

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 4

June 2016



Pleasant Hill History Center

Pleasant Hill, Ohio

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 2016

A Note from the President

The History Center reopened on March 14th and hit the ground running. Thank goodness for the Volunteers and Board Members who share a passion for preserving the history of Pleasant Hill and Newton Township. In addition to moving forward with new displays, programs, and maintaining and creating new files, almost everyone is also busy preparing for the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Village of Pleasant Hill on June 25, 2016.

Our goal is to have 4 programs a year with presentations on local history. We were pleased to have had Marla Fair in March whose program was titled "The In-Betweeners" and in April, Patrick Kennedy gave a presentation on "The Underground Railroad." Both programs were well received and we want to thank both Marla and Patrick for accommodating us.

It will soon be time for the History Center's Annual Meeting, and we will need to replace Jean Gilbert who will be completing her 4-year term limit. THANK YOU, Jean, for the knowledge you have provided on the history of Pleasant Hill and Newton Township and your many hours of being an active volunteer.

In addition to Jean, who represents the Township, there is one other Township seat to be voted on. The Village has one seat to be voted on as well. Partners, please watch for more information on this matter.

If you have not visited us for a while, please stop by and look at all of the new displays and be sure to come and see us at the Sesquicentennial Celebration on Saturday, June 25th.

Donna Favorite, President

Membership News

We have 122 partners and 8 business friends. We welcome Bill Fessler and Dave Beam as new members. We also welcome new business friends; the Lonnie and Tamara Robbins Family, Indian's Pizza, and CD Solutions.

If your membership expires this year, watch for an email or letter around the first of July.

If you have questions about your membership, call Lolita Schultz at 937-676-2771. Thank you for your support!

Lolita Schultz, Membership Chairman

Pleasant Hill History Center Memorials

Donations to the museum have been received in memory and in honor of the following individuals: Charles Ivan Renner, Charlene Ross, Donald Swartz, Fern Adams, and Rita Noll Beard. We are grateful for their contributions to the history of Pleasant Hill and Newton Township.

Sesquicentennial

What an exciting time to be alive! We are privileged to be a part of Pleasant Hill's Sesquicentennial. The Sesquicentennial Committee is busy planning for the big 150th birthday party of Pleasant Hill. The event will take place on June 25th. The History Center will have a float in the parade, a food booth and a display area. There is still time for you to be a part of the event. Volunteers are always welcome to help.

Pleasant Hill Memorabilia

The **Sesquicentennial Committee** is selling mugs, locally made wooden ornaments, T-shirts, and magnets. Cat's Meows of the Monument, water tower, school, and school bus will also be available for sale.

The **History Center** is also selling coasters, glasses, pictures of Pleasant Hill, and pencils. Note cards depicting historic sites created by local artist, Marcus Miller, MD will be sold.

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

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

Are You Ready for a Birthday Party?



Pleasant Hill is preparing to celebrate her birthday.

Pleasant Hill was incorporated 150 years ago this year. Its post office was originally located on a hill south of the town. It was a pleasant place, giving rise to the name of Pleasant Hill.

When the post office was moved to town, the residents decided to change the name and to incorporate.

Pleasant Hill has been the home of famous men such as: Jesse Beery, horse trainer; Roy Plunkett, inventor of Teflon; and Dan West, founder of Heifer International.



In 1895, a monument was erected in the middle of town in honor of her fallen heroes from the Civil War who sleep in unknown graves. The thirteen men who are listed on the Monument were killed during the war.

In 2010, our little town had a population of 1200. It has grown since its incorporation in 1866.

The Sesquicentennial Celebration will be held June 25th. It will include a parade, a Car Cruise-In, a Prince and Princess Contest, food, games and activities for kids of all ages.

The festivities begin at 9:00 A.M. with the rededication of the monument by the 110th regiment OVI.

The parade will travel north on Main Street on Saturday morning beginning at 9:30. Food booths and entertainment will be held in the area around Newton High School. Look for the large tents.

Games for both children and adults are planned. A nail driving contest, rolling pin throwing, family tug-of-war, as well as a coin search in the straw are a few of the many games.

City of Bright, a singing group from St. Marys, will be performing in the entertainment tent later in the day.

A Civil War encampment will be camping and showing life in the 1860's.

In honor of the Sesquicentennial, a pictorial history book of Pleasant Hill has been created. Those books will be for sale at the celebration.

The village of Pleasant Hill welcomes you to help celebrate her 150th Birthday!



Lloyd Peacock

Pleasant Hill and Newton Township have had a history of brave men and women serving in the military. In honor of Memorial Day, here is a little known story of one of those brave men.

Lloyd Peacock was the son of Glenn and Mildred Peacock. He grew up in Newton Township and graduated from Newton High School in 1943. On September 11th, of that year, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps. He was later promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant.

He was in the 422 Bomb Squadron stationed in England. He was a tail gunner on a B-17. His squadron participated in bombing missions over Germany in WWII.



On the final mission, after the plane had lost three engines and was on fire, it was apparent to Lloyd that the plane was on the way down over the North Sea. At that time, he helped George Wilson exit the plane. After the other gunner, Adolph Lenti, bailed out, he yelled at the other crewmembers to hurry as he exited the plane.

