



Kelleys Island Historical Association, Inc.

Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438

Volume XIII, No. 4

April 1999

Welcome!!

For those of you who are reading our newsletter for the first time, we wish to welcome you and provide you with information. Our spring mailing is island-wide and we extend an invitation to become a member!

Calendar for 1999

June 12, Sat.	11:00	General & Special Meeting
June 16, Wed.	6-7:30	Meet Me at the Museum & Gift Shop
		Open House & 10% Sale
July 18, Sun.	2:00	Organ Concert by Janet Ebert
July 29, 30	7-9:30	Building Doctor Clinic
July 30, Fri.	All day	Seminar & Consultations
Aug. 7, Sat.	11:00	Annual Meeting
Aug. 7, Sat.	All day	Art Show
Sept. 11, Sat.	10-4:00	Butterfly Festival
Oct. 2, Sat.	11:00	General Meeting

Notice

The General Meeting on Saturday, June 12, 1999 will also be a Special Meeting. Constitution and by-law revisions will be voted upon at this meeting. These revisions pertain to voting, fiscal year, new correspondence secretary, Ways and Means to include gift shop operation and Acquisition and Display committee to include development of educational programs and activities. Please be aware that notice of this meeting will again be published at the Post Office and in the June Gazette article by Leslie Korenko. If you are interested in these revisions, please mark your calendar and attend our meeting on June 12th at 11:00 a.m.

A Second Reminder.....

We will **not** sponsor the plant sale this May. Check out the Kelleys Island PTO Spring Plant Sale.

Current Officers and Board of Directors

Sandy Kilko.....	President
Byron Crabil.....	Vice-President
Claudia Brown.....	Treasurer
Rita Eaton.....	Secretary
Phyllis Pahler.....	Corres. Secretary
Lois Brown.....	Bd. Member
Ila Beatty Dick.....	Bd. Member
Mike Feyedelem.....	Bd. Member
O. Hugh Lange.....	Bd. Member
Russ Matso.....	Bd. Member
Frances Minshall.....	Bd. Member

Meet Me at the Museum

Wednesday, June 16th, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Our Open House last year was such a success, we can't wait to open our doors for a special evening just for you again. Our new items are sure to dazzle you or amaze you. Some will simply make you laugh. But, with our already good prices, the 10% off (on most items that night) is not a laughing matter. See you there!

It's Renewal Time for Membership Dues!

As you will notice on the new Membership Application, we are no longer mailing out receipts unless requested to do so. This will save us much paperwork and postage. Also, Family Memberships are limited to spouses, and children 18 and under. We hope these changes meet with your approval. The membership cards may be picked up at the Gift Shoppe located in the Old Stone Church.



Building Fund Memorials

- In memory of Donna Nowak
by Lydia Bechtel
Gary & Jackie Finger
Paul & Lois Brown
- In memory of Eleanor Mielke
by Gary & Jackie Finger
Lydia Bechtel
- In memory of Ron Bechtel
by Lydia Bechtel
- In memory of Helen Marchky
by Esther (Lange) Carlson
- In memory of Ila Ramsey
by Esther Carlson
- In memory of Hazel & Bill Lange
by Esther Carlson
- In memory of Mary Biehele
by Lydia Bechtel
- In memory of Jandy McDade
by Ila & Ramie Dick
- In memory of Esther & Dick Sennish
by Madeleine & Roger
Williams
- In memory of Mrs. Morey Ash
by Robert & Carol Schnittker
- In memory of Martha Jane Erickson
by Lydia Bechtel
- In memory of Richard Timple
by Lydia Bechtel

"Peregrine".....
...to travel,
..to wander.....

Author Stanley Potokar would like to share a great adventure on Lake Erie with us from 11:00 to 11:20 at our General - Special Meeting on Saturday, June 12th. Although this is not a famous shipwreck story, while canoeing with his boyhood friends fifty years ago, he did spend an exciting night on Kelleys Island. His book, titled "Peregrine", also the name of his canoe which he found at the foot of East 185th in Cleveland, recounts life on the Great Lakes and historical events of the late '30's and 40's. Stanley made headlines several times; the team even canoed to



the World's Fair in NYC. This peregrinator has visited Kelleys Island several times in recent years with his wife, Judy, and will be available after his talk for a book signing and conversation. Come and enjoy!

