



# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

## BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus

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June 5: St. Boniface

June, 2012

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### **St. Boniface Station, Buckingham, Monroe Township, Perry County 1883-1885**

A Catholic station usually is a location with a small group of the faithful that has no church building but is regularly visited by a priest. A mission, though likewise having no resident priest, has a church. Buckingham in Perry County was unusual in that there was a building called St. Boniface that served as a church but, nevertheless, can only be classified as a station.

Buckingham is a village in Section 19 of Range 14, Township 12, Monroe Township, on what now is Route 155, about four miles west of Corning. Situated on the west branch of Sunday Creek, the town was laid out by James Taylor and Benjamin Sanders in 1873 but was not developed for several years.<sup>1</sup>

In 1879 the Ohio Central Railroad Company built a line south, drove a tunnel through at Oakfield, and continued on south down the Sunday Creek valley, to Corning and beyond. Soon after that the Ohio Central Coal Company sank mine shafts in the valley and erected coal works. In the latter part of 1880 and early 1881 a branch railroad line was completed from the main line below Corning up the west branch of Sunday Creek to Bobec (a new village west of Corning), Buckingham, and Hemlock, a mile west of Buckingham.

Coal mines were soon opened at Bobec, Buckingham, and Hemlock. Seven or eight hundred skilled miners, some with families, were brought in from Germany to work in them and the towns were built up rapidly. These miners dug out enormous

quantities of the valuable fuel that was shipped to points north and west.<sup>2</sup>

Among these German miners were a number of Catholics, including the Schroeder, Butler, Confer, Hottenrott, and (a little later) Lange families.

In 1983 or 1984 Father Jack Dreese, then pastor at the Church of the Atonement in Crooksville, looked into the history of Buckingham. He spoke with Mrs. Margaret Knott, a resident of Buckingham, a Catholic who was born at Drakes and raised in Buckingham. Her father was Dr. Carl Duffy, who had been born in Buckingham and lived his whole life there. He also spoke with Mrs. McArtor of Hemlock, a granddaughter of a prominent German of Buckingham. Her grandfather, Charles Schroeder, owned the farm on which Miller High School later was built. According to these two ladies, in Buckingham there were rows of company houses for the miners, two or three hotels, several saloons, and a number of large, two-story buildings. Many of the large buildings were owned by Mrs. Miller, the mother of Drs. Robert and James Miller, well known doctors in that part of the county, and for whom the high school was named. (Mrs. Miller died in the 1913 flood in Columbus.) They identified some of the prominent Germans of the early days as Charles Schroeder, John Hottenrott and his son Leonard, Charles Lange, and Bruno Butler.<sup>3</sup>

Generally, the people identified by Mrs. Knott and Mrs. McArtor were the second generation of German Catholics in the area. The older generation

can be identified from census records. These show that Charles Schroeder, born in 1840, immigrated from Germany with his family in 1881; he was a farmer. His oldest son, of the same name and born in 1868, was a grocer. Peter Butler was born in Germany in 1838 and immigrated in 1882; he was a farmer. (Did he descend from some Irish military “wild goose”?) One of his children was Bruno, born in 1890, who, unless there was an uncle of the same name, probably was the one mentioned by Mrs. Knott and Mrs. McArtor. Clement or Clemens Confer, husband of Theresa Hottenrott, also immigrated from Germany in 1881 and was a grocer. The 1910 census lists John and Clara Hottenrott as step-children of Charles Schroeder Jr. Charles Lange was born about 1866 and did not come to this country until 1890. In 1910 he was running his own butcher shop in Hemlock and by 1920 he had a farm on the Corning-Shawnee Road. (Mrs. Miller, the mother of the doctors, was Jane Williamson Miller, wife of James Miller, a native of Scotland; she died in Columbus on March 27, the last day of the great flood of 1913, at the age of sixty.)

