

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

Spring 2019

A Note from the President

Like the flowers of spring, the History Center opens again in March. I hope you have enjoyed all the photos from our Facebook page. Those have held my interest all winter as I marvel at all the accomplishments that have taken place in this town. And yet there is so much more to learn.

My current personal interest is in the area near the funeral home. Having seen photos of that area over the winter showing a Windmill and hearing that there had been talk of putting the village's water supply where the monument now stands has fascinated me. The newsletter this month is focused on that area. Love it or hate it, the monument has long been a center of attention in this town and so it is again with this newsletter.

With tax time nearly upon us, it's a good time to think about saving. With the thought of saving, banks quickly come to mind. Our History Center is of course housed in what used to be a bank, with its own grisly history. But the focus today is of an earlier bank and the savings it would have held for the good people of Newton Township just after the turn of the century.

Jerry Warner, President

Membership News

We have 107 partners and 12 business friends. We welcome Rob Strong and Donna Tinley as new members.

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: Bud Landis, and Virginia Hess Woodall.

Reviewing Your Stuff

Jerry Stichter, local auctioneer, will present the program, "Reviewing Your Stuff". Jerry will review what you should keep and what you should get rid of. The program will be Thursday, April 4 at 7:00 at the Pleasant Hill History Center.

Bees!

Dwight Wells, a member of the Miami Valley Beekeepers Association, will present a program on the importance of Bees. The program will take place on Tuesday, May 7 at 7:00 at the History Center.

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



The Pleasant Hill Banking Company Safe

The Pleasant Hill Banking Company was incorporated in 1907 by members of the community who provided the capital stock. The company was dissolved in 1936.

The picture to the right shows the bank as it looked in 1924. This is the building on the northeast corner of Main and Monument Streets.

The safe can be seen in the picture on the left. These pictures were part of a 1924 news story in the *Dayton Daily News* about the death of the bank cashier, Charles Perkins. A story on this death will appear in a future newsletter.

The following account tells of how the safe returned to Pleasant Hill and is currently in the lobby of the History Center.

The following article was written when we received the safe in 1997.

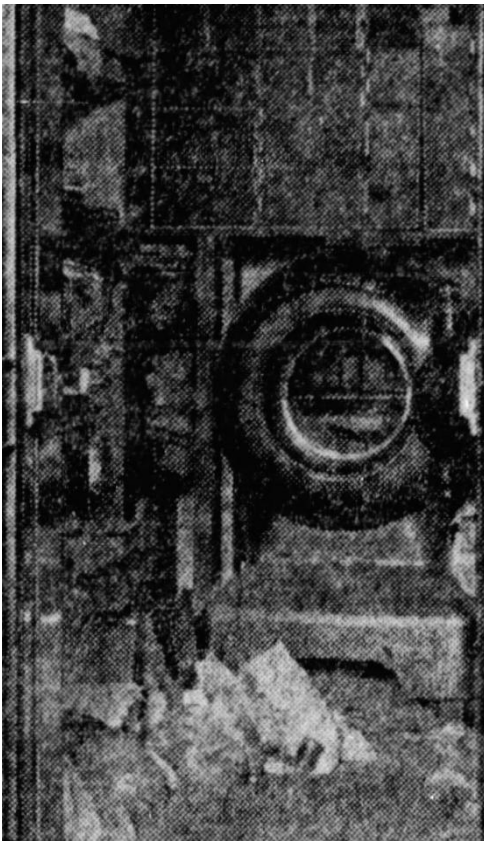
Robert (Bob) Trent was owner and along with his son, Butch operated "Bob's Trotwood Towing," 4920 Wolf Creek Pike, Dayton, Ohio, 45426. As a Tow Truck operator, Bob received calls to move all kinds of heavy objects. He received a call from a company that was vacating an old Kroger Grocery Store building in Glenwood, Ohio, on state Route 35, between West Alexandria and Eaton, in Preble County, Ohio, to remove a bank safe and tow motor and haul them to a wrecking yard.

Upon seeing "Pleasant Hill Bank" lettering on the safe, and since his wife, the former Shirley Moyer, daughter of Alonzo Moyer, had grown up near Pleasant Hill, he decided the safe was part of Pleasant Hill history. He persuaded the owners to sell him the safe and tow motor. He resold the tow motor and through his daughter-in-law, whose grandfather was Samuel McBride, who has also grown up in Newton Township, contacted the Newton Museum to see if there was any interest in the Pleasant Hill Bank Safe.

