



**Kelleys Island
Historical
Association**

Kelleys Island Historical Association

January 1, 2020

LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME

LOOKING BACK - This year we celebrate our 40th anniversary. The official start date for the Kelleys Island Historical Assoc. was December 1980 when we formally incorporated as a non-profit corporation. We think it is important to look back and rediscover our roots as we look forward to a new year. But in the meantime, look how far we have come since 2015 in these pictures.

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Kelleys Island Historical Association, Inc.

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Lisa Matso	
Connie Matso	
Paul Matso	
Werner & Joan Minshall	
William & Francis Minshall	

OUR CHARTER MEMBERS: These are the people who worked so hard to make this organization happen.

Henry & Rosella Beatty, Ronald & Lydia Bechtel, Geraldine Betzenheimer, Lyle & Geraldine Bickley, Milton Blatt, Dr. Heinz & Catherine Boker, Nick & Sharon Bianchi, Kurt Boker, Evangeline Bonchi, Charles & Ann Brown, Nadine Brown, George & Jeanette Cleary, Robert & Helene Coulon, Marilyn Dauch, Robert & Dennis Davey, Stephen & Phyllis Davey, Dr. Ramie & Ila Dick, Jean Dwelle, Joel Feyedelem, Joseph & Monica Feyedelem, Michael Feyedelem, Raymond and Gizelle Feyedelem, Lizabeh Fresch, Donald & Anneliese Haas, Kenneth & Patricia Haig, Dr. Charles & Kathryn Herndon, Dawn Kekelik, Nancy Kelley, John & Julie Kennedy, Professor Richard Knoph, Jo-Ann Kaneen, Arthur Lange, Ivan Lange, O. Hugh Lange, Mrs. Lewis Laylin, Helen Marchky, Lloyd Marchky, Mary Marchky, Charles & Jessie Martin, Mrs. Lucille Mathews, Russell & Beatrice Matso, Lisa Matso, Connie Matso, Paul Matso, Werner & Joan Minshall, William & Francis Minshall, Leroy & Corradine Myers, Michael & Sally McCune, Florence



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OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER didn't appear until 1986 – Read it [HERE](#). We announced that KIHA will accept the deed to the Church; a short history of the German Reformed Church; and a celebratory lunch at the Zion Church. All our old KIHA newsletters are online.

OUR VOLUNTEERS - Our thanks to the many volunteers who allow us to keep our doors open and our visitors informed and entertained. They really make a difference as this, and other, 5-star reviews mention not only the museum but the engaging volunteers! Our thanks to these Museum Gift Shop volunteers: June Campbell, Anne Eddowes, Mary Gaither, Cindy Herndon, Natalie Holmes, Karen Jones, Knut Lahrs, Alexi Panehal, Jennifer Pieratt, Denise Randazzo and Mary Wilke.



Kim Rickle

★★★★★ 4 days ago

Lovely place to visit! The woman that works there is awesome at filling in the history of the artifacts there! Interesting place!



Your reply

Thanks for the great review! Our volunteers are the best, always willing to research and share this Island's history and to chase down answers to questions. It is so nice that their contribution is recognized.

This year Leslie, our new gift shop manager, started a new program called Volunteer Bucks. Our volunteers earned a tidy sum of volunteer bucks for each shift that they worked. These bucks were used to purchase items in both the Museum Gift Shop and in the Parsonage Resale Shop. It clearly was well received, judging from the hundreds that were used!

Why not become one of our great volunteers?

THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP, by Leslie Korenko - Last year, after an unsuccessful recruitment effort to find a gift shop manager, I stepped up and filled the job. It took all winter to sort, unpack and price items donated from Vi's Island Treasures (and there was a lot) and from other people. Visitors were surprised to see that the display space in the gift shop area tripled in size and it was all accomplished by opening day in May.

