



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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THE ANTE-POTATO FAMINE IRISH-CATHOLICS OF COLUMBUS

by Donald M. Schlegel

(Continued, from Vol. XVIII, No. 1)

Locations in Columbus

At their first settlement, the Irish Catholics scattered throughout the city in no apparent pattern. By the time of the 1850 census, we find families headed by one or both Irish-born parents fairly evenly distributed throughout that portion of the city lying north of Rich Street, with just a slightly higher proportion in the northern part of the city.

Ward	Location	Population		Families		
		Total	Irish -born	Total	Irish parentage	% Irish
1	north of Gay	2994	291	576	62	11
2	Gay to State	2719	244	449	41	9
3	State to Rich	3114	189	501	40	8
4	Rich to Mound	4128	159	653	33	5
5	south of Mound	3794	21	729	8	1

(Figures exclude state and county institutions.)

The 1850 census and city directory allow the residences of the known Irish Catholics of the city to be determined with some accuracy for that year. From analysis of these sources, it appears that, although the Irish Catholics were generally scattered, there were also in the city three small concentrations of them (enclaves would be too strong a word). These were, (a) near Spring & Third, James Sheridan, James Handiboe, James Hughes, and James McGuire; (b) on Water St. (now Marconi) between Long & Spring, Margaret Burns, William Mahoney, Owen Donan, Peter Donahoe, and John Early (probably others of the Irish living there were also Catholics); (c) Gay Street between High & Third, Michael Moran, John Larkin, Frank Sheridan, and Thomas Callaghan (likewise, probably others of the Irish living there were Catholics). This provides only a slight indication of any cohesion among the Irish Catholics. However, if we look more closely at our ante-potato famine group, more of a pattern appears.



1500 Years

Of those who were here in the 1830s, we know only that John McCarthy lived on the south side, on Friend Street between High and Third, and Michael Stafford lived on the north side, on North Public Lane between High and Third. By 1840 we find Peter Collins in the south ward and Jane Russell on East Main Street; Timothy Sullivan in the north ward; and Andrew Kelly, Michael McDonald, and Patrick Rogers in or near Franklinton (west side). The 1843 directory shows Peter Collins, John Duffy, and Terence McGuire all no farther north than Rich Street. In 1845 James Berry, Margaret Burns, Peter Collins, John Duffy, Terence McGuire, John McNamee, Michael Malone, John Riley, and Jane Russell all lived no farther north than Town Street; Dennis Corcoran was the only one on the north side, at the corner of Hickory and Fourth. By 1848, the situation was changing: Terence McGuire had moved north to High between Gay and Long, James Handiboe was on Third near Spring, and Bernard McNally was on Long between Fourth and Fifth. By 1850, James Berry had moved to High between Long and Spring, Mrs. Burns was on Water Street north of Long, Michael McDonald had moved from Franklinton to the north ward of the city, and Michael Malone had moved north to Fifth Street between Broad and Gay. (9) These changes of residence, from the south to the north part of the city, are our first indication of any cohesion on the part of the Irish Catholics. They show that the Irish Catholics were beginning to form a community identity of their own, a precursor of the development of St. Patrick Parish.

Some few of the Irish Catholics remained in the south part of the city. The Russells stayed in their home on Town Street. They seem to have remembered their Anglo-Irish heritage and remained aloof from the other Irish; in fact, they did not become members of St. Patrick but remained members of Holy Cross parish. John Riley stayed near his work at the chandlery of Irish-born John Funston, whose establishment was near Livingston and High. Peter Collins also stayed on the south side.

Status in Society

The occupations and ownership of real estate give us some idea of the social standing of the early Irish Catholics. Most of them were listed in the various directories and censuses as laborers. That term, however, could mean more than a common day laborer. The McGuires were what today would be called contractors. Barney McNally was usually listed as a laborer, but during the Civil War he was city street commissioner; by 1860 he owned real estate valued at \$4,000. Peter Collins, another "laborer", owned lots near Mound and Parsons by 1849. Mrs. Burns owned the small site on Bank Alley where her laundry establishment was located, a rare instance of ownership for a widow with such an occupation.

Among the group were a few more skilled laborers, such as the tailor John McNamee, who purchased a house in 1850; the Russells, dress makers, who purchased their house in 1844; John Burns, cook at the Neil House; and blacksmith Thomas Cassady, who purchased a house in 1856. Still more independent were farmer James O'Farrell, who owned 25 acres in Clinton Twp as early as the 1830s; grocer Michael Stafford who purchased a lot on North Public Lane in 1835; and shop keeper William O'Driscoll. Only two are known to have lived solely by their intellect, editor John Duffy and canal engineer John McCarthy, who lived in Columbus but owned 195 acres near Shadeville.

