

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 1
September 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

Fall 2016

A Note from the President

We have hit another milestone. We held our Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 21, 2016, with an informative Power Point presentation of everything that happened this past fiscal year, from building projects, acquisitions, displays, fund raising, special programs, public visits, fiscal status, and of course, the very successful Sesquicentennial.

I am very pleased and proud, as I am sure you are too, at the outpouring of the many volunteers who participated and made these activities happen. We are planning ahead to another eventful year with more programs being scheduled. Watch local media sources for these programs.

There are still a few Pleasant Hill/Newton Township Historic books for sale for \$40 each until the remaining few are sold. As new books are ordered, the cost of the book will increase to \$45.

The storm sewer/asphalt project is now complete at a substantial reduction in the agreed upon cost, thanks to the generosity of D & M Excavating, Butler Asphalt, and the Miami County Foundation. We do not see any major projects in the near future, but will remain fiscally responsible and prepared for the unexpected. We thank you for your continued support.

Donna Favorite, President

Membership News

We have 124 partners and 9 business friends. We welcome Indian's Pizza, Neal Pemberton, Kristen Gray, and June Rudy as new members. If your membership expires this year, you should have received a letter or email regarding your renewal.

If you have questions about your membership, call Lolita Schultz at 937-676-2771. Thank you for your support!

Lolita Schultz, Membership Chairman

Pleasant Hill History Center Memorials

Donations to the museum have been received in memory of Gil Hawk. We honor his memory as a founding member of the Pleasant Hill History Center.

Sesquicentennial History Book

Many of you have purchased the Pleasant Hill History Book. If you have found any errors or things that need corrected, please let us know. We will put a list of corrections in the December Newsletter.

Pleasant Hill Memorabilia

There are still some **Sesquicentennial items** left. We have mugs, wooden ornaments, T-shirts, and magnets. A few Cat's Meows of the Monument, water tower, school building, and school buses are available in limited quantities. The **History Center** also has a few coasters, glasses, pictures of Pleasant Hill, and pencils. Note cards depicting historic sites created by Marcus Miller, MD, are still available.

Thanks goes to the Sesquicentennial committee for donating their profits of over \$4,000 and their excess inventory of memorabilia to our History Center!

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

Pleasant Hill Sesquicentennial



The Sesquicentennial Celebration was a huge success. The weather was hot and sunny. The Civil War Monument was beautifully decorated with red, white, and blue bunting. Many thought it looked better than they had ever seen it in their lifetime.

The day started with the rededication of the Civil War Monument. Colonel Fred Lynch spoke as if he were speaking at the original dedication in 1895. The parade, containing over 120 units, immediately followed his speech. The Grand Marshals were Ruby Coate and Gerald Davis.

The car show had over 100 classic cars and antique tractors on display.



Brian Sarver riding on the horse drawn hearse

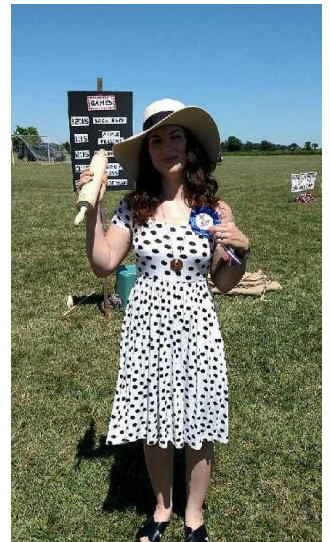
After the parade, the activities began at the entertainment tent. Halee Mollette sang the National Anthem followed by the pet showcase. The Little Mr. and Miss Pleasant Hill contest had 17 little ones vying for the title. Lindsey Willoughby and Warren Serey were pronounced Little Miss and Mr. Pleasant Hill.



Little Miss and Mr. Contestants

Over at the games area, sack races, apple peeling contest, nail driving contest, and a rolling pin toss were just some of the activities taking place.

The Flying K9's showcased their Frisbee catching dogs. They gave a great show with many spectators enjoying their performance.



Rolling Pin Winner

The next speaker was Commander Mike Spaulding who spoke on the history of the Civil War. Newton High School talent was represented by Curt and Clint Shellenberger and Jackson Riffle. Pleasant Hill historical figures such as Nathan Hill, Jesse Beery, Roy Plunkett, and Mary Gnodle gave insight into the early days of Pleasant Hill.

Apple Peeler Winner



Allison Babylon, contestant on *American Idol*, sang songs which she performed on the television show. **Todd the Fox** was next, singing his songs. The final act was **City of Bright**, a Christian group from St. Marys.

