

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 1
September 2018



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 2018

A Note from the President

As the History Center starts a new year I'd like to introduce myself as the new President of the Board. I grew up on a farm just east of Pleasant Hill and currently live just west of Pleasant Hill.

One of my earliest memories of Pleasant Hill was stopping to eat lunch on the way home from the feed mill. I was probably about six or seven at the time. Just as we opened the door to the restaurant (where Mrs. B's Catering is located now) the noon siren went off. It scared me as it was very loud! I could hear that siren from the farm and there were many summer days when its sound kept me on target. Yes, I know the siren is something you loved or hated. I miss its call at noon each day even though it would interrupt my phone calls at the office. It was always fun to explain to the person on the other end of the phone what was going on and most were endeared to it even from that brief experience.

I'm invested in this town heavily both mentally and financially. I think one of the best things a person can do for a community is to build a business. Businesses make communities strong. I'm fifth generation in this area, with most of my family being further south, closer to West Milton. I was on the Pleasant Hill - Newton Township Fire Department for 15 years where I served as Secretary/Treasurer for eight years.

I love old things. I can't explain why, but they give me a connection not only to the past, but to who I am today. I like antiques, but try not to collect them.

The History Center is a place full of such connections. There's a picture of my Great Grandparent's Dodge repair shop hanging in there. I'm sure many of you also have connections in the History Center.

As president I love to see our members support the History Center. The only reason it works is because people are willing to give a little time for those things that need to be done. It doesn't have to be a large commitment to be valuable. Attend the interesting programs. Provide ideas for future programs. Or help with the displays. It's your History Center and it needs you.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend our Cemetery Walk September 16th from 1:30 - 3:30 pm.

Jerry Warner, President

Membership News

We have 119 partners and 12 business friends. We welcome Marsha Hall as a new member. If your membership expired this year, you should have received a letter or email regarding your renewal.

Questions about your membership, call Dawn Spitler at 937-632-0000. Thank you for your support.

Dawn Spitler, Membership Chairman

Pleasant Hill History Center Memorials

Donations have been received in memory of Rachel Ann Minnich, John Weaver, Gene Rotterman and Bob Sollmann.

Sesquicentennial History Book

Many of you have purchased the *Pleasant Hill History Book*. We have less than 30 copies and when they are all sold, we will not be getting any additional copies. Get your copy soon.

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

(We will close December 1 for the winter.)

Be sure to check our web site @ Pleasanthillhistorycenter.com

and visit us on Facebook

Albert Samuel Kramer

Albert Samuel Kramer was born on June 8, 1894 to Joseph and Fredericka Schultz Kramer. Albert graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in 1912.



Albert was part of his high school play in 1912.

Albert married Lillian Miller Evans on June 29, 1921.

He enlisted in the Army on May 29, 1918 and was honorably discharged on January 18, 1919. He was a Corporal in the 158th Depot Brigade.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? <i>tall</i> Slender, medium, or stout (which)? <i>medium</i>
2	Color of eyes? <i>dark brown</i> Color of hair? <i>dark red</i> Bald? <i>no</i>
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? <i>no</i>

Albert Samuel Kramer was better known as “Red” Kramer. On his draft registration, he lists his hair color as dark red.



Red Kramer with the Pleasant Hill Eagles

When Albert left the military, he helped coach the Pleasant Hill Eagles basketball team.

Red went to work at the Frigidaire division of General Motors at Moraine. He retired from there after 30 years of employment.



He then became the Police Chief of Pleasant Hill. He retired from there on April 1, 1970.



Red Kramer in front of his Church Street home

Albert Samuel Kramer died December 11, 1975. He was 81 years old. He is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.



