



Volume 31

Fall 2019

Issue 4

The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

August 6 - 11, 2019

## Kidron-Sonnenberg Celebrates 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Celebration week was one to remember thanks to many people who took part in the success. The celebration began on Tuesday with the Kidron Volunteer Fire Department chicken barbecue which sold out as usual, even though the afternoon sales began during a strong storm. Fortunately the weather was lovely for the remainder of events.



RANDY FATH COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

The parade on Saturday was one highlight of the busy weekend. It featured 127 entries and took over an hour to complete. It went off without a problem thanks to the volunteers who organized the units as they arrived and turned it into a seamless progression up Kidron Road to Sonnenberg Village.



RANDY FATH COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Each of the three presentations of the play, "A Sonnenberg Story," sold out thanks to the efforts of playwright and director Christa Wolf and her talented group of actors.



RANDY FATH COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

In praise of God and our collective history, 230 people raised their voices at the hymn sing led by the Hackett Family in the Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center. The sing featured the world premiere of an eight-part arrangement of the hymn, "Savior Lead Me All the Way," originally written in four-part harmony in 1941 by John P. Lehman. His grandson, Louis Lehman, added an additional four parts for a choir organized for the purpose of introducing the arrangement to the public.





The Saurer Blacksmith Shop in Sonnenberg Village and the Roger N. Geiser Family History Library at the Heritage Center were dedicated during the celebration.



The beard contest, held at the Heritage Center, was well attended with thirty entrants. Daniel Gerber, Bruce Steiner, Ray Nussbaum, and Ken Linz were awarded for their efforts.

The 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration included the annual Sonnenberg Homecoming. The Saurer Blacksmith Shop was open for its first public operation and six local artisans and four from the Millersburg Artisan Association were featured in various buildings in the village.



A vintage base ball game between the Smithville Stars and the Kidron Nine was played according to 1860 rules, The Kidron Nine were gracious in their victory.



Learning opportunities at the village during celebration week included a fraktur class taught by Lynn Sommer, a blacksmith "hammer in" and a broom-making workshop.



The week ended with a community worship and communion service at the Kidron Mennonite Church led by pastors from area Mennonite Churches.



## Sonnenberg Village

Four work groups spent most of July working on various projects in the village preparing for the Kidron-Sonnenberg 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. One group, led by Walt Mullet, spent their time cleaning the Saurer Blacksmith Shop and making the forge operational. They were successful and hosted a “Hammer In” before the celebration, and operated the shop throughout the day of the celebration. Their next task will be to make the line shaft operational.

Allyson Leisy led a group of master gardeners and volunteers to weed and mulch all of the gardens around the village and the trees in the arboretum. The Troyer family accomplished cleaning the grounds in general and mowing. They also cleaned and repainted the front of the Lehman House.

The fourth work group spent their time finishing the outside of the Bixler House. All of the siding was completed and the soffit put in place. Gravity Mechanicals installed the interior and exterior wiring and it has passed county inspection. All that remains to be done at the Bixler House is insulation and drywall, which we will do ourselves, and HVAC units, which will be done by Robinson Heating of Wooster.

Just before the celebration, we were fortunate to be visited by the Parkway United Church of Christ (St. Louis, Missouri) youth group staying at Trinity Church in Wooster. They cleaned all the unused material out of the Bixler House, organized the wood in the Zuercher House, and cleaned the kitchen and all of the tables and chairs in the Welcome Center.



October 19 – 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Kidron Beet Festival



The German Lutz beet is not known for its beauty or popularity. But Lutz beet growers delight in its size and the wide variety of dishes that can be prepared from its tender root. Displays of beets and tasty dishes will be found at the annual Beet Festival held at Sonnenberg Village on October 19.

Beet contest entries are due by 11:00 am. Contest categories are: Largest Lutz Beet, Largest Organic Lutz Beet, Most Luscious Lutz Beet, Best Heirloom Beet, Best Appetizer/Side, Best Salad, and Best Dessert.

Sonnenberg Village buildings will be open with artisans at work, food vendors will have sandwiches, homemade pies, ice cream and popcorn. Live music will be heard in the Welcome Center. Hometown will perform at 10:00 am, Swiss Echoes at noon, and Sugar Creek Duo at 1:00.

Join us at Sonnenberg Village, try the “unbeetable” ice cream, meet friends in the village, and pick up seeds to plant for your Lutz beet entry in the 2020 contest.

### Kidron's 200<sup>th</sup>

## Keepers of the Heritage

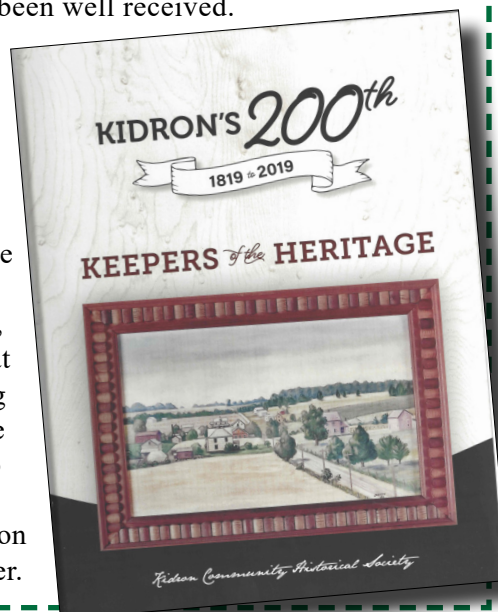
The Kidron-Sonnenberg anniversary book, *Kidron's 200<sup>th</sup>: Keepers of the Heritage*, has been well received.

Some comments have included “love the book,” “enjoy all the pictures,” “a treasure,” “worth twice the price,” “history...done in an interesting way.”

Copies of the book are available for \$35 (includes tax) at the Heritage Center Gift Shop, by emailing [kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com](mailto:kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com), or by phoning the Heritage Center at 330-857-9111. Flat rate for shipping is \$8. Until Christmas only, this rate will also apply to multiple copies to one address.

Books are also available at Kidron Town & Country and Gerber Lumber.

*a gift idea*



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**BEET FESTIVAL**  
**Saturday, October 19**  
**Sonnenberg Village**

## New Members

Esther Amstutz, Orrville OH

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE LISTED ON PAGE 4.

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

kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com  
 www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

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FALL 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	Bit o' Vit 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 ..... \$20

Husband and Wife Annual Member..... \$35

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