



Making Kelleys Island History Everybody's Business

Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 10 Issue 1

Winter, 2013

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The Annual President's Report!



The KIHA Annual Meeting was held on August 11th, 2012. **President Charles Herndon** stated, "I want to start the meeting by acknowledging the contributions made by so many to the association and museum. Without these contributions of time, talent, cash, and energy, without the support, of you, the membership and island community, have offered, this historical association would, itself, be history instead of a vibrant and growing organization." Thanks, of course, is due to the board, **Roger Williams, Ila Dick, Anne Eddowes, Teri Behrends, Greg Ritchie, and Fred Walcott.**

Our museum coordinator for this summer and, she tells me, next, has been **Adrienne Luck**, recent graduate in anthropology and history from Kent State and, now, a graduate student in New Orleans. Adrienne's mother, **Bev**, filled in for the remainder of the 2012 season after her daughter moved on to graduate school. Adrienne coordinated volunteers with understanding and cheerfulness, managed the gift shop capably, learned a great deal about island history, and shared that knowledge with many visitors. We thank the **Luck Family** for putting on a dinner for all the volunteers.

Claudia Brown, on top of her duties as Village Clerk, has been putting our newsletter together over the last year. She brings to this job a great sense of island history and appreciation for the physical ties to our past that have become part of the museum. She has been helped in her job by **Jacquie Kranyak**, who had previously been putting the newsletter together. Thanks to both. To all volunteers, thank you so much, and thank you, **Franny Minshall**, for sticking with us and keeping us all in order. "

Oral History Project Update!

Jeri Dick Yoest and Cindy Herndon

Jeri Dick Yoest (daughter of the late Jim Himmelein and Ila Dick (Himmelein) has been investigating "Best Practices" in the area of oral histories. She has read and taken suggestions from NPR's Story Corp. She and her husband Kyle have helped tremendously as we began interviewing. We found ourselves fumbling with technology, lighting, sound, charged batteries, but with perseverance and lots of laughter, we accomplished our first three interviews. Paul Brown and Fritz Ziegler, Mary Ellen Bauman Wilke, and Florence "Sis" McKillips.

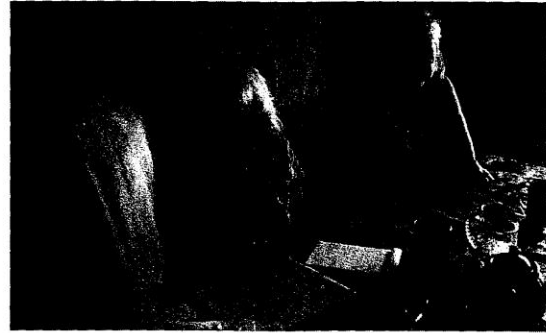
We are learning so much through this process. After our first interview, it was clear that sound from the digital camera was not adequate, so we were loaned a voice recorder from Stephen Celeste. We held a production meeting with Stephen Celeste who made some insightful suggestions and agreed to help compile the final products. He suggested splicing portions of the interviews to create a "preview tape" that could be used in the museum to show prospective families who might participate in the future. Steve thought we not require a family member to do the interview for gathering information because it could bring up emotional stuff that would not belong in the project. He commented also that as interviewers, we should be comfortable with spontaneity and let it add liveliness to the interview.

We are grateful to have Stephen on board and to work his magic as he edits and syncs the sound with video. We look forward to doing more interviews in the spring and summer of 2013. Let us know if you are interested in working on this project or have identified someone to interview.

Jeri and I met one afternoon this last fall and listened to a recording of Henry Beatty (Jeri's grandfather) who made a voice recording about his life on Kelleys Island. It was priceless. "So much to tell!" "Grapes, grapes, all over the place." Henry went on to tell about hiking from the southeast side of Kelleys to School. He would walk and skate every day during the winter. Hearing his voice was powerful and will be fun to share as this project evolves.

