

# Kelleys Island Historical Association

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## Upcoming Events

### May 16

Free Museum Day

### August 1

Arts & Crafts Show

### August 8

Annual Meeting and Program

**Sept. 12**-Yard Sale & Butterfly Festival

## Board Members

Charles Herndon, President

Leslie Korenko, Secretary

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Behrends, Vice President

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Andrew Muskara

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Greg Ritchie, Tax Preparer

Cindy Herndon, Newsletter

Leslie Korenko, Website



**Our Sport Fishing on Lake Erie Exhibit** will open at the Kelleys Island Historical Association in May 16th, 2015. The exhibit will explain the timing of the first Ohio resident fishing licenses. There will be a focus on government policy changes for commercial fisherman and the evolution of fishing for fun. Artifacts and fishing tales are being gathered as this is being written. We will have old fishing rods, lures of many kinds and purpose, mounted fish and species identification, the management of fish in the lake in the early days and now. May 16 is International Museum Day and admission is free.

Be sure to bring your family and friends as there will be something for everyone. Those of us working on the exhibit are learning as we go. If any of our members or friends of members think they have something to offer the exhibit, we welcome additional items and participation.

On August 8th, 2015 we will have a speaker, Tory Gabriel, from Sea Grant/OSU who will talk about The History of Lake Erie Fishing. He participates the research teams and will have current information to share as well.

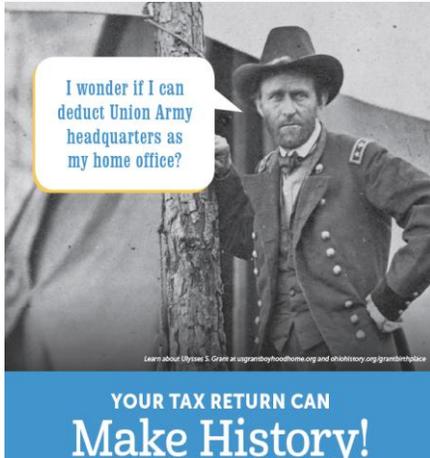
We are also interested in inviting new members and volunteers.

Right - David Diemer learning how to clean perch with his Grandpa, Bob Overcashier.

May 16 – Kelleys Island is participating in International Museum Day, offering free admission and a family friendly activity. We are thinking about letting people experience Ice Fishing in a shanty (but without the ice). Sounds like FUN!

**LOOK WHAT WE FOUND** – Rev. C. E. Haley of St. Michael's Church “has formulated plans to organize an association to be known as Kelleyites, Incorporated, its membership to consist principally of persons who do not reside the year around on the island.” He proposed an annual Homecoming Day. It is unclear whether the Dollar-A-Year Club ever got off the ground. Haley served his Island flock from 1942-1956.





**Donate to Ohio History on your Ohio tax return and help support history projects in local communities that invest in Ohio's economy.** The funds generated through the Ohio History "tax check-off" are made available through a competitive matching grants program, the History Fund. The [History Fund](#) supports the preservation and sharing of Ohio's heritage by supporting local projects, programs, and events related to Ohio's history. Other ways to support the History Fund Grant Program - Your Ohio tax return is just one way you can support history projects in your local community. You can also give directly to the Ohio History Connection and designate your gift to the "History Fund."

REMEMBER, you can [donate directly to the Kelleys Island Historical Association](https://kimuseum-public.sharepoint.com/donate-now) using our handy online payment system: <https://kimuseum-public.sharepoint.com/donate-now>

**ICE FISHING JANUARY 1885** - "Last evening [January 30] I took a bird's-eye view of 'Fishtown.' It is pleasantly situated at the north side bay, and when first laid out had some fine streets and avenues, but the ice has compelled the inhabitants to move back to Herring avenue. Fred Elfers, Captain Moore and others reside there and are doing a good business. Capt. Moore has a contract to furnish his friends with fish free gratis. Charley Fisher is leading almost a hermit's life on Fisher's avenue, there being but one other resident on that thoroughfare. 'Honest John' Titus is a new resident of the finny city and likes the place very much. James Titus and Andrew Cameron, two venerable gentlemen of Kelley's Island are participators of the sport. Titus Hamilton is also taking an active part, Mr. John Cameron took to Sandusky last Friday 5 barrels of speared fish."

