

Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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May: Month of Our Lady

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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

The Hanging Rock Iron region comprises portions of Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia, centered at Ironton, Ohio. In 1825 the region was "almost an unknown wilderness," but it was found to contain large deposits of red hematite iron ore, fine limestone for fluxing, and stands of timber that could be made into charcoal. By 1845 it was the home to some 42 iron furnaces, their masters, and the laborers and their families.

The earliest Lawrence County furnaces and their years of foundation were Union (1826), Pine Grove (1828), Etna or Aetna (1832), Buckhorn, Hecla, Mt. Vernon, and Vesuvius (1833), Lawrence (1834), and Centre (1836). (Hanging Rock Iron Region, I/266) The local ores were especially useful in the production of iron of great strength and durability.¹ In those early days, it was the object of the proprietors to turn as much of their iron as possible into manufactured products and items such as kettles and kitchen utensils were made during the week and pig iron was run on Sundays. The first stoves for burning coal made in that part of the country were cast at Pine Grove Furnace. In later years, large quantities of iron were shipped to mills in Ironton, Columbus, Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, Wheeling, Pittsburgh, and as far away as Buffalo and Troy, New York.²

Laborers' wages at the furnaces generally were attractive only to immigrants. Wages were

exceedingly low and whisky was the necessary adjunct to almost every transaction. The workmen were paid in script, which had to be used at the company stores. Homes were furnished by the company and were usually dirt-floored log cabins.³

The predominant religions in the vicinity were the Baptist and the Methodist. However, it was the smaller number of Presbyterians who dominated the iron industry at Pine Grove, for the ironmasters, the owners and managers of the furnace, were descendants of Scots Presbyterians. These were not all sympathetic to the Catholic immigrant, for their ancestors had done their best to drive Catholicism from Scotland some two hundred fifty years earlier.

Robert Hamilton came to Ohio from Pennsylvania and was a clerk at a furnace in Adams County, before moving to Hanging Rock. In 1828 with his wife's cousin, Andrew Ellison, he founded Pine Grove Furnace in Elizabeth Township, the second furnace in Lawrence County. In 1833 he and another partner founded Hecla Furnace, east of the future site of Ironton. (Its name came from the initials of the Hamilton, Ellison, Campbell Land Association.) In 1833 he also helped build Mt. Vernon Furnace, opened coal mines at New Castle, and built the Hanging Rock Railroad to carry out the ore. Andrew Ellison died in 1836 and in 1840 Hamilton

became sole proprietor of Pine Grove Furnace but at that time took on other partners.

Robert and Nancy Hamilton were among the nine members of The Presbyterian Church of Pine Grove at its organization in 1833 and he became an elder in 1838. This church did not have a regular preacher until 1843. It was said that Hamilton "was not only a broad, successful iron master and business man, but a conscientious Christian gentleman, and when he found himself the sole proprietor of Pine Grove, one of the most prosperous furnaces in operation, he determined to bring religion into the every-day life of his home community. The step which he took was a bold one, as the furnace men were not strict observers of the Sabbath." He was "convinced that if iron was an article given by the Creator for the use of man, it could be manufactured without violating one of His express commands." In January of 1844 Hamilton again became sole proprietor of at Pine Grove. He had the furnace rebuilt and reopened it on December 20, 1844. From that date forward, he kept the furnace closed on Sundays, an experiment which had never been tried before in America. The practice was followed by successive proprietors until the Pine Grove ceased business in 1897.⁴

It was said that most of Hamilton's large fortune was accumulated after he stopped operating the furnace on Sundays. He died in 1856, leaving among other bequests \$5,000 to the local Presbyterian church, without which, the elders admitted, by the 1880s it would have become very difficult to maintain that church at Hanging Rock and Pine Grove.

