



# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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## THE EARLIEST CATHOLIC SETTLEMENTS IN OHIO A SURVEY (Concluded from Volume XIII, Number 6)

### 1812 - Mattingly Settlement

The pioneer Catholics of Mattingly Settlement in Muskingum Township, Muskingum County, were William Mattingly, a native of Allegany County, Maryland, and his wife Sarah, born Mathis. In the spring of 1811 this couple, with their horse, William's trusty rifle, and his "ever faithful dog, Schneider," set out on the old trail leading to Pittsburgh. With the assistance of some friendly Indians, they crossed the Ohio River at the present Bridgeport, Ohio, and then made their way west to Newcomerstown. They remained there for about a year before moving west to the Muskingum River and thence southwest to the present Mattingly Settlement. William, according to his grandson, Rev. Julius Mattingly, "was a devout Catholic, never missing Mass on Sundays, making the trip to Zanesville, ten miles distant, every Sunday," after the establishment of Holy Trinity parish there in the 1820's.

This couple were followed from Maryland by other Catholics of English descent: James Durbin and James Clark and their families by 1830 and their three nephews and two Durbins and a Majors family by 1840. The community was organized as a mission of St. John parish in Zanesville in 1834, when one of the Dominicans stationed there offered Mass at the house of William Mattingly. After that the Dominicans returned regularly, usually once a month.

By 1855 none of the houses in the vicinity was large enough to hold the entire community and a movement to erect a church was begun. A lot on a hill overlooking the western part of the Muskingum Valley was donated by John Mattingly. In August of 1856 Archbishop Purcell visited and offered Mass in the home of the now "aged and venerable" William Mattingly. Construction of the red brick church was then under way and it was under roof by November. It was blessed on November 14, 1861 by the Archbishop, and dedicated to God under the title of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mr. Mattingly did not live to see the dedication; he died on April 5, 1857 and his remains were the first to be interred in the new cemetery adjacent to the church. The other pioneer, his help-mate Mrs. Sarah Mattingly, had died some years earlier and had been buried in the cemetery in Zanesville.

As was said at the time of the dedication, "This Settlement is one in which the faith has been kept inviolate, with the aid of frequent and fervent

communion, devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and the reading of good books by young and old." It has never grown to the status of a parish.

(Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1856-1981, One Hundred Twenty-Five Years, by Rev. H. E. Mattingly, July 1981.)

#### 1812 - Canal Fulton Vicinity

As early as 1812, three or four Catholic families settled in the vicinity of Canal Fulton in Lawrence Township, Stark County. Among these was Matthew Patton, in whose cabin Father Fenwick offered Mass on his first visit to that neighborhood. In that same vicinity was an area known as Gallagher Settlement, of which Father Jurgens mentions "occasional rumors" and makes reference to an abandoned cemetery near Canal Fulton. These tombstones have been moved into a corner of Sts. Philip and James, the Catholic cemetery in Canal Fulton. The earliest ones are for Anthony Gallagher, died in 1818 at the age of 93 years, and his wife Frances, died in 1828 at the age of 105 years. The first Sts. Philip and James church was erected in 1831. Like the Catholic settlers at Louisville, those in Lawrence Township could be considered in a sense to be part of the Canton congregation in the early years. (Jurgens, page 89)

#### by 1815 - Walnut Creek

On August 6, 1815, Father Fenwick wrote a letter from Kentucky to the Dittoe family of near Somerset to tell them that he would be there for a short visit in September. He wrote, "You will continue to let them [the Danville Catholics] know that I am to be in your neighborhood for a week or so -- and also those on Walnut Creek." By Walnut Creek he undoubtedly meant either the present Little Walnut, on the borders of Fairfield and Licking Counties, or else the Walnut Creek in the eastern part of Ross County, which empties into the Scioto about ten miles below Chillicothe. No names of any Catholics in those areas are known to us now. (O'Daniel's life of Rev. Edward D. Fenwick, page 208.)