All in all, this group was of higher standing than might have been expected, given the general poverty of the Irish immigrant. Our general perception of the poverty of Irish immigrants may be too influenced by the immigrants of the famine years.

Relations with the Germans

On the surface, the historical record seems to indicate problems and disagreements between the early Irish Catholics of Columbus and the only other substantial ethnic group of co-religionists, the Germans. Father Borgess at Holy Cross complained to Bishop Purcell about the Irish priest's using his and others' houses instead of Holy Cross for services, when St. Patrick's was not yet built; his use of a base-metal box for a ciborium; his claim over all English-speaking Catholics, even those of German parentage; his absence and the need for the German priest to give last rites to Irish, but the Irish priest's objections to that; and reports that the Irish priest was seen drunk on the railroad. The disagreements extended even to the graveyard, where the German priest claimed that the Irish had sold a lot in the German half of the cemetery. (10) One other item is in the back of the Holy Cross subscription book. There, apparently, the names of the Irish contributors to Holy Cross had been listed, in order to determine how much Holy Cross should contribute to the new St. Patrick parish. Included in the list was Peter Derrick, who was a German. When his nationality was realized, someone wrote next to his name "rotten German", giving away his bias. (An alternate interpretation might be "rather German" but this is less likely.) All of these problems, however, can be interpreted as not necessarily inter-ethnic-group but inter-personal, since all of them hinge on the personalities of the two pastors involved.

Other, more positive views, can be found. Father John Brummer, a German priest, worked among the Irish of Doherty's Settlement and the Irish laborers who built the railroad from Cambridge to Marietta in the 1850s. He too did not like the Irish, at first, but he quickly came to see that, though they were very poor, they would share all they had with each other and with him. (11) William Lecky, the historian of eighteenth-century Ireland, has something to say about the Irish and the rest of Europe, relative to the poverty and generosity noted by Father Brummer. Crushed by the penal code, the Irish Catholics developed noted qualities under the "discipline of sorrow. ...Under the influence of the religious spirit which was now pervading the nation, a great moral revolution was silently effected. A standard of domestic virtue, a delicacy of female honour, was gradually formed among the Irish poor higher than any other part of the Empire, and unsurpassed, if not unequalled, in Europe. The extension of poverty and mendicancy had produced among them rare and touching spirit of charity, a readiness to share with one another the last crust and the last potato." (12)

Father Gallitzin disliked some facets of both immigrant nationalities: "Generally speaking, you cannot do much with the old rascals coming from senile Europe. If you can manage to keep them in the faith and patiently abide the time when the young native Germans and Irish will intermarry, you are the master of the situation; for then a new Catholic nation has come into existence that does not give offense at every turn and is not wed to secondary issues...but is competent to support, and to harmonized with each other, Catholicism and the American Constitution, without over-straining the one and

neglecting the other." (13) The inter-marriage that Father Gallitzin looked for, and the forming of the new nation, occurred rapidly and earlier elsewhere, such as at Somerset, where the mixing of the European nationalities took place as early as the 1820s. This did not happen so soon in Columbus. This I think was not due so much to antipathy between the nationalities, but because the numbers of each group here (the Irish after the potato famine) allowed them to form their own communities without much need for the support of co-religionists of other nationalities. And this separation was encouraged by the formation of German and English-speaking parishes by the Bishop.

Marriages between the nationalities in Columbus numbered only two in the first generation of our study group. Margaret Turney and her brother Bernard had both come to Ohio from Ireland as children. In 1848 she married the English/French/ American John D. Clarke and in 1854 he married Theresa Gross. In the next generation we find the marriages of Thomas Cassady to Phebe Peffers in 1865, Jane Handiboe to John Heinmiller in 1868, Kate Collins to Fritchey Lee Myers in 1870, Lucy Collins to Michael E. Earnest in 1870, and John McNamee to Annie Leibold in 1884. In a surprising early working relationship, Frank, son of James McGuire, lived and worked at the Washington brewery on Fulton St. in 1866, while its proprietor was a German Catholic, Erhard Stoker. (14)

(To be continued)

NOTES

- 9) Sources of information regarding the individuals and families will be given with the summary of each family, in the later part of this series.
- 10) See "The Rocks on Which He Split", Bulletin, Vol. XIII, No. 3 (March, 1988).
- 11) Rev. J. W. Brummer to Purcell, November, 1852 and January 21, 1854, University of Notre Dame Archives, quoted in the Bulletin, Vol. XIV, No. 6 (June, 1989).
- 12) Lecky, op. cit., p. 315.
- 13) Lemcke, op. cit., p. 223.
- 14) For Stoker, see Donald M. Schlegel, Lager and Liberty: German Brewers of Nineteenth Century Columbus (Columbus, 1982), pp. 33-36.

