

# Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 2

December 2016



**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 2016

## A Note from the President

As I reflect back on the last year, I am amazed, yet again, with all that was accomplished at the Pleasant Hill History Center. Besides the very successful Sesquicentennial celebration, the displays were changed several times to showcase special acquisitions or events. Three Programs were presented with a total of over 100 people attending. Trick or Treat night saw about 200-250 children for treats and hot chocolate for adults.

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and we will be closing for the winter on December 1<sup>st</sup> and will reopen on March 6, 2017. Our hours will remain: Monday, 3:00 p.m.– 7:00 p.m. The “Visit from Santa” sponsored by the Newton Township Trustees will be held Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the History Center. From all of us at the History Center to All of You, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and hope to see you next March for another great year.

Donna Favorite, President

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## Membership News

We have 125 partners and 9 business friends. New members include: Wilma Spitler, Mary Stump and Dawn Spitler. We still have some Sesquicentennial items, as well as Cat’s Meow buildings which would make great Christmas gifts. The Pleasant Hill History Book is also available for \$40.00. Contact Donna (937-676-8431) or Lolita to purchase.

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

Lolita Schultz, Membership Chairman

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## Suggestions and Corrections for the Pleasant Hill History Book

Inside cover photos, front and back: These pictures were taken by the Rike-Kumler Company in 1926.

Page 6 - Column 1, “soldiers who were killed in action” would better be stated, “soldiers who were killed or died during their enlistment in the Civil War.”

Page 21 - Top left picture - Possibly not Betsy Gay. Betsy Gay does not think it is her. Possibly Marie Myers buying groceries. Children of Marie Myers think it is their mother.

Page 22 - Bottom picture text should include that Tom Bohlander sold the fountain to Disney World.

Page 34 - Center picture - The back row is not James Pitman, but Paul Hildebrand.

Page 38 - Newton Blue Ribbon picture - The Newton Blue Ribbon Club was started in 1928 according to the records at the Ohio State University Extension Office of Miami County.

Page 52 - 1948 Basketball Team picture - Manager **Phillip** Burns should be **Myron** Burns

Page 52 - Should read “this picture was taken in 1949.” (This class graduated in 1954)

Page 112 - Only two bridges are shown in the picture. It is believed that the photographer is standing on the third bridge which is the CH&D Railroad Bridge.

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## Winter Hours

On December 1st we will close for the winter. We will re-open on March 6, 2017.

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## 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.

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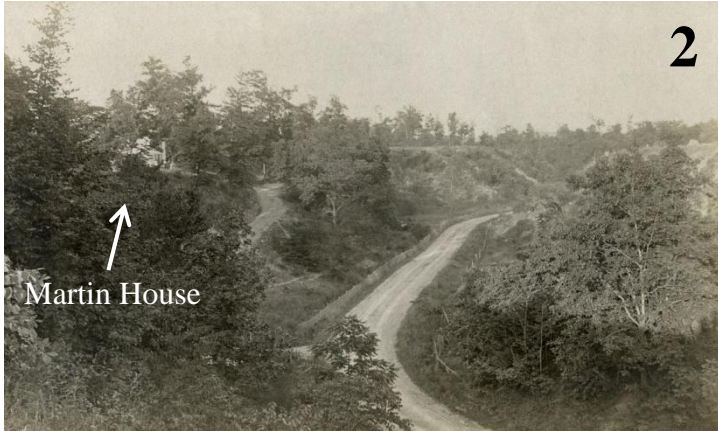
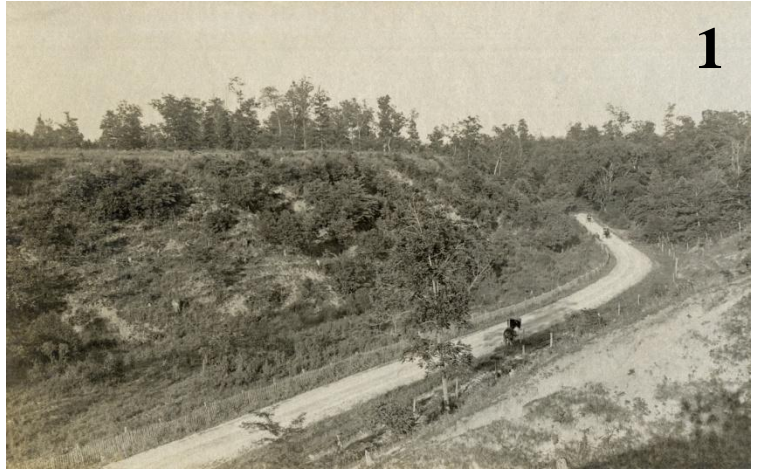
Museum hours are every Monday from 3:00 - 7:00. Come visit your museum!

