

YOUR VIRTUAL DISCOVERY VISIT – 25 TO THE HERITAGE STORIES OF ROTTNEST ISLAND



The Virtual Visit series was initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic when Rottneest Island was closed to the public due to social distancing restrictions and periods of use for quarantine from March to June 2020.

The intent was to maintain a connection to the Island by exploring stories of interest and offering links for self discovery.

Now that the Island is once again open to visitors and guiding services are being gradually re-established, these Virtual Visits have been retained as part of an archival record for future reference and

enjoyment.

THE KALAMAZOO



Kalamazoo is a city in the southwest region of the U.S. state of Michigan. with a population of 75,000. It is equidistant between Chicago and Detroit. A number of etymologies have been proposed, all of which suggest that the name was derived from the languages of local indigenous peoples, the historic Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Miami.

Kalamazoo is also Australian slang for a railway hand car also known in other places as a pump trolley, pump car, jigger, velocipede or draisine. The slang has its origins in the many Australian handcars which were the product of the Kalamazoo Manufacturing Company. The two Kalamazoos come together on the logo of the *Captain Hussey* railcar which conveys visitors to Oliver Hill.

Further research is necessary to determine if the Kalamazoo featured in Rottneest photographs was manufactured in the United States, modified locally or constructed in Australia with only the local slang being a connection with Kalamazoo, Michigan.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION



Next time you ride on the *Captain Hussey* check the logo on the front, sides and rear which is based on a photo of the Lucas family sitting on the Rottnest military railroad Kalamazoo.



Kalamazoo "216-L"



KALAMAZOO 216L

**Recognized as an
Essential in Modern
Railroading for
ONE MAN
INSPECTION
WORK**

Simple in construction but amply powered. A "safety-first" motor car that may be handled with perfect ease by one man. Comfortable, convenient, and economical.



KALAMAZOO RAILWAY SUPPLY CO.
Manufacturers
Kalamazoo, Michigan



When the Captain Hussey is operating the line is checked each morning by a motor vehicle with a dual rail and road capability. This is not a new idea as this Kalamazoo modified Model T Ford illustrates,



Rail officianados/nerds/fanatics/tragics will have noticed the difference in wheel design between the Rottnest photos and the advertisement. You can follow up at these links:

<http://westralia.uk/wagons.htm>

http://westralia.uk/r_wagon.htm

<http://www.endofthelinehobbies.com.au/modelling-tips/bogie-details>

http://railheritagewa.org.au/archive_scans//index.php

