



# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society -  
Diocese of Columbus

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## THE EARLIEST CATHOLIC SETTLEMENTS IN OHIO A SURVEY

(Continued from Volume XII, Number 10)

1797 - Youngstown

The first Roman Catholic to arrive at the present Youngstown, Ohio was an Irishman named Daniel Shehy (or Sheehy). This was in the year 1796, when he and John Young, founder of Youngstown, and others made the journey to Ohio to survey the property. Shehy had purchased one thousand acres of the new land from Mr. Young. According to Joseph G. Butler's History of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley and other sources, Daniel Shehy (1749 or 1759-1831) was born in County Tipperary, Ireland. He was given a classical education and destined for the priesthood. However, "he was an outspoken enemy of the British government, and, impulsive in temperament, plunged wholeheartedly into the movement for Irish freedom. With two of his near relatives<sup>1</sup> executed for opposing British domination and his own life certain to be forfeited if he remained in Ireland, Sheehy came to America and enlisted in the Revolutionary Army." (I/100) He served as a private in Capt. Laurence Keen's Company, 11th Pennsylvania Continental Line. After the war, Shehy lived in Connecticut or New York, where he met Mr. Young and purchased the Ohio land.

Mr. Shehy and the other settlers of Youngstown made the first permanent settlement there in 1797. Mrs. Shehy was Jane, daughter of Robert McLain, born at Ligonier, Pa. in 1775, whom Mr. Shehy met in at Beavertown, Pa. in 1797 and married shortly thereafter. In 1798 or 1799 Daniel built a cabin on the land, which now is part of the Youngstown suburb of Haseltine. For many years he was a leader of the community (as his descendants have been), able with a fiery eloquence to arouse the local immigrants to common action.

The Shehys apparently lived entirely without the formal consolations of their Catholic religion until the year 1817. Family tradition states that Father Fenwick visited them in 1815 or 1816; Rev. William Jurgens in his history of the Diocese of Cleveland mentions this tradition but states that the visit, if indeed made, was probably not until 1817, which is the year in which Jurgens places Fenwick's first journey to the north of Ohio. There is no documentary evidence of this visit. The history of the Diocese of Youngstown states that Rev. Thomas Martin, O.P., offered the first Mass there in 1821. It is not clear what, if any, documentation supports this statement. The first documented visit of a priest there occurred in 1826, when this Father Martin came to the scattered Catholic families in the Mahoning Valley in the vicinity of Youngstown.

In January of 1835 by Rev. Edward T. Collins visited and found there four Catholic families and baptized five children. The "pillars of Catholicity" in Youngstown are remembered as Daniel Shehy, William Woods, and Neal Campbell, Woods and Campbell being Mr. Shehy's sons-in-law. It was in their homes that Mass was offered and the sacraments administered. These families seem to have done all in their power to preserve their faith and obtain the ministrations of priests. In 1840 they became officially a station of Steubenville and also were occasionally visited by the priest from Chippewa. In 1842 they wrote to the pastor in Cleveland asking that he visit them.

Bishop McFadden's history of the Diocese of Youngstown ascribes the organization of the parish there to the laity. He wrote, "By 1853, the Catholics of Youngstown had organized their own parish. They called it St. Columba." Butler's history, probably better researched, says that "The first Youngstown parish was formally organized about 1847 by Rev. F. McGann, while a guest at the home of William Woods." They began construction of the church in 1851 and had it completed by 1853. It was not until 1858 that the bishop sent a resident pastor to them.

(The Shehy family traditions are mentioned in Hynes' History of the Diocese of Cleveland. Jurgens' careful and circumspect work in his A History of the Diocese of Cleveland is most helpful, although the references to Youngstown are scattered. The March of the Eucharist from Dungannon is the official history of the Diocese of Youngstown, published by Bishop McFadden in 1951.)

#### 1800 - Lancaster

The first Catholic settlers in Lancaster were Hugh Boyle and his wife Eleanor, who are said to have settled there in 1800. Hugh was born in County Donegal, Ireland around 1771 and immigrated to Virginia in 1791. In the late 1790's he married Eleanor, daughter of Neal Gillespie of Brownsville, Pennsylvania. This couple's eldest daughter was Maria Boyle Ewing, who was born Jan. 1, 1801; it is said that she was born in Lancaster. Hugh's residence there in 1801 is confirmed by the 1883 history of Fairfield and Perry Counties, which reports that the first Court of Quarter Sessions in the county met in January of 1801 and ordered that a road be surveyed from Lancaster to the head of "muddy prairie" and that it was Hugh Boyle who surveyed the road. From 1803 until 1833 he was clerk of the Court of Common Pleas.

