



# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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## The Catholic College of Columbus 1883-1887

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(Concluded, from Vol. XXI, No. 10)

### Third Academic Year

The college opened its third academic year considerably changed. It had a new president, a new site, and a new format: it was a day school only.

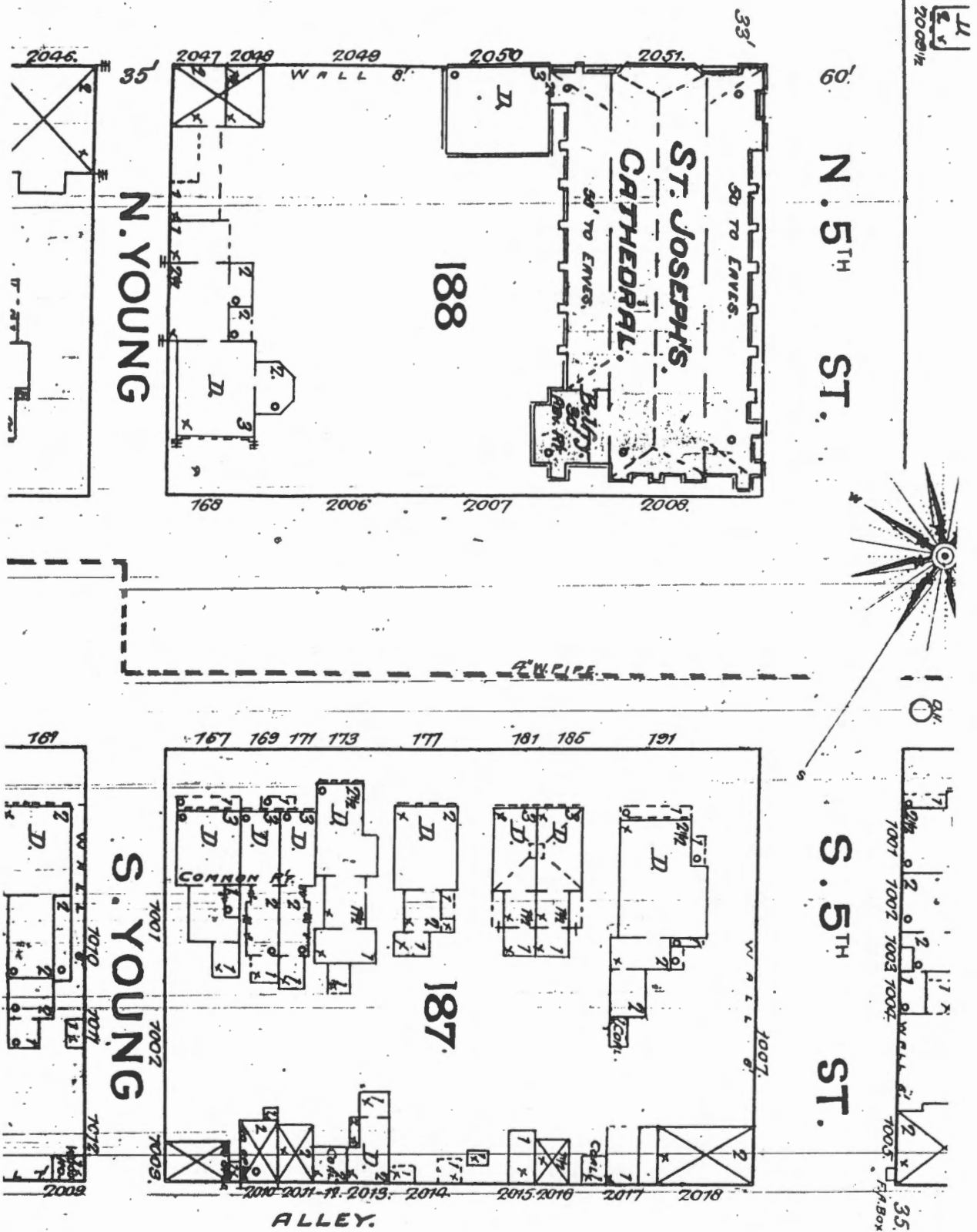
Since the Merkle property in Northwood had been lost, Bishop Watterson rented for the college the house at the southeast corner of Gay and Fifth Streets, just north of the Cathedral. This was the same house in which the Sacred Heart Academy had opened in 1874. The Bishop's continuing support for the college, in practical terms as well as in principle, is indicated by the receipt for the rent for this building. On the reverse is noted "This was paid in Cash from B's personal money." The price was \$100, apparently for one month, beginning about September 1, but was not paid until October 22.<sup>17</sup>

