

You know the old saying – the best laid plans of mice and men. Well, like every other organization, we ground to a halt because of COVID-19. We attended our monthly Board meetings via Zoom, we cancelled our spring and summer tours, and we are now re-evaluating our fall *Goodtime I* cruise and Annual Meeting. We will keep you posted on both our website and Facebook page.

### IT'S TIME TO RENEW

**Membership Categories** – If you haven't already, it is time to renew. We still have that [remarkably low membership rate of \\$10 a year](#), but now we have several new categories.

### QUERIES WE ANSWERED –

**A Little More about Pastor Ohly** - We love it when our members come through with a suggestion or an answer. We posted your query in our Fall newsletter and got this response from Charles David: "If you don't have this info already - Nelson Ohly had a drug store at Columbus & Adams right across from our original SHS (Sandusky High School). He was the great-great-great (I think that many) of Pastor Ohly. Pastor was only here about two years and then went back to Germany." And in response: "Phillip Ohly also had a pharmacy in Sandusky. Herman was a lawyer and Hugo Jr. was a mail bag thief, but I could never find anything about Herman the pastor. Thanks again"

Wow – do we get the questions. We try to answer as many as we can, and if we can't, we redirect them to someone who can. We usually post on Facebook and want to thank Doreen Paul for providing so much info on our posts. Here is a sample of some of the questions we have fielded:

Nathaniel Ledyard. Born 2/15/1767 New London, Ct. Died 10/10/1815 Vermillion; info on painter Charles Courtney Curran; 1920 National cash register that began its life at BH Raymond tire company in Sandusky; Two 1916 Birmingham Community Newspapers; Maxfield Ludlow's Survey of the Firelands; Hobert grocery store on Ogontz Street located between 3rd and 4th street.; Fishing and processing of lake sturgeon affected Sandusky during the 18th and early 19th century; Information about the O'Connell/Haley/Healy families; Source of an old navigational map of a section of Sandusky Bay; Sandusky Lake, South Bass Island (Bass Island) and Kelleys Island (Sandusky Island); Photo of old Clyde water tower; Civil War soldier Arthur Tappan Wilcox; Info on Klotz & Kromer; Philco Sandusky newsletters 1948-1953; Info on Roberts Motor Co.; History of Schoepfle building on Water St.; 8<sup>th</sup> Ohio (Civil War); Carousel question; History of the Sandusky Mall; 5018 Mason Rd house history; George R. Butler Co. history; Looking for former RR station buildings (Castalia, Huron, Berlin Hts.); 1860s verified photographs of Barker School, Old Pelton Hotel, Edison House, Corners School; Early Indians in Sandusky, the Federal Custom House, and the URR for a research paper; History of American Crayon Co for a book; Video of Sandusky Wine Parade c1940; Sandusky School class of 1925 – scrapbook; Looking for George Woods statue – Civil War, died 1901 lived in LaGrange.

### OUR 2020 TOURS

We had some really exciting events planned for this year, but, like most of the United States and the world, we had to cancel many of them. Fear not – you can still take some of these tours on our website. Just click [HERE](#). In Sandusky we have a downtown tour, photos of historic Sandusky houses and tours of Washington Park and the Underground Railroad sites. Kelleys Island has tours for the cemetery, the museum and the Civil War and the Island as well as two walking tours. Vermilion has a walking tour and a tour of houses owned by Captains.

## OUR BOARD MEMBERS ARE ACTIVE IN ERIE COUNTY HISTORY

In 2019, **President John Hildebrandt** addressed the Castalia Memorial Day Service. **Board Member Leslie Korenko** did a presentation on Kelleys Island and the Civil War for the Lorain County Civil War Table – Quincy Gillmore chapter. In 2019, **Board Member Dave Biechele** was named to the 2019 Erie County Chamber’s Gallery of Achievers at a luncheon at Plumb Brook in May. He developed the questions for the “[Erie County History Test](#)” for our website. **Vice President Lou Schultz** 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.



