



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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THE EARLIEST CATHOLIC SETTLEMENTS IN OHIO A SURVEY

(Continued from Volume XIII, Number 2)

1805 - Somerset

As has been stated in these pages many times, the families of Jacob and Anne Catherine Dittoe and John and Mary Fink, who came from the vicinity of the Conewago Chapel in the present Adams County, Pennsylvania, settled in the vicinity of Somerset about 1805. They were visited by Rev. Edward D. Fenwick, O.P. for the first time in 1810, according to their own traditions. By 1812 Jacob Dittoe and his relatives had purchased 320 acres of land and had offered it to the Church.

On October 10, 1812 Bishop Benedict Flaget of Bardstown (whose diocese included all of Ohio) and Rev. Stephen T. Badin traveled through Ohio on their way to Baltimore. In his diary the Bishop wrote the following.

We went to spend the night with Mr. Dittoe, an excellent Catholic who keeps an inn on the road. This faithful believer has already bought, conjointly with one of his brothers, 320 acres of land for the location of a priest. He has already built a little house on it and cleared ten acres. In three years he hopes to have thirty acres cleared. I promised him that I would try to send them a priest, at least once a year until Providence would permit me to give them one permanently. I advised Mr. Dittoe to build a house which would be at the same time a house for the priest and a chapel, and he is going to do it. This chapel could also serve as a place where the Catholics might gather together every Sunday, thus serving to draw them closer in the bonds of charity, and reminding them of their duties as Catholics. The Catholics at New Lancaster, or near Mr. Dittoe's, are in sufficient numbers to form a very respectable congregation, and with the taste that the Germans have for music, I am very sure that divine services there would be held with a great deal of beauty and dignity. All the children of Mr. Ditto are musicians, and at this moment while I am writing they are making a chorus of melody which pleases me very much. God of all goodness, send me priests !

The good bishop had carefully chronicled his trip through Kentucky and Ohio until he left the Dittoes. At that point, the daily entries stop and after two sentences on the Cumberland Mountain congregation he next mentions

Baltimore. It is as if his exclamation, his prayer for priests, was the cry of an almost-broken heart which turned its attention from this world to the next for the rest of the journey.

Father Fenwick continued to visit Ohio once or twice each year and on December 6, 1818 the log church of St. Joseph was blessed, the first Catholic church in Ohio, in the presence of the Dittoes, Finks, and McFaddens. Bishop Flaget's visit in 1812, his encouragement of the project, and his promise to send a priest probably should be seen as the organization of the congregation.

(Bishop Flaget's journal was published in the Records of the American Catholic Historical Society, XXIX (1918), p. 247)

1805 - Knox County

The first known Catholics of Knox County were Mrs. Catherine (Arnold) Sapp and her children. The head of the family, George Sapp Jr., at the time of their settlement there was not a Catholic. In 1805 he brought his family from Cumberland, Maryland to Howard, Ohio (some nine miles southwest of Danville); the family tells the story that in that move one horse was used, two children being swung in sacks across the horse, the mother and the other child riding. In 1808 he moved the family to the vicinity of the present Danville, where his father and brothers soon joined him. Mrs. Sapp's family also joined them there, Catholics of English ancestry from the Mountain Church congregation, ten miles from Cumberland, Maryland. These included Elias Arnold, David Logsdon, Samuel Durbin Sr., Thomas White and wife, Mrs. Daniel Rogue, Benjamin Durbin and wife, and Isaac Dial. The earliest documentation for these is a power of attorney given by Elias and Rachel Arnold, dated October 23, 1809.

The presence of this community became known to Father Fenwick in 1814 or 1815. On August 6, 1815 he wrote to the Dittoes that they should expect him in September. He asked them to enquire after the Catholics of Newark and Owl Creek (Knox county) and mentioned the names Major, Logan, Arnold, Baker, and McKinsey, all Danville names, which he had heard from their relatives, no doubt those in Kentucky. The Dittoes were to let the Owl Creek Catholics know that he would be in the Somerset vicinity for a week or so but would not have time to stay long in Ohio, as he had pressing concerns in Kentucky. From this, it can be seen that he probably did not visit Danville in 1815 but, given his inquiry and the size of the community, it is highly likely that he visited them on his next trip, probably in the fall of 1816.