Meeting me at theBuilding Doctor Clinic

The Building Doctor Clinic from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society will be here on Thursday and Friday, July 29th and 30th! KIHA, Gray and Pape, Inc., and the Village of Kelleys Island are sponsoring this program. On Thursday evening at the Municipal Building on Addison Street from 7:00 - 9:30 a slide-illustrated lecture will focus on the care and maintenance of an older building. Peeling paint, additions, deteriorating masonry, locating hard-to-find parts are just some of the building problems they will be willing to discuss with you. That evening you may sign up for a "House Call" on Friday. The Building Doctors visit all kinds of older buildings such as schools, churches, stores, offices, and homes to examine problems and prescribe cures. The consultations are free, but the number is limited, so register early.



Butterfly Festival

Our Butterfly Festival could become an endangered event unless a new chairperson is found. All joking aside, we really need to look ahead to find an interested party. Please note that you will be very much supported and cared for by both Marge Clapper and Sandy Kilko, past chairpersons, if you're seeking a new challenge in your life. Sandy Kilko will co-chair this festival with you, but needs to train someone to be able to carry it for the following year.

Dr. Michael Pratt, archeologist, will join us as our speaker for the Butterfly Festival on Sat., Sept. 12th. Dr. Pratt, Heidelberg College, previously conducted the Native American Dig on Kelleys Island in 1974.



A Bell Tower Report from: O. Hugh Lange

We are pleased with the professional job Greene Construction has done on the structure. Many people have complimented us on the appearance.

The steeple roof needs to be replaced within three years as some of the metal strips are loose. There is no leakage to the interior due to the very steep angle of the roof. The water runs off very rapidly.

Rick Holmes will repair any plaster damage to the interior at his own expense. Thanks, Rick, for your help.

Island Singers Reach Decade of Entertainment

The Island Singers have been bringing us an annual show in August since 1989!! Come and see a new display featuring ten years of song and heart for Kelleys Island. You will be able to look at their albums filled with remembrances of past shows, events, and fun. Congratulations to the Island Singers and to Jennifer Koba, director and best wishes for many more years of music!

Towne Square Collection

Town Square Collection will add the "Kelley-Lovins House" as our 1999 feature. This is #5 in our series. This one will go quickly!!

Tulip Star Quilt

Teri Betzenheimer's quilt for our 1999 raffle is sure to be another beautiful queen-size comforter. The colors will include pink, purple and yellow tulips on a dark green background with an eight inch border of tulips. Teri designed this one in celebration of Jack Betzenheimer's triplet great-grandchildren who were born recently in Texas.

We welcome your articles and ask you to submit them to KIHA, Box 328, Kelleys Island, OH 43438.

A Bit of History; The Villa at Long Point

The following is a beautiful description of Kelleys Island that cannot be improved upon. It is taken from the Island II newspaper of August 1937: "Mix three parts lovely old summer resorts with two parts well kept year-round residences and one part natural beauty, dash sparingly with a bit of progress, stir well, and pour into a spatter-shaped mold set in the blue waters of Lake Erie and you have....Kelleys Island.

Stories and history about the people and places here are fascinating and interesting. Most of the development centers around the sheltered southern and western areas. The conditions there were most favorable for evolving economy, fine homes; and businesses thrived.

The most untamed area of the island is Long Point; it stretches far out into the water toward the northeast, an ideal haven for wild life, large trees and...seclusion, a safe refuge sought by many to get closer to nature. This must have been the purpose of Fr. Chaloupka of Nativity Church from Cleveland when he purchased the property that included the home originally built by Samuel Hamilton in the early 1800's.

This home is described in the "Ohio Historical Inventory" prepared by Kevin Pape and Kyle Johannsen: "The Hamilton home is one of a number of fine early stone residences found on the island. This building also reflects the kinds of changes that frequently occur to island structures as they change with the island evolving economy."

