



**Kelleys Island  
Historical  
Association**

# Kelleys Island Historical Association

April 1, 2019

## DEAR ABBY

*This query appeared in the papers in December – Abby gave good advice.* “Because my husband and I are reaching advanced years, we know we will soon have to downsize to a senior living facility. In anticipation, we have begun distributing keepsakes we have accumulated over the years. Many were gifts with special meaning. Some are heirlooms that have been passed down from previous generations. When I helped my son with his garage sale recently, I was shocked to discover several of the keepsakes on display. I didn’t know how to react, but I did speak to him about it. Apparently, he doesn’t value them! How should I handle future distribution of keepsakes, as there are more of them, some of which I had intended for him and his family? Apparently, his wife and son also have no interest in them. — SENTIMENTAL IN WISCONSIN”

DEAR SENTIMENTAL: “You now have two choices. You can either give the items as gifts to other family members, after first ensuring that they will be appreciated and treasured, or sell them and use the money to cover any expenses that may come up in the future.

P.S. If they have historical value, consider donating them to a museum or your state historical society.” *What a great idea!*

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### Board Members

- Teri Behrends (Vice President)
- Chris Carrig (Treasurer)
- Pat Fresch
- Chuck Herndon (President)
- Janet Killam
- Leslie Korenko (Secretary)
- Dawn Soldner
- Ned Williams
- Fred Walcott
- Newsletter: Leslie Korenko
- Online Presence: Leslie Korenko

### Important Dates 2019

- May 18 – Opening Day
- August 3 – Arts & Crafts Show
- August 11 – Annual Meeting
- Sept. 7 – Yard sale

## WIN THIS GEM ELECTRIC CAR

Something new this year. Thanks to the generosity of Peter J. Thinnes Jr. we are raffling this (hardly used) yellow GEM electric car. It is perfect for the Island.

It is the 2002 model and has only 245 miles on it.

Included are newer batteries and a charger.

Tickets are available at the museum or by mail (send us a check and we will send you your ticket stub) and are just \$20 each. Tickets will also be available in our museum (which opens May 18)! We can’t thank Jack and Mary Ellen Thinnes enough for their generosity and their thinking of us as they leave the Island.



## OUR NEW GIFT SHOP



## VI'S GIFT SHOP HAS MOVED TO OUR GIFT SHOP

Vi Feyedelem has closed her gift shop at Kelley's Mansion. Late last year, her husband Mike suffered a stroke and now faces a long road to recovery. Managing his health as well as the store simply became too much for her, so she shut her doors. It was always an adventure to visit her shop and discover the new and wonderful things she added each year. In an extraordinarily generous gesture, she has donated all her merchandise to the Museum Gift Shop! So if you miss her unique style and unusual treasures, be sure to visit our gift shop, we are practically an annex of Vi's store. We continue to send good thoughts to Vi and Mike, and we are happy that Vi's Island Treasures continues to live on in its new home.

Our thanks to Leslie Korenko who took over the Gift Shop this year. She spent the winter unpacking Vi's stuff, reorganizing the entire gift shop area (adding additional tables and display units), and finding storage space for all the items not yet on display. She also has been ordering some really cool stuff for kids (think princess tiaras, fairy wings, pirate swords and construction hats & tools), not to mention a really unique new line of jewelry! You can order many of these items [ONLINE](#) and we've added a slideshow to showcase the wide variety of treasures that available in the shop. That's why we call it "A most unusual gift shop."



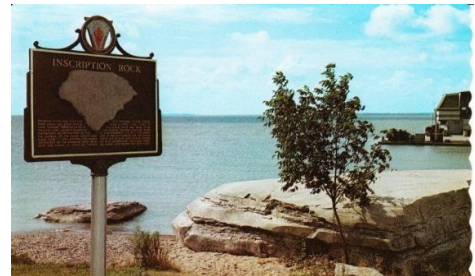
Mike and Vi Feyedelem at the 1990 Fireman's Ball. Looks like a lot of hugging going on.