PLEASANT HILL GETS NEW CRUISER

Police Chief A. S. (Red) Kramer of Pleasant Hill checks out the village's new police cruiser which was delivered recently. The installation of two-way radio equipment in the car was com-

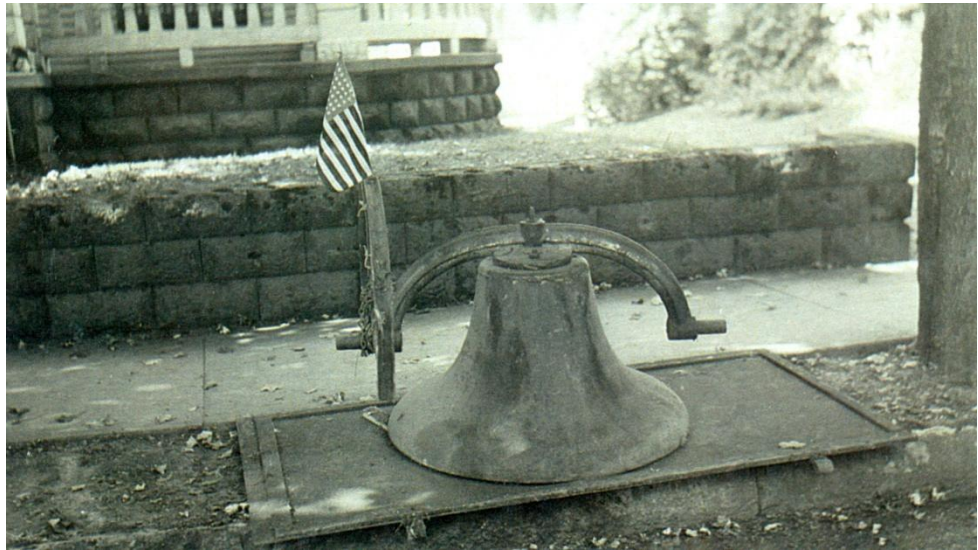
pleted last week. Kramer is the only full-time police officer in the western Miami county village.—Staff Photo by Dave Barnhart.

1875 School Bell

About a year ago, a descendant of Clara Longnaker came from Pennsylvania to visit our museum. She allowed us to scan some of her family pictures. Among the pictures was a photo of the Old School Bell. This was the bell in the 1875 building.

Clara Longnaker was a correspondent for the Dayton Journal. On the back of the photo it identified the bell as the Old School Bell and there were instructions to put the photo in the paper and return it to Clara.

I thought it would be a great relic for our museum and I wondered where it was.



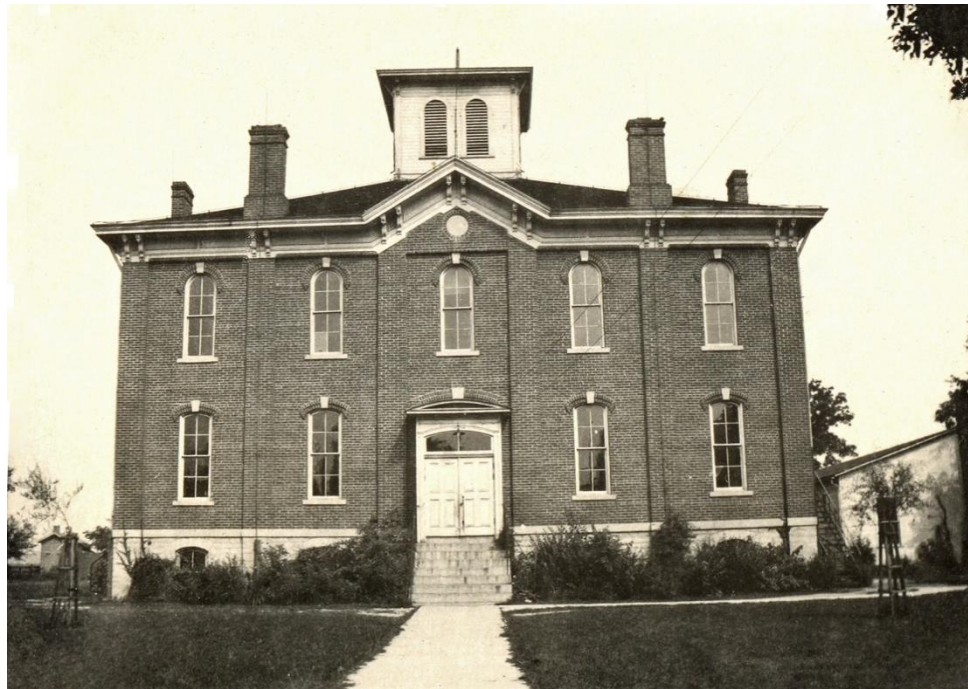
Recently, I found the article on the left in the *Dayton Journal* on October 25, 1942. Our school bell was scrapped to help during WWII. Unfortunately, we won't have this relic in our museum.

