



## Heritage Center

### Looking at Kidron Between 1896 and 2019

Museum strollers, browsers and dashers will all come away from the *Kidron: 1896-2019* exhibit knowing more about the everyday happenings of this community in times past. Maxine Hershberger and Sharon Wolf curated the exhibit which focuses on four areas of Sonnenberg-Kidron history.

**Churches:** Four storyboards for the Mennonite churches explain why there are three situated within (practically) a stone's throw from each other.

**Schools:** Bring your grandchildren along to visit the school display where they can see the tools the children of the last century had while learning their 3 R's – and what are the 3 R's? "There is even a homework assignment for 1952 Kidron Elementary students and 1935 Dalton High School freshmen," noted Maxine Hershberger.

**Businesses:** Then, as now, businesses flourished in Kidron. A flour mill by the Kidron Creek, car and appliance dealerships, gas stations, grocery and hardware stores, feed mills, a poultry hatchery, an auction and more are represented in the exhibit.

**Homes:** Sharon Wolf said, "I loved being together with family, eating popcorn and drinking grape juice on



Family life often centered around the dining table.

Sunday evenings, listening to my grandpa, Albert Nussbaum, play his accordion and harmonica, and oh yes, he yodeled too."

The Sonnenberg-Kidron community has a robust tradition of volunteering. Opportunities have ranged from barn raisings to building ball diamonds, serving on the fire department and supporting victims of unfortunate circumstances. Some of these ventures are also included in the exhibit.

*The "Kidron: 1896-2019" exhibit on the second floor of the Heritage Center museum opens April 5. The Heritage Center is open 11:00 - 3:00 on Thursdays and Saturdays, April through November. Call the Heritage Center at 330-857-9111 to arrange for visits at other times.*

Kidron Community Historical Society

### MEMBERS BANQUET AND AUCTION

Tuesday, April 24 | 6:00 pm  
Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall

Members with Lifetime, Heritage  
or 2018 on mailing label  
are eligible to attend.

R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, April 17  
email [kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com](mailto:kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com)  
phone 330-857-9111 (leave message)

The Heritage Center will be open briefly  
after the banquet for the Grand Opening  
of the *Kidron: 1896-2019* display.

MEMBERS, THIS IS YOUR OFFICIAL INVITATION  
NO OTHER INVITATION WILL BE ISSUED



Albert Nussbaum entertained his family with his accordion.

## Members Banquet Auction Items



Wooden organ pipe floor lamp made by Glenn Kaufmann



Antique wooden bowl refinished by Dan & Marlene Coble



Recipe box from Bixler House wood made by Jon Fielitz



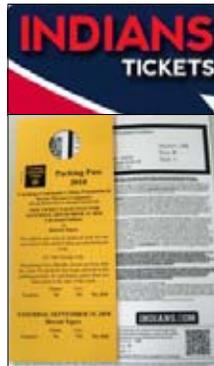
Hand-woven rug made by Maxine Hershberger



Kidron Swiss Cheese Factory knife



Walnut hooded cradle made by Joe Wolf



Four (4) Indians tickets w/parking pass. Sat, Sept 15, 1:05 pm vs Detroit Tigers, Sec 159, Row R, Seats 1-4, 10 rows behind Indians on-deck circle



Karen's Garden Delights gift basket



Quince Bakery and Café gift basket



Shisler's Cheese House gift basket



Jim Spires pottery

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21 Saturday | 7:00 pm

**Ameranouche: Sonnenberg Village Performance Series \***

April 24 Tuesday | 6:00 pm

**KCHS Members Banquet: Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall**

May 19 Saturday | 7:00 pm

**Jericho Road: Sonnenberg Village Performance Series**  
(no charge—freewill offering)

July 26-28

**JHFA Family Gathering (Jacob Hochstetler Family Association), Berlin**

Information at [www.jhfa.net](http://www.jhfa.net) or phone Paul J. Miller at 330-683-0596

August 11 Saturday | 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Sonnenberg Village Homecoming | Community Photo**

\* PERFORMANCE SERIES TICKETS: AMERANOUCHE

\$10 adults; \$5 youth 17 and under

Mail KCHS, PO Box 234, Kidron OH 44636, or call 330-857-9111

## ..... Quick Reminders .....

To receive email reminders of KCHS events, email your request to [kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com](mailto:kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com) and you will be added to the Quick Reminder list.

