



Making Kelleys Island History Everybody's Business

Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 1, Issue 3

Summer, 2004

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President's message

The summer season is now well upon us. Many of our snowbirds have returned after the long winter and the Island is filled with activity.

Our first potluck of the season was well attended. In lieu of a speaker, a few of our recent acquisitions were on display. These items were stock shares and a billing machine from the **Kelleys Island Dock and Steamboat Company** (see more inside), and also on loan was a time capsule of items that were found dur-

ing the recent Camp Patmos renovation. Mark your calendar for our next potluck, at which Mrs. **Betty Pape** will be our featured speaker. Plan now to attend on July 16th.

The big topic on most members' minds is the building. If you have been to the museum or driven by, you may have noticed four bright orange (fading a little) posts in the empty lot. This is not an alien landing site! This is the foot print of the proposed new building.

The bid sheets for the septic system and the building have been sent out. Now comes the waiting time. I have discussed site plans and locations on the septic system, so hopefully this can begin soon.

We have all waited a long time for this to happen and my main goal is to try to see this Kelleys Island Historical Association goal achieved.

**Historically Speaking,
Michael Feyedelem
President**

Gift shop open, brimming with new items

Annalee

Yeah! The Gift Shoppe opened Saturday, May 29th. Thanks to the volunteers who helped get it ready- **Ed & Carol Frindt, Bonnie & Ray Meyers, Ruth & Bob Ragone, Anne Sennish, Pam Stoup, Sis McKillips,** and board members- **Claudia Brown, Jacque Kranyak, Russ Matso, Mike Feyedelem, and Annalee.**

Betsy Walcott called volunteers to work in the Gift Shop- **Pat Seeholzer, Pat Hayes, Ed Frindt, Dee Mack, Shirley Crabill, Don Gilles, Sharon McIntire,** and **Fran Minshall.** New volunteers this year are **Barb Behlen, Fred Walcott, and Joan Quillen.**

A number of artists are participating this year- **Bonnie Meyers, Bob Ragone, Delores Cole, Lori Feely, Annalee, Sally Riedy Kovach, and Lee Brown.** We have a selection of Lee Brown's handmade Kelleys Island boat models. Please call Betsy if you would like to help at the Gift Shop. Volunteers are especially needed on week-ends.

Come and see Victorian dolls, English Bone China, tea sets, church bird houses and crystal ornaments. Other new items include grape and butterfly glasses, Franz china in butterfly, dragonfly, and hummingbird motifs, along with their collector spoons. There are picnic baskets, and Depres-

sion Glass in pink, green, and ruby, wine bottle carriers, and candles. Toys include models of golf carts, scooters, airplanes, beetle cars, snakes, and puzzles. For the little girl in your life there are lip gloss and poodle purses. For the big girls there are hats and shirts and Red Hat jewelry, fuzzy scarves, and recipe books.

The quilt for the raffle is on display. Thank you **Teri Betzenheimer!** **Anne Sennish's** watercolor painting for a raffle is also on display.

Members of the Kelleys Island Historical Association your purchases are discounted 10% (except on artist's items and history books).

Keys to the past

Claudia Brown

Ted Blatt has been collecting keys since 1976, when his sister **Dorothea** gave him a key as a joke, with the suggestion that he start collecting them. Dorothea's husband had collected keys.

That was many keys ago. To be exact, that was 29,516 keys ago! (as of June 22nd, 2004).

One of Ted's garages has a solid wall of keys on it—row after row of keys. The keys even follow the contours of the wall, from floor to ceiling. Having

used all the available space on that wall, Ted has had to continue the rows on an adjacent wall. He has tried several systems of cataloging his keys. At one time he used the alphabet to organize them—A to Z for automobiles. Subsequently, he tried to group his keys by category. But then his key collection had expanded to thousands and he didn't have room to keep the categories, so the organization went away, but the counting was kept accurate. As Ted phrased it, he is only interested in volume.