By October 1, a new, less expensive site had been found, a two-story brick house at 177 E. Broad, which stood across from the present statue of St. Joseph in the Cathedral courtyard. For this house the school paid \$45 per month to William Arnold. The school had moved there by October 24 and this building would house the school for the remainder of this and the 1886/87 school year.<sup>18</sup>

Although this house/school was not large, the "class-rooms are elegantly furnished and equipped with whatever can make life at school comfortable and pleasant. The play-grounds are sufficiently extensive to admit of a good deal of bodily exercise during recreation hours."<sup>19</sup> Not as much room was needed in this building as the former Medary mansion had provided, for the Cathedral could serve as chapel and the president could live at the Cathedral with the priests stationed there.

The new president of the college was newly ordained Rev. John B. Oeinck. Father Oeinck had no administrative experience but had been one of the professors at the college during its first year.

Oeinck had high hopes for support of college from the community. About the first of September he had five thousand circulars, copies of the school's prospectus, printed by the Columbian Printing Co. for distribution around the city.<sup>20</sup> Announcement of the school's reopening at the new location was made in the *Catholic Columbian* of August 29, 1885. "The Catholic College which last year was located at Northwood in North Columbus, has been moved into town, and will be opened on September 7, in a building in the Cathedral parish. It will be a day college and will give the pupils a thorough



The third building to house the Catholic College of Columbus was at 177 E. Broad Street, across from the Cathedral. The two-story, brick house is shown above, on a portion of Plate 11 of Sanborn's 1887 Insurance Map of Columbus, O. (Courtesy of Columbus Metropolitan Library)

classical and commercial education. It will be in charge of Father Oeinck, who will be assisted by a sufficient number of teachers. Further particulars concerning it will appear in this paper next week."

Support was not as great as expected, however, there being only twenty-two boys in attendance when classes opened.<sup>21</sup> On September 26, the *Catholic Columbian* noted in a half-lament, "If a few more parents would give their sons the advantage of a thorough education offered by the college, additional facilities would be procured and nothing be spared to make the Catholic College one of the glories of the Diocese of Columbus." Adding to his new woes, with the presidency Father Oeinck apparently inherited debts from the previous year. A Mr. Davis, of Green, Joyce & Co. sent Bishop Watterson a bill for \$52.32 on November 13, 1885, asking what to do about it; the goods had been purchased by the college, some as far back as August, 1883.<sup>22</sup> (Interestingly, two of the Joyce boys attended the school.)

#### Professors

Assistant professor at the college this year was P. W. Kennedy, from Lafayette, Indiana, who had 38 years of experience in the school room. He was teacher of the business sciences and an enthusiast for Christian education.<sup>23</sup>

Father Oeinck sought the assistance of other able professors. About November 2 of 1885 he ran a "Wanted" advertisement in the German Language newspaper *AMERIKA* of St. Louis.<sup>24</sup> This seems to have resulted in the arrival in Columbus of Professor John Henry Lagemann. The story of Professor Lagemann and his long, distinguished career at the Pontifical College Josephinum was told in the *Bulletin* of May, 1985. It is possible that Professor Lagemann arrived at the Columbus college earlier than this, for he left the Cincinnati area by 1883, or later,

for we do not have proof that he was at the college before 1887. In any case, it seems to have been the college that brought him to Columbus, so that he was available to come to the assistance of his old friend, Father Jessing, when the latter was overwhelmed by applicants to his new seminary in 1888. A receipt for \$163 for Lagemann's pay as professor at the college, now in the Archives of the Diocese of Columbus, is dated July 6, 1887.

