

OUR ANNUAL MEETING – TOURS – AND BOAT TRIPS

We almost had events this year – really. We planned for and then cancelled the Underground Railroad tour. We had high hopes for another *Goodtime* cruise, but decided to try again next year. We might have an Annual Meeting dinner and speaker – we are still deciding that (you'll get the announcement if we move forward). So, you might ask, what HAVE we been doing? We field questions; promote activities at historical sites and museum in Erie County; we are working on a printed [URR tour](#) guide (so many people requested it); we post almost daily on our [Facebook page](#); we are working with Cedar Point to recognize their 150th year celebration; we ordered a new [Hinde & Dauch](#) marker; and there are probably lots more items that we forgot.

GREAT QUESTION – Woody Gruninger asked “What county was the City of Sandusky originally part of?” We thought was a great question. Erie County was officially created by an act of the Ohio Legislature in 1838. It was formed from parts of Sandusky and Huron counties. Including Kelleys Island, it is the second smallest of Ohio's 88 counties in land area, only 252 square miles. With 374 square miles of Lake Erie and Sandusky Bay, the total legal size is 626 sq miles. While we could find no record that specifically deals with the question, we did piece together some dates that put it all in perspective.

Huron County was created in 1809 and later organized in 1815.

Sandusky grew out of an area called Portland (est. in 1816) in the new Huron County

Sandusky County was formed on February 12, 1820 from portions of Huron County. (which puts Sandusky in Sandusky County)

Sandusky incorporated as a City in 1824. In 1838, the Ohio government created Erie County and established Sandusky as the county seat. (putting Sandusky in Erie County)

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF RELDA NIEDERHOFER – Some time ago the Erie County Historical Society awarded Relda with a Life membership. We wrote: In considering this, we realized that you have been a member for almost too many years to count. Your support of this organization through your membership history was not the only thing that influenced our decision; we also wanted to recognize your contribution to the betterment of Erie County.



You were not just a member of this organization, but also served on the Board of the Erie County Historical Society for several years.

You were one of the first faculty at Firelands College, teaching biology for general studies and more advanced biology for health care professionals. For many years you led a group at the Erie County Healthcare facility in growing and supplying decorative plants for the facility. You also taught a great course on botany, using donated space in local greenhouses.

Finally, we want to recognize you (and your colleague at BGSU) for writing a major book about Edwin Lincoln Moseley, the famous local naturalist, scientist and educator, who first taught at Sandusky High School, then at the Bowling Green State University. His contribution to researching and cataloging plants, as well as his other accomplishments, resulted in Sandusky Bay's Moseley Channel and Moseley Hall at BGSU being named for him. You can read about her remarkable history [HERE](#).



It was with great regret that we accepted the resignation of Jade Castile from the Board. We know that circumstances change and they have for her: “I have a conflict with my schedule as I got a new schedule for my job/schooling. It is in conflict with the meetings for the board and I will not be available because I will be in Toledo. I don’t think it’s fair to all of the other members or the board to continue to hold a seat that I cannot fulfill. I am so sorry for the inconvenience. I originally volunteered when my schedule was conducive and did not know that it would be changed in this way.” Jade was appointed a year ago to the Board and had become an integral part of our organization. We will miss her.

Sandusky Daily Register, December 11, 1871 - CHRISTMAS PARTIES - This week preceding this year’s Christmas promises to be very prolific of parties and entertainments as it usually is. A great many have been made known to us, among them the following:

In Florence a dramatic club has been organized, composed of those who will enter fully into the spirit of anything they undertake to represent. On Wednesday and Thursday evenings, December 29th and 21st, there will be presented in the Presbyterian church, the great historical drama of “Pizarro,” to be followed by appropriate afterpieces. The cast of characters is very good and from what we know of the parties, the play will be acted well. A very general invitation is extended to be present and witness the presentation of the plays. The object for which the entertainments are to be given is for the payment of the new organ, recently purchased by the Presbyterian church of Florence.

A Christmas party is to be given at the Edwards House, three miles south of Castalia, on Monday evening, December 25th, at which a good time may be expected, and we assure all who may wish to attend, that they will be well cared for by Mr. Edwards, the landlord of the hotel. The music will be furnished by Fleming’s Band.

