



**FRIENDS *of*
MUSIC HALL**

The Story of Cincinnati Music Hall and the Talented Women Wood Carvers





Cincinnati Grew in the 1800s

The Ohio River was an important transportation route for people and goods. Cincinnati became one of the largest cities in the US.



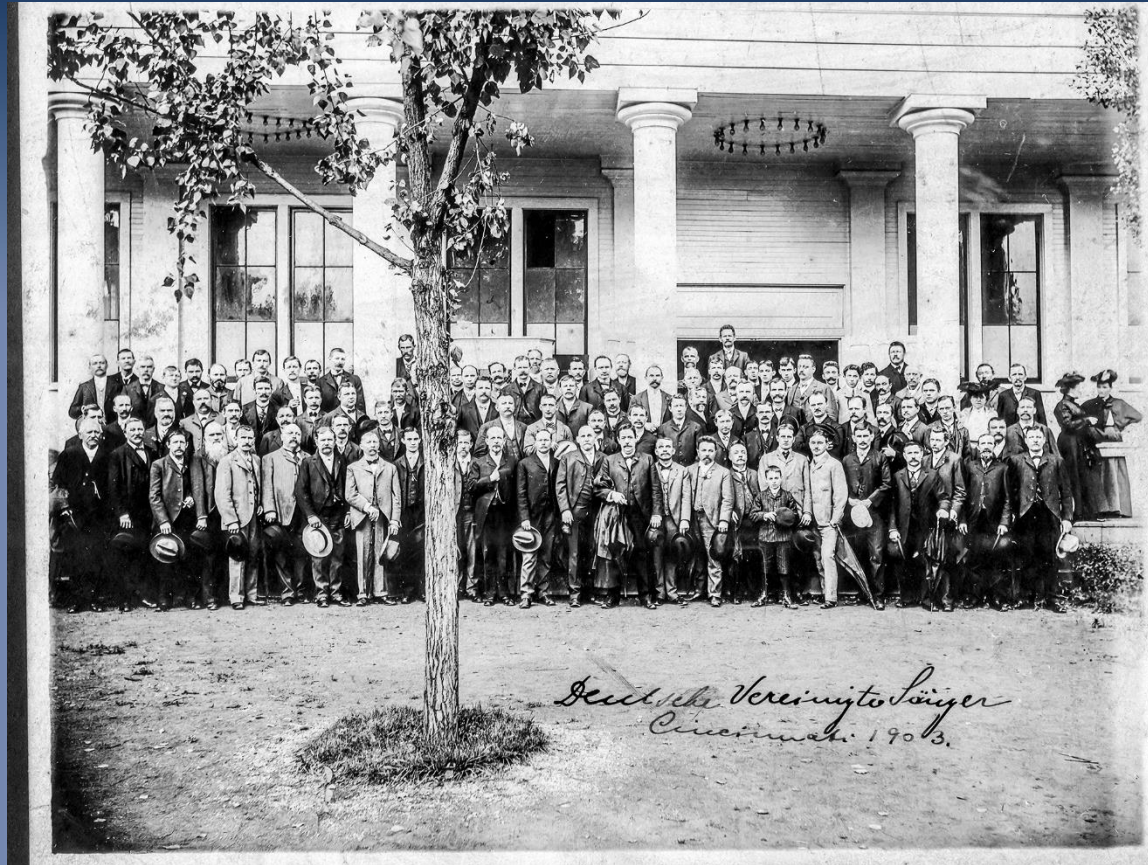
Immigrants Moved to Cincinnati

Waves of immigrants came to the city from Ireland and Germany. Many escaped war and famine.



African Americans Moved to Cincinnati

Many African Americans migrated from the South to the North and created communities including their own schools.



German Immigrants Loved to Sing

Just like today, it was hard to start a new life in a new land. Immigrants formed groups to keep their singing traditions alive. They needed a building where all the groups could meet and sing together.

Industry Needed a Building Too

Cincinnati citizens were busy, hardworking people. They started meat packing, soap, furniture, clothing, and steamboat industries. A place was needed to showcase products and inventions.



Here is a "personally conducted excursion" of the kind that occurs daily in millions of homes.

Route: Up the stairway and along the hall to the bath-room.

Time: 10:00 A. M. or thereabouts.