Pleasant Hill Loses Fire Bell It Never Had

PLEASANT HILL—Many of today's residents of Pleasant Hill probably would have never known that for 15 years they might have had a better fire bell than the old one that hangs on the town water tower. They will probably be happy now to know that an old bell from the old school building, bought 15 years ago by the late Dr. "Sam" Bausman, for that purpose has gone to another worthy purpose.

Dr. Bausman bought the bell for one dollar when the old school building was being dismantled and gave it to the village to replace the present bell which, he said, "sounded like a dinner bell." He wanted one that could be heard.

The town never found the funds to hang the bell and it has lain in Dr. Bausman's garage until it was found during the current scrap drive. Villagers believe Dr. Bausman would be just as happy to know the bell will make an even better noise as a shell or part of plane to harass the axis.



1875 Pleasant Hill School

Dayton Journal
October 25,
1942



→
Back of the
school bell
picture

Return this picture of the
874 Old School Bell
to
Mrs. C. Longnaker
Pleasant Hill, Ohio
Please Print Picture in Sunday
Journal.
10/26/42

Pleasant Hill Shooting Range



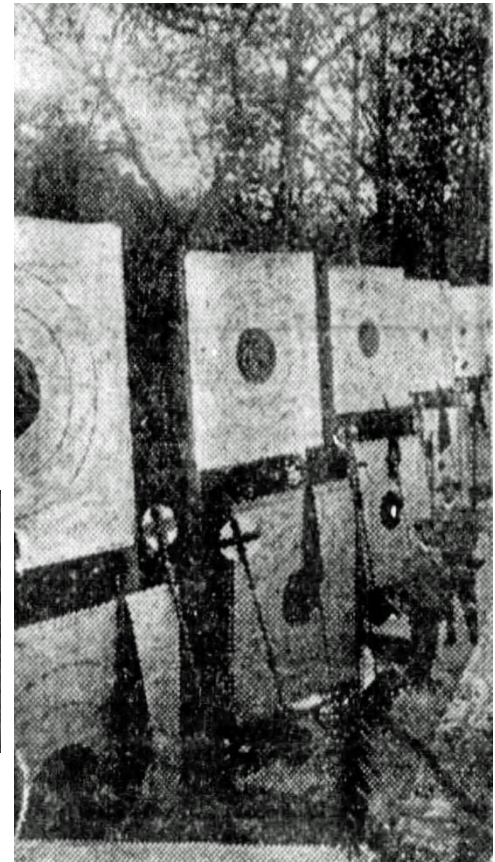
The Pleasant Hill shooting range was located on the east bank of the Stillwater River just north of State Route 718. It is not known how long the range was active, but it is believed that it was built in 1911. The remnants of this range still exist today.

Red Kramer would tell the town's boys that when he was in WWI his regiment would practice by sitting near the hill at the cemetery and shoot at the targets.



This is the west wall inside the bunker. The date on the wall, reading through the graffiti, is possibly the date when the bunker was built. (July 12, 1910)

Cement Bunker as it looks today.



Targets were placed behind the large cement wall. The workers would then get into the cement bunker at the end of the wall. On the signal, shooters would shoot at the targets. The targets would then be lowered to see how well the shooters did.

If any of our readers know any additional information on this site, we would like to hear from you.

Company A of Covington spent Thursday practicing on the rifle range at Pleasant Hill. The march or "hike" from Covington to Pleasant Hill, a distance of seven miles, was made during the early morning, the entire day being spent at target practice on the range.

