

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 2

December 2019



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 2019

A Note from the President

A few weeks ago Ohio showed us it still knows how to make things cold. That's our sign that it's time to close the History Center for another winter. This keeps our expenses in check and helps insure that we'll be around for years to come.

I'd like to take a moment to thank, not just the board members, but more importantly the members who show up every week to open the History Center, set up displays, help visitors, etc. They are the ones who make the History Center what it is today and they seldom get the recognition for their hard work that they deserve. Thank you to each and every one of them for another season of service. And in this same thankfulness, we think again of Dan Delcamp who was so instrumental in our History Center. He will be missed.

If you'd like to join our ranks and enjoy some really special people we'd love to hear from you. We'll be opening in the spring and can certainly use the help! This is especially true if you're one of the people who have been blessed enough to call Newton Township your home for a long time. Please join us.

As you read the rest of this newsletter your mind will probably visit the places listed just as mine did. And you'll envision the wild stallion jumping wildly to its death. Or imagine the trolley cars passing up and down Main Street. It's fun to keep history alive in this way.

Jerry Warner, President

Membership News

We have 117 partners and 11 business friends.

Memorial contributions in memory of Dan Delcamp, Barbara Laughman, and Pat Locker were received.

Questions about your membership, call Dawn Spitler at 937-417-4985. Thank you for your support.

Dawn Spitler, Membership Chairman

Kroger

Be sure that 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 see if you are still signed up!

We appreciate your help with this fundraiser.

Displays at the History Center

We have had some interesting programs and displays this year. Doug Christian will be presenting his program, *A Pictorial Journey of Miami County* on March 26th at 7:00. Look for more information in the spring.

Winter Hours

On November 26th we closed for the winter. We will re-open on March 2, 2020.

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 at Pleasanthillhistorycenter.com
and visit us on Facebook**

John Buckingham

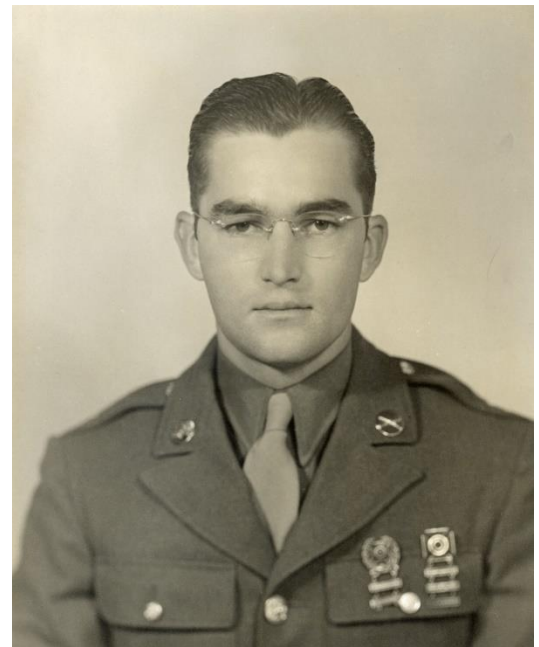
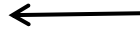
John Buckingham was born to Russell and Tressie Buckingham and grew up on his parents' tobacco farm in Circle Hill, Ohio.

He attended Newton Schools and was known for his musical talents. He played the trumpet in several local dance bands. He formed his own band and played until most of the players were drafted into the service.



John

John in Band
in 1941



John delivered groceries on a route for Duffy's Store in and around Circle Hill.

On September 7, 1941, John married Lois Saul. Together they had a son, John Buckingham, Jr.

In 1944, while John was working at Aeroproducts, he was drafted into the Army. He was stationed at Camp Hood in Texas where he was trained to be a sharpshooter.

In November of 1944, he was sent overseas, assigned to the First Army, 8th Division, I Company, 13th Infantry.

He wrote a letter in December that he was in France. All letters after that stated that he was somewhere in Germany. His last letter was dated March 26, 1945.

The family received a telegram dated April 20th, that he was reported missing since April 4, 1945.

His mother, Tressie, received a letter dated December 22, 1947. It stated that John was part of a platoon of men placed to guard a road at a town near Siegen, Germany. They were overrun by the German army, some men were captured, and the rest of the soldiers were killed. John had been killed.

BRADFORD MAN KILLED IN GERMANY APRIL 4

Bradford, June 8—Mr. and Mrs. Russell Buckingham of route 1, Bradford, have received news of the death of their son, Pfc. John E. Buckingham, previously listed as missing in action. He was killed April 4 in Germany.