Equipment: A couple of soft towels, a sponge, a wash cloth and a cake of Ivory Soap.

Baby will probably insist on carrying his Teddy Bear or his monkey cow or his donkey. All right. Let him.

On arrival: Fill the bathtub a little less than half full of warm—not hot—water. Put baby in the bath. Moisten the wash cloth and apply soap, first to the face and neck, then to the arms, next to the body, and last, to the legs and feet. Fill the sponge with water from the tub and squeeze it over the face, arms, body and legs, repeating this until all dirt and soap are removed. Dry by "patting"—not rubbing—with the towels.

The only soap that is worthy of comparison with Ivory, is genuine, unadorned, white Castile Soap. It is on sale in very few stores. Its price is from 25 to 40 cents a pound. The "Castile" Soap which is sold at 20 cents a pound or less is almost invariably a cheap imitation of a worthless article. But even genuine Castile Soap, if you can get it (and the chances are that you cannot) is no better than, and not so pure as, Ivory Soap. And it costs about three times as much.

Ivory Soap 99⁹/₁₀₀ Per Cent. Pure.

1896.] AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST. 625

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ARE YOU THINKING

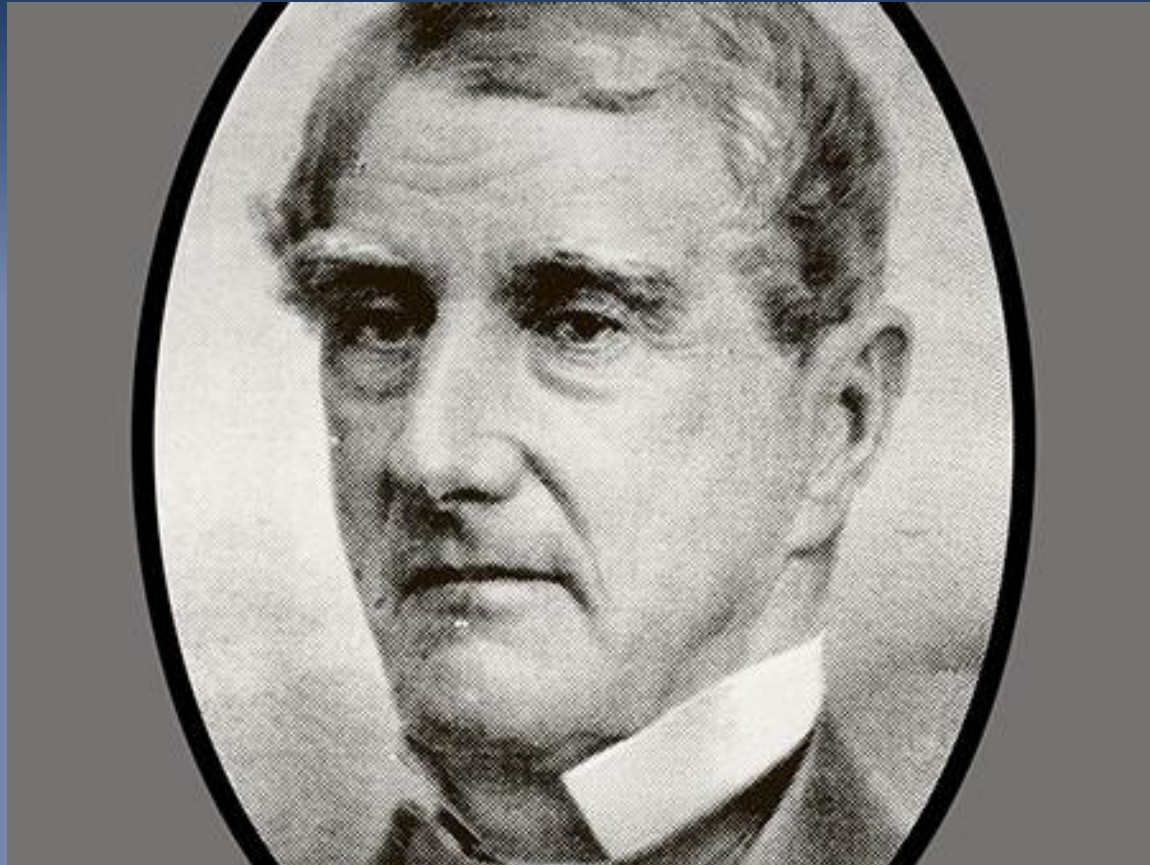
Of buying a Buggy or Harness? If so it will be one of the most profitable acts of your life to SEND FOR OUR FREE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE CONTAINING FULL DESCRIPTION AND NET CASH PRICES OF OUR MURRAY BUGGIES AND HARNESS.

