

Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison



Wesley Makely to his wife, October 6, 1864:
About fifty sick leave here to day, for Dixie, and I am sorry I am not one of the fortunate.

A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Johnson's Island Prisoner of War Depot

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A Successful Year

Greetings Friends!

It's has been too long since our last newsletter and we do apologize for that, but we have many exciting updates for you! First and foremost, as you all know we retired our mortgage with a big celebration in April, 2011. We are now in the process of finalizing a plan for Phase II for Johnson's Island Civil War Prison Compound, which entails building self-guided interpretive trails, restroom facilities, and making the site more accessible to all. Thus our fund-raising continues as we turn our efforts to developing Phase II, so we greatly need and appreciate your continued support. We hope to have some site improvements finalized before April, 2012, the 150th anniversary of the first prisoners arriving from Camp Chase.

Next, it is with great excitement and pride I can announce the publication of my book, *[I Feel I Shall Never Leave this Island](#)*. See page 2 for details on this "first-of-its-kind investigation" and how you can purchase a personally signed edition (do your holiday gift shopping early!) through the Friends.

Finally, we had another successful "Great Golf Escape" hosted by the 14th OVI and organized again by board member, Bob Minton. The event brought in over \$3,400! Thanks to all the volunteers, participants, and especially to Bob and his family who organized the teams, sponsors, and prizes for a great day of golf with friends and family (see page 3 for photos).

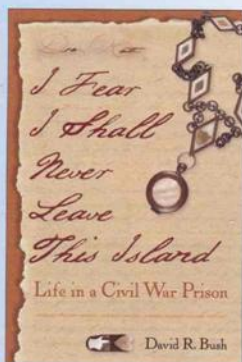
We have additional announcements as well. We continued our investigation of Block 8 this summer with many interesting discoveries (noted in the next edition of the newsletter). We will be taking down the weather port on October 20 and 21 and, as always, would appreciate any assistance for those of you who are available. We are winding down the actual field investigations with the last official day this fall being October 6th. If there are other dates planned, they will be announced in the JI Volunteers email.

With the start of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War, there are many events occurring in and around Ohio. We are planning some events for this spring out on Johnson's Island, so we will keep you posted. I also several speaking engagements in October and November, so please check out the listing of events on page 4. I would love to see you at some of these presentations. Also, you can check our website for updates on events.

Thanks again to everyone for helping us have another successful year! *This artifact was from an oil lamp, with a patent date of 1858.*



Sincerely, Dave Bush, Chairman



I Fear I Shall Never Leave This Island

Life in a Civil War Prison

David R. Bush

A first-of-its-kind investigation of Civil War prison conditions

"A fascinating study that will appeal to a variety of audiences. The author literally uncovers the prisoner of war experience at Johnson's Island by sifting through the material culture record."
—Michael P. Gray, author of *The Business of Captivity: Elmira and Its Civil War Prison*

Johnson's Island, in Sandusky, Ohio, was not the largest Civil War prison in the North, but it was the only one to house Confederate officers almost exclusively. As a result, a distinctive prison culture developed, in part because of the educational background and access to money enjoyed by these prisoners.

David Bush has spent more than two decades leading archaeological investigations at the prison site. In *I Fear I Shall Never Leave This Island* he pairs the expertise gained there with a deep reading of extant letters between one officer and his wife in Alexandria, Virginia, providing unique insights into the trials and tribulations of captivity as actually experienced by the men imprisoned at Johnson's Island.

Together, these letters and the material culture unearthed at the site capture in compelling detail the physical challenges and emotional toll of prison life for POWs and their families. They also offer fascinating insights into the daily lives of the prisoners by revealing the very active manufacture of POW craft jewelry, especially rings.

No other collection of Civil War letters offers such a rich context; no other archaeological investigation of Civil War prisons provides such a human story.

David R. Bush is professor of anthropology at Heidelberg University in Ohio and chairman of the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison.

