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Rev. L. W. Mulhane
(1856-1925)

LAWRENCE W. MULHANE
HISTORIAN/MT. VERNON PASTOR/CATHOLIC COLUMBIAN COLUMNIST

Anthony J. Lisska
Denison University

An important member of the Diocesan clergy in the waning years of the Nineteenth Century and the beginning years of the Twentieth was Fr. Lawrence W. Mulhane. Mulhane was an exemplary pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Mt. Vernon for nearly forty years, a weekly syndicated columnist for The Catholic Columbian, and an important diocesan historian keenly interested in keeping track of the noteworthy events for the Diocese of Columbus. Mulhane's biography seems not to have appeared in print before.

A native of Berlin, Massachusetts, Lawrence Mulhane was born on February 21, 1856, the son of Dennis and Mary Mulhane, a young immigrant couple from Ireland. At an early age, he travelled to the Midwest with his parents who emigrated to Marietta, Ohio. Evidence suggests that young Lawrence was a precocious child who challenged his Marietta teachers often. Until the age of

twelve, Lawrence was a pupil in the Marietta schools. Then he entered Marietta Academy in preparation for admission into Marietta College. At fourteen, he matriculated into the college, at that time the youngest student ever admitted to Marietta College. He remained enrolled there for two years, completing the course for the Sophomore class. At fifteen, he received the second college prize for oratory, certainly a harbinger of what was to come in his quite productive public life.

Aspiring to the Roman Catholic priesthood, Lawrence journeyed to Columbus in September, 1872 where he enrolled in St. Aloysius Seminary. This quite new seminary, established by Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans in 1871, was located at Grubb and Shepherd Streets on the near west side of Columbus. Bishop Rosecrans himself had been a seminary faculty member in Cincinnati so he knew first hand the importance of rigorous academic preparation for future members of the clergy. Given the wide area of his diocese and also some misunderstanding with the seminary authorities in Cincinnati, Rosecrans decided to build and staff his own diocesan seminary in his see city of Columbus. The story of this embryonic institution for educating clerics has been told elsewhere. (1) One of the early students at St. Aloysius Seminary was young Lawrence Mulhane from Marietta. Another early student was James J. Hartley, the future successor of Rosecrans as Bishop of Columbus.

The Columbus seminary did not last very long. Financial obligations forced it to close in 1876, barely five years after its opening. The Columbus diocese was unusually hard-pressed financially. Mulhane did well academically at the fledgling seminary. He studied there for four years, pursuing work in philosophy for one year and theology for the remaining three. This academic institution was closed during his education preparing him for ordination. Rosecrans appears to have kept several of the students with him and educated them personally at the bishop's residence on East Broad Street in Columbus. Mulhane was one of these students who studied with Rosecrans until he was ready for ordination. During this time, he began writing for The Catholic Columbian.

In his autobiographical account found in his History of St. Vincent de Paul's Parish, Mulhane wrote the following:

In 1876, he became a member of Bishop Rosecrans' household, and began to prepare by private study for admission to the propaganda college, Rome. The death of the bishop changed his plans, and, not being yet of the required age for ordination, he remained at the cathedral until November 7th, 1879, when he was ordained by the late Archbishop Purcell, in St. Francis Church, Cincinnati, Ohio. (2)

Mulhane's first assignment given by the Administrator of the Diocese, Father Nicholas Gallagher, was to continue in residence at the Cathedral. From 1880 to 1885, he served as Secretary and Chancellor of the Diocese for the new Bishop of Columbus, John Ambrose Watterson. On October 1, 1885, Bishop Watterson assigned Mulhane to Mt. Vernon. Mulhane continued his work in the Mt. Vernon area for the next forty years until his death in 1925. It was during his residence at Mt. Vernon that Mulhane developed into both a recognized historian and as a nationally known columnist for The Catholic Columbian. Mulhane appears to have gained a degree of national recognition with his literary, historical and apologetical writings.

Mulhane as Historian

First we will consider Mulhane's work as a historian. Mulhane seems to have been interested in and attracted by the historical roots of the early Catholic communities in Knox County, whose roots ran rather deep in early Ohio. The earliest records of settlers to Knox County indicate that in 1809 a group of English Catholics emigrated from near Cumberland, Maryland. This hearty group settled near the present town of Danville, northeast of Mount Vernon. The original site was called "Sapp's Settlement," named after George Sapp, the pioneer leader. A congregation assembled and a church building was erected. The early Knox county Catholics were visited by the Dominican circuit riders from St. Joseph's Church near Somerset in Perry County. The Danville church was eventually put under the patronage of the Evangelist, St. Luke.

