

# Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 4  
June 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

Summer 2014

## A Note from the President

“Lillian and I went to the Cemetery Thurs. forenoon and I put flowers on grandpa and grandma Coate’s lot, grandpa and grandma Coppock’s lots, little Mildred’s, Lawrence’s and Esther’s. I didn’t have hardly any flowers, so Margaret Warner and dear Daddy gave me all that I needed and I also went to Sugar Grove and put some flowers on Mother and Father Snider’s lots too. An ordeal that isn’t very pleasant for me to do, but I knew you would be glad for some of us to remember them, so I did it, as I wanted to take some up for our dear little one.”

-From a 1933 letter my grandmother wrote to her mother.

Memorial Day, or what was originally called Decoration Day was started after the Civil War. It was started as a day of remembrance for those who died in our nation’s service. In my family it has also been a time to remember all loved ones who had passed and to leave a token flower or arrangement on their graves. When my sons were small, I always took them to the cemetery on Memorial Day weekend so they would not only feel comfortable being there, but to tell stories and reminisce about people who had long since gone.

There are a lot of stories that have been told and remembrances still to be shared at the Pleasant Hill History Center. We were able to visit with quite a few of you during our garage sale. (Thanks to the many people who donated items to this very successful venture!). Come and visit us so we can hear the stories and memories you have about Pleasant Hill and Newton Township. We hope to see you soon!

Lesa Delcamp, President

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## Membership News

We have 81 partners and 6 business friends. New members include: Nevin Fessler, Liz Fessler, Don Robbins, Robert Sollmann, Marilyn Kosier, Forrest Sollmann, Jill Resides, Michael Thompson, Marilyn Rotterman, and Jerry Warner.

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 fortunate to have the original steam whistle from the Amick Canning Company. Thanks to Don Robbins for his generous donation. Don Deeter gave us an early picture of a group from the First Brethren Church. Doug Kinnison gave us a Flour sack from the Sugar Grove Mill and a ruler from John Landis Garage. We love early pieces from our local history!

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## YEARLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our annual membership meeting will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. We plan to hold it at our future location, 8 East Monument Street. Come have refreshments with us and see the progress that has been made! We will update you on our current projects and highlight the events of our past first year! Hope to see you there!

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## Business DVD Sale

A DVD of Pleasant Hill Businesses has been created for the History Center. They are being sold for \$5.00 each and are available at the Museum.

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

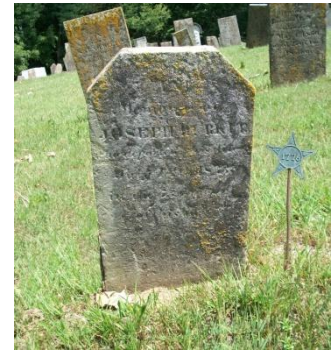
**Be sure to check our web site @ [Pleasanthillhistorycenter.com](http://Pleasanthillhistorycenter.com)  
and visit us on Facebook**

# Revolutionary Soldiers in Newton Township

In Honor of Memorial day, we take time to honor our earliest soldiers buried in Newton Township. The following soldiers were in the Revolutionary War.

## **Joseph Burkett (1760 - 1833)**

Joseph Burkett was a private in Captain William Hext's Company, 1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Regiment. He enlisted in 1779. He came to Miami County in 1806 and is buried in Sugar Grove Cemetery.



Joseph Burkett

## **Charles Carroll (1751 - 1836)**

Charles Carroll served 7 years in Maryland. He was born in Ireland and died in Union Township. He is buried in Sugar Grove Cemetery. It is reported that his stone disappeared in the 1940's.

## **Marmaduke Coate (1738 - 1822)**

Marmaduke Coate was a Quaker from South Carolina. He furnished supplies for the Revolutionary Army and is listed here for his patriotic service. He married Mary Coppock. He came to Newton Township in 1805. He is buried in Union Joint Cemetery. No stone can be found.



Andrew Dye

## **Andrew Dye, Sr. (1744 - 1835)**

Andrew Dye enlisted in Washington County, Pennsylvania and served as a Captain in the 6<sup>th</sup> Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Pennsylvania State Troops. He was born in Cranberry, New Jersey and died in Miami County. He is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

## **Thomas Hill (1759 - 1821)**

Thomas Hill was a private under Captain Thomas Beall in Maryland. (Archive of MD, Vol. 18) He came to Newton Township around 1804. He died in 1821 and is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. (His son was Nathan Hill who helped start the Christian Church.)



