



# Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 6, Issue I

Winter, 2009

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### Board Members

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Mike Feyedelem
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- Webmaster**  
Delores Cole

## Building opening imminent

Plans are in the works for a 2009 opening event, hopefully by later summer or early fall, for the new museum. While all of the displays may not be complete, the board is discussing the possibility of holding an event to allow our members to see the spectacular potential of the place.

Since last fall all of the plumbing work has been finished, drywall has been installed, electrical lines have been installed and exterior painting has been completed.

Our island's resident artist of international renown and KIHA member **Chuck Herndon** has volunteered to plan to design the interior of the new building. He was recommended by the Ohio Arts Society as a consultant, but offered to do the job as a volunteer. The implementation of a plan will take some time, and will be an ongoing process. The plan will be a road map to follow into the

future. We can't thank him enough and can't say enough how much we know we are blessed to have his tremendous skills at our disposal.

Islander and member **Jack Eaton** has voluntarily installed all of the plumbing fixtures and lines on his own time completely gratis, except for supplies. Again, we are extremely appreciative of the talent and generosity of our skilled members.

In addition, we now have heat in our new building. During October and November the propane tank was set, the boiler installed and inspected, which is now heating our new building. Drywall is up and has been inspected, cellulose insulation has been installed and inspected, and currently the drywall is being mudded and taped for future painting.

Please keep your eyes upon our newsletters and our museum sign to see what we have going on.

## Our dear friend passes but will never be forgotten



**Jesse A. Martin, 83,** of Monroeville and Kelleys Island, passed away last April at the Stein Hospice Center and we never had an opportunity to highlight her lengthy history with the KIHA.

She was born Jessie May Abbott in Rarden, a small village in the hills of southern Ohio, in 1924. She graduated from **Rarden High School** and later gained the title

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## Lots to shop for in 2009 Gift Shop

### Sharon Brunell McIntire

On April 25th, 2009 the KIHA gift shop opened at the Old Stone Church for the 2009 season. During the month of May we will be open on Sat. and starting in June we will open during the week. More volunteer workers are needed for us to be open 7 days a week. Please consider donating 3 hours a week for the KIHA? You'll be amazed at how much fun it is and how educational it can be.

Items for sale this year include many new books, brass items, Root Candles, and nautical pieces. Kelleys Island items include souvenir spoons, key chains, thimbles, bells, magnets, KIHA pens, handmade Christmas ornaments, and postcards.

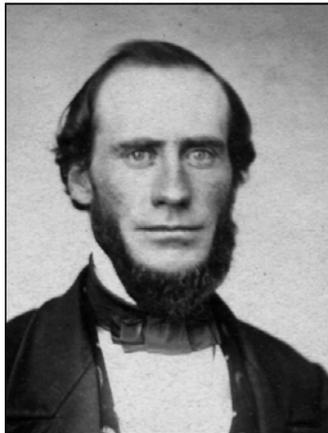
In addition we have new note cards by artist **Frances Toepfer** of island scenes. History books for sale about Kelleys Island include **Norman Hill's "History of Kelleys Island,"** **Jesse Martin's**

Continued on Page 2

## 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. (Added information will appear in [ ] .)*

#### **No. 16—Point of Rocks, VA, in Entrenchments Thursday, June 30th, 1864—9 o'C AM**

Your letter of the 19th reached me last evening and also yours of the 23rd enclosing **Isabella's** reached me this morning, the latter having been distributed to Co. H by mistake (your K resembling an H). I have as yet not received your letters numbered 7 and 9...

We were very anxious to hear from home and could not think why ours were so long in reaching you and every man in camp is complaining of the non reception of letters. You will therefore see the absolute necessity of our friends writing promptly as you have done. I have written you so often that I have lost track of the number or dates of my letters...

My last to you written while out on picket duty watching "Rebs" was written on small note paper under date of 28th. On my return to camp I found a number of the boys sick and more have suffered since. **Charley Mitchell Holbrook**, **Lester Carpenter**, **Lieut. Lange**, **Herman Koster**, **Charlie Kelley**, **Euchre Morris Lincoln** and several others, making about 16 of our boys who are more or less under the weather. The attacks were all quite sudden and very similar in character, occasioned doubtless by the terrible march from the **James River** and the stifling intense heat of the weather, want of proper food... All are now, however, on the mend and improving. The weather has been very much cooler in the last few days, in fact, comparatively comfortable. Yesterday at 8

oC we rec'd an order to strike tents and be ready to move in an hour. We struck tents, loaded the Regimental wagon with officers' baggage which had just started about two rods when the order came to hold on for further orders. We held on for three hours when the order came to pitch tents again and stay where we were and here we are now.

