

Kelleys Island Historical Association

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The First Ohio Historical Marker on Kelleys Island

On August 8th, The Kelleys Island Historical Association dedicated the first Ohio Historical Marker on Kelleys Island at The German Reformed Church. Andy Verhoff from Ohio History Connection said a few words and unveiled our new plaque.



Ohio History Connection
commends the
Kelleys Island Historical Association & the William G. Pomeroy Foundation

for furthering knowledge of our state's heritage by placing an Ohio Historical Marker on

August 8, 2015

which chronicles the history of the German Reform Church and Parsonage, which spans decades as an active congregation from the Civil War to World War I, its years under the care of church's Ladies Aid Society though the 1950s, and its role in the 21st century under the stewardship of the Kelleys Island Historical Association.

Burt Logan
 Executive Director

OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION

Glenda S. Greenwood
 President

Since 1957, the Ohio History Connection has administered the Ohio Historical Markers Program, placing more than 1,500 markers throughout the state that identify historically significant sites, events, and people.



In the name and by the Authority of
THE STATE OF OHIO

John R. Kasich and Mary Taylor
 Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Ohio
do hereby officially recognize the
GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH AND PARSONAGE
 UPON THE PLACEMENT OF AN OHIO HISTORICAL MARKER

We commend all those involved, in cooperation with Ohio History Connection, for raising awareness of our state's unique heritage by erecting an Ohio Historical Marker. Historical markers reflect and honor the people, places and events associated with our state's rich history, and through this reflection, encourage appreciation of our past as we look to our future. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring our state's history is preserved and remembered.

On this 8th day of August 2015:

John R. Kasich
 Governor

Mary Taylor
 Lieutenant Governor

Certificates of Recognition were received from Governor Kasich and Marcy Kaptur for recognition of our first Ohio History Marker. (above left) A big thank you to Leslie Korenko for writing the grant and Kyle Yoest and Bear for capturing the event with video.

(far right) Wilbur Ramsey, with his family attended the dedication. Wilbur is 95 years old and lived on



Kelleys Island from 1932-1936. He is the son of Wilbur D. Ramsey who was the Protestant preacher at what is now the Zion Church.

(Right) Board Member Andrew Muskara with speaker, Tory Gabriel after the full-house lecture on the "History of Fishing,"

(Left) Ila Dick leaving the German Reformed Church. She is KIHA Board Member Emerita.



The 2015 Exhibit - The Kelleys Island Historical Museum Sport Fishing Exhibit was a great success. But it is time to close the exhibit for the season. So many community members made an effort to loan the museum some of their special lures, rods, and trophy fish and we thank you. The guest speaker at our Annual Meeting was Tory Gabriel from OSU Extension Office. His topic was "The History of Fishing." It was well attended and many want to see him return to KI for more hands-on experience and his wisdom about Fish and Lake Erie Issues. Following the talk, members and visitors attended the dedication of The Historical Marker. Here are Renee and Chris Rinehart attending the session with Tory Gabriel in The Old Stone Church.



German Reform Church Storm Windows - Why not sponsor one?

We continue to restore and stabilize The German Reformed Church, The Old Stone Church, our centerpiece. We have restored the interior plaster, painted the walls and ceiling, installed heat and air conditioning, treated the floors and woodwork, fully insulated the attic area, repaired the steeple, shored up the floor (partially), repaired the roof, and put in perimeter drainage. Unfortunately, the church windows now are in bad repair. They are single pane, installed as replacement windows in 1996, but the frames are deteriorating. In winter, condensation literally pours down the windows, damaging the recently repaired plaster and woodwork. We have received various estimates and the lowest was \$2200 per window. Why not sponsor a window? Three Board members and one community member have already agreed to pay for a window. That leaves five windows remaining. We need your help. Become a benefactor and Sponsor a Window, or gather some friends together and sponsor a window. Your generosity will be inscribed on a plaque placed on the sill of 'your' window.



Did YOU ring the bell?