The Sapp home was the church and home of the missionary when he visited. A few scattered sacramental records are the only documentation we have for the next few years. Fanny, daughter of George and Catherine Sapp, baptized Oct. 24, 1818; William, son of George Arnold, baptized August 8, 1819; Jacob, son of Timothy and Sarah Colopy, baptized in 1819; all these were recorded at St. Joseph's and it is not clear whether the priest traveled to Danville or the parents brought the children to the church -- but the first ante-dates the blessing of St. Joseph's by 43 days. Father Fenwick stopped at Mt. Vernon on his northern missionary trip of May and June, 1819. Father Young witnessed the marriage of Aaron McKinsey and Mary Logue in Knox County on May 19, 1820 and another marriage in 1821.

The Church of St. Luke was blessed in October of 1824, presumably on his feast day, October 18. At that time the congregation consisted of twenty-five families. It is not known when the property was donated for the church. The only deed is a quit-claim from George and Catherine Sapp, dated 1835; the original deed must have been lost and was never recorded. Paul Horgan in his book Lamy of Santa Fe wrote that the land was donated in 1822, but gives no source for this. N. N. Hill's 1881 History of Knox County indicates a much earlier intention by the owners, however, for it states, "The cemetery attached to the church was laid out probably before 1812."

The first resident pastor of St. Luke's was Rev. Jean Baptist Lamy, who arrived in 1839.

(A History of the Sapp Family by J. Gooden Sapp and H. W. Stanley, 1910; Knox Co. Deed records, A/120 and O/431; O'Daniel's Fenwick, pp 207-208; Catholic Telegraph, June __, 1834 and Oct. __, 1849; U.S. Catholic Miscellany, III/319 (Nov., 1824); Hill, N. N., History of Knox County, pp 552-553.)

1806 - Chillicothe

"The first Roman Catholic that ever lived in Chillicothe was a man by the name of Peter Spurk. He was what I would call a German-French and was a silver-smith by occupation. He owned and occupied a two-story brick building that still stands one door west of the Clinton House." Thus wrote Dr. Samuel McA Dow, an early settler of Chillicothe, in 1870. According to the History of St. Mary's Parish recently completed by John R. Grabb, the building was still standing in 1986, at 132 West Water Street. Peter Spurk came to Chillicothe in 1806 and in 1807 bought the Black Horse Tavern, which he ran for several years. In 1817 his daughter Ann became the wife of Peter, son of Jacob Dittoe of near Somerset.

In October of 1812 Bishop Flaget passed through Chillicothe; if he met the Spurk family, he did not mention them in his journal, but only those Catholics who were "ashamed to show themselves as such."

Among others is a Mr. Lamb, owner of a great cotton factory. He is said to belong to the Anglican Church, but one of his former friends assured us that he had seen him go to his duties several times in his younger days.

After a rather poor dinner I had a conversation with a young Spaniard, a cigar maker in the town. I thought that, as a good Castilian, he would want to kiss my hands and feet, but what was my surprise when I found him worse than a Protestant, for his impiety was as great as his ignorance. I tried by gentleness and persuasion to bring him back, but all was to no use. We parted -- he apparently very much satisfied with having shown his impiety, and I filled with sadness to see the frightful ravages that irreligion, impiety, and libertinage are making every day. They told us that a new sect has established itself in Chillicothe, the name of these fanatics is Socinians -- Arianism. I could not learn anything of their dogmas.

Chillicothe, being the state capital for several years and being on the main road to Kentucky, received visits from many of the famous missionary priests

over the next two decades. The Catholic community grew slowly. In 1822 Martin and Mary Bauman arrived and erected a tavern on Deer Creek Street (now Park St.). Their home and tavern was the Mass house for Chillicothe for many years. It was not until 1837 that Rev. Henry Damian Juncker arrived as first resident pastor; later in the same year the old Episcopal church was purchased and became the first St. Mary's Church.

(St. Mary's Parish-- 150 Years in Chillicothe, Ohio by John R. Grabb; Records of the American Catholic Historical Society, XXIX, 246.)

