

To continue celebrating this landmark year in Colerain Township, in March, we want to celebrate **Churches of Colerain Township**.

Current Churches are encouraged to highlight their Church's History in Colerain on "**Colerain Church Sunday**" **March 24, 2019**.

Read article below about the Early Churches in Colerain Township

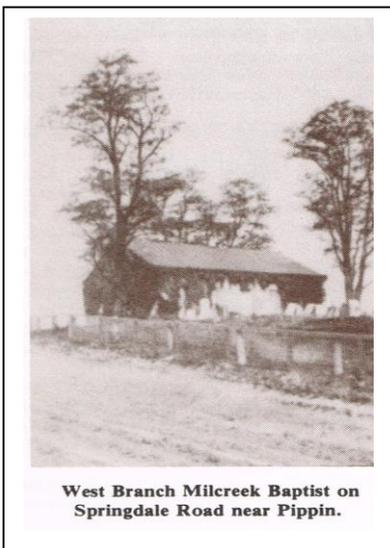
EARLY CHURCHES IN THE COLERAIN TOWNSHIP AREA

Reprinted from the Coleraine Pageant February, 1987

After General Wayne's victory and the Treaty of Greenville in 1795, settlements spread rapidly throughout Hamilton County, followed closely by churches. **The earliest churches were first established by the Baptists, then Presbyterians, followed by the Methodists.**

On March 14, 1810, Solomon Slayback deeded one acre to the "**Regular Baptist Church of Pleasant Run**". The deed was signed by Solomon and his wife, Sarah, witnessed by William and Abel Slayback, recorded by Zebulon Foster on April 2nd 1810. This church was built in the northwest corner of Section 25 in Springfield Township at the Butler County line. A few stones remain in the little church cemetery on present day Mill Road at the end of John Gray Road. Records copied from the stones show burials from 1827 to 1855. Names of families buried there include Edwards, Farmer, Fitchett, Floyd, Hall, Newell, Shipley, Trim and Walden.

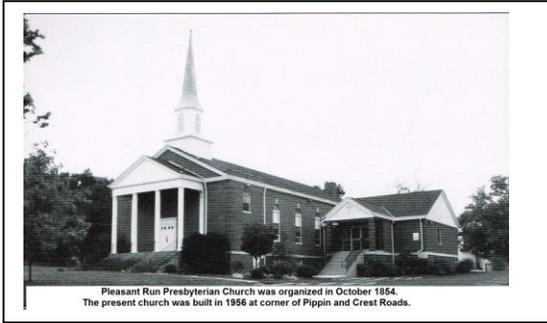
Also in 1810 **another Baptist church was started on Compton Road**, west of Mt Healthy on lands of Samuel Johnson. It was constituted on October 28, 1810 by a council composed of William Jones, Ross Crosby and Henry Morton of the Columbia church; Richard Ayers, Cyrus Crane and Thomas Higgins of Carpenter's Run; Isaac Sellers of Pleasant Run and Richard J. Compton of Muddy Creek. The site if this first church was in **Arlington Memorial Gardens Cemetery**, but no trace of either has ever been found.



Sometime in the 1820's **this church moved to Springdale Road east of Pippin** on lands purchased from Jacob Williamson, a member of the church. A brick church was built, but was destroyed by a tornado in 1833. A second brick church building was erected in the same year. The church is gone but the cemetery – **West Branch Cemetery** - remains in the care of Colerain Township. In 1965 114 stones were copied by Polly Stout and Ruth Wells, the earliest being that of Harbour Hughes, who died in 1827. Early settler names found there are Compton, Cox, Hughes, Joyce, Martin, Miles, Monfort, Norris, Skillman, Stout, Struble and Williamson. Many of the early settlers were Baptists.

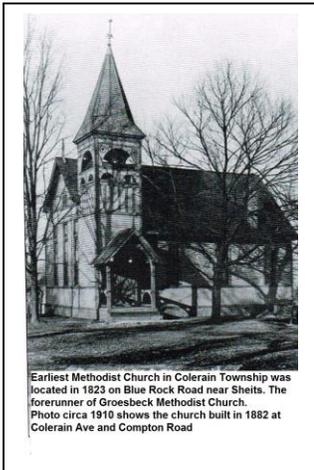
The **First Presbyterian Church of Colerain Township** was located on Kemper Road, west of Pippin and next to the water tower. On April 4, 1814, William Hunter sold the tract to the Presbyterian Church in Colerain Township “for the sole use and purpose of a burying ground”.

The Trustees of the Presbyterian Ground were James Charters, John Ramsey, Jr. and William



Gardner. It was made by Judah Willey, J. P. and witnessed by Ephraim Brown and Abizer Miles. It is shown on the 1869 map of Colerain Township as the “**Peoples Church**”. The Presbyterians didn’t want to build another church in the graveyard so in 1854 Christian and Ann Schlunigar sole 2/3 of an acre at the corner of Hamilton and John Gray Roads to Paul H. Hunter, Benjamin F Fessenden, John H Messler and other Trustees of the Pleasant Run Presbyterian Church.