The collection contains keys from the United States and around the world. Ted has one key from Saudi Arabia. The key collection includes keys of all sorts—skeleton keys from old locks, car keys, house keys, clock keys, skate keys, tiny drawer and jewelry box keys, luggage lock keys, handcuff keys, and motel keys. The keys range in size from a half inch to about 6 or 8 inches. Ted has never paid for a key in his collection, they have all been gifts from friends. He says to pay for keys would take the challenge away. Sometimes Ted will come home to find that someone has left keys between his doors. He has some colored keys, and brass, iron, and aluminum keys. Ted's first goal was to have 100 keys, then 1,000 keys, followed by 10,000, 15,000,

and 20,000.

Ted keeps his keys "in a garage that is ready to fall down" from the weight. With 55 keys to a pound, Ted already has 536.65 pounds of keys.

Ted Blatt relates the story that years ago **Bill Lemley** wanted to go up into the widow's walk of the Kelleys Mansion, but there was a locked door barring access and he didn't have a key to open it. Someone suggested that with all the keys Ted had to choose from, he might have one that would open the door. So Lemley came to see Ted and Ted gave Lemley a handful of skeleton keys to try in the locked door. One of



Ted Blatt and his 536.65 pounds of keys.

them worked!

A couple of weeks ago fifteen students visited Ted's key collection. They thought it was fun, and they promised that when they returned home they would send him "keys" as a thank you. Ted once answered an advertisement about keys from a man in North Olmsted. Ted asked his nephew **Bill Koenigseker** to meet with that key collector and he came back with 3,000 more keys for Ted! Some of Ted's unusual keys are cash register keys that have a smiling face on them. Then there are the animal keys—remember those American cars named after animals—Cougar, Mustang, Firebird and a deer for John Deere. There are keys with crowns, from an insurance company, and Pontiac, the Indian and the car.

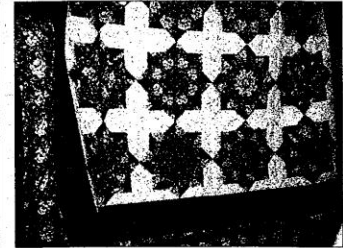
Ted's next goal is 30,000 keys in his Kelleys Island collection. Once a person starts collecting, it is hard to stop. Collecting keys is Ted Blatt's Kelleys Island hobby.

Not to be out done, Ted collects bottle openers at his Sandusky address. (Ted Blatt is a KIHA supporter and was born and raised on Kelleys Island.)

Play, help, win...

Anne Sennish's watercolor painting of the historic downtown and store dock circa, about 1865 will be raffled at the **Art Show**, held on Saturday, August 7. The winner will be drawn at 3:30 pm. The painting would make a fine addition to anyone's home.

This year's quilt is made in memory of **Teri Betzenheimer's** grandparents, **Carl and Laura Seeholzer**. The name



Teri Betzenheimer's handmade, donated quilt—"Snowball Flowers."

of the quilt is "**Snowball Flowers**". Teri remembers that her grandparents had a Snowball Bush in their yard on Kelleys Island. That Snowball Bush appears in the background of every First Communion photo of every child in their family. Teri said it was always blooming at that time of the year and they were always told to stand in front of it for the photo! The house is still standing at the corner of Woodford Road and Deer Look Lane, although it is no longer in the Seeholzer family. Teri felt especially close to her grandparents since she lived with them, as a child, the first summer after her mother passed away.

Please join us in celebrating the Kelleys Island family of Carl and Laura Seeholzer. The "Snowball Flowers Quilt" will be raffled off at the Butterfly Festival held on Saturday, September 11. The lucky winner's ticket will be drawn at 3:30 pm.

Raffle tickets for both items are available at the Gift Shop or at the KIHA booth at Islandfest and Homecoming.

Treasurer's Report May, 2004

General Account (Checking):	\$16,663.39
Building Fund (Savings) :	\$200,442.09
(Total)	\$217,085.48

Memorials made to the Building Fund :

Lyle & Gerry Bickley for Claude O. Smith

Lydia Bechtel for Dorothy Sun
Bill and Teri Stevenson to honor Lydia Bechtel on her birthday

Donations:

by **Jude Brown** to be used for the purchase of objects for the museum
by **Joi R. Luckaboo-Villa** as a Thank You to Tim & Becky Morrison

In Memorium....

