



Making Kelleys Island History Everybody's Business

# Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 8, Issue III

Summer, 2011

### Inside this issue:

William S. Webb Civil War letters	2-4
Art Show	3
Photos donated	5
Piano repaired by volunteers	5
Artifacts, Memorials & Donations	5
Membership application	6

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## Donation of a lifetime!

In early July, we received a call from **Claudia Brown** to please call a **Ms. Catherine Christie**, in Clayton, Georgia. We phoned Ms. Christie, and found that she is related to the **Roland & Lee Brown** family of Kelleys Island, and had spent her early years on Kelleys Island.

Catherine has kept in touch with her cousins **Lois and Paul Brown**, longtime KIHA members, and Lois was a former KIHA President. After a nice chat, Catherine asked how she could transfer a Certificate of Deposit to KIHA's bank. We worked out the details, and Catherine said, "I'll make the transfer in a few days, and incidentally, the CD is for \$100,000 plus some interest."

In a few days, the KIHA bank account was increased by \$107,259.01! No plans have yet been made as to how we will invest these funds, but having this reserve will certainly help in insuring a continuing sound financial foundation for KIHA.

Catherine's mother is **Flora Christie** (1898-1986). Flora was the daughter of



*Catherine and Flora Christie oil painting on wood, entitled "Snapdragon," was donated to KIHA. Come see it in person the colors are beautiful.*

**Mary Beatty** (1859-1898) and **Louis P. Brown** (1859-1911). She attended Heidelberg University, Oberlin College, then went on to teach art. She married Graham Christie and they had a son **Peter** and daughter Catherine.

In appreciation of Catherine's donation, the Board has elected Catherine as a Life Member. Her donation will go a long way to continuing the ongoing efforts to support and improve the museum.

All of KIHA extends their deepest appreciation to Ms Christie.

## Museum news—Open House a big success

Everyone who attended the Open House at the KIHA Museum on July 9 had a good time. Many people came to see the new museum building. A luncheon for the grantors was held at the **Kelleys Island Wine Co.** Grantors from several Erie County foundations were present that day. They were pleasantly surprised to see the results of the grants they gave to complete the new building.

The organ concert at the church by **Stuart & Phyllis Humphrey** and their daughter **Tama Schodowski** was the high point of the day. It's not easy to



*Luncheon for grantors at KI Wine Co.*

pump and play that old organ, but they did a great job.

All in all, it was perfect weather for the event, and it will be remembered by all of visitors to the museum that day.

## 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 this up close and personally.*

*William S. Webb was married to Elizabeth Kelley and had 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. 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 KIHA to share this wonderful story.*

*William S. Webb was first stationed at Johnson's Island in Sandusky Bay, along with other Kelleys Island soldiers, but has been serving in Point of Rocks, Va. For several weeks.*

**No. 24 In Camp Point of Rocks Va, Tuesday, July 12th, 1864, 11 o'C A. M.** *We started this letter and ended it at the point of the very sad burial of Jackson Eldred, who had passed away due to a Typhoid-like fever sickness, that at first appeared to be un-troubling. We continue with Webb's comments on the burial:*

It was hard thus, in a strange land far away from home and friends and loving kindred to place the lifeless remains of one who with ourselves left all in the service of our common Country, and we fully realized the fact as sadly the little cotege took its way from the grave.

Oh my dear wife, I think that never was man placed in the position that I am considering my peculiar disposition. All the feelings anxiety and mental suffering that I have endured have been those of concern for the physical health of my men, and to stand and see them thus taken from me by disease and death, it is hard, too hard.

I know of no one duty to a single individual of them that I have neglected, and I did hope that I should be permitted to take all back, but it seems to be decreed otherwise.

I forgot to mention that Jackson [Eldred] died at 10 minutes before 12 o'C of today. (Tuesday, July 12th). I shall telegraph tomorrow to Alfred [Kelley], sad news again for our island friends, but my dear wife do not let sad feelings take possession of your mind, and above all do not let them affect your health.

