



Kelleys Island Historical Association, Inc.

Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438

Vol. V, No. 2

July, 1990

RESTORATION OF OLD STONE CHURCH

COMPLETED: For the past several years, it has been obvious that the interior of the Old Stone Church, headquarters of the Kelleys Island Historical Assn., would have to be redecorated. Peeling paint and falling plaster marred the simple beauty of this architectural gem. Until recently, attempts to find competent workmen to do the job were unavailing. However, this past spring, the Association was fortunate in being able to find a contractor from the Cleveland area willing and able to do the restoration. After receiving competition bids, a contract was approved at the June, 1990 meeting of the Association in the amount of \$9,700 and the work commenced on June 21st.

The project, which was initially thought to include only redecoration, however, assumed much greater proportions. A preliminary investigation showed that dry rot of the stringers and sills which support the floor made for a dangerous and hazardous situation. Already the north half of the church floor had dropped several inches and the south portion was approaching a similar stage. In addition, considerable work was necessary on the bell tower. While the basic structure there was sound, much of the facing was rotted and needed replacement.

The contract entered into addressed both the structural rehabilitation and redecoration. This work now completed, the Old Stone Church will regain its place as a major landmark of the Kelleys Island community.

It is to be noted that the Neuman Boat Line, thanks to the goodwill of John and Virginia Neuman, underwrote 50% of the cost of transporting the men and materials necessary to complete this project.

An Open House of the Old Stone Church was held on Saturday, July 14th.

DUES DUE!!! It's that time of year again. Annual dues of \$5.00 per individual for the year 1990-1991 are due at your earliest convenience. Checks should be made to: Kelleys Island Historical Association, Kelleys Island, Ohio, 43438. A self-addressed envelope is included in this newsletter for your remittance (You may also include your check and completed stubbs for the Bavarian Wall Clock raffle as well.) In addition, Patron memberships for \$100 and Life memberships for \$500 are available. Be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number on all correspondence.

BAVARIAN WALL CLOCK: Enclosed in this issue of the Newsletter is a book of tickets to be used in a drawing for the Bavarian Wall Clock fashioned and donated by Russell Matso to the Association. This beautiful time-piece is on display in Russell's place of business (The Lodge). The raffle will be held on Butterfly Day, Sept. 15, 1990. (You need not be present to win.) Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.00. If you need additional tickets (and as hoped you will), they may be had by applying to members of the Association Board, at "The Lodge," or by mail.

ANNUAL MEETING: The Annual Meeting of the Kelleys Island Historical Association will take place on Saturday, Aug. 11, 1990 (1:30 P.M.) at the Old Stone Church. At that time, Board members will be elected; a nominating committee has been appointed to make recommendations for filling those vacancies. In addition, reports from the various committees

will be presented and plans for the ensuing year will be discussed. All members and friends of the Association are urged to attend as a number of vital issues to the organization must be discussed and acted upon.

DOCENTS NEEDED: Though the current renovation of the Old Stone Church necessarily curtailed visitations in the opening weeks of the 1990 summer season, it is expected that, with the completion of the structural and redecorating projects, there will be many more tourists than ever before.

The Association plans to establish a regular schedule of weekend "hours of opening." Thus there will be a need for volunteers to act as docents (guides) for this essential service.

Cindy Herndon is in charge of this project; please contact her if you can be of assistance. Members and friends are encouraged to participate in this activity. The Old Stone Church is the central "exhibit" in the Association's efforts to preserve and promote a knowledge of the Island's unique heritage.

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW: The annual Arts & Crafts Show will be held at the Old Stone Church on Saturday, July 21, 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. Items for display and/or sale should be handled through Lydia Bechtel, chairperson. The public is cordially invited to view the art works on exhibit. Judging of entrants' works will begin at 10:00 A.M.

Annual Tour of Homes: Even though June 23rd was windy and wet, the Annual Tour of Homes was a success. Co-chairpersons for the event were Ila Dick and June Campbell.

In all, seven homes were on the tour: the oldest, the Huntington House (1838-1840), owned by the Thinnes family; the Moore-Bechtel House (1902), owned by Ron & Lydia Bechtel; the LeRoy Myers home, built by George Chilsom in the latter part of the 19th century; Cricket Lodge, built by John Himmelein in 1906 and currently operated as a "bed and breakfast" by Chris & Frank Yako; Bob & Jan Ransom's "Log House," built in 1987; "The Kelley Island Place" of Walter and Frannie Johnson; and the Holdren House, built in 1896 and currently the residence of Lynn & Debbie Holdren (since 1980).

Association members served as hosts & hostesses at the various "stops" on the tour.

BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL: Sept. 15th will mark the end of the Association's programs for 1990; this is the date for the traditional Butterfly Festival. Refreshment, game auction, and the Bavarian Clo Raffle will be part of the day-1 activities. Featured will be an illustrated talk at 1:30 P.M. by Prof. Ralph Ramey, former director of the Glen Helen Preserve at Yellow Springs, Ohio and instructor at Antioch College. For many years he has followed the migrations of the monarch butterflies from Kelleys Island to Mexico. He is also the author of a number of articles and a book on hiking in the Ohio Country.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITEMS FOR THE AUCTION SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH. ITEMS FOR THE BAKI SALE SHOULD BE DELIVERED BY 10:00 A.M. Finally, arrangements for use of craft sales tables should be made through Bea Matso.

The Annual Butterfly Festival is the principle project of the Ways & Means Committee, Chairperson Bea Matso. All inquiries and arrangements should be made through her.

MEMORIAL GIFTS:

*In memory of Anne Sennish by
Mr. & Mrs. George Brdicka.
In memory of Alice Finger by
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Bechtel.
In memory of Verna Bertsch by
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Bechtel.
In memory of Edward Lay by
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Bechtel.*

CALENDAR:

July 21, Arts & Crafts Show
Aug. 12, Annual Meeting
Sept. 16, Butterfly Festival
Sept. 23, Fireland Council Tour
Kelleys Island.