The safe, in the shape of a cannon, was manufactured in Cincinnati, Ohio, and with a call to Cincinnati was informed the safe was manufactured sometime in the late 1800's, and the company had gone out of business in the early 1900's.

As the safe weighs approximately 3 tons, we are indebted to Bob Trent and his Tow Truck for its delivery to Pleasant Hill in November of 1997. Due to the size of the safe, it has been stored in the Newton Township garage building.

On September 28, 2015, John Schultz, Lonnie Robbins, Levi Robbins, and Gene Laughman moved the safe from the Township garage to its current location in the History Center.



Accidents at the Monument

Many people have asked about the accidents at the Monument. The following are some articles of some of the accidents which have happened through the years.

AUTOISTS HURT AS CAR CRASHES INTO MONUMENT

Massive Base of Statue Moved
From Foundation by Force
of Impact.

AUTO BADLY WRECKED IN UNUSUAL ACCIDENT

None of Occupants Seriously
Injured; Sustain Minor Cuts
and Bruises.

TROY, June 18.—A light automobile succeeded in moving the soldiers' monument in Pleasant Hill but the car was totally wrecked in the operation. In addition four young men riding in the car sustained minor cuts and bruises.

The youths were driving north through Pleasant Hill at a rapid rate of speed according to reports of the accident and struck the monument, which is situated at the intersection of the two main thoroughfares in the village.

The force of the impact moved the base of the monument six inches according to reliable measurements while the automobile was folded up like a pocket knife.

Dr. D. A. Woodhouse rendered first aid to the youths who are Dale Woods, Earl Spitler, Virgil Heffinger and Glen Elliott, all of whom reside in the vicinity of West Milton. None was seriously hurt and all returned to their homes after having their cuts treated by the physician.

Dayton Herald
June 18, 1929

Dayton Daily News
March 18, 1974

Piqua Man Killed In Auto Accident

PIQUA, July 2—Henry Coffman, 55, veteran paperhanger, of 1413 Broadway, was almost instantly killed and his housekeeper, Mrs. Anna Eustache, 53, of the same address, was seriously hurt when the automobile driven by Coffman crashed into the soldier's monument on State Route 48 in Pleasant Hill at 1:30 Sunday morning.

The car was enroute north at the time, presumably headed for Piqua. Mrs. Eustache was not in a condition to be questioned Sunday, authorities said. Coffman presumably died from a broken neck.

The woman is in Piqua Memorial hospital with serious chest injuries and head and face lacerations. Her condition Sunday afternoon was described by hospital authorities as "just fair."

The body of Coffman was brought to the Groven funeral home here for burial preparation on authority of Coroner Cecil Marshall, who is expected to give an official verdict of accidental death after completing his investigation Monday.

Coffman is survived by four brothers, Charles and Aaron, of Piqua; Felix, of Defiance, and Robert, of St. Marys, and two sisters, Mrs. Susan Weldy and Mrs. Margaret Denman, both of Piqua. No funeral arrangements had been made yet Sunday evening.

Dayton Herald
July 3, 1939

Journal Herald
October 26, 1942

Driver Injured When Car Hits Monument

PLEASANT HILL — Richard Whitley, 42, of 430 Washington St., Greenville, was seriously injured here Saturday night, police said, when his car slammed into the Civil War memorial monument in the town square.

Whitley was listed in fair condition today at Miami Valley hospital, Dayton, with severe head injuries.

Police said Whitley's auto, southbound on Ohio 48, drifted left of center and hit the monument.

These articles include 2 deaths at the Monument. It is unknown if there were others who met the same fate. If you know of others, please let us know.

PLEASANT HILL—E. H. Anglemeyer, 80, of 531 Summit av., Troy, was fatally injured here at 12:40 p. m. yesterday when his car struck the Civil War monument at the intersection of Routes 718 and 48.

Anglemeyer was pronounced dead on arrival at Stouder Memorial hospital, Troy.

Dr. William Adkins, Miami county coroner, ruled the death was accidental and said it was caused by a fractured skull.

DEPUTY SHERIFF John Hall, who investigated the accident, said Anglemeyer was traveling south on Route 48 and drove head-on into the monument. The front of the car was demolished and Anglemeyer was pinned in the wreckage for about 15 minutes.

