

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 3
March 2018



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 2018

A Note from the President

The winter season is starting on the downside and I, for one, am thankful. I tried to keep busy and occupied myself with constructive time spent cleaning out closets, drawers, and files. It is amazing what you find that you thought was so important to keep.

We have received many donations again this past year of pictures, books, and other items pertaining to Pleasant Hill, Newton Township, and Newton School. We welcome these donations and are always looking for more. This is how you can help. If you have anything that you don't think your children or grandchildren might want regarding our local history, we would love the opportunity to acquire it. You can contact us any Monday, March 5 – November 26. We are open 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

We regretfully accepted the resignations of Steve Patton, Board Member. Charlene Haines has graciously agreed to be his replacement. Judy Amick, Display Coordinator, has also resigned. We are looking for a replacement for her. If you are interested, please contact a Board Member.

Doug Christian will be presenting "The Covered Bridges in Miami County" in April. In May we will be displaying Arrowheads collected by several local collectors. Look for information on more programs and displays in the next newsletter, as well as, local media sources and flyers. We hope to see you soon at YOUR Pleasant Hill History Center.

Donna R. Favorite, President

Membership News

We have 116 partners and 12 business friends. We welcome Matt Gray as a new member. 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: Dorothy Reed, Cheryl Coate, and Cheryl Stiefel-Francis.

Covered Bridges of Miami County

Doug Christian, retired Miami County Engineer, will present his program on Covered Bridges of Miami County on April 26, 2018 at 7:00, at the History Center. His presentation includes some of the covered bridges in Newton Township as well as others in Miami County.

Pleasant Hill Garage Sale/Art Show

The Pleasant Hill History Center is sponsoring an art completion at Newton High School. The winners and entries will be displayed in April. We will be participating in the Pleasant Hill Garage Sale on May 12.

