

We thought all the weirdness of the past two years was finally over, but we were wrong. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we got a late jump on our event plans. Our last meeting was in October, the April meeting was cancelled and the May meeting had us re-evaluating our plans for the year. We like to think it was our great walking tours that inspired others to do the same and the Sandusky Library has embraced walking tours with enthusiasm. [Other historical societies are doing the same.](#) So where does that leave us? We don't want to step on anyone's toes, and we certainly don't want to plan events that compete with others. We are looking for suggestions. What would you like to see as a Members Only event – building tours, speakers?

OUR ANNUAL MEETING will be Sunday, November 13 with guest speaker Jeremy Angstadt. Yes, there will be food (that great Sandusky Yacht Club buffet) as well as a few silent auction



baskets. Watch for details. All will be on our [website](#):
MENU – The amazing Commodore Buffet - with house salad, dinner rolls, coffee, hot tea, iced tea, Carved top sirloin, seafood scampi, green beans almondine, roasted redskins, and veggie pasta and bread pudding for dessert. YUMMM
There will be a silent auction with a lottery tree, wine and liquor

baskets, and more!

Order your tickets **NOW** \$40 member and \$45 non-member (why not join – it's just \$10 a year?)

- 5:00 Social hour (cash bar),
- 5:30 Business meeting and Board meeting
- 6:00 Buffet dinner and dessert served at the table
- 7:00 Presentation by Jeremy Angstadt
- 8:00 Silent Auction bidding concludes



WEBSITE UPDATES - We are always looking to improve the information



our website – and is a LOT of it. We added some great photos of the Odd Fellows building cornerstone (R) and nice close-up pictures of the Beecher House (L). By the way, what does Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Sandusky and this house have in common? It's on the [Underground Railroad](#) and Washington Row walking tours! We realized that the [Washington Row](#) tour was incomplete since the Mahala block was on another tour as well as the Beecher House, so we did a bit of cross-referencing for a better experience.



ANOTHER BOAT TOUR COMING IN 2023 – One thing we could agree on is that we wanted to do another boat tour aboard the *Goodtime I*.

We dropped the ball this year on that one (due to a series of 'unfortunate events') but promise we will do one next year. Maybe in the spring?

QUESTIONS WE ANSWERED - We answer so many questions during the year – but rarely do people think to thank us. Some questions are easy, but some require quite a bit of research. We were so pleased when we received this: “Thank you so much for taking the time to respond to my question. The decades of research my sister & I have done have certainly proven to be fascinating, incredibly interesting & yes, frustrating, at times, but oh so addictive! It is amazing how a single "nugget" of information can explode into a wealth of information. I will reach out to the other places you have mentioned. I did not know these others sites existed. Hopefully they will have some information on Gabriel & the other Birkenmeiers. Fingers crossed! Again, many thanks for your kindness & informative response. I can't wait to see what these other sources might have to help in our search. Most sincerely, Marilyn Birkenmeier.”



And this chair? We were asked which museum would like this chair from the original Sloane House Hotel in Sandusky. We recommended the Follett House Museum of course. Here are some of the queries we fielded:

Mathias Buerle/Obergefell; Hommel House on Clinton St.; Vulcan Foundry in Sandusky; Klenck Family; Photos wanted-Orth, Vogel, Windisch; Cabins at Cedar Point 1940s; Gertrude Maude (Sprague) Livengood; 708 Wayne St.; Kewpee history; 1872 Sandusky Campaign research; W. Monroe St. house history; P A Hornig – Marble Works; History of Kelleys Island Greek church; Oren Mitchell grave – Perkins; H E Gerbar, Sandusky Shoe Factory; 1868 Train Service to Chicago; Civil War Records; Rick Family in Milan and Lorain Co.; Enterprise Glass Works; Kellys cottages – overlooking Lake Erie; Gabriel Birkenmeier family; Cedar Point week of May 5-13 1922; Cedar Point Lighthouse; Star Island (Watt Family) Old Woman Creek; Antionette Louise Smith 1880, Florence; 7 mile house, Rt. 4 & Mason; Death certificate for June Mixer of Shin Rock; James McElhatten, died 1860s

HISTORIC MARKER UPDATES - You can view all the historic markers in Erie County on our website: [HERE](#). What a great thing to add to your bucket list – a visit to each one on this list.



