



# Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 7, Issue II

Spring, 2010

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## Memory Walk bricks selling—don't miss your chance to become a permanent part of Kelleys Island history

The weather on March 30th finally allowed Mike Feyedelem to install the remaining engraved bricks from last year. Currently we have 90 engraved bricks in our walkway. Orders for bricks received from December through the end of March, bricks #91 through #103 were taken to our engraver on April 9th for engraving. Engraving costs for 2010 have increased, but we are keeping our prices the same at this time.

Topics on the engraved bricks are varied and include "in memory of...", family names, and a wedding date.

Bricks were ordered for Christmas presents in December. Organizations have also ordered bricks with their names. Some of the other bricks include phrases of "Islanders at heart," "The Splash Club," "We loved this place," "An Island of his Own," and "KI— Our Escape from Reality."

If you have not purchased a brick yet, an application is below. If you've already purchased one, perhaps there's something else you'd like to say. Support us and leave a your permanent mark on Kelleys Island.

**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 (8" 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**

## William S. Webb family donates Civil War correspondence— An ongoing series of the KIHA Newsletter

*Through the generosity of family members of **William S. Webb**, we were given transcripts of letters that Mr. Webb wrote to his family during his 100 days service in The Civil War. Since the Kelleys Island men left as a company from the island, they, initially at least, stayed together and thus Mr. Webb's letters sometimes include mention of other islanders who were also fighting. It is not often that a person has the opportunity to relive history.*

*William S. Webb was married to **Elizabeth Kelley** and three children—**Sarah, Isabelle** and **Charles**. In 1860, William S. Webb is listed on the Census as a stone mason earning \$8,000 a year.*

*William S. Webb went to war in 1864 and he wrote letters home to his family on Kelleys Island. Captain Webb's daughter Sarah copied his letters into a notebook. **William D. Webb** is the great-grandson of this Kelleys Island Civil War soldier and his grand-daughter, **Katia Duey**, transcribed the letters from the notebook. **Katia Duey** is currently attending Temple University. We sincerely thank the **William D. Webb** family for their interest in their own family history and that of Kelleys Island—and for the opportunity they have given the Kelleys Island Historical Association to share this wonderful story.*

*William S. Webb was first stationed at **Johnson's Island** in **Sandusky Bay**, along with other Kelleys Island soldiers.*

### No. 20 No. 19 In Camp Point of Rocks, Va. Thursday morning July 7th, 1864—

My Dear Wife & children **Sarah, Belle & Charlie**

Another one of those cool beautiful mornings that has characterized our stay here, with a warm sun but breeze enough to make it pleasant and agreeable. I closed my last epistle last evening late in the afternoon and there has nothing unusual transpired since, unless it be the negative fact that I have not as yet been ordered on any duty.

Ten of our men were ordered out by detail on picket, and I understand that we are not to go on picket by company any longer but by detail from each company, but the programme in the respect has been changed so often that it is impossible to say how long this may last. However, I am at present sitting in my tent penning these lines and my company all in quarters except the 10 men for picket. We may get an order in five minutes for every able man for fatigues duty, in fact, I shall be disappointed if we do not get it. Pens and pencils are again on the move, and the island has a fair prospect of receiving an installment of letters of this date. **Will Kelley** as usual is at work, **Erastus [Huntington]**, **[George P.] Bristol** and others [also]. It is not a little curious to watch the effect of absence from home for a length of time of a number of men like those composing my company. Observation only can convey an idea of it, and I shall not attempt it but judging by myself exemption from duty, even for a brief period, has a tendency to produce ennui and in some cases discontent, which are relieved by opening a conversation with absent ones at home better than by any other means...

...It is in moments like this that the tendrils of family love and affection that a period of 20 years have nurtured cling with a closer tenacity to the recollection and to the heart 'round which they cluster. It is only absence from home and a

deprivation of those many evidences of affection which are daily rendered in a well ordered happy home that will cause one to appreciate the home fully and make one feel how dependent he is upon loving friends for his well being and happiness in this world.

If I never duly appreciated this before I do now and I doubt not that this is the experience of more than one in camp today.

Nevertheless, I feel that if my family at home can keep their health and I mine, the separation brief as it is will be no consideration comparatively.

