

ANNUAL MEETING – A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends - Welcome to the 40th Annual Meeting of The Kelleys Island Historical Association. I have been honored to serve as its President this past year. Our island has been a special place to me since my first visit as a young boy when the 'Island Bug' stung me; unlike COVID there is no vaccine for it, thank God. Also special to me has been The Kelleys Island Historical Association. I grew up across the street from and next door to two of its founding members. My mother was a member, and after I joined, volunteered at events like the Tour of Homes and at the yard sales during Treasure Island. Who knew I'd be President one day? I just want you all know how special you, this island, and association are to me. Now, if you permit me, I will carry out my duties as President and report on the state of this organization.



The Past Year - Considering the trying times we have all experienced the past year, I feel our board, volunteers, and staff have all met the challenge of keeping the Kelleys Island Historical Association vibrant and an asset to our beloved Island.

There were many changes to the organization worth noting. By no means the smallest and very significant was the changing of the guard overseeing the management of our museum and gift shop. Leslie Korenko had decided to step down after giving much effort and much of her time to its success as manager, while keeping it running through 2020 with decreased hours and number of visitors to the island. We have been fortunate to find a very capable and enthusiastic replacement in the person of Julie Valentine. Thank you, Leslie, for giving your time and talent.

We welcomed, equally as capable and enthusiastic, Alexi Panehal to our board. She has proven to be a wonderful and talented addition to our family. Michael Beatty, at our last annual meeting, accepted the position of Treasurer as a result of my departure from it to accept the role as President.

Thanks to our diverse revenue streams: memberships, donations, museum admissions, gift shop and resale shop sales, and our close fiscal management, and hard work by all, we have kept the Kelleys Island Historical Association a fiscally strong and responsible organization regardless of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Various projects were completed on our property during the past year. Heating and air conditioning was installed in the Parsonage allowing it to be open year-round and protecting this wonderful old house from the ravages of nature. As was necessary with the addition of this system, the walls and attic were insulated. New electrical outlets and wiring were put in to upgrade the old and less safe wiring there. Repairs were made to the Parsonage roof to maintain its integrity and to stave off the larger expense of an early replacement. Wi-Fi and a phone line were added to the building as well.

Moving Forward - Changes have been made, new projects were brought to the table, while others were tabled till the future for various reasons. One notable change was the direction our Museum Gift Shop should pursue. It was decided to focus on merchandise closely related to Kelleys Island, its rich history, nature, and current environment, while adding some higher-end selections not found in other places on the island, filling the void left by the closing of Vi's. We are optimistic about this approach and its success under the leadership of Julie Valentine.

As everything we do is at least indirectly related to the island history, there are projects in the works directly related to it I hope we continue to support or begin and see come to fruition. One of these is the Oral History Project, headed up by Alexi Panehal with hours of painstaking work by her and people like Jeri Yost (forgive me for not mentioning everyone else involved,) is something so important and vital to our island's history. We need to give it our full support and backing. Associated to this is the genealogy and creation of family trees based on

prominent islanders and families; this would prove fascinating and a valuable resource to anyone interested in the island's history.

I would like to see the bee-hive oven project take off and a historical maker placed by it. Imagine, as Cindy has suggested, we actually bake in it. What a way to bring the islanders together, possibly even make an annual event of it.

Cindy's project of the Youth Curator Program would prove invaluable to the ongoing success of the Kelleys Island Historical Association. Face it, we are all getting older and won't be around forever. Young blood will be necessary to keep this association successful.

Buildings And Property - There are numerous projects related to our buildings and property I would like to mention. As I have said, some are planned for the next year while others tabled for the future. I will note them here, sans details as that would take volumes. New and more energy efficient windows will be put in the Parsonage and an out-building built to accommodate its storage needs. We are working on the repair or replacement of the outhouse, an integral part of the Parsonage's history. Gable vents are to be added to the Parsonage as well. Issues with the church to be addressed are the painting of the front doors, plastering and painting inside around some of the windows, and steeple and roof repair. Projects put off for now are repointing the church foundation, making the church's choir loft railing safer, and improvements to the church sidewalk. And on a sad note, our beautiful tree in the lot next door and beloved prickler bushes are slated to come down.