Along with the new items, I felt it was time to reward our volunteers with more than an end of season party (which is, of course a lot of fun and a great way to say thanks for all their hard work). But cash in hand is always better. Welcome to our new Volunteer Bucks program! Our volunteer staff can purchase items in the Museum Gift Shop and Parsonage Resale Shop with bucks earned from their hours worked. I have to admit, this year I had an exceptional team (and I can't stress enough that we are a real team). I can't remember a single day when I drove by and found the museum closed when it should have been open. I also have to compliment everyone for trying to find a replacement before asking me to fill in. It was so nice to have days off during the week.

We have lots of new things planned for next year. Much like the museum, there is always something new and different so stop by regularly and discover what has come in.

MORE PHOTOS FROM HOMECOMING - Laura Jean was the parade marshal, and she mobilized everyone for our bake sale, among other things. We ran out of room in the last issue, so, [here are a few more photos from Homecoming](#), the Arts & Crafts Show and all our events. Thanks to Laura Jean Pohorence and Teri Behrends for sticking it out both days at Homecoming AND Islandfest.

THE 50/50 WINNER for September's drawing was John Stock of Sandusky.

WE BID A SAD GOODBYE TO ROGER WILLIAMS - Roger and Madeline were Life members almost from the beginning of our organization. Roger served on the Board from 2007 to 2011 acting as Secretary and Membership Committee chair and as President in 2012, after which he retired from the Board. He will be missed.

WEDDINGS IN THE CHURCH - Couples are discovering our historic church for their wedding. Check out the photos, including some vintage ones, on our website – click on [The Church](#). Why not rent the church for YOUR special event?



(L) This was a classic June wedding, with a twist. Everyone came in Hawaiian shirts and leis and rode bicycles.

Here's the happy couple from our August wedding (R).



(L) And finally, our September couple. The groom had a heart transplant and in honor of the person who saved his life, they lit a red candle to remember the heart donor.

We have lots of (what are now considered 'vintage') photos of other weddings. [Is your Island wedding photo on our page?](#)

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP - If you got a renewal notice in your email or in this newsletter – then it is that time of year again! Your membership means so much to us. You can renew online [HERE](#). It says PayPal but you can use this secure link to charge to your own credit card.



WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR WOODS? – It looks like the State will be putting another Pollinator Project plot on the land behind our museum. We had it under lease for quite a few years, and finally let it go. We are working with the State Park to expand our Butterfly Fest program for 2020.

CHRISTMAS 1871 – “On Christmas day the Store was packed with people as close as sardines in a box. To get to the counter was simply impossible. The clerks looked despairingly over the multitude and we could see they were devising ways and means in their minds as to how the crowd would be thinned out just a little. Thoughts of Cayenne Pepper on the stove, or a half hope that someone would break through the ice on the Lake seemed to be uppermost, when a shout was heard and the cry of ‘Dog Fight’ arose...In a twinkling the Store was empty...”

ISLAND DOCTORS - DR. FANN

November 27, 1894 – “Dr. Geo. C. Fann Passes Away at His Residence on Kelley’s Island. “The many friends of Dr. Geo. C. Fann in this city, were greatly surprised on Monday morning when the announcement of his death was made known. Dr. Fann died at his residence on Kelley’s Island on Sunday evening. About two weeks ago he contracted a severe cold, which eventually turned into typhoid fever, from which his death resulted. During his sickness he was not supposed to be in any great danger, and when he appeared to be on the way to a complete recovery, a sudden change came upon him and he calmly expired.

Dr. Fann leaves a widow and one child [his wife Clara and daughter Ina] to mourn his untimely death. He was attended by Dr. Busch, of Sandusky, during his illness.

His acquaintance in this city was very extensive. He was Mayor of the town of Kelley’s Island for some time. In the practice of his profession he was very successful. He was 42 years of age at the time of his death. The remains will arrive here this morning on the steamer *City of Sandusky* for interment in Oakland cemetery, the obsequies to occur on Wednesday.”