Robert E. Behlen Jr
Frederick T.
Himmelein, Jr
Mary Louise Sennish
Dorothy Sun
George G. Yoscovits
Ronald Beatty

Welcome back potluck, chance to show new acquisitions

Claudia Brown

The June Welcome Back Potluck was held at St. Michael's Social Hall on June 3rd. We had a short meeting to vote on changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. All of the Board's proposed changes passed unanimously.

One of the biggest changes for members is that the membership year has been re-set to begin January 1st and end December 31st each year. This year, 2004, all memberships will run until December 31st, instead of the former year's end of July 31st. You will receive notices to renew your membership in December. Proxy ballots will be mailed a month before the Annual Meeting, which occurs in August. The governing body section of the Constitution has been changed to add that "Only one person from an immediate family residing in the same household shall serve on the Board." This had been an unwritten policy and now it has been placed into the Constitution. For emphasis, a previous version of the section under Officers and Board Members has been re-instated: "Officers should be elected from the Board of Directors except where no board member is able to fulfill the duties of the office."

Following the potluck, members were invited to look at recent donations to the Museum. We have received a donation of five shares in the Kelley's

Island Dock and Steam Boat Company from September 8th, 1947. The certificate was made to **Robert F. Hauser** and his son found it in a family Bible after his father's passing. He contacted us about donating it to the museum collection.

Bill and Terri Stevenson donated a metal box used to write continuous paper invoices at the Kelley's Island Dock and Steam Boat Company, which still has the company paper in it. **Russ Matso** has been collecting items and he has donated some written invoices from the company. You will find a lot of familiar names on them.

We also had the good fortune to be allowed to display some of the items

...a box that was sealed off in
the attic of the Hamilton
House...

from the **Camp Patmos** box that was found in the sealed off attic of the Hamilton House (now Camp Patmos) during renovations last fall. Camp Patmos plans to donate some of the items to the Historical Assn. and to keep some of them. Final decisions have yet to be made on the disposition of the

pieces. The wooden box contains a few items like a painted, broken umbrella handle, a small bottle (perhaps for medicine), and other sundry items. Most of the contents were letters and newspaper clippings. The letters are mostly between family members and friends of Mr. **William H. Selfe** and Mr. **Robert Hamilton**, and occur between 1895 and 1898.

One wonders how such a collection of stuff got itself together and into the box. It seems like a collection of items you might find in a dresser or desk drawer. There are also many poems cut from newspapers, at least one political cartoon, and some patent medicine advertisements. The letters give some sense of the rhythm of life on Kelleys Island at the end of the 19th century, and many of the invoices and letters mention other Kelleys Island inhabitants. For the potluck some of the papers were inserted into archival sheet protectors so that members could handle them. The letters are hand written in pen or pencil and the paper is in good condition. We are looking forward to preparing more letters for handling and to make arrangements so that some of them can be displayed. Thank you to **Ed Miller** and other staff at Camp Patmos for thinking of the Kelleys Island Historical Assoc.

The potluck food was also great!
Thanks to all the fine chefs!

Memorial Day at Kelleys Island, Ohio Friday, May 30, 1924

Claudia Brown

Summer is here once again. Memorial Day began the summer season this year just as it has for many years previous. In this time of uncertainty with American soldiers serving their country overseas, and in harm's way, it is thought-provoking to see the **1924 Memorial Day Program** with the Kelleys Island festivities to honor soldiers and sailors. It involved a boat trip on the Chippewa to Pelee Island and back, a parade in the evening from Estes School to the Cemetery, with appropriate speakers and songs, dedication of the New Park, with a Memorial Day address by the **Honorable W. E. Minshall**, ending with fireworks over the lake. Close your eyes and you can see and hear the passengers on the Chippewa singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" when crossing the international boundary line, and watching as a delegation was strewing flowers on the lake in memory of sailors lost to the sea.

