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INCORPORATIONS OF CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS
IN FRANKLIN COUNTY
By Donald M. Schlegel

By an act of the Ohio Legislature passed on May 1, 1852, "any number of natural persons, not less than five, may become a body corporate" simply by meeting, electing the required officers, and filing a copy of the proceedings of the meeting with the clerk of the Recorder's office at their county court house. Previous to that date, all corporate bodies had to be created by act of the legislature. One section of the 1852 Act allowed incorporation of "any religious sect or denomination, fire company, or any literary, scientific or benevolent association," upon election of at least three trustees and a clerk. (1)

Over the years after the passage of this Act, and under its later forms, eleven local organizations which were related to the Church or were made up primarily of Catholics were incorporated in Franklin county. Their incorporation records, preserved in two volumes in the County Recorder's office, provide glimpses of these organizations, their membership, and their purpose.

Vol. I, pp. 49 and 59: The D.R.K. St. John's Beneficial Society of Columbus. The object of this society, which was a branch of a national association, was the mutual benefit of its members, through giving assistance when sick, burying the remains of deceased members, and protecting the widows and orphans. It was organized on December 27, St. John's Day, 1863, with the election of the following officers: John Orf, president; John Kaiser, vice president; August Ruetty, recording secretary; George J. Lang, secretary of finance; John G. Kellner, treasurer; Christian Wittmann, representative to the Central Deutsche Romische Katolische Association; Jacob Merz, secretary of the widows and orphans fund, and Conrad Meder, treasurer of the same. Trustees were John Jochum, Frank Engler, Jacob Purrung and Xavier Wegele.

The Society was re-incorporated as the Saint Johannes Unterstützungs Verein in April, 1866. At that time Christian Wittmann was president and August Ruetty, secretary; trustees were George J. Rodenfels, Franz Engler and Christian Wittman. The status of the organization in 1873 can be found in Studer's history of Columbus. (2)

Vol. I, pp 60 and 156: German St. Martin's Unterstützung und Wolthäligkeits Verein. This society, first organized on January 1, 1858, was another local branch of the Central D.R.K. Association. (3) At its incorporation meeting in April, 1866,

Johannes Trimmel acted as president and Joseph Voll as secretary. Trustees elected were Constantine Klott, Henry Schreiner and Christian Wittmann. At a special meeting for re-incorporation on June 29, 1871, Joseph Voll was president and John Gartner was secretary. Trustees elected were Franz Joseph Saile, W. Saile, John Ender, August Ruetty and Henry Schreiner.

Vol. I, p. 186: St. Franz Xavier Unterstitzungs Verein. This was the third local branch of the Central D.R.K. Association, organized in 1868. (4) Its incorporation was decided upon at its meeting held on January 16, 1873, at the "regular place of meeting in St. Mary's School House." John Heiman was president and Andreas Schoppelrei, secretary. Trustees elected were Lawrence Hack, Henry Schreiner, Peter Hinterschitt, Joseph Voll and W. Saile. This society is still active today.

Vol. I, p. 218: The House of the Good Shepherd of Columbus. The local convent of the Order of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd of Angers was established in May of 1865 on East Spring street; it was moved into the former Sullivant house at West Broad and Sandusky (then Washington) streets in 1866. (5)

The Sisters held a meeting for the purpose of incorporation "at their House, on the corner of West Broad Street and Washington Street" on January 19, 1874. Those present were Sister Mary Gertrude Molloy, Sr. Mary Stanislaus Miller, Sr. Mary Theresa Carroll, Sr. Mary Patrick Gainer and Sr. Mary Alexandrine Cardis, these "being all the members of said community or association in said city of Columbus." The object of the community was "the reformation of penitent women, and the preservation of young girls, no distinction being made as to Creed or religion; and for that purpose to co-operate in the System of Benevolent Action elsewhere known as the Order of the Good Shepherd."