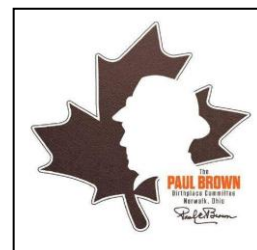
YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ALMON RUGGLES DEDICATION – We will be hosting, along with several local organizations including the Garden Club, an official dedication of this marker on **Saturday, October 8th at 2:00 pm at Oak Bluff Cemetery in Berlin Township.** Everyone is welcome. The marker was actually

installed a while back, but with the Covid situation, we felt it was prudent to put off the official dedication ceremony.



SITE OF SANDUSKY'S FIRST CEMETERY – This marker was removed in 2022 at the request of a nearby property owner who asked that it be moved to another site. After much research, it was determined that marker was likely placed at an incorrect location, and the actual site of the first cemetery could not be confirmed. This was one of the first historic markers that this organization had made and it was dedicated in 1974. If you are interested in the history of the first cemetery in Sandusky, [here are some great articles](#).

PAUL BROWN HISTORIC MARKER – A new state historical marker honoring legendary NFL and college football coach Paul Brown is coming to the city of Norwalk. Ohio History Connection notified Mayor Dave Light and the Paul Brown Birthplace Committee in a June 22 letter that the application has been approved and will receive full funding from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. You can read the June 24, 2022 Sandusky Register article [HERE](#). A dedication is planned for Labor Day weekend 2023. They already have a [Facebook page](#) for the weekend long event.



OLD NEWS - THE HORSE CALLED OLD KATE (1873)

Every winter, from 1861-1873, Kelleys Islanders published a hand written newspaper called *The Islander*. It is somewhat surprising to find that a horse made the news. She was the horse that pulled the ice wagon in the summer. She was not the only animal to be honored in word. Jack the Horse was included in several deeds for one of the island docks.

“As it is customary to make honorable mention of notable persons and things in the columns of the *Islander*, I deem it but a simple act of poetic justice to embalm within these pages, for the benefit of posterity, a passing notice of one of the notables of the Island. I refer to my horse – which her name is Catherine – but more commonly called Old Kate.

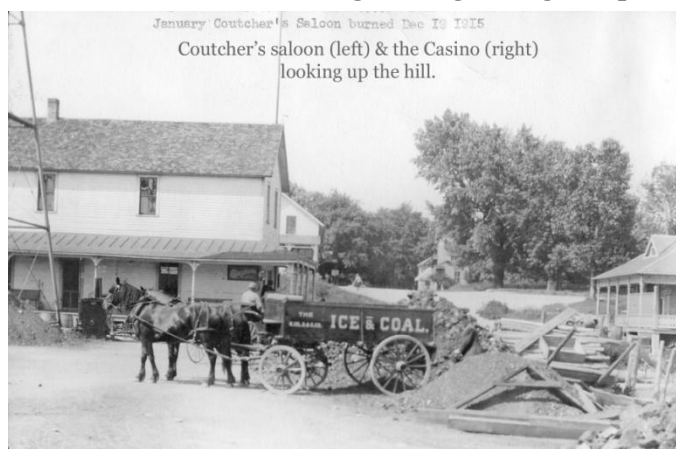
I have known her for a long time and I have found her...ever faithful. I never knew her to ‘go back’ on anything, from a cloud of ice to a barrel of corn. But the most remarkable trait in this remarkable horse is her remarkable appetite. When I bought her, the man told me she was easy to keep. She would eat anything, and from the bottom of my heart, I believe she will. I believe she would eat a stone quarry without winking. Last fall she ate up all my grapes before they had a chance to ripen. She ate all the whitewash off the fence and she has licked nearly all the yellow paint from the Ball Alley. [*This particular ball alley was likely the one associated with the Island House hotel.*]