The parade to the cemetery included a Fife & Drum Corps, the Knights of St. John, the Red Cross Unit, Lady Maccabees, Madonna Auxiliary, Men Maccabees, and Grand Army of the Republic Veterans and Widows. What a day that must have been!

Many thanks to **Ruth Peruchon** for donating the Memorial Day Program.

Following is the complete text of the Memorial Day Program from May 30, 1924:

PROGRAM (Page 1, Cover)

*"Breathes there a man with soul
so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,*

*This is my own, my native land!
Whose heart hath ne'er within
him burned,*

*As home his footsteps he hath
turned*

*From wandering on a frozen
strand? -*

*If such there breathe, go, mark
him well, --*

*For him no minstrel raptures
swell,*

*High though his titles, proud his
name,*

*Boundless his wealth as wish
can claim,*

*Despite these titles, power, and
pelf,*

*The wretch, concentrated all in
self,*

*Living, shall forfeit fair renown,
And doubly dying, shall go
down,*

*To the dust from whence he
sprung,*

*Unwept, unhonored and un-
sung!" - Scott*

*"Dulce et decorum est, pro pa-
tria mori!"*

*"It is sweet and honorable to die
for one's country!"*

PROGRAM (page 2)

Memorial Day, Friday, May 30,
1924

Under the Auspices of The Kel-
Isle Civic Club, Kelleys Is., O.

Marshal of the Day - **Chas.
Schnittker**

Staff- **Jno. H. Bauman, Wm.
Schlesselman, Edwin Bauman,
Clayton Hughes**

11:30 - Steamer Chippewa
leaves Sandusky for Kelleys and
Pelee Island.

Fare for round trip to Pelee Is.
Including stop-over at Kelleys -
Adults \$1.25; Children 75c.

Fare from Kelleys Island to Pelee
and return - Adults \$1.00; Children
50 c.

Hoist flags from Half Mast to
Full Mast position. Tolling of bells
(eight times - in memory of five
years of Civil War and three of the
World War). All citizens are re-
quested to pause in respectful silence
during the tolling of bells.

4:30 P.M. - boat returns from Pe-
lee Island to Kelleys Island

5:00 P.M. - Tribute to naval he-
roes aboard the Steamer Chippewa,
en route Pelee to Kelleys as boat
crosses the international boundary
line:

(1) Patriotic Song-"My
Country 'Tis of Thee".....By
Passengers

(2) Strewing Flowers on
Lake.....Special Delegation

(3) Address.....Rev. Father
Zierolf, Sandusky, O.

(4) Song-"Columbia" (For
supper hour see last page.)

6:30 P.M.---Parade forms at Es-
tes School and marches to Island
Cemetery.

Exercises at Cemetery:

(1) Song-"We're Going
Down the Valley One by
One".....Island Choral Union
Placing of floral tributes on sol-
dier graves

(2) Gettysburg Address.....
Richard Bauman

(3) Prayer.....**Rev. E. Koe-
hne**

(4) Song-"Sleep Thy Last
Sleep".....Island Choral Union

PROGRAM (page 3)

7:30 P.M. Dedication of New
Park.

(Cont. next page)

Memorial Day 1924 (cont.)

Dedication Exercises.

(1) Song-"My Country 'Tis of Thee" By Everybody

(2) Dedication Ceremony.....**Rev. Father J.E. Maerder**

(3) Male Quartet

(4) Formal Presentation of Park to Village.....**Ray Gorsuch**, President of the Kel-Isle Civic Club

(5) Formal Acceptance of Park in behalf of Village.....

Hon. Edward Ward, mayor

(6) "Star-Spangled Banner".....Everybody

(7) Memorial Day Address.....**Hon. W.E. Minshall**, Cleveland, O.

(8) "God Be With You Till We Meet Again".....Chorus

(9) 8:30 P.M.-Boat returns to Sandusky.

(10) At 9 P.M.-Fireworks Display on Lake front.

