



Making Kelleys Island History Everybody's Business

Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 4, Issue II

Spring/Summer, 2007

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Board Members

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2007 Tour of Homes success

The 2007 Tour of Homes was a huge success in every way. The event brought many people to the island, introduced islanders and visitors to some truly unique and beautiful island homes and sites and netted the KI Historical Association over \$2,000 in funds.

KIHA would like to thank **Annalee and Carol & Ed Frindt** for once again putting the tour together. Special thanks to **Shirley Crabill** who created the **home tour booklet** and **Jacquie Kranyak** who did

publicity for the event.

Our deepest thanks go to our homeowners, who graciously opened their doors to our visitors: **Lawson & Peggy**



Wideman, Dick & Paulette McMonagle, KI Board of Education, Jack & Mary Ellen Thinnes, Chuck & Cindy Herndon, Fred & Betsy Steuber,

and **Frank & Chris Yako.**

And, of course, none of the event would have been possible without the nearly 60 volunteers who acted as guides at the sites, sold raffle tickets, baked cookies and worked tirelessly to make this event the huge success it was.

Thank you to each and every one of you from the KIHA Board!

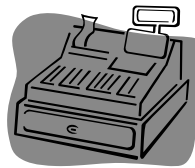


Gift shop open

The KIHA gift shop opened on May 25. It is open 7 days a week from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Volunteers are **desperately** needed for brief, 3-hour shifts throughout the week (11-2 or 2-5).

Please consider taking one 3-hour shift per week. Call **Sharon McIntire** at 746-2376. We know there are more of you out there who care deeply about preserving the history of our island, take an active role. Help us out. Working in the gift shop is a great way to meet your neighbors and a great way to spread the word about the island to our visitors.

This year the gift shop is the only location to purchase both the all-new "2007 Homes & Sites Book" (formerly the *Tour Guide*); and the Big Chuck and Li'l John Kelleys Island tour DVD.



While visiting the gift shop don't forget to purchase your 50/50 raffle tickets, or your raffle tickets for the "Seagull of Kelleys Island" by **Lydia Bechtel**. (We're only selling 100 tickets for this beautiful oil painting and there are not many left.)

Also don't forget that your gift shop is the home of the 2007 **Teri Betzenheimer** quilt and raffle tickets to win it! This year's quilt is another masterpiece.

And finally, island wood carver **Byron Crabill** has generously donated a new wood carving for raffle this year—stop in and see this beautiful piece in person and purchase a raffle ticket to win it.

The KIHA Gift Shop and all of the KIHA functions are completely run by volunteers and donations. Please do your part by helping out in any way you can.

More William S. Webb Civil War letters inside...see page 2.

William S. Webb family donates Civil War correspondence

*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 [] .)*

We left Mr. Webb's letters at June 10, 1864. We continue with the his next letter:

Washington, Saturday, June 11th 1864

One o'C P.M.

My Dear Wife

Having a few moments of time I take it to write you a few lines. We have just returned from a weary march of at least 4 miles. Having been up to see **Pres. Lincoln**, he made a very short speech, long enough under the circumstances for the sun poured down intensely hot all through the march. The streets very dusty and we consequently very tired. Many of the boys have been to the Capitol. I was there about 20 minutes, merely passed through one hall and returned. I have no curiosity to see anything, stay close in Quarters most all the time.

Half an hour after I closed my last letter yesterday, **Capt. Ed. Farr** came to see us, he staid until late in the evening. Today **Barnard** is here.

They are splendidly located in the Forts around here. If we could only "put in" our 100 days here I would not ask for any better situation, but I suppose we will have to leave for White House tomorrow at 10 o'C; that seems to be the programme now. We are cut short on baggage, and I gave **Henry Kelley** the case **Sarah** made for me to express home to you. My overcoat I handed to **Fred Reidling** formerly of Sandusky but now in this place in the Comptroller's office in the Treasury department to keep for me. My double blanket I gave to **Barnard** to use and keep for me. I only take my rubber blanket and one woolen blanket, the

one I got of **Mr. True**. The orders were, not to take dress coats, only blouses. I think I shall take mine however. The boys are all well except **Dan** who has a slight diarrhea, he is at the Soldier's Home outside of Quarters where he has a nice place and every attention. Our Reg't Commandant does not know he is out. I sent his **Uncle Wm.** out to see him, he will be all right in the morning I think. I do hope all will keep well but that much I cannot suppose.

