



Kelley's Island Historical Association

July 1, 2021

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The BAD NEWS is we just couldn't bring Vegas Night together in time – so instead we have **GOOD NEWS** – We will be hosting a **MEMBERS ONLY** cocktail party (remember, we did one a few years ago and it was so much fun). It will be held at the museum on August 21 and we will be sending out RSVP invitations.

ANNUAL MEETING – Our Annual Meeting will be August 9, so stop by to find out how far we have come and where we are heading. There are two Board seats up for election and ballots will be going out in a week or so.

OPENING DAY May 15 was incredibly busy. Along with offering free admissions to the museum, Julie priced almost everything at 50% off. There were lines out the door at times as people snatched up deals and waited to tour the museum.

Our new Gift Shop manager is Julie Valentine. Leslie retired as manager after serving for two years, but she has been a volunteer since we were in the church (over 10 years ago). Julie has a whole new line of items for the gift shop so stop by and see what's new there.

Our **ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW** will be August 7. Last year was really fun, but it rained mid-afternoon, cutting it short. We rarely get rain so this was a surprise. We already have 17 artists signed up! [Check them out](#). This will be a really big show.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF Paul H. Selfe - It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Paul H. Selfe (South Euclid, Ohio), who passed away on February 27, 2021, at the age of 77. He was the brother of Jim Selfe who many of you will recognize from his visits to the museum. He was predeceased by: his parents, Wilhelmina (Burkheimer) and Herbert Selfe. He is survived by: his wife Sandra (Lawson); his children, Thomas of Huntsburg and Wendy of Middlefield; his brother James (late Marie) of Mayfield Heights. The Selfe family arrived from Canada in 1871 and has a long and interesting history on this Island. Jim has been a regular visitor to the Island and our museum.

WE SAY THANKS

LaVerne Kuznar donated 12 much-needed steel shelves to the museum. These were impossible to find but when we put the word out, she came through. Last year we received four modular shelving units, but we didn't have enough shelves. Thanks to LaVerne we now have enough to make these units fully usable.

Thanks to the **Lakeside Heritage Society**. They were remodeling and asked us if we could use two 8 ft. wide slotted display wall boards and a couple of file cabinets. We jumped on that and now our back room looks even better. We have a large collection of old newspaper clippings and we will be moving them into one of the cabinets (we are featuring the 1950s on our Facebook page this year) and now have a safe place for all our portraits.

Jim Selfe continues to donate lovely (new) items to the Museum gift shop and the Parsonage resale shop.

Did you know **our memberships are fully tax deductible**? We got clarification and are pleased to pass this information on. Just another reason to renew your membership each year.



Karen Havlik asked why Simon Huntington did not have a star by his cemetery monument. These are also flag holders and recognize soldiers who have passed away. Simon was actually the first Island soldier to die during the Civil War. He fought in the Battle of Stone's River and died from wounds sustain in that battle. It took us a while, but thanks to Leslie Korenko's perseverance and the **Veterans Service Commission of Erie County**, Simon now has his star. We will probably do a [BLOG](#) post about Simon's story.

June Campbell continues to be our star volunteer at the museum. So many people comment on her knowledge of the Island's history and how she takes the time share those stories with our visitors. Great job!



NEW LIFE MEMBER – **Christopher & Renae Reinhart, Drew & Donna Algase**
New PATRON MEMBERS – **Sharon Miller and William Dianne Scott**

THAT BAKE OVEN – Just one of the projects we are working on with the State Park. We're thinking signage, rehabilitation and maybe a bread baking demonstration! Facebook comments



have been enlightening. **Reggie Langford** –wrote: When I was park manager at Kelley's, I started the restoration on that same baking oven. Didn't finish because I retired. Neat project! **Michael & Kathy Kin** shared a bit of history - My Great grandmother and family lived there in the house that was torn down to make the park. The State leased the property from KIL&T Co., and later bought all the property that is now the state park. According to my family, the oven was originally theirs. Grandma housed quarry workers in their home, and baked bread and other goodies in this oven for her family and the boarders. I grew up visiting the island to see

my grandparents, who had a summer home, and Aunt Sue still lived in the house where the park is now. All would take me out to see Great Grandma's oven and down to the ice house, and tell me stories about growing up there and watching Great Grandma bake in the oven. Great Grandma Nowak was a very hard worker. She operated a boarding house for Hungarian quarry workers either in the house or one of the buildings on the property. She baked bread for them in the big beehive oven that is nearby. My great-great grandmother, Mary (Lastoci) Pecsénye also lived with them, as well. I've never known for sure if great-great grandfather Istvan Pecsénye lived there prior to his death in 1906.

