



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society -
Diocese of Columbus

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May: Month of Our Lady

May, 1996



The church of Our Lady of Loretto, 1995.

Our Lady of Loretto Mission Near Long Bottom, Olive Township, Meigs County 1886 - 1971

In his 1918 *History of Fifty Years of the Diocese of Columbus*, Bishop Hartley gave the church at Long Bottom exactly two sentences: "Father Hansen built a small church for a farming community about sixteen miles east of Pomeroy, where there were about ten families of Catholics. This Mission, known as Our Lady of Loretto is still attended once a month from Pomeroy." (page 535) This tiny mission was of very little

importance in the grand scheme of things -- but was essential to the souls nourished there.

Long Bottom itself was a village laid out on the banks of the Ohio River in 1866. The Catholics of the area lived not in the village but on farms in the hills, and it was there that they built their church. The Catholic Directories indicate that a station in the Long Bottom vicinity was attended

from Pomeroy beginning in 1861. The Catholics then there were Joseph and Sarah Matlock and John and Sarah Carr and their families.¹

Another Catholic in the area was John O'Neill, who on November 15, 1857 married Margaret Curtis before Rev. John C. Albrinck of Pomeroy Sacred Heart parish.² The birthplaces of this couple's children, in the later censuses, indicate that they lived in West Virginia for a short time around 1860, but then moved back to Olive Township.

On Sept. 24, 1860 John "Oneil" purchased the east half of the northeast quarter (80 acres) of Section 26, township 4, Range 11, in Olive Township, Meigs County, for \$600.³ This land lies on both sides of Nine Mile Road (Township Road 265), beginning one-quarter mile east of Success Road (County Road 46). On October 3, 1873 John Oniel and wife Margaret of Meigs County, for \$1.00, sold to Sylvester H. Rosecrans a one acre parcel of this land, beginning 12 rods east from the southwest corner of said lot, thence east 8 rods, north 20 rods, west 8 rods, and south 20 rods to the beginning.⁴ The site is the only level spot along Number Nine Road, lying mostly on its south side, about a quarter mile east of Success Road

It is not clear that Bishop Rosecrans even knew of this transfer. The parcel does not appear in the diocesan plat book of the mid-1880s. There was never a church there. It is not even clear whether it was ever used as a graveyard, but it seems likely that it was, at least by the O'Neils. Margaret had died by 1880; the family have no tombstones in the existing Our Lady of Loretto cemetery, nor at Pomeroy Sacred Heart cemetery.

The only other record of the one acre property is a transfer from Bishop Ready to Bishop Mussio after the erection of the diocese of Steubenville.⁵ Deeds for the remainder of the farm have been for "eighty acres, more or less" and have ignored the

deed of one acre to Bishop Rosecrans.⁶ The current tax map, following the evidence of those deeds, shows the entire eighty acres in possession of the State of Ohio.

By 1870, the station was also attended by Daniel McAvoy and family, who had come to Ohio from Ireland, via New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The station is mentioned in four extant reports of area pastors prior to 1900:

- 1868. When the Diocese of Columbus was erected, Rev. John Francis Kalenberg at Pomeroy, reported that he also cared for Gallipolis, Athens County (Lodi) St. John, and Long Bottom and Syracuse, the latter two having "no churches."

- 1872. A report from Gallipolis by Rev. L. P. McKiernan said that his only mission was Long Bottom, consisting of six families, which he visited once a month.

- 1875. The report of Rev. Francis Campbell, who had a plethora of small missions in Athens County and vicinity, mentioned Long Bottom.

- 1886. Rev. B. Hansen at Pomeroy, where there were 70 Catholic families, also attended Gallipolis, with ten families, Long Bottom, with seven, and Syracuse, with three.⁷

Bishop Watterson visited Pomeroy in 1886 and Father Bede Hansen, the pastor, took him out to Long Bottom. The account of his visit was printed in the *Catholic Columbian* of June 5, 1886.⁸

On Monday morning at nine o'clock, the Bishop, accompanied by Father Hansen, left Pomeroy for Long Bottom, distant about twenty miles. They traveled by carriage, passing through the town of Chester by the way. It is situated on the Shade river

and was once the county seat of Meigs County. The old court house stands empty and deserted on the hill overlooking the hamlet. Long Bottom, where they arrived about two o'clock in the afternoon, is a pleasant little village on the northern bank of the Ohio river, and is located on a stretch of beautiful bottom land, five miles long -- hence its name. The Bishop and Father Hansen lodged at the house of Mr. Francis Andrew. Very shortly after their arrival, the representatives of the Catholic families of the district assembled, and the children who expected to receive Confirmation were examined in the catechism. Afterwards confessions were heard in the chapel in Mr. Andrew's home.

