



Our Old Bookcase, November 30, 2017, Rose Garden, St. Rosa P.O., and St. Rose

**Photo caption:** Rose Garden, St. Rosa Post Office, and St. Rose were names assigned to the Village now known as St. Rose, located at the intersection of St. Rt. 119 and Clune Stuck Road, in Marion Township, Mercer County, Ohio.

**OUR OLD BOOK CASE**

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

The old Plat Maps, found in the 1888 and 1900 Mercer County Atlases, provide studies in local history. The Mercer County Historical Society reprinted the 1888 and 1900 Plat Maps of the Villages in the book, "Mercer County Centennial Buildings," because so many Mercer Countians were asking about the ages of their homes. These old Plat Maps helped Village land owners to confirm if their homes were built before 1888, or between 1888 and 1900, or else after 1900.

The name of Rose Garden was assigned to this Village when A. Jack Linzee, surveyor, saw that the plat was recorded at the Mercer County Recorder's Office at the Mercer County Courthouse, on June 29, 1854. It is interesting that the Village was Platted in 1854, after the first church had been begun in 1839, and a brick church had been constructed in 1851. (Note, that the Village was Platted or laid out, but the Village had not been incorporated.)

The year 1839 marks the foundation of the parish of St. Rose. On April 9 of that year, four “trustees of the German Roman Catholic Church of Rose Garden”, viz., Henry Lochtefeld, Henry Raudirks, Henry Nichting, and Herman Henry Goettemoeller, leased four acres of property on the north side of the road for a log church. A brick church was constructed in 1851. The St. Rose Church preceded the platting of St. Rose in 1854. The current church was constructed in 1911, eleven years after the 1900 Plat Map was recorded. Thus the black rectangle marked on the 1900 plat map, belongs to the Church built in 1851. This information is found on page 767 of the 1978 “*Mercer County Ohio History Book*.”

The St. Rosa Post Office is identified on the 1888 Plat Map, and that same building is identified on the 1900 Plat Map. The Saint Rosa Posts Office was established June 24, 1878, and was discontinued May 31, 1905, and the mail was then sent to Chickasaw Post Office. Lorenz Lochtefeld signed the application for the proposed Post Office, with the sentence, “*The proposed office will be called St. Rosa or Rosengarden.*” On that original application, the name of “*Rosengarden*” was crossed out. On June 18, 1878, James Tyred, First Assistant Postmaster General, at Washington, wrote Lorenz Lochtefeld, that the proposed post office will be called St. Rosa. Due to RFD (Rural Free Delivery), several of the smaller post offices in the rural villages were closed, including St. Rosa Post Office which was discontinued May 31, 1905, and the mail was sent to Chickasaw Post Office.

A few businesses are identified on the two Plat Maps. A tile works by F. Hartings was marked on the north side of the road. A. Kleinhentz owned property on the east side of the village in 1888, and J.W. Kleinhentz owned that property by 1900. A small company with the initials of M. L. L., or else M. L. E. Co. owned property on the east side of the creek, on the south side of the road. Perhaps, the residents of the Village of St. Rose are able to identify the names of businesses on St. Rosa Street, i.e. St. Rt. 119?

For the local historians of St. Rose, more information for historical research about Marion Township, can be found in the book, “*Passport to Mercer County History; Marion Township*,” which was published by the Mercer County Historical Society and printed by The Messenger Press in April 2012. For the most recent book about Saint Rose, see the book, “*Saint Rose Sesquicentennial, 1839 – 1989*,” edited by Walter Braun, and was printed by The Messenger Press in 1989. May I ask who is preserving the history of Saint Rose today?

[*Mercer County Historical Society President Joyce Alig, may be contacted at 3054 Burk-St. Henry Road, Saint Henry, OH 45883, or [histalig@bright.net](mailto:histalig@bright.net) or 419-678-2614*]