

# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

## BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society- Diocese of Columbus

Vol. XVIII, No. 4

April 5: St. Tigernach

April, 1993

### THE ANTE-POTATO FAMINE IRISH-CATHOLICS OF COLUMBUS

by Donald M. Schlegel

(Continued from Vol. XVIII, No. 2)

#### Spirituality

As stated in the beginning of this article, our concern is with those Irish who came to Columbus with the Catholic faith ingrained in their hearts and souls. One common way of glimpsing spiritual lives is through the written records left to us. The Irish of Columbus seem to have left little evidence of this nature. However, we can glimpse a little of their spirit in other ways, especially in lives consecrated to the work of the Church and in donations that built up the fabric of the church. To begin, four religious vocations are known among the children of the immigrants.

Mary McNally, daughter of Bernard and Margaret (Corcoran) McNally, was born in Springfield, Ohio on July 20, 1839. She entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Cincinnati in 1857 and professed her vows on August 11, 1859. She took the name of Sr. Ann. Her work with the order was as a librarian in schools and academies operated by the Sisters. She died at the Cincinnati Convent (Sixth Street) on October 26, 1909 and her remains await the resurrection in Calvary Cemetery, Cincinnati. (Official Register of SNDN, Ohio Province, I/16; Notre Dame Convent 6th St. Annals, 9/16; Notre Dame Journal, 6th St. Convent, 4/5. All courtesy of Sr. Judith Wessels, SNDN, Assistant Archivist.)

Dennis Augustine Clarke was born in Columbus on December 15, 1850. His father was John D. Clarke and his mother was Margaret, daughter of Owen Turney, who as a child came to this country from County Louth, Ireland. Dennis was baptized at Holy Cross Church on Christmas Day. He was educated at St. Patrick's parish school and then attended the University of Notre Dame. After being graduated from the latter with honors in 1870, he remained there another four years as both teacher and student and received the degrees of Master of Science and Master of Arts. In 1874 he returned to Columbus where Bishop Rosecrans prevailed upon him to take up the management of the Catholic Columbian, which he oversaw from its first issue in January of 1875 until 1885. During this time he studied for the priesthood, at St. Aloysius Seminary until it was closed, and he was ordained on December 20, 1879 by Bishop C. H. Borgess of Detroit. He was stationed at the Cathedral while being chaplain of the Ohio Penitentiary and having care of St. Joseph church, Jersey, Licking County, while continuing as editor of the Columbian. In 1883 and 1884 he spent some months in Utah and Colorado to renew his health. Upon



Rev. Dennis A. Clarke

his return to Columbus, Bishop Watterson appointed him pastor of Holy Family parish, where he spent the rest of his priestly career, completing the present church and the former school and building up the congregation. During these years he also contributed literary articles to the press and to periodicals and he wrote a history of the Church in the city for Alfred Lee's History of the City of Columbus. For three terms he served as president of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of Ohio. He died while offering the early Mass at the altar of Holy Family Church, on May 17, 1920.

Ellen McNamee was born in Columbus on April 24, 1858, daughter of James and Margaret (Moore) McNamee. She entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1876 in Cincinnati and professed vows on July 25, 1878. She was a teacher of grades seven through nine and spent some time teaching at St. Joseph's Academy in

Columbus and later was stationed in Salem, Oregon. In 1895 she was sent with the first group of her order to operate St. Paul's School in Odell, Illinois. She was found dead on the morning of November 18, 1902, on the lawn outside the convent. Her clothing had caught fire and thus, mysteriously, she met her death, but, "The expression of her countenance was calm & proper, giving no signs of agony," leading the Sisters to believe that death came suddenly. She had endeared herself to the hearts of her pupils and was remembered for the many kind acts of "her beautiful life," greatly loved by all who knew her. (Official Register SNDN, Ohio Province, II/23; Notre Dame Annals, Odell, Ill, pp. 27-36. Courtesy of Sr. Judith Wessels, SNDN, Assistant Archivist. Catholic Columbian, Nov. 22, 1902, page 6)

Rev. Matthew A. Smith was son of Patrick and Ann (Sullivan) Smith. Ann was the eldest daughter of Timothy and Mary Sullivan and was a native of Ireland. Matthew was born in the Columbus vicinity on December 24, 1865. He received his early education in the parochial schools of the city and for a time attended St. Joseph's Academy. His theological studies were made at Mt. St. Mary's, Emmitsburg. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 25, 1890 and after assisting at various missions was appointed pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Pine Grove, near Ironton. There "he labored with the zeal and earnest devotion to duty which was the distinguishing characteristic, never pausing to think of self, until the hand of death turned his young face to a fairer world. Even then he did not give up his work until commanded by his Bishop." He came to his sisters' home in Columbus and there died on October 3, 1902, aged only 36 years. In speaking of his deceased brother-priest and life-long friend, Rev. Francis W. Howard said that "his distinguishing characteristic was his fidelity. In boyhood he never spoke an ill word of anybody; never lied and never broke his word. Many tears were shed during Father Howard's

heartfelt eulogy." (Catholic Columbian, Oct. 10, 1902)

