

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 2

December 2018



Pleasant Hill History Center

Pleasant Hill, Ohio

P.O. Box 82 Pleasant Hill, OH 45359

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 2018

A Note from the President

Time moves so quickly. Fall is one of my favorite seasons of the year. But I think I say that about every season, except winter.

The History Center is closed for the winter now. I hope you got a chance to see Richard Swank's nozzle collection which was on display in October and November. If you have a collection you think might be appropriate for display at the History Center, I'd encourage you to touch base with Donna Favorite, our Display Coordinator, or any board member. Personally, I find some of the local collections to be fascinating, and I'm thankful that our members are willing to share them with us for display.

History didn't stop happening after Thanksgiving. And people don't stop wanting to do research in the winter. But it is more expensive to operate in the winter, and we want to be responsible with the funds entrusted to us. Accordingly, we are closed for the winter to save on heating costs.

The History Center will re-open on March 4th. But that doesn't mean we don't want to hear from you. We love ideas for displays, programs, or other ways you'd like to see the History Center stay an active part of our community. Your Board Members and volunteers are here and ready to get started on our 2019 year. It starts with you. And it's about you. Be a part of the History Center by letting us know your thoughts.

Jerry Warner, President

Membership News

We have 105 partners and 12 business friends. New members include: Jeanne Sollmann and Carol Miller. Memorial contributions in memory of Fay Dohner Lindsay were received. Questions about your membership, call Dawn Spitler at 937-632-0000. Thank you for your support.

Dawn Spitler, Membership Chairman

Pleasant Hill History Books

The Pleasant Hill History Books are nearly gone. When the last ones are sold, we will not be able to purchase any more from the printer. If you would like one, call Donna at 676-8431.

Displays at the History Center

This fall, Richard Swank displayed his Brass Nozzle Collection. We thank him for sharing his collection with us. Look for more displays when we open in the spring.

Winter Hours

On November 27th we closed for the winter. We will re-open on March 4, 2019.
See you next spring!

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.

**Be sure to check our web site @ Pleasanthillhistorycenter.com
and visit us on Facebook**

Cemetery Walk 2018

Our fourth annual Cemetery Walk was held September 16, 2018. We had a great day. It was sunny and warm. A nice group of area residents enjoyed the actors.



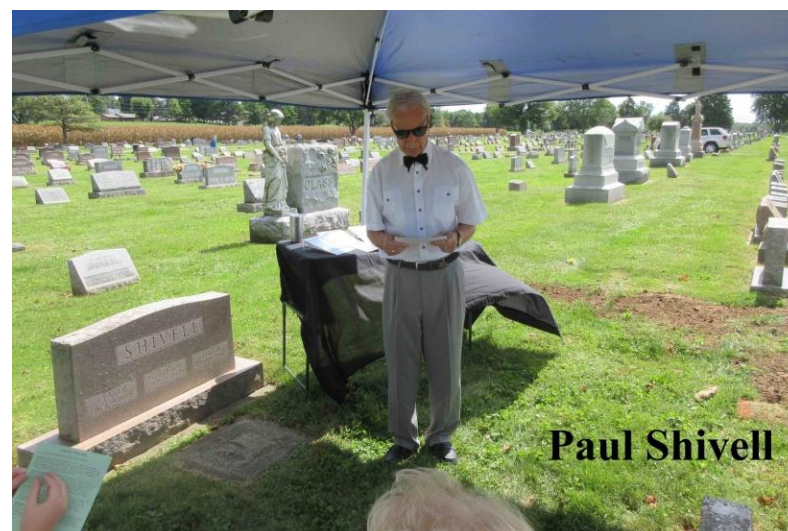
Maude Arnett was born on August 31, 1896. She was the daughter of Samuel and Nancy Luxon Pierce. She graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in 1916. She married Charles Arnett in 1918. Together, they had eight children. Maude wrote a history of Pleasant Hill. She died on March 4, 1976. Portrayed by Virginia Kinney



Albert Kramer was born in Newton Township on June 8, 1894. His parents were Joseph and Fredericka Schultz Kramer. Albert Kramer was better known as Red Kramer because of his red hair. He graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in 1912. He married Lillian Miller Evans in 1921. Red became Police Chief of Pleasant Hill in 1958. He died on December 11, 1975. He was 81 years old. Portrayed by Dan Leistner



Walter Linton was born on September 2, 1914, in Bowersville, Ohio. His first wife, Esther, died in 1944. They had a daughter, Mary Ann. He became the superintendent of Newton School in 1942. Walter married Joan Powell of Pleasant Hill. They were both life-long educators. Walter died February 23, 2003 and is buried beside his wife, Joan, in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Portrayed by Gavin Spittler



Paul Shivell was born on September 25, 1874. He married Gertrude Wolf in 1898. Together they had 3 children: Arthur, Edith and Virginia. He purchased a farm on Owens Road. Paul published many books of poetry. His poetry was known worldwide. He died on October 11, 1968. He was 94 years old. Portrayed by Neal Pemberton

Doctor Sarah Furnas Wells

Sarah Ellen Furnas was born on December 10, 1834, on a farm south of Pleasant Hill. Her parents were Joseph and Patience Miles Furnas. She had 2 sisters and 4 brothers.