The Early Catholics and the First Church

The Catholics of Pine Grove had no connection of family or history with the rest of the Church in Ohio, other than their pastor and the bishop; they all were immigrants directly to that vicinity. In

the 1840 census only eight households of known Catholic households can be found in Elizabeth Township, namely those of Andrew Flinn, John F. Goldcamp, Neal and James Sweeney, Frederick Mönning, Christopher "Deacker", Christopher Mauerer, and Henry Berte. Flinn, a native of Ireland, came about 1835 to Ohio via Kentucky, of which commonwealth his wife was a native.⁵ Neal Sweeney, clearly an Irishman, had been born in the 1760s and lived in Pennsylvania until the 1830s.⁶ James Sweeney, probably Neal's son, was a native of Pennsylvania, while his wife Rosanna McFadden was born in Ireland. John F. Goldcamp and wife Maria Gertrud, born Becksmith, were born in Germany in 1816 and 1817, respectively, and settled at Union Furnace in 1835. Their arrival presaged the migration of a large number of German Catholics, who would form the bulk of the Pine Grove congregation. Henry Berte (Barte, Bisere, Bes--) was a native of the duchy of Hanover who landed in Baltimore and in 1839 as a resident of Elizabeth Township declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the U.S.⁷ The Frederick Klein family also had arrived in Ohio from Germany by 1838.

When possible, the earliest Catholics in Lawrence County travelled to Cincinnati to attend to their religious duties. Although Chillicothe was closer, Cincinnati could be reached by riverboat. Hartley's 1918 history says that in the spring of 1848 John F. Goldcamp and Fred Klein journeyed to Cincinnati to wait upon Bishop Purcell. According to one version of the story, the journey was made on a homemade raft. They asked the bishop if he could alleviate their spiritual wants, the story continues, and as a result Father Emmauel Thienpont came and offered Mass for them in January of 1849. However, by 1848 Pine Grove had already been receiving spiritual succor from the pastor at Portsmouth for some years, and Thienpont's first visit was in November of 1845. The journey of the two Germans probably was made in 1838 or 1840.

In the summer of 1842 Rev. Joseph O'Mealy was sent to Portsmouth as its first resident pastor. There he and the people built the Church of the Nativity, where Mass first was offered on Christmas Day, 1842.⁸ From the start Father O'Mealy was aware of the Catholics at the furnaces, whom he visited on the second Sunday of each month, and who were visited on occasion by German priests so that the immigrants could avail themselves of the Sacrament of Confession and hear the word of God in their native language. These were Rev. William Schonat (soon to become first resident pastor of Columbus), Rev. Henry D. Juncker of Chillicothe, and Austrian-born Franciscan Father William Unterthiner, of Holy Trinity Church in Cincinnati.

At the request of his employees, Robert Hamilton "fitted up a small log cabin" at Pine Grove as a place of worship. Their log chapel, the first Catholic "church" in Lawrence County, was in use by March of 1843. When the Catholics further petitioned Hamilton to donate a small piece of land on which to build a church, he replied that he would not give an inch of ground and would never hear a Catholic church bell on his plantation. They obtained a bell, however, and hung it on a barn within hearing of Pine Grove. According to O'Mealy, in 1843 there were 36 Catholic families and 65 Easter Communion at Pine Grove and other furnaces (no doubt including many beyond the limits of Elizabeth Township).⁹ In 1844 and 1845, 77 and 76 Easter Communion were recorded respectively. (The 1844 record is defective in that it excludes the Irish Catholics.)

The Catholics of Pine Grove did not despair of having a proper church for the worship of God, and in 1847 obtained a piece of land on which to build. This was one-half mile east of the log church that belonged to Hamilton, on property that abutted the edge of his "plantation." A small piece of land, 208.56 feet square or just under an

acre, was donated by deed to Bishop Purcell on April 14, 1847 by James Rodgers, John Ellison, and Joseph W. Dempsey.¹⁰ These three men had just formed a partnership, Dempsey & Company, to take control of Aetna Furnace.¹¹ It was probably for this reason that the church was listed as at Etna Furnace in the 1850 and 1851 Catholic Directories and the later pastor, Rev. John Rauck, often referred to himself as Catholic Pastor at Aetna Furnace.

By 1850, attracted by the prospect of work and the monthly attendance of a priest, and no doubt encouraged by Robert Hamilton's policy of no labor on Sundays, there were at least 114 Catholics in Elizabeth township, including 21 heads of households. Of these, 18 were German immigrants and 3 were of Irish extraction. Nineteen were laborers, while only two were farmers; both of the latter (Francis Orthmeyer and John F. Goldcamp) owned some land.

