



KCHS Heritage Center Display

Myrle Trefney Is Oil on Canvas Featured Artist

Myrle Trefney found her first inspiration to be an artist when she and her husband “Butch” were visiting an art exhibit in a shopping mall in Parma. Her eyes fell on a painting of two old barns, which were actually located near their Cleveland-area residence. She fell in love with the painting, purchased it for about \$20 and had it framed, for over twice the price of the artwork! It still hangs over the sofa in her Kidron home.

Soon after, Myrle began taking art classes and learned a lot over the next four years about working with acrylics, oils, the proper use of brushes and other tools.

Eventually, Myrle and Butch got involved in art together. He began making wooden benches and then Myrle added painted characters, animals, hearts and other features. Myrle calls this work “corny,” but we agree they are wonderful.

Sonnenberg Mennonite Church Celebrating 200 Years

Two hundred years have passed since the Sonnenberg congregation was formally organized in 1821, in Wayne County, Ohio and the church is planning to celebrate those years of God’s faithfulness with a weekend of fun, fellowship and thanksgiving this fall on September 24-26, 2021. Activities are being planned for Friday evening through Sunday lunch. The event is free and open to the public. Former members and attendees are especially welcomed.

A tentative schedule includes:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| Friday | 7:00pm | Sing-a-long at the old church building at Sonnenberg Village |
| Saturday | 3:00pm | Kids Festival (fun for all ages) |
| | 3-?pm | Displays in the church foyer |
| | 4-5pm | Guided tour of the church cemetery
(Hear interesting stories of characters from the past) |
| | 5:30pm | Hot dog roast and ice cream |
| | 5:30-7:30pm | Activities for all ages (scavenger hunt, history quiz, etc.) |
| | 6:30pm | Guided tour of the church cemetery (repeat) |
| | 7:30pm | Informal gathering in the sanctuary
(Sharing by former pastors, school memories, etc.) |
| Sunday | 10:00am | Worship service in the sanctuary with speaker Anna Ressler |
| | 9am-Noon | Displays in the church foyer |
| | Noon | Lunch |

All activities will take place at the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church (14367 Hackett Road) unless otherwise noted. Plans for the weekend are subject to change as needed to accommodate the weather.



Steffen Family Visits the Heritage Center and Sonnenberg Village



The David and Luella Steffen family included the Heritage Center and Sonnenberg Village in their recent reunion photo scavenger hunt. Other locations around Kidron on their list included the fountain, Town and Country store and restaurant, Lehman’s, the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church cemetery, and the Steffen family farm.

Steffen family members including Kevin and Wendy Yoder Nice and son Orion (in front) and Joey, Nik and Danny Steffen, sons of Rod and Janice, signed the register at the Heritage Center.

Moser Buggy Shop Ready for Restoration at Sonnenberg Village

J. F. Moser-Kidron, O.

“If you are in the market for a new Buggy or Surrey don’t fail to call and see the splendid line we are showing. We also handle the famous GERSTENSLAGER AND CANTON LINES.

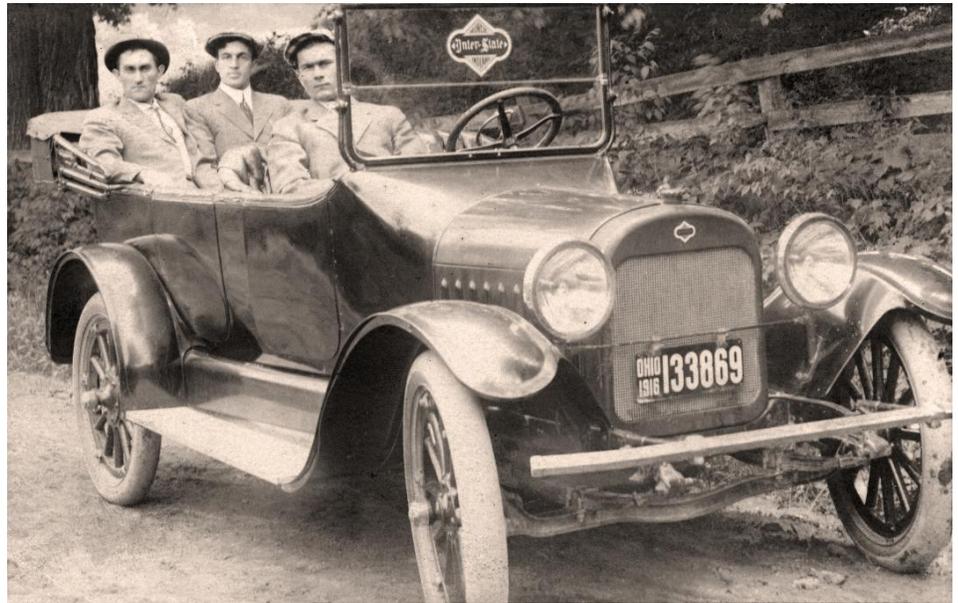
We also do General Blacksmith and Repairing.”