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN SAVE PAYING TAXES BY....You may have reached 'that age' when you must take a distribution from your retirement account. The worst part is that you have to pay taxes on that distribution. But wait – we have a solution!!!

You may make a Qualified Charitable Contribution (QCD) **directly** from your IRA to KIHA. This direct donation does not count as ordinary income to you as a distribution from your retirement plan usually would (this means tax free). This QCD will count towards your required minimum distribution (RMD) for those of you older than 70.5. However, the limit of the contribution (QCD) is \$100,000 per person. This would be a GREAT time to pick up a LIFE membership (just \$500). You get a free memorial brick and we won't ever bother you to renew!

Please consult with your tax advisor to be sure you understand the tax issues with these donations. You'll need our tax ID which we can easily provide to you. So go ahead, become a LIFE member, or just make a donation, while saving a little on your taxes and bask in the knowledge that you did a really good thing.

PROJECTS WE ARE WORKING ON

NEW WEBSITE – Thanks to Michael Beatty, Leslie Korenko and GoDaddy, we will be getting two free years of website hosting – that’s the good news. The bad news is that we have to move our entire site to a new platform. This is a big job since every page, document, photo, article, link, etc., will have to manually moved. Sounds like a winter project. Once moved, the new website will have all kinds of enhancements like a SEARCH box, our own BLOG page, and so much more. Support will be ending for the current platform since it is an old version. We tried for a grant, but there were 4-times as many applicants as there were funds available.

NEW WINDOWS FOR THE PARSONAGE – We were not successful in getting a grant for this project, but we are moving forward. Unfortunately, rising lumber prices have put this project on hold, probably until next spring. We have three strong bids and hope to award the contract later this year.

NEW ANNEX BUILDING – You’ve all seen the great work that our resale shop people are doing in the parsonage house. What you don’t know is that they often have to turn items away for lack of space. They have spilled into the museum storage area, but obviously, we need something better. So – we are looking at having a large barn/garage built. Again, high lumber prices put this on hold, but we should have a plan by the end of the year, so construction can start in spring.

CHURCH DOORS – Oh, they really need some attention. Paint is peeling and we discovered that there is damage to the bottom of the doors. The damage was covered with duct tape and painted over many years ago. This project has already started with a contract for sand-blasting the doors so we can assess the damage before repainting.



Frances Alice Williams Toepfer remembering her first visit to Kelleys Island, Decoration Day weekend, 1929 (part 2) by Ned Williams. *These memories are from my Aunt Fran, written when she was 88 years old.* “Sometime during the summer of 1929, Dad and Mother told us kids what he and Grandpa had been up to that special weekend. A Kelleys Island farmer and businessman was known by Grandpa to be ready to sell some East shore property. On that holiday weekend in May, Grandpa and Dad’s secret (from me) “important business” was viewing the land and deciding that Dad would purchase the property [and] have a cottage for our family built there. This decision, on the eve of the great stock market crash (in October 1929) showed great optimism and foresight. I believe with all my heart that it was one of the most important decisions of Dad’s life, the life of my family, and me! It shaped our family’s life for generations to come!”

The cottage and Willy’s Overland island car.

Ned added “The land that my grandfather Roger and Norman were negotiating was sold by Emma Becker to my grandparents, Roger and Alice Williams on August 28, 1929. I have the original deed with two accompanying letters regarding the record of title. The price paid by my grandfather for the property is shown as \$10.00 and other valuable considerations. I can’t imagine what these other valuable considerations constituted. The land had little value as it was wooded and the soil was too thin to support crops or grazing.” There were only two bedrooms in the cottage reserved for adults who stayed there, usually on weekends. *To the right of the cottage is McGettigan’s house, to the left was a tent erected for the summer months. The kids typically slept out there or on the front porch.*



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

Check out our [history blog](#)

www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org -- Facebook: Kelleys Island History Museum

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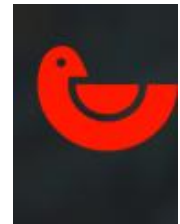
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