

SCHOOL HISTORY

According to Norman E. Hills book, A HISTORY OF KELLEYS ISLAND, OHIO, the first teacher on Kelleys Island was Lucretia Wood, who in 1836 taught TEN pupils.

The first school house was erected in 1837. Miss M. H. Dean taught the first winter.

In 1850, District School No. 2 was established. It was located on Woodford Road not far from the J. E. Woodford's farm. About 1852, Miss Mary Kelley, daughter of Julius Kelley, taught in the school. Before 1850, the only school house on the Island was located on Division Street behind Iola Riedy's home.

In 1853, this was replaced by a two story stone building, which is the present home of Iola Riedy. M. K. Holbrook began teaching in the new building on December 26, 1853. In 1858, George P. Bristol, from Hiram College, began teaching in District No. 2. He was nineteen years old.

A "select" school was taught by W. K. Holbrook in 1865 in the basement of Kelley's Hall. This was the beginning of the Kelleys Island High School.

In 1869, Mr. Holbrook was made superintendent of schools. From 1867 to 1870 the Rev. Marchikens, who was pastor of the German Reformed Church, taught a German school in the basement of Kelley's Hall. Mr. H. L. Bates replaced Mr. Holbrook in the Select School, as Mr. Holbrook was superintendent.

In 1873, there were 200 children of school age. In 1877, a frame high school building was erected on Division Street, near the center of the Island, at a cost of about \$1,300.00.

In 1876-77, a Parochial School was started with Mr. David as its first teacher.

In 1801, a new brick school house was erected and named Estes School. Mr. James Estes generously bequeathed the sum of \$15,000.00 for the purpose of building a new school. The new school was named Estes School.

Excerpts from the Sandusky Weekly Register

"August 14, 1869

Kelley's Island - Our schools are just closed for the summer. They have been running under the Union School regulations, and quite an improvement is already observable. In the summer we have four schools, and in the winter five schools.

November 10, 1869

The winter term commences the first day of November. Miss Hattie Root, from Coldwater, Michigan teaches the High School. Miss Moss, Miss Ward, and Miss Coffin teach in the Primary Departments. Rev. M. K. Holbrook, Supt.

July 16, 1873

Kelley's Island - Our schools closed to today. Mr. Hamilton has kindly offered to give the schools a free excursion to Put-in-Bay tomorrow on the SARAH VAN EPPS, and the children are expecting an enjoyable time, especially those who never go unless they get a free ride.

April 7, 1875

The winter term of our schools closed last week. We have two weeks vacation. Our schools have been since last fall under the superintendence of Miss Mast, of Republic. She also teaches the German school and gives very good satisfaction in both capacities. Our other schools are all taught by women and have been for years.

October 4, 1876

There are three churches and four schools on the Island -- one being a high school.

December 19, 1877

The new school house built last fall is a very pretty building. It took fire today from the furnace which they had put up, without being well-protected underneath. Three of those furnaces have been put up here this fall and everyone had come very near burning the buildings they were in. Someone in Sandusky put the furnaces up, and for his credit he had better be more careful about making them fire proof.

January 30, 1878

Our schools are in flourishing conditions. A new school house was erected last fall in the middle of the Island for the more advanced scholars. Mr. Goodsell teaches this school, to the satisfaction of all. The two Misses Ward and Titus are premium teachers in the primary departments. Mr. Rush teaches the intermediate schools.

June 5, 1889

The commencement exercises of the Kelleys Island High School will take place June 7th at Kelley's Hall. Much credit is due Miss E. Schardt, the present teacher, as well as Supt. of Schools on the island. The schools here have been conducted on the graded system for a number of diplomas at the completion of the course.