Religious vocations in later generations of the families of our group of Irish immigrants include:

- Msgr. Matthew A. Howard (1912-1967), nephew of Father Smith;
- Rev. John Priest (died 1967), a grandson of John Conroy, possibly the Conroy who appears in two or three of the early records;
- Sr. Mary Duffy, O.S.F., great-granddaughter of James and Mary Handiboe, of the Franciscan Sisters of Joliet;
- Sr. Margaret Duffy, O.S.F., of the same congregation, her sister;
- Sr. Margaret Hoffman, O.S.F., of the same congregation, their niece, now serving in Columbus; and
- Rev. George Schlegel, pastor of Powell St. Joan of Arc, great-great-grandson of Mrs. Margaret Burns.

There undoubtedly have been other religious vocations among these families but the list was limited by the research time available; none have been omitted intentionally.

Devotion to the Church has also been shown by contributions made by lay members of our group of immigrants. Three members of this small band built up the church, or tried to, by significant gifts of land. First among these was the canal engineer, John McCarthy. He and his family left Columbus in the late 1830s and moved to Newark, Ohio. He died there in 1841, but in his will left to the Church the Newark lots on which St. Francis de Sales church was built. The second gift, or attempted gift, was by James O'Farrell, the Clinton township farmer. He died in 1849 and, in his will, left his 25-acre farm to the Church. This gift was not made effective, as will be explained in the individual family record under his name. The third such gift was that of Thomas D. Cassady and his wife Phebe. He was son of the immigrant Thomas and Kate (Corrigan) Cassady. Thomas D. and Phebe in 1901 donated the land at the corner of Fifth and Cassady Avenues, where now stands St. Thomas the Apostle church.

Other indications of loyalty and devotion to the Church and its practices can be cited, both among the immigrants and among their descendants. Regarding the Russell family, Mrs. Jane and her daughters, who came here in the 1830s, it was said that the ladies led a life becoming members of a religious order. "So faithfully and devotedly did these sisters live that their home was, in fact, a convent home. It was the favorite sojourning place of the Archbishop of Cincinnati, when Episcopal duties called him hither and the Catholic Priest always found a hospitable welcome under their roof." (Catholic Columbian, Jan. 1, 1876 and May 15, 1879) As a later example we may cite James Aloysius Handiboe, a descendant of the Columbus family who lived in Savannah, Ga. He was director of the choir at the Cathedral there and wrote a Mass and the song "It's St. Patrick's Day in Savannah", still used there on that famous late-winter day.

As a final example, perhaps one of the better examples of piety, we will quote the Catholic Columbian's words at concerning Barney McNally, written at the time of his death, April 5, 1894. "...Mr. McNally, throughout the many years that were allotted to him on this earth, never forgot his duty to his God and his Church. When the Devotion of the Sacred Heart was established in

this diocese by Bishop Rosecrans on December 8, 1873, Mr. McNally was among the first to embrace it and has never failed to approach Holy Communion on the first Friday of each month in honor of the Sacred Heart from the date of the establishment of the devotion here to the day of his death..." "Mr. McNally, up to his death, was constant in his attendance at Mass and in the weekly reception of Penance and the Blessed Eucharist. For years past it was indeed a most edifying sight to see him with bent and quivering form, even in the severest weather, wending his way to the Cathedral every Saturday and Sunday. Strong in his old Irish faith and piety he persevered in justice to the end. Let us hope that a crown of glory is already his reward in the realms of eternal bliss."

#### INDIVIDUAL FAMILY RECORDS

As stated at the beginning of this article, one of the major, necessary research objectives was simply to identify the Irish Catholics who were in Columbus or vicinity before the potato famine. In this long section, the individual records establishing those identities, for individuals and families, will be presented. The records that establish presence in Columbus or vicinity, Irish origin, or Catholic faith will be presented, along with some indication of the length of the family's residence in the area, present numbers if known, etc.

##### William Barry

James, son of William Barry, was baptized on February 18, 1835 in Columbus, by Rev. A. D. Fahy from St. Joseph's near Somerset. Sponsors were John Carty (probably John McCarthy) and Mary Wedon, perhaps John's wife. No other record of William has been found.

