



STONE

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CORNER



Brown County Ursuline Alumnae Association Representatives

Ohio Historical Marker Dedication

Julia Chatfield and her 10 companions immigrated from France in 1845 and through the invitation of Bishop John Baptist Purcell, established their school in rural Brown County, Ohio. The St. Ursula Literary Institute, the boarding school later known as The School of the Brown County Ursulines, began classes that same year. In commemoration of their pioneering spirit, sacrifice, and service the BCU Alumni Association wanted to celebrate the 175th anniversary and honor the Legacy of the Ursulines of Brown County in a special way.

Through the dedication and support of former graduates and Chatfield College, an application was submitted to the Ohio History Connection in September of 2020, requesting that the Ursulines of Brown County be recognized for their contribution to Education in the Wilderness. In mid-November we received word that the application had been approved and the Alumni Association was awarded a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to cover the cost of the Marker. The Marker establishes a permanent recognition for future generations to share the Ursuline history and legacy. The front side of the Marker reads: “On July 21, 1845, eleven Ursuline sisters from Boulogne-sur Mer and Beaulieu, France, arrived in St. Martin, Brown County, Ohio. A Catholic order of sisters known for providing quality education to young women, the Ursulines were invited by Cincinnati Archbishop John Baptist Purcell (1800-1883) to establish a school in the diocese and granted approximately 400 acres in St. Martin for that purpose. Led by Mother Julia Chatfield (1808-1878), the sisters quickly established their convent, a day school, and, within the year, admitted their first boarders. Originally known as The Saint Ursula Literary Institute, the school operated for the next 136 years. The Ursulines educated local students from their adopted Brown County as well as many who came from across the U.S. and farther abroad to board on campus.” The back side of the Marker details some of the pertinent information about the education and the evolution from a Boarding school to Chatfield College. (continued on the next page)

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Historical Marker

Friday, September 17th dawned a beautiful sunny day in Brown County, Ohio. The day will long be remembered because of its historic significance. The Historic Marker celebrating the educational impact made by the Ursulines of Brown County was dedicated and now regally stands as a testament to the Legacy of Ursuline Education. The invocation prayer sums up the significance of this addition to the Brown County property: “God of our ancestors, today we gather into our hearts all those who have gone before us and influenced our lives with their love and goodness. Although they have passed into Your Eternal Life, their lived values and example continue to provide a model for who we strive to be and what we do. We thank you for the women who have dedicated their lives to education as Brown County Ursulines and for the women and men who have worked alongside us in this ministry. We praise You, gracious God for all who have nurtured and supported educational endeavors in this region. God of life, we ask Your continued blessing on educational developments in this county and on all who live and work to educate others. We pray this in the name of Jesus Your Son, and our Lord. Amen.”

(continued on the next page)



Bob Elmore – Chatfield College President
Sister Patricia Homan – Congregational Minister

The dedication was scheduled to coincide with the annual Alumni reunion on September 18, 2021. Unfortunately for the second year in a row, the reunion was transitioned into a virtual event rather than in-person, due to Covid concerns. Because the Marker dedication was outdoors, it was agreed that we should proceed as planned, making a video of the program that could be viewed by the Alumni during the virtual meeting. The video and additional pictures can be viewed on the Ursulines website at: www.ursulinesofbc.org



On September 16, 2021, Ursuline Academy of Cincinnati turned 125 years young. The Academy in the City was always a deep desire and hope of the early sisters. Financial concerns and sufficient personnel to staff the Boarding School and an additional institution were major hurdles. In May of 1896 however the Community agreed that it was time to explore the possibilities of opening a daughter school in Cincinnati. In June three sisters were sent to the City to look for available property that might suit their purpose. Within days they were introduced to the Ryan's who owned a home in Walnut Hills at the corner of Oak and May Streets. On June 24th the community unanimously voted to accept the terms of the contract for the Ryan home. In July three sisters were sent to begin the process of preparing to open the new school. On August 4, four additional sisters arrived, and the faculty and staff were complete. "Wednesday morning, September 16th brought the applicants they had hoped for, and soon the parlors, the dining room, and the reception hall were alive with the voices of excited children. Since the motherhouse in Brown County had no telephone, the nuns there had to wait anxiously for the telegram from Mother Baptista that would bring them the news. When it was delivered that evening, Mother Ursula read to the assembled community the welcomed message: "Opened with forty pupils. Deo Gratias." It was with hearts full of gratitude that the sisters offered their prayers that evening. " (Excerpt from Ursuline Academy: The Story of Our School" by Sister Gabriel Behler.) The birthday party began with the students and faculty on Thursday, September 16th but the celebration will continue with a variety of events during the year.



As part of the Birthday celebrations throughout the year, archival Art works done by former Art teachers such as Sisters Elizabeth Browne, Regina Winters, Marjean Clement and Agatha Fitzgerald will be displayed in the Ursuline Academy Library and other focal points in the building. Beginning with drawings done by Julia Chatfield, herself an accomplished artist, the community has always supported the study of art as part of the curriculum. For the Ursulines, exposing students to art fosters not only appreciation for art history and the work of the Masters' but provides instruction in creating art that nurtures the gifts of the young women being educated. From the beginning, Art instruction has been a means for the Ursulines to touch the heart and soul of individual students, thus contributing to a richer society.

URSULINES OF BROWN COUNTY
20860 STATE ROUTE 251
ST. MARTIN, OH 45118 - 9507
www.ursulinesofbc.org

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*Give thanks to the Lord
for He is good;*



His love endures forever

Psalm 106: 1