Vol. I, p. 222: St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society of Columbus, Ohio. This society was organized in 1867 with the dual objectives of the suppression of intemperance and the mutual benefit of its members. (6) It was incorporated in February of 1874 with the election of six trustees: Michael Fahey, Michael J. Meers, Andrew Sheridan, John Irwin, Thomas Dunden and Felix Sheridan. Other members mentioned in the record of incorporation were O. J. McMahan, D. D. Sullivan, Cornelius Sullivan, Michael O'Brien and Edward Hifferman.

Vol. I, p. 249: St. Vincent Orphan Society of the Diocese of Columbus. This society was organized at a meeting held at the Holy Cross school house on December 7, 1874. The Bishop of the diocese of Columbus, Rt. Rev. S. H. Rosecrans, presided, and M. A. Daugherty was appointed secretary. The stated objective of the society was "to found and sustain an Asylum for Orphans, abandoned and destitute, and otherwise to provide for their education and welfare." Twelve trustees were elected: Thomas Bergin, Patrick Bresnahan, Patrick Egan, M. A. Daugherty, John Joyce, Peter Murphey, Louis Zettler, John Schneider, Charles Wolfel, Anthony Schaab, Wendelin Saile and Peter Böhm.

Vol. I, p. 253: Columbian Printing Company. This company was established "for the purpose of printing and publishing a newspaper or newspapers or books or other publications...." It was incorporated on December 15, 1874, by M. M. Meara, S. H. Rosecrans, Dennis A. Clarke, Luke G. Byrne and O. T. Turney, with a capital stock of \$3,000 at \$25 per share. Its product was the diocesan weekly, the Catholic Columbian. According to Lee's history of Columbus, "although incorporated, the company never organized. Bishop Rosecrans did the editorial work, assisted by Rev. D. A. Clarke, who acted also as business manager. The ownership was vested in Rev. D. A. Clarke, who paid in capital, as needed, from the receipts of the paper." (7)

Vol. I, p. 286: Division No. 1, B. A. O. H. of Columbus, Ohio. The Division No. 1, of the Benevolent Society of Ancient Order of Hibernians incorporated as a result of a meeting held on May 5, 1876, at their hall in Sessions Block [at the southwest corner of Long and High streets]. D. Sullivan was chairman, and E. Keyley was clerk. Trustees elected were M. Burns, M. Shay and E. Keyley.

Vol. I, p. 313: St. Paul Jung Men Beneficial Society. This society, made up of young men of St. Mary's parish, decided to incorporate at their meeting of August 12, 1877. Trustees elected were Frank Schmitt, Martin Deibel, John Trott, Jacob Hurst and John Schmitt. S. Charles Eckstein was secretary. The society had first met after Vespers on Sunday, May 14, 1876, with Louis Hartung as chairman, and John Neumeier, Jr., as secretary. Other early members were George Weisenberger, Emil Kiesewetter, Joseph Zengraf and Jacob Deibel. (8) The society survived to celebrate its centennial in 1976 and is still active.

Vol. II, p. 5: The Roman Catholic Knights Union Beneficial Association of the State of Ohio. This association was organized on March 31, 1882, "to render pecuniary assistance to the wife and lawful heirs of a member of said organization upon the death of any such member." The trustees were John B. Pahl, John E. Amann, Mathias Bonner, Henry P. Wiechens and Frederick Ziegler, "Citizens and residents of the State of Ohio." [Amann and Ziegler lived in Columbus. Bonner apparently lived in Chillicothe, and Pahl and Wiechens in Cincinnati.]

Vol. II, p. 7: Ancient Order of Hibernians Division Number Two. This society incorporated on April 20, 1883, for the "mutual protection and relief of its members and for the payment of stipulated sums of money to the families or heirs of the deceased members thereof." Trustees were Cornelius E. Lyons, Stephen O'Connor, Jeremicah O'Shaughnessy, John Broderick and J. O'Shaughnessy, all of Franklin County.

In addition to the above, Volume 2 of the Franklin County Corporation record contains on page 24 a certified copy of the incorporation of the House of Good Shepherd in Cincinnati. The Sisters who met at "their house on Bank Street" on May 12, 1857, were Madam Mary Ignatius Ward, Sr. Mary Joseph David, Sr. Mary Peter Brady, Sr. Mary Paul Roney and Sr. Mary Elizabeth Erb, "being all the members of the community in said city." Its stated purpose was identical with that mentioned above for the incorporation of the Columbus house.

