

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

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Pleasant Hill History Center

Pleasant Hill, Ohio

8 East Monument Avenue
P. O. Box 82

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 2018

A Note from the President

“The Gift of Giving.” I think I have learned the true meaning of the saying, “The Gift of Giving”. A few weeks ago, on a Monday I returned home from the History Center ready to relax and review the events of the day there when my doorbell rang. When I opened the door a young boy stood there with his mother. I recognized who he was and knew from Facebook that he had just celebrated his birthday so I wished him a Happy Birthday. With some prompting from Mom, he proceeded to hand me an envelope which I could see contained money. He said it was for the History Center. His mother told me that they were not advocates for gifts of many toys and when planning his party, his young friends were asked to give a monetary gift that would be donated to the Pleasant Hill History Center. The primary gift to Tudor was a visit from “Abraham Lincoln” who is his idol. He was wearing a t-shirt with Abe’s picture on the pocket and he pulled out two \$5.00 bills and handed them to me and said it was his donation, too. This young man’s name is Tudor Gray and he is five years old. I know Abe would have been very proud of him and to say I am too would be an understatement. THANK YOU TUDOR for your very thoughtful and generous Gift. Matt and Kristin Gray and their children moved to Pleasant Hill about two years ago after buying and refurbishing one of Pleasant Hill’s historical houses and are very active in the community and school. I want to commend them on their parenting skills and also welcome them as new Partners at the Pleasant Hill/Newton Township History Center.

I would like to remind everyone of the upcoming Annual Meeting, at which time, we will be voting on Board Members. The terms for one village and two township representatives to the Board will be considered. The date of the meeting is Thursday, July 19th at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend as we value your input and want you to know the status of YOUR History Center.

Donna Favorite, President

Membership News

We have 119 partners and 12 business friends. New members include: Marsha Bubeck, and Dr. Mark Hess. Questions about your membership, call Dawn Spitler at 937-632-000. Thank you for your support.
Dawn Spitler, Membership Chairman

Pleasant Hill History Center Memorials

Donations to the museum have been received in memory of Philip Snider, Cindy Alexander, Eva Hoover, and Clara Lois Adams.

Kroger

Be sure you are signed 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 make sure you are still signed up!

Native American Artifacts

During the month of June, the museum will be displaying arrowheads and other primitive artifacts from various residents of Newton Township. Be sure to stop in to see these ancient artifacts of this area.

History of the Churches in Newton Township and Pleasant Hill

William McIntire will present a program on the history of our churches in August. Look for details later.

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**

Nate I. Fair

Nate I. Fair was born on October 6, 1900, to Ezra and Clara Belle Wintrow Fair. Nate attended Pleasant Hill Schools along with his brothers and sisters: Roy, Charles, Blanche, Earl, Ralph, Marie, Paul, and Betty. Nate enlisted in the army before he was able to graduate. Nate lost his life in France during WWI. He is buried there.

TRIBUTE IS PAID
THE MEMORY OF
YOUNG SOLDIER



NATE I FAIR

Memorial services were held at the Christian church in Pleasant Hill on Sunday, September 29, at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon for Nate I. Fair, who was killed in action in France last July. Young Fair enlisted August 6, 1917, while not yet 17 years of age, in Company I, 18th Infantry. Soon after his enlistment he was sent overseas. On the 5th of September, this year, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Fair, of Pleasant Hill, received a telegram to the effect that he had been severely wounded on July 21, and on September 21 came the word that he had died a few days later. The last letter from the young soldier stated that he was well and liked army life. Besides his parents he is survived by five brothers and three sisters. The memorial services were most impressive. The pastor of Pleasant Hill Christian church, the Rev. J. S. Kegg, paid a striking tribute to the young man who had given his life for his country and spoke of his active work in the church and Sunday schools. Charles Perkins, a member of the board of education, spoke of his good qualities as a scholar, an athlete and on the playground; Mrs. Omer Rogers, a classmate, sang a solo and the memorial sermon proper was delivered by the Rev. O. P. Furnas, a former pastor of the church.

A mother who lost a child during the war was called a Gold Star Mother.



Mrs. Ezra Fair is eligible to the trip to Europe provided by the Federal Government for Gold Star mothers. Her son Nate Fair lost his life in the World War and his body was buried in Flanders field.

- Piqua Daily Call - January 28, 1930

A table with lighted ships on a sea of glass: Easter lilies centered with miniature electric bulbs and beds of spring flowers seated thirty members of the Rosezelle Rebekah order to a banquet given in the I.O.O.F. dining room Monday night as a farewell to Mrs. Ezra Fair who sails as a Gold Star mother for Europe on the *America*, May 6. Mrs. Fair was presented a purse with a clasp of the order's emblem and best wishes for a safe return home in June.

