

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 1
September 2020



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

Fall 2020

A Note from the President

We had our first ever virtual annual meeting on July 26. Amy King and Chuck Martin were approved as representatives of the township and Judy Barga for the village of Pleasant Hill. We are happy to welcome them to the Executive Board.

It has been decided that we will remain closed until at least March 1, 2021. We felt that the health of our patrons was more important than opening at this time. Even though we are closed, the History Center continues to preserve the history of Newton Township and Pleasant Hill.

We ask that you stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you when we are able to reopen the museum.

Ruthann Beck, President

Membership News

We have 109 partners and 10 business friends. Welcome Sandra Westfall and Judy Barga as new partners. If your membership has expired, you should have received a letter or email regarding your renewal.

If you have questions about your membership, call Dawn Spitler at (937) 417-4985. Thank you for your support!

Dawn Spitler, Membership Chairman

Pleasant Hill History Center Memorial

Donations to the museum have been received in memory of Marion Adams. Marion's legacy will live on in Newton Township.

Beery Runabout

The Pleasant Hill History Center has been given an amazing gift of a Beery Runabout. This buggy is part of Pleasant Hill's rich history. Our responsibility is to help preserve it. Although at this writing, we don't know the exact cost, we are asking our partners to help us cover the expense of its restoration. Our goal is \$3000. Any donation, large or small, is appreciated. Checks can be made out to the Pleasant Hill History Center and sent to P.O. Box 82, Pleasant Hill, OH 45359.

Executive Board Officers

The officers for the 2020-2021 year are as follows: Ruthann Beck, President; Chuck Martin, Vice-President; Amy King, Secretary; Dawn Spitler, Treasurer. Charlene Haines and Judy Barga are members-at-large.

Museum Closing

The Pleasant Hill History Center Museum will be closed until March 1, 2021. The decision was made due to the Governors restrictions. We are hoping normalcy will return and we will once again be able to share the museum with you.

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

The Beery Runabout

The Beery Runabout is a buggy designed by Jesse Beery. The main advantage of this buggy is that it could not be upset. The buggy could not turn short enough to cause it to overturn, because the gears were attached to the wheels in a special way.

The Beery Runabout was manufactured by the Beery Company in Pleasant Hill.



The Beery Runabout

Jesse demonstrated this buggy at his many exhibitions. The picture on the right shows him at the 1911 Beery Exhibition in Pleasant Hill. Below, Jesse is posing for a picture sitting in the Runabout.



In 2020, an email was received at the History Center. The sender was asking about Jesse and his buggy. After a few email exchanges, it was determined that he possessed an original Beery Runabout. Only one other is known to exist.

The owner, Jeff Greenler, explained how he came to own such a prized possession.

He believes that his great-grandfather, Carl Greenler, purchased the buggy new. When he died, and the buggy was no longer used, Jeff's grandfather attached it to the rafters in the barn. There it stayed for many years.

Jeff's father was then given the buggy and moved it to his barn rafters. When he died, the farm was sold and Jeff received the buggy.

Jeff decided to sell the buggy. A concerned lady told him that he should not sell the buggy before trying to find out about it. When he searched the Internet, he found us. Jeff decided to donate it to the History Center.

On July 31, Jeff, and his brother, James, brought the buggy to the History Center from Bryan, Ohio.

Our goal now is to get it refurbished. We will keep you posted on its progress.



The Beery Runabout

James Greenler, Joy Beery, Jeff Greenler



George, Gaylord and Elizabeth Bashore

The Mystery of Elizabeth Bashore

Elizabeth Bashore was born on November 18, 1866, to John and Henrietta Kauffman. She married George Bashore on August 23, 1894. Together they had a son, Gaylord, on January 5, 1896.

The couple and son were happy until in 1898, tragedy struck. On August 25 of that year, George died of consumption of the lungs. He was only 28 years old.

Elizabeth and Gaylord moved in with George's parents, William and Hetty Bashore. They lived on a 122 acre farm south of Pleasant Hill. William Bashore was a very prominent farmer in Miami County.

