



**Kelleys Island
Historical
Association**

Kelleys Island Historical Association

January 1, 2019

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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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.

As we put Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day behind us, we look forward toward a new season at the Museum and Parsonage Resale shop. It's going to be an exciting year!

A little history: end of January 1877 –
“The winter which I dreaded so much on this bleak Island is passing so pleasantly and profitably that I shall almost regret the sharp whistle of the first boat which will announce that it has come to an end.



We now have a fine bridge of which Jack Frost has the exclusive patent, spanning Lake Erie and connecting us with the continent. Every day it is well traveled both by teams and foot passengers, some of them crossing directly to Sandusky instead of by the usual Peninsula route, showing the ice bridge to be in a remarkably good condition. Hay, coal and feed, the latter for man as well as beast, are being brought over in considerable quantities. Many finding the unusually severe winter drawing more heavily on their winter supplies than was anticipated. [The lake froze early in December, which was unusual.]

A few mornings ago the mercury became discouraged and fell to 10 below zero but has since been in better spirits.”

OUR VISITOR STATS FOR 2018

We had 2128 visitors sign in (but more people came through the door that did not sign in). They came from 27 states and several countries including Portugal, Australia, France, India, Turkey, New Zealand and Canada. Each year our visitor count increases by about 5%. Elizabeth Watkins Westfall wrote: “First came here in 1956 or so. Now introducing my grand kids to KI, the 4th generation to enjoy this special place. Museum is well-displayed, filled in some knowledge gaps, learned the history of Island family names that I knew.” And we say – Thanks Elizabeth – glad we could help.



AS OUR SEASON ENDED

Our last day and guess who visited? James & Emmelyn McKillips, their daughter Jill, and their friends Jay and Minila. James thanked us because he won the 50/50 for September. He also started telling us a string of short stories that had us laughing and amazed. We encouraged him to write some of them down and share them with us. He thought that was a great idea because he always wanted to write a book. Hopefully, we'll see some epic tales in the coming months.

Remember to check our website for loads of Island History – like an (almost) complete set of the PERCHIE PRESS. Thanks to KATHY REDDINGER it looks like we are now missing only these two issues: 1992 issues Vol. II no. 6 (April or May?) and November. We have to admit, they make for some interesting reading.

May 15, 1991 the Perchie Press: “My, What a meeting.....Mayor McCullagh barely had time to thank those in attendance for the results of the voting before the fireworks began...”

GROOVES WORK

In October 2017 we sent a letter, to practically everyone, suggesting improvements for the Glacial Grooves here on the Island. Here are some of our concerns:

SIGNAGE – The signs that were installed around 1995 are in good shape, however the fiberglass embedment covers have become worn and scratched making the underlying legend difficult to read. The smaller ‘Help Protect Glacial Grooves’ signs are faded badly and are difficult to read. The signs and the legend covers should be upgraded.

REPAIR WORK/MAINTENANCE – At least one cement pad is crumbling, creating a safety hazard and needs to be repaired. The non-skid coating on the metal stair landings is worn completely away. Wood landscape ties at one of the sign stops have disintegrated. Dirt and gravel have worn away from the very first stop up the walkway resulting in uncertain footing.



As a result of our letter (we hope) a crew came out and installed an accessible ramp and improved the walkway to the first legend sign.



WEEDS – Plant roots work their way deeper into cracks each year. Pulling them damages the rocks even more. A yearly application of a weed suppressant would slow down this damage.

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TREES & BRUSH – We suggest clearing some of the trees and brush from the quarry edge on the right side to create an unobstructed view of the old quarry below.

THE GROOVES - Walking up to the top of the grooves reveals a distinctly different weather impact pattern. The lower part has been exposed for over 100 years and shows minimal wearing; however, as you proceed upwards, the damage is much more significant.

SPALLING – In the upper area, there are now large sections of rock working loose and falling into the bottom of the grooves. It is obvious that even the small bridge at the top of the grooves has slowed down the deterioration of the stone under its protection. Perhaps the application of a sealant in a test section would prove beneficial.

A PAVILION COVER – Freezing and thawing, water and snow are continuing problems. Deep sections of the grooves collect water with no outlet, softening the limestone and then freezing in the winter.

A cover/pavilion would not completely eliminate the intrusion of water and snow, but it would reduce the amount considerably. In addition, the lack of sunlight would slow the growth of weeds and protect the grooves from acid rain. This would also reduce the amount of water on the walkways, making visits to the grooves in inclement weather much safer.

A little history - Glacial Grooves (and Inscription Rock) were dedicated as historic areas in 1932. The Cleveland Press wrote “...the two park sites were noted by Harold T. Clark, secretary of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History 10 years ago. Clark was on the island at the time, at an annual meeting of the Kelleys Island Lime & Transport Co., which carries on extensive quarry operations on the island. He realized that the two sites which were world-famous among scientists would be destroyed in time unless steps were taken to preserve them. He obtained title to the two park sites in the name of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. On Tuesday of this week, the deeds were transferred to the Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society.”

