

Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society Diocese of Columbus

Vol. XXXVII, No. 7

July 28: St. Comgal of Clones

July, 2012



Rev. John D. Duffy. This photograph comes from the 1899 Illustrated History of St. Joseph Parish, Circleville. Unfortunately we could locate only a photocopy of the valuable booklet.

Rev. John D. Duffy (1830-1865) Gentleman and Scholar Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Circleville

Father John Duffy of Circleville was well loved by the members of St. Joseph Parish, which was his only priestly assignment, and was respected by the entire community. He also laid groundwork for St. Colman Parish in Washington Court House. A noted scholar, his life was cut short by tuberculosis in 1865.

John D. Duffy was born in Paterson, N.J. in March, 1830. He no doubt was baptized at St. John the Baptist Church, the only Catholic church in the town at the time, now the cathedral of the

Diocese of Paterson. But their extant records do not include that early period. The father, Patrick Duffy was born in Ireland about 1800 and was a weaver. It was remembered that he arrived in Paterson in 1829 and lived on Prospect Street. Mrs. Mary Duffy was born about the same year as Patrick. John seems to have been their only child.²

The little family moved to Steubenville, on the eastern edge of the Diocese of Cincinnati, in the 1830s. John studied for the priesthood at Mt. St.

Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati and was ordained by Archbishop Purcell at St. Peter's Cathedral on October 24, 1856. He was sent to St. Joseph Parish in Circleville as pastor that December.

St. Joseph Parish in that era had about three hundred-fifty active Catholics of age to receive Communion. It also had a debt of about \$1,700 when Father Duffy arrived as pastor. The people cooperated with him by their contributions and nearly eliminated this debt by 1860. Father Duffy also started the first choir at St. Joseph's. In a letter to Archbishop Purcell in 1860 he described conditions: "I say two Masses on Sundays during six months of the year—give instructions at last Mass and teach catechism in the afternoon. During the other half of the year the roads are so bad that but few of the country people can attend Mass in town. Then I say but one Mass on Sundays and occationally in the country on week days."³ One wonders where in "the country" there were enough Catholics concentrated to warrant offering Mass.

Already by 1860 Father Duffy was looking after the budding Catholic congregation at Washington Court House, 28 miles to the west in Fayette County. He was offering Mass there on the last Sunday of each month that year. The rails of the Cincinnati & Muskingum Valley Railroad had tied the two towns together in 1854. On his visits he brought with him the choir from St. Joseph's. He offered Mass first in the house of Michael Flynn and later in the new Ely's Hall. He started a subscription to build a church in that town but died before collecting enough to start building.⁴

Father Duffy was remembered by the people of Circleville, including non-Catholics, as a man of distinguished appearance and manners, possessed of a noble character, and of fine scholarship.

His library contained 153 volumes (excluding multiple copies of catechisms and prayer books obviously intended for the parishioners) such as Sermons by Paulists, Wiseman's *Eucharist*, Spaulding's *Evidence*, *Operations of Nature*, Manual of Instruction, Bibles, Bible histories, History of Ireland, Bossuett *Expositions*, *Reflections on Feasts*, *Duty of a Christian*, etc. etc.⁵

Father Duffy had suffered with consumption (tuberculosis) for several years. His health seemed to improve after his arrival at Circleville, but by 1860 he was "far gone" with the fatal disease. He died in Circleville on the morning of Sunday, June 4, 1865. "He was a sincere Christian, an amiable gentleman, and beloved by all who knew him." The funeral took place on Tuesday and was attended by a large concourse of sorrowing friends. His remains were taken to Steubenville and now lie in the priests' lot at Mt. Calvary Cemetery there.

The Catholic Telegraph unfortunately had little to say of him:

Rev. John Duffy.

We do not wonder that the pure life and priestly virtue of the late pastor of Circleville are embalmed in the faithful memories of his bereaved children in God.

We have received a tribute to his worth in poetic language, a wreath woven with flowers, brightened with sun-light, and spangled with tears. It does honor to the hand that wrought, the mind that conceived, the grateful, affectionate heart that rendered it so beautiful. If we do not publish it, we sympathize sincerely with the writer, and unite with the orphans in praying for the repose of the soul, the increase of the glory of the departed pastor.⁷

It seems not to have published the poem.

