

# Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 4  
June 2022



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 2022

## A Note from the President

Why do we celebrate Memorial Day in May?

Originally called Decoration Day, from the early tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths, and flags, Memorial Day was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers. Today, it is celebrated on the last Monday of May and honors all military branches of service.

Pleasant Hill and Newton Township has had a rich history of citizens serving in the military. Our streets are lined with many of those hometown heroes. Many veterans are buried throughout Newton Township. We, at the History Center, are grateful to all those who have served in the military. We strive to preserve their memories and stories.

The History Center is taking part in a few activities this summer. We are planning to have a booth at the Newton Marketplace. We will also have our float in the village Fourth of July parade. Don't forget to visit us at the museum on Mondays from 3:00 until 7:00.

Ruthann Beck, President

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## Membership News

We have 111 partners and 10 business friends. We welcome new member, Dougie Meyer. Questions about your membership, call Dawn Spitler at 937- 417-4985. Thank you for your support.

Dawn Spitler, Membership Chairman

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## Donations

The History Center has received donations from John Schultz, Joy Beery, Marcus Miller, Dougie Meyer, and Bill Smith with Benevity.

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## Pleasant Hill History Center Memorials

Donations to the museum have been received in memory and in honor of the following individuals: Virginia Kinney, Connie Patton, Jim Schleinitz, and Chris Noll. We are grateful for their contributions to the history of Pleasant Hill.

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## History Center Annual Meeting

The History Center's annual meeting will be held on July 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the museum. This meeting is a requirement to keep our non-profit status. A slate will be voted on for our Executive Board.

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

**Be sure to check our website at [Pleasanthillhistorycenter.com](http://Pleasanthillhistorycenter.com)  
and visit us on Facebook**

## Virginia Kinney

Virginia was born October 21, 1934, in Barnesville, Ohio, to her parents Jeffrey and Virginia (Fenton) Groves. She died May 10, 2022.

Virginia graduated from Belmont High School Class of 1952 and graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in 1956, majoring in home economics.

On March 11, 1956, she married Royce Bentley Kinney at the Belmont Methodist Church and, together, they shared a life for over 64 years.

Virginia was active with many organizations including: the Pleasant Hill History Center, the American Hereford Women, Miami County Association of Family Consumer Science, Miami County Republican Woman, Johnny Appleseed Society, Bradford Ohio Railroad Museum, Human Ecology Alumni Association, Astrobluds Garden Club, Ohio State University Alumni Association, Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, and the Ohio Cowbelles.

She was also a member of the Belmont United Methodist Church and the Pleasant Hill Brethren in Christ Church.



Virginia Kinney



Virginia Kinney with Roy Plunkett and wife

Virginia has been accepted into such renowned honor societies as Alpha Delta Pi and Phi Upsilon Omicron. Likewise, she has been celebrated in numerous publications, including: *Who's Who in Finance and Business*, *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in American Education*, and *Who's Who of American Women*. As a result of these many accomplishments, Virginia was presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

Virginia spent many hours working on the history of Newton Township and Pleasant Hill. The History Center will deeply miss the support Virginia has given us over the years.

With nearly 55 years of professional experience, Virginia excelled as a librarian with the Miami County Public Library from 1978 to 2011 and the Newton Local School from 1984 to 2002. In addition to her primary roles, she worked as an instructor of GED preparation for Troy Continuing Education from 1988 to 2009, an instructor of English as a Second Language from 2004 to 2009, and an instructor in the Newton Local School Chapter 1 Program from 1978 to 1988.

Mrs. Kinney began her career as an instructor with the Ohio State University County Extension Agent from 1959 to 1960 and a teacher with the Lamar Elementary School from 1957 to 1958. She served as a teacher with Barnesville Elementary School from 1961 to 1962 and with Union Local Head Start in 1965.



Virginia Kinney receiving a citation from Ohio Congress

## The Joshua Deeter Sword

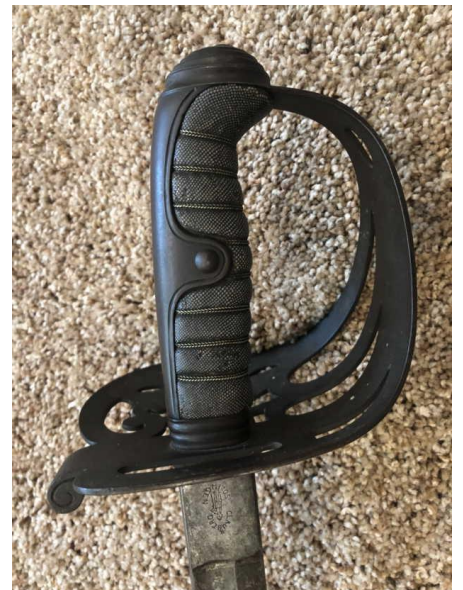


Joshua Deeter was the son of David and Elizabeth Souder Deeter. They lived in Newton Township.