An employe of Aeroproducts at Vandalia prior to entering the service, Buckingham is survived by his wife, Jean and a young son.

John was first buried in Margraten, Holland, until August of 1949. His mother had him transported back to Pleasant Hill. His body arrived in Bradford on Friday morning, August 5, 1949. Services were held at his mother's home on August 7th, and he was buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.



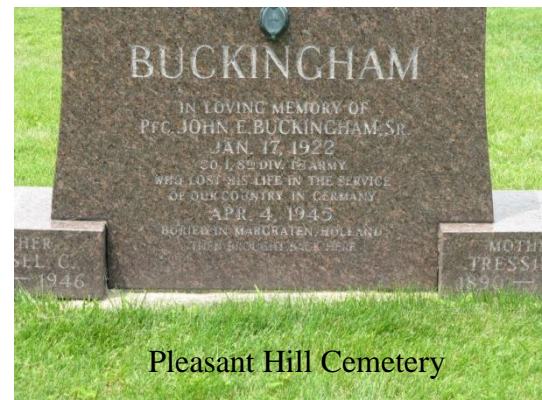
Piqua Daily Call
June 8, 1945

REPORT CIRCLE HILL MAN IS LISTED AS MISSING

Covington, April 24—A telegram from the War Department has been received by Mrs. John Buckingham, stating that her husband, Pfc. John Eldon Buckingham, is missing in action in Germany since April 4. Serving with the First Army in Germany as a member of an infantry division, John had been overseas since November. Prior to his induction into the U. S. Army last June, he was employed in Vandalia, and had also conducted an orchestra.

At the present time, his wife and three year old son, Johnny, reside with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Buckingham of near Circle Hill.