A fraction of a second later, the plane exploded. Lloyd was injured. However, after landing in the water, he gave his lifejacket to George Wilson because George could not swim. He had the presence-of-mind to remove his heavy clothing before swimming and treading water.

Front Row: Frank Toftness, R. Blaner, Robert Stachowiak, Harry Beasley **Back Row:** Ray Orr, Wilber Hall, Wayne Shrader, George Wilson, Lloyd Peacock, Adolph Lenti

After approximately one hour of swimming in freezing water and 40-foot high waves, a rescue boat picked him up. They also picked up the body of George Wilson. No other crewmembers were found. Lloyd was hospitalized in England for several weeks and then was transferred back to the United States. Lloyd was the only survivor.

Lloyd was honorably discharged on November 12, 1945. He received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Victory Medal to name a few of his many honors. Lloyd rarely talked about his military service, possibly because the memory was too painful.

Lloyd and wife, Ouida, returned to live in Pleasant Hill to raise their family of 3 children. All three graduated from Newton High School. Lloyd died on February 7, 2007. He is remembered as a great family man and a hero.

Dr. Sarah Furnas Wells



Sarah Ellen Furnas was born on December 10, 1834, on a farm south of Pleasant Hill. Her parents were Joseph and Patience Miles Furnas. She had 2 sisters and 4 brothers. Her father was considered the first teacher in Newton Township. He taught his children, as well as, the neighborhood children. He instilled in his children the love for learning.

After attending Newton Township Schools, she traveled to Warren County to attend a teacher's school. She then studied at Earlham College, and later went to Oberlin College.

In 1866, she traveled to Philadelphia to attend medical school. After that, she traveled to New York and attended the New York Medical College for Women. After graduating with a physician's degree, she accepted a job to teach at the Medical College. After working in New York, she chose to go to Vienna, Austria, to do some post-graduate work. While in Europe, she and a friend climbed Mount Vesuvius. This was just months before a great eruption.

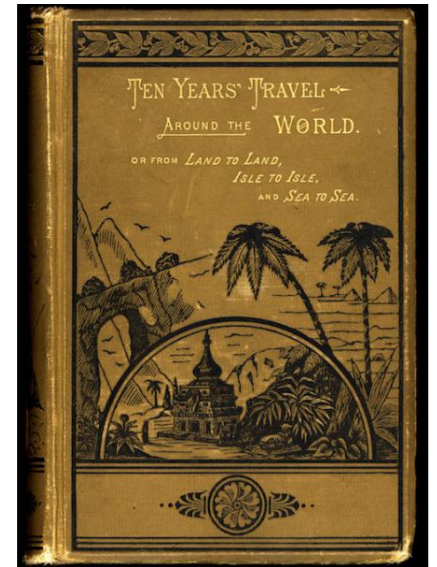
Sarah returned to New York Medical College to teach. She loved to travel. In 1873, she headed to London. It was on this trip that she met Dr. Rufus Wells. After a whirlwind romance, she married him in October of 1873.

Rufus was a daredevil balloonist. He made ascensions all over the world. He was making balloon ascensions since he was 18 years old. He had become quite a celebrity. Rufus and Sarah left Paris and started a world tour. They visited the pyramids of Egypt, traveled to India, as well as Peru. They took baths in both the Sea of Galilee and the River Jordan.

While they were in San Francisco, she started a Women's Medical College there. In November of 1881, she, as president, gave the opening address.

In 1883, she and Rufus, returned to West Milton where she wrote and published a book titled *Ten Years Travel Around the World, or from Land to Land, Isle to Isle, and Sea to Sea*. This book told of her travels with Rufus around the world.

While in the United States, she received an invitation to attend the coronation of Czar Alexander III of Russia. Rufus and she set sail to attend. They also visited the first session of Parliament in London. They then lived in Jacksonville, Florida, where she created The World Medicine Company. She and Rufus also began an Industrial College there where she taught Botany.



After that, they traveled again to Paris and across Europe for seven years, finally settling in Saint Louis, Missouri. There she ran an apothecary shop. She would occasionally be asked to speak about her travels.

In 1910, Rufus died. Sarah brought his body back here to be buried in Union Cemetery in Newton Township.

Sarah lived above the apothecary for two years. One night, she went to a public bath house. She fell into a tub of hot water. The water was so hot, that she was scalded. She didn't think she needed medical care. She sat in her chair and later died. It was August 20, 1912. Her body was taken to Union Cemetery to be buried beside her husband.