In the evening at half-past seven the Bishop lectured in the town school-house. Quite a large audience assembled, four-fifths of whom were Protestants; and though the Bishop spoke to them for two hours and a half a goodly number of them lingered in the room after he had finished, seeming to expect and desire more. The Bishop says that he never had a more respectful or attentive audience in his life, and was the more gratified because the neighborhood is almost entirely Protestant. The Bishop appeared before them robed in his coutane, with rochet and mozetta. It was the first time the Bishop was ever in the place, and was the first time most of those present at the lecture had ever seen a Catholic bishop; and as one of them said: "Such a sight had not been seen in Long Bottom since the creation of the world."

On Tuesday morning, Father Hansen said Mass at seven o'clock at Mr. Andrew's residence, which is about a mile and a half inland from the town, and at eight the Bishop offered up the Holy Sacrifice on the same altar and preached on the Real Presence and the Mass, explaining many of the ceremonies in connection with that supreme act of worship. A large number of Catholics received Holy Communion, and they, with the Protestants present, listened with edification to the instructive discourse pronounced by the Bishop. Altogether, it was a day full of consolation and joy to the people of Long Bottom and to Bishop Watterson. As there never was a church

there, the Bishop selected a site for a graveyard and church on the farm of Mr. Bernard Devlin, about two miles from the river. Mr. Devlin kindly donated an acre and a half for these purposes at the point designated by the Bishop. The Catholic settlers thereabouts are nearly all of Irish birth or descent, Mr. Daniel McAvoy being the patriarch amongst them. The families besides those already mentioned consist of O'Neil, Kerwin, McCormick, Carr and Matmack [Matlock].

The site chosen by Bishop Watterson, at the corner of Success road and State Route 248, was one-half mile south of that donated earlier by John O'Neil. It was part of the farm of the young couple Bernard and Mary Devlin. The deed, dated July 14, 1887, indicates that Bishop Watterson paid \$100 for the one acre property.⁹ Census records reveal the names of the heads of households in 1880 to have been Barney Devlin, Daniel Devlin, F. A. Andrew, John O'Neil, Joseph Matlack, Daniel McAvoy, James Carr, Sarah Carr, and Michael Kerwin. There seems to be no record of their construction of the mission church.

A handful of records at Pomeroy before 1900 are identified as belonging to the Long Bottom mission:

Deaths

1885, April 19 died William M'Avoy, aged 32 years 3 months.

1885, June 6 died Catherine M'Avoy, aged 20 years 6 months.

1885, November 28, died Martha Andrews, aged 19 years.

1886, Aug. 31, died Edward McAvoy, aged 27.

1886 Nov. 26, died Daniel McAvoy, aged 76.

1889, April 9, died Ellen Matlock, aged 70.

Other deaths from the mission are in Pomeroy's records but are not noted as such, for instance that of Sara Carr, died March 22, 1896 at the age of 85 years, buried on March 24 by P. T. Thürheimer.

Baptisms

- Bernard Bede Devlin, born April 3, 1887, bapt. April 22, son of Bernard Devlin and Mary Andresa [Andrews?]; sponsors John O'Neil and Mary Malone. B. Hansen
- Sarah Jane Carr, born May 20, 1887, baptized on October 29, daughter of James Carr and Jane Hamilton; sponsors Francis Andrew and Mrs. D. Devlin.¹⁰

From 1890 through about 1902, the mission was cared for by the pastors at Little Hocking, after which time it was returned to the care of Sacred Heart, Pomeroy.

By 1930, the Irish or "English speaking" congregation had been joined by a nearly equal number of Slovaks. The annual reports submitted in the 1930s and early 1940s by Pomeroy pastors Eugene F. Dunn and Edwin F. Murphy show a total congregation of from 32 to 39 souls, of which 17 to 21 were Slovak. These numbers are represented, in large part, by the Marcinko family. Charles and Rosa Marcinko, natives of the Austrian Empire, immigrated to Belmont County, Ohio and began raising a family of ten children there. They moved to Meigs County in the 1910s. Other names of (apparently) Slovak or other Eastern European origin that appear later in the mission's history are Takach, Honaker, Rakowitz, Koci, and Kurtyka.

The reports of the 1930s indicate a school-aged population varying from 8 to 17. These were taught their catechism by the pastor each Saturday, which was the day he came to offer Mass in the little church.

A photograph of a May crowning from the 1940s shows some 150 persons in attendance, no doubt including many guests.

