



Making Kelleys Island History Everybody's Business

Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 5, Issue II

Spring, 2008

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Your board at work

With the completion of the new KIHA museum building the board's highest priority, the Board met with **Barb Hanck** of the **Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation** in our new building last August to discuss our financial needs for its completion. In September the board met with our architect "**Joe**" **Young** to develop the material list for the interior completion, which was needed for applying for grants.

Longtime islander and committed KIHA member/volunteer **Anne Eddowes**, who had introduced the board to Barb, volunteered to take on the challenge of pursuing grants to assist in completing the project. The board decided to appoint her Chair of its **Ways and Means Committee**, a decision that has been a true blessing for our association. Anne worked throughout the fall and win-

ter, applying for grants from several local foundations that fund projects in Erie County.

As we informed our readers in our last newsletter, the first grant she secured was for \$10,000 from the **Sidney Frohman Foundation of Sandusky**.

Her hard work began to snowball, when in December Anne learned that her applications to the **Frost-Parker Foundation** and **The Randolph J. and Estelle M. Dorn Foundation**, had both been answered positively. Together these foundations have pledged to give us \$40,000 if we can match it with grants and collectible pledges received during 2008 for the building.

Not long after hearing from these esteemed organizations, the **Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation** answered her appli-

cation to their group with a \$10,000 grant from them. KIHA will use the two \$10,000 grants towards the match monies needed, and we already have sizeable bequests from the **Lydia Bechtel** estate, a donated stock sale from **Roger and Madeline Williams**, and other donations, for around \$10,000 more. We will be working hard to make the last \$10,000 by December 2008.

In addition, after board member **Sharon McIntire** had successfully applied for and received a **Mylander Foundation** grant in 2006 for the storage and document filing cabinet, a board member from that foundation attended this year's Home Tour and remarked that our grant application was wonderful, and encouraged us to apply for another grant this year. In late

Cont., Page 5

Shipwreck explorers to speak at KIHA—Sat., June 21

KIHA is proud to sponsor a presentation about Lake Erie shipwrecks, at 2 p.m. on June 21, at the KIHA Museum.

Georgann and Mike Wachter have been exploring shipwrecks around the world for nearly 40 years. Even though they have visited wrecks in the Caribbean, Atlantic, and Pacific, they claim that nowhere else in the world have they discovered the kind of pristine and perfectly preserved shipwrecks



that lie in the fresh waters of the Great Lakes. They have written **Erie Wrecks East** and **Erie Wrecks West** and **Erie Wrecks & Lights**.

Their program will focus on shipwrecks around Kelleys and "The Dynamic Dozen," shipwrecks found in the Great Lakes in a two year period. **Georgann and Mike** will amaze you with stories of the discovery and exploration of shipwrecks in our own backyard. Shallow or deep, intact or not, each is an exciting slice of history.

The Wachters have published five books and several magazine articles, but with over 2,000 ships known to have sunk in Lake Erie

Cont., Page 5

William S. Webb family donates Civil War correspondence—

An ongoing series of the KIHA Newsletter

Through the generosity of family members of William S. Webb, we were given transcripts of letters that Mr. Webb wrote to his family during his 100 days service in The Civil War. Since the Kelleys Island men left as a company from the island, they, initially at least, stayed together and thus Mr. Webb's letters sometimes include mention of other islanders who were also fighting. It is not often that a person has the opportunity to relive history.

William S. Webb was married to Elizabeth Kelley and three children—Sarah, Isabelle and Charles. In 1860, William S. Webb is listed on the Census as a stone mason earning \$8,000 a year.

William S. Webb went to war in 1864 and he wrote letters home to his family on Kelleys Island. Captain Webb's daughter Sarah copied his letters into a notebook. William D. Webb is the great-grandson of this Kelleys Island Civil War soldier and his grand-daughter, Katia Duey, transcribed the letters from the notebook. Katia Duey is currently attending Temple University. We sincerely thank the William D. Webb family for their interest in their own family history and that of Kelleys Island—and for the opportunity they have given the Kelleys Island Historical Association to share this wonderful story.

