

# The Vintage

Publication of the Madeira Historical Society  
July 2021 [madeirahistoricalsociety.org](http://madeirahistoricalsociety.org) 513-561-9069



Miller House Museum

**The Madeira Historical Society** is best known for the history found within the Miller House Museum, a 1922 Sears & Roebuck Crescent Model Home. As important as the Miller House Museum is to our community, there are other society functions equally as important. Since our founding in 1972, the society has collected and preserved thousands of historic documents, photos and letters describing Madeira history back to at least the early 1800's. In this issue of "The Vintage" we hope to tell about the importance of preserving historic Madeira documents. Our first story from the Miller House Archives is entitled "Searching for Family Links", a story about an early African American family that resided in Madeira and the request for our assistance in researching their family history.

## Searching for Family Links By Carol Heck

Recently, we had a very interesting visitor from Indianapolis, working on her genealogy and searching for photos and records relating to her father, Jack Pleasant (born approx. 1939). Kamia Jackson asked for our assistance, and as the Madeira Historical Society archivist, and with the help of our society's historian, Les LeFevre, we shared what we had. As often is the case, she and I would soon be helping each other learn about her Madeira history. It was fortunate that I found some Spaulding family photos in our library and she was able to provide priceless family photos that now have been added to the society's files. She will be returning as her search continues and time allows.

In the hours spent with Kamia, we learned that her great uncle Buck (Procter L. Spaulding Sr.) and his family had resided at 7421 Dawson Road. Procter Sr. operated a trash collection business on that property. Their children, Procter Jr, Vivian and Joan Spaulding graduated from Madeira schools, as did Buck and his siblings.

We learned that Kamia's grandmother was Fannie Marjorie Spaulding and grandfather was James D. Pleasant. At first they lived in Walnut Hills but after James died at an early age of 32, Fanny and their 3 sons; Jackie, Carwin and Vaughn, went to live with Fannie's parents (Samuel C. Spaulding and Lena Rachel Brown Spaulding; see pictures below). They lived on their 22-acre farm at 7460 Camargo Rd. Jackie's brothers, Carwin and Vaughn, played football and basketball while attending Madeira High School and cousin Procter Jr. also played sports at that time. Samuel owned and operated the Barber Shop on the corner of Miami and Camargo (1917). Later, Samuel became a private investigator.

Eventually the 7421 Dawson Rd. property, the adjacent neighboring Daniel Maxfield property on Camargo Rd., and Samuel and Lena's property became McDonald Commons Park.

Kamia's family is very talented in music, art, and sports, to name a few. There is lots of history with the military, humanitarian services, education, religion and extensive travel. They have had many big family reunions in Madeira, and later, in Dayton. There appears to be many memorable times spent living in Madeira close to family and friends. It's going to be so rewarding if we can help Kamia with more bits of lost history. While writing this story, I realized that the society can only be as good as our donations of photos, letters,



Samuel C. Spaulding



Lena Rachel Brown Spaulding



stories, and time spent living in Madeira. Please consider sharing articles and artifacts to the Madeira Historical Society.

Walter Booker Spaulding first Madeira casualty in WWI





How do you like the new look? Until now the Miller House was hidden from view by three dead trees on the left side of the front yard and one 100 foot Eastern White Pine Tree almost directly in front of the house. Earlier this year the four trees were removed and the Brockhage Landscaping Company replanted grass seed and a flowering Dogwood Tree. Three members of the society donated the required \$1,200 for the new landscaping. Former Madeira Mayor Michelle Schneider provided the new tree. (Society President Steve Ballman in photo thanking Michelle). A special thanks to Gilson Engraving for the work done on the plaque.



Other improvements include a new blacktop driveway and a new gas line installed by Duke Energy. The new driveway was paid for from the sale of postage stamps and proceeds from our recent yard sale. Madeira Historical Society President, Steve Ballman, stated that “we will now begin the fundraising hoping to repaint the exterior of the Miller House” The painting estimate is \$11,000.