The Second Church

In April of 1850 Pine Grove was removed from the care of Portsmouth and given into that of Rev. Theophilus Krapf, a Franciscan, under whose leadership the Catholic men of Pomeroy had just built the first Sacred Heart Church there. That summer, Father Krapf caused construction of a priest's house to be started on the donated lot near Pine Grove.¹² That October, Krapf was replaced by Rev. P. Eberhard, another Franciscan, who decided that in 1851 a new church would be built on the acre of ground. "...many of the men gave their time and money towards the accomplishment of this great feat." Building went on with a few interruptions until about the beginning of May the church was ready to be occupied. Archbishop Purcell gave permission for the building to be used even before its blessing. John F. Goldcamp donated a bell for the church, which was baptized after a parade on May 28, 1851; it was christened "Mary Gertrude" in honor of Mrs. Goldcamp.

It was not until December of 1851 that the church at Pine Grove was blessed. On Wednesday, November 26 Father R. J. Murphy, pastor of Portsmouth, arrived in the newly established city of Ironton to hear confessions, offer Mass, and instruct the people.

On Saturday the 29th, Father Eberhard, pastor of Pine Grove, and Archbishop Purcell arrived in the same city and on Sunday Father Murphy offered Mass in the presence of the Archbishop and a large congregation who had gathered from Hanging Rock, Pine Grove, Coal Grove, and the other furnaces. It was announced that Father Murphy was charged with building a church in Ironton and would offer Mass in Pine Grove one Sunday each month, while Father Eberhard would take his place in Portsmouth for the time being. The ground for the new church in Ironton, to be under the patronage of St. Lawrence the Martyr, was blessed by the Archbishop, who also preached for an hour that evening, in the Methodist meeting house, on the Sacrament of Confession.

The Archbishop and Fathers Murphy and Eberhard then left Ironton for Hanging Rock, where Mass was to be offered at the house of Mr. Keenan. By Thursday, December 4, the clerics had reached Lick Run, near Wheelersburg, Scioto County. They were conducted by the congregation in procession from the house of Mr. Frische to St. Peter's Church, which was blessed by Father Eberhard.

On Sunday, December 7, in the presence of a large concourse, Father Eberhard blessed the church of St. Mary at Pine Grove. It was described as being of brick with a cut stone base, and occupying an eminence, with the pastoral residence, school, and cemetery nearby. Archbishop Purcell and Father Murphy both preached on this occasion in English and Father Eberhard in German. Thirty persons were confirmed.¹³ The church at that time was without

tower or steeple, which was not added until 1862.

(To be continued)

NOTES

- 1) Howe, Henry, *Historical Collections of Ohio*, 1894, II/59-60
- 2) *Historical Hand-Atlas...Map of Gallia County, and Histories of Lawrence and Gallia Counties, Ohio*; Chicago and Toledo: H. H. Hardesty & Co., 1882; p. 205
- 3) *ibid.*
- 4) Willard, Eugene B. (et alia), *The Hanging Rock Iron Region of Ohio*; The Lewis Publishing Co., 1916; I/270-271. *Historical Hand Atlas*, 120. Walton, Thomas A., "History of Early Times," in the *Ironton Register*, Aug. 25, 1904 (Ohio Historical Society has a transcription by Billee Schlaudt)
- 5) U.S. Census, Tipton Twp., Cass County, Indiana, page 528
- 6) In the 1790s Neal Sweeney served in the Dauphin County, Pa. militia; he later lived in Dunbar Township, Fayette County (northeast of Uniontown), Pennsylvania (1810) and in Buffalo Township, Butler County, near the Allegheny River some twenty miles above Pittsburgh (1820 & 1830).
- 7) Lawrence Co. Common Pleas Court Journal, May 15, 1839, where the name appears as Bisere. The last letters of the name in the 1840 census are undecipherable. He appears as Berte and Barte in Father O'Mealy's baptismal records. He may be the brother of Mrs. Catherine Kampelman (Compliment), whose name Father O'Mealy records as Berthe.
- 8) *Catholic Telegraph*, March 25, 1843
- 9) *Catholic Telegraph*, March 25, 1843; Feb. 3, 1844; Sept. 30, 1868
- 10) Lawrence County Deed 10/515
- 11) Walton, "History of Early Times,"
- 12) Hartley, Most Rev. James J., *The History of Fifty Years*, 328-329, 532
- 13) *Catholic Telegraph*, Dec. 6 and Dec. 13, 1851

