

# MADISON TOWNSHIP

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## The Frisch Brickyard

by J. Larry Helton, Jr.

David Ludwig Frisch was born March 18th, 1839 in Bavaria, Germany to Michael and Catherine Frisch. With the death of Catherine, the revolution in Germany, faced with giving up his shoe making trade, and an uncertain future, Michael decided to move his family to America in 1850. With at least five of his eight children they first came to Baltimore, Maryland. Another one of those eight children, John, had previously immigrated to America. Moving on to join John in Cincinnati, Ohio. From there, Michael settled on a farm near Alexandria, Kentucky, where he would remain. His children all went their separate ways.

John Frisch migrated onto Middletown, Ohio and that is where David followed. David, 14, was interested in construction and got a job with John Lanks, for a few years, who taught him the trade of brick maker. Later he would work for John Arp. After serving during the Civil War, David, 25, came home in 1864 and started his own brick making business. Located where Forrest Hills Country Club is today, was where he first purchased and operated on the banks of the Great Miami River, later expanding onto Third (now Central Ave.) and Fifth Streets.

In 1878, David expanded again by purchasing the 72 acre Poast farm across the river in Madison Township. The location is at the intersection of Howe and Trenton-Franklin Roads, in the big curve, with Trenton-Franklin Road at one time going all the way to Trenton. The C.H.&D. Railroad had a siding there to deliver coal and to pick up finished brick and tile. In 1912 the traction car line made a Stop Number 49 for the brickyard, transporting workers to and from. The traction car bridge supports are still seen in the river across from 14th Avenue and South Main Street in Middletown.

The Frisch brickyard consisted of a steam coal-fired boiler, steam engine, pug mills, conveyor belts, barns, sheds, and at least six coal-fired kilns, possibly more, for brick and tile. The production capacity was 25,000 bricks per day for both common building bricks and the best pressed brick.

A fine grade of red and yellow clay was "mined" from a nearby hillside, and with a rail track put in place, a horse or mule driven car would pull the clay to the pug mills. A piece of that rail track was donated to the Middletown Historical Society many years ago. The pug mill was an upright iron cylinder with a revolving shaft in the middle. Attached knives were used to mix the clay and water to the right consistency, then push out the clay through an opening of the proper size at the bottom. Then a conveyor belt carried the brick material to a wire cutter that cut the bricks to specific lengths. The bricks were then air-dried and

*Continued on page 6*

RIGHT: THE FRISCH BRICKYARD KILN IN 1910



LEFT: A CRUMBLING KILN

# YOUR Township Office Manager

## Lots of New Faces in the Township

**2**024 in Madison Township is a year of new arrivals. We have Tim Coldiron-New Trustee, Kim Lapensee- New Fiscal Officer, and Johnny Cassidy-Road Superintendent/Cemetery Sexton. Please stop by the office or attend our Township Meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm to meet them.

Please welcome Teresa Nichols from "Reveal Marketing" who will be assisting us with our website and coordinating our newsletter.

Old Man Winter is trying to leave and then comes right



back, sending us some storms and rain. Always be prepared for dangerous weather this year and have a plan in place at your home. Warm weather please hurry and get here! Also, if you have any questions or concerns regarding Madison Township, call me at the office or stop by.

Have a wonderful summer!

Thank you,

*David Runnells*  
Office Manager  
(513) 424-0821

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#### OFFICE MANAGER

David Runnells ..... 513-424-0821

#### WEBSITE

[www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com](http://www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com)

#### MISSION STATEMENT OF MADISON TOWNSHIP

The mission of Madison Township is to serve the best interests of our residents by providing and maintaining a safe, healthy, and enjoyable community in which to live, work and play. To protect the general welfare of our rural community by utilizing efficient and effective public services and being dedicated to increasing the quality of life for our residents.