Her father, Joseph Furnas, was considered the first teacher in Newton Township. He taught his children, as well as the neighborhood children. Her father instilled in her the love for learning.

After attending Newton Township Schools, she traveled to Warren County to attend a teacher's school. She then studied at Earlham College, and later went to Oberlin College.

In 1866, she traveled to Philadelphia to attend medical school. After that, she went to New York and attended the New York Medical College for Women. After graduating with a physician's degree, she accepted a job to teach at the Medical College. After working in New York, she went to Vienna, Austria, to study.

Sarah returned to New York Medical College to teach. She loved to travel. In 1873, she headed to London. It was on this trip that she met Dr. Rufus Wells. After a whirlwind romance, she married him in October of 1873.

Rufus was a daredevil balloonist. He made ascensions all over the world. He had been making balloon ascensions since he was 18 years old. He had become quite a celebrity.

Rufus and Sarah left Paris and started a world tour. They visited the pyramids of Egypt, traveled to India, as well as Peru. They took baths in both the Sea of Galilee and the River Jordan.

While in San Francisco, she started a Women's Medical College there. In November of 1881, she, as president, gave the opening address.

In 1883, they returned to West Milton where she wrote and published a book titled *Ten Years Travel Around the World, or from Land to Land, Isle to Isle, and Sea to Sea*. This book told of her travels with Rufus around the world.

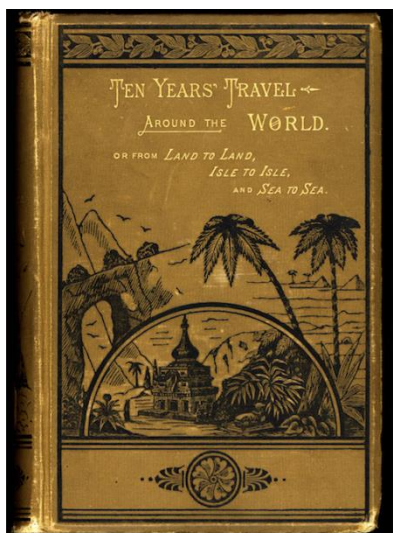
While in the United States, she received an invitation to attend the coronation of Czar Alexander III of Russia. Rufus and Sarah set sail to attend. They also visited the first session of Parliament in London.

They lived for a while in Jacksonville, Florida, where she created The World Medicine Company. Rufus and Sarah also began an Industrial College there where she taught Botany.

After that, they traveled again to Paris and across Europe for seven years, finally settling in Saint Louis, Missouri. There she ran an apothecary shop. She would occasionally be asked to speak about her travels.

In 1910, Rufus died. Sarah brought his body back here to be buried in Union Cemetery. Union Cemetery is located in Newton Township on Horseshoe Bend Road, just east of State Route 48.

Sarah lived above the apothecary for two years. One night, she went to a public bath house. She fell into a tub of hot water. The water was so hot, that she was scalded. She didn't think she needed medical care. She sat in her chair and later died. It was August 20, 1912. Her body was taken to Union Cemetery to be buried beside her husband.



The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated. - Mark Twain

The following article was published in the *Dayton Herald* - October 30, 1903.



The article raised many questions, such as, who was Lake Mowry, and did they find out who killed him? Further research was needed.

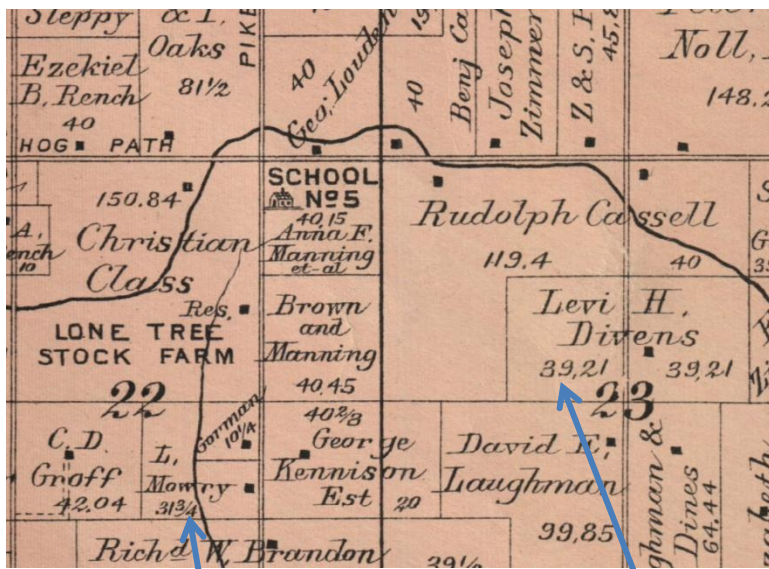
The *Miami Union* newspaper covered events throughout Miami County. Could this paper shed light on the death of Mr. Mowry?

Under the topic of Pleasant Hill News in the *Miami Union* newspaper, the following article was found in the November 5, 1903 edition.

