



STONE

A publication of the Ursulines of Brown County
St. Martin, OH 45118-9507
Number 75 Autumn, 2013

CORNER

The way we are . . .



The Ursulines of Brown County are deeply committed to environmental stewardship of the lands entrusted to their care. As part of our estate planning efforts, we have agreed to return St. Anne's Lake to the creek it was when the foundresses arrived in 1845. The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a grant to help remove the low head dam and restore approximately 2,400 linear feet of Solomon's Run to its original state. The purpose of the grant is to help communities restore Ohio waterways that are impaired by nonpoint source pollution which causes water quality impairment. The present structure

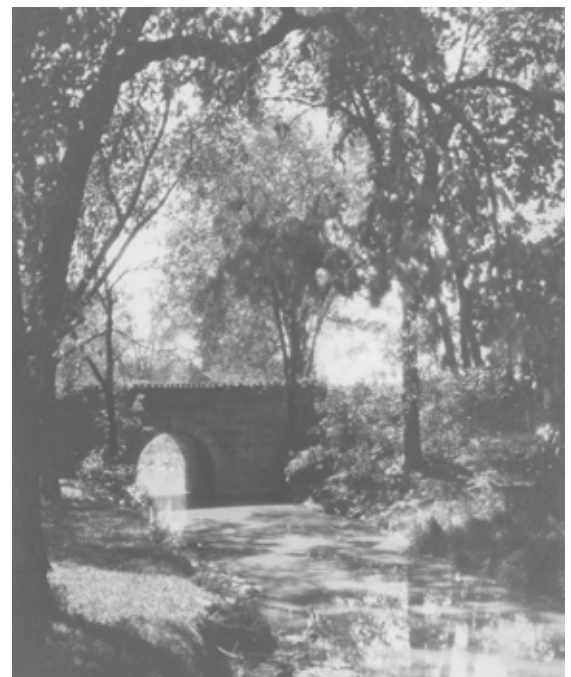
. . . and the way we were

no longer addresses the need for drinking water, and although the road over the bridge does not currently demonstrate a safety threat, it could become an issue in the future. The sediment from the lake will be applied to the adjacent farmland. Trees, grasses and shrubs will be planted. Although some are saddened at the loss of the lake, others are enthusiastic about the return of the waterway to its original condition.

Taking the long view, Lake St. Anne has only been in existence for the past seventy-five years; Sister Mary Paul Walsh remembers that they were working to create it when she first came to Brown County for summer camp. What is the story of the creek that disappeared?

First and foremost, every endeavor must reflect Gospel values and be in harmony with the nature of the land, its beauty, tranquility, and restorative potential for the human spirit. Our land is holy ground supporting efforts to experience and share the love of God in a myriad of ways. We want to ensure that there will be no impediments to deter these efforts from fullest expression.

Ursuline Legacy Statement.



Solomon's Run in 1935

CORNERSTONE is the way we share our ministry, community life, prayer and vision with you. We rely on your donations to meet our expenses. Thank you for your support. Sister Agatha Fitzgerald, OSU, Editor

According to our Archive sources, in 1796 Abraham Claypool settled on a thousand acres in Perry Township beside a creek that he named for his son, Solomon. Part of that land became the town of Fayetteville. This meandering creek provided the first water supply for our foundresses as well as a place for them to do the laundry. From the very beginning it was a central focus for those who crossed the original wooden bridge that was replaced by a stone bridge after a storm in 1853.

But Solomon's Run was not sufficient as the need for water increased for the Sisters, the Boarding School, the local Public School, and the citizens of St. Martin. Soon after Fr. Warren G. Hook arrived as Pastor of St. Martin Church and Chaplain for the Ursulines, he began to search for a solution. It took considerable political maneuvering. A sponsor was needed for the project and R.D. McGill, manager of the WPA district suggested that the village of St. Martin become incorporated. With Fr. Hook's efforts the village was incorporated by a unanimous vote in March of 1937. The actual building process began in June of that year. Trees were cut down, sand, gravel and cement were hauled in, and by July there were ten men working on the project and plans for a sewage plant had been sent to Washington D.C. It was July of 1938 before the first water went over the dam, and October when the WPA pulled out with all their equipment.



