



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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Diocese of Columbus

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St. Mary's at the Furnaces

Pine Grove, Elizabeth Township, Lawrence County

Some Early History of the Parish and its People

(Concluded, from Vol. XXIII, No. 6)

Bishop Hartley's history states that the congregation at Ironton St. Lawrence was reduced by half of its number by the havoc caused by the introduction of the steel nail into business, a condition which attracted the ironworker to Birmingham, Alabama, and other points.²¹ The manufacture of steel at Birmingham began in 1899, but the impact on St. Mary's occurred a decade earlier. The congregation there dropped from 1,159 in 1888 to only about 500 in 1892 and in the latter year the parish school was closed.²²

In 1891 Bishop Watterson named Father Rauck "Titular Rector of the Church of St. Mary at the Furnaces" and sent a young priest, Father Matt Smith of Columbus, as parish administrator. Though his health was not good, "The young priest soon grew in admiration among the people of the parish for his kind and affable manner towards his much older and worn-out brother in the ministry." Father Rauck died on All Souls Day, 1894 and Father Smith carried on as pastor until forced by his health to return to Columbus in June, 1902, where he died that October. His successor in office was Father James J. McCann, who in 1911 was followed by Father F. X. Clark.

After the shocking drop in the size of the congregation about 1890, the population continued to dwindle away. By 1904 there were only 401 souls; the parish school remained closed and the children were taught their catechism on

Sunday mornings by the pastor and two lay teachers. By 1910, the pastor was reporting only about 300 souls under his care.

The Fourth Church

In February of 1911 Bishop Hartley sent Rev. Philip F. X. Clark as pastor to St. Mary's and during his term great changes took place. By 1910 a station had been established at Superior (the former Centre Furnace) and Father Clark had the honor of seeing to the construction of the mission church of St. Pius there in 1913. Three years later came the unfortunate opportunity to build a new church at Pine Grove, for the 1882 building was destroyed by fire. During Mass on Sunday morning, November 21, 1915, sparks from the chimney ignited the shingles on the roof of the church. When the fire was discovered, Father Clark informed the congregation and they left the building in such an orderly manner that nobody was injured. The articles on the altar were saved, but the bucket brigade formed by the men was insufficient to save the structure. Father Clark started Mass over in the old school house.

It was immediately decided to build a new church and "handsome" donations toward the effort were received at once from friends in Ironton -- no doubt the children and grandchildren of former St. Mary's parishioners among them. In

the interim, Mass was offered in the school house at Pine Grove and in the mission church at Superior on alternate Sundays. The church once again moved to the east, as the Hanging Rock Iron Company donated the adjacent one and one-half acres for the new building.²³ Ground was broken on May 22, 1916, and the cornerstone was blessed on September 10 by Bishop Hartley, who spoke on the foundation of the Church, using as his text, "Thou art Peter and upon this Rock I will build My Church." The church was completed on March 19, 1917 and Bishop Hartley visited again for its dedication on May 1. After the ceremonies, the Bishop and visiting clergy were entertained at dinner by the pastor, while the ladies of the parish served lunch on the parish picnic grounds. The church seated 250, cost about \$17,000, and left the parish with a debt of some \$4,000.

The congregation at Pine Grove stabilized for a time, falling only slightly to about 250 by 1921, but then dropped dramatically again between that year and 1925. It has not been possible to ascertain the cause, but it no doubt was related to the number of jobs available in the area. In 1930 only 85 souls were under the care of the pastor, but by 1941 the number had increased to 106. For the 1943 diocesan history, the pastor, Rev. Otto Trogus, submitted these words: "This old parish diminishes from year to year. The old people are dying or moving away, and the young people move to the city to find employment. The beautiful church...is very attractive in every way and the people are strongly attached to it. They are always so faithful in their attendance at Mass and the reception of the Sacraments. A new parish house was built some few years ago, providing a most comfortable home for the parish priest."

The parish population has stabilized, with a current October count of about 115 to 120. However, given that the current shortage has caused Ironton to be reduced to one priest for its

two former parishes, the future of St. Mary's at the Furnaces seems uncertain.

