

# Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2  
December 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**

**WINTER 2013**

What memories have you been blessed with during the holiday season? My father recalls large gatherings at his maternal grandparents' home for Thanksgiving. His grandmother prepared all of the food for the large extended family and any friends who tagged along (such as the little neighbor girl). I love to hear his stories about that time. I was blessed to know his grandparents and extended family, and even more blessed to know that little neighbor girl!

Our blessings at the History Center include-

- The 100+ people who attended our cemetery walk.
- Our many new Partners and Friends.
- The generous gift of Brian Sarver which will allow the museum to be accessible to more people.
- The many new visitors who have shared their memories with us.

I hope you enjoy the article and pictures of the Sugar Grove Roller Mills, and I hope you can come and see the artifacts we have from that establishment. Enjoy your holidays and make memories!

Lesa Delcamp, President

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**Membership News**

We have 66 partners and 6 business friends. New members include: Rosalie Adams, Lolita Border, Sharon Hughes, Gary Johnston, Royce Kinney, John Davis, Paul Thiesing, and Judy Amick.

Our first annual membership meeting will be held January 9, 2014 at 7:00. The museum will be open from 6:00 to 8:00 that night for you to visit.

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**

Come see Leonard Patty's baritone that he played in the Circle Hill Band, donated by Thelma Patty Schultz.  
Chuck Martin

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**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

Our Open House will be held December 9, 2013, from 4:00 - 7:00 at the museum. We will have cookies and drinks.

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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](http://Pleasanthillhistorycenter.com)  
and  
visit us on Facebook**

# First Annual Pleasant Hill Cemetery Walk

The first annual Cemetery Walk was held September 22, 2013 at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. The day was a beautiful fall day with barely a cloud in the bright blue sky. Four individuals were portrayed by Jean Gilbert, Tim Tilton, John Weaver, and Nick Beam. Their presentations were amazing. Although an exact count was never taken, it is estimated that over a hundred people attended. The crowd started pulling in around 1:30 and the presentations lasted until after 4:00. Many favorable comments were heard.



**Nathan Hill** was born in Maryland, March 15, 1788. He was one of the early settlers of Newton Township. He married Frances Williams who was the daughter of Michael Williams. Together they raised ten children. He was one of the founders of the Hopewell Christian Church, which later became the UCC church. He died January 15, 1862.

**Portrayed by John Weaver**

**Jesse Beery** was born near Pleasant Hill June 13, 1861. He was the son of Enoch and Mary Beery. He married Almeda Coppock on

December 25, 1889. They raised two daughters and two sons. He was recognized world-wide for his skill as a horse trainer. He started the Beery School of Horsemanship. He died on February 22, 1945.

**Portrayed by Nick Beam**



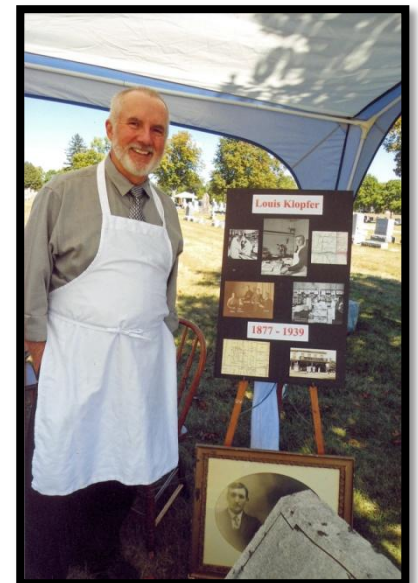
**Ella Oakes Beitman Wampler** was born December 15, 1859. Her parents were Samuel and Melinda Oakes. She married Jacob Beitman on October 9, 1878. She taught in Newton Township Schools. She married David Wampler on January 6, 1908. She donated money to start the Oakes-Beitman Memorial Library. She died on June 29, 1952.

**Portrayed by Jean Gilbert**

**Louie Klopfer** was born July 26, 1877. He was the son of Christian and Elizabeth Klopfer. He married Edna Mae Minnich on January 28, 1903. He had three sons, J. C., Paul, and Virlen. One daughter, Margaret, died in infancy. He owned and operated Klopfer's grocery in Pleasant Hill. He died on August 27, 1939.