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

# Hogpath Road

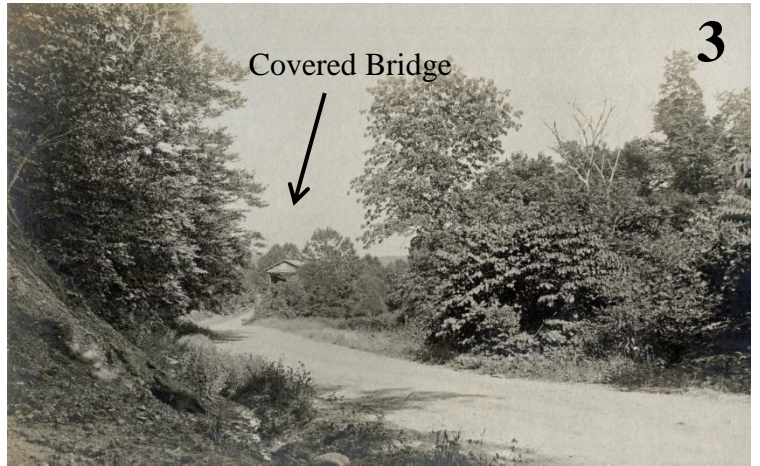
Hogpath Road got its name because farmers would drive their hogs over this road when taking them to market. The road became an important road through Pleasant Hill.

This series of 3 pictures begins at the intersection of Rangeline Road. They are taken looking east.



The house in the upper left is still standing and is located on the Martin farm.

The third picture in the series shows the covered bridge. This bridge survived the 1913 flood.



← This picture shows Hogpath Road looking west from Pleasant Hill.



The steel single-span bridge was built in 1931. It replaced the covered bridge.

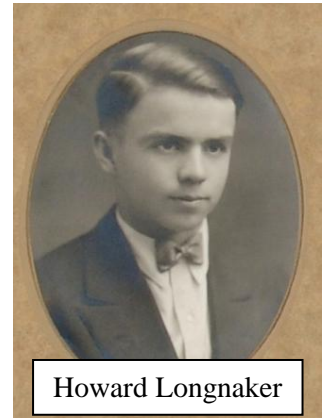
In 1964, the Ohio Department of Transportation reconfigured the road. They straightened the curves and raised the level of the road. The bridge was no longer at an angle. Today, the remains of the road can be seen in the access road near the river.

Hogpath Road became State Route 718. It still retains its original name in Darke County.



## Howard Longnaker, Mary Jenkins and John Dillinger

Howard Longnaker was born April 5, 1908, to Milton S. and Clara Longnaker. His father, Milton, wanted their family to stand out, so he changed the name from Longnecker to Longnaker. Howard was in the Newton High School class of 1926. He was the Vice-President of his class.



Howard Longnaker

He met Mary Jenkins and was married in Newport, Kentucky on February 19, 1929. Their first daughter, Clara had just been born. Their second daughter, Betty Jean, would arrive the following year. They lived on Main Street beside the Beery Building in Pleasant Hill.

Mary had a brother, James Jenkins. He got in trouble with the law and was in the Indiana State Penitentiary. Mary went over a couple of times to visit him. While she was there, she met John Dillinger. (James became part of Dillinger's gang and died in a shootout with police on September 30, 1933.)

Dillinger got out of prison on May 10, 1933. Sometime later, he came to Pleasant Hill to visit Mary. Howard was working down at the water pumping station. It was located just west of Pleasant Hill. The building was turned into a residence and is still standing near the river.