Joshua enlisted in the army on August 18, 1862. He was in Company G, Ohio 110<sup>th</sup> and rose in the ranks to First Lieutenant. He died on the battlefield at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Winchester in Opequon, Virginia on September 23, 1864. He was 26 years old. He was buried in Sugar Grove Cemetery three days later.

The sword that Lieutenant Deeter used in battle was given to his parents David and Elizabeth Deeter. Upon their death the sword was given to their grandson Henry Clinton Whitmer. Henry's mother was Mary Deeter, sister of Joshua, who was married to Abraham Whitmer.

Henry Whitmer passed the sword down to his son Robert Whitmer. Robert handed the sword to his nephew Joseph Clinton Whitmer. Joseph was the son of Frank Whitmer. Joseph died in 1991, and the sword was passed down again. This family heirloom continues to be in the possession of the Whitmer family.



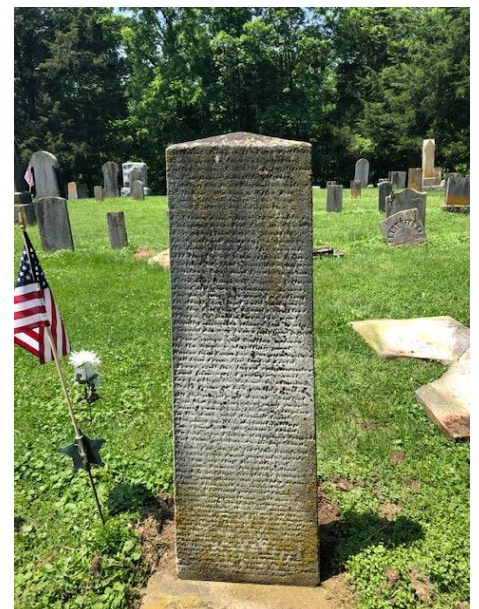
The Deeter Sword



Joshua Deeter Tombstone

The back of Joshua Deeter's tombstone includes faded writing. A transcription is currently being attempted.

The Deeter Sword Hilt



Joshua Deeter Tombstone

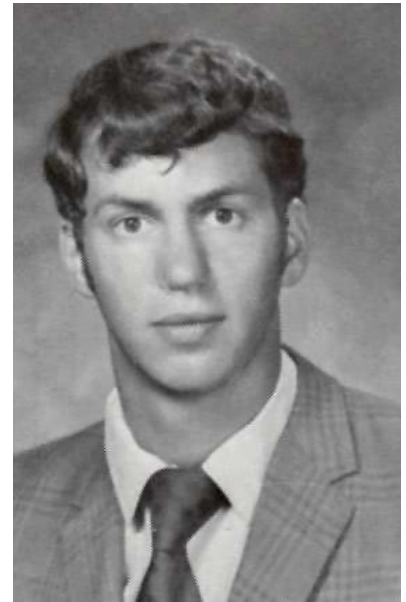
## Commander David Gilbert

David Gilbert was born to Nelson and Jean Gilbert of Pleasant Hill. He attended Newton School where he excelled as an athlete. David Gilbert graduated from Newton in 1972.

After graduation, he attended Ashland College. In 1974, he enlisted in the United States Navy. He completed Electrician's Mate "A" School, Nuclear Propulsion School, and Nuclear Prototype Training before being assigned to the USS Thomas Jefferson in 1976.



In 1982, he attended the University of South Carolina majoring in Electrical Engineering. He was inducted into Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu Engineering Honor Societies. He then attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an Ensign.



David was assigned to the USS King in Norfolk, Virginia. After three deployments, he was promoted from Ensign to Lieutenant Junior Grade to Lieutenant. His next assignment was to Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California where he earned a Master's of Science in Electrical Engineering.

Lieutenant Gilbert attended Surface Warfare Officer Department Head School in Rhode Island and then was assigned to the USS Bainbridge as Chief Engineer and was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. His next assignment was to the USS John C. Stennis from 1993 to 1997. He was assigned to Surface Warfare Development Group as the Ship's ASW Readiness Effectiveness Measuring Officer until 1999.

Lieutenant Commander Gilbert was assigned to the USS Shreveport as Executive Officer until 2000. He was the Surface Warfare Development Group Director USW until 2004. He was promoted to Commander in 2001. He retired as of July 1, 2004.

Since retirement, Commander Gilbert has been the Technical Director Surface Warfare Development Group until 2016. He was then the lead Engineer for Surface ASW Defensive Systems until 2018. He is currently the NAVSEA Warfare Centers Exercise & Experiment Technology Insertion Coordinator.

Commander Gilbert currently lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia with his wife and family. He has three children and currently has three grandchildren.

In 2022, Commander Gilbert was inducted into the Newton Hall of Fame. He joins his mother, Jean Gilbert, and his grandparents, Edward and Almeda Stout, in this prestigious group.



## Who Do You Think We Are?

The following pictures are a sample of unidentified individuals. These pictures were taken in the early 1900's. If you recognize anyone, please let us know.