Successor of Jean-Baptiste Lamy

The first permanent resident pastor of St. Luke's in Danville was Jean-Baptiste Lamy, a figure who became justly famous in the latter part of the Nineteenth Century as the first Bishop--and later Archbishop--of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Lamy's first experience in carrying out the apostolic duties of the missionary came with his appointment in the rural environment of Danville. This environment Mulhane later was at great pains to document correctly for the historical record. Lamy is probably most famous for the role-model he played in Willa Cather's Death Comes for the Archbishop. Cather consciously modeled her fictional "Archbishop Latour" after Lamy.

Lamy was a veritable "bricks and mortar" missionary priest. In addition to the Danville church which he built in 1840, Lamy built churches in Mt. Vernon and Newark. In July, 1842, The Catholic Telegraph of Cincinnati announced "...that the church at Mt. Vernon is in course of erection, Rev. Mr. Lamy has charge." (3) The churches in Mount Vernon and Newark Lamy named after early modern French saints to whom he had special devotion--Vincent de Paul and Francis de Sales. A man of letters himself trained in the classic style of the second half of the Nineteenth Century, one could well imagine how satisfied Mulhane must have felt to be Lamy's successor associated with St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Mount Vernon.

In 1895, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary celebration of St. Vincent de Paul parish, Mulhane wrote and published a rather detailed historical account of his parish. He included a small piece on St. Luke's, which by then was closely associated with the larger parish in Mount Vernon. (4) Even a cursory perusal of this gem of a book indicates that Mulhane was a careful historian.

Mulhane was commissioned to write the history of the Diocese of Columbus for the Catholic Encyclopedia, (5) a monumental multi-volume undertaking which was published seriatim in separate volumes from 1908 until 1912. Mulhane's encyclopedia piece is a credible narrative of the origins of his central Ohio diocese. The late Monsignor Herman Mattingly noted that Mulhane, who "was known for his writing ability..." authored several accounts of the diocese for historical publications. (6) In addition, Mulhane wrote an historical account of General William S. Rosecrans.

Mount Vernon Preacher and Lecturer

Mulhane was a much sought after preacher and lecturer. Commenting on his oratorical skills, The Catholic Columbian noted the following:

Father Mulhane remained a student all his life and as a speaker he was logical, earnest, forceful and not unfrequently truly eloquent, his powers of oratory being of a very high order. (7)

In his History of St. Vincent De Paul's Parish, Mulhane published a ten year chronology (1885-1895) of principal events occurring in his parish. Mulhane's organizational work carrying out his many and varied activities is obvious from a reading of this informative chronology. For example, on April 30, 1889, Mulhane put together a celebration noting the centennial of the inauguration of George Washington as the first president. The celebration included a parade, a solemn High Mass of thanksgiving, a reading of "The Address of the Catholics to George Washington," and a lecture by Mulhane. The parade began at 8:30 in the morning and the celebration ended with Benediction at 7:30 in the evening.

In 1890, Mulhane participated in a public debate at the opera house in Mount Vernon. The topic debated with the rector of the Congregational Church, Rev. Syndey Strong, was entitled "Has the Parochial School a Proper Place in the United States?"

Mulhane often gave a series of lectures during Lent and Advent. The 1890 Lenten lectures considered the following topics, among others: "Law and Order," "Education," "Labor and Capital," and "Church and Country." The 1892 Advent lectures covered theological topics, "The Unity, Holiness, Catholicity, and Apostolicity of the Church." The 1894 Advent lectures were entitled: "Is there a God?", "Has Man a Soul?", "Belief and Unbelief," and "God and Christ."

Mount Vernon Citizen

Mulhane was a popular speaker well known in Mount Vernon. One example of his public spirited work was his February 20, 1893 public lecture before a large audience at the opera house entitled "Some Pages of American History." There was such a strong response to this lecture that Mulhane was asked to repeat it two weeks later.

Mulhane appears to have taken great pride in his adopted home of Mount Vernon. As a member of the Board of Trade, he worked with other members of the Board of Directors to bring new industry to the city. In the early part of the century, he wrote a daily column for the Mount Vernon Banner under the name of "Peri Philos."