On February 28 it was reported that Henry Lang [Lange] speared a herring weighing 1½ pounds... Captain Dwelle has sold his spear, deserted his shanty, and will retire from fishing for the balance of the season. Andrew Cameron, an old resident of the Island, has speared fish enough this season to buy a good suit of clothes as the result.

### **The Kelleys Island Historical Association receives Ohio History Connection Grant for Marker.**

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation awarded winners last fall. The Kelleys Island Historical Association was the recipient for one award, a marker for the German Reform Church/Church Parsonage. The marker will chronicle the history of this small congregation, active from the 1860's to the early 1940's. The William Pomeroy Foundation from Syracuse, New York has worked with The Ohio History Connection's Local Office to offer grants throughout Ohio to specifically erect Historical Markers. This same Foundation was successful in conducting a very active historical marker program in New York State.

According to the Local Historian Publication, "Markers funded by The William G. Pomeroy foundation shall meet one or both criteria: 1) the person, place, event, or thing commemorated must have a period of significance which falls between the years 1800 and 1900 or 2) the marker must designate properties or districts on the National Register of Historic Places." To further educate yourself about visit [wgpfoundation.org](http://wgpfoundation.org) or contact Andy Verhoff, project coordinator for the markers, in the Ohio History Connection's Local History Office. 614 297-2341 or [averhoff@ohiohistory.org](mailto:averhoff@ohiohistory.org). As the spring becomes summer, we look forward to receiving and placing the marker.

**OUR COLLECTION** - Leslie Korenko has been working hard to get all the backlogged items in our collection cataloged and scanned, adding almost 1000 additional items. Patti Fresch is busy learning our new, updated, Past Perfect program. At this point, a list of all the items cataloged appears on our website in Word format. This means you can [download the list](#) and use Word to search to find items. This is so much more convenient. We have received several donations that will be reviewed at our first Board meeting in June.

**RUTH FROST PARKER DIES AT 92** - We were saddened to learn of the death of philanthropist Ruth Frost Parker on February 14th, 2015. "She had a big heart and great mind for how to put the resources she was lucky to have in life for the benefit of Sanduskians and did so in a very smart and leveraged way." "Her father's company, Aluminum Magnesium, Inc. did well particularly during WWII and the post war years, supplying magnesium aluminum alloys for making airplanes. Vulcan Materials Company bought the company in 1976." Ruth majored in Biology and chemistry at The College of Wooster, graduating in 1945, then going to train at Northwestern Medical School. She was employed at Good Samaritan Hospital as their chief medical technologist.



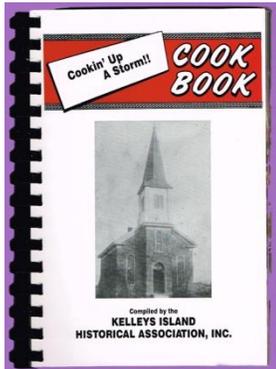
Past Board Member, Anne Eddowes, was a long-time friend of Ruth. Anne wrote several grants for projects at The Kelleys Island Historical Association, and Ruth was very supportive. The Frost-Parker Foundation gave a large grant to assist in the completion of the new museum building. In addition, the Foundation gave a grant to build the brick walk from the parking lot to the church entrance. Just this past fall, KIHA was awarded another grant to complete a drainage system for the Old Stone Church. The Kelleys Island Historical Association plans to install a

plaque in the church in Ruth Frost Parker's memory.

