



Barquilla del Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society -
Diocese of Columbus

Volume XI, Number 4

April, 1986



Pictured in the above photograph is a classroom in the Saint Joseph Cathedral School. The fourth girl in the left row of girls is Society member Mrs. Elizabeth (McDonald) Schlegel, who owns the original of this photograph. The picture, taken about 1918, includes at least two of the middle grade levels. On the boys' side of the room is a statue of the Madonna and Child. A large statue on a pedestal in the rear appears to be of the Sacred Heart. Note that a pole holding pictures and three charts was strategically placed to block the boys' view out the window! The fifteen boys and twelve girls visible in the picture were a normal complement for each classroom in the school throughout its existence.

ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
1907-1958

The "Kelley Mansion." The name might conjure up an image of an Irish-Catholic famine immigrant who became wealthy in the pursuit of some commercial enterprise - a merchant or industrialist. Unfortunately, the image would be false. Alfred Kelley, the Columbus lawyer and legislator who built the Columbus landmark on East Broad opposite Sixth street was not known to be a Catholic. He was born in Connecticut in 1789 when the Church had scarcely any presence in New England. His father's name, Daniel Kelley, is obviously a step closer to the Emerald Isle; but it would probably require a thorough and erudite study of his life and works to catch some glimmer of a Catholic heritage passed down to Alfred. Mention of the old Kelley Mansion does bring to the minds of some a true image both Catholic and Irish, however, for the building served as the St. Joseph Cathedral School for fifty-one years, from 1907 until 1958, and in that period served to educate many children of Irish descent.

Mr. Kelley built his house between 1836 and 1838 in the Classic Revival style then popular; it was the first structure in Columbus having any pretension to architectural grandeur. He had made his fortune as an attorney and banker and then turned his talents to government service. From 1822 until 1834 he was one of the state's canal commissioners, supervising the design and construction of the canal which opened up Columbus to large-scale immigration, the canal which carried to Columbus the grandparents of many of the children who later went to school in his house. After his death the house passed to his widow and then to his son and in the 1890's served as the Governor's Mansion. Kelley's son mortgaged the property in 1904 and sold it in 1906. Bishop Hartley purchased the house and about one acre of land on June 25, 1907 from Robert Kyle for \$40,300 (and also assumed mortgages which originally had amounted to some \$24,000), a substantial commitment toward the Catholic education of the children of the Cathedral Parish. (1)

The attitude of the diocese toward its parochial schools in this era was set forth by the fourth Synod of the diocese, which was held in 1902:

All parents are required to send their children to the parochial schools, unless they truly and amply provide for their Christian education at home or in schools which have been approved as Catholic by the Bishop.

...The parish school, as a necessary adjunct to the Church, is to be sustained by all the parishioners...

The Synod traced this statute to the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore (held in 1884), No. 202:

As regards especially the laity, we exhort and command that they be instructed by the Bishops and priests, to accustom themselves to regard the parochial school as an essential part of the parish, without which, the future existence of the parish would be jeopardized.

...it is proven by very obvious arguments, that the fruits and blessings which are derived from the inculcating of faith and morals in schools redound to the welfare of the whole community. (2)



Catholic Times drawing of the Cathedral School, by Carl Weisgerber.

The "community" of the Cathedral Parish, under the leadership of its rector, Father M. M. Meara, included Catholics in the downtown area bounded on the west by the railroad west of Starling street and on the north and south by Spring and Town streets. East of St. Clair and Parsons avenues, it included those within a boundary described by Bryden road and Eighteenth, Oak, Winner, and Long streets. Those living within a boundary described by Bryden road and Eighteenth, Oak, and Winner streets, and those living south as far as Sycamore street who preferred an exclusively English-speaking parish, had the option of membership in the Cathedral Parish. (3)

The twelve-room house was remodelled to serve as a school in August 1907 but reportedly was changed very little in the conversion. In one or two cases, pairs of the original rooms were made into one by the removal of walls. (4) According to the diocesan newspaper of that time, "The building is splendidly fitted out, and from the point of sanitation, light, equipment, and every convenience and facility for the work of education is not excelled in the city. Father Meara is greatly pleased with the success of the school so far and finds rich reward for all his labors in the undertaking of establishing it, in the manner in which the people are showing their appreciation." (5) The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, with their convent a few blocks away at St. Joseph Academy, who had charge of the elementary schools at neighboring St. Patrick and Holy Cross parishes, accepted charge of the new school and gave it their loving care throughout its existence. Four classrooms were used for the 156 children in attendance for the first year, which began on September 9, 1907.

