



**Kelleys Island
Historical
Association**

Kelleys Island Historical Association

April 1, 2021

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TO OUR MEMBERS

So, here we are, coming out of a pandemic and looking forward to an almost normal new year. The good news is, we survived, and we did it thanks to the support of our great volunteers, the community, and our members. Looking forward, we are keeping some things, changing some things, and looking at new ways to reach those interested in this island and its history. Hope you can keep up!
Leslie

VOLUNTEERS – We were able to keep the museum doors open last year due to the hard work and dedication of these museum volunteers: June Campbell, Mary Gaither, and Mary Wilke, not to mention all those people who staffed the Resale shop.

WHY NOT VOLUNTEER? – shifts at the Resale Shop and the Museum are just 2-hours each week. And you meet the nicest people and have so much fun, we can't imagine why you wouldn't want to try it out. Just email us KImuseum@msn.com and we'll get your info to the right person.

WE MOURN THE LOSS - Jim McIntire passed away on December 13, 2020. You can say that Jim volunteered at the museum, but he did so much more. As with most couples, he worked tirelessly by the side of his wife Sharon (a Board Member and our museum manager for several years) to clean up donated items, set up displays, and find creative ways to display large items. Chris Carrig recalled "I remember when Sharon was on the board I helped out at the Butterfly Festival a few times and went with him in his pickup to the 4-H Camp to borrow benches for the butterfly talk. I'd see him at the Memorial Day service at the cemetery and afterwards at the Post for hot dogs and beer. He was a good man." We shared the online condolences with Sharon and grieve with her.

VISIT THE MUSEUM VIRTUALLY - We had some fun with a Bernie Sanders Meme. We wrote – Bernie visited the Island's museum, but before we could get our camera, he became otherwise occupied."

Here are some Quick Links for you to explore while (breathlessly) awaiting our opening in May.

[Museum tour and KIHA history video](#)

[Tarzan](#)

[Walking Tours](#) No. 1 - the ferry dock to downtown & No. 2 - Downtown to the History Museum

[Old Island newspapers](#) (going back to the 1930s including the Islander II, SeaScape, Home Town News, Island Scene, Perchie Press ... and of course, the most recent issues of

[School History and all those great yearbooks](#)

[Kelleys Life newspaper](#) – we partnered with the editors to bring you each issue online



LAS VEGAS EVENT - We haven't finalized a date or details yet, but trust us, we are working on it. Watch for the announcement on Facebook, our Website and in a special mailing later this year. FINGERS CROSSED

THANKS TO OUR PATRON MEMBERS: Ann Cassidy, Barbara Christy, John & Jaime fisher, Tom & Dee Hartley, Robert & Mary Quillin, Richard Swartz, and Toby Zettler.

WE GET THANKS - Ann Cassidy wrote: I enjoyed the most recent newsletter so much that it inspired me to up my membership to Patron. I, too, have many memories of spending weeks at the end of Dwelle Lane with the Stueber cousins (Cindy Stueber Herndon). Hope to make it back to Kelleys this summer. Happy New Year. Ann

Last year the 4-H campers visited our museum.

Don Schlesselman writes: Just wanted to thank you for the wonderful articles and info stuff you put in the ... Newsletters. Only you could do the research to help us learn more about the old times (I mean really old) on our Island. It is really great to learn." *Oh how we love 'attaboys!'*



THE PARSONAGE PERSPECTIVE - We three Parsonage Resale Shop founders have much to be thankful about. Thanks to our membership and customers (yes we do business in the winter), we have become a critical income stream for the historical Association.

We are very proud of the improvements we've been able to make to the Betzenheimers historic home, and love telling all who enter the family and the house history. The addition of 3 room air conditioning and heating units, have made an unrealistic work place environment, into a reliably comfortable atmosphere for our many clients and volunteers. The sidewalk repairs and banisters have made safer access to the house. Just to name a few. Now, we are able to work and receive customers upstairs and down on the extremely hot and humid days summer promises, and also late into "after the season" is over. Quite an accomplishment!

We are very proud to provide islanders with services that, heretofore, were not available on the island. For instance, we are the only place on the island one can purchase fine furniture, household wares, clothes, jewelry and gifts, even greeting cards! We also provide pick up and delivery, and receive gently used items, all with a story behind them, from homeowners who would rather not have to bother with the time and money it takes to get their items off Kelleys.

So you can be proud, that the entire Museum campus is a perfect destination for most everyone visiting. We, along with our hard working volunteers, promise you a prosperous future from our own, heart felt run, Parsonage Resale Shop.

Devotedly, Sonia Taylor, Jodie Smith and Janet Killam

LESLIE KORENKO HONORED by the Ohio Historical Advisory Board (OHRAB) - Leslie is the winner of the 2020 OHRAB Citizen Archivist Award which honors volunteers in Ohio's archives who work long hours, unpaid and often unacknowledged, answering reference requests, processing collections and indexing historic records. Leslie was recognized as a volunteer in an Ohio archive who best exemplifies the dedication and hard work volunteers--our citizen archivists--contribute to Ohio's archives each day.



