

MADISON TOWNSHIP

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United Brethren Church at Miltonville

by J. Larry Helton, Jr.

Timeline of the United Brethren Church and Cemetery at Miltonville, 5841 Howe Road, Trenton, Madison Township, Butler County, Ohio.

1796: Earliest possible burial at what is now known as the Miltonville Cemetery.

1800: First recorded burial, an 80-year-old woman with the last name of Mattix, at what is now known as the Miltonville Cemetery.

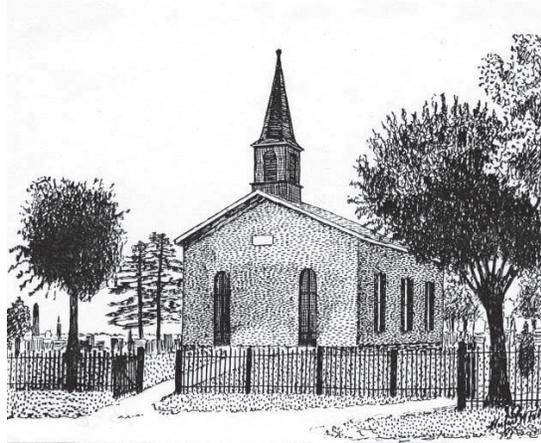
1806: Jacob Kemp, Sr., with his wife, settled in what is now Madison Township.

1811: Jacob Kemp, Sr. began serving as the circuit minister and organized the first groups of United Brethren meeting in member's homes or a log or frame structure was used until the brick building was built. From this, all of the other United Brethren Churches in the area came to be.

1818: Jacob Kemp, Sr. assisted in the organization of the Old Miami Circuit of the United Brethren Church and had become an elder. He was also the prime force in the organization of three United Brethren Churches at Miltonville, Poasttown, and Pleasant Ridge.

1823: May 28th, Samuel and Elenor Mattix and Richard V. V. and Mary Crane deeded land to the trustees (Henry Kumler, Thomas Baker, John Sellers, Richard V. V. Crane, Daniel Ross/Hess) of "the Methodist and United Brethren meeting house and burying ground near Miltonville." The deed states, "for and consideration of the sum of \$6." The land is located on the south side "of the road leading to Huff's

Ferry through Miltonville"... "containing 35 square perch of land for the purpose of building a meeting house there and for a burying ground, the burying ground to be free for any person or persons who may wish to bury their deceased friends in the same."



ABOVE: UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH ILLUSTRATION

RIGHT: DATE STONE FROM THE UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH



1823-1825: A meeting house was built from locally made brick, with two front entrances, a louvered bell tower with bell, and a steeple. The interior had two rows of pews, a raised pulpit, carpet, kerosene chimney lamped circular light fixtures, and two heating stoves. The burying ground was to the left of the building. Chains on both sides of the road were placed for members to tie off their horses and buggies.

1825, 1832, 1837, 1845, 1848, 1863, & 1875: Miami Annual United Brethren Conference held at Miltonville United Brethren Church.

1847: The United Brethren Church as a whole took an option on forty acres at the western end of Howe Road with plans to build a college. Plans were never exercised and Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio was built instead.

1847: Reverse of the church's sandstone plaque had previously been used as a gravestone: "(two roses) Josephine W., Daughter of Alford & Electa Luce, Born March 29, 1820, Died Feb. 13, 1847; Fontaine M., Their Grandchild & Adopted Son, Born March 17, 1816, Died Aug. 17, 1847; (Rea '/' 1.1—1— unreadable marks)." It is not known why a gravestone was later used as the church's plaque. This burial cannot be confirmed if it was even in this cemetery, whether the stone bears a mistake, if the grave location was lost, whether this stone came from this cemetery, or was a "mistake" stone from wherever the church had its stone cut.

Continued on page 6

YOUR Township Office Manager

Introducing New Office Manager Linsay Windle

Linsay has been a resident of Madison Township for 11 years. Linsay is married to Jerry Windle and they have 2 children, Jase and Ali that currently attend Madison Local Schools.

