

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 2019

A Note from the President

Why is it that winters last so long but spring moves so quickly?

This spring I was privileged to introduce our speakers before each of our programs. We learned about bees from Dwight Wells. And Jerry Stichter told us what to do with our stuff. We have been fortunate to have such interesting speakers.

And while we're on the subject of speakers, Don Angle will be our next speaker. Don will be showing pictures from his travels to 49 of the 50 states immediately after our short annual meeting on June 27th. I'd like to encourage you to attend the brief meeting.

I'd also invite you to consider helping by serving on the board. The History Center Board only meets a few times a year and it's a fun time. Talk to any current board member if you are interested in serving. Take pride in Pleasant Hill, Newton Township, and our interesting History.

We need you. See you on June 27th

Jerry Warner, President

Membership News

We have 108 partners and 12 business friends. New members include: Vivian Howell and Chuck Hiser. 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 to the museum have been received in memory and in honor of the following individuals: Cindy Alexander, Pam Coate and James Rudy. We are grateful for their contributions to the history of Pleasant Hill.

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.

Traveler/Photographer to Speak

Don Angle, Newton Graduate, will be speaking at our Annual Meeting. He will be showing his photography from the states he has visited. He is the recent author of *Light in the Shadows*.

History Center Annual Meeting

The History Center's annual meeting will be held on June 27 at 6:30 pm. This meeting is a requirement to keep our non-profit status. A slate will be voted on for our Executive Board.

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

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

Edythe Winifred Hall

Edythe Hall was born in Pleasant Hill to Joseph and Martha Whitmer Hall on June 11, 1888. She had 3 brothers: Edwin, John, and Fred. Her sisters included Stella Wilcox, Nellie Bender, Eva Hall, and Sarah Swartz. Eva died in 1916 of Tuberculosis.

Edythe lived at the family homestead at 309 North Main Street in Pleasant Hill. Her parents were some of the pioneer residents of the area. In December of 1917 she became an Army Nurse. She was stationed in New York, and later was sent overseas. She also worked with the Red Cross. She was relieved of Active Duty on August 13, 1919. She was then in the Reserves.

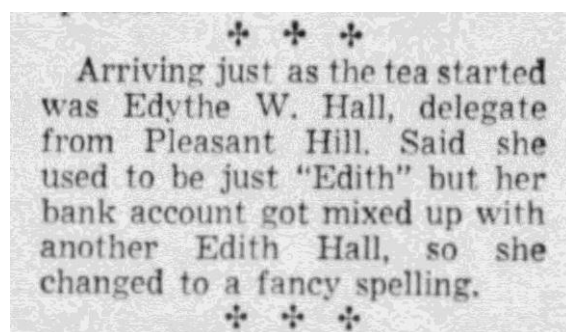


She related two interesting events she had while serving in France. One day while making rounds in the hospital tent with her commanding officer she noticed a patient smiling and waiting for her greeting. It was Logan Rector from Pleasant Hill.

Albert Kramer related that he had been overseas during World War I and his unit had been sent to France. He had been there a short time when he met Edythe Hall who was serving there as a nurse. It was a happy experience for both of them, and he related that it was many months before they returned to the peaceful little village of Pleasant Hill.



Edythe, third from the right, at the Ohio State Fair with the Red Cross



The Journal Herald
May 15, 1951

For a number of years, Edythe resided in Columbus where she worked for the State of Ohio and also the City Board of Health. She was anticipating going on the hospital ship *Hope* as a nurse during WWII, but the advanced age of her mother caused her to make the decision to return to Pleasant Hill. She then worked as a nurse at Piqua Memorial Hospital.

Edythe has been a life-long member of the Rosezelle Rebekah Lodge. She attended the United Church of Christ and held many offices there. Edythe had a long and interesting life. She died on April 4, 1984, at the age of 93. She is buried beside her sister, Eva, in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.