Anglemeyer had been employed at the Hobart Manufacturing Co. for 30 years prior to his retirement two years ago. He was a member of the plant's Quarter Century club.

Services will be held at 2 p. m. Friday at Jamieson funeral home, Piqua, with burial in Troy cemetery.

Dayton Daily News
July 15, 1953

3 Hurt As Car Hits Monument

PLEASANT HILL — Mr. and Mrs. Walter Davis and their eight-month-old child received lacerations about the face and legs when the car in which they were driving struck the soldiers' monument in the public square here at 7:30 last night. The couple and the child were returning to their home in Montezuma after visiting Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Beck, 4012 Germantown street, Dayton.

All three were taken to the office of Dr. L. T. Arthur in Covington for treatment.

One of Newton's Finest Dr. Wesley Hiser

Wesley Hiser was born to John and Grace Hiser. He has 2 brothers and 1 sister, all of whom graduated from Newton High School. The family lived on Fenner Road south of Pleasant Hill. He married Janet and together they had 3 children. He later married Velvet and they had 3 daughters.

While attending Newton School, Wes was an honor student, a member of the track team, an FFA member, and performed in both the Junior and Senior Class plays.

Since seventh grade, Wes wanted to be a large-animal veterinarian. He listed this ambitious goal in the 1958 yearbook while a senior at Newton.

He went to The Ohio State University to fulfill his goal. After two years of courses, he spoke to local veterinarians who convinced him not to go into that field. He decided instead to go to The Ohio State Medical School and obtained his degree there.



Wes did his internship in Los Angeles, California. While there, he was drafted into the Army. He was sent to Fort Sam Houston, then to Fort Benning, and finally to the 7th Special Forces. He also served with the 5th and 10th Special Forces.

Wes spent a tour of 13 months in Vietnam. He received the Bronze Star for his service there.



The plaque with the Green Beret reads:
CIDG HOSPITAL PLEIKU RVN -CAPTAIN
WESLEY HISER - IN APPRECIATION FOR
A JOB WELL DONE - AUG. 68 – SEPT. 69'



The wall in Dr. Hiser's office shows a sample of the multitude of degrees and awards he has received.

In 1976, Wes located to Casper, Wyoming, as a pulmonologist. He worked at the Wyoming Medical Center

In 1977, he enticed his sister, Joan Hiser Brown, to come to Wyoming and act as his practice manager.

Wes was instrumental in Vice-President Dick Cheney's care on several occasions. He also cared for Mr. Cheney's father.

Wes was awarded the prestigious Physician of the Year Award in 2015 by the Wyoming Medical Society.



Wes is an example of the fine students who have graduated from Newton High School.

Newton Hall of Fame

NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME



The Newton Hall of Fame began in 1987. The first two inductees were the longest serving teachers at Newton School, Mary Gnodle and Elsa Kortsch. They taught for 50 and 48 years, respectively.

Each year nominations are accepted for individuals to be included in this list. The list includes teachers, principals, inventors, Board of Education members and Newton School supporters.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

Nomination shall be made for distinguished and/or significant contributions to the pupils and/or programs of the Newton Local School District and for promoting education in a manner that has enhanced the prestige of the community.

1987	Mary Gnodle	2000	Harold A. Tenney	2010	John Schultz
1987	Elsa Kortsch	2002	Shirley Fessler	2010	Lolita Schultz
1988	C. V. Thompson	2003	Don Jenkins	2010	Donna Favorite
1988	Edward Stout	2003	Donald Ryder	2011	Denver Wehrley
1988	Lee Vandervort	2005	Bruce Fessler	2012	Tony Fessler
1989	Walter Linton	2005	Larry Powell	2013	Chuck Martin
1990	Beecher Beery	2006	Sam Adams	2014	Dan Delcamp
1990	Carl Ferguson	2006	Warren Jackson	2015	Andrew Jackson
1990	Alva Snider	2007	Roy Plunkett	2016	Ruthann Coate Beck
1999	Almeda L. Stout	2007	Treva Westfall	2017	Jason Graham
1999	Terry Thoreen	2008	Nancy Stichter	2018	Jean Gilbert
1999	Gene Weeks	2009	W. Michael Short	2018	Dan West