The parish census report from the Corning parish, dated Sept. 1, 1882, does not mention any station or mission at Buckingham. It was established shortly after that and appears in the annual Catholic directories beginning in 1883 as St. Boniface—the Apostle of the Germans—attended from Corning. In his census report dated Sept., 1, 1883, Father O’Boylan of Corning reported offering Mass twice a month at Buckingham. There were 62 Catholic families at Buckingham and “Berbick” or Bobec together, a sizable number when compared with the total of 96 families at Corning and Rendville. The Buckingham Catholics had a Catholic teacher for their children, with the school controlled by a committee who hired the teacher and paid him a rate per child taught.

The most informative source of information on the situation of the Catholics of Buckingham is Father O’Boylan’s financial report for the second half of 1883. There was a church building at that time, but it was not owned by the Bishop and undoubtedly had not been dedicated. He headed the report “St.

Boniface’s Church” and noted that the offertory collections all “go for church debt.” He received as salary \$20 per month after expenses, which he considered a small amount. He further noted, “This is the only money of the Buckingham church that I handle. The Committee pay teacher & have undertaken to pay debt. I caused a deed to be made of all the Church property for the bishop which will be forwarded as soon as mortgage is paid.” The debt on the church was about \$135. He noted that the school was in excellent order and the teacher received about \$40 per month.

His report for the next half-year, the first half of 1884, implies that the Irish priest was becoming at least a little upset with the Germans at Buckingham. “I never handle any money for the German people. They pay me about as much as feeds and cares for my horse—that is—I get at the Company’s office every month an average of \$25. I never touch another cent of their money. I got nothing yet from them for the Seminary [annual collection], I expect to get something both here and in Buckingham on 3rd Sunday of July.” “P.S. The only good thing about the B’ham people is that they keep a Catholic school.” The census report of that September showed Mass offered in Buckingham every second Sunday; there were 75 families; 40 children were being taught catechism; the school under the committee had one teacher and 55 students.

By the time he made his financial report in mid-1885, Father O’Boylan was even more angry with the Catholics at Buckingham. In his letter of July 15, 1885, accompanying the report, he wrote, “I have no financial report for Buckingham for I got nothing there since last August—absolutely nothing.” At the time Bishop Watterson was having a real estate company assemble a book listing all of the property of the diocese, with drawings and deed references. O’Boylan continued, “I wish to inform the Bishop that he should prevent a sketch or drawing of the Buckingham property to be inserted in his new book as there is nothing there in his name and hence no use in expending money for sketches &c.” In a letter written to the bishop’s secretary the next month, Father O’Boylan requested replacement forms for

the real estate survey. He wrote, “There is no use in sending one for St. Boniface in Buckingham as the Rt. Rev. Bishop has no property there. It is now only nomen and not res.” That is, it was only a name, not a tangible thing.<sup>4</sup>

No property in Buckingham or that vicinity was ever put in the bishop’s name and the last-quoted words from Father O’Boylan may imply that the mortgaged property had been lost. The Perry County deed indexes were examined for any property transferred to or from any of the known Catholics of the area, and to or from the Millers, in case the church was in the name of trustees, or generic titles under which it might have been held, but no such record can be found. This all implies that the “church” was not ever in the bishop’s name and was not dedicated, and so the “mission” at Buckingham in reality was never more than a station.

In his census report for the year ending August 30, 1886, Father O’Boylan reported 146 families at Corning, 58 at Chapel Hill, and about 20 at Buckingham—quite a decrease from the 75 reported in 1884.

Might St. Boniface have flourished if a German priest had tended the flock there? It seems not. On the one side the number of Catholic families at Buckingham clearly was falling by 1886 and on the other Father O’Boylan was heavily burdened caring for his two churches as well as the effort of keeping the school open at Corning.

St. Boniface was mentioned in the annual Catholic directory as late as 1887, but the information presented in that series of publications often was out of date. The last mention of Buckingham seems to be a report from Rev. J. B. Oeink, of Corning, that mentions Catholics at Rendville, Chapel Hill, and Buckingham, in July, 1892.

#### Notes

- 1) *History of Fairfield and Perry Counties, Ohio*; Chicago: Graham, 1883, p. 223
- 2) *ibid.*, 10, 26-27
- 3) Father Dreese to Msgr. Herman Mattingly, May 23, 1984, gift to the Society from Msgr. Noon, Feb. 12, 2011, used with permission of

Father Dreese.

