

Kelleys Island Historical Association

Issue 1 Page 1

January 2017

Inside This Issue

- 1 – A look back & forward, Kelleys Island Kitchens display
- 2 – Donations & Thank you
- 3 – Additions to our Collection
- 4 – Our business sponsors

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Important Dates 2017

May 20 – Free Museum Day
August 5 – Arts & Craft Show
August 20 – Annual meeting and program
September 9 – Yard sale and Butterfly Festival

A LOOK BACK AND A LOOK FORWARD - This was a banner year for us. The museum started it's sixth year in the new building with a completely new display concept. We divided the museum into zones (quarry, fishing, boats & docks, wineries, etc.) and started from scratch to design displays that better met the expectations of our visitors. It was not just enough to push items around, oh no! We moved walls, dug into our collection and pulled out items that were amazing. Leslie created over 100 posters describing the Island's history. They contained hundreds of pictures that were never shown before. We created a more intimate history of the Island.

But that wasn't all. Each year we feature a new display. In previous years we displayed sport fishing and the Tin Goose, and 2016 was no exception. Our display, Bars & Saloons, started off slow, but gained momentum when people realized that THEY had just a little bit to share. So many things were loaned to us for the display. Add to that our very popular Tarzan the Talking Dog of Casino fame (in the 1960's) and we were off and running.

AND FORWARD - So, what do we have planned for THIS YEAR?.

We are working on expanding the Business & Commerce section and creating a whole new display called Kelley's Island Kitchen. What was it like in your grandmother's, or even great grandmother's kitchen? How did she do what we do today? Was everything really made by hand? Well, we were a little surprised to find out that the early 1900's were the golden age of patents and creativity. Wait until you see what we found!

KELLEYS ISLAND KITCHENS By Patti Fresch

The kitchen is considered to be the heart of the home. This year's special exhibit will focus on early Kelleys Island kitchens. In researching early kitchens I marveled at the physical labor that was involved in preparing the daily meals. Let's imagine the start of a Fall day. Upon awaking to the rooster in the back yard, the woman of the house enters the cold kitchen and lights a candle or an oil lamp, no flipping a light switch, there is no electricity. She feeds the fire in the stove, pumps water from the well, grinds the coffee to start the day. She answers the call of nature in the outhouse and proceeds to gather the eggs for breakfast. The nasty rooster spurs her and she promises to put him in the pot on Sunday. Inside the coffee smell wafts through the air and she slices the smoked bacon that she got from the pantry. She fries the bacon in the skillet on the wood stove, followed by the eggs fried in bacon grease, and toast the bread on top of the stove. After breakfast is the clean up. More water was pumped, set on the stove to heat to wash the dishes with soap that she made and it is now around 6 a.m. Her day has only started. Imagine laundry day. Water needs to be pumped and heated followed by scrubbing the clothes by hand, rinsing and twisting the clothes before hanging them to dry. Exhausting!

They early settlers did purchase certain food items such as flour and coffee but for the most part they had to grow and preserve their own food. They also kept livestock and did their own butchering. Hunting and fishing provided variety in their diets.

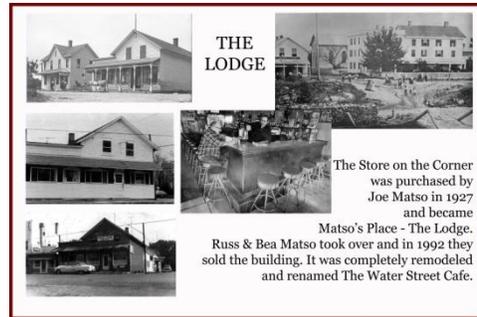
If you have any stories or suggestions for this exhibit, please contact me at pjefkiohio@gmail.com. Thanks and remember "The past is how we got here" Patti Fresch

Did you renew your Membership!

If there is a form in this newsletter, we have not yet received your renewal. Remember you can renew online at [Join Now](#).

TAX SEASON COMETH – When you make a donation to us, it is tax deductible. And remember to check the History box on your tax return. These funds go into a pool that is used for grants.

We would also like to thank Jeri Dick Yoest for allowing us to feature her newspaper articles and photographs of Tarzan, the talking dog from the 1950's. The photos showing Tarzan entertaining, playing chess and being served by the likes of some human celebrities, were so much fun. They added immeasurably to the Casino part of our 2016 exhibit (Tarzan has his own page on our website). And thanks to Lisa Matso for sharing memorabilia from Matso's Place and to Leslie Korenko for finding all those old photos that told the stories of the bars that are now long gone.



ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION - Sometimes we have to shorten our list, by not including an item's history or not including every item that was donated. The whole story can usually be found in our inventory (available on our website under Our Collection). Here are some of the items that came to us late last year: LOIS BROWN reminded us that the ice boat that we mentioned in the last issue was actually built by Lee E. Brown in the 1920's as a Christmas present for his son, Frank H. who was born in 1917. Lois said that the children would set it on the ice and play with it.

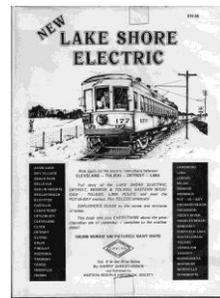


Sometimes items come home via long distance. STU HUMPHREY donated a weathered board found by his friend Kieth Hodel who now lives in Florida. The name Pilkington Bros., St. Helens, England came into use in 1892 and the company had a manufacturing facility in Thorold, Ontario, shipping glass on Lake Erie until it was closed in 1924.



LEE & HELEN BROWN donated a spectacular hand-made quilt. What makes this so very special is that it was made by Lee's mother's great-great aunt Mamie. You can see where she embroidered her NAME and the date 1892.

JIM SELFE (yes, a descendent of Elizabeth Selfe) donated 3 photos taken by the original Jim Selfe and a reference book for our library (the history of the interurban railway system on northwestern Ohio). One of these cars is now a house on the Island, No. 33.



JUDY DUSHANE donated a Sunbeam mixer (above) – c1930 and two boxes of horse tack, including collars, harnesses and single trees from the Bauman farm.



On Loan from TERRY HAAS is this spectacular Thomas Edison 'portable' phonograph with the classic morning glory horn! It will be on display this summer on top of the piano. It is magnificent. She also donated a lovely sewing machine.

We would love to get some of the items onto Pinterest – if we can find the time.



Kelleys Island Historical Association
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A 501 c 3 organization
Your contributions are deductible.

Let's make history together!

www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org
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