

# MADEIRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CORNER

## Kenwood Road's Older Homes

by Carol (Klenk) Heck

An inventory of historic homes was done by the Ohio Historical Society in 1988. At that time, there were 11 farmhouses still existing in Madeira. Here are four of those homes situated on Kenwood Road that are still cared for and lived in today.



This first house, (the Emily A. Miller House) located at **5837** Kenwood Road was built in 1860; that's six years before the railroad came through the region now known as Madeira. This original land, consisted of 150 acres and was owned by Emily's father, Smith Clason, an early settler from Connecticut. In 1850, Smith deeded 39 acres to his daughter, Emily A. Miller nee Clason, so she could build a home. Emily was married to Levi P. Miller, a methodist Minister. It is a Victorian Gothic frame 2-story home with a center gable, and upper front windows which are curved at the top. Today the owners have 1.25 acres as the farm has been cut up and sold off over the last 175 years.



In a northward progression, one of the next older homes is at **5992** Kenwood Rd. at May St. which was built in 1845; again, before the expansion of the railroad in Madeira by 21 years.

Pictured in color is a more modern photo and the black & white is much older. You can see that the front porch has been changed. It is a 1 ½ story brick Gothic Revival farmhouse with a stone foundation. It has a distinctly steep pitched center front gable. The paneled entry door has side lights and an 8-light transom. An old 1847 Hamilton County map shows this house was owned by "Boyer". In 1869 it was on 89 acres and belonged to "Z. Boyer". In 1884, this was updated to 92 acres and owned by Zachariah Boyer. It now has an extension on the right-hand side including a 2-car garage.

Interesting stories have been told about this next farmhouse at **6144** Kenwood Road. This is known as the Jones / DeMar house. It is believed to have been part of the underground railroad and that it was haunted at one time. Originally John Jones owned a pioneer home that sat farther back off the street, circa 1847. John Jones was an early settler and a revolutionary war veteran who obtained this deed circa 1795-96 of 150 acres. Area Indians, probably Miami, Shawnee and

Delaware tribes were not friendly during the early years. One story has it that one morning a little child went down to the barn way behind the house and she was never seen again. The assumption was that she was snatched by unfriendly Indians.



John's son was Oliver Jones. Oliver's son was J. Dan Jones. The house seen here was probably built for J. Dan Jones in the 1850-1869 period on 94 acres. This I-house has a center gable and features an outstanding center entry porch with paired decorative wood columns. It had 7 fireplaces, 2 staircases and 2 parlors; one for the gentlemen and one for the ladies. The basement beams are made from tree trunks with some of the bark still on them. However today, I don't know how much of this still exists inside the home.

In 1884, the house belonged to Mary and Nancy Jones, possibly 2 sisters, (not sisters of J. Dan), and it sat on 25 ½ acres. Blaine DeMar owned the house around 1919 when he married Frances Louise Jones. The corn field went all the way north to Shawnee Run Road. The pond was where 6216 Kenwood is now. When the pond was sufficiently frozen, a signal fire was set to notify that the pond was safe to skate on. Many a neighbor would come to skate during the winter. Shown here is an artist's rendering of the side view going up Kenwood Rd.



Right across the road from the previous Jones / DeMar farm is **6183** Kenwood Road where we have the generational home of the Friedrich's. The lot was purchased by Charles W. Heitmeyer from Terwilliger in 1851. Fred Kroetzsch purchased this lot from Heitmeyer in Feb. 1869. The house is presumed to be built in 1860, and is of the I-house style. It's a 2-story frame home and has a 1-story addition added to the rear. It has a concrete block garage in the backyard. On 1869 and 1884 maps it shows 40 and 28+ acres

respectively belonging to F. Kroetzsch, a merchant in Oakley who actually lived in Oakley then. This house could have been rented to a tenant farmer during those years. After that time, it looks like the house and land were owned by the Friedrich's family starting with William and Minerva (Minnie). The Friedrich's sold a lot of their land in the 1930's to become the Kenwood Country Club, but it remains in the Friedrich's family still today.

We think of Madeira as starting, or founded, when the railroad went through, but clearly, settlers were here and Indians were here and people were starting to put down roots as far back

as 1790's. Families married into other close-by families and lots of children were born to them. Many stayed in the area for generations. These homes are testaments to that. It's a rich history because it's not all forgotten or gone. Please visit the Madeira Historical Society website for more tours of homes and information. Consider becoming involved and sharing stories.

References: *Ohio Historic Inventory*, by Ohio Historical Society, 1988.

Photos are courtesy of Madeira Historical Society, DeMar family, and Hamilton County Auditor's website.

Originally written September 2025.