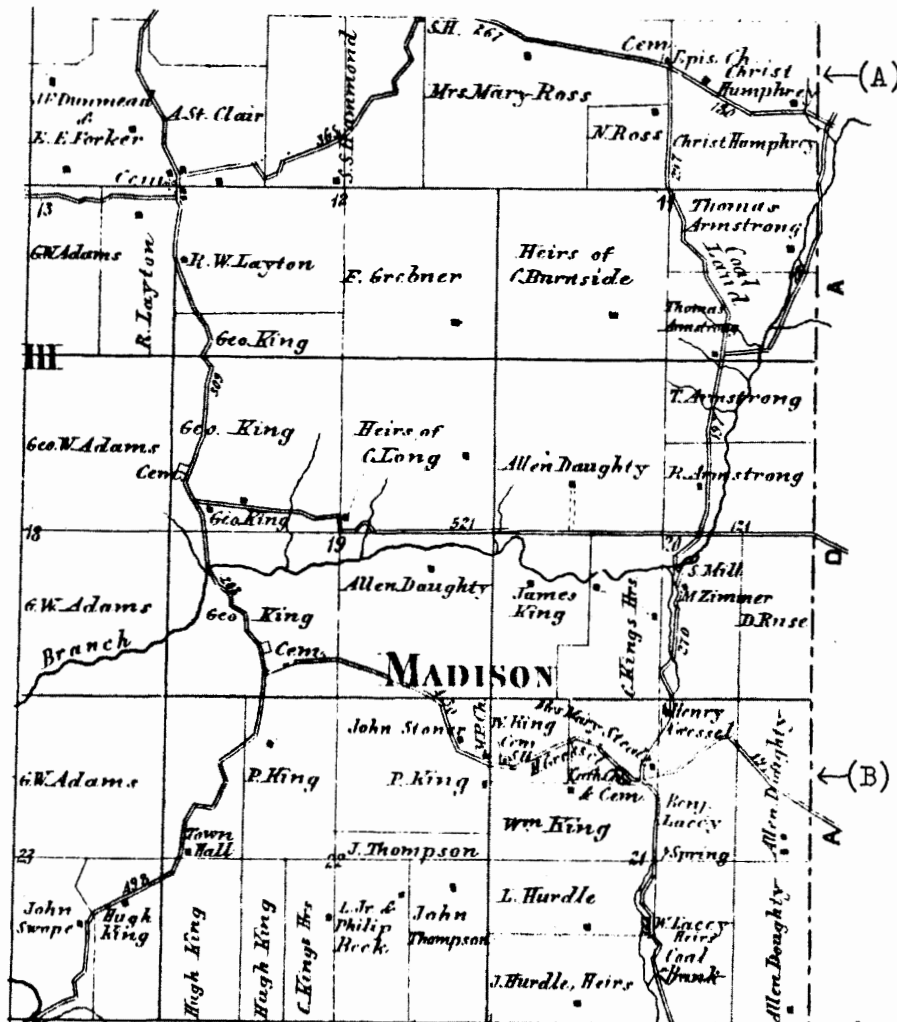


REV. MSGR. H. E. MATTINGLY  
EDITOR

197 EAST GAY STREET  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

THE FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN  
NORTHERN MUSKINGUM COUNTY



The above map of the eastern part of Madison Township in northern Muskingum County shows (B) the location of the Catholic Church and Cemetery (Cath. Ch. & Cem.) established in the late 1840's. The location is five miles east of the present town of Dresden. Above (A) is shown the location of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, established a few years earlier. (Atlas of Muskingum County, 1866.)

THE FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN  
NORTHERN MUSKINGUM COUNTY

In 1834 Bishop Purcell of Cincinnati made a visitation of his diocese, which at that time included all of Ohio. During his trip throughout the state he sent back accounts to Cincinnati for publication in the "Catholic Telegraph". One such account appeared in the issue of that paper for June 13, 1834. It describes his visit to Zanesville where he was the guest of the Dominican Fathers at St. John the Evangelist (the present St. Thomas) church. Father C. P. Montgomery, O.P., was the pastor.