History/Military/Civil War/Archaeology

October

224 pp. | 6 x 9 | 49 b/w photos, 1 map

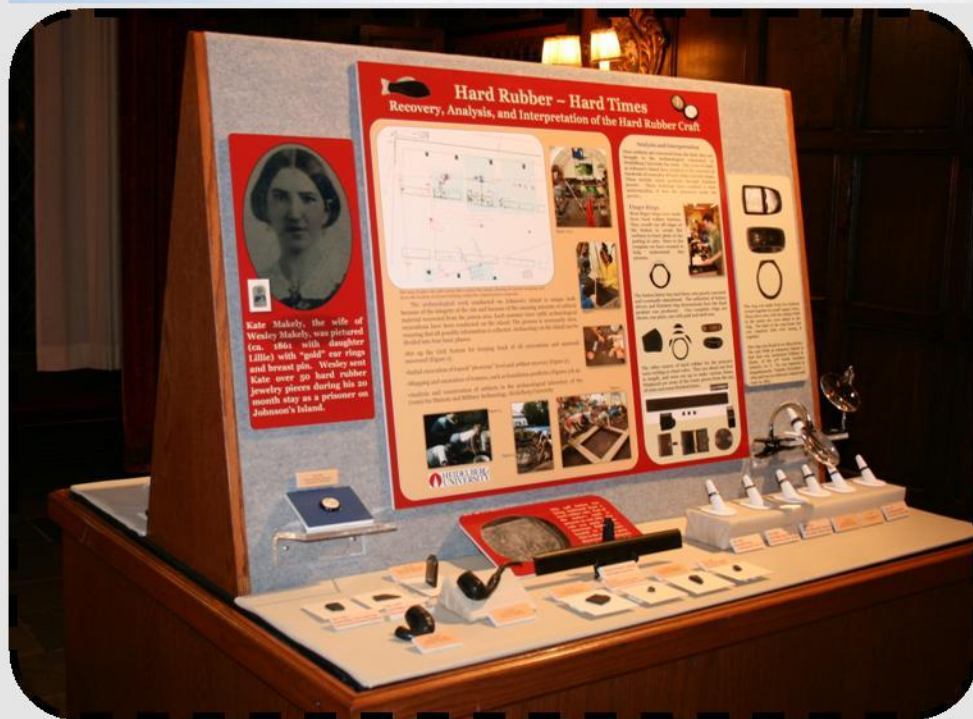
ISBN 978-0-8130-3744-8 | Cloth \$34.95

"An intimate view of both a Confederate prisoner and his wife. Bush works from their letters but provides insight based on archaeological investigations at Johnson's Island and some additional letters from other prisoners."

—Lawrence E. Babits, author of *Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse*

New Book on Johnson's Island

Books are now available for your holiday gift giving needs from the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison. To purchase a copy (s) of this book, fill out the enclosed form and send along with your renewal and donation for 2012. Members price is \$30.00 with free shipping. Additional forms will be posted on our web site in the Sutler section. The web site is www.johnsonsisland.com **Don't miss this opportunity for the latest on JI.**



The exhibit "Uniquely Rubber" at the Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens will be closing October 28th. Mike Woshner (pictured at left above) exhibited almost his entire collection

of hard rubber and gutta-percha items dating back to the mid-19th Century. Dave Bush (right above) created a small exhibit of hard rubber craft (pictured at left) featuring many items illustrated in his book *I Fear I Shall Never Leave This Island*. We thank Mike and the Staff at the Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens for this exhibit.

2011 Great Golf Escape-Birch Run Golf Course



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of Johnson's Island Civil
War Prison**

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Dawn at JI
January 25, 2008

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Upcoming Events:

October 17, 2011

Sponsored by Archaeological Institute of America: Society Event: Santa Fe, New Mexico. 7:30pm at Courtyard by Marriott, 3347 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507. Presenting: **Life as a POW: Johnson's Island Civil War Prison from the Ground Up.**

October 20, 2011

The Firelands Archaeological Research Center presents Dr. David Bush and "**Johnson's Island Civil War Prison: One Story at a Time**". Part of annual Ohio Archaeology Month Lecture Series. Lorain County JVS 15181 State Route 58, Oberlin, Ohio 44074. 6:00pm. Contact: Brian

Scanlan,

November 1, 2011

David Bush will be commenting on the movie *Rebel Fire/Yankee Ice* before it is shown at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library at 325 Michigan Street, Toledo, OH 43604. The program will begin at 6:00pm.

November 9, 2011

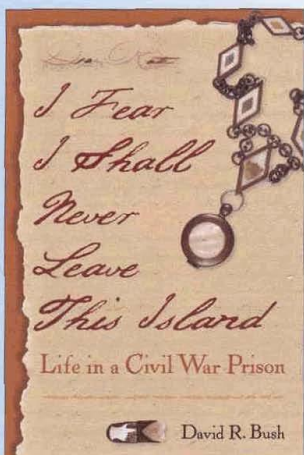
Wednesday, November 9, at 6:00pm Dr. Bush will be presenting a lecture entitled **Life of the POWs at the Johnson's Island Civil War Prison**. Held at the Warren-Trumbull County Main Library, Thomas Meeting Room, 444 Mahoning Avenue, NW, Warren, OH 44483

November 16, 2011

The Oakwood Historical Society at Dayton, Ohio is presenting a program on Civil War Prisons with Dr. Bush as the main speaker. The program will feature a recently gifted O'Dea Lithograph of Andersonville Prison. The lecture starts at 6:30pm at the Dayton Country Club, Kramer Road off West Schantz Avenue in Oakwood.

Thank you for supporting Johnson's Island! All contributions are tax deductible. If you wish to make a contribution, see our web site for more information.
www.johnsonsisland.com

Comments: Send to Marcia George, Ph.D., Education Coordinator and Editor.
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I Fear I Shall Never Leave This Island

Life in a Civil War Prison

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A first-of-its-kind investigation of Civil War prison conditions

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—Lawrence E. Babits, author of *Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse*

To order this book, send a check to:

Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison
3510 Confederate Drive
Johnson's Island, Ohio 43440

To receive a signed copy, please indicate to whom you would like it signed. The cost for this cloth hardbound book is \$35.00. Members price \$30.00 Shipping is included. Great for your **Holiday Gift** needs.

Shipping Address:

Name: _____

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Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison

A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of the Johnson's Island Prisoner of War Depot, recognized as a National Historic Landmark.

Membership-2012

Yes, I want to help preserve this National Historic Landmark by joining the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison. Yearly membership runs December through November. Members receive newsletter and sutler discounts.

Membership Categories:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Member | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing/Institutional Member | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1000.00 |

Name: _____

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Mail to: Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison
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