Pine Grove St. Mary Church Baptisms, 1842-1848

These baptisms at Pine Grove and nearby furnaces were recorded at Portsmouth Church of the Nativity (now St. Mary). The first three records have no notation as to location, but probably were in Portsmouth:

1842

Feb. 4, John Francis Henry, born Nov. 7, 1841, son of Frederic Mönning and wife Elizabeth; spons. Margaret Nugent. T. R. Butler

Feb. 6, Stephen, born June 15, 1841, son of Louis and Frances Ann Ritzendolar; spons. Stephen and Rosina Brodbeck. TRB

July 8, Catherine, born -- June, 1842, daughter of David Pothoff and Anna Maria Vogelsang; spons. Eberhard Frisch and Catherine Kulman. H. D. Juncker

The following baptisms were all at Pine Grove or Pine Grove Furnace, unless otherwise noted.

August 16, Manasses, four years old, son of James Sweeny and Rosanna McFaddin; spons. Frederick Monock [Mönning] and Elizabeth Monock. J. O'Mealy

same day, John, age two years, son of Christopher Maur and Elizabeth Asheson; spons. Edward Fresche and Catherine Fekin? JO

same day, Honora, three years old, daughter of Christopher Maur and Elizabeth Asheson; spons. Francis Myer and Mary Castopp. JO

same day, John Henry, born July 23, 1841, son of Francis Fox and Maria Anna Kreuser; spons. Bernard Schreider and Maria Rickle. JO

same day, Maria, born July 17, 1842, daughter of Francis Sutor and Angelina Ritch; spons. Francis Frische and Orletta Onger. JO

September 14, Elizabeth daughter of John Ferdinand Koldcamp and Maria Backsmith; spons. Kamar? Myer and Elizabeth Kruger. JO

same day, Patrick son of Andrew Flinn and Lurena Flinn; spons. Neil Sweeney and Mary Sweeney. JO

same day, James, son of Edward Sweeny and Isabella Anderson; spons. Frederick Monock and Aulade Onker [Unger]. JO

1843

March 9, John son of Francis Myer and Orletta Unker; spons. John Myer and Sophia Unker. JO

same day, Francis, son of Francis Fox and Maria Anna Kruser; spons. Francis Sutor. JO

same day, Maria Anna, daughter of John Colman and Frances Wilson (non-Catholic, non-baptized, married by civil magistrate without license of the Church); spons. Neil Sweeny. JO

April 23, at Union Furnace, Catherine, daughter of Henry Visman and Maria Huckleolmar; spons. William Himmer and Maria Catherine Mickinbier. JO

May 13, Peter, born April 17, son of Jerome [Hironimi] Erbert and Rosina Hoffmann; spons. Stephan Echter and Adalaide Meyer. H. D. Juncker

July 13, at Union Furnace, Luisa Gertrude daughter of William Nimmes and Catherine Elizabeth Bilder; spons. Henry Berman? and Catherine Veeman. JO

August 15, Catherine daughter of Henry Wesel and Catherine Smith; spon. George ----- and Catherine B-----. JO

same day, James, son of James Sweeny and Luisa McFallon; spon. Timothy Courtney and Helen Sweeny. JO

same day, William Augustine, son of John Sweeny and Mary Ann Gelson; spon. Henry Barte and Maria Welke[r?]. JO

same day, William Henry, son of Henry Campe---- and Mary Rosevard?; spon. Henry Berte and Maria Mickebar. JO

November 8, Francis son of Frederick Cline and Mary Fink; spon. Francis Fink and Catherine Fink. JO

1844

January 6, Frederick son of Bernard Camperman [Kampelmann] and Catherine Berthe; spon. Henry Verril? and Maria Dicker. JO

March 24, Elizabeth daughter of Frederick Mönickand Elizabeth Cruger; spon. Ferdinand Goldcamp and Elizabeth Mönick. JO

same day, Maria Catherine, daughter of John Buker and Maria Wolcam; spon. ---- Kaspin? and Catherine Smidt. JO

