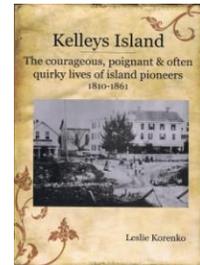


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**ANNUAL MEETING MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW**

November 17 (Sunday) - We are switching things up this year. We will still have our Annual Meeting at the Sandusky Yacht Club, but this year we are eliminating the (admittedly tired) three dinner choices. Introducing a dinner buffet that includes carved top sirloin, shrimp scampi, veggie pasta, herb roasted red skin potatoes and green bean almandine. We think this will speed up service and provide a wider variety of foods to choose from. We are pretty excited about this. Your reservation includes the meal, taxes and gratuities and the program. There will be a cash bar and new this year – a really super Silent Auction.

**OUR SPEAKER THIS YEAR is Leslie Korenko**, who will be presenting a slideshow about Kelleys Island, featuring historic photos and some interesting stories about the Island's people and events. Leslie is the author of six books about the extraordinary history of Kelleys Island (that little island in Lake Erie). She is on the Board of the Kelleys Island Historical Assoc. and the Erie County Historical Society. She has written for the *Ohio Genealogy Journal* and the *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal* and has presented her slideshows to area libraries, museums and various community groups. Her books received the Henry Howe award for outstanding Ohio history book. We always have great speakers - want to see how much fun we had at previous meetings? Click [HERE](#).



We will be filling some Board seats and the nominee slate includes some new faces: Monty Kaufman, Leslie Korenko, John Lippus, and Lou Schultz are up for re-election and we will welcome new Board Members: Bob Speers, Tom Horsman, and Ann Marie Muehlhauser. Each brings a unique set of skills and a broad range of interests to the Board.

**We hate to see them go** – Retiring Board Members are Jim Semon (2015-2019), Kathy Muelhauser (2015-2019) and Judy Pflieger (2017-2019).

**OUR NEW MISSION STATEMENT** - Yipes, when we looked at our Mission Statement we saw that we over thought it. It was originally one paragraph long and then we added to it! After much discussion, we realized that our mission was quite simple and we updated our Mission Statement to reflect our goals and objectives as concisely as possible: *The Mission of the ECHS is to tell the story of Erie County, Ohio, to residents and visitors.* We think this hits all the right notes.

**WE ARE ALWAYS IMPROVING - Our By-Laws** - This year we looked at our legal documents. We patched the by-laws several times over the last 10 years, but we never actually evaluated how this old document was affecting our organization. We discovered some concerns. As a result of a year-long, comprehensive review, we finally adopted a new set of by-laws. This new guiding document is more in line with corporate standards and provides a more accurate picture of how we conduct our business. [You can view them on our website.](#)

**New Membership Categories** - We also looked at a new rate structure – rest assured you can still join for that [remarkably low membership rate of \\$10 a year](#), but now we have several new categories.

\$10 (INDIVIDUAL) or

\$15 (FAMILY)

\$50 BUSINESS MEMBER – This includes shameless promotion, a listing on our website and in our newsletter

\$500 (LIFE MEMBER) – We'll never bother you to renew your membership again!

**QUERIES WE ANSWERED** - One of the things that concerns us is the lack of an Erie County or Sandusky history museum. We get queries all the time from people looking for information or who want to donate items. We applaud the various [local history museums](#) and promote them regularly on our [Facebook page](#). Some represent small communities and others feature the history of one remarkable aspect of our county's history (like the Carousel Museum in the old Post Office building and the Sandusky Maritime Museum). Why are letting important collections get away from us? We lost a major collection from the Sandusky Tool Co. and Glen Kuebler is looking for a home for his entire collection of local brewery and winery artifacts. Sure, they can sell these items on eBay, but that means our history is scattered to the winds. We are always looking for suggestions on how to handle these large collections. But in the meantime, here is just a sampling of some of the queries we have received since the spring newsletter. This remarkable variety only showcases the need for a museum. We answered every one of them!

