



Kelleys Island Historical Association, Inc.

Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438

Vol. VI, No. 1

May, 1991

COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN TO BE HONORED:

Summer is waiting impatiently in the wings and the Kelleys Island Historical Association promises its best season yet. Elsewhere in this newsletter appears a full schedule of events. However, the Association will begin its summer programs on Saturday, June 14 with a lecture by Professor James Mullen of the Dept. of English, The Ohio State University. A nationally-known folklorist, he will speak on the "Commercial Fishermen of Lake Erie."

To be honored at this especial event will be Kelleys Islanders who once participated in the thriving commercial fishing industry in the Western Basin of Lake Erie. In addition, a special exhibit featuring mementoes of those halcyon days will be opened. (Members and friends of the Association are urged to contribute items they may have dealing with the fishing industry on a loan basis for this exhibit.)

The Ohio Humanities Council has been asked to participate in the planning and presentation of this opening event.

On Saturday, July 13, Prof. John Hagman, Director of the Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory of The Ohio State University on Gibraltar Island, will speak on "Zebra Mussels." These prolific aquatic animals threaten not only to harmfully alter the lake's ecology, but to endanger the water supplies of land areas around and in Lake Erie as well.

The final lecture will coincide with the annual "Butterfly Festival" on Saturday, September 21. James Culp, from San Francisco, will present "The Tin Goose -- The End of an Era."

Members and friends of the Association are urged to attend these especially pertinent programs. They will be held at 2:00 P.M. on their respective dates at the Old Stone Church. Please mark these on your summer engagement calendar.

NEW DISPLAY UNIT READY FOR USE: Pursuant to instructions of the Association's Board, a new Multiplex Visual Display unit was purchased this past winter and is in place at the Old Stone Church. Consisting of twenty 30" x 40" panels, it will be used to exhibit pictures, photographs, broadsides, and other visual materials. Because of its unique construction, items not only can be effectively displayed, but safely as well.

Up to this time, pictures, photographs, broadsides, etc have not been solicited. However, now that such items can be safely and suitably shown members and friends of the Association are urged to share such holdings, either by gift or loan, for the Museum's displays.

It is also to be noted that the Association welcomes gifts and, in special instances, loans of historically relevant items for use at the Old Stone Church Museum. It is the hope and intention of the Acquisitions and Exhibits Committee that there will be continuous changing of exhibits which will make each visitor's visit a new and interesting experience.

At the present time, items relating to the commercial fishing industry and transportation to and from the Island are being sought.

HAUL SHED-MUSEUM BUILDING FUND UNDER WAY: From the very outset of its activities, it has been evident to the Association that the Old Stone Church would not be suitable for museum purposes. As a matter of fact, it has been the aim and intention of the Association to keep the church, as much as possible, intact; that, as soon as possible, exhibits of other phases of the Island's history be housed in a separate building, so as not to be intrusive on the historical authenticity of the Old Stone Church itself.

However, it was also realized at the outset that the complete renovation and restoration of the Old Stone Church had to be done first. This, now, has been accomplished. With its redecoration and structural restoration, the first phase of the Association's effort has reached completion.

Thus the second phase has begun!

With the approval of the Board at its fall meeting, a building committee was appointed (Lydia Bechtel, Hugh Lange, Charles Martin, John Kennedy, Russell Matso, Donald Haas, James Seaman) and a special building fund account established. At the present time, plans are being drawn and estimates made for the construction of a museum which will be, insofar as possible, at least an outward reconstruction of the haul shed which once stood behind the Old Stone Church.

As currently planned, the haul shed will contain adequate exhibit space, a storage and preparation area, office, and public toilets. Though specific costs will be determined later, present estimates indicate that the building itself, without furnishings (cases, equipment, etc.) will be on the order of \$125,000. However, even as the plans are being developed, members and friends of the Association are urged to make tax-deductible contributions to the building fund.* Checks so designated for this desirable purpose should be made out to: The Kelleys Island Historical Assn. Building Fund.

*It is to be noted that funds from dues and other fund-raising activities designated for operating expenses will not be used for the building fund.

A PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF ERROR RECTIFIED: Recently it has come to the attention of the Board that the Kelleys Island Historical Association was claimed as a party to the hindering of some construction activities on the Island. Members and friends of the Association are hereby informed that such has not been the case! The enclosed letter, over the signature of the Association's President and with the full concurrence of the Board, explains the Association's position this and all other issues affecting its dealings with the public. It is to be regretted that such a misunderstanding has taken place and it is hoped that there will be no such reoccurrence in the future.

SUMMER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- Sat., June 14, 2:00 P.M.: "Lake Erie Fishermen -- An Historical Perspective." Prof. Jay Mullen, The Ohio State University.
- Sun., June 30: Firelands Historical Society Tour and Program.
- Sat., July 6, 11:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. Annual Tour of Homes.
- Sat., July 13, 2:00 P.M.: "Zebra Mussels." John Hagman, Fran. Theodore Stone Laboratory, The Ohio State University.
- Sat., July 20, 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. "Art Show"
- Sat., Aug. 10, 2:00 P.M. Annual Meeting. All members of the Kelleys Island Historical Association should attend.
- Sat., Sept. 21, "Butterfly Festival" 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. Program: "The Tin Goose." James Culp speaker, 2:00 P.M. BAKE SALE and other day's events begin at 10:00 A.M.

The Old Stone Church will be open Sundays, 1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M. beginning June 30. Come in and see our growing collection of Island memorabilia.

IS THERE A WEDDING IN YOUR FUTURE
For the past few years, a number of requests have been received by the

Association for permission to use the Old Stone Church for weddings. By recent Board action, this is now possible. If there is a wedding in your future and you would like to use the Old Stone Church's historic

setting, please contact the Association for details as to times available and costs involved. (Kelleys Island Historical Association, Kelleys Island Ohio, 43438)

COPY OF LETTER OUTLINING BOARD'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO PUBLIC CONCERNS:

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Mr. Richard Wasner
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Engineering District-Buffalo
1776 Niagara St.
Buffalo, N.Y. 14207-3199

May 11, 1991

Re: Capital Control, Inc.
Public #91-475-1

Dear Mr. Wasner:

The purpose of this organization is to "preserve and promote the history of Kelleys Island". We take no position in favor of or opposition to any specific commercial enterprises on Kelleys Island. In all our activities we have scrupulously avoided all controversial and political issues. However, we have recently learned that individuals have, by intention or accident, by implication or inference, used this Association's credibility to obstruct one or more Island projects.

It is important that your agency knows that the Kelleys Island Historical Association does not oppose the building of docks, parking facilities and operation of the proposed Kelleys Island Ferry Boat Line, since no Island historic site, building or ruins are affected.

Within the scope of "promoting the history of Kelleys Island", one of our most treasured artifacts, Inscription Rock, a large pictograph upon which the Erie Indians are believed to have carved prior to 1600 and which is owned by the Ohio Historical Society, is one block from the Kelleys Island Boat Line site and will be visible to all Island visitors as they proceed to the Island's commercial area. In addition, the Kelley Mansion, built in 1860-1864, and an outstanding historical building, as well as several fine 19th century homes, are readily viewed and appreciated by passers-by on this same route.

I hope this letter clarifies our position on this matter, eliminates any misrepresentations, and protects the integrity of the Kelleys Island Historical Association.

Sincerely,

/s/ June A. Campbell

President

CC: Ms. Julie Quinlan, Ohio Historical Preservation Office
Mr. Jared Lafavour, Submerged Lands Coordinator, ODNR