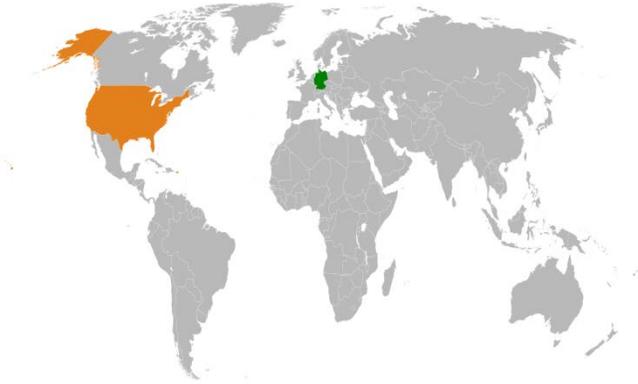


## History of Minster, Ohio

Most of Minster's earliest settlers came from southern Oldenburg and Hannover in Germany. They sailed from Bremen, Germany. Their voyage lasted anywhere from 5-13 weeks at sea. Most of the immigrants landed at Baltimore, Maryland. From Baltimore, women and children, trunks and baggage, were loaded on large freight wagons headed for the Pittsburg-Wheeling area. Men and boys usually walked this 14-16 day journey. From here the immigrants floated down the Ohio River on flatboats to Cincinnati. Then they would travel north by canal boat to Dayton where the canal ended. From Dayton, they would hire someone to take them by wagon or walk the old trail through Piqua to get to Minster.



## Stallostown

On September 28, 1832, Franz Joseph Stallo and six other men, acting as agents for a group of 97 Germans bought 640 acres of land in our area for \$800 in silver. Trees were removed, streets laid out, and the site was divided into 144 lots, which made up the village of Stallostown. In July of 1833 Stallo died suddenly of cholera. In 1836, the town was renamed Minster.

## Land

The land at Stallostown was first covered in trees. The forest was full of wild turkey, deer, raccoons, squirrels and even wolves. The Germans were not good hunters because they had only a few shotguns and because they were afraid of getting lost in the forest (which happened often). At first, the farmers planted their crops in the spaces between the trees. Later, the trees were burned to make more farmland. Swampy conditions and illness kept the town from growing immediately.

## Canal

In 1845 the Miami and Erie Canal was completed. The canal was from Toledo through Minster to Cincinnati. The canal allowed for Minster to trade with others. The freight boats took the farmers' grain, pork, lumber and barrels from Minster to the Toledo and Cincinnati markets. Hotels, saloons, and stores were built in Minster once the canal was completed. Minster had barrel factories, a brewery, a flour mill, pork packers, and creamery. Many new people came to find jobs and live here. Families could take a trip to Cincinnati by canal boat for \$1.50 one way. The canal boat trip to Cincinnati would take two days.





## **Cholera Epidemic**

More than 300 of Minster's people died in July and August of 1849 because of the great cholera epidemic. Cholera is a bacterial infection, often caused by contaminated water. There is a monument in St. Augustine Cemetery in honor of the people who died in 1849 because of cholera.



## **Railroad**

In 1877 the Lake Erie and Western Railroad was built in Minster. It took freight and offered twice a day passenger service until 1902. In 1902 the Western Ohio Railway Company began its operation of the trolley cars which were discontinued in 1932.

## Religion

The German settlers brought with them their strong Catholic faith. The first log church was built in 1835 in the North Park (now called Centennial Park). In 1848 the first brick church was built with one tower located on Hanover Street (Saint Augustine Church). The twin towers were added in 1874 and the earlier tower was removed.

## School

The first log school, which was a one room school house, was built in 1833. The Minster Public School (now the religious education building) was built in 1895 and rebuilt in 1905 from a fire. The first High School was built in 1932 next to the church. It later became the elementary school for kindergarten, and fourth through eighth grade. Then it became the elementary school for kindergarten through third grade. In 2011, the building was closed and the elementary students attended the Minster Elementary School (first known as the Minster Middle School) next the Minster High School.