I am very tired and footsore with the march this morning. There are 4 companies sleeping in a room 50 ft. square, not a vacant foot is left when all lie down. I shall be glad when we get out of these quarters though we may exchange them for less comfortable ones. There is a good deal of bitterness of feeling at being ordered to White House. It is felt by all as a swindle, none more than the Regimental Officers.

I enclose express receipt for the dressing case which I wish you to get when it arrives.

I rec'd your letter and **Belle's** this morning. Say to the dear little girl I will write her just as soon as I can, but may not be able to for some time. You may not get another letter from me for some days. **Erastus [Huntington]** stands square up to the rack without a murmur. Also **Henry Lange, Holbrook** and some others, this takes a great deal off me.

I anticipate a hard time of it but so far enjoy good health, as long as this is the case I shall not complain. You had better direct ;your letters here and add "To follow the Reg't." until you hear from me again.

Give my love to our dear children Sarah, Belle & **Charlie**. Kiss them for me, and be assured that I only now look forward to the time when we shall meet again.

The time of our Reg't is from May 13th I think.

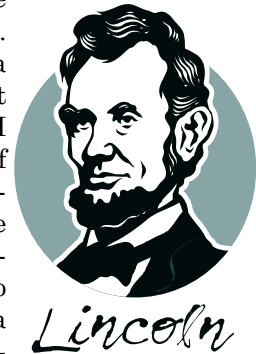
**Affectionately your Husband,
Wm. S. Webb**

Washington, Sunday, June 12th 1864

My Dear Wife

We received orders to march this morning. We are ordered to go to "Bermuda Hundred." The weather is intensely hot and we are now in the street near the Steamboat landing waiting for the boat the *John Brooks* (I think) to get unloaded when we shall go on board. The boat is just in & unloading sick and wounded soldiers.

This order is unexpected and the entire Reg't, Field Officers and all feel that it is an awful swindle upon us.



William S. Webb Civil War Letters (cont.)

Our boys are in good spirits and all well, though Dan has not entirely recovered from his attack. He goes with us, have had him at the Sanitary Commission Hospital.

It may be some time before you hear from me again. I do not know what the mail facilities will be. Write often. I will write every time I can.

Tell our friends to keep watch and if anything happens some one come down here. Bermuda Hundred is on the James River, where **Butler** is I believe.

Have not time to write more. A gentleman has promised to mail it.

Wm. S. Webb

Steamer George Weemes off Pt. Lookout Mouth of Potomoc, Monday, June 13th My Dear Wife

You will see by date above where we are at date of this. We left Washington yesterday about 2 oC P.M. and have so far had a very pleasant passage. We are as I wrote you yesterday on our way to Bermuda Hundred on the James River, 40 miles by water and about 18 or 20 by land from Richmond. What our destination is after arrived there no one knows, some say to act as guard at Butler base of supplies, others think to go into the active service with army in front. I think we shall be held in the rear to guard lines of communication supplies & our Lt. Col. will object to taking in the Reg't and the Col. is not competent to do it.

The Lt. Col. says we shall go no farther than Bermuda Hundred.

Grant has changed his base from White House to Harrison's Landing and is undoubtedly making preparations for the siege of Richmond, intending to operate there as he did at Vicksburg. If so we may not be far off when that event occurs, if it does occur. There is quite a gloomy feeling in the Reg't. at being placed as it is, but I cannot believe that it is the intention to place it where its lack of drill would render it useless.

I hope for the best, and am fully prepared to take things as they come. About 30 of our 100 is out and I do not think we shall be kept longer than our time unless some emergency should require us to be held a few days longer.

If with our aid the Rebellion is to be speedily crushed and the Country again restored to peace and unity I shall not complain of the hardships I may endure for a brief period. If it shall be so ordered that I bring back safely all the boys I take with me I shall feel contented. In any case I shall put all my philosophy into requisition and patiently and hopefully await the period of our return home.

