



Sonnenberg Homecoming

The homecoming brought a record-breaking crowd to Sonnenberg Village to witness the dedication of the Historic Marker from the Ohio History Connection, formerly the Ohio Historical Society, marking the 200th anniversary of the Sonnenberg settlement by our ancestors from Switzerland who arrived in 1819.

To commemorate the occasion, State Senator Frank LaRose brought a proclamation from the Ohio Senate, and State Representative Scott Wiggam who brought a proclamation from the Ohio House of Representatives. We also received commendations from the Ohio History Connection and Governor John Kasich recognizing the significance of the settlement by our ancestors.

Participating in the ceremony and dedication were Sonnenberg Mennonite Church Pastor Mel Hathaway who offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the risks and struggles of the settlers in leaving their homeland to found new homes in Wayne County. The keynote speaker, Clarence Neuenschwander, fittingly reminded us to remember our ancestors and what they risked so they and their descendants could worship in peace.

Another highlight of the event was a group photograph taken of all who were present, with the village as a backdrop. The weather was perfect for the event and the photo is beautiful.

The folks who turned out for the rest of the day's activities enjoyed tours of all the village buildings. We also enjoyed beautiful musical presentations, demonstrations, and tasty food. The day ended with the Kidron Nine Base Ball team claiming a victory over the Smithville Stars.



A community photograph was taken after which Kidronites from near and far casually reconnected.

To view and order the actual photo, contact the KCHS at 330-857-9111 or kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com. The photo is available in two sizes: 14"x11" which sells for \$20 plus tax, and 24"x14" which sells for \$40 plus tax.

October 20

Beet Festival

The 2018 Kidron Beet Festival will take place in Sonnenberg Village on Saturday, October 20. Originated by Keith Schloneger and managed by Keith and Ray Leisy, festivities will begin at 10:00 am with music by the Swiss Echoes followed by Rust Belt Ramblin, Kodachrome, and Gary Bonewitz.

All buildings will be open for tours, and food stands selling sandwiches, pie, ice cream, kettle corn, and produce vendors will be open from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.



Clarence Neuenschwander and Wayne Liechty unveiled the Ohio History Connection historical marker.

Friends and Fords came to the Sonnenberg Homecoming



Lloyd and Esther Lehman came back to the Lehman House and shared stories of the house in which Lloyd grew up. Lloyd and Esther built a home next to the old dwelling and raised their daughters on the farm. The Lehman House was moved intact to Sonnenberg Village in 2008 to be restored and is the residence of the village caretakers.



Leroy Beachy of Holmes County brought his 1924 Ford Model T to the homecoming. It was a homecoming for this car, too, as it was purchased in 1962 by Kidronite Kenny Gerber for his father, Elam, to restore in his retirement years. Elam focused on getting the car in fine running condition. His grandson, Mark Gerber, remembers that he and his sisters, Mollie and Amy, were taught to drive the car around town. The car was sold in 1967 after Elam passed away. Beachy acquired the car and while restoring it, he found an envelope under the seat addressed to Kenny with an enclosed order for Model T Ford parts, confirming that he had at one time owned the vehicle.



Heritage Center

Roger N. Geiser Family History Library

Volunteers needed for the Roger N. Geiser Family History Library

The Roger N. Geiser Family History Library is now unofficially open, and we are in need of additional volunteers to help visitors with their researches. We can train people to operate the computers that access to the genealogy databases and to help in the museum. Contact Dick Wolf or Leora Gerber if interested in learning more about this opportunity.

Financial Needs

Although we always have an appeal for funds at yearend, we have some extra needs this year. The HVAC systems for upstairs will soon need to be replaced, and we anticipate publication costs for a 200th anniversary book. *Kidron's 200th: Keepers of the Heritage* will be published by the KCHS and contain about 200 pages with an abundance of photos. The coffee-table-style book will be available in the summer of 2019. Additionally, extending the fire and security system to the genealogy library has incurred some expense.

If you are interested in helping with any of these items, contact Heritage Center Director Dick Wolf or KCHS Board President Wayne Liechty.



Leora Gerber and Fritz Sprunger meet weekly to enter newly acquired items in the accessions records.

Recent Accessions

- Letter written from Vietnam by Leroy Gerber to John and Janet Sprunger
- Wood block print made by H. Clair Amstutz titled "October Evening"
- Cora Hofstetter's Autograph Book from 1926-27
- German *Ausbund* printed in 1815 in Philadelphia
- Small softball bat made by residents of the Delaware State Hospital for Harvey D. Mumaw circa 1943

UPCOMING EVENTS

Work Day
Sonnenberg Village
October 19

Beet Festival
Sonnenberg Village
October 20 | 10:00 - 3:00

..... Quick Reminders

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

Sonnenberg Village

The third quarter work in the Sonnenberg Village concentrated on preparing for the Sonnenberg Homecoming and the reconstruction of the Bixler House and the Zuercher/Shetler/Garden House.

Sidewalks and Ramps

Volunteers constructed a ramp and sidewalk to the Bixler House so it is now handicap accessible. A cement walk was also constructed from the west emergency exit of the Welcome Center and from the parking lot to the side basement entrance of the Welcome Center.

Work Days

Another work day is scheduled for Friday, October 19, to coincide with students from the Central Christian School Community Service Day. Our focus will be preparing the grounds for winter and on the Bixler House and Garden House. Call the Heritage Center if you are able to help. Any age and skill level will be helpful.



Rod and Glenn Showalter, Darry Neuenschwander and Paul Hiner brought their equipment to Sonnenberg Village in July and dredged the retention pond.



Beet Festival Contest Information

Registration for judging of beets and beet dishes will open at 9:00 am on Saturday, October 20, and end at 11:00 am when judging will commence. The prize winners will be announced at noon. There are four categories for the beet contest and three for beet dishes.

BEETS

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

Beets must remain on display until 3:00 pm.

BEET DISHES

- Best Appetizer/Side
- Best Salad
- Best Dessert

Work began on the reconstruction of the Garden House with a frolic on September 8. Eighteen skilled volunteers helped, but were forced to stop at noon because of the constant rain.



The Ohio Historical Marker placed at Sonnenberg Village was dedicated in August at the Sonnenberg Homecoming.

Kidron Community Historical Society
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 330-857-9111

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 www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

Address Service Requested

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FALL 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 and expire on December 31. Contact the Heritage Center if uncertain of your membership status.

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