The events of September 22, 1904, were reported as follows:

Lizzie spent the morning in Covington, returning home around 3:30 P.M. On returning to the house, she changed clothes and talked with other members of the family. Her son, Gaylord, was at the Miami County Fair with his grandfather, William Bashore.

Lizzie left the house and was gone. Nothing was thought of this as it was supposed she went to the neighbor's house.

When it started getting dark, the family became worried. They searched around the farm and asked the neighbors. Around 7:00 P. M., Lizzie's room was searched and a note was found on the dresser.

*"I may be a burden. I would rather die. Forgive me.
Over in Bowman's pond you will find me."*

Lizzie



William Bashore Family

ABANDONED FISH POND.

Held Dead Body of Mrs.
Lizzie Bashore.

DROWNED HERSELF IN TEN
INCHES OF WATER THURS-
DAY AFTERNOON.

Unfortunate Woman Had Been Suffer-
ing From a Nervous Trouble and
Thought Herself a Burden—Funer-
al Sunday Afternoon.

People living in the vicinity of Pleasant Hill were shocked Thursday evening, to learn of the suicide of Mrs. Lizzie Bashore by drowning. She was the widow of George Bashore, son of W. H. Bashore, a prominent and wealthy farmer, with whom she had made her home since the death of her husband two years ago.

Mrs. Bashore had spent the afternoon in Covington calling on friends returning home about 3:30 o'clock. The Bashore home is about three-quarters of a mile southeast of Pleasant Hill.

Piqua Daily Call
September 23, 1904

MURDER

Supposition is That Mrs. Elizabeth Bashore Was Killed and Body Thrown in the Pond.

Dayton Daily News
October 15, 1904

As soon as the family read the note, they went to the pond, which was about a quarter of a mile from the Bashore house. There they found Lizzie.

She was lying in about ten inches of water. She had been in the water long enough that there was no doubt that she was dead.

Lizzie had wounds and bruises on her body. She had a deep gash over her left eye that was cut to the bone. There were bruises also on the left side of her head where she had been struck by a blunt instrument.

Coroner L. E. Reck was called. He came to Pleasant Hill and investigated. He found there was no reason to believe that Lizzie's death was any other than her own act and would not hold a formal investigation.

Lizzie's funeral took place at the German Baptist (Church of the Brethren) meetinghouse in Pleasant Hill. It was estimated that between 900 and 1000 people attended the services. She was buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery beside her husband.

Rumors that Lizzie was murdered lingered. Finally, it was determined by the County Prosecutor that it was a suicide.

RUMORS WILL NOT CEASE

Strongly Assert that Mrs. Bashore is Not a Suicide—Declare Note is Not in Her Handwriting.

Ever since the suicide of Mrs. Lizzie Bashore, near Pleasant Hill, persistent rumors of foul play have been in circulation. The fact that the unfortunate woman's head bore mute evidences of having been struck by some blunt instrument, that her face was scratched, and that there was another injury under one arm form the basis of the belief that the woman is not a suicide but that she was foully deatt with.

A note was found in her room that clearly indicates her purpose of drowning herself but it is now contented that the handwriting was not that of the dead woman.

It is probable that the body may be exhumed and a more careful and searching examination made.

