

Origins of the Milton Fire Department

The current City of Milton was originally two separate villages, known as Milton and Milton Junction (which was also known as Milton West for a time). The village of Milton was established in 1904. The village of Milton Junction was established in 1949. In 1967 the two villages merged into one, then became a city a few short years later.

Milton

The Milton Fire Protection Association was organized in 1899, according to the Bicentennial History of Milton. A fire at the E. A. Holmes store (a wood-framed structure just south of the Milton House on the other side of the Chicago Street intersection), had apparently sparked interest in the need for a fire company.

In 1907 the association petitioned to build an engine house. About that time the village purchased the Good Templar's Hall on Greenman Street, which housed the fire apparatus until 1955 when the village built a city hall/fire department on Parkview Drive.

Milton Junction

The Milton Junction Fire Department was officially formed in January, 1909. The month before, December, 1908, a major fire had destroyed the meat market on Merchant Row, and the community members and businessmen met the next day to collect money for fire apparatus and start the process to form a protective fire association.

head, and Father James McGlinchy of Janesville.

TO BUY APPARATUS FOR FIRE-FIGHTING

Citizens And Business Men of Milton Junction Have Organized a Fire Protective Association.

Milton Junction, Dec. 22.—After the fire last Friday night, when the old meat market at the north end of Merchants' Row, was destroyed by fire, the citizens and business men became interested in fire protection.

A meeting was called by the business men for Saturday morning and a soliciting committee appointed to solicit funds for the apparatus. After a short canvass it was decided to call a meeting for Monday night in Woodman hall.

About one hundred men responded to the call. The soliciting committee reported that they had already received over \$800 and many more to see. A Fire Protective association was formed with the following temporary officers:

D. E. Thorpe, Pres.
A. B. West, 1st V. Pres.
W. Winch, 2nd V. Pres.
H. E. Miles, Secretary.
F. B. Goodrich, Treasurer.

The soliciting committee was continued and F. J. Hull was appointed as chairman of the purchasing committee. The meeting adjourned to meet again on Saturday night. All interested are requested to be present. It was decided that all citizens that contributed, were to become members of the association.

(Janesville Gazette, December 22, 1908)

Another meeting was held two days later and temporary association officers were elected:

- D. E. Thorpe – president
- A. B. West – 1st vice president
- W. Winch – 2nd vice president
- H. E. Miller - secretary
- F. B. Goodrich – treasurer
- F.J. [Hull/Bull?] – chairman of the purchasing committee

History of the Milton Fire Department

By mid-January, 1909, the new Milton Junction Fire Association was incorporated and officers of the Association were elected.



(Janesville Gazette, January 20, 1909)

The association officers elected were:

- D. E. Thorpe – president
- J. H. Owen – vice president
- W. A. Ondd – secretary
- J. A. Paul – treasurer
- W. Winch – director
- S. C. Button – director

A week later the new Association officers had selected the first Fire Chief, M. H. Ansley.

**NEWS NOTES FROM
MILTON JUNCTION**

**Fire Association Board of Directors
Have Elected the New
Fire Chief.**

[SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE.]

Milton Junction, Jan. 25.—Prof. Ray of the high school gave a party to the other teachers and the senior class last Saturday evening. The evening was passed with games and a fine lunch was served. A number from the under classes were in attendance on the outside and tried to make things lively.

M. H. Ansley was appointed as fire chief by the board of directors of the fire association and is busy organizing a fire company. He has it started enough so they will hold a meeting next Wednesday night for the purpose of organizing.

(Janesville Gazette, January 26, 1909)

History of the Milton Fire Department

By February 4, 1909, the volunteer fire company had elected the company officers as well.



(Janesville Gazette, February 4, 1909)

The company officers elected were:

Chief - M. H. Ansley

Assistant Chief - George Keith

Foreman - H. H. Booti

Captain of Hose Company - George Maltpress

Foreman of Hook and Ladder Company - James Stockman

Fire Marshal - Archie Cullen, Jr.

History of the Milton Fire Department

A year later, the Fire Association elected officers for the coming year at the annual meeting in January, 1910.

**ELECTED OFFICERS
AT ANNUAL MEETING**

Milton Junction Fire Association
Chose Officers for Coming
Year.
[SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE.]

Milton Junction, Jan. 18.—At the annual meeting of the Fire association held last evening at the fire engine house the following officers were elected for the coming year: Pres., P. Hinkley; Vice Pres., A. O. Henderson; Sec., E. M. Holston; Treas., J. A. Paul; directors—W. Winch and C. S. Button. A resolution was presented by the fire company and adopted, asking the directors to procure reducers and couplings so the company's hose would connect up with McGowan's water-works and also connect with the hose of the Milton Fire Co.

(Janesville Gazette, January 18, 1910)

The association officers elected for the second year were:

- P. Hinkley – president
- A. O. Henderson – vice president
- E. M. Holston – secretary
- J. A. Paul – treasurer
- W. Winch – director
- C. S. Button - director

History of the Milton Fire Department

In the December 29, 1967, issue of the Janesville Gazette, an article summarizes how the villages of Milton and Milton Junction had become a single village that year and were contemplating becoming a city in 1968. This article mentions many of the advantages and changes of becoming a single village, including the fire department.

“Another major change was dissolving the old Milton Fire Department, which was consumed by the Milton Junction (now Milton) and Township of Milton Volunteer Fire Department with Les Streigl as chief.”

The Milton-Milton Township Joint Fire Department, which was overseen by a commission formed by an Intergovernmental agreement between the City of Milton and the Town of Milton, continued to operate until February 1, 2023, when it became part of the Edgerton Fire Protection District. Along with the City and Town of Milton, the Department also served all or portions of the Towns of Harmony, Johnstown, Lima and Koshkonong, under contract with these towns. For many years the City and Town of Milton had been investigating ways to provide sustainable, long-term, fire and EMS services in a changing environment of fire and EMS service throughout the state and the country. The City of Milton had engaged multiple consultants in the years prior to 2023, and the Joint Fire Commission had actually experimented with various organization structures, including contracting for management services from the City of Janesville Fire Department.

In April of 2021, the Town of Milton started discussions with the Edgerton Fire Protection District about potential joint operations. The Town of Milton was quickly joined by the Towns of Harmony, Johnstown and Lima in those discussions, and later in 2021 was joined by the City of Milton in those discussions. These five municipalities eventually decided unanimously to file a joint petition to join the Edgerton Fire Protection District in the fall of 2021. That then led to development of a new 10-municipality intergovernmental agreement, expanding the Edgerton Fire Protection District. On November 2, 2022, all ten municipalities and the District Board met in a joint session, and unanimously approved the new intergovernmental agreement, effective February 1, 2023.

Following integration of the new municipalities, the District Board and employees chose the name “Lakeside Fire-Rescue” for the integrated department.