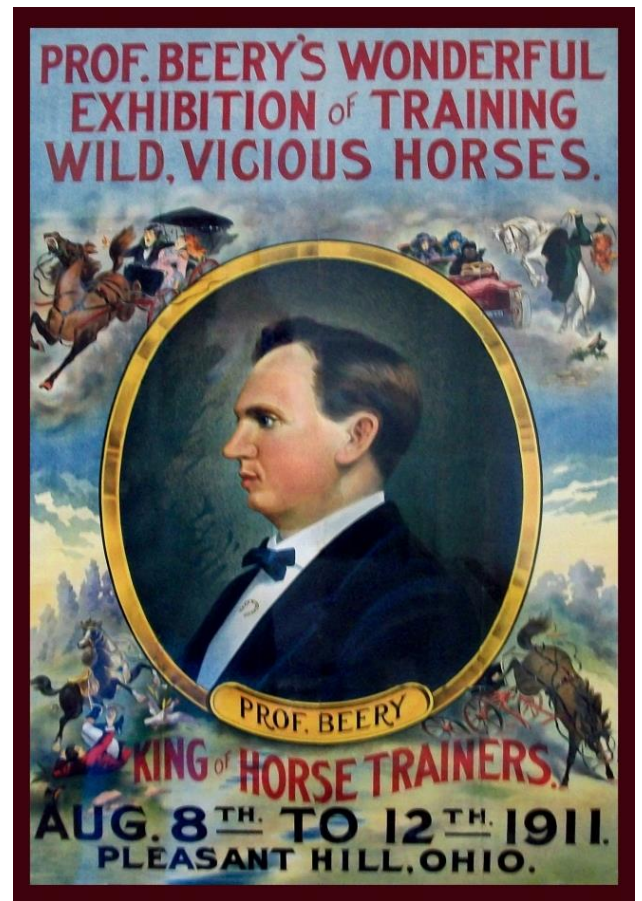
Piqua Daily Call
April 24, 1945



Pleasant Hill Cemetery

The Beery Exhibition of 1911

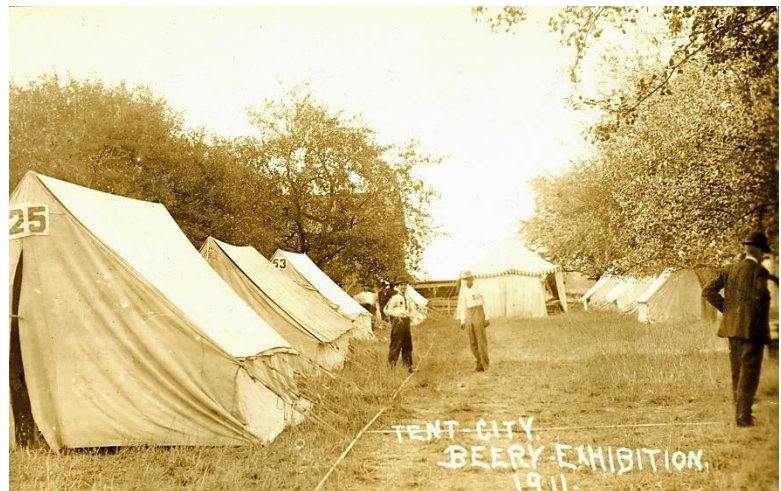
Arguably, the largest event ever held in the history of Pleasant Hill was the Beery Exhibition of 1911. This 5-day event was held behind the 1875 school building. Over one thousand students came from 40 different states and Canada to see Jesse Beery train horses.



Poster advertising the Exhibition

Many students arrived by trolley. The Traction Company dedicated special cars to bring students from the train depot in Dayton.

Special tents were set up to house the students. Others stayed with Pleasant Hill residents.



The ticket office was located beside the Pleasant Hill school. The school can be seen in the above picture.

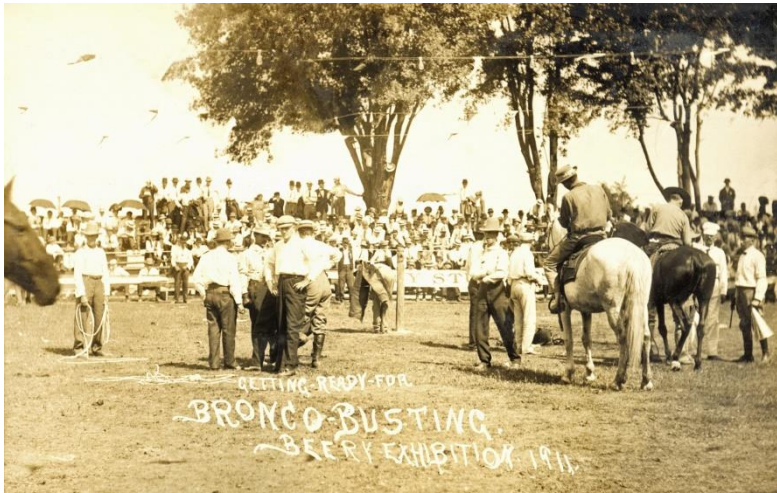
The arena was behind the school. This picture shows the stands. The school is to the right. The house in the background still stands on Long Street. The exhibition was filmed, however, it is not known if the films still exist.





SPRINGFIELD STALLION SUBMISSIVE TO AUTO MOBILE.

Local horses were brought in from area farmers who were having trouble with them. Jesse Beery would show the audience the problem and then train the horse. Others brought in trained horses and showed how they trained them using Jesse's methods.



GETTING READY FOR BRONCO BUSTING BEERY EXHIBITION 1911.

Beery Exhibitions
 OF
TAMING AND TRAINING
Wild and Vicious Horses
PLEASANT HILL, OHIO,
AUGUST 8-12, 1911.

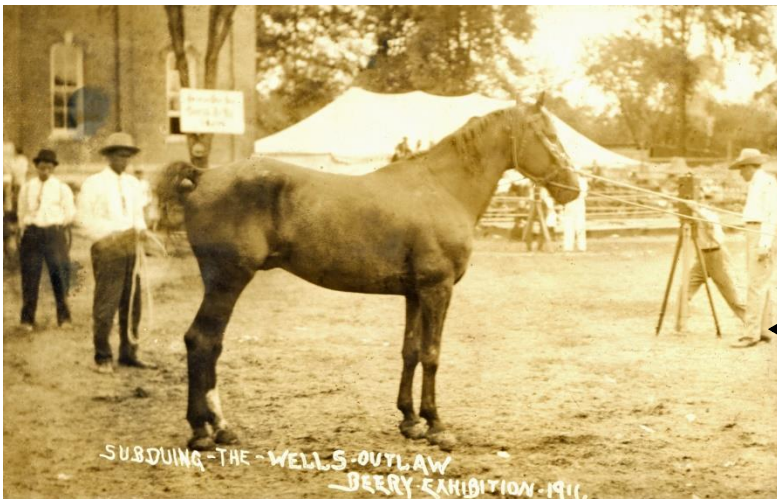
A carload of bronchos will furnish material for a **MATINEE OF BRONCHO BUSTING BY WESTERN COWBOYS.**

Thursday, 2 P. M., Aug. 10
BRONCHOS AND NATIVE OUTLAWS
WILL BE BROKEN AND DRIVEN
EACH EVENING, 8 P. M., BY
PROFESOR BEERY.