Technology, ever changing, and a job itself just to keep up with, is vital to the success of any business or organization. We are fortunate to have talented and knowledgeable people on our board and in our association to deal with any issues that arise. A big hurdle before us is the migration to a new website, no small undertaking, but not our decision and beyond our control. Related to technology, we were approached this year by the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce to cross promote one another. This venture could improve our notoriety and increase our foot-traffic and memberships.

It is our responsibility, as a board, to be good stewards of the historical association's money and assets. As such, we have decided to go out to bid to contract for the property yard maintenance, snow plowing, and winter checks of our properties beginning fiscal year 2022.

Now for the fun stuff. We have postponed our large fundraiser, a Las Vegas Night, that we will hopefully see happen in 2022. Bobby Jo and Chris, my next-door neighbors, had graciously offered their property as a venue to hold it; I can only hope the offer still stands. A members' cocktail party is scheduled for August 21, 2021, to show gratitude to our supporters. Patti Fresch is chairing the event; please RSVP to her if you have not yet. In their generous nature, Bobby Jo and Chris, have offered to have an amazing Irish band, The Drowsy Lads, play at the historical association. See what wonderful supporters we have in them and many others around the island?

In Conclusion - As I have said, this past year has been trying for all, personally, professionally, and emotionally, but hopefully having survived, made us better for it. As they say, 'what doesn't kill us makes us stronger.' I have enjoyed working for and beside you and appreciate all the support you have given me. I feel blessed and fortunate to be a part of this organization and the opportunity to have gotten to know so many wonderful people. Thank you. I look forward to another year filled with more successes, less trials and tribulations, and a lot more fun. Fondly, Your President, Chris Carrig

Membership - We have 240 active members.

Online Presence - Facebook - We now have over 2100 followers. Website - In July we had 1445 visitors. This year we finished scanning and uploading the Home Town News. We scanned and uploaded all the yearbooks and photos that we could find under the School heading. The entire Historic House index is now online - making answering questions about houses and people much easier. Thanks to Michael Beatty we have two free years of website hosting through a non-profit program. We will be working on the new website this winter.

Oral History Project - Interviews are completed for Paul Brown, Fritz Ziegler, Mary Ellen Bauman Wilke, and Ben Elfers. We are working on the interviews with Jake Martin, Dick Sennish and LaVerne Ehrbar. We will be interviewing Claudia Brown and Linda Hostal.

ELECTION RESULTS - We welcome back to the Board Janet Killam and Teri Betzenheimer.

LOOK WHO WE FOUND



STANG & THE HISTORIC MARKER How cool is this? These people set up near the historic marker at Celebrate KI, and, of course, started reading it. Imagine their surprise to see the name Stang on the marker. A long-lost relative!



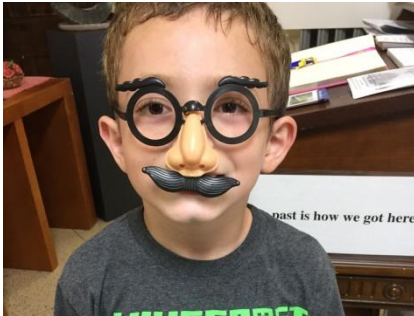
The [Kellegian](#) (1951-1952) was added to our old newspapers on our website. So much fun reading the names. This was a publication of the KI school. Were we really that young?



Dottie Krieger (L), Laura King and Katie Krieger – three generations connected to the Marcus family here on the Island (but NOT Marcus Village people). They have been coming to the Island for 57 years in a row. George Marcus had a Lyman boat, and they stayed in a house ‘on the dump road.’



(R) The same day, Geri Stiefel, Melissa Clapp and family stopped by. They are related to Pearl (Perlina) Moross, daughter of Julia & Adolf Moross. Her husband John Kook/Rook was the mailman. Pearl was Geri’s great grandmother (We think this is right).