Linsay was previously a Production Manager for a Drycleaning and Fire Restoration company for the last 23 years. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Office Management in 2012. She



started her new position as Office Manager in December of 2024. Linsay is excited to manage the day-to-day operations of the township. She cares about the well-being of the community and is committed to serving the community's needs and priorities.

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PublicWorks

BY JOHNNY CASSIDY, PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER



I'm Johnny Cassidy, the new Public Works Manager for Madison Township. I have been in Township maintenance since 1999. The elected officials, along with the residents, have been very welcoming since my arrival in April of 2022.

At the beginning of 2025, the Trustees voted to change the Road Department, Cemeteries and Park to The Madison Township Public Works Department in order to have everything under one department. The Public Works Department staffs four full-time employees, including myself. Our main goal is to provide the residents of Madison Township with safe and well-maintained roads. We maintain 52 miles of township public roadways and residential streets throughout the Township. This includes many cul-de-sacs and dead-end roads. In addition to the Township Roadways, there are state and county maintained roadways within the Township as well. There are times when Madison Township Public Works collaborates with state and county road crews on various road projects. The duties of the public works crew include general rehabilitative and reconstructive road maintenance, the repair and replacement of public road culverts, ditches, road signage, guardrails, roadside mowing, upkeep of The Madison

Township Community Park and four cemeteries (Elk Creek, Miltonville, Pleasant Hill & Augspurger), as well as snow and ice control. Other responsibilities include general maintenance of all township-owned facilities and maintenance of the community park.

Please be cautious when you see our work crews out on the roadways while they are performing the duties.

Stay informed by following our Facebook page "Madisontownshiponline" as well as our website at www.madisontwpbutleroh.gov.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns! 513.424.0821 opt. 2 or jcassidy@madisontwpbutleroh.gov.

Sincerely,
Your Public Works Manager,
Johnny Cassidy



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Letter from the President Brian McGuire

At the writing of this article, I am looking out my window and seeing snow on the ground and 20 degree temperatures. I imagine the times of sunshine and warmer weather of spring and summer that are a renewal, rebirth, and a fresh start. A time of great optimism and exciting times for Madison Township.

Madison Township has received monies for a new permanent restrooms/concession stand at the park and received monies for a new fire station. This has been a dream of not only myself, but also for the residents of Madison Township for over a decade. All of this will be accomplished without the need for any additional monies from the residents of Madison Township. Very exciting indeed.

We are currently accepting bids for the construction of the restrooms/concession stand. This will be utilized by residents who use the park and walking path. It will be used during soccer, football and baseball practice and games at the park we currently have now. No more portable restrooms. The park will be a better, improved, and enjoyable place for all residents of the township. Making it one of the best places to relax and enjoy in the entire area.

Community safety is one of if not the biggest responsibility of the Madison Township Board of Trustees. Because of antiquated fire stations and the declining number of volunteers the trustees have been concerned with the negative impacts of safety in our community. Emergency medical and fire calls have continued to rise, and the number of volunteers are going down, leaving our community at risk. The trustees have begun to address this potential problem. We have begun recruiting and hiring cross-trained fire and EMS personnel. And now, after receiving a grant from the state, we are in the process of seeking to build a new fire station. This grant

does not cover the entire cost of the new fire station, so we will be working on ways to finance it. Because of our community's aging population and economic issues beginning with the COVID crisis the Madison Township Trustees understand the issues residents face. Believe me when I say we will get this done without asking for any new monies from township residents.

With the coming of spring and summer there will be numerous road projects in Madison Township. This spring the State of Ohio will start the roundabout at the intersection of Elk Creek Rd. and Ohio 122. The Butler County Engineer's office will be making major repairs to large sections of Trenton Franklin Rd. All of this is in addition to major road improvements to township roads by our own public works department. Please be aware of any changing traffic patterns and road closures that are caused by these necessary improvements. You will be able to get updates on the township website or the Butler County Engineers and Ohio Department of Transportation websites. And most importantly slow down, be aware when roadwork and road mowing are happening in our township.

Finally, I believe Madison Township is the best place on earth to live and raise a family. The residents have some of the best and caring public officials, workers, and first responders of anywhere around. They work hard every day to give their best for the people of Madison Township. And I have said it before "We are truly blessed."

