MT. CALVARY CEMETERY, COLUMBUS, OHIO
EARLY HISTORY AND EARLY RECORDS

Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Columbus, Ohio, is the oldest active Catholic cemetery in Franklin County. It was consecrated by Bishop Rosecrans in 1874, but burials there were begun as early as 1865.

There were two previous Catholic cemeteries in the county, both established in 1846. One was located on the property now occupied by Columbus Technical College, and was sometimes known as St. Patrick's Cemetery due to its proximity to St. Patrick's Church (1). Following the passage of a city ordinance forbiding burials within the city limits in 1856, and due to the fact that the cemetery was becoming filled, it became necessary to look for another location.

The other early cemetery was known as St. Jacob's Cemetery, and was located in the present city of Bexley (2). The first cemetery, Old St. Patrick's, was purchased Oct. 6, 1846, while the one in Bexley was purchased October 19 of the same year. Burials in the latter continued until 1875.

Property for a new cemetery had meanwhile been purchased in trust for the Diocese by John F. Zimmer. On Sept. 23, 1865, Phil N. White and wife sold 25 and 3/8 acres to Mr. Zimmer for $7100. The property consisted of lots 1-10, 17 and 18 of C. L. Eaton's second subdivision of outlots in survey 422 of the Virginia Military District, including alleys (3). The following January 6, Mr. Zimmer purchased 2 more acres from Jacob Gall and wife for $690.32. This tract included Lot 11 and 42½ feet off the north side of Lot 12, plus the interest in and right to the alley adjoining (4).
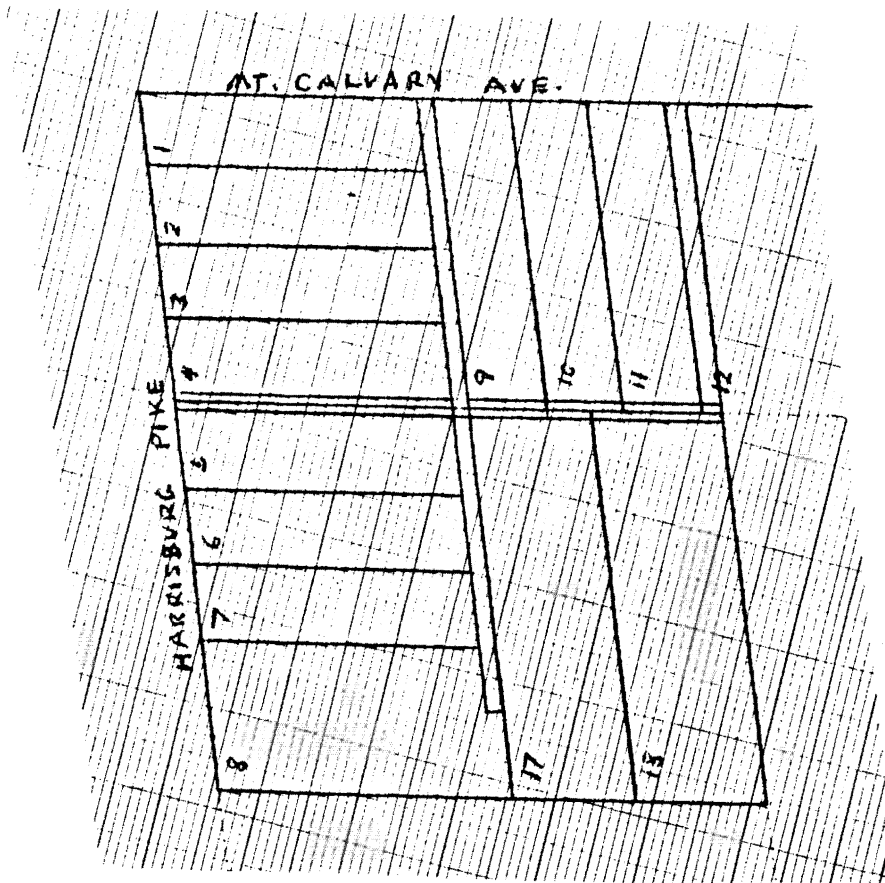
Mr. Zimmer sold the two tracts to the Diocese of Columbus on Aug. 22, 1868. The total acreage was 27 and 3/8 acres (5). The deed, made out to Sylvester H. Rosecrans, read in part: "The premises above described were, as aforesaid, conveyed to the said Zimmer, to hold in trust, and the said Zimmer and wife are now conveying the same in discharge of said trust."