The old cemetery on Kemper Road is still there now known as the **Huston Cemetery** because of the number of that family buried there. The earliest stone is dated 1805. In addition to Huston, other names include Gray, McCrea, Pottenger, Ramsey, Sedam, Smith and Warman. This cemetery is also in the care of the Colerain Township.

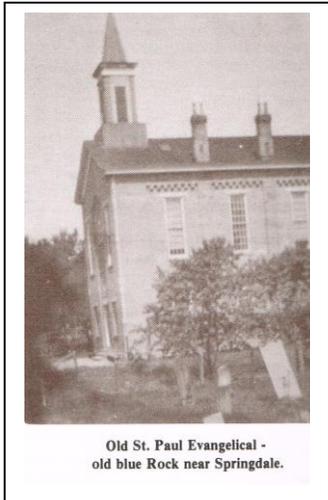


The earliest record of a Methodist church is found on Blue Rock Road near Sheits. June 2, 1823 Daniel and Rhoda Dean sold the tract of ground to the Trustees of the Methodist Society; John Dean, Henry Lore and Michael Isgrigg. This became known as the **Franklin Methodist Church** and Cemetery.

Also on Blue Rock Road near the end of present day Galbraith Road was established the **Olive Branch Methodist Church**, a log church building. It was deeded in 1823 by Henry and Hester Lora to Trustees Joseph Hart, Thomas Heath, Joseph Sparks, Henry Loar, and Thomas Hubbard. **This church because the forerunner of the present Groesbeck United Methodist Church.**

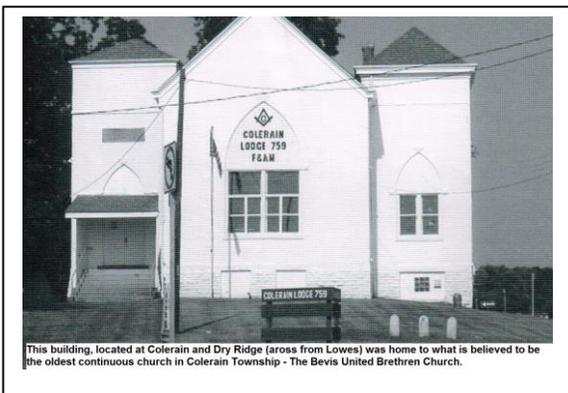
In the 1830’s the Gampbellite movement caused a breakup of the Olive Branch church, part of the group splitting off to form a Christian Church. The remainder of the Methodists continued meeting in homes and later in the Round Top School house, at the sharp turn on Round Top Road near Colerain. Some members of the Asbury Chapel Methodist Church on West Fork Road in Green Township joined with them. Samuel J. Pouder and Charles West were leaders in this group. Charles West gave land on the east side of Colerain Road opposite his home for a site for the new Methodist Church. In 1849 this new Methodist Church, the **West Union Chapel**, was built. The first building was of brick later replaced by a somewhat larger frame building. The old date stone from the first brick building was preserved and can be seen today in the sanctuary wall of the present church. The first two buildings stood on the site now occupied by the Mayflower Savings and Loan. The West Union Chapel was so named because of Charles West, leader and donor of the land and for a union of two congregations – Olive Branch and Asbury Chapel Methodists. The name was also given to the community until a post office was established, when it became necessary to change the name of the village as there was another West Union in the state of Ohio. The name “Groesbeck” was chosen for one of the two brothers well known in the Civil War.

The **White Oak Christian Church** was organized in 1848 in the presence of Joseph Trowbridge and Benjamin Watkins. Records of the church list elders as: William Pool, Willian Conger (died 4 Jul 1849), Thomas Hubbard (died 25 May 1852) Garret Vanosdol and Thomas Tattersal. Daniel Barnes, Dawson Hubbard and Dan Bacon were Deacons. Such notices of deaths or transfers to other churches are found frequently in the old record books of the church. Family names of Wilkinson, Stone, Sparks, Hatt, Heath, Gulick, Stout, Weatherby and many others are found in the membership lists of this church. This was the only Christian Church in Colerain Township.



Old St. Paul Evangelical - old blue Rock near Springdale.

Influx of German immigrants into Colerain Township in the mid 1800's brought in the Lutheran Churches. In 1840 the **German Protestant Evangelical Church** was built on Old Blue Rock Road south of Springdale in the old Barnesburg area. This site is now occupied by **St. Paul's United Church of Christ**. Not much is known about this early church. A split in this congregation led to the establishment of Trinity Lutheran, first on Gaines Road near Springdale where its cemetery exists today. The present church is located on Springdale near Gaines. The brick church was built in 1874 in front of the little frame building established there in 1840. Early officers of the church were Charles Kress, O. Rinckel, George Kern, Adam Hussell, Jacob Westerman, John Fuchs and George Kern. Early pastors were Revs. Malcahn, Adele, Hering, Foelker, Mueller and Hummel.



This building, located at Colerain and Dry Ridge (across from Lowes) was home to what is believed to be the oldest continuous church in Colerain Township - The Bevis United Brethren Church.