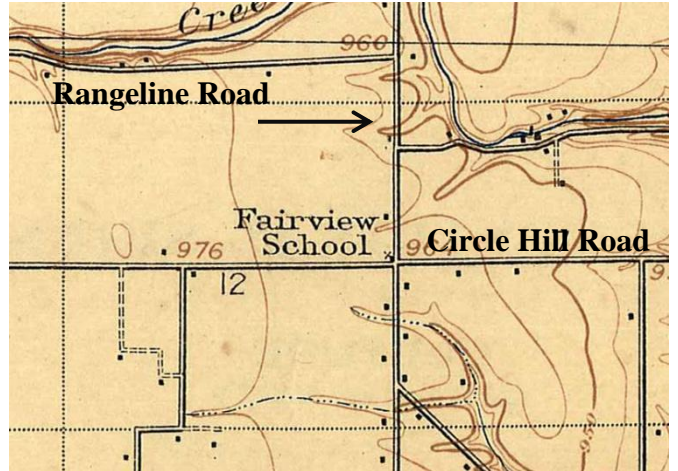
Newton Township One Room Schools

School # 11 - Fairview School

Location: Part of the East half of the Northeast quarter of Section 12 beginning at the Southeast corner of the one-half quarter section. Then West 10 rods, North 16 rods, East 10 rods, South 16 rods. Containing One Acre of land

Fairview School was on the northwest corner of Rangeline Road and Circle Hill Roads.

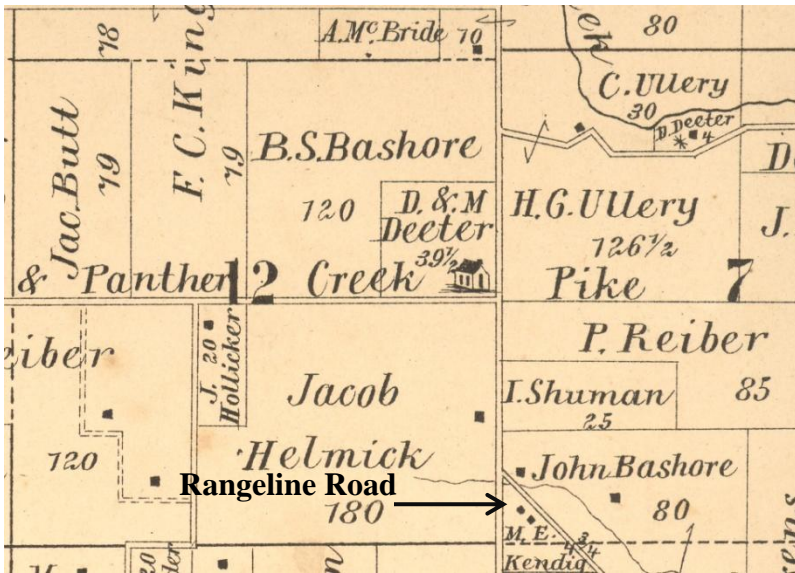
The land was purchased from Michael Deeter in 1874 for \$75.00.



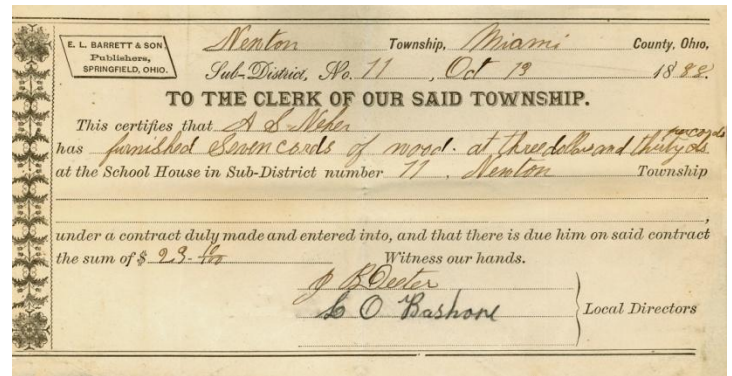
1911 USGS Map

Some teachers at Fairview School include: John Whitmer, Flora Teague, A. J. Lauver, Kate Wefler, P. M. Dohner, Isaac Beery, Judson Jones, Pearl Oakes, Carl Caldwell, and Ethel Price.

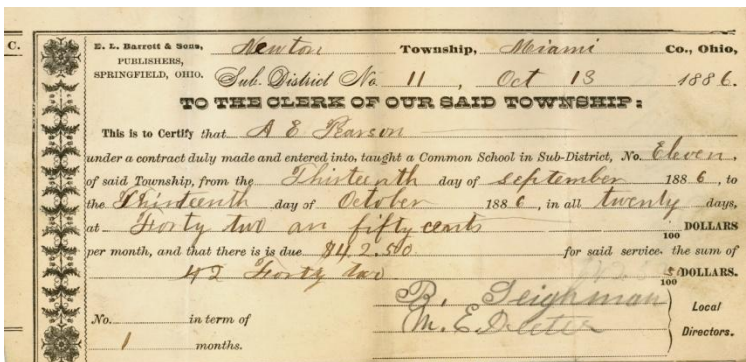
When Newton Schools consolidated in 1923, the building and land was sold to Frank Long for \$315.00.



1875 Plat Map



In 1888, A. S. Neher furnished 7 cords of wood at \$3.30 a cord for use at Fairview. Total \$23.10.



In 1886, teacher A. E. Pearson was paid \$42.50 for 20 days of teaching at Fairview School.

Looking north, this picture of the Fairview School location was taken in 2012. It is at the northwest corner of Circle Hill and Rangeline Roads.