William S. Webb was first stationed at Johnson's Island in Sandusky Bay, along with other Kelleys Island soldiers. (Added information will appear in [] .)

We left Mr. Webb's letters on June 23rd, below he continues that day's writings with notes to his two younger children.

**Point of Rocks, Va., Thursday, June 23rd 1864
11 o'C A.M.**

My Dear Little Son,

I was much gratified at receiving enclosed in Mother's letter, your loving attempt at communicating with your absent Father, and though your little fingers have not learned to give expression in letters and words to your ideas and thoughts, yet were the well known characters none the less expressive and I may say intelligible to your Father, and certainly none the less appreciated. I know my darling little boy, my little drummer boy, will be a good boy, obedient to his Mother, and try by his endeavors in doing right to comfort and soothe his Mother in her loneliness during Father's absence, which it is hoped will be brief. You have I learn a pair of new suspenders. I suppose they fit well and are suitable in every way.

You must practice on your drum for Father will want to hear you drum when he gets home. Always asking Ma if she is willing to have you.

We are here where we hear nothing else but drums and fifes, the sound of great cannon and guns almost constantly. Large bodies of Soldiers are constantly moving about, and in fact everything is military. The shells from Rebel cannon are flying over and around us and everything going on belonging to a state of war. I suppose you play at driving horses with Freddy and Herbert True every day or play with Laura or Sarah Carpenter.

Your Father is a great many miles away, over 1000 probably, in a strange land to him, but not an hour passes that he does not think of his dear children and their Mother who must be lonely in his absence. You will remember that it is duty to his Country and to perpetuate and secure to his children the

comforts of a country and a home that now keeps your Father away from you. Remember this, and do all you can to make Ma happy, be cheerful and happy yourself. good to Nellie who has always been so good and kind to you, your Father and all our family, and good to dear Sister Belle who like you feels her Father's absence. And finally my dear, listen to the teachings of your Mother, for everything she tells you is necessary for you to know for your own happiness in this world and the next.

Tell Nellie your Father has not and never will forget her kindness and motherly care and concern for himself, his children and their Mother both during his presence at home and his absence. I will write you again soon perhaps.

Do not forget what I have said, and be assured I am your fond and affectionate

Father,
Wm. S. Webb

**Point of Rocks, Va., Thurs., June 23rd 1864
12 o'C M.**

My Dear Little Girl,

Your letter written in pencil and enclosed in Ma's was rec'd and I was glad to hear from you by letter from yourself...

I write you in acknowledgement of yours to me as I have time now and do not know how it may be in an hour hence. It is a very hot day and I am keeping in the shade of my shelter tent as much as possible.

I expect my dear little Girl will be good and obedient to her Mother, make her as little trouble as possible and help her take care of dear little Brother. You are aware Belle that Mother feels very lonely during your Father's absence, and will need all the comforting her children can give her. Try and conduct yourself in a manner which will cause her to see that she has others to cherish and love besides your Father, and let her see and feel that they are worthy of her love and that you are all doing your best to pursue the course of duty...

The sound of cannon is constantly rolling along from our Right & Left, and an hour ago the shells were flying in the rear of our camp, we saw all of the strike. They were aimed at a signal station near us, a high tower where a man is constantly telegraphing with flags to other points of the movements of both armies which he can see from his position for many miles around. It is said Richmond can be seen plainly on a clear day from there. The tower is 125 ft. high and is on high ground. You must go and see Susan Carter and give her and John my best respects, also Hannah True and all your little playmates. Tell Ma the mail is in again but no letters from any one, only two papers for Charley & Norman Kelley. (Another shell has just passed along, whipping and shrieking). I somewhat expected a letter from Ma. Tell her to number her letters as she did the last, it was No. 6 Jerry has missed two letters from Belle, he rec'd 4 from you. Tell Jo we are seeing a great deal more of war than we ever dreamed of.

Cont. on pg. 5

Alfresco

Anne Sennish—April 27, 2008

On Kelleys Island we used to have Sunday dinner in the dining room, of our home at 126 Addison, and we had it about one or two in the afternoon. I think the hour was a carryover from



the days of my mother's (**Jeannette Hamilton Cleary**) childhood, and before, when all dinners were eaten at midday. Ours was a big dinner, especially in summer, when there was so much fresh garden food available.