Father Duffy's Estate and the Kinsellas of Columbus

Father Duffy left a will, dated January 31, 1865, which was probated in Pickaway County. He left his gold watch and melodeon to Margaret Poland, his faithful housekeeper. His books and pictures he left to Father Edward Fitzgerald, pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Columbus. Everything else, including a "house and lot in Steubenville," he left to Mary Duffy, "now or lately of St. John's Hospital, Cincinnati" and in the event of her death before lawful age to Rev. Edward Fitzgerald in Columbus in trust for Kate Kinsella of Columbus. Father Fitzgerald was executor. (The net worth of Father Duffy's estate was \$10.11.)8

Father Fitzgerald and Father Duffy must have known each other well. Both attended Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati until the latter transferred to Mt. St. Mary's in Emmitsburg in October, 1855. Fitzgerald was three and one-half years Duffy's junior but was ordained only one year after him (at not quite 24 years of age). Fitzgerald was sent to Columbus immediately after his ordination, a year after Duffy had been sent to Circleville, the next English-speaking parish to the south.

St. John's Hospital in Cincinnati was opened in 1852 by Archbishop Purcell and the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. We could learn nothing of Mary Duffy except to confirm that she was not a member of the Sisters of Charity.

Kate Kinsella was Catherine, daughter of Edward and Catherine Kinsella of Columbus. The mother was born Catherine Mooney about 1822 in Ireland. Edward was a native of County Wicklow, born about 1800 and so quite a few years older than Catherine. He was a laborer in Columbus. Living in Columbus with the couple and their son in 1850 were Dennis and Augustus Mooney, no doubt Catherine's brothers.

The Kinsellas had five children:

- 1) John Kinsella, probably their son, was born about 1846 and died on August 18, 1850 at the age of four years and buried from Holy Cross Church.
- 2) Bridget Kinsella, born about 1847, died on October 5, 1849 and was buried from Holy Cross Church.
- 3) Catherine Kinsella was born on January 12, 1852 and was baptized on January 25 at St. Patrick's Parish.
- 4) Mary Ann Kinsella was baptized on Feb. 19, 1854 at St. Patrick's.
- 5) Bridget Kinsella, born about 1857, apparently died at a young age.

Edward Kinsella died on August 11, 1861 at the age of 61 years and was buried in the old Catholic Cemetery. Catherine died on December 5, 1863 at the age of 40 years and was buried with him.⁹

The daughter Mary Ann Kinsella lived for many

years in the vicinity of St. Patrick's Church, Columbus. For the first twenty or so years she lived with John Collins, a grocer, and his wife and Ann. By 1900 she was housekeeper for the John Lyons family at 473 E. Naghten St. In 1910 she was with the John W. Davy family at 59 King Avenue and in 1920 she was a servant in the home of James Naughton and his maiden daughter. Mary Ann died on July 3, 1927. Burial was at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cathedral Division, lot 85-C, north, in a grave purchased from Mrs. Ellen O'Toole several years earlier.

Katie Kinsella, as mentioned above, was the residual legatee in Father Duffy's will and she was a ward of Father Fitzgerald (there not being any estate to inherit from her parents, this guardianship was not legally established in the Franklin County Probate Court). Father Fitzgerald had her educated at Notre Dame Convent in Cincinnati. After Father Fitzgerald was named and consecrated Bishop of Little Rock,



Kate Kinsella Honan (1852-1907) (Courtesy of Cathy Cropper)

she moved to that city (arriving Jan. 23, 1868) and was his housekeeper. On February 3, 1875 Bishop Fitzgerald presided at her marriage to Patrick J. Honan, an artistic painter. They had four daughters, including Mary (Mrs. Thomas) Connelly. Kate died on October 21, 1907 in Little Rock.¹⁰

While it is almost beyond question that Mary Duffy was a relative of Father Duffy, it has not been possible to ascertain why Father Duffy named Kate Kinsella (but not her sister Mary Ann) in his will.