December 18, 1889

MONTHLY REPORT -

KELLEYS ISLAND SCHOOLS

Dec. 13, 1889

PRIMARY NO. 1 -

Miss Mary Mahony, Teacher

Total enrolled - 39

PRIMARY NO. 2 -

Miss Ellen Bauman, Teacher

Total enrolled - 23

PRIMARY NO. 3 -

Miss Mary Roesch, Teacher

Total enrolled - 39

GRAMMAR SCHOOL -

Miss Nettie Cameron, Teacher

Total enrolled - 36

HIGH SCHOOL -

Miss Schardt, Teacher

Total enrolled - 38

Aug. 30, 1899

School begins Monday, the 28th inst. There has been quite a "Shake-up" among the teachers.

Mr. Hertlein, principal and teacher of the high school, married Miss Kelley of the grammar school. Both resigned. Miss Ida Smith became Mrs. Frank Rheinheimer. Therefore out of five teachers we will have three new ones. Mr. W. W. Overmeyer assumes the duties of principal and teacher of the High School. Miss Ellen Bauman is promoted to the grammar school; Miss Charlotte Ward's place; Miss Irene Mootz takes Miss Smith's place. The two latter are graduates of the Island schools.

April 10, 1901

Rumor has it our new School house will soon be started. We will rejoice when building is complete, as it will be far more convenient for Mr. W. W. Overmeyer. As schools now stand, Mr. Overmeyer has considerable walking to do in order to attend matters of business connected with the different schools on the Island.

August 28, 1901

400 people were at the Aug. 16 commencement.

November 20, 1901

The Sanduskians who were working at our new school finished Tuesday. The rooms will be ready for scholars in about a month.

January 1, 1902

The school board has purchased 100 new seats. Mr. Jordan is appointed janitor.

June 25, 1902

Five graduates this spring (names not listed)

Salutatory - Mary Kondick

Song and Recitation - A. Hauser

Recitation - Anetta Reynolds

October 14, 1903

Geo. Schardt is the new janitor of the school.

September 27, 1905

Our local school board has experienced great difficulty in securing the required number of teachers. Our public school expenses reach over \$2,000.00 per year.

The masons are building a large modern cistern at the new school building. The building should be ready next month."

SCHOOL HISTORY

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF KELLEYS ISLAND 1853 - 1906

INCLUDING EXCERPTS FROM THE SANDUSKY WEEKLY REGISTER

Addison Kelley, George Kelley, Edward Ward, Patrick Martin, Jesse Woodford, and Sylvester Dwelle were the first directors or school board members.

On December 18th, 1853 there was a new stone school building erected. The appropriation to run the school was \$430. They had an amount of \$806 in the school treasury.

In 1867 the board supported a German school.

APPEARING IN THE SANDUSKY WEEKLY REGISTER NOVEMBER 17, 1869 WAS THE FOLLOWING:

"A great deal of excitement has been caused here for the past two years by the introduction of religious services into our schools. Nearly every religious opinion has an advocate and any form of religious worship that could be introduced into our schools would find an opposing element. Prayer in school has broken up more schools than any other cause. People are not so constituted to think alike, and if religious or political opinions are insisted upon in schools, it will produce trouble.

"Children whose parents are opposed to the teachers' religious opinions get prejudiced against the teacher, and make a disturbance at prayer time, first, and it will afterwards continue through the school. It ends up in their getting flogged, and the parents take it up as much to get rid of a praying teacher as anything in school, if it is not wound up, ceases to be anything but a bond of contention in the neighborhood.

"When our schools were first opened, one of the teachers was informed that it would not be agreeable to some who sent children to school for her to have religious exercises before or during school, but if she would have prayer after school hours, no particular objection would be raised. This she refused to do, and those who were opposed to it applied to the Superintendent. He declined to act upon the matter and the Board of Education was resorted to.

"The Board being composed of two-thirds church members, it looked rather dark to the anti-prayer side of the question. However, a meeting of the Board was held last Friday, and after a warm discussion on the subject, it was decided that a teacher might have prayer immediately after the forenoon session. Of course, this compromise is not perfectly satisfactory to either party, but it will work perhaps until another election of officers can be held. The question heretofore was never asked what a man's religious opinions were when running for our township offices, and when the present Board of Education was elected the question as to whether they belonged to church or not was not thought of by most of those voting."

