



Kidron Has a Namesake

By Christa J. Wolf

As a young German Baptist girl, Jenny and her parents, Doug and Lorene Shoup, always enjoyed visiting the Holmes County region, making the trip often for a quick weekend away. On one such trip, they found themselves in Wayne County, driving through the town of Kidron. When Jenny, at 13 years old, saw the sign marking the town's name, it instantly resonated with her. "I like that name! I'm going to name my son that someday," she spontaneously declared.

At the time the name itself had no special meaning for her, but she did enjoy finding out later that it is mentioned in the Bible (i.e. Kidron Valley).

Years later, in 1995 when Jenny and her husband were expecting their first child, they didn't seriously consider any other boy names because they both liked the name Kidron so well that they had already made up their minds, although they had the name Katelyn chosen as a back-up in case they had a girl. The back-up wasn't necessary, though, because Kidron Filbrun soon joined the family, weighing in at just over seven pounds.

Kidron, the man, is now a remarkable young adult of 21 years. Always curious and creative, he has enjoyed early success as a business entrepreneur and inventor, is happily married to his high school sweetheart, Jessica, takes his faith in Jesus seriously, and will be graduating in May with a degree in Computer Science from Cedarville University.

The town of Kidron can be proud of its namesake!



Kidron Filbrun with his mother, Jenny.

Members Banquet INVITATION

This invitation in the *Bit o' Vit* will be the **ONLY** invitation members will receive – printed invitations will not be mailed.

KCHS members with paid-up annual dues and Lifetime or Heritage members are eligible to attend the annual members banquet.

Tuesday, April 25, 6:00 pm



**Kidron Mennonite Church
Fellowship Hall**



RSVP required

Please RSVP by phone or email. Leave a phone message at the Heritage Center 330-857-9111, or email your RSVP to kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com.

Swiss-German Dialect Speakers

Dr. Michael T. Putnam, Associate Professor of German & Linguistics at Penn State University, and his colleague, Richard Page, along with two graduate students are scheduling meetings with Swiss-German dialect speakers the week of May 17-24.

If you are a speaker of the Swiss-German dialect and interested in meeting with Dr. Putnam individually and in a small group, contact Leora Gerber at 330-857-3375, or check our website www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org for details.

Something New

Quick Reminders

Would you like to be on an email list for a quick reminder a week or so before the KCHS will host an event such as the annual business meeting or a program in the Performance Series? Email your request to kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com to be placed on a quick reminder list.

Annual Business Meeting

KCHS board president Wayne Liechty chaired the annual business meeting held in the Welcome Center at Sonnenberg Village. In addition to the reports from Gloria Kaufmann, secretary, and Richard Nussbaum, treasurer, Gloria was approved for another 3-year term on the board.

Ray Leisy, Sonnenberg Village project director, gave updates on the Bixler House and trenching for conduit and installation of wiring for the Saurer Blacksmith Shop. Leisy revealed a long-range plan to dismantle and move a structure from the Rich and Velma Shetler property on Kansas Road to the village to be restored and used as a Garden House. The name plates for the plantings in the arboretum have also been put in place.

Roger Geiser told of the progress for the 2,150-square-foot addition to the Heritage Center to be used to bring together a number of large collections of genealogy books into the Heritage Center's collection.

During the program, Liechty conducted an informational conversation with Dick and Sharon Wolf. Dick assumed the role of director of the Heritage Center in January. Sharon has always had an interest in relationships and her ancestors. Dick and Sharon have seen God's hand in all their life transitions and want to honor our forefathers who were willing to die for their faith, lost their farms and moved to the Kidron-Sonnenberg community.

With a Name Like Kidron or Sonnenberg

Several years ago a young girl named Kidron Brooke Taylor signed in at the Heritage Center visitors register, and a salesman with the surname of Sonnenberg stopped at the Heritage Center on his way through town.

There are a number of vehicles with Kidron or some form of Kidron on their license plates. Some are regularly seen around town and others are held by owners with links to the village of Kidron. KIDRON on license plates has been spotted from coast to coast and border to border: Virginia to California, and Montana to Texas.

It was reported in the July 27, 2005, edition of the *Dalton Gazette and Kidron News* that local investment advisor George Breneman held the first KIDRON plate. When Ohio began using 7 or more digits on license plates, Betty Geiser claimed KIDRON1 while Jim and Doris Miller took KIDRON2 and JDKIDRON; Leora Gerber claimed KIDRON3.