Dayton Daily News
June 29, 1916

The Dayton Herald
September 21, 1915

The targets were behind the wall.
Dayton Daily News
October 26, 1912

Cement Wall with men standing behind it.

THIRD WILL HOLD TARGET PRACTICE

Three Companies Will Go to Range at Pleasant Hill on September 24.

Members of Companies K, H and G, of the Third Ohio Infantry, of this city, have been assigned for the annual rifle practice to be held at Pleasant Hill, O., beginning September 24.

According to instructions from the office of Lieutenant Colonel Amos, the minimum personnel attending rifle camps of instruction shall not be less than two officers and 20 enlisted men at each day's practice.

The minimum personnel for each organization reporting shall not be less than one officer and 10 enlisted men, the enlisted personnel not including enlisted men who have already qualified as marksmen or better during the range practice season.

Company K will move to Pleasant Hill on September 24, October 8, 14 and 22.

Company H will enter the contest September 27, October 5, 11, 19 and 27.

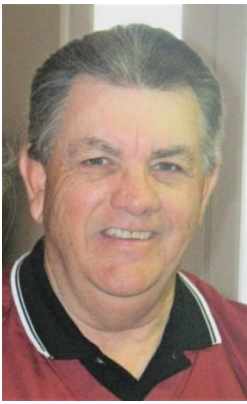
Company G will enter September 29, October 4, 12, 20 and 28.

Thank you John and Bob

This summer, the History Center lost 2 important partners.

Bob Sollmann helped the History Center with many projects around our building. When we acquired the museum, he replaced all the locks and re-keyed them for us. Bob also used his expertise to install shelving and other work on displays.

John Weaver was a founding partner who served on the Executive Board. He was our first Treasurer and filed many forms when we were getting our tax-exempt status. John helped with many projects and was willing to help in any capacity to promote the History Center. John portrayed Nathan Hill in our very first Cemetery Walk.



Bob Sollmann



John Weaver as Nathan Hill, during our first Cemetery Walk

Annual Meeting Gives Overview of 2018

The Pleasant Hill History Center's annual meeting was held July, 19, 2018 at the History Center. The following information was presented during the meeting.

Programs held at the History Center included: *Clayton Brukner* by Patrick Kennedy; and *Covered Bridges of Miami County* by Doug Christian. Our 3rd annual Cemetery Walk was held in September. When school started, the Third Grade Students visited the museum for a field trip. In October we displayed the Tea Cup Collection of Jean Gilbert. Also, in October, we installed our new sign on the building. In November we had a Quilt show, displaying many quilts of local residents.

When we opened in the spring, we sponsored an art contest for the students of Newton School. Many students participated and their artwork was displayed during the month of April. In May we participated in the Village Garage Sale. Arrowheads and artifacts of local collectors were displayed during June.

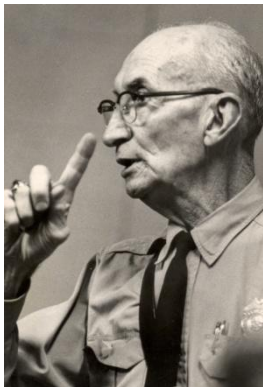
We had over 170 items donated to the museum this year. On our web page, we have had over 6,000 page views. Our Facebook page has over 700 followers. We had over 260 visitors to our museum.

Our expenses for the year totaled \$4,294.81. This included items such as DP&L, Vectren, Internet, and insurance. Our income totaled \$7,090.05. Over \$2,000 came from memorials, \$1,000 from Kroger Rewards, and \$890 was from direct donations. We are very grateful for the support we have received this year. It is through your support that we can continue to exist.

Cemetery Walk

Our 4th Annual Cemetery Walk is being planned for September 16th.

Our selected individuals include: Red Kramer, Maude Arnett, Paul Shivell, and Walter Linton.



Red Kramer



Maude Arnett



Paul Shivell



Walter Linton