In the early 1910's, five classrooms were in use: three on the first floor, with a library, and two on the second, with a private area for the sisters. The first and second graders were all in one room. The remaining classes were divided into two rooms of boys and two of girls. Among the earliest teachers were Sister Raphael; Sister Celestine, who taught the older boys; Sister Marie Josephine who taught the older girls; Sister Mary Helen; Sister Pauline who taught a drawing class; and Sister Mary Eulalia who taught

sewing to the girls. The sisters' efforts were encouraged and seconded by the beloved pastor, Father M. M. Meara, and by Fathers Nevin and Norris. Daily morning Mass was the rule in October, May, and Lent.

In those days children of the officers at Fort Hayes (the Columbus Barracks) attended the Cathedral School, bringing with them experiences and learning exotic to the local children. Among these are remembered a Russian girl and an American girl born in China. (6)

The school never grew much beyond its original enrollment. By 1916 there were only 118 pupils and the next year one of the Sisters left and the school again occupied just four classrooms. From 1916 through 1938 the enrollment varied between about 100 and 125, but during the Second World War the numbers dropped to about seventy. In 1941, at the suggestion of Bishop Hartley, the Latin School for boys from throughout the city was opened in the Cathedral School. Under the direction of Father Roland Winel and the Sisters, twenty-four "promising boys" took up the study of Latin, along with their regular subjects, in preparation for entrance to St. Charles Seminary. Eighteen passed the examination in June 1942. This program lasted only three years; it was terminated in June 1944, soon after the death of Bishop Hartley. (7)

In the years following the Second World War, while the overall Catholic population of the City was growing and Catholic schools were adding rooms and teachers to keep pace, the population of the central city was declining. The total Catholic population of St. Joseph parish had remained remarkably stable through the years until the end of that war. Its annual census reported 1,877 in 1916, 1,800 in 1925, 1,900 in 1940, and still reported 1,800 in 1946. However, the number of children in this population was declining. In January 1946 the school had not grown above the seventy pupils reported in 1942 or 1943 and the decision was made to remove another Sister and reduce the number of classrooms to three. In the following years, the enrollment grew to an average of about eighty pupils but the Catholic population of the parish which supported the school declined steadily from 1,800 in 1946 to just 1,000 in 1958. (8)

In the first week of May 1958, Bishop Issenman announced the consolidation of the Cathedral and Holy Cross elementary schools. Superintendent of Schools Monsignor Bennett C. Applegate stated that the consolidation had been planned "for some time because of the small enrollment of both schools due to the redevelopment of the downtown area and the family population shift to the suburbs which has cut the student-age population in the area." The Sisters of Notre Dame also conducted the school at Holy Cross, which had recently been renovated and remodeled and would be used for the consolidated school. The combined enrollment of the two schools was just over 130 pupils. (9)

Based on its enrollment, about six hundred pupils were probably graduated from the Cathedral School in its fifty-one years. Among those who attended classes there for at least part of their education were the following priests: Rev. Thomas Sabrey, Rev. James Cox, S.J., Rev. Joseph Stanton, Rev. John Fulcher, Rev. James Berendt, Rev. Frank Stanton, and Rev. Clement Faistl. Several daughters of the parish first saw the rewards of the religious life in the teaching sisters and were encouraged to follow in their footsteps. Among these were Sisters Cecilia Josepha Burkley, Berchman of Mary Brockman, St. Ann Conroy, St. Helen Deibel, St. Joseph B. S. Greeley, Caroline S. H. Humphrey, and Louise Margaret Magruder, S.N.D.

The efforts of the parents, sisters, and priests, and indeed of the entire community, to present the doctrine and practice of the Christian life and Catholic Faith to the children of the Cathedral Parish, and in all of the parishes in the diocese, have propagated down the years; their effects are still felt today and will be felt as long as the branch which is this diocese is given life by the Vine.

NOTES

- (1) Franklin County Deed Record 454/193 and 455/524.
- (2) IV Synod of Columbus, pp 129-130.
- (3) Parish boundaries as established by Bishop Moeller on Jan. 29, 1903. (Archives, Diocese of Columbus)
- (4) Columbus Citizen, Aug. 17, 1932.
- (5) Catholic Columbian, Sept. 21, 1907.
- (6) Information in these two paragraphs supplied by Society member Marian Swickard, who attended the Cathedral School from 1911 to 1917.
- (7) Applegate, Rev. Msgr. C. Bennett, Stars Shining in Ohio 1803-1953 and Forever (1953), page 21.
- (8) Enrollment and population figures are from the annual census reports in the diocesan Archives.
- (9) The Columbus Register, May 9, 1958.