Day before yesterday I was informed by a Calvary officer that **Baldy Smith** with the 18th Corps had left the front of **Petersburgh** having a train of mortars his purpose being to cross the **Appomattox** and get in the rear of the Rebels, who had taken position in the works on the other side and commanding Petersburg. You will understand that the works taken by our troops are on the other side of the River from our Breastworks, and that we took all but the inner Rebel line which they still hold, though our Guns command the whole of the city. The Rebels also have works on the side of the river at Petersburg from which they also have command of the city by their guns. It was to get in rear of these works that Smith's present move is made. The Officer told me that if Smith got around we should hear his mortars yesterday. I now learn that he did get in the rear by a march of 27 miles and last night there was a continuous fire all night of heavy guns which I presume was Smith's mortars, they are booming away now: the reports are different from other guns being much heavier and not so sharp and the firing more deliberate.

There was an entire Negro Brigade passed through here yesterday just returned from Petersburg, otherwise the quiet of the last two or three days remains undisturbed. Today we have our regular Company muster, this is for purpose of report to War Department and is necessary on account of pay. Though we shall not be probably paid until mustered out.

I have been busy enough for two or three days past, Bristol and Lange both sick. Lange has been on hand all the time and every time until the past few days, he is better now. The last two nights are the first I have passed in my tent for a week and today I am "Officer of the Day," though the duty is light, I have also to be on hand at my Co. muster today. We are all now looking forward to the close of our time of service and feel that it cannot arrive too quickly for the yearnings for home and the companionship of loved ones and friends there is strong and

Cont. on pg. 4

### 2009 Gift Shop news, Cont. from page 1

"Beginnings & Tales of the Lake Erie Islands," KIHA's Tour Guide "Homes & Sites," Claudia Brown's "Kelleys Island," and Leslie Korenko's "Kelleys Island Lives of Island Pioneers." Don't forget the KIHA Gift Shop is the only location where the **Big Chuck & Li'l John** island tour CD is available.

Monthly 50/50 raffle tickets are available as well as chances on the handmade butterfly pillow by Barb Behlen.

Don't forget all KIHA members get a 10% discount on all items. Come on in & check us out.

## Jesse Martin, cont. from page 1

of **Runner-Up Miss Ohio** and **Miss Rio Grande**. In 1945 after receiving a bachelor of arts degree from **Rio Grande College**, she moved to Kelleys Island, where she began her 30-year career in education, which included teaching at **Kelleys Island School, Norwalk High School** and **Perkins High School**.

While on Kelleys Island, she met and married her husband of 62 years, fourth generation islander **Charles "Jake" Martin** and they resided there until moving to Monroeville in 2005. Jessie was lovingly devoted to her husband and family. She will be remembered and missed for her tender kindness, her love of cooking, doll collecting, travel, nature and her dedication to education.

Jessie was a member of the **Kelleys Island Board of Education** and one of the founding members of the **Kelleys Island Historical Association**. She was the KIHA's first president back in 1986. She was a longtime member of the **Zion United Methodist Church** on Kelleys.

An accomplished and published author of several articles, children's stories and books, including "Wish Upon a Whippoorwill," "Cooking and Fishing on Kelleys Island," "A History and Some Tales of Kelleys Island, Ohio," "On the Trail of the Red Fox," "A Collection of Cakes and Verse," and "The Beginnings and Tales of the Lake Erie Islands." Several of these treasured books are available in the KIHA Museum Gift Shop.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband Jake, two sisters **Velma Abbott** of Marblehead and **Monta (Henry) Tardif** of Fort Myers, FL; one brother **John "Jack" (Betty) Abbott** of Morrow; one daughter, **Lizabeth (Dan) Fresch** of Sandusky, one son, **Charles "Chuck" (Joy) Martin** of Hicksville, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers.

Memorials were made to **The Jessie A. Martin memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o any Fifth Third Bank**.

## Another sad loss—Gerry Bickley passes suddenly this past January

Gerry Bickley, 79, of Kelleys Island, passed away suddenly Monday, Jan. 12, 2009, in Magruder Hospital in Port Clinton. She was born Nov. 17, 1929, on Kelleys Island, daughter of the late Rosella (Elfers) and Henry Beatty. She was a 1947 graduate of Kelleys Island High School.