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**

Newton Athletic Hall of Fame

Carl Ferguson - Coach

1945 - 1954
High School Boys Coach
Career Record 162 - 50

High School Basketball Team

1947 - 1948
Record: 24 - 1
Head Coach - Carl Ferguson

Vicki Whiting

Class of 1980
Basketball, Softball, Volleyball

Kelly Herbst Bradley

Class of 1995
Basketball, Softball, Volleyball

Travis Duffey

Class of 1995
Baseball, Soccer

Shawn Landis

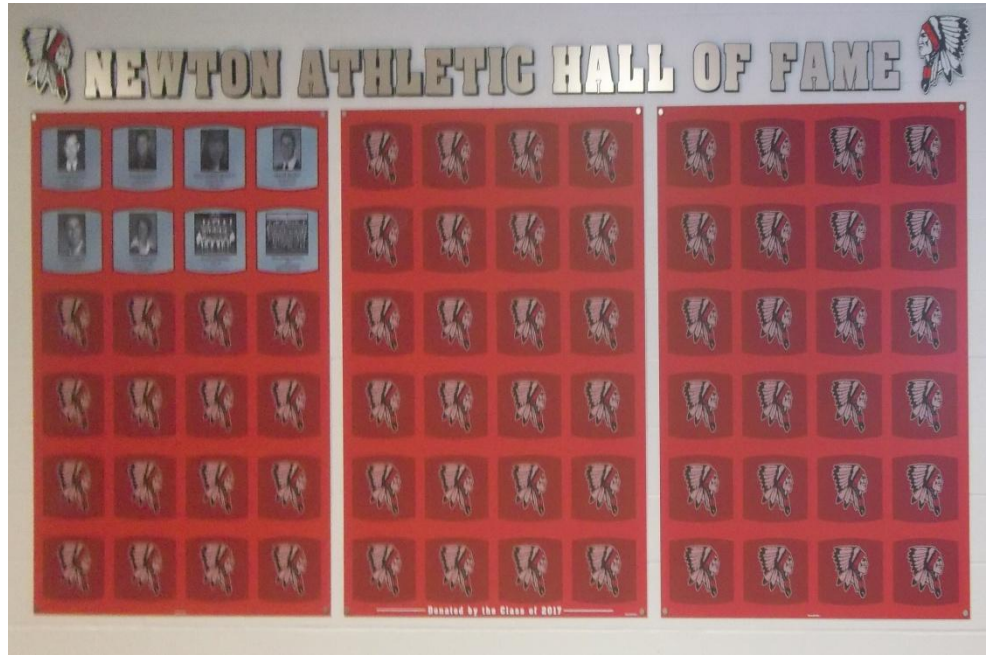
Class of 1998
Baseball, Basketball

Kyler Booher

Class of 2007
Basketball, Golf, Track

High School Softball Team

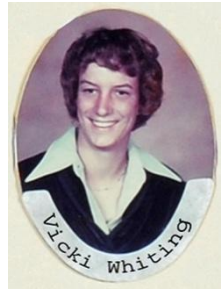
2010
Record: 27 - 5
D-IV Champions
Head Coach - Kirk Kadel
Assistant Coach - Jane Jess



The inaugural induction into the Newton Hall of Fame was held on January 14, 2018, in the Newton High School gym. Six individuals and two teams were inducted. Next year, six athletes will be added to this group.



Carl Ferguson



Vicki Whiting

1948 Basketball Team

Robert Amick, Nelson Hall, Andrew Jackson, John Jackson, Clyde Martin, Arthur Miller, Paul Newlin, Harry Rudy, Max Sweitzer, and Richard Wahl. The managers were: Bill Schultz, Myron Burns and Sam Adams. The coach was Carl Ferguson.

2010 Softball Team

Members include:
Kirsten Burden, Ashley Frey, Tiara Jackson, Hannah Oburn, Lacey Jackson, Ashley Robinson, Brooke Knepper, Emilee Oaks, Danielle Ingram, Destiny Hanshaw, Marina Snipes, Kasey Thompson, Fawn King, Andee Welbaum, Taylor Steck
Coaches: Kirk Kadel and Jane Tackett
Managers: Kacie Tackett, Tatum McBride



Kelly Herbst



Travis Duffey



Shawn Landis



KYLER BOOHER

Paul Shivell

Paul Shivell was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on September 25, 1874. He was the son of Edwin and Effie Iddings Shivell. The family moved to Dayton where Paul attended Dayton schools.

In 1893, he worked as a guide and art critic at the Chicago World's Fair. He spent time in San Antonio, Texas taking care of his mother who was recuperating from tuberculosis. Paul worked as a cowboy out West, spent time in New York City, and eventually settled into writing as a full-time career.

In the fall of 1894, he enrolled at Phillips Andover Academy, where he worked to pay his expenses. He won the coveted *Means Prize* for original poetic declamation.

In 1897, he married Gertrude Wolf and they had three children. They were Arthur born in 1898, Edith born in 1900, and Virginia born in 1908.



Some of Paul Shivell's works

- Poems and Fragments -Springfield, OH, 1896
- Ashes of Roses -Dayton, OH, 1898
- Stillwater Valley Pastorals -Pleasant Hill, OH, 1908
- Stillwater Pastorals, and Other Poems -Boston, 1915
- By the Banks of Stillwater -Dayton, OH, 1919
- The Little Valley, 1930
- The Spring-Brook in the Dell, 1940

He purchased a farm in Newton Township on Owens Road in 1903. The house is located at 1775 N. Owens Road, currently owned by Peter Whitson. He operated his own publishing company there, where he published books of his poetry. His book, Stillwater Valley Pastorals, was written and published at this time.

In 1916, Robert Frost sent him a letter congratulating Paul on one of his books. He mentioned a couple of his poems he especially liked.

In 1920, Paul and Gertrude, their son, Arthur and his wife, Mary, along with their grandson, drove across the country in a Model T and settled in Los Angeles, CA. Paul and Gertrude soon returned to Dayton.

