



Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 6, Issue II

Spring, 2009

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Home Tour 2009

Annalee

The Kelleys Island Historical Association's (KIHA) 2009 Home Tour will be held Sat., July 11 from 12 - 5 p.m. As in the past, the tour will begin at the Old Stone Church, 224 Division St. Tickets and booklets with map and background on the homes will be available there, as well as refreshments.

The new museum building will be open, where visitors will be able to see the impressive progression of

the interior finishing. Six historical homes plus the Glacial Grooves are scheduled for this year's tour.

Homes include - **The William Burger House** and mortuary on **Division** owned by **William and Laura Von Benken**; the **Thomas/Charles Quinn House** (formerly owned by **Michael Krupa**) on **Woodford** owned by **Michael and Yvonne Maschek**; the **Patrick Duignan House** (formerly



The Cameron House
Rockaway Bed & Breakfast on **West Lakeshore Dr.**, owned by **Jim and Barbara Zeller**; **The Cameron House** on **Division** owned and operated

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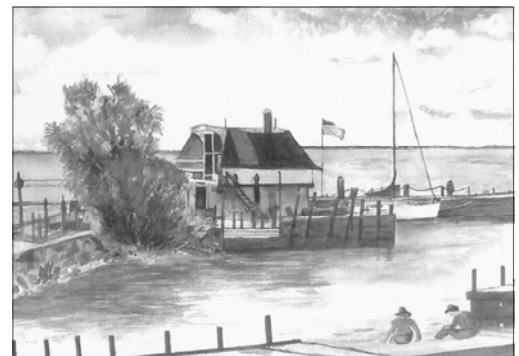
Gift Shop offers many great new selections

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 were open on Saturdays only. Since the beginning of June we have been open during the week. **More volunteer workers are needed, however, for us to be open 7 days a week. Please consider taking a 3 hour shift a week to help us out, get to know your neighbors, and become more familiar with KI history in the process.**

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, hand-made Christmas ornaments, and post-cards.

We have beautiful new note cards by artist **Frances Toepfer** of her gorgeous watercolor island scenes, which include **Koster's Dock** (shown here), **Woodford**



Road Beach, Old Stone Church, and the Kelley/Lovins Home. These cards will make any note mean more. In fact, framing the set would make a nice wall display.

History books for sale about Kelleys Island include **Norman Hill's "History of Kelleys Island,"** **Jesse Martin's "Beginnings & Tales of the Lake Erie Islands,"** **KIHA's Tour Guide "Homes & Sites,"** **Claudia Brown's "Kelleys Island An Island Story,"** and **Leslie Korenko's "Kelleys Island Lives of Island Pioneers."**

Continued Pg. 3

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.*

No. 17

9 o C A.M.

Pt. of Rocks, (VA) July 2nd 1864 Saturday

My Dear Wife & Children, Sarah, Belle, & Charlie,

I have just returned from visiting **Charley Mitchell** at the Post Hospital. I found the measles well out on him, he has not as yet arrived at the turn of the disease. Our Regimental Surgeons do not amount to anything but I chased them up until I got an order for his admittance into the Post Hospital, where he will have care that it is impossible for him to have at the Reg'tl Hospital... I made a detail of eight men with a stretcher to take him up. **Holbrook** was with him yesterday and this morning went up with me to see him. I obtained permission to have one of the boys with him, mine, of course, for company and to attend to his many little wants because of his requiring very close watching. I left Holbrook with him and after being there two hours returned and sent **Oscar Titus** to relieve him. He was a little flighty last night and appeared very little so this morning, but there are no symptoms apparent that are unfavorable to his recovery in due time.

The Hospitals are located on three sides of a mansion situated in the centre of an estate of 1500 acres, and are well shaded by apple trees between the rows of which they are placed in regular lines. The different wards being used for the different diseases.

The mansion, a large old-fashioned Southern-built house of the first class is occupied by the Medical Director and staff, the nurses & company. (I should have stated that the Hospitals are tents consequently all the fresh air is available that is in circulation). The mansion is close to the bank of the **Appomattox River** on very high ground, and must have been, judging from the surroundings, one of the first rural locations

in this part of the country. The front yard, by the remains of the shrubbery and such, indicate that (a) woman's tasteful hand had, before the desolation of, swept over the vicinity, busied itself in rendering some man's home as near an earthly paradise as possible.

