

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 3
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Pleasant Hill History Center

Pleasant Hill, Ohio

P.O. Box 82
Pleasant Hill, Ohio 45373

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 2020

A Note from the President

Another winter has come and nearly gone. I hope you've been enjoying the History Center Facebook posts as much as I have been. Seeing the pictures and hearing stories from our township's past keep memories alive. Plus I never cease to learn interesting things about our people and places.

As we now start to look toward spring we're getting ready for the opening of the History Center for the summer. We have a work day on February 29th at 10AM to prepare for our opening. You may not get this newsletter in time to help us that day, but please think about the people who work to keep the Center up and running. Consider becoming active in the History Center with a donation of time. You may be surprised just how much you enjoy the company and you may be able to contribute some of your own memories to our rich history.

The History Center is planning to open on Monday March 2nd and should be open Monday afternoon/evening for the summer. Please come join us. And as always, we'd love to hear your ideas for special programs we can present during the summer. What would you like to hear more about? Let us know.

Jerry Warner, President

Membership News

We have 119 partners and 10 business friends. We welcome Marian Jones and Margaret Kinney 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: Jar Davis and Dan Delcamp.

A Pictorial Journey of Miami County

Doug Christian, retired Miami County Engineer, will give a program entitled, *A Pictorial Journey of Miami County*. The program will be Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 at the Pleasant Hill History Center.

Kroger

Be sure that you are signed up for Kroger Community Rewards. This program is a great fundraiser for our museum. Our quarterly checks help pay our utility bills! Check your receipt to see if you are still signed up! We appreciate your help with this fundraiser.

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

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

Professor Jesse C. Beery

Jesse Beery was born in Newton Township on June 13, 1861. His parents, Enoch Beery and Mary Hatfield, were married in 1849. He was one of seven children. He grew up on a farm at the corner of State Route 718 and Mowry Road.

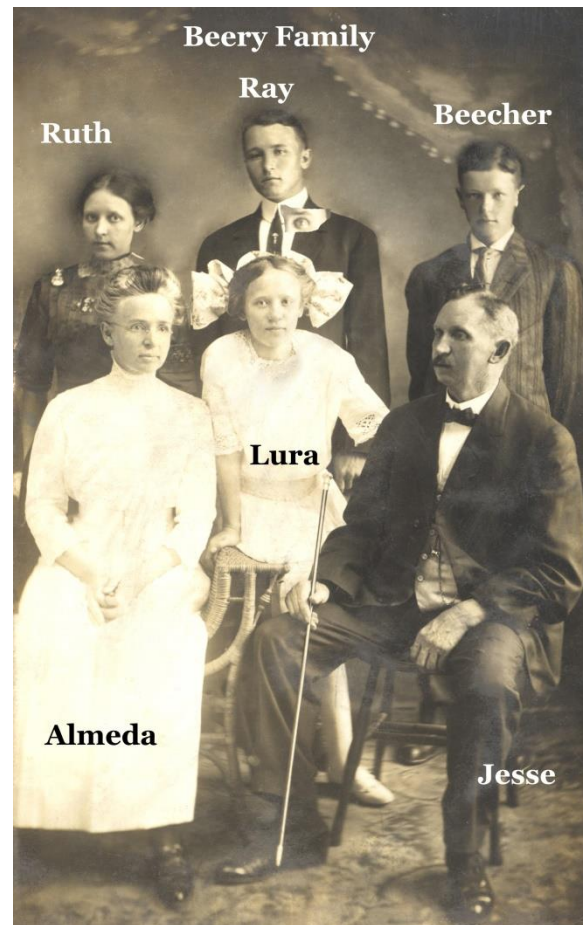
Jesse's mother died on May 8, 1869, when he was seven years old. Later, his father married Mary Coate, who was a widow. His youngest brother, Charles, was born to them in 1871.



Jesse discovered at a young age that he had a gift for training animals. Before long, farmers were offering to pay his father if he would break their horses of running away, biting, or any other undesirable habits.