Burials began in the new Mt. Calvary Cemetery as early as 1867. It became the offical Catholic cemetery of the area when in 1874 Bishop Rosecrans forbad further burials in the old cemetery. Relatives were advised to have the remains of their loved ones transferred to the new Mt. Calvary.

Bishop Rosecrans officiated at the solemn consecration of Mt. Calvary on All Souls Day (Nov. 2), 1874. Father Dennis A. Clarke records the ceremony in Lee's History of the City of Columbus (6): "The ground is slightly undulating and has been vastly improved by shrubbery and the erection of handsome monuments. The cemetery was opened for burials in 1867, and up to the time of its solemn

consecration November 2, 1874, over fourteen hundred interments had been made.
The great privilege of placing their dead in consecrated ground had by necessity
been denied the Catholics of Columbus. But now the time had come when they were
possessed of ground free of incumbrances and prepared to receive consecration.
A procession of all the Catholic societies moved from St. Joseph's Cathedral to
the cemetery, where an immense crowd of people had gathered to witness the
imposing ceremonies so filled with consolation to those whose beloved ones'
remains were there reposing.

"Previous to the consecration Bishop Rosecrans, from the foot of the large
cross erected in the center of the ground, addressed the people a few words in
which he dwelt upon the very solemn character of the ceremony about to be wit-
nessed, and exhorted all to pray for the dead without ceasing. In the sacred
function the Bishop was assisted by Rev. N. A. Gallagher, Rev. G. H. Ahrens,
Rev. H. Anderson, Very Rev. J. B. Hemsteger, Rev. J. Casella, Rev. J. Bauman,
Rev. M. M. Meara, Rev. J. B. Eis, Rev. H. B. Dues, and a number of seminarians
and altar boys. The ceremonty occupied some time and at its conclusion the
pontifical blessing was given."

The above drawing of the original lots of Mt. Calvary was prepared by Donald
M. Schlegel. Lots 1-10, 17 and 18 including alleys were in the first deed. Lot 11
and 42½ feet off the north side of Lot 12, with the adjoing allley were included
in the second transfer of property.

The account of the consecration ceremonies published in the <u>Ohio State</u> <u>Journal</u> the following day (7) is more complete and deserves a full presentation here.

"Calvary Cemetery, lying on the south side of the Harrisburg road, about one mile west of this city, was opened for burial purposes in April, 1867, and since that time over fourteen hundred interments have been made there. Yesterday was All Souls' Day in the Church calendar, appropriate to the ceremony which was performed yesterday afternoon - the consecration of the Cemetery. The demonstration, both on the streets of the city and at the Cemetery, was very imposing. The procession, which formed in front of St. Joseph's Cathedral, on Broad street, moved in the following order:

"Hemmersbach's Band, in full uniform.
"The Knights of St. George, about thirty strong, and under the command of Captain George J. Rodenfels. The Knights appeared in a handsome uniform - black, trimmed with blue and white; high boot tops, decorated with a blue and white cross; black caps, with blue and white bands; white shoulder straps, white gloves, red belt, and sword. They moved with precision and presented a fine appearance. They carried the American flag.
"St. Martin's Society, of Holy Cross Church, about sixty strong, and with Gilbert Muth as Marshal. They wore red and white sashes trimmed with white fringe, and carried the beautiful banner of the Society and the stars and stripes.
"St. John's Society, of Holy Cross Church, with John Baer and George Eichensee as Marshals. The uniform consisted of a sash of white and red. A red and white banner, gorgeously trimmed in gold, swung to the breezes in association with the National colors.
"St. Aloysius Young Men's Society, of Holy Cross Church - a society composed of boys and young men from fourteen to twenty years old. They carried a scarlet banner. Willie Hinterschitt was the Marshal.
"St. Joseph's Society, of Holy Cross and St. Mary's, with John Schneider as Marshal. The members were designated by a blue cross, with silver medal.
"St. Francis Xavier's Society, fifty-four in number, under the marshalship of Louis Winkels and John C. Getreu. The members wore red collars, trimmed with silver fringe, stars and crosses, and displayed a scarlet banner and the flag of our country.
"Carriages, with Bishop S. H. Rosecrans and the Catholic clergy of Columbus.
"Columbus Cornet Band, in full uniform, and under the leadership of Peter Richter.
"St. Joseph's Mutual Benevolent Society, seventy-five strong, and carrying two American flags. The main features of the uniform are green belt and sash, and black hat trimmed with a gilt cross and green plume. The large turn-out and the predominance of green in the uniform, made this Society one of the most conspicuous features of the procession.
"St. Patrick's Total Abstinence Society, with Major O. T. Turney as Marshal.
"The Knights of St. Patrick, uniformed with green sashes, white belts and white plumes, led the Society. The other members wore green sashes, trimmed with white. Nearly one hundred members were in line.
"St. Patrick's School Society, with Captain Riches as Marshal, and seventy-five members in line. The Society was designated by green sash and trimmed in gilt.
"St. Aloysius Sodality, led by John Caren; blue sashes, with yellow fringe.
"Patrick Eagan and Patrick Bresnahan were mounted as Marshals.

422.

"The procession moved west on Broad street to High, on High south to Mound, and on Mound street and the Harrisburg road west to the Cemetery. When the head of the procession was passing State street, the rear had not reached the corner of Broad and Third - to say nothing of the carriages that followed behind.

"Many carriages followed the procession to the Cemetery, and the sides of the road were lined with pedestrians bound for the same destination. A large crowd was already at the Cemetery to witness the approach of the imposing pageant. The procession moved through the main gate of the Cemetery, in the order indicated, and toward the cross in the center of the grounds. Near the cross the bands took position while the societies formed two lines, between which the Bishop and clergy walked to the cross, where half a dozen Seminarians were already stationed. A number of altar boys, appropriately dressed, preceded the Bishop and clergy, who appeared in the robes peculiar to their offices. A dense mass of people surrounded the clerical group.

"Bishop Rosecrnas briefly addressed the multitude, stating that the ceremony would be a long one; that he had not a good place from which to speak, and might not be able to make all understand the proceedings; but he reminded the people that the ceremony was a religious one, and asked all to pray for the souls of the dead. Frequently during the afternoon devout members of the Church could be seen kneeling at the graves of departed friends.

"The ceremonies at the Cemetery were conducted by Bishop Rosecrans, assisted by Fathers Gallagher, Ahrens, Anderson, Hemsteger, Cassells, Bauman, Meara, Dues, Eis and others. There were wlso in attendance a number of young men from St. Aloysius Seminary, together with the altar boys serving at the Cathedral and St. Patrick's.

"There were five crosses planted on the ground so as to define the shape of a cross. Each of these crosses had four candles burning before it on a stand a little above the ground.

"The cross in the center was visited first. A short prayer and the Litany of the Saints were chanted before it. After this the procession of ecclesiastics made a circuit of the whole ground, chanting psalms, and the Bishop sprinkling it with blessed water. On the return to the central cross, it was blessed by a particular prayer and by incensing. This prayer, in substance, was repeated over the other four crosses, the clergy singing psalms and the Bishop sprinkling blessed water in the passage from one to ther other. Each cross was incensed, and three lighted candles placed on the top and arms. At the close the Pontifical blessing was given, and the crowd dispersed."

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(1) See "First Catholic Cemetery in Columbus," Catholic Record Society BULLETIN, Dec. 1977, Vol. III, No. 12.
(2) See "St. Jacob's Cemetery, Franklin County, Ohio," Catholic Record Scoeity BULLETIN, Aug. 1978, Vol. IV, No. 8.
(3) Deed Books, Franklin County, Ohio, Vol. 85, p. 110.
(4) Deed Books, Franklin County, Ohio, Vol. 86, p. 376.
(5) Deed Books, Franklin County, Ohio, Vol. 95, p. 589.
(6) History of the City of Columbus, Capital of Ohio, by Alfred E. Lee, A.M. Munsell & Co., New York, 1892, p. 674.
(7) "The Ohio State Journal," Tuesday, Nov. 3, 1874, p. 4.

