

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 1
September 2021



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

Fall 2021

A Note from the President

We had our annual meeting on July 22. Ruthann Beck was approved as a representative of the township and Dawn Spitler and Charlene Haines for the village of Pleasant Hill. We are happy to have them on the Executive Board.

Our officers for this year are: Ruthann Beck - President; Chuck Martin - Vice President; Charlene Haines - Secretary; Dawn Spitler - Treasurer; Amy King and Judy Barga – members-at-large.

It has been decided that we will not have any programs at the museum until at least March 1, 2022. We felt that the health of our patrons was more important at this time.

We are still open on Mondays and look forward to seeing you.

Ruthann Beck, President

Membership News

We welcome Chase Studebaker, Scott and Shelly Beam as new partners.

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

Dawn Spitler, Membership Chairman

Pleasant Hill History Center Memorial

Donations to the museum have been received in memory of Ouida Peacock, Connie Hall, and Leo and Arlene Rasor. We have received donations from Martha Teaters, Jim Beeman, Joy Beery, and Marcus Miller. We thank them for their generosity. We are also thankful to all those who have added to our donation jar at the museum.

Beery Book

The Pleasant Hill History Center has been given 15 copies of the book, *Hoofbeats to Harness: Adventures of Jesse Beery, Horse Trainer*. This book was written by Jesse Beery's granddaughter, Marjorie Latham Hoffer, in 1987. The books can be purchased at the museum for \$10.00 until our supply runs out.

Additional Openings

The Pleasant Hill History Center museum will be open two Sundays this fall, September 12 and October 10 from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm.

Museum Winter Closing

The Pleasant Hill History Center Museum will be closing for the winter October 26, 2021. The museum will re-open the first week of March.

Village Council to Meet at History Center

The Pleasant Hill Village Council will be holding its September meeting at the History Center on September 13th at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

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

Williams' Prairie



Williams' Prairie circa 1910

Looking northeast toward Pleasant Hill

The following excerpts came from *The History of Miami County* - Beers 1880

The only exception to the universal forest which occupied the township, and, indeed, the whole county, upon the arrival of the oldest settlers, was what is now known as "Williams' Prairie"; it was a spot of land not encumbered by a single tree, situated east of the Stillwater River, mostly on Section 19. The original tract embraced between sixty and eighty acres now, however, it cannot be distinguished from the adjoining tracts, which have been cleared and form part of the original prairie. How or when this section was cleared, or who was instrumental in its clearing for it, doubtless, was at one time as densely wooded as the rest, can only be theorized upon.



Recreation of the above picture taken in 2016

Sometime between the years 1797 and 1800, Michael Williams, who had removed with his family from North Carolina to Ohio, learned, from Gen. Harrison, with whom he met in Cincinnati, and who had, sometime previously, made an expedition through this section of the country, of the existence of the prairie of which mention has already been made. He immediately resolved to remove thither, and, like Jacob of old, he collected together his sons, with their wives and all their earthly goods, and started immediately for the land which was to be the heritage of his children for many generations, and which he reached in safety, and located on Section 19, which embraced the prairie, the only oasis in the wilderness of trees that surrounded him. He was the head of a family of four sons, the youngest of whom, John, was the first minister produced by the township. The remaining five children were daughters



Home built in 1842

Currently owned by the Blaho Family

Church of the Brethren Celebrates 50 Year Old Building

This year the Church of the Brethren building turned 50 years old. The building is located between Locust Street and Brethren Drive, north of State Route 718. The previous building was located on the corner of Main and North Streets. A celebration of 50 years was held August 28 - 29, 2021.



Pleasant Hill Brethren To Construct New Church

PLEASANT HILL — The Church of the Brethren will break ground for a new building next Sunday, May 31, at 10:30 a.m. The celebration will be held on the lot site at the corner of Locust and Monument Streets at the east edge of the village. To turn the first bit of earth the congregation will join together to pull a plow by means of a long rope. Pastor Richard C. Witmer will be in charge of the worship and several members of the congregation will be participating.

When completed, the new edifice will provide the congregation with a new church school plant and a sanctuary seating 270 persons. The one-floor building is estimated to cost \$200,000 and should be ready for occupancy by

summer 1971. It was designed and is to be constructed by Wilbur E. Beetley of West Milton, on a five and one-half acre section of a 13-acre plot which the church owns. The present church is on N. Main Street.

Piqua Daily Call
May 25, 1970



Church of the Brethren
115 North Main Street

To Dedicate New Church Aug. 29 At Pleasant Hill

PLEASANT HILL—August 29th is the date set for the dedication celebration of the new church building built by the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren. Dr. Paul M. Robinson, president of Bethany Theology Seminary, Oak Brook, Ill., will be the speaker at both 10:30 and 2:30 worship service. A basket dinner will be served at noon.

The new sanctuary and Christian education plant is located on a 5½ acre tract of land at the east edge of the community (300 East Monument) and provides a sanctuary seating 270 persons, 13 church school classrooms, church school superintendent's office and library and secretary's office. The building has been constructed at a cost of approximately \$225,000.