Fr. Hook standing on the top of the spillway



The workmen taking a break

Burgess and Niple Inc., the same engineering firm that designed the original spillway in 1937 is responsible for its removal in 2013 which brings the project full circle



Today the traces of the hard won success are slowly disappearing: In November of 2011 the village of St. Martin voted to become unincorporated. The water tower is gone and St. Anne's Lake is no more. But if all goes as planned, Solomon's Run will once again be roaring high! (See last page)



As was to be expected in the original project and also currently there was additional cost to the Ursulines. According to the diaries from the autumn of 1937 Mrs. Broeman (Mother Augustine Ibold's sister and Sister Peter Broeman's aunt) made a beautiful blue and white quilt to raffle. Sister Mary Magdalen followed suit and made another raffle quilt. Sister Mary Magdalen did not quite reach the five hundred dollars she was aiming for!



Dear Friends,

Do you remember the drive down the lane, crossing the bridge, hearing and seeing the rushing water over the dam? Or were you among the students, campers and visitors who walked the lane and couldn't resist a stop on the bridge to look at the dam or drop a twig in the water to watch it drift to the other side and disappear from view? Did you skate, canoe or fish on the lake or jump the stream during your walk in the woods? Do you remember when the dam wasn't even there? If you can recall any of these experiences then this issue of CORNERSTONE describing the history of the dam is for you.

The waterway and dam are undergoing change in order to restore Solomon's Run to its original state. The stream is a tributary of the East Fork of the Little Miami River. The crumbling dam has had no purpose since city water and sewers were installed in 1992. During that time, the Ursulines of Brown County began a lengthy process of study and reflective prayer about the future of our land and waterway. In 2010 we established an Agricultural Land Easement to protect our farmland and woods. Now we are adding a Water Easement or wetland preservation to assure future care of this beautiful part of creation given to us 168 years ago. We came to these decisions because of our deep belief that, as Psalm 24 tells us, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." We are merely recipients of God's trust to care for that which belongs to God. The Environmental Protection Agency has approved a sizeable grant to help cover the cost of the restoration. In return, we are to match twenty percent (20%) of the grant. Part of that match is the land along the waterway. However, we will need to cover \$45,000 of the total cost of the project.

We have included an envelope in the hope that you may want to invest in this historical effort that will not only enhance the beauty of the landscape but will also help us to live out our biblical mandate that calls us to care for God's creation. We are grateful for any support you may provide. Be assured you are in our thoughts and prayers always.

Sr. Lucia Castellini, OSU
Congregational Minister

Ursulines of Brown County

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SOLOMON'S RUN IS ROARING HIGH!

In March of 1862 Fr. Sylvester Rosecrans came to Brown County to make a retreat in preparation for his consecration as Bishop. As he walked about the property he wrote a prayerful poem. Hand written on a yellowing sheet of lined tablet paper; it remains in his archive file. Bishop Rosecrans was the Coadjutor Bishop of Cincinnati and the first Bishop of Columbus. As uncle of several students (one, Mary, became Sister St. Charles) and good friend of Archbishop Purcell, he was a frequent visitor at Brown County. On his last visit to Julia Chatfield, as she lay on her deathbed, he promised her he would be in heaven to greet her – a promise he kept when he died suddenly in late October, a short time before her death on November 2, 1878.

Solomon's Run is roaring high
The Run that used to run so dry,
You ne'er would have thought it more than I
That Solomon's Run could be so high!

The boarding house bridge is swept away,
With the willow boughs the waters play,
And the dell with briars and grass once green,
Is a lake where a hundred isles are seen.

Hark how the yellow billows roar!
Like the surf on the North Atlantic shore.
See the eddyng masses of drift
Sweeping downward arrowy swift.

Planks and rails and chunks of wood
Panels of fence that long have stood,
Boxes and boards and tufts of grass –
Oh! The hurrying eddyng mass!

You can hear the roar through the distant wood
And see the broadening yellow flood;
Perhaps by the break of another day
A steamboat will come puffing up this way!

We'll make a wharf of this rustic bridge,
Or mount on the top from off the ridge,
And start it off on a summer trip
Exploring Solomon's Run in our ship.

And as we go down the width will grow,
And the depth increase and the turbid flow,
Be stiller and calmer, degree by degree,
Till Solomon's Run will become a sea!

So Life's stream broadens as we sail on,
So the dreams of youth are too soon gone,
And the head that runs wildly off to explore
Oft returns to its moorings, alas! No more.

Mother most Holy! thine the care
To watch and ward from us every snare.
Into thy hands our hearts we lay,
Hold them, sweet Mother, fast we pray!
Till thy smile shall have chased our gloom away!

*Set to music by Rosa Woodworth - and many a BC girl
learned to sing it!*