Our friend and patron, Mr. Jesse Davis of Berlin Heights, proprietor of the Davis House, advertising a grand ball and supper for Friday evening, December 22d. If anybody knows how to entertain a party it is Mr. Davis, and if he cannot make every one feel at home we are mistaken in the man. Mr. Davis’ parties have always enjoyed the reputation of being very enjoyable affairs, and this one will be no exception to the general rule. He is a model landlord, and the supper he proposes to get up will be one that will cheer the hearts (and stomachs) of his guests. We have a firm, abiding faith in Mr. Davis, and feel certain that the dancers who attend his party, will bear us out in our supposition. That in saying he will have, and deserves, a large attendance upon the occasion of his annual dance, we have no hesitation whatever. [*This was a large three story hotel on the northeast corner of Lake and Main Sts., which burned in the 1880s.*]

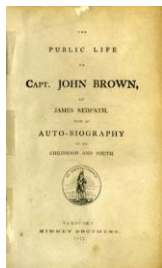
TO-MORROW (Tuesday) evening the ladies of Bloomingville will hold a festival at that place, the financial results of which are to be devoted to purchasing a new library for their Sunday school. Owing to the inconvenience of holding it in the Sabbath school room, the managers of the enterprise have decided to hold it at the residence of Mrs. Mary James, a short distance west of the school house, where a warm dish of oysters can be had for a very small price from seven o’clock in the evening mentioned to a late hour.

THE LECTURE TO-MORROW EVENING – ... by Mrs. Kellogg, will be one that will do our readers good to attend. Mrs. Kellogg is a lady rendered homeless by the great conflagration in Chicago, and the manner in which she depicts the great conflagration is very descriptive and fine, eliciting the warmest approbation of the press whenever she has lectured. The Chicago fire is a subject that will be spoken of years to come, and many will be the descriptions written thereupon; but Mrs. Kellogg, being an eye witness to its many horrors and incidents, can tell them more truthfully than those dependent upon history for their facts. The Opera House should be filled full to-morrow evening, and we have not the least doubt but that a fine and full audience will assemble. [*In 1875 the building known as the Sandusky Opera House was [Norman Hall](#), on the north side of Water Street between Jackson and Decatur. The building later was known as the Sandusky Opera House. The Biemiller Opera House was not built until 1877.*]



ERIE COUNTY, SLAVERY, AND THOSE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE PART 3

The first parts appeared in our Fall 2020 & Spring 2021 newsletters.
The clickable links will take you to the Sandusky Library's Blog page on the topic.



[Captain John Brown](#) - In 1928, Harry Dane, chief clerk in the Erie County Probate Court, donated the 41st edition of *The Public Life of Captain John Brown* to the Sandusky Library. An association of African American residents in Sandusky was responsible for securing the reprinting of this edition, which was published locally by the Kinney Brothers in 1872. John C. Kinney and Addison D. Kinney were also the publishers of the Sandusky Journal newspaper. Profits from the sale of the book were to be devoted to the erection of a monument to John Brown, the radical abolitionist. Despite their efforts, the monument was never built.

[Dr. Daniel Tilden, Pioneer Physician](#) - According to the Firelands Pioneer, Daniel Tilden was born in New Hampshire and obtained his medical degree from Dartmouth College in 1812. Dr. Tilden married Nancy Drake and moved to Ohio in 1817, settling in Cook's Corners (now North Monroeville). They moved to Sandusky in 1839. Dr. Tilden had an abhorrence of oppression and injustice and he was anti-slavery in his political convictions. It was said that his recollections of assisting the poor and enslaved race gave him great pleasure, and he often had tears of joy at the thought that he had lived to see "the colored man free."