The yard sale in May was a booming success, bringing in an estimated \$1,400 in new revenue. Chairwoman Carol Heck talked about the hours that volunteers worked, not just during the yard sale, but the many hours required for the collection of sale items and pricing. The society is again collecting items for a **SECOND YARD SALE** to be held on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9 AM - 4 PM.



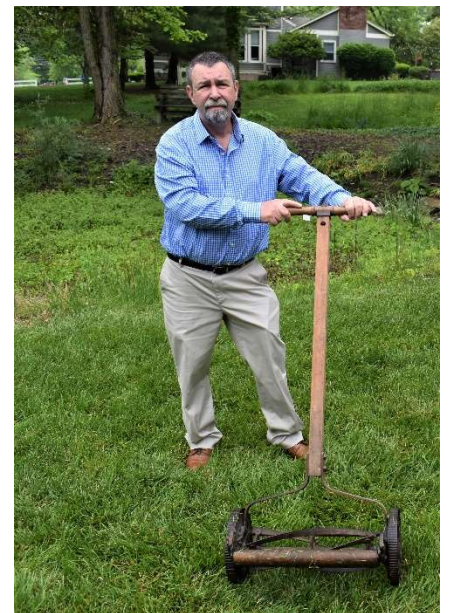




One hundred and fifty Madeira first grade students walked from their school to the Miller House to learn about history and to experience how it was “back then” and compare to how it is “now”. Because of the 2020 COVID-19, last year’s first grade students were not able to visit the Miller House Museum. Museum volunteers taught the students how



clothes back then would have been washed in a big tub with a wash board before hanging on a clothes line. Each student would be given a clothes pin to take home. Live chickens were displayed in our restored Chicken Coup, explaining that we didn’t always have a Kroger Store for eggs and chicken dinners.



**Welcome, St. Gertrude fourth grade Class.**



What a pleasure it was that the entire St. Gertrude Fourth Grade class visited our museum and learned about history from 1948 back to the 1800’s. We hope to welcome the St Gertrude students back next year. Carol Heck & Todd Woellner teach grass mowing & wash board laundering. **Memorial Approved,** Your board has given the green light for a memorial that would be created on the Miller House

grounds. The memorial will be a way to remember our members that have served the Madeira Historical Society and have now passed on. Initial funding for this project has been provided by Nancy King in memory of her late husband, Lionel King. When a plan for the memorial has been developed, the society will advise members how much funding is needed for the project and will present the plan.



**Ferrari's Little Italy**, fundraiser dinner Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 4PM until closing. Patty at Ferrari's has been helping the society for decades and is looking forward to our visit.

**Miller House Museum Director**, Liz Frederick is searching for volunteers to help as Docents at the Miller House. Liz will provide the required training. Docents greet visitors at the museum and explain the museum history and talk about the various museum displays. Telephone Liz at 561-9069 and leave a message for her.

**Madeira Historical Society**, volunteers will be working the beer booth at the Madeira 4<sup>th</sup> of July community festival following the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade on Miami Avenue. Proceeds will be added to the House painting fund. The parade and festival at McDonald Commons are held on **JULY 3<sup>rd</sup>**.



**Lifetime member**, Doris Burton has recently visited the Miller House several times accompanied by two of her three daughters, Dawn and Dana. In the photo Doris is sitting in front row, daughter Dana is back row left, and Dawn is back row middle, Society Librarian Carol Heck is back row right. Dawn's husband Steve Kincaid (grew up in Madeira) was also with Doris but was not in photo. Doris now resides in Milford.

Doris and her now deceased husband Dallas served the society for decades, and were close friends with Cleo Hosbrook and Regina Villiers. In the photo Doris is sitting by the ladies writing desk that she donated to the museum. The desk goes back several generations in the Muchmore-Hosbrook Families. Doris joined Dallas in collecting and preserving Native Indian artifacts while raising her two daughters.

Last year the **Madeira Art Fair** was cancelled due to COVID 19, but not this year. The Art Fair was again held in May, and was well attended. The Madeira Historical Society set up their booth and promoted the society, including the sale of books and note cards. Shown in the photo are society members Bob Bartlett, Carol Heck, and Society president Steve Ballman.

Thanks for your Madeira Historical Society membership and commitment.