The original central stone building was the homestead of Samuel Hamilton. During the 1920's the house was occupied by James Self and his wife Lydia Titus Self. His father had died soon after coming to the island. Later his mother was mysteriously murdered. The children were taken in to the Hamilton home.

After James Self, the house was sold to Fr. Chaloupka of Nativity Church in Cleveland and run as a summer camp for the parish children. With the help of volunteer men and women in the parish, the camp was self sufficient. The stone house was named The Villa and an addition was built using material salvaged from Becker Winery that burned in 1924.

In 1952 the camp was purchased by Ohio Regular Baptist Home and Camp Inc. They made many improvements and continue their operation to this day.

My own experience goes back to the camp at the Villa, helping with serving and washing dishes to get a reduced rate in the cost but still able to enjoy much free time. Memories are full of marvelous sunsets, midnight picnics watching shooting stars, flirting with seminarians who were camp counselors, evening bonfires and Amateur Nite when my sister Flo sang Indian Love Call, and lots of Canadian Soldiers; then also, memories of the family coming here renting Cozy Corner or Wigwam, cottages that also belonged to the parish. The fun we had hunting for the famous Table Rock; we could not find it because we were standing on it.

Many of the parishners who attended camp at Fr. Chaloupka's Villa were so impressed with the beauty here, they became native islanders in time. The Yako's, Golias', Kuchars, Siloys, Onders, and so many more! Maybe they will come forward and tell the wonderful stories that started at The Villa. Now they have families here, continuing the family tradition and fondness for seclusion and beauty of Kelleys Island.

Dot Simonds (Dot is new to the Island having arrived just in November of 1998. She is currently contracting to have a home put up on Melody. We appreciate the research that went into this article.)

Mrs. T.C. Hamilton by Anne Cleary Sennish

I enjoyed Milton Blatt's story in the November newsletter, for Mrs. T.C. Hamilton was my grandmother. The house he helped her clean is my house now, and Captain Frank Hamilton was my uncle. I'd check the garden for the lost postcard collection, but I suspect that Milt put a match to it.

When I stayed here as a young child, Grandmother used to wake me in the morning by playing "Narcissus" on the Victrola in the dining room. She was very lame and tried to avoid the stairs. When I heard "Narcissus" blaring up to my room, I knew it was time to get up.

Grandmother lived alone in the stone house built by her grandfather, Addison Kelley, and handed down through our family. She had very little income, maybe a Civil War Widow's pension, had a bad leg - she was crippled really - and had no car. In winter, she came to stay with us, first in Cleveland and later, after we moved, in Detroit.

Grandmother had a number of activities, like scrubbing the fossil in our front doorsill on her hands and knees first thing in the morning. She often swept the walks, not stopping where her yard ended, but continuing on down the street. We sometimes saw her lying on her side in the grass, her permanently bent knee forming an angle in the air as she pulled out weeds. She played the slot machines on the boat. Sometimes she walked uptown to attend the council meetings, then held in the jail behind the Town Hall.

Grandmother was born on Kelleys Island and lived here all her life, except for a stint at the "Lake Erie College for Young Women" in Painesville. She was named 'Fredrena', for her father, Frederick Kelley; we thus had the quaint experience of hearing our grandmother called 'Freddie' by her friends and relatives, of whom there were many.

Her hair was white; after washing it she rinsed it with blueing. I can still see her, sitting at the dresser between the two windows in the downstairs bedroom, pinning up the long white hair that streamed down her back, with large hairpins. She had pretty eyes, a faded gray that I was surprised to see in pictures of her as a young girl had been dark, or hazel.

(continued on next page)

Among the many things she taught me were to drop behind her single file when we passed others on the street. She taught me not to look behind me in church (the Catholic church, at the head of our street, where she sometimes took me). She taught me never to sip through a straw when there was nothing left to sip, and to ignore, or pretend to ignore, the sly witticisms of the old codgers who loafed on benches outside Martins' and Matso's, uptown.

She was unique, and in her way an Island Character. She will most certainly turn up in these pages again.