As a method of increasing his and the school's income, and as a means of offering the opportunity of receiving an education to boys whose education had been neglected, in November of 1885 Professor Kennedy started a night school at the college. By December 26, fifteen boys were enrolled. Besides the rudimentary studies, composition, mathematics and book-keeping were taught on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings.<sup>25</sup>

The First Annual Commencement of the Catholic College took place in the City Hall on East State Street on Monday, June 28, 1886. The program included music throughout (provided by Prof. Eckhardt, Miss Maria Eckhardt, Miss Anna Tresselt, Miss Josephine Naughton, Mrs. W. J. Byrne, Miss A. Kronnenberger, Mr. John Wagner, Mr. A. A. Burkley and Mr. R. Eckhardt); examination of the Senior Class in Business Law; examination of the Senior Class in Bookkeeping; examination of the Senior and Junior classes in rapid calculation; examination of the junior class and preparatory department in principles of business success; an address by Bishop Watterson; and distribution of prizes. Every seat in the City Hall was occupied by the friends of the College, which, it was thought, promised to be one of the boasts of the Diocese. On the stage were the Rt. Rev. Bishop Watterson, Very Rev. Vicar General Specht, and Rev. Fathers Coll, Jessing, Rhode, Goldschmidt, Schlichter, DeCantillon, White, O'Reilly, and Kehoe, as well as Father Oeinck and Professor

Kennedy, "his able assistant." Bishop Watterson spoke at length, as quoted extensively in the first part of this article, and the general thinking was that though the College was a success, it could be made a greater success, its welfare depending on the Catholic fathers and mothers of Columbus and vicinity. The College ended the year with a surplus.<sup>26</sup> The account does not mention any graduates.

#### Fourth Year

The College kicked off its fourth year on August 28, 1886 with an advertisement in *The Catholic Columbian*. The College offered "Classical, Commercial, and Scientific education. No extra charge for English, German, French, Stenography, History, and the Physical Sciences. Arithmetic in business calculations." Tuition was \$15 per quarter, payable in advance. Classes opened on Monday, September 6 with hopes that over fifty boys would be in attendance. The *Columbian* once again berated those parents who would not send their sons there. There were a "number of Catholic boys in town whose parents could well afford to keep them from work and give them a thorough training. But, unfortunately, the children are crazy to escape the discipline and study of school life, and some fathers and mothers are avaricious of the couple of dollars a week the little fellows can earn in stores and shops. So they go out into the wicked, bustling world, with characters unformed, with principles undeveloped and with so little education that they can expect little beyond a life of rude toil or a subordinate position all their days. The college will get along without them."<sup>27</sup>

The teaching staff this year consisted again of Father Oeinck and Professors Kennedy and Lagemann, joined by John B. Keane and Eugene E. Scherrer. Kennedy and Father Oeinck had disagreements over salary and the night school this year. Kennedy tried to resign in November

and at Christmastime, but Oeinck was becoming ill and could not do without him on such short notice. (In January Father Oeinck was afflicted with a severely inflamed larynx and temporarily quit teaching.) He finally let Kennedy go on February 22, 1887.

To replace Professor Kennedy, Father Oeinck placed an advertisement in the *New York Freeman's Journal and Catholic Register* on March 5, 1887: "TEACHER WANTED at a Catholic High School, to teach bookkeeping and kindred branches. Must be a Catholic, and possess first class recommendations. For particulars, address TEACHER, care *Freeman's Journal Office*."<sup>28</sup> E. E. Scherrer responded and the contract for his services still exists. Dated March 7, 1887 between Rev. J. B. Oeinck, President of the Catholic College and Eugene E. Scherrer, it specified that Scherrer was to teach there until June 30, 1887 "and to exercise such vigilance over the students while on college premises, as will prevent any gross disorder or whatsoever may savor of profanity or immorality", for \$50 per month and lodging at the school, including light and fuel. The Columbus directory of 1887-1888 indicates that Scherrer did live at the school.

The night school reopened on November 22. In addition to working boys, "men of thirty and forty years of age and more and even such as are unable to read or write" were encouraged to attend, to learn how to conduct accounting and other business matters. The night school flourished, with the number of students increasing from week to week.<sup>29</sup>

#### End of the Fourth Year

The Catholic College closed this difficult year with great expectations for the future. Exercises were held on the evening of June 29, 1887. "The exercises were highly interesting. ...music ...exhibition of rapid calculation ...music

...Master F. Roney then favored the audience with an interesting lecture on the "Law of the Common Carrier;" and Joseph Howard with a defense of the Catholic thesis as to the Sacrament of Matrimony... music... series of lectures on the law of negotiable paper, by the members of the junior class...exposition of the Commercial Circular Exchange...President Oeinck then made some remarks, expressing his regret that owing to his illness preventing his ability to bestow upon the matter the proper attention, several medals would be withheld. He spoke encouragingly of the good work accomplished during the year, and the Bishop presented a book to each student. The Bishop mentioned his visit to that part of France where dwelt the 'Holy Man of Tours,' the author of the devotion to the Holy Face. His example was presented as a model worthy of imitation.