A SAVAGE STALLION
SHIPPED A THOUSAND MILES TO BE
TAMED—SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS
EACH EVENING.

Extra cars leave for Dayton and Piqua and intervening stops after the show is over.
 Special cars and reduced rates during the week.

ADMISSION 25c.



SUBDUING THE WELLS OUTLAW BEERY EXHIBITION 1911.

The Wells Outlaw was brought to Pleasant Hill when the Hinsdale died in the street. He was the meanest horse that could be found in the United States. Jesse worked with him and was able to tame him.



SELLING THE GREASED PIG BEERY EXHIBITION 1911.



SUBDUED HITCHED WITH LIGHT STRAP.

Other events were held during the exhibition. There were baseball games and a greased pig contest. At the end of the pig contest, the pig was auctioned off.

The Hinsdale

For a year before the Beery Exhibition in 1911, Jesse Beery searched the country for the meanest, most vicious horse alive. He put ads in papers across the United States trying to find it.

He found a horse in Iowa named the Wells. He was a very mean horse, but Jesse kept looking. He found the Hinsdale. Jesse went to Kansas to look him over. He purchased him believing he was the meanest horse in America.

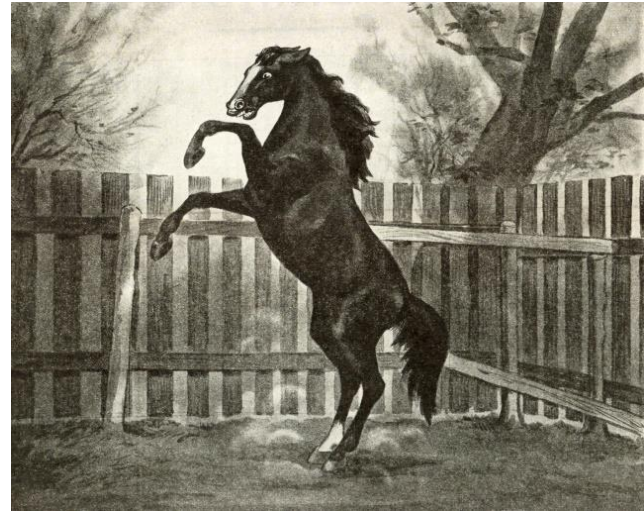
It was quite an issue trying to get the horse to Pleasant Hill. The Hinsdale was put into a train car with many restraints. In Kansas City the horse was to be transferred to another car. After much negotiation, the Hinsdale was allowed to stay in the same car due to his viciousness.

Finally, the train arrived in Pleasant Hill. A large number of local residents from miles around gathered to watch as they unloaded the Hinsdale.

They were able to get him off of the car and were headed to Monument Street. There was a stream of water and mud in the gutter. The Hinsdale did not want to cross it.

He started leaping. With one powerful leap, he jumped onto Monument Street. When he came down, blood gushed from his nostrils. He had burst a blood vessel in his lungs. In a moment, the Hinsdale was dead.

Jesse immediately sent for the Wells.



The Hinsdale



The Wells Outlaw STALLION
FRIDAY NIGHT
 AT
 Prof. Beery's Exhibitions
 PLEASANT HILL, OHIO

THIS MAN-KILLING STALLION, being stallion, was raised until he was 8 years old. His racing record was 21 to 1 & a lone record for a five-year-old. Granted in Kansas. Life he reared in terrible, for he is charged with killing three men. His owner, Mr. Ed. Wells, says that every keeper that ever had charge of him, sooner or later felt the crushing of his powerful jaws, or had bones broken by his tremendous hoofs. Since meeting the stallion from the Wells four years ago, this outlaw stallion has been confined in a strong box stall and an attempt made to curb his vicious nature.

THIS MAN-KILLING STALLION
 Will Be Subdued and Driven By
PROF. BEERY
FRIDAY NIGHT AUGUST 11
 Admission Friday Night, 50c
 Chairs, 25c Extra

The Hinsdale was once a racehorse. He had raced in many races. In one race, the jockey hit him a couple of times which aroused a terrible rage in him. He threw off the jockey and immediately lunged onto him. By the time help arrived, the boy was dead and unrecognizable.

The Wells arrived in Pleasant Hill without incident. He was trained by Jesse Beery at the 1911 Beery Exhibition.

