



Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 6, Issue IV

Fall, 2009

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The island lock-up

Leslie Korenko
After an inquiry by one of KI's finest—Officer Shawn Craig—to island author Leslie Korenko for some history on the island's jail, Leslie submitted this piece for publication in our newsletter. Thanks for asking Shawn, and thanks for answering, Leslie.



Kelleys Island Jail. Photo by Claudia Brown.

It had been long lamented that there was no lock-up on the island. The increase in transient workers at the quarry and the increasing popularity of the island for visitors created a problem for the peaceful islanders. The first positive steps in building a jail were taken in early August 1885 when the **County Commissioners** announced they were go-

ing to have a jail built on Kelley's Island. The building was to be paid for by a tax levy on the property owners of that Island. **Surveyor Ferguson** began work in getting up plans for the structure.

August 14, 1885 – "The business before the [Township] Bd. was in

regard to building of lock up for use of the township. The County Commissioners notifying the Trustees that they were ready to proceed to build the lock up authorized by special act of legislation and further desiring to know where said building should be located and the kind of building needed. It was resolved by the Bd. that they go to Huron in company with the Commissioners and view the lock up at that place." The visit was accomplished and bids were solicited. **Nick Smith,**

Continued on Pg. 3

Final building inspection complete

Sharon Brunell McIntire

The **KIHA Board** is proud to announce the final state building inspection on our new museum was done on October 10, 2009. We then received our **State Certificate of Use & Occupancy** certificate dated October 9, 2009.

A huge thank you goes to **Mike Feyedelem & Roger Williams** for dealing with all of our sub-contractors and state inspectors to get all the huge amount of state requirements fulfilled



making sure all the "t's" were crossed and "i's" dotted.

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.*

No. 19 In Camp, Point of Rocks, Va.

July 6th, 1864

My Dear Wife & Children, Sarah, Belle & Charlie

[The following is a partial excerpt of Mr. Webb's letter #19, which describes some trading of goods with some rebels on picket directly across from our pickets.]

A detail having been made last evening of 37 men and two Lieuts. From Co. K and as the two Lieuts were on the sick list, one Capt. was considered the equivalent, and your correspondent reported with the 37 men for picket duty.

Our line of Rifle pits is along the brow of a hill that sinks on our front very abruptly into a very deep ravine. The face of the hill on our side is all cleared and burnt over leaving the trees lying as they were filled with the large limbs trimmed off at different lengths from the trunk and cut sharp, the trees lying down hill making approach to our line of pickets very difficult aside from the steepness of the hill. The clearing extends just to the bottom of the ravine, across the Ravine (which is very narrow at the bottom not 10ft. Wide) the ground rises as abruptly as on our side but is covered with thick pine woods so that it is impenetrable to 20 feet. Six hundred yards from our line of pickets (the distance however varies but that is the distance at the point we occupied last night) is the line of Rebel pickets situated in the woods of course so that we could see nothing of them, though last night we plainly heard chopping early in the evening.

...This morning I started for a trip along our picket line to see what was going on. **Jerry, Norman** and **Barney McGettigan** accompanied me. We followed the line picketed by men of our Brigade which is about a mile long, at the termination of our picket line we cross this Ravine the picket line running off to the left at nearly right angles with ours. At this point the 39th Illinois joins us on the right, they being just in the edge of the woods.

Following the picket line for perhaps a mile and a half we

came to a point where the two picket lines approached each other so nearly that they were not 10 Rods [one rod is about 5.5 yards] apart.

...We found our boys of the 39th Ill. were holding a confab with them [The Rebs], the manner of doing this is as follows. There is a stump of a large pine tree just about half way between the lines blackened by fire. "Johnny Reb" wants to say something, he slips out to the stump and places a note or piece of tobacco upon it and slides back, one of our boys goes out gets the note, brings it in and answers it leaving this note and the article asked for in the stump and "Johnny" comes and gets it, leaving whatever he agreed to in its place. Just previous to our arrival a note had been sent requesting some hard tack and coffee and saying they had nothing but cornbread and water that morning. Our boys had carried out a cup of ground coffee and the hard tack [simple cracker or biscuit] placed them in the stump and Johnny had come and taken them, several notes has passed, one asking for "hard tacks" was brought in just as we got there. This I enclose to you copying it for fear you cannot make it out: it reads as follows, "Sir, if you will bring me some hard tack to that stump I will bring some tobacco in return address the hardtacks to Serg. D.A.S." The hardtacks went and the tobacco came in return. Just then we arrived. This seemed to put a stop to proceedings, the Johnnies seeing I was an officer were afraid to come to the stump or write any more notes to our boys, as the officers sometimes forbid it. They eyed me for a long time, and seemed uncertain what to do, and while considering one of their officers made his appearance, so they did not dare make a motion, he ordered them to scatter. I stepped out where the view was entirely clear of all obstructions, as I knew they would not fire on me as their officer was within 10 rods of 20 Rifles in our pits, besides I had no pistol belt on having left it behind on purpose.

