



Kidron-Sonnenberg 200th Anniversary Celebration



The Kidron-Sonnenberg 200th Anniversary Celebration Committee hopes to have an event every day from Tuesday, August 6, to Sunday, August 11.

Other events—including a pageant, hymn sing, Kidron merchant puzzle contest, and beard contest—are being planned, but

dates and times are yet to be determined.

Check the KCHS website for updates and the summer *Bit o' Vit* for the final schedule.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

Kidron Firemen's Chicken BBQ

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

11:00 am Parade

South end of Kidron moving north on Kidron Road to Sonnenberg Village

Sonnenberg Village

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Sonnenberg Church Women serving meals at the Welcome Center

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

All buildings open with old-time craft demonstrations

1:00 pm

Vintage Base Ball Game: Kidron Nine vs. Smithville Stars

SUNDAY AUGUST 11

Community Church Service

Kidron Community Historical Society

MEMBERS BANQUET AND AUCTION

Tuesday, April 23 | 6:00 pm

Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION | DOOR PRIZES | AUCTION

KCHS members with Lifetime, Heritage, and 2019 annual memberships are invited to the members banquet.

RSVP by Tuesday, April 16

email kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com

phone 330-857-9111 (leave message)

MEMBERS, THIS IS YOUR OFFICIAL INVITATION.

NO OTHER INVITATION WILL BE ISSUED.

Roger N. Geiser Family History Library

A lot has been happening in the Roger N. Geiser Family History Library.

Since January, close to 300 genealogy books from the Jacob Hochstetler Family Association (JHFA) have been accessioned and about 100 history/miscellaneous books from that same collection have been given numbers and are also on the JHFA shelves. These latter books are not necessarily genealogy-related, but have a connection in some way to the Hochstetler (HHH) family. Dick and Sharon Wolf have spent many hours on this project, Dick doing the inputting for the computer spreadsheets, and Sharon processing the books.

A plaque with the name of each collection and the numbers reserved for each has been placed on the ends of the bookcases to make it easier to find the different sections.

Leora Gerber has been training several new volunteers on how to use the genealogy computers and assist our visitors.

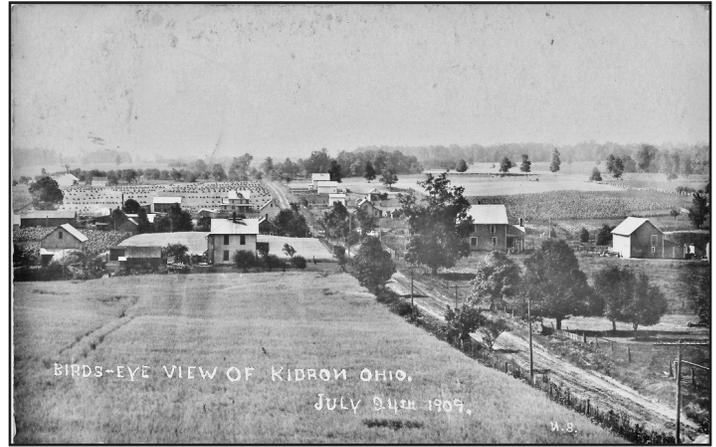
Most people know that we are closed in winter, but aren't aware of all that is going on "behind the scenes" in preparing the Heritage Center to open in April.



Kidron's 200th: Keepers of the Heritage

The Kidron Sonnenberg community's anniversary book, *Kidron's 200th: Keepers of the Heritage*, is being readied for publication in early summer. Answers to the following questions will be found in the book.

1. What was hauled in the cars on the "last train out of Kidron?" And when?
2. Who were some of the guests of honor at the 150th celebration in 1969?
3. What is the most recent church to establish itself in the Kidron community?
4. What would you list as some notable distinctives of the Amish lifestyle?
5. Which one-room schoolhouses in the greater Kidron area are still standing?
6. When did Kidron get its first post office? Then lose it? Get it back again?
7. When was the Kidron Community Park established, and how has it been expanded to its current size?
8. Who lived in the downtown Kidron area before the arrival of the Swiss Mennonites?
9. What arts/crafts have carried over from the early 1800s? Which have not?
10. What three venerable books did many of the early settlers bring with them?
11. Who is often referred to as Kidron's first historian? Who succeeded him?
12. When did James O. Lehman write the book, *Sonnenberg: A Haven and A Heritage*? Who sponsored it, and why was it not sponsored by the Kidron Community Historical Society?