Sincerely,
Brian McGuire
Trustee President

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Letter from the Vice President

Jeff Willoughby

Taxes, the old saying of “the only things certain in life is death and taxes” is very true. Madison Township has been especially hit hard by the recent reevaluation. I have seen my property taxes jump over 50%. This is why the Board of Trustees have taken actions to improve the community but not increase taxes. The easy way would have simply place levies on the ballot. This is not the route we have taken. We have applied for many grants and have been successful.

The project to construct a park building is continuing to go forward. It has been a learning experience with the requirements in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). We have been working with the Butler County Prosecutors Office (the township legal representative) to ensure we follow the ORC. Construction is still expected to start this year. We are also progressing with the Firehouse Project. The design firm should be under contract in February and the design completed by fall. This project will allow the Fire/EMS Department to better serve the community. Again, we will not increase taxes to complete this project. The five-year levy the community passed in 2022 will have to be extended but not increased. Seeing how much effort the Fire and EMS crews put into service for the community is very impressive. This group is willing to leave their homes to use their skills and place their wellbeing in danger to serve our community. Their physical and mental health is a very big concern, and I cannot thank them enough for what they do.

The Public Works Department is another group of unsung heroes. They did an excellent job of handling one of our largest snowfalls in recent years. During the event, one of the snowplows went

out of commission but they still maintained the roads for our safety. This year, the township will be paving the Rolling Meadows subdivision. Despite a 50% increase in costs, we have been able to continue the paving schedule.

I also would like to thank and congratulate Dave Runnells. He retired from the Township Office and Fire/EMS Department in December. When Dave started, there were many things that needed to be straightened out for the office. I would also like to welcome Linsay Windle as our new Office Manager. She is learning the position quickly and we feel she should be able to do even more for the township.

Lastly, we are announcing a new program to increase the knowledge of township history, MATCH (Madison Township Cemetery History) – illuminating the history of Madison township. Did you know there are two gravestones written in German? Did you know that Madison had a women commissioned officer who served in World War II? Did you know that there was a soldier who died in the Mexican-American War and had his body brought back to be buried? The goal is to tell the stories of Madison township history at the same time restoring some of the graves in the cemeteries. There will be opportunities for community service by cleaning markers, researching history and resetting some of the stones. More details will be coming.

Sincerely,
Jeff Willoughby
Trustee Vice President



United Brethren Church at Miltonville

Continued from page 1

1853: May 9th through May 11th the General Conference of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ met at Miltonville United Brethren Church.

1854-72: A wrought iron fence along the front of the church and cemetery was erected, along with an iron arch bearing the cemetery's name at the entrance along with a civil war cannon with cannon balls.

1873: Sandstone plaque bears the inscription U.B. Church 1873. The church stood at the southwest edge of the cemetery. The significance of the year 1873 is not clear. It would be assumed that was the year of construction, but the deed of 1823 stated that a building would be constructed and there is church history during that fifty years time difference. It is probable that a new building was erected in 1873, but there could also have been an addition, a rededication, or a reorganization.

1882: Miltonville United Brethren Church closed due to dwindling membership. Sixty-one ministers had served there; including circuit rider Jacob Kemp, Sr., first minister John Kemp, Sr., and second minister Jacob Kemp, Jr. Building and cemetery passed from the United Brethren congregation to the newly formed Miltonville Cemetery Association on May 20th. The Association purchased or accepted by donation additional ground from the estate of Peter Thomas. Total acreage is now four acres plus a fraction. Funerals and Decoration/Memorial Day services continued to be held in the building. A cold storage vault was built that was used in times when the ground was too frozen for burials. Free burials became paid lots. The cemetery association continued to maintain the grounds, open and close graves, and set gravestones.

1945: The United Brethren Churches merged with the Evangelical Church.

