

# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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Oct. 4: St. Francis of Assisi

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## Chapel Hill, Perry County, as a Mission Center 1840-1850

St. Francis of Assisi at Chapel Hill or Sunday Creek in southeastern Perry County usually is thought of as a simple country parish, founded in 1841. However, in the decade of the 1840s it was a mission center. Its three pastors during those years made arduous journeys into Morgan County, southwestern Perry County, and across Athens County to northern Meigs County to bring the life of the Sacraments to the poor farmers of English, Irish, German, and French descent, along with Irish families on the canal. The churches attended in addition to St. Francis were: St. Michael at Deavertown, Morgan County (founded 1820); Seven Dolours at Chauncey in Athens County (1843); St. Peter on Monday Creek in southwestern Perry County (1844); and St. John the Baptist near Anthony in Athens County (1845). None of these churches now exist.

The pastors on this mission were unremarkable in that they were immigrants like most of their congregations, but were remarkable for their youth and their education.

In 1840 Father James McCaffrey, pastor at Marietta, reported a general lack of religious zeal among the Catholics of Deavertown, caused by lack of a resident clergyman. This situation soon was remedied by the arrival of Father Michael Aegidius Olivetti. Born in Italy in 1813, having been selected by Bishop Purcell in Rome, he came to the Diocese of Cincinnati in 1839 from

Turin. He was assigned as an assistant priest in Cincinnati. Purcell noted that Father Olivetti knew French but was having difficulty learning English. Nevertheless, Purcell sent him to Chapel Hill in 1840. The educated but inexperienced priest was sent to this difficult mission at the tender age of 27, his knowledge of English probably still inadequate. Father McCaffrey in January of 1844 remarked that Father Olivetti was not 'doing much' at Deavertown, Sunday Creek, or Wolf Creek, but it seems that he was active in the local temperance movement. In 1844 he reported 250 communicants: 95 families at Sunday Creek, 25 at Deavertown, 47 at Monday Creek, 20 at Chauncey, and 10 in Meigs County. After four years on this mission he left for the Diocese of Albany, where he served in Whitehall and later in Port Henry, New York. He died on September 10, 1863 at Lake Champlain, N. Y.

Timothy O'Farrell was born in County Longford, ancient home of the O'Farrells, on November 14, 1816 and was brought to America in 1818. He came to Cincinnati and was a professor of Greek for a time. He was ordained by Bishop Purcell on December 22, 1844 and was sent at once to Chapel Hill. His appointment was to be during the "temporary absence" of Father Olivetti, but he remained for three years. Little is known of his time there, except that he, like the other priests, had a laborious task. Bishop Purcell in 1848 remarked that Seven Dolours in Chauncey

needed more pastoral attention than could be given it. After leaving Chapel Hill about the Fall of 1848 Farrell served at Steubenville St. Pius for a short time, then was assigned to Christ Church in Fulton (Cincinnati). He then went to New York where he served as the pastor of St. Paul's Church in Brooklyn. In 1853 he was named founding pastor of the Church of the Visitation. He died in Brooklyn on February 16, 1876. (During his Ohio years, even in his signature in the Chapel Hill records and in the *Catholic Telegraph*, his name was written Timothy O. Farrell or Timothy Farrell. However, in Brooklyn he consistently used the name Timothy O'Farrell.)

Cornelius Daly, a native of County Corke, was ordained by Bishop Purcell on March 3, 1844. He was assigned to Doylestown in northeastern Ohio and then was assigned as first resident pastor of Akron and its missions, where he stayed until being moved to Covington, Ky. about 1848. Early in 1849 he was sent to Chapel Hill to replace Father Farrell. He remarked on the relative poverty of his mission. In his first 13 months there, the people contributed less than \$150 to his upkeep. In the Winter of 1849/1850 he visited Cincinnati and went "begging" and raised \$350 which he used to finish St. Peter church and improve St. Francis and Seven Dolors. His work "heavily taxed strength, body and soul. But the work was well and cheerfully done, in the hope of an eternal recompense." He was financially embarrassed when two of his sisters arrived in the country from Ireland and looked to him for support. To answer this need, Archbishop Purcell moved him to St. Patrick at Fayetteville, Browne County, where he remained until his death, January 24, 1876.

