

WESTERN RESERVE  
CLEVELAND  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE  
CITY OF CINCINNATI.

A SUMMARY

OF ITS

ATTRactions, ADVANTAGES,

INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS,

WITH

A STATEMENT OF ITS PUBLIC CHARITIES.

BY

GEO. E. STEVENS.



CINCINNATI:  
GEO. S. BLANCHARD & CO.,  
39 WEST FOURTH STREET.

1869.

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\$447,382.00, the insurance on which was \$271,016.00—making the actual loss to property-owners \$176,366.00.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

1. **JUSTICES OF THE PEACE** are elected by the voters of each township, for terms of three years. They have jurisdiction in all civil suits, with a few exceptions, when the debt or damages do not exceed three hundred dollars. In criminal cases they have jurisdiction throughout the county, of minor offenses, and to hold persons accused of crime to answer the charge in the Court of Common Pleas.

2. **THE DISTRICT COURT** is composed of the three judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County, and one of the judges of the Supreme Court of Ohio, any three of whom constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Two terms are held each year, commencing on the first Monday of April, and first Monday of October respectively. It has but little original jurisdiction, its business being chiefly the determination of appeals, and cases in error from the Court of Common Pleas.

3. **THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS** is composed of three judges, elected by the people of Hamilton County, for a term of five years. The regular terms of the Court commence on the first Monday of January, the second

Monday of May, and the first Monday of November in each year. The judges sit separately and alternately, in each of the three rooms of the court. They have authority, by statute, to classify and distribute among themselves for trial the business pending in the court. Civil cases are tried by the court in room No. 1, and before a jury in room No. 2, and criminal cases are tried in room No. 3. This court has original jurisdiction in all civil cases where the sum or matter in dispute exceeds one hundred dollars, and has appellate jurisdiction from the judgment of justices of the peace, and also in certain cases from the decisions of the county commissioners. It has jurisdiction of all crimes and offenses in which persons are indicted by the grand jury; of all writs of certiorari to the Police Court and justices of the peace in criminal cases; of petitions in error from judgments rendered by the Probate Court or justices of the peace; in cases of contested election of county officers; and of petitions by administrators and executors for the sale of lands of deceased persons, and in habeas corpus. It also has powers and duties prescribed by statute, with reference to savings societies, petitions filed by railroads for change of grade or route, sales of property of religious societies; sales of cemeteries in cities and towns; changes of names of persons, towns, and villages; vacation of town plats; appointment of auctioneers, inspectors, etc.; sales of entailed estates;

barring dower of insane wives; appointment of various trustees; approval of appointment of deputies of the clerk, sheriff, and recorder, etc. The judges, whose terms will expire in 1872, are Hons. Charles C. Murdock, Joseph Cox, and Manning F. Force.

4. THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CINCINNATI consists of three judges, elected at city elections, by the voters of Cincinnati, for the term of five years. The terms of the court commence on the first Monday of each month, except July, August, and September. A special term of the court is held by each judge, and, as a general rule, the judges sit alternately in each of the three rooms of the court, submitted cases being heard in room No. 1, and jury cases in rooms No. 2 and 3. The general term is held at such time as the court may direct, by two or more judges, the concurrence of two being necessary to pronounce judgment at general term. Petitions in error lie from the special to the general terms, and from the general terms directly to the Supreme Court of the State. This court has no jurisdiction except that specially conferred upon it by statute. Generally it has, in civil actions, the same jurisdiction in the City of Cincinnati that the Court of Common Pleas has in the county of Hamilton. It has no jurisdiction of appeals or petitions in error from other tribunals, nor of criminal cases, nor of applications for divorce and alimony. At present, the judges are Hon. Bellamy Storer, whose term ex-

pires in 1872; Hon. M. B. Hagans, whose term expires in 1873; and Hon. Alphonso Taft, whose term expires in 1874.

5. **THE PROBATE COURT**, a court of record, open at all times, is holden by one judge, elected by the voters of the county for the term of three years. The Probate Judge is clerk of his own court, and his compensation is by fees fixed by law. He has jurisdiction in probate and testamentary matters; in the appointment of administrators and guardians; in the settlement of the accounts of executors, administrators, and guardians; in habeas corpus; in the issuing of marriage licenses; in sales of land, on petition of executors, administrators, and guardians; in the completion of contracts concerning real estate, on petition of executors and administrators; in holding inquests of lunacy; in ascertaining the amount of compensation to be made to owners of land appropriated to the use of corporations; to try contested elections of justices of the peace, and of proceedings in aid of execution. He also has authority to administer oaths, and to take depositions, and the acknowledgment of deeds, etc. The present incumbent is the Hon. Edw. F. Noyes.

6. **THE POLICE COURT OF CINCINNATI** is held by a police judge, elected by the voters of the city, for the term of two years. He has, in criminal cases, the same powers and jurisdiction as justices of the peace. He

has jurisdiction of all violations of the ordinances of the city, and of all cases of petit larceny and other inferior offenses committed within the limits of the city, or within one mile thereof, and which the constitution or laws of the State do not require to be prosecuted by indictment or presentment of a grand jury. In the absence, sickness, or other disability of the police judge, the mayor may select some reputable member of the bar, residing in the city, who may, after taking the necessary oath of office, preside in the police court as "acting police judge." Hon. Walter F. Straub is the present judge of this court.

7. THE UNITED STATES COURTS held in the city of Cincinnati are the Circuit and District Courts for the Southern District of Ohio. The District Court is held by the District Judge, and has jurisdiction in cases in admiralty, in bankruptcy, of all seizures, of all suits for penalties and forfeitures, and of suits at common law by the United States, or any officer thereof. The Circuit Court consists of a judge of the Supreme Court assigned to the Circuit, and of the Judge of the District Court of the District. A recent statute provides for the appointment of an additional Circuit judge. The Circuit Court may be held by either of the judges. It has, in general, cognizance of crimes and offenses cognizable under the authority of the United States, and of suits of a civil nature, when the matter in dispute

exceeds five hundred dollars, exclusive of costs, and when the United States are plaintiffs, or an alien is a party, or the suit is between a citizen of the State and a citizen of another State. Justice N. H. Swayne, of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Hon. H. Leavitt, Judge of the District Court, are the present judges of the Circuit Court. Judges of the United States Courts hold their offices during good behavior.