In December, 1968 the mission was again taken from Pomeroy and was assigned to Father Frank Patala, who already served St. John's Church in

Guysville and St. Jude in Chauncey, Athens County. Consideration was given to improving the old church, adding a kitchen and living room, so that Saturday catechism classes could be held more conveniently and the priest could stay overnight for the early Mass on Sunday. The site was thought to be too small, however, even with the offer of an adjacent piece land by one of the members of the mission.

Under some pressure from the Diocese of Steubenville, Father Patala in 1970 began to consider the possibility of building a new church for the mission at Tupper's Plains, some five miles to the north-northwest, where land had been donated and other land had been purchased by the Diocese of Steubenville in 1962.¹¹ "Little by little, more and more of the people favored the new location at Tupper's Plains, even though many of them lived much closer to the old church." In all of the intervening years, the mission had grown to only about twenty families. Work was begun in 1971 and with a loan from the diocese, and much labor on the part of the parishioners, the new church of Our Lady of Loretto was in use that December and was dedicated on July 1, 1973.¹²

The new church, unfortunately, was not a success. It eventually was closed and sold; the building is now occupied by the Ohio Valley Fire Equipment Company.

The church of Our Lady of Loretto, Long Bottom, is still used for Mass on a few holidays and special occasions each year and the cemetery is well-maintained. The people of the former mission now attend services at Sacred Heart Church in Pomeroy and are among the most active of the parishioners.

NOTES

Special thanks to Msgr. George J. Schlegel, who assisted the author on two trips to Meigs County to assemble this story. Also, thanks to Father

Walter Heinz, pastor at Pomeroy Sacred Heart.

- 1) Federal census of 1860, Meigs County, p. 290v
- 2) Meigs Co. Marriage Record 2/251
- 3) Meigs County Deed Record 23/238
- 4) Deed Record 41/321
- 5) Deed Record 179/467
- 6) See, for example, Deed Records 137/264, 212/587, and 213/ 235.
- 7) Archives, Diocese of Columbus
- 8) Courtesy of the *Catholic Times*
- 9) Deed Record 63/289
- 10) Courtesy of Rev. Walter Heinz, pastor at Pomeroy Sacred Heart
- 11) Deed Records 215/615 and 215/619
- 12) Dedication booklet, Our Lady of Loretto Church, pp. 9, 10, 13-17. Within these few pages are some contradictory statements.



Long Bottom Our Lady of Loretto Tombstone Inscriptions

These inscriptions were read on April 20, 1995, with the assistance of Monsignor George Schlegel. This small cemetery is unique in that there are many identical white wooden crosses containing the names (but no other data) of the deceased who have no more permanent markers. There are also a few such crosses which contain not even a name.

ANDREW

Francis C. 1860 - 1946

Mary E. 1971 - 1939

Charles

Francis a native of Cornwall, England, died)
Apr. 3, 1896, aged 71y, 8d)

Ellen McNamara, wife of Francis Andrew, a)
native of Wicklow, Ireland, died May 8,)
1897, aged 69y 5m 23d)

Ella wife of A. H. Frericks, died Sept. 1, 1898,
aged 26y 5m

Francis H. 1904 - 1990

Nellie E. 1906 - 1981

ANDREWS

Paul F. 1906 - 1981

Mary M. 1914 - blank

BARNHART

Agnes J. 1882 - 1938

DEVLIN

Joseph H. died July 4, 1896, aged 27y'rs

Daniel

Daniel

Jane

HASH

Jonathan

HONAKER

Randale J., WVA S1 US Navy WWII,)
July 16, 1924 - Oct. 13, 1969)

Patricia S. 1923 -)

Mark Richard PV 2 US Army,)
June 10, 1958 - Dec. 1, 1987)

Nancy L. Dec. 3, 1962 -)

KIRWIN

Mary 1826 - 1914

James

Margaret

LARES

Infant

Infant

McAVOY

Joseph 1863 - 1943

Mary 1891 - 1909)

Howard W. 1892 - 1918)

Leonard

Mary

Thomas

Raymond

MARCINKO

Otto A. Ohio PVT CO C 34 Sig Training Bn,
Mar. 31, 1911 - May 7, 1961

Winifred A. 1925 -

Rose J. 1907 - 1979

Charles C. Ohio PFC Corps of Mil Police)
WWII, Apr. 26, 1919 - Dec. 5, 1967)

Vena V. 1933 - blank)

Bernard F. 1929 - 1972)