- Piqua Daily Call - April 23, 1930

MIAMI COUNTIAN TO MAKE JOURNEY

Application for a special pilgrimage passport has been filed with the clerk of courts by Mrs. Clara Fair of Pleasant Hill, one of three war mothers believed eligible to take the special pilgrimage to Europe at the invitation of the United States government.

Listed in the application is the fact that her son is buried in one of the government cemeteries in Europe.

The pilgrimage is to be made by war mothers some time this summer, with the government paying all expenses, including tips to porters, etc.

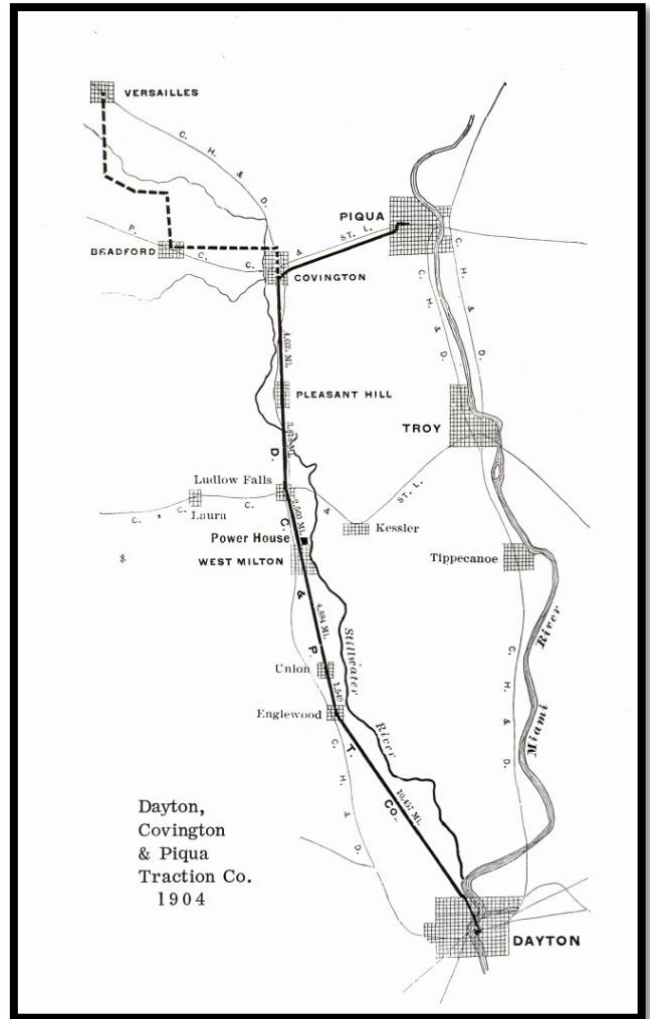
The application is to be sent to the state department, passport division, at Washington.

Dayton - Covington - Piqua Traction Line *The Overlook Route*

The Dayton, Covington, and Piqua Traction Co., known as the D. C. & P. began building the *Overlook Route* in 1901. In September of 1902, the first car traveled through Pleasant Hill.



The company had a unique problem in Pleasant Hill since the Monument was in the middle of the road. They chose to lay rails on both sides of the Monument, the second set of rails, being a passing track for the trolley cars.



This map shows the entire length of the D. C. & P. Traction Line.

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Established Between Covington and Dayton on the D. C. & P. Road.

Cars were run regularly over the Dayton Covington and Piqua line between Covington and Dayton yesterday, for the first time.

The first regular car left Covington for Dayton at 6:30 a. m.

From now on cars will be run on an hourly schedule, leaving Covington on the half hour.

The construction gang is today engaged in laying the switch on Wood street, near the hydraulic. The final preparations are being made and the company will endeavor to run cars on regular schedule to this city by the first of next week.

← *Piqua Daily Call*
September 5, 1902



These men are laying the rails for the D. C. & P. Traction Line. Notice the bandstand to the left in the photo. This bandstand stood just north of the Monument. It was moved to a town lot and later sold.

The power for the trolley cars was provided by the Power House which was constructed in West Milton. The building is still standing today.

In 1903, the D. C. & P. purchased an 80 acre farm near West Milton. They constructed a large building and called it **Overlook Park**. Along with the pavilion, there were swimming, fishing, and picnic grounds. The park was a hit with those riding the cars. In 1926, the park went into private hands.



On November 6, 1926, a trolley car left Piqua for the last time. Pleasant Hill said goodbye to the trolley cars.

A bus line took the place of the trolleys to transport the village residents to Dayton and Piqua.

