

Sonnenberg Village

Moving, Planting, Stocking and Frolicking

Sonnenberg Church Buggy Shed

An original Sonnenberg Church buggy shed was brought into the village in early May. The shed was owned and used by Amos and Sarah Lehman to house their horse and buggy, and later their car, while worshipping at the third Sonnenberg Church building. Ray and Joan Nussbaum inherited the shed when they bought the Amos Lehman property and by 1998 had donated it to the KCHS. Jay Lehman, Amos's nephew, agreed to store it at his place, once owned by his father Ezra. After standing on a cement barnyard for 18 years, it was moved to the village by Phil Neuenschwander, two of his sons and D.E. Nussbaum and is now awaiting a foundation and restoration.



Gardens and Trees

Allyson Leisy along with friends and nurses from the Cleveland Clinic (Wooster) worked through most of May cleaning up the gardens and mulching. About the same time, a new grounds project was started. Paul Snyder from the Secrest Arboretum in Wooster helped begin the development of the Sonnenberg Arboretum. Paul delivered twenty different trees to supplement earlier plantings. Markers have been made for each tree, or group of trees, which carry the common name of the tree and the botanical name. Next year twenty more trees will be planted. While centered around the Tschantz Cabin and the pond, the trees will be located throughout the village.



Windmill and Fish

Because of the depth of the pond, it is necessary to aerate the water to provide a healthy environment for fish. A windmill and pump were acquired through a grant from the Romich Foundation of Wooster, who generously gave additional money to stock the pond with largemouth bass, blue gill, shell crackers and perch. The windmill is 24 feet high and is anchored to a 14'x14'x6" cement pad. Cliff Lehman, Ray Leisy, Dan Miller and Cindy and Terry Strube executed this project from start to finish. When you have time, stop at the pond, sit on the bench and watch as the duck decoy shows where the diffuser below is blowing precious bubbles so our fish can survive.



Bixler House

The largest major summer project is the Bixler House. The College of Wooster has dated the building to 1832, so it is a significant addition to the village, dating back to early Swiss settlement of the area. Masons were hired to construct a full basement after Brian Hofstetter of B.E. Hofstetter Trucking and Excavating finished the excavation. At a frolic on May 4 with 30 helpers and 70 onlookers, the building went up in one day. Since then a roof has been placed on the house. Work has paused to evaluate the best way to proceed with exterior and interior finishes. The Bixler family and co-chairs Clair Bixler and Dr. Elton Lehman have organized this project.



Tschantz Reed Organ Recitals at Homecoming



Rob Gregory's band organ will return to the August 13 Sonnenberg Homecoming.

A. J. Tschantz (Schantz) began building pipe organs after a brief venture into the construction of reed (parlor) organs. At least six of Schantz Organ's original reed organs will be on display in the Welcome Center at the Sonnenberg Homecoming and played by some of our finest local organists. Bring a lawn chair, enjoy lunch under the tent and watch a lively game of old time base ball between two area teams.

- 10:00 Food vendors open
- 10:00 Buildings open for tours
- 10:00 Rob Gregory's band organ begins playing
- 10:00 A.J. Tschantz Organ display opens
Organ recitals begin
- 1:00 Old Time Base Ball Game
Smithville Stars and Kidron Nine
- 4:00 Homecoming ends

Crossroads to Jericho



The "Crossroads to Jericho" exhibit at the Heritage Center displays a variety of documents and artifacts, including a shaving horse, related to Jericho. Both the first and second dams on the Kidron Creek broke, affecting the development of both Jericho and Kidron, and ultimately causing the demise of the once thriving community east of Kidron.

Kidron Beet Festival October 15

Celebrating Beets

Celebrate the beet, a popular garden vegetable also known as garden beets, blood turnip or red beets. Beets are used in recipes for main dishes, salads, cakes and cookies, and even ice cream! Beet tops are cooked or served fresh as greens and the roots may be pickled for salads or cooked whole, then sliced or diced.

The Lutz beet is an heirloom winter-keeper, purplish red exterior, deep red interior, with large glossy green tops, excellent for greens; roots stay tender even when large and store extremely well.

Plan to attend the annual Beet Festival on Saturday, October 15. Check the schedule of events and categories for the contests and plan to participate in the Sonnenberg Village Beet Festival. *Note: Entries may be removed after 3:00 p.m.*

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

- 10:00 Food vendors open
- 10:00 Tours of buildings begin
- 10:00-4:00 Music
- 11:00 Deadline: beet and food entries
- 4:00 Village building tours end

BEET CONTEST CATEGORIES

- Largest Lutz Beet
- Largest Organic Lutz Beet
- Most Luscious Lutz Beet
- Best American Beet
- Best Heirloom Beet

FOOD CONTEST CATEGORIES

- Best Appetizer/Side Dish (with beets)
- Best Salad (with beets)
- Best Dessert (with beets)

Members Attend Annual Banquet

Wayne Liechty, director of the KCHS board, welcomed guests to the 20th members banquet on April 26. Bruce Detweiler Breckbill led the devotional thoughts and prayer. Following the meal catered by Roy and Clara Yoder featuring



Heritage Center volunteers Enos and Judy Amstutz watch auction items up for bid.