Laura R. 1916 - 1987)
 Rose Jane 1924 - 1967
 Charles A. "Chuckie" Jan. 30, 1954 -
 Mar. 22, 1975
 Charles P. Ohio Bugler HQ CO 70 FA BN
 WWI, Nov. 28, 1890 - Jan. 28, 1970
 Virtie I. 1898 - 1968
 Infant 1920
 Loretta June 9, 1961 Infant daughter of
 Robert & Mary
MATHERS
 Isaac H. 1898 - 1966
 Beatrice 1918 - 1991
MATLACK
 Joseph 1812 - 1897
 Sarah A. his wife 1812 - 1889
NESSERROAD
 Margaret R. 1914 - blank

Martin P. 1901 - 1990
ORANT
 Pete Dec. 15, 1883 - June 2, 1959
PLANK
 Anna 1873 - 1962
ST. VINCENT
 Roma
SAYRE
 Joseph Dale Dec. 22, 1941 - blank
 Elizabeth Ann Feb. 10, 1943 - Mar. 21, 1987
SOVEL
 Infant
VILLAS
 George
WIPPEL
 Henry E. PVT BTRY E 69 Field Artillery
 WWI, Dec. 8, 1889 - May 29, 1970
 Ella M. Jan. 1, 1902 - Mar. 19, 1968



Abstracts from *The Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued, from Vol. XXI, No. 4)

May 23, 1839

Subscriptions: Mr. McGinniss, Steubenville;
 James A. Grimes, Portsmouth; L. A. Zimmer,
 same.

May 30, 1839

LIVERPOOL, OHIO. -- Measures are in
 progress for the erection of a church in this
 flourishing village, 17 miles below Steubenville.
 A lot has been secured and a subscription
 commenced. this is owing to the zeal of the Rev.
 James Conlan, pastor of Steubenville, who
 attends several neighboring missions. [In the
 June 6 edition, the location of Liverpool is
 corrected to 25 miles above Steubenville.]

June 6, 1839

(Bishop Purcell's progress in France.)

June 13, 1839

Subscription: Mr. M. O'Leary, Deavertown.

June 20, 1839

(The story of a visitation of his diocese of
 Tennessee by Bishop Richard Miles.)

June 27, 1839

Subscriptions: Thomas McNally, Kingston, O.;
 Joseph L. Eganson, Lancaster, O.; J. Lilly,
 same.

July 4, 1839

(An account of the death of Bishop Bruté.)

July 11, 1839

(Further on the death of Bishop Bruté)
 Subscription: Charles Daily, New Lexington,
 O.

July 18, 1839

SOMERSET, 8th July, 1839.

To the Editor of the Catholic Telegraph.

The commencement of the 64th year of our

National Independence, was commemorated at St. Joseph's, Perry County, Ohio, by laying the corner stone of a splendid Gothic Church, to be erected on the site of the present Catholic Church, the first, that was built in this state; and where the first Bishop, Dr. Fenwick, with the Rev. N. D. Young, commenced their labours in this Diocese in 1818.

The ceremonies of the day began by a solemn high Mass, the celebrants being the Very Rev. C. P. Montgomery, the Rev. J. H. Clarkson assisting as Deacon, and the Rev. G. Wilson of Zanesville as Subdeacon. After divine service, a procession was made, from the present church to the beautiful grove in front of the Institution, preceded by the cross, the emblem of the Christian's faith, and an elegant flag, ornamented with a gilded cross, around which was inscribed in large letters, the celebrated sign, "*In this you shall conquer*," which appeared in the heavens when Constantine marched his army in defence of his country. On the flag, were, also inscribed gilded stars, representing in number the United States. In front of the grove, a stand was erected and seats for the immense crowd. The clergy were seated on each side of the stand, from which the Rev. N. D. Young delivered an appropriate oration in his usual zealous and energetic manner. A brief outline of his remarks will, I presume, be interesting to your readers.

After a short, but eloquent allusion to the severe and eventually successful achievements of our Fathers in their struggles for independence and its concomitant blessings, he gave a lucid delineation of liberty of conscience and religious toleration, the best and most cherished privileges of our matchless Constitution. He showed that the permanency of our Institutions and national greatness, rests upon the strict adherence to the sacred principles, for which our Fathers had battled; and upon the mutual cultivation of an affectionate and harmonious intercourse among all Christians. By which the mind, enlarged and liberalized, takes a luminous view of the right of man, and tends to that unity and concert of

action, which will always check the pernicious effects of sectional or sectarian efforts.

