

# Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 11, Issue 4 Page 1

December, 2014



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## **Board Members**

Charles Herndon, President  
Leslie Korenko, Secretary  
Terri Betzenheimer Behrends  
Patti Fresch  
Jeri Himmelein Yoest  
Ila Dick  
Andrew Muskara  
Kevin Pape

DeeDee Ritchie: Treasurer  
Greg Ritchie: Tax Preparer  
Cindy Herndon: Newsletter Editor  
Leslie Korenko: Website

Drainage Project at The Old Stone Church and Parsonage in process.  
*Chuck Herndon photograph*  
More pictures inside

## **KIHA Received Grants to Address Drainage Issues For The Church and Parsonage** *Anne Eddowes*

Last spring, the abundant rain that fell on Kelleys Island caused the crawl space under the church to fill with water. In addition, a continual water problem at the parsonage became worse. During the summer we applied for two grants from Erie County Foundations to provide for sump pumps and drains to pipe any accumulating water to the storm sewer which runs in front of the museum property along Division Street.

We received a grant from the Frost-Parker Foundation for \$6300 to provide drainage for the church. We also received a grant from the Erie County Community Foundation for \$7500 to provide drainage for the parsonage. It is the KIHA Board's hope that these drains will solve the water problems at both the church and the parsonage. We thank both foundations for their contributions to this effort.



Jeff Vargo is mortaring up the church wall one foot from bedrock to retard water seepage.

### **THE WINNER IS**

Frank Ndcera of Lakewood was the winner of the beautiful QUILT (donated by Teri Behtzenheimer/Behrends), drawn at the Butterfly Festival, and congratulations to Polly Burns of Middleburg Hts., the winner of the September 50/50 drawing.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We have 210 members. Of these, 26 are life members. We thank these special people who support the association in such an important way.

Our LIFE MEMBERS are Terri Behrends, Peg Bradburn, Jody Brausch, Catherine Christie, Jack & Rita Eaton, Mike & Vi Feyedelem, Charles & Cindy Herndon, Rose & David Herndon, Frederick Himmelein, Rick Holmes, Robert & Nancy Howley, Alison Kobs, John & Judy Kobs, John Kobs II, Ed & Fran Kuchar, Knut Lahrs, Kevin, Kim & Betty Pape, Roger & Lynne Renwick, Daniel Schmoldt, John & Dee Spirk, Fred & Elizabeth Stueber, Carol Vogler-Bright, Fred & Betsy Walcott Madeleine & Roger Williams, Ned & Linda Williams, and Steve & Sally Williams-Weary.

Special thanks to our BUSINESS MEMBERS: The Inn and the Kelleys Island Brewery.

### **OUR COOL NEW WEBSITE & FACEBOOK**

Leslie Korenko has been diligently working to present a new face for the museum online. Our new WEBSITE is up and running ([www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org)) and we encourage you to explore its many pages. If you have not visited in a while, make sure you check *Our Collection* – we now have our collection line in a searchable database. Search for your family, friends or any other item of interest. We can now provide you with copies of these items (It's a slow process, but we hope to have our entire collection scanned and photographed). The inventory and request form are also online and can be downloaded. You can also RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP online, using our PayPal buttons. How convenient!

Our OLD NEWSLETTERS are also online – well, mostly. Click on *Newsletters* to read some of our old issues. As we get time (because we are very busy, even in the winter) we will try to get some of our older classic newsletters online.

Our FACEBOOK followers are growing in numbers. We currently have 242 followers. Just search Kelleys Island History Museum to get to us. It is the best place (besides the website) to keep up with the Museum news. Leslie also posts little historical tidbits about the Island on the site. If you missed any, make sure to check *Yesterday's News* on our website for a compilation of Facebook and website posts.

The Island had a brief but heavy snowfall in early December that created an unexpected winter wonderland.



### **MEMORIAL BRICKS**

There are 213 engraved bricks in our walkway. They make for some interesting reading. One of the new pages on the KIHA website is a complete list of the bricks and an order form. Just click on *Memory Walk*. It's not too late to order – what a great special occasion present. Purchase a brick for a friend or relative and it will remind the recipient of how much you cared every time they visit the Island. We will send you a photo of your brick (but it probably won't be installed until spring).

### **ARTIFACTS AND COLLECTIONS**

GOOD NEWS - Our website now contains an inventory of our COLLECTION in a searchable database. Just go to *Our Collection* and discover the treasures in our archives. Of course, it is not yet complete, we still have hundreds of items that are in the process of being inventoried, so check back regularly to see what we have added.