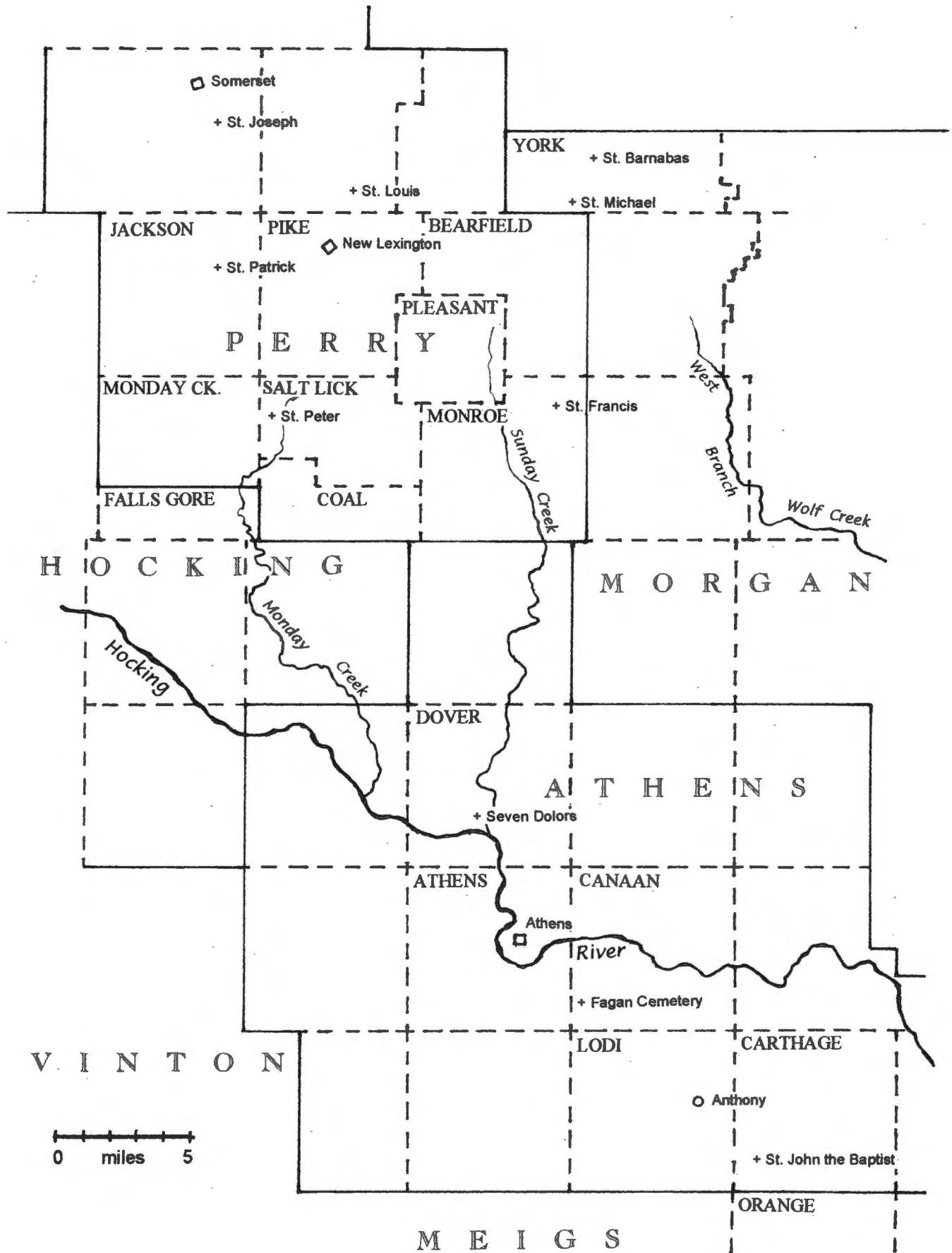
After Father Daly's departure, Chapel Hill itself became a mission, cared for by the Dominican Fathers from St. Joseph.

### **Jonathan's Creek or Deavertown, St. Barnabas and later St. Michael**

Bartholomew Longstreth and his wife Margaret donated a lot for a Catholic church to Rev. Nicholas D. Young on August 31, 1820. It was located two miles northeast of Deavertown, where the Catholic graveyard can still be found. The small group of Catholics there were from the vicinity of Loretto, Pa. and were joined by others from the congregations of Conewago, Taneytown, and Emmittsburg. A log church was built about 1822 and was attended by Father Young and his successor missionaries stationed at St. Joseph near Somerset. A small set of early sacramental records from the years 1822 to 1833 was preserved at McConnellsville and was published in the *Bulletin* of June, 1981. Family names appearing prominently in these records include Burgoon, Longstreth, Walpole, Gosman, and DeLong.