Question on the baseball team uniform for the *Sailors*  
 8th OVI in the Civil War, specifically information about Wells Waite Miller of Castalia  
 Whites Landing Volunteer Fire Department. Charles Minier, was the Assistant Fire Chief  
 Home Savings Bank offered space for a display  
 Info on Pastor Ohly who served in a Lutheran German church in the 1800's in Sandusky  
 Jonathan Martin Tracy & Hannah Maria Conant Tracy marriage cert and daughter birth certificate 1830's.  
 Charles William Rivers who died in 1853  
 How can I find out if a property is Historic?  
 Geer family massacre of 1813  
 Peter Maibohm auto plant moved from Wisconsin to Sandusky  
 Searching for a grave for Bidad Adams in Milan  
 Donation of Plum Brook Ordnance Works News 1942-43  
 Rude and the Steamboat Hotel (saw on our website)  
 2 requests for photos  
 Selling a Boy with the boat statue  
 Need for a historian to do a timeline of mental health board to display in new office  
 Participate in an event – lynching  
 Photo of Stone house on Milan Road in Perkins Twp  
 Booklet on the life of Delia Benschoter, born in Berlin, Erie County, Ohio, in 1833  
 Scrap book and photo albums/mementos from the Herman Reuter family (Erie county sheriff appx 1930's)  
 Flemmond marker question  
 Phone call regarding donation of 250-300 Cedar Point and Cleveland photos  
 Info on Nathaniel Ledyard. Born 2/15/1767 New London, Ct. Died 10/10/1815 Vermillion  
 Info on painter Charles Courtney Curran  
 Tour guide for bus tour  
 Tudor Houses in Erie Co. for a book  
 Huron High School history teacher requesting resources and speaker list  
 Meaning of series of numbers on a Milan gravestone  
 Donation of 7 dolls  
 8<sup>th</sup> grade tour recommendations  
 Donation of an old wool jacket labeled USPPOW apparently from Plumbrook  
 Identify an old photo, gathering of German Societies in 1883.

**FLASHBACK: THE “NEW” MUSEUM & A TIME CAPSULE** - As you can see, the need for a museum to celebrate the rich history of Erie County is much needed. But – did you know that way back in 1953 our organization anticipated that it would happen in the near future? *On February 19, 1953*: “An organizational meeting of the Erie County Historical Society has held in the Community Room of the Sandusky Public Library. [Our original Board included] Paul Laning, A. F. Wakefield, Mrs. Marjorie Owings, Mrs. Ed. Alstaetter, Ted Lauber, Dr. Norbert Lange, Lucille Hutson, Mrs. Gordon Wendt, Mrs. Katheryn Heiser, Mrs. Edwin Gundlach and Judge E. H. Saverd.” It was noted that the four pages of minutes “are the ones included in the Time Capsule in 1953. As a museum was planned for the future, and the contents of the capsule were to go to the Erie County Historical Society.” Hmmm, wonder what happened to that time capsule?

**OUR BOARD MEMBERS ARE ACTIVE IN ERIE COUNTY HISTORY - President John Hildebrandt** had the honor of addressing those attending the Castalia Memorial Day Service. The event has been organized by the Thomas Neill Chapter of the Women's Relief Corps (sister organization to the GAR) for the past 130 years. He spoke at the 2016 event, so this was a return engagement and Randy Koch also spoke at the previous event. Lou Schultz's great great grandfather was Thomas Neill, Sr. His son Thomas, along with his brother, Porter, served in the 123<sup>rd</sup> OVI. Both were captured at the Battle of Winchester. They ended up at Andersonville. Porter managed to get exchanged, but Thomas died at Andersonville. The Chapter took the name "Thomas Neill Chapter" in his honor.

**Board Member Leslie Korenko** did a presentation on Kelleys Island and the Civil War for the Lorain County Civil War Table – Quincy Gillmore chapter. She spoke about the patriotism of both the volunteer soldiers and the community that supported them and how the war and resulting deaths impacted that small community. Island men served in the 24<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup>, 100<sup>th</sup>, and 101<sup>st</sup> Ohio Infantries, the 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio Heavy Artillery, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Calvary and the 130<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

**Board Member Dave Biechle** was named to the 2019 Erie County Chamber's Gallery of Achievers at a luncheon at Plumb Brook in May. The Gallery of Achievers is a group of leaders from all walks of life who have enjoyed significant success—and who are the products of our local school systems. Dave is a proud graduate of Sandusky High School, Class of 1954. Dave was recognized for his success as a realtor. He founded Vacation Land Realty in 1986, which has sold hundreds of homes in our area and become a well known local business. Dave has played a prominent role in state and national realty organizations. He was the first local realtor to be elected to the Ohio Realtors Association. He has been named "Realtor of the Year" three times by the Firelands Association of Realtors. A longtime Rotarian, Dave hosts a local history trivia event at every Rotary meeting. He developed the questions for the "[Erie County History Test](#)" for our website.

**Vice President Lou Schultz** will spoke about U.S. invasion of Canada after winning the 1813 Battle of Lake Erie as part of the Catawba Island Historical Society's Cultural Lecture Series on October 15. He shared seldom told tales about preparing for and launching the U.S. amphibious invasion of Canada following Oliver Hazard Perry's 1813 naval victory at the Battle of Lake Erie. He focused on events that took place in what are currently Ottawa, Sandusky and Seneca Counties. Topics included the Siege of Fort Stephenson, arrival of Isaac Shelby's troops at the mouth of the Portage River from Kentucky, embarkation of the army on Perry's ships, and the Battle of the Thames in today's Provenance of Ontario, Canada.