Car Show Winners

- 1900 - 1930 - John Davis
- 1931 - 1950 - Gary Miller
- 1951 - 1969 - Gerald Hensley
- 1970 & Up - Spencer Maggart

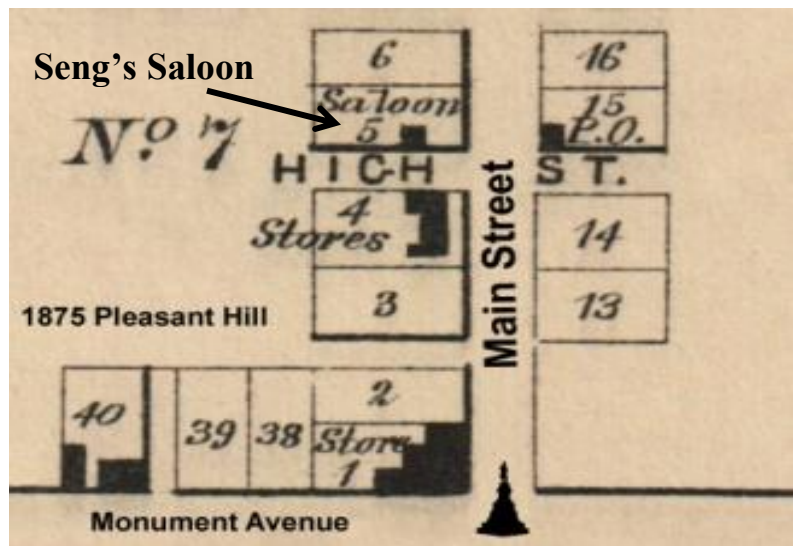
(Pictures courtesy of Lolita Border and Amy King)



Murder in Pleasant Hill

It happened Saturday, November 11, 1871, in Seng's Saloon near the corner of High and Main Streets. The Pleasant Hill Post Office is currently at this location.

The following account is from the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. (November 14, 1871)



The feelings of the citizens were aroused to such a degree that they determined to rid the village of this nuisance. And pursuant to agreement, met at the Town Hall this morning for that purpose.

A committee of five was appointed to draft resolutions to bring before the meeting. After an interval of a few moments, the committee returned and offered the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

First, That the house now kept by Robert Seng is hereby declared to be a nuisance to Pleasant Hill and vicinity. Therefore be it

Resolved, That we the citizens of Pleasant Hill and vicinity ask and recommend that the said Robert Seng and Wife do stop the selling of Ale, Beer, Wine, Cider or any intoxicating drinks as a beverage in said village or vicinity. And be it further

Resolved, That we do firmly bind ourselves to prosecute any person or persons who may engage hereafter in the sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage in the village or

its vicinity to the full extent of the law.

The above resolutions received the signature of every one present. A committee of five was appointed to wait upon Mr. Seng and inform him of the action the citizens had taken in regard to his establishment. The committee was also authorized to purchase what liquor he had on hand and pour it into the street, which they did in a workman-like manner. The citizens were aroused to a sense of duty, and they will not have much sympathy for anyone who attempts to sell poison in this community again.

The *Miami Union* newspaper dated February 10, 1872, reported that John Cecil was indicted for murder in the second degree. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter and sentenced for five years in the Ohio Penitentiary.

In July of 1873, a cholera epidemic hit the Ohio Penitentiary. John Cecil was taken ill at 8:30 A.M. and at half past 12 was considered past recovery.



J. K. Murray in Pleasant Hill Cemetery

Mary Emma Macy

The following article was in the *Piqua Daily Call* on August 24, 1935, the writer could not find any information on Mary Emma Macy. I was up for the challenge.

Here's One For Ripley

In the Pleasant Hill cemetery is a small tombstone bearing the almost unbelievable date of "May 4, 1589," the date of the death of one Mary Emma Macy, infant daughter of one Obed and Rebecca Macy.

Sometime ago, Harvey Hunter of this city, approached the writer with this particular information and the latter, though born in the good old Buckeye state, adopted the "Missouri" attitude, demanding that Hunter present more proof.

Sure enough, Hunter returned early this week, with a snap shot of the tombstone with the picture clearly showing the name, date and other data on the marker.

Hunter, advises the writer that he has conferred with officials of the Pleasant Hill cemetery and that they report there is no record on the books of the cemetery, relative to the ancient head stone.

It is believed that the stone must have been moved from some cemetery in an Eastern or Atlantic coast state though residents of the Pleasant Hill vicinity have no knowledge of any Macy family residing there in the past several decades.

The inscription on the headstone is as follows:

MARY EMMA

Daughter of Obed and Rebecca
Macy

Died May 4, 1589

Aged 10 months and 19 days

"So fades the lovely rose."

A study of the history of Miami county fails to reveal any information relative to white settlers in this section of the Miami Valley prior to 1749 when the French and British began exploring this part of Ohio, which later was the scene of many historical events in the French and Indian, Revolutionary Wars and the War of 1812.

Obed Macy was the son of Paul and Eunice Macy. He was born on May 26, 1826, in Miami County. He married Rebecca Debra on April 3, 1864.

Rebecca was born on March 31, 1831. She was the daughter of Daniel and Mary Langston Debra.

Obed Macy served in the Civil war in Company E., 148th OVI.