Mike and Vi Feyedelem at the 1990 Fireman's Ball. Looks like a lot of hugging going on.

## A BIG MYSTERY



We thought the Historic marker by the Church and parsonage next to the museum was the first on the Island. We were wrong. At one time there was a marker by Inscription Rock. Anyone know what happened to it?



## PARSONAGE UPDATE

You probably noticed last year, that we had heat, air conditioning and lights in the parsonage. The resale shop is self-supporting and income from the shop is being used to make improvements to the house. The hole in the floor by the sink (over the cistern) has been covered. We ran new electrical service to the house and installed several new (and finally safe) outlets, which allowed us to install some window air conditioners. New LED light fixtures were also installed, which will pull less current which makes them safer. Our thanks to Jean Kuyoth for donating some much needed shelving which should help organize us a bit more. We have lots of ideas on how to improve the house and make it more comfortable for our volunteers. What have we got planned? The list includes repairs, new windows, the front walk, additional new wiring and outlets, some plaster work, maybe new floor covering in the kitchen, a real sign in the yard as well as a few more items as the list grows. We hear there will be a big sale to clear out some of the backlog of items.





## OUR PARSONAGE RESALE SHOP IS OVERFLOWING



### OPENING DAY MAY 18

Stop by on May 18 for our Opening Day. We join other Erie County History museums in celebrating International Museum Day with FREE admission and a small token of our appreciation. Get your picture taken while exploring our new exhibits. This year we are featuring Commercial Fishing on the Island and the history of the Kelleys Island Landowners Assoc.

Our gift Shop will be holding a pre-season sale with some really deep discounts. Visit our historic stone church (built in 1866) then wander over to the Parsonage Resale Shop to find that one thing that your home has been missing.

## KROGER DONATES TO KIHA

Speaking of donations - Every 3-months we receive a check from Kroger for \$30-40. So far only 10 people have signed up. Imagine the impact if YOU signed up YOUR card. If you shop Kroger and haven't linked your Kroger Plus savings card to KIHA yet – Please do so.

Once registered, every time you swipe your card – we rack up a donation (it is around 1%). Just register your card at: <https://www.kroger.com/account/create>

And choose KELLEYS ISLAND HISTORICAL ASSOC. or use our number: **JY254**

That's it! So simple. You can also choose (on the registration page) to receive special offers from Kroger – so either check or uncheck your options.



## WELCOME NEW BUSINESS MEMBER



### OUR NEW DROP BOX

Save a stamp – drop off your comments, payments, and suggestions in our new mail box. It is located right next to our front doors.



### Chicklets Closet

113 Division St.

216-214-3202

Chicklets Closet@gmail.com

<http://chicklets closet.com/>

Appeal for people

(and pets)

## NEWS FROM THE PAST

March 1877 – Lodge items: “Persons who borrow the water pail to water horses with, will please empty out all the horses leave before bringing the pail back, as some of the loafers object to drinking after a horse and some horses object to drinking after a lodger. It is just as easy to please the beast as not and not get Mr. Bergh after you.”

March 1877 – “St. Patrick’s Day came in with a ruin. The piercing blast from the North must have forced the mercury down among the small figures. As far as the eye can reach toward any point of the compass, snow or ice and sometimes both obstruct the vision. The fact is, March has marched in upon us so far in a way that means business. We have seen all of the Lyon and think it nearly time the Lamb was coming along. A year ago today the wind was strong from the West and North with frequent snow squalls.”



## A GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

This was such a surprise - we received a Proclamation from the Governor's office recognizing the Kelleys Island Historical Assoc.'s 38th anniversary. It notes our efforts in preserving both Kelleys Island and Ohio history. Leslie accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Assoc. as Datus and Irad Kelley look over her shoulder. They would be so proud of our efforts!