She has eaten the past winter, in addition to all the corn and oats that I could procure, one side of the bar, the Pig Pen, and part of the School House benches that were stored under the Hall shed. She broke into the smoke house and ate up a barrel of soap – barrel and all. And the other morning I went into the wood shed and found that Old Kate had crawled through the window where she was eating up my hard coal, which I had especially designed to use in the ‘Brilliant’ [a stove]. This disgusted me and I turned her out. The next day Mike Hughs sent me word that my old horse was breeding a famine at the West End. What is the more remarkable, her eating is only exceeded by the quantity that she will drink. Charley says every time he takes her down to the lake to drink, the water falls a foot more or less.

A few days ago a friend of mine [apparently John Dean] wanted to borrow [her] to take the place of one of his that was crippled. I said certainly, take her, use her kindly, and don’t forget to feed her, as she is bashful and will dislike to remind you when she is hungry. Two days after he brought her back. He said he had miscalculated when he agreed to feed her all she could eat. There was not enough feed on the Island for that. He had treated her to a splendid set of bright new shoes and that night she had eaten two bales of hay besides several barrels of corn. And in the morning it took two men to pull her head out of the manger, long enough to put a collar over it.

All the time the man was telling me, Old Kate stood silently by and as I turned around and looked at her, she gave one of her jolly winks, drawing her mouth down as if she was ready for a regular horse laugh. She spoke in language more plainly than words ‘Didn’t I make John Dean’s corn crib look sick?’

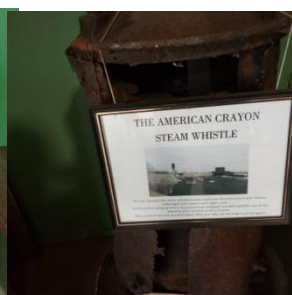
Well, with all her faults, she has many good qualities and when the summer comes, when the perspiration rolls down our fevered brows, Old Kate will appear at our door as a bright harbinger of cooling joy as she brings us the delicious cubes of solid happiness in the shape of crystal ice to the door of thirsty souls.”



January Cutcher's Saloon burned Dec 19 1915
Cutcher's saloon (left) & the Casino (right)
looking up the hill.

OLD NEWS 1871 - Cisterns Dry – There are a great many cisterns in [Sandusky] which are dry. House keepers have to depend upon a supply of water from the bay to do their washing with. Mr. Polley is kept busy all the while hauling water to the houses. *December 12, 1871*

There were lots of surprises at the Erie County Fair this year including these items from the American Crayon Company – the World’s Largest Crayon and that whistle from the factory!



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FIRELANDS ADVENTURE TOURS - Seasoned tour guides pick you up at Jackson Street Pier, the heart of downtown Sandusky's vibrant waterfront neighborhood, where your journey begins. Discover the hidden truths of the Underground Railroad and learn about the significant role that Sandusky, Ohio played in the lives of so many freedom seekers. Enjoy the Firelands area, Sandusky Bay, and Lake Erie in the comfort of a 20 passenger bus.

Discussions include museums, historic landmarks, and beautiful vistas of our area. Life is an adventure!

info@firelandsadventuretours.com <https://firelandsadventuretours.com/>



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!

<http://www.goodtimeboat.com/> 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. We will treat your boat as if it were our own, making the experience easier on you.



SHORES & ISLANDS OHIO - A place where time moves a little slower, loved ones feel a little closer and there's a Great Lake between you and your worries. From island hopping to bird watching, record-breaking roller coasters to water parks, wineries to dockside dining, plus hidden gems that keep the fun going all year long. However you like to coast – you'll find it here; event lists, places to explore, and lots more.

<https://www.shoresandislands.com/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shoresandislands/>



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. Want to learn more about this book? Click [HERE](#).