

# Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 3  
March 2014



**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.”**

# Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

A Note from the President

**Spring 2014**

Does this issue of our newsletter bring back any memories for anyone? In my early childhood I didn't live far from the store in Circle Hill, so I remember being there. Besides the wonderful pictures of this early village, we were gifted with the instrument that Leonard Patty played in the Circle Hill band. It was a donation from his daughter, Thelma Schultz Miller, and we are proud to display it in his memory. Stop in and see it sometime!

Speaking of donations, we were also blessed last year with the gift of a building! Brian Sarver of Jackson-Sarver funeral home has donated the former bank building for us to use as a history center. It will take a lot of support and hard work from the board, our partners and friends to get this up and running. We are excited about the possibilities that exist there, especially with the increased accessibility to the public. Donna Favorite has been appointed to plan the renovation. Volunteers will be needed as we move forward into our new location. You are vital to our success and we value you.

Lesa Delcamp, President

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## Membership News

We have 70 partners and 6 business friends. New members include: Doug Christian, Don Deeter, Bob Sollmann and Steve Patton.

We are now half way through our calendar year. The membership price for the remaining year is now \$5.00. Now would be a good time to get your friends to join. As always, we thank you for being a part of the Pleasant Hill History Center.

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

We are currently working on the inventory of our museum. We hope to complete it before we make our move into our new facility. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with this project.

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## **SPRING GARAGE SALE**

Every spring, Pleasant Hill has its community garage sale. This year we want to be a part of it. We need your help. As you do your spring cleaning, box up those items that you no longer need and bring them to the History Center. Our ladies will get them ready to sell at the garage sale. We would also like bake sale donations to sell that day. It is through your generous donations that we can exist.

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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**

# Leo E. Rasor



Leo Rasor at the Kiwanis Club

Leo was born July 23, 1921 in Adams Township, Darke County, to Harvey E. and Awilda "Vertie" (Oliver) Rasor. He married Arlene J. (Wick) Rasor on July 25, 1942 in Greenville.

For many years, Leo along with his wife Arlene owned and operated the Leo Rasor Plumbing and Heating Service in Bradford. They also retired from cattle farming with include jersey and black angus cattle.

Leo entered the Army in August of 1942 at Ft. McClelland, Ala. He then went to Officers Candidate School in Ft. Benning, Ga., and graduated in the spring of 1943. Leo participated with the 34th Division at Monte Casino, Italy where he was wounded February 11, 1944 and received the Purple Heart.

Leo and Arlene at Old Soldier Festival



Leo was a life member of the American Legion Post 80 of Covington and life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He was a well-known genealogist along with his wife Arlene and belonged to numerous genealogical societies in the state of Ohio and also participated in many other states.



Jack Coate with Leo Rasor  
at Old Soldier Festival

He was president of the Miami County Historical and Genealogical Society. He served as 4-H advisor for over 12 years for the Newton Blue Ribbon Club and was a 10 year 4-H member as well. He served as president for the Miami County 4-H Council. He served on the United Church of Christ Archives Committee which he chaired for many years.

Leo and Arlene worked very hard to make the Newton Museum what it is today. They purchased many pieces of local memorabilia that are displayed in our museum. Leo also published a book on the Pleasant Hill Monument, the proceeds of which went to fund our museum.

Leo and Arlene were instrumental in the Old Soldier Festival. Leo did research on the soldiers listed on the monument. He identified descendants of those soldiers and presented certificates to them.

Leo E. Rasor died October 22, 2003, at Covington Care Center at the age of 82.

The Pleasant Hill History Center is very fortunate to have had such a strong genealogist and historian who helped make the museum successful.