Sister Judy Friedel O. T. from Westlake, Ohio was one of many who got to ring the bell at The German Reformed Church on Treasure Island Day. For a donation of \$1.00, individuals and families got to ring the church bell. This event brought smiles to many and the bell rang beautifully all day.

Donations

Donations were made to the Kelleys Island Historical Assoc. in memory of: Jake Martin – Paul & Ruth Ruthsatz, Charles & Cindy Herndon, Lois & Paul Brown, Nancy McKeen, Norma Bakewell, Mary & Dan Bauer, Michelle & Joseph Gerhardstein, Richard & Patricia Babcock, Keith & Louise Newton, David & Rita Price, Marylyn Hedburg, Bob & Jan Ransom; Frank Yako – Jacquie Kranyak, Bob & Jan Ransom; Fran Minshall – Jacquie Kranyak; Frances Toepfer – Roger & Madeleine Williams; A. J. Fresch – Tim Wrenn; Robert Behlen - Bob & Jan Ransom; and General: Ruth Bandeen



HALLOW'EN October 1869

“The last evening in October is supposed to be the favorite time for Fairies, mischief-making beings, &c., to be about. That evening this year being Sabbath evening, the young folks in this vicinity decided it would be more proper for them to come Saturday, the 30th. Quite a number of leading spirits, still in the flesh, assembled at West Point to ‘pull the rail,’ ‘burn the nuts,’ and several other tricks said to be legitimate business on that night. We did not hear of their seeing any Fairies or other spirits, except when they looked in the glass.”

“It is one of the frequent inconsistencies of nature that Halloween customs once prevailed largely among the cool, clear-headed Scots. One way of questioning the future was for the young people to go blindfolded to the kale (or cabbage) yard and pull up the kale stalks. According as the stalk seized is large or small, straight or crooked, so will be the future spouse. The quantity of earth clinging to the roots denoted the amount of property possessed by the unknown one, and the taste of the pith indicated the temper, whether sweet or sour.

Another custom was to go out after dark and sow a handful of hempseed and go through the motions of harrowing it with a stray branch or anything that came to hand, at the same time saying: ‘Hempseed, I sow thee; he that is to be my true love, come after me and pull thee.’ Then, on glancing over the left shoulder, the face of one’s lover will be seen. It ought to go hard with a young man who, on a dark night, could not make certain that his pretty sweetheart should catch a glimpse of the right face.

Nuts and apples are closely associated with Hallowe’en. Apple seeds were named and thrown into the fire where their movements indicated the future behavior of those whose names they bore. Apples entered into the more rollicking sports. A horizontal stick was hung from the ceiling by a string, having on one end a candle and on the other an apple. The stick was set revolving and the participants in the game, with hands tied behind the back, endeavored to bite the apple as it turned. It will not need many trials to convince one that it is not an easy task.

Another game similar is bobbing for apples. Into a tub nearly filled with water were put as many apples as would float easily. Then each one with his hands tied behind him endeavored to seize an apple with his teeth. These are the social games and spells. There were others containing an element of the weird and mysterious, those that must be carried through in silence and solitude. A maiden who combed her hair before a mirror at midnight, eating an apple the while, keeping her eyes steadily fixed upon the mirror, would see her future husband come and look over her shoulder.

Another weird and mysterious charm was to go at night to a burn or brook, where ‘three lairds’ lands meet,’ and dip your left sleeve in the running water. Then go home and go to bed, hanging the sleeve to dry before the fire. At midnight your true love will come and turn the sleeve to dry the other side. The large rooms and immense fireplaces of old times, with blazing logs casting flickering lights over the walls and dense, swaying shadows into the corners, were very favorable to trying Hallowe’en charms.”