The above is the advertisement in *The Dalton Gazette* which announced the opening of a new shop in Kidron. The building, also known as the “Tin Shop” when most recently operated by Raber Roofing and Spouting, has been relocated from downtown Kidron to Sonnenberg Village and is being restored to its original condition.

John F. Moser, son of Jacob S. Moser and Verena (Fanny) Lehman grew up on Kohler Road on the former Menno Gerber farm. He attended Silver Hill School and became apprenticed to the



The Moser Buggy Shop as it likely appeared in 1915.



John Moser, Willis Sommer, and Jack Moser in an Inter-State Automobile.

blacksmith at the Silver Hill Blacksmith Shop.

In 1912 Moser moved to Kidron and bought the Blacksmith Shop built in Kidron by Jacob P. Sommer. That building was also moved to Sonnenberg Village a few years ago. In 1913 Moser hired Floyd Saurer as a blacksmith and built a small addition to the back of the building to repair Gerstenslager buggies. Sometime in 1914, on a small piece of land Moser had bought earlier from D. A. Sommer, he hired V. M. Gerber & Sons to build another larger building to use as a showroom for Gerstenslager and Canton Buggies and Inter-State automobiles. In 1916 he married Nola Zaugg.

He sold the Blacksmith Shop in 1917 to Floyd Saurer and the showroom and the buggy repair shop to Elam Gerber in

1924 to use as a buggy and automobile repair shop. Elam Gerber in turn sold the shop to Vernon Saurer and Albert Badertscher who operated an automobile repair shop until they moved in 1933 and built the Superior Garage.

In 1946 Raber Roofing and Spouting, owned by Arnold Raber and assisted by his son Ronald in later years, bought the building and used it until 1963. In 2020 the building was given to the Kidron Community Historical Society by the Kidron Volunteer Fire Department to be moved to Sonnenberg Village.

After selling the building in 1924, John F. Moser worked as a carpenter in the Dalton area and at Republic Steel.

Thank you to Fritz Sprunger for the historical information found in The Dalton Gazette articles.

October 16 | 10:00 – 2:00

Beet Festival at Sonnenberg Village

Entries for the Beet Festival will be due at 11:00 am for competition in the following categories: Largest Lutz Beet, Largest Organic Lutz Beet, Most Luscious Lutz Beet, Best Heirloom Beet, Best Appetizer/Side, Best Salad, and Best Dessert. Village buildings will be open, artisans will be at work, live music will be performed, and the Sonnenberg Food Wagon and Schloneger’s Old-fashioned Ice Cream will be open.



New Members

Ruth D. Bontrager, Logan

UPCOMING EVENTS

SONNENBERG VILLAGE

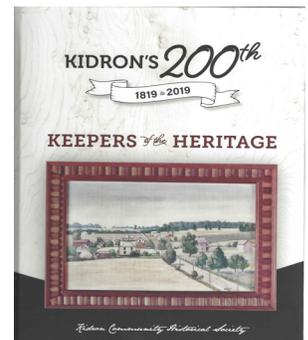
Aug 14, 10:00-4:00 – Homecoming

Oct 16, 10:00-2:00 – Beet Festival
Contest entries due at 11:00 am

Kidron’s 200th Celebration Book *Keepers of the Heritage*

We thank the many patrons who have purchased *Kidron’s 200th: Keepers of the Heritage* celebration book.

The book continues to be available at the special price of \$29 which includes tax and shipping.



Sonnenberg Village

Work Continues In the Gardens and Shops

This has been an interesting year in Sonnenberg Village. Work started early on the Zuercher House in 70 degree weather in March and then moved indoors in May with 50 degree weather. Workers finished siding the Zuercher House with plans to build the front porch floor in June. In September for students from Central Christian School will help complete the porch.

The next project will be to complete the handicap link between the Welcome Center and the Bixler House. The handicap ramp will extend from the Bixler House south as more buildings are moved into the west side of the village.

The Garden Committee, headed by Allyson Leisy, has been hard at work in the many village gardens. They plan to plant more trees in the Arboretum this year and continue work on the Heritage Gardens.

Work has begun work on a complete carpenter shop in the basement of the Welcome Center. The family of Rick Oswald have donated all of his bench tools and hand tools to the village. It is projected to be completed by the time this newsletter goes to print.

Walt Mullet and his group are working on motors and belts for the power hammer and line shaft in the Saurer Blacksmith Shop and the goal of having everything operational in time for the Homecoming in August.

In the fall, the Moser building will be the primary work site. Abe Troyer is planning to pour the cement slab and reset the building shortly. The Norr printing equipment will be moved into the building. Ray Norr is designing the location of the equipment. Once that is installed, the front will be rebuilt



The Gardening Committee, Allyson Leisy, Rachel Hofstetter, Sandy Gordon and Nancy Lilburn, have been hard at work in the Sonnenberg Village Gardens.

to appear as it did when it was still a buggy shop located downtown next to the blacksmith shop.

Abe Troyer will also begin to rebuild the Gerber Barn. Watch the Kidron Heritage Center website for announcements as to the timetable for rebuilding. The sight of the barn being rebuilt will be one to remember.

August 14 | 10:00 – 4:00

Sonnenberg Village Homecoming Events Scheduled

Live entertainment will be provided in the Welcome Center in the morning: 10:00 Swiss Echoes, 11:00 Sonnenberg Children's Theatre Performance of *Aesop in Fables*, and 12:00 Just Passin' Thru, a local bluegrass-style ensemble featuring toe-tapping vocal and instrumental music. Following the entertainment, there will be an exhibition vintage baseball game between the Smithville Stars and a team of players from the Kidron Community.

In addition to these scheduled activities, all of the buildings will be open throughout the day for tours and demonstrations of period-appropriate arts by local artisans, including a fully operational forge and blacksmith shop. People can also walk the grounds and enjoy a music machine, garden tours, activities for children, and food from the Sonnenberg Food Wagon and Schloneger's Old-fashioned Ice Cream.



Sonnenberg Children's Theatre

Sonnenberg Children's Theatre group will be performing *Aesop in Fables* written and directed by Christa J. Wolf in conjunction with this year's Homecoming celebration. This unique play intermingles the life story of the famed storyteller Aesop with some of his most beloved fables including the Tortoise and the Hare, the Boy Who Cried Wolf, and others.

Performances will be Friday night at 7:00 and Saturday morning at 11:00. FRIDAY IS PURCHASE ONLY; Adult tickets are \$5, Children \$3, with a (immediate) Family rate of \$20.

Saturday morning is walk-in for a suggested donation of \$3 a person. Tickets will be available first-come, first-served at Sonnenberg Village on Saturday morning for those who attend Homecoming. Seating is limited to 150 for both performances.

Tickets can be purchased for the Friday performance by calling Sharon Wolf at 330-466-7439.

Kidron Community Historical Society
P.O. Box 234
Kidron, Ohio 44636

330-857-9111

kidronheritagecenter@gmail.com

www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit
Organization
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Wooster, Ohio
44691
Permit No. 228

SUMMER 2021



Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center

13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

OPEN MAY through NOVEMBER • SATURDAYS • 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

CLOSED DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH and APRIL

The Heritage Center is closed December through April, 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	Art Neuenschwander	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 Member	Diane Miller	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