NOTES

- 21) Hartley, Rt. Rev. James J., *The History of Fifty Years*, p 325
 22) *Steubenville Register*, August 9, 1946
 23) Lawrence County deed 102/141



Pine Grove St. Mary's at the Furnaces Tombstone Inscriptions

For a reading of the entire graveyard at Pine Grove St. Mary's, the reader is referred to *The Catholic Cemeteries of Lawrence County, Ohio* by the Lawrence County Genealogical Society. A careful inspection of the stones in the older portions of the graveyard produced some different and more complete readings than are reported there, especially for those carved in German. The following is a list of these inscriptions, with the differences noted in the brackets. Possible alternate readings are in parentheses.

+ + +

Oldest (1853) section, in the southeast corner.

Hier ruhet
 Hermann Hecker
 geb. in Westphalia König
 Preussen
 gest. 22 Jan. 1849
 Alter 36 Jahre

Die erste Leich auf diesem Plat. Gerne traurige Gattin nahm ich zu [stone broken] ...ver assena Kinder. Ich thue... an Franz Buhr seine Ehe gemanhn und alle Kinder. Es ist ein Gedächtniss das Er der erste[?] auf diesen Kirchhof und heute den zweiten Grabstein bekommt. Franz u. Maria Anna Buhr.

[The long statement, which is difficult to read, is missing from the previously published reading. It says: The first body on this place. Readily I receive the sorrowful spouse to... children. I ...Franz Buhr his wife ...and all children. It is a memorial that he [is] the first on this churchyard and today has the second gravestone. Franz and Maria Anna Bhur.]

Hier ruhet
Heinrich James
Sohn von
John Ferdinand
und Maria Gertrud
Goldcamp
Gestorben den 5^{ten} April
1852 in einen Alter
von 3 Jahren 1 Monat
u. 8 Tagen
[given name correction]

Hier ruhet
Johann Wilhelm
Wiehe
aus Dagen bei
Osnabruck
Geboren
den 1 Mai 1814
Gestorben
den 25^{ten} Juli 1854
[correct nativity]

Edward Lynch
A Native of Ireland
died Sept. 1?, 1858
aged 2_? Years
(perhaps 7_ Years)
[not found]

THOMAS A. TONGHINS
Late of Truro
England
DIED
June 26, 1864
Aged 38 Years
[place missing; surname]

Hier ruhet
Kunigunde
Ehefrau des
Johann Gosswein
geb Maier Sie starb in
einem Alter von 31 Jahren
verselien mit der heiligen
Sacramenten und hinterlies
ihrem Gatten unt Kinder.
[Listed as Geswein]

Hier ruhet
Maria
Tochter von
Christoph Maurer
----- u. Ehefrau
Elisabetha
geb. S---b Ehefrau
Des Georges Maurer
von Aetna Furnace
geb. d. 25 Oct 1832
gestorben am 17
Sept. A.D. 1855
(left husband and 3 children)
[partial]

Denkmal
Des. am. 31 August
1852 im. herrn
Emtschla senen Fick
tor Sohn von F. A. &
Fronska Schudy Gebi-
ru aus --z herzog-
mum baden derf mauchen
[Family name of Schudy not
given]

Christoph Unger
Gestorben
den 21 November 1857
Alter von 75 Jahre
und 5 Monat
Margareth Unger
Geborene Synur?
Gestorben
den 31 Marz 1852
Alter von 74 Jahre
(poem)
[maiden name]

Maria E. Tanne
Tochter von
Johann G. & Maria E.
Luehrsman
geb. 23 Juni 1822 (or 32?)
gest. 13 Marz 1851
[name Tanne not given]

Valentina Strobel
Tochterlein des
J. B. & C. Strobel
--- ----
von 3 Jahr & 9
Monath 1857
[months]

Johann Carl
Sohn von
J. H. u. M. Gales
geb. 9 April 1864?
gest. -- Dez. 1870
[Family name given as Cates
on this and his brother's.]

Johann
Sohn von
J. u. M. Kentner
geb. 28 Dez. 1861
gest. 28 Oct. 1867
[under Rentner; birth date]

Joseph
Sohn von
J. & M. Rettenmeier
geb. 29 Sept. 1868
gest.
8 Juli 1874
[Listed as Meyer.]

+ + +

Next (1859) section, lying
south and east of the stone
circle, generally read from
south to north.

HUGH
son of
PAT & H.
MALONEY
Died
Dec. 2, 1881
Aged
24 Years
[14 years]

Hier ruht
Friedrich Staas
geb. 12 Aug. 1830
gest. 6 April 1871
(he was son and brother)
[Listed as Stans and Straus.]