He started traveling the road, giving public exhibitions. He never tackled a horse he did not succeed in training. He also invented an assortment of tools to better control the animals. These included a collection of bits and bridles.

Jesse married Miss Almeda Coppock on Christmas Day in 1889. They had four children together: Ray, Ruth, Beecher, and Lura.



In 1905, after 16 years of traveling, Jesse began a new venture, determined to share his knowledge of horses by writing a practical guide to horse training. In 1908, he began the Jesse Beery School of Correspondence in Horsemanship.

The correspondence school did very well, and they began sending the publications around the world. Jesse continued to give public exhibitions.

In 1910, Jesse had his first Homecoming Exhibition in Pleasant Hill. The second homecoming was held in 1911. In 1913, the final homecoming was held at the fairgrounds in Dayton. Thousands attended the exhibitions.

In Jesse's later years, he trained his dog, Snow White. Many Newton students traveled to his house to see him do tricks.



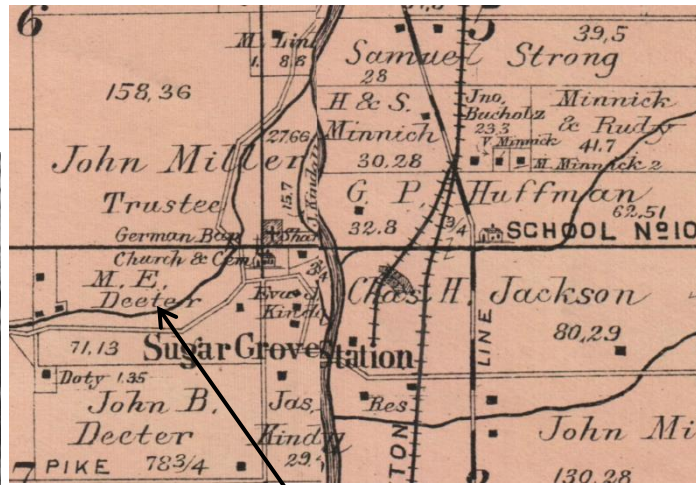
Exhibition
Of 1911

On February 22, 1945, Jesse died as a result of a cerebral hemorrhage. He was 83 years old. He left a legacy in Pleasant Hill and around the world. Professor Beery was an entrepreneur, school board member, community supporter, author, and family man.

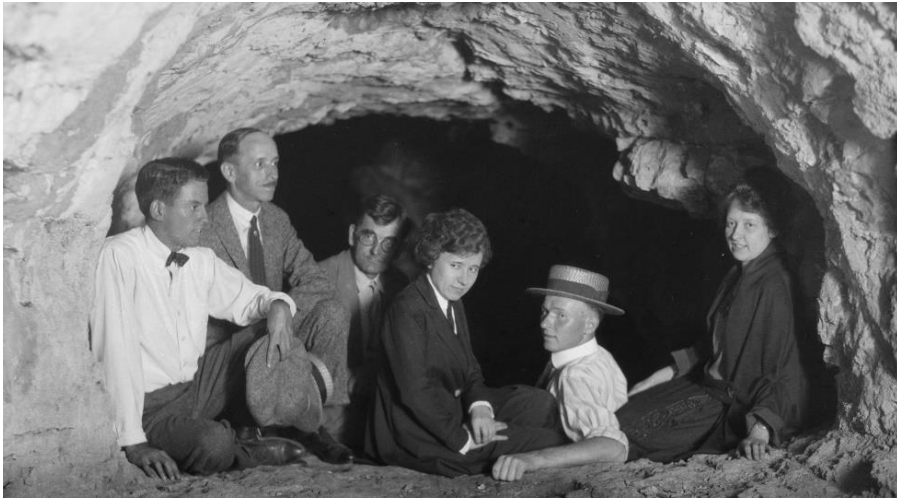


The Caves at Sugar Grove

The Caves at Sugar Grove are located on Panther Creek near the intersection of Sugar Grove and Owens Roads.