- (1) Acts of a General Nature Passed by the 50th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, Columbus, 1853, p. 274, sq.
- (2) Studer, Jacob H., Columbus, Its History, Resources and Progress, Columbus, 1873, pp. 419-421.
- (3) Studer, op. cit., pp. 419-421.
- (4) Hartley, Rt. Rev. James J., Diocese of Columbus, The History of Fifty Years, 1868-1918, p. 593.
- (5) Hartley, op. cit., p. 593.
- (6) Studer, op. cit., p. 475.
- (7) Lee, Alfred E., History of the City of Columbus. New York, Mimsell & Co., 1892, Vol. I, p. 414.
- (8) Minute Book of the St. Paulus Jung Männer Unterstützungs Verein, which is preserved by the Catholic Record Society, Columbus.

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ST. GENEVIEVE'S PARISH, CALMOUTIER
 HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO, 1836 - 1981
 (Continued)

Register of Marriages, 1837-1876

1837, March 28: Vincent Manney and Eugenie Wiss. Witnesses: Their parents.
 Alleman

1841, Feb. 15: George Philippe and Adelaide Cholley. Witnesses: Peter Marthey and Francois Cholley. DeGoesbriand, pastor at Louisville

May 10: Peter Drouhard and Louise Cholley. Witnesses: Francois Cholley and John Bapt. Roussel. Lamy

1842, April 10: Claude Francis Henry and Frances Varenne. Witnesses: J. B. Roussel and Stephaney Marthey. DeGoesbriand

1843, Jan. 30: Claude Stephan Marthey and Euphrasia Augustina Grojean. Witnesses: Claude Stephaney Marthey and Hubert Pierson. DeGosebriand

Sept. 12: Peter Pierson and Eulalia Roussel. Witnesses: Hubert Pierson and J. B. Roussel. DeGoesbriand

1844, March 5: Nicholas Martin and Catharine Bouvier. Witnesses: Francis and Augustus Martin. DeGosebriand

1847, Jan. 6: John Baptist Bardin and Joanna Mary Marthey. Witnesses: Peter Marthey and Peter Eugene Marthey. Seb. Sanner

Jan. 6: Peter Eugene Marthey and Joanna Margaret Genet. Witnesses: Charles Bresson and John Baptist Bardin. Seb. Sanner

July 2: Peter Bresson and Melania Meunier. Witnesses: Charles Bresson, John Baptist Roussel and Stephan Bollet. P. Peudeprat

Dec. 7: Nicholas Henry, son of Francis Henry and Frances Mounet, and Joanna Claudia Cagnet, daughter of John Claude Cagnet and Joanna Louise Saunier. Witnesses: Francis Larin, Stephan Varenne and Claude Stutz. Peudeprat

1848, Sept. 3: Augustus Boigegrain and Margaret Stefent (Camelot). Witnesses: John Onoly and John Stiguel, friends and parents. C. Mouret

1849, Jan. 17: Augustine Blanc and Elizabeth Marthey. Witnesses: John Bpt. Roussel, Jean Baptiste Bardin, Etienne Marthey, Pierre Marthey. C. Mouret

March 22: John Boigegrain and Augustina Milliot. Witnesses: Claude Stutz and Francis Stutz. +A. Epis. Clevelandensis

Sept. 3: Joseph Boigegrain and Jeanne Claudia Josepha Rouhier. Witnesses: Francis Boigegrain and Francis Rouhier. Aug. Rollinet

1850, Jan. 30: Peter Bourlier and Mary Josepha Vuillemenot. Witnesses: Simon Besancon and Stephan Tisserand. Aug. Rollinet

June 9: Theodore Girard and Mary Bardin. Witnesses: John Baptist Bardin and Victor Jeanmougin and others. Aug. Rollinet

