

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 4
June 2017



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 2017

A Note from the President

Spring certainly blew in here at the History Center with a lot of activities. Our program on April 20th with Martin Stewart's presentation on "Redemption: The 71st Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War" was well attended. We participated in the Village Garage Sale day on April 29th and had our very first School Field Day Trip for the third grade classes from Newton School on Monday, May 8th. Amy King, Chuck Martin, Logan King and Mary Vannus conducted tours and presented information on the history of Pleasant Hill and Newton Township.

The month of May featured local artists with pieces of their works of art on display. We are now up to June and we will be hosting Scott Trostel on Thursday, June 15th at 7:00 p.m. His topic will be: The Dayton, Covington & Piqua Traction Company....The story of the rise and fall of the D. C. & P.

Soon it will be time for the History Center's Annual Meeting which will be held on Thursday, July 13th at 7:00 p.m. We encourage you to attend and would appreciate your input.

We are working on several other programs/displays and will keep you informed. Have a great summer and stop in to see us. We are open every Monday from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Donna Favorite, President

Membership News

We have 120 partners and 9 business friends. New members include: Sharon Watson, Doug Carey, and Kathy Lepper.

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 and in honor of Lewis Garvey and Ruby Coate. We are grateful for their contributions to the history of Pleasant Hill and Newton Township.

Kroger

It is once again time to sign up for Kroger Community Rewards. This program is a great fundraiser for our museum. Our quarterly checks help pay our utility bills! Check your receipt to see if you are still signed up!

If you have no charity listed, please consider us. We would be glad to help you on any Monday.

Correction

In the last edition of the newsletter, in the list of Postmasters, Dorothy Major should be more correctly written as Bertha J. Major. When Bertha was born, her mother, Bertha Lewis developed puerperal peritonitis and died 10 days later. Virgil Lewis, her father, named her after her mother, Bertha. Many Pleasant Hill residents know her better as Dot Major.

The D. C. & P.

Scott Trostel will present a program about the Dayton, Covington and Piqua traction line. This was the trolley line that ran down Main Street in Pleasant Hill. Hope to see you at the program, June 15th.

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**

71st Ohio Volunteer Infantry

Buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery 71st Regiment OVI

Company B

Amos H. Brandon
Esley R. Brandon
Isaac Brandon
Richard W. Brandon
John Cecil
Israel Davis
Samson Haworth
Henry Hayworth
John W. McConnell
Robert McConnell
Amos North
Seth Pearson
Sylvester Thompson
Joseph Yount

Company C

George W. Ely

Company F

Patrick Pry

Company H

Samuel H. Brandon

Martin Stewart, author of the book, Redemption: The 71st Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War, spoke at the History Center in April. His informative talk told of the involvement of the Ohio 71st in the Civil War. Many Newton Township and Pleasant Hill residents enlisted in this regiment.

The regiment fought in such battles as: Shiloh, Clarksville, Nashville and Atlanta.

One noted Newton Township family involved with the 71st, was the Brandon family. Five sons and four sons-in-laws of Isaiah and Sarah Brandon enlisted in the 71st. All survived the war.

Their sons were: Captain Amos Brandon, Corporal Richard Brandon, First Lieutenant Samuel Brandon, Private Esley Brandon, and Private Isaac Brandon. All of the sons are buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

The sons-in-laws were Private Amos Duncan, Sergeant John Johnson, Sergeant William McConnell, and Captain Henry McConnell, who are buried elsewhere.

Reunions of the 71st began in 1873. In 1893, the 21st reunion was held in Pleasant Hill. Other reunions were held here in 1903, 1905, 1912, and 1914. The last reunion was held in 1918 in Piqua.

Robert Sheets, who is listed on the Monument was in Company B of the 71st. Later, he transferred to Company K - 1st Infantry, Mississippi Marine Brigade. He died of small pox in a Memphis, Tennessee hospital and is buried in the National Cemetery there.

REGIMENT MEETS AGAIN

Survivors of Old 71st O. V.
I. Meet at Pleasant Hill.

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REUNION
HELD THURSDAY — NINETY-
NINE WERE PRESENT.

Next Gathering of the Old Veterans
Will be Held at Addison—Wes-
ley Groves is Elected Presi-
dent.

The thirty-third annual re-union of the 71st O. V. I. was held Thursday at Pleasant Hill. Ninety-nine survivors of this famous old veteran regiment of the Civil War were present at the re-union.

The business sessions were held in the Friends' church. An address of welcome was delivered by Prof. Morton, of Pleasant Hill, who welcomed the old soldiers in a very happy manner. The response was given by John M. Campbell, of Troy.

A number of very interesting talks were given by the comrades of the 71st. All were reminiscent of the war time, although some had to tell of experiences since resuming the habiliments of peace.

