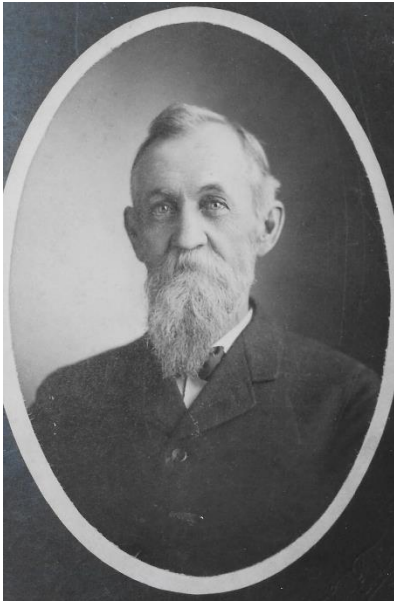


## Madeira Village Hall, Then and Now by Carol (Klenk) Heck



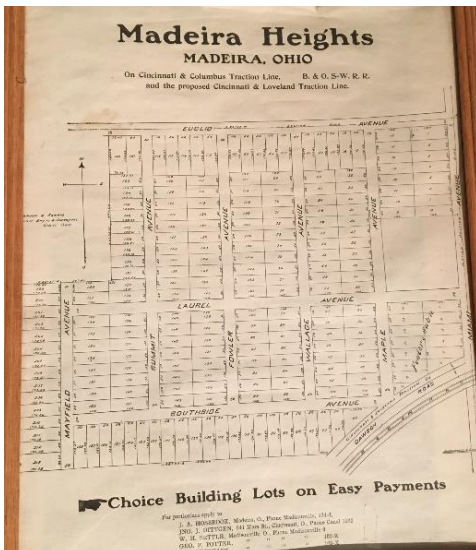
Madeira became incorporated as a village in 1910 and Samuel K. Druce, seen here, was the first mayor. “Village Council held its first meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup> that year and the population of Madeira had reached 500.” \*1 I also found a source stating that “Madeira’s early municipal government took its first seat in what is now the fire station on Miami Avenue and Euclid. (At that time, it would have been the old John L. Hosbrook home.) Council meetings were moved in the 1920’s to a structure on Laurel Avenue referred to as the old municipal building.” \*2

This second picture is of that building that was built by George C. Bauer, post master, on Laurel Avenue. I think



it might have been built between 1916 and 1929. I thought it was built as a post office because this black and white picture shows a post office sign in the window. And another picture we have has

George Bauer standing inside looking out by the post office sign. However, we know that the Village of Madeira had offices in the rear of the building. According to Hamilton County Auditor’s website, the plot was part of Lot 8 of the Moore and Hosbrook Subdivision and had an address recorded as being on Miami Avenue. The land that is the location of the present-day shoe repair shop now, may have been part of George Bauer’s corner property on Miami Avenue around 1899. (This old building still stands today and is the topic of conversation whenever speaking about old Madeira buildings.) It makes sense to me that a prominent business owner like George Bauer would build a structure on his extended land to give the folks of Madeira a place for the post office which was then located in the back area of Bauer’s Department Store. Around 1929, the post office was moved from Bauer’s store to this building.



Just a few years earlier, in 1914, John A. Hosbrook, civil engineer/surveyor, platted Madeira Heights Subdivision and dedicated those streets therein. Madeira Heights included the area from Euclid to Southside, and from Miami to Mayfield. “This was originally part of a larger parcel of 320 acres which was first transferred from John Cleves Symmes to David Black Sr. on March 2, 1796 for 66.6 cents per acre.” \*3 After that, many more landowners held portions of the original 320 acres as it became subdivided.

After Madeira Heights was created, “the Madeira Methodist Episcopal Church trustees acquired lots #1, #2, and #3 from Hosbrook et al. for their new church on the southwest corner of Miami and Euclid in 1924. They paid \$1,500 for .623 acre.” \*4 Methodists worshipped there for 35 years, but around 1959, the Methodist church moved out of this property and into their present location on Galbraith Road.

