

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION – November 1888 by Leslie Korenko

November 3, 1888 – “Damage to the telegraph cable occurred somewhat regularly and we find that our Kelley’s Island friends should have their cable repaired by Tuesday night, so as to be able to get elections returns.” November 10, 1888 – “Official returns for the Presidential election for the island: Cleveland and Thurman-147; Harrison and Morton-141. [*Gen. Benjamin Harrison and Hon. Levi P. Morton would be inaugurated President and Vice-President on March 4, 1889.*] The Harrison and Morton pole on Kelley’s Island is said to be a sight to behold. At least a dozen flags and ensigns are floating therefrom.” “The Republicans had their final ‘blow out’ on last Wednesday evening. The Harrison and Morton Club had a grand torch light procession, about 90 being in line.”

“Some of the houses on the line of march were beautifully illuminated. Those particularly noticeable, being: Henry Elfers, Fred Elfers, F. M. Kelley, G. P. Bristol, Herman Suhr, Addison Kelley, Mrs. H. Kaster [Koster] and the Himmelein House.



The Himmelein House



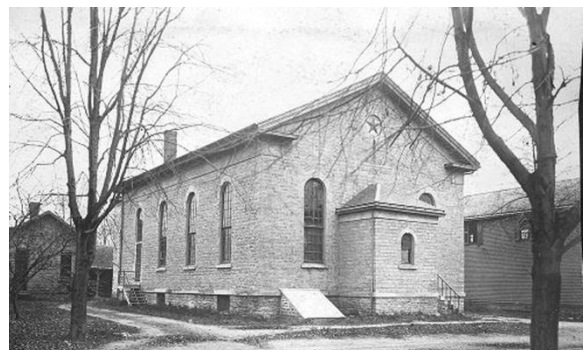
George Bristol's house

Mr. Addison Kelley borrowed a very fine rooster of Geo. P. Bristol and put him in the



window. The lights were turned down awaiting the procession, when it came in sight around the corner of the street, the lights were turned up to their utmost capacity which so dazzled his roostership that he ‘wilted’ right down, so that but few saw him at all. Some of those philosophically inclined, attribute his actions to the fact of his being a Democrat.

After the procession disbanded, the members wended their way to Kelley’s Hall to trip the light fantastic toe. Here were finally congregated some 250 ‘fair women and brave men’ (and children) the like of which was never before seen on the Island. The patriotic Harrison and Morton ladies served the supper, and in just 1½ hours from the time



the first person sat down to the tables the last table was out of doors and the floor cleared for the dancers. 200 invitations were issued, every Republican voter received one, and also 15 or 20 of the Democrats who were known to enjoy a good thing when they see it. It is said that one or two of the latter tore up their cards when received. This certainly showed very poor taste, as they were issued with the very best of feeling, and intended as a compliment.

The Cleveland and Thurman pole was gathered to its fathers last week. The Harrison and Morton pole will be left until after inauguration day, and should the movement on foot for making this place a signal display station prove successful the pole will be left standing for the purpose of hoisting signals thereon. It is 85 feet out of ground and stands on the hill directly in front of the telegraph office [in the Store on the Corner-The Lodge], the location being all that could be desired.”

From the book Kelleys Island 1885-1893: The Final Chapter