"There were no graduates, but it is contemplated that five will be sufficiently advanced to receive that degree in 1888. There have been forty-nine day students, and twenty-eight night scholars. The career of the College in 1887 has been, upon the whole, encouraging."<sup>30</sup>

No further notices of the college appeared in the pages of the *Columbian*. The issue of September 10 reported that Professor Scherrer had accepted a teaching position at the school at Sacred Heart Church in Emporia, Kansas, but no explanation of the College's unexpected demise ever appeared in the diocesan newspaper.

It would appear that the College closed because, quite suddenly, it had no building. The house on Broad Street had been rented monthly from William Arnold. On August 17, 1887 Arnold leased the house to Wesley Chapel for \$480 per year, from October 1, 1887 to Sept. 15, 1890.<sup>31</sup> Arnold was then about ninety years old and had been a member of the Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church since its beginnings in 1841. After a disastrous fire at its old location, the

church had built a new edifice at the northeast corner of Broad & Fourth, dedicated in July of 1885, the same summer that the college moved to the south side of Broad Street.<sup>32</sup> This lease of the house, if unexpected by the diocese, may have led to the premature demise of the college.

The Catholic boys of Columbus had no further opportunity for a secondary education under the auspices of their Church for five years, until in 1892 Sacred Heart parish opened a two-year, co-educational high school. In 1905 the boys transferred to the new St. Patrick's High School, which shortly became Aquinas High School.

One wonders, did the boys who had attended the college, as they matured, look back as fondly on their short time there as do the Aquinas graduates of today? Did they recall the eloquence of Father Magevney, the scientific precision of Professor Lagemann, the mathematical drills of Professor Kennedy? Did they remember sacraments in their Sacred Heart chapel and baseball in the fields behind the old Medary mansion? Did they remember, and live, the words of the Irish folk song that their young voices had sung in the spring of 1884?

Oft in the stilly night,  
     ere slumber's chains have bound me,  
 Fond mem'ry brings the light  
     of other days around me.  
 The smiles, the tears of boyhood's years,  
     the words of love then spoken,  
 The eyes that shone, now dimmed and gone,  
     the cheerful hearts now broken.

When I remember all the friends,  
     so linked together.  
 I've seen around me fall  
     like leaves in wint'ry weather,  
 I feel like one who treads alone  
     some banquet hall deserted  
 Whose lights are fled, whose garlands dead,  
     and all but he departed.



Thus, in the stilly night,  
ere slumber's chains have bound me,  
Sad mem'ry brings the light  
of other days around me.

The short history of the Catholic College of Columbus provides a new reference point that anchors a unique perspective of Catholic boys' secondary education in Columbus. The story of Aquinas High School has been told often from the perspective of the Dominican Order. That view begins with Father Fenwick and the college in Bornhem, Belgium, continues with St. Thomas College in Kentucky, St. Joseph College near Somerset, and then Aquinas College High School in Columbus, ending with the closing of the latter institution in 1965. St. Charles High School is seen as an offshoot from this path, born of a misunderstanding between Ordinary and Provincial.

The Catholic College, however, shifts the perspective to an equally valid diocesan point of view. Catholic secondary education for boys in Columbus was begun by Bishop Watterson in 1883. A second major initiative was undertaken by Bishop Hartley, who failed in an attempt to obtain the Basilian Fathers to staff a school but then succeeded in having Aquinas founded by the Dominicans. When, in Hartley's view, the latter veered off course in the 1920s, he founded St. Charles and kept it under diocesan control.

In this perspective, the "straight line" begins with Bishop Watterson and Father Magevney in 1883 and continues today with St. Charles Preparatory School.

