



Volume 36

Winter 2024

Issue 1

The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

Kidron Community and KCHS Leader

Quiet efficiency with little desire to be noticed, let alone recognized, was the hallmark of Steve Gerber. A Kidron native, Steve was present and working in many places in the community. Steve was involved in some capacity with the Gerber family businesses for 34 years, serving in various capacities including president of Gerber Hardware and general manager of Gerber Wood Products. His leadership, skill set and servant heart were intertwined with involvements in his church, industry organizations, and the Kidron Community Historical Society. He was committed to Jesus Christ and served numerous roles at the Kidron Mennonite Church.



Steve was an intuitive innovator who enjoyed pushing the limits of experimentation with new materials for practical solutions. He could be found in his lab space during his time off, working on hobbies such as woodworking and model rocketry. He was also an avid birder and skilled photographer enjoying nature, hikes, and traveling.

Steve was born to Glenford and Lillian (Gerber) Gerber, and married Ana L. Vargas Sibaja in San Jose, Costa Rica on June 16, 1990. Surviving in addition to Ana, is their daughter Laura (Chris Boggs, granddaughter Selena); and son, Daniel. Steve passed away on October 17, 2023, after week-long complications during recovery, following a difficult mitral valve surgery.

Steve served as a KCHS board member several times. He first served on the KCHS board of trustees as a Kidron Community Council representative in the mid-1990s, as board secretary 1997-2001 and board vice president from 2016 until his passing in October 2023.

With his knowledge and spirit of helpfulness, Steve provided useful business practices for increased effectiveness while seated on the KCHS board. He generously shared his woodworking skills as needed. Most recently he and his son Daniel built a storage room in the Heritage Center. Steve was also just getting involved in the process of accessioning artifacts at the Heritage Center. The board wishes to express their profound gratitude for Steve's long-time commitment and service to the KCHS, as well as their sadness at the loss of a kind and thoughtful friend.

New Board Members



Veryl Kratzer, Steve Miller and Sherri Steiner joined the KCHS board in January.

Veryl Kratzer has lived in the Sonnenberg Valley all but six years of his life. He is one of Loyal and Rosa Nussbaum Kratzer's five children and married to Miriam Miller Kratzer from Holmes County. They have five children, one son and four daughters, who live in five different states, and are blessed with 15 grandchildren. Veryl has worked nearly 30 years as a salesman for L.E. Sommer Feed Mill in Kidron.

Steve Miller has lived in the Kidron area most of his life. He is the son of Wayne and Clara Miller and married to Ella, daughter of Abe J. and Anna Hochstetler. They have four sons and three daughters. Steve started out working as a home builder for his father and remained in the construction industry until 2019. The next chapter of his life brought him to Gerber Lumber and Hardware where he is currently employed. Steve's hobbies include raising horses and traveling America by train.

Sharon Steiner is a retired caterer, currently managing rentals. She enjoys traveling with her husband, Bruce. They both enjoy their four grandchildren and are active members of Kidron Mennonite Church and live in Apple Creek.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 19-20

