



**Kelleys Island
Historical
Association**

Kelleys Island Historical Association

July 1, 2020

LAS VEGAS EVENT - CANCELLED

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It has been a rough year. COVID-19 forced us to reconsider some of our planned events. One of the first to fall was our Las Vegas event. But all our planning was not in vain – we will do it next year instead.

Our museum opened later than usual and with restricted hours and enhanced cleaning. But never fear, the Parsonage Resale Shop and the Museum and Gift Shop are now open and ready for visitors.

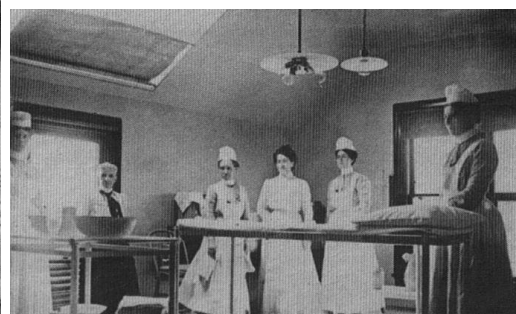


OUR LADY DOCTORS

It may be surprising to some, but we have had several lady Doctors tending the Island. **DR. JANE SPAULDING** - In our last issue Dr. Jane Spaulding shared how she became a Lady Doctor. So what did the good Doctor do when she left the Island and moved to

Santa Barbara in 1874 after serving the Island for seven year? In 1884 she moved with the Webb family to Larned Kansas, opening her own offices and becoming the owner of 1/2 of a drug store. In 1892 she was invited to become Superintendent of the newly opened Cottage Hospital back in Santa Barbara. She worked with an all-woman Board to make the failing hospital a success. She retired in 1911. In 1913 she was the guest of honor at the formal opening of the newly expanded hospital. In failing health, she died three weeks later.

L-Spaulding in her later years. M-Spaulding (seated) with nursing students and staff c1986. R-Spaulding (2nd from left) in an operating room.



Jane Edna Spaulding graduated from Woman's Medical College of New York Infirmary for Women and Children in 1861, or 1864 by another source. She became licensed in California in 1879 and was associated with the Santa Barbara Hospital. She was classified as practicing Allopathy, which is similar to homeopathy. While on the island, she served as a homeopathic physician. It is unclear how she came to settle on the island.

Another lady Doctor, DR. SARAH A. HENDERSON came to the Island in December 1873 Office at residence, no. 28, North Division St. According to her 1905 obituary, Sr. Sarah A. Henderson was a pioneer woman physician. After serving Kelley's Island, she moved to Sandusky around 1880, and became one of the first women physicians there. She later moved to Cleveland where she had a successful business. Henderson was a graduate of the Homeopathic Medical College.

SUFFRAGE 1867

On no other theme probably has there been uttered so much of false, mawkish sentiment, shallow philosophy, and sputtering farthing-candle wit. If the style of its advocates has often been offensive to taste and unacceptable to reason, assuredly that of its opponents have been still more so.

College boys have amused themselves with writing dreams in which they saw women in hotels with their feet hoisted and chairs tilted back or growling and bickering at each other in legislative halls, or fighting at the polls with eyes blackened by fisticuffs. But, it never seems to have occurred to these facetious writers that the proceedings which appear so ludicrous and improper in women are also disgraceful in men! It were well that men should learn not to hoist their feet above their heads and tilt their chairs backward, nor to growl and snap in the halls of legislation, nor to give each other black eyes at the polls.

Opponents to
women's rights to vote
rudely portrayed the women
who fought for that right.



It is difficult to imagine: first, that women were not allowed to vote until 1919, and second, that it took 52 years to accomplish this goal. The issue of Women's right to vote, or the Suffrage movement began on the Island in 1867. If the Negroes could vote in an election, why were women prohibited from doing so? During the winter of 1866/67, debates were held at Kelley's Hall. Surprisingly, not all women were for the issue and not all men were against it. The arguments seem absurd today, and over the years, they turned vicious and demeaning. The arguments ranged from women being not as intelligent as men, that they will abandon their families and babies if they get into politics, that they shouldn't be bothered with anything more than shopping, tending the home and looking pretty, etc.