May 16, Mary Ann daughter of Francis Fox and Maria Anna Kruser; spon. Francis Myer and Maria Anna Raper. JO

May 16, Maria Anna, daughter of John Frederick Tolcea and Mary Row; spon. John Gering, Ed Weebolt, and Maria Castrop. JO

June 16, Charles son of David Putoff and Maria Folscamp; spon. Charles Myer and Maria Engle Myer. JO

same day, Jane, daughter of Mathias Hosenbud? and Elizabeth Hubert; spon. Joseph Emerick and Jane Emerick. JO

[The above two records were also entered under the date of August 20, 1843; there the Hosenbud baptism is recorded as taking place at Little Scioto and the child is John, not Johanna or Jane.]

July 14, Catherine, daughter of Andrew Flinn and Lurena Flinn; spon. Timonthy Callaghan. JO

November 23, David Henry, son of David Putoff and Anna Maria Vogels---; spon. Henry Veeman and Catherine Hancy. JO

same day, Crescentia Ann, daughter of Louis Richidollar and Frances Anna Black; spon. Valentine Renwick and Mary Ann Sweeney. JO

same day, Mary Agnes, daughter of John Ghering and Elizabeth Busman; spon. Henry Benwick and Mary Ann Huckehaus. JO

December 28, Isabel, daughter of Frederick [John Ferndinad] Goldcamp and Mary Gertrude Becksmith; spon. Martin Becksmith and Margaret Hesping. JO

1845

January 12, Cecilia, daughter of Edward Sweeney and Isabel Anderson; spon. John and Sarah Sweeny. JO

February 10, Frederick Henry, son of Bernard Woller and Maria Dieker; spon. Christopher Dieker and Catherine Camperman. JO

same day, Helen, daughter of Charles Waters and Isabel Sweeny; spon. John Sweeny and Mary Sweeny. JO

(To be concluded)

**Irish Nativities Recorded in
London St. Patrick Parish and Cemetery**

(Concluded, from Vol. XXIII, No. 4)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place of Nativity</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Age or Date of Birth</u>	
John Powers	Co. Waterford	Aug. 5, 1900	68	pr
		died at St. Mary Hospital, Cin'ti		
Margaret w/o James Powers	Co. Waterford	Oct. 16, 1868	63	ts
Patrick Powers	Co. Waterford	Aug. 24, 1885	69	pr
Patrick Powers	Co. Kilkenny	Aug. 25, 1888	74	pr
James Prendergast	Co. Tipperary	May 7, 1900	68	pr
		died at St. Elizabeth Hosp., Dayton		
Ellen (Fitzgibbons) Purcell	Co. Cork	Dec. 31, 1899	65	pr
Enos Purcell	Co. Cork	Feb. 22, 1897		pr
John Purcell	Co. Cork	Sept. 11, 1889	66	pr
(John Purcell	Co. Cork	Sept. 11, 1889	66	ts
(Catherine w/o John Purcell	Co. Clare	Feb. 11, 1902	70	ts
Catherine (O'Brien) Purcell	Co. Clare	Feb. 11, 1902	70	pr
Edward T. Riley	Co. Meath	June 7, 1897		pr
Hannah Riley	Co. Mayo died in Columbus	Aug. 5, 1897	67	pr
Mark Riley	Co. Mayo	May 7, 1884	61	pr
Michael Riley	Co. Meath	Jan. 23, 1900	69	pr
Brigid Riordan	Co. Carlow	Aug. 30, 1895	75	pr
Jeremiah Riordan	Co. Cork	May 17, 1871	45	ts
Mrs. Bridget Roddy	Co. Mayo bur'd in Springfield	Aug. 22, 1890	90	pr
Michael Roddy	Co. Mayo	March 21, 1909	72	pr
Patrick Roddy	Co. Mayo	Dec. 4, 1896	65	pr
---, w/o Dennis Ryan	Templetuohy, Tipperary	Jan. 28, 1872	30	ts
Denis Ryan	Co. Tipperary	Aug. 22, 1894	56	pr
Edward Ryan	Co. Limerick	April 15, 1888	34	pr
Eleanor (White) Ryan	Co. Kilkenny	Sept. 10, 1900	68	pr
Mrs. Kate Ryan	Co. Limerick	March 26, 1888	70	pr
James E. Ryan	Co. Tipperary	Oct. 17, 1900	55	pr
Martin Ryan	Co. Tipperary	May 12, 1900	68-1/2	pr
Patrick Ryan	Co. Limerick	Sept. 14, 1884	53	pr
John Scofield	Co. Monaghan	Feb. 23, 1879	68	pr
William Scully	Co. Tipperary	Feb. 14, 1901	85	pr
William Scully	Co. Tipperary	Feb. 14, 1901	1816	ts
Mrs. Ann Sexton	Co. Cavan	March 16, 1900	85	pr
Cornelius Sexton	Co. Tipperary	Oct. 9, 1889	71	pr
(Cornelius Sexton	Powerstown, Tipperary	Oct. 9, 1889	71	ts
(Mary w/o Cornelius Sexton	Powerstown, Tipperary	Jan. 6, 1877	57	ts
Francis Shea	Clonmel, Tipperary	Nov. 4, 1879	50	pr

