



**Kelleys Island  
Historical  
Association**

# Kelleys Island Historical Association

April 1, 2020

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## LAS VEGAS – KELLEYS ISLAND STYLE

You asked for it – and we deliver. We are planning another Big Event for the KI Historical Assoc. Save the Date – August 15, 2020 – it's

### Vegas Night at the Quarry Lake Casino.

**ENTERTAINMENT?** - A real Vegas

show. We have cornered a trio called the Dean O Holics + Marilyn, a tribute band

impersonating Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra (a throwback to the Rat Pack), and Elvis Presley. They will be doing photos and mingling with the guests as well as singing on stage, and providing music on breaks etc. Really, wouldn't you love a photo with one of them?



**GAMBLING?** – What would Vegas be without gambling? Providing gambling is complicated but we worked it out. We will have five blackjack tables, Texas Hold'em, Roulette wheel, and a craps table. This is a real Vegas experience with 9 dealers, professional equipment and even a Pit Boss.



**ATTIRE?** - Start looking for that perfect outfit. Are you a showgirl, an Elvis impersonator, a millionaire who lights his cigar with a \$100 bill or a mobster? The choice is yours.

**FOOD?** – Oh yes. A Las Vegas Style buffet dinner – we are still working on the menu but we assure you it will be a tasty, tasteful, Vegas experience.

**WANT MORE INFO?** We will be updating our [website](#) and Facebook pages with details as they come in. In the meantime, make sure you explore some of the videos, costume ideas and a little history about



Vegas that you probably didn't know. [www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org) click on Vegas 2020.

**TICKETS** – are [available online](#) now and in the Gift Shop starting May 15.

## THE INTEREST IN SMALL MUSEUMS IS GROWING

In January we noted that we had 2816 visitors sign in (this was 60% higher than 2013). We were not alone! A report by the American Association of State & Local History revealed that some of the strongest visitation growth occurred at small institutions like ours which can be found in so many small communities across the country. These small institutions, some of which are operated solely by volunteers, form the majority of the nation's more than twenty thousand historical organizations. That so many of them are reporting sharp visitation increases speaks well to the strength and vitality of the history enterprise in the United States.

We truly believe that visitors appreciate learning just a little more about the people, places and things that they see when they visit our little Island and it truly enriches their experience.

## HOW I BECAME A LADY DOCTOR BY DR. JANE SPAULDING

Kelley's Island was fortunate to attract Dr Jane Spaulding who served the Island from 1866-1873. When she left, Dr. Sarah Henderson took over. Spaulding wrote about how she became a doctor. The process by which she received her certification is quite interesting.

*This is Dr. Jane Spaulding in her later years.*

“The questions have often been asked me since I came to the Island, how came you to study medicine? What first made you think of it? I will tell you and if my efforts or success should serve as an incentive to any woman to ‘go and do likewise,’ I shall feel well repaid for telling the story.

In the first place, I inherited a reasonable amount of poverty, an inheritance that I have always retained and still possess and which was a constant stimulus to all my efforts. Necessity therefore being a continual reminder that something must be done, whereby I might earn my bread and butter, I naturally looked around as boys do, endeavoring to find something for which I had some attraction and adaptation.

You will probably say that I looked around very much as girls do, when I tell you that the first object to which I was attracted was a young man, but the attraction not proving mutual, something else must be thought of and it was at this time that the idea of studying medicine first occurred to me. Although I had never known then of but one instance of a woman practicing medicine, I shall never forget the look of astonishment on the faces of my friends when I first mentioned the subject to them.

My Father tried to dissuade me from it because he thought the duties of the profession too arduous. Not so my friends. They thought only of my respectability that would be compromised. What would people think? What would they say? And their standing in wholesome fear of Mrs. Grundy, the idea was for a time relinquished, and I became a respectable school-mum in a stable village school where I remained for four or five years. During those years I grew wiser, whether my pupils did or not, and concluded that respectability was an elephant I could no longer afford to carry. I accordingly dropped it with a ‘Get thee behind me Satan.’

Never till then had I realized what a millstone had been about my neck. The poor elephant was picked up and well cared for I know, for I have recognized it on the shoulders of many of my friends since and both laughed and lamented that they should permit themselves to bear such a burden. I would not wish to be understood by this as having no regard for public opinion. Quite the reverse. But there is a vast difference between having proper respect for the opinions of others and being a slave to them. When we wish to do a thing, instead of asking our neighbors if it is respectable, let us first ask ourselves if it is right. For if it be right, we can very easily make it respectable.

Soon after leaving my school, I obtained a position as cashier in a store and then determined to begin my studies, resolving that nothing but sickness should prevent my studying at least two hours each day and more when I had leisure. The law requires that before a man or woman can receive his or her degree, that he or she shall have studied medicine with a regularly qualified physician three years, and attended two full courses of Medical lectures.

I accordingly went to a physician of my acquaintance and asked permission to study under his direction. He generously accepted me as a student, giving me free use of his library including a fine manikin and skeleton. I spent but four or five months in his office, the most of my studying I did evenings at home and was surprised at the end of a year to find how much I had achieved by studying but two hours each day.