Nothing is known of a house and lot in Steubenville belonging to Father John Duffy, as mentioned in his will, but a two-story brick house there was owned by his father, Patrick. The father died about April of 1872, almost seven years after his priest-son. He owned lots and a house on the east side of Sixth Street at the corner of South in Steubenville, encumbered by a mortgage. John was Patrick's only heir-at-law. Attorney William A. Owesney (probably son of Val Owesney, a prominent Catholic of the city) knew that Father Fitzgerald had become bishop and was living in Little Rock, but did not know where to find Mary Duffy or Kate Kinsella. Patrick's personal estate was insufficient to pay his debts, so the real estate was sold at auction on July 6. It is not clear what became of the surplus proceeds.¹¹

The Claim of Patrick Duffy's Siblings

It was a year later that a letter arrived at St. Patrick Parish in Columbus, addressed to "The Most Rev. Edward Fitzgerald, D.D., Lord Bishop at St. Patrick State of Hio, Columbia, America." It was from Rev. Bryan Duffy, parish priest of Aghabog Parish in County Monaghan, with residence at the village of Newbliss. He wrote:

Ahabog, Newbliss 5 July 1873

My Lord,

I beg to draw yr attention to a case under yr immediate care, i.e. the property & effects of Mr. Patk Duffy dec'd of Stubenville Ohio. His Brother Js Duffy &

sister Elizabeth Lennon press me to request, that yr Lordship would be so graciously kind as to send them their share of the estate of their Dec'd Brother Patk Duffy as Law, Justice & Religion direct. Otherways they are determined to take legal proceedings & strain every nerve to obtain their rights as they are ony & real heirs of the Dec'd Patk Duffy.

With pleasure & content the entire affair is yr Lordships care

I have honor to be
My Lord
Yr very obt. & most
Humble S't
B. Duffy, P.P.
Ahabog
Erin

P.S. An early Answer will greatly oblige us.

Of this Rev. Bryan Duffy, who so kindly tried to assist his parishioners, Canon James E. M'Kenna wrote in the 1920s, in part, "He was a fervently pious, simple-minded old man, who loved his people and was in turn beloved by them. He was truly a man without guile. He was one of the two Clogher priests we remember, who never wore the Roman collar. He died here, at an advanced age, on February 12th, 1892."¹²

The original letter survives in the Archives of the Diocese of Columbus. Whether its contents were ever mentioned to Bishop Fitzgerald, or whether the brother and sister ever received any of the proceeds from Patrick Duffy's estate, is not known. But by law the proceeds, if any, should have gone to Mary Duffy or, in case of her demise before coming of legal age, to Kate Kinsella in Little Rock. But the letter at least lets us know that the roots of Father Duffy's family were in Aghabog Parish.

NOTES

Aghabog did not have a Catholic church early on; it was part of ancient Galloon Parish. Galloon's patron was St. Comgal, successor of St. Tigernach, sixth-century founder of the monastery at Clones.

- 1) Charles A. Shriner *History of the Catholic Church in Paterson*, *N.J.* Press Printing and Publishing, 1890
- 2) He was the only child at home in 1840 and 1850 and in 1872 was his father's only heir at law.
- 3) University of Notre Dame Archives, Duffy to Purcell, 1860 June 9, II-5-a
- 4) Typescript history of Washington C.H. St. Colman Parish by Rev. David E. Petry; based in part on a parish booklet printed in the 1890s.

- 5) Estate record, cf note 8.
- 6) Circleville Democrat, June 9, 1865
- 7) The Catholic Telegraph, June 21, 1865
- 8) Pickaway County Probate Court, Case No. O-2141
- 9) See the Bulletin Vol. III No. 12, Dec. 1977
- 10) Obituary supplied by her great-granddaughter, Cathy Cropper
- 11) Jefferson County Probate Court, Estate no. 3404. Steubenville *Weekly Gazette* May 10 and July 5, 1872
- 12) M'Kenna, Revd. J. E., *Diocese of Clogher: Pariochial Records*, Enniskillen 1920, I/548

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

(Concluded, from Vol. XXXVII, No. 6)