He successfully disproved the charge of hostility to the toleration of conscience so often urged against us; proving that liberty of conscience was a right which no authority had the power of controlling. -- He concluded by appealing to all Christians, to preserve the sacred bond of charity; -- urging that the practical injunctions of Christianity should be uniformly exemplified in our conduct; -- and if a general coincidence of opinion on the tenets of religion could not exist, at least, forbearance and candour should be extended to individual partialities.

There was one passage in his sermon, that produced a thrilling effect on the audience. He was exhorting the congregation to enter fully into the views of their pastors in accomplishing the good work; -- inasmuch as they were executing the last and ardent wish of their first and venerated Bishop, the sainted Fenwick; -- assuring them, that were Dr. Purcell their present Bishop, there, he would no less earnestly exhort them to erect a church worthy of the Deity on the spot, where their faith had been first planted in the state. He exhorted them to pray for the happy and safe return of their Bishop, and, no doubt, many an humble aspiration ascended to heaven for that purpose; -- that he might return, and by his presence encourage them in the holy work. He then translated the prayers, which were to be recited by the officiating clergyman during the blessing and laying of the Corner-stone. He also exhibited the Inscription to be placed in the stone, a copy of which I requested and here transcribe.

AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM
HONOREMQUE BEATISSIMÆ VIRGINIS MATRIS
DOMINI NOSTRI JESU CHRISTI
PATRIARCHARUM JOSEPHI ET DOMINICI
Pontificatus Gregorii XVI. anno IX
Joanne Bap. Purcell Episcopo Cincinnatensi
Martino Van Buren harum Prov. Fœderat. Præsidi
Wilsono Shannon Status Ohio Gubernatore
Admod. Rev. C. P. Montgomery Provincialis Prov.

Sti. Josephi
 Hunc primarium lapidem Ecclesiae
 Sub invocatione Sti. Josephi
 Rev'di N. D. Young, J. H. Clarkson, G. J.
 Wilson, Ord. Præd. et H. Vogeler Ord. S. F.
 Necnon ingenti eivium caterva præsentibus
 Benedixit posuitque
 Die IV Julii
 Anno Salutis reparatæ MDCCCXXXIX
 Libertatis assertæ LXIV.

The procession then moved to the site of the new building. The scene was enlivened by the tasteful performance of several appropriate Airs by the Somerset Band, on which, as well as the Zanesville Choir, too much praise cannot be bestowed for their splendid performances during the high Mass. The ceremonies being concluded, the assembled multitude sat down to an elegant repast which had been prepared for the occasion. The utmost harmony prevailed. Yrs. &c. C. J. H.

August 15, 1839

*Examination at St. Mary's Female Academy,
 Somerset, Perry County, Ohio*

The annual examination of the pupils of St. Mary's Seminary, in this village, was held on Wednesday and Thursday, the 24th and 25th ult. The readiness and facility, with which the questions proposed by the different examiners, were answered by the young ladies, were gratifying evidences of their talents, industry and application, as well as of the vigilant and assiduous attention bestowed by the tutoresses in enriching the minds of their pupils with those branches of science suitable to their sex, and by which they are qualified to fill with dignity and respect, their station in society. The neatness,

modesty and unassuming deportment of the young ladies, evinced that they had not been less attentive to the formation of those most amiable qualities, than to the attainment of science. The scene was at no time more interesting, than when the moment for the distribution of premiums to the meritorious, arrived. The mingled emotions of hope and fear were depicted on the countenances of each. I send you a list of those who eminently distinguished themselves.

[The list is divided into the various classes, and many names are repeated. The names are only summarized here. Mary Bope; Ellen Coakley; Maria Costigan; Eliza Crawley; Ann Crossen; Jane Elder; Cicilia Finck; Sarah Finck; Elizabeth Griffin; Frances Hamilton; Mary Herhobyzen; Ellen Hodge; Louise Hodge; Mary Hewit; Appolonia Lawe; Jane Lawe; Maria Lawe; Mary Lawe; Agnes McCartney; Mary McCartney; Susan McDonald; Margaret McGuire; Mary Manning; Eliza Marlin; Esther Owens; Mary Owens; Elizabeth Pepper, Mary Ann Sheridan; Ann Slevin; Rose Slevin; Mary Trainor; Margaret Wilson.]

(To be continued)



Midvale and Wainwright

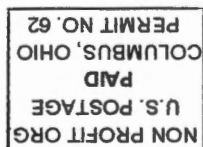
The chronicle of diocesan events and developments, published earlier this year, neglected to mention two closings. The parish of Wainwright St. Therese and its mission of St. Paul the Apostle at Midvale, Tuscarawas County, were closed effective July 11, 1995.

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