Gerry was a member of St. Michael Catholic Church. She was very active in the Kelleys Island Historical Association.



*Ila Dick, Gerry's sister, loaned us this lovely photo of a young Gerry.*

She enjoyed gardening, and her grandchildren were her life.

Surviving Gerry are her husband of 58 years, Lyle Bickley, whom she married Aug. 26, 1950; three sons, Steve (Kerrie) Bickley of North Carolina, Todd (Bobbi) Bickley of Port Clinton and Phil (Susan) Bickley of Avon, Ohio; nine grandchildren, Jennifer (Matt) Kluemper, Jeff, Adam, Sarah, Elizabeth, Maureen, Samuel, Monica, and Claire Bickley; and one sister, Ila Dick of Kelleys Island.

Gerry was preceded in death by her parents, and two brothers, Wayne and Ronald Beatty. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in the spring at St. Michael Catholic Church, Kelleys Island. Burial will be in Kelleys Island Cemetery.

*Memorial contributions may be made to Kelleys Island Historical Society, P.O. Box 328, Kelleys Island, OH 43438.*

## Memorials to KIHA

### In memory of Gerry Bickley

Anne Sennish  
Judith Dushane  
Frank & Laura Pohorence  
Janice M. Bickley-Page  
Mary Lou Haig  
William & Therese Stevenson  
Carole J. Kromer  
Ila Dick  
Philip B. Filipek  
John & Susan Carlson  
Walter & Carol Wehenkel  
Cindy Conner

Peter & Mary Ellen Thinnes  
Patricia Seeholzer  
Herbert Bickley  
Nadine Mack  
Judith Allan  
Karl Beatty  
Mike & Donna Drusbacky  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Guerra  
Robert C. Bickley  
Mike & Kelly Drusbacky  
Faber & Catherine McKenna  
Dan & Tammy Almendinger  
George & Elsie Homegardener

Carl & Anne Koebel  
Mr. & Mrs. Logan Bickley  
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Ringle  
Daniel Ahner  
Cynthia LaMarca  
Nancy Stoetzer  
Constance McDonald  
Lillian Phinney  
Bill & June Campbell  
Pat Haig  
**In memory of William James Lange**  
David & Lois Bachman  
Ester Carlson

### In memory of Diane Dashner

Ila Dick  
**In memory of Betty Rettig**  
The Pascoe Family  
**In memory of Laurie James Anne R. Sennish**  
**In memory of James Hodgson**  
Anne R. Sennish

## William S. Webb

### letters, from pg. 2

constant. We have not been in as high spirits as usual for the past two or three days on account of so many being out of sorts, and as nothing in the fighting line has occurred to break the monotony of camp life.

The non-arrival of expected letters has had a depressing effect also and many were the anxious and disappointed faces that made their appearance at my tent last night as I delivered the mail...I wish you would have my letters preserved, copied if necessary if Sarah has the time, as they will constitute a record for future reference.

A boy has just cried out at my tent, "Cucumbers! 2 for 15 cents." "Onions! 5 cents each." I invested 25 cents in a bunch of 5 onions. We get no vegetables only as brought round by boys, and cucumbers and onions are the only kind that we have been able to buy.

My regular diet is Black tea, Hard & Soft bread, toasted Bacon, sometimes dried Apples and once dried Peaches. The "boys" fare better than my mess as they draw Rice, Beans and Molasses. I have not tasted a potato since I left **Johnson's Island**, except two meals at **Washington** but all this does not trouble me in the least. I might add that I have had no other vegetables since then except as **Erastus** brings his rations of Beans to the mess. He draws his rations and messes with me.

...I am sure we shall all enjoy a good "square meal" (as the boys call a regular meal) when our "100 days are over." In a conversation with my our Colonel at my tent yesterday about our time he thinks we shall have our time reckoned from May 2nd, and that the last of July will find us on our way home. He does not say so publicly as he does not wish to encourage hopes in the boys...