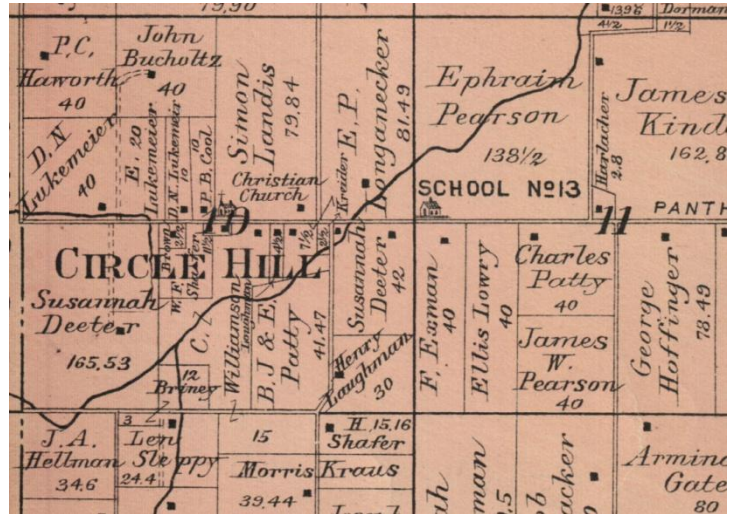


Lesla Delcamp with Leo Rasor

# Circle Hill

Old records show that in 1878, this place was called Greasy Hill. About 1881, the name Circle Hill was given to this area due to the Panther Creek bottom land being surrounded by hills. Then, in 1889, the United States Government put a post office in the Circle Hill store and called it Boyd. Apparently, the name Boyd was used since John S. Boyd owned 160 acres adjoining the town.

In 1906, A. Isenberger ran a first class general store in Circle Hill. It was a thriving village with a Christian Church, a tanning yard, ice house, saw mill, grist mill, blacksmith (O.E. Wissinger), planing mill, carpenter (C.W. Brown), painter (C.C. Schultz), and a poultry dealer (W.F. Shaffer).

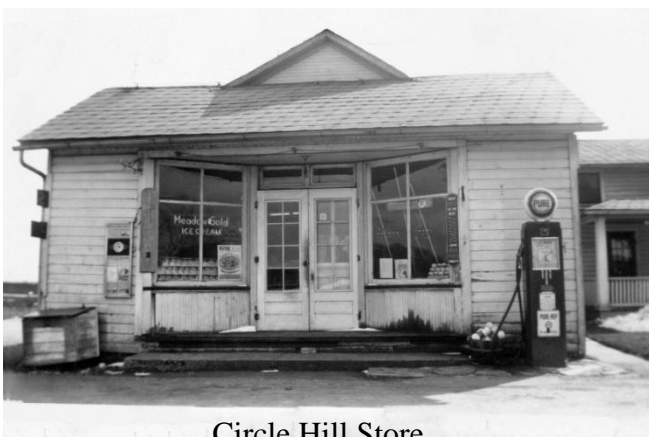


1911 Plat Map

Operators of the grocery at Circle Hill include A.E. Christian, Simon Landis, William Stocking, Al Pierce, Dan Lodge, Abe Fry, Frank Blockner, John Reed, Albert Beck, Isaac Hill, William Miller, Daniel Miller, Ardin Isenberger, Russell Helman, Hart O. Caldwell, Tom Vantilburg, Ralph Duffey, Harold Duffey and Francis Kraus.

Ice cream socials were held behind the general store. The Mills Brothers would sometimes sing and the Circle Hill Band often played. There was also a ball diamond behind the store until the early 1940's.

The grocery was closed in 1965 and the contents were auctioned. The building was torn down in July of 1982 by ODOT because it was too near the corner of Ohio Route 721.



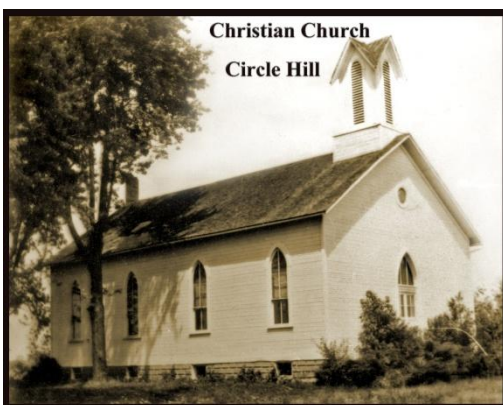
Circle Hill Store



Circle Hill Band Members

**Back:** Chalmer Netzley, John Mathews, Mason Rench, Charles Netzley, Vernon Jones, Elmer Cool, Leonard Patty, Charles Coate, Jess Anthony, Lowell Cool, Robert Kraus, Ray Anthony, Irvin Oaks.

**Front:** John Ireland, Arden Hill, Harvey Laughman, Ralph Duffey, Charles Leonard, Floyd Baker, Herbert Leonard, Minor Fair, ?, Elmer Netzley.



Christian Church  
Circle Hill

# The Patty Implement Company

In 1935, Leonard Patty and William DeHays purchased the building at 100 West Monument Avenue from Glen Weaver. Oliver farm equipment was sold by the Weavers at this site. Previously, the building was occupied by the Trost and Huffman Ford Agency.