##### James Barry

The first record of James "Berry" in Columbus was as sponsor at the baptism of the daughter of John Riley at Columbus St. Remigius church on August 25, 1844. Peter, son of James and Anna "Berry", was baptized there on Sept. 14, 1845. James pledged \$2.00 toward the lot for Holy Cross church and also another \$10.00, about 1845. The city directory of that year lists him as a teamster, residing on the north side of [South] Public Lane, third door east of Third street. Later records call him a laborer or an iron roller, living on High street south of Spring. James and his wife had come from Ireland to New York, where their daughter Mary was born ca 1842, and then to Columbus. James, born in 1821, died here in 1860. Ann was a daughter of Peter and Mary (Brady) Fitzsimon; she was born in 1822 and died here in 1913. Her family name was pronounced "Fitzsummons" and the tale told was that Ann was "daughter of a younger son of Lord Fitzsummons of County Cavan." Mr. Barry was said to have been an "English sea captain." The couple had seven children, of whom only one daughter, Kate, wife of Thomas B. Carroll, has any descendants living today; among them are Mary Ann Southard and Suzanne Tussing, who helped to assemble this data for us. (Of interest to our long-time readers, who may remember the piece on William (Billy) Naghten, would be the fact that William's son, John Naghten, was married to Thoams B. Carroll's sister Mary or Mame Carroll. John was a tenor in St. Patrick's choir and lived near East Broad Street.) (The source of the Fitzsimons' names is Mrs. Ann Barry's death certificate.)

### Patrick Brown

Patrick Brown paid \$2.50 toward the construction of Holy Cross Church, about 1845. The 1850 census lists him in Montgomery Township, a 36-year old laborer, born in Ireland, living with the Thomas O'Harra family (page 821). No other record of him has been found.

### John Burns

In 1843, John Burns was a cook at the Neil House, with residence on Broad street near Front. On November 5, of that year, Mary, daughter of John and Mary Burns, was baptized at St. Remigius. No further record of him has been found. He may have been a relative of Mrs. Margaret Burns, but not a brother-in-law, for her brother-in-law John Burns was then living in Perry County.

### Margaret Burns

Mrs. Margaret (Foyle) Burns first appears in Columbus in the 1845 directory, living at what is now Hoster and High. She came from Kiltown, Castlecomer Parish, County Kilkenny, as testified by the baptismal records of six of her nine children in the records of the Catholic parish there. In those records, the family name is spelled Byrne. Her husband, Michael Burns, died between 1841 and 1845. His brother, John Burns, and family had immigrated in the 1820s to Jackson Township, Perry County; this would explain why Margaret came to Ohio, but not why she settled in Columbus. Perhaps the latter was decided by ease of travel, for family tradition holds that they came to Columbus on the canal. By 1850 she had moved to the little Irish neighborhood on the present Marconi Blvd. just south of Spring street, where she rented a house and owned a laundry establishment in the rear. She later lived with her daughter Mrs. Mary Sheridan on the west side, where she died in 1876. Her descendants now number some fifty households in the Columbus area and many more elsewhere across the nation. (See Burns: Castlecomer, Clarksville, Columbus, by Donald M. Schlegel, 1991.)

### Thomas Cassady

The first Cassady record in Columbus occurs after the beginning of the famine. Catherine Cassady was sponsor at a baptism at Holy Cross church on Feb. 8, 1846. Thomas and Catherine or Kate (Corrigan) Cassidy had come to Massachusetts by about 1837, where their son Bernard was born, and to Ohio by 1838, where their son James was born. The 1840 census found them in Newark and by 1846 they were in Columbus. Their own son Michael Kinsella Cassady was baptized at Holy Cross on August 16, 1846. Others of their eight children were baptized at Holy Cross in 1848, 1851, and 1854. Thomas was listed in 1848 as a blacksmith, residing on Town street east of Fourth; and in 1850 as a stone cutter living on Oak street between Seventh and Eighth. Census records provide the only evidence that Ireland was country of their birth. Of their children, only the son Thomas D. Cassady, who with his wife Phebe donated the land for St. Thomas the Apostle parish, is known to have descendants living here today. Of Thomas D. Cassady it was written, "The home life of Mr. Cassady was ideal, where love, respect and obedience characterized all. He was noted for his genial temperament, and his universally kind heart." (Columbian, Apr. 12, 1902)

(To be continued)

CHILLICOTHE ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
 BAPTISMAL REGISTER, 1835-1846  
 (Continued from Vol. XVIII, No. 2)