**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. On November 9 – Our President, **John Hildebrandt**, spoke at the ceremony remembering the 1878 lynching death of William Taylor in downtown Sandusky. Over 100 officials and interested persons were in attendance. You can read the report on our [NEWS PAGE](#).

**Leslie Korenko** did a presentation on Kelleys Island at the ECHS annual meeting on November 17. **John Hildebrandt** did a presentation on Cedar Point Sesquicentennial (1870-2020) on November 19 at the library, and had a book signing at the Vine & Olive. John was interviewed in the AAA newsletter regarding Cedar Point’s 150 anniversary. **Randy Koch** did a presentation on Civil War Battles on February 20. John Hildebrandt spoke on the history of water toboggans at the Maritime Museum in February. July 8-9 John and his wife Marie are speaking via Zoom at Lakeside. Marie will speak on the history of tourism in the region and John will present a program on the 150 Anniversary of Cedar Point. John also wrote a feature essay on the CP Anniversary for the May issue of OHIO Magazine. **Lou Schultz** was to speak at the Maritime Museum on campaigns associated with the Battle of Lake Erie.

## HISTORY IN THE NEWS

Be sure to check out the [NEWS](#) page on our website. Since our last newsletter in October we posted multiple articles including (but not limited to):

[FEICK BUILDING TO UNDERGO A FULL REHAB](#) – It’s an 8 story building, 60,000 sf.

[SANDUSKY LYNCHING IN 1878 REMEMBERED](#) – “Lynching mars Sandusky’s abolitionist history.”



[THE SANDUSKY STATE THEATRE](#) – The walls of the Sandusky State Theatre’s dressing room hallway are speaking. Thousands of names adorn on the walls, sharing the rich history of acts and performers who visited the theatre since at least the 1990s.

[SANDUSKY STATE THEATRE BADLY DAMAGED IN STORM OF JULY 10](#). Devastating photos. Board vows to rebuild as donations come in. Learn more about its history [HERE](#).

[HINDE & DAUCH BUILDING SIGN REVEALED](#) –A previously obstructed sign, spelling out “The Hinde & Dauch Paper Co.” on the building’s apex looking out toward West Shoreline Drive uncovered.



[COOKE BUILDING COMES DOWN](#)- The historic Cooke building is finally demolished. Discover the history of this building [HERE](#).

## SUFFRAGE

This year, the issue of Women's Suffrage will be explored and celebrated in museums and at historic sites everywhere in Ohio.

The Kelleys Island History Museum features debates on Suffrage from 1867!



The question is often asked, who will take care of the children and cook their dinner if women spend their time at the polls?

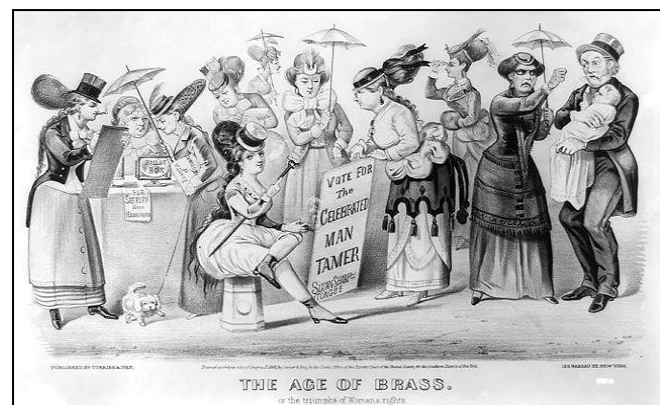
This truly becomes a forcible argument why a great right should be denied them, especially when one takes into consideration the time required to deposit a ballot.

No one asks who takes care of the children when women go to theatres, parties &c, and remain till midnight. Nor who cooks the dinner while they promenaded the streets looking in at the shop windows to see the latest styles of bonnets or newest pattern of dress trimming. But the moment a woman speaks of voting, visions of crying children and empty stomachs rise before them saying 'it must not be.'