The great source of anxiety with me (and it is so with all the boys of my command) is that our families

Lake Erie Islands Historical Society makes 2nd KI visit

LEIHS held their second annual Kelleys Island visit day on Wed., June 27. Once again, **Susie Cooper** of LEIHS sold over 50 tickets AND sold her group on visiting our island for a day-long tour.

This year the group was taken on a special visit to the island cemetery and given a history of the historic site written by **Claudia Brown**; they visited the wonderful **Cameron Home** and were hosted through by the very gracious **Ed and Carol Jorski**; they all had a thirst-quenching stop-over at the **Island Brew Pub**; and visited the KIHA museum buildings and the gift shop, where they had cookies and lemonade.

Following the tour, the group was served lunch at the five downtown restaurants—**Bag the Moon Saloon**, **Village Pump**, **Captain's Corner**, **Caddy Shack** and the **Casino**. Lunch was delicious at all five places. After lunch **Camp Patmos** brought their tram and took the entire group for a guided tour of the **LaFarge Quarry** operations, hosted by LaFarge's **Mike Cook**, and then a tour of the island which included **Glacial Grooves** and **Camp Patmos**.

KIHS was able to net over \$1200 for the day's festivities and we would like to thank the following: **Ed & Carol Jorski**, **Claudia Brown**, **Patti Johnson**, **Kathy Reddinger**, **Ted and Lisa Klonaris**, **Gary and Jackie Finger**, **Lynn & Brett Maier**, **Geraldine Bickley**, **Ila Dick**, **Sharon McIntire**, **Ed & Carol Frindt**, **Peggy Cooney**, **Byron Crabill**, **Kelly from the Brew Pub**, **Jacquie Kranyak**, **Mike Feyedelem**, **Madeleine Williams**, and the **Camp Patmos crew**—**Brad Murray**, **Andy**, & **Tim Richardson**.

at home will suffer in feeling unnecessarily on our account.

My only cause of despondency is this, and would it relieve me very much to know that my Wife and loved ones at home are using all their philosophy and patience during our separation.

I assure you dear Wife it is only the fear that you will be over anxious and feel unnecessary alarm for my safety that weighs on my mind. Therefore I entreat you to be yourself. Do not give way to feelings, bear up, be the same noble firm Christian Wife and Mother you ever have been, and thus cheer up and support others not so well situated as yourself and who may not have the same strength of character to uphold them. Above all do nothing to prejudice of your health, preserve that, it is a priceless blessing and must be preserved. Do not wear yourself out. This is your duty to me, to yourself, to our children.

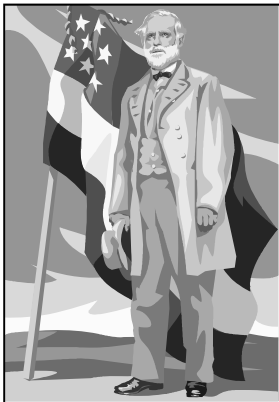
10 O'Clock A.M. We are now fairly out on Chesapeake Bay. It is about 100 miles to Fortress Monroe, which place we shall reach about evening, shall probably remain there over night and proceed in the morning on our voyage. The boys are nearly all engaged in writing home, and all are well without an exception.

William S. Webb letters, Continued

All seem disposed to do the best they can and are well under control showing no signs of insubordination. **Erastus** is perfectly invaluable. **Lt. Lange** was troubled yesterday with Rheumatism and could be of but little service in the hurry of our departure. Aside from these I have very little assistance. **H. Hays** is a No. 1 man and ought to have a commission. I may not be able to write **Sarah** or **Belle** as often as they or I could wish. They and **Charley** must consider all my letters as to them though not directed to them and must write to me often. You I know will not neglect this.