There were always a number of people at our table. Our dining room, like everyone else's in summer, was hot, and the food made it hotter, as did all the people crowded around the table.

At some point, after my grandmother, (**Fredrena Kelley Hamilton**) had died, Mother decided to try eating outside. The best place for that appeared to her to be in the front yard. She bought a large yellow tray table with big wooden wheels; the tray-top was detachable and could be moved separately. On this, our dinner was to be carried out to our newer, cooler eating area.

Carried out by **Caroline (Cleary DeBoard** [Anne's sister]) and me, of course. We began hefting the dinners

out the front door and down the big, bulky stone steps. This went well until a day in late summer. While strong-arming a full Sunday dinner over our by-now usual route, something went wrong, and we dropped the tray and all its contents onto the front porch.

It was the month of August, with all its bounty. On that tray were, at the very least: fried chicken (on a platter); gravy (in a gravy boat, with a ladle); mashed potatoes, in a vegetable dish; corn on the cob; lima beans; a dressed and tossed salad, with lettuce, fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, radishes, celery and onions; glasses of milk, glasses of iced tea; a basket of homemade rolls or biscuits; butter, homemade currant jelly; silverware and napkins - linen, of course. Down the steps, onto the sidewalk and into the grass went the bounty of August.

Peach pie, which came later, was spared.

Catastrophic as this was, however, it was not the end of the dinner, for in our household wasting food was a criminal act. We scraped that Sunday dinner up off every scrape-able surface (porch and steps but maybe not the ground) and proceeded on out into the shade of trees, where we sat down in our canvas chairs, tray tables in front of us, and ate like trenchermen.

I always thought this event was the driving force, in Mother's mind, behind our screened porch, which came into being about four years later and where we eventually were able to eat, drink and be merry and yes, wheel dinner out on the yellow tray table too, with no fear of another alfresco disaster.

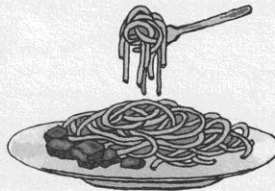
Mrs. Magiotti's "Noodles"

Roger Williams

As a boy spending summers on Kelleys Island, I have strong memories of going to the **Magiotti's** for produce and "noodles". **Magiotti's** lived in a brown shingled house on **Bookerman Road**, one of several houses occupied by quarry workers, near the old quarry office, now owned by the **Finnegans**.

Magiottis had moved from San Marino, the small city/state within Italy, along with several other families, to work in the quarries during the 1910 through 1930's era. They, of course, brought much of their local cuisine with them. Mrs. **Magiotti** sent back to Italy for olive oil and cheese on a regular basis.

Magiottis had a big garden, protected by a fence and covered with old fish nets to keep the birds, especially pheasants, away from the tomatoes. No deer to plague us then. When vegetables were ready, she would sell some to my mother.



But the big treat, which only happened once or twice a summer, was a casserole that Mrs. **Magiotti** made which she simply called "noodles." It consisted of chicken pieces, tomatoes, olive oil, several kinds of cheese, and her homemade egg noodles. When she rolled out the noodles before hand cutting them, they covered her big round kitchen table. The eggs and the chicken came from her chickens, which ran all over her yard, long before "free range" chickens became popular.

When we ordered the "noodle" dish, Mom would say "how big a dish?" and Mrs. **Magiotti** would make a circle with her hands and say "oh, about like this." The price was \$3.00, so we only had "noodles" when company came. Three dollars in 1935 would be about \$40.00 now, but the dish fed 7 people. Never any "leftovers"...it was too good!

William S. Webb letters (cont. from pg. 2)

Today makes our 42nd day. (Another shot, a solid shot this time, it struck about 40 rods in the rear of our tents, the Boys are running down to pick it up.) We have now 58 days more counting from the 13th of May, the time when most of our Companies were mustered in. Every day is counted now, and this makes the time drag very slow. I do hope all will be spared to get home.

