



Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 7, Issue I

Winter, 2010

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Winter baseball on skates—1911

*This photo and story appeared in a Charles Frohman history book on the Ohio island's area, recounting an event from 1911. Note how Charles' describes the winters on the island as **isolated**, but that the story counts 1,017 people as the island's population. Makes one wonder what he'd call today's estimated 120 residents.*



Back in 1911, in the days when Kelleys Island was isolated in the winter days, the sports fans decided to try to play a baseball game on the ice of Lake Erie; so on the lee side [appears to be on south shore just west of downtown] and with good winter weather, the 1,017 people on the island were sure to be there for the sport.

As a preliminary, **F.H. Schardt**, acknowledged to be the best fancy skater in northern Ohio, was to give an exhibition; **C. J. W. Gibeaut**, the holder of the speed record of the island, would make an effort to break his own record. **A. F. Elfers** would referee the game of baseball, assisted by a winter visitor Chattanooga, Tennessee, **J. S. Porter**, who was a baseball fan.

The lineup for the game was:

P. Murphy	p.	M. Murphy
R. Brown	c.	J. Betzenheimer
R. Hamilton	1b.	T. Lange
D. Hamilton	2 b.	C. Lange
A. Blatt	3 b.	A Betzenheimer
E. Sennish	ss	C. Federson
F. Schardt	lf.	T. Duignan
A. Fleckner	rf.	A. McKelps
E. Fishcer	cf.	G. Gibeaut

The game did not become a regular event.

KIHA is awarded Mylander Grant

Anne Eddowes

A new **Mylander Foundation grant** was received in December. The title of the grant proposal was "New Building-Finishing Touches." It provides funds for a much needed bike rack, heavy-duty door mats

for both inside and outside of the building's exterior doors, and security mirrors for each corner of the main museum building.

A hand drawn map of Kelleys Island as it was in 1910 was donated to the museum this past year. The Mylander Foundation grant

will also provide funds to have that map professionally framed and preserved.

The board of the KIHA thanks The Mylander Foundation for these funds to provide the "finishing touches" to our new museum building.

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. 19 In Camp Point of Rocks, Wednesday Noon Hd. Qs. Co. K., July 6th, 1864—This issue contains a continuation of this letter No. 19. When we left Mr. Webb he was recounting how his soldiers were passing notes and small items back and forth with the Rebel forces. We start where we left off last in our Fall issue where the Rebel soldier "J.H.H." had given a note to Wm. S. Webb...

Mr. Webb recounts that he himself ...had said, "I wished I could get a Richmond paper" and suppose he heard it. On the other side of the note he had written you will see as follows, "Mr.—I will send you a plug of tobacco for a small pocket knife and you must throw it over and put a small strip of paper in it with the letters of my name on the paper, "J.H.H." I was intending to send my knife but **Barney McGettigan remarked "Here Capt., don't send your knife it is too good, send mine." So taking his knife and handing him a dollar for it, I put the piece of paper in the knife directed "To J.H.H." and one of the boys of the 39th taking it carried it to the stump.**

Just before he arrived there "Johnny Reb" motioned him back making the sign that an officer was coming, but he was close to the stump, made a jump, placed the knife on it and dodged into the brush.

In about 5 or 8 minutes my friend "J.H.H." glided out from his lines to the stump, took the knife and "fell back" to his old base, disappearing for a few moments he again took his position walking up and down his line. He would every few moments place his hand on his collar to let us know that an officer was there; this was kept up for over 10 minutes, when finally he stopped, faced directly towards me, raised his hand as a signal, and threw a plug of tobacco to within 20 ft. of where I stood but near the Rifle pit where the boys were. Barney stepped over the pit, got the tobacco and handed it to

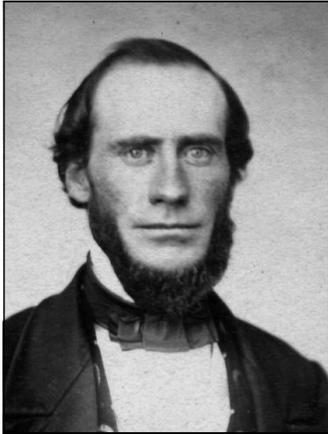
me. Aware that I had been absent too long, I hurried off with **Norman [Kelley]** and **Barney**. **Jerry** wishing to stay longer did not come back with us. I soon outstripped my companions and upon arrival at our line found our entire Picket guard gone, having been relieved by the 37th N. Jersey, over an hour before.

The officer in charge assured me that my men had taken my overcoat, rubber blanket, sword, pistol and belt ... in with them and I made not very slow time for camp as I could not understand why we were relieved at that time of day. Arrived in camp, found everything all right, the boys a little excited at our absence. Within a short time the others came in. **Jerry [Dean]** informed me that after I left trade opened quite briskly, both parties being a little afraid while I was there. Thinking this little episode would be interesting to you as an incident of my Soldiering I have given the details thus in full. Picketing has become quite the rage now among our boys since our adventure and the timorous ones even begin to look upon that service with a less unfavorable eye.