**Portrayed by Tim Klopfer Tilton**

Special thanks go to everyone who worked to make this a special event. We are already thinking about next year and who will be our selected individuals to showcase. The Pleasant Hill History Center hopes to make this an annual event! Thanks to our partners who help make history come alive in Pleasant Hill and Newton Township.



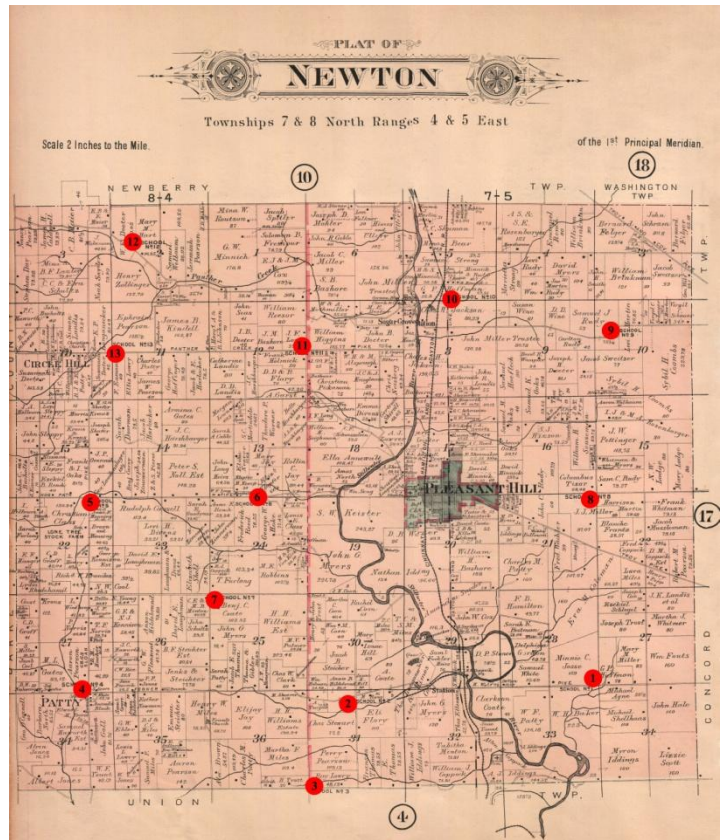
# Newton Township One Room Schools

In 1880, there were thirteen neat schoolhouses in the township, giving employment during thirty-six weeks in the year to thirteen efficient teachers, while the whole amount of school property is valued at \$22,000. The amount of funds on hand September 1, 1879, was \$2,337.98. The number of pupils enrolled that year was 669. The number of different teachers employed during the year was 23. The average wages - gentlemen \$38.97; ladies, \$24.95. (From History of Miami County - 1880)

In each newsletter there will be a section concerning each of these schools. This newsletter will look at school #1 - Fenner School.

School #1 was located on Fenner Road just west of Greenlee Road and east of Johnson Road.

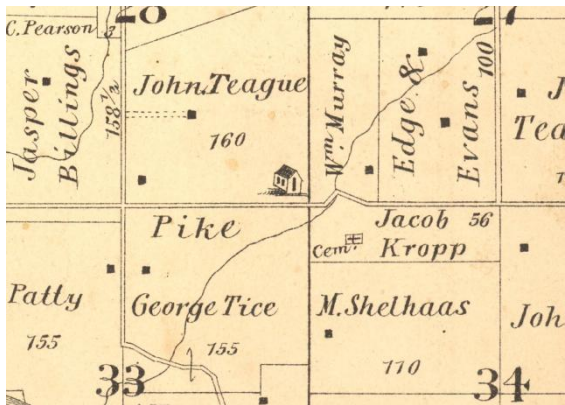
It was part of the Southeast quarter of Section 28, beginning at the Southeast corner, 16 rods then West 10 rods then South 16 rods, then East 10 rods. It contained one acre.



1911 Plat Map of Newton Township

Some of the teachers at Fenner School were: C. W. Duncan, Warren Furnas, John O'Diem, J. B. McCool, Harvey Clemm, Joseph Long, Charles Beery, Bertha Coate, Alice West, and Edward Johnson.

When the Newton Township Schools consolidated in 1923, Fenner School was sold to Daniel Swigart for \$232.50.



