



**Kelleys Island  
Historical  
Association**

# Kelleys Island Historical Association

January 1, 2021

## Inside This Issue

- 1 - President's message, Las Vegas update, Members & Visitors
- 2 - Donations
- 3 - We Mourn, New Years 1868
- 4 - Our Business Members

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Pat Fresch (Vice President)  
Cindy Herndon  
Janet Killam  
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Alexi Panehal  
Ned Williams  
Newsletter: Leslie Korenko  
Website & Social Media:  
Leslie Korenko

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Since joining the Board of Directors of The Kelleys Island Historical Association in 2016, I was elected your president at the annual meeting on August 8th of this year, a position I am honored and excited to hold. Kelleys Island has always been a magical place for me since my first memories of coming here as a child in the 1960s when I was bitten by the 'island bug;' you reading this know what I'm talking about. My grandparents began visiting the island in the 1920s while dating, later bringing my mother and aunt, who both married and brought their children here. My parents bought our property from Jake Martin in 1974, and by 1976 were well on their way to completing our home on Division Street.

While striving to succeed in my new role, any success I have will not be without the talented, knowledgeable, and dedicated board and staff with whom I am so fortunate to serve. Along with the board, much credit must be given to our many hardworking volunteers who share this love of Kelleys Island that we all do, and

without whom, we could not survive. Thank you all.

I, and am sure I speak for the entire board, welcome your ideas and suggestions and encourage you to visit the museum, church, and parsonage often. The museum and its ever changing displays will enlighten you to a history you might never have known. We've been conducting oral histories with long time island residents about what life was like on Kelleys Island in the last century. I believe you will find these materials fascinating. While here, don't forget to stop at the parsonage; it has been transformed into a resale shop proving itself an integral part of our community and an important financial resource for our association; treasure seekers never know what they'll find there from week to week.

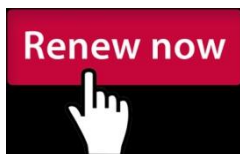
As you know, Kelleys Island has a unique charm and innocence about it. My desire as your president, with the help of you, our board, staff, and volunteers, is to preserve our island's rich history, and help protect this charm and innocence for generations to come.

Christopher Carrig, President

**LAS VEGAS EVENT – FINGERS CROSSED** - It was 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 never fear, all our planning was not in vain – we hope to do it next year instead.

**OUR MUSEUM & VISITORS** - Last January we noted that we had 2816 visitors sign in (this was 60% higher than 2013). In 2020 we only had 1426 people sign in (we were only open 50% of the time). Our museum opened later than usual, with restricted hours and enhanced cleaning. The Parsonage Resale Shop opened with enhanced sanitation.

**FACEBOOK** – We finally reached 2,000 followers. We are small but mighty and people are really enjoying our posts which are diverse, informational and, thanks to Rick Holmes and others, a wonderful reminder of this Island's past.



**MEMBERSHIP** – It's January and time to support us by renewing your membership, just fill in and return the membership form enclosed or attached in your email, or renew [online](#). Remember, if you decide to become a LIFE member, you get a brick in our memory walkway.

**DONATIONS** – Discover all the donations we cataloged this year [HERE](#). Finally, we had some time to catch up on cataloging the donations we received last year.

RICK HOLMES has spent years collecting Island photographs, stories and memorabilia from his time on the Neuman Boat Lines. Over 250 items were cataloged, some photograph files contained 6 to 30 photographs, 80% of the photos relate to Neuman Boat Lines, the various boats, in dry dock, on the water, in the ice, christening, repairs, laying the electric cable etc.

Other items include: an Ice Saw – used between 1835-1941; Wood Sign – Neuman Boat Line, Since 1907; *Endeavor* sign (both now on our porch wall); wheel of chance – used in the Fire Dept’s days of fish fries at the pavilion (c1960s) and Fireman’s Balls; Original forward running light off the *Kelley Islander*; porthole from the boat *M. V. Mascot*; and 2 Ice fishing sleds. Also treasure trove of old photographs of wineries, docks, buildings, quarries, and multiple various aerial shots, many taken by Kurt Boker.



**SOMETIMES IT DOES TAKE A VILLAGE** - Rick donated this mystery item. It is heavy ceramic, glazed, but the sides have unglazed ridges. It was found while digging on what was part of the old Island House hotel. We finally gave up and asked our resourceful members. Turns out it is a match holder and striker!

Our thanks to JERRY WEST who has donated some incredibly unique items including a hand sewn head cover-pink silk and crochet, late 1800s; a Scythe; a Black Hawk Corn Sheller. Did you know that in 1875, A H Patch began designing the Black Hawk Corn Sheller, named for the Indian chief, Black Hawk, and patented it in 188?. West also donated an ice saw with wood case; a No. 80 wash board made by the National Wash Board Co.; a very old and heavy two wheel hand truck; a massive antique hewing axe; and an ice sled and ice floats. And, of course, that magnificent wicker baby buggy.



**DEBRA & STEPHEN LINDSEY** - A landscape photo of Otto and Anna Brown beside their home which is still located almost across from the cemetery and has been lovingly maintained. Also, Alma B. Brown’s High School diploma. This is a large document, 21” x 16”, and was signed by William F. Burger, Henry C. Kelley, and Chas. Seeholzer on June 17. 1898.

