

THE ISLAND IN JULY 1873 by Leslie Korenko

“There are about the usual amount of visitors here this summer. The hotel ‘is nearly full. Hemelein’s [Himmelein] has quite a number. A party was up from Cleveland last week. This Island, when there is sufficient accommodation, must be the favorite resort for Clevelanders. Gentlemen having families here can take the Cleveland boat in the evening and have a good night’s rest and be back early in the morning; and can leave Cleveland at evening and be here by one o’clock. I do not know as there will ever be hotel accommodations enough for all who want to come here, and when I see clergymen and ladies of respectability at watering places, who have left all their decency at home, drinking and carousing after all honest folks should be in bed, I wish and hope if I have to live here, there will never be accommodations for a popular resort. There were a good many here on the Fourth and the dance at the Hall was orderly and respectable. A good many Islanders attended. [The Cleveland Plain Dealer picked up this tidbit, remarking, “Evidently this pious young man sat up to see what mischief was going on. Plainly, he is in course of preparation for a great reformer.”]”

An invitation was given to all who were interested in the Woman Suffrage movement to meet at the residence of E. K. Huntington last Tuesday evening. Only a few attended. There are quite a number who believe that ‘taxation without representation is tyranny,’ but prefer to submit to the injustice rather than exert their influence to make it different. A tea party will keep most of the women from such a meeting. The intelligent portion of the voters, I believe, would give the franchise to women if they thought a majority of the women wanted it. I doubt if they would be willing to give up their privilege of voting if 9/10 of the men did not wish to vote.

One voter said to me that he doubted if it was within a woman’s sphere to vote. He said it did not interfere with any of his duties, but I suppose he thought that if women were given the privilege we would want to vote all the time and do nothing else. But these questions and a good many more have been answered thousands of times. I do not blame any one here for making these objections to woman’s suffrage, it is to be expected in a place where nothing is read or talked about in its favor and see nothing in the papers but slurs and ridicule to make it odious. I expect folks will call me old and ugly to write all this, but I am not as old as I shall be if I live long enough to see women vote, and perhaps not so ugly as some who don’t want to vote. [Emeline was already 54 years old.]

We have almost hourly opportunities to go to the continent. The *Riverside* stops here four times, the *Cooke* twice and the *Gazelle* twice, making 12 arrivals and departures each day, besides from 6 to 10 sail vessels. The Cleveland steam boat has not put in an appearance yet, but she is expected to be out very soon when we shall have tri-weekly steam communication with that place.

The Rev. Mr. Holbrook has a donation party to-night. Some of his congregation think his health would be benefited with a trip this summer, and take this method of furnishing the means for him to do it, and also to show their love and appreciation of him as a friend and pastor. EKH”

Emeline would take heat again for writing this article. This time from the manager of the Island House. “Your correspondent EKH in the Register of to-day in speaking of summer resorts rather deprecates the conduct of those who visit those places. I wish to say the remarks have no reference to the Island House. We have no ministers here that I know of, and the House, since I have had the honor of managing it, has been remarkably free from ‘drinking and carousing when honest folks should be in bed.’”

I am charitable enough however to think that EKH perhaps had the same object in view as when a few weeks ago the *Sarah Van Epps* had to take a raking in order to give the writer a chance to say a good word for Woodhull and George Francis Train and I think ‘woman’s suffrage’ was what was the matter this time. [Among Train’s many projects, he supported Woman’s Suffrage.] I would respectfully ask EKH in further not to drag steamboats and hotels into any such company. C. C. Townley”

Emeline Kelley Huntington
hoped to live long enough to
see women vote.



From the book Kelleys Island 1872-1876: The hotels, the telegraph & the Lime Co.