

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 2
December 2015



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

Winter 2015

A Note from the President

Each Monday when I go to the History Center, I am amazed at the number of visitors we have who are eager to share with us their pictures, historic documents, artifacts and stories they have saved or heard from their parents and grandparents. We have been able to create, not only a museum, but also a wonderful resource center for research of Newton Township and Pleasant Hill history.

As we look forward to 2016 and the celebration of Pleasant Hill's Sesquicentennial, we know we will receive even more valuable information. Perhaps some of you will be encouraged to look back through those boxes of pictures that grandma & grandpa and mom and dad saved and you now have stored in your home. We will be more than happy to scan and return them to you if you do not want to part with them. There are still pictures we would like to see included in the History Book that is being created by the Sesquicentennial committee. With your help we will continue to create a History Center that future generations will visit to learn how Newton Twp. and Pleasant Hill was established.

We at the History Center would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays season and hope to see you next Spring.

Donna Favorite, President

Membership News

We have 118 partners and 6 business friends. New members include: Tom Bohlander, Doug Hawn, Greg Schultz, Jeff Schultz, Rob Schultz, and Jerry Wahl.

Questions about your membership, call Lolita Schultz at 937-676-2771. Thank you for your support.

Lolita Schultz, Membership Chairman

Pleasant Hill History Center Museum

The original safe from the Pleasant Hill Banking Company is now at the museum. It had been stored at the Newton Township garage. Robert Trent donated the safe in 1991 after purchasing it before it was to be scrapped. Thank you to Gene Laughman, Levi Robbins, Lonnie Robbins, and John Schultz for moving the safe.

Winter Hours

On December 8th we will close for the winter. We will re-open on March 14, 2016.

However, we will open for Santa on December 19th.

End of the Year Giving

As you consider year-end giving for tax purposes, please consider the Pleasant Hill History Center. We are a non-profit organization so your donations are tax deductible. It is through your generous support that we can exist.

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**

Centennial 1966

Pleasant Hill's Sesquicentennial is coming in 2016. Here is a look back at our Centennial in 1966.

The festivities started Thursday, June 23, 1966, with speeches from the town dignitaries, the court for beardless men and the Queen Contest. Jeannine Warner was crowned Queen of the Centennial.

Friday was filled with games such as Ladies Tug-of-War, Men's Tug-of War, Bicycle Decorating and Women's Nail Driving Contest.

Saturday continued with sack races, costume contests, a greased pig contest and a miniature tractor pull.



1966 Centennial Queen Candidates

Row 1: Diann Miller, Debbie Furnas, Linda Kress, Diane Stichter, Brenda Davis
 Row 2: Jeannine Warner, Kay Brinning, Wanda Diltz, Emily McKibben, Rosemary Davis, Vicki Boehringer



Ray and Marjorie Beery
 Sam Schultz - Driver

Sunday was the big parade. Ray and Marjorie Beery were the Grand Marshals. They led the parade which included the Newton Marching Band, vintage cars, fire equipment, floats, and horses. The sanitation crew brought up the rear of the parade.

The entertainment later in the day was the Barber Shop Chorus from Piqua.



The festivities ended with a feeling that the Centennial Celebration was a great success!

Centennial Committee

General Chairman
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Co - Chairmen