Leslie has donated her time to help KIHA with every aspect of our operation. She organized the Association's archives to make the collection accessible to the public. She transcribed the island's township and city council minutes from the 1800s and posted them online. She scanned and uploaded Kelleys Island newspapers to the Association's website, allowing readers to delve into the daily life of the island. Leslie reinvigorated the Association's website and social media presence, creating content and posting videos and blogs about the island's history. In addition, she made the history of Kelleys Island come alive by creating a new layout for the Association's museum and updating its displays. Leslie has done all of this and more while volunteering for the Association.

The feedback has been great. "Hi Leslie - I just saw that you received a much deserved award from the Ohio Historical Advisory Board! Congratulations!!! You set up a time to meet us at the Kelley's Island museum last October. My great grandfather Frederick Rabe b1845 had worked on KI for several years after immigration and before coming to NW Ohio to buy land and build a house. This trip was my first visit to KI and it meant so much to walk in his footsteps. I am working on a book about him and my other paternal ancestors and will include photos and info from his KI days. Thanks again." Lori Rabe Esch

DONATIONS – We mentioned in our last issue that Jerry West and Rick Holmes had donated ice saws. They are on display in the museum and as you can see, they were quite large (R).



Last year, Don & Jeanne Weitman donated several items to the museum including this photograph. Obviously not Kelleys Island! It took us a while but we found a more appropriate home for the picture. Mike Frush, President of the Columbus Historical Society



wrote: “We sincerely appreciate the donation of the photograph of the celebration on East Broad Street, in front of the Statehouse. There is a very early automobile in the picture that also makes it a special photo. Columbus was considered the Buggy Capital of the World in the late 1800's and from that had several early automobile makers. We are anxious to research the automobile in the photo.” Mike mentioned an Island connection. “As a child, my family spent many summers camping at East Harbor State Park, and made many trips to Kelleys Island. Great memories.”

And look what we found! – These look remarkably like the display cases we have in our museum! Bet they came from the General Store.



MEMBER NEWS – We welcomed the following new LIFE MEMBERS in 2020: Tim & Christine Fanning, Isaac & Sara Humphrey, Jeanne Lackamp, John & Denise McGee, Jim McKillips, Jim Selfe, Peter Williams.

Our members were incredibly generous during our Annual solicitation (the only time we beg for money) in November. Over 70 donations were received and we want to particularly thank Brian Baxter, Jack & Rita Eaton, Alexi Panehal, Allen & Diane Nickles, Bob & Jan Ransom, William & Diane Scott, John Stock, Micki Wiles, Mary Jo Lackamp, and Mary Carrig for their generous donations. Special thanks go to John & Denise McGee and Chris Kipfer & Bobbie Jo Kennedy for their noteworthy contributions.

FRANCES ALICE WILLIAMS TOEPFER REMEMBERING HER FIRST VISIT TO KELLEYS ISLAND, DECORATION DAY WEEKEND, 1929 (part 1) by Ned Williams

These memories from my Aunt Fran, were written when she was 88 years old. She passed away December 6, 2014 at age 92. Fran lived in Denver for most of her adult life. Whenever Fran was able to come east she always found time to come to Kelleys Island. She always smiled when she talked about her summers on the island.

In Fran's story, Grandpa is Norman E. Hills. Norman married Jennie Bristol in 1922 about a year after his first wife, Abby, passed away. It was then that he left Toledo and moved to Kelleys Island where he lived until his death in 1944. Norman published his book, "A History of Kelleys Island" in 1925. It was said that when visitors had questions about the island's history or geology, the island's residents would tell them, "Go find Norman Hills. He can answer your questions."

Fran wrote: The Roger and Alice Williams family lived in West Toledo, Ohio, when our family adventure began. I was just 7, Roger Jr. 4, and Margie, a three-month old baby. We were all to be a big part of this experience, but Mom and Dad and Grandpa Hills were the planners of what was to happen. We older kids knew our grandfather [Norman E. Hills] had married his second wife, Jennie Bristol Hills, and had moved from Toledo to live in a home Jennie owned on Kelleys Island in Lake Erie. I may not have even been sure what an island is, but I was soon to find out more about this special one in our lives.

Today, in 2010, 81-year-old memories are sketchy, but a few are vivid and long lasting. I'm trying to be honest about scenes I really recall from that weekend, not dressed up with later recollections from the more than 15 summers spend in that special, beloved place.

In May 1929, Dad asked me if I would like to go with him to visit Grandpa and Aunt Jennie in their home on the Island. The “visit,” “island,” and “going somewhere with Dad” ideas are vivid recollection, so of course I said “Yes.” Decoration Day weekend (Memorial Day), the chosen date, finally came and our adventure began.

The auto trip to Sandusky is hazy, but was probably filled with as many questions for Dad as I could think of. One scene stands out, the first views of pale blue Lake Erie. This became the “are we there yet?” question for us children for years to come. Sparkling water, fresh lake smells, some of them “fishy,” became familiar signals that we were getting close.

Once aboard the little ferry from Sandusky, the excitement intensified for me. Fear of rough waves or seasickness was never a part of our trips across the lake. Being on the water in a boat was always fun, even when the waves were choppy.