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WILBER H. MURRAY MANUFACTURING COMPANY,

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A Man with a Plan

Music Hall's story starts in 1875. Reuben Springer had a big idea: Cincinnati needed a People's Hall for music and industry. He encouraged the community to raise the money to make it happen even children donated pennies.



Construction of Magnificent Music Hall

The first foundation was too weak so the workers had to start over. Then the workers went on strike. But everyone persevered in spite of the challenges.

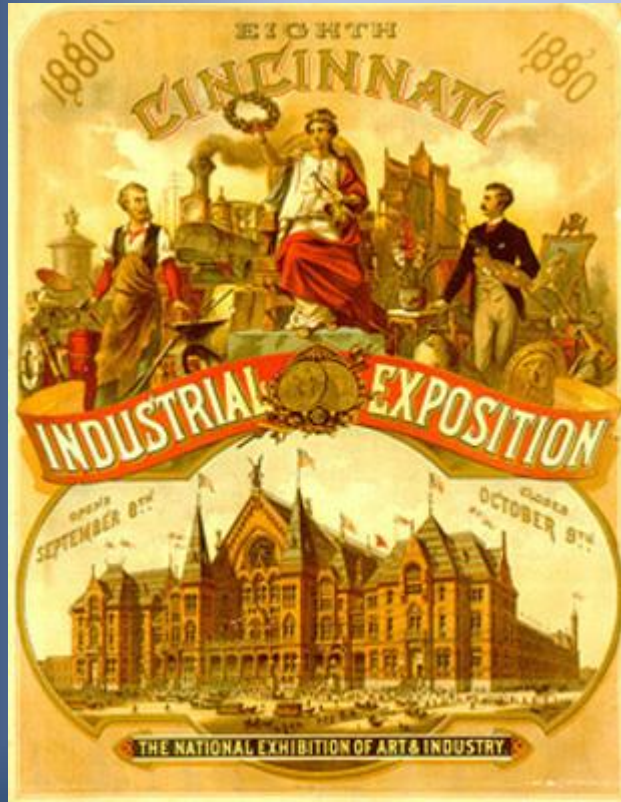


Music Hall Opens

The citizens of Cincinnati were so proud of the new Cincinnati Music Hall

Early Events in Music Hall

People came from miles around to attend events like circuses, operas, concerts and expositions.



The King of Instruments

The brand new Hook and Hastings organ was built especially for Cincinnati Music Hall. It was the “king of instruments” and stood 60 feet high, as tall as a modern 4 story building!