Major memorial gifts have added greatly to the function and beauty of the building. A large fiberglass spire was given by Mr. and Mrs. Dale Spitzer in memory of their son, Van Dale, who died in an auto accident last October.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Jackson Sr., have given a Yamaha organ in their memory. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were both found dead in their home a few days after they celebrated

their 60th wedding anniversary in April, 1970.

Furnishings for the conference room was provided by a memorial fund started upon the death last December of Clair Berkebile, chairman of the Building Committee. Mrs. Berkebile and her children have added to the memorial gift.

A lawn sign was given in memory of Raymond Bailey, victim of a tractor accident in 1968 from a memorial fund that was added to by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bailey.

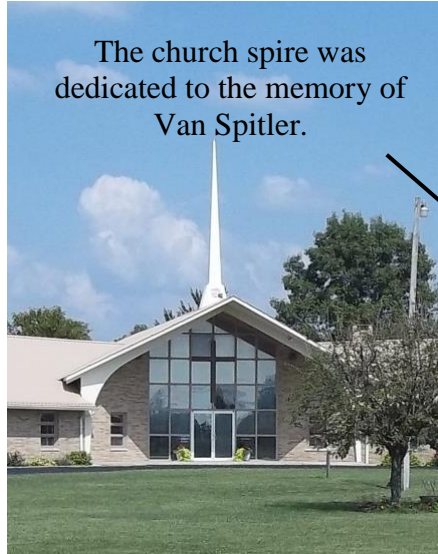
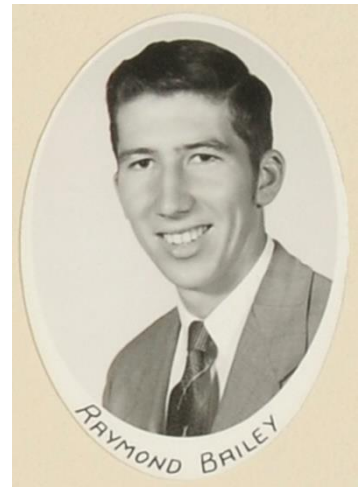
A cross hanging on the altar is the gift of Mrs. Mary O'Diam in memory of her late husband, Kenneth. Mr. O'Diam was serving on the Building Committee at the time of his death.

Arrangements for the day are being planned by a special Dedication Committee appointed by the congregational business meeting including David O'Diam, Mrs. Beecher Beery, Mrs. Clyde Jackson, Mrs. Dale Kyser and Marvin Miller, The Pastor at the Pleasant Hill Church is Richard C. Witmer.

Piqua Daily Call
August 23, 1971



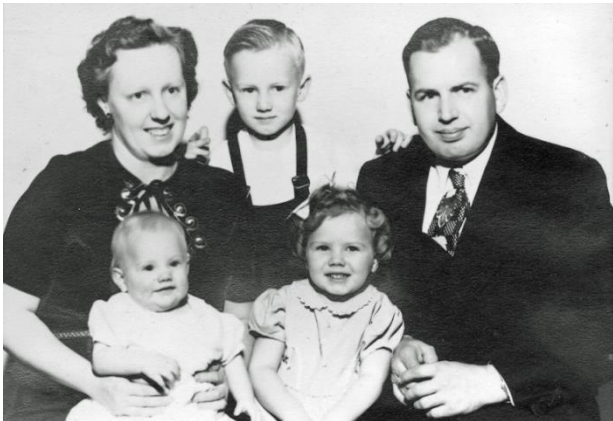
The sign in front of the church was dedicated to the memory of Raymond Bailey.



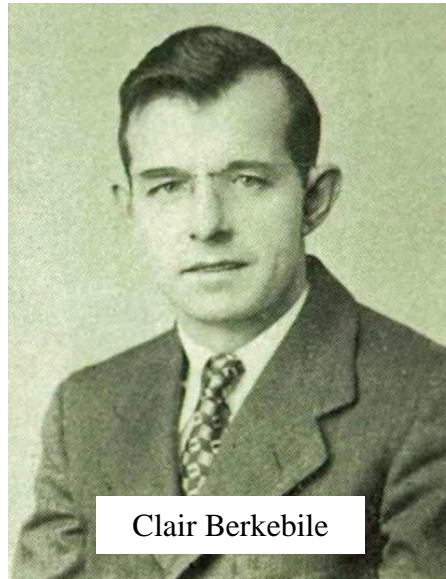
The church spire was dedicated to the memory of Van Spittler.



The cross on the Altar was dedicated to the memory of Kenneth O'Diam.