Gertrude died on March 14, 1962, and was buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Their daughter, Virginia, died in 1965, and was buried beside her mother.

After the death of his wife, Paul went to California to live with his son, Arthur. He died near Los Angeles on October 11, 1968. His body was brought back to Pleasant Hill to be buried in the family plot in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Paul Shivell, Rites Conducted

PLEASANT HILL -- Burial services were conducted in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday for Paul Shivell, 94, former area resident and accomplished poet, who died at his home in Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. Shivell resided some years ago on the Owens Road in the property now occupied by the Roy Sweitzer family.

Much of his poetry, it is recalled, had to do with local scenes and activities. Among others were "Stillwater Pastorals", "By The Banks of The Stillwater" and "Ashes of Roses".

He is survived by a son, Arthur of Los Angeles. A daughter, Virginia, now deceased, was a teacher in the Dayton school system.

Piqua Daily Call
October 16, 1968

Wright State University has a collection of Paul's work. They created a display featuring Paul Shivell and others.

Pleasant Hill Cemetery Paul, Gertrude, Edith (Virginia on back)



Paul Shivell display at Wright State University

The Case of Richard Cook

It happened on October 6, 1913. Richard Cook was in Richmond, Indiana, when a fight broke out between Donald Nestor and himself. Nestor had a pair of scissors in his hand, Cook allegedly had a knife. In front of the Grand Hotel, Nestor hit Cook in the head with the scissors.

The blades of the scissors snapped, remaining in Cook's head. Cook went to a doctor, but the doctor did not discover the broken scissor blades. A day or two later, he went to his parent's home in Pleasant Hill. He steadily became worse, mentally. He could not remember anything.

On October 20th, his father took him to Dr. Judson Teeter's office in town. Through examination, he found that the broken steel blades were still in his skull.

He was taken to the hospital in Piqua where the blades were removed. He was unconscious for more than a week, but then began to improve. His condition then grew worse. On December 29th at 7:00 p.m. he died at his parent's home in Pleasant Hill.

His funeral was held on December 30th, with burial in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. He was a veteran of the United States Army.

Donald Nestor was charged with murder in the first degree.

An autopsy was performed on Cook. An abscess had formed on the brain due to the wound. His brain was removed and placed in a preservative.

The presentation of his brain at trial caused a sensation.

A verdict of manslaughter was returned by the jury.

Donald Nestor received a sentence of two to twenty years in the state reformatory.

Before being transferred to prison, Nestor married Cornelia Armstrong in the Wayne County Jail. Nestor served less than four years for his offense. He died in 1931.

According to Richard Cook's death certificate, he was buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. The only cemetery record indicates that the township trustees paid six dollars to bury him. There is no stone marking his grave and the grave location is unknown.

AN UNUSUAL OPERATION

Performed on Richard Cook Who Had Scissors Driven Into His Brain.

An operation for trepanning was performed at the Memorial Hospital yesterday afternoon on Richard Cook of Pleasant Hill. Some 18 days ago Cook while at Richmond, Ind., had a pair of scissors driven into his skull. The operation was performed for the purpose of cleaning the wound.

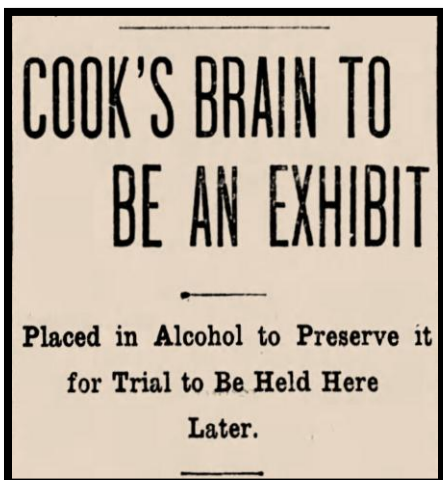
Cook came to the home of his father, Joseph Cook, in a dazed condition and has been unable to explain how he received his wound. He made the trip home alone.