**Drainage Project Update:** The drainage project seems to be working well as the spring melts ice and snow. The parsonage drainage grant project, funded by The Erie County Community Foundation, includes indoor work that needs to be completed this spring. The parsonage has a fruit cellar that is wet and moldy. The plan includes cleaning it, then filling it in with stone and cement. This will prevent further mold buildup. A sump pump will be installed under the church in the low area under the Northeast corner.

#### **A COOKBOOK BLAST FROM THE PAST**

We were really excited when we found a box of these cookbooks, published in 1982, but we were surprised when this cookbook was mentioned on [Kelleys Island Faces from the Past](#). When we posted that we had copies – the interest was overwhelming, so we put buttons on the site that will allow you to purchase it online. We hope, someday soon, to have a full-fledged online store. This book is now [available on our website](#) – just go to [www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org) and click on *Island History* (this book is near the bottom of the page). Just complete the order form and we will send it out to you.



Board member, **Kevin Pape**, shared a link which references 100 blogs created by museums and curators from around the world which are arranged topically and useful resources. [museummedia.nl/links/100-best-curator-and-museum-blogs/](http://museummedia.nl/links/100-best-curator-and-museum-blogs/)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - The backbone of any good organization is its volunteers. Why not get involved? We have 2-hour shifts open in the Gift Shop (always fun); scanning collection items (help us preserve this Island's historical items); Transcribe cassettes for our Oral History project; we always need help with Yard Work (weeding, spraying, trimming); Bug Spray and sweep webs from the porch (twice a year); we always need extra hands for special events.

**WEBSITE/FACEBOOK** - We have received such positive feedback on our website redesign and we continue adding features ([www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org)). We simplified the site menu and added a handy option to [Donate](#) and [Join](#) online. You'll never have to use a stamp again. It is our hope that we will be putting some of our more popular Gift Shop items online, but for now, Island History has almost all our books ready to order.

Be sure to LIKE our Facebook page ([Kelleys Island History Museum](#)) to keep up with all the news. We post items from our website, some historical pictures (thanks Rick Holmes for sharing), and tidbits and stories from the Island's past. We now have over 300 followers and the comments are Great! Be sure to check out [Kelleys Island Faces from the Past](#) – a new page dedicated to posting old Island pictures in hopes that someone can help identify those pictured. Loads of great photos here.



**DONATIONS** - It is the generosity of our members that helps us keep this museum operating and the Old Stone Church open. We thank the following people who went the extra mile to make a donation.

SUPPLIES - Anne Eddowes

GENERAL – Margaret Leyden

YEAR-END DONATIONS – Kenneth & Polly Burns, Don & Dee Hartley, Mark & Jackie Kettunen, Duane & Lee Kuentz, Virginia Leidheiser, Cindy & Bill Leonard, Ron & Elaine Lickfelt, Allen & Diane Nickles, Barbara O’Conner, Robert & Mary Quillen, John & Dee Spirk.

**IN HONOR OF** - It is with great sadness that we honor Island families who have lost loved ones. It was also very generous that these families recommended that donations be made to the Historical Association. We offer our sympathies to the families who lost loved ones and we thank the following people for making donations in their names.

JOHN LANGE - Ruth Bandeen, of Bowling Green; Anne Shaw of Shelby NC; Al & Carrie Tipton of Hilton Head SC; and Esther Carlson of Decatur. (Mr. Lange was a brother to Hugh Lange and wrote a book about growing up on Kelleys Island and his experience in WWII; the museum has a copy.)

MELISSA FEYEDELEM – Vi Feyedelem (Melissa was a daughter-in-law of Vi and Mike. Melissa was married to Captain Mike Feyedelem and shared happy times on Kelleys Island.)