Approximate location of the caves



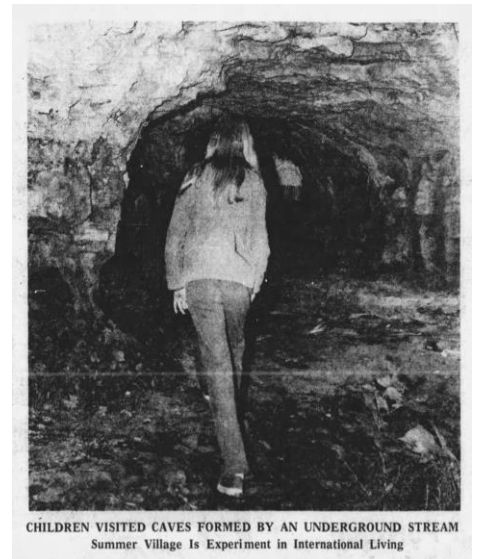
Beecher Beery and others pose at the mouth of the cave. The cave was a popular place to explore.

The area has been owned by the German Baptist Church and then by the Church of the Brethren.

The cave area was recommended to become part of the park district in 1972. The article to the right appeared in the *Dayton Daily News* on June 14, 1972.

The Brethren Church camp was held at the current site of the Stillwater Community Church. Campers would explore the caves. CISV held their international camp there in 1972. The picture at the right shows them entering the cave.

PAINTER CREEK CAVE —
This cave, possibly inhabited by bats, is unspoiled and located among medium trees. Located 800 feet west of Owens and Sugar Grove Rds., the 61-acre cave area is unusual in that it has four openings overlooking the creek at the point of a waterfall. Acquisition by the park district is recommended.

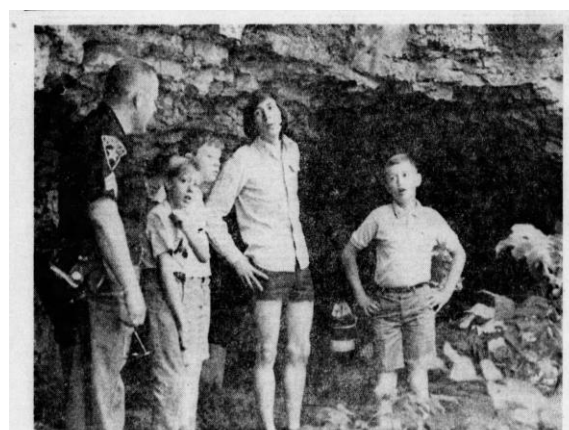


CHILDREN VISITED CAVES FORMED BY AN UNDERGROUND STREAM
Summer Village Is Experiment in International Living

Dayton Daily News – Aug. 11, 1972



Bob Wall – Jean Gilbert
1943

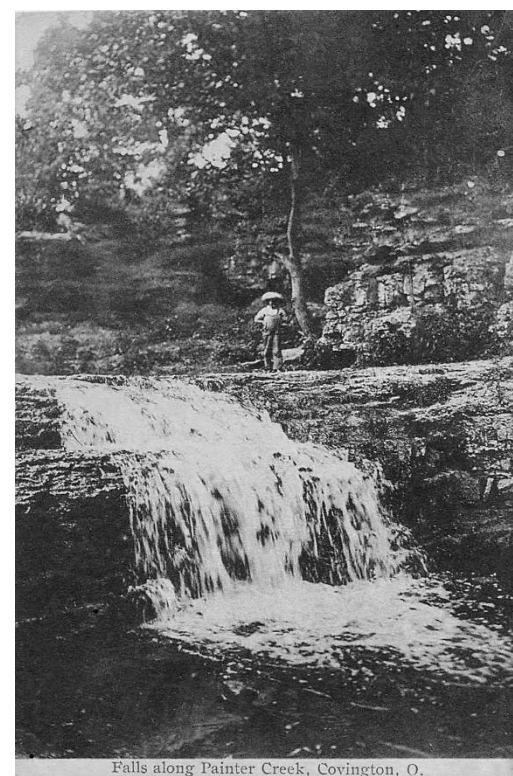


Daily News Staff Photo
SGT. FLORY AND LOCAL YOUTHS AT CAVE ON PANTHER CREEK
There Are No Hippies There Now