- 4) O’Boylan to Rev. L. W. Mulhane, August 17, 1885, Archives, Diocese of Columbus

#### **Baptisms recorded at Corning, 1884-1886 (Schroeder, Hottenrott, Butler, and Lange)**

*There are two sets of records, an original and a transcription; the latter contains some improved spellings of names. Names in the original, if significantly different, are included in parentheses.*

- 1884, Feb. 3, Ann Margaret, daughter of Clement Confer and Theresa Hottenrott, born Jan. 28; spons. Leonard Hottenrott and Mary Kiefer. B. M. O’Boylan
- 1884, Apr. 6, Leonard, son of Peter Butler (Buttler) and Anna M. Günther, born Mar. 27; spons. Leonard Hottenrott and Clara E. Schneppe. BMO
- 1884, May 10, Leonard Anton, son of Anton Holschutte and Alvina Retzenhoff, born May 2; spons. Leon. Hottenrott and Alvina Schaeffer. BMO
- 1884, Oct. 26, Ann Mary, daughter of Albert Hensler and Helena Schröder, born Oct. 20; spons. Charles Schröder (Schraeder) and Ann M. Schröder. BMO
- 1884, Nov. 16, Charles Theodore, son of Theo. Fuertges? (Furriges) and Mary Scharfenkin (Schorfinkin), born Nov. 9; spons. Charles Schroeder and Mary Buttler. BMO
- 1885, July 19, Mary, daughter of Clement Confer and Theresa Hottenrott, born July 15; spons. John Glassmeier (Glassmyer) and Mary Statler (Stadlar). BMO
- 1886, Mar 7, Charles, son of Frank Hagenbrock (Hagenbrusch) and Anna Leining; spons. Charles Schröder and Maria Wischermann. BMO
- 1886, Nov. 28, Francis, son (Frances Christina, daughter) of Clement Confer and Theresa Hottenrott, born Sept 21 (Sept. 1); spons. Frank Hottenrott and Christina Schneppe. P. F. Kehoe

## Letters of Pastors on Their Parish Conditions, 1900 Regarding Ability to Pay Proposed Assessments

(Continued, from Vol. XXXVII, No. 4)

### **Immaculate Conception Parish, Dennison**

*from a letter of Rev. Patrick M. Heery, dated Dec. 29, 1900. The letter's accuracy was testified by J. J. Riffle, Thomas Wright, Station Agent of the PCC&StL Railroad, and Wm. McKeown.*

Just a glance at this statement will show you how unable we are here, tottering at the present moment with the debts contracted during the past five years, to assume more. Whatever shall be the result of your final judgement, I will receive with pleasure and do the best with it that our present weakened condition will enable us.

Out of over 120 families or individual persons who helped in the past five years to maintain the church here I will give you the names, the place of their destination, & amt. of their annual expectation of payment to church dues & school fund. This, independent of their subscription to improvements & repair. All these 120 families or individuals are now dead to the wants of this place. Some indeed

really dead, others removed to one place or another. There remains only the remnant of a quondam congregation here. The causes, which led up to this state of things have been reduction of the Shops of the R.R. from prime factories to very poor repair shops. 2nd The running through from Pittsburgh & Walls [?] to Columbus & back without the crews or the engines being changed at Dennison as it used to be formerly. 3rd The steel mill for which \$25000<sup>00</sup> was appropriated by Dennison has never given employment only a few spots [?]. 4th Three banks failed from 1895 to 1896 and the B & L Association failed for \$30800<sup>00</sup> being looted by the Sec'y. We ourselves lost \$600<sup>00</sup> in one of these bank failures. This I myself assumed because I saw the poverty of the parish & the people. Most every one of our people were caught for the savings of their whole life in one or other of these bank failures. Subjoined are the persons or names of persons who have ceased to be factors in the support of this church during the past 5 years selected out of the 120 above mentioned and giving the annual shortage to the treasury.