‘HOOKS’ & HENRIETTA LANGE SEEHOLZER – Kyle & Jeri Yoest ( Jeri remembers Hooks and Henrietta Lange Seeholzer fondly. Hooks called her “Bubblegum Jeri” as she was a young girl who chewed gum often. Jeri and Kyle are enjoying making donations in memory of those from years in the past to bring back their memory)

A. J. FRESCH – George Ruta Family, Ralph Ruta, Mike Ruta, Margaret Kelsey, Paul & Ruth Ruthsatz, Joan Chamberlain, Brad & Georgiana Richard, The Malishenkos, Roger & Deb Gundlach, Jude & JoAnne Theibert, Philip Whitt, Chuck & Cindy Herndon, Firelands Electric, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Chernus, Charles Pascoe, The Dugans, Ann MacDonald, David & Alexa Woodburn, Laura Jean Pohorence, Bob & Carol Schnittker, Jim, Jody, Ben, Lauren & Patrick Sennish, Jim & Pam Vaccaro, Dan Ahner, Neil & Bronya Strosnider, IBEW 129, Shelley & David Veverka, Brian Babcock, Sandi Halsey, Sharon & Jeff Dubois ( In January, The Fresch/Martin Family experienced the devastating loss of A. J. Fresch, the son of Lizabeth and Dan Fresch, and grandson of Jake and Jesse Martin who have, over the years, been huge supporters of the Kelleys Island Historical Association. Jake and Jesse were among the initial founders of the organization. It is with heavy hearts that we thank the Fresch Family.)

REV. JAMES VERBER – Geraldine Betzenheimer (Ruth, daughter of Kelleys Island Family Leslie and Henrietta Beatty married Reverend Verber)

ROBERT SCHNITTKER – *In February, the Schnittker Family experienced the loss of Bob Schnittker at 85 years young. Bob was a graduate of The Kelleys Island Estes School in 1947. He then went on to serve in Germany as a medic pilot and The Korean War. He was a Charter Member of The Kelleys Island Historical Association and we appreciate the time and support he gave to the Association. He was a true Kelleys Island man, a gentleman always.* Donations received from: Chuck & Cindy Herndon, Bruce & Leslie Korenko, Terri & Bill Stevenson, Laura Jean Pohorence, Linda Fox, Patricia LeClair, Erie Co. Prosecutor’s Office, Dan & Lizabeth Fresch, Mary Lawrence, John Towle, David Blatt

The Kelleys Island Historical Association has a new business member

Vi and Mike Feyedelem - **Vi’s Treasures.**

Thank you Vi and Mike.

If you are a Kelleys Island business, consider supporting The Historical Association you can [join online.](#)

**LOTS AND LOTS OF NEW ITEMS - STOP IN AND SEE THEM!**

**Vi's Island Treasures**  
*Vi Feyedelem Proprietor*  
 Clothing • Fine Gifts • Jewelry • Collectibles

NEW CUSTOM K.I. GOLD & DIAMOND PENDANT...  
 STERLING SILVER BLACK DIAMOND PENDANT...  
 OHIO STATE Beads+Sparkle Life Beads & LOTS OF NEW BEADS (WILL FIT MOST BEAD BRACELETS)

Featuring: Local Artist Kristen Stein, Ben Richmond Prints, Christine Alexander Clothing, Kitty Critter Frogs, Willravage Collectibles, Woodstock Windchimes, Smitel Island Dinnerware

212 E. LAKESHORE DR.  
 KELLEYS ISLAND, OH  
 419-746-2268

**ANNUAL MEETING** - Our Annual Meeting will be Saturday, August 8 and we have some great activities planned. There will be a guest speaker and maybe a few surprises. As happens every year, there will be an election to fill two Board seats that expire.

**MAKING MAPLE SYRUP ON KELLEYS ISLAND** - The weather has been just right for the sap to flow. It is a reminder that spring is not too far off. Brother Ed, Big Dick, and Chicago have been gathering sap and making syrup for several years now. The learning process only makes better syrup; one year the open fire they cooked on made the syrup smokey, another year they overcooked it and it became candy. This year they report three quarts of really good syrup. Below: Chicago, Brother Ed, and Big Dick making maple sugar on Kelleys Island. They have been doing this for several years. Great Work, gentlemen.....this is the kind of fun one has in the winter on Kelleys Island.



