



Our Old Bookcase, November 16, 2017, Old Sale bill from NY to St. Henry, via Cincinnati Northern RR

Photo caption: Dec. 27, 1910, Rev. S. Kunkler, St. Henry Catholic Church, sent an order, typed in English, for candles from The Will & Baumer Company in Syracuse, NY. The Church retained a copy of the January 10, 1911 record, printed in German.

OUR OLD BOOK CASE

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

There is a good reason to save old "sale bills and financial statements," in preserving local history. These old statements tell a story of local history of commerce and transportation, as well as cultural studies at the Village of Saint Henry. Allen Bernard and I saved several boxes of these old statements from being destroyed, as the boxes had been set out at the cemetery to be burned, in the late 1960's, when I was doing research for the "History of Saint Henry, Ohio."

On December 27, 1910, Rev. S. Kunkler, St. Henry Roman Catholic Church, sent an order for 72 sets of wax candles, for \$14.40, plus \$.55 for dray, for a total of \$14.95, of which order was typed on a typewriter, to the Will & Baumer Company at Syracuse, NY. The order was written in English.

I have a copy of the Cincinnati Northern Railroad Company's January 2, 1911 charges for delivery of those candles, charging \$.45 for railroad fees, and \$.10 for drayage, for a total of \$.55. Drayage is for

the delivery of the candles from the train depot to the church. A dray is a cart for delivery. A drayman is the man who drives the dray delivery cart, and drayage is the delivery of the package. B. Spoltman signed the statement as the Depot Agent. The copy of this statement is not shown here, but it tells part of the story. The St. Henry Railroad Depot is gone; the job position of drayman is no longer in existence.

On January 10, 1911, in a statement written in German, The St. Henry Roman Catholic Church trustees, Theo Moormann, J. J. Uhlenhake, John M. Knapke, and John Panning, with Rev. S. Kunkler, signed the statement for paying \$14.95 for the candles. The German language was spoken in many southern Mercer County Communities prior to World War I. Those same families read "*Der Mercer County Bote*," the German Newspaper printed at Celina from 1883 until the era of World War I. The Church no longer uses the German language on their Financial Statements and the German Newspaper is no longer being printed. This history is being preserved by the Mercer County Historical Society.

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