## THE CHURCH FLOOR

This was a long haul project. Pieces parts were delivered early in the summer, but due to a series of oddly missed emails, work did not start until November. Once the problems were resolved, work progressed quickly. But, as you all know, nothing ever goes smoothly on Kelleys Island. As removal of the old, spongy flooring commenced, we made a couple of interesting discoveries.

1 - The underlying support joists were crumbling like dust due to powderpost beetles. Really, the wood just crumbled in your hands.



Basically, the floor was held up by the top floor boards.

2 - The altar area was not original to the church! It was obvious from the pieced together supports that the raised dais was added sometime later. To preserve the original church look and feel, the Board decided to go back to the flat floor, which was a good move since the step up was quite the trip hazard.



We want to thank the Mylander Foundation for helping get these repairs accomplished. They provided \$2,054 (22%) grant towards this work. [More photos](#) can be found on our website.

## BUTTERFLY FEST

We survived another winter - but it is still a bit cold out there. Let's remember the Butterfly Fest from last September. Even though the ferry shut down, Pat & Lori Hayes still had a small, but very enthusiastic crowd.





## DISCOVERING LOST THREADS



We were excited when representatives from the Sandusky Library and the Follett House Museum stopped by our little museum. They were impressed with the quality and variety of our displays and offered us access to their extensive photo collection. They also noted that, compared to other small museums, our storage of artifacts in was really well done.

Jeremy Angstadt, who does those popular cemetery walks in Sandusky, asked about two names on the Veterans Memorial in the downtown park. He could not locate either of them in Oakland Cemetery or V. A. cemetery in Sandusky, or the Island cemetery. Both men, Max A. Schnittker (died 10-12-18) and Carl F. Fedderson-pictured here (died 11-4-18) were killed in action. After a little research Leslie was able to find their final resting place in Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Departement de la Meuse, Lorraine, France, [Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial](#)

## ACTUAL THREADS



Remember the wedding dress we have on display? Roger Williams sent us this picture of Frances Williams Toepfer wearing that extraordinary wedding dress. Fran spent summers on Kelleys Island from 1930 to 1943 when she married a WW2 US Air force Pilot, and of course, followed him as he was moved around. She died at age 94 in 2016 at Denver Co. Roger thought he had given us the photo years ago, but we could not find it. How great to have a little more history on the dress.

Roger Williams commented on the October newsletter: A great job as usual! Thank You! *And thanks Roger – it's always good hearing that people are enjoying our newsletters.*

## SPEAKING OF OUR COLLECTION WE ADDED THESE ITEMS



Ice Cream Maker. This is a cream colored round can was patented in 1912. It came through the Resale Shop.

TERRY HAAS donated quite a few items before she demolished the barn behind Annaliese's Treasure Chest including: a Folding Canvas Duplex water pail, No. 12, ca 1899; a small, heavy household electric iron (for alternating current only); a Cross Cut Saw; a 2-man saw; a small washboard for lingerie; two fish nets on poles (very heavy), a large metal fishing buoy; a Trojan Powder Co. wood box with dove tail construction; Ice Tongs; and several tools used in the blacksmith trade

## THE END OF AN ERA



BEATRICE (MCKILLIPS) MATSO passed away on Feb. 18, 2019. She was born Sept. 1, 1943 to Allen and Florence (Betzenheimer) McKillips. Bea and her husband, Russ, owned and operated The Lodge (Matso's Place) on Kelleys Island for many years before retiring. She was a proud founding member of the



Kelleys Island Historical Society and served on both the Kelleys Island School Board and Water Board. Our condolences to her daughter, Lisa Luna, her son, Paul Matso and her many grandchildren. Russ passed away in 2006. Russ made many of the repairs needed to keep the church and parsonage in good order. Her gentle spirit will be missed.

Kelleys Island Historical Association  
PO Box 328  
Kelleys Island Ohio 43438

We are a 501 c 3 organization  
Your contributions are deductible.

*Let's make history together!*

[www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org)  
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Kelleys Island History Museum

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS



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