Upon returning to the house, I mentioned to the agent of the Christian Commission that I should like to get some green tea if possible. He said he had a little and would give me some. Going on past his quarters to attend Miss [Clara] Barton to the house, she said, "Captain do you want some tea?" I replied I did, that I had found it utterly impossible to obtain any green tea. She replied, "I will give you some." After requesting me to be seated, she put up for me about 1/2 pound of green tea, 4 or 5 dried apples in a sack, some soda crackers, some ginger cakes, and finally two bottles of currant

wine, saying as she handed them to me, "These articles are given me to dispense at my own discretion, with no accountability to anyone but my own sense of right, upon the same terms I give them to you." I of course received them thankfully and so expressed myself. "No thanks are due me, they belong to you, to every Soldier whose health and comfort are benefitted by them," was her reply, as I bowed myself out with what grace I could, under the circumstances that is, a bottle of wine in each blouse pocket (do you remember putting those pockets in) and my arms full of dried apples, soda crackers, ginger cakes, etc.

Yesterday while there visiting Jackson I was seated with three of the Surgeons on the front porch of the house, Miss Barton came to the front door and asked me if I had heard from home since Charley Mitchell's death, I replied by handing her that sheet of your letter detailing the circumstances attending your conveying the melancholy intelligence to Mrs. Mitchell. Before she was half through the letter, the tears were flowing freely, some dropped on the letter and as she handed it back it was in silence for she could not speak, after a few moments she remarked, "Poor woman, what a wealth of love she has lost." I observed that the barrels of crackers & such were marked "Christian Commission." I remarked to her, "I see you are supplied with articles by the C.C." She said, "Yes, that organization is doing a great deal of good."

At my solicitation she promised me a short biographical sketch of herself during the war if she could get time. I shall get it if I can.

Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Eldred never will know what a debt of gratitude they owe her for her unremitting attentions to their husbands. A Toledo man of my Company was taken to Hospital tonight. James Titus is also quite sick and will go to Hospital tomorrow morning. He has been an invaluable man in the Company as he has had charge of the sick in Quarters and most faithfully and nobly has he done his duty. I do hope his absence from Quarters will be brief.

Today is Titus Hamilton's "well day," having a chill every other day. Mr. [Martin K.] Holbrook (who has been on the sick list but is now on duty) thinks he can break the chill tomorrow. Lester [Carpenter] looks very thin, but complains of nothing but weakness. He is off duty and shall remain so until fully recovered, he says he is getting along well.

Henry Worden had a slight diarrhea and pain in his bowels last night, is better tonight. Indiscretion in eating, the heat of the climate and sleeping in the open air at the breastworks are the chief causes of sickness. The first I have fought and labored against all I could, have cautioned in some cases and commanded in others at the risk of being called tyrannical. Many have paid dearly for their inattention to these cautions and commands. I omitted to state that the good things given me by Miss Barton were dispensed to the sick and ailing as soon as I arrived at camp and much good did they do.

Ashley of Toledo is in camp tonight and many are the rumors that are afloat, but as they are all "Camp news" yet I will not recapitulate them. It is late and as Holbrook has just

Cont. on Page 3

## KIHA Art Show 2011

Sharon Brunell McIntire

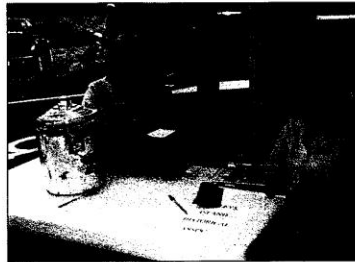
Once again the Kelley Island Historical Association sponsored their annual Art Show on Sat., August 6, 2011.

In addition to local artists displaying their crafts and paintings, there were three local authors selling and signing their books.

**Jim Mollenkopf**, a Toledo, writer and author who enjoys local history and is the author of five books "Lake Erie Sojourn: an Autumn Tour of the Public Places & History of the Lake Erie Shore in 1988," "The Great Black Swamp: Historical Tales of Northwest Ohio in 1999," "The Great Black Swamp II," "Civil War Stories of Northwest Ohio Heroes," and "Coming to America."

**Randy Koch** from Sandusky, is author of "Eyes Toward the South" a historical novel focusing upon the **Underground Railroad** in our area.