Remember be a good girl and when Father returns again he will have a great deal to tell his children of what he witnessed during the famous "hundred days." I am dear Belle as ever your

Affectionate Father
Wm. S. Webb

Point of Rocks, Va. Saturday, 25th, June 1864
8 o'C A.M.

My Dear Wife & children,

Last evening the Boys of the Reg't commenced coming not by company but by squads and single individuals. The first arrived about 4 o'C P.M., and from that time until after dark they were coming. Some did not arrive until this morning. Of our Co., **Erastus [Huntington], Dan & Holbrook** were the only ones that did not get in. I should add **Frank Kelley** who went to hospital at the works but left and came in himself. The boys had a heavy march yesterday in the heat and sand and I was very fearful that many would be "used up" altogether, but all I think will be all right after a little rest.

There was miserable mismanagement in some quarter, that compelled the boys after three days and nights of fatigue duty to march into quarters 11 miles under a broiling sun. They could have marched Thursday night very comfortably and orders had been issued to that effect but somehow did not reach the Reg't in official form.

Of the details of the expedition you will be informed by letters from the boys, Charley Mitchell, Erastus and others in your neighborhood. Having been detailed to command of camp during the absence of the Reg't, I only know by accounts rec'd of what transpired. We have had a steady fire upon our Signal Station for the past two days as referred to in letters of yesterday to Sarah and Belle. "I wrote them and Charlie.

The shots from a "Whitworth" gun, are egg shaped and polished and are said to be steel-pointed. On yesterday P.M. four or five struck within 30 rods of our camp (our part of it) in the rear. The shots are all parallel with the line of our quarters and unless they vary and fall short they will not fall in our camp. Yesterday a shot after passing our rear struck in the road halfway between our tent and the signal station, bounded over a tent in the camp of the 134th O.N.G., again struck the ground and partly buried itself in the soil. Six rods to the left of where it struck were at least 30 men in a group under a tree. They belonged to the 134th. They shifted their quarters, that is changed their base somewhat hurriedly.

We are now finally brigaded. The 130th, 132nd, 134th, 138th and 143rd are in a brigade. We constitute (all O.N.G.'s) the Second Brigade, Third Division, Tenth Army Corps. Our **Brigade** commander is Colonel J. B. Armstrong of the 134th from Urbana. Our **Division** Commander is

Brig. Gen. O.S. Terry. Our **Corps** Commander is Gen. Brooks who succeeds Gen. Gilmore. Our new Post Commissary a Lieutenant from our Reg't informed me that our Brigade commander told him that "Our duty hereafter will only be to hold the intrenchments, that we are to be relieved of picket duty and that we shall not be again moved until moved towards home."

If this proves to be so we shall not be put through such heavy duty as heretofore and our service will be comparatively comfortable and easy.

It is now reported in Camp that our time will count from the 2nd of May. This I think all nonsense. It is also reported that at the expiration of 90 days we are to be started for home to be mustered out. This is more reasonable and may be so. I rec'd another letter from you when the Reg't came in last night it was dated the 10th and was carried out to the Reg't by mistake. An hour after our Reg't came in last night we were ordered to man the intrenchments. We accordingly went out and returned at daylight. So that our service will all be in the night. We lay down an India rubber blanket on the ground, wrap up in a woolen blanket and snooze away.

I slept thus last night, and slept as soundly and refreshingly in the open air as I ever did anywhere. I see no difference between the comfort of a hard bed or rather a bed on a ground and a soft one, in good quarters. Of course a cold or rainy night would make a material difference. The mail closes and so must I. I only write because I can and because I always intend to write you, when I have an opportunity.

Love to all the Children, Kiss them for me,
Respects to Mr. & Mrs. True & Everybody
that inquires

Your Aff. Husband and Father
Wm. S. Webb

We will continue this incredible series of letters in our next newsletter.



2007 KIHA Calendar

Shipwreck Presentation at KIHA Museum
Saturday, June 21—2 p.m.