I have now relatively no fears for my own health as I have stood all of fatigue, change of diet, climate and change that I shall be called upon to endure, and am so far in better health than usual during this season of the year and feel as if acclimated and proof against all of the usual causes of sickness except perhaps a long march, which there is no probability of our being called upon to perform and I now only look forward to the time of our return as a question of time and patience. Our Lieut. Col. claims to have information by authority that we are to at Camp Chase ready to be mustered out at the expiration of 100 days from the Second of May, and that we are allowed nine (9) days to get there from here. If this is correct we shall turn our faces homeward about the first of August. (Will Kelley is this moment walking up our street singing "Glory Hallelujah" we have got some fresh beef!" and swinging his frying pan as he goes "Marching Along," making good the reputation he has that he only lays down his portfolio to take up his frying pan.)

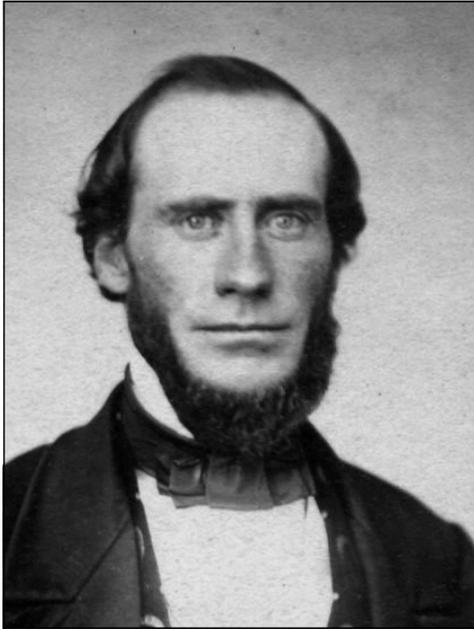
There was very heavy firing again last night at Petersburg and today the shells are very plainly to be seen bursting in every direction over the works of the Rebels. It is seldom now that we go out to look at the cannonading having become so accustomed to it that it lacks sufficient interest to induce us to sit in the sun on the Breastworks to watch it...

Have just been down the Street found the "orderly" and cook (**John Wing**) playing "66" (**Corp . [Homer H.] Woodford** advising). Some writing, others making pipes, rings & [??] from Laurel of Briar are of good humor. **Lester [Carpenter]** who was complaining yesterday is much better this morning. **[Andrew J.] Eldred** is under the weather with chill and fever, some better today. **[Harmon] Koster**, **[Stephen] Kappus** & others all on the gain, **Lt. Henry Lange** on his feet again this morning and says "ready for duty," shall keep him off yet from duty for a day or two. **[George P.] Bristol** recovering his spirits and health. Two of my Boys (from Toledo) are in hospital not very sick, however.

### Wednesday, July 8th 6 o'C A.M.

I had lain this aside to await the arrival of the mail hoping to be able to announce to you the reception of a letter. Our mail arrives about noon. I had just seated myself for dinner when I rec'd a summons to report at "Brigade Headquarters," wrapping my dinner in a paper and pouring my tea into my canteen and slinging haversack and canteen I was off, upon reporting found I was detailed to command of a

## Webb letters continued...



*William S. Webb photo from Anne Sunfish's collection*

portion of a fatigue force. The entire force consisted of Three Hundred men under Major Mings of the 132nd O.N.G. [Ohio National Guard] with orders to report at Corps Head Quarters. The entire force was in line and ready to march when I arrived. Upon arrival at Corps H.Q.'s about two miles from our camp, the force was divided with 100 men and a 2nd Lieut. I took one of the roads leading to

the James River, the other details also by different roads proceeded to their destinations. My force was detailed to work upon a battery situated at a point called the "Crow's Nest" so called from the fact that a lookout station is built at that point in the top of a high tree the ascent being by ladders and platforms. From this lookout a fine view of the country is obtained, the spires and elevated points at Richmond being in view, it is distant from Richmond 12 miles.