**Board Member Mary Ann Groot** conducted several group tours, sharing the history of Sandusky's involvement in the Underground Railroad. In total, over 50 people toured with her, including a group of district managers from Sam's Club.

## ANOTHER HISTORIC MARKER HAS BEEN ADDED TO OUR ROSTER



**Cooke–Dorn House Historic Marker** - This new historical marker, located at 1415 Columbus Ave., was dedicated on September 27, 2019. It has two different messages. One side tells the story of Eleutheros Cooke (1787-1864), who founded the first railroad west of the Allegheny Mountains and fathered two famous children, one of them Jay Cooke,

known as the "financier of the Civil War." The other side chronicles the Cooke-Dorn House, built for Cooke and his wife, Martha, in 1843-1844. In the 1950s, it was occupied by Randolph and Estelle Dorn, who founded the Dorn Foundation. The home is now a state museum run locally by the Old House Guild of Sandusky. It's open to visitors and a perennial stop on the Guild's annual Christmas home tour. Surprisingly, this house was moved from 'downtown' Sandusky.

**OUR GENEROUS 2019 SUPPORTERS** - We want to thank the following people for their generous donations: Edison Birthplace Museum, Lee Alexakos, David & Lindsay Dunn, Frederick & Claudia Fryberger, Ronald Helmecci, Kurt & Deborah Loyd, Timothy Riesterer, Robert & Janet Runner, Laura Strick, Bait House Brewery, Michael & Marilyn Marshall (in memory of the Houk Sisters & Family), Jay & Jean Rounds, Rebecca Regnet, Sherer Construction, David & Jacquelyn Clark, Karen Brown, Dr. Marianne Coburn, Larry Fletcher, G. E. Kasper, Dean & Jane Lucal, Robert Joseph Rody, Jack Runner, Steve Springer, and George & Michelle Poulos.

## OUR 2019 TOURS WERE QUITE THE SUCCESS

**Wayne Street** – On June 22, Ed Stout lead a great tour with 75 people attending. We walked along historic Wayne St. (you know, the one with all those huge houses on it) and discovered the history of not just the house, but the families who made Sandusky so vibrant. We hope Ed will put some of his tour online for us to add to our website.



**Underground Railroad** - On July 17, Randy Koch and Mary Ann Groot lead two groups of about 70 each, an amazing turnout, our best attended to date. There is no end to the amount of interest the Underground Railroad has generated.

**E. Water Street Rediscovered** – Lou Schultz had to substitute for John Lippus at the last minute on August 13, but fortunately Lou is very well versed in the history of Sandusky. The tour began at Mylander Plaza with an overview of Water and Railroad (which is now Shoreline Dr.) streets. From there they walked and stopped at some of Sandusky's most famous old buildings. About 25 people attended.

**Walk On The Water Tour** – September 4. This was a big fundraiser for the year. We raised \$1500, and had a great time doing it! Jim Miller did a wonderful job narrating and he added some interesting tidbits about the Sandusky shoreline. Speaking of tidbits – wow – what a great spread on the buffet table. We can't thank Joe Lamb of the *Goodtime I* enough for his generosity in sharing the boat for this cruise, and John Lippus for organizing the event and donating his time to serve as captain for our tour. And we want to thank the Shore & Islands staff for acting as ticket agents (what a great group). This was the first visit to their new office for many people.



We think next year we might do another boat tour; this time including more of Sandusky Bay and featuring the Cedar Point lighthouse, Union Battery, Johnson's Island, the Marblehead peninsula, Marblehead lighthouse, Lakeside and the stone docks. What do you think?

**SPEAKERS BUREAU** - Once we realized what a talented group of people we have on our Board, and judging from the number of requests we get for speakers, we decided to create a page on our website as a speaker's resource. Need a speaker or tour guide? – start [HERE](#).

So many of our museums have members who are passionate and eloquent about their area's history. They do presentations are offered in the form of lectures, slide shows, PowerPoint, music, portrayals and re-enactments; all illuminating local history as well as the national history that is part of their community's story. The speakers and re-enactors are historians and professionals trained in local history and public speaking; many have written books and articles on their chosen subjects. As part of the presentation, book signings and sales can be arranged, as can follow-up tours and visits to the sites discussed. Presentations can range from 30 to 60 minutes in length, and generally can be adapted to an organization's specific needs.