Hier ruht
Christoph
Maurer
geboren
-- Sept. 1799
gestorben
8 ----, 1860
-- Alter 60 Jahre
5 Monate 27 Tage
[not found]

Hier ruht
Johann Sohn
von Friederich u.
Anna M. Klein
Gest.
d. 4 Mai 1860
im Alter v.
18 J. u. 11 M.
[Listed as Johann John Klein.]

Hier ruht
Sebastian
Schüterer
geb. 18 Feb 1823
gest. 9 Jan 1861
(poem)
[Listed as Schuterer, with no
given name.]

Hier ruht
Elisabetha Anna
Tochter von
H? S? u. Maria R.
Hocker (or Hacker)
gest. 16 Nov 1864
Alt. 6 Mo. 8 Tag.
[not found]

Hier ruhet
Anna Gerdrut
Tochter von
John Ferdinand und
Maria Gerdrut
Goldkamp
geb. den 31 Oct 1859
gest. den 15 Juli 1860
In einem Alter von
(broken) --- und 15 Tage.
[several differences]

Hier ruhet mit ihrem Kinde
Anna Swicker?
geb. Hancker?

geb. 6 Mai 1836?
gest. 27 Sept. 1871
(by husband, parents, sister,
brothers)
[under Fwicker]

Hier ruht
Heinrich
Sohn von
M. u. M. Kastor
geb. u. gest.
den 2 Dez. 1864
[not found]

Hier ruht
Anna Maria
Ehefrau von
Johann Dinkel
geb. Hartmann
aus Dinnschendorf
bei Bamberg
in Baiern
geb. 10 Mai 1821
gest. 31 ---- 1861
(poem)
[partial reading]

Maria Gerdrut
Goldkamp
geb. den 31 Oct 1859
gest. den 17 Aug. 1860
in einem Alter von
9 Monat und 17 Tage
[death date]

Hier ruhet
Heinrich
Sohn von
Christoph u. Sophie
Unger
geb. 16 Feb. 1851
gest. 2 Aug. 1861
Alt 10 Jahre 6 Mo.
[given name and mother's
name]

Louisa
Tochter von
Franz u. Anna Buhr
geboren 22 Juli 1859
Abends 8 Uhr,
gestorben 28 Sept. 1860,
Abends 10 1/2 Uhr.
[not found]

Georg Maurer
geb. zu ----- 1797
Am. Schauberg?
Hessen Darmstadt
gest. 1 Juli 1878
[not found]

Michael Hines
BORN
In Stafords Shire England
Sep. 18, 1835
DIED
Sep. 27, 1881
[partial]

WEUNA
Wife of
PATRICK GALLAGER
DIED
Nov. 3, 1881,
Aged 56 Yrs,
Native of Parish Kilmain
Co. Mayo, Ireland
[County & age missing.]

Hier ruht
Johann D. Potthoff
Geboren
den 27sten Januar 1811
in Osede, Konigreich
Hannover.
Gestorben
den 11ten September 1879
in Alter von 68 Jahren
8 Monaten und 15 Tagen.
[partial, under Dotthoff]

Hier ruht
Maria Anna
Ehefrau von
Johann D. Potthoff
Geborene Vogelsant
Geboren
den 12ten April 1813
zu Osede Konigreich Hannover
Gestorben
den 12ten Marz 1873
in Alter von 66 Janren
und 11 Monaten.
(poem)
[not found]

Unsere Mutter
Maria Elisabeth
Ehefrau von
Heinrich D(r?)aga Baumer
Geboren 1822
in Holdorf Deutschland
Gestorben 1881
in Alter von 59
Jahren
[partial, no surname]

Unsere Mutter
SOPHIA
Ehefrau von
Christ. Unger
Geb. im Mai 1821
Gest. den 13 Juni 1879
Alter 57 Jahr
[partial]

Maria Elisabetha
Ehefrau von
H. H. Hecker
geb. Baumer
Geb. 8 Feb. 1847
Gest. 30 Mai 1872
(poem)
[not found]

Hier ruhet
Genovefa Koch
Geboren
am 3 Januar 1815
Gestorben
am 23 Marz 1872
[Listed as Roch, Cenobera]

JAMES BOYLE
(stone broken apart here)
Balloore, Fannette,
Donegal Co.
Native of Ireland
DIED
May 3, 1863,
Aged 21 Years
[Listed as James Boyle, no
data; and as Balloore,
Finnelle, the place name.]

Pray for the Soul of
Patrick Byrnes
(remainder illegible)
[Says Byrne.]