The classes of 1922 and 1923 at the Cathedral School, identified by Mrs. Elizabeth (McDonald) Schlegel and her sister, Mrs. Ann Highfield: first row, Grace Thompson, Agnes Dunnigan, Martha Herrick, Selma L. Frost (Fraas), Eleanor Hardy (Harding), Kathleen Durrington, Katherine Humphrey, Maria Cronin (Timmons), Mary Burns, Elizabeth McDonald, Esther Schwartz; second row, Edward Schoenborn, William McDonald, Paul Mincer, Ben Nye, Charles Patterson, James Durrington, Joe Hildreith; third row, Frank Casey, Joe Hickey, and Paul Murphy.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
NEAR SOMERSET, PERRY COUNTY
BURIAL REGISTER, 1815-1873

This interesting old register, maintained by this oldest parish in Ohio, begins with the record of the death in 1815 of Jacob Dittoe jr., son of the pioneer Catholic who donated the land for the parish. The register was not begun at that early date but appears to have been started about 1829 or 1830. Starting with Jacob Dittoe jr., the first page of the register continues in chronological order with twenty more burials, through April 1830. There follow ten additional notes dated from 1823 to 1829, completing page 1 and carrying over to page 2. Page 3 is blank. Page 4 begins with John Oharra in 1815 and continues in chronological order, repeating only one of the names in the first list. The data on deaths before about 1829 must have been collected by the priests from the families of the deceased -- perhaps as they sought to have Mass said for their deceased loved ones on the anniversaries of their departures. These dates are of death, whereas the dates written as they occurred are, for the most part, dates of burial. It is not clear just when the transition took place.

There are several large gaps in the register. There are only a few records for 1847, none for 1848, and two for 1849. A second volume of the register begins with 1850 and is continuous into August 1858, when there is a gap until January 1863. No records exist for 1864 or 1865. Only one record was made for 1871 and the register ends at 1873. In addition, many deaths or burials were simply not recorded. Some of this information is supplied by the tombstone inscriptions, recently presented in this Bulletin. Another person known to have been buried at St. Joseph was "the Frenchman DeArmand," whose unfortunate death in 1822 is described in the 1883 History of Fairfield and Perry Counties, on pages 28 and 29.

The register included, besides burials at St. Joseph, a few at other parishes under the care of the Dominicans, namely at St. Patrick in Jackson Township, Rehoboth St. Louis Bertrand, and one at Lancaster.

Thanks are due to Rev. Joseph F. Gilsenan, O.P., pastor of St. Joseph parish, for permission to publish this register.

		[page 1]		---	Rosanna McDonnald
				May 8	Francis McCristal
1815	Aug. 10	Jacob Dittoe @ 26	1827	Feb. 11	Charles Springer
1822	Feb. 28	Martin McLaughlin	1828	Aug. 26	David Brookhart
1823	Feb. 17	Edward Crossin		Aug. 31	Patrick Owen
	May 9	John Smith	1829	June 11	Maria Earley
	July 26	James Fink		Aug. 8	Sarah T. Cassily, @26
	Oct. 7	Elizabeth Spurk		Apr. 20	Philip Campbell 1830
1824	Sept. 2	William Jourdan			= age 60
	Oct.	Eleanor Jourdan		Oct. 22	John Campbell son of
1825	Apr. 8	John Cull			Ph. 1823 = age 19
	July 28	Sarah E. Dittoe		Sept. 30	Peter Campbell
1826	Jan. 30	Jacob Dittoe Sr.			1828 = age 19
	Feb. 25	Maria Murray		Sept. 6	James Kenedy
	May 15	Patrick Miscel			@ 33y 7m 20d.
	Sept. 4	John Bradley			

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Feb. 7	Edward Crossan		Sept. 4	Susanna McDermot
	[1823, per tombstone]		Nov. 18	Michael Forquer
Sept. 11	John Crossan	1831	Nov. 23	James O'Cain
	[1828 August, per tombstone]		Apr. 4	Rosanna Flanagan
1824 Mar. 10	Peter Burgoon		Feb. 9	Maria O'Neil
July 21	Joseph Sunpheiuis [??]		May 16	Elizabeth McGahan
June 11, 1829	Mary Early, @ 72		Aug. 4	John Largey
Sept. 1	Joseph Cull 31	1831	Jan. 22	Mary Flowers

[page 3 - blank]