We stood there looking directly at each other for five minutes not 10 Rods apart, but as he made no sign of recognition I did not. I tried to make out his rank and I supposed he was returning the compliment, but the effort was vain on both sides as we don't wear big shoulder straps down here. The two bars indicating my rank I have put on to the collar of my blouse so that they can be shown or concealed as may be desirable. This is done by all who go on picket as they generally fire on an officer when they see him especially if the picket lines are 40 or 80 Rods apart.

...pretty soon the Johnnies made their appearance again. I still standing in my old position. ...Taking a piece of tobacco from my pocket, I held it to my lips with a piece of white paper...He instantly stepped down off the tree and disappeared in his Rifle pit, returning in perhaps 5 minutes he stepped over the fallen trees ...he then threw a square of tobacco to within a rod of where the boys stood, one of them ran down, got the Tobacco and brought it to me. He had made an opening in the plug of tobacco in which he had placed a note, which I enclose also copying it for fear you cannot make it out. I read it as follows, "Our officers are very strict and do not allow us to trade; when they are about, we will make the sign by putting our hands on our collars and coat sleeves. We have plenty of sugar and coffee but we will trade for anything else. Our mail has not come yet and we cannot get any paper until it does come" "J.H.H." *We will continue this incredible series of letters in our next newsletter.*

The island lock-up, cont. from Pg. 1

an islander, was awarded the contract. On October 9, "the Board of County Commissioners met in special session this day, members present **Mrs. James Douglas, John Homegardner, and C. V. Turner Commissioners and Wm. J. Bonn Auditor.** This being the day set as properly advertised for the opening of bids for the construction of the so-called Kelley's Island Lock Up. The following bids were received and opened:

work	L. J. Outhermann	\$1629.00	all the complete
	Geo. Ph. Feick	1404.57	"
	Wm. C. Sahnke	1452.18	"
	N. Smith	1326.00	"
only	Klotz & Kromer	400.00	iron work

N. Smith of Kelleys Island being the lowest bidder and having his bond properly accompanying his bid, was accorded the contract. The auditor in connection with the Prosc. Attorney was instructed to draw up a contract according to specifications and have the same accompanied by a bond of \$500 signed by the said N. Smith and a good surety for the faithful performance of the said contract. There being no further business the board adjourned."

Work was started and almost a year later on July 31, "the County Commissioners went over to Kelley's Island...to inspect the jail being built on the Island by Mr. N. Smith. Mr. Smith was in the city this morning and accompanied the Commissioners to the Island. He states that the jail will be finished within a day or two and that when completed it that it will serve the Island for many years to come. The building is of stone with iron cages, or cells, and is fire proof. The contract price for its construction was \$1326."

There was a shed behind the new jail and it was put to good use when "A proposition was received from **Mrs. Deck & Andres**, Sandusky undertakers, offering to place a hearse on the Island and to be at all expense of keeping and housing the same. Provided the trustees would rent them a place which said undertakers could fit up. It was ordered that the part of Hall Shed immediately back of Lockup be rented to said Deck & Andres for the term of 3 years at the annual rental of \$1.00 per year, and the acceptance of this proposition."

The jail cells were built by the **Van Dorn Ironworks Co. of Cleveland.** While it is a popular belief that the cells came from the former **Johnson's Island Confederate prison**, this is not the case. The prison had been disbanded for almost 20 years before this jail was built and the U. S. Army had auctioned off all the

surplus equipment, materials, buildings and stockade walls in 1866. The Van Dorn Iron Works was founded in Cleveland, Ohio in 1872, and specialized in ornamental iron work, but later became the country's largest producer of jail cells. In 1967 they sold their jail works to the **Roanoke Iron & Bridge Works in Virginia.**

After its construction, various components of the jail were added. **Lewis Rhyne (likely Rhein)** was appointed a committee of one to purchase material for the cells in the lockup and the following purchases were made: from **Ruff Son & Keylor**-1 pillow @ \$1.00; from **Matern Bros.**-1 slop pail @ 80¢, and from **Pourns & Zollinger**-2 blankets @ \$4.00; for a total of \$5.80.