Hier ruhet
Anna Maria
Ehefrau von
B. Micke
geborene Meyerrose
geb. 29 Jan. 1822,
gest. 28 Marz 1863.
[partial]

ELISABETHA
DURFARTH
Geborene Grove
Geboren 1789
Gestorben
den 16' April 1864
im Alter von 75
Jahren
[partial]

(To be concluded)

Abstracts from *The Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued, from Vol. XXIII, No. 6)

January 23, 1845

PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS -- Rev. James Kearney has been appointed by the Bishop pastor of the Congregations of St. Pius, Steubenville, of the Ascension, Liverpool (Columbiana Co.), and of the stations at Wellsville &c., between those two churches. Rev. Mr. Conlan, who has hitherto attended the above named congregations resides at St. Paul's, near New Lisbon, Columbiana county, which with the Stations in its neighborhood, requires a pastor's constant presence.

Rev. Timothy Farrell, during the temporary absence of Rev. Mr. Olivetti, takes charge of his congregations at Deavertown, Sunday-creek, &c. These congregations will be subsequently divided.

Rev. James Cahill will enter on the care of the congregation of St. Mary's Piqua, on the first Sunday in Lent, and will occasionally visit the English Catholics at Troy, Sydney and Wappaghkonnetta.

March 6, 1845

OBITUARY

Very Rev. Sir. -- You will please insert in your paper the decease of Mr. Denis Ryan of Watertown, Washington Co., Ohio, aged 48 years. He departed this life this morning about 4 o'clock A.M. after eight days of illness, during which short period he manifested the true and edifying principles of our Holy Religion till his last moments, when he breathed his last in the odour of sanctity, regretted by a numerous circle of friends and acquaintances in this burgh and vicinity. He has left a family consisting of three children and wife to lament his loss in whom they found the affectionate husband and tender and fond parent.

Watertown, Feb. 10, 1845.

M.

March 20, 1845

CHURCH-BURNING. -- The beautiful new Church of the Ascension, at East Liverpool, in this diocese, was destroyed by fire, between the hours of 7 and 10 o'clock, in the evening of Passion Sunday. It was, doubtless, the work of an incendiary. Beside the loss of the Church, which cost the Pastor and the flock so much expense and so many trials to erect, we regret to say, that the builder, Mr. Bagley, a poor, honest and hard-working man, with a large family, lost a chest of tools, worth \$200.

April 10, 1845

CHILLICOTHE. -- The beautiful lot purchased for a new church will not long remain unshaddowed by the cross. All are united in their efforts to prosecute the work with vigor. The corner-stone is, God-willing, to be laid on Ascension-day.

CIRCLEVILLE. -- We are surprised to learn that the church in this town is hastening towards completion. It shows what one or two zealous families, with God's blessing, can accomplish.

April 17, 1845

DIED

On Sunday the 13th inst., at the residence of her brother, Miss Maria Elizabeth Benedicta Lehmann, aged 17 years and 23 days. The deceased was a native of Germany, from which country her parents emigrated in 1832. In the following year death deprived her of her mother, and her father, left with a large and helpless family, placed her with a Presbyterian family in Columbus, where she grew up ignorant alike of her mother tongue and of the faith of her fathers. Sometime last Fall, her brother, deeply distressed at her situation, brought her to this city [Cincinnati] where she was instructed in her holy religion...

April 24, 1845

DIED

On the 10th inst., of Pulmonary affection at the residence of her daughter in Marietta, where she had been staying for some time, Mrs. C. McCune of Beverly, in the 55th year of her age. The deceased became in her early years a Convert to the Catholic Faith, in the practice of which she fulfilled in an exemplary manner the duties of a virtuous wife and an affectionate mother...

May 22, 1845

(Advertisement)

CATHOLIC SETTLEMENT

Two or more eighty acre farms are offered for sale at a very low price for cash to those who will apply very soon. The farms are unimproved, but well timbered with poplar and oak, and situated near Big Racoon, Gallia county, Ohio, where there are grist and saw mills. A neat Church has been erected during the last summer, and the number of Catholic settlers is every day increasing.