It is surprising to learn that small progress was made in 1894 when women were granted the right to vote for members of Ohio School Boards.

Island women were right there in the forefront of the Suffrage movement. In December 1900, Ellen May, a native of Ireland, became the first woman ever naturalized in Erie County. She did this to qualify herself to vote in the school board election on the Island. In March 1901, Katharina Strasser followed Ellen, becoming naturalized so she could vote for the school board. In April 1901, women were able to vote for the first time.

Want to find out more about the big debates of 1867? Click [HERE](#)

June 1890 – “As I set here and gaze upon the water this beautiful June day and watch the steamers pass by, I often wonder how people can live in such hot, dusty cities, away from pure air and everything else that belongs to good health. I know a great many people think that there is nothing on this beautiful isle, but they are mistaken. There are two large hotels and again as many private families who accommodate strangers. Terms are \$1 per day, or \$7 per week; hotel terms are \$2 per day, or \$10.50 per week.”



TERI BETZENHEIMER-BEHRENDTS & HER QUILTS - How long has Teri been making quilts for us? Here is one of her earliest quilts (left). This was 1987 and our museum was in the church. Florence “Sis” McKillips was living in the parsonage, and we were already planning on opening a museum to preserve

and share the history of this Island.

Teri’s new quilt features a sailing theme. You can order tickets online [HERE](#) (or go to the website and click on [MUSEUM](#)).



ANNUAL MEETING

We have two candidates for two seats on the Board. Ballots are in the mail or enclosed. As of right now, the Annual Meeting is still on, but that may change as the Island and the world slowly deals with the COVID—19 virus. We may opt for a virtual meeting. We’ve tried it several times for our Board meetings, and think it may work. This also gives people who cannot visit the Island a chance to attend the meeting.

MEET THE CANDIDATES:

Alexandria L. Panehal - I have been a member of KIHA for several years. Last year I also



began volunteering at the History Museum. I thoroughly enjoyed working at the Museum and hope when COVID 19 subsides, I can start up again. I retired from the U.S. Foreign Service (Diplomatic Corps) in 2018 and moved permanently to Kelleys Island in the Spring of 2019. I now live here year-round, and I love it! I am writing three books in my spare time. The first book is about Kelleys Island, called “The Island in Winter.” The other two books are historical studies, allowing me to indulge in my love of history. In addition to writing skills that may be of use to KIHA, I am also

accustomed to working on committees, finding common ground among people with diverse viewpoints, and developing strategic short and long-term plans, with measurable objectives to assess performance. I hope that the membership looks kindly on my candidacy and, if elected, I look forward to the opportunity to serve our community in this new capacity.

Ned Williams - I am running for the KIHA board for a second term. I, along with all of my



family, have a deep love and a long family history with Kelleys Island. My great grandfather, Norman E. Hills, lived on the island for many years. He convinced his daughter, Alice, and her husband to build a cottage on the island. That cottage has now been a part of our family for 90 years. From my childhood I learned about the history of the island from my grandmother and my father. Preserving our island’s history is paramount. We also need to find ways to share and promote the island’s history with visitors and island regulars. That will be my focus in my second term.

July 1880 – “There is great demand just now for hotel and boarding house accommodations. Hubbard Dwelle, H. B. Upp and Henry Elfers have their houses full, as are both hotels. The Chisholm cottage is occupied by Prof. Wilson and family of St. Louis. The Cameron Cottage being rented by nine schoolma’ams from Toledo, so that every available space is occupied.”

CORRESPONDENCE & MENTIONS

People come in or email us all the time, teasing us with potential donations. We do the happy dance, let them know that we are really interested and then, nothing. Then we get sad and lament opportunities lost. Here are some of the items that never quite made it to us:

MY FATHER, WAS RONALD L. SMITH, his mother's family resided on Kelley's Island. My father has been deceased for ten years and I am finally getting around to going through his possessions (the man kept everything). One of those items is a family album from what I gather is from the 1880's or later. My grandmother's maiden name was Reidy. In all honesty, while I love family history, I don't know much of the Reidy family. The album is large, 7.5 inches width, 16 inches long, and 3.5 inches deep. The cover is red velvet, and the lettering is metal. I will admit, there is a little bit of mildew and dust:) I write to you today to see if you'd liked the album for your collection? My name is Leanne Smith Bendetti.

