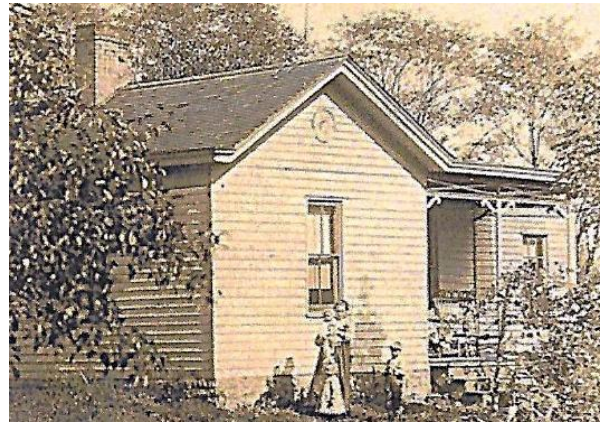


A Madeira History as told by Alma Slagle

Introduction by Carol (Klenk) Heck

This Slagle homestead was at 7722 Railroad Ave. just a few years ago. It sat to the right of the B. & B. Mower Shop. (Today, both buildings comprise SwingLine Grill.) The mother was Frances Groat Slagle; the son, Clifford; daughter, Alma; & the baby in arms, Ruth. Sometime around 1918, Alma wrote a history of Madeira from her own perspective. Here is her eighth-grade manuscript:



History of Madeira by Alma Slagle

“Madeira was founded in 1866, as a station on what was then known as the Marietta R.R. (Railroad), now known as the Baltimore & Ohio R.R. Madeira is situated in Columbia & Sycamore Townships, Ham. Co., Ohio. It was laid out by John L. Hosbrook & John D. Moore.

Madeira was originally part of Indian Hill. It was named for John Madeira, a prominent Railroad man, a resident of Chillicothe. Mr. Madeira owned a quarter section of land south of Madeira known as the Section (Woods) which is now owned by W. H. Settles, Wm. H. Hall, Clason DeMar, Robt. Meyers, Wm. Swormstedt, Mr. Shepherd & Mr. James Brooks.

Madeira has a never failing well which supplies B & O trains.

Madeira was no doubt the scene of many fights with the Indians as many arrow heads (flints) have been found scattered everywhere. Mr. Joseph B. Mann (told) of his grandfather having a narrow escape from capture by Indians, while hunting wild turkeys. The Indians would imitate a turkey & his grandfather tried to follow what he supposed to be a turkey & the Indians surprised him. He died at an early age, probably due to over exertion from escaping from the Indians.

He also tells that his grandfather bought thirty acres of land now in the heart of Madeira from the Indians for a horse & a rifle. This property is now owned by Mr. C. Aikens, Mr. C. C. Stephens, Mr. Walter Mann, Mr. C. Cochran, Mr. Wm. Morrill, Mr. G. Butz, & Mr. A Butz. The Stephens home was originally the Mann homestead, now remodeled into a modern home.

The first turnpike was built by a company composed of J. L. Hosbrook, Thorndike Keller, & J. B. Mann. It is now the Camargo Pike.

The first school was a log house situated in the Northwest corner of section 12. The next school was a brick building in the Northeast corner of section 12. Then a stone building still standing but improved & changed to a dwelling house. This school was known officially as the Union School & familiarly as Mount Topper & the Stone Jug. Then followed a good brick building on the present grounds, which was abandoned in 1913 when a modern eight room building was erected, which accommodates 8 grades & is also the home of the Union High School organized in 1919. Mr. J. T. DeMar has been principal of the Madeira School for (many years).

There was formerly a brickyard where school now stands.

The first P.O. was known as Indian Hill. The first postmaster was John Dones who also kept a general store at the corner of what is now Miami Ave. & Camargo Pike. The mail was carried here on horseback from Madisonville once a week. The P. O. is now at Miami Ave. & B. & O. R.R.

There are two churches in Madeira, The Presbyterian, an outgrowth of the Union S.S. (Sunday School) which met for years at the Union School House; afterwards at Muchmore Hall, which is still standing. Then through the efforts of the Ladies Aid Society, a building was erected & dedicated in 1887, which after two remodelings, is the church as it is today. Rev. Cortelyou was the first pastor.

The Methodist Church was built in 1873 through the efforts of Mr. J. D. Moore. Among its first members were the families of the Mann, Hetzler, Jones, Stites, & Smith. Raymond Smith was the first leader.

One of the early amusements I learned from Mrs. Jacob Mann was the husking bee; after husking the corn they would have supper & dancing. There were also barn raisings. When a new barn was to be built, a number of men would gather together & help, when the floor was put in, they would have a dance. And on election day, the young people would all drive in a big farm wagon decorated in red, white & blue ribbon to the Carthage Fairgrounds.

Camp meetings were held in the Section woods, which lasted about six weeks. The young people frequently had dances in Muchmore Hall. From Mr. DeMar, I learned that for school day's amusements they played Town Ball, Cat Ball, Bull Pen, Fox Chasing, coasting & skating, hat ball & crack about. For evening events they had singing school, spelling school, debates, political meetings & literary societies.

Some of the men or families well-known as community or political leaders are: J. D. Jones, father of Judge Oliver B. Jones, Leonard Fowler, James & John Dones, Chas. & Joseph Muchmore, John L. Hosbrook, Henry & Morris Christ, Joseph Cornish, John D. Moore, Thomas Graves, James DeMar, Major Mann, William Edmiston, Christian Hetzler, David Black, Thomas Stevens, J. M. Tingly. & Z. T. DeMar. Madeira was incorporated in 1910. Now has a population of 500. In 1905 a traction line was built through Norwood to Hillsboro. It was known as Cincinnati & Columbus Traction Co. It was originally intended to run to Columbus, but was never extended that far. This road was abandoned Jan. 1, 1920. Madeira (has) one general store in which is the Post Office, two grocery, one meat market, & feed store & confectionary.

The first mayors were S. K. Druce. John D. Hudson & Mr. J. A. Hosbrook, the present mayor.

I am indebted to Mr. Z. T. DeMar for information about the school & churches.” *

*Manuscript from Alma Slagle's Eight Grade Class given to The Madeira Historical Society by Lindsay McLean in 1995.

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