The United Brethren Churches were numerous in Colerain Township. An early one was the **Bevis United Brethren** resulting from services held by Rev. Elias W. Hoffner. Among early members of this congregation were Jesse, Martin and James Bevis, John Hunt, Joseph Mullen and John Looper. Rev. Hoffner preached in the abandoned old brick Bevis Hotel in the old village of Bevis, stranded by the building of the Colerain Turnpike a quarter mile west of the hotel. It was replaced by another brick building on the same site in 1893, dedicated by Bishop Castle.

It adjoins on the north to the Bevis Cedar Grove Cemetery, although it apparently did have a small burial ground of its own at the church. **That building is today a Masonic Hall**, the church having moved out beyond Day Road on Old Colerain and being known as the **Prince of Peace Church**. Early preachers here were Revs. Hadder, Scanahorn, Kemp, Emerick, Bonebrake and Yingling.

At Georgetown, aka Dunlap, **the English United Brethren Church** was organized in 1847 by Rev. Scanahorn. The first members were L. Burns, Margaret Joyce, Mary Ogg and William Pickens. They worshiped in the Joyce School House until 1850 when Giles Richards gave a building site and the church was erected, dedicated by the Rev. Christopher Flinchpaugh.

The **Bethel United Brethren Church** was organized by Rev. Thomas Thompson meeting at William Shipman's wagon shop. In addition to Shipman, early members were Parmenus, Ithamar and Swain Corson, John Dean and Benjamin Davis, who gave the land for the church and cemetery. It was built

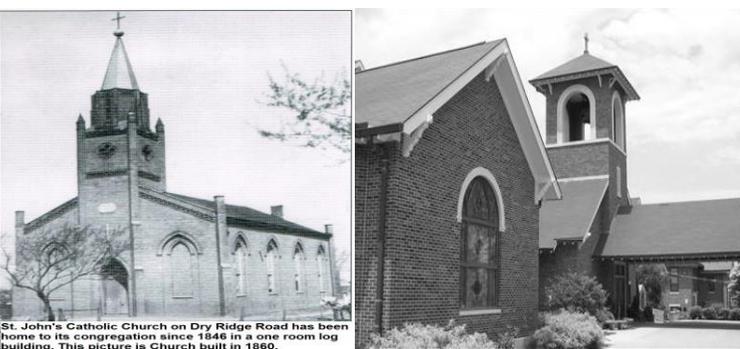
in 1855 at the corner of Gaines and Springdale roads. The church building is long gone and forgotten, but the cemetery remains in the care of the Colerain Township Trustees.

A **German United Brethren** was built many years ago on Dry Ridge near Scull Road. Not much is known about it except that it was started by the Raisch Family. In the early 1900's the building was cut in two parts and moved with wagons and teams and reassembled next to the home of Jesse Bevis.

A German Brethren was organized at Dunlap by the Rev. Mittendorf and held services in the English U. B. there until 1872 when a church was built. Trustees at that time were George Lueckhauer, Jacob Bernhardt and George Horning.

Also brought in by the German immigrants were the Roman Catholic Churches. The very First Catholic Parishes outside the city of Cincinnati, serving both Green and Colerain Townships, was organized in 1840 at the home of Sylvester Oehler.

St Jacobs, now St James, built its first log church on Cheviot Road in 1844. This became the mother church for all parishes established within a ten mile radius – St Patrick's in Northside and Assumption in Mt Healthy being early ones.



St. John's Catholic Church on Dry Ridge Road has been home to its congregation since 1846 in a one room log building. This picture is Church built in 1860.

St John the Baptist, on Dry Ridge Road, was the second parish to be organized in 1860. Rev. Gebhard Egger was pastor from 1866 to 1873, at that time followed by the Rev. Franz Karl Julius Voet. As early as 1846 this Catholic group had erected a log school house. This is a thriving country parish today.



St. Bernard Catholic Church was formed in 1867 at the corner of Harrison Pike and Springdale Road. The present Church was constructed in 1935.

In 1867 **St Bernard's of Taylor Creek** was established on Harrison Pike at the end of Springdale Road. The three acre site was given by George Wingirtir. All three of these parishes have cemeteries adjacent to the churches. They are active parishes today.

The White Oak Presbyterian Church began its days as a worshipping community in a little house at 3268 Jessup Road in White Oak on February 16, 1964. As the church community grew, they moved to the little theater at Colerain High School. They then broke ground for the new church at 8735 Cheviot Road. The first morning worship was Easter Sunday, March 20, 1970. Today this church is known as the Northwest Community Church. (Courtesy of the White Oak Presbyterian Church.)





The Trinity Lutheran Church was founded near 7315 Gaines Road in 1851. An old stone church was constructed in the early 1850s. The church was replaced in the early 1920s by the church pictured. Almost all churches in those days had a cemetery nearby. This church was replaced by a beautiful new church in 1958 at 5921 Springdale Road. (Courtesy of Don Linz.)



This is the old Trinity Lutheran Church. As the congregation grew, a larger church was needed, and that is when they built the new church on Springdale Road. (Courtesy of David Reedy.)

This is the story of the various religious movements established in Colerain Township, and sheds some light on the history of the area.

NOTE – The Coleraine Historical Society is asking Churches to forward pictures and information about your Church's founding to colerainehistorical@outlook.com