In the summer of 1838 Father James McCaffrey, newly appointed pastor of Marietta, visited the area and reported that he had been given \$200, a considerable sum, toward a new church at Deavertown. The community then had about thirty communicants in forty families. In 1839 a lot (number 22) in the south end of the village of Deavertown was purchased and about the summer of the next year a contract was let for construction of the new church. The new, brick church of St. Michael the Archangel measured 35 by 40 feet. It may have been dedicated when Bishop Purcell visited in October of 1841. In 1849 or 1850 under the direction of Father Daly a new floor, pews, and a new altar were put in the church, the church was painted, and a house was built on the church lot -- all with money he had collected by 'begging' in Cincinnati.

The small congregation at Deavertown soon was overshadowed by those at McLuney, McConnellsville, etc. The church was closed about 1868 and Bishop Rosecrans sold the

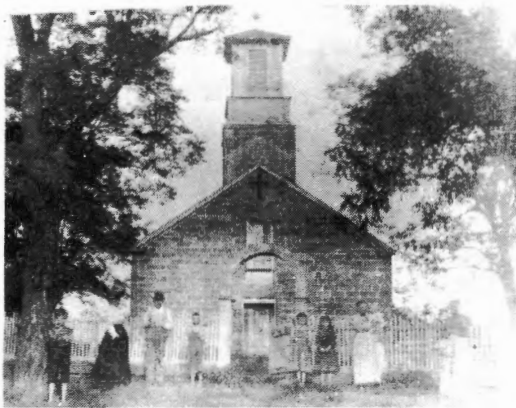


property in 1870. (See the *Bulletin* of May and June, 1981)

### **Sunday Creek or Chapel Hill, St. Francis of Assisi**

John McDonald and James Dew, brothers-in-law, were among the first settlers of Monroe Township. They came from Maryland and settled in the Sunday Creek Valley by 1814. A tradition recorded in the first diocesan history stated that they had fled Ireland at the rising of 1798. Soon other Irish families began settling in the vicinity, including Martin Walpole and the Duffy family. Hartley's history relates that Thomas Duffy, who was born in 1810 and died in 1906 at the age of ninety-six years, stated the first church of the community was built in 1825. If so, this was a privately owned structure, for no such church appears in ecclesiastical records, nor is any deed recorded for it.

Irish families continued to arrive, chiefly from counties Longford, Leitrim, and Cavan, and by the spring of 1841 they had a new, log church under construction on a lot donated by Bryan Murtagh. This incomplete structure was burned down by Know Nothings on May 14 and threatening letters were left on the site. In response, Father Michael Olivetti summoned every member of the congregation capable of work and within two months they had completed



*St. Francis at Chapel Hill*

a new church of stone, 65 by 35 feet, a few rods from the earlier site. It is said that the lot was donated by George Thompson, but the deed, not written until September 9, 1847, was from James and Jane (McDonagh) Lavin. George Thompson, a member of the parish, laid out a village called Thompsonville but this name, after a post office was obtained, was changed to Chapel Hill.

The goodness of the people of Chapel Hill, their peace and closeness to the Almighty, can be read of in the article by Quill, a son of the parish, copied into the *Bulletin* of January, 1977.

Many of the children of the settlers naturally moved away from the church and the little village for opportunities elsewhere. A railroad was built through the township in 1879, some two miles away from the church and business began to drift away to Ferrara and then to Corning. St. Malachy school in Ferrara opened in 1882 and St. Bernard Church in Corning was built around 1884. St. Francis Church was closed in 1889. (See the *Bulletin*, January and February, 1977)

### **Oakfield**

Letters of the 1840s mention Oakfield, with the community of Sunday Creek, as potentially harmed by the church the Dominicans wanted to erect at New Lexington. Oakfield is a village lying east of Moxahala in Pleasant Township, Perry Co. Until the church at McLuney was built in 1851, this group of Catholics no doubt received the Sacraments at Chapel Hill.

### **Chauncey, Church of the Seven Dolors**

The town of Chauncey, northwest of Athens on the Hocking River, was laid out in 1839 by Thomas Ewing of Lancaster, Samuel F. Vinton of Gallipolis, and Elihu Chauncey and Nicholas Biddle of Philadelphia. The new town was adjacent to extensive salt works owned by Ewing

and Vinton and was on the line of the new Hocking Canal. The partners invested in surrounding land, bored additional salt wells, and built a brick hotel and several houses.