T. W. Bohlander
 Fred Snider
 Larry Robbins
 Gary Fessler
 Charles Stanforth



Richard Swank

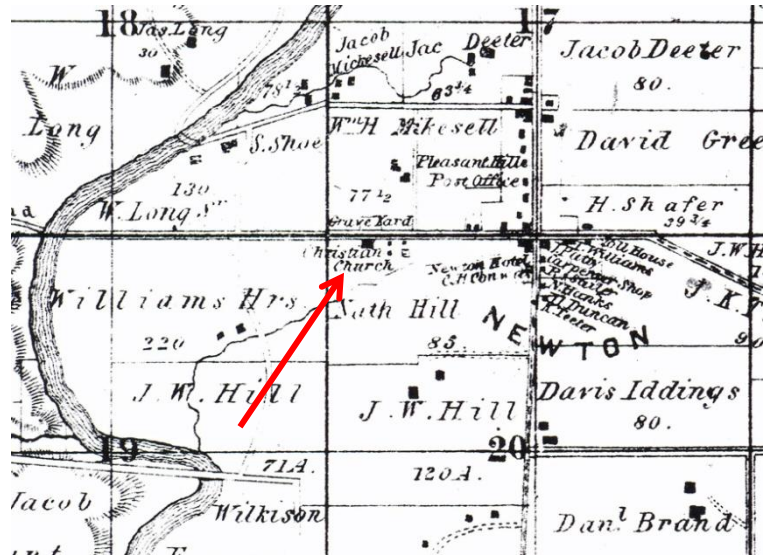


Photos provided by Dick Sollmann

Christian Church

In 2016, the Pleasant Hill United Church of Christ Church will celebrate its 200th birthday. In honor of this historic occasion, a brief history of this historic church is described below.

In the upper room of Nathan Hill's home, a group of pioneers met and organized the "Newlight Christian Church on the Stillwater" on November 4, 1816. For the first few years the group met in homes and groves. Later, Mrs. Kyle said that she hoped the church would do well. The name of the church was changed to "Hopewell" Christian Church.



1858 Plat Map showing location of church

In 1820 a church of hewed logs was built on the Hill farm just west of town. The congregation grew so large that another church was built in 1846.



Nathan Hill home where church was started

This church stood until 1868 when a storm demolished it. The lot on the corner of Monument and Church Street in Pleasant Hill was given to the church by John H. Williams. A brick church was built on this lot in 1868. This building was remodeled twice and was used for 42 years.



Church built in 1868



Interior of 1868 Church

In December of 1905, the name was changed from Hopewell to the Pleasant Hill Christian Church. In 1909 Alva Kerr was chosen as pastor. He had a vision for a new church. On February 28, 1910, the Official Board met and voted to recommend a new building. Work began on April 7, 1910. The cornerstone was laid on October 2, 1910.

The dedication of the new church was held December 24, 1911. Alva Kerr continued as pastor until 1915.



Digging the basement of the 1910 church



Newly Built Church in 1910

In 1991, a lift was installed for easier access to the building for those having problems with steps.

Also in 1991, the church celebrated their 175th birthday. During the celebration, a service was held at the original site of the Hopewell Church.

In 2002, new doors were installed at both sanctuary entrances.

The Church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

The current Pastor of the Church is Reverend Craig Showalter.

In 1931, the church joined with the Congregational Christian Church.

The Church newsletter, the Church Mouse, was started in 1953.

In 1957, the Congregational Christian and the Evangelical Reformed Churches merged to form the United Church of Christ. (UCC)



Laying the cornerstone of the church



Corner Stone on Church

1816 - Church established
1846 - Frame Church built
1868 - Brick Church built
1910 - Present Church built