Piqua Daily Call
October 13, 1904



1875 Newton Township Map

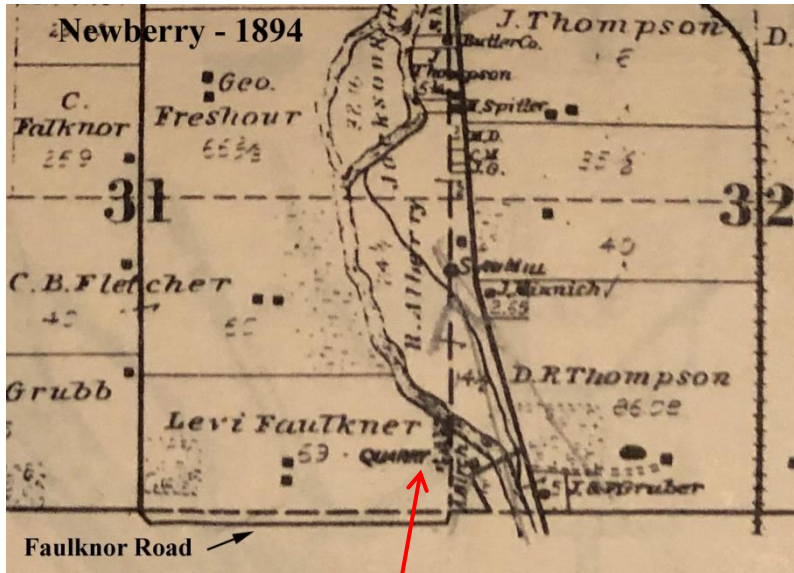
Upon speaking to descendants of Lizzie, another bit of information was revealed. At the time of Lizzie's death, she was pregnant. The father of the baby is unknown. It may never be known if it was murder or suicide, but Pleasant Hill lost a lovely lady that day.

PROSECUTOR INVESTIGATES SUICIDE OF MRS. BASHORE.

County Prosecutor Attorney Campbell has investigated the charges and rumors that have been in circulation since the suicide of Mrs. Elizabeth Bashore at Pleasant Hill a few weeks ago. He announces that he finds absolutely no reason to believe that it was other than suicide.

Piqua Daily Call
October 21, 1904

Falknor Road Stone Fence



Levi Faulkner's Stone Quarry

All along the lines designated for the fence, Balt dug a trench six to eight inches deep in which he laid the stones flat and close together. He continued to lay the stones on top of each other. The top row was laid slantwise to make the fence a uniform four feet in height.

Every day Levi would bring loads of stones from the quarry to the fence project so Balt would have plenty of stones.

It took Balt about 3 years to build the two miles of fence. He was paid approximately \$320.00.

The fence is now over 150 years old. Some of the stones are missing and some have fallen over, but the fence is still there. The work of Levi Faulkner and Balt Steinhelber has created a lasting landmark in Newton Township.

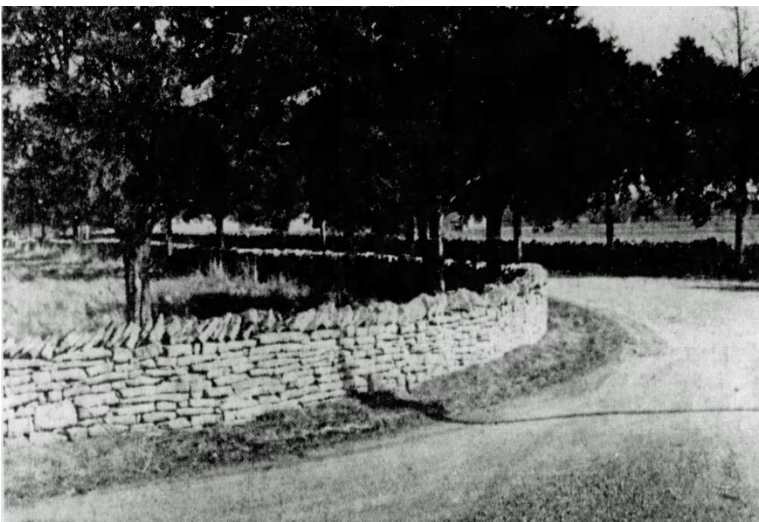
If you drive down Falknor Road, west of the Stillwater River, you will observe a stone fence. The fence along this road is in Newton Township.

According to an article published in the *Dayton Daily News* on March 22, 1953, Levi Faulkner had a limestone quarry near the Stillwater River. The trash stones, unfit for sale, were piling up. He conceived the idea of using them to build a fence around his fields.

Levi called on his friend, Balt Steinhelber, who was a stone mason of sorts, and together they agreed that Balt would build the fence for fifty cents a rod. (A rod is 16.5 feet.)



1962 Newton Yearbook



Dayton Daily News
March 22, 1953



Falknor Road
June 2020