Looking south from about where the old brick school building stood, this view of Kidron was taken by Noah Sommer in 1909.

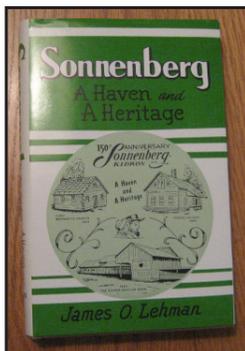


Looking north past Farmer's National Bank and the Town and Country store, this photograph shows downtown Kidron as it appears today.

Heritage Center

Members Banquet Auction Items

Sonnenberg: A Haven and A Heritage signed by James O. Lehman



1969 Kidron-Sonnenberg Sesquicentennial commemorative plate



Jim Spires pottery

Book plate of a fraktur Johannes L. Amstutz brought to America



Log plane wooden bowl by Jim Eliopoulos



SAGA Meeting in Kidron

The annual meeting of SAGA (Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association) will be held in Kidron on Saturday, April 13. All are welcome.

If you have an interest in genealogy and wish to attend, please e-mail Leora Gerber at LMgerber@toast.net or visit www.saga-omii.org/meetings.htm for additional information.

Sonnenberg Village

Though this winter had its usual mixture of good and bad weather, activities continued inside the Welcome Center as workers prepared materials so that volunteers can begin outside work when the weather allows. Cliff Lehman and Jon Fielitz constructed all new window frames for the Zuercher House. We have ordered sashes for the windows and are painting the frames and windows and putting them together as sets so that they are ready to be installed.

Walter Mullett has begun cleaning the Saurer Blacksmith Shop and expects to have it in operation by the homecoming in August.

Cliff Lehman also made new railings for the Bixler House. They are being primed and painted in the Welcome Center basement so they may also be installed soon. Michael Lehman has drawn plans for the Bixler House electrical system. We have been putting together a group of volunteer electricians to install the system in May.

The volunteer committee for Sonnenberg Village met in early March to inspect the grounds and buildings, and draw up a list of repairs and projects for the year. Work has already begun on some of the 45 items on that list.

The sound that the windmill has been making is on the list of things to work on. The only way to fix it is to use a lift to reach it, and the weather has not been cooperative. Rest assured this is a top priority.

Bernese Swiss Speakers Interviewed

Robert Klosinski and Andrew Hoffman from the German Department at Pennsylvania State University spent three days in the Kidron area interviewing Bernese Swiss-speaking persons. Fourteen people were interviewed in the Welcome Center at Sonnenberg Village in groups of two or three, five at the Apostolic Home, and eight at OrrVilla Maple Terrace Assisted Living. Pictures of everyday objects were shown and participants responded in Swiss as learned in their homes. Some old Swiss recordings were collected to be digitized for preservation.

KCHS Annual Meeting

Heritage Center Director Dick Wolf welcomed 32 members and guests to the KCHS annual meeting at the Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center on February 26. Vice President Steve Gerber conducted the business. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were presented and candidates for board membership were introduced. Steve Gerber will serve a second three-year term, Wayne Liechty will serve a 2-year term, and Diane Sommer will join the board for three years. A recommendation from the board to increase the membership dues was passed. (New prices are listed on the last page.)

A pre-Civil War era barn located on the current Glenn and Phyllis Gerber farm south of Kidron will be dismantled and reconstructed at Sonnenberg Village. Steve Gerber's presentation included photos of the barn and the specialized Scribe Rule markings used when the barn was built. Sonnenberg Village Project Manager Ray Leisy proposed a funding plan that includes a matching grant. Without a vision for the preservation of this barn, it—like many historically significant buildings in the Kidron-Sonnenberg community—will be lost.



Specialized Scribe Rule markings used in the construction of the pre Civil War era barn on the Glenn and Phyllis Gerber farm south of Kidron.



Bernese Swiss speakers at OrrVilla.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAGA (Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Assoc.) Meeting
April 13 | Kidron Community Park

Members Banquet
April 23 | 6:00 | Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall

200th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS
August 6 – August 11

..... 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.

New Members

Killbuck Savings Bank, Kidron OH
Walter Mullett, North Lawrence OH
Richard Shetler, Orrville OH
Diane Sommer, Kidron OH
Mabel Warfel, Orrville OH

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 2019



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	Diane Sommer
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 \$25

Husband and Wife Annual Member..... \$30

Organization Annual Member..... \$50

Individual Life Member \$300

Heritage Club Member \$1000 or more

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