The body was conveyed to Oakland cemetery and deposited in the vault, where it remained until interment could take place. Brief funeral services were held at the Fann home, conducted by Rev. Nueudorf, pastor of the Evangelical Church and services were also held in the chapel at the [Oakland] cemetery. Dr. Fann’s monument can be found in Block 94 of the Oakland Cemetery. Age 40 years, 4 months, 21 days. His official cause of death was Consumption of the Bowels.

Dr. Fann’s house was the Matso house for many years.

The Last Will and Testament of George C. Fann: To John Pfann of Columbus Ohio a certain note which he owes payment shall not be asked. He shall be given all my medical books, all my surgical instruments. In regard to the undivided real estate of which my father died possessed, my share shall be given to my mother, in case my mother shall not use this real estate, after her death it shall go to my sister Clare Simmons of Elba, NY. All my other property both real and personal shall go to my wife. A burial lot shall be purchased in Sandusky, Ohio and my body buried there.” *No executors were appointed under the will, which bore no date, and Mrs. Clara Fann (his wife) was appointed administratrix of the estate.*



NEW BUSINESS MEMBER – Our thanks to the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce for supporting us with a business membership.

SUFFRAGE – February 1867 - “We were somewhat surprised, as well as pleased to see an article in the last number of the [Kelleys Island newspaper, the] *Islander* on Female Suffrage, and also to see the subject treated with so much respect and generosity instead of ridicule and contempt. And however much we may differ with the writer, we gladly award him the credit of being frank in his opinions and gentlemanly in his manner of presenting them.

It is a good omen when the subject is considered of sufficient importance to merit a discussion, even in the columns of an obscure paper like the *Island*. Much more is it a cheering sign when it becomes a question of debate in the halls of Congress as it has been during the present session...” *The Nineteenth Amendment was finally ratified in 1920, granting voting rights to women. 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of this long fight.*

ANOTHER BUILDING CONSTRUCTED WITH ISLAND STONE



The Grand Pacific House In New Baltimore Michigan - This recently turned up in our news feed: In the late 1800's, New Baltimore MI was a favorite destination for vacationing Detroiters. Visitors would ride out on the Rapid Railway or sail to Anchor Bay aboard steamships such as the Tashmoo. Rental cottages, hotels and mineral baths awaited. One of the finest hotels of the time, the Grand Pacific House, was constructed in 1881 for New Baltimore's Frederick C. Losh. It is the last remaining hotel of the era.

The limestone for its deep foundation was shipped to New Baltimore from Kelly's island in Lake Erie, near Sandusky, Ohio. Local bricklayers constructed the two-story building on Washington Street.

The "modern" hotel featured a lobby, dining room, and Saloon on the first floor, with eight bedrooms on the second floor.

Around 1910, when business began to decline, the Grand Pacific House became a boarding house and later, a private residence. During the 1920's the saloon was transformed into a soda fountain and candy store. In 1927, it was converted into a hardware store by Ed Maliskey, who ran the store until his passing in 1972.

The New Baltimore Historical Society purchased the building in 1986 thanks to many fundraising efforts and generous donations. Ten years later, the Grand Pacific House received its Michigan State Historic marker [but it doesn't mention our contribution!].



AWARDS – THEN AND NOW

OCTOBER 1994 - Kelleys Island Landowners Assoc awarded KIHA “the best Organization.” Sis McKillips questioned the reason and Coradine Myers [in the Island Scene] wrote: “No other organization does as much for the Island and Island people as the Historical Association does – purchasing and fixing up the Old Stone Church – raising funds to build a museum – having potlucks that have programs centering on Islanders (fishermen, teachers, the doctor, etc.)”