For a congregation led by Samuel Workman, Samuel Denman, and converts to the faith William Edwards and wife, and otherwise seeming to consist of transient Irish workers on the canal and their families, a brick church was built in 1842 and 1843. The Ewings probably provided the bulk of the funds for its construction. When the lot on Converse st. was deeded to Bishop Purcell by Ewing and Vinton in May of 1843, the church already had been completed. Bishop Purcell visited in June of 1844 and confirmed eleven. It would seem that he dedicated it then, under the name of the Seven Dolours of the Blessed Virgin, but no record of that act has been found. It was the first Catholic church in Athens County. The town did not prosper and neither did the parish, for the majority of the resident Catholics -- Irish farmers -- lived on the opposite side of the county.

The church continued in use, with visits by the pastors of Sunday Creek and later those of Logan and Lancaster. The number of Catholic residents dwindled until in 1875, after William and Euphronia Edwards moved into Athens, none were left. Seven Dolours church was dismantled and the woodwork, notably the gallery, was used to finish St. Paul church in Athens. (See *Faith and Family: St. Paul's Catholic Church, Athens, Ohio, The Nineteenth Century*, by Catherine McQuaid Steiner and Bruce E. Steiner; Athens: Athens County Historical Society, 1995.)

### **St. John the Baptist Church**

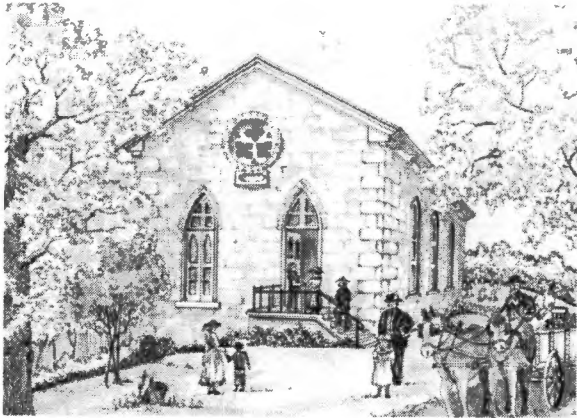
A colony of German Catholic immigrants moved north from the Ohio River at Pomeroy about 1838 and settled in Orange Township near the Athens County line. The two leaders of this

movement were Martin Schueler and Burigard Sees. According to local traditions, Mass first was offered for them in the house of the Sees family in 1844. As reported in the *Catholic Telegraph* of Feb. 10, 1844, Father Olivetti cared for ten families at his mission in Meigs County. A week later the paper noted that he had a church under construction there, six miles from Chester. The site of the church was farther north, across the county line on the west side of Dutch Ridge Road in Carthage Township. The church was blessed in 1845 under the patronage of St. John the Baptist. The deed for this property was written by John and Elizabeth Hoffman to Bishop Purcell in 1849.

Beginning just before 1840 a group of Irish immigrant families settled on Angel Ridge, in southern Athens and Canaan Townships, Athens County, between Athens and the above-mentioned German settlement. Among them were the families of Edward Sheridan, Peter Fagan, James Walsh, and Patrick Mulligan. This group never had their own church, but a lot on the Fagan farm became their common cemetery and later was used by the Athens parish until 1883.

Traditions state that the German settlers were cared for by priests from Pomeroy and the Irish trekked through Athens to attend services at Chauncey. However, Pomeroy did not have a priest or church before 1849. The records presented below demonstrate that both groups were served together by the pastor from Chapel Hill.

St. John the Baptist was replaced in 1861 by a new church of the same name near Anthony in Lodi Township. The land, three acres in fraction 4, was sold to Bishop Purcell by Adam Staab and wife in 1864. St. John Church was destroyed by a fire but was replaced in 1967. It currently serves as a chapel, with no regularly scheduled services.



*St. Peter Church*

### **Monday Creek, St. Peter, the Old Stone Church**

The Catholic community of Monday Creek included over a hundred farming families, some living in Jackson Township to the north and Falls Gore Township, Hocking County, to the southwest. In March, 1844 John and Catherine McDonald and John and Margaret Hoy donated land for the church and graveyard, lying west of Monday Creek in Salt Lick Township. The foundation of the stone church was under way at Christmas, 1844; the cornerstone was laid in 1845; and when Bishop Purcell visited in September of 1848 the handsome church was under roof but not yet complete.