Complimenting Father Montgomery the Bishop wrote that "nearly 12 miles Northwest of Zanesville" there were "several families" who were "afforded the consolation of attending to the duties of religion and having their families instructed by the same zealous and edifying pastor."

Dresden is twelve miles directly north of Zanesville, while St. Mary's, Mattingly Settlement, is eight miles northwest. It is known that there were Catholic families in the latter area by 1834. There also may have been some in Madison Township 12 miles north. It is not clear to which area Bishop Purcell was referring.

In those early years the Dominican Fathers of Zanesville visited regularly groups of Catholic settlers in a number of locations in Muskingum County. Later, with the establishment in 1842 of St. Nicholas' Church for German Catholics of Zanesville, the priests of that parish took care of the German Catholics of the same area. On the front page of the first volume of sacramental records at St. Nicholas' is the notation: "Baptismal record of German Catholic Mission Territory of Zanesville." The pastor, Father Joseph Gallinger, called himself a "missionary from the archdiocese of Munich-Freising, Bavaria."

While Father Gallinger and his successors took care of the German Catholics, the Dominican Fathers paid regular visits to many of the same settlements to look after the Irish (English) Catholics. Among the places visited were Taylorsville, Mattingly Settlement and Dresden in Muskingum County, and Coshocton, Wills Creek and Linton Township in Coshocton County, and Newcomerstwon in Tuscarawas County. Another mission named in the St. Nicholas' records is St. Michael's, "Saintfield", about which little is known.

The Dominican Fathers made no notation of missions or settlements when recording baptism or marriages in those early years of missionary labors. It was the same at St. Nicholas' in the beginning. However, starting in 1849, whenever a baptism or marriage took place in one of the missions, it was so indicated in the record. From these notations it is learned that the priests of St. Nicholas' visited Catholic settlers in the northern part of Muskingum County as early as 1849.

Apparently by the mid-1840's a group of German Catholics had settled in the eastern part of Madison Township, about five miles east of the present town of Dresden, and 12 miles north of Zanesville. It was not long before it was thought advisable to purchase property for the building of a church. Accordingly, in 1847, a tract of land containing 22 square rods, was bought by Bishop Purcell from Henry Gressel and his wife. The deed is recorded on

page 153 of Volume 10 of Muskingum County Deed Books.

The Deed reads in part: "Know all men by these presents, that we Henry Gressel and May Gressel wife of said Henry Gressel, of the county of Muskingum, Ohio, in consideration of the sum of five dollars to us in hand paid by Rt. Rev. John B. Purcell Catholic Bishop and to his heirs (and successors in said Holy Office forever) the following premises situate in Madison Township in said Muskingum County, Ohio, five and one half rods by four wide, containing twenty-two square rods near to what is called the Stoner Road and joining the North boundary line of Mrs. Wahl's plantation..... Said parcel or lot of ground to be used for the purpose and set apart whereon to erect a Catholic Church. In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 22<sup>d</sup> day of January in the year 1847."

That a church was built is evident from the first baptism there and recorded at St. Nicholas', Zanesville. Father Matthew Deselaers in recording the baptism Nov. 5, 1849, of Mary Elizabeth Schmieser, made the notation, "in eccles. non dedicata Dresden" (in the non-dedicated church at Dresden). The same notation was made in a number of other baptisms performed "at Dresden" and recorded at St. Nicholas'.