## Kidron Marks 200 Years in 2019

While the Kidron Merchants Association has formed a committee to plan the celebration of the 200 years of our heritage, the Kidron Community Historical Society is planning three avenues to support the “kick-off” of the celebration.

1. Co-chairs Fritz Sprunger and Dick Wolf are working with many others to produce a book detailing the 50 years of our history since James O. Lehman's book, *Sonnenberg: A Haven and A Heritage*, was published in 1969.
2. An historical marker is being obtained from the Ohio History Connection (formerly the Ohio Historical Society) to mark the settlement of the Sonnenberg area. The marker will be dedicated on August 11 at the Sonnenberg Homecoming.
3. Every resident of the Sonnenberg-Kidron area and anyone who feels a connection to our heritage is invited to assemble in Sonnenberg Village on August 11 for a group photo commemorating who we are now. Reserve the date and watch for details in the next *Bit O' Vit*.

## Swiss Visitors Coming in May

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 Saturday, May 19.

If you are interested in hosting the evening meal at 5:00 pm for several members of the group, please phone Leora Gerber at 330-857-3375 for more information.

# Sonnenberg 1819-2019

BY RAY LEISY

In the early 1800's, conditions for Mennonites living in the Jura Mountains of Switzerland began to deteriorate. Rent was high, the area was becoming overcrowded and the Napoleonic wars were in full swing with soldiers marching through the area. In addition, 1816 saw famine caused by a terrible winter which continued throughout the summer with snow and frost in every month of the year.

So, in 1819, encouraged by letters from Benedict Schrag and Hans Nussbaum who had settled near Smithville, Ohio, 27 settlers decided to follow others to Wayne County, Ohio. They were Peter and Barbara Lehman with their six children; David and Barbara Kirchhofer and their twelve children; Isaac and Katharina Sommer and their two sons; Ulrich Lehman, brother of Peter and a bachelor. Johannes Amstutz had traveled with the group to America, but stopped in Belleville, Pennsylvania, and arrived in Sonnenberg in 1820.

Upon arrival in Wooster in August, 1819, the small group stayed in the Joseph Stibbs School south of Wooster until they bought a half section of land (320 acres) centered on what began the crossroads of Zuercher and Hackett Roads. Isaac Sommer, Peter Lehman, Ulrich Lehman and David Kirchhofer divided the land amongst themselves, each taking title to 80 acres.

The early pioneers called their settlement



Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Badertscher in front of the old house on the former Deacon Abraham Tschantz farm, circa 1904. The house is preserved in Sonnenberg Village as the Tschantz Cabin. (*Sonnenberg: A Haven and A Heritage*, page 63)

“Sonnenberg” after a small community of the same name in Switzerland in the northwestern section of Canton Bern. The name Sonnenberg eventually appeared on Wayne County maps of the area and in Wayne County newspapers. Sonnenberg never had a post office or any central settlement, but the name survives today in our history.

*We would like to acknowledge the work of James O. Lehman and his book *Sonnenberg: A Haven and A Heritage* for the facts which form the basis of this article. As we begin the celebration of the 200 years of Sonnenberg history, we will continue to feature articles about our heritage.*



Sonnenberg Village

## HVAC Installed In Tschantz Cabin

Only minor repairs and upkeep have been done in the Sonnenberg Village since the beginning of 2018, with the exception of one major step forward: There is now heat and air conditioning in the Tschantz Cabin. We thank the David Tschantz Family for supporting this important project.

## New Members

Michael & Jan Hamill, Wooster OH  
Walt & Sheila Poffenbaugh, Willard OH

**Kidron Community Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 234**  
**Kidron, Ohio 44636**  
 330-857-9111

kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com  
 www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

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SPRING 2018



## 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. Memberships expire on December 31 of the year on the upper right on your mailing label.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal

Membership Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a receipt?  Yes  No *Thank you!*

Individual Annual Member ..... \$15

Husband and Wife Annual Member..... \$25

Organization Annual Member..... \$35

Individual Life Member ..... \$250

Heritage Club Member ..... \$1000 or more

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