**Leslie Korenko** from Kelleys Island, the author of two books "Kelleys Island the Courageous, Poignant & Often Quirky Lives of



*Ila Dick and Fran Minshall sold Quilt and 50/50 Raffle tickets.*

Island Pioneers 1810-1861" and her newest book "Kelleys Island The Civil War, the Island Soldiers, & the Island Queen 1862-1865."



*Annalee, Leslie Korenko & Byron Crabill in background.*

Mr. Koch came dressed in Civil War attire. All of the authors



*Author Randy Koch.*

were on hand to answer questions and sign copies of their books.

Artists of the day included: **Annalee** with an impressive array of paintings, t-shirts, jewelry and other items; **Byron Crabill** with his amazing and intricate wood carvings; **Anne Sennish** and her beautiful island-scene watercolors; **Carole Geschke** and her fascinating and colorful paintings.

Turnout was steady. The weather was beautiful and everyone had a great time.

*Photos by Caroline Jorski.*

### Wm. S. Webb letters, cont. from page 2

finished his letter to the school I must also close. Thankful that my health is still good and hoping the dear ones at home are also well I bid you good night.

I can't see why that money has not come. My love to all not mentioned above, are well. My best respects to Mr. & Mrs. True, John & Susan. Especially Willis.

**Your Aff. Husband & Father**  
**Wm. S. Webb**

### No. 25 In Camp Pt. of Rocks, Virginia, Eve.[ning] Wednesday, July 13th, 1864

My Dear Wife & Children, Sarah, Belle and Charlie,

Although I wrote you a long letter yesterday, day before and the day before that I think, as I have a little time before dark I thought I would drop you a few lines. I have just finished writing Mrs. [Jackson] Eldred in relation to the death of her husband and a hard task it was, though I merely wrote her the fact of his death. Mr. [Martin K.] Holbrook at my solicitation having written her for me as he did Mrs. [Charlie] Mitchell in full detail.

Although feeling acutely as I do the loss of my friends and fellow soldiers here in this to us strange land, still I find it absolutely necessary to dismiss from my mind (at least in appearance) the reflections that these events naturally produce. This on account of the effect upon others of the Company who would

be much injured constantly brooding over them. My letters to you of late have been but little better than a series of "Hospital reports" and I feel that it should not be so, that the letters from your husband should not be entirely burdened with details of the ills of others. But from my position here it has seemed unavoidable, especially as I know the friends of my men go to you for correct information as to the state of their friends' health.

I have felt somewhat debilitated for the past few days, and have kept off all duty as I did not wish to keep going until I became sick. My health therefore has kept uniformly good (except as I noted, the feeling of debility) and it is my purpose to keep it so. Today I received a package of tea by mail, it was postmarked July 8th and I thought I ought to have had a letter too (my last being dated the 6th) but did not get any. But 2 or 3 letters came today from the island, one to Mr. Worden [Henry or Oliver D.], W. L. Baker, Titus Hamilton, Erastus [Huntington] from Hannah, and Lt. [Henry] Lange from his wife, the latter should have come yesterday. I have not opened the package of tea yet, not having used that which Miss Barton gave me. If you could send me the same thing once a week, it would not come amiss.

You may think that a large allowance for my mess (5 persons) but when you recollect that the provisions are not

**Cont. on Page 4**

## Wm. S. Webb letters, from Pg. 3

the best adapted to weak stomachs of the sick, and that our provision charge is the source from which go supplies to those who are ailing, you will not be surprised. For instance, soft bread is issued about twice a week, then only one day's rations the intervening time being filled with hard tack. Yesterday, after tea, our cook brought for mess 8 large loaves of bread, at tea tonight it was all gone and hardly for tea from that supply, so with white sugar, tea, ham and [?] Though some of the men are very considerate and give their rations of rice hominy and [?] when they do not need them

The article I obtained of Miss [Clara] Barton were all distributed down the line twenty minutes after I got back to camp, and right thankfully were they received.

