



Our Old Bookcase, July 20, 2017, Cassella Post Office History

**Photo caption:** The Village of Cassella, known as Marysville on this 1888 Atlas of Mercer County, Ohio Plat Map, identified the U.S. Post Office in the building on the southwest corner of Marion Street [St. Rt. 119] and Convent Street [Cassella-Montezuma Road].

### **OUR OLD BOOK CASE**

*By Joyce L. Alig, President, Mercer County Historical Society*

An old Post Card of a Cassella building was the topic of the July 6, 2017 “Our Old Bookcase.” Dale Poepelman sent me a copy of another old Post Card of Cassella, with that same building, and across the street from that building, stood the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. That photograph confirmed the site of the building across the street, in the July 6, 2017 column. I also received calls about the old Cassella Post Office being located in that building.

The Village of Cassella was platted with the name of “Marysville” in 1860. The 1888 Plat Map of Marysville above was included in the “1888 Mercer County Atlas.” Beneath the name of “Marysville,” is written “Cassella P.O., [Post Office], Marion Township.”

The microfilm of the U.S. Post Office of Cassella, Marion Township, Mercer County, Ohio, confirms that an application for Capella, [Cassella] Post Office was made to the Post Office Department, at

Washington, on April 20, 1878. On May 28, 1878, The Topographer's Office of the Post Office Department, at Washington, wrote the Postmaster at Cassella, Mercer Co., Ohio, and requested information. On June 5, 1878, John Cron Postmaster at Cassella responded, "*The Post Office Department name of my Office is 'Cassella.' The local name is 'Marysville'. The nearest Office on route No. 21427 is Cranberry Prairie, two miles southwest. The name of the nearest office on the same route on the other side is Maria Stein, four miles east. The name of the nearest office 'off the route,' is Carthagen, 2.5 miles northwest.*"

That same microfilm of the U.S. Post Office stated the Cassella Post Office was established April 22, 1878, and was discontinued June 15, 1905. The Cassella Postmaster appointments were: John Cron, April 22, 1878; John Houck, August 4, 1879; Philipp Staugler, October 22, 1880; Joseph Wily, January 20, 1886; Henry Cron, February 3, 1886; John Cron, March 13, 1889. As of May 22, 1905, the Post office was discontinued and the mail was sent to Saint Henry. The closing of the Cassella Post Office was effective as of June 15, 1905.

I looked at the history of the building at the southwest corner of St. Rt. 119 and Cassella-Montezuma Road. I ask you readers, when was the road widened on St. Rt. 119? Was the Cassella Tavern open until that time? The Village of Marysville (Cassella) was not incorporated and I do not know the date as to when the Village became known as Cassella, in place of Marysville.

The 1989 Directory listed the Cassella Tavern at 6490 St. Rt. 119. The October 16, 1980 "*Mercer County Chronicle*," newspaper addressed the story of the recent fire in the store room of the Cassella Tavern, owned by Dennis and Tommy Kessen. I checked previous Mercer County Directories, to learn the names of the owners of the Cassella Tavern, at 6490 St. Rt. 119. The 1979 owners of the Cassella Tavern were Dennis and Thomas Kessen. The 1977 owner of the "Cassella Store & Tavern" was Lari A. Robinson. The 1970 Directory listed the Cassella Store and Tavern, but not the owner, just before the Cassella-Montezuma Road Intersection at St. Rt. 119. The owners of this property would be listed at the Mercer County Recorder's Office at the Mercer County Courthouse. The 1980 story in the Chronicle suggested that this building dated back to the Civil War, in the 1860's. The Village of Marysville, later known as Cassella, was platted in 1860; this old tavern building may very well have dated back to the 1860's. Apparently, the old Tavern building was the Cassella Post Office, between 1878 and 1905.

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