John Dillinger got out of his car and went over to talk to Howard. Things got a little heated and they started to fight. Ortha Stocker, town Marshal, told Dillinger to stop fighting and that he was taking him to the Mayor. Marshal Stocker jumped on the running board of Dillinger's car and they headed to town. Before they got to the Mayor's office, Dillinger hit the gas, knocked off the Marshal and sped out of town. During the fight, Dillinger dropped his comb and pen. The pen was later sold to Frank Laudenslayer. (See Photo)



Dillinger Pen

Mary moved to a Dayton rooming house. Mary filed for divorce on July 27, 1933. She then went with John Dillinger to the Chicago World's Fair on July 30. The divorce was finalized in December of 1933. The girls were placed in the Knoop's Children's Home and later adopted.

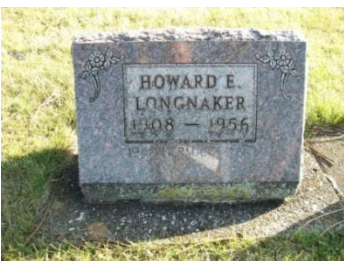


John and Mary at the Chicago World's Fair

The police were staking out Mary's house. One night they caught Dillinger at her house. They took him to Lima, where his gang freed him by shooting Sheriff Jesse Sarber. Later, he became Public Enemy #1. On July 22, 1934, John Dillinger was shot and killed by FBI agents in Chicago. His funeral was in Indiana, and the papers reported that Mary Longnaker attended the funeral.

Howard enlisted in the Army in March of 1941 and served in World War II.

Milton Longnaker died in April of 1955. In May of 1956, Howard got divorced for the last time. On Monday, May 20, 1956, Howard got a garden hose, bought a six pack of beer, and a cigar and drove to Lover's Lane. He parked in a secluded part of the road. He attached the garden hose to the exhaust pipe and ran the other end through the trunk and into the back seat.



He sat there drinking the beer and smoking the cigar until the carbon monoxide finally took his life.

As for Mary, she too had her share of marriages and divorces. She died May 10, 1991, and is buried in Pattonville Cemetery, in Indiana.



# 71 Years of Newton Homecomings

1947 - Vivian Adams  
 1948 - Joanne Wall  
 1949 - Rose Deeter  
 1950 - Donna Jean Locke  
 1951 - Jean Wolfe  
 1952 - Mary Jane Peters  
 1953 - Pat Preston  
 1954 - Janet Bailey  
 1955 - Ann Noll  
 1956 - Della Sowry  
 1957 - Rebecca Preston  
 1958 - Charlotte Gallagher  
 1959 - Colleen Kinnison  
 1960 - Carol Lavy  
 1961 - Connie Sleppy  
 1962 - Diane Smith  
 1963 - LaVerne Deeter  
 1964 - Shirley Kinnison  
 1965 - Karen Keller  
 1966 - Bonnie Marker  
 1967 - Emily McKibben  
 1968 - Darlene Brown  
 1969 - Sharon Whitman  
 1970 - Luella Kinnison  
 1971 - Linda Deeter  
 1972 - Terri Bashore  
 1973 - Carol Stichter  
 1974 - Kim Jackson  
 1975 - Dixie Miller  
 1976 - Bonnie Spitler  
 1977 - Tammy Jackson  
 1978 - Jodi Bailey  
 1979 - Penny Adams  
 1980 - Glee Noll  
 1981 - Kim Alexander  
 1982 - Jackie Young  
 1983 - Missy Johnson  
 1984 - Kim Trost  
 1985 - Shelly Hemmerle  
 1986 - Amy Schatzley  
 1987 - Tiffany Jackson  
 1988 - Tracy Wray  
 1989 - Mandy McFadden  
 1990 - Amy Guitar  
 1991 - Richel Nuttall  
 1992 - Nicole Bledsoe  
 1993 - Maurita Rampaul  
 1994 - Angie Stratton  
 1995 - Mandy Barton  
 1996 - Carmen Rampaul  
 1997 - Becky Marker

The first Homecoming was held January 28, 1947. The basketball game was against Elizabeth School. The first queen was Vivian Adams. Her court consisted of Betty Peacock, Fern Wackler, Freda Wackler, and Betty Brandenburg.