That this church was at the Madison Township location cannot be doubted. Property was not bought by Bishop Purcell in the town of Dresden until 1853. On January 28 of that year he purchased "part of Lot Number three (3) in Joseph Adams Addition to the town of Dresden, County and State aforesaid and situated in the Southeast corner of said lot Number Three (3) and being forty (40) feet long and twenty-four (24) feet wide" (Vol. 52, p. 460, Muskingum County Deed Books). Valentine Schenk and wife sold the property to Bishop Purcell. Beginning in 1850 the baptisms of four of Valentine Schenks' children are recorded at St. Nicholas', Zanesville. Evidently he lived in the town of Dresden; but there being no church there as yet, he attended the church five miles east in Madison Township.

Today there is no vestige of the church that once was on the Madison Township plot. There are, however, a few tombstones still to be found in the little cemetery which was next to the church.

What was the name of the Madison Township church? There is no record to substantiate a claim. However, a mile or so north there was a Protestant Episcopal Church, the Deed for which, dated April 25, 1839, gives its name as St. Matthew's. This is of interest since the annual Catholic Directory first lists a church at Dresden in 1853 and gives its name as St. Matthew's. It continued to be so listed until 1868. After that year the present name of St. Ann was used.

The Catholic Directory lists Dresden, St. Matthew's, as being attended from Zanesville and Newark in 1854 and 1855; from Newark, 1856; from Zanesville, 1857; from Newark, 1858 and 1859; from Coshocton, 1860, 1861, 1864 (there was no Directory published in 1862 and 1863); vacant in 1865, and from Coshocton, 1866-1868. Thereafter it was St. Ann's Church.

Tombstone Inscriptions, Catholic Cemetery, Madison Township, Muskingum County, Ohio. (The cemetery is sometimes referred to as "The Stine Cemetery.")

1. Anna Margaret, wife of Michael Stine, died Jan. 8, 1884; aged 81 Y & 6 M.
2. John Seamon, died June 6, 1881; aged 69 Y.
3. William - - - -, son of William and Elen Braceland, died Feb. 9, 1849; aged 2 Y.
4. Elen, wife of William Braslan, died Apr. 29, 1854, in the 40th year of her age.

Baptisms at "Dresden," 1849-1855, and recorded at St. Nicholas', Zanesville.

(Note: It can be reasonably be assumed that all of these baptisms were performed at the Madison Township church since there was no church in the town of Dresden until after property was bought there in 1853.)

- 1849, Nov 5 - "in eccles. non dedicata Dresden" Mary Elizabeth, b. Sept. 16, of Charles Schmieser and Elizabeth Heinrich.
- 1850, Feb. 11 - "in eccles. non bened. Dresden" Thomas Edward, b. Jan. 22, of John Sullivan and Anna Warrn(?).
- 1850, Mar. 19 - "in eccles. non dedic. Dresden" John Adam Joseph, b. March 18, of Valentine Schenk and Margaret Weber.
- 1850, Dec. 13 - "in eccles. Dresd." Mary Ann Frances, b. Dec. 2, of George Stier and Mary Joseph Saudner.
- 1851, Apr. 25 - "in eccles. Dresd." Francis Anthony, b. March 22, of Philip Scheuer and Ann Catharine Havener.
- 1851, June 27 - "in eccles. Dresd." Charles, b. June 4, of John Henrich and Ann Mary Schneid.
- 1851, July 27 - "in eccles. Dresd." John Adam, b. June 28, of Valentine Schenk and Margaret Weber.
- 1851, Dec. 26 - "in Dresden" Joseph, born one year and two months of James Lie and Emilia Reile.
- 1851, Dec. 26 - "in Dresden" Joseph Michael, b. Nov 18, of Joseph Michael Schmidt and Mary Eva Bosherz.
- 1851, Dec. 26 - "in Dresden" Charles, b. Oct. 9, of Charles Schmieser and Elizabeth Heinrich.
- 1852, Apr. 23 - "in Dresden" Ann Mary Catharine, b. April 4, of Joseph Dole and Catharine Rumpf.
- 1852, Aug. 27 - "in Dresden" Elizabeth, b. August (day not given), of Vincent Brecht and Catharine Pearl.
- 1852, Nov. 10 - "in Dresden" August, b. Oct. 24, of Adam Jest and Gertrude Greulich.
- 1852, Nov. 10 - "in Dresden" Frederick Louis, B. Oct. 22, of John Schafer and Elizabeth Hornung.
- 1852, Nov. 10 - "in Dresden" Francis Michael, b. Oct. 16, of Valentine Schenk and Margaret Weber.
- 1852, Dec. 31 - "in Dresden" Catharine, b. Dec. 15, of James Solomon and Ann Wollen.
- 1852, Dec. 31 - "in Dresden" Susanna Frances, b. Dec. 16, of John Hoffman and Dorothy Frances Rath.
- 1853, Jan. 25 - "in Dresden" Henry, b. Dec. 9, 1852, of Peter Herscher and Catharine Aschen.
- 1853, Jan. 25 - "in Dresden" Mary, b. Dec. 28, 1852, of George Kien and Ann Korre.