25 YEARS LATER - September 2019 – Jordan Killam announced: “Our second award goes to an organization that looks to the past to plan its bright future. The Kelleys Island



Historical Association is dedicated not only to creating memorable and important exhibits in its museum, but also thinking of ways to engage the community. Leslie Korenko, our historian constantly volunteers to speak to visiting groups about the history of our island and even appeared with me on a [podcast last summer!](#) The creation of the Parsonage Resale Shop has proved to be so successful, the Historical Association was able to use funds earned from that project to renovate the floor of the Old Stone German Reformed Church. Now, the Church has become a source of revenue for the KIHA, as it is now a destination for island weddings. However, in

my opinion, the most remarkable thing about the Historical Association is its enviable group of dedicated volunteers, all of whom completed special training and receive fun incentives for their work. This is truly the gold standard we and other organizations should be emulating! For excellence in community engagement, I would like to present this award to the Kelleys Island Historical Association.”

LOOK WHO VISITED THE MUSEUM THIS YEAR - We had 2816 visitors sign in (this is 60% higher than 2013). Our visitors came from 25 states and 14 countries: Australia, Canada, England, Ecuador, Emiratis, France, Germany, India, Mexico, N. Zealand, Poland, Spain, United Arab Rep, and Wales. Some people left notes!

Our thanks to Leslie Korenko who does presentations to the groups who visit the Island. In September she did two for the Road Scholars (R) and a sail-in at the marina among others.



John Friedman (L) (grandson of Ida & Alphonse Erne) stopped by and was pleased to find photos and stories about the Erne family.

Francis Deitrich (R) asked if there was a candy shop on the island. Turned out she meant Martin's Confectionary! Her mother, Marian, worked there. She found a photo of the shop in our museum.



Naomi Spencer (L). Her parents were Georgia (Kiefer) who married Frank A. Newman, grandparents were George & Clara Kiefer. She is also connected to the Lange, Schnittker and Schlesselman families. We really like when people take the time to share their Island roots when they visit the museum.

Hugh Lange's daughter (R), Christine Fanning, stopped by and found a photo of

Orville Lange her Grandfather. Kelleys Island Students Visit Museum (L) - It was field trip day and the school kids toured the grooves and the museum. Such great questions, these kids are really sharp and engaging!



FLASHBACK – November 14, 1868 – “A few pairs of

gentlemen's wristlets, made of iron, and clasp with a key, known among the profession as hand cuffs, were introduced last week [on the Island]. We have had some disgraceful rows here lately, and to guard our community against outrages, and also to put evil disposed persons in a safe place, instead of letting them loose upon other citizens; it was thought expedient to have some means at hand to keep them safe until a boat arrives to transport them to a lock-up.”

January 1869 – “Wednesday – The mail went over in the morning and returned in the evening, making the quickest trip of the season.”

ITEMS DONATED



[L] **EDWARD TOLL** - Horsehair lap blanket used in a sleigh. This is a very heavy blanket and brightly colored. It might have belonged to his grandmother who lived on Put-in-Bay (names were Smith and Fredericks).

WERNER MINSHALL - Letters from 1970's regarding State plans to take over the Island.

TERRI BEHREND - One page advertisement for the Kelley Island Lime & Transport Co. Page 19 from American Builder. Advertisement features Tiger Finish plaster - Why it Pays - which would you rather spread - warm butter or cold butter? It's the same with lime.

SUE MCGRAIN - Page from book - A colored drawing of a notched round stone and arrowheads from the chapter entitled "Antiquities From Cunningham's Is. Lake Erie" drawing by Capt. S. Eastman. U. S. Army, from the book Information Respecting the History, Condition and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States, Volume 2 by Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, 1853. Also vintage postcards of a man standing on Glacial Grooves and the historic marker at Inscription Rock.

LEE ANN ALEXAKOS - Passport for Lewis Beaty (aka Louis Beatty). It is signed Lewis Beaty, and dated May 31, 1872. If held up to the light there is a large government watermark visible. Lewis was a U. S. Citizen, 51 years old, 5' 4" tall and described as having a full forehead, blue eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion. Since there were no photos at this time, his face was described as having a medium nose, usual mouth, small chin, fair complexion and a normal face. On the back are various immigration stamps, difficult to read, likely in German. It shows he used this passport in 1872, 1878 and 1892.