The next known Catholic of Lancaster was Thomas Fricker, who came there in 1802. In 1804 Michael Garaghty arrived from Ireland, where he had been born around 1779. Like Mr. Boyle, Mr. Garaghty was well known in Lancaster. He was the only cashier the Lancaster Bank ever had; he served in this position from the bank's formation in 1815 until his death in 1842. Jacob Dittoe and his wife Catharine and children, from the vicinity of Conewago in Pennsylvania, were in Lancaster in February of 1805 when he wrote to Bishop Carroll begging for a priest to be sent. It is not known whether they ever resided in Lancaster. In November of 1805 Jacob had the town of Hanover, which was near the later Somerset, platted, but he and Catherine owned a one-third-acre lot on the northwest corner of Broad and Chestnut streets in Lancaster from January 9, 1806 until January 10, 1807. They certainly had moved away long before the Catholic parish was organized there.



Daniel and Jane Shehy's cabin, first Mass-house in Youngstown.



The first St. Mary's Church in Lancaster.

On October 9, 1812 Bishop Flaget of Bardstown and Rev. Stephen T. Badin visited Lancaster while travelling from Kentucky to Baltimore. They found there three or four Catholic families and baptized five children. The community grew until by 1823 there were about twenty families.

In Rev. V. F. O'Daniel's research into the life of Bishop Fenwick, he could not determine the date of dedication of the first St. Mary's Church in Lancaster any closer than "sometime" in 1819. The parish was under the supervision of the Dominican priests stationed at their priory near Somerset. The organization of the parish would have to be placed some time before the 1819 dedication, but there is no data available to allow a date to be assigned to it. The closest we might come would be the year 1817, which is given in the old accounts as the year in which the first Mass was offered there, by Father Fenwick.

In a newspaper article which appeared many years ago, Charles Goslin outlined the history of the real estate on which this church was located, which was designated lots 1 and 2 of square five of the town plat, overlooking the Hocking River on the south side and at the foot of Chestnut Street.

Lots one and two of this Square Five were two of the 37 lots, which on Aug. 21, 1806, Dennis Cassat of Ohio Co., Virginia (now W. Va.) purchased from Noah Zane. This transaction was recorded by a Justice of the Peace of Belmont County, Ohio. It was a year later that it was entered in the Fairfield County deed records.

The executors of Ebenezer Zane brought legal proceedings against the heirs of Dennis Cassat and the late Lydia Morrow who was the relict (surviving widow) of Dennis Cassat. Charles R. Sherman, the father of Gen. William T. Sherman and Hon. John Sherman, defended the heirs of Dennis Cassat in this suit.

At a sheriff's sale on Jan. 19, 1822, which followed, John Clarke of Belmont County, O., purchased lots one and two from the sheriff of Fairfield County. Two months later, he sold these lots for \$45 to the trustees of the Roman Catholic Church of Lancaster. At this time the trustees of the church in Lancaster were Hugh Boyle, the father-in-law of Thomas Ewing Sr.; Michael Garaghty, a native of Ireland who came to Lancaster in 1804; and Thomas Fricker, who came

to Lancaster in 1802 and was a hatter by trade.

...The Centennial History of St. Mary's Church gives the date of 1820 as the erection of this church and that Thomas Fricker donated the land. It's possible that Fricker may have purchased this land from the Cassats, but it wasn't a clear title deed.

The first resident pastor in Lancaster was Rev. Thomas Martin, O.P., who came from the Somerset community in 1834. From the beginning, Lancaster has always been the home of one of the most enlightened communities of Catholics in the State of Ohio.

(From Bishop Hartley's history of the Diocese of Columbus; C. M. L. Wiseman's Centennial History of Lancaster (1898); A. A. Graham's History of Fairfield and Perry Counties (1883); and Cemeteries of Berne Township, published in 1983 by the Fairfield County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society.)

(To be continued)

(1) These two relatives of Mr. Sheehy were undoubtedly Rev. Nicholas Sheehy, pastor of Clogheen, and Mr. Edmund Sheehy, a person of "credit and substance" of the same vicinity, who were executed in 1765 and 1766. For twenty years Father Sheehy's head remained spiked above the gates of Clonmel jail, until at last his sister was allowed to bury it. See John Mitchel's continuation of the Abbe MacGeoghegan's History of Ireland (New York: D. & J. Sadlier, 1868), pages 99 through 105.