Thomas Hill

## **William Long (1753 - 1814)**

William Long was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1753. He served as a private in the York County Militia. He and his wife Rachael settled in Newton Township before 1810. He is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. In 1995, The Fort Greenville Chapter of DAR dedicated a new grave marker for him.



William Long

## **Michael Williams, Sr. (1734 - 1819)**

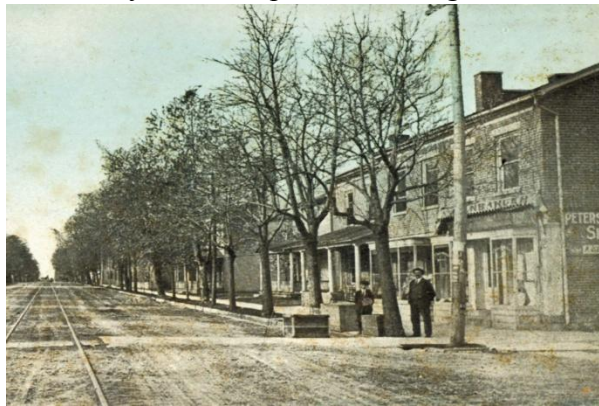
Michael Williams was a private in Captain Hall's Company in 1781 with the South Carolina Troops. He was born in Wales and died in Miami County. He came to Newton Township around 1801. He is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. No stone can be found.

(Information taken from "Miami County Soldiers of the Revolution," researched by the Troy American Bicentennial Commission, Inc., 1976)

# Klopfer's Super Valu

Louie Klopfer was born July 26, 1877, in Newton Township. His parents were Christian and Elizabeth Klopfer who were born in Germany. His siblings were, Michael, Christian, John, Elizabeth, Henry, Mary, and Anna. Their property was on Rangline Road just north of 718. (Currently the Bob Randall farm)

In January, 1903 he married Edna Minnich. They had three boys; J.C., born in 1904, Paul, in 1909, and Virlen in 1918. In 1921, he bought Schuesslin's Meat Market in Pleasant Hill, located in the house adjoining Isenbarger's Grocery. He sold the farm at public auction and moved to town. Klopfer's were known far and wide for their sausage. Eventually Louis acquired Isenbarger's Grocery.



Isenbarger's



J.C. Klopfer joined the business in 1925. J.C. married Helen McMacken in 1926. They moved into the apartment over the store. The next year, Paul joined the business. That was the same year Edna died of tuberculosis.

The next year Louis married Minnie Furlong gaining three stepchildren, Olive and Glenna, and Lawrence.

Paul married Mary Lynn Wineland in 1933. Mary Lynn helped in the store too.

Klopfer's made regular rounds in a large delivery truck. Area farmers traded their eggs and other produce for groceries.

Klopfer's had a cream station. Farmers would bring in their cream, and then the creameries would pick it up to make butter and cottage cheese. They spent a lot of time bagging things up. Farmers would bring in potatoes and they would sort and bag them in the basement.

At Christmas time, Klopfer's gave out hot dogs to their customers. They cooked the hot dogs in lard cans. Helen Klopfer related that many kids got sick eating too many hot dogs.



The store was also something of a social center. Merchants would get together and have picture shows on the side of the building. They were free for anyone who showed up.



On August 27, 1939, Louis died from heart complications. He was 62 years old. J.C. and Paul continued running the store with their families. J.C. died in 1963. His wife, Helen, continued to work in the family business. Paul managed the store until his death in 1974 at which time Bill Schultz then managed the store along with Paul's wife Mary Lynn and Helen Klopfer.

In 1977, the Klopfer Super Valu was sold to Clarence Cross. He retained the name of Klopfer's until 1982.

Many today remember shopping at Klopfer's and look back fondly on those days.

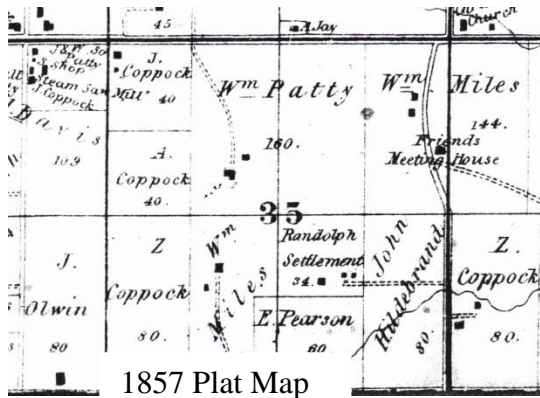


# Marshalltown

John Randolph was a planter and a Congressman from Virginia. He inherited an estate that included more than 8,000 acres and nearly 400 slaves from his father. He provided in his Will that his slaves would be freed upon his death. Randolph died May 24, 1833 and was buried at his home in Charlotte County, Virginia. After a 13 year court battle with his family, it was finally decided that his Will was valid and the slaves were to be freed.