Who takes care of the children while women shop? Why is this different than if they spend their time at the polls.



Looking back – the arguments were often silly and generally offensive to women.



REMEMBER TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK – to keep up with all the historic news in and around Erie County. We are Erie County Historical Society (the one with the historic marker).

## THE FIRST FEMALE JURY IN ERIE COUNTY

On August 26, 1920, an important 'first' quietly took place at the Erie County Courthouse in Sandusky. Early that morning, the ratification of the nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States was certified. That Amendment read in part "The right of citizens in the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

On August 18, 1920, Tennessee was the thirty-sixth state to ratify the nineteenth amendment. Ohio had ratified the amendment on June 16, 1919.

On the morning of August 26, 1920, at the Erie County Courthouse, Judge Roy Williams was to conduct the trial of Pennok Jeffries vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad, for an automobile accident that occurred in 1919, when a train car struck Jeffries' automobile.

Ten men were summoned to serve on the jury, but nine offered excuses as to why they couldn't serve. Having heard that the 19th amendment had been ratified, Judge Williams said "I decided to impanel a woman jury. Twelve women were summoned. Twelve women responded and twelve women served."

The women were sworn in, the cases were stated, and cross examinations were made. When the statements were concluded, the judge gave the women of the jury their instructions and they retired to the jury room. They made their decision in four minutes and shortly returned to their seats in the jury box. They decided for the plaintiff, who was awarded \$1500. After the trial was over, the judge congratulated the women for their service on the jury. Each of the twelve women were paid two dollars for serving on the jury. This was the first all female jury in Erie County, and one of the earliest in the United States.



The women of the jury included Katherine H. Biller, Mary R. Boehmer, Sarah Cooke Sloane, Alice K. Hertlein, Alice D. Mack, Anna Sutton, Emma Broadbent, Sallie W.D. Neill, Mabel L. Magill, Sarah C. Scott, Henrietta Zerbe, Bertrha Mitchell. The three men in the photo are Roy Williams, George Beis and Claude Minor.

This historic event was commemorated with an Ohio historical marker erected during Ohio's 2003 Bicentennial. The marker is located near the north entrance of the Erie County Courthouse where the photograph of the women of the jury was taken.



## CELEBRATING WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE – A SANDUSKY CONNECTION

Marie Caroline Brehm was born in Sandusky on June 30, 1859 and was an American prohibitionist, suffragist, and politician. Additionally, she was the first woman to run for the Vice President of the United States after the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote.

The Head of the suffrage department for the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), she was a key figure in the Prohibition Party and Presbyterian Church, active in both local and national politics, and an advocate of reform laws. Twice she was appointed by the President to represent the United States at the World's Anti-Alcoholic Congress in Europe.

Brehm was approached to run as the Prohibition Party's vice presidential candidate twice before her 1924 nomination, in 1916 and 1920, but declined at those times. At the 1916



Prohibition Party National Convention in St. Paul MN, Brehm proclaimed that the monument of former WCTU president Frances Willard in the National Statuary Hall was a prophecy that some day a woman would be in the Capitol Building, not as a statue, but in power. Although Brehm was considered for the vice president candidacy at the time, she withdrew her name from the nomination, believing Ira Landrith would make a better candidate as he had a strong constituency in the south. Activists Mary Harris Armor and Ella A. Boole were also considered for the vice presidency, and women played a crucial role within the party. More than a hundred women delegates and an equal number of alternates attended the convention and held women's conferences throughout the event.

In 1920, Brehm was nominated by the Democratic and Prohibition parties to run for California State Senate for the Thirty-third District. The primary tenets of her platform were a complete abolition of alcohol trafficking, and supporting legislation that protected women and children. She ran a "spirited" campaign against her opponent, the incumbent Richard Rominger, as their race was the only one in which a woman was running. Many Los Angeles women's clubs campaigned for Brehm, eager to have a woman representing them in the State Legislature. As ballots were cast, Rominger maintained a healthy lead. Ultimately, he won the race with 64 percent of the votes.