...The death of **Charles Mitchell** threw a deep gloom over the company though the constant service in which they are occupied has of course a tendency to direct their minds to other matters. I cannot bear to think of it, not only on account of his poor wife but for fear of the effect at home. The Boys are generally pretty well now, those complaining being but slightly indisposed. **Herman Koster** is still complaining but at this moment is sitting in my tent and says he is a great deal better than for the last two days. Lester is not very well, was out on picket with me, nothing serious I think. One trouble is all of the boys eat very heartily, have strong appetites and very few govern themselves as they should. I know I eat too much, that is I never eat so much in my life before as I now do daily am always ready for "grub" as **Dan [?]** calls it. Good as my appetite is when the hour arrives **Erastus [Huntington]** beats me and Bristol well—he eats like a sick man. **Henry Lange** uses discretion, quits eating when he does not feel well.

Many, many thanks to you dear ones for your kindly loving consideration in sending those little poultice bags. My eyes are now fully as well as when at home. I should say that I am living as well as I want to. We have ham, tea, soft bread pretty often, applesauce from dried apples, and exchange with some of the boys for their rations of Bread, Rice...I use no fresh meat, pies, cakes, nor any of the miserable trash sold by the sutlers (people who follow the soldiers selling supplies). I had a present of some green tea from the steward of the hospital where Charlie died, which I am using sparingly as possible. Green tea cannot be purchased here at any price. The tea issued and such as you can buy here is called Black tea but it is made of veritable peach leaves and other trash. I will not use it. The coffee too is abominable. I sent to Bermuda and got 2 lbs. green tea at 18¢ Per pound, it is poor black tea with a little green mixed with it. I only lack some good green tea and for that I would give \$5.00 for a pound. We begin to look forward to the expiration of our term of service and this makes the separation from home more endurable, the time drags heavily and no doubt will to the end. There was heavy firing at Petersburg last night from

Webb letters continued...



*William S. Webb
photo from Anne Sen-
nish' collection*

8 o'C to 12, what it amounts to we shall only know when we get the papers.

...I would say that so good is the present understanding along the lines that the "Rebs" always tell our boys when their batteries intend to open fire, and ours do the same. For instance on the Fourth of July our boys told the "Reb" pickets that we intended to fire a national salute and that we should open with shot and shell on their works (which we did) and at 12 o'C all the "Johnnies" were hived in their pits & bombproofs. The "Rebs" don't like the 100 days men. They say that when

they are on picket if a "Reb" show his head—pop goes two or three rifles. The Veterans do not do it. However the 100 day men are learning better. We feel quite like veterans as compared to the New Jersey & other 100 day men which have arrived since we did, or who were not put at the front as soon as ourselves. But there is no danger of our being put where we shall be led into action. If we see fighting at all it will be when attacked and behind entrenchments.

Erastus has just shown me a letter signed **Elzina Hamilton**. Who is the lady? It may be a certain niece of ours who thinks she has obtained a decree of divorce for willful absence for a long period, of her husband. If so, tell her three years is the shortest possible time under which such a decree could be issued, and until that time expires she will be obliged to use her right name. Besides there are others who might be influenced by her example. The arrival of the mail today was the signal for a general rush into letter writing, and pencils and pens have been going at full speed for the past hour or two. **Will Kelley** has the reputation of being the most indefatigable letter writer in the Co and when off duty is said to be never seen without his portfolio on his knee or his frying pan with pork or hardbread, or both, fried or getting ready for that operation. I am glad we have so many good letter writers and those who are disposed to write often in our company, as the anxiety of our friends at home is allayed very much by punctuality in our correspondence.

At the same time our letters from home are looked for with the same anxiety. So far I have had no cause for complaint except at the irregularity of the mails which misplaces letters and brings them out of their due order. I think I have had more letters than any one in the company and my losses of letters not nearly as much as others complain of. I think I have averaged at least one letter written from here every other day, and my letters are usually much longer than the generality of those that come under my observation, so that I at least think I have not fallen behind my duty in this respect. I would like to have you enclose me a postage stamp or two in every letter. I can frank my let-

ters but prefer placing a stamp upon them.