A Columbian editorial at the time of his death referred to his "sound Americanism" and his ability to "...drive home truths on religion or patriotism." The editorial went on to suggest that Mulhane's "...advice and counsel were eagerly sought by the citizens of Mount Vernon in all civic undertakings. To them he gave unselfishly of his time and talents."

Mulhane probably shared some of the traits of Nicholas Dominic Young, the Dominican patriarch who spent much of his life undertaking apostolic work in

Ohio. Like Young, Mulhane appears to have blended nicely a firm and patriotic love of country with a firm commitment to Catholicism. Mulhane appears to have argued for a theoretical and practical reconciliation of his Americanism and his Roman Catholicism. Mount Vernon in the latter part of the Nineteenth Century held firmly to some of the tenets of an earlier Know-nothingism with its fierce attack on Roman Catholics. Given this environment, it is all the more significant that Mulhane emerged as a venerable and respected citizen of this far from Catholic city.

Catholic Total Abstinence Union of Ohio

Mulhane appears to have been a staunch supporter of the Total Abstinence Movement. In July, 1890, the Nineteenth Annual Convention of the Union was held in Mount Vernon. Mulhane celebrated a solemn high Mass for the delegates. Archbishop Elder from Cincinnati and Bishop Watterson were present. Both prelates addressed, Mulhane wrote, "...words of encouragement to the delegates and the large number present." The convention held its meetings in the opera house and appears to have been a success.

In 1895, a Father O'Brien, a priest from northern Ohio who was State President of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of Ohio, presented a lecture at the opera house in Mount Vernon.

For many years, Mulhane undertook a study of leprosy, especially the work of the Catholic Church on behalf of those persons afflicted with this dreaded disease. In 1886, he published a book on the disease. Over the years, he lobbied assiduously with his congressional representatives towards the goal of establishing a national home committed to the care of lepers. In January, 1900, Mulhane spent a month in Cuba investigating this then terrible disease.

Throughout his life, Mulhane worked to better both the spiritual and physical aspects of human persons.

(To be concluded)

LUKE BYRNE ON THE COLUMBUS CATHOLIC CEMETERY

After the death of Bishop Watterson, attorney Luke Byrne of Columbus sent a letter to Very Rev. Francis X. Specht, Administrator of the Diocese, detailing work he had carried out for the late Bishop, for which he had not yet received compensation. In this letter he presents some interesting history of the old Columbus Catholic Cemetery. The letter is dated Columbus, O., Sept. 27, 1899. (Courtesy of the Archives, Diocese of Columbus)

"Very soon after our dear Bishop was consecrated as such I was often called upon by him, not only for professional advice, but to do many acts and to perform many duties, as an attorney at law and notary public. Until the death of Hon. M. A. Daugherty, the Bishop, I believe, occasionally consulted him in some important matters, and I was called upon in most matters of lesser importance. After Mr. Daugherty's death I was consulted in all matters of a legal character and was recognized and spoken of by the Bishop himself, as his lawyer. Not long after Mr. Daugherty's death the Bishop came to me and

consulted me regarding the claim of the heirs of John Ury to the old graveyard property. He told me that he had consulted with Mr. Daugherty after carefully examining legal decisions and authorities, &c., decided that the property would revert to said Ury heirs as soon as it ceased to be used as a graveyard, and advised the Bishop that he could not succeed in Court against them and that deeds of conveyances be obtained from them. Such deeds were drawn up by Mr. Daugherty and presented to the several heirs by John Reinhard and others, as well as myself, all of whom refused to execute same unless paid large sums of money, which money the Bishop did not have. These deeds were taken as a confession on the part of the Bishop that the Ury heirs were really entitled to the property and they became bold and aggressive in the assertion of their claims therefor.

"The Bishop gave to me Mr. Daugherty's brief of references to the legal decisions and authorities, which had convinced Mr. Daugherty of the validity of the claims of the Ury heirs. Mr. Daugherty, as you know, was then regarded as one of the ablest lawyers in Ohio, and it was presumption on my part to question the correctness of his conclusions and judgment, but after diligent inquiry among the oldest Catholic inhabitants of this city, and much correspondence with John Ury's grantor, Samuel Brush, and others, as well as a thorough investigation into modern legal authorities, and decisions of Courts, I was fully satisfied that the Urys had no just claim whatever, and I prepared and filed a petition in the name of the Bishop as Trustee, on January 21, 1888, and from that time until Dec. 19, 1894, pushed and pressed the case in the Common Pleas Court, the Circuit Court and Supreme Court, to final judgment. I personally procured the deposition of Samuel Brush, by going to Canandagua, N.Y., where I found him, and also of several old citizens here and of Zanesville, and could have won the case on the facts which I thus obtained after loss of much time and expense, but our adversaries kept us on the law, and we won solely on the law.