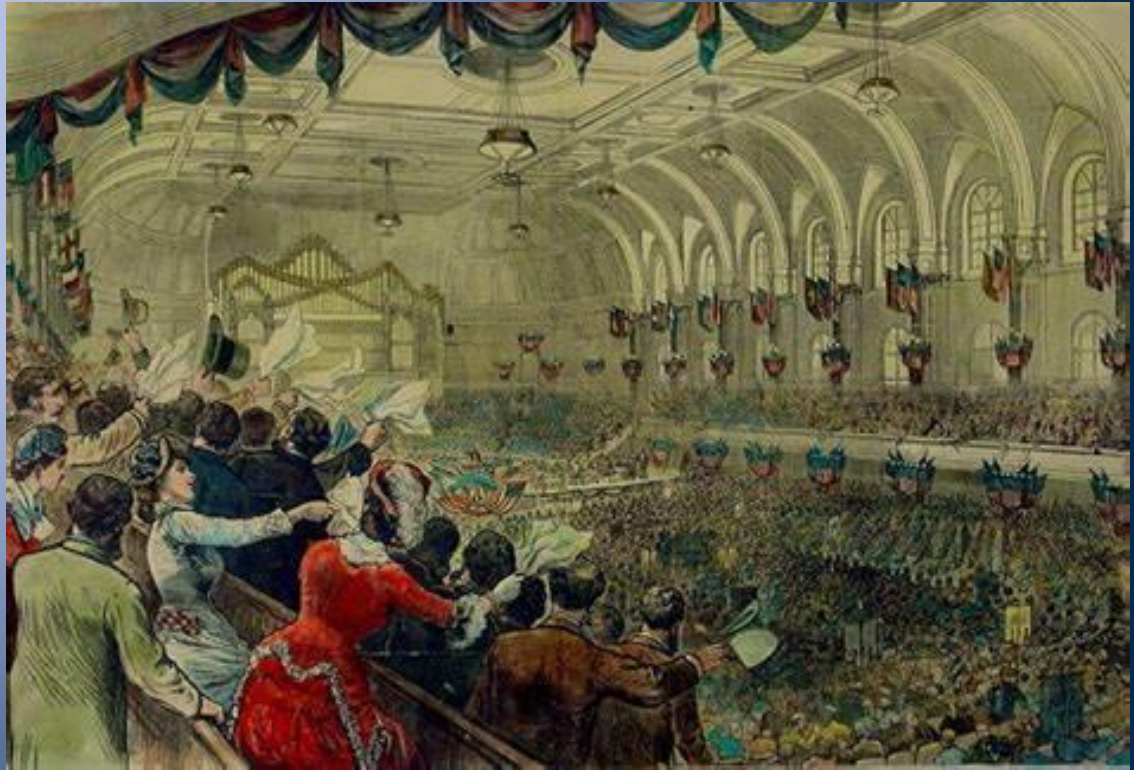


What An Instrument!

What a sound!

Many people said it was the best organ in the world.

There were 6,237 pipes; the largest was 32 feet and the smallest was the size of a whistle.



A Decorative Screen

The organ was covered with a screen of hand carved wood panels.



Wood Carvers

Not many women were wood carvers in the United States. In Cincinnati, woodcarving was famous at the Fry and Pitman studios. They offered instruction to women who were eager to learn how to carve wood into beautiful designs.



Adelaide Nourse and Laura Fry

These young students were excited to be able to help with the Music Hall project. Adelaide Nourse and Laura Fry were talented carvers. They designed and carved many of the panels.





Adina White

Adina White is the only known African American woman carver to work on the screens for the organ. She became famous for her work and was able to own her own business as a wood carver in Cincinnati.

Would These Outfits Be Comfortable in a Carving Class?

When girls turned 16, their ankles needed to be covered by their dresses. Proper clothing was always necessary. These photos are examples of Victorian fashion.



Not an Easy Time to be a Woman

During the Victorian era a woman couldn't vote. When she married, everything she owned belonged to her husband. The husband was in control of the household. Women did not enjoy a lot of freedom.





The Cincinnati Women Wood Carvers

The women who carved the panels for the organ were eager to express themselves and to be recognized as true artists. They also carved items for sale but it was very hard to find a wood carving job that would pay a living wage. Some men did not want women taking their jobs.



Nature Inspires Music

The women were *inspired* to carve beautiful symbols of nature. When we listen, we can hear music - the rustling of leaves, the song of birds and the buzz of insects. Nature is alive with music!



Noon

The carvers were used grasses, flowers, bees and butterflies to show us what noon sounds like.



Evening

This panel was carved by one of the teachers. You can see swallows and a *crescent moon*. What kind of sound would the birds make? Does it remind you of any musical instruments?



Summer

The women carved panels for the four seasons.
What sounds do you think of when you think of
summer? What instruments would make those
sounds?



The Completed Organ

115 wood carvers, 121 panels, 5 months and 20,000 hours later ... the organ project was finished! The women were so proud of their work and received much *acclaim*.



What Happened to the Magnificent Organ?

Believe it or not the organ was taken apart in 1971. It no longer worked due to age and the uncontrolled temperatures inside Music Hall.



The Carved Panels in Music Hall

What happened to the beautiful wood panels? Most of them were given away or thrown in the trash!

Fortunately the Friends of Music Hall helped to preserve 30 panels. When you take a tour of Music Hall, you will see them.



Come to Music Hall

Now you know what it took to create this important building. Come see the building up close and step inside for a performance or tour. Music Hall belongs to everyone!



FRIENDS *of*
MUSIC HALL

Thank you from the Friends of Music Hall

FriendsofMusicHall.org