#### NOTES

- 17) Archives, Diocese of Columbus
- 18) *Catholic Columbian*, Oct. 24, 1885. Monthly receipts, from Oct. 1, 1885 to June 4, 1886, Archives, Diocese of Columbus.
- Insurance Maps of Columbus, O., by Sanborn Map and Publishing Co., New York, 1887,

plate 11; courtesy of Columbus Metropolitan Library

- 19) *Catholic Columbian*, Oct. 24, 1885.
- 20) Bill, Archives, Diocese of Columbus
- 21) *Columbian*, Sept. 11, 1886
- 22) Receipt in Diocesan Archives
- 23) *Columbian*, Nov. 21, 1885
- 24) Bill, Archives, Diocese of Columbus, from the German Literary Society, publishers, 106 N. 3d St., St. Louis, for advertising "Wanted" requested Oct. 25; billed Nov. 2; paid, 25 cents, July 14, 1886. A search of the Sunday edition of this paper, assisted by Tony Lisska, did not turn up the ad.
- 25) *Catholic Columbian*, Dec. 26, 1885
- 26) *ibid.* June 26, 1886, p. 1; July 3, 1886
- 27) *ibid.* Sept. 11, 1886
- 28) Receipt, Archives, Diocese of Columbus; the ad was located by Tony Lisska.
- 29) *Catholic Columbian*, Nov. 20 and Dec. 11, 1886
- 30) *ibid.* July 2, 1887.
- 31) Franklin County Lease Record 6/490
- 32) Lee, Alfred, *History of the City of Columbus*, I/791 and 800



#### Additional Origins of Columbus German Catholics (Concluded, from Vol. XXI, No. 8)

Sauer, John, born September 6, 1848, son of Ignatz Sauer and Francisca Knot, from Setzelbach, Kr. Hünfeld, Kassel, Kur Hessen. Wife Catharina Doersam, born January 1, 1851, daughter of Joseph Doersam and Catharina Jaehrling, from Litzelribach. Married October 12, 1870 at Holy Cross church. (six children)

Schäfer, John, born July 17, 1846 in Ergenzingen, Rottenburg, Württemberg. (Remainder of information as given in the *Bulletin*, Vol. XVIII, page 232.)

Schillo, Anton, son of Nicholas Schillo, from St. Huberts-Hütte, Rheinprovinz. Wife Anna Maria Daniels, born Carling, Lothringen, born February 2, 1840. Married June 1, 1858 at St. Louis Church, Buffalo, N.Y. (eight children)

Schlächter, Aloys. In this record, his birthplace is changed from Stadtberge, which is crossed out, to Niedermarsberg, Kr. Brilon.

Schlitt, Heinrich. Wife Catharina Ims, born May 29, 1828 in Baierfeld, Rheinprovinz, of Francis Jacob Ims and Barbara Huber. (*Bulletin*, XVIII/233)

Schmieder, Richard, born January 11, 1861, Oberschwörstadt, Seckingen, Baden, son of Vincenz Schmieder and Carolina Baumgärtner. Wife Maria Burkhart, born March 2, 1861 in Tiffin, Ohio, daughter of Ambrose Burkhart and Elisabetha Biehl. (one son)

Schneider, Friedrich. His wife Maria Kaiser's mother was Elisabeth, daughter of John A. Luckhaupt of Columbus. (XVIII/233)

Scholl, Lorenz. His mother-in-law's maiden name was Stöber, not Höber. (XVIII/269)

Schwarz, Ludwig, born January 24, 1854, Eberbach, Seltz, Elsass, son of Lorenz Schwarz and Margaretha Walter. Wife Maria Loretta Schmelzer, born 1853, Lancaster, Ohio. Married September 26, 1878.

Schwind, Johannes, born March 29, 1847, son of Georg Anton Schwind and Barbara Stibig, from Hoerdt, Rheinpfalz. Wife Catharina Rohletter, widow of Caspar Kuhn, daughter of Peter Rohletter and Elisabetha Stibig from Hoerdt, Rheinpfalz. Married May 11, 1873 at Holy Cross. (seven Kuhn and two Schwind children) (For Kuhn see XVII/183.)