"All in all, I am delighted with the information we are beginning to collect. Each interview has revealed at least one little gem of information that has been forgotten in our common experience. With the Ziegler/Brown interview we were reminded that there were North fishing operations, in the North Bay where our local men toiled, as well as south operations, manned primarily by The Lay Brothers and their contingent. Mary Ellen Bauman spoke about "sharp shod horses" and described the need to change shoes on horses to suit the bitter icy winters, and Sis spoke about "water glass eggs", eggs that are preserved in a lime solution for when the chickens were not laying." comments Jeri. "I would like to continue this project, welcome suggestions on people to interview, as well as specific questions to ask."

It is our hope The KIHA Board will continue to support our initiatives.



The Mary Wielke Bauman Interview 2012



"Sis McKillips, Becky Overcashier, and Terri Betzenheimer Behrands interview in September, 2012



Paul Brown and Fritz Ziegler participated in the first Oral History Interview summer, 2012.

Thanks to Patti Fresch and Steve James, The Old Stone Church was decorated for the holiday season.

We extend Best Wishes to all for a Happy 2013!

(picture on the front page)

A Cleveland fisherman landed a sturgeon this last summer while fishing for perch. He exclaimed, "I never realized how sharp the armor plates were on it's back and sides and it's strength!" Read more about the STURGEON on pg. 4.

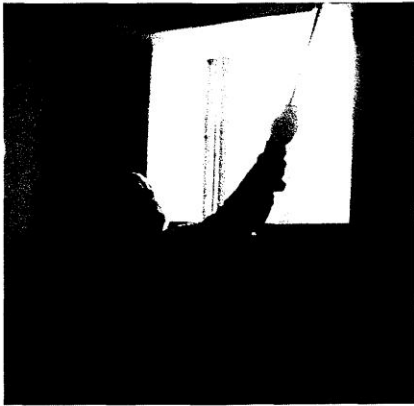
Acquisitions Team!

Sally Hiller

Members of the Acquisition Committee met on December 11th, 2012. We sorted through and tried to start organizing many of the pictures and artifacts that have been given to the museum.

The job is an enormous undertaking and is going to take many hours of detailed work trying to sort and catalog the pictures and artifacts. The museum has invested much money to get The Past Perfect Program up and running and is in the process of trying to combine all the information onto one central computer. We have four computers available for inputting the information, giving them identities, and cataloging the information. The program is wonderful for getting the information into one central location, but very time consuming. We are willing to train anyone interested in spending a couple of hours a week working behind the scenes to help input the information. Please contact Ila Dick, Acquisition chair by email at kimatt11@verizon.net or Cindy Herndon at herndonccb@gmail.com.

We need folks to volunteer. Consider being a docent, archivist, or schlepper.



The Old Stone Church bell was rung 28 times on December 21st, 2012 at 9:30 AM for those who died in Connecticut a week earlier.



Tall Ship, Appledore IV, coming to Kelleys Island on Labor Day Weekend, 2013

Kelleys Island is actively involved with the 2013 Battle of Lake Erie Celebration which takes place next Labor day weekend. This celebration takes place in the western basin of Lake Erie and is a multi-million dollar event that will include Tall Ship re-enactments, Navy Ships, Coast Guard Ships, the US Air Force, amazing fireworks and the list goes on and on.

Kelleys Island was invited to be a Host Port for a Tall Ship and to create an Island wide weekend Celebration. To make this happen, the 2013 Kelleys Island Tall Ship Group was created. The Group consists of Island Associations, Organizations, Societies, Businesses and Individuals-all working together as a team-to make this 4 day event exciting and enjoyable for everyone-Island residents and Visitors.

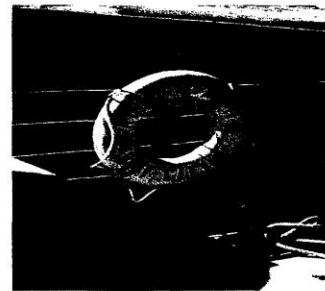
We asked the Kelleys Island Historical Association to become actively involved. In fact, Cindy Herndon and Greg Ritchie are part of our executive committee. Without the Sponsorship of the Kelleys Island Historical Association the financial and accounting aspects of this major event would have been pretty daunting and cumbersome.