**ALLEN & DIANE NICKLES** - A wood telephone (wall mount, but incomplete as it is missing the speaker), a child’s wicker rocking chair, the bottom part of a vintage oil lamp (hand painted, and electrified). A wonderful treadle sewing machine c1913 named The Free No. 5. It has a lovely art deco cabinet that opens up.

**LAWSON & PEGGY WIDEMAN** – A feeler/thickness/gap measuring gauge c1925. Aluminum, 3.5” long, with 9 thin arms ranging from .012 to .0015. ‘Tony’ is etched on the tool. It was found in their attic. Anthony (Tony) Steinkamp lived in the cottage from 1945-1965.

**DON & JEANNE WEITMAN** - A lovely framed certificate – German, color, 2-x14. At the top Das Giesetz un Evangelium (The law and gospel) and at the bottom Die Lieb eist des gesetzes (the love of law). Believed to be the Lord’s prayer; a Booklet from the Knights of the Maccabees – Island tent; and white ‘chalk drawing’ of a man with a full mustache. He is wearing a Mason pin of the Masonic Lodge of Freemasons.

**ROBERT MIAVITZ** - An antique podium which we put in our historic church.

**HEATHER LINDECAMP** – portraits of what is likely the Upp family.

**BARBARA SHADLE** - A very old photograph of the Gustavus Kelley’s house (later owned by Leroy & Coradine Myers built in 1874.

**HOLLY MILLER** – Postcards, letters, photographs, items from The Ancient Order of Hibernians and Knights of the Maccabees.

Our newest business Member is the Island Market.



## WE MOURN THE LOSS OF

**L. A. "Lee" Baumler**, 93, formerly of Kelleys Island, passed away Aug. 25, 2020. Lee was the son of Albert and Amelia (Dwelle) Baumler. He wrote a book titled, "Visions of the Past," about growing up on Kelleys Island as a young boy in the Depression era. The family recommended that memorial contributions be made in his memory to the Kelleys Island Historical Assoc.

**Anne Sennish**, 90, passed away Nov. 11, 2020. Anne traced her family tree back many generations. She used to ride the steamer *Put-in-Bay* from Detroit to Kelleys Island in the pilot room with her uncle, Captain Frank E. Hamilton.

**Violet 'Vi' (Ward) Feyedelem** died Oct. 20, 2020. She and her husband Michael lived full-time on the Island for the last 20 years. When she closed Vi's Island Treasures gift shop, she donated most of the stock to our museum.

## NEW YEARS - 1868

*The Local Editor of the Islander reported that he "Got up rather late this morning having spent over half of last night hunting [news] items. Was very successful, from the fact that we attended the party at the Island House where we witnessed one of the most interesting parties we ever had the pleasure of attending. Dancing after the music drawn from the violin and guitar was the order of the evening. Old and young were in attendance and strange to say there were none present who were at the time old. No, all were young.*



*The Island House was a popular place to hold parties.*

Shortly after 12 o'clock the bidding adieu to the old year, 1867, with the welcoming of the New Year, 1868, having been gone through with according to the usual custom at such times and on such occasions, and thinking the item season for the night had about passed, the Local took leave of the party and went home." *The writer noted that some persons were against dancing. "To pronounce as sinful such parties as the one at the Island House last night would be equivalent to the condemnation of all amusements embracing both physical and mental exercise. Why should anyone go away from the like of that to which we have just alluded with a conscience otherwise than clear of offense? We certainly witnessed nothing during our stay that need offend any one."*

"Calls – New Year's calls are not being very generally made on the Island today, owing perhaps to the inclemency of the weather. A high wind prevailing all day from the SW with frequent spells of snow making it very unpleasant to be out, especially in the p.m."

*Traveling west on Lakeshore Dr. our travelers "stopped at the really comfortable, new, tasty, and really homelike residence of W. S. Webb, where we found such a cup of coffee as few can make, with other refreshments awaiting not only Ye Local, but all who might call.*

Having finished our call, we again put out and facing the storm, we soon arrived opposite our good English friends Mr. Tweedney and his excellent lady. Stopping there, we were welcomed as such kind hearted and hospitable people only can welcome their friends. Here we had set before us a piece of real English Plum Pudding accompanied with appropriate sauce. Did we wish to commit suicide by eating, such pudding would be chosen for the purpose, for we think it would be the most pleasant to the taste and from its richness, the most rapid in its work." *Ann & Wm. operated a boarding house on W. Lakeshore.*

The histories of our most [Historic Houses](#) are now on our website. Thanks to the efforts of Michael Beatty, Patti Fresch and Leslie Korenko, we now have the entire 'binder' on our website. Organized by street, and including an index of names mentioned on every sheet, you can easily explore the history of almost 200 homes on the Island; a treasure trove of genealogy, stories and house trivia. It's **Historic House Index** on our website. We also included how Betty Pape and an army of volunteers worked to put this all together and get us designated as a Historic District.



Remember to check out [HISTORY BLOG HERE](#) or go to our website and click on BLOG.

Kelleys Island Historical Association  
PO Box 328  
Kelleys Island Ohio 43438

We are a 501 c 3 organization

*Let's make history together!*

[www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org)

Facebook: Kelleys Island History Museum

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS



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**CHICKLETS CLOSET** - 113 Division St. 216-214-3202  
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**THE ISLAND MARKET**  
419-746-2292 Downtown