Our "job" consisted in working upon a battery a few rods down the river from the "crows nest." The Battery mounts two ten inch Mortars and one 56lb Sawyer Rifled Gun. The weight of shells thrown by the mortars (being round bombshells) is 92 lbs. The weight of shell thrown by the "Sawyer" Gun is 42 lbs and is shaped thus ( ) and is itself rifled. We had an awful dusty march and the distance was 4 miles and commenced work 2 1/2 P.M. In the River just above us is the Monitor S[?????] And two wooden Gunboats, just opposite our Battery, the Cannoniers both single turret Monitors, and a short distance below us the Onondago a two turret Monitor...The Banks of the River on this side are very high from one hundred to two hundred feet above the level of the River. The distance across the "neck" is only a quarter of a mile while the distance is over 3 miles by the River from & to the same points.

...the Guns of our Forts command the entire River within their range. The Reb. Battery (No. 3) and our Battery No. 9 are not over 1 mile or 1 1/4 miles apart. Theirs in plain sight from ours,...until Grant is ready to make a "move on Richmond."

This place will undoubtedly be the scene of a great land and naval contest before long. On the bottom across the river are fields of wheat & oats..., 300 acres I should think. Neither party can harvest it, and our men intend burning it

as soon as the time comes. Yesterday while I was there about 3 o'C P.M. a force of 26 men from the 1st Connecticut heavy Artillery crossed in two launches (large boats), with a goat hornitzer in each) ... for the purpose of burning the wheat. They started the fire when they landed but it was too green to burn well, and just then a rain commenced so it did not start well. Just as they started the fire they learned that a squad of Reb pickets were at the farmhouse ... when away they ran in skirmish line through the wheat up to the house, arrived there they found the "Johnnies" were in the small timber just beyond the house, that skirts the river and runs out into the wheat field. Forming again in line they advanced a short distance when "pop" went a Rebs gun at them thus disclosing the position of the Rebs, away went our boys on the charge firing as they run and receiving the fire of the Rebs but driving the Rebs helter-skelter through the timber out into the wheat and into another patch of timber, banging and popping away at every opportunity until finally the Rebs got into heavier woods and disappeared. It was all in plain sight from where we were (at the foot of the "crows nest") without the aid of a glass. I could see each individual of both parties as they ran through the wheat, stop, shoot, and run on again until the affair closed up.

It was very exciting I assure you. Just before the affair was over, an officer from one of the monitors came upon the bank with a good glass and I saw the close of it with that.

The men of my detail who quit work for a short time to witness the fun were perfectly wild with excitement, swung their hats, yelled and hurraed and I confess the writer was not far behind them. Within an hour from the time the last shot was fired, our Boys returned bringing in four dirty looking Johnnies whom they had taken prisoners in the skirmish. By them we learned that there were 25 of the Rebels, that they were at the house and came very near being surprised there only having time to spring out of the door and make their way to the low timber, which comes up nearly to the house.

While at work on our fort General Butler and Gen. Brooks, our Corps Commander with Butler's ladies. among

**Cont. on Page 5**

**2010 Events**

**Home Tour  
Saturday, July 10**

**Art Show  
Saturday, August 7**

**Butterfly Festival  
Saturday, September 11**

## Taxes filed

### Sharon Brunell McIntire

Our federal taxes are done and filed for the fiscal year of November 1, 2008 through October 31, 2009.

Many thanks to member Greg Ritchie, a CPA, for all of his hard work.

## 2010 Memberships

We would like to thank all our members in good standing for paying their 2010 dues. As of April 9th we have 147 paid memberships, which includes 4 Patrons, 13 Life Members, and 7 brand new members this year. If you have not paid your dues this year, please send them in.

Monthly 50/50 raffle tickets and quilt tickets are doing well. Thank you for your support.

## Memorials, Donations and Gifts

Cash donations have been received from:

**William and MaryAnn Player,**  
**Robert Luckay**  
**Delores Cole**  
**Jim and Karen Erne**  
**Richard and Phyllis Scheiber**

A memorial donation has been received from:

**Sandra Dickens** in memory of  
**Graham Dickens**

### Big Chuck and Li'l John CD Tour of Kelleys Island

Available only through the KIHA gift shop or by visiting our website—[kelleyslandhistorical.org](http://kelleyslandhistorical.org)

This is the ultimate guide to KI from KI's "Big"est star **Chuck Schodowski** and his sidekick **Li'l John Rinaldi**. View all aspects of KI's assets with the duo, as they go in search of the mysterious KI golf course. Enjoy a tour of all the "real" KI hot spots with these beloved TV hosts.