CHRONICLE OF EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS FOR 1992

UNIVERSAL CHURCH

June 13 The Sacred Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and for Societies of Apostolic Life established the Council of Major Religious Superiors of Women in the United States, the second such organization for the U.S., comprising eighty-four religious congregations.

June 25 Pope John Paul II gave final approval to the new universal catechism, the Catechism of the Catholic Church to which "no one should feel a stranger, excluded, or distant." It was officially presented to the cardinals, heads of the Curia, et alia, on December 7.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

Sept. 24 Thirty-four priests of the diocese were raised to the honorary title of papal chamberlain or domestic prelate by Pope John Paul II.

Dec. 6 Twenty-two lay members of the diocese received the papal medal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, among many other awards distributed at the time.

PARISHES

June 6 Bishop Griffin offered the last Mass in Shawnee St. Mary church.

Sept. 13 The new St. Elizabeth Ann Seton church in Pickerington was dedicated.

Nov. 22 The cornerstone for the new St. Cecilia church and parish center, Galloway, was blessed by Bishop Griffin.

INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

July Construction was begun on the combined chapel and first mausoleum at the new Holy Cross Cemetery, east of Columbus.

PERSONNEL AND VOCATIONS

Dec. 25, 1991 Sister Loretta Craggs, O.S.F., of Joliet, Illinois, a native of Columbus, died at the age of 72 years.

Jan. 25 Rev. Peter N. Kurguz, O.P., died in Ontario, California, at the age of 62; he was from Columbus.

Feb. 15 At St. Joseph Cathedral Bishop Griffin ordained as permanent deacons, Thomas Barford of Westerville St. Paul, John Crerand and (Albert) John Vellani of Worthington St. Michael, John L. DuPrey of Powell St. Joan of Arc, and Jack W. Elam of Newark Blessed Sacrament.

Feb. 16 Sr. Benita Maria Hohman, O.S.F., died at Holy Family Convent, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, at the age of 89 years. She was a native of Caldwell.

Feb. 19 Sr. M. Kathleen Fleige, O.S.F., aged 90 years, died at Joliet, Illinois. A native of Germany, she had been raised in Columbus.

March 31 Sr. Dominica Stewart, member of the National Black Sisters Conference, died at the age of 65 in Columbus. She had professed her religious vows in 1983 under the guidance of the late Bishop Fulcher.

April 4 Diocesan seminarian Jerome D. Schmelzer of Bremen St. Mary parish was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Samuel G. Jacobs of Alexandria, La., at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

May 6 Died at St. Mary of the Springs: Sr. Corona Bordenkircher, aged 95 years, a native of West Lafayette, Ohio.

June 6 At St. Joseph Cathedral, Bishop Griffin ordained to the priesthood Revs. Rodney M. Damico of Delaware St. Mary parish and Robert E. Willmann Jr. of Newark St. Francis parish.

June 17 Amelia Martinez died in Katy, Texas at the age of 43 years. She had been a Sister of Perpetual Adoration at the defunct Monastery of Our Lady, Columbus.

June 19 Sr. Anna Elfrink, O.S.F. (Stella Niagara), died at the age of 79 years.

July 11 Brother Joseph Cecil, O.F.M.Cap., made his first vows at St. Augustine Church, Lawrenceville, Pittsburgh; he is from St. Joseph Parish, Dover.

July 14 Retired: Rev. Joseph F. Jerabeck, pastor of St. Joseph parish, Sugar Grove; Rev. Robert T. Manning, associate pastor of Sacred Heart in New Philadelphia and St. Elizabeth, Roswell; and Rev. Kenneth F. Wise, pastor of St. Aloysius in Strasburg and St. Stephen, Bolivar.

Aug. 15 Brother David Crank, O.F.M., native of Columbus, professed solemn vows at Kolbe House, Houston, Texas.

Aug. 17 Rev. Michael Wellnitz, retired priest of the diocese, died in Cleveland at the age of 77 years.

Oct. 3 Sr. Theresa Schneider, O.S.F, Stella Niagara, professed final vows at St. Leo church in Columbus, her home parish.

Oct. 14 Sr. Mary Helen Brown, O.P. of St. Mary of the Springs, died at the age of 77 years. She had entered the congregation from Lancaster St. Mary parish.