#### 1815 - Zanesville

Before 1815 there were no Roman Catholics in Zanesville. In that year arrived William C. Colerick, a printer, from Philadelphia, Pa. On March 17, 1817 arrived John S. Dugan with his wife and son, from Brownsville, Pa., who soon took possession of the Green Tree inn. He was followed that summer by his brother Peter. In February of 1818, the two Dugan brothers' widowed sister, Mrs. Harkins, arrived with her three sons and six daughters. "A meeting of the above mentioned Catholics was first held in a frame building on the north-west corner of Market and Fifth streets, the residence of James Culbertson. The second meeting was held in the 'Green Tree' tavern in the spring of 1819, and this meeting was the occasion of Father Young's first visit to Zanesville and he was most cordially welcomed. On subsequent visits Father Young held services at the home of Colonel Rodgers, a tailor, in Putnam. The latter was a brother-in-law to the Dugan brothers and came here from Butler, Butler county, Pa."

Later arrivals of Catholics included Patrick and John Lynch, Thomas Hughes, Patrick and John Curran, George Fortune, Peter Cassidy, Michael



Mulligan, Mrs. Durang, James Owens, Thomas Kelley, William McCaddon, and Edward Daugherty. Father Young visited Zanesville twice each year in those early days. By the spring of 1821 the warehouse which had been purchased for that purpose had been transformed into a church and when Father Young visited, "The dedication was then held and it was an event discussed and remembered for a long time." It was known as Trinity Church and also as the Brick Chapel. Rev. Stephen H. Montgomery, O.P. arrived in 1823 as the first resident pastor.

(From "Our First Catholic Church" by William Culbertson, published in Zanesville's Catholic Home Companion.)

by 1817 - Wooster

In a letter published in the U.S. Catholic Miscellany in 1827, Father Fenwick said that about ten years ago he made one of his journeys "from Kentucky" into Ohio and, hearing that there was a Catholic living in Wooster, he went one hundred miles out of his usual path to visit that city. He found one Catholic there, an Irishman, whose entire family was subsequently received into the Church. This man was Edward Gallagher, a native of County Donegal, Ireland, who had landed at New Castle, Delaware in 1802 or 1803 and was about forty years old when Father Fenwick found him. It has not been possible to learn the name of the wife of this pioneer, but it was probably she who was baptized by Father Fenwick on his missionary journey to Wooster and other parts of northern Ohio in May and June of 1819. (He mentions baptizing a Mrs. N. Gallagher; no Mrs. N. Gallagher is known at either the "Gallagher Settlement" in Stark County, mentioned above, nor at Beaver St. Dominic, to be described below.) According to his tombstone at St. Mary's cemetery, the pioneer Catholic of Wooster died June 23, 1853 at the age of 76 years.

Catholicity grew only very slowly in Wooster. The first church there, St. Mary's was erected in 1847 when there were only fifteen resident members. It was preceded by many years by the church at Doylestown in the same county and was closely followed by St. Michael's in Baughman Township and by the church at "French Settlement", which later was moved into Rittman.

(Jurgens, pages 87-88; Hynes' History of the Diocese of Cleveland, page 17; History of Wayne County, 1910, B. F. Bowen & Co., I/272-274; Wayne County, Ohio Burial Records by the Wayne Co. Historical Society, 1980; Wayne County, Ohio Abstracts of Naturalization Records, 1812-1903 by the same society.)

by 1817 - Columbiana County

The early history of the Church in Columbiana County, unfortunately, is very difficult to document from primary sources and most of the secondary sources disagree in details. Most accounts agree that the first Catholics in the area were Daniel McAlister and his wife Margaret, who had come from Ireland and settled in Hanover Township. The 1879 history of Columbiana County by Ensign & Co. gives their date of arrival as 1814; this history, however, while agreeing with other accounts as to the general flow of events, differs in detail to such an extent that this date cannot be accepted on its authority alone. It is generally accepted that Father Fenwick's first journey to Northern Ohio in 1817 included a stop in Hanover Township at the McAllisters' cabin and in 1819 Father Fenwick recorded a visit to New Lisbon,