Nov. 10: Sebastian Cholley and Mary Augustina Cagnet. Witnesses: Peter Cholley and Charles Cagnet and others. Aug. Rollinet

Nov. 19: Francis Augustus Jeanvoine and Louise Adelaide Cagnet. Witnesses: Peter Francis Jeanvoine, Sebastian Cholley and relatives. Aug. Rollinet

1851, Feb. 25: Theophilus Vernier and Adelaide Agneus. Witnesses: Francis Agneus, Joseph Vernier and parents of the witnesses. Aug. Rollinet

April 22: Claude Francis Bardin and Josepha Julia Cholley. Witnesses: Francis Cholley, Jean Baptist Bardin, parents and relatives. Aug. Rollinet

May 7: Claude Alexander Leguillon and Euphrasia Meunier. Witnesses: Theodulus and Peter Meunier, others. Aug. Rollinet

Nov. 10: Henry Lenorz and Julia F. Vovrin. Witnesses: Joseph F. Vovrin and Joseph Nicolet. Aug. Rollinet

1852, April 27: Francis Augustus Martin and Augustina Barbara Tisserand. Witnesses: Stephan Tisserand, Charles Martin, Augustus Blanc, Victor Stutz. Aug. Rollinet

Register of Marriages, 1837-1876 (Continued)

1853, -----: Joseph Trahin and Mary Lonier.	Ch. Thomas
Jan. --: Francois Vorberand and Victoria Martin.	Ch. Thomas
1855, May 25: John Bardin and Mary Figard. Witnesses: John Baptist Bardin, Jean Paul Bardin, Mary Bardin.	Ch. Thomas
1856, Feb. 4: Joseph Redoutey and Margaret Pierson. Witnesses: Pierre Marthey and Jean Baptist Bardin.	Ch. Thomas
April 29: Francis Pierson and Augustina Potot.	Ch. Thomas
May 25: Albin Stutz and Eulalia Pierson.	Ch. Thomas
June 10: Alexander Bresson and Jane Girard.	Ch. Thomas
1860, April 16: Theodore Jeanmougin, son of Francis Jeanmougin and Jeanne Bresson, and Sophia Girard, daughter of Eugene Girard and Benigne Bresson. Witnesses: Charles Cagnet and Nicholas Girard.	L. Hoffer
1858, Feb. 8: Joseph Clement and Mary Eugenie Roussel. Witnesses: Emile Melzet, Nicholas Bohn, others.	Aug. Rollinet
Feb. 9: Jean Bpt. Cabut and Mary Pierson. Witnesses: Claude Etienne Cabut, Alexis Pierson, Joseph Pierson, others.	Aug. Rollinet
June 10: Pierre Victor Jeanmougin and Margaret Hortense Chenevey. Witnesses: Jean Francois Jeanmougin and Felician Chenevey.	Aug. Rollinet
Oct. 6: Pierre Joseph Malcuit and Augustina Potot.	Aug. Rollinet
1860, Oct. 9: Francis Girard and Adelaide Martin. Witnesses: Eugene Girard and Claude Martin.	J. A. Heimo
1861, Jan. 29: Peter Prenney and Margaret Roussel. Witnesses: Joseph Merillat and Augustina Roussel.	J. A. Heimo
Feb. 11: Hubert Marchand and Josephine Nommay. Witnesses: Francis Nommay and Theophilus Girard.	J. A. Heimo
Feb. 11: Eugene Lombard and Elizabeth Bardin. Witnesses: John Claude Bardin and others.	J. A. Heimo
Nov. 24: Francis Alexander Grojean and Mary Aurelia Boigegrain. Witnesses: Peter Joseph Marthey and Eugenie Elizabeth Boigegrain.	V. Arnould
1862, Oct. 6: Augustine Piquard, son of Francis Piquard and Genevieve Bourquin, and Felicie Roussel, daughter of John Baptist Roussel and Mary Theresa Bollet. Witnesses: Joseph Clement and Francis Nommay.	J. M. Guy
Oct. 6: Joseph Pierson, son of Hubert Pierson and Frances Piney, and Catharine Kohl, daughter of Frederick Kohl and Catharine Kircham. Witnesses: John Baptist Cabut and John Baptist Roussel.	J. M. Guy
Nov. 18: Emile Stutz, son of Joseph Stutz and Eugenie Bollet, and Emilia Henry, daughter of Francis Henry and Frances Varenne. Witnesses: Albin Stutz and Joseph Stutz.	J. M. Guy
1869, July 22: Joseph Phillippe and Margaret Wehler. Witnesses: Charles Montrieux and Mary Marthey.	J. A. McGourty
Oct. 19: Augustine Merollat and Mary Marthey. Witnesses: Joseph Merollat and Margaret Marthey.	J. A. McGourty
Oct. 5: Maurice Jaquemain and Rosanna Walker. Witnesses: Francis Gaume and Mary Engill.	J. A. McGourty
1870, Feb. 15: Louis Chevand and Frances Bresson. Witnesses: James Geogahan and Cecilia Rouhier.	J. A. McGourty
March 4: Pierre Bresson and Frances Velot. Witnesses: Charles Montrieux and Mary Anna Menney (Memuez?).	J. A. McGourty
April 11: Henry Walter and Margaret Marthey. Witnesses: Philip Marthey and Henry Walter.	W. T. Hawe
April 25: George Stutz and Mary Boigegrain. Witnesses: August Stutz and Alice Boigegrain.	W. T. Hawe