Seufert, Andreas, born March 11, 1833, Alt

Bessingen bei Würzburg, Baiern; died May 26, 1894. Wife Barbara Kaiser from Wülfershausen, born August 21, 1890. (eight children)

Stecher, Franz, born October 2, 1815, Renchen, Oberkirch, Baden, son of John Stecher and Catharina Oberfell. Wife Kunigunda Ziegelmeyer, born March 2, 1821, from Renchen, Baden, daughter of Tusson? Ziegelmeyer and Maria A. Heitzelmann. Married January, 1840. (nine children) (XVIII/270)

Steineke or Stoner, Joseph H. (See *Bulletin*, Vol. XVII, page 270), born in Columbus, son of Hermann Steineke and Anna M. Hagedorn, from Vinte, Neuenkirchen, Hannover. Wife Mathilde Rose, daughter of Bernard Rose and Catharina Foerster, from Aachen, Rheinprovinz. (The other book had Joseph from Vinte and no place of origin for the Rose family.) (XVIII/270)

Stephens, Wesly, non-Catholic, born July 1, 1851, son of Jacob Stephens and Maria, from Pennsylvania. Wife Maria, daughter of Andreas Reinhart, born in Columbus on September 24, 1851. Married in Columbus on October 24, 1871. (nine children)

Stettmeier, Michael, born February 19, 1843, son of Joseph Stettmeier and Francisca Meier, from Innistetten(?), Deckendorf, Niederbaiern. Wife Maria Stern, born January 2, 1852, daughter of Franz Stern and Maria Retzer, from Uckenhofen, Landgericht Deckendorf, Niederbaiern. Married in Innistetten, March 4, 1872.

Theado, Martin, son of Heinrich Theado of Columbus, born 1858. Wife Emma Adler, born April 25, 1858 in Chillicothe, daughter of Anton Adler and Johanna Märzluff, from Baden. (nine children)

Vogel, Anton, son of Andreas, born Batavia, New York, December 2, 1847. (XVIII/286)

Wagner, Felix. Wife Anna Sidonia Wagner died March 4, 1896. Felix and Anna were first cousins. (XVIII/286)

Watzek, Adalbert, born August 15, 1846 in Kosoluz, Kr. Pilsen, Boehmen, son of Vitus Watzek (July 11, 1826) and Theresia Anna Hruschka (April 13, 1827). Wife Josephina Wilbert, died May 5, 1875, (from?) near Koblenz, Rheinprovinz, daughter of Georg Wilbert and Maria Geil. Married at Holy Trinity Church, Pittsburgh, Pa. Married secondly Barbara Lippert, born September 29, 1850 in Pittsburgh, Pa., daughter of John Adam Lippert (Oct. 13, 1821, from Aschaffenburg, Baiern) and Emilia Ritzert (March 1, 1829, from Benzheim, Darmstadt, Hessen). (three children by Josephina and seven by Barbara)

Weiss, Andreas M., born June 28, 1851 in "Star" County, Ohio, son of Ludwig Weiss and Sara. Wife Catharina Ims, born October 17, 1855, daughter of Jacob Ims senior. Married October 25, 1877. (four children)

Werner, Adam, born August 14, 1840 in Gross Rinderfeld, Tauberbischofsheim, Baden, son of Jacob Werner and Catharina Hauck. (XVIII/292)

Wieser, Friederich John, born January 14, 1834, son of Peter John Wieser and Wilhelmina

Abshof, from Wipperfürth, Regl. Köln, Rheinprovinz. Wife Anna Cossain from Klipson, England. Married at Holy Trinity Church, Boston, August 16, 1869. (one adopted daughter) John Cossain, brother of Anna, born July, 1834.

Wilhelm, Martin, born February 17, 1844, Oppan, Rheinbaiern, son of John Wilhelm and Gertrude Winterkahn. Wife Catharina Neutzling, born August 1, 1846, Spohnheim, Preussen, daughter of Peter Neutzling and Susanna Kuss. Married October 26, 1868 in Pomeroy, Ohio. (one son)

Wingendorf, Henry. His mother's name was Eva Becker. (XVIII/293)

Winkler, Carl Freiderich, born July 9, 1851 in Columbus, non-Catholic, son of Christian Winkler and Anna. Wife Maria Gertrude Reil, born in Columbus, daughter of Ulrich Reil and Gertrude. Married at St. Mary's on June 22, 1876. (three children)

Woelfel, Abraham, born October 3, 1832, son of Cyriac Woelfel and Christina Lust. (XVIII/293)

Wolf, Francis X., born August 4, 1845 in New York City, son of Francis X. Wolf and Veronica. Wife Carolina Baltzle, born November 5, 1851 in Columbus, daughter of Michael Baltzle and Margaret Ebner from Elsass. Married October 19, 1871 at St. Mary's. (six children)

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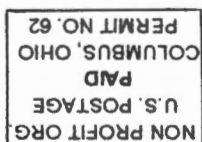
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