- 1853, Aug. 22 - "in Dresden" Arnold, b. Aug. 13, of Thomas Grien and Bridgett Macknemedde(?).
- 1853, Sep. 21 - "in Dresden" Philomena, b. Aug. 28, of John Matherm and Apolonia Graber.
- 1853, Oct. 5 - "in Dresden" Joseph, b. Sept. 26, of Joseph Doll (Dole?) and Catharine Rumpf.
- 1853, Oct. 24 - "in Dresden" Gertrude, b. Sept. 22, of Longinus Greulich and Catharine Spicker.
- 1854, Jan. 26 - "in Dresden" Bertha, b. Jan. 21, of Stephen Horst and Pauline Keneler.
- 1854, Mar. 24 - "in Dresden" John Adelbert, b. March 21, of Augustine Greulich and Ludwina Hormung.
- 1854, Mar. 24 - "between Dresden and Coshocton" Mathilda, b. March 16, of Joseph Gunther and Walburga Wagener.
- 1854, May 3 - "in Dresden" Martin, b. April 6, of Valentine Schenk and Margaret Weber.
- 1854, June 18 - "in Dresden" Philip, b. June 5, of Mondamus and Elizabeth Waal.
- 1854, Sep. 22 - "in Dresden" Mary Elizabeth, b. Sept. 9, of Anthony Matthern and Frances Brecht.
- 1854, Sep. 30 - "in Dresden" Mary Catharine, b. Sept. 22, of Vincent Brecht and Catharine Prel.
- 1854, Oct. 30 - "Dresden" Wilhelm Henry, b. Oct. 2, of Thomas Brillen and Brigett Breen.
- 1854, Nov. 30 - "in Dresden" Mary, b. Oct. 31, of Wilhelm Koltesen and Mary Kohle.
- 1854, Nov. 30 - "in Dresden" Barbara Caroline, b. Nov 13, of Michael Fresch and Elizabeth Stember.
- 1855, Jan. 12 - "Dresden" Joanna, b. Jan. 5, of Thomas Lie and Joanna Moratti.
- 1855, Jan. 12 - "Dresden" Wilhelm, b. Jan. 6, of Adam Pfeffer and Elizabeth Bosherz.
- 1855, Apr. 10 - "Dresden" Michael, b. March 24, of George Michael Stier and Mary Joseph Sautner.
- 1855, Apr. 10 - "Dresden" Anthony Louis, b. Feb. 22, of John Schafer and Elizabeth Hormung.
- 1855, May 28 - "Dresden" Joseph Leonard, b. May 5, of Adam Jest and Gertrude Greulich.
- 1855, July 24 - "in Dresden" John, b. June 24, of Frederick Hormung and Magdalen Wimer.
- 1855, July 24 - "in Dresden" Margaret, b. July 13, of James Schimer and Joanna Ninjenk(?).
- 1855, July 24 - "in Dresden" Jay (Tay?), b. May 28, of Thomas English and Sara E. English.