now Lisbon, some ten miles east. In 1820, Fathers Fenwick and Young tried to have a church built in New Lisbon, but they received no support from the people there and shortly thereafter they turned to the country folk in the neighborhood of McAllister's. By 1820 the Catholics in that area included the families of P. Fitzpatrick, John and James Brennan, James McMullon, William and John Stewart, and Peter Tiernan. Their first church was named St. Paul's, from which the area became known as St. Paul Settlement. (It was succeeded by the church of St. Philip Neri in nearby Dungannon in 1849.) About the time this first church was dedicated, October 7, 1824, German Catholic families began to move into the vicinity, including those named Wiss, Meister, Hoffman, Gasser, and Walser. By 1834 the congregation had between 800 and 1,000 members and beginning in 1835 they were visited once a month by Father Conlan of Steubenville. This same priest became their first resident pastor in 1842.

(Jurgens, pages 85, 91, 191-2, and 197; March of the Eucharist, pp 33 and 35.)

by 1818 - Deavertown

The Catholics of Deavertown in York Township, Morgan County were immigrants from the eastern congregations of Rev. Demetrius A. Gallitzin, Rev. Nicholas Zocchi, Rev. Louis deBarth deWalbach, and Rev. John Dubois, according to a letter of Bishop Purcell written in 1834. That is, they were from the congregations of Loretto, Pennsylvania; Taneytown, Maryland and Carlisle, Pennsylvania; Conewago Chapel, Pennsylvania; and Frederick and Emmitsburg, Maryland. Among these early Catholics, some of whom were in the area by 1818, were Philip Longstreth, Bartholomew and Margaret Longstreth, Michael and Mary Gorge, Edward and Rachel Delong, and Burgoons, Beckwiths, O'Flins, Ryans, Musselmans, and many others.

About 1821 two acres of land in the Black Oak district in Section 24, north of Deavertown, was donated for a church by Philip Longstreth and there by 1823 the faithful had erected a church of hewn logs. By that time, there were more Catholics in the Deavertown congregation than at Lancaster, which counted twenty families. It was attended monthly by Rev. N. D. Young, O.P. and Rev. Thomas Martin, O.P., alternately. The original log church, which had been dedicated under the name of St. Barnabas, was destroyed by fire about 1838 and was replaced by a brick church in Deavertown which survived until 1870. The congregation began to decline when the area's economy was adversely changed by the arrival of railroads in the competing areas of Zanesville and Crooksville. The congregation never had a resident pastor.

(Bulletin, Vol. VII Nos. 5 and 6, May and June, 1981)

1818 - Beaver Township, Noble County

The present parish of St. Mary's, Temperanceville, in Belmont County, is the successor of the parish of Beaver St. Dominic, which was formed on Beaver Creek in Beaver Township, Guernsey County in the 1820's. (Beaver Township was included in Noble County upon its erection in 1852.) The first positively identified Catholic settlers there were Edmund and Lydia Gallagher and their children, who arrived from Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1818, and Hugh and Jane McConnaghy from Ireland, who are known to have been in the area by 1819. Another family, that of John and Sarah Delong, had been living at the forks of the creek since before the War of 1812 (in which Mr. Delong served as a

Colonel), but the Delongs were converts to the Faith and the date of their entrance to the Church is not known. The fourth family named as founders of St. Dominic's is that of John S. and Sarah Jefferis, who came from Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1815; whether they were Catholics then is not known.

The congregation is said to have been organized by Father Fenwick in 1819 and in the 1820's (the date is given in the histories as 1822 or 1824 or 1825) they built a church of "wrought wood" on the Gallagher property. By 1827 when Fathers Young and Mullon preached the Jubilee there, the congregation consisted of about forty families, nearly all converts. They received a pastor of their own, Rev. Martin Kundig, in 1832 or 1833. Since that time the parish, with its second church of "St. Mary's, Batesville," and the third and present one at Temperanceville, at some times has had a pastor and at others has been a mission of one of the nearby parishes, as it is now.