1841, continued

- April 11 John Peter, born Nov. 26, 1840, son of George Meyer and Catherine  
 --allaer [Hiller at Oct. 6, 1839]; spons. Michael Frintz and Eva  
 Egginleop. A. Rappe
- page 28
- April 11 Helen, born April 3, daughter of Joseph Kincilean and Theresa  
 Stroup; spons. Esart Stuble and Magdalene Murray(?). AR
- May 20 Joseph, born May 14, son of Charles Cherhamen and Elizabeth Witte;  
 spons. Franck Manllon and Nousla Matchon. AR
- May 23 John, born March 25, son of John Scolay and Jane Scolay; spons.  
 Richard Grenitten and Mary Baumann. AR
- same day Ferdinand, born May 13, son of Mansoulofe and Elizabeth Ermbrestre;  
 spons. Anthony Friste and Bridget Marsoufle. AR [See Sept. 15,  
 1839, where the names are given as Ferdinand Martzloft, Elizabeth  
 Armbroster, Anthony Fritz, and Bridget Martzloft.]
- May 30 Samuel, born March, 1838, son of Matthew and Catherine Post(?);  
 spons. Amanda Post(?) and Rosina Vurb(?). AR
- May 31 Mary Theresa, daughter of Thomas Souther and Theresa Jungher  
 [Sautter and Juncker at Oct. 11, 1838]; spons. Maria Eva and Joseph  
 Wamelink. Hameo
- same day John George, son of Michael Nikler(?) and Catherine Sauerbrum;  
 spons. Anton and Josepha Miller. Hameo
- page 29
- June 6 Magdalene, born June 4, daughter of John Baptist and Magdalene  
 Asunaothll(?); spons. Joseph Smith and Catherine Good. AR
- June 20 Elizabeth, born June 16, daughter of Henry Banear and Mary Tagear  
 (?); spons. Elizabeth Land. AR
- July 11 Mary Theresa, born 3 July, daughter of Remigius Spel and Margaret  
 Witt(?); spons. Arthur Embrustear and Genevieve Henti. AR
- same day John, born 1 July, son of Francis Ett [?Eid] and Mary Witte [?Wald];  
 spons. Conrad Baumann and Mary Aman. AR
- same day Andrew, son of Peter Snither and Eva Moore; spons. Andrew Hellmoth  
 and Elizabeth Smith. AR
- July 12 Francis, son of Francis Ett and Emary Lent; spons. Francis Lent and  
 Elizabeth Lent. AR
- July 18 Francis, born July 12, son of Rudolph Kiefred and Mary Ann Hieker  
 [Sigfred and Heckmann at May 6, 1838; see also Nov. 24, 1839 and  
 Jan. 14, 1842]; spons. Michael Frehtelz [?Brady at May 6, 1838] and  
 Mary Ann Heurt [Hirt at Nov. 24, 1839]. AR
- page 30
- July 24 Effey, daughter of William Wendell and Effey Wendell; spons. Farret  
 Jones and Elizabeth Warren. AR
- same day Margaret, daughter of Samuel Warren and Elizabeth Warren; spons.  
 William Wendell and Effey Wendell. AR
- July 30 Catherine, born July 29, daughter of Edward Clavel [Carvill] and  
 Rosanna Coll [Cull]; spons. Charles Cool and Veronica Hillar. AR
- Aug. 2 Barbara, born Aug. 1, daughter of Thomas Biriney (?) and Ephemias  
 Mayer; spons. Fidelis Bietehelaus [?Bucheler]. AR

Aug. 16 Mary ----, daughter of Alexander Spak and Louisa Mayer; spons. Michael Aoman and Eamila(?) Suer. AR

Aug. 19 Mary Margaret, daughter of John Foster and Elena; spons. Edward Cawell [?Carvill] and Margaret. AR

Aug. 19 Philip Cardison, son of Philip Cardisson and [blank]; spons. [blank]. [in hand of A. Rappe]

page 31

Sept. 5 Joseph, born July 11, son of Joseph Bolden and Anna Maria -----; spons. John Darl(?) and Theresa Miller. AR

Sept. 8 Mary, born in August, daughter of Thomas Henson and Brigitta Henson; spons. Mark Realy and Catherine Conel. AR

Sept. 12 Catherine, born June 7, of Celestine Hermann and Katriat Harmerline [Gertrude Hemmerle elsewhere, e.g. Nov. 16, 1840]; spons. Wendelin Saile and Magdalena Piterman [Petermann]. AR

same day Mary, born October, 1837, moreover,  
 -- Helisabeth, born in 1840.  
 -- [blank]  
 -- William born 1835  
 -- John born 1837  
 and Nelson, born 1838, all of William Matix and Helen Matix; spons. Rebeca Maris. AR

Sept. 14 Joseph, born Sept. 6, son of Anton Millenar and Sophia Teker; spons. Matthew Bermans and Louisa Hiller. AR

page 32

Oct. 3 John, son of Louis Long and Genevieve Baumann, born Sept. 15; spons. Joseph and Mary Mayer. D. Goesbriant.