I telegraphed Alfred [Kelley] for some money but up to this time it has not been received. He received the dispatch the 4th today is the 13th your package of tea was mailed the 8th, you make no mention of Alfred having sent any money. I telegraphed for 150 dollars. There is no money here. The officers all strapped, the men in the same condition. The Col. Has less than 20 dollars and so it goes. If the money should fail by express you had better send me 5 or 10 dollars at a time enclosed in a letter every day for a few days. It may be Alfred has sent the money and it will come to hand in a day or two will write as soon as it does but you had better send me some in letters as directed. It is so dark I can't see to write more now.

Thursday Morn., July 14th, 1864

Mr. [Martin K.] Holbrook at my request has written Mrs. [Jackson] Eldred and if you see her, you can learn by his letter all the particulars. He read me his letter. He speaks of all the money of the company being used in sending Mitchell's remains home. The Co. did not pay 1 dollar of the expenses, I paid the whole of it. There is another thing. There was a prayer made at the grave. I fear that this is not suiting the religious feelings of some and may have the effect giving a coloring to their letters in regard to Eldred that would cause injustice to those employed about the hospital. If any such are written any reflections upon those connected with the hospital, I wish it known in advance that they are untrue. Everything was done by every individual with whom I had occasion to come in contact that could be done, and I fear we shall never be able to repay the debt of gratitude we owe those attached to that hospital. I am informed that some such misrepresentations will be made and wish to forestall any such, no matter what source they may proceed from.

J.M. Ashley is here, made a short speech to the Reg't last night. It is pretty generally felt that his visit here is of political import wherein he is the principal interested. I did not go over to the Col's Quarters to hear him.

I did not intend writing you a letter when I commenced this, nor do I suppose I shall make it out now, as I only proposed to occupy a little spare time before dark last evening. Our Boys were on guard at the hospital yesterday. Miss Barton ascertaining that to be the case sent home cakes, crackers, etc., with a card which I enclose. I also enclose receipt for embalming and expressing remains of [Charley] Mitchell which I wish you to take care of.

It is nearly time for the mail to close and I must close  
Yours Affect'y  
W. S. Webb

No. 26 In Camp, Headquarters Co. K, Pt. of Rocks, Va.

Thursday morning, July 14th, 1864 [later]

In confident anticipation of receiving one or more letters by today's mail from my loved ones at home, I herewith commence an epistle, to be finished after the wished for communications shall have been received.

Matters here are progressing after the usual order of affairs with us in camp [? with] Guard, Picket and Fatigue duty with the usual amount of humbug which seems to be the necessary concomitant of military matters. Every one growling and swearing at the apparently senseless acts of somebody else, whereby men are work unnecessarily hard, etc., etc. For instance yesterday morning a squad of men were ordered out with details from other companies of our Regt, making in all 125 men. They accordingly "reported" were marched to their posts on the Picket line and had just settled themselves very comfortably in the shade prepared to enjoy the day fully, (our men are always glad to be put on picket as being by far the most desirable duty here) when they were relieved by a detail of 125 men from the 62nd Ohio (Veterans) and ordered to return to camp. Accordingly in they came, hot, mad dusty and grumbling terribly at being "marched to and a half miles out and back in the hot sun for nothing." It did seem a useless trial of men's strength and energy, but the explanation was that an attack was apprehended on after our men had gone out and Gen. [Benjamin Franklin] Butler ordered that Veterans should be placed on after they had left. Our men were quite wrathful as the order was for three days picket duty and they had counted upon a good time "laying off" in the shade and trading with the "Johnnies" [Rebs] in all of which they were disappointed.

[J.M. of Toledo] Ashley stayed here in camp last night.

He has been to see [Ulysses S.] Grant at Petersburg. He says that the present expedition of the "Rebs" towards Baltimore is a strong one composed of [Richard S.] Ewell's Corps & others 25,000 men. That Grant is well pleased with the expedition as it weakens [Robert E.] Lee and ensures the destruction of Ewell's command as [David] Hunter and [Philip H.] Sheridan are following Ewell up with a strong force and [Nathaniel T.] Banks who arrived at Fortress Monroe a few days since with 20,000 men en-route here, was ordered directly forward to Washington and will fall in behind Ewell, thus with Hunter and Sheridan's forces having a force sufficient to prevent Ewell's retreat.