An account of Purcell's visit stated that the building of the church was all "accomplished by the zeal and generosity of one Catholic, who built the Church without calculating when or how payment could be made." Elsewhere it is stated that Timothy Fagan was the builder. However, others did contribute. The McDonalds and Hoys donated the land and Father Daly noted that about the end of 1849, when he obtained funds for his missions by begging in Cincinnati, "all agreed" that St. Peter's should be finished first with these funds. Purcell visited again on August 2, 1850 when he confirmed thirty and dedicated the church under the invocation of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles.

The church served the community until 1880, when St. Mary Church was opened nearby in Shawnee, then a booming coal-mining town, and old St. Peter's was closed. The building collapsed in 1911. In the 1960s some of its stones were moved into Shawnee and erected into a shrine at St. Mary's. (See the *Bulletin of December, 1978.*)

### **West Fork and Wolf Creek**

West Fork and Wolf Creek were localities in the area of this mission, mentioned in letters of 1839 and 1844 where at least small communities of Catholics existed. No doubt members of these communities are mentioned in the sacramental records below, but it has not been possible to pinpoint these locations.

### **Chapel Hill St. Francis Marriage Records, 1841-1857**

#### **1841**

- Jan. 24 Daniel Dekes and Mary Biron, witnesses James Longstreth and John Pearl. Aegs Olivetti  
 Feb. 1 I supplied marriage ceremonies for James Mcnamarra and Alice Woodward; wit. Peter Coil. AO  
 Feb. 22 Cornelius Clagar and Agatha Young; wit. M. Gosman and James Longstreth AO  
 Mar. 6 I supplied marriage ceremonies for Thomas Fitzpatrik and Jane Sweney AO  
 May 4 I supplied marriage ceremonies for Jesse Charpenter and Mary Charpenter AO  
 May 6 John Duffy and Catharina Mahley AO  
 May 18 Michael Forker and Rebecca Beckurth; wit. George Benneth and Ann Walpol AO  
 May 25 I supplied marriage ceremonies for Patrick and Ann Burns AO  
 June 1 Michael McCuniss? and Mary James AO  
 June 3 I supplied marriage ceremonies for William Turner and Elizabeth Mcgloklin AO

June 5 I supplied marriage ceremonies for Bernard Lee and Mary Rooney AO  
 July 15 I supplied marriage ceremonies for John Ryan and Mary Dwir; wit. John Brockier and Alex Dwir AO  
 July 27 James Cullen and Rosa Ann Hafer; wit. Patrick Hayes and Elizabeth Burk AO  
 Aug. 4 Michael Mulligan and Elizabeth Walpol; wit. John Grimes and Ann Smith AO  
 Aug. 11 Nicholas Sower and Christina Johnson; wit. James Coran and Elizabeth Little AO  
 Aug. 13 Joseph Pearl and Anna Niles [or Rily?]; wit. Leats? Morgan and Catharine Thompsen AO  
 Oct. 17 John Cahill and Mary West; wit. John Colmat and Mary Nola AO  
 Oct. 20 Michael Collins and Sally Mccroly; wit. John and Elizabeth Jareeth? AO  
 same day Hely Wise and Ann Messer; wit. John Messer and Mary Ann Borer AO  
 Oct. 21 Stephan Fagan and Alicia n. AO  
 Nov. 20 Bartholomew Mulligan and Ann Smith; wit. Bernard Mccabe and Mary Smith AO  
 Nov. 28 Henry Hafer and Margaret Freel; wit. Patrick Freel and Barnabas Freel AO  
 Dec. 2 James Lavin and Jane Mcdonahoe; wit. John Cassidi and Ann Masterson AO

#### 1842

Jan. 7 John Gosman and Susanna Pearl; wit. Barnabas Freel and Henry Hofer AO  
 Feb. 1 Charles W. Winer and Frances Gosman; wit. John Beker and Mary Porer AO  
 Mar. 31 John Longstreth and Mary Ann Paton; wit. Frances Geiger and Thomas Bradok AO  
 Apr. 8 Michael Torpy and Elizabeth Burk; wit. James Waters and William Kreekbaum AO  
 Apr. 22 I supplied marriage ceremonies for John and Bridget Bety AO  
 same day, I supplied marriage ceremonies for Joseph Cross and Mary Rachel Rogers AO  
 May 15 I supplied marriage ceremonies for