A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT ELECTRICITY AND THE ISLAND

Kelleys Island recently celebrated 50 years of electricity with Hancock Wood Electric Co-op and KIHA celebrated with a display. The exhibit is down now, but for those who missed it, here are some highlights of how the island gets its electricity and how Islanders dealt with life before electricity. You can view the posters and photos that we used in our display [HERE](#).

Our situation is unique. While we have the same light poles and service lines as everyone else, our electricity actually comes over to the Island through two large cables that start at Lakeside Ohio and end up at the Hancock Wood station on the Island, one of which is currently being replaced.

Through pictures, documents and stories, we shared stories about candles, oil lamps, gas lights, small electric generating plants and finally, real electricity. It's all quite interesting.

1907 - The south side crusher is built by the Kelleys Island Lime & Transport Co. and a generating plant for the quarry is installed. It appears that Frederick Martin worked for the quarry at this plant.

1918 - Martin's house becomes the first house to be lighted by electricity. Later that year electricity is made available to some businesses and Charles Himmelein lights up The Casino.

1928 - Buckeye Public Service Co. takes over the crusher's generating plant and Island businesses get their power turned on.

1935 - F. W. Martin buys the power plant and in 1946 he had 83 winter and 25 summer customers.

1949 - The Lake Erie Electric Co-op (LEEC) forms, but it wasn't until;

1953 - The LEEC was able to buy out Martin and begin some much needed upgrades.

Over the years HWE assisted the LEEC with repairs and upgrades until finally in

1967 - The LEEC merged with HWE.

The 1953 installation of a new electric cable under Lake Erie is well documented in photographs, generously loaned to the museum by HWE, and we have a personal story from one of the workers on that installation. Also on loan from HWE, is a board with samples of the various cables that have been used. One shows a thick but very twisted cable that was damaged in 1958. Another is a plaque with a cross-section of the newest cable, installed in 2003.



In the display case were some vintage household items that people used before and during the early stages of electrification including a hand crank coffee grinder, a "modern" hand crank bread maker, an incredibly heavy BlendOR, some 80 year old light bulbs that still work, a vintage Sunbeam electric mixer, a Vitalaire ice box, and other interesting items.

Throughout the museum are other household artifacts including a plunger type clothes washer used with a washboard and wash bucket, a vacuum cleaner from 1910 (wired for both AC and DC current), and a cast iron, belt-driven meat grinder and sausage stuffer among other things. This was a fun exhibit as so many people take their lights and refrigeration for granted. We thank Hancock Wood Electric Co-op for being such a great neighbor.



SO MANY PEOPLE TO THANK



Thanks to all our great volunteers – they often go above and beyond the call of duty (Thanks Mary Wilke for plunging the toilet and Tom Pieratt for suggesting and then building the new gate).

It is difficult to imagine that we do as much as we do with only volunteers. Staffing the museum and parsonage, doing minor repair work, even some major repairs, maintaining the gardens, setting up and organizing the displays, and so much more. Rain or shine, our volunteers are there for us.

The Board members (who also do quite a bit) would like to take a minute to thank all of our volunteer for their outstanding performance: Teri Behrends, Jay Campbell, June Campbell, Ed Frindt, Lisa Fujita, Sue

Golias, Ferne Gorchester, Cindy Herndon, Linda Hostal, Bobbie-Joe Kennedy, Janet Killam, Bruce Korenko, Leslie Korenko, Knut Lahrs, Tom Pieratt, Denise Randazzo, Beth Rybus, Ted Rybus, Shirley Selig, Jodie Smith, Scott Stevenson, Sonia Taylor, Mary Wilke, Ned Williams, Chris Yako, Peggy Wideman, Lawson Wideman, Julie Valentine, and Carolyn Black, to name a few.

We held a volunteer thank you dinner at Janet's house, catered by Taste by the Lake.



MURDER MYSTERY

Our thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the Murder Mystery such a great success. As a way of saying thanks we gave each one a complimentary ticket to the event. If they had time (and we hope they did) they got to sit down and have dinner sometime during the night.

We would like to specially thank these people and businesses who donated items that helped make this event such a success. Be sure to check out the 100 photos on our website (EVENTS tab)!

FOOD AND MISCELLANEOUS CONTRIBUTIONS - Brittany Bissell, Denise Feasby, Franklin Sanitation, Steve James & Pat Fresch, Jason Hemminger, Charles & Cynthia Herndon, Island Market, Kelleys Island Brewery, Kelleys Island Ferry Boat Co., Kelleys Island Landowners Assoc., Kelleys Island Wine Co., Bruce & Leslie Korenko, Janus Rafal, Bob Simonson, Jodie & Scot Smith, Dawn Soldner, Kim & Julie Valentine, The Village Pump, Witt Tents

SILENT AUCTION - Sandy Alexander, Chicklit's Closet, Charles & Cynthia Herndon, Kelleys Landing, Iain & Antoinette McVey, Joe Nesta, Papa T's, Kevin & Kim Pape, Lisa & Sarah Platt, Portside Marina/Dockers, Taste By The Lake, Vi's Island Treasures, Dennis & Jane Diemer, Denise Feasby, Rose & David Herndon, Donna Lovins, Kathey Phinney, Jodie & Scot Smith, Dawn Soldner, Fred & Elizabeth Stueber, The General Store, Chris Yako