Reports presented showed that the death list of the regiment reached a greater number this last year than ever before. Twenty-five veterans answered the last summons since the last reunion.

The election of officers resulted in the choice of the following:

President—Wesley Groves, Addison.

Vice President—Ira Williams, Addison.

Secretary & Treasurer—D. L. Lee, Troy.

The next annual reunion will be held the third Thursday of June, 1908, in Addison (Christiansburg.)

The day was spent very enjoyably by the old veterans. Among those present was Capt. Babb, who never before had attended a regimental reunion. For many years he lived in the east and was engaged in business that took him abroad frequently. He is now living in Troy. He was very cordially welcomed by his old time comrades of the Civil War time.

Buried Elsewhere

Company B

Amos Duncan
John R. Johnson
William McConnell
Henry McConnell
Holey Cottrel

Company F

Reuben Miller

Sugar Grove Cemetery

David Reed Company B

Listed on Civil War Monument

Robert Sheets Company B



Reunion of the 71st in 1912 or 1914

VETERANS OF OLD 71ST O.V.I.

ASKED TO REMEMBER ANNUAL
REUNION AT PLEASANT HILL
ON 18TH OF JUNE

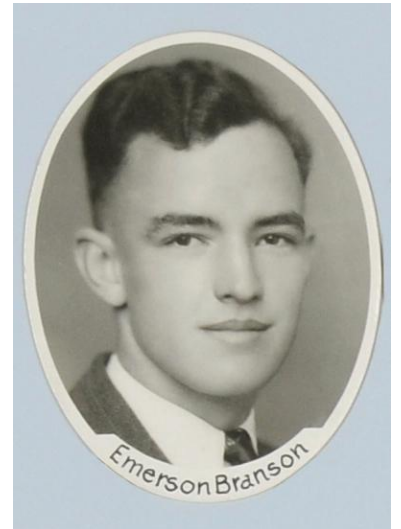
Piqua Daily Call
May 29, 1914

→
Piqua Daily Call
June 16, 1905

Emerson Branson

Emerson Branson was the only child of Earl and Pearl Deeter Branson. He was born November 18, 1921. He became a Newton FFA State Farmer in 1938. He graduated from Newton High School in 1939.

Emerson enlisted in the Army Air Force in 1942. He went into Cadet training. After passing a test that only 10 percent of the cadets could pass, he was accepted into training in Texas. He then went to Alabama College for more training.



He got his wings at Ellington Field in 1943.

Emerson was placed in the 385th group in Great Ashland, England, in March, 1944.

On June 2, he was on his 11th mission over France. His plane was hit by flying flack that ruptured the gas tank. All ten crew members bailed out.

The plane had been 20,000 feet up when they bailed out. Emerson waited until he was 2,000 feet before he opened his parachute. They had been trained to wait as long as possible to open their chutes so it didn't take as long to get to the ground and the Germans would have a harder time catching up to them.

Seven of the men were captured by the Germans. Emerson landed in an orchard close to a field where he could see French farmers. He hid in an old barn. The Germans saw him go into the barn. He hid

inside an old wheat threshing machine. They couldn't find him. He heard one of the German soldiers say, "Let's burn down the barn. We will get him." Fortunately for Emerson, they didn't burn down the barn.

Later that night, the French underground rescued him and gave him a loaf of bread and a jug of cider. They gave him some civilian clothes and took him to Paris. They gave him an identity card. When Paris was liberated, he explained to the U.S. troops who he was and they were able to rescue him.

Emerson married Alma Foster in Houston, Texas on Christmas Day in 1944.

He spent the rest of his service in Michigan as an instructor for navigation. Emerson left the Army Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant in September, 1945.

Emerson came back to Newton Township. He and Alma had three children. All three of them attended Newton School.

Emerson died on November 4, 1993, and is buried in Greenville Creek Cemetery.

BRADFORD AIRMAN LISTED MISSING

Bradford, June 21— Mrs. Pearl Deeter Branson, who resides southeast of here near Greenville Creek church, has received official word that her son, Lt. Emerson Branson, navigator in the Army Air Corps, has been missing in action over France since June 2.

Branson is the only child of Mrs. Branson and the late Earl Branson. He is a graduate of the Pleasant Hill schools, and received most of his training in the air corps in Texas, spending most of his time at Houston and at Randolph Field, San Antonio, Texas.

HAPPY NEWS

Bradford, Sept. 5. — Official word was received in a cablegram to Mrs. Earl Branson who lives near Greenville Creek church that her son Lt. Emmerson Branson, listed as missing in action over France in June, is safe in England and is looking forward to coming home soon.

Lt. Branson's father, the late Earl Branson, served overseas in World War I as a member of the U. S. Army air corps.