MT. CALVARY BOOK OF BURIALS

Early records of Mt. Calvary Cemetery have not been available until recently when a book of such records was located in the attic of the rectory of Holy Cross Church, Columbus' first Catholic church. The book was presented to the Catholic Record Society by the pastor, Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Hakel. It will be placed in the Diocesan Archives

The venerable old book is written almost entirely in German script. It has been translated for the Catholic Record Society by Mrs. Helen Beard, Monsignor Hakel and Donald Schlegel.

This early Mt. Calvary record book contains a hand-drawn map of the first German section, which gives the names of owners of individual plots. The right half of the map is missing. Apparently the whole book is concerned with German burials only, reminiscent of the original Catholic cemetery whcih was divided into two parts, one for the Germans, and one for the English/Irish. Unfortunately, records of burials in the new Mt. Calvary of English/Irish people have been lost - or never were made.

The map as preserved is shown on the following page. The plots are numbered in sequence, beginning at the bottom of the map. Since the right half is missing, the numbers run from one to 6, and then skip to 19, reading from left to right in the first row, then from right to left in the second row, etc. The names are in German script. Numbers and names (in English) are given here:

First row, bottom, l. to r: 1, H. Deckling; 2, N. Dobbert; 3, J. Pirrung; 4, I. Schrenk; 5, Adam Getreu; 6, J cob Ims.

Second row, l. to r: 24, C. Gramlich; 23, J. Herrman; 22, P. Boehm, 21, G. Lang; 20, J. Lang; 19, F. Hiell.

Third row, l. to r: 25, J. Roehrenbeck; 26, H. Lutz; 27, C. Leer; 28, C. Lang, 29, G. Baumann; 30, F. Mehling.

Fourth row, l. to r: 48, P. Schwarz; 47, H. Theado; 46, N. Gatterdam; 45, Carl Fridrich; 44, A. Trautman; 43, J. Breidung.

Fifth row, l. to r: 49, M. Baltzle; 50, M. Hinterschitt; 51, G. Rodenfels; 52, M. Derrick; 53, J. J. Fritz; 54, L. Walter.

Sixth row, l. to r: 72, H. Schneider; 71, C. Deufel; 70, A. Schleret; 69, J. Zimmer; 68, J. Voll; 67, L. Hack.

Seventh row, l. to r: 73, J. Marzetti; 74, P. Jochum; 75, A. Weisbaecher; 76, Reinhart; 77, Peter Igel; 78, A. Scholl.

Eighth row, l. to r: 96, F. Engler; 95, A. Rehl; 94, O. Dorn; 93, J. Reinhart; 92, Jos. Bom; 91, L. Miller.

Ninth row, l. to r: 97, Behlen, Hri.; 98, A. Engler; 99, W. Redel, 100, J. Muth; 1o1, Jos. Vonarx; 102, Jos. Matt.

Tenth row, l. to r: 120 & 119, V. Haettesheimer; 118, Ph. Eisel, 117, C.H. Eisel; 116, I. Fessner; 115, J. Eigensee.

Eleventh row, l. to r: 121, Roehrenbeck; 122, Demlein; 123, Farischon; 124, Futterer; 125, J. Tonn.

Twelfth row, l. to r: 141, H. Frey; 140, Tremel; 139, G. Rapp, 138, Goldschmidt.

424.

It is interesting to note that records of this old book begin with burials in 1867 and continue until 1894, while records at the present Diocesan Cemetery Office for Mt. Calvary Cemetery begin with the year 1895.

The book of records was maintained by Anton Witzigmann. He recorded the date of burial, the name of the deceased, in most instances the person's age, the name (or names) of next of kin, and the location of the grave.

On the front fly-leaf ot his book of burials Mr. Witzigmann made a comment about the number of burials in Mt. Calvary from April 1, 1867, to January 1, 1876. He gives the totals of those between the ages of 10 and 20; between 20 and 30, etc. He then states that all the rest were children under the age of ten. There being 840 to 850 burials in all, he concludes that had all lived to the samge age, none would have been over 17 years of age.