*H.P. Faris and Marie C. Brehm campaign button from the 1924 Prohibition Party ticket*

**1924 Vice presidential campaign** - Brehm was the first female candidate to run for the vice-presidency of the United States after women were allowed to vote in national elections, thus enabling her to vote for herself. Marietta Stow had run for vice-president in 1884 on an all female ticket, but many argue that Brehm was the first to run legally, because of the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920. Brehm ran in 1924 on the ticket of the Prohibition Party running with Herman P. Faris. The vice presidential nominee was initially Dr. A.P. Gouthey, with Brehm in second, and Colonel A. L. Moudy in third. Gouthey withdrew and Brehm was nominated by acclamation.

Her running mate, H. P. Faris, praised her abilities during the campaign with several memorable comments: "[Miss Brehm] is the peer of any candidate now running, although she doesn't wear a skull cap or smoke an upside down pipe." "Why adopt a dry law then elect a wet nurse for it?"

She died on January 21, 1926 (aged 66) in Pasadena, California, and was buried in Oakland Cemetery, Sandusky, Ohio, although her cemetery monument shows the year as 1925.

Thanks to Board Member David Biechele for bringing this story to our attention.



**FACEBOOK** – What a great endorsement from Scott Ehrnsberger who recommended our Facebook page. He wrote: “Great local history here. Not clicky, drama ridden or judgmental like some history groups. Presented by many seasoned historians to average everyday buffs with a common goal of preserving, celebrating and sharing local history.”

Thanks Scott – we try our best. We are so glad that you are enjoying the pictures, articles, bits of history and simply interesting tidbits that we post.

And we would like to acknowledge the Sandusky Library which has become the keeper of Erie County’s history. Their [History Blog](#) contains hundreds of stories about our past. We share them all on our Facebook page: Erie County Historical Society (the one with the historic marker).

### **NEW HISTORIC MARKER DEDICATED FOR THE COOKE-DORN HOUSE**

The dedication was September 27, 2019. It has two different messages. One side tells the story of Eleutheros Cooke (1787-1864), and the other side chronicles the Cooke-Dorn House, built for Cooke and his wife, Martha, in 1843-1844. You can explore ALL the historic markers located in Erie County [HERE](#).

### **SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS**

**THE GOODTIME I** - A Great Lake Day, begins with a cruise aboard The *Goodtime I* - a family owned business, providing luxury cruises along the Sandusky Bay, to Kelleys Island and to Put-in-Bay. They offer both public cruises as well as private events, to help make your summer on Lake Erie everything you could imagine, and more! [info@goodtimeboat.com](mailto:info@goodtimeboat.com)  
<http://www.goodtimeboat.com/> 419.625.9692



**THE 1870 PUBLISHING GROUP** - If you go back in time a hundred years ago, the roller coasters were an afterthought. Cedar Point in the early days was all about getting away to the beach, catching a live show in the Ballroom, socializing on the Hotel Breakers porch, or having a fine picnic with your co-workers. Sure, the resort had roller coasters. And Ferris wheels. And haunted houses. And carousels. But these weren’t the focus. **Rolling Through The Years** is a look

back across time at the development and changes at the Worlds’ Greatest Amusement Park. Author Ken Miller has spent the last seven years exploring the history of the resort. Magazine articles, museum archives, and over 100,000 newspaper articles spanning 200 years were examined for this detailed history of Cedar Point. Over 75 historical maps of the peninsula and over 1200 images are included in the book. Want to learn more about this book? Click [HERE](#).

Erie County Historical Society  
P O Box 944, Sandusky OH 44871-0944  
419-702-0001  
[ECHS@bex.net](mailto:ECHS@bex.net)

Facebook: Erie County Historical Society – *the one with the historic marker*  
<https://www.eriecountyohiohistory.com/contact-us/>