The Annual Arts & Crafts Show

This show was huge this year with tents in the front AND back yards. But everyone wanted to know where the ISLAND artists were? Let us know if you are interested in participating in 2016 (on August 6th). A big thanks to those who participated: **Laura Cheges** - Brings back her unique hand-sewn cloth items. Many of these are available in our Gift Shop. **LCHEGES@neo.rr.com** **Leslie Korenko - Author** - Leslie's great History Books about the Island (FIVE in all) are available on her website **www.KelleysIslandStory.com** or in the **Museum Gift Shop**. Some people call this The Definitive History of Kelleys Island, we just call it Extraordinary. **Deanne Conley - Natural Wonder Design** - Check out her gemstone jewelry and charms and beads made from vintage keys and recycled glass bottles. Deanne's website is:

https://www.etsy.com/shop/deanneconley **Teresa Puckett** - Her photos are magnificent! and the cards - well, they sold like hot cakes **drtpuckett@gmail.com** **Jean Ann Geist - Author** of the book - Only on the Radio -

Unfortunately Jean Ann could not make it, but her books are available in our **Gift Shop** and at **www.JeanAnnGeist.com**. **Debbie Evans** - Quite the most unusual handmade jewelry,



particularly the ones made with old keys! <https://www.etsy.com/shop/cutesyandfun> **Jennifer Calvin - Jewelry Box Rocks** - featuring one of a kind gemstone jewelry made with silver, copper, brass and gold. <http://jewelryboxrocks.indiemade.com/> **Nandhini Gopalan** - Earrings, necklaces, and bracelets, framed photos and abstract paintings. Contact them at: Nandhini.gopalan@gmail.com **Jill Baker - Nauti Bling** - Everything nautical including jewelry, bags, scarves and accessories. Visit her website: <http://nautibling.com/> **Stacy Eberwein - Younique** - Cosmetics & skin care products <https://www.youniqueproducts.com/stacyfabianeberwein> **Tom Heckman - Tom's Bottles** - Crafts using re-purposed wine and other bottles and recycled materials including lamps, very cute penguins, wind chimes and a lot more. You can find out more about Tom's Bottles by emailing him at toheck.ops@gmail.com

Items Added To Our Collection

Our thanks to all the generous people who donated items to our collection. Just a few were:

NOWAK FAMILY HISTORY - File containing family history, pictures and stories about the Nowak family. Arrived on Island in 1888 and lived in William D. Kelley's House near the brick oven at the State Park. **THE KOBS FAMILY** - Framed photographs of the KIL&T Co. Engine No. 22, new in 1904, retired in 1944, scrapped in 1934. Photo taken at Marblehead quarry; Engine No. 3 and Steam Shovel No. 16, includes a specification list. **RUSS MATSO** - Model of the Tin Goose. Was on display in 2014. Item donated by Chuck & Cindy Herndon. **SENIOR BASEBALL LEAGUES** - Tri-fold display featuring photos from the big Senior game of 2006, no names. **CHARLES 'JAKE' MARTIN FAMILY** - Collection of Kelleys Life newspapers from 2005 and one from 2007; KIHA newsletters from 2004 to 2011; Collection of newspaper articles dating from 1971 to 1990. Letter - From W. Robert Grunder of Pepper Pike OH to Mrs. Martin, inquiring about the book she wrote. Letter tells the story of his first visit in 1927 and their stay at Sunset Point, owned by the Wiese family. The property was sold around 1943 to Navorska "and turned it into a hotel with a few cabins near it." A second letter describes the interior layout of the house. **WILES** - *Micki Riedy Wiles is the daughter of Iola Riedy. These items belonged to Iola.* Wood relief picture of a sail boat, framed, no glass and wood carving relief picture, made by Canoe Boat Bob, Put-in-Bay Ohio, winter of 1975. Framed with glass. **BILL & JUNE CAMPBELL** - Collection of 45 postcards from Kelleys Island, Sandusky, Put-in-Bay, various miscellaneous boats and some others. **SONIA TAYLOR** Civil War Canteen (not found on the Island). **ILA DICK** - Textiles including 2 Pillowcases made from flour sacks. 'Larabee's' Best Flour, the Flour that Satisfies. The open edge is crocheted. Three small dresses, may have been for a large doll. **COCHRAN** Photographs and Letter dated 2-14-1948 from Attorney Lewis Marquart to Wilbur A. Cochran transmitting the Warranty Deed (from Elise Becker as administrator of the Estate of Reuben George Becker) Wilbur sold: the property to the police chief from Marion Ohio about 1956. *There were a few more, and they will appear in the next newsletter.*