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Some Kelleys Island Memories

by
Roger Williams

Easy Money

On a calm, sunny day, in the summer of 1939, Roy Hamilton, Jr. and I were fooling around on the beach near Hamilton's point (now called Martin's point), when we heard a boat's horn blowing continuously, with engine roaring.

Sure enough, yet another boat had run aground on the point. So Roy and I rowed his skiff out to see what we could do. "Call the Coast Guard...get help quickly", was all we could hear. Roy said "Why don't you climb overboard and push the boat off." "Can we?" they replied. "Sure," said Roy, "Try it".

So, two men climbed overboard, rocked the boat, and with the help of the engine, the boat came free, with no apparent damage.

They waved us over and handed Roy a \$5 bill. "Thanks a lot for your help." they said. Of course, all we had done was watch them work; didn't even get our feet wet. So, that was the easiest \$5 that either Roy or I had ever made, and \$5 was big money then, especially for a 14-year-old!

The Bathing Beauties

We were sitting on our porch on the East shore of Kelleys one bright Sunday afternoon, with a light east breeze blowing, when a large, center-cockpit sloop came slowly sailing by. Several bikini clad bathing beauties were lying around on the deck, and a handsome young man was at the wheel. It looked like Hollywood to me.

"If they don't change course, they're going to run aground on Hamilton's (now Margin's) point", I said to Madeleine....Well, they didn't (change course), and they did, (run aground).

All of the young ladies immediately disappeared below, and another young man appeared. The men lowered the sails, and raced the engine, to no avail. Then they lowered the dingy, put an anchor out astern, and tried to kedge the boat off, still without results.

Next, a very heavyset, older man, (the owner perhaps?), came on deck. The crew hoisted him up onto the

main boom, swung the boom out to the side which caused considerable list to the boat, then used the engine and kedge, and the boat came free!!

They motored out about 1/4th mile, well clear of the point, sails were raised, the bathing beauties resumed their basking, the heavy man went below, and the journey continued. All in all, a not too serious interruption in their journey, but a fun diversion for us, the spectators, on a quiet Sunday afternoon.

(Roger is a first-time writer for our newsletter and we welcome more articles.)

The Birth of KIHA.....

During the year of 1980, Mike McCune was mayor of Kelleys Island. He had been approached by John Schaeffer to organize some sort of historical society on the island that might be interested in preserving what was known as the German Reform Church on Division Street. The church had been built in the 1860's, but the last service was held in 1942 for William Burger's funeral.

Living members of the congregation had dwindled down to five, and so in 1972 these members deeded the lime stone structure, which was built with stone that had been quarried across the street, to the Ohio Northwest Association of the United Church of Christ. John Schaeffer had been in touch with Rev. Pearle, the minister associated with this organization, concerning the church's becoming a museum.

Mike appointed Lydia Bechtel, Lucille Mathews, Helen Marchky, and me to meet with these gentlemen at the United Church of Christ in Marblehead. After a few meetings, we began to reach a point where it seemed possible for us to achieve the use of the church. We four women were able to find enough island people interested in preserving what many referred to a The Old Stone Church. In August of 1980, we held our first public meeting in the Town Hall and formed what we named the Kelleys Island Historical Association. By August of 1981, we had acquired one hundred thirty-five members. We drew up a constitution of rules and regulations, formed a board of directors, and elected officers. (I had the honor of being elected the association's first president.)

Our main purpose was to lease the church, restore it to its former state, and to use it as a museum. Our plans met with the approval of the United Church of Christ representatives. With the legal assistance of Attorney John Murray, we came to an agreement concerning the responsibilities and care of the property, and on Saturday, August 15th, 1981, at the association's annual meeting, we signed the lease and were given the keys to the church.

Many changes have come about since that signing. Through the hard work of many members and the generosity of some, especially Lydia and Ron Bechtel, we were able to buy the property and to restore it to where it is today.

Jessie A. Martin



Happy Birthday!!