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#### RECORDS OF THE DITTOE FAMILY IN PENNSYLVANIA

An article published in the second volume of this Bulletin (1) presented records concerning members of the Dittoe family of near Somerset, Ohio. The records showed that Joseph Dittoe and family were living in the vicinity of the Conewago Chapel, Adams County, Pennsylvania from 1790 until the 1810's; Anthony Dittoe was there from 1794 until at least 1801, and Jacob Dittoe was not far away in Maryland in 1790. Now, thanks to the continuing efforts of Society member Don Snider and thanks to the research of Betty J. Sutton, a Dittoe descendant and resident of Toledo, Ohio a much earlier record of the family can be presented here.

The York County, Pennsylvania Orphan Court Docket, Book C, page 67, contains the following record:

May 28th [1772] Present Martin Eichelberger John Adlum & Joseph Updegraff Esquires,

Came into Court Casper White Administrator of all and singular the Goods and Chattels Rights and Credits which were of Barbara Deeto Deceased and produced an Account of his Administration on the Estate of the said Deceased as settled with the Register of this County whereby there appears to be a Ballance of the said Estate in the said Administrators Hands of the sum of sixty one Pounds fourteen Shillings and seven Pence which being examined by the Court it appeared that the said Administrator had been charged with two Articles twice in the said Account amounting to the sum of five

Pounds and four Shillings which being deducted from the former Ballance Reduces it to the sum of fifty five Pounds seventeen Shillings and ten Pence which is the Ballance remaining in the Hands of the said Administrator which being allowed of by the Court It is thereupon Ordered and Decreed That the said Administrator pay unto John Deeto the sum of twelve Pounds eight shillings and four Pence halfpenny in full for his two shares of the said Ballance as eldest son of the said Deceased That he pay unto Jacob, Francis, Joseph, Peter, Anthony, Catharine and Mary Deeto each or to the Guardians of such of them as are Minors the sum of six Pounds four Shillings and two Pence farthing in full for their respective shares of said Ballance which with the Costs of this Court is the full amount of the Ballance in the said Administrators Hands.

This record proves several points. First, the Dittoe family was present in York County, which then included the present Adams County, in 1772. (Don Snider speculates that they may have lived near the French-Catholic Noel family, in the area north-west of the present Hanover, Pa.) The record confirms the names of the brothers of Joseph Dittoe, as given in the 1883 History of Fairfield and Perry Counties.(2) It also proves that Jacob, who is not listed in that history, was a brother, and adds the names of the sisters Catherine and Mary. It gives the name of the mother, Barbara, and shows that she was deceased by May of 1772. The father, a native of Alsace whose name was Joseph, according to the same History, must have died before her. Jacob Dittoe must have been less than ten years old when his father died. It is no wonder, then, that the first Catholic Church in Ohio was named St. Joseph, in part, at least, in loving memory of the father whom Jacob hardly had a chance to know.

The brothers were not all members of the Catholic Church. Records at the York County Historical Society indicate that John and his wife Magdalena were members of the Emanuel Reformed Church in Abbotstown from 1786 until 1790. John was the eldest brother and, according to Betty Sutton, was a twin of Francis, born Sept. 25, 1758. He was a blacksmith in Berwick Township in 1783. By 1802 he had moved to Lisburn, Cumberland County, Pa. and had purchased a large tract in Kanawha County, Virginia, where he intended to move.

In addition to the records noted in the early Bulletin article mentioned above, records originating at the Conewago Chapel itself show that Jacob Dittoe and family were living in that area as late as 1803. Henry Dittoe, son of Jacob and Catherine Dittoe, was born on October 5, 1795 and was baptized at the Chapel on October 18; sponsors were John and Mary Fink. Sally Dittoe was born July 28, 1803 and baptized at the Chapel on August 7; sponsors were John and Mary Felz. (3) These records have been published by the John Timon Reily Historical Society and have also been transcribed for the York County Historical Society. [The latter source must be used with care. The transcription of the baptismal record of Sally Dittoe gives the maiden name of the mother as Catherine Sneeringer, as noted by Society member Pat Mooney. While this family name is probably correct, it does not appear in the published version of the records. A letter to the John Timon Reily society brought a kind a reply from Mr. Francis W. Miller, Publications Committee chairman. He and the present Pastor examined the original register and verified that it does not contain the maiden name. If anyone knows of an original source giving this name, we would appreciate hearing of it.]