He says Ewell may take Baltimore but if he does will never get away with his army and the confident anticipation is that his entire force will be captured as he will be far outnumbered in front and rear. That Lee has 60,000 men here after Ewell's command is out and that our force here is 90,000 men. That active operations here are in a measure suspended until Ewell gets far enough away to ensure his not getting back very speedily. That the Rebels are in desperate circumstances and have resorted to a desperate measure to relieve themselves.

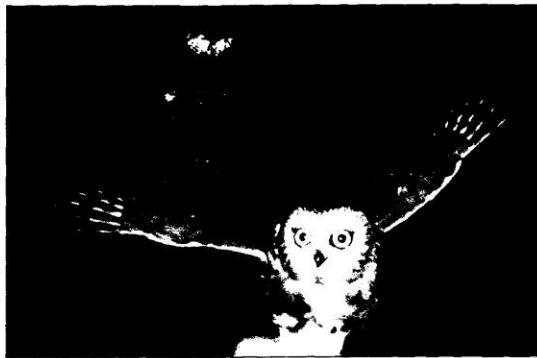
We'll continue with this letter in our Fall Newsletter...



Richard S. Ewell

## Sinkovic donates photos

John Sinkovic has volunteered to donate a book of beautiful island photos of deer, birds and flora on the island. Below are a couple photos he shot at last Fall's Kelleys Island Audubon Club's bird banding.



## Kelley piano restored



**Bob Siegfried** and **Pat Hayes** (above), have just finished restoring and tuning the **Kelley** piano, that was donated to the museum by **Nancy Kelley** about 12 years ago. Because KIHA had nowhere to display the piano, it had been stored.

Pat has been rebuilding pianos for over 30 years. Bob has been tuning island pianos for several years. Pat says the piano sounds great and that it should be played.

The piano was built around 1914 and had been in Nancy's home on W. Lakeshore. Nancy is the daughter of **William and Doe Kelley**. William is the son of **William Datus Kelley** and **Belle**. William Datus' father was **William Dean Kelley** who was the youngest son of **Datus Kelley**.

KIHA plans to place the piano in the Parsonage, the home next to the Old Stone Church, once that home is restored and heat is installed.

## Butterfly Festival

Sat. Sept. 10  
All day at the  
KIHA Museum

## Memorials, Donations and Gifts

### Memorials

**Caroline DeBoard, Paul & Lois Brown, and Jacquie Kranyak** in memory of **Kay Herndon**.  
**Gretchen Larson** in memory of **Janice Bertsch**.  
**Jacquie Kranyak** in memory of **Jim Sennish**.

### Cash donations

From a **Keybank** match, through **Delores Cole**  
Certificate of Deposit (CD) from **Christine Christie**  
**Anne Eddowes**

### Artifact donations

**Stu & Phyllis Humphrey** - teacups

**Bill & Terri Stevenson** - old photos from the Ward House

**Randy Sabo** - a school photo

**Bernie McCafferty** - farm rake

**Barb & John Olemacher** - a beautifully restored quilt from the Civil War Era

**Helen Scheel** - a book entitled, "From Kelleys Island Kid to WWII"

**Catherine Christie & Lynne Watson** - a wood panel painting of Catherine and her mother, entitled "Snapdragon" (seen on Pg.1)

**Lynne Watson**—clay plaque with face art by **Flora Christie** of her daughter Catherine

**Ed Spayd** - a Life Ring and shirts from the **Neuman Ferry Boat Line**

### Other

Yard Sale items of 6 boxes of merchandise were received from **Rick & Cindy Holmes**.

**Christine Koenigseker** donated 25 pairs of hand-made earring for sale in our gift shop.

### 50/50 Raffle Winners

May - **Peggy Cooney** - \$90.00

June - **Kathy Reddinger** - \$105.00

July - **Elsie Homegardner** - \$105.00

**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**

**Please give us the address you want your newsletter sent to:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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

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

Paid: \$

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_