*We will continue with this letter of Mr. Webb's in our next newsletter.*

## Thanks to our 2008 members!

### We couldn't do it without you. Don't miss out on being a part of KI history!

Dan Ahner	Mr. & Mrs. Don Gilles	Barbara & John Ohlemacher
Sandra K. Alexander	Richard & Nancy Gleason Di-	Barbara Palumbo
Donna & Drew Algase	anne Hacker	Elizabeth Pape
Deanna Allensworth	Tom & Dee Hartley	W. Kevin Pape
Annalee	Jill Hay	Roger, Jeanie, & Emily Perl
Lois Bachman	Lori & Pat Hayes	Mary Ann Pileski
Ruth F. Bandeen	Sharon Herman	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Pohorence
Alyce & Richard Beck	Cynthia & Chuck Herndon	Alston & Joan Quillen
Roberta A. Beckman,	Mrs. Kathryn Herndon	Shelly & Andrew Quillen
Geraldine Betzenheimer	Sally Hiller	Robert & Mary Quillin
Terri Betzenheimer	Richard Holmes	Mary Beth & George W. Quillin
Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Bickley Philip	Elsie & George Homegardner	Jr.
Bickley	Robert & Nancy Howley	Pat Raiff
Steve Bickley	Kate Hudak	Robert & Jan Ransom
Todd Bickley	Floren James	Kathy Reddinger
Janice Bickley-Page	Al Janik	Roger Renwick
Paula & Richard Bier	Helen E. Jensen	Betty Rettig
Martha & Robert Bissell	Patti Johnson-Muranyi	Dee Dee & Greg Ritchie
Joann & Sanford Black Robert	Joy Kaser	Michael Rudinoff
L. Black Jr.	Michael Kelley	John & Jeanne Sabol
Milton Blatt	Mark & Jackie Kettunen	Dick Scheiber
Barb & Ted Blatt	Sandra Kilko	Robert Schnittker
Laura Bobak	Janet & Michael Killam	June & Chuck Schodowski
Marty Bowden	Alison Kobs	Pat Seeholzer
Ruth & Garland Bradshaw	John D. Kobs II	James A. Selve
Cecelia Ann Brown	John & Judy Kobs	Anne Sennish
Claudia Brown	Bill & Christine Koenigseker	Barbara Shadle
Judy Brown	Leslie Korenko	Anne Lange Shaw
Lee Brown	Don & Bernie Koshla	Dot Simonds
Leslie Brown	Jacque Kranyak & Family	Phyllis Soinski
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Brown	Joan E. Kreimes	Mr. & Mrs. John Spirk
Dr. & Mrs. William E. Bruner	Carole Krzynowek	Judson & Joan Sprandel
Polly & Ken Burns	Ed & Fran Kuchar	Patricia M. Stafford
Marv Byer	Eleanor Kushner	Byron Stanger
Esther Carlson	Knut Lahrs & Jean Boyd	John & Sandy Stare
Mr. Christopher Carrig	Catherine Laird	Shelly & Don Stein
Margaret Clapper	Lake Erie Islands Historical	Bill & Terri Stevenson
Delores Cole	Society	Nancy Stoetzer
Lillian Conkle Cole	Cynthia LaMarca	Emelia Strba
Amy Coleman	Norm & Gye Landis	Sonia & Tom Taylor
Peggy & Pat Cooney	Catherine Lange	Karen Terry
Joe Corso	Gretchen Larson	Joe & Diane Tesauro
Robert Coulon	Peter & Sam Legere	Mary Ellen & Jack Thinnis
Tracie Coverdale	Virginia C. Leidheiser	Frances & Russell Toepfer
Byron & Shirley Crabill	Elaine & Ron Lickfelt	Marty Tremmel
Duncan Creed	Dr. John Liwosz	Cynde Morse Vargo
Marilyn Dauch	Donna Lovins	Carol Vogler Bright
Caroline DeBoard	Robert Luckay	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Voltz
Shane Delin	Nadine O. Mack	William & Laura VonBenken
Ila Dick	Connie L. McDonald	Chad Waffan
Matt Dick	Sharon & Jim McIntire	Fred Walcott
Graham Dickens	Nancy McKeen	Mr. & Mrs. Russell Ward
Judy DuShane	Florence McKillips	Barbara Weltman
Rita & Jack Eaton	Shirley A. McKillips	Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Werner
Elizabeth A. Eddowes	Sally & Hermann Menges	Mary L. Wiard
Ron & Eddie Ehrbar	Bonnie Meyers	Robert & Jane Wick
Deborah & Bruce Emrick	Steve & Holly Miller	Peggy & Lawson Wideman
Karen & Jim Erne	Frances S. Minshall	Mary Lou Wieland
Mike & Vi Feyedelem	Joan & Werner Minshall	Micki Riedy Wiles
Jaime & John Fisher	Jane Monger	Roger & Madeleine Williams
Cindy Franketti	Geraldine Moulton	Linda & Ned Williams
Lizbeth & Dan Fresch	Diane, Allen & Erin Nickles	Virginia Wilson
Carol & Ed Frindt	Carol & Ed Nofziger	Jeri Yoest

## 2008 Gift Shop results and old friends found

### Sharon Brunell McIntire

The final number of visitors we had sign our guest book last year was 3,344 visitors with one more foreign country visitor from Sweden. Gift shop total sales for 2008 were \$10,357.62 ; donations given at the door were \$2,161.60; and profit from this year's 50/50 raffles were \$427.50.