1949: Pearl Withrow, who lived on the farm next to the church and cemetery, recorded in her diary, "May 22nd, 1949: Was very dry up to May 21st. Then rain, and during a thunderstorm at 4:00 a.m. on May 22nd, the Miltonville Church was struck by lightning and burned." All church and cemetery records were lost in the fire. After the fire, the sandstone plaque, the church bell, and a civil war cannon with cannon balls disappeared. Some records state that there were some

gravestones damaged or lost in the fire as well. The plot of land where the church stood remains empty and is surrounded by gravestones on three sides, with none being in front. During droughts, the outline of the church can sometimes be seen.

1968: The United Brethren/Evangelical Churches merged with the Methodist Church.

1970: Union of churches completed when they became Pleasant Ridge United Methodist Church.

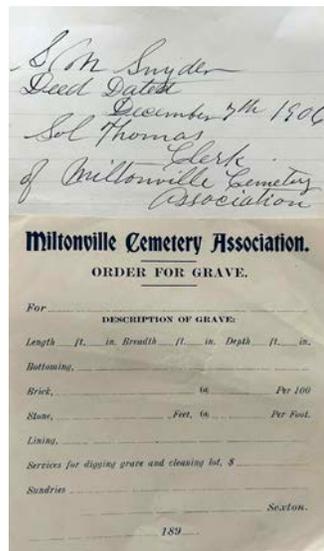
2009: At some point in time, the church's sandstone plaque was dropped off behind the cold storage vault in the cemetery. It was in two pieces, whether from the fire or other reason unknown. There were no signs of fire damage, but it did

have some different paint splatters on it, from possibly being in a garage or barn somewhere for 127 years. The Miltonville Cemetery Association no longer wished to have the stone, nor had it placed anywhere within or outside of the cemetery,

so Larry Helton, Jr. obtained it from board member Greg Martin. With the suggestion of the Historical Society of Madison Township and approval from the Madison Township trustees; Rick Jackson, Merle Rhodes, Larry Helton, Sr., and Larry Helton, Jr. placed the plaque into a concrete memorial under the Miltonville Historical Marker at the crossroads at the firehouse. The United Brethren Church is mentioned on the marker. With the coming consolidation of the firehouses, there may come a time to return the plaque back to where it came from.

2016: The Miltonville Cemetery Association dissolved and the cemetery and grounds are now under the care and operation of Madison Township. Township improvements include restorations of the 1882 cold storage vault and iron cemetery arch, restoring the maintenance and restrooms buildings, and painting the fence.

Pre-2019: Larry Helton, Jr., received a call from the "Crazy Cemetery Lady" Vivian Moon of Middletown. She asked Larry if he had remembered about the Miltonville church and cemetery records having been lost during the church fire. He had. She invited him to stop by her house, because she had something for him. Vivian gave him a copy of those cemetery records, of which he made a copy for the township, including an 1800's order form for lots, and receipt for a lot sold in 1906. He didn't know where she got those records from. Vivian K. Moon was instrumental in the restoration of the Middletown Pioneer Cemetery and cold storage vault. She passed away November 24, 2019.



ABOVE: DEED DATED 1906
RIGHT: CEMETERY CURRENT DAY





Fire Department

BY KENT HALL, FIRE CHIEF

The Madison Township Fire Department is in the middle of some big changes that will benefit the community in a big way. Starting on March 1st, the fire department will begin running a 4th member out of station 153. This station is located at the intersection of State Route 122 and Mosiman. Previously, the fire department had three personnel at this station on a 24/7 basis, these part time members covered EMS calls for the township while the two corner stations are volunteer response. With the addition of the 4th member, we will be able to cover EMS and Fire calls, having moved a rescue vehicle to this station, this giving the fire department faster response for EMS and Fire calls.



Additionally, the week of March 1st, Madison Township Fire Department will be taking delivery of their new fire engine. This new fire engine, an E-ONE fire apparatus, is replacing a 1998 Sutphen and will be placed at station 152 in Poasttown.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or a member of the department. We are here to serve you and the residents of the township.

J. Kent Hall
Fire Chief
Madison Township Fire Department

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TOWNSHIP CONTACT NUMBERS

- EMERGENCIES ALWAYS CALL 911**
- Madison Township Admin. Building 513-424-0821
- Kent Hall, Fire Chief 513-997-8036
- 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

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.

The monthly Madison Township Trustee Meeting takes place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend.