



Volume 34

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Issue 4

The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

## Cliff Lehman Honored for His Commitment to Sonnenberg Village Restoration

Cliff Lehman has been involved with Sonnenberg Village from the start due to his interest in the Lehman House. After it was moved, Cliff spent many hours helping to restore the building to its original condition. He has paid attention to the small details of restoration, particularly the replacement of many wooden parts, small and large, that could not have been fabricated by anyone else in the “Tuesday Group.”

After the Lehman House was finished, Cliff stayed on to work on building after building. He knows so much about so much that the group continued to defer to him for the fine work of restoration on other buildings, with great success. We know that, at the same time as he was working in the Village, he devoted even more time to the Heritage Center, and to the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church and many other community projects.

As soon as the Tuesday Group learned that Cliff was approaching his 90th birthday, they decided to throw a recognition party for him. They knew that Cliff might not welcome their plans, so they turned to two men who knew him better: his son Mike Lehman, and Steve Gerber. Both suggested some community friends that had worked with or for him years ago. Then both Mike and Steve reached out to the people he knew best over the years and all agreed to a “surprise” party instead of the normal break before the crew started to work one September Tuesday. They were more surprised than Cliff that he had not heard about the plan, and the party was a surprise to him.

Knowing that Cliff had everything he needed in the way of woodworking tools, he was given something they knew he would never ask for, but would certainly surprise him. Steve Gerber made a plaque, out of wood, of course, to be placed in the workshop in the basement of the Welcome Center. It reads “Clifford Lehman Carpenter Shop 2022.”



Dave Geiser, Glenn Gerber, Ron Nussbaum, Walt Mullett, Jon Fielitz and Bob Eshleman surprised Cliff Lehman (center) to celebrate his birthday and recognize his commitment to Sonnenberg Village. In addition to cake and ice cream, kind words and laughter, a plaque was created to place on the door to the Carpentry Shop in the lower level of the Welcome Center in appreciation of his skills and service.



Photo credit: Victor Walters



## Heritage Center Facelift in Progress



Lehman Painting's Stewart Lehman showing a possible redo of the Heritage Center shutters.

## A Christmas Carol: The Live Radio Show at Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center

In a combined effort between Orrville Community Theatre and Kidron Community Historical Society, we will be holding auditions for the play, *A Christmas Carol: The Live Radio Show*, October 2nd and 3rd at Sonnenberg Village (ages 17 and up). Performances will be at Sonnenberg Village on December 9-11. More information can be found by visiting OCT's web page <https://orrvillecommunitytheater.org>.

## New Members

Tim and Deanna Stuckey, Orrville OH

## UPCOMING EVENTS

SONNENBERG VILLAGE

Oct 15, 9:00 - 2:00 | Beet Festival

Dec 9, 10 - 7:00 | A Christmas Carol: The Live Radio Show

Dec 11 - 2:00 | A Christmas Carol: The Live Radio Show

14th annual

## Kidron Beet Festival

LIVE MUSIC

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM | SONNENBERG FOOD WAGON

Sat, October 15, 2022 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

- 9:00 Welcome Center opens for beet entries
- 10:00 All buildings open for tours
- 10:00 Music: Stout Suzuki Studio Players
- 11:00 Beet contest entries close, judging begins
- 12:00 Winners announced, prizes awarded
- 12:00 Music: Down and Kraut

### BEET CONTEST CATEGORIES

- largest Lutz beet
- largest organic Lutz beet
- most luscious Lutz beet
- best heirloom beet
- best beet appetizer/side
- best beet salad
- best beet dessert



FREE LUTZ BEET SEEDS while they last

## Homecoming Barn Dance a Crowd-Puller





# Sonnenberg Village Celebrates 15 Years

While the 15th anniversary of the founding of Sonnenberg Village may not seem like a significant milestone, it is remarkable when we consider the amount of work and number of buildings completed in the Village in those short fifteen years. From the gift of land by the Leonard and Nada Geiser Family and the Tschantz Cabin, we have finished landscaping the Village to be an attractive site. We have moved or rebuilt nine major buildings and some small support buildings and established gardens and an arboretum on the five acres of land, all with many volunteer hours and some paid assistance. The dream of so many people has become a reality.

The Saurer Blacksmith Shop is now completed and in full operation. The Gerber/Nussbaum Barn has received an occupancy permit; however, the barn is not ready to rent for events quite yet. In the spring we need to make a few additions in order to serve rentals. The other major project this year is the Moser Buggy Shop/Print Shop. At this time it is still under reconstruction to make it usable as a print shop.

Ray Norr has been working closely with our volunteers to place printing equipment in the right spot and to be able to print some material for special events. The Moser building has required some major reconstruction, all of which has been completed by volunteers.

The 2022 Homecoming was a huge success, especially with the help of the Wolf family. We were able to begin charging admission for the first time, and expect to cover all of the Sonnenberg Village utility expenses this year with the proceeds.

With permission of the Bixler Family, the use of the Bixler House has been donated to "Hope's House," an organization of 20 families in the area of Sugarcreek Township who provide homes for children removed from their homes in Stark and Wayne Counties. These committed foster parents have stocked the upstairs of the Bixler House with clothing, diapers, formula and other items that items will be available for the use of children who arrive in foster care at all hours of the day, sometimes late at night after stores have closed, without basic necessities. The children are often removed from homes without many of these items due to the volatility of the adults' situations. The temporary families receiving the children will have access to the donated items needed to provide for their care. Julie (Geiser) Kirby will be responsible for meeting the foster parents and giving them what assistance they require, regardless of the time, day or night. We are glad that we can help in this needed service.

The main floor of the Bixler House will be pleasantly furnished and continue to be used during Sonnenberg Village Homecoming and the Beet Festival for craft demonstrations.



**The latest reconstruction projects for the Moser Buggy Shop/Print Shop include the installation of the front facade and sliding entrance doors.**



**Cement for the lower barn level apron was recently poured.**



**The barn bank on the south side has been graded and seeded.**

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

330-857-9111

kidronheritagecenter@gmail.com

www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

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44691  
Permit No. 228

FALL 2022



## Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center

13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

OPEN APRIL through OCTOBER • SATURDAYS • 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

CLOSED NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY, and MARCH

The Heritage Center is closed November through March, but welcomes appointments to visit the museum and 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, Joan 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