The weather now is quite pleasant a cool breeze modifies the heat very much. Last night was quite cool out on picket and 2 o C this morning I was glad to draw a shrubbery around with my rubber blanket spread over them. I slept soundly until I heard someone say, "Captain, breakfast," and I opened my eyes with the bright sun shining full upon me, to see **John Wing** standing there with a nice piece of broiled ham, a cup of tea and a dish of applesauce which he had cooked at camp and brought out to me. That I enjoyed my morning meal I need not assure you. Though fully appreciating the quality of my breakfast I was not (to quote **Jenny Cameron**) fully "able" for the quantity, and therefore divided with Jerry and some of the other boys of the squad. **Dan [Chapin]** has just come to our tent to return a fine comb borrowed of Erastus handing it over with the sententious remark "Nary a Lobster." Of his state of health both mental & physical you can judge by the above.

Yesterday a photographer was discovered with a very large camera "aimed" at our camp as if ready to take the camp and all in it. Thinking it some operator taking views for sale we rushed out to secure a prize, but found he was in the employ of the Government and was only taking views of the different angles of the Fortifications for Government use. Quite disgusted with our want of success in making so desirable an acquisition to send home we returned to camp.

And now Dear ones I have written all in this long rambling and disjointed letter that occurs to me up to this time. You will by this time see that a camp is not the most favorable place for letter writing, and will therefore excuse any apparent want of care in the composition. My Dear Wife keep up that same hopeful cheerful bearing which has characterized you since my departure from home. Talk to our children often of their Father and let them understand that only duty imperatively required of me keeps me from that loved home which all of you have so much contributed in rendering a happy one. ...

It is now warm but the bower built over our tent of green branches makes it quite cool within. 3 o'C P.M.

Your Aff. Husband & Father

2010 Events

Home Tour
Saturday, July 10

Art Show
Saturday, August 7

Butterfly Festival
Saturday, September 11

Treasurer's Report

Sharon Brunell McIntire

All 2009 Gift Shop sales & resort taxes were paid in January 2010.

Federal taxes have been turned over to our accountant.

On October 12th packing of all items in the Old Stone Church from the gift shop and the artifacts was started.

Moving these items to the new building began on October 22nd. Throughout the rest of October and November cleaning and moving continued with some new set-up started for the new the gift shop area in the new building. In December all items in the new building were covered for the winter.

Memory Bricks are selling well and have been continued to be engraved throughout December with their installation to occur in the spring of 2010, when weather permits.

The wind from the winter storm that hit the island in early December unfortunately blew down our KIHA building sign which **Mike Feyedelem** and **Jim McIntire** then moved into the new building for the remainder of the winter.

More moving, cleaning and set-ups will start again in the spring of 2010. Please let us know if and when you can help us out. We will need volunteers for moving, set-up, cleaning, the gift shop, and for all of our events. Working with your organization is truly the best way to learn all you can about our history and it's also a great way to meet your neighbors.

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

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.

Islander & Shore Sentinel review of Norman Hills KI history book—September 1925

This is a copy of most of the review as it appeared in 1925...

Norman Hills, the writer of the *History of Kelley's Island*, just appearing, is a grandson of **Irad Kelley**, who was one of the owners of Kelleys Island. **Irad and Datus Kelley** were brothers. **Datus Kelley** moved onto the island soon after the purchase in 1833, and **Irad** remained in Cleveland, O., where he was engaged in business.

It so happened that a great quantity of the papers, records and correspondence left by **Irad Kelley** and others came into the hands of **Mr. Hills**. Among these were many appertaining to the island. And from these and other sources, more particularly the *Journal Islander*, published on Kelleys Island from 1860 to 1878, he has succeeded in collecting a great number of interesting facts regarding the island's history that heretofore have not been generally known.

Mrs. Hills was an island girl (**Jennie Bristol**.) **Mr. and Mrs. Hills** have many relatives on the island who have contributed interesting items which have helped to make the history a very readable work. The history begins with the early Indian dwellers on its shores and tells of the antiquities and sculptured rocks left behind by them...

The Connecticut Land Co. map (included in the book) was found among the papers of **General Berkins** of Warren, O., who was the general agent of the company and who made the first sales of the island property to the Kelley brothers...

It tells of the *Island Queen* which launched on the shores of Kelleys Island and built there of oak and cedar grown on the island, and how it was captured and sunk in Lake Erie during the Civil War by Southern soldiers, who hoped to also release the Southern prisoners on **Johnson's island** and then to capture **Sandusky** and **Cleveland** and all other Lake Erie ports.

It tells of the part played by the

island men in thwarting the sinister intentions of the Southern generals at that time...

The story of the grape and wine industry...

The wrecks and rescues on the shores...

These and many more exciting events are faithfully recorded in the "History of Kelleys Island."