A. L. Mowry, a resident of this village until Tuesday of last week when he moved to his farm near Buckeye, wandered from his home, Thursday morning, and was found at the home of his brother-in-law, Levi Divin, late the same evening. He was in a dazed condition of mind. He was taken to his home, medical aid summoned and for two or three days seemed that he might recover, but at last accounts things do not look as hopeful as his friends could desire. He has hosts of friends all of whom are very sorry to hear of his misfortune.

One week later in the *Miami Union* - November 12, 1903.

A. L. Mowry, who has been in feeble health for some time, informs me that he is much better and able to go about his business again. We are all glad to see "Link" so much improved.



Lincoln Mowry Farm

Levi Divens Farm

Lincoln Mowry was very much alive! He regained his health and raised a daughter who married Chester Coate. Many of their descendants still live in Newton Township today.

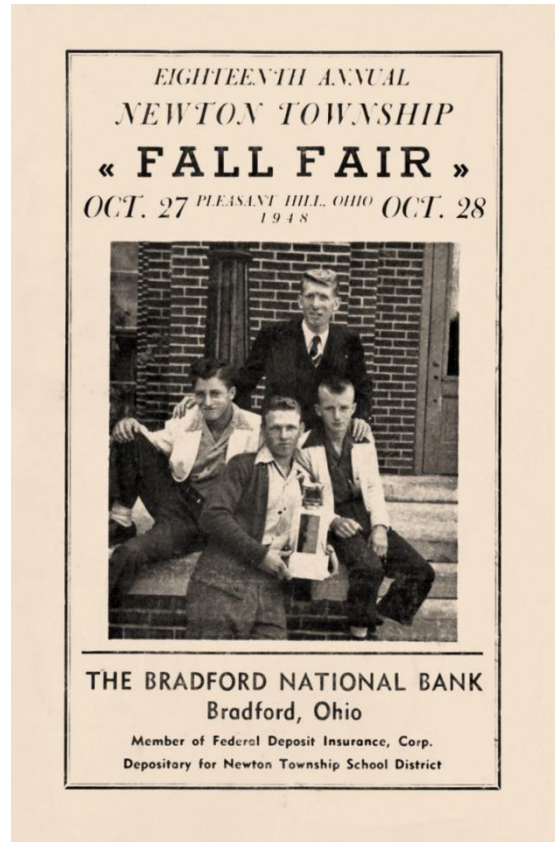
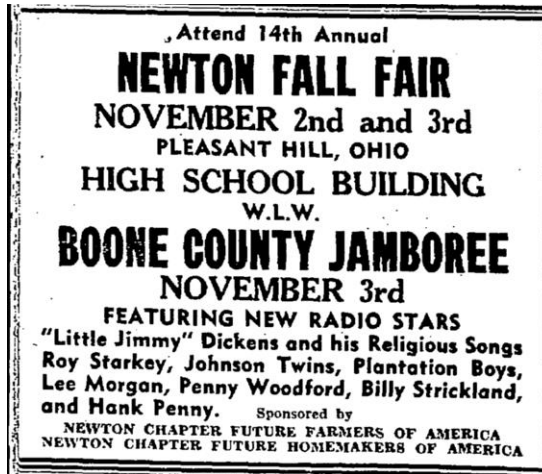
Link died on April 15, 1934. His wife Alpha, died on June 21, 1958. They are both buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.



Newton Fall Fair



Newton Fall Fair began in 1930. It was sponsored by the FFA and FHA. It has continued until the present. There have been a few years that the fair did not take place.



There have been many forms of entertainment over the years. Many plays have given by the FFA and FHA members. The Boone County Jamboree provided entertainment for a couple of years. Competitions between high school classes and talent shows have also been part of the Fall Fair. We can't forget the donkey basketball games. Judging of local produce has always been a part. This year, there were games, displays, farm animal petting area, and a kiddie tractor pull. A pulled pork dinner was served and later a class challenge was held in the gym.

John Jackson, Arthur Miller, Bill Schultz with FFA advisor James Rush. These FFA members won the State Livestock judging contest in 1948.



DONKEY BASKETBALL COMES TO NEWTON SCHOOL

They're ALIVE — They're REAL!
It's BETTER Than A Circus!
FUNNIER Than A Rodeo!
Come for An Evening of Fun

Adults 75¢ Students 50¢

GAME TIME — 8:00 p.m.



Johnny's Service Station

1 mi. South of Pleasant Hill on Route 48

LUDLOW FALLS, OHIO
R. R. 1

At The Newton Fall Fair—See The Johnson Twins, from WLW

They can't even tell each other apart as, for instance, when Fern awoke one morning and started talking to her sister, only to discover it was her own reflection in a mirror. Then there was the time LaVerne greeted her sister in a store, to find it was another mirror trick.

The girls came from a large family, all of whom are musicians, and with Mother at the piano and Father at the drums, they've been entertaining pleased audiences these many years.

Now the twins are "on their own" with the Boone County Jamboree, and doing extremely well by themselves, if audience applause and fan mail are any criterion—which they are!

This advertisement came from the 1948 Fall Fair booklet. Johnny's was owned by the Roetter family and later became Joyland Restaurant.