St. Patrick, Fox Settlement

St. John the Baptist, Churchtown

letter of Rev. August F. Blum at Harriettsville, Jan. 7, 1901

Until a year ago I received \$100 from Fox Settlement. The place is 16 miles away from here; sick calls called me to distances of 16 to 28 miles one way. I have to go there every first Sunday of each month and on two holidays, and all what was paid for two years was about \$100 a year. Then the church lot was leased for \$10 a month, I received checks from V. Rev. Specht, and used the money as my salary. Since October I did not receive anything no more. I was informed that checks were turned over to you. I do not care whether I get this money or not; but I would like to have a leter from you authorizing me to ask a certain sum for going to that place once in each month and a certain sum for going twice. At the same time I ask you for permission to let the place go if they do not want to pay what you ask from them. \$100 will be just enough to keep my horse and who is the man who will do work like this place gives it, for nothing, not to talk about ruining his own health and his horse. ...At Fox S. every man receives from \$30 to 250 a month from the oil business.

letter of Rev. F. Moitrier, Dec. 31, 1900

...It is simply rediculous to assess a congregation like this for 900 dollars. The Committee must think Churchtown is some sea port or manufacturing center where people have nothing to do but put their hand in their pocket and give away their hard earnings. Churchtown is a congregation in the woods, composed of 55 paying families of poor farmers living on the poorest land in Ohio. Many of them cannot come to church for want of clothes. Now I am trying to finish paying for uncalled for improvements contracted 7 years ago. For seven years we have suffered with cold both in church and house because we cannot raise the money to improve matters....

Sacred Heart Church, Pomeroy

letter of Rev. John J. Schneider, Jan. 3, 1901

Our old church was a barn. A timber of the truss, upon which the tower rested, was broken into, so that the building inspector had to condemn the church. We were obliged to build a new church.

There is no level property in Pomeroy excepting that, which is overflowed yearly by the flood of the Ohio R. We therefore had to build on a hillside, necessitating a foundation that cost us \$8000.00. Everything in the old church was old and worn out, as none of my predecessors refurnished anything. All of them thought of building, and put off replacing anything until they came into the new church, besides the income of the church did not cover current expenses. We were therefore obliged to buy almost everything new in the new church. This all cost us nearly \$36000.00.

The congregation numbered but 95 families when I came here. Since then a number have come back into the church and a number have moved here on account of the mill. At the time I sent in my report we were 130 families. Since I sent in the report several families have moved to Columbus and several to Atlanta, Ga. We have now yet a debt of \$15400.00. On this we pay 5% on \$5000.00 and 4% on the remainder. We must therefore pay annually \$676.00 interest. Now to be obliged to pay from \$180.00 to \$190.00 more would prevent us paying off any of the capital debt for the next ten years. It is true in the last three rather say four years we have paid \$21000.00 plus the interest. That was the one great effort made by the people to get a church. The majority of the people gave then all they possibly could and have given nothing since nor will they be able to give much again with the best of will, for they are old and unable to work...

Over 1/2 of my people are old people, the younger ones all move away. Even the young ladies go either to Cincinnati or Columbus. They marry there and stay there. There are but two chances of work here, the mill and the coal mines. Our coal is all shipped by water, likewise the products of the mill. If the river is low as it always is in Summer then both close, and the men lie idle. Formerly we had the salt works but the Trust has almost entirely closed them. Some few of my men found work others are still idle. My rollers only worked 7 months last year and then only half time. Now at present they are working but my best puddlers only make \$1.50 a day and some weeks only work three days.

The revenue from pew rent is now higher than it ever was. Yet it scarcely covers expenses. The cornice of the school and the gutters on it are delapidated, the floors in the school are so worn through that I must either put in new floors or close the school. Last fall I received an order from the City Council to lay sidewalk on the lower street of either brick or stone. The frontage there is over 300 ft. Before we can lay the sidewalk we will have to build a retaining wall six ft. high. This will cost at the least \$400.00. I went before the Council and asked for time. They gave me until this year to lay it. That I will be obliged to do or the City will have it done and then it will cost me still more.



Death of a Sister of the Good Shepherd.