David and Mary Jane Flowers AO  
 same day Martin Sheets and Elizabeth Sower; wit. Joseph Pearl and Martin Walpol AO  
 May 17 Andrew Gosman and Catharina Swobe; wit. John Raman and n. Swobe AO  
 May 18 Thomas Skennan and Catharine Mcchunelly; wit. George Thompson and John Cassidy AO  
 May 15 I supplied marriage ceremonies for Andrew and Ann Mary Du AO  
 June 27 I supplied marriage ceremonies for William and Elizabeth Edwards AO  
 June 29 James Collins and Mary Robineth; with. Dennis and Elizabeth Swift AO  
 July 24 Peter Lee and Bridget Pheney; wit. M. Mcdonnel and George Thompson AO  
 same day Dennis Vernen and Helen English; wit. Mr. Mcdonnel and George Thompson AO  
 Dec. 27 Henry Deaver and Sarah Ann Pearl; wit. W. Goulding and John Pearl AO

#### 1843

Feb. 27 Daniel Onealy and Mary Mulligan; wit. Charles Daley and Joseph Pearl AO  
 Feb. 28 Peter Carroll and Anna Walpol; wit. James Carroll and Joseph Pearl AO  
 Apr. 21 Philip Klipstine and Emeline Reese; wit. George and Catharine Thompson AO

#### 1844

Feb. 18 James P. Longstreth and Elenore Pearl; wit. Tilmon Deaver and Joseph Pearl AO  
 June 19 Thomas Raynolds and Abigail Adelaide Clark; wit. Henry Reynolds and Marg. Onealy AO  
 Sep. 8 Michael Martin and Catharine Smith; wit. Joseph Hofer and n. Kusick AO

#### 1845

July 3 Edward Grogan and Julia Ch. Keenan; wit. George Hoy and Elizabeth Keenan T. O. Farrell  
 August 26 John Weiner and Abigail

Longstrith; wit. George Fouts and Phoebe  
Weiner TOF  
Dec. 15 James Hamilton and Mary Whitacre;  
wit. Peter Antony and Mary Hamilton TOF

**1846**

Jan. 27 James Martin and Ann Masterson; wit.  
Dennis S. Kelly and Mary Smith TOF  
Feb. 7 Pius J. Braddock and Frances Geiger;  
wit. William Conly and Elizabeth Gorden TOF

**1848**

Feb. 17 Mathew Walpole and Lydia Anderson;  
wit. Mathew McGovern and Catharine  
Walpole TOF  
Feb. 28 Robert Bennett and Mary O'Connor;  
wit. William McGunugle and Elizabeth  
Bennett. TOF  
Feb. 29 George Riffle and Anna Hoey; wit.  
Elenore Gordon TOF

**1849**

May 8 Patrick Haughran and Catharine  
Masterson; wit. [blank] Caughlin and Mary  
Kernan C. Daly  
Aug. 15 Michael Farrell and Ann Cuming; wit.  
Andrew and Rose Masterson CD

**1850**

Jan. 20 Daniel McCloskey and Bridget  
Rafferty; wit. James Rafferty and Mary  
McCloskey CD

**1853**

Oct. [blank] Richard Bennet and Elizabeth

McDanell [spelled McDonnell in a duplicate  
entry]; wit. John Cunningham and Elizabeth  
Toole James J. Magee [O.P.]  
Nov. 17 Terence O'Sullivan and Mary  
Donoghue; wit. John Devine and Mary Gately  
James Magee

**1854**

Jan. 1 Patrick Purcell and Elizabeth Grogan;  
wit. Mary Grogan and John Grogan JM  
Jan. 17 Patrick Brennan and Anna Patten  
? Philip Carroll and Margaret Cunningham  
JIM  
Apr. 7 Peter Coyle and Alice McCulon; wit.  
William Golden and Dennis Corrigan JM  
? Philip Carroll and Margaret Cunningham;  
wit. Elizabeth Cunningham and John  
Cunningham JM  
Feb. 19 Hugh Shirkey and Susanna Aischele?  
JM  
Jan. 20 Francis? Kronenbeater and Catharine  
Coyle; wit. Matilda Coyle J. Magee  
Feb. 20 Thomas Connor and Mary Rogan; wit.  
James Devine and Phoebe Connon JM

**1856**

Sept. 23 John Ward and Ann Skinneen; wit.  
Eugene Smith and Mary Catherine Skineen J.  
Monahan

**1857**

Feb. 9 Patrick Gormely and Mary Sweeny;  
wit. James McHugh and Mary Fagan J.  
Monahan

(Burials and Baptisms in future issues)