THE WINE PULL - Teri Behrends, Dennis & Jane Diemer, Jack & Rita Eaton, Denise Feasby, Keith & Deb Haig, Jennifer Hammond, Rose & David Herndon, Island House Restaurant, Chellie Keller, Michael & Janet Killam, Carl & Kimberly Krueger, Donna Lovins, Chuck & Joy Martin, Marty & Julie Millott, Bob & Joyce Overcashier, Kathey Phinney, Lisa Poe, Laura Jean Pohorence, Denise & Charles Randazzo, Greg & Dee Dee Ritchie, Jodie & Scot Smith, Dawn Soldner, Stephanie Soldner, Fred & Elizabeth Stueber, Tom & Sonia Taylor, Chris Yako

We probably forgot some people – and for that we apologize.

Everyone asks if we will do another big event in 2019 – probably not.

It might take us that long to recuperate!

ADDED TO OUR COLLECTION

“He wasn’t famous. But he had a story, a dang good one.” A recent article in the Ohio History connection Echoes magazine told the story about a small artifact in their collection. By itself, it was interesting, but the story that went with it? Well, that brought the item to life. And THAT’S why we ask you to tell a story of items that you donate.

BRUCE KORENKO - Program – 125th Anniversary, August 19, 2018, Kelleys Island Zion United Methodist Church. Contains a schedule of events, the church’s history and a laminated card with all the Zion church pastors from 1854 – 2018. Programs: Kelleys Island Important Bird Area Dedication, September 28, 2002; Estes School building 100 year anniversary, May 24, 2002; Kelleys Island School Graduation, June 2, 2001; Kelleys Island Local School District, Class of 2009, Commencement Ceremony. Certificate: Kelleys Island Big Read Challenge, 2009. Kelleys Island has become the first community in the nation to have 100% participation. Telephone book – Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce 2002-2003. Island School Year in Review 2001-2002. Four tickets for Neuman Boat Line. Program – Kelleys Island Water Treatment Plant open house, October 19, 2002 and article from Ohio AWWA, Spring 2003 “Challenging Fast-track project results in high tech and cost-effective water treatment for Kelleys Island.”

SANDY KILKO - VCR recordings: Island Singers Shows 1990, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999 and the 2007 Big Chuck Kelleys Island Show. Photos from the 1980’s including: The Inn’s Victorian Lawn Party, 1984, Gov. Celeste’s reception at Kelley’s Hall, November 1985, the 1986 Homecoming parade and activities, the 10K Kicks from 1984, 1986 and 1988, the VFW ceremonies at the cemetery, 1988 Islandfest, Rob McCullough and Sandy Spayd burying the time capsule in the downtown park, Mayor Bob Swartz, Leon Groff and Bud Yoscovitz with the new white Village Hearse at the ferry dock, and workers installing the new sidewalk along Division Street just north of the cemetery in 1988, among others.

JACK & MARY ELLEN THINNES – Spice cans and bottles with metal lids and miscellaneous medical items including first aid supplies and two unnamed bottles.



JUNE CAMPBELL – A wonderful collection of old china (much of which came through her family), a coffee mug from Matso’s Place, wooden boxes from cheese and chalk, wood net floats, and multiple old glass bottles.

WIDEMAN - Hubcap – Round, chrome, 6.75” diameter from a 1932 Ford V-8 automobile. The hubcap was found in the garage of Roy Erne who did auto repairs, etc. There is also an issue of Country Living magazine, March 2012 with an article about the Hubcap King of Ohio. There is a picture and mention of this

hubcap on page 31.

ALICE PERSIN – Books: Shipwrecks of the Lakes by Dana Thomas Bowen, 1952, Memories of the Lakes, by Dana Thomas Bowen, 1946, Lore of the Lakes by Dana Thomas Bowen, 1940. Brochure – Kelleys Island Vacationist Directory printed by the Kelleys Island Commerce Club c1940/50. Drawing of the *Frank Kirby* “12-25-1941, painted by Robert Moysey when she was first put into commission on the Detroit and Island run back in 1905.” Thanks to Jim Selfe for arranging this donation.



LEE JEWETT – Model of the red wing model iceboat built by Lee William Brown

CATHY REDDINGER – The large sign from above the door of the Bag The Moon Saloon and a Fishing Anchor – extra large, V shape with triangular ends and grab panels on the ‘legs.’

POHORENCE - Glass cover that was used to cover pastries at the Island Market when it was owned by the Pohorence’s. It is quite large – 17” in diameter.

A little history - November 1862 - “We have all heard of Sea Island Cotton, but we yesterday saw a specimen of Lake Island Cotton, raised on Kelley’s Island by Mr. Huntington. It was grown in the open air and is a very white and beautiful specimen of the staple.”

Kelleys Island Historical Association
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We are a 501 c 3 organization
Your contributions are deductible.

Let's make history together!

www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org

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Kelleys Island History Museum

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