(L) This is Korey wearing his prize for finding the hidden Tarzan dog in the museum. Read all about our famous Kelleys Island Talking Dog [HERE](#) on our website.



(R) And Leslie ran into these ladies at the cemetery – looking for info on their McKillips family roots. Judy Farrell (on the right) and Ceresia Gresham (on the left) along with two random dogs.



(L) Laura Jean was back with Teri and some friends selling quilt raffle tickets at Homecoming.

Be sure to catch up with our [FLASHBACK TO THE 1950s](#) series on our Facebook (Kelleys Island History Museum) page and intriguing bits of history on our [Blog](#).

OUR ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW – A really big show this year. You can contact all the vendors who participated on our website under [Events](#). Because you probably regret not buying that certain something that you saw.

YOUR MEMBERS-ONLY COCKTAIL PARTY – Just our way of saying thanks for supporting us. Lots of photos on our website under [Events](#). Here are just a few of them. See, membership does have its benefits.

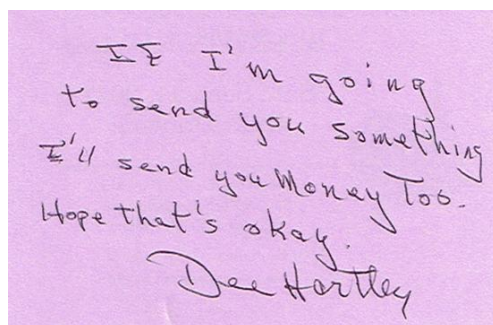


[MORE PICS HERE](#)

DONATIONS

We beg for donations just once a year – in November. But our very generous supporters often donate during the year. Not only did Dee send us her ballot, sent this funny little note and a check. Of course it's OK. Donations ARE tax deductible you know.

AND over the last several months, we have received some unusual and remarkable items.



ED FRINDT - Plat Map – large blueprint copy of 1972 map of the Island showing lot numbers, individual platted lots and names of owners.

JOYCE & ROD HERDMAN - Rim lock, square, information indicates it was found on the site of the Kelley's Island Winery ruins in the 1970s. The winery burned, for the last time, in 1933.

JOE WOLFE - Two Wood signs – hand made, "ICE" and "Supt, P O Kelleys Island Ohio" has two hooks at the top, would have been used at the Dominican Camp (Kelleys Mansion)

ERNE & CASSESA - Books used by their father Francis Erne Sr. & his family when they attended school at Kelleys Island. Some of the names that appeared were Francis Erne, Florian Erne (who was born in 1919), Raphael Erne, and Ray Erne. *Better Farming* by Frank Aldis Welton, published in 1929. and *Commercial Geography* by Albert Perry Brigham. 1928

GEORGE DANCHISEN - Log sheets – Daily report of time for quarry workers of the Kelley Island Lime & Transport Company (note that the apostrophe is missing). They are all for the 'Point Quarry, July 1-24, 1893' one of the Marblehead quarries.

LAWSON & PEGGY WIDEMAN – various health and beauty aids including: Watkins Violet Talcum Powder, Heather Face Powder-"Rachel," and Lander Saving Cream.

DEBRA LINDSEY – Items relating to the marriage of Charles R. Lindsey and Alma Bertha Brown 1907 and related family items.

BILL CAMPBELL – Felt service flag from WW II. Three blue stars for three men in the service.

LEANNE BENDETTI OF PHILADELPHIA PA. - A wonderful collection of original photographs, many taken by Platt of Sandusky, others in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Denver. Many are unidentified, or first names only, Family names include: Miller, Antwander, Reuter, Riedy, Schmidt, Seaholtzer [Seeholzer], Martin?, Short. First names: Albert, Otto, Sophia, Benoa.

1844 - THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE - *Datus* believed education was important in sustaining the health of a community. The establishment of the Lyceum and publication of the *Islander*, a local weekly journal that encouraged submissions of articles, stories and news items from everyone in the community, were designed to keep history alive as well as challenge both young and old minds. The Stone School House was built around 1853. But there was an earlier wood frame school house built by Datus Kelley nearby. It was first mentioned in a recollection about the island in 1834, but other articles indicate it was built in 1837.