Be sure to explore *It's a Mystery* on our website too. This is where we are putting pictures of those items that we cannot identify, because, well, it's a mystery who or what they are. These are the NEW ITEMS that came in since our last newsletter:

JOHN OHLEMACHER donated photographs of ice boats and sail boats, a plat map from 1942, a map from the 1890 Atlas, The Saga of the Tin Goose first edition, and miscellaneous articles about the quarry and railroad.

DIANE HUGHES NICKLES donated a Baseball uniform – worn by her Uncle Ossie in 1932. He and his wife, Mary Augusta Hughes McKillips, were born on the Island and lived here their whole lives.

MOLLIE TEMPLE SEVCIK of Boardman Ohio donated a wonderful collection of Dwelle family photos including: Capt. Alonzo Dwelle; two baby girls, Edna Dwelle and Anna Dwelle; S. S. Dwelle (Sylvester S.); woman standing in field holding two baskets, believed to be Mina Dwelle after picking grapes; man sitting on glacial grooves with railroad in the background; Alonzo Dwelle's house on the east side with ice piled up in front; woman in bathing outfit, Jessie (Dwelle) Strack (She did not know how to swim so she would make a balloon out of the shirt and float on it); and the *Olcott* breaking through the ice. Also in the collection are two wonderfully old items: a New Year's Ball ticket for the Island House from 1862. "Your attendance is respectfully solicited. Committee: E. Huntington, J. T. Woodford, M. Lincoln Fred'k Kelley. Floor manager – Hamilton Hays. Tickets, \$2.00;" and an Independence Party ticket for Kelley's Hall July 3, 1863, "Yourself and Lady are respectfully invited. Committee: M. Lincoln, H. Cattanach, J. McGettigan, D. Morris. Floor managers – John Stone, H. Hays. Tickets, \$2.00." Lastly, a genealogy and history of the Dwelle Family in America, starting with Richard Dwelle who came from England to Watertown Mass. Before 1654.

KELLY JOHNSON of Toledo Ohio - Map of the cemetery dated 1950.

SHIRLEY A. MCKILLIPS – A wood box "Crafted in the dark cold winter." Believed to be cut out with a pocket knife. Made by Herman Geysberger/Geisburger."

MICKEY WIDENER – A photograph of Johnny Widener in the cockpit of the Ford Tri-Motor airplane, in the Fall of 1965.

SALLY SMITH MALISON – A small painting of the steamboat dock and a photograph of four children: Marilyn Blatt, "Bunny" Smith, Don Erne, and "Sally" Smith, eating peaches in a wheel barrow.

BETTY LANGE DOMECK - A Marriage License/certificate for John W. Lange and Lizzie Rohrs, who were married on April 7, 1892.

Special donation recognition to KIHA : Jeri Himmelein Yoest made a donation in memory of: Harold "Uncle Boogie" and Margaret Himmelein Wright.

### **OUR VOLUNTEERS**

As we come to a close of another great year at the Museum and Gift Shop we would be remiss if we neglected to thank our DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS. If it weren't for these people giving their time we would not be able to share this island's historical treasures with the public. Our volunteers make a significant contribution to Kelleys Island, its heritage and its preservation. We are so very appreciative of the work they do.

Beverly Luck would like to thank the GIFT SHOP/MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS: Alexi Panahal, Sandy Alexander, Mary Wilke (her husband helped at Treasure Island day), Mary Ann Pileski, Knut Lahrs, Anne Eddowes, Ed Frindt, and Leslie Korenko.

Behind the scenes, there are people who work at the PRESERVATION & INVENTORY of our collection: Ila Dick, Elizabeth Learmonth, and Leslie Korenko.

Did you ever wonder why the grounds and buildings always look so good? Or that the many seemingly routine tasks magically get done so smoothly that you don't notice them? It's because of the great people who generously give of their time and expertise to keep us running. Our thanks go out to these people for keeping us professional: Leslie Korenko (she orders and installs the Bricks in the walkway, manages our website, and keeps the spiders under control on the porch), Teri Behrends (not only does she make the quilt for the raffle, but she also peddles tickets at every event and does yard work), Laura Jean Pohorence (spends hours selling Quilt tickets and organizes the bake sale), Cindy Herndon (Editor of the newsletter), Chuck & Cindy Herndon (organizing our yearly displays), DeeDee Ritchie (who volunteers as Treasurer), Greg Ritchie (who does our taxes), and Elic Watkins from Lake Disposal (who graciously contributes his services) Of course, there are many more people who help keep this organization running including our Board Members and Officers.

### **OUR GIFT SHOP**

Bev Luck worked hard to bring a fresh new look to the GIFT SHOP – and it worked. The Christmas ornaments were particularly popular. She introduced a new children's area with items selected to tickle a child's imagination as well as new and unique items to entice adults. Remember the cookbook that KIHA published in 1995? We found a box of them in storage and they are once again available. Did you miss purchasing one of the many Island history books? Just click on *Island History* on our website to see what we have. Soon you will be able to purchase them online.

