



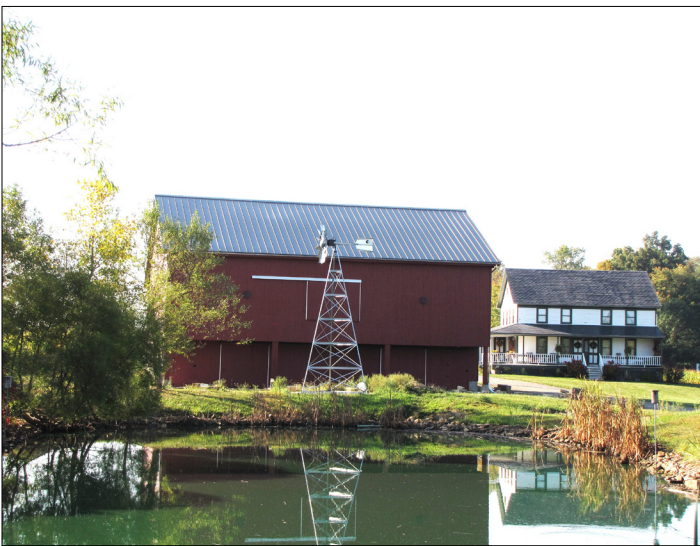
Volume 35

Fall 2023

Issue 4

The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

Gerber/Nussbaum Barn Has Deep Local History



The Gerber/Nussbaum Barn has been painted and served as the venue for a variety of events. In July the Wayne County Community Band held a concert in the barn, and the Schantz Organ Company's centennial celebration was held in conjunction with Sonnenberg Village Homecoming in August, followed by a barn concert by Honeytown, a local band directed by Tim Shue. The spacious three-season structure (spring, summer and fall) is not heated. Overhead fans and a restroom will be installed next spring. Special thanks to Art Neuenschwander who oversaw the restoration of the Gerber/Nussbaum Barn, and for his work with David Kridler on the Nussbaum Summer House and the lamp posts lighting the driveway from the Tschantz Cabin to the barn. Additional lights from the Tschantz Cabin to the end of the Rain Garden are still projected to be installed this fall.

The Gerber/Nussbaum Barn is a typical bank barn constructed in a fashion so the lower level can be easily accessed, often under an overshoot or forebay. The upper level is accessed by a man-made bank, as it was originally built in 1848.



A 175-year-old barn would have many stories to tell

When Archibald and Rebecca Steel held ownership of the land on Kidron Road a mile south of town from 1847-1860, the barn would have been considered a well-built addition to their property.

The farm with the large bank barn, constructed of post and beams, was sold to David and Barbara (Welty) Baumgartner in 1860. Abraham C. and Anna (Baumgartner) Tschantz were the owners from 1860-1875, followed by John L. and Barbara L. Tschantz from 1875 to 1912. Nicholas S. and Maria (Tschantz) Amstutz held possession of the farm from 1912-1920 when Cleophus and Caroline (Lehman) Amstutz purchased it.

In 1926 Albert A. and Sarah A. Nussbaum bought the farm. They sold it to their son Herman and Marilyn (Gerber) Nussbaum in 1956. Herman and Marilyn sold the farm to Glenn and Phyllis (Nussbaum) Gerber in 1987.

Glenn and Phyllis continue to reside on the working farm. When the barn was no longer able to serve their modern farming practices, Glenn and Phyllis chose to donate the historic barn to the KCHS. It was dismantled, stored and reconstructed at the current location on the southeast section of Sonnenberg Village in 2022.



Roger N. Geiser Family History Library

Library Links Ancestral Past to Present

Clayton Steiner held a book-signing in the Roger N. Geiser Family History Library for his recently released book, *Clayton's Chronicles: A Heavenly Perspective of a Down-to-Earth Life of Clayton H. Steiner*. Many friends and family stopped by to purchase copies of the 473-page book written in partnership with Clayton's nephew, Jere Steiner. The account of Clayton's growing-up years in the Kidron community, his life experiences after leaving the area for service and education and the eventual return to rural Kidron where he and Ruth raised their family is engaging with thoughtful psychological and spiritual insights.

Clayton is the youngest child of Homer and Bertha (Zuercher) Steiner. He currently lives in Bakersfield, California, with his wife, Jeanne. Copies of *Clayton's Chronicles* purchased in the Heritage Center Book Store benefit the KCHS. Steiner's book is also available on Amazon.com.



