



# STONE

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## CORNER

### Brown County Bicentennial highlights SISTER JULIA CHATFIELD

In 1818, Brown County Ohio was established as part of the young State of Ohio. In honor of this bicentennial year, the county held a Chautauqua experience at the fairgrounds in Georgetown June 21-23. This popular adult education movement in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries brought entertainment and culture throughout rural areas of the country.

For this celebration three historic figures were portrayed on consecutive nights. Sr Julia Chatfield, foundress of the Ursulines of Brown County, Ulysses S. Grant, Civil War General and eighteenth president of the United States and John Parker, former slave who became the most active Underground Railroad conductor in the John Rankin "line". (The John Rankin House in Ripley, Ohio is said to be the destination of the character Eliza in **Uncle Tom's Cabin** by Harriet Beecher Stowe.)

Margaret Clark portrayed Julia Chatfield on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM. Since 1983, Margaret, an attorney, has served the county as a probate, juvenile and common please judge. Well known for her community work, she also has served as an adjunct professor at Chatfield College as well as Wilmington College, Xavier University, University of Cincinnati and Lebanon Correctional Institution. She has taken many roles on stage as part of the Gaslight Players in Georgetown.

### *THE LEGACY CONTINUES . . .*



Left to right: Sr. Roseanne White, Sr. Phyllis Kemper, Margaret Clark, Sr. Lucia Castellini, Sr. Christine Pratt

Margaret wrote the script in the first-person describing Julia's life from her family home in England to her entrance into the Ursulines in France through the voyage to St. Martin, Ohio, ending with the present-day legacies of Ursuline Academy and Chatfield College. Margaret's costume included one of the original bonnets worn by the foundresses when they arrived from France in July 1845. A plaque of Julia Chatfield, along with the other two historical figures, now hangs in the Brown County Historical Museum in Georgetown.

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*Jubilarians Sr. Jeanette Johnson Sr. Lawrence Sickman and Sr. Nancy Vollman*

## Sisters celebrate 60th Jubilee

The Community, family and friends of Sisters Jeanette Johnson, Lawrence Sickman and Nancy Vollman gathered at Ursuline Academy Cincinnati on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate a total 180 years of their commitment as women religious within the Ursulines of Brown County. The Mass and dinner included a reflection written by Sr. Mary Ann Jansen that highlighted all that has occurred during their years as women religious and the gifts shared in the many ministries that have and continue to receive from them. Congratulations Jeanette, Lawrence and Nancy.



*James Adams standing in his newly planted soybean field at St. Martin. The St Martin church is in the background. He asked that his stance be one of gratitude.*

## James Adams continues the farm legacy

It was evident to anyone who attended the auction of the Ursulines of Brown County farmland on October 24, 2017, that James Adams was determined to purchase all three parcels of land that were up for sale that night.

In an interview with James in late May 2018 he was asked to share his desire to own this farmland and his intentions to continue its care under the conservation easement. He shared his appreciation for the conservation easement because it gives him the assurance of continuing the farming tradition through his son, two grandsons and step grandson.

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*Sr. Ellen Doyle Fr. Jerry Hyland Sr. Jeanette Johnson and Sr. Phyllis Kemper*

## Saint Vivian Parish celebrates 75 years

St Vivian Parish Finneytown in Cincinnati celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 16<sup>th</sup> with Mass and tours ending with a prayer service. Over thirty Ursulines of Brown County staffed the school from its foundation in 1947 until 1989 when Sr Jeanette Johnson and her sister Sr. Carmen left. Sr. Jeanette had taught there for 31 years. There was no convent in 1947 so the original teachers commuted from Ursuline Academy. Later a house would be purchased, followed by a large convent building attached to the school. The former convent is now “Ursuline Hall” which houses the youth ministry and serves as a meeting place for parish activities. A painting of St Angela hangs in the open reception area which once served as a guest room, office, dining and living area for the sisters who resided there. In the late 1960’s and early 70’s St. Vivian’s was one of the largest elementary schools in the Archdiocese with four classrooms each from second to eighth grades totaling over 1,000 students. Seven living, deceased and former Ursulines attended St. Vivian, including present members Sisters Ellen Doyle, Phyllis Kemper and Joan Roach.



*Austin Grathwohl, former student, Karissa Florimonte, present 4<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher and Sr. Roseanne White, principal from 1970-1975 stand in front of Roseanne’s former office.*

Ursulines of Brown County  
20860 State Route 251  
St. Martin, OH 45118-9507

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When asked about his personal connection with the sisters, his face softened, and he replied that it all began with his first day of school at the small St. Martin school staffed by the sisters. “It was 1945, and the first time I ever saw a nun. I was scared to death. I respected Sr. Aloysius the principal and Sr. Patricia, but I fell in love with Sr. Xavier, my first-grade teacher. She was so beautiful and reminded me of an angel.” (Sr. Xavier later became General Superior and President of Chatfield College).

James added that his mother Florence (Flossie) became chief cook at the Ursuline Motherhouse and boarding school for many years. “One of the reasons I wanted the Ursuline farmland was because of the memories of my time in school with the sisters and my mom working there.”

The conversation then turned to the connection of faith and the vocation of farming. “Farming is in my blood. I was raised on a farm. My faith and farming go together. When I am on my tractor or combine, it is my chance to pray. I am alone with nature and God.” Jim continued: “Farming teaches humility. I can do all I can in good farming practices but in the end, what happens in rain or hail, sun and drought is out of my control. God is in it all.”

Jim continued: “There are many challenges facing farmers today. Farming has always been a gamble, and we have learned to adapt.” He ended the conversation with these words, “I like this particular farmland because of the nuns. I will hold it in trust to stay in the family for farming according to the easement.” James continues the legacy on the land as he smiled and said, “these 85 acres will always be referred to as ‘The Convent Farm’, in perpetuity.”