Hippie Camps Raise Fear Of Drugs, Crime, Trash

Piqua Daily Call - June 21, 1971

In 1971, the caves were inhabited by unlawful campers. They were chased off by deputies. The caves continue to be on private property.

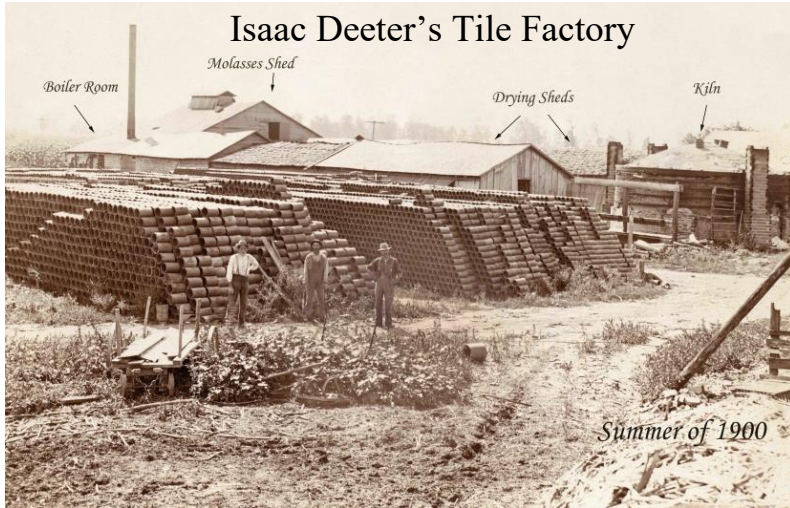


Falls along Painter Creek, Covington, O.

Carriage House at the Funeral Home

It is unknown when the carriage house was built. We do know that it was built before 1911. The picture at the right shows the Whitmer home with the carriage house in 1911.

It is believed that the bricks to build the carriage house came from the Isaac Deeter Tile Factory which was located near the present site of the Pleasant Hill water tower.



In the 1920's Harry Renner used the carriage house for his Chevrolet dealership. He is shown in the doorway of the carriage house in the picture to the right.



In 1948, Harold Patterson and Glenn Ross purchased the funeral home and carriage house. Harold's wife, Dolly, ran the funeral home after Glenn Ross died. She used the carriage house to park her pink Cadillac.



Ron Jackson purchased the funeral home in 1975. He created a special room inside the carriage house to use for his funerals. He also encased the back wall due to the instability of the bricks.

In the 2000s a car backed into the building, further damaging the walls.



In 2019, the building was deemed unsafe and needed to be razed. Demolition began on December 9, 2019. The Carriage House which stood for over 100 years in Pleasant Hill is no more.



2020 Newton Athletic Hall of Fame

The 2020 Newton Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held January 11, 2020. The inductees were: Kirk Kadel, Charles Price, Butch Shook, and the 1969 Basketball Team.

Charles Price



Charles Price

Charles Price was the Boys' High School Basketball coach from 1954-1959. His over-all record was 55-43 at Newton.

Butch Shook

Butch Shook was a Newton graduate in the class of 1968. He was an outstanding two sport athlete. He excelled in basketball and baseball. He was an all-around basketball player who still holds the school record for most assists in a game with 17. He was one of the best pitchers in the area during his career at Newton. He played basketball at Grace College for 4 years and was team captain his junior and senior years.