Dec. 12 Diocesan seminarian Richard C. Weyls of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral parish was ordained a deacon by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, Ill.

Dec. 25 Rev. Francis J. Kappes, Columbus native, retired priest of the diocese of Denver, died in Columbus at the age of 79 years.

Dec. 31 Sister Margaret Genevieve Mulligan, S.N.D.N. died in Cincinnati, aged 92 years. Sister was from Columbus.

CHILLICOTHE ST. MARY'S CHURCH
BAPTISMAL REGISTER, 1835-1846
(Continued from Vol. XVII, No. 12)

1840, continued

[The following three entries, dated November 16, have been crossed out.]

Nov. 16 John, born Sept. 10, son of Sebastian Roth and Magdalena Lucker; spons. Michael Brentle and Rosa Zimmermann.

Nov. 16 Lucia, born Oct. 28, daughter of Lu---- Keller and Eva Sauter; spons. Celestine Herrmann and Gertrude Hemmerle.

Nov. 16 Anna Catherine, born Nov. 7, daughter of Fridolin Bährmann and Elizabeth Meyer; spons. Martin Leising and Mary Eiselle.

Nov. 29 Mary Ann, daughter of Roman Gerber and Rosina his wife, born 8 Sept. in High Street, Chillicothe; spons. Anton Kreutz and Sophia Santo.
Edward Purcell

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Nov. 7 In this St. Mary's parish church, Jacob, son of John(?) Kapler(?) and Catherine Sachsen; spons. James Sachs and Elizabeth Jacob.

same day Leo, one(?) week old, son of Handeline [?Wendelin] Hedeck and Maria Tisch; spons. Handeline Keller and Amalia Schwerer(?). J. M. Henni

Nov. 29 Theodor(?), born Nov. 9, son of Simon Hadnagle and Maria Luttrell (or Suttrel?); spons. Carl Bogenschotte and Madalina Bogenschotte. E. Purcell

same day Martin, born October 9, son of Peter Smith [Schmitt at Sept. 17, 1839] and Dorothea Dorster(?) [Doschler at same]; spons. Martin Rubel and Elisa Meyer. EP

same day Theresa, born August 10, daughter of Bargny Hanlis and Mary Fredman; spons. Martin Brendle and Ursula Hauks. EP

same day Henry, born November 7, son of Michael Wiese and Elizabeth Engelhart; spons. Henry Liewerdink. EP

same day Joseph, born 27 November, son of Andrew Harman and Elizabeth Meyer; spons. Jerry Bloum [?Braun] and Frances Reily. EP
same day Thomas, son of Rojer Cull and Martha Hamilton; spons. Edward Carvill and Susan Small. EP

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[The next several pages of baptisms were performed and recorded by Rev. Amadeus Rappe, who in 1847 became the first Bishop of Cleveland. His writing is difficult in places, but not nearly as difficult as that of Rev. N. D. Young, O.P., with which we struggled in the Somerset records. Father Rappe, however, seems not to have known how to spell many of the names of the Chillicothe St. Mary's families, and seems not to have asked!]

Nov. 29 Edward, born Sept. 21, son of Patrick Haden and Ellen Delahunt; spons. John Liemm(?) and Elizabeth Rigny. A. Rappe
same day Andrew, son of Andrew Baehr and Magdalena Pettermann; spons. Xavier Lenng [?Long] and Elizabeth Ecobuli(?) [Rahily at Oct. 6, 1839]. AR
Dec. 6 Louis, son of Anton Fiegel and Joanna Junger; spons. Bernard Hengs and Agatha His. AR [See also Dec. 13, below.]
same day Rose, daughter of James Forquer(?) and Mary Bell; spons. John Forquer and Margaret Bell. AR
same day William Henry, son of Fidelis Byoklier [Bucheler at Aug. 24, 1838 and 27 May, 1839] and Bernardina Fondiarderly [Vunderle]; spons. Fridolin Fondarly and Hentronita(?) Shepher(?) [perhaps the same name as Separara at Sept. 3, 1837]. AK
Dec. 13 Louis, son of Anton Fiegel and Joanna Junger; spons. Bernard Kangs and Agatha His. AR [Repetition of the record of Dec. 6.]
same day Maria Magdalena [daughter of] Martin Brandel and Ursula Hengs; spons. Bernard Hengs and Agatha His. AR
Dec. 20 Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew Baehr and Magdalena Petermann; spons. Xavier Lenig [?Long] and Elizabeth Baehr; born Sept. 26. AR

