

## THE LIBRARY – AN EARLY REPORT (1867) – Part 3

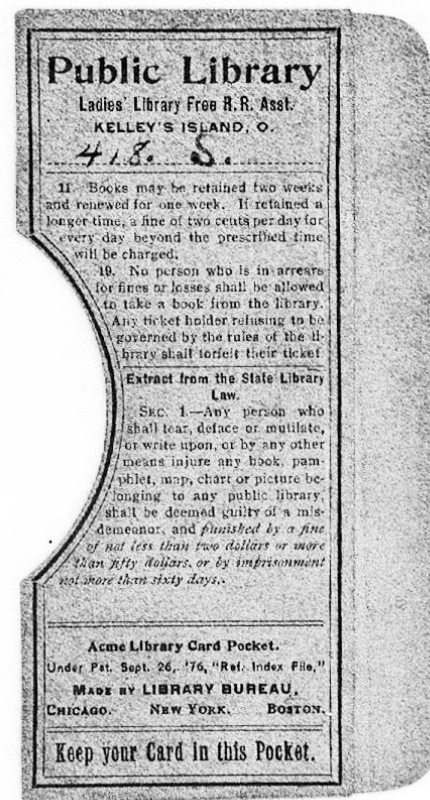
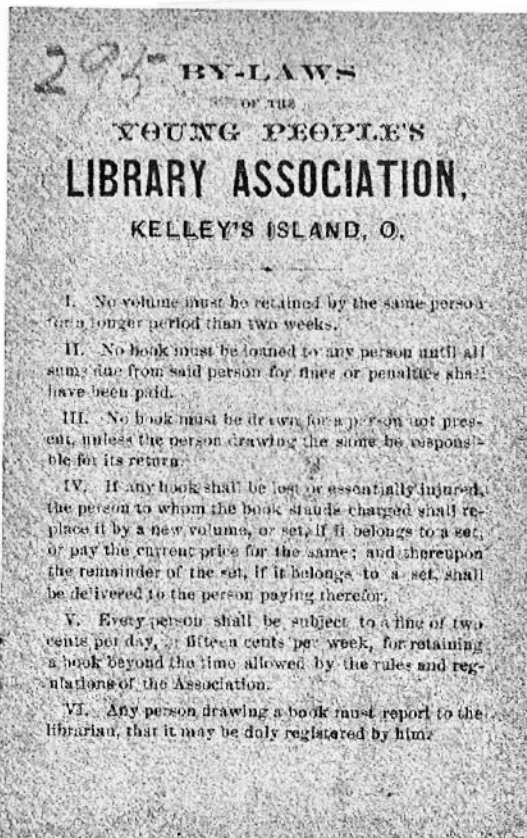
This small Island community was rarely without some type of library. In 1867 the Young People's Association received from the family of the late Datus Kelley a valuable donation of books. Kelley was well read and his collection reflected his various interests. "This collection of books comprises the library which Mr. Kelley left at his death and contains very many of great value. The catalogue contains 61 volumes of works of general interest beside about 30 volumes of Public Documents all of which are of value for reference.



DATUS KELLEY.

The following are some of the more important works: (Historical) Gibbons – History of Rome, 6 vols.; Rollins, 8 vols.; Kenricks Ancient Egypt, two vols.; Egypt and Abyssimal, two vols.; Arabia, Petrasa and the Holy Land, two vols.; Prescotts Conquest of Peru, two vols.; Comb's Tour through the United States, two vols. (Scientific) Combes Constitution of Man, Combes Moral Philosophy, All Religions and Ceremonies, Kaness Chemistry, Sprizheim on Education, &c., &c.

Aside from these, there are several works of interest to the general reader. It will be a valuable addition to the small stock of books thus far obtained by the Association and we would assure the donors that this present is received thankfully. And we hope the benefit it may do, in its new field of circulation, will be ample return for the kindness that promoted the generous gift. M. K. Holbrook."



The Young People's Association would take the library under their management. "The first mention of a Library in the records was March 6th, a committee on books was appointed and on the 26th [1864], the society taxed themselves for purchasing books and at the end of the year there were 32 volumes in the Library. It has been gradually increasing ever since. In 1865, it contained 60. [In] 1866 [there were] 90. In 1867, the society was presented with the Library belonging to Mr. Datus Kelley. Mr. Buckland also presented them with [26] volumes which were very valuable. References and the Librarian reports of this year show that there are 210 volumes in the Library. The society at first had a small book case, but the increasing library demanded a

larger one. The Society in 1866 got the bookcase which now [1868] stands in the Hall, which will hold 6 or 800 volumes of an ordinary size.”

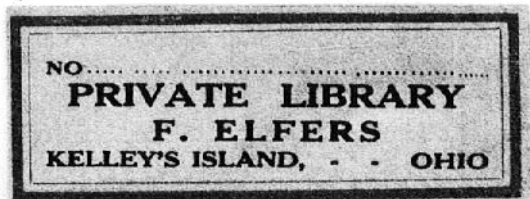
*There was also a second library collection that was part of the School Library. That lead to the question, “What shall be done with the books? There are a few valuable books remaining of the School Library, which are now in the care of the Township Clerk; who, we are informed, declines to act as Librarian under the requirement of the law known as the School Library Law (now repealed). We are credibly informed that in other Townships of the County the books of the same kind as those above referred to are used up and lost, become extinct, and the whole concern is looked upon as given up, so far as any individual is concerned as librarians, or as having heretofore being under bonds for the same. And it is reasonable to conclude that the same is the case with the Kelley’s Island Township Library. No one pretends to think there is the least probability that anything will ever be done, looking towards bringing anyone to an account, touching the forfeiture of bonds which may have been given for the said books, under a law now no more in existence.” So how does a librarian assure the books are kept safe?*

“We are informed that our Tp. Clerk [George Bristol] refuses to give up the books unless the party taking the same give bonds to the amount of \$500 and here seems to be the stick. And from present appearances, the books in question will be boxed up and kept like the treasures snugly ensconced within the corner stone of this Hall, until the time shall come when the stones of this building shall be no more, in their present position.

Now with all deference to the opinions of others who have expressed themselves on this subject, we are decidedly in favor of giving the books to the YPA [Young People’s Assoc] and they will, we doubt not, put them in their new bookcase or in some other convenient place for distribution by their librarian to any one entitled to their use, at such times as said librarian attends to giving out their other books...

Editor note – I understand the reason why the YPA do not wish to take the public library is not on account of the bonds required, but because they cannot bring them under the same regulations as to renting them out as they do their own.”

*The problem must have been resolved as this appeared on March 9 – “Notice – The Ohio School library will be open on every Sunday. Persons wishing to draw books will find an opportunity to draw them. And after the first of April, on Sundays and Saturdays, in the afternoon, from 3 to 4 o’clock. Geo. P. Bristol, Librarian.” Bristol was also the Township Clerk.*



In addition to the official Island libraries, there were also private collections.

*From the book KELLEYS ISLAND - 1866-1874 - The Lodge, Suffrage & Baseball*