### Marriages

The marriages of the parents of several of the children whose baptisms are listed above, are recorded at St. Nicholas', Zanesville. Only one is given as having been performed at Dresden:

1850, Feb. 12 - Adam Jaest and Gertrude Greulich.

- - - - -

PRIESTS OF SOUTHEASTERN OHIO  
IN THE 19TH CENTURY  
(Continued)

Kelly, Rev. F. L., O.P.

St. Patrick's, Columbus, 1894; 1896-1899.

Kelly, Rev. J.A., O.P.

St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1858-1860; Holy Trinity, Somerset, and St. Joseph's, 1861; Provincial, 1859-1861.

Kempen, Rev. J. W.

Sacred Heart, Pomeroy, 1877; Sacred Heart, Pomeroy, and Long Bottom, 1878.

Kemper, Rev. Peter, O.M.Cap.

St. Joseph's, Canal Dover, 1895-1897.

Kennedy, Rev. Daniel J., O.P.

St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1887-1890; 1892-1898.

Kennedy, Rev. Michael

St. Mary's, Chillicothe, 1861, 1864.

Kent, Rev. J. C., O.P.

St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1883; St. Thomas', Zanesville, 1884-1886; 1899.

Keogh, Rev. P.V., O.P.

St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1867-1870; St. Joseph's, Somerset, and St. Rose's, New Lexington, 1871-1873; St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1874-1885; 1887-1889; 1894-1896.

Kernan, Rev. Joseph E., O.P.

St. Thomas', Zanesville, 1890; St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1893.

Kertson, Rev. George S.

Athens, and St. Sylvester's, Zaleski, 1867.

Kessler, Rev. Charles F.

"Not yet assigned," 1896; Cathedral, Columbus, 1897-1901.

Klueber, Rev. Damien J.

Immaculate Conception, Enoch, 1861-1868; Enoch and Fox Settlement, 1869; Enoch and Doherty's Settlement, 1870; Enoch, Doherty's Settlement and Fox Settlement, 1871-1872; Enoch and Doherty's Settlement, 1873-1875; Fulda (Enoch) and Doherty's Settlement, 1876-1878; Fulda, 1879-1882.

Kolb, Rev. P. Irenaeus, O.M.Cap.

St. Joseph's, Canal Dover, 1887-1889 (See also Rev. Irenaeus).

Krapf, Rev. Theophilus, O.S.F.

Pomeroy, 1850; Pomeroy and Etna Furnace, 1851.

Kraemmer, Rev. J. C. (See Kroemer, Rev. John Christian).

Krechter, Rev. John Henry

Josephinum Seminary, Columbus, 1897-1898.

Kroemer, Rev. John Christian

Archer's Settlement; St. Dominic's, Guernsey Co; St. Patrick's, Washington Co; St. John's, Malaga, Monroe Co; Sts. Peter and Paul, Monroe Co., 1848-1850; Archer's Settlement; St. Dominic's, Guernsey Co; St. Patrick's, Washington Co; St. John's, Malaga, Monroe Co; Sts. Peter and Paul, Monroe Co., and Miltonsburg, 1851-1855.

Kuehn, Rev. John J.

Cathedral, Columbus, 1880.

Kuehn, Rev. B.J. (See Kuehn, Rev. John J.)

Marietta, 1879 and 1881; Marietta, Cutler and Newport, 1882; Marietta, Cutler, Newport, Tunnel Station and Vincent, 1883-1892.

Kummert, Rev. Ph.

St. Peter's, Lick Run, 1878; St. Peter's, Lick Run, Lilly and Monroe Furnace, 1879.

Laffan, Rev. Joseph

Beaver, Noble Co., 1871-1872; Beaver, Noble Co., Barnesville and St. Patrick's, Leatherwood, 1873; St. Augustine's, Straitsville, 1875.