Ante 1807 - Wayne Township, Fayette County

On February 1, 1807 this letter was addressed from Chillicothe, Ohio to Bishop Carroll in Baltimore :

Dear Sir:

We join our hands as one man in supplication to you desiring a priest, as there is no teacher of our Church in this part of the country; and if it is convenient for you to send us one we will do everything that is reasonable to support him. We have made no calculation of what might be collected yearly as we did not know whether we could be supplied or not; neither can we give a true account of the number of Catholics; but as nigh as we can come, is betwixt 30 and 40 which came from the Eastern Shore; and I suppose, numbers from other parts which I am not acquainted with. Dear Sir, if you would be so kind as to make a trial and send a priest, there is nothing would give us more pleasure on account of our children as well as ourselves. Please write as soon as possible.

The letter was signed by Whaland Goodee and Major Philips. From the implication that they knew only those Catholics from the Eastern Shore, it might be inferred that they had come from that area in Maryland themselves. That this is correct is shown by the 1800 census of Dorchester County, Maryland, where both a Major Phillips and a Whealend Goutee appear; both were aged 35, plus or minus a few years, and both had wives and families. A marriage license was issued in the same county for Major Phillips and Hilary Hooper on December 7, 1791. Major Phillips must have died without ever having seen another priest or hearing from the bishop. His will was written on April 9, 1807 and shortly thereafter was probated at the courthouse in Chillicothe. He was a resident of Wayne Township, which is now in Fayette County; the will mentions his wife "Hillray" and his son Alston.

(Letter printed in Lamott's History of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, page 23. Will abstracted by George Robinson Jr. from Ross County Will Books A-D, No. 43, page 42.)

1807 - Canton

The town of Canton, Ohio was founded in 1806; by 1807 there was a Catholic family there. Early in the year 1807 John Shorb, whose roots went back to the Conewago Chapel-Emmitsburg axis, had come to Ohio and visited with Jacob Dittoe near Somerset. Later in the same year he and his wife Catherine settled in Canton. Other early Catholic settlers there were

Ignatius Meyer, the Andrew Meyer family, and Andrew and Mary Rappe and family. It was in 1817, according to the strongest traditions of long standing, that Father Fenwick first visited the northern portions of Ohio. On this trip, it is said, he found five Catholic families at Canton. He offered the first Mass there beneath an oak tree on the Shorb property. The site was at the corner of Fifth and Shorb Avenue and the great landmark of a tree lived until 1906, when it was brought down by a stroke of lightning. On subsequent visits, Mass was offered in the Shorb home.

The Shorbs donated five acres of land for a church and in 1823 a subscription list was passed. The brick church, measuring forty by ninety feet and costing \$5,000, was begun and completed in the year 1824. In July of 1824, while the steeple was being framed up and tested on the ground, Mr. Shorb was struck on the back by some timbers; he died two days later and was buried beside the church, which was named St. John. The first pastor, Rev. John A. Hill, O.P., served at Canton from 1826 until 1828.

(Jurgens, pages 50, 89, and 104; March of the Eucharist from Dungannon, page 37)

1811 - Louisville, Stark County

Edward Carroll, who settled near Louisville in 1811, was the first Catholic in that vicinity; he was from Baltimore, a relative of Bishop Carroll. The first child born there to a Catholic family was Julia Carroll, in 1819. In 1822 the four Moffit brothers, James, Patrick, Richard, and Thomas, from County Sligo in Ireland, settled there and about the same time came Hugh Devinney. These settlers were all in a sense part of the Canton congregation, for they would journey to Canton for services whenever Father Fenwick was in the area. There was no Catholic church built at Louisville until 1836.

(Jurgens, 89 and 284-285; Hynes' History of the Diocese of Cleveland, I/78)

by 1812 - Adams County ?

On his journey to Baltimore in 1812, after entering Ohio Bishop Flaget "took dinner with a Wm. Cassel, a Catholic himself and also his wife." The Bishop and Father Badin persuaded this couple to go to Kentucky to live on Father Badin's farm.