Of course we said YES! But haven't heard from her yet.

MARIE RIEDY WILES DONATION AND IOLA RIEDY HOUSE/LIBRARY - We were so delighted to



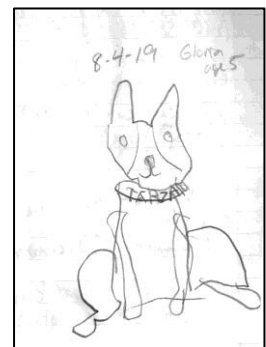
hear from her. And we loved the little story about Iola's library and how you could pick up and return books on the dryer in the back room. It was so very timely because Leslie did a presentation to the Clevenet library group (the ones connected to our Island and the Sandusky Libraries). Leslie told them about the long relationship we have with libraries and specifically mentioned Iola's involvement. One of our first libraries was The Reading Room on Division St. (the sign on the far left says Reading Room.)

THE 1852 PENNY - In the last newsletter, Chris Carrig wrote about the 1852 penny that he found on the Island. Surprise! Don Schlesselman also found a similar one on the east side of the Island! Obviously, a traveler made the rounds on a visit to the Island.

TARZAN - If you don't follow us on Facebook – you are missing a lot.



Sometimes people go back in our history and find nuggets like our older post about meeting Tarzan. Gus Sun wrote: "My Uncle ran the bar. It was Charles Himmelein's Casino. I remember hearing about Tarzan." Tarzan has his own page on our website – just click on his [picture at the bottom of the page](#). Tarzan is



often mentioned in our Museum Guest Book: "Id want to meet Tarzan if he was still alive" wrote Weston.

OUR NEWSLETTER - We got a big thank you from Don Schlesselman – "I received the historical newsletter today – thank you very much. I sat tonight and read it all, it is wonderful to see the names and stories, new and old. The list of 'Charter Members' was full of memories for me – I knew or know most of them. It makes me realize how much I miss my old Island friends. I wish I could go back to see some of them again. We will meet again! I think I want to go back home pretty bad. What a wonderful job you do at making up the newsletter. Thank you!"

WAIT - WHAT? We have had a few really nice mentions on some blog/travel sites. This one is very flattering, but, is this really our Island? Pelee does not have tall hills, we don't have a spit of land with a lighthouse on it, and what's with the "murky waters" mentioned in the article?

They wrote: Situated in the murky waters of Lake Erie, Kelleys Island packs boundless beach town charm into just a little more than four square miles. The pint-sized isle boasts quite a history, from serving as a military rendezvous point, to undergoing three name changes. Today, Kelleys island offers a quaint getaway for Midwesterners.



DONATIONS

Many Island families suffered illness and loss this year. Among them our Board Member Janet Killam suffered the loss of both her grandparents and Ned Williams lost both of his parents.

Donations - Cynthia Guest (in memory of Carol & Critt Ohlemacher and Barb & Kip Ohlemacher); Bill & June Campbell (in memory of Paul Brown); Katherine Hitlan (in memory of Bea Matso); Bill & June Campbell (in memory of Miriam Schlesselman Haynes, Bill Crotser, Bob Volz and Roger Williams). Chuck & Cindy Herndon (in memory of DiAnn Maiers and Marian & Leo Goldner).

We also received generous donations from Roger Renwick and Peter Williams.

New LIFE members: Isaac & Sara Humphrey of Centerville OH, Jim & Karen Belavich (Huron OH) & James McKillips (Okemos MI), and James Selfe

KOSTER'S DOCK SAVED

We were worried – the big winds of December 31 blew out much of the dock and foundation around the building at Unique Marker, the former Koster's Dock. How fortunate that the owner installed large stones around the foundation and along the drive and just in time. We have had several big wind events that surely would have fatally damaged the building. A LITTLE HISTORY– The property was originally owned by Jacob Hayes, Island carpenter. After his death in 1888, Catherine Koster acquired the property. Koster's Winery was at the top of the hill. The dock was expanded several times and the buildings used by various wine companies until sold to the KI Lime & Transport Co. in 1907. In 1921 the Lay Bros. began using the dock for its fishing fleet and purchased it in 1945.



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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