The site for a village town (St. Mary's) has been recently laid out, and every inducement offered to respectable Catholic families who wish to locate in this prospering settlement. Besides the above, several other farms are for sale. Application to be made (if by letter *post-paid*) to Dan'l Quin or B. Dolan, Wilkesville, Gallia co., or

REV. J. O'MEALY
Portsmouth, Scioto co., Ohio

May 29, 1845

The Right Rev. Bishop Purcell laid the corner stones of new churches during the past week at Canton...Fulton in the same county, and at Columbus on Sunday, the 25th inst. The Catholics of Chillicothe intend to build two Churches to accommodate the German and English Catholics.

June 26, 1845

NEW CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF CHILLICOTHE. -

We refer to an interesting communication on this subject in to-day's paper. Rev. Mr. Hammer, or Rev. Mr. Juncker of Dayton, is authorised by the Bishop to lay the corner-stone of the church for the use of the German Catholics. He will, probably, be assisted on the occasion by Rev. Mr. Unterthiner of Cincinnati, and Rev. Mr. Senez.

(Communicated)

NEW CHURCHES AT CHILLICOTHE. -- The Catholics of Chillicothe numbering about fifteen hundred -- the larger part Germans -- have been confined to a very small brick church for Divine worship until now. Much difficulty existed, and many obstacles were in the way, which prevented the building of a more commodious church. Arrangements had been made to build a large church for the common use of both the German and English speaking people who form this congregation; but owing to the annoyance given alternately to each portion of the congregation, by being obliged to listen to sermons in a strange language, a new and more satisfactory plan has been agreed upon, by which the whole congregation will contribute, first for the erection of a church, for the use of the Germans, and then, all will contribute for the building of another for the use of those who speak the English language. By the time the new church of *St. Peter*, which is now commenced for the use of the Germans. will be under roof, the English portion of the congregation expect to commence the new church of *St. Mary's* for themselves. Their German brethren have pledged themselves to refund during the building of the church of *St. Mary's*, the whole amount of money which the English portion of the congregation shall have paid towards the building of *St. Peter's*.

The plan of *St. Peter's* is in the Gothic style -- of stone and brick; the body of the church is one hundred feet long by fifty-five in width, with a recess for the altar and sacristy and a tower in

front, making the whole length one hundred and eighteen feet. The tower will be of brick, ninety feet high, with a tinned spire, finished with bell and cross, in all one hundred and forty-two feet high. All the work of the building except the plastering and painting is now contracted for, and the whole cost of the building will be, when finished, less than [?] thousand dollars. On each side there will be one blank and four real Gothic windows, in front one large door, a large west end window and two, similar to those, on the sides, of twenty-two feet in height [sic] and six in width. When passing by in the stage yesterday we saw a large number of stout and happy looking Germans, digging manfully and cheerfully into the lot, for the ample foundations of their *New Minster*.

We were told by a member of the City Council that a very beautiful hill side, which terminates the Main street, has been granted to the English portion of the congregation for their new building. The spot is at present an eye-sore to the city, as an attempt to make a road across the hill-top, some forty years ago, has made it rough and unsightly; but our people with the spirit for public improvements, and the love of art, which mark their movements in all ages, and in all countries, have selected in this instance, the only useless spot, for ordinary purposes, within the site of the town, and by building such a church as they intend upon it, they will certainly render it the most striking and beautiful feature of the regular and clean and healthy city of Chillicothe. This improvement will add value to more of the city property than any other that has been made or

even contemplated about the place -- of course all the property holders will continue their aid to consummate so clever a project. The old ground will probably be occupied by a School, which is very much needed there. The Germans have two schools, but a large and well conducted school for either sex, with good teachers, would prove a great consolation to the citizens of the place, and would not want encouragement.

The 30th of this month is appointed for the laying of the corner-stone of the church of St. Peter. We hope the day may be favorable, and may prove one of long remembered jubilee.

OBITUARY

The pious and devoted pastors of the Catholic churches in Zanesville, have often witnessed the triumphs of faith in the lives and deaths of the faithful entrusted to their care. Here is another happy instance. The real terror of the grave appear, indeed to be but "shadows," when we read of a death-bed scene like the following.

"Blessed are they who died in the Lord," was beautifully illustrated in the death of Mrs. CECILIA R. HALL, wife of A. HALL, and daughter of C. and L. ROBERTS, who departed this life on the 11 instant, in the 31st year of her age.

She had yearned to embrace the Cross of redeeming love, whose sublime mysteries had beautiful morality subdue the heart, and fill it with longing aspirations for life eternal. ...

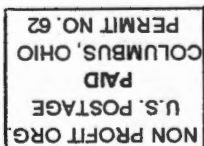
(To be continued)

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