July

- 1 J. T. Lovins
- 2 Cindy Herndon
- 4 Bill Blatt
- 5 Robert I. Coulon III
- 6 Pearl Pascoe
- 11 Bonnie Blatt
- 11 Lee Tkach
- 12 Tony Kuchar
- 13 Adam Antuanano
- 18 Anne Sennish
- 19 Martha Mielke
- 20 O. Hugh Lange
- 21 John Kennedy
- 24 Rita Eaton
- 24 Jeffrey Kennedy
- 26 Judith DuShane
- 30 Dick Bier
- 31 Dody Twydord

August

- 2 Carolann Tkach
- 2 Tom Twyford III
- 2 Michele Majercak
- 4 Ila Dick
- 5 Coradine Myers
- 6 Linda Rockaway
- 6 Sandra Tkach
- 8 Marge Alaburda
- 8 Robert Quillin
- 11 Ginny Wilson
- 11 John K. Ohlemacher
- 11 Tom Twyford, Jr.
- 13 Molly Kathleen Cooney
- 19 M.J. (Duke) DuShane
- 20 Shannon R. Matso
- 23 John Kilko
- 26 Stephanie Lunar
- Lee Hendricks
- 27 Paul Brown
- 27 James A. Slef
- 27 David Stare

September

- 1 Lesley Ward
- 2 Shirley McKillips
- 2 Ben Blatt
- 5 Lori Hayes
- 9 Martha Fresch
- 10 Mary Lou Quillen
- 11 Tom Twyford
- 11 David Bachman
- 12 Jane Wick
- 13 Milton Blatt
- 16 Marilyn Dauch
- 16 John Sennish
- 18 Joseph Sennish
- 22 Tom Hartley
- 23 Marlana Mielke
- 23 Bob Herman
- 23 Don Koshla
- 24 Gizela Feyedelem
- 24 Russ Ward
- 30 John Kobs

October

- 1 Mary Kull
- 4 Nancy Stoetzer
- 4 Richard Paynter
- 5 Anne Coulon
- 5 Ramie Dick
- 9 Lois Brown
- 15 Kristin Seidl
- 16 Betty Pape
- 17 Megan M. VonBenken
- 18 Michael Feyedelem
- 19 Jane Blatt
- 24 Ted Blatt
- 24 John Kobs II
- 25 Danielle Fresch
- 25 Joan Lee
- 26 Patrick Cooney
- 28 Alison Kobs
- 28 Judy Kobs
- 30 Catherine Lange

November

- 5 Larry Adams
- 10 Jeni Mack
- 10 Judy Adams
- 11 Blanche Smith
- 13 Elizabeth Fresch
- 14 Sheri Herman
- 15 Molly Queen
- 18 Sally Hiller
- 18 Ed Twyford
- 18 Sandy Kilko
- 19 Mary Ward
- 19 Robert I. Coulon, Jr.
- 20 Richard Rettig
- 23 Kay Herndon

December

- 2 Dr. Alston Quillin
- 2 Caitlin Lupa
- 2 John T. Mack
- 5 Don Shadle
- 6 Albert Fresch
- 8 Julia Martin Kennedy
- 8 Andrea Fuller
- 11 Kipp Seidl
- 12 Nancy Ward Ritchie
- 13 Sarah Fresch
- 14 Annalee
- 15 Danny Fresch
- 15 Budd Wilson
- 18 Laura Jean Pohorance
- 22 Tom Lange
- 24 Michael Mielke, Jr.
- 28 Ray Feyedelem
- 29 Brian A. Stare
- 30 Todd S. Mack

Would you like to have your birthday included in our list? Please contact Sandy Kilko at 419-746-2290.

Want to spend three hours with a Friend, New Acquaintance or even your Spouse each Week?

Do you and a friend have three hours a week to spare next summer? Betsy Walcott, Volunteer Coordinator, is hoping for pairs to work the museum and gift shop! She thinks it will add to the fun and help accommodate the visitors and shoppers who steadily grow in number. The museum may operate 11-5:00 this summer - a change from 10-4:00 because visitors arrive later to the island. The shifts will be 11-2:00 and 2-5:00. Please contact Betsy Walcott at 746-2328 or 419-625-3819. Don't miss the fun!!