Joseph Dittoe, born 1762 and died 1834, did not bring his family to Somerset, Ohio until 1813. As a final set of records of the Dittoes in Pennsylvania, the following record of birthdates of the children of this Joseph and his wife Helen Grimm is presented. It was supplied by Don Snider from a list made by Joseph's grandson Anthony Kintz in 1886:

- 1) Mary Dittoe, born Sept. 25, 1786 [married 1810 to Jacob Kintz at Conewago]
- 2) Magdaline Dittoe, born July 1, 1788 [married Joseph Fink]
- 3) John Dittoe, born Feb. 22, 1790 [married Lucretia Wilson in Fairfield County, Jan. 21, 1819 by Rev. N. D. Young, O.P.]
- 4) Elizabeth Dittoe, born Mar. 18, 1793
- 5) Michael Dittoe, born Apr. 10, 1795 [Conewago Chapel records have him born March 29 and baptized April 19, 1795; he died in New Orleans ca 1829.]
- 6) Joseph Dittoe, born Jan. 15, 1797 [Conewago Chapel records confirm the birth date; bapt. Feb. 14.]
- 7) Nancy Dittoe, born Aug. 15, 1798
- 8) Jacob Dittoe, born Apr. 1801 [Conewago Chapel record says born Apr. 1, bapt. May 14; married Sarah Caine.]
- 9) Anthony Dittoe, born Mar. 28, 1803 [married Catherine Anderson; she died in 1834 and he subsequently married Mrs. Rebecca Kennedy; lived in Edgar Co., Ill.]

#### NOTES

- 1) Schlegel, Donald M., "The Pennsylvania Homes of the Fink and Dittoe Families;" Bulletin, Vol. 2, No. 3 (March, 1976).
- 2) Graham, A.A., History of Fairfield and Perry Counties, Ohio; Chicago, W.H. Beers & Co., 1883, pages 386-387 of the Perry County section.
- 3) The Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, "Conewago Chapel", Baptisms 1790-1890, Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McGough, translator; McSherrystown: John Timon Reily Historical Society, 1981, page 40.

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

[continued from Vol. XII, Number 12]

page 9, John Murnane, west half of lot 21-B, purchased Feb. 27, 1870; transferred to Peter Burns of Peter Burns' Stone Quarry, Feb. 20, 1892; graves: Feb. 20, 1892; Jan. 21, 1898; Nov. 27, 1909; Apr. 27, 1910.

monument:

Peter Burns, born Apr. 23, 1832, Native of Co. Kildare, Ireland, died Feb. 19, 1892, may his soul rest in peace.

Julia wife of John Murnane and daughter of Peter and Martha Burns, died Feb. 26, 1870, age 18 years 6 months. May her soul rest in peace.

Martha wife of Peter Burns, 1834-1909.

(Father) Michael Hogan, Apr. 25, 1889-Apr. 26, 1910. May his soul rest in peace.

page 9, Mrs. Mary Barry, north half of lot 135-B, purchased Sept. 8, 1871; graves: Dec. 7, 1878 (use of vault); Nov. 7, 1890; Sept. 6, 1904.

Richard Barry, who departed this life Sept. 6, 1871, aged 46 years, native of County [Galway ?] Ireland. May his soul rest in peace.  
(Father) Henry Hemler Died Nov. 8, 1890  
(Mother) Mary Barry Died Sept. 5, 1904

page 9, Michael Bresnahan, 382 W. Town St., east half of lot 21-B, purchased Apr. 11, 1870; graves: May 11, 1881; Nov. 5, ----; Mar. 25, 1888; Apr. 13, 1888; Aug. 7, 1888 (child); Nov. 7, 1890 (child of Wm. A. White); Jan. 8, 1891; July 14, 1886 [?] (child); May 27, 1892 (Julie Dolby); Mar. 29, 1902. [no stones]

page 10, Bridget Ryan, Gahanna, west half of lot 23-B, purchased Feb. 25, 1872; graves: Jan. 4, 1898; Nov. 30, 1899; Nov. 9, 1918.

(Mother) Bridget wife of Timothy Ryan, died Jan. 4, 1892[?], age 61y 11m 14d  
(Father) Timothy Ryan, died Nov. 29, 1899, age 75y May he rest in peace.  
monument:

In memory of Elizabeth Fagan alias Byrne, Native of The Parish of Dohin [?] diocese of Meath, Ireland, born Oct. 2, 1802, died May 11, 1869.  
Requiescat in Pace.

Elizabeth M. daughter of T. & B. Ryan, died Aug. 5, 1894, age 23y 6m.