1875 Plat Map of Newton Township



Former site of Fenner School

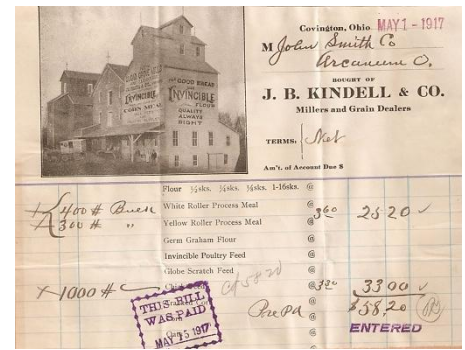
Fenner School #1  
1912



- Row 1 Harold Bowman, Don Bowman, Clyde Hershey, Mark Shellhaas, Irwin Gibboney, Lee Oda, Joe Hildebran, Ralph Oda
- Row 2 Catherine Schultz, Clara Schultz, Richard Hance, William Agne, Unknown, Unknown Yates, Margaret Oda, Leroy Bowman, Almeda Schultz, Unknown, Jennie Yates, David Coppock, Lewis Hance, Unknown, Ida Cavender, Judd Green
- Row 3 Unknown, Helen White, Nora Trost, Edward Johnson, Teacher

# The Sugar Grove Mill

The second regular grist-mill in Newton Township was built by Mr. Rench in 1833. In the spring of 1848, he sold this to the Deeter brothers. This mill was run till about 1879, when it was destroyed by fire, and the present Sugar Grove Mill was then built by John Crumrine, who is doing a good business. (1880 History of Miami County)



When James Kindell returned to Miami County he had \$300, with which he started in the milling business in Newton Township, in partnership with his father, under the firm name of E. Kindell & Co. At the end of ten years it was reorganized as E. Kindell & Son, and the latest improved machinery for the milling of flour and wheat was installed. In 1894, through his father's retirement from the firm, James Kindell became sole owner and proprietor. He

thereupon remodeled the mill to the latest sifter system, and built a new residence and the other buildings on the place. On February 26, 1898, the mill was entirely destroyed by fire, and resulted in a serious loss to him. Phoenix-like he arose from the ashes and built the present mill. On October 14, 1898, he began operating his new plant. He installed the very latest and most approved machinery known to produce the highest grade of flour from soft winter wheat. He installed the roller system, with corn scourers and steam dryers, and the very best equipment for the manufacture of corn meal. Prior to 1895, Mr. J. N. Arendall was connected with the plant as head miller, and in recognition of his valued services he was at that time admitted to working partnership in the enterprise. The principal brands of this mill are Invincible Patent flour, Pearl and Golden Dent corn meal, and Germ Graham flour, all of which are well known to the public. (1909 History of Miami County)



The Sugar Grove mills, two miles south of Covington on the Stillwater, have a capacity of fifty barrels a day and the company is proud of the fact that two carloads of their product a month went to Belgium during the period of the war. Their output of cornmeal is of such quality they are called the "cornmeal kings of the valley." The president of the present company is Jacob B. Kindell. (1920 History of Miami County)



The mill operated until 1966. On May 21, 1978, a fire destroyed the mill. Seven area fire departments with nearly 50 men battled the flames. The mill was gone. A piece of Newton Township history was no more.

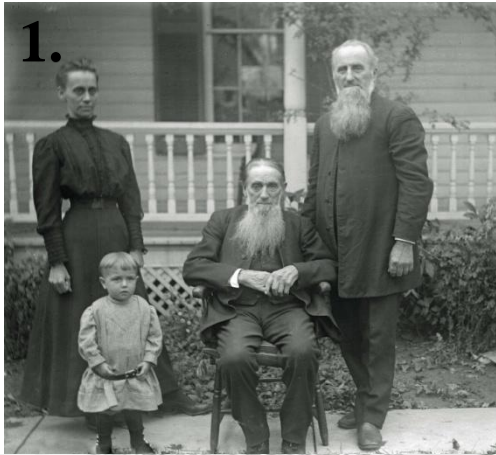




# Who do you think we are?



The following are pictures, believed to be from the Pleasant Hill area, which are unidentified. If you know who they are, please let us know.





**The Pleasant Hill History Center**  
cordially invites you to our

# ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

December 9  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

12 North Main Street  
Pleasant Hill, Ohio

*Enjoy cookies and punch while  
visiting the museum!*