John Shea	Co. Tipperary	Sept. 25, 1897	93	pr
Mrs. Patrick Shea	Co. Tipperary	March 13, 1881	46	pr
		from Liverpool [Madison Co.], Ohio		
Patrick Shea	Co. Clare	July 22, 1895	64	pr
		died Mechanicsburg parish		
Alice Sheehan	Co. Limerick	died Plain City	May 5, 1896	73
Brigid Sheehy	Queen's Co.	Jan. 2, 1896	65	pr
Thomas Sheehy	Queen's Co.	March 13, 1896	65	pr
Margaret Singleton	Co. Wexford	Jan. 7, 1909	76	pr
Thomas Singleton	Kilcommon par., Co. Mayo	July 5, 1880	63	pr
(Edward Slattery	Co. Tipperary	Oct. 27, 1892	57	ts
(Julia w/o Edward Slattery	Co. Tipperary	Apr. 9, 1901	68	ts
Julia (Callaghan) Slattery	Co. Tipperary	April 9, 1901	68	pr
James Slattery	Co. Tipperary	Sept. 4, 1897	47	pr
Mary Smith	Co. Tipperary	Oct. 11, 1885	30	pr
Mathew Smith	Co. Cavan	Oct. 21, 1894	65	pr
Catherine Stokes	Co. Limerick	Nov. 12, 1894	75	pr
Martin Stokes	Co. Limerick	May 28, 1900	90	pr
Timothy Sullivan	Co. Cork	Feb. 14, 1887	55	pr
Jeremiah Toomey	Co. Cork	Sept. 8, 1894	23 (or 93?)	pr
Michael Tracey	Co. Tipperary	June 8, 1901	63	pr
		died in St. Barnabas par., Springfield		
Henry Walker Sr.	Co. Clare	Sept. 28, 1896	82	pr
(Henry Walker Sr.	Co. Clare	Sept. 28, 1896	82	ts
(Mary w/o Henry Walker Sr.	Clonturk parish, Leitrim	Sept. 19, 1894	72	ts
Mary Walker	Co. Leitrim	Sept. 19, 1894	73	pr
James Wall	Waterford	died in Columbus	July 28, 1896	61
Mrs. Catherine Walsh	Co. Cork	April 25, 1890	59	pr
Michael Walsh	Co. Kerry	April 16, 1901	74	pr
(Michael Welsh	Co. Kerry	Apr. 16, 1901	1827	ts
(Mary w/o Michael Welch	Co. Tipperary	Aug. 17, 1895	1822	ts
Mary Welsh	Co. Tipperary	Aug. 12, 1895	63	pr
Michael Welsh	Co. Cork	Feb. 14, 1899	80	pr
Catherine Whalen	Co. Roscommon	Feb. 6, 1889	49	pr
Patrick White	Co. Monaghan	Oct. 25, 1893	Oct. 21, 1833	ts

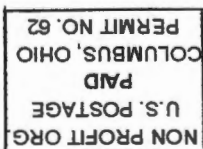
Thanks to Msgr. George Schlegel for his assistance in reading the tombstones.

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