annual members with 2016 dues paid

Tuesday, April 26, 6:00 pm

Kidron Mennonite Church
Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP

in 1 of the 3 following ways:

1. email: kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com
2. phone: 330-857-9111 leave a message
3. return this form

*Include the names of persons
planning to attend with all RSVPs.*

Name(s) _____

THIS IS THE ONLY INVITATION MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE.
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

James O. Lehman Remembered

by Fritz Sprunger

Few communities the size of Kidron have been blessed with a gifted researcher and writer as was James Lehman. Even before the inception of the Historical Society, he was commissioned by the Kidron Community Council to write a history for the town's sesquicentennial celebration in 1969. This resulted in the publication of *Sonnenberg: A Haven and A Heritage* for the occasion. The book was a historical account of life in the community, both thorough and balanced.

When the Kidron Community Historical Society was founded in 1977, and the Heritage Center built in 1994, James was one of the key persons consulted in an advisory capacity. In his quiet, unassuming way, he shared from experience what he felt should be some priorities; he also gave some cautions. In one letter his advice was to "be original, start small, and build on that." Wise counsel.

The love James had for both community and church was evident. This is seen most recently in his monumental index of the "Sonnenberg Mennonite Church Cemetery," clearly a labor of love. He was present to see the old Sonnenberg Church building move to Sonnenberg Village. In total, he researched and wrote the history of ten Mennonite congregations.

Much of James' research material was donated to the Kidron Historical Society. When questioned numerous times as to the best place to keep these records long-term, his reply was always the same: "The material has been entrusted to you. It is up to the society what happens from here." May the KCHS be found faithful to that trust. It is hard to believe nearly fifty years have passed since publication of his Sonnenberg Heritage book.

As summed up by Louis Lehman in a personal tribute, "He (James) felt strongly that it was his Creator that endowed him with the gift of writing and he wanted to use it for His glory. . . . He has left a strong legacy of faith, a valiant example of true servanthood, and a unique model of love and commitment to his family, to his church and the communities where he lived and served. We all [would] do well to emulate him. We will miss him, but his good deeds will live on."

James O. Lehman passed away on February 5, 2016 in Harrisonburg, Virginia.



James O. Lehman donated much of his Kidron community research to the Kidron Community Historical Society in 2008.

Johnny Appleseed St. Francis or Steve Jobs?



Professor William Kerrigan, the Cole Distinguished Professor of American History at Muskingum University, will present a program on James Chapman, better

known as "Johnny Appleseed," on Tuesday, May 3 at 1:30 pm in the Welcome Center at Sonnenberg Village. Kerrigan, the author of *Johnny Appleseed and the American Orchard* (Johns Hopkins, 2012), teaches history courses at Muskingum University.

The legend of Johnny Appleseed is based upon the life of a real person. Born into a poor family on the eve of the American Revolution, the young Chapman headed west in the last years of the 18th century. When he died in 1845 in Indiana, stories of the eccentric apple tree planter made their way into the local histories of

midwestern communities, including Wayne County, which he had visited.

Professor Kerrigan will separate fact from fiction and reveal the life of this individual as more compelling than the

myth which emerged after his death. Who is the real Johnny Appleseed?

This program, sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council, is open to the public and students of all ages. Admission is free.

Annual Business Meeting February 23, 2016

New board members, reports and history of money

During the business session of the annual meeting held at Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center, the minutes of the 2015 meeting and the treasurer's report were heard and approved, and nominations for two new board members were accepted and elected. Ray Leisy reported on the happenings at Sonnenberg Village in 2015. "What You Probably Don't Know About Money" was the topic of the presentation by long-time numismatics, Wayne Liechty and Ray Leisy.

Board Members

Maxine (Mast) Hershberger grew up on Jericho Road four miles east of Kidron. She retired after 40 years as a medical technologist and enjoys cooking, baking, knitting and weaving. Maxine and her husband Mark are frequent travelers. They have two married sons and four grandchildren.



Steve Gerber is returning after serving on the board 1995-2000. He grew up in Kidron and lives on the west edge of town with his wife, Ana, and their children, Laura and Daniel. Steve is general manager of Gerber Wood Products. His interests include nature, travel, foreign language, genealogy, woodworking and hiking.



Outgoing board members J Augspurger and Glenn Gerber were recognized for their service and continuing support. J was on the board from 2003-2014 and Glenn 2008-2015.

Sonnenberg Village 2015

The consistent work of Cliff Lehman and Dan Miller has been immensely valuable in moving the Sonnenberg Village project forward. The Welcome Center has seen additional updating, including the installation of a sound system. Five weddings, six reunions and five banquets were held in the Welcome Center in 2015. Rentals, including the Lehman House which is now home to Marv and Lorie Troyer, cover the cost of village utilities. Lighting for the parking lot will be installed this spring, and fundraising for restoration of the Bixler House is in progress.

What You Probably Didn't Know About Money

Ray Leisy and Wayne Liechty presented a short history on coinage and currency that early Wayne County settlers would have encountered during the period 1790 to 1865.

During the American Revolution both the individual states (colonies) and the Continental Congress printed paper money to fill in for the shortage of coinage since Great Britain was no longer sending coins to the colonies.

After the Revolution, Congress decided to reserve the right to mint coins only to the Federal Government. Starting in 1793, silver and bronze coins were minted in Philadelphia and

Members Banquet

Auction Items



The members banquet will conclude with an auction of unique and antique items from friends of the KCHS. Items known to be in the 2016 auction are listed; others may be added.