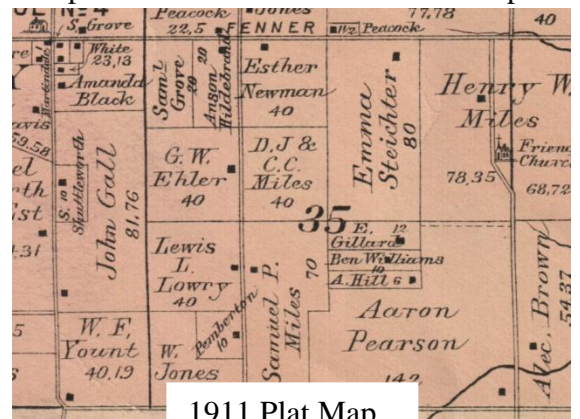
William Leigh, on behalf of the Randolph Will, bought about 3,200 acres of fertile land in Mercer County. It was June 10, 1846, when 383 former slaves began their trip to Ohio. After making it to Cincinnati, they boarded canal boats to ride to Mercer County. When they arrived in Mercer County, the town's people would not let them off the boats. They had to turn around. Some of the slaves got off the canal boats in Sidney and made their way to Rumley in Shelby County. Others got off near Piqua and settled in Rossville. (Rossville is now incorporated into Piqua.)



1857 Plat Map

Some of the slaves made their way to Union Township to a settlement they called Hanktown. William Leigh wrote to the Quaker church asking for them to help the Randolphs. He asked them to visit them and minister to their needs. He lists Samuel Jay, who lived in Newton Township, as a contact person. They helped some of the Randolph Slaves purchase land in Newton Township.

On October 16, 1846, John and Sarah Marshall sold land to the following Randolph Slaves: Simon Gillet (Gillard) purchased 12 acres for \$150.00; Stephen Gillet (Gillard) 10 acres for \$100.00; Lott Hill 5 acres for \$50.00; and William Young 10 acres for \$100.00.



1911 Plat Map



Lick Branch Church

This community of Randolph Slaves, West of Shiloh Road and South of Fenner Road, became known as **Marshalltown**. In the 1860 Census, 55 people were living there. By 1910, only 15 people were left at Marshalltown. Benjamin Williams was the only original Randolph Slave living there at that time.

In 1940, six people were listed in the census as living at Marshalltown. On May 16, 1951, the final Marshalltown property was sold to Walter and Veronica Hunt. In the 1950's the buildings were removed and the area was farmed. It continues to be farmed today by the Ressler Family.

One interesting character from Marshalltown was Jacob Young. His father was William Young, one of the original owners of Marshalltown. Jacob Young lived at Ludlow Falls. He was the "champion debater of Possum Hollow." In 1903, he nearly froze to death. They took him to the Miami County Infirmary where he later died. They sold the picture at the right to pay for his tombstone in Hanktown Cemetery.



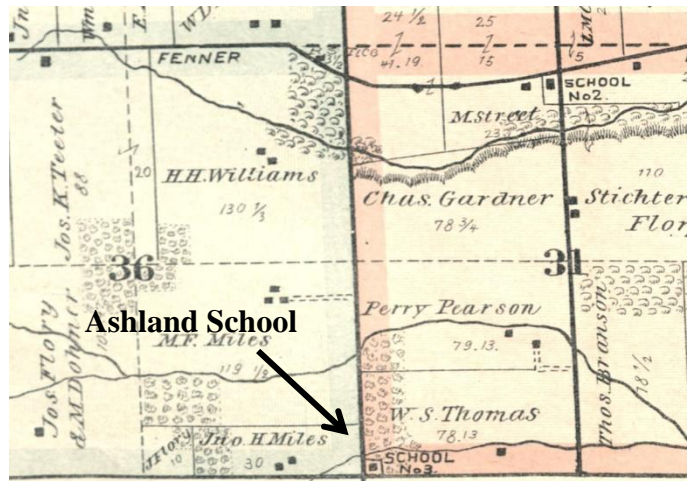
Jacob Young

# Newton Township One Room Schools

## School # 3 - Ashland School

School #3 was located on the Northeast corner of Horseshoe Bend Road and Rangeline Road.