Order of Parade

(Estes School to Island cemetery)

Marshal of Day and Staff (mounted).

Fife and Drum Corps.

Color Guard and Firing Squad.

Uniform Rank, K. of St.J.

Red Cross Unit.

School Children.

Lady Maccabees.

Madonna Auxiliary.

Men Maccabees (with colors).

G.A.R. Veterans and G.A.R. Widows (in autos).

World War Survivors.

Chairman of the Day with Mayor, Military Chaplain, Speaker of the day and special guests of honor.

Notes-Exercises will begin on time. Please be at Estes School at 6:30 P.M. This program does away

with a long, tiring march during the hottest and drowsiest hours of the day; the only marching to be done is the very short distance from the school to the cemetery-practically within every one's strength. The actual Memorial Day Exercises will hardly take up two hours of your time, instead of the greater part of the day as in years past. This schedule allows mothers of families ample time to get their youngsters ready and come to the exercises themselves. The work of the day will be over, and thus, with your daily cares laid aside, you can the better enter into the spirit of the occasion.

PROGRAM (last page)

Church bells will be tolled in memory of the soldier and sailor dead, during the naval tribute aboard the boat, as well as during the exercises at the cemetery and park.

Take the afternoon off and come with us on a pleasant boat ride to Pelee, the quaint Canadian Neighbor Isle, or try your luck with "the finny tribe" at Kelleys! Enjoy the blessings our heroes fought so nobly to preserve for us! Everybody welcome!

Refreshments

Supper will be served by the Island ladies in the Village Hall throughout the evening from 5:00 P.M. on. Cut out your supper at home and bring your family and friends and a good appetite and eat for the benefit of our new park.

Patronize our Home Baking sale in Village Hall. A practical way of showing Good Citizenship and Patriotism!

Purchase tickets for eats at hall entrance.

Prices-Individual dishes 10 c. Complete bill of fare 50 c.

Proceeds go toward the further beautifying of our Civic Park.

Vocal and Instrumental Selections will be rendered during hours of luncheon.

You are heartily welcome!

Respectfully,

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE OF THE KEL-ISLE CIVIC CLUB. **F.J. Reinheimer**, Chairman

Calendar of events

Friday, July 16th at 6:00 pm Potluck at St. Michael's Social Hall- speaker is Betty Pape for part 2 of Kelleys Island Wineries

Saturday, July 24th KIHA booth at Islandfest for raffle tickets

Saturday, August 7th Art Show at the KIHA Museum, from 11 am to 4 pm. Winning ticket will be drawn for the Anne Sennish watercolor painting at 3:30 pm

Friday, August 13th, 7-9 pm Open House at the Gift Shop

Saturday, August 14 at 3:30 P.M. - Annual Meeting at the museum

Saturday, August 21st at 3:00 pm Organ Concert at KIHA Museum (tentative-call in August for details)

Saturday, August 21st - booth at Homecoming

Saturday, September 11 Butterfly Festival at KIHA Museum, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Quilt drawing at 3:30 P.M.

Thursday, September 23rd, Potluck at 6:00 P.M. at St. Michael's Social Hall (program to be announced)

**MAKING KELLEYS ISLAND HISTORY
EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**

Kelleys Island Historical Association
P.O. Box 328
Kelleys Island, OH 43438

A 501(C)3 organiza-
tion. All contributions
are tax deductible.



Kelleys Island Historical Association

We're on the web!
kelleyslandhistorical.org

**Kelleys Island Historical Association
P.O.Box 328
Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438**

Membership Application

Name: _____

Summer address: (from / / to / /) P.O.Box _____

Street: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ - _____

Winter address: P.O.Box _____

Street: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ - _____

- Individual Membership (annual) \$10.00
- also check here for 2 or more Individual memberships but just one newsletter sent to one address
- Family Membership (annual) \$25.00
- Patron Membership (annual) \$100.00
- Life Membership \$500.00
- (office use only below this line -----)
- Paid:** \$ _____
- Received by:** _____