

**A MOST UNUSUAL CASE - October 1877**

*When you can find them, the Justice of the Peace dockets are a fun read that expose scandals, larceny, drunken brawls and sometimes paternity as this entry shows.*

Civil Case No. 9 - Sarah O'Neill vs. Wm. Maher

“The Plaintiff filed her Affidavit and Complaint as follows: Personally appeared before me A. S. Kelley a Justice of the Peace in and for said County.

Sarah O'Neil, an unmarried woman resident within said county, made complaint under oath, that she is now pregnant with a child, which if born alive will be a bastard, and that Mr. William Maher is, or will be the Father of said child.

J. A. Eldred returned the warrant this day indorsed as follows: The within named William Maher could not be found though diligently searched for, within the County of Erie...on this 19th day of January 1878, it is considered by me (all the parties, having left the Island) that this case is forever closed. A. S. Kelley, Justice of the Peace”

*From the book Kelleys Island 1877-1884 – The fire, the Great Grooves, & a mysterious disappearance by Leslie Korenko*