"When this action was commenced the old graveyard property was estimated to be worth from \$50,000 to \$60,000. To-day it is or ought to be worth \$40,000. This Ury case occupied a great deal of my time for six years and gave the Bishop a great deal of anxiety as he feared ultimate defeat because of Mr. Daugherty's adverse opinion.

"The Bishop was naturally highly gratified at our success and he proclaimed from the pulpit in December of 1894, to the people the decision of the Courts, and he publicly expressed his thanks to his attorneys for their labor and said that notwithstanding all they had done for him he had been unable for want of means, to pay them a cent. He hoped at that time to have the dead removed from the graveyard during that winter and spring (and he made some effort to do so as you may know) and then to sell the land, and out of the proceeds, pay his attorneys, but that was not accomplished, because only a few removed their dead at his request, and so matters drifted along"...

ORIGINS OF GERMAN CATHOLICS OF COLUMBUS
FROM THE HOLY CROSS PARISH CENSUS
(Continued from Vol. XVIII, Number 9)

Stork, Martin, born 2 Jan., 1864 in Freiburg, Baden, son of Martin Stork and Anna M. Burgraf (Martin Sr. born 7 June, 1821, died 1886). Wife Rosa Leberer, born 24 Aug., 1859, daughter of Erasmus Leberer and Elisabetha Philipp. Married 12 Sept., 1888 at Kelly's Island, Ohio. (three children)

Strasser, Ludwig, born 13 Dec., 1843 in Aschbach, Weissenburg, Elsass, son of Ferdinand Strasser and Maria Fischer. Wife Maria Theresia Hauck, born 23 Feb., 1841 in Baden, daughter of Felix Hauck. (six children)

Strickfaden, Michael, born 19 Sept., 1810 in Walburgsweiler, Rastadt, Baden, son of Michael Strickfaden. Wife Elizabeth Utz, born 19 Nov., 1817 in Rust, Baden, daughter of John Utz and Christina Kessler. Married Nov., 1834 in Columbus. (twelve children)

Straub, Andreas, born 10 Dec., 1825 in Wulbach, Kissingen, Baiern, son of Joseph Straub and Eliz. Weissenseel; died 23 Nov., 1905. Wife Catherine Lautenklos, born 18 Aug., 1830 in Reisen, Landg. Firt, Hessen Darmstadt, daughter of Georg Adam Lautenklos and Eliz. Gilz. Married 8 Apr., 1850. (eight children)

Stutz, Sebastian, born 20 Jan., 1846 in Zimmen unter der Burg, Rothweil., Württemberg, son of John Stutz and Maria Statz. Wife Crescentia Mangold, born 8 Aug., 1848 in Oberriffingen, Nehresheim, Würtbg., daughter of Sebastian Mangold and Victoria Kogler. (five children)

Theado, Carl, born 1 Sept., 1848 in Niedermoschel. Wife (1) Maria Raeb, born 2 Dec., 1850, daughter of Jacob Reeb and Elizabeth. Wife (2) Elisabetha Fuhrmann (protestant). (four children)

Theado, Henry, born 18 May, 1820 in Niedermoschel, Rheinpfalz; died 21 Dec., 1888. Wife Catharina Hinterschitt, born 6 Aug., 1830 in Beierfeld, Rheinpfalz, daughter of Peter Hinterschitt and Wilhelmina Heckmann; died 28 Oct., 1898. Married 6 Oct., 1848. (ten children)

Tremmel, John Aloys, born 14 June, 1821 in Klebsau, Krautheim, Baden, son of Franz Tremmel and Maria Anna; died 30 Nov., 1903. Wife Catharina Magdalena Eichner, born 8 Feb., 1826 in Mittelschefflenz, Mosbach, Baden, daughter of John Eichner and Maria Agnes Fertig; died April? 28, 1904. (six children)

Trott, Benedict, born 19 Oct., 1801 in Rimmels, Hünfeld, Kurhessen, son of Johann Bartolomaeus Trott and Anna Catharina Kraus. Wife (1) Eulalia Gutberlet, born 7 Jan., 1806 in Morles, Hünfeld, Kurhessen, daughter of Peter Gutberlet and Eliz. Knoth; died 1843. Married in 1835. Wife (2) Maria Olding, born 1823, daughter of Hermann Olding of Neunkirchen in Fürstenau, Hannover, and Catharina. Married in 1850. (seven children)

Trott, Ignaz, born in Fulda, Kurhessen; died in 1852. Wife Petronilla Gßb, born 1 June, 1822 in Hofaschenbach, Hünfeld, Kurhessen; died 6 Oct., 1908. (She married secondly Mat. Lang.) (two children)

Trott, Timotheus, born 1805 in Rimmels, Kurhessen, son of Bartholomaeus Trott and Anna Catharina Kraus; died 1896. 77 Jackson St. Sister, Ernestina Trott, born 25 March, 1815.