In memory of Thomas J. son of T. & B. Ryan, died Feb. 23, 1895 age 35y 3m

In memory of Edward son of T. & B. Ryan, died Apr. 18, 1884, age 6y 5m

In memory of Jeremiah oldest child of T. & B. Ryan, died May 26, 1875[?], age 20 y 3[?]m 16d.

(Dad) Frank M. Ryan 1875 + 1940.

page 10, Mrs. Cornelius Neil, east half of lot 23-B, purchased Sept. 30, 1872; graves: Nov. 21, 1880; Feb. 28, 1887 (Donahue's child); Jan. 28, 1896; Apr. 8, 1896 (Mary Donahue, child); Dec. 10, 1930.

Mary daughter of C. & E. O'Neal of Co. Cork Ireland, died Nov. 25, 1869:  
Aged 12 yrs. 6 mos. 5ds.

page 10, Mrs. Garret Rourke, Omaha, Neb.; Minnie Tracey, Monroe Ave.; lot 24-B, purchased Feb. 9, 1870; graves: Apr. 4, 1886; July 9, 1886; Apr. 30, 1887; May 6, 1912 [?]; Jan. 5, 1905; May 4, 1910; Mar. 17, 1920.

Bridget Doyle, 1831 + 1886

(Mother) Margaret Tracy, 1838 + 1917

Garret Rourke Native of Knock--, Co. Galway, Ireland, died Jan. 18, 1870, age 16 [or 46?] yrs.

John F. Tracy, 1860 + 1927

Minnie C. Tracy, 1862 + 1946

Patrick and Mary Rourke and family

page 11, Edward Hartley, W. Maple St., lot 27-B, purchased Mar. 5, 1873; graves: Apr. 4, 1878; Sept. 27, 1879; Oct. 8, 1905; Nov. 25, 1910; Nov. 29, 1916 (a removal). [no stones]

page 11, Charles McGuire, Milo P.O., west half of lot 25-B, purchased July 12, 1869; graves: Nov. 18, 1881; Sept. 2, 1887; Mar. 3, 1890; Sept. 21, 1905; Jan. 9, 1917; Jan. 30, ----.

Annie wife of Charles McGinn, Native of Dublin, Ireland, died July 11, 1869, aged 28 y'rs.

Mary Ann daughter of C. & A. McGinn, died July 16, 1869, aged 14 d's.  
May their souls rest in peace.

page 11, John Doyle, 188 N. Grant Ave., east half of lot 25-B, purchased Apr. 28, 1873; graves: July 7, 1900; Mar. 17, 1901; Jan. 13, 1910; Mar. 31, ----.

John Doyle, native of County Kildare, Ireland, died May 29, 1895, age 72y  
Eliza Larkin, his wife, died Apr. 27, 1874, age 38 years. May they rest  
in peace.

Elizabeth Larkin who died Apr. 27, 1873[?], aged 38[?] yrs. Born in Dublin, Ireland.

(Son) James Holdreith, 1929-1933

(Daughter) Loretta Fouts, 1890-1910

(Husband) Charles Berry, 1888-1911

Catherine Berre, born 1863, died 1923

page 12, Francis McGuire, Plain City, Madison County, Ohio; west half of lot 29-B, purchased Sept. 28, 1870; graves: Dec. 7, 1880; June 5, 1895. [no stones]

page 12, Anthony McAndrews, corner of Maple & City Ave., east [west?] half of lot 30-B, purchased Dec. 3, 1869; graves: Aug. 21, 1889; Mar. 22, 1892; July 13, 1901.

Anthony McAndrews, born in County Mayo Ireland 1830 Died Nov. 22, 1886 age 56 years

Margaret McAndrews, born in County Mayo Ireland Died July 12, 1901, age 70 years

Anthony Francis McAndrews, b. Mar. 22, 1866, d. Dec. 2, 1869 age 2y 8m 10d

Margaret dau of Charles & M. McAndrews, b. July 6, 1889, d. Aug. 20, 1889

(To be continued)

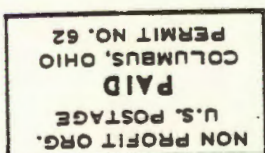
ACQUISITIONS FOR THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

Corbett, Sr. Thomas Albert, O.P., M.A., of the Dominican Sisters, Columbus, Ohio, People or Masses: A Comparative Study in Political Theory (Catholic U. of A., Studies in Politics, Vol. 4) (dissertation); Cath. U. of A. Press, Washington, 1950.  
- purchased

Photo Directory of Circleville St. Joseph Parish, 1987.

- gift of the Parish

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