<u>Names</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Present Location</u>	<u>Paid while here</u>
Mr & Mrs John Quailey	Section boss	death	Heaven I hope	\$18
John M. Finneran	Hardware mcht	"	"	36
Thomas O Donnell	laborer	"	"	6
Wm. H. Riffel	contractor	business failure	Uhricksville	45
Patrick Feeny	RR hostler	resigned	Pittsburgh	18
John Conner Jr.	examiner of wheels	sick & dying	Dennison	18
Patrick Quirk	engineer	sick & dying	Dennison	24
Thomas Kane	engineer	removed	Columbus	24
Thomas O Brien	merchant	removed	Pittsburgh	48
William Conly	engineer	removed	Colliers	12
Michael Medler	engineer	insane	asylum	12
John Medler	blacksmith	dead	heaven I hope	18
Maurice Brown	engineer	removed	Steubenville	18
Chas. Sosenheimer	mechanic	removed	Columbus	18
Bart Meloy	blacksmith	quit	Dennison	18

F. Keegan	telegraphy	removed	Edgefield	12
Mrs. V. Carr	wash woman	removed	Pittsburgh	18
John Sullivan Jr.	boiler maker	discharged	Lorain, O.	12
Miss S. Scanlan	tailoress	resigned	Nazareth, Ky.	6
Chas. McAteer	engineer	removed	Pittsburgh	18
Joseph Horning	car shop & engineer	removed	Canton	12
M. A. Butler	depot restaurateer	removed	Columbus	18
John Storch	restaurateer	removed	New Philadelphia	18
Clara Noel	cigar maker	removed	Richmond, Ind.	6
Joseph Michel	engineer	discharged	Dennison	18
Mary Hopkins	Lady of ease		Uhricksville	12
Thomas Flood	conductor	quit church	Dennison	18
John F. Barret	super of RR shop		Uhricksville	18
John Doyle	fireman on engine	discharged	Loraine, O.	18
Thomas Bow	shop hand & engineer	promoted	Steubenville	18
Philip Landy	machinist	resigned	Richmond, Ind.	18
John Conisten [?]	section boss	discharged	Oattsburg [?]	18
John A. Magee	passenger conductor	promoted	Pittsburgh	18
Iber Kessler	extra freight conductor	promoted	Sheridan, Pa.	18
Peter Connor	passenger conductor	changed	Pittsburgh	18
Thomas Trainor	engineer	changed	Columbus	18
F. Jogurst	engineer	changed	Logansport, Ind.	12
Miss L. Kelly	housekeeper	resigned sick	Pittsburgh	9
John Dauterman	tinner	resigned	Columbus	18
John Malteier	turn table	got tired of church	Dennison	12
Louis Malteier	machinist	“	Dennison	12
Elias Malteier	car shop	“	Dennison	12
Thomas Hughes	supt. of store & tire works	had no boss any longer	Pittsburgh	24
James Swan	machinist	discharged in cut off sect.	Dennison	18
James Hannon	fireman	discharged or resigned for fear	not known	18
John Connors	boiler maker	got better pay better place etc.	Terre Haute	18
James A. Burkemail	messenger	promoted	Richmond, Ind.	18
F. P. Marter	car shop	discharged in the cut off	Coshocton, O.	36
Mrs. Cummings	domestic care	died	Heaven I hope	18
			Total	\$880

The above is but a part of those as before stated who have ceased to have an interest in the financial welfare of this parish. And at a glance it may be seen that there is little left here but those who were not in line of promotion together with the poor & orphans. I have also at the present time over \$4,000<sup>00</sup> debt. (To be concluded)

## I Was There!

by Msgr. Robert L. Noon

*June 19, 2012 marks the 65th anniversary of the fire that destroyed St. Peter Church in Chillicothe.*

On Friday, March 16, 2012, at Saint Peter Church in Chillicothe, as priests were assembling in the parish library, vesting for Father Charles Griffin's Funeral Mass, we observed on one wall of the room framed pictures of the fire that destroyed the original Saint Peter Church on June 19, 1947. I mentioned to Father Adam Streitenberger, Pastor at St. Mary Church, Portsmouth, that I was present at Saint Peter's the afternoon of the fire. He reminded me that I might be one of the very few people still around who were present on that occasion and that I should

write up my remembrances of it. So here goes!