“The next thing to which Mr. Kelley turned his attention, after getting business well started, was to build a school-house. This he did at the sole expense of himself and his brother, and this was the first frame building erected on the island and is still standing [in 1863], having been used since the new stone school-house was built, as a cooper and blacksmith shop, &c. It is the first building north of the present residence of Mr. George Kelley.” *Erastus was born in 1838 and was 23 years old when he wrote this piece about that school. He was six years old in 1844.* “...the old wooden building bountifully supplied with little windows situated a few rods South of the house we are now in [the Stone Schoolhouse], was the place where I spent the most of my time as a school boy. That old building will ever hold a conspicuous position in my memory, as being the spot where the happiest period of my eventful life was spent. Never will time obliterate from my mind the teacher who first started me up the hill of knowledge. I was then very young, being only six years old, but his face as it first appeared to me in the old school room, is just as familiar as though it were but yesterday. Time has made its marks on him as it has on his scholars, a few of whom are now present, but instead of being little boys and little girls, we are young men and young ladies. All will recollect this teacher, however, when I say he is Mr. J. E. Woodford of this place.”

Frances Alice Williams Toepfer remembering her first visit to Kelleys Island, Decoration Day weekend, 1929 (Part 3) *by Ned Williams. These memories are from my Aunt Fran, written when she was 88 years old.*

After a short ride around the Island “Finally Grandpa turned into a driveway where a “Summer Haven” sign dangled in the breeze. The house was somewhat awesome to this seven-year-old, especially as I was exploring its interior. I remember a long dark hall, a sunny side parlor, dining room and a big kitchen at the back. The house had electricity, I think, but I’m not sure about the water – oh, yes; there was an indoor bathroom that seemed up-to-date! Upstairs I found the bedroom I would sleep in, a few mysterious closed doors faced the hallway, and a back stairway led down to the kitchen. No more real memories of that first day.



Summer Haven was located on W. Lakeshore near town. It looks quite different today. The house was built by George and Electa Bristol in 1893 on land purchased from Emeline Huntington. You can read the history of this house [HERE](#) just click on Water Street – 1694. In later years, this was the home of Norman Hills who married Jennie Bristol.

The next morning I learned I was to spend the day with a new “friend,” Aunt Hazel Hamilton. Grandpa and Dad would take me to her house somewhere across the Island, while they took care of some “important business.” *They were looking at a piece of land on McGettigan which would become their summer home.*

George and Emma Becker owned the property purchased by my grandfather, Roger B. Williams Sr. The property is south of Woodford Road on the lakeshore. In 1929 the land was tree covered and the soil was too thin for farming. However, about 200 feet back from the lakeshore there was a vineyard, which stretched back to McGettigan Lane. I found the original deed to the property in my father’s papers after he passed in November 2019. I also found correspondence between my grandfather and Ralph Dwelle, the man with whom my grandfather had contracted to build the Williams cottage. Read part 4 in the next newsletter.

**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

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

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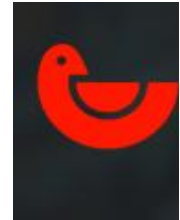


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KELLEYS ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



KELLEYS ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 419-746-2360



1858 COMPLAINT FOR SELLING INTOXICATING LIQUORS –*The first incident of illegal sale of intoxicating beverages was heard in the local court. Oddly, intoxicating beverages did not include wine, only hard liquors.* “The State of Ohio vs. John Martin, Complaint for Selling Intoxicating Liquors - This day came George Kelley and made complaint that John Martin was the keeper of a place of resort on Kelley’s Island where intoxicating liquors are sold, to be drunk on the premises in violation of law and also that said John Martin did at the place of resort aforesaid on the 2nd day of December sell intoxicating liquors to George Haggerty, Jacob Lawton and Barney McGettigan to be drunk on the premises where sold.”