SAGA Annual Meeting, Morgantown PA
<http://www.saga-omii.org/> for details

April 23 | 6:00 pm

Members Banquet and Annual Business Meeting
Kidron Mennonite Fellowship Hall

Remembering Our Volunteers



Joanne (Lehman) Erb
b 10-1-1947
d 2-28-2023

12 volunteer hours



Curtis Nussbaum
b 11.18.1939
d 3.6.2023

164 volunteer hours



Donald Miller
b 11.2.1925
d 3.23.2023

176 volunteer hours



David Gerber
b 12.23.1936
d 4.13.2023

250 volunteer hours



Steven Gerber
b 1.26.1968
d 10.17.2023

VP, Board of Trustees

2023 Kidron Community Historical Society Donors

Stu & Loretta Amstutz, Dalton
John A. Amstutz, Noblesville IN
John L Amstutz, Kidron
Linda Amstutz, Dalton
Sherman & LaVonne Amstutz, Orrville
Anonymous
Rachel Augspurger, Dalton
Wilbur & Connie Bergen, Porterville CA
Berlin G Myers Lumber Corp, Summerville SC
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Vince & Janet Geiser, Wooster
Gerber Feed Service Inc, Dalton
Harley & Fae Gerber, Dalton
Leora Gerber, Dalton
Gerber Lumber, Kidron
Rachel Gerber, Beaverton OR
Robert Gerber, Sugar Creek
Steve & Ana Gerber, Kidron
Gerber Wood, Kidron
Glen Groh, Dover
Kyle Groves, Smithville
Sue Gochnauer, Apple Creek
Steve & Jann Allison-Hager, Dalton
Lanny Hann, Dalton
Dudley Hartel, Athens GA
Kerry Hofstetter Hayes, Seattle WA
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David Hershberger, Moore SC
Herbert & Debra Himes, Dalton

Himes, Slater, Hershberger, LLC, Kidron
Clint & Helen Hofstetter, Apple Creek
Lois Holdsclaw, Purcell OK
Home Appliance Company, Massillon
Jacob Hochstetler Family Assoc, Goshen IN
Hummel Group Inc, Orrville
K & M Builders Ltd, Kidron
Glenn & Gloria Kaufmann, Orrville
Kidron Auction Inc, Kidron
Kidron Chiropractic, Kidron
Kidron Community Council, Kidron
Kidron Vinyl LLC, Kidron
James & Damaris Kirchhofer, Honolulu HI
Laurie Kratzer, Dalton
L.E. Sommer Kidron Inc, Kidron
Jay Lehman Charitable Fund
Phyllis Lehman, Dalton
Ralph & Joanne Lehman, Wooster
Rozella Lehman, Apple Creek
Steve & Elaine Lehman, Dalton
Ray & Allyson Leisy, Wooster
Wayne Liechty, Kidron
Logee Hostetler Stutzman & Lehman LLC, Wooster
Amy Lower, Cleveland
Keith & Carol Martin, Dalton
Les McBride, Massillon
Glenn & Diane Miller, Apple Creek
Jim & Doris Miller, Kidron
Ray Miller, Kidron
Robbin & Valerie Kratzer, Wichita KS
William Mishler, Dalton
Mike & Barb Moser, Canton
Art & Cheryl Neuenschwander, Orrville
Clarence & Esther Neuenschwander, Apple Creek
Harlan & Mary Neuenschwander, Dalton
Jim & Ruby Neuenschwander, Dalton
Mahlon & Sharon Neuenschwander, Manheim PA
Ray Norr, Kidron
Dale & Arlene Nussbaum, Dalton
Don & Ellen Nussbaum, Apple Creek
Dolores Nussbaum, Kidron
Gloria Nussbaum, Orrville

Ray & Joan Nussbaum, Orrville
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Marilyn & Darren Scotti, Parma
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Grayden Tschantz, Louisville
Peter Tucker, Northwest Hardwoods, Beachwood
Village Printing, Kidron
Russ & Dorothy Beals Memorial Fund, Wooster
Wenger Companies, Dalton
Wayne & Mary Wengerd, Dalton
Weyrauch Pharmacy, Kidron
Harry & Meg Wilkins, Kidron
Yoder Family Veal LLC, Kidron
Doris Zuercher, Orlando FL

Sonnenberg Village

It was a very busy fall in Sonnenberg Village. We raised the stage in the Welcome Center, enlarged it and rebuilt the side wall for more stability. We can now support larger music and stage groups.

A big “thank you” goes to Art Neuenschwander and Kidron Electric for the new light poles stretching from the Welcome Center to the Gerber Nussbaum Barn. They are a wonderful addition. At night the village looks much like the Sonnenberg Village we envisioned fifteen years ago.

The Moser Buggy Shop was completed and Ray Norr, with help from Art Neuenschwander, has moved all of the equipment from the storage trailer and Gardner Print Shop into the building. We will have a grand opening in the spring.

Plans are being drawn and funds raised this winter to install bathrooms in the Gerber Nussbaum Barn. This will save people from a long hike back to the Welcome Center for these facilities. Overhead fans will also be added.