## Excerpts from article of 1865

*The copy below is excerpted from an article the KIHA had in its records. Unfortunately the notes did not record who wrote it or what publication it had appeared in—just the date—Nov. 15, 1865—and the title. In most instances—unless it was too confusing—we kept the copy and spellings just as they were:*

### Notes of a few days in grape land

Kelleys Island is one of the largest, oldest settled, most populous and important of the group of the ?? Seventeen islands which so beautify the Western portion of Lake Erie. It is fifty-four miles from Cleveland, and has an area of 2800 acres. The island is founded on lime rock, with an under base of flint, and bears unmistakable evidence of having been planed down, furrowed, and enriched by drifting icebergs in the remote ages of antiquity. In various localities "the guttered rocks and maxy-running clefts" are visible, and the occasional collections of boulders and cobble stones mark where anchored icebergs melted away and deposited their debris. Frequently the face of the limestone is so smoothly worn as to require no chiseling for building purposes, and the foundations, door sills, stops, etc., of the nearly completed and splendid stone mansion of Mr. Addison Kelley are of iceberg dressing.

The soil of Kelley's Island is calcareous limestone, very productive, but in the central portion too thin but a few inches below the surface, with sufficient earth and mold, however to support in its wild state luxuriant vegetation and a dense forest, much of the timber being the valuable red cedar of commerce. The belt of land next to the lake, all around the island has sufficient depth of soil for all agricultural uses and abounds in delightful sites for gardens, vineyards, and homes, many of which are occupied and improved with a taste and industry that bespeak an intelligent, thriving and happy community—such "homes" as Thomson sweetly sings of— "*—the resort of love, of joy, of*

*peace and plenty, where supporting and supported, polished friends, and dear relatives, mingle into bliss."*

Singular as is the fact, the American Islands in the west end of Lake Erie still remain a part of the original Western Reserve. The records of the dealings of the State of Connecticut with the Connecticut Land Company, to whom the State sold the fee of the Connecticut Western Reserve, show that these islands were not included in the Fire Lands grant. The deed of grant makes the southern shore of Lake Erie and not the boundary line between the United States and Canada, the northern boundary of the Fire Lands. The Connecticut Land Company's purchase covered the whole of the Reserve. They owned as tenants in common, and when the Reserve was divided by lot among the several members of the Company, island No. 6—or Cunningham's Island, as Kelley's Island was called, was attached to Township No. 5, range 18, now Carlisle, Lorain County, to make it equal to the average value of townships. It was thought of so little value that the island was not regularly surveyed until 1819, when it was divided pro rata among the owners of said township No. 5.

Kelley's Island was once the home and...[copy illegible—but it appears to speak of the former Native American residents of the island, sentence ends with] hooks, pipes, and rude pictorial inscriptions on the rocks are all that is known of the history of the **Eries**. Even Indian tradition does not extend farther back than near the close of the last century.

Snakes seem to have been about the sole possessors of the island after the Indians disappeared, for *Morse's Geography of 1792* asserts that the shores of the islands in Lake Erie are much infested by rattlesnakes, so much so as to make it dangerous to land in them. **Mr. Huntington**, in his *Historical Sketch of Kelley's Island*, states that when he first visited there from Cleveland, in 1835, he met on the island a man collecting snakes for exhibition and adds:

## 1865 Article, continued

“Here was **Doctor Morse’s** snake story revived again, and under circumstances tending to give it some color of reality. I presume there are many in this section of country who will recollect that some twenty-five or thirty years ago there was a man traveling about the country exhibiting, as his posters and advertisements had it, “one hundred live snakes.” This was the veritable individual.

He told us he had sold out his old stock on speculation, and having heard that Cunningham’s Island was a good place to get up another stock he had come down for that purpose. That he had been eminently successful we had not only his assertion, but ocular demonstration. The time has now passed, however, when anyone need feel any apprehension of meeting the loathsome reptiles in their walks about the island.”