Unverzagt, Gottlieb, born 19 Nov., 1827 in Kichlingsbergen, son of Lorenz Unverzagt and Magdalena Erlacher from Schtingen, Baden. Wife Maria Flesch, born 3 July 1839 in Chillicothe, daughter of John Baptist Flesch and Sophia Eichmann, from Hambach an der Hardt, Rheinpfalz. (seven children)

Ury, Jacob, born 25 Feb., 1831 near Tolei, Trier, Rheinpr., son of Peter Ury and Johanna; died 20 Oct., 1900. Wife Margaretha Edelman, born 14 Nov., 1831 in Baiern, died 27 Oct., 1907. Married 31 Aug., 1852. (five children) [For Peter Ury, see also Lucas Merkle and Jacob Schüringer.]

Ury, John, born 1831, died 1871. Wife Barbara Müller, born Oct., 1832, daughter of John Müller (born 1786) from Kesterholz, Canton Schlettstadt, Elsass, and Catharina Wernert. Married in 1849. (eight children)

Vanderburg, Joseph, born 29 June, 1859 in Geldern, Rheinprovinz, son of Franz Vanderburg and Anna Ross. Wife Katharina Rath, born 21 Nov., 1859 in Bachen, Rheinprovinz, daughter of John Rath and Sibylla Koch (Johann: Apr. 1824-2 Dec. 1893; Sibylla: May, 1826-9 May, 1880). Married 29 June, 1883. (eight children)

Veit, Sebastian, born 1821 in Stahlbert, Rheinpfalz; died 6 Dec., 1873. Wife Elizabeth Eisel, born 3 Feb., 1823, daughter of Nicolaus Eisel; died 30 Nov., 1898. Married at Holy Cross. (nine children)

Vogel, Andreas, born 1810 in Suflenheim, Selz, Elsass, son of Anton Vogel; died 29 Oct., 1860. Wife Barbara Schwarz, born June, 1816 in Eberbach, Elsass. Married in Buffalo, N.Y. (seven children)

Vogel, Anton [son of Andreas, above]. Wife Philomena Kürnbergel, born 28 June, 1850 in Deckendorf, Altbaiern, daughter of Johann Kürnbergel and Rosina Waldhauser. Married at St. Mary's. (four children)

Vogel, Joseph, born 25 Sept., 1846 in Buffalo, N.Y., son of Andreas Vogel and Barbara Schwartz, from Uelsenheim, Elsass. Wife Elisabetha Lutz, born 30 Sept., 1849 in Columbus, daughter of Henry Lotz (died 25 Jan., 1888) and Salome Steinmetz. (six children)

Voll, Joseph, born 15 Aug., 1817 in Wollbach, Würzburg, son of Michael Voll and Catharina Trimberger; died 14 June, 1901. Wife Christina Trapp, born 3 Oct., 1826 in Elders, Fulda, Kurhessen, daughter of Adam Trapp and Marianna. Married in 1846. (one son)

Vonarx, Joseph, born in Oenzingen, son of Christian Vonarx and Magdalena from Deidingen, Solothurn, Schweiz; died 25 Sept., 1847. Wife Elizabeth Mistele, born Sept., 1803, daughter of Johann Mistele and Elizabeth Müller, from Aeschig bei Solothurn. Married at Oenzingen. (three children)

Wagner, Felix, born 2 Aug., 1828 in Unterniedenberg, Brückenau, Ashaffenburg., son of Anna Sidonia Wagner; died 3 Apr., 1886. Wife Antonia Wagner, born at Unternidenberg, daughter of Anton Wagner and Margaretha Reidelbach; died Apr. 3 (or March 4?), 1897. Married 11 Feb. 1860 (or 1861?) in Columbus. (two children)

(To be concluded)

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197 E. Gay Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 Donald M. Schlegel, editor