### TOWNSHIP CONTACT NUMBERS

#### EMERGENCIES ALWAYS CALL ..... 911

Madison Township Admin. Building ..... 513-424-0821

Kent Hall, Fire Chief ..... 513-804-0198

Fire Station 151 (Elk Creek Road) ..... 513-988-9124

Fire Station 152 (Germantown Road) ..... 513-424-3384

Fire Station 153 (Mosiman Road) ..... 513-425-9009

Madison Board of Education ..... 513-420-4750

Butler County Sheriff ..... 513-424-2456

Butler County Auditor ..... 513-887-3149

Butler County Engineer ..... 513-424-9144

Butler County Board of Elections ..... 513-887-3700

Butler County Zoning ..... 513-424-5351

Butler County Health Department ..... 513-863-1770

Butler Rural Electric Cooperative ..... 513-867-4400

Southwest Regional Water ..... 800-232-5330

Duke Energy ..... 800-634-4300

Dayton Power and Light ..... 937-224-6000

Middletown Public Library ..... 513-424-1251

## Introducing Tim Coldiron

**T**im Coldiron is a lifetime resident of Madison Township and graduated from Madison High School in 1976. He is an active Real Estate Agent and investor with Coldwell Banker Heritage in Middletown. Tim is looking forward to being a value-added member of the Madison Township team!  
email: [tcoldiron@madisontwponline.com](mailto:tcoldiron@madisontwponline.com)



Very soon the website and all staff emails will be moving to our new .gov domain name ([madisontwbutleroh.gov](http://madisontwbutleroh.gov)), so if you experience any delays during this transition please call the administrative office directly.



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### Fall Festival Weekends

6 Weekends –Sept. 21 & 22 thru Oct. 26 & 27

### BUSINESS HOURS

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.



# Business Spotlight

## Shoppe Small

**M**adison Township resident, Susan Cox is passionate about small business. She vividly remembers selling penny candy out of her little red wagon when she was just 10-years-old. She would beg her mom to take her to the store to buy more “inventory”.

Susan got her passion for business (and her work ethic) from her dad who started a restoration business on the west side of Cincinnati.

RIGHT: SUSAN COX  
AND SON MILES

He worked long, hard hours. Susan fondly remembers hanging out in his office. He taught her the importance of good tools, how to paint, caulk, etc.

When Susan graduated she became a graphic designer and worked for a corporate firm in Indianapolis. She learned a lot there and enjoyed it, but started having kids and wanted to stay home with them. So, she launched her first “official” business designing logos and websites.

Susan also enjoys the creativity of repurposing. She bought a coffee table for \$10, painted it and sold it for a significant profit! Soon, she started selling at weekend boutique shows and antique malls, which led her to taking custom orders.

She grew her social media presence to almost 10,000 followers. Her business was really starting to grow, but she still felt like a small fish in a big sea, so she decided to focus solely on cabinet painting. She ran this business out of her barn and very quickly found herself painting a kitchen every week. To this day, she has painted over 200 kitchens! She has even traveled to Los Angeles and Chicago to paint cabinets. She wrote an ebook, has posted a variety of DIY videos and has taught painting workshops.

When she needed a bigger workshop space she found the perfect building, in a great location and great landlords (Bob and Marla Davis). After a year of painting in the back end of that building on Middletown-Eaton Rd, she was given the opportunity to rent out the entire building. The space was bigger than what she



needed for painting, so she decided it was time to try something different. Immediately she knew she wanted to use the space to highlight other local, small businesses...and Shoppe Small was born.

On April 8, 2023 she opened its doors for the first time selling candles, wreaths, soaps, furniture, home decor and more mostly made by local, small businesses. She was hoping to find even just 4-5 local people who saw her vision and wanted to come on board. One year later she had 36 vendors and many more on the waiting list!

Her vendors have become like family to her. She feels incredibly blessed to be working with such dedicated and talented people. Her continued passion for small business is what keeps driving her forward. She enjoys watching their businesses grow more than anything!

Somewhere along the way, she was given a great piece of advice:

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”  
- Frederick Buechner

Susan said, “I can’t think of anything I’d rather be doing than growing my own business while helping others grow theirs, in a community that I love so much!”