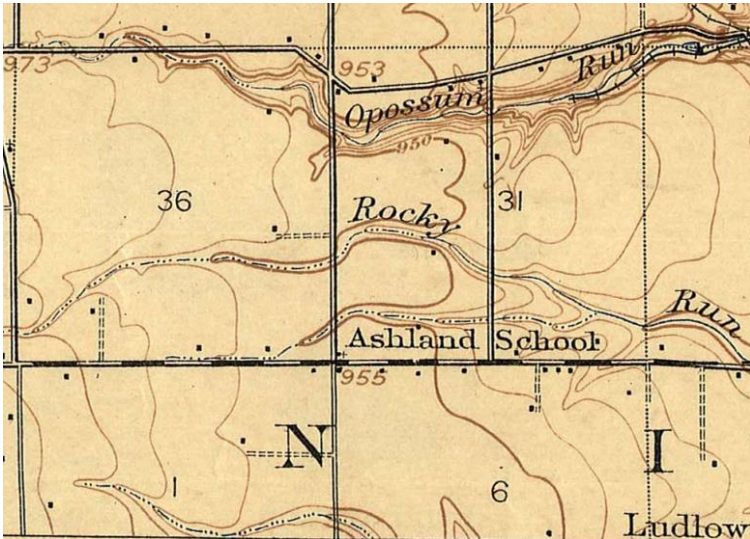
Part of the Southwest corner of Section 31, beginning at the Southwest corner of the Southwest quarter section East 10 rods, North 16 rods, West 10 rods and South 16 rods to the beginning. Containing One Acre of land.



**1894 Plat Map of Newton Township**

The land was purchased from the Coppock Family. The school was built in 1877. This district was a joint district with Union Township.

Some of the teachers at Ashland School were: Charles Whitmer, Laura Albaugh, Bertha Thompson, Emma Flory, Homer Pearson, Eunice Coppock, Ida Patterson, Rubie Jones, Charles Owen, and Edyth VanKirk

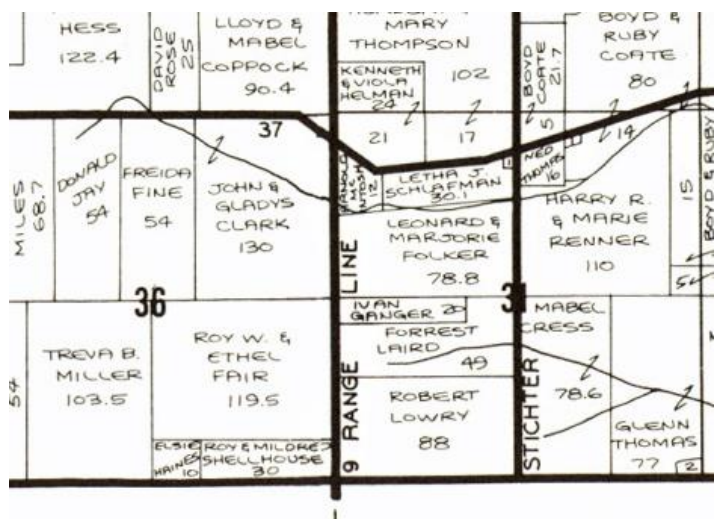


**1911 USGS Map of Newton Township**

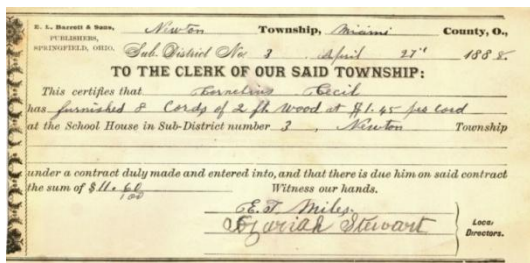


**Current location of Ashland School**  
Grant's Paint and Body Shop

When the Newton Township Schools consolidated in 1923, Ashland School was sold to Ray Lowry for \$200.00.



**1931 Plat Map of Newton Township**



**Purchase of 8 cords of wood in 1888 from  
Cornelius Cecil for \$11.60 for Ashland School.**