So, what does this really mean to the island? First of all, this Event is a once in a lifetime Celebration that will attract thousands of visitors to the western basin. Historians and War Buffs, Families and Friends gathering to pay tribute to Admiral Perry. Kelleys Island will be providing Island wide Activities and Events for all to enjoy. The main focus will be on our Tall Ship, docked at Portside Marina and available for boarding and sail-away-cruises. The Memorial Park will host various vendors and the 4H Camp will host everything from a Hot Air Balloon Ride to actual 1812 Battle re-enactments and dozens of 1812 Period educational presentations and Period Vendors.

The Historical Association is right on the main route of activities and historical placards of the battle have already been put in place by Cindy and Chuck Herndon. Finally, donors who have contributed will have their name engraved on a permanent plaque that is planned to be located at the Historical Association. Any proceeds in excess of our expenses will be donated back to the Village of Kelleys Island and to be earmarked for a lasting project-yet to be defined.

So, Kudos to the Historical Association and "Thanks for Getting on Board!"

Sincerely,
Steve Merkel, Chairman
Kelleys Island 2013 Tall Ship Group



STURGEON

Claudia Brown

Sturgeon are big fish . Most of us know that lake sturgeon can still be found in Lake Erie. Every once in a while one is washed up on shore or caught by a sport fisherman. These are generally smaller than the specimens that appear in photographs from the twentieth century, such as the one that was made into a postcard and on display at the Kelleys Island Historical Assn.

Sturgeon is a common name for about twenty-six species in the fish family of Acipenseridae. It is a large primitive fish found in the northern regions of North America, Europe, and Asia. Sturgeon include the largest Russian sturgeon called beluga which is found in the Caspian and Black Seas. It can be 13 ft. long and weigh up to a ton. The Pacific sturgeon can weigh up to a half ton and be up to 12 ft. long. The rock or lake sturgeon is found in the Great Lakes and Mississippi valley. They were more abundant in Lakes Erie and Ontario, and in less numbers in the other Great Lakes. Smoked Sturgeon is a delicacy and sturgeon eggs are used in the better grades of caviar. Besides caviar, another product, isinglass, was made from the sturgeon's gas bladder.

Sturgeon come to us from the age of the dinosaur. Fossil records of sturgeon go back 150 to 200 million years and they have not changed much since then. Lake Erie was formed 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. Sturgeon are mostly cartilaginous, lacking a central vertebral column. The brown-green fish is covered with bony plates instead of scales. The average lake sturgeon's life span is 70 years, but some have been found that lived 125 years. There is evidence that Native Americans ate sturgeon meat and used the thick, tough skin like fabric, thousands of years ago.

Adult lake sturgeon average about 7 feet long and can weigh 60 to 200 pounds. They start spawning when about 20 years old and in 7 year cycles. They have been listed on the endangered species list. Sturgeon are generally seen swimming alone instead of traveling in groups or schools.

Sturgeon are bottom feeders. They do not have teeth. Sturgeon feed by sucking their food up through protruding lips. They feed on crayfish, snails, small fish, worms, algae, and larvae.

My father spoke about his father, Walter Brown, making caviar from sturgeon eggs harvested from Lake Erie sturgeon, caught by Kelleys Island fishermen. The sturgeon pictured was found on the rock beach on the east-side of Kelleys Island in 2002.



In Memory Gifts to KIHA

In memory of Marv Byers donated by Paul and Lois Brown, Jack and Linda Hostal, Frank and Laura Jean Pohorence

In memory of Marion Beatty donated by Ila Dick, Cynthia LaMarca.

In memory of Milton Blatt donated by Phil and Sharon Koenigseker, Dorothy Sprau, and Shirley McKillips.

In memory of Joan Brown donated by Ila Dick.

In memory of Jim Fitzgerald donated by Tom and Betty Volz.

In memory of Patrick Kadlec donated by Cindy and Chuck Herndon, Jan and Bob Ransom.

In memory of Chris Koenigseker donated by Shirley McKillips

In memory of Catherine Lange donated by Ruth Banteen, Judy Brown, Paul and Lois Brown, Ila Dick, Frank and Laura Jean Pohorence, and Jane and Bob Ransom.