A number of area businesses use Kidron in their business names: Kidron Auction, Kidron Electric Inc., Kidron Inc., Kidron Kars, Kidron Rental, Kidron Sports Center, Kidron Supply Inc., Kidron Town and Country Store, Kidron Tree Service, Kidron Vinyl and Kidron Wellness Center. Nonprofits in addition to the Kidron Community Historical Society include Kidron Community Park, Kidron Volunteer Fire Department and Kidron Mennonite Church.



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 19 | 1:30 pm
Professor William McDaniel
African-American Jazz Music
Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center

April 21-22
Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association
Annual Meeting
Somerset County, Pennsylvania
www.saga-omii.org

April 22 | 2:00 pm
Scott Ainslie: American Roots Music
Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center

April 25 | 6:00 pm
Annual Members Banquet
Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall
Lifetime and Heritage members
and annual members with 2017 dues paid
See page 1 for RSVP details

May 13 | 7:00 pm
Mercy River Quartet: Southern Gospel
Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center

August 12 | 10:00 - 4:00
Sonnenberg Homecoming
Sonnenberg Village

New Members

Jann Allison, Dalton, OH
Ray Gotshall, Indianapolis IN
Cathy Murphy, Peoria IL
Philip and Lisa Schlabach, Dalton OH
Libby Wagner, Orrville OH

Heritage Center They Come from Near and Far

Visitors at the Heritage Center in 2016 came from the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, as well as Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania. We also had international visitors from the Netherlands and Haiti.

Sonnenberg Village

Work Proceeds through the Winter

We thought we would take a break this winter, but with the unexpected spring-like weather, we have started early. With the volunteer help of Leonard Steiner and the employees of Steiner Trenching, we ran electrical conduit from the Welcome Center to the Bixler House and under the Rain Garden to the Saurer Blacksmith Shop, the storage shed and the overflow parking lot light. This work was completed with a gift from the Wayne County Community Foundation. This spring, Kidron Electric will run wiring and install an electrical box in each of the three buildings and on the light pole.



Meanwhile, Jon Fielitz, Cliff Lehman, Dan Miller and Ray Leisy have completed 16 new window frames for the Bixler House and are repairing, painting and will soon be fitting the window sashes into the frames. The windows will be installed in the Bixler House when the weather is favorable.

2017 Sonnenberg Village Performance Series



APRIL 22: A musician from the age of 3, Scott Ainslie began playing guitar in 1967, and says he still finds "singular power in what can be done with two hands and the voice." Hear Ainslie on April 22 at the Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center at 2:00 pm. Tickets available in advance from the KCHS or at the door; \$10.



MAY 13: Mercy River Quartet has committed themselves to serving the Lord and sharing the gospel in song. This southern gospel quartet from Massillon will have you smiling, laughing and crying. Mercy River Quartet will be at Sonnenberg Village May 13 at 7:00 pm. No tickets will be sold; a free-will offering will be collected.

Patrick Henry Visits Sonnenberg Village

An audience of students and adults filled the Welcome Center on February 27 for the portrayal of Patrick Henry by professional actor Doug Thomas. Patrick Henry, a self-taught lawyer, gained a reputation as a skillful lawyer when he argued a case which resulted in local parsons being paid in cash instead of tobacco. A passionate orator, Henry is best known for his "give me liberty, or give me death!" speech. He was opposed to the formation of a federal government, and the Constitution, but he was vehemently in favor of what would become the Bill of Rights.

Cultural Event

Professor William McDaniel to Speak on African-American Jazz Music

We are pleased to announce that Professor William McDaniel will be the spring guest lecturer in our history series on Wednesday, April 19 at 1:30 pm in the Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center. His topic will be the history and future of African-American jazz music.



McDaniel is Professor Emeritus of The Ohio State University. A specialist in African-American music and jazz performance, he is noted for his analysis of John Coltrane and Charlie Parker. He has published several works on jazz and more than 300 musical arrangements.

African-American music has served as the barometer of the times and lives of African-Americans. This program, utilizing recorded music, explores the various aspects and periods of black history by examining the music of each era. It ranges from the work songs and spirituals of slavery through the rap of modern urban times.

The program of Professor McDaniel is sponsored by Sonnenberg Village and the Ohio Humanities Council. The program is free and open to the public.



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

SPRING 2017



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	Richard Wolf
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