

Guernsey County Celebrations

The Guernsey County Fair

According to Wolfe, the first Guernsey County Fair was held in 1855 at Old Washington, on or near the site of the schoolgrounds. The second year, the Fair was held at Barton's Grove, south of Old Washington. Encouraged by the success of the first two fairs, an Agricultural Society was formed and land was purchased on the site of the present fairgrounds. Through the years the fair continued to prosper, more land was purchased and more buildings have been constructed until today, the Guernsey County Fair has become the county's best-known and longest-lived annual celebration.



The Pennyroyal Reunion

Next in age to the County Fair would be the Pennyroyal Reunion, held each year near Fairview. It gets its name from the pennyroyal plant that formerly flourished in that area. The oil from the plant was distilled and sold at markets in the East. In 1880, a reunion was held at Gardiner's grove lasting for two days, and it was decided to make it an annual affair. Many persons of national reputation have attended the reunion. In 1895 the three candidates for Governor spoke from the same platform on the same day.



The Ohio Hills Folk Festival

For many years, the Quaker City Homecoming was an annual affair of that southeastern Guernsey County village, but the high quality of the displays and events continually attracted persons from throughout the entire county and even the state at large. Re-named the Ohio Hills Folk Festival, the annual event continues to attract people from far away as well as those closer to home.



The Salt Fork Arts and Crafts Festival

First held at Cambridge in 1970, this event has attracted state-wide attention from its inception. Each year, more artists and craftsmen participate and its prospects for the future seem assured.



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