Sister Mary of St. Patrick, known in the world as Mary Ann Gainer, died at the convent of the Good Shepherd, this city, at one o'clock Thursday morning of last week [Feb. 14]. She had been suffering many years from a complication of many diseases, and finally was attacked by lung fever which proved fatal. Her Christian character and pious zeal were unbounded, and her devotion to the Mother of God most ardent. Though feeble for many years past, yet she always showed the spirit of ready willingness to assist the sisters in their various and arduous duties. She was fifty-three years old, twenty-three years being spent in the Community in the rank of Choir Sister. R.I.P.

- The Catholic Columbian, Feb. 21, 1878

Ohio Penitentiary Chapel Photo

Mike Finn has given further consideration to the penitentiary chapel depicted in the post card on page 39 in our April issue. He notes that the 1914 chapel did not have any interior columns, but the pictured one does. This picture may have been of the earlier, makeshift chapel that was located above the Deputy Warden's and Protestant Chaplain's offices.

St. Joseph Parish near Somerset Baptisms, 1834-1850

(Continued, from Vol. XXXVII, No. 6)

1836, continued

- page 56
- Aug. 25, Louis Henry Ward, son of Stephen and Sarah Ward; spons. Ann Anderson. N. D. Young
- Aug. 31, Mary McFadden, daughter of William and Catherine McFadden; spons. James Shnitzer? and Mary McFadden. N. D. Young
- Sept. 11, Magdalen Miller, daughter of James Miller and Honora Miller; spons. Anthony Dold and Mary Ann Harter. N. D. Young
- Oct. 1, James Daily, son of Peter and Alice Daily; spons. Peter Early and Margaret Cull. N. D. Young
- Oct. 9, Edward Dominic, son of John Kane and Catherine Slevin, spouses; spons. Bernard Slevin and Rosann Slevin. F. Tho. Martin
- Oct. 11, Catherine, daughter of Michael Wagener and Magdalen Wagner or Studer; spons. Joseph Sutor and Mary Ann Bourgeoin. Alleman
- Oct. 14, Catherine, daughter of Patrick Hoasy and Ann Hoasey or Haughran; spons. John Haughran and Sara Pluck. Alleman page 57
- Oct. 25, Thomas John, son of Edward Dittoe and Margaret Johnson, spouses; spons. Michael Dittoe and Catherine his daughter? F. Tho. Martin
- Oct. 27, Milner Amans, son of Joseph DeLong and Sarah C. Polin, spouses; spons. Edward DeLong and Elizabeth DeLong his sister. F. Tho. Martin
- Oct. 23, Barbara, daughter of Anthony Fisher and Elizabeth Fisher or Bremgartner; spons.

 Leonard Fisher and Appolonia Metzger.

 Alleman
- Nov. 2, Sara Ann, daughter of James Martin and Margaret Martin or Partrige; spons. George Redmond and Susan? Cassilly. Alleman

- Nov. 6, Daniel, son of John McGongal and "Maged." Daughtry, spouses; spons. Alexander Bonde and Sarah Brady. F. Tho. Martin
- Nov. 24, Henry McInally, son of Henry and Ann McInally; spons. Rody Rien and his wife. N. D. Young
- Nov. 30, Elizabeth Bridget Kintz, daughter of Jacob and Alla Kintz; spons. John Kintz and wife. N. D. Young

page 58

- Dec. 4, Mary, daughter of Patrick Hockran and Alice Slevin; spons. Jane Sleven. N. D. Young
- Dec. 4, Edward, John, Thomas, Elizabeth Hockrin, children of and Elizabeth Hockrin; spons. Doctor McGruder and John Hockrin. N. D. Young
- Dec. 4, John Hockrin, son of John and Elizabeth Hockrin; spons. John Hockrin. N. D. Young
- Dec. 11, Joseph Aloysius, son of John Moutter and Mary Ann Moutter, spouses; spons. Joseph Coble and Mary Moutter. F. Tho. Martin
- Dec. 18, Elizabeth, daughter of John Reim and Elizabeth Ourect, spouses; spons. Michael Metzger and wife.
- same day, Margaret, daughter of John Patten and Mary Ward, spouses; spons. Richard McGongall and Mary McGongall [perhaps McGorgan?]. F. Tho. Martin
- Dec. 22, George Michael, son of John Dittoe and Margaret Redmond, spouses, born Dec. 19; spons. Joel Dittoe and Sarah Dittoe. F. Tho. Martin

page 59

1837

- Jan. 11, John, son of Charles Daily and ElizabethMcConnell, born Dec. 6, 1836; spons. DavidWalsh and Isabella his wife. F. Tho. Martin
- Jan. 14, Andrew, son of David Clancey and Mary Robertson, spouses; spons. Rosann Donnelly. F. Tho. Martin