There is a little sea on, not enough to make it unpleasant, wind NE. Have written no particulars of what we see, have not time or disposition, I remain your affectionate husband,

Wm. S. Webb



**Within the Intrenchments
at "Point of Rocks"
On Appomattox River,
Thursday, June 16th
(my birthday) 1864
My Dear Wife**

My last was dated and written off Point Lookout, Monday June 13th. Passed Fortress at 6 1/2 o'clock P.M. of same day and anchored for the night close to shore at "Newport News" within 20 rods of where the Cumberland was sunk at 7 1/2 o'clock P.M. Left "Newport News" as 4 1/2 o'clock A.M. of the 14th, arrived at Bermuda Hundred at 10 1/2 o'clock A.M., reported to **Gen. Terry** (not our Terry) and were ordered to "Pt. of Rocks." Bermuda Hundred emptying into the James River at "City Pt." Arrived at Point of Rocks at 12 o'clock noon. I was detailed with 100 men to superintend unloading the boat. The Reg't landed & went up to their camp. I did not get there until sundown. Pitched tents and "turned in," at 12 o'clock at night were all called out and ordered to pack everything, tents included, for a march. In half an hour were in line and on the march for the Intrenchments at the Front. Made the march part of the time on double quick but in perfect silence and took our position by Company in the Intrenchments at about 1 1/2 o'clock A.M. of the 13th where we remained until 9 o'clock A.M., were relieved for breakfast by the 163rd O.N.G. from Richmond County.

...These Intrenchments...extend from the James River to the Appomattox and are apparently almost impregnable. They are built of timber, on the inside is a ditch 6 or 8 ft. wide & 3 or 4 ft. deep. On top of

the timber wall are piles of 5 sand bags each 4ft apart. The face of the Breastworks on the outside slopes away to the brink of a deep ditch with nearly perpendicular sides about 12 ft. wide and 15 ft. deep from top of Breastworks, on top of Breastworks is a level walk 4 ft. wide, outside of this ditch at distances varied by the nature of the ground are the rifle pits for Pickets. At the Point where our wing of the Reg't is posted and which we hold these pits are not ten feet from the ditch, as the works are on them from a hill which slopes into a deep ravine immediately in our front, the slope to the ravine is all charred and burnt over as is the ground along our front, giving our Rifles clear range on any enemy that may attempt to approach.

We have inside of these entrenchments 12 Veteran Reg'ts of Infantry besides Cavalry and Artillery. How many National Guards there are I do not know. The 143rd, 134th, 133rd, 163rd, and 130th are all I know of here. These are all on left-wing; the least exposed and covered by Gun boats, and are none of them sent out as Pickets, these so far being taken from the Veterans. We go on duty in the Intrenchments at 3 o'clock in the morning and remain until 9 A.M. So far this all the duty we have had since we came inside.

I wrote you in a former letter that **Grant** had or would change his base. All night of night before last there was a steady tramp of men and rumble of Artillery through our camp also jingle of Cavalry Sabers, only those posted knew what was going on but at 5 o'clock of yesterday morning the rear passed out and over the Pontoon Bridge on the Appomattox on the extreme of our left wing and filed away in long line towards Petersburg. At 7 o'clock P.M. of yesterday the Artillery fire died away somewhat and we could plainly hear the musketry, we could see every discharge of the Guns on both sides all day and you may be assured we were interested spectators. We could only judge of the progress of the fight by the advance of the different lines of fire. The troops that had passed through our camp and were now fighting were **Smiths and Burnside's Corps** about 40,000 men.

Our position is very elevated and Petersburg being in a basin we look down upon all their works and the positions of all the guns are easily seen. The Batteries engaged on both sides are about 5 to 5 1/2 miles from us, but from the shape of the Country the view is the same as from our house to **Marblehead** with this difference that we look over the small patches of timber that dot the plain between us and the Battlefield (**Grant is here in command**). An hour after dark the firing ceased, but before it did cease after dark we could see the discharge of every gun by the flash and see the shells burst in the air. The sight would have been grand if not accompanied by the knowledge that every

Webb letters, Continued

discharge was hurrying to their last repose many brave men, and that the smoke we saw constantly rising and floating away but covered as a pall a scene of horrible carnage.

About 3 o'clock yesterday a rebel battery of one gun posted about a mile nearly in front of our position opened with shells upon our signal station which is on our left. It was promptly responded to by the 7th N.Y. Battery posted on our left which threw some 15 shells at the Rebel Battery, it was soon silenced. This Battery fires every day at our signal station, it is close to our position but a dense woods and hill intervene between it and us. Their shells go along parallel with our line of Fortifications and strike in an angle a quarter of a mile to our left where the signal station and 7th N.Y. Battery are stationed. The shells of our own Battery and of the Rebel pass about 40 rods from our front and directly parallel with it. We hear every shell as it shrieks by us and see the burst...