In memory of Nadine Mack donated by Lois Bickley, William and Susan Bruner, Sarah Carver, Judy Dushane, Jean Holzaepfel, Paul and Ann McLaughlin.

In memory of Connie Matso donated by Ann Senish.

In memory of Frank Pohorence donated by Florence McKillips and Cindy and Chuck Herndon.

In memory of Phil Schneiter donated by Scott and Sharon Clark, Lance and Brenda Weatherwax, Kelly and Jean Schaefer, and "Friends of Phil".

In memory of Mary Lou Weiland donated by Shirley McKillips.

In memory of Nora Zettler donated by Jan and Bob Ransom.

Kelleys Island Historical Association

Memory Walk



Buy a brick with your name, boat, or loved one. Own a piece of Kelleys Island and leave your permanent mark.

Price for a small brick (4" x 8") \$100.00

Please engrave with (13 spaces, 2 lines)

Complete lines above and send with check for \$100.00 to KIHA.

OR

Price for a medium brick (6" x 8") \$135.00

Please engrave with (13 spaces per line, 4 lines)

Complete and send with check for \$135.00 to KIHA.

Kelleys Island Historical Association
PO Box 328
Kelleys Island, OH 43438

Donations and Artifact Gifts

Chris and Frank Yako donated a Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper article titled Kelleys Island Prepares to Observe its Centenary from Sunday August 19th, 1994. The museum is working on a plan to preserve the article and have it available for visitors to read.

Geraldine Betzenheimer donated a picture of the Grand Stand, across from the Catholic Church, and the photo of the class of 1931. She also donated musings of 1931, written by her mother in in the early 1990's, about the island and it's economy. This essay will be fully seen in the next issue.

Henry R. Timman Donated a book found in Norwalk from The Captain Hamilton Estate used as a Hotel Register. In June he also donated a Kelley Family Bible to **Leslie Korenko**, who accepted it on behalf of the KIHA. Also, donated this year was a Addison and Ann Kelley Family Bible published in 1829. Leslie Korenko donates her time as a volunteer at The KIHA Museum and shares history in her books, having received the 2012 Henry Howe Award for outstanding Ohio history books. This award is presented by the Ohio Genealogical Society.

Polly Burns donated salt and pepper shakers and a candy dish glass blown bowl owned and used by Katherine Hamilton. You can now see these in our museum.

Micki Riedy Wiles donated two wooden school desks from Estes School.

Gary Seymour donated a 3 foot model of The Everett S. Fishing Boat, handmade by Walter Seymour. Walter Seymour lived and fished on KI in the 1920's. He also ran The General Store for some years. Also donated was a painting of The city of Buffalo.

Irene Schiefer from Attica, Ohio donated a journal about the installation of the Electric Line from Marblehead to Kelleys Island. This is now on display at The KIHA Museum. Her grandfather was the man responsible for heading this major project. His name was Ralph J. Williams. People called him R.J. This project took place in 1953.

Anne Eddowes made wonderful donations to KIHA in many ways for summer, 2012. Before leaving in the fall, she contributed a generous donation to The KIHA for The Tall Ship Project Labor Day of 2013.

Donations for KIHA by **The Robert Luckay Family** and **Jim and Karen Erne**.

Thanks to all for your donations!

**MAKING KELLEYS ISLAND HISTORY
EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**

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

A 501(C)3 organization.
All contributions are tax
deductible.



Kelleys Island Historical Association

We're on the web!
kelleysislandhistorical.org

Kelleys Island Historical Association

P. O. Box 328

Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438

Membership Application—Membership runs from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31

Please give us the address you want your newsletter sent to:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ - _____

Membership Categories

- All fees are annual except Life membership
- () Individual Membership \$15
 - () also check here for 2 or more Individual memberships but just one newsletter sent to one address
 - () Family Membership \$25
 - () Business Membership \$30—includes business card size ad in one issue of newsletter
 - () Patron Membership \$100
 - () Life Membership \$500—once

(office use only below this line -----)

Paid: \$

Received by: _____