(Records of the American Catholic Historical Society, XXIX, page 245)

by 1812 - Southwestern Fairfield County

On the road between Tarlton and Lancaster, Father Badin "shouted to the right and left that he was a Catholic priest, and thus discovered an innkeeper on the way named Marquart, who was born and baptized a Catholic, as well as his wife. They received us perfectly, asked us to stop with them upon our return, and were satisfied with our prayers in payment of their bill. Their faith seems to be yet strong, but their practice puts them at the level of the most relaxed Protestants." This inn keeper was probably John Marquart, who

with Jacob Dittoe and seventeen others was an incorporator of the Zanesville and Lancaster Turnpike Company in 1816. Nothing further is known of him.

(Records, as above, page 247; Acts of the General Assembly of Ohio, Vol. 15, page 17)

(To be continued)

MT. CALVARY CEMETERY, COLUMBUS
CATHEDRAL DIVISION LOT RECORDS, 1867-1926?
Transcribed by Mark R. Gideon
(Tombstone readings by the editor)

[continued from Vol. XIII, Number 4]

page 23, John Lynch, lot 94-B, purchased Jan., 1867; graves: June 23, 1886; Oct. 17, 1890; Nov. 2, 1891; Apr. 12, 1902; Feb. 19, 1920. [no tombstones]

page 24, Charles Nagle, lot 98-B, purchased May 4, 1867; graves: Oct. 4, 1884; Oct. 15, 1889; Aug. 19, 1892; Oct. 17, 1894; June 26, 1895; Apr. 26, 1913; July 22, 1925.

Margaret Nagle, 1831 + 1894
Charles Nagle, 1829 + 1894
Hannah M. Williams, 1856 + 1942
Nellie Williams, 1864 + 1890
Margaret Williams, 1889 + 1913
(Father) Charles H. Williams, born Feb. 24, 1861, died Apr. 29, 1944

page 24, Jacob Nordina, lot 99-B, purchased Jan., 1867; graves: July 7, 1901; Oct. 4, 1905; Feb. 20, 1906.

John, son of J. & B. Nordina, died Apr. 2, 1868, aged 1 year 2 mo.
May his little soul rest in peace.

Jacob Nardini, 1837 - 1896	Julia Nardini, 1885 - 1918
Delia Nardini, 1841 - 1905	Joseph Nardini, 1871 - 1906
Julia Carroll, 1815 - 1902	Carrie Nardini, Nov. 7, 1947
Alice M. Nardini	Rosa F. Nardini

page 25, James Naughten, lot 124-B, purchased Jan., 1867; graves: Oct. 1, 1879; June 11, 1881; Dec. 20, 1899.

Sacred to the memory of John Naughten, who departed this life Jan. 28, 1863:
Aged 36 (?) years & 2 mos. Erected by James Naughten as a _____ of Joy
and respect for _____.

page 24, Mrs. William Naghten, lot 100-B, purchased Jan., 1867; graves: Apr. 6, 1876 (child); Mar. 11, 1900 (child); Sept. 22, 1912 (child); Feb. 10, 1913; Apr. 12, 19--; Mar. 28, 1922.

Mary Doyle, (born ?) Naghten, Native of ---- Owen, Parish of Castle__n
Garybay (?), County Westmeath, Ireland, died Aug. 16, 1868 (?), aged 50
years.

(Mother) Catherine Naghten, died Apr. 11, 1907, age 68 years. May her soul rest in peace.

(Father) William Naghten, died Jan. 7, 1870, age 50 years. May his soul rest in peace.

(Brother) William A. Naghten, died March 27, 1922, age 57 years. May his soul rest in peace.

page 25, William Wall, lots 115 and 125-B, purchased 1867; graves: Feb. 5, 1877; Dec. 4, 1903; May 8, 1889; Apr. 2, 1904 (Miss Margaret Kelly).

William Wall [huge monument, no data]	Johanna Wall, 1844 - 1877
Margaret L. Kelly, 1862 - 1904	Ellen Wall, 1840 - 1884

page 25, John Duffy, lot 126-B, purchased Jan., 1867; graves: Sept. 2, 1882; Sept. 13, 1882 (child); Sept. 3, 1903; Nov. 25, 1912; Jan. 6, 1913. Raising remains, Mar. 22, 1923.