A stove for heating the new building was purchased in October 1886, but in March of 1887 the stove was taken out of the jail and put up in place of the broken stove in the south side primary school. The school's broken stove resulted in a vacation of two weeks for the students. It was noted that it would be very unpleasant for anyone to be put in the 'cooker' during the cold season as they would soon cool off without a stove.

On May 25, 1887 the **Township Trustees** began furnishing a new office in the jail and ordered desks and cases for books and papers. **W. S. Ward, Justice of the Peace**, was instructed to procure same as low as possible and that bill was with **Jay C. Butler & Co.**, for a desk and a cupboard for books and papers, in the amount of \$132.07.

The building has just two rooms. The front room is used by officers for dispatch and the rear is now used for storage, the cells no longer meeting the requirements for holding prisoners. The jail did not get electricity until August 17, 1889 when the Council recommend the purchase of "one incandescent lamp, 63 candle power" for the jail.

Now that the Village had a jail, the proper legislation had to be passed to be able to use it. Ordinance No. 7 – To Establish and maintain a station house was finally adopted on October 1, 1888. Take special note of the "bread & water" clause.

Section I - Be it ordained by the Village Council of the incorporated Village of Kelleys Island, that the building heretofore erected, for a Jail or Station House, on said Kelleys Island is hereby legally, and formally established as such, under the laws of the State of Ohio, for the accommodation of the Marshal and other Police officers of said Village where not otherwise engaged, and also for the confinement of any person who may violate any of the criminal laws of the State of Ohio, or any of the Ordinances of said Village of Kelleys Island.

Continued on Pg. 5

2009 Butterfly Festival results

Although this year's weather was nice, the butterflies did not cooperate. No Monarch Butterflies were noted on the entire island for the tagging, but the Kelleys Island Audubon Club set up a display table in front of the church that provided information about these far-traveling, usually plentiful butterflies.

Volunteers for the day included **Chris Carrig, E. Anne Eddowes, Fran Minshall, Ila Dick, Jan and Bob Ransom** who took care of all the hot food, **Roger Renwick, Ed and Carol Frindt, George and Elsie Homegardner, Leslie Korenko, Charlotte Halliwig, Jim McIntire, Cindy Merkel, Laura Jean Pohorence**, and all the wonderful bakers who donated baked goods. Thank you so much.

Results for the day were :
the Bake Sale made \$166.00,
Artist's Table \$10.00,
Hot Food Sales \$207.15,
Yard Sale \$613.00

A special thank you goes to **Rick and Cindy Holmes, and Vi Feyedelem** for donating new items from their shops for our Yard Sale this year.

At 3:30 p.m. the drawings were held with this year's Quilt "Matso's Place" winner being **George Cazan** of **W. Jefferson**. The quilt raffle, once again donated by the talented **Teri Betzenheimer**, earned the **KIHA \$2,595.00**.

Byron Crabill's woodcarving "The Seagull" went to **Joan Virostek** of **Hudson** and sold out the \$500.00 worth of tickets printed for it.

The handmade pillow by **Barb Behlen** made \$89.00 and was won by **Bob Sleights**.



Memorials, Donations and Gifts

Many thanks go to the following:

CASH Donations were received from **Dee and John Spirk, Theresa Behrens, and VFW Post 9908**.

GIFT SHOP Donations were received from **Teri Betzenheimer, Byron Crabill, Carol Vogler Bright, Chris Koenigseker, Joe Corso, Cheryl Martin, Darlene Freund, Barb Ohlemacher, and Sandy Alexander**.

YARD SALE Items were received from many people as well as **Rick and Cindy Holmes and Violet Feyedelem**.

MEMORIALS came from:
Anne Sennish for **Bibber Overcashier Ila Dick** for **John Yochem**
Florence McKillips for **Gerry Bickley**
E. Anne Eddowes for **Laurie James**
Anne Sennish for **Al Janik**
Kathy Reddinger for **Al and Dorothy Janik**
George and Elsie Homegardner for **Molly Minshall**

ACQUISITIONS received were from **Lyon Baumler**- 1812 pistol and powder flask, **Florence McKillips**- heater, **Rhea Brown** composition book, **Rita Meir**- four historic photos, **Ed Frindt**- historic books and photos, **Jane Wick**- period women's clothing, **Jane Stilgenbauer**- Uses of Lime booklet, **Rob Watkins**- a historic outside bench, **Kate Hudson**- 2 framed pictures of the **Kelley brothers**, and **Mary Ellen Marcus**- 1910 island map designed by her father **Millie**.

OTHER ITEMS received were from **Karen and Jim Ernie** - a bookcase & entertainment center and **Jackie and Gary Finger** - a copy machine.