We hosted six different events in the Welcome Center during the Christmas season. The Christmas

Walk: A Live Nativity Adventure was the highlight of the year. Over 400 people attended the two performances that featured Bible-era guides leading audience members through a series of interactive outdoor stations where they encountered Mary, Joseph, the census taker, the innkeeper, soldiers on horseback, Herod, shepherds – with actual sheep – angels, the Magi, Anna and more. The event was a collaboration of Central Christian School and Sonnenberg Village.

While taking a winter break, we are making plans to get back to work in the village in April. In 2024, we plan to complete work on the Gerber Nussbaum Barn, the Zuercher House and Nussbaum Summer House, as soon as the weather permits.



Ray Norr setting up the printing presses in the Moser Buggy Shop/Print Shop.



The Bixler House decorated for Christmas events in Sonnenberg Village.

ESTATE PLANNING

According to a recent survey, only 33% of adults in the United States have made estate planning documents. Consider including the Kidron Community Historical Society in your estate plan.

2023 BEET FESTIVAL CONTEST WINNERS

Largest Lutz Beet: Ivan Weaver; **Most Luscious Lutz Beet:** Ivan Weaver; **Largest Organic Lutz Beet:** Ivan Weaver; **Best Heirloom Beet:** Allyson Leisy; **Best Beet Appetizer (Pickled Eggs and Beets):** Allison Leisy; **Best Beet Salad (Roasted Basil Beet Salad):** Tim Orphanides; **Best Beet Dessert:** Shirley Geiser

2023 Sonnenberg Village Volunteers

Janet Eldridge	Andrew & Christa Wolf	Miller Roofing
Clair Bixler	Joe Wolf	Schantz Organ
Glenn Gerber	Ron Rudolf	Schloneger's Old
Rachel Hofstetter &	Marlin Troyer	Fashioned Ice
Jim Swartzentruber	Central Christian	Cream
Julie Kirby	School	Sonnenberg Church
John & Kathy Klingler	Community Service	Food Service
Cliff Lehman	Day	Orrville Community
Ray & Allyson Leisy	Dan Nuzom	Band
Nancy Lilburn	Marlin Troyer	Sonnenberg
Bob Miller	Bob Troyer	Community Theater
Dan Miller	Marvin Troyer	
Steve Miller	Von Schrock	
Walter Mullett	Carson Hostetler	
Art Neuenschwander	Dominic Gasser	
Ray Norr		2023 Volunteer
Rick Rindchen		Hours: 2,176
Vic Schantz	Business/	
John Schantz	Organizations	We apologize
Marv & Lorie Troyer	Gerber Lumber	if we have
David & Ann Tschantz	Gerber Wood	missed anyone.
Grayden Tschantz	Town and Country	Sonnenberg Village
Harry Weaver	Kidron Auction	is a busy place.
	Kidron Electric	

2023 Heritage Center Volunteers

Enos & Judy Amstutz	Wayne Liechty
Marianne Cameron	Bill & Kay Medford
Ezra Coleman	Diane Miller
Nancy Ganyard	Clarence & Esther Neuenschwander
Leora Gerber	Will & Sue Schloneger
Max Gerber	Carolyn Shoup
Amos & Erma Geiser	Fritz Sprunger
Obadiah Geiser	Mahlon Steffen
Ron & LaVera Geiser	Ann Troyer
Miriam Kratzer	Meg Wilkins
Ruby Kuhns	Carol Yoder

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

330-857-9111

kidronheritagecenter@gmail.com

www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

Address Service Requested

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44691
Permit No. 228

WINTER 2024



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	Steve Miller
Board Vice President	Veryl Kratzer	Board Member	Sherri Steiner
Board Treasurer.....	Joan Nussbaum	Board Member	Diane Sommer
Board Secretary	Gloria Kaufmann	Heritage Center Director	Richard Wolf
Board Member	Veryl Kratzer	Sonnenberg Village Project Director	Ray Leisy
		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 \$30

Husband and Wife Annual Member..... \$45

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