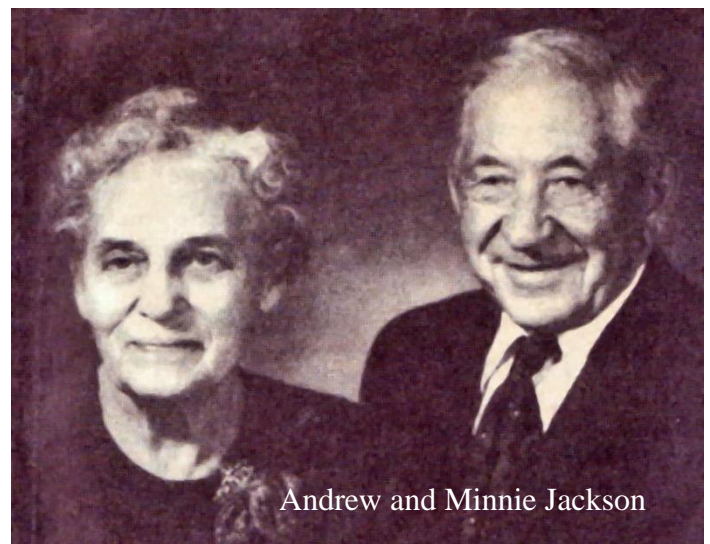
Kenneth O'Diam family



A fund to furnish the conference room was started in memory of Clair Berkebile.



The Yamaha organ was purchased in honor of Andrew and Minnie Jackson.



Newton Soccer

Leaning: Bill Cantrell, Matt Fast, Jerry North, Bob Monnin, Jon Spittler, Tim Stivers, Curt Marshall. **Sitting: First Row:** Coach Hunt, Tod Bailey, Chris Adams, Tom Lochner. **Second Row:** Matt Gunter, Kenny Fisher, Tom Deeter, Phill Noll, Jeff Coate, Scott Cecil, Andy Deeter, Bruce Martin.



Newton Soccer officially began in the fall of 1977. Though they didn't win too many games, they had the determination, stamina, and the ability of champions.

These men started a legacy of Newton soccer that continues today.

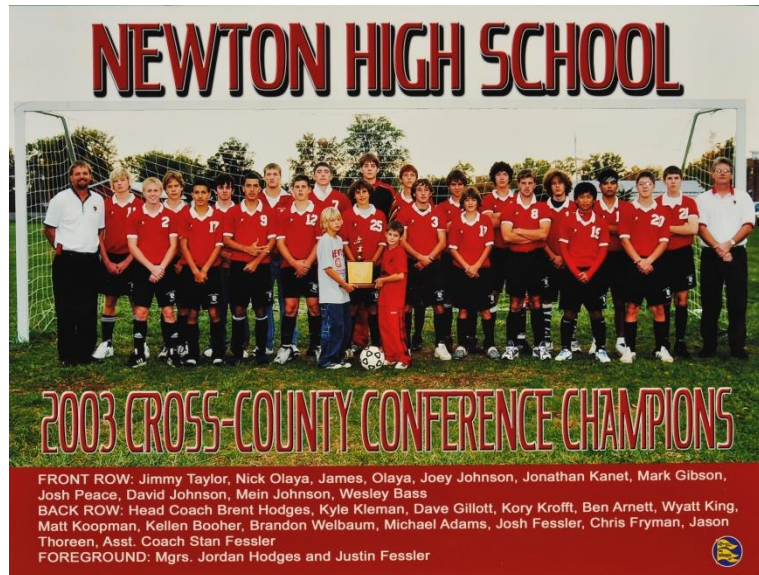


Newton Girls' Soccer began in the fall of 2001. The team was big in heart and desire. They set an example for excellence on and off the field that created the standard for future teams to try to match. They were a true team who displayed qualities of pride in themselves, their team, and their community.

Back row from left: Coach Brad Baker, April McNeal, Julie Goad, Meredith Ingle, Ahley Zimmerman, Tiffany Jamison, Corrina McIntosh, and Erin Zollers.

Middle row from left: Gabby Jenkins, Alisha Maggart, Rachel Hussong, Elizabeth Scheib, and Katy Warner.

Front row from left: Jessica Marschal, Melissa Rice, and Heather Jamison.



FRONT ROW: Jimmy Taylor, Nick Olaya, James Olaya, Joey Johnson, Jonathan Kanet, Mark Gibson, Josh Peace, David Johnson, Mein Johnson, Wesley Bass
BACK ROW: Head Coach Brent Hodges, Kyle Kleman, Dave Gillott, Kory Krofft, Ben Arnett, Wyatt King, Matt Koopman, Kellen Booher, Brandon Welbaum, Michael Adams, Josh Fessler, Chris Fryman, Jason Thoreen, Asst. Coach Stan Fessler
FOREGROUND: Mgrs. Jordan Hodges and Justin Fessler

Newton Soccer teams have been very successful over the years. Newton has had many Cross-County Conference Championships to their credit. The above picture shows the Newton soccer team in 2003.

The soccer fields at Newton have greatly improved since those early days of the sport. Today, Newton boasts of multiple soccer fields for practice and play. Newton's soccer complex is an amazing tribute to the pride Newton has in its athletics!



2021