The Yard Sale And Butterfly Tagging Thanks to Pat and Lori Hayes, Mr. Behlen, Judy DuShane and others who helped with the tagging process. At one count, there were over 60 people attending Pat's talk and all the butterflies were adopted. The yard sale was busy all day with 10 tables full of items to choose from. Surprisingly, many people who closed down THEIR yard sales, brought their left-over items to OUR yard sale. Top left photo, a happy camper with a his adopted Monarch butterfly, (middle) just a few morning folks looking at treasure island goods, (right) photo shows members Laura Jean Pohorence, Ed Frindt, and Mary Wilke working the Quilt table. (Thanks again to Terri Betzenheimer Behrends for making this year's beautiful quilt.) There's a little more on the quilt on the back page.



Excerpts From The President's Report from the Annual Meeting, August 8th, 2015

from Chuck Herndon

"I am going to report on the association's activity during this last year and on what we might expect to be doing in this next year. In the fall of 2014, through the efforts of Anne Eddowes, we obtained two substantial grants, one from the Ruth Parker Foundation and another from Erie County Community Foundation, totaling over \$11,000. The grant from The Parker Foundation has gone to a drainage project, still ongoing, designed to keep water from pooling under the church. The grant from the Erie County Community Foundation has gone for a similar project around and in the parsonage, also still ongoing. Unfortunately, Ruth Parker died in February of this year. She is remembered fondly for providing substantial funding for the completion of our new museum and for the brick walkway between the church and the parking lot.

The transfer of the website from Delores Cole (who constructed it and maintained it for years and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude) to Leslie Korenko was accomplished. Leslie has done a great job on the upgrade of the website, which now includes a wealth of information that should be of interest to all of our members and to the wider community as well. Leslie has also devoted time and energy to our Facebook page, which has attracted a large following.

Thanks to Jeri Yoest and our copyright attorney, Steven Evans, with whom the board had a long meeting, we now have a better understanding of the issues that relate to copyright, assignments of copyright, deeds of gift, and restrictions that can be placed on the use of material we develop, and, importantly, we now have the appropriate forms to use in the oral history project and in our acceptance of donations. Over the fall and winter Jeri Yoest worked on the transcription of oral histories taken by her and others. Some of the histories include interviews with Ila Dick, Sis McKillips, Mary Ellen Bauman, Jake Martin, and an interview with Fritz Ziegler and Paul Brown together on a sofa. Her work, the oral histories, are now in our museum and can be read there. Jeri was careful, respectful, and her work is well-done....and a lot of work.

I want to thank and give recognition to our great volunteers, who give time to the museum and the gift shop and do back up for our new manager,

Shirley Selig. The volunteers include Ed Frindt, Knut Lahrs, Mary Ann Pileski, Sonia Taylor, Mary Wilke, Anne Eddowes, Sandy Alexander, Leslie Korenko, Janet Killam, and Bev Luck, who was our gift shop manager last year and who continues to find great pieces for the shop. Special thanks is due to Ila Dick, who chose not to run again this year for a seat on the board. She has been with this Association from the beginning, has contributed many items to it, has worked to carefully care for its objects, has worked to set it up, and develop its presentation. The President recommended and the Board approved naming Ila as an *emeritus member* of the board.

We also want to thank Jerry West for the donation of the great buckboard on display under the porch of the museum. Thanks go out too, to those who donated or loaned objects for the Sport Fishing Exhibit: Joel Byers for the ice shanty set up, bob Hammond for his lures and rods, Patti Fresch for her lures and hours of curation, Judy Dushane for her rods and tackle box, Chicago for his great walleye mount, Jack Hostal for his bass mount and historic pictures, Eric Longbrake for his ice fishing pictures, Reefrunner Lures, and many others.