I have had to order some of our boys back whose curiosity induced them to get outside of our entrenchments. In speaking of our front on this page I do not mean front of our Reg't but front of our line on the Apomattox. The 19 Wisconsin are there, we join them at the angle as you will see We have just rec'd an order for a detail of men to carry wounded who are just arriving from Petersburg, and I have just sent **J. Meir (August Schiedler's man)** and **Ed McGettigan** to report at the Surgeon quarters. It is reported that we have Petersburg as the Rebels who occupied works in front of our right are gone this morning. We captured three pickets who were left behind. The 67th are moving out of entrenchments to occupy the vacated works. All last night the trains were moving on the Petersburg and Richmond R.R. It is only a little over a mile from our works. We hear the cars plainly at times and the whistle always. It was not known whether Reinforcements were coming to **Beauregard from Lee** or whether they were retreating, nor is it known yet.

Firing was going on at Petersburg a half-hour since. Our Batteries here one gun and a gunboat are now firing at something but I have not yet learned for what purpose as I want to write this letter. **Erastus** has just rushed in and reports seeing a Colonel of a Colored Regt. (there are 4 Colored Reg'ts now fighting at Petersburg) who reports having taken the large Battery which was firing at us yesterday. Our forces are within a mile of Petersburg and probably fighting. The artillery fire has returned from the Breastworks where I went to ascertain about the firing (about 30 rods from my quarters). Find that we have a large Gunboat firing 100 lb. shells, a small Gunboat throwing solid shot, and a small Gun a mile from us all throwing shot and shell into a Rebel Fort two miles from here of very heavy guns.

Historical Association news

New board members

Roger Williams—lifetime islander, Roger and his wife Madeleine have been very active and supportive of the Historical Association since it began.

Greg Ritchie, who will be our new Treasurer—he is a CPA and a real find. He owns the beautiful, newly built red-tin-roofed home in Southaven, wants to get involved on the island and will be a wonderful asset to our board.

Welcome aboard Roger & Greg! We need you.

Annual Meeting

Sat., Aug. 11 at 2 p.m.

Proxy votes available at the Old Stone Church. If you can't make the meeting, be sure to fill out a proxy, so your vote will count.

Membership reminder

Renewals are due Jan. 1. If you are not current for 2007, please use the form on pg. 6 to pay up.

2007

KIHA Calendar

Art Show

Saturday, Aug. 4

Butterfly Festival

Saturday, Sept. 8

This Fort is between us and the battlefield of Petersburg. The practice is splendid. The Gunboat lying in River on our front throws nearly every shell into the fort which being on a large flat and we on an elevation we see very shot from all the batteries and see where they strike by the bursting of the shells. The Fort replies quite promptly but it cannot hold out very long with such close firing as the Big Gun on the Gunboat and our little land battery are making. We commenced the "muss" and it is supposed that our forces will assault the Fort under cover of our fire and that this is the object of our firing. The reports of guns and shells average about one in the two or three minutes, as we are firing moderately as we wait their reply to learn the position of their guns as they change pretty often.

A number of the boys are in my tent and one will say after a report of a gun, "There goes Big Gun Boat!" "There goes Little Gunboat!" "There is Land Battery!" "There goes the Reb!" & c but most of them are down at the Breastworks. A detachment of 1500 men, a battery and some Calvary have just left the works, it is said to capture a rebel force between us and the Petersburg R.R. Artillery firing has ceased entirely. It is supposed the fighting there now is at closer quarters and on the other side of Petersburg ... [the letter ends here and we will continue at his second June 16th letter in our next issue].

**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!

kelleyslandhistorical.org

Kelleys Island Historical Association

P. O. Box 328

Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438

Membership Application

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: _____ - _____

Individual Membership (annual)
\$15.00

also check here for 2 or more Individ-
ual memberships but just one newsletter
sent to one address

Family Membership (annual)\$25.00

Patron Membership (annual)\$100.00

Life Membership \$500.00

(office use only below this line -----)

Paid: \$

Received by: _____