I graduated from Saint Charles College-Seminary in Columbus in late May of 1947 and was visiting for a couple of days with Bill Rardin, a student at Saint Charles and future Father William Rardin of our diocese, who lived in Chillicothe. We had gone to Saint Mary Church in Chillicothe where Bill wanted to practice a couple of pieces on the church organ for a coming event. Finishing the practice, we came out of the church and, as we were standing on the sidewalk thinking what to do next, a car pulled up in front of us and the driver, who knew Bill, said, "I hear Saint Peter Church is on fire. Jump in and we'll go over and see." We immediately did. This was approximately 2:00 p.m.

Our driver got us as close to the action as he could. We then went as close to the church as we were allowed by the officers on duty. The fire, apparently started by some children playing in the church and lighting the votive candles behind the last pews by the front door, had already spread up the wall into the tower. Smoke was coming out the openings in the area of the bells, which eventually fell into the vestibule and were ruined.

We made our way to the sacristy and, entering there, were asked to carry out anything we could get our hands on. Everything in the priest's vesting sacristy that could be carried was taken out. Many people were assisting at this. From the sanctuary also, what could be carried was taken out. One young man, a deacon from the seminary in Cincinnati by name of Carl Will and a member of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, took the Blessed Sacrament out of the church and into



*The fire at St. Peter's. (from the 1996 parish directory)*

the convent. Carl Will had simply been passing through town and stopped at the church only to find the fire in progress. In 1949 he was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese and died in 2003.

Soon we all were told to stop what we were doing and get out of the building, for two reasons; one was that the fire had spread throughout the area between the ceiling and the roof and the ceiling could collapse at any time; the second reason was that the fire had weakened the spire, which now was in danger of falling and the firemen were not sure which direction it would fall. Outside the people were told to move back far away from the building, for the same reason.

I recall seeing the Franciscan Sisters standing by the convent and praying. Soon they were advised to move further away because of the danger from the spire. Not too long after this warning the spire did give way and fell into the body of the church. The church by then was a complete loss. About this time all anyone could do was simply to stand and watch. The firemen were kept busy seeing that the flames didn't spread to the school or rectory, both close by.

The pastor of Saint Peter Church, Father Francis Kreuskamp, and his assistant, Father George Schorr, were both in Columbus at the annual priests' retreat at Saint Therese Shrine. Bishop Ready was also at that retreat and when he received word of the fire he went to the two priests and told them to return to Chillicothe immediately. Both priests arrived a little before 5:00. They had to park up Church Street because of the traffic congestion and had a little walk to the church. I still can see them standing together on the front porch of the rectory and looking at the destroyed church.

One of Father Kreuskamp's concerns was a reliquary containing many relics of saints that was located in the church between the north side altar and the wall. Thoughtfully, one of the parishioners remembered the reliquary and what it meant to Father Kreuskamp and carried it out of the church and safely lodged it in the convent.

Of course, the fire was the talk of the town and one local newspaper item said it was the biggest fire in Chillicothe since the 1850s.

The present Saint Peter Church was completed in 1950 and blessed on April 15, 1951.

## St. Joseph Parish near Somerset Baptisms, 1834-1850

(Continued, from Vol. XXXVII, No. 5)

### 1836

Jan. 14, in Newark, Mary, daughter of Rosalia Hollinger; spons. Jacob Wollenschneider and Anna Maria Wollenschneider. Alleman

Feb. 7, Sara Jane, daughter of Patrick and Elizabeth Busie (or Jay); spons. Joseph and Mary Lynch. J. M. McGrady, O.P.

Feb. 9, George, son of Joel Green and Rose Black, spouses, born Oct. 18; spons. Daniel Black and Dorothy Black. F. Tho. Martin

Feb. 21, Eugene, son of Hugh Donnelly and Susan Gantz, spouses, born Feb. 19; spons. Charles McDunnagh and Catherine McGravy. F. Tho. Martin

Feb. 18, James, son of William and Margaret

Barry; spons. John Carty and Mary Wedon. same day, George, son of George and R— Studer; spons. Adam Larken and Canada Jacobs

same day, John, son of John Jacobs and Magdalen Grouse; spons. Jac. R. Fisher and Elizabeth Jacobs.