The little ferry was probably the Messenger. She was a small passenger and freight ferry used by the Neuman Boat Line to service the island route from Sandusky and Marblehead.

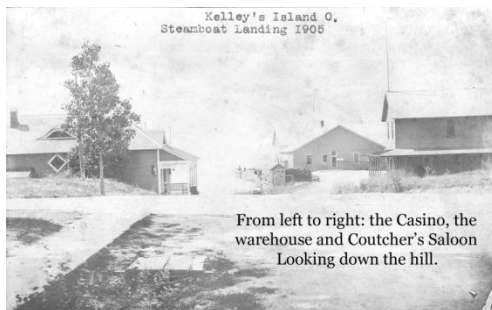
She serviced the area from 1921–1947.

As we chugged steadily past Marblehead and into the open lake toward the Island, Dad and I began watching a white object ahead, almost in the middle of darker stretches of land on both sides. As we drew nearer we could see the white thing become a large, barn-like building surrounded



by tiny bugs that turned into people, waiting on a large dock for the ferry to arrive. Dad said we would be landing there, on the main dock at the end of a street leading down to the lake.

This was the main dock in 1905 at the end of Division St. and the wooden store buildings.



Kelley's Island O.
Steamboat Landing 1905

From left to right: the Casino, the warehouse and Coucher's Saloon
Looking down the hill.

At about the same time we could spot Grandpa, a skinny, bald, old man of 60 waving to us, a loud blast from the ship's horn made me jump and shiver. As the ferry came close to the large wharf, circles of ropes began sailing through the air. Young men grabbed and fastened them to round stumps of concrete Grandpa helped us as we passengers walked down the gangplank (new word), and headed off with our bags toward his old-fashioned “Island” car, a four-seated covered sedan where Aunt Jennie was waiting for us. She was a plump,

grey-haired lady, often carrying a homely little black and white toy Boston terrier on her lap.

After a slow ride up from the dock, past a few wooden store buildings, we soon were riding by all kinds of houses facing the lake on our way to Grandpa's. I recall fancy little cottages and tall old-fashioned homes with wide lawns between them and the road. The lake was on our left and some little ell-shaped docks jutted into the water. Almost every house had a wide porch with chairs and hanging swings for people to sit in and watch the boats passing by.”

Watch for Part 2 in our next issue.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

THE VILLAGE PUMP 419-746-2281

Downtown Kelleys Island – Lobsterfest, Brandy Alexanders and fish fries



THE ISLAND MARKET

419-746-2292 Downtown Kelleys Island – if we don't have it, you don't need it



CADDY SHACK

127 Division St. 419-746-2518 Pizza & sammiches & wings.



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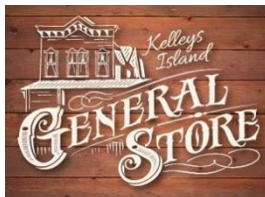
PORTSIDE MARINA, DOCKERS RESTAURANT &

MISSY MAGOO'S - Great food, dockage, candy and gifts.

419-746-2668

KELLEYS ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

419-746-2360 Info@KelleysIslandchamber.com



THE GENERAL STORE

118 Division St, Kelleys Is. 419-746-2357

CHICKLETS CLOSET

113 Division St. 216-214-3202 Apparel for people & pets



Kelleys Island Historical Association
P O Box 328
Kelleys Island OH 43438

We are a 501 C 3 organization
Your contributions are tax deductible.

Let's make history together!

www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org
Facebook: Kelleys Island History Museum

BOARD MEMBERS ELECTION - Wow, can't believe we are already looking forward to our August Annual meeting. We have two Board seats up for election this year. Let us know if you want your name on the ballot.

VISIT OUR HISTORY BLOG
Let's see – so far we have posted stories about:

Life in the winter on Kelleys Island – part 1, travel over the ice in 1874
Life in the winter on Kelleys Island – part 2, how Islanders pass the time
Valentine's Day on Kelleys Island in the 1860s
School yearbooks - Kelleys Island style
1952 the Coast Guard delivers 254 barrels of fuel oil to the island in mercy mission
January 1951 truck falls through ice - 3 escape
Jean Icsman marries John Lange
A history of the Kelley's Island Lime & Transport Co.
Celebrating the new year-1861 & a wedding
The other inscription rock on Kelleys Island
A first hand account of Halloween traditions – 1868 on Kelleys Island
This Island's stone fences
1875 - The Island's telegraph cable (part 1) how it came about
The Island's telegraph cable (part 2)
Kelleys Island and the influenza epidemic of 1920
That statue of Mary on Titus road
The N. Side quarry crusher building
It's 1911 - and murder has occurred on the island.
A video tour of the Kelleys Island history museum
Memorial Day on Kelleys Island in 1898

This came from the Ottawa County Historical Society's 3rd quarter 2020 newsletter – could not have said it better ourselves: “As historians we assume the responsibility of stewardship, of handing off values to up-and-coming folks whose hearts are open, whose fiber-of-being yet anticipates embracing the newness of things, whose eyes shine with expectation. It is ours to teach them to not just look fondly backwards, but to clearly observe the dynamics of being human and recognize our part in it.”