Oct. 7 George Dexter, born in 1819; spons. John McNally.  
 J.B. Purcell, Bishop of Cincinnati

Oct. 8 Mary, born in May, of Jacob Fontainebery and Rosina Catherine Visite(?); spons. Mark Baenetitz and Mayen(?) Hohinlohe. AR

same day John August, of Anton Frich and Felicity Lanx; spons. John Smith and Theresa Frich. AR

Oct. 10 Mark, born in May, of Richard Divine and Helen Divine; spons. James McNally. AR

Oct. 24 Charles, born Oct. 12, of Anton Frish [Fritz] and ----- And; spons. Bernard Marlofte [Marzluff] and Hingouth(?). AR

same day John, born Oct. 20, of Anton Poule(?) and Catherine Cahors; spons. Peter Ferumbra-- [?Fernbach as at Feb. 4, 1838] and Genevieve And. AR

page 33

1842

Jan. 14 Mary Ann, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth Weise, born 17th of "this" month; spons. Mary Ann and Rudolph Sigfred. T. R. Butler

same day Mary Magdalene, daughter of Charles and Juliana Bogansheetz, born Dec. 8, 1841; spons. Rosanna Strahe and [blank]. TRB

same day Charles, son of Alexander and Sophia Soudes [Santo at Dec. 11, 1837 and Nov. 24, 1839], born Nov. 16, 1841; spons. Juliana Bogansheetz. TRB

same day Thomas, son of Peter and Margaret Carvil, born Nov. 7, 1841; spons. John Curr and Mary Hammet. TRB

same day Joseph, son of Peter and Frances And, born Nov. 28, 1841; spons. Anton Fritz and Genevieve And. TRB

(To be continued)

## GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

We are always grateful for gifts of books, photographs, and other memorabilia that expand our knowledge of the Church. Recently these items have been donated:

Miss Marian Swickard, long-time Society member, has given us an original print of a photo of the Columbus St. Patrick School girls' class of 1877. It is especially valuable, for on the reverse are the names of most of the children.

Patrick J. Mooney, Society Chairman, contributed the following booklets and other items, some of them extremely rare, to the Society's collection:

Booklets etc.:

- Catholic Home Companion, April, 1906
- The Trinitarian, publication of Somerset Holy Trinity High School, issues of 1920-1921 and 1921-1922
- Good Samaritan Hospital, Zanesville, 1925 booklet
- Zanesville St. Thomas/St. Nicholas parishes booklet, 1842-1967
- Marble Cliff, Our Lady of Victory booklet, 1922-1972

Photographs:

- Somerset Holy Trinity High School, class play, "Jane Eyre", 1948
- same, class of 1949
- same, Basketball team, 1947-1948
- same, Basketball team, 1948-1949
- Crooksville Church of the Atonement, one undated and one of 1914
- Father Herie (?Heery)

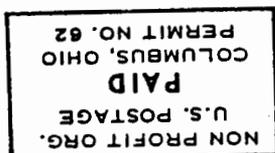
Postcards:

- New Lexington St. Rose, exterior
- same, interior
- New Lexington St. Aloysius Academy, one undated, one of 1907, and one 1909
- Moxahala, St. Pius, 1910
- Crooksville Church of the Atonement, two, undated
- Zanesville St. Nicholas, 1907
- Zanesville Good Samaritan Hospital, 1908
- Newark St. Francis, 1908
- St. Joseph Cathedral, 1908
- Delaware St. Mary's, 1908
- Denison, Ohio, "Catholic Church"

[Childs], Sister Maryana, O.P., The Littlest Angel and Other Legends: Stories of the Birth and Childhood of Jesus, illustrated by Sr. Mary Jean, O.P., New York: The Edward O'Toole Company, 1942. - gift of Rosemary McMahon

Burton, Katherine, Make the Way Known: the History of the Dominican Congratation of St. Mary of the Springs, New York: Farrar, Straus & Cudahy, 1959. - gift of DeSales High School library

-----  
Copyright 1993, Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus  
197 E. Gay Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 Donald M. Schlegel, editor  
-----



CHANCERY OFFICE  
DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS  
198 EAST BROAD STREET  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215