**A LITTLE SWEET HISTORY** - The First written account of maple sugaring in North America appeared in 1557, written by André de Thevet, a French monk, in *Le Singularites de la France Antarctique*.

A little closer to home, our thanks to Leslie Korenko for these tidbits about Maple trees and Maple Sugar on the island. According to one history “The first white settler upon the island of whom anything is known, was a Frenchman by the name of Cunningham. He was an Indian trader, so called, buying of the Indians their furs, maple sugar and peltry, and furnishing them in exchange such articles as they needed or fancied, as blankets, trinkets, and doubtless also whiskey; in those days considered a staple article in the stock of an Indian trader. This Cunningham came to the island about the year 1808, as nearly now can be ascertained.”

Cunningham’s point was once covered with Maple trees and was often referred to as Carpenter’s maple grove [a popular camping ground].

In the cemetery deed dated 1895, a Maple Tree, one foot in diameter, was used as a boundary marker for the cemetery when another 1.33 acres was purchased from Fred and Matilda Meyer.

In March 1966 we find our first reference to Maple Syrup – “As spring approaches collecting sap from the Maple tree becomes the rage and so indefatigable are they in their efforts to procure a little of this saccharine fluid that we begin to wonder if they have not, like some old people, got sap on the brain.”

Another photo from our collection: Kelleys Island residents who had been ice fishing. L to R: Andrew Sennish, Norman Blatt, George Lenyo, Fritz Moeck, Herman and Emily Geyersbarger, Paul Perruchon, Ray Kieffer. They are standing by a heater.



Kelleys Island Historical Association

PO Box 328  
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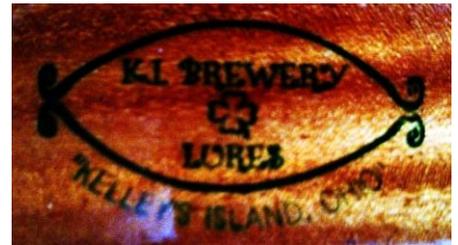
A 501 c 3 organization  
Your contributions are deductible.

Let's make history together!

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

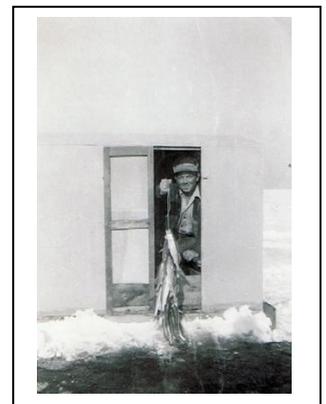
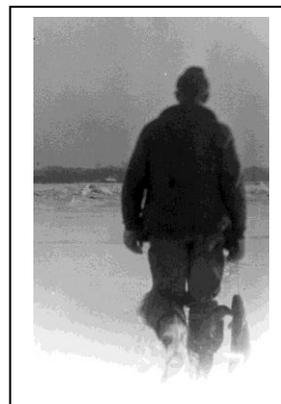
Facebook: Kelleys Island History Museum

Doug Muranyi, Kelleys Island Brewery Brewmaster, has another interest to share, LURES. His lures are called *Lucky Lures* and are sold at The Brewery. In our Sport Fishing Exhibit, Doug tells his how he became interested in lures and making them. He states: "I grew up in Toledo, fishing Lake Erie was part of my life. My father and two brothers were avid sportsmen. Designing our own lures and fishing with them was part of our family fun. I can remember my father having handcrafted lures in his tackle box that he never used. My father had a saying 'some lures catch fish and some lures catch men'. I never understood until after starting KI Lucky Lure Company what he meant."



Come to the exhibit; you will learn the process, the design, and what the lures catch.

### WINTER FISHING



**Ice Fishing:** From L to R: from Eric Longbrake, taken this winter 2015. The next three are from the museum's collection; Geraldine Bickley, William John Lange walking with his catch and Roy Erne in his ice shanty.