(A complete history of Beaver St. Dominic and Batesville St. Mary is being compiled for a future edition of the Bulletin.)

#### Conclusion

One conclusion which can be drawn from the data on the early settlements and parishes is that two elements had to be present for their success: both a member of the clergy and a receptive if not eager laity. The prime negative example with regard to the necessity of the clergy is Cincinnati, where two attempts at organization were made by the laity before the third and successful attempt was made with the encouragement of Bishop Flaget. Another example is the Delaware Indians at the Forks of the Muskingum, who were unable to retain the faith they had brought from the east. Other cases must have occurred, but no documentation exists for the unsuccessful attempts. Considering the necessity of a receptive laity, the examples of Gallipolis and Chillicothe are to the point. The settlers at Gallipolis were visited by priests on many occasions, besides the efforts of the resident priests Dom Didier in 1790 and Father LaFont from 1818 to 1820, but until the people responded, the efforts of these clergymen were fruitless. Chillicothe, as capital of the state, would have been a natural site for an early parish, but the attitude recorded by Bishop Flaget in 1812 doomed any attempt at organization for many years.

When research for this article began, it was hoped that a date of organization could be found for many of the early Catholic settlements in Ohio which developed into parishes. Particular attention was to be paid to the claim of Father Mulhane that St. Luke's parish, Danville, was the second parish organized in Ohio. Aside from the problem of definition of the organization of a parish, it is abundantly apparent from the above sketches that the data simply are not available to determine the merit of this claim. Certainly it can be said that, with the possible exceptions of Cincinnati and Lancaster, St. Luke's was the largest early congregation which built a church and has endured to the present. If visited and "organized" by Father Fenwick in the fall of 1816, it could have been the second congregation organized (the first being Somerset, organized by Bishop Flaget in 1812), but there is simply no evidence to confirm or disprove this. As one of the parish's former pastors has said, however, the important point is that all of the early parishes were built up and maintained to keep alive the one Faith handed down from the Apostles.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, SOMERSET, OHIO  
REGISTER OF BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES, 1827-1851  
(Continued from Vol. XIII, No. 5)

1831

- Jan. 23 John Bonner, son of John Bonner and Anna Bonner alias Carr;  
spons. Felix Cull and Mrs. Hynes. NDY
- Feb. 2 Martha Jane Benjamin, daughter of Samuel Benjamin and Delila;  
spons. Joseph Hereholster and wife. NDY
- page 9
- Aug. 25 Conditionally, James Carlile; spons. John Carr. C. D. Bowling
- Dec. 31 Anna Nugent, daughter of Patrick and Mary; spons. James and  
Catherine Coll. C. D. Bowling
- Feb. 12 Martha Jane Huthenson, daughter of David and Elizabeth  
Hutchenson; spons. Cath. Miller. NDY
- Mar. 22 R. Pillier (?) baptized Hanna Friel, daughter of Francis and  
Grace Friel; spons. John and Mary Sanders. [In hand of N. D. Young.]
- Mar. 29 John Huit, son of James and Frances Huit; spons. Adam Fink and  
Anna Jorden. NDY
- Apr. 21 Hugh Friel, son of James and Hanah Friel; spons. Michael Rohan  
and Isabela Friel. CDB
- Apr. 24 Marthy Ann Fink, daughter of Anthony and Mary Fink; spons. Adam  
Fink and Martha Spirk. CDB
- May 1 Charles Marshel, son of James and Sary Marshel; spons. Mary  
Scribler. CDB
- May 29 Emily Colman, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Coleman; spons.  
Margaret Thair (?). NDY
- June 12 William McDonald, son of Philip and Bridget McDonald; spons.  
James and Sara Johnston. CDB
- June 27 Conditionally, John Kelly, son of James and Elizabeth Kelly;  
spons. Edward Carvall and Mary Guth (?). CDB
- page 10
- July 7 Elinore Elder, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Elder; spons.  
James and Mary Elder. NDY
- July 15 John Roby, adult, son of Thomas and Sara Roby. NDY
- July 25 Jerome (? or John) Walker, son of Andrew and Mary Walker;  
spons. John and Elizabeth Fink. NDY
- July 25 Mary Teresa Jackson, daughter of John and Mary Jackson; spons.  
Anna Grate. CDB
- Aug. 31 William Rien, son of Roger Rien and Mary Rien; spons. Cornelius  
Crossing Senr. and Catharine Crossing. NDY
- Aug. 30 Margaret Rose Foster, daughter of William Foster; spons. Alice  
Dugan. NDY
- Sept. 1 Conditionally, John Scribner, son of Reason Scribner and Mary;  
spons. Patrick McDonnel. NDY
- Oct. 17 Henry McGowen son of Jessy and Mary McGowen; spons. Patrick and  
Elizabeth McDonald. CDB
- Oct. 23 William Andrew Muslman [Musselman], son of William and [blank]  
Muslman; spons. Felix and Mary Cull. NDY
- page 11
- Oct. 30 Mary Ryan, daughter of Clement Ryan and Juliana Ryan; spons.  
Phillip Kennedy and Rose Duffy. J. V. Bullock