ANNE SENNISH - A large flag and a photo dated 1981 of the flag hanging on the front porch of The Inn, Pat and Lori Hayes' house. This is a flag flown over the Steamer *Put-in-Bay*. Captained by Kelleys Islander Frank E. Hamilton during the World War II years 1943-45, then on to maybe 1947, when the boat ceased running. She was towed out to the middle of Lake St. Clair in the early 1950s and burned to the waterline.



Also the following items: Newspaper article - January 18 (no date) Youths George Durket, Lawrence Betzenheimer and Jack Sennish rescued from ice flow while fishing; boat schedule for 1879 Star Line Steamers: a large black and white photo of Jim Sennish, Roger Williams Sr., Bill Kelley, Lute Laylin, Jeanette Cleary, Dorothy Kelley, Alice Williams, Kit Laylin, Anne Cleary, Caroline Cleary, Madeleine Williams and Roger Williams Jr. Photographs: 5 ladies sitting in chairs in the front yard of The Inn (Captain Hamilton's house) [photo on L]. Names on back: Jessie Carpenter, Anna Kelley, Freddie Hamilton, Belle Kelley and Rose (difficult to read, might be Wac Eldurney); 14 young ladies and girls in a yard.

Names on back: Florence Pellett, Helen Elfers, Maude Dischinger, Jean Kelley, Helen Schlumbum [Schlumbohm], Rose Lutgen, Frace Mootz, Ruth Radcliff, Gertrude Ploeger, Clara Becker, Rhea Brown, Jessie Reinheimer, Stella Lange and Edna Schlumbum (Schlumbohm); school children. On the back: South Side Primary School May 11 1900, Teacher Laura Boker. Students: Hazel Huber, Anna Dwelle, Wilma Fedderson, Ruth Ott, Helen Schlumbohm, Mary Adams, Ruth Huntington, Annie Murschel, Ruth Rosworm [Roswurm] Marjorie Hamilton, Ada Himmelein, Leslie Beatty, Dean Hamilton, Glenn Moysey, John Ranft, Irving Elfers, Albert Blatt, Frank Hamilton, Leonard Rosworm [Roswurm], Charley Himmelein, Howard Martin Charley Quinn, John Adams, Orlo Smith, David Brown, Howard Hamilton, Clarence Gerlach, Carl Schlumbohm, Helen Pleger [Ploeger], Amanda Ott, Martha Adams, Clara Albers, Clarabell Shepherd, Lucille Brentgardner, Esther Follmer, Freda Schuler, Nellie Slavan [Slavin], Ina Fan [Fann] Jessie Dwelle and Lottie Levie.

Photo of school children dated September 3, 1896. Sign in front says Central School Primary, Sept. 3, 1896 [R]. Also a list, dated March 26, 1890 of scholars present in grammar school: Phannie Huntington, Peter Diffley, Herbert Elfers, John Brennan, Clara Trieschman, Willie Upp, Laura Becker, Adam Anwander, Anne Hayes, Henry Kastning, Lydia Elfers, Fred Schaedler, Stella Huntington, Barbara Elmlinger, Laurie Smith, Arnold Deringer, Grace Ward, Nettie Hess, Henie Elfers, Freda Elfers, Walter Elfers, Lydia Elfers. Another photo of boat near a dock, house and retaining wall. The small boat has a flag that says Eastland and a sun canopy over the seats. Written on the photo: Gus Kelley gives boys a boat ride from his dock. Six men and boys on a dock holding fishing poles. On the back: Building Kosters dock 1880-81, Hennie Elfers with big stick. Inscription Rock. Imprinted in the corner of the cardboard: F. Elfers. An article - Piracy on Lake Erie, the story of the plan to release the Confederate prisoners from Johnson's Island prison, written by Craig Hildebrand of Wyandotte Michigan December 20, 2000 (no source for the publication).



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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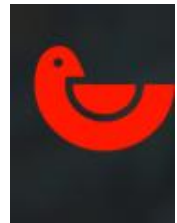
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