Leaving Holbrook with Charley I started on a tour of observation. Going into the mansion I met a lady in the large Hall, introduced myself, commenced a conversation on the subject of Hospitals in general and this one in particular, my object being to ascertain her particular position in this one.

I learned that she was one of those "angels in female form," (...a volunteer nurse; who coming here from Washington in quest of a place in which to render her services to suffering humanity was requested to take charge of a certain department by Gen. Butler and by the Medical Director). She is acting independently of Sanitary Commissions and Christian Commissions (each of which have quarters here) and dispenses articles which she obtains by personal solicitations and brought with her, and which her friends send to her for distributions rather than to send by what they esteem the more doubtful channels of other commissions. She said she is here to see and know that the sick soldier gets articles intended for his use, though most of the articles of the Christian and the Sanitary Commissions now are issued under her charge and direction.

She invited me to her room, one of the large parlors at the front of the house. Where I found three or four persons putting up and fixing little articles of diet for the use of the different cases she had visited that morning. Giving her my name and address on a card she handed me hers in return which is, "**Miss Clara Barton, No 488 1/2 Seventh Street, D.C.**"

Our mutual acquaintance being thus somewhat established, I informed her that one of my "boys" was there in the measles department, that I had come up to visit him and make any arrangements I could for his comfort and attendance during his stay consistent with the rules and regulations. She made inquiries in relation to him and as I rose to leave, put on her hat and said she would go with me and see him. She accompanied me to the ward where Charley was and the irrepressible tears filled my eyes as she knelt on the ground by the side of his mattress (all the patients have their mattresses on the ground); and clasping his sunburned hand in her soft white hands commenced a conversation with him inquiring what there was that he wanted that she should have it prepared for him, and soothing him by kindly remarks and inquiries and attentions such as only a woman can bestow at the pillow of the sick.

We stayed there some time and as I took my leave, fearing I might be wanted in camp, she walked a short distance with me remarking as I took leave of her, "Captain, your Boy shall have every attention and everything that I have at command that are necessary for his comfort and restoration, what can be done shall be done, and should any more of your boys come here, they will find a friend in Clara Barton." I offered to leave with her some money, as it might be needed

Cont. on pg. 5

\$50,000 donation from Millican Family Trust!!!

Sharon Brunell McIntire

KIHA is proud to announce we have recently received a donation check for \$50,000 from the Millican Family Charitable Trust. This is the largest donation that the KIHA has ever received.

These funds will be used to meet our day-to-day operating expenses, which will increase as we expand to the new building. Presently we are holding the money to set up a fund to earn interest that will go a

long way to help us finalize our new building and set up a fund to meet our routine expenses.

Thank you!
Thank you!

Additional grants applied for and received

Anne Eddowes

In the fall, **The Mylander Foundation** awarded the museum \$1679.00 for a **Spin Display Case** for the new building. It will be used to display the collection of old postcards and small pictures, which are now contained in a photo notebook. The shelves of the case revolve so that pictures can be seen in sequential rows.

This spring, **The Wightman-Wieber Charitable Foundation** made an award of \$1850.00, which will be used for a young children's activity area in the new building. Often, visitors have young children with them when they come to the museum. Until now, we have not had space in the church for an activity center

for young children to enjoy age-appropriate interests, while their parents and older siblings look at museum displays.

This grant will enable us to furnish such an area with equipment and pieces that need little or no supervision. The grantors requested that the center be named for **Gene Kidwell**. He is a retired principal from **Sandusky High School**. He works now with the **Kelleys Island School as Curriculum Director**. He is indeed a "Friend of Children."

KIHA thanks both of these foundations for their continued support.

Gift shop news Cont. from pg. 1

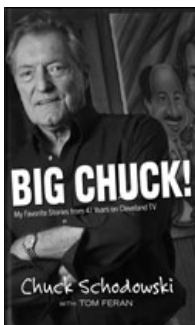
The KIHA gift shop is very proud to announce that this year's quilt made and donated by **Terri Betzenheimer** is called "**Matso's Place**." It is tan, green, and rust in color with quilted trees, Ohio stars, and pheasants. Terri made it in honor of deceased lifetime islander and KIHA's former board member and one of its staunchest supporters **Russ Matso**.

Byron Crabill has once again donated a wood carving. This year's is called "**The Seagull**." **Chris Koenigseker** has donated 10 handmade bracelets to the gift shop.