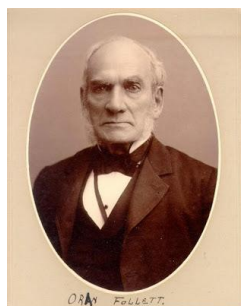
[London Gant, Sandusky High School Star Athlete](#) - London Gant was born to Abe and Ida Sherman Gant



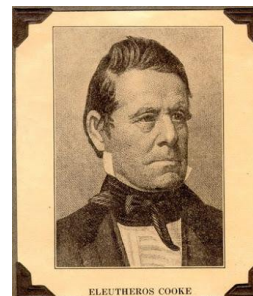
Football Team, four years, four letters; Basketball Team, four years, four letters; Track Team, four years, four letters; Varsity "S," one semester; won National Interscholastic Javelin Record in 1932; Little Big Seven Javelin Record, 1932; Shot Put, Discus, and Javelin Records of Sandusky High School; Twelve Letter Man.

in 1912 in South Carolina and moved to Sandusky in 1917, after their family home was mysteriously burned one night. Ida Gant was born into slavery in Oconee County, South Carolina, and her age was given as 101 years old when she died in 1962 in Sandusky. In 1933, London Gant graduated from Sandusky High School. London earned twelve letters, in three different sports, football, basketball, and track. Following graduation

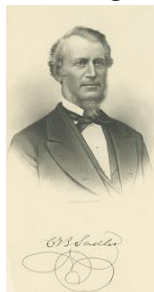
from Sandusky High School, London Gant attended the University of Cincinnati, where he was only the second African American athlete to compete at that school.



[Whigs in Sandusky](#) - The Whig Party was active in the US from 1834–1856, formed by those who were strongly opposed to the tyrannical leadership of Andrew Jackson. The Whigs elected two American Presidents, William Henry Harrison in 1841, and Zachary Taylor in 1849. Both Presidents died before their terms ended. Newspaper editor Oran Follett (L), was a staunch Whig leader in the 1840's. Sandusky's first lawyer, Eleutheros Cooke (R) was elected to Congress as an anti-Jacksonian (later, Whig), serving from 1831 through 1833. Eventually the Whig Party fell apart due to disunity on the issue of slavery.



Most Whigs in the North joined the newly formed Republican Party.



[Judge Ebenezer B. Sadler](#) - In the summer of 1835, at age 26, E.B. Sadler took a stagecoach to Buffalo, and from there embarked for Sandusky. Soon after reaching Sandusky, he was admitted to the bar, and in 1836 formed a law partnership with F.D. Parish, which continued for 11 years. His obituary indicates that Sadler was in politics, originally an anti-slavery Whig. He became a Republican at the birth of that party. The obituary notes that Judge Sadler "was the friend of every good work, broad, liberal and charitable in his views, and ever ready to do others a kind turn even at the cost of his own comfort."

July 11, 1894 - Workmen engaged in tearing down the Cable property on Market street on Tuesday found three cans of nitroglycerine and a can of dynamite. The explosives were cast into the bay.

January 1888 - Common Pleas - State vs. Anna Ash, for assault and battery, continued until next term of court. State vs. Henry Eberle and Dan Ryan, assault and battery: found guilty and sentenced to pay \$5 fine and costs, and five days in the County Jail.

SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS



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. **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](#).



HARBOURTOWN FINE ARTS CENTER, 736 Main Street, P.O. Box 557, Vermilion, OH 44089 - www.harbourtownfineartscenter.org
information@harbourtownfineartscenter.org

The Harbourtown Fine Arts Center is a 501c3 grassroots organization dedicated to bringing the fine arts to Vermilion and the surrounding communities and has one of the last remaining “hemp” theaters in the US. Be sure to check their EVENTS tab for some exciting tours. The HFAC purchased the Vermilion Town Hall - a magnificent 1883 building that housed many governmental offices in the late 1880s. On the second floor is an amazing Opera House with original seats, curtain, stage, windows and an impressive fresco of George Washington painted directly into the plaster.



THE GOODTIME I – She’s back! 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! <http://www.goodtimeboat.com/>
419.625.9692 info@goodtimeboat.com

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Operating from our home base along the south shore of Lake Erie, from Toledo to Port Clinton and Sandusky to Cleveland and on to Conneaut, our customers have made us the premier marine transportation provider for the entire Great Lakes

region. We understand the great stress that accompanies the decision to move your boat from Point A to Point B. It can also be very confusing, with all the options and details that need to be considered. We not only transport boats for a living, but we also are boat owners and “live to boat” ourselves. Therefore, *we will treat your boat as if it were our own*, thus making the experience easier on you.