The doctors found a stab wound above the left temple. It is said a pair of scissors was the instrument used. The skull was penetrated and the brain also, all to a depth of four inches. The scissors were broken off, the broken part remaining in Cook's skull.

In this condition he came to Pleasant Hill. Four days ago the steel was removed by Drs. A. J. and F. M. Bausman. Subsequently it was found necessary to bring Cook to the Memorial Hospital at Piqua for the trepanning operation. The work was done by the Drs. Bausman, assisted by Dr. Deeter, of Pleasant Hill, and Dr. Trowbridge, of Piqua.

Today Cook revived somewhat and was brighter and stronger. The outcome cannot be predicted. His age, 25 years, is in his favor.

Piqua Daily Call
October 24, 1913



The Richmond Item
December 31, 1913



DONALD NESTOR.

1917 Basketball Team



The above photograph is the 1916-17 Pleasant Hill High School Basketball Team. From left to right **Top Row:** Leo Helmick, Cecil Aldrich, Allen Wall **Bottom Row:** Ralph Cain, C. V. Thompson, and Forrest Hill.

The 1916-1917 basketball team was one of the most impressive teams from Pleasant Hill. This five member team was one of the finalists in the State Basketball Tournament. In March of 1917, they traveled to Delaware, Ohio to play in the State Tournament.

After beating Cambridge, they lost to Cumberland placing them third in the Southern Division. Stivers and Cumberland were first and second and went on to play the Northern Division winners for the State Championship.

Later that spring, at a festival given by the businessmen of Pleasant Hill, the final game was played by this Pleasant Hill team. The team beat Tippecanoe in a roughly fought battle which lasted over an hour.

WILL GO WITH PLEASANT HILL TEAM TO DELAWARE

Miami Union
March 15, 1917

Fifty "Roosters" Expect to Boost Home Town Team—Other News of the Village

Pleasant Hill, March 8.
As the time approaches for the state tournament enthusiasm increases among the Pleasant Hill people. The teammen, substitutes, official and probably 50 roosters will leave on Thursday noon for Delaware. Several machines will be driven through and places have been secured at the Franklin Hotel. The team has the hearty co-operation of the community and all will wait for favorable returns from the tournament.

Miami Union
March 8, 1917

Portsmouth Daily Times
March 10, 1917

PLEASANT HILL FIVE IS THIRD IN SOUTHERN OHIO

Everyone Pleased With Showing at Delaware—Native of Pleasant Hill, I

Pleasant Hill, March 15.

The close of the basket ball tournament at Delaware gives the Pleasant Hill Hi team the same position they held last year; that of third in Southern Ohio. Cumberland and Stivers holding second and first places.

The fellows feel good over their work, however, for they defeated Cambridge, the team that was heralded in the Delaware papers, "as the only stump in Stivers' path to the championship." Cambridge has the honor of having defeated Huron and East Liverpool, the two victors in the northern half. When Pleasant Hill triumphed over them, they gained much credit and distinction while at the tournament. As one reporter said, "Never a team of such metal here, yet it lacks the polish," for Pleasant Hill was the only team present, without a coach. Pleasant Hill lost to Cumberland in a 19-8 score, after having lead in three brilliant games, Huron 20-6; Newark 23-10; and Cambridge 13-12.

Basketball Scores In The Delaware Tournament

Delaware, Ohio, March 10.—
The morning scores were: St. Marietta and St. Ivers, of Dayton, touted as the best teams in the southern division at the Ohio Wesleyan state championship basketball tournament battled this afternoon to decide which would return next week for the championship fight.

The afternoon drawing brought St. Ivers vs. Marietta; Pleasant Hill vs. Cumberland and Bellaire to play a second division team.