Register of Marriages, 1837-1876 (Continued)

1872, Feb. 3: John Lab abd Maryanna Mooney. Witnesses: Peter Lab and Mary Mooney. W. T. Hawe
March 19: James Boyhane and Josephine Walter. Witnesses: James Bojhan and
____ Russell. W. T. Hawe
April 2: Joseph Brun and Elizabeth Marthey. Witnesses: Henry Walter and Liza
Marthey, W. T. Hawe
June 3: John Monnie and Melinda Bardin. Witnesses: Francis Bardin and
Catharine Monnie. W. T. Hawe
June 6: Peter Jeanvoine and Eugenie Lonier. Witnesses: Paul Chenevey and
Eugene Trahin. W. T. Hawe
1876, May 25: Alphonse Hunsinger and Mary Chenevey. Witnesses: Paul and Cecilia
Chenevey, brother and sister. P. A. Petrarra

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1835: NO CATHOLIC CHURCH
IN COLUMBUS

(The following is from the "Catholic Telegraph," Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 11, 1835, and is part of the report of Bishop Purcell's visitation made that month through northern Ohio.)

Columbus. In this large and beautiful city there is no Catholic Church. The Catholic congregation, which, when collected, is large, assembles where it can, when favored with the visit of a Missionary Priest. This favor has been usually granted by the Cominican Clergy.

On Sunday evening, after having previously exhorted the Catholics to commence the erection of a church, and undertaking which, from their present numbers, appears not at all impracticable, the Bishop addressed the citizens in the Court-house. It was observed that a larger and more enlightened audience had rarely been assembled within its walls.

The Bishop's discourse was chiefly directed to an exhibition of the strong scriptural and rational grounds of Catholic Faith, and the refutation of the most popular objections commonly urged against it. We were happy to understand that after the conclusion of his address all the sympathies were on the side of truth.

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ST. MARY'S SEMINARY, SOMERSET
PERRY COUNTY, OHIO

(The following statement was published in the "Catholic Telegraph" of Cincinnati, Ohio, September 11, 1835. It is an enlightening piece of information about the conduct of a girls' boarding school of almost 150 years ago.)

The ladies of this Institution have experienced with feelings of gratitude, the liberal assistance of a great number of citizens of this State; they feel happy in giving expression to these sentiments by a redoubled zeal and ardour, which they hope will answer the confidence with which they have been favoured by a generous public.

This Institution combines in its plan of education, together with the benefit of christian instruction, every advantage that can be derived from a punctual and conscientious care bestowed on the pupils in every branch of science, suitable to their sex; and from the uninterrupted attention which is given to the neatness, politeness, correct manners, and moral principles of the young ladies.

