

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 1
September 2013



Pleasant Hill History Center

Pleasant Hill, Ohio

Mission Statement

“To preserve the history of Pleasant Hill and Newton Township through documents, pictures, and artifacts.”

Historic

Pleasant Hill and Newton Township

“Preserving our local history by telling our stories.”

A Note from the President

SUMMER 2013

Welcome partners and friends! The Pleasant Hill History Center is up and running. Thank you for your support of our history.

I cannot remember a time when I was not fascinated with the past. Forty year old notes document the many small towns lived in by my paternal grandparents. Decades ago, a rainy afternoon found me with my maternal grandmother and aunt and a box of old pictures. Those pictures still exist with my handwriting identifying the subjects, and I am thankful for that rainy afternoon and for the idyllic childhood I had with my extended family living close together.

Many exciting things are happening at the history center. We receive new items almost weekly, and we are busy documenting and preserving the rich history of Pleasant Hill and Newton Township. So, if you are free on a rainy (or sunny!) Monday afternoon in the future, please visit us or attend an upcoming event. We would love to celebrate the past with you!

Lesa Delcamp, President

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Membership News

We have 56 partners and 6 business friends. Questions about your membership, call John Weaver at 937-632-4004. Thank you for your support.

John Weaver, Membership Chairman

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Pleasant Hill History Center Museum

There have been several groups and individuals visiting the museum and everyone has had good comments about their visit. We are always looking for pictures and artifacts of Newton Township or Pleasant Hill. The museum is open every Monday from 3:00 - 7:00. Come visit your museum.

Chuck Martin

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CEMETERY WALK

Be sure to mark your calendar for September 22, 2013. We will be hosting a Cemetery Walk. Selected individuals include Jesse Beery, Louie Klopfer, Nathan Hill and Ellie Beitman Wampler. Presentations will be given continuously from 2:00 - 4:00. Hope to see you there.

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Museum hours are every Monday from 3:00 - 7:00. Come visit your museum!

**Be sure to check our web site @ Pleasanthillhistorycenter.com
and
visit us on Facebook**

History of the Pleasant Hill History Center

The Oakes-Beitman library came about because of the thoughtfulness of Mrs. Ella Oakes Beitman Wampler. Upon her death she willed her home to the village of Pleasant Hill to be used as a Library. "I give, devise and bequeath to the village of Pleasant Hill, Miami County, Ohio, to be used as a Free Public Library" "It is my wish and desire that said Library be known and designated as the Oakes-Beitman Memorial Library."



Ella Wampler home

The main part of the Library was built in 1872 by Samuel Yount, bricklayer, for J. K. Teeter. Mrs. Wampler purchased the building from William McCabe in 1905. It was her home until her death in 1952.



Ella and David Wampler on the porch of their home

The original trustees were: Elmer Herbst, Paul Hawn, Pat Kauffman, Warren Sollenberger, William Uhrig, Mrs. Eleanor McCann, and Ellis McDowell.

In 1976, a group of history minded individuals established the Oakes-Beitman History Museum. Basil Rice and Maude Arnett were instrumental in establishing the museum

The original members of the museum board were: Howard Burns, Helen Klopfer, Ruth Hawn, John Johnston and William Wenrick.

In 2004, the museum became independent of the Library.

In 2013, the Oakes-Beitman museum was dissolved and the Pleasant Hill History Center was established with all assets and artifacts legally transferred to the new history center.

The current Board and officers include:

- President.....Lesa Delcamp
- Vice-President.....Sharon Bledsoe
- SecretaryVirginia Kinney
- TreasurerJohn Weaver
- At LargeJean Gilbert
- At LargeMilan Bashore



Ella Wampler in her carriage



Current Library and Museum

Newton Township Civil War Monument

“Dedicated by the grateful people of Newton Township, in memory of her fallen heroes who died in defense of the Union and who sleep in unknown graves”

The Civil War Monument is located in the center of Pleasant Hill. The monument was erected in 1895 at a cost of \$725.00, by the Dan W. Williams Post #369 of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Women’s Auxiliary Williams Relief Corps #97. It was financed in part by the voters of Newton Township by approving two \$250.00 Bonds to be used for the purpose of the erection of a Civil War Monument. The monument is signed “L. Wallace P.H.O.” who was the stone cutter and contractor who erected the Monument.



The names on the monument are: Jerry W. Teeter, Philip H. Reiber, Martin Elifritz, Josiah Coate, William H. Dunlap, Robert Sheets, Isaac W. Furnas, Henry Long, Job Pearson, David Shoe, John A. Book, and Alfred Hayworth. These soldiers were killed in action during their enlistment in the Civil War.

On August 12, 1895, the village Council passed an Ordinance #86, granting the privilege of constructing a Soldier’s Monument in the center of the crossing of Main and Cross Streets.

The day of the dedication was October 31, 1895. A large crowd gathered. There were speeches and music from the town band. Charles Schuesslin, a local butcher, had prepared and entire beef and gave free soup. Mrs. Delilah Reiber had the honor of unveiling the Monument. She was the mother of three soldiers killed in the Civil War.

An iron fence was to be placed around the monument, but due to lack of funds the fence was installed a year or two later.

The base of the monument is one piece of limestone that came from the local quarry. The Vermont Granite was shipped from Vermont on the C.H.&D railroad. The soldier standing on top of the Monument came from Italy.

The iron fence was removed in 1902 when the traction line was installed through Pleasant Hill.

The Monument still stands as a memorial to those heroes who died serving their country.



Pleasant Hill History Center Membership

Founders

Margaret Bailey
Barbara Besecker
Joe Bob Bledsoe
Sharon Bledsoe
Barbara Cecil
Ruby Coate
Dan Delcamp
Lesa Delcamp
Donna Favorite
Elizabeth Gilbert
Jean Gilbert
Gill Hawk
Virginia Kinney
Chuck Martin
John Schultz
Lolita Schultz
Richard Sollmann
Jennie Tilton
Tim Klopfer Tilton
Emily Wackler
Rene Wackler
John Weaver
Margaret Weaver
Jackson Sarver Funeral Home
Vannus Innovative Printing

Partners

Milan Bashore
Terry Bashore
Ruthann Beck
Jim Beeman
Joy Beery
Ann Bower
Shirley Brubaker
Beverly Cecil
Dick Cecil
Larry Cecil
Marcia Deeter
Margaret Fast
Ronald Fast
William Favorite
Marcile Feitshans
Nancy Lane Feldner
Charlene Haines
Anita Hawk
Dick Holsinger
Norma Holsinger
Millie Kight

Jim King
Linda Landis
Brian Leingang
Noelle Leingang
Marcus Miller
Thelma Miller
Trina Short
Rich Swank
Jack Thomas
Samantha Weaver
Carolyn Weeks

Business Friends

Jackson Sarver Funeral Home
Medical Massage Clinic
Pleasant Hill Memorial VFW
Sharon Bledsoe Designs
Vannus Innovative Printing
Village Sunoco



Oakes-Beitman Memorial Library
and Pleasant Hill History Center