Patty Implement Company handled both farm equipment and home appliances. Patty's had a Maytag franchise since 1935.



July 1, 1945, Robert Schultz began to work at Patty's Implement Company. They sold the first powered rotary lawnmower in Pleasant Hill.



In 1960, upon Leonard Patty's retirement, the Implement Company was purchased by Robert and Thelma (Patty) Schultz. John Schultz joined the family business in 1963. The name was changed in 1979 to Schultz Agri-Equipment.

For many years Patty Implement drove their tractors to the Miami County Fair. They lined the tractors on Church Street and drove them to the fair.



The buildings to the west of the brick building were torn down in 1977. A new service facility was built to repair farm equipment on the west side of the original brick building.

The business was sold in 1996. Today the building is home to the CD connection.



# Newton Township One Room Schools

## School # 2 - Possum Hollow School

School #2 was located on the Southwest corner of Fenner Road and Stichter Road.

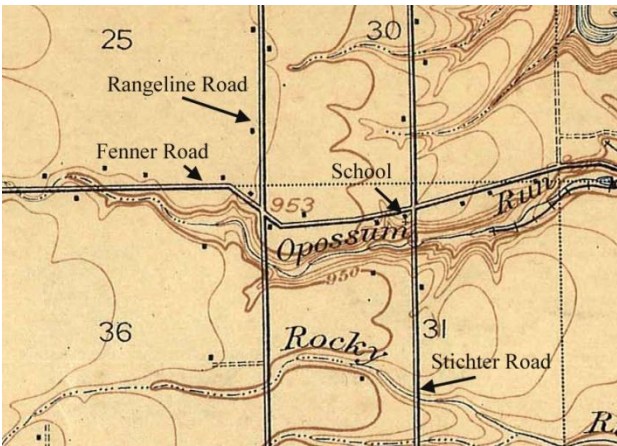
It was part of the Northwest quarter of Section 31, Town 7, Range 5, East; beginning at the East line of said quarter section in the center of the Fenner Road turnpike; thence running South along said line 16 rods, 10 ft. and 9 inches; thence West 10 rods; thence North 15 rods, 5 ft., 3 inches to said Fenner turnpike road; thence East along said turnpike to the place of beginning, containing 1 acre of land



**1894 Plat Map of Newton Township**

The original land was purchased April 26, 1872, from Benjamin Pearson for \$90.00.

Some of the teachers at Possum Hollow School were: A. H. Brandon, Ida Conway, Mattie Iddings, Warren Coate, Amy Pemberton, L. M. Coate, Sarah Dohner, Lova Yount, Mabel E. Johnson, Marie Trost, and Roxie Deeter.

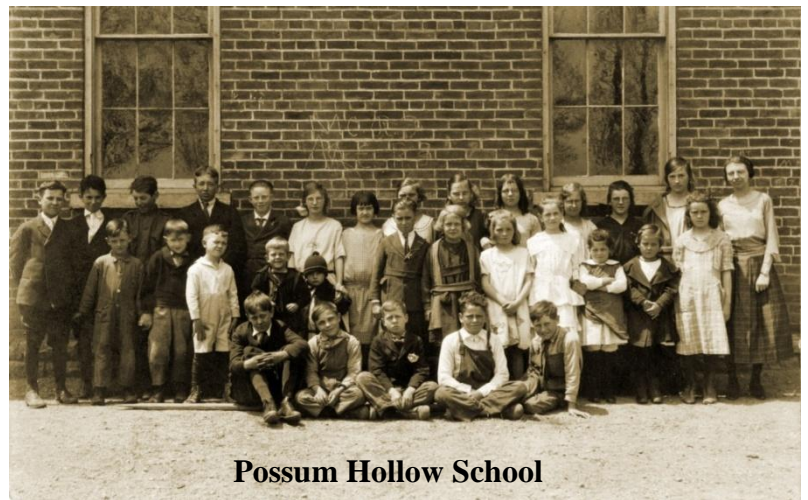


**1911 USGS Map of Newton Township**

When the Newton Township Schools consolidated in 1923, Possum Hollow School was sold.



**Current location of Possum Hollow School  
8538 West Fenner Road**



**1923 Students**

**Marie Trost, Teacher**

**Purchase of coal for the stove at Possum Hollow from the Manning Coal Company** →