Kirk Kadel

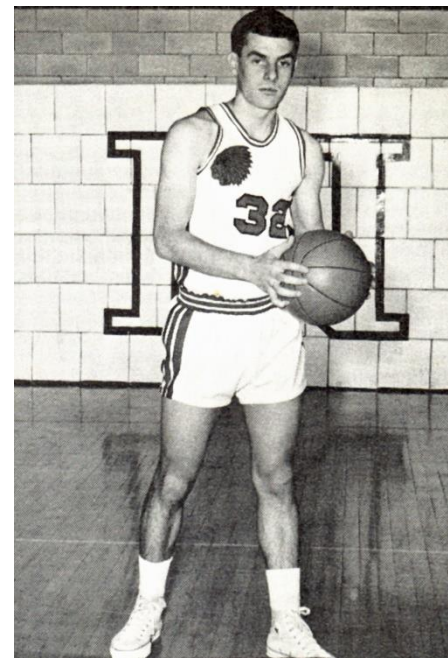
Kirk Kadel was the High School Softball Coach from 1998-2015. He had over 400 career wins, was the Head Coach of the 2010 DIV Softball State Champions, was the Assistant Coach of the 1995 DIII Softball State Runner-Up, and the 1994 DIII Softball State Final Four. Kirk also coached soccer and other teams at Newton.



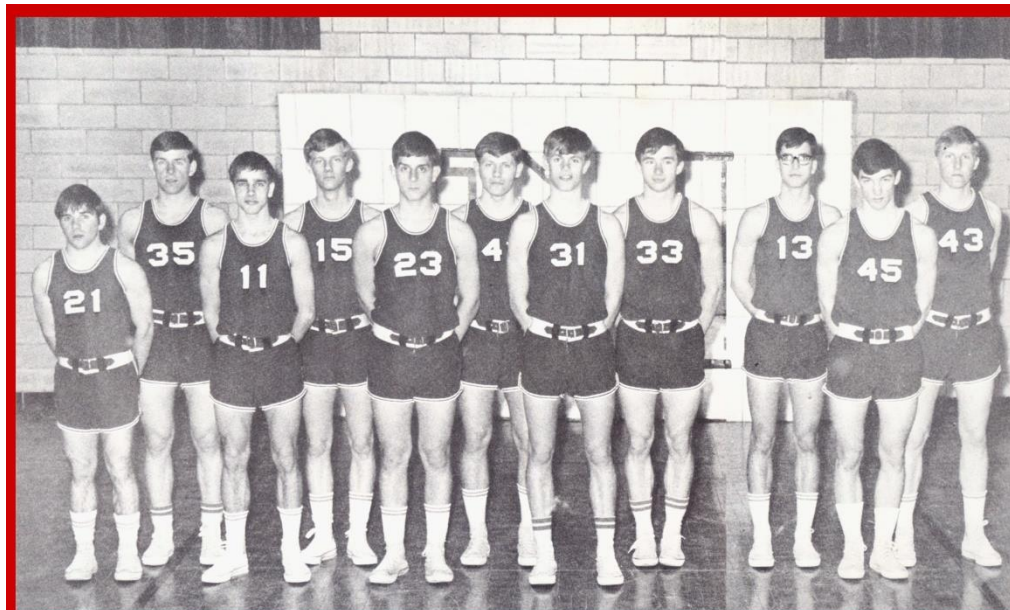
Kirk Kadel

1969 Basketball Team

The 1969 team's overall record was 20-3. They have the fifth best winning percentage in school history. The head coach was Louis Haubner, and the assistant coach was Gary Grove. The players were: Dave Thompson, Joe Deeter, Doug Netzley, Tom Tilton, Sam Roetter, Doug Christian, Ned Diers, Jack Coate, Jim Weaver, Dave Bradley, and Gary Sleppy. Phil McFadden was the student manager.



Butch Shook



1969 Newton Varsity Basketball

David Thompson, Joe Deeter, Doug Netzley, Tom Tilton, Sam Roetter, Doug Christian, Ned Diers, Jack Coate, Jim Weaver, Dave Bradley, Gary Sleppy