Nov. 5 Teresa, daughter of George and Mary Miller; spons. Patrick McDonald and Elizabeth Hynes. J. V. Bullock  
Nov. 4 Mary Isabel Litzinger, daughter of John and Juliana Litzinger; spons. Abigail Litzinger. NDY  
Dec. 3 Susan McDonnel, daughter of Patrick and Elizabeth McDonnel; spons. John Fink and Elizabeth Fink. NDY

1832

Jan. 10 John (?) McCune, son of Michael and Anne McCune; spons. Arthur Tagert [Taggart]. NDY

Jan. 10 Michael James Boyle, son of Patrick and Anne Boyle; spons. Arthur Tagert. NDY

Jan. 11 James and Margaret McNalli, twins, children of Henry and Mary McNally; spons. for James, Mary McCham [McShane ?] and for Margaret, William Colopy. NDY

Jan. 12 Henry Wheeler, son of Ignatius and Mary Jane Wheeler; spons. Charles McKenny and Mary McKenny. NDY

Jan. 12 John McCune, son of Andrew and Elizabeth McCune; spons. Nelson Nadinbush and Angelina Nadinbush. NDY

Jan. 13, Hanna Edilina Grate, daughter of Vincent and Catharine Grate; spons. C. McKinney and Mary McKinney. NDY

[The Grate, Nadenbusch, and Wheeler families lived in Franklinton, Franklin County.]

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Jan. 24 Elizabeth Sutton, daughter of Joseph and Hanna Sutton; spons. Anna Clark. NDY

Jan. 30 Joseph Cockran, son of James and Mary Cochran; spons. Daniel Makinney. NDY

Feb. 2 Sarah Elenor Fink, daughter of John and Elizabeth Fink; spons. Adam Finck and Anna Gordon. NDY

Feb. 9 Eleanor, daughter of Joseph Hodge and Rachael Dittoe; spons. Adam Finck and Alice Finck. R. P. Miles

Feb. 13 Jane Slevin, adult, wife of James Slevin; spons. Margaret Slevin. NDY

Feb. 29 Conditionally, Catherine Snider, adult, wife of Joseph Snider; spons. Anna Redmond. NDY

--- 25 Conditionally, Michael Gainer, son of Philip and Anna Gainer; spons. James Coll and Mary Cull. C. D. Bowling

--- 25 Samuel, son of John and Elizabeth Seres; spons. John and Sary McFee. CDB

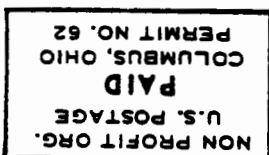
Apr. 1 Louis Philip Chinot, son of Joseph Chinot and Mary Chinot; spons. Francis and Elizabeth Chinot. NDY

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Apr. 1 Edward Kirnin, son of Edward Kirnin and Catherine Kirnin; spons. John and Rose Collins. NDY

(To be continued)

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