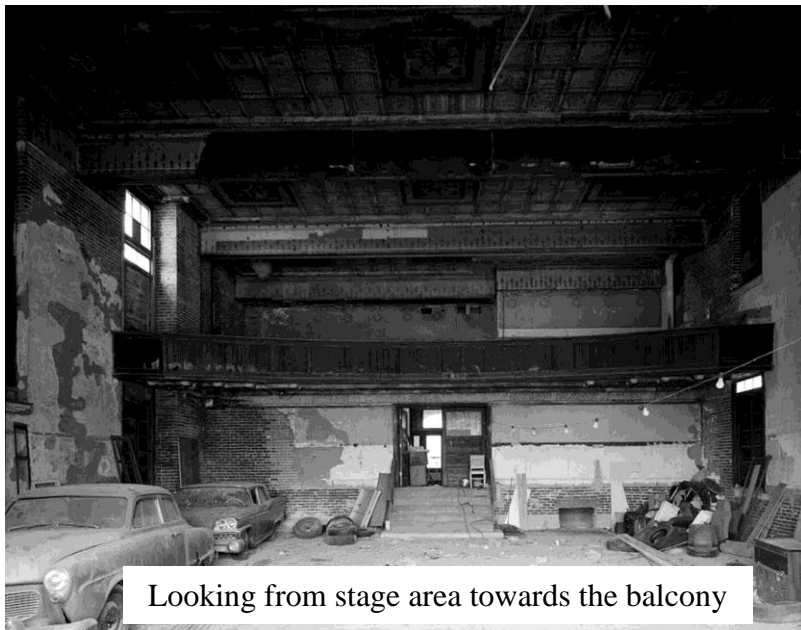
Edythe Hall

Newton Township Building

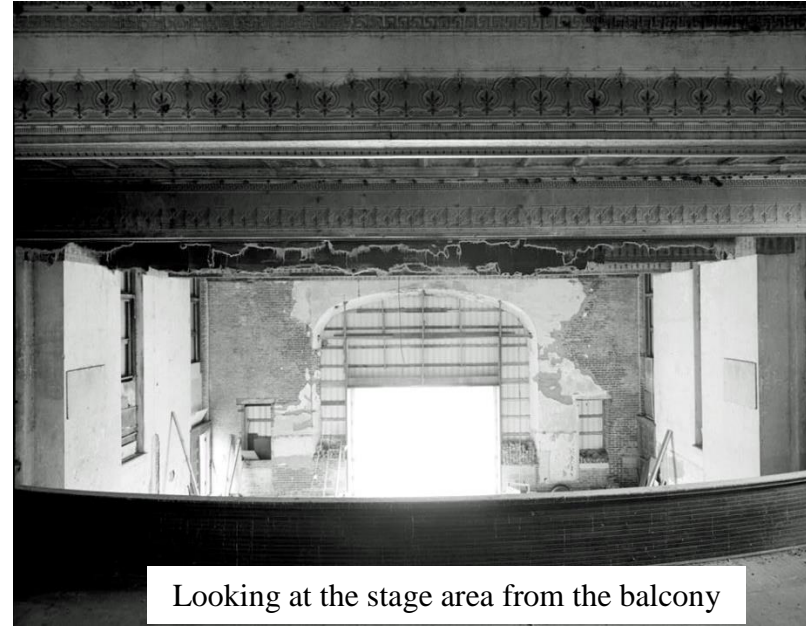
On the 21st of December in 1909, a contract was signed between Newton Township and the IOOF with the Daniel Moul Lumber Company to build the Newton Township Building. The total cost of the project was to be \$19,138.00. The village would pay \$15,309.25, and the IOOF would pay the balance. The building was located at 105 South Main.



The building was completed in 1910 and was used for many events, such as: movies, graduations, and the Farmer's Institute. The top floor belonged to the IOOF with the Township owning the lower floors. The top floor was sold to the Rosezelle Rebekah Lodge in 1955. The entire building was sold in 1957 to George Warner. He owned it for 10 years, selling it to Charles Morris. Other owners purchased the building until it was sold to the Village of Pleasant Hill in 1985.



Looking from stage area towards the balcony



Looking at the stage area from the balcony



Last picture before demolition

At some point, the stage portion of the building was razed and the seats were removed to create a storage area for cars and other items. In December of 1985, the Village decided to tear down the building. A study was conducted by Historic American Buildings Survey, complete with the above pictures. In 1991, Tommy Lewis Park was constructed on the site.

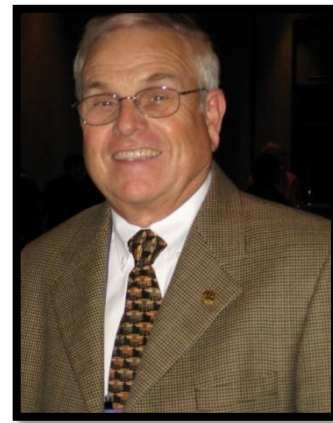


Demolition in 1985

Reviewing Your Stuff

On April 4, 2019, Jerry Stichter, local auctioneer spoke at the History Center. His program was titled, *Reviewing Your Stuff*. A large crowd of over 65 people listened to the presentation.