Jeanne and Clayton Steiner visit with Fritz Sprunger at the book-signing of Clayton's book, *Clayton's Chronicles: A Heavenly Perspective of a Down-to-Earth Life of Clayton H. Steiner*.

Duplicate Family Record Books Available

Libraries have gone from places of solitude to real community spaces where people gather to learn together. —A. Isaac Pulver

Is there an unknown or unavailable family genealogy record pertaining to your family on the shelves of duplicates that are available for a small purchase price?

There is a LARGE selection of beyond-local genealogy books available in the Roger N. Geiser Family History Library for purchase. They are reasonably priced, as in "make an offer." Only a few of the many family names include Borholder, Bowser, Breneman, Brunk, Fretz, Funk, Gnaegi, Hege, Horst, Kenzinger, Leedy, Mast, Miller, Moyer, Schmucker, Schrag, Schrock, and Zug-Zuck-Zook.

Genealogy Databases

The Roger N. Geiser Family History Library is the place to visit when researching or adding your family's information to the SAGA OMII databases available at the library. The library is open during Heritage Center hours, or by contacting Heritage Center Director Dick Wolf for an appointment.



Heritage Center Gift Shop

There are a number of memoirs by local authors available in the Heritage Center Gift Shop, including *An Unlikely Pilot* by Andy Miller; *One Solitary Tipi* by Randy Fath; *Daniel Welty: A Bold Pioneer* by Ted Bergman; and *Amish Prayers*, a coloring book of frakturs by Lynn Sommer. The Kidron-Sonnenberg community's 200th anniversary book, *Keepers of the Heritage*, along with an assortment of cookbooks and other Kidron-Sonnenberg related books and memorabilia are also available in the Gift Shop. Contact the Heritage Center for assistance.

Sonnenberg Village

In addition to work on the Gerber/ Nussbaum Barn, the Tuesday work group continue to work on the Moser Building. The outside is finished and painted. There is some inside trim work, painting and electrical work remaining. The work group is also putting in a handicap accessible cement walkway that will connect the Welcome Center and Bixler House to the Moser Building. The final permit is expected to be granted by the end of October. At that point, the crew can begin moving all of the printing equipment currently in storage into the Moser Building before winter sets in.

Throughout the summer quarter, repairs to the buildings and grounds have not been neglected. Ray Leisy and his crew started the spring with a list of 80 things to do and repair. All but a few minor items have been accomplished.



The faithful Tuesday work crew have accomplished many maintenance and new construction projects at Sonnenberg Village. On this Tuesday morning Joe Wolf, Cliff Lehman, Ray Leisy, Jim Swartzentruber and Dan Miller gathered at the Moser Building before tackling their assignments.



The Beet Festival offers a fall opportunity to stroll through Sonnenberg Village, have a look at awesome beets, taste beet-based foods, and visit with hosts in the buildings. There will also be live music, food stands, and friends.

BEET CONTEST CATEGORIES

Contest entries close at 11:00.

Winners will be announced at noon.

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



Nussbaum Summer House

A team of stone masons have been working on the laborious task of resetting the foundation of the Nussbaum Summer House. These brawny workers have been muscling the pieces into place, only using mechanical equipment to place the very largest stones. The cement for chinking is hand-mixed on site.

Ronald Hahn: 1947-2019

Our Kidron Weather Man

A quiet, unassuming man grew up on the north edge of Kidron, next to Kidron Mennonite Church. Ron Hahn appreciated the intricacies of printing presses and all things weather related.



Cliff Lehman and Jon Fielitz restored Ron Hahn's weather station. It is in the Hahn Collection at the Heritage Center.

Locals recognized the white louvered box in the field between his house and the church as Hahn's weather station. He regularly reported rainfall and other weather-related details to the Dalton Gazette-Kidron News and notable weather occurrences in Kidron to Dick Goddard of Fox 8 News in Cleveland.

Ron was owner of Gardner Press and president of the Ohio Weather Library.

UPCOMING SONNENBERG VILLAGE EVENTS

OCTOBER 21 | 10:00 - 3:00

Beet Festival

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
Postage Paid
Wooster, Ohio
44691
Permit No. 228

FALL 2023



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.....	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