In 1870 the board thought in the best interest of the school to discontinue all religious exercises, either prayer or reading from the Bible. It was suggested that they use the Cameron house, (across the road from the school), for a school house. They found that this would cost too much to fix.

In 1874, the superintendent received \$100 per year for just being superintendent, while the teachers received \$35 per month. The superintendent supervised the four schools used then.

On April 28th, 1877, it was decided at a village election to build a new school in the center of the island to house about 60 pupils. The bid of \$1,080 was accepted and the building was to be completed by October 15th, 1877. This building is now called the Hideaway, located on the south side of the bridge on Division Street.

The board held a special meeting on the subject of tardiness and irregular attendance. It was decided that anyone who was absent or tardy four times a month without an excuse would be suspended from school or such action as the board decided proper.

In 1886, the board held a special meeting due to complaints of high school discipline. It was decided the board would visit the high school during school hours. In May of the same year the high school closed a month earlier than usual because the high school consisted of only 6 attending pupils.

At a meeting of December 23, 1886, there were charges brought against the principal by a parent because of partiality being shown regarding the various nationalities of the students. The principal denied the charges and the board upheld him.

On March 18, 1877, the board passed a ruling to suspend any pupil from school who threw parlor matches on the floor, or who left after the afternoon recess without permission. Also, in 1877, the board helped furnish a new jail because they later held school board meetings there.

At the meeting of January 5, 1889, the superintendent complained of so much tardiness that the board told him to set the clock back 10 minutes.

In 1890 the board decided to pay the teachers at the end of a month rather than at the end of a term as was previously done.

Miss Ida Smith, (Mrs. Ida Rheinheimer), was hired in 1893 to teach eight grades in one room at North Primary School, situated close to what is now the 4-H Club, at \$35 per month. She taught five years. Also in 1893 the State Board of Health adopted the following order:

"No child shall be permitted to attend any public, private, or parochial school without presenting satisfactory evidence of being successfully vaccinated."

The school board resolved to enforce this order and each child had to be vaccinated at 25¢ each.

In 1898 they decided to teach music in the schools and hired a woman to teach music at 50¢ per lesson per school once a week. It was also decided that the names of the graduates of each year should be entered in the school board records.

In 1898 (November), the board decided to rent the lower floor of the Congregational Church for class rooms for extra pupils.

During these years women were hired to sweep and mop the schools.

In July, 1900, the board accepted \$5,000 as part payment of the \$10,000 bequeathed by James Estes for the Central School. It was put into the building fund. On September 6th, 1900, they accepted the other \$5,000 and advertised for bids for building the school. It was found that they would need more than the \$10,000 given by James Estes to build and equip a modern central school, so they held a special election in June, 1901, to decide on the bond issue, and also whether the levy should be made from year to year until the cost of erection is completed. The election was held, but the bond issue lost.

It was decided then to change plans from a six room building to a four room building, adding the other two rooms later. They accepted the bid of George Doerzback (brother-in-law of Mrs. Jennie Ward). It was also decided to sell the other school buildings now in use. In September it was decided they couldn't get all the pupils in four rooms and would have to finish the other two rooms. When the school was completed July 1902, the bill-contract, plus extras, amounted to \$14,000. They paid Doerzback \$11,000 and signed a note for the remaining \$3,000. In June, 1902, they decided to bond the village under the Duering Law.

In 1903, the board voted against renting the old high school to the Kelleys Island Basketball Team.

It is interesting to note that when they started to heat the new school, they bought the same amount of coal per year as in 1950 — 60 tons — but in 1903 the price of coal was \$2.50 per ton. In 1950 it was almost \$13 per ton. Mr. Henry Jordan was hired as first janitor at \$350 per year.

In 1904, Arnold Scheele was hired to teach 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades at \$35 per month. In the same year, the board purchased a set of encyclopedias American, 16 volumes, for \$90.

On the 26th day of October 1925, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction issued a certificate establishing a four year high school.