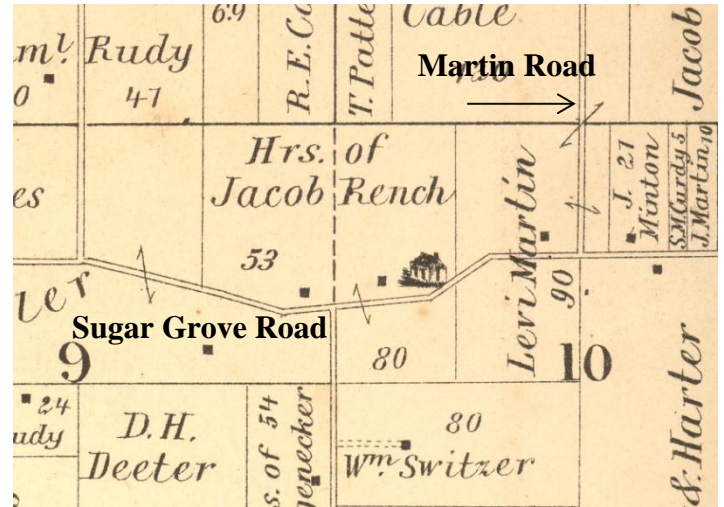


Church in 2015

Newton Township One Room Schools

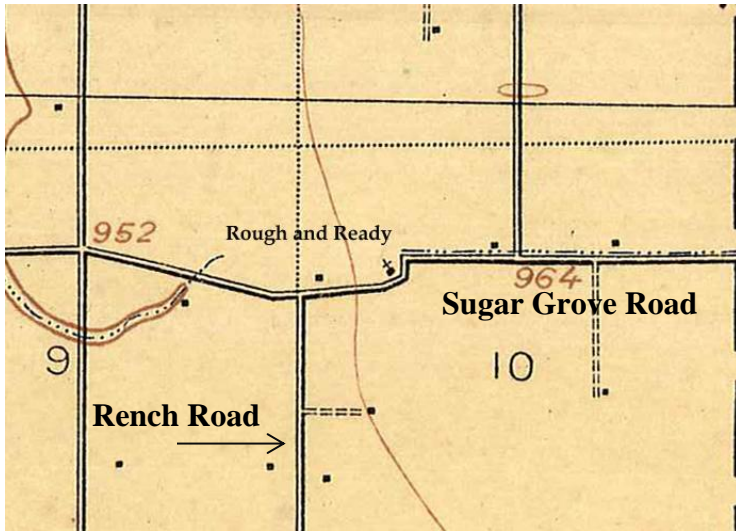
School # 9 - Rough and Ready School

Location: Being part of the West half of the Northwest quarter of Section 10, town 7, Range 5, East; beginning in the center of the county road at the crossing of the East line of the West half of the Northwest quarter of said section; thence South 58.5 degrees West 10.17 rods; thence North 3 degrees, West 18 rods; thence North 87 degrees, East 10 rods to the East boundary of said one-half quarter; thence South 3 degrees, East 14 rods, containing one acre.



1894 Plat Map

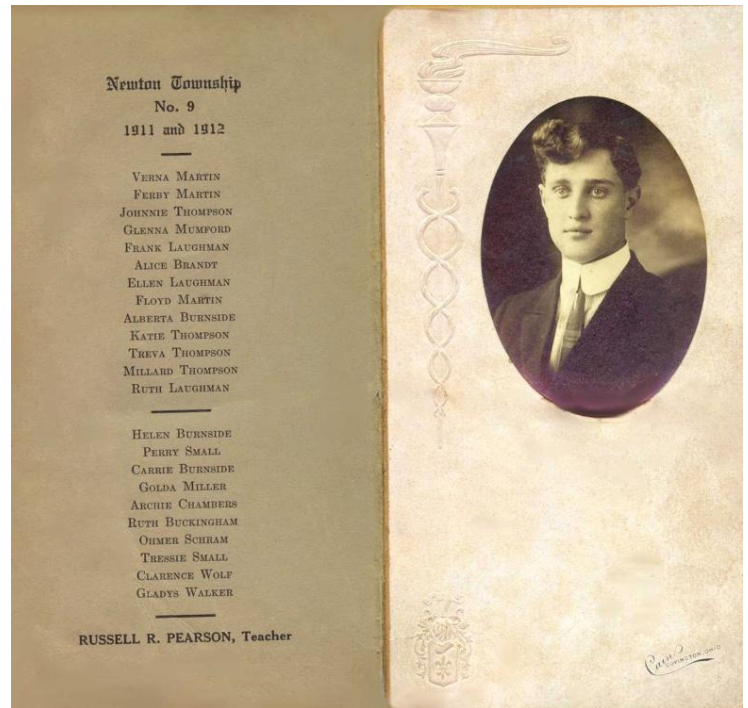
The land was purchased from Jacob Rench in 1868. Additional land was purchased from Jacob Rench in 1874 for \$60.00



1911 USGS Map

Some teachers at Rough and Ready include: Joseph H. Deeter, Jonathan Jay, Ina Deeter, Warren Coate, J. M. Wine, Addie Harwood, Russell Pearson, Charles Owen, Carrie Seng, and Isabel Brinnon

When Newton Schools consolidated in 1923, Rough and Ready was sold to Andrew Jackson for \$240.00.



**Rough and Ready
in 2013**



1871