In the summer of 1833 the brothers **Datus Kelley** of Rockport and **Irad Kelley** of Cleveland purchased the island of Gen. Simon Perkins of Warren, the agent for the owners, Mr. Irad Kelley struck with the Crusoe idea of being “manger of all I sur-

vey,” and Mr. Datus Kelley with the intrinsic value in the timber and stone with which the island was known to abound. The land cost them only about a dollar per acre, and the cost of getting rid of five or six squatters was about as much more. Mr. D. Kelley—now the venerable patriarch of the island—became managing agent for the firm of I. & D. Kelley, and commenced improvements. A dock, the nucleus of the present steamboat dock, was built. The stone dock on the north side was built the following winter, and in 1834 stone, cedar, wood and pork to the value of twelve hundred dollars, were shipped from it. In 1835 **Mr. Addison Kelley** was in charge of the business, his father, Datus, still returning to his farm in Rockport to spend the winter. In the spring of 1836 Mr. D. Kelley moved his family to the island, and built a log house for a home, to which a small frame was added in 1838. In 1837 Mr. Addison Kelley purchased the farm now owned by him, and in 1838 erected the second frame building. The same season Mr.

**George C. Huntington** of Cleveland, son-in-law of Mr. D. Kelley, removed to the island, purchased a farm of two hundred acres, and commenced the cottage house in which he now lives. During the same year Mr. Horace Kelley, now of Cleveland, purchased the farm on the west end of the island where **Mr. Charles Carpenter** now lives, built a dock for shipping stone, and a log house. At this date, 1838, there were twelve families resident on the island all under the patronage of Mr. D. Kelley. About one hundred acres had been cleared, the balance of the island being an unbroken forest.

The founder of the settlement on Kelley’s Island is a man of intelligence as well as enterprise, and the first thing Mr. Kelley turned his attention to after getting business started was the education of the young. He built a frame school house at the expense of himself and brother; and in later years he erected a fine hall.

*This is all we have of this particular article but in our next issue we will continue with this writer’s notes of Nov. 16, 1865.*

## Webb letters, continued from page 3

them Gen. Butler’s wife, who came over to see the new fort. Upon their arrival I was notified that I could suspend operations, relieve my men and march them home which I did arriving at our “shebang” just after sundown... Quite a number of our island Boys are on the sick list, nothing very serious. [**Andrew J. Eldred & [Otis] J. Titus** are considerably under the weather, though no apprehensions are entertained for any of them at present.

**Erastus [Huntington]** having the roll is better posted as to those who are excused from duty for slight indisposition and I believe keeps **Elzina** posted in his letters. This weather and our duties are bringing a good many down, the latter are unnecessarily severe I think, as we have now company drill and dress parade, added to our Fatigue and picket duty. I will postpone finishing this until arrival of the mail.—I will mention before I forget it that any one can get here by making application at Washington to Mr. J. C. Witmore, Agent for Ohio at that place. I have seen two citizens here from Urbana who came to visit the 132nd O.N. G. We are sadly deficient in vegetables. I this morning ate the first potato since leaving **Johnson’s Island** save two meals at Washington.

Have just returned from the Chaplain’s tent where I got a pint of canned tomatoes, 6 pickled onions, some black tea, a handful of dried blackberries and some soft crackers for the sick of my company. We yesterday rec’d six small cabbages for 70 men, hardly a spoonful each when cooked. It is two mails since any letters have been rec’d from the Island, date of last June 30th.

11 o’C A.M. Mail in, and no letters from you, but I rec’d one from **Hannah**, many, many thanks to her for her thoughtfulness in remembrance of me. We are so situated now that a letter from a friend is eagerly looked for. Tell her that she may have to find an answer to hers in mine to yourself. We shall look for many letters by next mail. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends. Hannah tells me my men are all paid up to date and I have \$500 on deposit left. Do not pay any more on indebtedness. Tell **Alfred [Kelley]** to write me by mail the date he sends me the money I sent for. Kiss all the dear children for me. Respects to Mr. & Mrs. True & all the men personally...

**I am every yours Aff.ly  
Wm. S. Webb**

*We’ll continue this series of letters in our next newsletter.*

**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**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer address:** (from / / to / / )

**P.O. Box** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Winter address: P. O. Box** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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

All memberships are annual except Life Membership.

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

Paid: \$

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_