### Shoppe Small’s hours are:

Monday: closed  
Tuesday: 11a - 6p  
Wednesday: 11a - 6p  
Thursday: 11a - 6p  
Friday: 11a - 6p  
Saturday: 10a - 4p  
Sunday: closed



**Stop by and check it out!  
Mention this newsletter article  
and receive 20% off your  
entire purchase.**

# The Frisch Brickyard

Continued from page 1

burned in the kiln ovens. The longer the bricks were in the ovens, the darker red they became.

Bricks from the Frisch brickyard supplied bricks for many buildings in the area and the county including: Middletown News Signal (Middletown Journal), Oglesby-Barnitz Bank, St. Paul's German Church with 99,000 bricks, other buildings on South Main Street, and for the American Rolling Mill Company (ARMCO) blast furnaces. It is possible the bricks of the cold storage vaults at the Pioneer Cemetery in Middletown and the Miltonville Cemetery were made at the Frisch brickyard. Frank Frisch, great-grandson of David, had always been told that, but he and I could find no record of proof.

From a newsletter, January 1, 1904, Vol, XX, No. 1, simply titled BRICK - "Frisch's brick

yard, of Miltonville, O., is doing a good business both in the town of Miltonville and surrounding territory."

When David Frisch retired, his sons: Edward, Charles, and Homer, continued the business. The 1918 flu epidemic claimed the life of David, and shortly after the 72 acre tract was sold to the American Rolling Mill Company (ARMCO) in 1920. ARMCO dug a 105 foot well and added a storage barn. They continued to use the red clay to make brick and tile to line their furnaces, not selling the tract until 1948. The property sold again and was owned by Everett Egleston for a few decades.

What remains today are a couple of houses, the walls of where the traction line came over the railroad, crumbling kilns, and strewn bricks from another time.



ABOVE:  
BRICKS FROM THE FRISCH BRICKYARD

Sources: Frank Frisch, Lawrence Frisch, *Memoirs of the Miami Valley 1919*

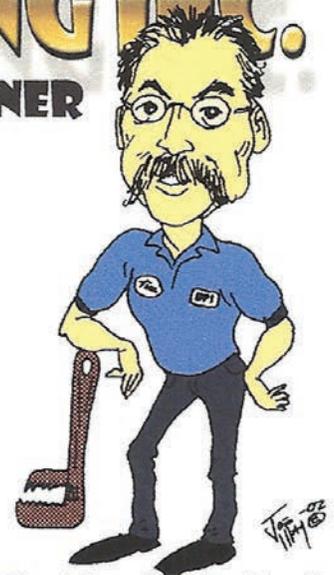
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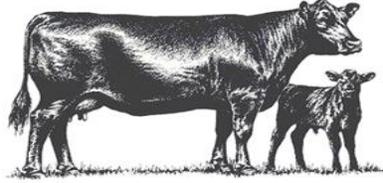
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### **BEEF**

- Our cattle are born and raised on our farm, grain fed and grain finished with feeds that are primarily grown and harvested on our farm.
- We use no added growth hormones or steroids in our livestock and use minimal vaccinations on our herd. We use as little vaccines as we can while maintaining the health of our cattle.
- Our cattle are processed in our own butcher shop, Camden Locker LLC in Camden Ohio. *From birth to package.... we do it all, and THAT is knowing where your food comes from!*

### **PORK**

- Truster Cattle Company LLC, also markets pork direct to consumers as well. We do not raise the hogs ourselves, as we are not hog farmers. However, we work with a few local farms who have similar growing practices as we do with our cattle to produce great hogs that deliver great pork to our customers. These hogs are also processed in our butcher shop, Camden Locker LLC in Camden, Ohio.
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## **Spring and Summer Events in Downtown Middletown**

- May 3..... First Friday
- May 18..... Women, Wine and Chocolate Walk
- June 7..... First Friday
- July 5..... First Friday
- July 27..... Thunderfest Cruise In
- August 2..... First Friday
- September 6..... First Friday
- September 13..... Dog Day Downtown

### **What Are First Fridays?**

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