meatloaf, noodles, green beans and homemade ice cream with cookies, Heritage Center Director Prudy Steiner awarded service bars and potted geraniums to 41 volunteers who served as 2015 docents at the Heritage Center. Dick Wolf was introduced as the newly appointed Heritage Center director; he will assume his responsibilities in January following Prudy Steiner's conclusion of ten years as director. The auction conducted by "Til's Donna's Marie's Joe," otherwise known as Joseph Mast, was highlighted with lively bidding on items ranging from pottery to baskets and wooden items. Harry Neuenschwander closed the evening by leading the 240 guests in singing "Gott ist Die Liebe" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Many Thanks to Our BANQUET TABLE SPONSORS

- Eastwood Manufacturing Ltd
- Everence
- Farmers National Bank
- G & G Farms
- G & S Titanium
- Gerber Feed Service
- Gerber Lumber & Hardware
- Gerber Wood Products
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- P Graham Dunn
- R & C Farm/Yoder Family Veal
- Raber Dental
- Raber Eye Care
- Real Estate Showcase
- Schloneger's Old-Fashioned Ice Cream
- VT Hackney, Kidron
- Village Printing, Inc.
- Weaver Commercial Contractor, Inc.
- Weaver Custom Homes
- Weyrauch's Pharmacy
- Woodland Mulch, LLC



Kidron Korner
by Celia Lehman

Old-time Schools

I sat in my car and watched with teary eyes as the crew tumbled down the two-room redbrick Kidron School building. That was the school I attended for eight years. I later taught in the newer building which was also being torn down.

Memories galore came to my mind:

- 82 years ago I walked nearly two miles one way each school day in all kinds of weather.
- The big bell on top of the school tolled “time to get moving.” (The bell now sits atop the Heritage Center building.)
- The furnace in the corner warmed the room if needed.
- Individual desks were screwed to the floor.
- Each desk had a hole for the ink well where one could dip to write with a pen. Books and personal belongings were put inside the desk.
- One teacher sat in front of grades 1-4; the other in the second room for grades 5-8.
- On top of the big chalk board were pictures of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and a flag.
- The chalk erasers had to be dusted outside against the brick walls. Dust flew everywhere.
- Lunch pails were placed above the coat rack at one side of the room.
- There was a big ball field behind the school. Sometimes (not often) we would play neighboring schools.



- At recess time one could get a drink by pumping the pump in front of the school. You could catch the water in your hands or use the tin cup hanging close by.
- Outside were two outhouses – one for the boys and one for the girls. If you didn’t use it during recess, you needed permission to leave the room to use it.
- Special times each week featured Victor Gerber with singing and playing instruments or religious training by Rev. Adam Sommer and Vesta Sommer.
- Our lessons were in turns and one could listen to the students in other grades participate while you did your assignments.
- There were fun times like spell-downs, picnics and special dramas or musical programs.
- In extreme inclement weather, Dad would come get me on horseback and trudge through the snow. When the lid flew off my lunch pail, it stayed in the snow.
- My neighbor, cousin Clifford would carry both his violin and mine, while I carried the books, or vice-versa, as we walked home. Another neighbor, Miriam and I would crawl through holes in the fences to take a shortcut home.

Now the building is gone, but one thing they can’t destroy are the happy memories of our lifetime friends and the good times together. Our skilled teachers gave us a solid education which lasted a lifetime.

KCHS Hosts SAGA Annual Meeting

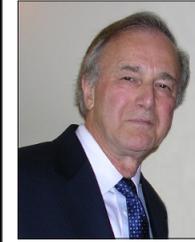


The annual Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association (SAGA) meeting was held on April 9 at the Kidron Park Community Building. Wayne Liechty, KCHS board president, welcomed the 61 members and guests. Troye Kauffman, chair of SAGA, introduced the board members. Keynote speaker Leroy Beachy gave a presentation on the history of the Amish, based on research for his two-volume book, *Unser Leit (Our People)*.

Friday activities included a bus tour designed and led by Leora Gerber identifying generational businesses and homesteads in the community, and a stop at Sonnenberg Village. An evening banquet was held at the Dutch Kitchen.

John C. Fazio to speak on The Emancipation Proclamation

Noted speaker and historian, John C. Fazio will present a lecture at the Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center on October 4 at 1:30 p.m. Fazio holds



a B.A. and J.D. from Case Western Reserve University and is a student of history, with an emphasis on the Civil War.

Fazio will cover

the genesis, the preparation, the promulgation, the interpretation and the effects of the Emancipation, perhaps the strangest document in American history. He will discuss the moral imperatives that inspired the decision as well as the more concrete motives of preventing foreign intervention in the war and depleting southern manpower and increasing northern manpower.

The lecture, sponsored by the KCHS, is free and open to all students of history. The Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center is located about 1 mile north of Kidron at 13497 Hackett Road, Apple Creek.

Upcoming Events

August 13 | 10:00 - 4:00
Sonnenberg Homecoming
Sonnenberg Village

October 4 | 1:15
John C. Fazio lecture
“The Emancipation Proclamation”
Sonnenberg Village

October 15 | 10:00 - 4:00
Beet Festival
Sonnenberg Village

November 26
“Crossroads of Jericho”
Heritage Center Exhibit final closing

February, March, April & May, 2017
Based on the success of our first performance series, we have secured contracts for four new performances February through May, 2017. Watch the next BOV for information.

New Members

Gretchen S. Curtis, Powell OH
Dick and Sharon Wolf, Columbus OH

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SUMMER 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.

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