Lake Erie Island Historical Association
Visit to KI

Wednesday, June 25

Tour of Homes

Saturday, July 12

Art Show

Saturday, Aug. 2

Butterfly Festival

Saturday, Sept. 6

Welcome KIHA Business Members—


**Patti Johnson-Muranyi
Doug Muranyi**

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Cell: 419-656-4335
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2008 Gift Shop news Sharon McIntire

The KIHA gift shop has many new books for sale this year. Books by **Dwight Boyer** include "True Tales of the Great Lakes," "Strange Adventures of the Great Lakes", and "Ghosts Ships of the Great Lakes." Also available are "The Ford Fleet" and "Freighters of the Great Lakes". Books by authors and divers **Georgann** and **Michael Wachter** include "Erie Wrecks West " and "Erie Wrecks & Lights" which is their newest book that includes all of Lake Erie's lighthouses.

Also for sale this year we have Root Candles which are 100% soy and marketed as the best candle in America .

We have \$5. chances for **Joe Corso's** painting of the Zion

Board at work, from pg. 1

2007, **Sharon** applied for and received another **Mylander Foundation** grant to purchase and install three electric, point-of-use, tankless water heaters to cover both bathrooms and the preservation work area of the new museum.

Board president **Mike Feyedelem** has been working throughout the winter to secure needed permits, have the wiring re-designed. He has researched and sought out contractors for the all of the final work. Mike made all arrangements for islander **Jack Eaton** to install all rough plumbing, which is now complete.

While at times it may feel that work is moving slowly, be aware that your board members are working hard. According to the KIHA By-Laws no expenditures can exceed our revenue. Annual memberships, donations, special events, and our gift shop are our only source of revenue. Your board has carefully guarded spending and with our built up revenue and additional help from these grants, and hopefully additional grants and donations, we will see the completion of our new building very soon, and we will not owe any money on it when it is complete.

This is a truly exciting time for our members to take a more active role in their association. We would welcome your donation with a check payable to the Kelleys Island Historical Association, earmarked for the building fund. As a registered 501 (C) 3 all contributions to the association are tax deductible. Please mail donations to: **Greg Ritchie**, KIHA Treasurer, 4300 W. Streetsboro, Richfield, OH 44286. He will deposit it in the Building Fund account.

Finally, WE NEED YOU to become involved personally in KIHA as volunteers. As you know the Historical Association is more than just working board members. We will not be able to open the new building and maintain the church and parsonage unless we have more volunteers to help with the work ahead of us.

Together we will finish raising the funds to complete our beautiful new museum building. We look forward to your visit to the museum complex this summer.

Shipwreck author/divers at KIHA, from pg. 1

alone, they feel their work is just beginning.

Please plan on attending on Sat. June 21 at 2 p.m.! Donations of \$5 at the door are suggested to help with KIHA's building fund.

Georgann and Mike's books will be available for purchase in our museum gift shop this season. Be sure to stop in

Church, **Carol Vogler Bright's** book "Naked Truths", **Lydia's [Bechtel]** note cards "Winter on Kelleys Island", 50/50 monthly raffles, and DVD of Kelleys Island by **Big Chuck & Lil John** for sale.

Come see our new glass case display that shows fossils, American-Indian artifacts donated by **Dee Mack**, and old photos of **Inscription Rock** with explanations of the symbols and **Glacial Grooves**.

Volunteers are needed to work in the gift shop. Please contact me at 746-2376 if you would be willing to help out with a three hour shift once a week.

You too can have your business advertised in the KIHA newsletter. See back page to join.

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

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

A 501(C)3 organization.
All contributions are tax
deductible.

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Kelleys Island Historical Association

We're on the web!
kelleysislandhistorical.org

Kelleys Island Historical Association

P. O. Box 328

Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438

Membership Application—Membership runs from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31

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: _____ - _____

Membership Categories

All fees are annual except Life membership
() Individual Membership \$15
() also check here for 2 or more Individual memberships but just one newsletter sent to one address

() Family Membership \$25

() Business Membership \$30—includes business card size ad in one issue of newsletter

() Patron Membership \$100

() Life Membership \$500—once
All memberships are annual except Life Membership.

(office use only below this line -----)

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Received by: _____