In addition, we have the "**Big Chuck**" book by our island's own **Chuck Schodowski**. We also have the ultimate island fun tour DVD—with hosts **Big Chuck and Li'l John**. The **Big Chuck and Li'l John DVD** is also available for purchase via the KIHA website at www.kelleysislandhistorical.org or at www.KelleysIsland.com. Membership dues can also now be paid on the KIHA website.

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 and check us out.



New building update

Sharon Brunell McIntire

During the month of May and early June work has been continuing on the interior of the new building. **Mike Feyedelem** has been scrubbing the entire cement floor for painting by the contractor. Mike borrowed a floor scrubber from the **Kelley Island School**, as he was concerned that power-washing the floors would damage the new drywall and possibly create mold problems. A huge "Thank you!" goes to Mike for all his hard work. The painting contractor hopes to have his job done by June 30th so we can then proceed with final plumbing installations.

After a number of meetings, the KIHA Board hired a landscaper to create a new look for the front of the new building and improve the looks of the Old Stone Church. The improvements will include new shrubs, trees, a brick walkway, mulch, and grassy area. A permanent location for the stone bench in memory of **Betsy Walcott** has been included in the designs. We are hoping, if weather permits, to have the landscaping done by July 4th.

After completion of the brick walkway, the KIHA plans on selling engraved bricks for a memory walk to replace the blank bricks. Check your next issue for further information, or stop into the Gift Shop for possible further updates.

William S. Webb letters (cont. from pg. 2)

to purchase articles for Charley which she had not in her stores. She smiled as she refused it and stated that she had everything that money could purchase here and many things that could be purchased nowhere else, and that everything she had to dispense was free to the sick soldier. I left some money with **Charley** (or rather gave him some just as he left camp). I shall, however, see that she has some return before we leave if in no other way as a donation to her department.

I have been elaborate in description of the incidents that **Mrs. Mitchell** may be assured that everything is being done for Charley that can be done and that he does not lack for woman's sympathy and attention...

Holbrook has just returned to camp, he informs me that after I left **Miss Barton**, as she had promised, sent another female nurse who bathed Charley's head in Bay water and cologne and gave him an orange to take the unpleasant taste from his mouth. So, you see, she is making her promises good. Miss Barton remarked that I was the first Officer that had come there to see about his sick men, except some that had relatives there.

Since my last, there has been very heavy fighting near Petersburg, mostly in the night. The heaviest firing yet heard there was night before last; it was very heavy artillery. Last night it was musketry.

A Reg't of 100 days men from New Jersey arrived yesterday. I understand five Reg'ts. are to be here from that state. We are on constant duty, either picket, fatigue, or at the intrenchments. Out of ten consecutive nights I have had only three in my tent, and one of them not until after 12 o.C. **Lange** has been sick for a week until night before last and then only went out because I was about used up. I am well now. My health was never better than at this present time. My eyes are entirely recovered and I am all right. I have not been sick (apart from my eyes) one hour since I came out, and have been continually on duty.

...I was sent for at Head Quarters to know if I should object to going to Toledo to be mustered out in the place of Columbus. I replied that I should not, unless it would detain us from home longer than to go to Columbus. I was assured that it should not, that transportation would be furnished us by lake, home from Toledo.

Our Reg't (was) pronounced the finest, best appearing and most Soldierly of any of the 100 day Reg'ts, by the inspecting officer the other day upon inspection and the Col. has a great desire to take the whole Reg't to Toledo, as a matter of pride. He will apply to **Gov. Brough** for permission to do so. I think, however, we shall have to go to Columbus. I should just as soon go direct to Toledo as to go to Columbus then Cleveland, then Sandusky, if our time is not lengthened thereby, have said nothing to the company as I want no argument over it until the time comes...

Mail arrived bringing some 40 letters for "Co. K," among them yours numbered 12 & 13 of the 24th & 25th of June... The boys are all busily engaged in reading their letters... Why does not **Gen. Bristol's** wife write to him? He has not done much for a week or more but sit in his tent and wonder why he does not get letters from his wife...

I remain your Aff. Father & Husband
Wm. S. Webb

We will continue this incredible series of letters in our next newsletter.

A review from "The Islander and South Shore Sentinel" of September 1925

Below is a review of the Norman Hills' "History of Kelleys Island." The review appeared in "The Islander and South Shore Sentinel," which was an area monthly publication. The author's name is not mentioned. No changes were made to punctuation or wording.