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1841

Jan. 10 William, son of Folentine Brother and Gloria Morte(?) [Valentin Bruder and Clara Hass at Feb. 28, 1838]; spons. Stephen Caind and Mary Thaker(?). AR
Jan. 14 Josepha America, born April 25, [daughter] of Theodore Lewiss and Camilla Sauvinet; spons. Joseph Sauvinet and --ome-- Sauvinet. AR
Jan. 18 Maria Anna, daughter of John Pignor and ---- Solson; spons. Edward Cavall and Rosalia Cavall [?Carvill]. AR
Jan. 25 Henry Bernard, son of Henry Knake and Mine [Wilhelmina at Aug. 16, 1839] Wamelink; spons. Bernard Bragelmann and Maria Wamelink. AR
same day Thomas Elias, son of William Patterson and Mary Boylan; spons. Edward Hennely and Bridget Corcoran. AR
same day Ann, daughter of Jas(?) Murphy and Mary Cesy [Casey?]; spons. Daniel Holmes and Anna Bornak(?). AR
same day Peter, son of Martin Rubel and Veronica Smith; spons. Peter Smith and Elizabeth Smith. AR

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Feb. 1 John, son of Adam Cil and Anna Fuihinsir(?); spons. John Cil and Maria Visaton. AR
Feb. 4 Edward Burns, born January, 1840, son of Henry Burns and Mary Burns; spons. Edward Cavall and Rosa Cann [?Edward Carville and Rosanna Cull -- see Sept. 17, 1839]. AR

same day Michael, born Feb. 1, son of Henry Burns and Mary Burns; spons. Rose Ann Bandlig and John Lain. AR

Feb. 7 Mary Frances, daughter of Bernard Bragleman and Theresa Bragleman; spons. Henry Knake and Maria Wamalink. AR

same day John, born -- January, son of Martin Dockery and Mary Farley; spons. Shira(?) Onel and Margaret Dun. AR

Feb. 14 Christian, born Feb. 10, son of Christian Rosaville [added inter-linea: Rosenfeld] and Carolina Baumann; spons. Francis Mayer and Anna Maria Baumann. AR

same day Constance, born Feb. 2, daughter of John Finnery and Barbara Poltim [?Poland]; spons. John Keler and Constance Kaites. AR

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Feb. 20 Juliana, daughter of Michael and Mary Maoura; spons. George Groupa and Leocatia Piste(?). AR

same day Francis Anthony, son of Mary Favembersh(?) [perhaps same as Fernbach at Feb. 4, 1838]; spons. Franz Anton Eid and Anna Maria Unbuis(?) [perhaps uxor ejus]. AR

March 7 Mary, born January 31, daughter of Francis Cruba and Agatha Brodmann; spons. Andrew Brodmann and Mary Aisely [Eiselle at Nov. 16, 1840]. AR

March 14 Bridget, daughter of Mark Camall and Ellen Mott; spons. John Machen Bridget Thik(?). AR

same day Elizabeth, born Feb. 25, daughter of Michael Kirchner and Ellen Kirchner; spons. Fidelis Bischler and Gertrude Scheffer. AR

same day Catherine, born Feb. 22, daughter of John Len? and Ellen Wack; spons. Henry Bornes and Elizabeth Bornes [Burns?]. AR

same day Elizabeth, born March 2, daughter of Martin Brandel and Agatha Hib [see Dec. 2, 1838]; spons. Anton Fiehel(?) and Anna Maria Fridman. AR

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March 21 Maria Magdalena, born August, 1840, daughter of Wendelin Saile and Friderica Hermann; spons. Ciril Frech and Marautt Baumann. AR [The Saile and Frech families later lived in Columbus.]

same day Joseph, born March 14, son of Mathias Mhothis [Mathis] and Clara Mayer; spons. Joseph Mhothes and Catherine Deinmach(?). AR

same day Elizabeth, born March 14, daughter of John Smith and Magdalena Stompfell; spons. George Smith and Elizabeth Smith. AR

March 24 Joseph, son of Joseph Smith and Catherine Good; spons. John Heirn and Theresa Mill. AR

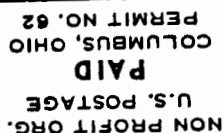
same day William Joseph, born March 22, son of H. Dunn and Elizabeth Dunn; spons. Sarah Haf--- and M. Reyney. AR

April 2 Patrick, born 1(?) April, son of Mark Micolhinck and Mary Leneaurd; spons. John Boile and Mary Boile. AR

April 4 Peter, born March 28, son of Pherapal and Barbara Masloufe [Peter Fernbach and Barbara Martzloft at 4 Feb., 1838]; spons. Sophia Masloufe and Catharine Sourten. AR

(To be continued)

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