Grandfather Dennis Duffy, died August 18, 1870

Mary, wife of John Duffy, Native of Co. Antrim (?), Ireland, died June 21, 1887, aged 24 years. May she rest in peace.

John Duffy and Agnes Duffy

page 26, Mrs. Bartholomew Lally, 41 E. Russel St., lot 104-B, purchased Apr. 24, 1872; graves: Oct. 17, 1876 (child); July 5, 1897; Aug. 18, 1905; Dec. 27, 1909; Jan. 26, 1917; Sept. 12, 1927; June 9, 1930.

Isabella Wittmann (wife of John), Oct. 12, 1861 - Dec. 27, 1909

page 26, John Lane, later Mrs. Wm. Fox, west half of lot 110-B, purchased Sept. 18, 1873; graves: July 19, 1889; Sept. 13, 1909; Aug. 27, 1915.

Patrick Lane, Native of County Limerick, Ireland, Died Sept. 18, 1872, aged 28 years. May his soul rest in peace.

FOX: William J., 1842 - 1924 (Father)

Ellen, 1841 - 1915 (Mother)

(Daughter) Anna Fox, 1877 - 1909

page 27, Michael Fahey, lot 111-B, purchased Apr. 18, 1878; graves: Jan. 12, 1906; June 20, 1916; Apr. 29, 1928.

Katherine L. Fahey

Julia, 1856 - 1916

Father, 1829 - 1906

Mother, 1839 - 1884

Mary, 1853 - 1873

Frank, 1860 - 1875

Jennie, 1864 - 1928

Margaret M. Fahey

Nellie E. Fahey, 1870 - 1951

Dennis F. Fahey, 1865 - 1932

page 28, Mrs. Jane Fleury, 329 W. State St., south half of lot 119-B, purchased May 18, 1869; graves: May 18, 1869; Dec. 26, 1891; Jan. 6, 1900.

Patrick Loughlin, died May 16, 1868, aged 53 yrs 2 mo & 4 d. Born in C(?) _____ Co., Ireland.

(To be continued)

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

Lubbers, Ferne R. and Margaret Dieringer, editors, Advent of Religious Groups into Ohio; Clark Co. Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society (1978).

- gift of the Ohio Genealogical Society

The original drawing, commissioned by the Society in 1978, of the Old Stone Church, Shawnee (see the Bulletin of December, 1978).

- gift of Rev. Robert Schmidt

The following items were given by anonymous donors:

Stritch, Thomas, The Catholic Church in Tennessee: The Sesquicentennial Story; Nashville: The Catholic Center, 1987.

The Liturgy and Other Divine Offices of the Church [Anglican]; London: Strangeways and Walden (n.d.)

Buck, Dudley, The Coming of the King, Cantata for Advent and Christmas-tide; New York: G. Schirmer, 1895. (Used by the M.E. church choir in Galion, O.)

McGovern, James J., D.D., The Life and Life-Work of Pope Leo XIII...; Chicago, 1893.

Abbe Orsini's The Life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, bound with A Historical Calendar of Feasts of the Blessed Virgin by the Abbe Edward Barthe, and Devotion to the Blessed Virgin in North America by Rev. Xavier Donald Macleod; New York: Virtue and Yorston, 1861.

The Catholic Educator, Instructions and Devotions, consisting of The Catholic Treasury of Useful Information; Catholic Instructions and Devotions; The Following of Christ; The Grounds of Catholic Doctrine; Portrait Gallery of the Cardinals, the Most Rev. Archbishops and the Right Rev. Bishops of the Catholic Church in the U. S. and Canada (undated).

FISHER FAMILY RECORD

Bound in the center of The Catholic Educator, mentioned above, are pages for a family record, which is filled in as follows:

Henry Fisher - Mary E. Conroy, married May 23rd 1895 by Rev. Father M'Guirk, Church of the Holy Redeemer.

Mary Catherine Fisher, Born March 30th 1897.

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197 E. Gay Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 Donald M. Schlegel, editor