Obed and Rebecca owned Lots #4, #8 and #10 in Pleasant Hill at one time or another.

Mary Emma Macy was born to Obed and Rebecca on June 15, 1858. She died May 4, 1859. Did the stone mason reverse the 5 and 8? You be the judge. The picture below is a close-up of Mary's stone.

Obed and Rebecca Macy are buried in Riverside Cemetery in Troy. Rebecca died in 1896 and Obed in 1903.



Mary Macy's stone is broken and lying on the ground.

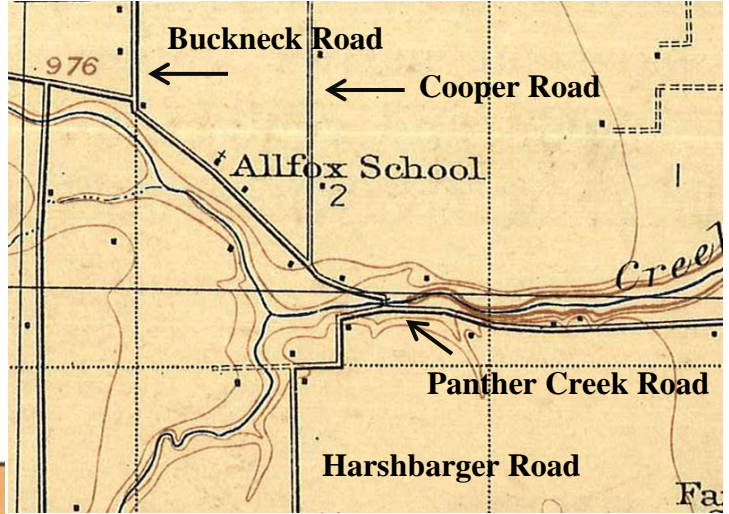


Newton Township One Room Schools

School # 12 - All Fox

Location: Part of the West half of the Northeast quarter of Section 2 beginning at the Road at a point 9 rods West from the East line. North 57 degrees West 3.10 chains then North 32 degrees, East 7.05 chains to intersect the West line of Samuel Coat's land, then South 3 ½ degrees East 5.28 chains. Then South 3 ½ degrees West 2.80 chains to the place of beginning. Containing 1 ¾ Acres, more or less.

All Fox School was located on Panther Creek Road, East of State Route 721 between Cooper and Buckneck Roads.

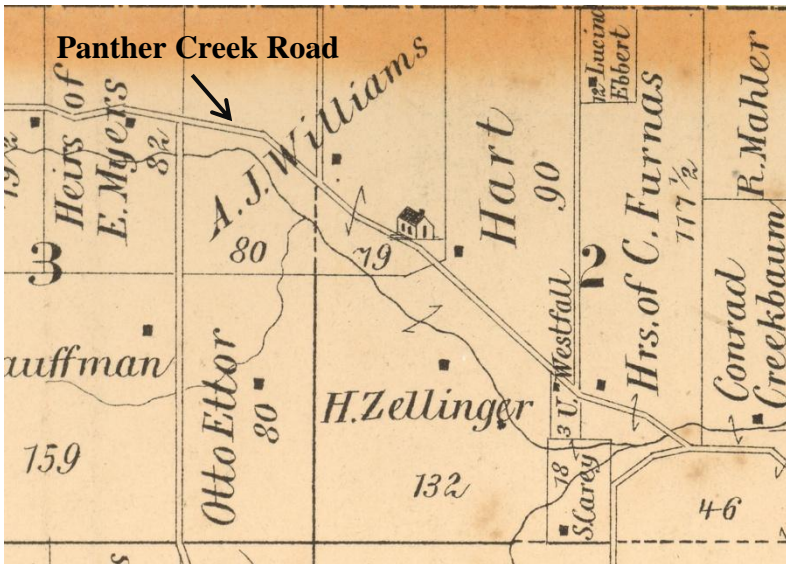


1911 USGS Map

The land was purchased from A. J. Williams in 1875 for \$100.00.

Some teachers at All Fox included: George Mohler, David Hatfield, Elijah Moore, Will Holfinger, Benjamin Overholtzer, Mary Karn, Myrtle Laird, Pearl Deeter, Margaret McMaken, and Eda Hollopetter.

When Newton Schools consolidated in 1923, the building and land was sold to W. F. Deeter for \$325.00.



1875 Plat Map



Looking north, this picture of the All Fox School location was taken in 2012. The school was on the north side of Panther Creek Road.



Pearl Deeter's class picture, taken May 2, 1913

Row 1: Milliard Snider, Mary Snider, Gladys Lowry, Anna Lowry, Ludell Powell, Nellie Stump, Mildred Hershey, Lester Snider, Harold McCool, John McCool, Ivan Kingrey
Row 2: Ethel Lowry, Omer Kingrey, Mary Welbaum, Herbert McCool, Alva Snider, John Snider, Clifford Stump, Jim Beard, Dan Powell, Walter Beard, Pearl Deeter, Teacher