### **SOME OF OUR MORE INTERESTING QUERIES**

Craig Carey posed this question: I think I can remember a time when Kelleys island was dry, or at least didn't have any bars on it, am I correct and if so when was it? We responded: To the best of my knowledge, the island (whether it was a township or a village) was never dry - EXCEPT, of course, during Prohibition. Reports of court cases where a person was cited for selling liquor without a license date back well into the mid 1800's.

There is a procedure for voting a precinct dry which requires the majority vote of the voters and input by the businesses that currently serve liquor. That would have been something that everyone would remember. Does anyone have a better answer for Craig?

A recent museum visitor was looking for information on Dr. Haas, who was on the island around 1920. He married Mable Marquis. Their son Glen married Mariam Reinheimer. While at the museum he ran into Judy DuShane, who also was connected to his family. What were the chances? Dr. Haas died of a heart attack at Lakeside after travelling across the ice.

Tom Heckman caught up with us at the Art Show. He is connected to the Stokes and Foley families on the island. How are you connected – Old island roots or new green sprouts? Maybe you have old family histories or perhaps you are making new family memories. How are you connected to Kelleys Island?



The drainage project was a big job. Exposed bedrock slopes toward the street. The system is now locked into the village storm drain, which should handle the ground water issue.



Mike Stoker, **Boomer Construction** and Crew were lucky with weather.

#### **NEWS FROM THE PAST – ITEMS WE HAVE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE**

**November 1861** - The subscriber, having a barn full of well cured hay, that the dews of heaven never touched since it was first cut, desires to inform the poor, half starved horses and horned cattle of this neighborhood through their human owners, that it is most all for sale...at the barn, casks down as soon as weighed, or \$20 per ton on three months time, with good security.

Now fellow citizens, do not oblige the good old Mrs. Brindle this cold winter to steal her living in the streets, eating the straw all out of her aristocratic neighbor's sleigh and wagons and ready to dodge in at any pair of bars left open to annoy the biped part of the population. But give her good honest living for her milk and butter by getting, as soon as possible, a good load of hay as is this hay.

**December 1861** - The week now about to close, usually a lively and pleasant one being the commencement of the holidays, has passed off we believe, to the entire satisfaction of all the citizens of the Island and particularly so, to the recipients of the annual visit of Old Santa Claus, who has been unusually bountiful and lavish with his gifts to his favorites. The little children, yes and the large children too, came for a goodly share of his generosity. How much of this was due to their labors in the vineyard last fall, the Old Saint has not informed us. This, however, is pretty generally conceded to be one of his fundamental rules; to deal out, in proportion to the merits of each particular recipient of his favors. Laziness, prodigality and selfishness usually proving a sufficient bar to keep him from them altogether. Be wise then ye little ones, and let him have no cause to pass you by when another Christmas shall have come.

**October 1861** - The subscriber, having a barn full of well cured hay, that the dews of heaven never touched since it was first cut, desires to inform the poor, half starved horses and horned cattle of this neighborhood through their human owners, that it is most all for sale...at the barn, casks down as soon as weighed, or \$20 per ton on three months time, with good security.

Now fellow citizens, do not oblige the good old Mrs. Brindle this cold winter to steal her living in the streets, eating the straw all out of her aristocratic neighbor's sleigh and wagons and ready to dodge in at any pair of bars left open to annoy the biped part of the population. But give her good honest living for her milk and butter by getting, as soon as possible, a good load of hay as is this hay...  
W D. Kelley

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We are 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

### THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS



The Kelleys Island Brewery 419 746-2314  
[islandpj419@gmail.com](mailto:islandpj419@gmail.com)



The Inn on Kelleys Island 419-746-2258  
[Innk120@yahoo.com](mailto:Innk120@yahoo.com)

*We wish you the happiest of holidays  
and the best New Year ever.*

*Kelleys Island Historical Association*



### GENEALOGY

Leslie has been doing some Genealogy work for people contacting KIHA in search of their roots. If you are searching for YOUR FAMILY ROOTS, make sure you check out [www.KelleysIslandStory.com](http://www.KelleysIslandStory.com) and click on *Genealogy*. You can get your name added to the list and perhaps connect with other family members.

### VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

We always invite people to sign our guest book – we love to see where they are from. This year was a banner year for visitors. In all, 1824 people signed in, which is an increase of 45% over last year. From the U. S., our visitors came from such far flung places as: Arizona, California, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, N and S Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

But we also entertained visitors from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, England, Russia and Scotland. We like to think they came just to see our little museum. So many people wrote in the book that they enjoyed the museum and were impressed with the personal attention our volunteers gave them.