1947 Queen and Court

Lee VanDervort is credited with starting the Newton Homecoming. Newton has crowned 71 queens and in 1987, all the former queens were invited back to participate in Homecoming with 26 of the 40 queens returning.

In 2001, Homecoming Kings were added to the festivities. Starting in 2016, the Homecoming crowning has been held at a Newton varsity soccer game in early fall.



Wayne Leonard, Tom Schultz, Shirley Cassel, Dixie Tarlton, Pat Preston, Barbara Bond, Betty Hocker, Archie Beckner, Dean Deeter, Jim Warner

1998 - Megan Lynch  
 1999 - Amy Stratton  
 2000 - Julie Powell  
 2001 - Katie Stratton  
 2002 - Meredith Ingle  
 2003 - Breanne Yahle  
 2004 - Chelsea Clawson  
 2005 - Justine Bradley  
 2006 - Janelle Via  
 2007 - Sarah Bradley  
 2008 - Ginny Vehorn  
 2009 - Katie Stewart  
 2010 - Julie Peace  
 2011 - Lacey Jackson  
 2012 - Andee Welbaum  
 2013 - Tiara Jackson  
 2014 - Heidi Denlinger  
 2015 - Madison Tebics  
 2016 - Sierra Flanary  
 2017 - Kassidi Alexander



1987 Reunion of Homecoming Queens

**Row 1:** Tiffany Jackson, Amy Schatzley, Shelly Hemmerle, Melissa Johnson, Kim Alexander, Glee Noll **Row 2:** Tammy Jackson, Bonnie Spitler, Dixie Miller, Kim Jackson, Carol Stichter, Teri Bashore, Luella Kinnison **Row 3:** LaVerne Deeter, Shirley Kinnison, Karen Keller, Bonnie Marker, Emily McKibben, Darlene Brown, Sharon Whitman **Row 4:** Connie Sleppy, Carol Lavy, Rebecca Preston, Dorothy Ann Noll, Donna Locke, Vivian Adams.

# Newton Township One Room Schools

## School # 13 - Circle Hill

Location: Part of the Northwest quarter of Section 11, beginning at the Southwest corner, then East on the section line 13 16/50 rods then North 12 rods, West 13 16/50 then South 12 rods. Containing one acre of land.



**1875 Plat Map**

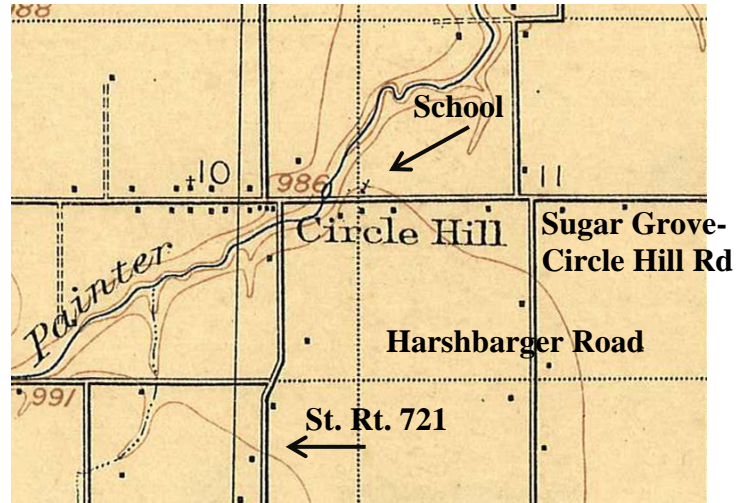
The school location was purchased from Ephraim Pearson in 1874 for \$90.00

Some teachers at Circle Hill included: George Mohler, Flora Teague, Samuel Overcash, B. F. Holfinger, Mae DeWeese, Nelle Coppock, Charles Staub, Cora Patterson, Edith Morton, and Dana Hagen

When Newton Schools consolidated in 1923, the building and land were sold to Charles Patty for \$655.00.



**Circle Hill School  
10895 Sugar Grove-Circle Hill Road  
as it stands in 2016.**



**1911 USGS Map**

Circle Hill School was located on Sugar Grove-Circle Hill-Road. The building still stands on the north side of the road near Circle Hill.



**Charles W. Owen's class picture, taken in 1912**



**Cora Patterson's Class circa 1913**