FREIGHT AND EXPRESS ...SERVICE...						
NORTH BOUND			SOUTH BOUND			
P M	A M	A M	STATIONS	A M	P M	
5 15	10 15	.....	Leave DAYTON	Arrive	9 00	4 00
5 33	10 33	.....	FAIRVIEW		8 45	3 45
5 38	10 38	.....	SHILOH		8 38	3 38
5 45	10 45	.....	IRVINGTON		8 33	3 33
5 53	10 53	.....	ENGLEWOOD		8 15	3 15
6 14	11 14	.....	UNION		8 10	3 10
6 19	11 19	.....	PIG EYE No. 20		8 04	3 04
6 24	11 24	.....	WEST MILTON		7 57	2 57
6 30	11 55	.....	Arrive CAR BARN	Leave	7 55	2 55
.....	11 55	5 00	Leave	Arrive	7 25	2 25
.....	12 00	5 05	LUDLOW FALLS		7 20	2 20
.....	12 07	5 07	GRAVEL PIT		7 14	2 14
.....	12 12	5 12	PLEASANT HILL		7 12	2 12
.....	12 15	5 15	SUGAR GROVE		6 50	1 50
.....	12 22	5 22	TOLL HOUSE		6 46	1 48
.....	12 30	5 28	COVINGTON c s		6 42	1 42
.....	12 43	5 43	Arrive FREIGHT HOUSE	Leave	6 20	1 20
.....	.....	.....	PIQUA		.....	.....

Dayton Freight Office S. Ludlow St.
Bell Phone 713 Home Phone 3260

JAS. R. RANDALL, Gen. Freight Agt.
WEST MILTON, OHIO.

Quick Deliveries Reasonable Rates

1912 TIMETABLE

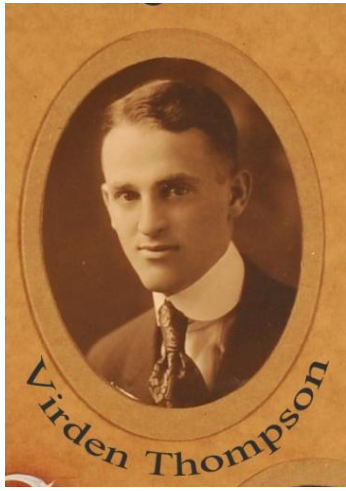
In 1926, the rails were removed and scrapped. However, they were not taken up in the villages along the line.

In 2012, the village of Pleasant Hill completely restored Main Street. When the workers dug to remove the old pavement, they found the rails of the D. C. & P. which had been lying patiently for 110 years.



Clarence Virden Thompson

Clarence Virden Thompson was born February 7, 1899, to Edward and Callie Falknor Thompson. Clarence was best known as C. V. Thompson. He graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in 1918. He received his teaching degree from Wittenberg University. He began teaching in Newton Township at the Mole Hill School, located on the southeast corner of Shiloh and Laughman Roads, in 1920.



On July 10, 1922, he married Hermena Schuesselin. She was the daughter of Charles and Louisa Schuesselin. The Schuesselins owned the meat market in Pleasant Hill.



Mole Hill School - 1920

C. VIRDEN THOMPSON

C. Virden Thompson of Lincoln Park Manor, Kettering, formerly of 211 E. Monument St., Pleasant Hill, died Thursday afternoon in Kettering.

Surviving are his wife, Hermena Schuesselin Thompson; one daughter, Mrs. Roger (Carolyn) Thyer of Piqua; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Mr. Thompson was a teacher, principal and superintendent in Newton Township schools from 1920 to 1942, then superintendent of Miami County schools until 1963, when he retired.

He was a member of the Pleasant Hill United Church of Christ. He was a member of the Southwest and Ohio Athletic Boards, member of Pleasant Hill Masonic Lodge No. 361, Scottish Rite and Troy Rotary Club. He was a graduate of Wittenburg College.

Services will be 1 p.m. Monday at the Jackson Funeral Home, Pleasant Hill, with Pastor John Graham officiating. Burial will be in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Friends may call at the funeral home Sunday from 2-5 p.m.

Contributions may be made to donor's choice of charity.

In 1923, when the schools consolidated, C. V. continued his teaching career at Newton High School. He became the superintendent of Newton in 1935. He remained in that position until 1941 when he became the Superintendent of the Miami County Schools. He served in that position until retiring in 1963.

C. V. and Hermena had one daughter, Carolyn, who graduated from Newton in 1941.



C. V. on the front steps of Newton School

The Newton School Alumni Association honored C. V. by naming him to the Newton Hall of Fame in 1988.

C. V. Thompson died on December 5, 1991. He is buried beside Hermena in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.



C. V. and the Coate brothers