

Nov. 11, 1958

Mr. Mel Harmon, city editor,  
Sandusky Register Star News,  
Sandusky, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I am wondering if there is a historical society at Sandusky you could refer this letter to or some eager-beaver of a gal with a historical and research bent on your staff.

Miss Jo Ann Shore and I have for some time been engaged in research that has led us to need for some basic knowledge of the Civil War era at Sandusky and a copy of a photograph. Also, a rough "location" map.

The subject: The Union Prison on what was known as Johnson's Island.

We haven't concentrated on that phase of our project yet and frankly don't know if Johnson's Island still exists, what it looks like now etc. But we do know it was a Union prison in 1863 for some 1,200 men, most of them Southern Officers. (And they were very well treated there.)

The hand sketched map would not have to be elaborate. Perhaps an old map of Sandusky would show the location. It could be done freehand in pencil on plain paper.

We'd need a little historical background of the prison. The extensive War of the Rebellion records 140 vols. have, as yet, yielded nothing much on this prison. It was called Johnson's Island.

We'd especially appreciate "atmosphere" material. And as yet the National Archives haven't been thoroughly canvassed on photos. They may have some, if the copy photo or copy neg presents a problem.

The "first checkout" wouldn't have to be too extensive, but a get acquainted deal. Hence the suggestion for contact with some gal on your staff with a historical bent who could pick up later on a second go-round.

Aside from the photo negative we'd hold the first checkout down to around \$7.50 or \$10.

And please feel free to pass this letter along where you think it will have best results.

Sincerely