Norman Hills, the writer of the History of Kelleys Island, just appearing, is a grandson of Irad Kelley, who was one of the owners of Kelleys Island. Irad and Datus Kelley moved onto the island soon after the purchase in 1833, and Irad remained in Cleveland, O., where he was engaged in business.

It so happened that a great quantity of the papers, records and correspondence left by Irad Kelley and others came into the hands of Mr. Hills. Among these were many appertaining to the island. And from these and other sources, more particularly, the Journal Islander, published on Kelley's Island from 1860 to 1878, he has succeeded in collecting a great number of interesting facts regarding the island's history that heretofore have not been generally known.

Mrs. Hills was an island girl (Jennie Bristol.) Mr. and Mrs. Hills have many relatives on the island who have contributed interesting items which have helped to make the history a very readable work. The history begins with the early Indian dwellers on its shores and tells of the antiquities and sculptured rocks left behind by them.

It tells of the early squatter Cunningham, after whom the island was once named. It tells of the other squatters who from time to time lived there before the Kelleys purchased the island.

A map of the Connecticut Land Co., showing the original survey of the island, made in 1817 and another map showing the location of the Indian villages and other points of interest, are included in the book which is further illustrated with views of the island and with portraits of Datus and Irad Kelley.

The Connecticut Land Co. map was found among the papers of General Berkins of Warren, O., who was the general agent of the company and who made the first sales of the island property to the Kelley brothers. It tells of the raids on Pelee island by the Canadian rebels in 1837, and the exciting adventures of some of the Kelley's island men at that time. It Cont. from Pg. 4 tells of the Island Queen which was launched

Continued, Page 5

2009 KIHA Calendar

Tour of Homes

Saturday, July 11

Art Show

Saturday, Aug. 1

KIHA Annual General Membership Meeting

Saturday, Aug. 8—2 p.m. in new bldg.

(2 officers up for re-election)

Butterfly Festival

Saturday, Sept. 12

Welcome KIHA Business Members—


**Patti Johnson-Muranyi
Doug Muranyi**

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Cell: 419-656-4335
Catering: 419-746-2820

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(440) 356-9303

May 50/50 Raffle Winner

Carole Kryznowek —\$72.50

Home Tour 2009, cont. from Pg. 1

as a **Bed & Breakfast** by **Ed and Caroline Jorski** and the **Dawn Kekelik Home** on Woodford.

Guided information at **Glacial Grooves** will be available for tour members.

Tickets are still only \$20.00 per person. For special group rates call Ed Frindt 419-746-2754.

To volunteer as a guide in the homes, call **Annalee 419-746-2519**.

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of Kelleys Island history. KIHA does ask that all volunteers be members. There is a membership form on page 6.

Hills Book review from 1925, Cont. from Pg. 4

on the shores of Kelleys Island and built there of oak and cedar grown on the island, and how it was captured and sunk in Lake Erie during the Civil war by Southern soldiers, who hoped also to release the Southern prisoners on Johnson's island and then to capture Sandusky and Cleveland and all other Lake Erie posts.

It tells of the part played by the island men in thwarting the sinister intentions of the Southern generals at that time. It tells of the beginning and development of the limestone business.

The story of the grape and wine industry.

The boats that served the islands from 1818 to 1925.

The wrecks and rescues on the shores.

The island has not been free from tragedies. Island men have been swept away to death by the storms, and mysteries and murders have brought their pall of gloom to those lovely shores. These and many more exciting events are faithfully recorded in the history of Kelley's Island.

This book is still available today at the KIHA Gift Shop. Stop in and pick one up.

Memorials

Michael and Martha Mielke & Robert Coulon in memory of **Gerry Bickley**

Jacque Kranyak in memory of **Laurie James** and **Gerry Bickley**

Key Bank matching donation from **Delores Cole**

Acquisitions

KIHA purchased 24 enlargement photos from **Thomas Root** of island scenes.

We received the **Slavin Family** history from **Jean Slavin Day** of Rocklin, CA

Police chief's hat button donated by **Vicki Sullivan** (given to her by **Jerry Bozic**)

"**History of Sandusky - Past & Present**" book from **Sharon McIntire**

You too can have your business advertised in the KIHA newsletter. See back page to join.

**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—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: _____