Jerry shared his ideas about how to determine if you should throw something away or not. He also shared some stories of his experiences while auctioneering.



Some of the items Jerry showed us were: a slave bracelet, ice shaver, book carrier, ocarina, and a pair of slingshots.

Jerry's conclusion was that individuals should keep what makes them happy. If you like the object and you have feelings for it, keep it. If you can live without it, get rid of it.



The Importance of Bees

The *Importance of Bees* program was given on May 7. Our presenter was Dwight Wells, President of the West Central Ohio Beekeepers Association. He is a life Member and Board Director of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association.

Dwight is working on several bee projects with Purdue University, Penn State University, Central State University, North Carolina University, and the USDA Bee Lab in Baton Rouge, LA.

Dwight Wells is a founding member and Director of the Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Corporative. The Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Corporative is dedicated to breeding a pest-resistant honey bee population.

Dwight started keeping bees at age 14 as a Penn State 4-H Project.



Dwight left us a number of pamphlets on being a friend to Pollinators. Stop in and pick one up at the museum.

Dwight gave us insight into the importance of bees and how we can help bees live and thrive here in Ohio. He also explained how the bees have been threatened by mites and viruses.

The Dayton-Covington Turnpike Mile Stones

The Dayton-Covington Turnpike was constructed in 1839 with toll houses established to pay for the new road. One was located at Joyland, and another was north of Pleasant Hill near Marlin Road.



Turnpike Stone
Inscribed with D - 22 C - 4

Before it was designated as State Route 48 in 1921, it was the 1839 Dayton & Covington Turnpike. Before that, it was the Stillwater Road, established by Montgomery County in 1805. Before that, it was a regional Native American trail probably referred to as the Stillwater Trail.

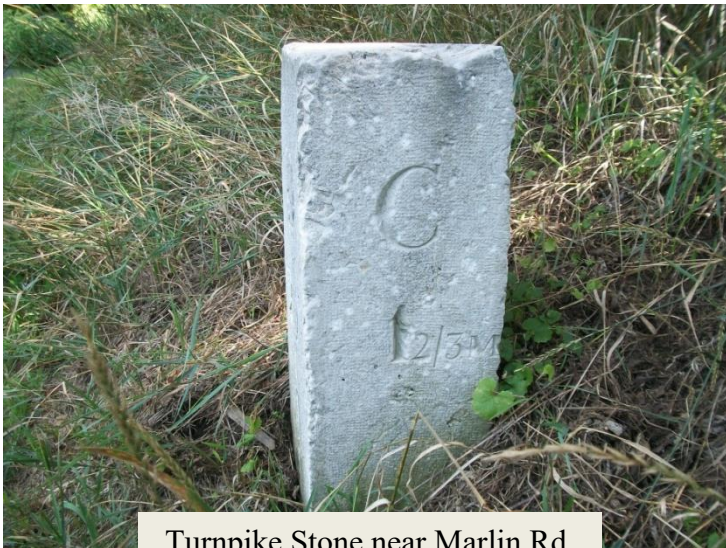
A historical document for the Dayton & Covington Turnpike is dated December 28, 1842. It indicates that the turnpike is finished. It also mentions three requisite accessories for a turnpike: "...toll houses, [toll] gates, and mile stones..."

Mile stones were placed along the turnpike to tell travelers where they were in relation to Dayton and Covington. Most have been removed over the years. In Newton Township, only one is known to still exist in its original position. There are others that exist, but have been moved.

One mile stone is located near the curb just south of the house at 9 South Main Street. Originally, the stone was near the Newton Township Building. When they removed the stone and were ready to dispose of it, Grover Eisle asked the workers if he could have it. They gave him the stone and he drug it to his house. He then put the stone in its current location. Thank you, Grover.



The stone in Newton Township in its original position is located just south of Marlin Road. There is a D 25M on the Northwest side, and a C with 1 2/3 M on the Southwest side. This means it is 25 miles to Dayton and 1 2/3 mile to Covington



Turnpike Stone near Marlin Rd.
Inscribed with D - 25 C - 1 2/3

The stone that was located on the corner of Horseshoe Bend Road was removed a few years ago. A local resident saw them taking it and asked if he could have it. The stone was saved and now adorns a flower bed near West Milton.

The Uriah Hess family was in charge of the toll gate at Joyland. Armina Hess once lowered the gate on a buggy when the people tried to get by without paying the toll. She was known to have a gun and knew how to use it very well.



This Turnpike Stone is in West Milton
It is inscribed with D - 16 C - 10