It was at this time while I was engaged during the day at the store, that the inequality in the price paid for men and women's labor made a serious impression on my mind. I worked as many hours a day and did my work equally as well as any clerk in the store, and yet received less than half of some of the male clerks. My position was one of responsibility and trust, rather than profit or honor. I had frequent controversies with the proprietors during the two years I was in their employ, trying to convince them that I ought to receive as much as a man, but they ‘couldn't see it and never did.’ When I left them, they (very generously as they thought) tendered me a present of \$50. I replied that I would accept it not as a gift, but as a portion of my wages they had hitherto refused to pay.”



**BOARD SEATS – EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST** - We have two board seats up for election this year. If you are interested in running, we must receive a letter or email expressing your intent to appear on the ballot by June 26 (45 days before our annual meeting which will be August 9).

**HAAS PROPERTY** – The deed is filed. KIHA has purchased the vacant land between the museum and the former Annaliese’s Treasure Chest. While we have no immediate plans for the parcel, it creates a buffer on the south side of the building and secures the land for possible future expansion. More than half of the purchase price was donated. Thanks to David & Rose Herndon, Chuck & Cindy Herndon, The Kobs Family, Frederick Stueber, and Anne Eddowes, for making this possible.

**THE 1852 PENNY** by Chris Carrig - ‘I was walking down the street minding my own affair,’ no, sorry, that’s a line from an old song by The Sensational Alex Harvey Band; Google them if you don’t know who they are, I think you’ll enjoy it. Actually, one Sunday, I *was* walking down a street, here on Kelleys Island, when I noticed a black disk lying in a flowerbed along the edge of the sidewalk and stopped to pick it up. As I held it, flipping it over in my fingers, I found it to be a penny minted by the Upper Bank of Canada in 1852 that must have worked its way up to the surface.



The Upper Bank of Canada, I discovered upon doing some research, was an influential financial power in developing Canada in the first half of the nineteenth century. The Bank experienced much turmoil during this time. It weathered the depression of 1836 – 1838, the financial panic of 1838 – 1839, continuous attacks by political reformers and fierce competition by competing banks looking to establish themselves, and even having claimed bankruptcy only to survive with government intervention.

Upper and Lower Canada were united in 1841 forming the Province of Canada. The right to issue copper tokens at the time belonged to the Bank of Montreal until 1848. After political upheaval following the Rebellion Losses Bill of 1849, the right to issue tokens was transferred to the Upper Bank of Canada, and in 1850 it began producing the copper pennies seen here. The darker image is that of the actual coin I found, but took the liberty of including an image of a cleaner sample to better reveal its detail.

The obverse is a St. George and dragon motif encircled by the

legend BANK OF UPPER CANADA and the date.

While I found the history of the coin fascinating, this is where the story took an unexpected turn.

I returned to Cleveland on Sunday night, where I live when not on the island, having had just found the 1852 penny that afternoon. The following evening I arrived home from work to find my granddaughter, then in the third grade, anxiously awaiting my help with her Social Studies homework. “So what are we studying?” I asked her. “Somebody named Elijah McCoy,” she said in the disinterested tone of an eight year old.



Having never heard of Elijah McCoy myself, I opened her textbook to the pages that referenced him and began to read. As I read, I discovered he was a famous inventor with many patents to his credit, though best known for his design of a lubricating system for railroad engines. (left) Elijah McCoy

Reading further, I learned he was born in 1844 in Colchester, Ontario, Canada to George and Emillia McCoy, former slaves who escaped Kentucky via the Underground Railroad. Elijah showed great mechanical ability, so his mother decided he should attend school in

Scotland to study engineering. In the textbook it said that Elijah's mother worked very hard and "saved every penny she could" to finance her son's education. This is where the story became very interesting to me.

As I sat with her at the dining room table, books and papers spread around, her looking at the coin, I said, "Braelyn, you know something? This could be one of the actual pennies Elijah's mother saved to send him to school; she could have actually held it in her hand." Her interest was piqued. "Why don't you take it to school tomorrow and show it to your class," I suggested. "I'll help you write something up you can read about it. Your teacher will probably love it."

Now I had her, she was in. So with the help of her textbook and a little research on the web, we composed something she could present to her class about Elijah McCoy and this old coin. She read the piece while her classmates passed the penny around, holding in their hands an actual piece of the history they were studying, a coin minted 163 years earlier.

Call my finding that coin on Kelleys Island that day and her subsequent homework the following what you will, coincidence, chance, a flip of the coin? I prefer to believe it was Providence injecting itself into my life as it often times does, sometimes just to play with me. Whatever the case, only Providence knows what treasures, what history, is between the surface of the ground and the limestone bedrock that is our precious island, or how this artifact found its way here.

See kids, history CAN be interesting AND fun, and you never know where you'll find it.