- Jan. 15, Mary Ann, daughter of Michael McGrath and Margaret Healy, spouses, born Nov. 9, 1836; spons. Michael Weaber and Catherine McGrath. F. Tho. Martin
- same day, Catherine, daughter of John Powers and Catherine Shurlock, spouses, born Aug. 9, 1836; spons. Michael Creagan and Margaret Horan. F. Tho. Martin
- same day, [blank], daughter of Daniel Dougherea? and Tiney L. Rapp??; spons. John Powers and wife Catherine. F. Tho. Martin
- same day, Catherine, daughter of Henry Weltz and Elizabeth Kesler, spouses; spons. Andrew Ryan and Mary Kesler. F. Tho. Martin
- Jan. 26, William Andrew Walch, son of Brian and Mary Walch; spons. Charles Kintz and Mary Kintz. N. D. Young

page 60

- Jan. 28, Denis, son of Owen McCarthy and Mary Loony, spouses, born Jan. 26; spons.Timothy Loony and Catherine Caughlan. Fr. Tho. Martin
- Jan. 28, Hanna, daughter of David and Elizabeth Huthison; spons. James and Hanna Miller. N. D. Young
- Feb. 2, Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob and Jane Dittoe; spons. Laurence Crossen and Catherine Kintz. N.D. Young
- Feb. 12, Phebe Ann, daughter of John Mc—and Mary Cull, spouses; spons. Charles Casselly and Eleonore his wife. Fr. Tho. Martin
- Feb. 26 [or perhaps 22], Mary McGravy, daughter of Timothy McGravy and Catherine

A Final Word on Glasgow

- "At Glasgow a church has been built, but since the iron works, which employed five hundred men, closed, the Catholics left the place, and for the past eighteen months no service has been held there."
 - *The Catholic Columbian*, Feb. 28, 1878, in a letter from Dennison.

- Foly; spons. James McGravy and Bridget McGravy. N. D. Young
- Mar. 1, Clement, son of Edward Gallagher and Mary Beall, spouses; spons. Mary Gallagher. Fr. Tho. Martin

page 61

- Apr. 15, Elizabeth, daughter of Patrick Keenan and Mary McNamare, spouses; spons. George Redmond and Margaret Brun. Tho. Martin
- Apr. 16, conditionally, Samuel, son of Samuel Dean and Mary Hereholster, spouses, born March 19; spons. Mary Miller. Fr. Tho. Martin
- Apr. 30, Denis, son of Richard McGongal and [blank] Duffy; spons. Denis McGongal and Mary McGongal. Fr. Tho. Martin
- May 7, Ann Rebecca, daughter of Joseph Jay and Sarah Ann Wathem, spouses; spons. Jonathan Jay and Elizabeth Sterner. Fr. Tho. Martin
- May 13, Julian, daughter of Schneider. May 28 at Rehoboth:
- John, son of Michael Jones and Sarah Slevin; spons. John Sweeny and Ellen Mullen
- Catherine, daughter of Cornel. Slevin and Margaret Shirkey, spouses; spons. Michael Phelty and Margaret Phelty
- Ellenore, daughter of Daniel Callahan and Ann Slevin, spouses; spons. John Carr and Margaret Carr
- Mary Friel, daughter of Francis Friel and Grace Dogherty; spons. Pat. Callahan and Mary Friel John, son of John Forker and Jane Wilson; spons.
- Charlotte, daughter of William Bell and Ann Forker; spons. John Forker and Jane Forker page 62

Michael Forker and Ann Bell

Peter, son of John Cook and Ann Cusac; spons. John Redding and Ellen Friel

F. J. H. Clarkson (To be continued)

Copyright 2012, Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, Ohio 43215 Donald M. Schlegel, Editor