Frosty's Specials

John "Frosty" Landis started a baseball team in the early 1920's. This team was made of Pleasant Hill and Newton Township young men. They played other teams from the area. Their ball field was located on John's farm on Thomas Road.



Fall of 1922

Front Row: Hubert Long, Ray Black, John "Frosty" Landis, Roy Rector, Omer Landis **Back Row:** John Benedict, Luther Landis, Russel Weaver, Raymond Landis, Roy Dysinger **Not shown:** Umpire Stuffy Neff



West Milton Record
June 13, 1923

In 1924, the team won 19 straight games

In Base Ball Circles.
The Phi Delta Kappa and the Frosty Specials, both teams hailing from Pleasant Hill, played on the diamond in that village Sunday afternoon and after playing fifteen innings the score stood 8 to 9 in favor of the Frosty Specials. The following Milton boys played with the Phi Delta Kappas: Byron Ford, Richard Mast, Harold Zink, Carl Brumbaugh, I. J. Karns, Ralph Gingrich and Hubert Long. The game was a hard fought contest and was very interesting for the fans.

The location of the ball field was west of the driveway at 7001 West Thomas Road.

If anyone knows any further information about this team, we would like to hear about it.



This picture of the team contains additional team member, Joe Iddings and possibly Umpire Stuffy Neff.

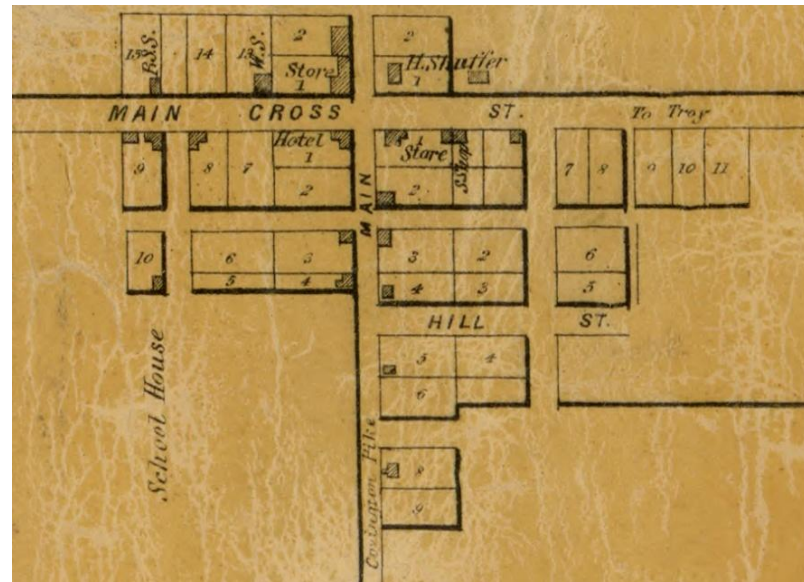


First School in Pleasant Hill

The house at 10 South Church Street was actually the second school in Pleasant Hill. The first building was on the corner of Hill and Church Streets. (See map)

William Furnas and Sarah, his wife, conveyed to the Board of Education of Newton Township for \$37.50 by deed of general warrantee dated August 26, 1848 all of Lot #10 in the Furnas Addition to the town of Newton. (Miami County Recorder Book 55 Page 609) (Lot #10 was renamed Lot #37 before the next real estate transaction)

A one-story brick building was built, on the lot. In 1862 that structure was torn down and the two-story brick in which Mr. & Mrs. Norven Deeter now live was erected. Other residents of this building have been Mrs. Ella Schaffer, the Wellington Oakes family, and the Don Manning family.



1858 Plat Map

Notice that the school building is on the corner of Hill and Church Streets

10 South Church Street



On November 3, 1866, Sub-district No. 7 which included the village of Pleasant Hill was organized into a special district. The first directors of this district were William Patty, M.D., C. W. Davis, J. K. Teeter, George Shoemaker, Nathan Hill, and David Minnich.

The different grades were taught the first year by Oliver Furnas and Harriett Moore. The house was crowded even then and the overflow was taken care of on the second floor of the Teeter Building on the corner of Main and High Streets. The last group of grammar school pupils in the old school house was taught by John Whitmer.

In 1875, a new school was built at the present Newton High School grounds so this building was no longer needed as a school building and was sold.

The Board of Education of Pleasant Hill School District conveyed to Paul M. Pearson for \$375.00 on April 26, 1877, all the estate title and interest of said Board by deed of general warrantee Lot #37 in the Village of Pleasant Hill. (Miami County Recorder Book 59 Page 394)

This building which is now 155 years old still stands as a monument to the early schools of Pleasant Hill.



10 South Church Street - circa. 2014