**KOSTERS DOCK** - We were worried – the big winds of December 31 blew out much of the dock and foundation around the building at Unique Marker, the former Koster's Dock. Here's a really condensed history. The entire parcel once housed Jacob (Jake) Hayes' carpentry shop. Hayes was one of the earliest Island arrivals. After his death in 1887, several

small lots were consolidated and Herman Koster adapted the building for his winery. Several improvements brought the building close to the road. In 1886 and 1889 the Hayes dock was expanded. After Koster went out of business, the dock was used by the Sweet Valley, Monarch and Meiers Wine Cos. In 1907 the KI Lime & Transport Co bought it. In 1921, Lay Bros. began using the dock, purchasing it in 1945. In 1956, the KI Fish Producers Co-op bought it. If you look near the building, you can see the net reel that was used during the Island's commercial fishing era. Some temporary repairs were made and now it is a wait and see situation.



**SUFFRAGE ON KELLEY'S ISLAND - 1867** - This year the KI History Museum explores the earliest days of Women's Suffrage on the Island. In 1867 debates raged on whether women should have the right to vote. Obviously not everyone on the Island supported the movement and this led to some rather interesting arguments. Debates often ranged from the intellectual to the absurd. The articles, both for and against, were persuasive, compelling, eloquent and sometimes humorous. They all showed a great deal of thought. Our display will explore the arguments for and against. It would take 53 years for women to achieve their goal.

**THANKS** to the new Catawba Island Historical Society – "Wonderful job with this [the January newsletter]. When we grow up we want to be just like you guys! Seriously, you set a wonderful example for what a Historical Society should be, and we hope to follow your lead in becoming a comparable asset to our community! Craig Koerpel, President, Catawba Island Historical Society" Wow, and thanks! <https://catawbaislandhistoricalsociety.com/>

## MORE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GLACIAL GROOVES SITE

Last year we got an accessible ramp and repairs to some of the crumbling walkway. This year we got 6 new signs (the original ones were installed around 1995 and were in pretty bad shape). In October 2017 we sent a letter, to practically everyone, suggesting improvements for the Glacial



Grooves here on the Island. It's great to see two of the suggestions were implemented. We would still like to see better weed maintenance (to reduce root damage to the stone) and clearing some of the trees and brush from the quarry edge on the right side to create an unobstructed view of the old quarry below.

Finally, walking up to the top of the grooves reveals a distinctly different weather impact pattern. The lower part has been exposed for over 100 years and shows minimal wearing; however, as you proceed upwards, the damage is much more significant. There are now large sections of rock working loose and falling into the bottom of the grooves. It is obvious that even the small bridge at the top of the grooves has slowed down the deterioration of the stone under its protection. We hope the State will consider a partial pavilion cover as freezing and thawing, water and

snow are continuing problems. Deep sections of the grooves collect water with no outlet, softening the limestone and then freezing in the winter. While a cover/pavilion would not completely eliminate the intrusion of water and snow, but it would reduce the amount considerably. In addition, the lack of sunlight would slow the growth of weeds and protect the grooves from acid rain. This would also reduce the amount of water on the walkways, making visits to the grooves in inclement weather much safer.

**DO YOU SHOP AT KROGER?** 13 households have already linked their Rewards Card to us. Kroger donated \$60 back to us last quarter. Click [HERE](#) to link your card. You only do it once, then every time you scan your card, we get a donation.

## WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

**IN HONOR or MEMORY OF** Chuck & Cindy Herndon (Anonymous); Michael Babin from Kit Kalen

**DONATIONS FROM OUR END OF YEAR LETTER:** Sam & Pete Legere, Alison Kobs, Sherry Eddy, Michael & Marjorie Gallagher, Joe & Dianna Tesauro, Lawson & Peggy Wideman, John & Joan Carrig, Debbie Henderson, Carole Krzynowek, Robert Lehman, George & Mary Beth Quillin Jr., Don Schlesselman, Phyllis Soinski, Tim & Dawn Spicer, Bill & Alice Walsh, Pat Burnside, Sandra Elfers Cairelli, Sandra Dickens, James Erne, Pat & Peggy Cooney, Bill & Maryann Player, June Campbell, Kit & Mike Babin-Kilen, Jim & Karen Belavich, Dr. Wm. & Susan Brunner II, Nancy McKeen, Chris & Renae Reinhart, Richard Beck, Sandra Betzenheimer-Antunano, Christopher Carrig, David Lambros, George Leonard, Gerald West, Kathryn Yoakum, Duane & Lee Kuentz, Robert & Mary Quillin, Jack & Rita Eaton, Dan & Lizabeth Fresch, Isaac & Sara Humphrey, Julia Johnson, Philip & Valerie Stichter, Fred Walcott, Allen Nickles, Cynthia Guest, Cindy & Bill Leonard, Wm. & Diane Scott, Brian Baxter, Marian Goldner, Tom & Dee Hartley, Mary Jo Lackamp, John Turner, John Stock, John & Denise McGee. Special thanks to Bobbie Jo Kennedy & Chris Kipfer.

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS:** James Selfe, Jim & Karen Belavich (Huron OH) & James Mckillips (Okemos MI)

Kelleys Island Historical Association  
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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)  
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