Lamy, Most Rev. John Baptist

Sapps' Settlement, 1840; Sapp's Settlement, Mt. Vernon and Newark, 1841; St. Luke's, Danville; Mt. Vernon, Newark, and a German settlement 12 miles from Mt. Vernon, 1843-1844; St. Luke's, Danville; Mt. Vernon, Newark, Millersburg and other stations, 1845-1847.

Lane, Rev. Thomas J.

St. Paul's, Athens, and Little Hocking 1879-1880; Mt. Vernon, 1881-1885; Immaculate Conception, Marges, and Sherrodsville, 1886-1888; Woodsfield, 1889; Jackson and Washington Furnace, 1890-1891.

Lange, Rev. Henry

St. Mary's, Lancaster; St. John's, near Logan; Our Lady of Good Hope; St. Joseph's, Berne Township, 1855-1861; St. Mary's, Lancaster, 1864.

Larkin, Rev. John, Ph.D.

Sacred Heart, Columbus, 1886; Sts. Peter and Paul Wellston, 1887. President, Columbus Catholic College, 1885.

Larpenteur, Rev. R.F., O.P.

St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1899.

Leininger, Rev. A.L.

Millersburg and Napoleon, 1890-1892; Millersburg, Glenmont and Calmoutier, 1893; St. Nicholas', Zanesville, 1894-1900+.

Leonard, Rev. H. J., O.P.

St. Patrick's, Columbus, and State Prison, 1887-1890 and 1893; St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1894 and 1896.

- Leyden, Rev. A.M.  
St. Francis, Toronto, 1887-1892; St. Francis of Assisi, Columbus,  
1893-1900+.
- Lex, Rev. Felix M., O.M. Cap.  
St. Joseph's, Canal Dover, 1895-1896.
- Lieb, Rev. Edward Francis, O.S.F.  
St. Peters', Chillicothe, 1852-1868.
- Lilly, Rev. Hugh E., O.P.  
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1878-1884; Prior, St. Joseph's, Somerset,  
1879-1883; St. Patrick's, Columbus, 1889-1890.
- Lilly, Rev. Michael D., O.P.  
St. Joseph's College, Somerset, 1858-1859; President, St. Joseph's  
College, Somerset, 1860; Prior, St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1864-1865.
- Linahan, Rev. W. F., O.P.  
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1886 and 1888.
- Linnehan, Rev. Francis, O.P. (See Linahan, Rev. W.F., O.P.)  
St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, 1883-1885.
- Lockingen, Rev. Leonard J., O.P.  
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1895.
- Logan, Rev. B. F., O.P.  
St. Patrick's, Columbus, and St. Francis Hospital, 1891; St. Patrick's,  
Columbus, and State Prison, 1892.
- Luhr, Rev. John F.  
St. Peter's, Canton, and the Germans at Massillon, Waynesburg, Bethlehem  
and St. John of the Cross, Bolivar, 1845-1847.
- Luttig, Rev. Dominic Ignatius  
Sacred Heart, Pomeroy, 1878-1880; Sacred Heart, Pomeroy, and Syracuse,  
1881-1883; Fulda, 1884.
- Lynch, Rev. J. H., O.P.  
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1855-1856; St. Thomas', Zanesville, 1864 and 1868;  
St. Joseph's, Somerset, and St. Rose's, New Lexington, 1871; St. Joseph's,  
Somerset, 1872; St. Thomas', Zanesville, 1882-1899.
- Madden, Rev. John C.  
St. Patrick's, Columbus, 1879-1880; St. Paul's, Athens; Big Run, Canaansville,  
Coolville, Little Hocking, Nelsonville, Stewart's, St. John's (Hull P.O.),  
Athens Co., and Bessemer, 1881-1882; Athens, Buchtel, Canaansville, Floodwood,  
Little Hocking, Nelsonville, Stewart's, 1883; Athens, Buchtel, Canaansville,  
Floodwood, Nelsonville, Stewart's, 1884.
- Magee, Rev. J., O.S.D.  
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1854.

(To be continued)