Brick Memory Walk update

E. Anne Eddowes

The inscribed bricks for the Memory Walk in front of the new museum building are selling very well. Since the first ones were installed by **Mike Feyedelem** on Aug. 24, there have been 75 sold so, and 52 already installed.

They are being engraved with many different kinds of messages. Some are in memory of family members no longer with us. Others note Charter Members of KIHA. Some are for family members, and friends still living. The bricks are placed in the walk after they are engraved, and as time permits.

If you are interested in buying a brick, please send for an application blank at: KIHA, P.O. box 328, Kelleys Island, OH 43438.

Gift Shop volunteers 2009

This year's gift shop was opened on April 24th through October 11th. The early closing this year was done to help start packing all the gift shop items and museum pieces for moving to our new building now that we have the Occupancy Permit.

A huge thank you goes to the gift shop volunteers who kept us open 6 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the summer. These dedicated workers were **Fran Minshall, Pat Seeholzer, Leslie Korenko, Ed Frindt, Vickie Finnegan, Charlotte Halliwig, Mary Ann Pileski, Shirley Crabill, Karen Terry, E. Anne Eddowes**, and substitute **Lori Arnold**.

The gift shop sales this year were \$17,859.68 and cash donations given in our cash jar were \$2,123.20.

Island Lock-up, cont. from pg. 3

Section II - Whenever the Mayor of said Village acting in a Judicial capacity shall sentence any person to imprisonment for a violation of any law or ordinance, he shall be authorized to imprison such person in said jail or station house instead of the County Jail whenever he may deem advisable for the purpose of Justice.

Section III - The said Station House shall be under the control of the Marshal of said Village subject to such rules and regulations as the Council may prescribe.

Section IV - That all persons committed to prison either as a punishment or for non payment of a fine or costs adjudged against them by the Mayor of said Village. Shall during the term of such imprisonment be kept at hard labor within the Prison or yard connected therewith or upon the Streets or public grounds of said Village, or some other suitable place to be provided by the committee on Police, in such manner and subject to such regulations as the Committee on Police from time to time shall deem most advisable.

Section V - That all such prisoners so shall be committed for the non payment of fine or costs only shall be allowed the sum of 37½¢ per day for their labor, until the amount of such fine and costs is thereby satisfied.

Section VI - That the Committee on Police shall make such provisions as they may deem proper for the boarding of such prisoners; provided the cost thereof does not exceed 40¢ per day for each prisoner. Any prisoner who without reasonable cause refuses to labor when directed so to do, shall not receive any food except bread and water twice each day, and shall be kept in close and solitary confinement during such refusal.

Passed October 1st, 1888, **Attest Chas. Sternberger, Village Clerk.**

Leslie Korenko is the author of "Kelleys Island-the courageous, poignant & often quirky lives of island pioneers 1810-1861." Her book is available at the Kelleys Island Historical Assoc. gift shop.

KIHA welcomes new board member

The KIHA welcomes **Teri Betzenheimer** to our Board. Teri has been a life member and each year has donated a handmade quilt for our fund-raising raffle. Since coming onto the Board she already has donated time and work to help clean up the landscaping at the parsonage.

Membership news

This year the KIHA has 185 members in good standing.

2009 Guest Book results—an international hot zone...

**Sharon Brunell
McIntire**

In our summer KIHA newsletter we reported that as of June 30th, we had 840 guests sign our guest book from 18 different states and 4 foreign countries.

The total number of visitors who signed our guest book this year was 4,830.

In addition to the states listed in our summer newsletter, we had visitors from the states of California, Colorado, Delaware, Missouri, New Jersey, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia for a total of 29 states.

Additional foreign countries include Bavaria, Belgium, Copenhagen, Czech. Republic, Denmark, England, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, and South Korea for a total of 14 countries.



50/50 Raffle Winners

July 50/50 Raffle Winner Evie Kidder of Akron \$130.00. She then purchased a two-year membership.

August 50/50 Raffle Winner Peggy Cooney of Kelleys Island \$100.00

September 50/50 Raffle Winner Theresa Behrends of Sandusky \$97.00. She then donated it back to the KIHA

Total 2009 results were that KIHA made \$489.25, but with \$217.00 donated back our total came to \$706.25. Thank you to all who participated!

August Art Show

On August 1, the KIHA hosted this year's Art Show. Artists who displayed and sold their crafts were **Sally Hiller, Carol Geschke, Annalee, Anne Senish, Patty Stafford, Bernie Koshla's relatives, Joe Corso, and Byron Crabill.** A big thank you also goes to the author book signings by **Leslie Korenko** and **Big Chuck Schodowski.**

**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.



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 -----)

Paid: \$

Received by: _____