- Ann Troyer velvet embroidered Christmas stocking
- "Kidron" Swiss bell
- Sonnenberg basket
- Terry Shue pottery plate and bowl
- Lynn Sommer "Be Present at Our Table, Lord" fraktur
- Karen Geiser heirloom plants
- Jim Spires pottery
- Quince Café and Bakery basket of goodies
- Glenford Gerber wooden item
- Shisler's Cheese House basket of goodies
- Matt Menuetz pottery bowl
- Tim Shue carved black cherry wooden spoon

distributed to the states. Gold coins soon followed. The Federal Government decided not to print currency because it would be quickly devalued and, therefore left the regulation of currency to the individual states.

Between 1793 and 1860, almost every value of coin was minted including 1 cent, 2 cent, 3 cent, 20 cent, 25 cent, 50 cent and a one dollar piece. However, coins were rarely circulated into Ohio in the early 1800s in sufficient quantities. Later during times of economic panic or wars, coins were often hoarded for the metal content. Local merchants would often mint tokens called store cards or hard times tokens. No value was placed on these "coins" as that was forbidden. Most tokens circulated only locally with the backing of the reputation of a local merchant.

In Wayne County, local banks started printing paper currency under the direction of the State of Ohio beginning with the German Bank of Wooster in 1815. The local banks were poorly regulated and most soon failed with damage to local holders of the currency. The German Bank of Wooster failed twice and the Bank of Wooster failed in 1848 as well. The only bank that worked was the State Bank of Ohio which had a branch in Wooster.

Money continued

Upcoming Events

April 2 | 2:00 pm
Bob Milne Ragtime Piano
Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center

April 8-9
SAGA Annual Meeting
(Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Assoc.)
Kidron Park Community Center

April 26 | 6:00 pm
Annual Members Banquet
Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall
*Lifetime and Heritage members
and annual members with 2016 dues paid*

May 3 | 1:30
William Kerrigan "Johnny Appleseed"
Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center

May 21 | 7:00 pm
Jericho Road Gospel Quartet
Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center

August 13 | 11:00 - 4:00
Sonnenberg Homecoming
Sonnenberg Village

New Members

Steve and Ana Gerber, Kidron OH
Mark and Maxine Hershberger, Dalton OH
Michelle Lancaster, Cookeville TN

Money continued



Emma and Jay Lehman take a close look at the collection of rare coins and currency Ray Leisy and Wayne Liechty referenced in their presentation, "What You Probably Didn't Know About Money," at the annual business meeting.

With the start of the Civil War, the Federal Government stopped the printing of local currency to be replaced with the first National Bank Note in 1861 known as the "Greenback" for its use of expensive green ink. Local tokens were tolerated, as were encased postage stamps which were used for money until after the Civil War when the Federal Government clamped down on all non-Federal coins and currency.

During the Civil War, local banks could have their names printed on Federal Currency if they bought war bonds. Four banks in Wooster became National Banks as did three in Orrville

Sonnenberg Village

Installing, Restoring, Planting

Although our regular group of volunteers will not be resuming work until April, individuals have been working around the village in preparation for spring.

Toby Hazlett, Jim Stephenson and Jim Holzaepfel have finished the installation of a sound system in the Welcome Center. It was tested it during the Dolley Madison presentation and everything is working fine.

Leonard Kilmer and Phil Buchwalter donated materials and their time to repair and restore the piano in the Welcome Center to be as good as when built, which Phil estimates to be about 1915-1920.

The piano was donated in 2015 by John and Janet Sprunger in answer to a call from the KCHS for a piano, in good condition, for the Welcome Center. The piano had been enjoyed by Simon J. and Ida (Sommer) Lehman, neighbors of the Sprungers. After Simon died and Ida married Reuben Hofstetter, Ida's household auction included the piano. The Sprunger's purchased the piano and their three children took lessons from Grandma Helen (Sprunger). After enjoying the piano in their home for about 50 years, the Sprungers continue to appreciate it when played at events in the Welcome Center.

Cliff Lehman obtained the two stained glass windows from the Sonnenberg School; they have been turned over to the Glassmith Artists at Maple Lawn Farm in Apple Creek for restoration and reframing. Clayton Steiner has been contacting people who attended the school for donations to restore the windows, reframe them and hang them in the Welcome Center.

Allyson Leisy has been working with Paul Snyder of the Wooster Secrest Arboretum to complete a master plan for planting trees in appropriate places throughout the village.

Fish have been ordered to stock the larger pond. When work resumes in the spring, the first job will be to put up the 24-foot windmill received through a grant from the Romich Foundation to aerate the pond.

The John D. Bixler Family is busy drawing plans to rebuild the Bixler House as soon as weather permits. The home will be rebuilt immediately to the south of the Welcome Center.

Clayton Steiner has submitted two grant applications to complete the wiring of the parking lots for lighting. At the same time electric will be connected to the blacksmith shop and it will be completed for operating. Gerber Poultry has donated four large lights for the parking lots.

We are working on grants for three other buildings in the village.

and one in Dalton. These banks were still owned locally but their currency was backed by the Federal Government. Many banks failed during times of depression but their National Bank Notes were always redeemed. All U.S. coins and currency ever issued are still legal tender. The Dalton National Bank was kept solvent by the personal financing of John Good at the start of the Great Depression.

Ray Leisy's book, Wildcat Banks and Broken Banks of the Wayne County Frontier, is available at the Heritage Center.

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SPRING 2016



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 | Board Member | Maxine Hershberger |
| Board Vice President | Steve Gerber | Board Member | Fritz Sprunger |
| Board Treasurer..... | Richard Nussbaum | Heritage Center Director | Prudy Steiner |
| Board Secretary | Gloria Kaufmann | Sonnenberg Village Project Director | Ray Leisy |
| Board Membership Chairperson | Leora Gerber | <i>Bit o' Vit</i> Editor..... | Judie Nussbaum |

Kidron Community Historical Society Membership

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

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|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 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