same day, Catherine, daughter of Frederick Shoemaker and Mary Turner; spons. Lucas Bartley [Lucas Merkle] and Plandy Roat [Blandina Rost in a record at St. Remigius in Columbus].

same day, John, son of Simon Higner and Ann Middlelot [Mittelholz]; spons. John Zimmer and Elizabeth Motmeller.

same day, Susan, daughter of Jacob Beechler and Mary Bocokler; spon. James Lilly and Magdalen Sterner. A. D. Fahy [Some of the names in the above series of baptisms on Feb. 18, though poorly spelled, appear to be those of Columbus residents.]

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1836, Mar. 9, William son of John Higgins and Margaret Higgins alias Slem; spon. William Anderson and Elizabeth Higgins. Anthony Fahy

Mar. 18, Elizabeth daughter of Francis Joseph Hurbush and Fanna Hurbuck or Bringin; spon. Francis Joseph Ley and Anna Maria Tecot. Alleman

Mar. 27, Andrew, son of James Wathen and Amanda A. Fitch; spon. Patrick Bucy and Elizabeth. N. D. Young

Mar. 31, Patrick Largey, son of Patrick and Jane Largey; spon. Sarah Ann McCristle and John Beck. N. D. Young

April 11, Louis son of Louis Bernard and Catherine Bernard late Kilger; spon. Joseph Bernard and Mary Bernard. J. G. Alleman

same day, Joseph son of John Doll and Josephine Doll or Hitz; spon. Anthony Doll and Agnes Doll or Hauser. J. G. Alleman

Apr. 13, Thomas Anthony son of Joseph Kobel and Margaret Kobel or Schneider; spon. John Mutter and Catherine Kobel. J. G. Alleman

Apr. 25, Martin, son of Mary Walt; spon. Martin Dumolt and Mary Dumolt. N. D. Young, O.P.

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Apr. 25, William Harigan, son of Thomas and Mary Harigan, on the day of his birth. N. D. Young, O.P.

Apr. 5 in Knox County, Benjamin, son of Michael Bauser and Catherine Bauser or Wilson; spon. John McDermot and Elizabeth McDermoth. Alleman

Apr. 6 in New Ark, Juliana, daughter of Francis Sütterle and Juliana Sütterle or Bachert; spon. Eugene Kuss [Koos] and Anna Marie Wallenschneider. Alleman

same day & place, Mary Ann, daughter of Francis Sütterle and Juliana Sutterle or Bachert; spon. Sebastian Werlin [Wehrle?] and Adelheid Kuss [Koos]. Alleman

May 8 in Lancaster, James McDonnah, son of Charles McDonnah and Catherine; spon. Hugh Donnelly and Catherine McGravy. N. D. Young, O.P.

May 24, Sarah Ann J—, daughter of William J— and Rebecca J—; spon. Elizabeth Stivener? N. D. Young, O.P. [The name is short and looks like Jones but could be Jury or Judy. Father Young's hand often is very difficult to interpret.]

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June 5, John, son of James McCristal and Jane McCristal of McGary; spon. Nicholas Dolin and Mary McFadden. Alleman

same day, Theresa, daughter of William Sharkey and Rosann Sharkey or Kaden; spon. John Kearney and Margaret Faden. Alleman

June 14 in Mt. Vernon, Benjamin, son of Frederick Zimmerman and Sarah Zimmerman or Colopy; spon. Timothy and Sarah Colopy. Alleman

June 22, Meirad Miller, son of John and Mary Miller; spon. Mirod Busher and Mary Ann Bush—. N. D. Young, O.P. [The sponsor may be a Bushue.]

July 12, Catherine Cecilia, daughter of Thomas Cody and Ann McCleary, spouses; spon. Ann Anderson. F. Tho. Martin, O.P.

Aug. 7, Elizabeth? Stukey?, daughter of Daniel and Finey Stukey?; spon. Mary Brant and William Anderson. N. D. Young, O.P.

Aug. 11, Thomas Walsh, son of John and Catherine Walsh; spon. John McGravy and Mary McGravy. N. D. Young, O.P.

(To be continued)

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