*The KIHA is the only island store which sells the original Norman Hills book. Additional history books and books on KI lore are also available from island authors, **Jesse Martin, Claudia Brown, and Leslie Korrenko**. Stop in and purchase one for yourself.*

Memorials, Donations and Gifts

Memorial donations have been received from:

Frank & Laura Jean Pohorence, Roger & Madeleine Williams, Simonson Construction Service, and **Anne Sennish** in memory of

Terry Kranyak

Roger & Madeleine Williams, and **Anne Sennish** in memory of **Molly Minshall**

Sharon Miller, Roger & Mary Thrash, Betty & Bill Teoff in memory of **William (Bill) Brennan**

Anne Sennish in memory of **Vance Mowrey**

Anne Sennish in memory of **Richard Kelley DeBoard**

Donations for the museum have been received from:

Don & Sandy Alexander—two glass display cases & Lake Erie Island poster

Shelley Stein of more old glass bottles

KI VFW Post check donation

Cash from **Roger Perl**

Elic Watkins, trash disposal

Roger Reel, engineer, Museum construction support

Joe Young, architect, Museum design and support



Thank you to our 2009 Members You are what makes us!

Dan Ahner	Rita & Jack Eaton	Knut Lahrs & Jean Boyd	Richard Scheiber
Sandra Alexander	ECCOGS	Catherine (Nan) Laird	Robert Schnittker
Deanna Allensworth	Elizabeth Eddowes	Lake Erie Islands Historical Society	June & Chuck Schodowski
Annalee	Ron & Eddie Ehrbar	Cynthia LaMarca	Louise Seeholzer
Lois Bachman	Karen & Jim Erne	Norm & Gye Landis	Pat Seeholzer
Ruth Bandeen	Jeff Evers	Cathy Lange	James Selfe
Lyon A. Baumler	Mike & Vi Feyedelem	Gretchen Larson	Anne Sennish
Alyce & Richard Beck	Jaime & John Fisher	Peter & Sam Legere	Barbara Shadle
Janet & Tom Beck	Cindy Franketti	Virginia Leidheiser	Anne Shaw
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Todd Bickley	Eugene & Charlotte Halliwill	Connie McDonald	Sandra Stare
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Joann & Sanford Black	Lori & Pat Hayes	Shirley McKillips	Emelia Strba
Robert Black Jr.	Sharon Herman	Sally & Herman Menges	Sonia & Tom Taylor
Barbara & Ted Blatt	Kay Herndon	Bonnie Meyers	Karen Terry
Milton Blatt	Sally Hiller	Paul & Norma Miller	Joe & Dianna Tesauro
Laura Bobak	Richard Holmes	Steve & Holly Miller	Mary Ellen & Jack Thinnes
Ruth & Garland Bradshaw	George & Elsie Homegardner	Frances Minshall	Frances & Russell Toepfer
Claudia & Cecilia Brown,	Jane Monger	Jane Monger	Marty Tremmel
Judy Brown	Jeffrey Monger	Jeffrey Monger	Rachel & Mark & Alex Van Meter
Lee Brown	Diane & Allen & Erin Nickles	Diane & Allen & Erin Nickles	Carol Vogler Bright
Leslie Brown	Carol & Ed Nofziger	Carol & Ed Nofziger	Beth & Thomas Voltz
Lois & Paul Brown	Barbara O'Connor	Barbara O'Connor	William & Laura VonBenken
Margaret Brown	Barbara & John Ohlemacher	Barbara & John Ohlemacher	Fred Walcott
Dr. William Bruner II	Barbara Palumbo	Barbara Palumbo	Russell & Mary Wiard
Polly & Ken Burns	Betty Pape	Betty Pape	Robert & Jane Wick
Marv Byer	W. Kevin & Kim Pape	W. Kevin & Kim Pape	Peggy & Lawson Wideman
Esther Carlson	Jeanie & Roger & Emily Perl	Jeanie & Roger & Emily Perl	Mary Lou Wieland
Christopher Carrig	Mary Ann Pileski	Mary Ann Pileski	Micki Wiles
Margaret Clapper	Laura Jean & Frank Pohorence	Laura Jean & Frank Pohorence	Roger & Madeleine Williams
Delores Cole	Andrew & Sally Quillin	Andrew & Sally Quillin	Sally & Steve Williams
Lillian Cole	Robert & Mary Quillin	Robert & Mary Quillin	Weary
Amy Coleman	Mary Beth & George Quillin Jr.	Mary Beth & George Quillin Jr.	Linda & Ned Williams
Peggy & Pat Cooney	Pat Raiff	Pat Raiff	Jeri Yoest
Joe Corso	Robert & Jan Ransom	Robert & Jan Ransom	Barbara & Jim Zeller
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Byron & Shirley Crabill	Lynne & Roger Renwick	Lynne & Roger Renwick	
Marilyn Dauch	DeeDee & Greg Ritchie	DeeDee & Greg Ritchie	
Caroline DeBoard	Jeanne & John Sabol	Jeanne & John Sabol	
Ila Dick			
Matt Dick			
Graham Dickens			
Frank & Carol Dodson			
Judy DuShane			

**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: _____