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1815 May 28	John Ohara		Nov. 20	James Patridge 6 wks
1821 Jan. 1	Margaret McGahan	1832	Jan. 29	Bridget Doherty
	age 11m 2d.		Feb. 1	Bridget Sweny
Mar. 2	Margaret Largey		----	Henry McDermott
	4y 9m Od.		Apr. 2	Mary Campbell age 65
Nov. 12	Maria Campbell age 95		"1825"	John Cull age 35
1822 July 7	James Largey age 8m.		Apr. 18	Mary Dittoe
1823 Mar. 28	Mary McGonagle		July 7	Patrick Doherty
Aug. 3	Dominic Sterner		Sept. 18	James Kain age 18
Aug. 4	James Campbell		---- 27	Sara Ward, infant
Sept. 13	Philip McCloskey			10 days
1824 July 6	Susanna Welsh		Oct. 10	Son of Hugh Clark &
Dec. 24	John Hewit			Rosanna Clark (Rush Creek)
1825 May 10	Margaret Green			10 days old
Do 23	Thomas Welsh		-- Nov.	Charles McCarthy
Sept. 24	Philip Ward			19 years
Sept. 28	Rebecca Saunders		18 Nov.	Theresa daughter of
1826 May 26	Michael McGonagle			James (?) Cowl, 3 mos.
May 24	Elizabeth Kenny	1833	29 May	Maria Schut wife of
July 22	Hannah Carr			George Brondsteder age 40
Sept. 22	William Flowers		26 June	Mary Jane Costigan age
1827 Sept. 6	Catherine Largey			3y, daughter of Jacob
Oct. 12	Peter Caton			Costigan, Rehoboth St. Lewis
----	Hugh McGonagle		buried 14 Aug.	Mary Cody age 7 (73?)
1828 Apr. 3	Owen Martin			"near deep cut canal"
Apr. 13	Elizabeth Delong		26 Aug.	Thomas son of Henry
July 4	---- Fink			Starner 5 weeks
July 6	John Sterner		27 Aug.	Isabella MacCambridge

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1828 Aug. 13	Helen Delong		3 Sept.	Mary Rylly 3 years
1829 Aug. 22	Agnes McFielden		buried 6 Oct.	John Magher, born Co.
	[McFadden?]			Carlow, Ireland, 46 years,
Aug. 26	Henry Flowers			at St. Joseph cemetery
Oct. 18	James Welsh		buried 10 Oct.	Margaret McMullin,
Dec. 24	G. McFielden			age 9, at St. Joseph cemetery
[Gulielmus = William McFadden ?]			18 Nov.	James McGaragle (age
1830 Apr. 9	Catherine McFeldan			71 on last April 1)
	[McFadden ?]		27 Dec.	Mary Donnelly, age 68,
				St. Joseph cemetery

1834 17 Jan. Patrick Finigan, native of County Armagh, Ireland, 40 y.
 18 Feb. Catherine Dittoe

1835 died 3 Jan. buried 4 Jan., Maria Bernard born Gulla, age 22
 20-21 Jan. Mrs. McCune
 3-4 Feb. Rachel McManemy (Rogers) age 26
 --- Robert McDonnell

1836 Jan. 12 Mrs. Green, wife of Josue Green [died Jan. 11 per tombstone]
 Feb. 21 Mrs. MacKanally, wife of James MacKanally
 Feb. -- Own McCarty, age 70, buried at St. Joseph's
 Mar. 22 Michael McCarty, age 5, buried at St. Joseph's
 May 11 Buried in Lancaster, William Stork (?) age 3 y, son of Fran...
 Anton Stark (?) & Magdalena Stack (?) or Begbuiblim (?).
 Allemany

Dec. 3 James Scallion, age 57 (?)
 Dec. 5 [illegible, perhaps MacKeon], age 28

1837 (July?) 4 David Welsh
 July 11 Mrs. McLain, at St. Patrick
 Oct. 18 James Kintz

1838 Mar. 4 William Mitchel
 Apr. 13 Winifrid Green, 8 years
 May 7 Jefferson Fink. C.P. Montgomery
 June 18 infant named Hostlit (?)
 July 25 Thomas Cahannis, at St. Patrick
 Aug. 10 Eleonora Sanders
 Oct. 14 Mr. Breen C.P. Montgomery
 Dec. 29 Thomas Martin F.J.H. Clarkson

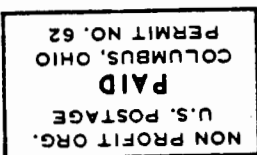
1839 Jan. 27 Infant John Kearny C.P. Montgomery
 Feb. 3 young son of Francis Friel F.J.H. Clarkson
 Feb. 8 Maria Slevin (McKuen)
 Feb. 22 Mrs. Mitchell, from Sunday Creek C.P. Montgomery
 Mar. 2 Elizabeth Kintz (infant)
 Apr. 14 William McNicholas
 Apr. 16 Mrs. M'Gangle
 June 9 Sara Dittoe, age 18, daughter of Michael and Barbara Dittoe
 N.D. Young

June 15 Rose daughter of Henry Mc[Anally?] and Anna Taggart.
 F.J.H. Clarkson

Sept. 7 ----- of Michael M'Fadgon [McFadden?]
 Oct. 25 Young son of Michael Cody. F.J.H. Clarkson
 Oct. 31 Mrs. Cody C.P. Montgomery
 Nov. 11 James O'Donnell C.C. Montgomery
 Nov. 11 Young son of Levi Burgoon C.C. Montgomery
 Nov. 28 Elizabeth wife of James Dean F.J.H. Clarkson
 Dec. 8 Helen Sheehan C.P. Montgomery

[to be continued]

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