Among other projects we envision getting started on this year include a complete upgrade of the outhouse behind the parsonage. The parsonage is still a target for us, and will be looking for a grant to restore the facility.

We have made changes to the allocation of our liquid capital, attempting to secure better returns for our investments. I hope that some of it can be regarded

as an endowment, the income from which would help to keep our museum going. We have, over the last few years, been spending more than we have been taking in. We raised our member fees which helped a little, but not enough. We will need more help from members and from friends. This is a growing and impressive museum complex, requiring support from the community and from its businesses, only two of which are members. Spread the word."

Our Board Members/Officers

President: Chuck Herndon
 Secretary Leslie Korenko
 Jeri Himmelein Yoest
 Janet Killam
 Fred Walcott
 Andrew Muskara
 Kevin Pape
 Patti Fresch
 Terri Betzenheimer Behrends
 Treasurer: DeeDee Ritchie
 Tax Preparer: Greg Ritchie
 Webmaster: Leslie Korenko
 Newsletter: Cindy Herndon

Kelleys Island Historical Association
PO Box 328
Kelleys Island Ohio 43438

We are a 501 c 3 organization
Your contributions are deductible.

Let's make history together!

www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org
Facebook: Kelleys Island History Museum
[Click HERE to join or renew](#)

Thanks to Our Business Members – tell them you saw their ad in the History Museum newsletter.



The Kelleys Island Brewery Our restaurant makes the most of what we know about making island visitors welcome and comfortable. The Microbrewery enables us to bottle a bit of Kelleys Island magic and offer it to beer lovers both on and off the island. Patti Johnson
islandpj419@gmail.com 419-746-2314, <http://kelleysislandbrewpub.com/>

Vi's Island Treasures – This unique Island gift shop is located right next to the historic Kelleys Mansion in an old stone building.

You can find 14kt. Gold and sterling jewelry, Swarovski crystal sunglasses, frogs for Kitty Critters, snowmen by Wallaraye, nautical gifts, McCalls candles, and a fine line of one-of-a-kind clothing. Vi Feyedelem kivifey@aol.com

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

An advertisement for Vi's Island Treasures jewelry. It features several pieces of jewelry, including a gold and diamond pendant, a sterling silver black diamond pendant, and Ohio State beads. The text includes the shop's name, address, phone number, and a list of featured items.

Vi's Island Treasures
Creating 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)

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

Featuring: Local Artist Kristen Stein, Ben Richmond Prints, Christine Alexander Carlini, Kitty Critter Frogs, Willing Collectibles, Woodstock Woodlines, Smiley Island Homewares.

50/50 & Quilt Winners

The Winner of the 50/50 raffle for July is James McKillips of Okemos Michigan; August - Jodie Smith of Kelleys Island; and September – Anne Eddowes of Kelleys Island.



THE QUILT – We drew the winner of this year's quilt at the Butterfly Festival on Sept. 12. Congratulations to Diane Creamer of Novelty Ohio.

By the way, in the last newsletter Teri explained the history of the quilts that she has made for the Museum raffle, indicating that she made her first museum quilt in 1994. June Campbell reminded us that she too made quilts in the very early days of this Assoc., in the 1980's. The first quilt she made was blue and cranberry, in the Log Cabin Style, the second was green and rose, the Lone Star style. She says this one was particularly hard since there were no square corners, and all the pieces had points. June was also pleased about the our including the parsonage on the historical marker. Did you know that her grand parents, the Maag family, lived in the parsonage for a few years? We love this stuff.

Another Quilt bit of trivia – one of the recent bags of miscellaneous items that was donated by Barb Shadle contained a few wonderful photos of previous quilts.

The top picture features a somewhat younger Teri Betzenheimer with her 1997 quilt. The bottom one is dated 1998, and there were two quilts that year. You can't see it in this picture, but the sign in the yard says "Future Home of KIHA ... Museum."