The Village of Madeira purchased the old church building for \$50,000 from the Methodists. They remodeled the church structure for another \$75,000 and took over that once yellow-brick building as their new Village Hall. (See photo at right.) Very shortly thereafter, “Madeira achieved city-status after the 1960 census. Madeira had grown to full stature with a population exceeding 6,700.” \*5 Madeira became a city on December 5, 1960!



The next picture of this gray building, then called the City of Madeira Municipal Offices, shows the remodeled tower on the right-hand side in its lowered state. It was originally a castellated steeple containing an 1889 Vanduzen & Tift Buckeye Bell Foundry church bell which was brought over from the first Methodist church on Center and Laurel. The village of Madeira’s other changes to the structure included the



removal of the church bell, the removal of the stained-glass windows and relocation of the main entrance, just to name a few of the areas of renovation. You can also see the encased 1776 Liberty Bell replica which was purchased by citizens, school children, and council for the celebration of the nation’s Bicentennial. “The Liberty Bell arrived on April 26, 1975 by a special flat 3-car Chessie train down at the depot. At that time, there hadn’t been any trains stopping in Madeira for quite some years. The crowd started to gather at 8:00 A.M. Nearly 1000 citizens showed up to watch the train coming in and the unveiling of the symbol of our liberty. Those in attendance got to hear the tolling of the bell.” \*6

Major utility upgrades were made to the Municipal Building in 1976. They changed a few office spaces and made a separate entrance for the police department. The City of Madeira operated out of the above renovated building until around 1991, about 32 years. After that, the structure was demolished to build the current building.

While Madeira was waiting for the demolition and construction of the new building, city council moved into Madeira’s Historic District and into the Joseph A. Muchmore House,

(shown here). This house sits on the corner of Miami and Railroad Avenues, across Railroad Avenue is the railroad depot. Here is a picture of the smartly blue-painted home as it looked when city council and other city departments occupied it. It was the historic home of Joseph Muchmore and his wife, Eliza Jeffers Muchmore. There used to be a carriage house or barn behind it being accessible from Railroad Avenue. The carriage house was in extreme disrepair. U.S. Government grant money was spent and work was started to straighten the leaning structure. However, there were still two opposing views about what should be done: restore or dismantle. In the end, the Muchmore Barn was quickly bulldozed and destroyed, much to the dismay of many citizens.



The late 1890's home has been "preserved and protected" by the City Charter since a public petition was instated in 2014. Currently the house still exists, along with the Hosbrook House next door. Both of these homes were given to the city by Cleo Hosbrook as part of Madeira's founding family's history, hence the Historic District.



And now to current times. No doubt, every Madeira citizen knows and recognizes this impressive municipal building that adorns Miami Avenue and Euclid.

The Liberty Bell now resides inside the modern lobby. This large red-brick building has a clock tower and a 1992 cornerstone. I have visited the conference room and



there on the walls are pictures of all the mayors of Madeira - from S. K. Druce to all those that they have. If anyone has any pictures of the missing mayors, please let the Madeira Historical Society or City of Madeira know. [Madeirahistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:Madeirahistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or (513) 561- 9069

1. *Madeira...A City in '60*, by J. Graydon DeCamp and Marion S. Kjellenberg, pages 9 and 13.
2. *The Cincinnati Telephone Bulletin*, Editor David J. Schneider, April/May, Vol. 55, No. 4, 1964, page 12.
3. *History of the Municipal Building*, introduction letter by N. M. Hoffmann dated August 14, 1989.

4. *History of the Municipal Building*, introduction letter by N. M. Hoffmann dated August 14, 1989.
5. *Madeira...A City in '60*, by J. Graydon DeCamp and Marion S. Kjellenberg, page 2.
6. *History of the Municipal Building*, introduction letter by N. M. Hoffmann dated August 14, 1989, Exhibit J.

Photos are courtesy of Madeira Historical Society, Madeira City Council website, and Carol (Klenk) Heck.

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Also see, “You’ve Got Mail” under Post Offices, and “Madeira’s Second Historic Area”, or “Remembering the Muchmore Barn” under Maps and Homes, “Unraveling the Hosbrooks” under Madeira Families. Also see Churches, and Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire Department.