In October we had some interesting visitors. **Anne Eddowes** and I met with **Kathy Morris** and **Loretta Wilkins**, two ladies from Sandusky who are earning their Master Gardeners certificates. As volunteers they are working on landscape drawings over the winter for our church and our new building. **Sandusky Library** also brought their staff as visitors over to the island and to visit our museum, as well.

### A very special visit from old friends

On Sunday October 12th, I received a call from the Chamber of Commerce requesting the museum to be opened on Wednesday for a visitor named **Diana Harmon** from Toledo. The Chamber told her the museum was closed during the week. I had the Chamber call her back and call me directly. Diana Harmon then called me and we made arrangements to open the museum for her and her grandmother, who was born on the island, to visit. Unfortunately she wasn't able to give me much information other than the last name being Adam and they lived next to the church. She again called me later in the day and spoke to **Frannie Minshall**. Frannie and I both checked for information at the museum and made phone calls to **Sis McKillips** and **Ted Blatt**.

On Wednesday October 15th Diana Harmon arrived with her grandmother and 2 great aunts **Nancy Charvat**, **Betty Huy** and **Naomi Copp**. All three were born on the island and attended **Estes School**. They had not visited the island in over twenty years. It seems the Adam's owned and lived next to the Methodist Church, which is now the **Nickels** house, and were members of that church.

**Charles Adam** married **Katharine Bareis** on Kelleys Island in 1889. Charles worked in the quarry in 1900 and the wineries in 1910 and the one daughter **Martha** worked at the **Himmelein House** around the early 1900s. They had 4 children and **Sarah** graduated from Estes School in 1914. Sarah was their mother.

In further conversations we learned they moved off the island to Toledo. Naomi informed me she had a good friend she used to date who was a young man from the island with the last name of Blatt.

While Frannie stayed with the ladies, I found out that Ted Blatt was at Senior Lunch at **Bag the Moon**. I kidnapped Naomi and took her to see him. She recognized him immediately and she reminded him that he even went to Toledo twice to visit her. Ted says he doesn't seem to remember but does remember going to Toledo with **Bob Schnittker** a couple of times. I returned Naomi to the museum and fond farewells were said. The three ladies think it is wonderful that we are preserving the history of the island and gave us a \$20. donation to help with our new museum.

## Our deepest condolences to the families and friends of

**Gerry Bickley**  
**Betty Rettig**  
**L.J. Greek**  
**Laurie James**  
**Diane Dashner**  
**William Lange**, (son of **Bill & Hazel Lange** and brother of **Esther, Ruth, and Lois**, who all grew up on Kelleys in the 30s & 40s)  
**James Hodgson**

## Welcome New 2009 members

**Lyon Baumler**  
**Frank & Carol Dodson**  
**Jeff Evers**  
**Barbara O'Connor**  
**John Sinkovic**,  
 New life members **Steve and Sally Williams Weary**  
 Cash donations to KIHA—**Delores Cole**  
**John & Judy Kobs**

Don't forget to mention the Kelleys Island Historical Association when you shop at any Gordon Food Service location. They offer a rebate back to us. It's a truly easy way to help us preserve KI history! Thanks GFS!



## Treasurer's Report—2/28/09

Checking	\$18,640
Savings	\$20,005
E*TRADE	\$ 4,746
National City Savings	\$45,123
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$88,514*</b>

The KIHA's fiscal year is from Nov. 1st through Oct. 31st, according to our By-Laws. All federal and state taxes have been filed through Oct. 31, 2008. All Ohio sales tax and resort taxes have been paid for 2008. Property tax on the parsonage has been paid as well.

**Your treasurer,**  
**Sharon Brunell McIntire**

\*A sizeable portion of assets are allocated to completion of the new building.

**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*

**2009 KIHA Events**

Sat., July 11—Tour of Homes

Sat., Aug. 1 — Art Show

Sat., Sept. 12—Butterfly Festival

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