The Seminary is situated upon an eminence, within a short distance of the town of Somerset; the air is most salubrious, the play grounds and garnd are well laid out, and afford every facility for amusement.

The object kept in view by the ladies of this establishment is the adorning of the minds of their pupils with knowledge; and the forming of their hearts in virtue. They are never suffered to go beyond the reach of the watchful, but maternal superintendence, whose vigilance secures the preservation of morals, and the willing observance of the rules. The health of the scholars is another object of uninterrupted solicitude of the ladies, who are peculiarly attentive to the food given the pupils, and are careful that they be abundantly supplied with such only as is wholesome. The hours of relaxation are so distributed throughout the day, that neither the mind nor the body of the students can suffer from their application.

This institution is under the immediate inspection of the Very Rev. N. D. Young, and the Rev. A. D. Fahy, who occasionally examine the pupils, and encourage their progress. To reward merit and excite emulation, medals are monthly distributed. On the last of July a general examination is held, and the month of August annually observed as vacation.

The ladies who govern the Seminary, have consecrated themselves to the service of God, and the instruction of female youth. The religion professed by these, is the Catholic. Parents, however, need not apprehend that an solicitation will be used to induce children of a different persuasion to embrace the Catholic; they can appeal to those Protestant families who have favored the institute during the last five years, for a confirmation of what is here asserted. Pupils of all denominations are received, from the age of 6 to 16. They will only be required to submit to the general regulations of the Seminary, viz., to attend morning and evening prayer, and divine service on Sundays and holy days; this being a necessary regulation for the observcne of discipline.

The System of Education

Embraces the English and French languages, Orthography, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geogrpahy, Elements of Astronomy, the use of the Globes, Sacred and Profane History, Ancient and Modern Chronology, Composition, Rhetoric, Natural and Moral Philisophy, Music on the Piano Forte, Plain and Ornamental Needle work, Tapestry, Lace and Bead work, Embroidery, Filligree, Italian Wax work, Chenille, Net, qnd Shell work, Painting on Velvet and Satin, Drawing and Painting in water colours.

Terms for Boarding and Tuition are as follows:

Boarding and Tuition in the common branches, viz;
Orthography, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic,
Grammer, Geography, Plain Sewing, Marking,
and Needle work, per annum,.....\$80.00

Boarding and tuition in all or any of the following branches, viz:	
Sacred and Profane History, Ancient and Modern Chronology, Elements of Astronomy, Composition, Rhetoric Natural and Moral Philosophy, per annum,.....	\$100.00
An extra charge for Music, Vocal and Instrumental, use of piano.....	24.00
An extra charge for French.....	20.00
An extra charge for Drawing, Painting, Chenille work and embroidery.....	20.00
An extra charge for Oil Painting on Velvet, Filligree and artificial work.....	20.00

Parents or Guardians must furnish Bed, Bedding and cot, or if found by the Institution, will pay, per annum \$8 or 2 per quarter. They must also furnish wash bowl, towel etc.

On week days the pupils may wear any decent garment, whatever; on Sundays and Festivals, they dress in uniform, which consists of a black dress, white apron, cape, and sun bonnet trimmed with blue ribbon.

Necessary Regulations for Entrance

Into the Seminary

- 1st. Payment for each quarter must be made in advance - any notable failure will induce the painful necessity of sending the pupil home.
2. No boarder will be received for a shorter period than a quarter.
3. No deduction will be made in the charge for absence unless through sickness.
4. Children afflicted with contagious diseases will not be received in the Seminary.
5. The pupils will not be allowed to visit the town or its vicinity unless by the express wish of parents, and then not more than once a month.
6. The pupils will not be allowed to receive visitors, unless they be parents or guardians.
7. Letters written or received by the pupils, must be examined by the Directress of the Seminary.
8. Wednesday and Saturday evenings will be allotted for recreation.
9. The pupils at entrance must be supplied with Books, etc., necessary for the branches they intend studying.
10. All communications respecting the Seminary to be addressed (post paid) to the Sisters of St. Mary's Seminary, Somerset, Perry County, Ohio.