On the second page of his book Mr. Witzigmann wrote:
Anton Witzigmann
May 17, 1868:
"Good-by you beautiful world, I will die, when it pleased God.'
"Praised be Jesus Christ till eternity - amen."
"The Lord give all deceased in this book the everlasting peace and the everlasting light for all eternity. amen."
Happy and content, not too soon, when and how He comes the dead reckoning up. Frightful and terrible and too soon, at any hour, is the dead of children."

Before recording the burials in the new Mt. Calvary, Mr. Witzigmann first put down a list of some of those transferred from the old cemetery. The list follows:

Georg Frey, son of Friedrich Frei, L.J.L.N. 99 B.
Karl Anton Frei, son of Heinrich Frei. Burial lot # 141 B.
Wilhelm Duerck, husband. Burial lot # 52 B.
Georg Joseph Rothenfels, son of G. J. Rothenfels. Burial lot 51 B.
Minna Marzitta, daughter of Johan Marzitta. Burial lot # 73 B.
N. N. Deupell, 2 children. Burial lot # 71 B.
M. Hedesheimer, wife of Mr. Hedesheimer. Burial lot # 119 B.
1 Dec. 1868 Maria Engler. Buried lot # 96 B.
25 May 1870 Therese Trogus. Buried lot # 118 C.
25 Oct. 1870 Mathias Held. Aged 50 years.
25 Oct. 1870 Carl & Bertha Futerer, age 6 and 4 years.
13 Nov. 1876 The deceased and relatives of Peter Koch. Buried lot # 115 C.

To save space only the names of the deceased, their ages (when recorded) and the dates of burial will be given serially in this BULLETIN. The complete translation of the original book, giving the names, ages, dates of burial, next of kin, and grave number, will be presented to the Diocesan Office of Cemeteries.

BURIALS IN MT. CALVARY CEMETERY
1867 - 1894

1867

Reirnbeck Katherine, April 26
Ross, Friedrich, April 25
Hoerner, Losia, May 8
Daechtle, Ann, May 14
Fritz, Christian, July 6
Uller, Emil, July 14
Schneider, Heinrich, July 21
Hinterschied, Johann, July 22
Albert, Johan, Aug. 2
Marzitti, (Child), Aug. 18
Schwarz, Heinrich, Sept. 4
Eisel, Anna, Sept. 11
Engler, Joseph, Sept. 13
Stark, Johan, Sept. 17
Wehrle, Leonora, Oct. 3
Rapp, Maria, Oct. 31
Balzle, Margaretha, Nov. 1
Bruckhofer, Johan, Nov. 4
Baeder, Peter, Nov. 11
Gramling, Barbara, Nov. 13
Redel, Georg, Dec. 9
Stark, John, Dec. 20

1868

Deinlein, Katherine, Jan. 2
Deinlein, Margaretha, Jan. 2
Blum, Friedrich, Jan. 4
Deupel, F. Xavier, Jan. 6
Thom, Karolina, Jan. 14
Deufel, John, Jan. 26
Hoellenthal, Regina, Jan. 27
Farischon, Gerhardt, Jan. 28
Garterdam, Anton, Jan. 30
Herz, Casper, Feb. 18
Vollmer, Johan, Feb. 19
Mueller, Killian, Feb. 22
Ritter, Katherine, March 9
Wirth, Johan, March 30
Leroy, Johana, April 6
Sachsteter, Alexander, April 15
Renz, Stephen, April 20
Metzner, Georg, July 4

1868 (Cont.)

Bauman, Georg, July 10
Uller, Theodor, July 11
Wieman, Anna, July 14
Juli, Ludwig, July 15
Ennis(?), Katherine, July 15
Breitung, Johan, July 16
Fritzge, Franziska, July 17
Hermann, Anton, July 19
Gerardi, Vinzens, July 19
Hirsch, Johan, July 21
Benesheimer, Heinrich, July 28
Badur, Joseph, Aug. 12
Mehling, Louise, Aug. 12
Gerhart, Mathilda, Aug. 16
Assman, Katharina, Aug. 24
Rohrbacher, Margaretha, Sept. 9
Wolf, Katarina, Sept. 10
Koerbel, Johan, Sept. 16
Miller, Louiza, Sept. 20
Hofman, Wilhelm, Sept. 22
Lang, Margaretha, Sept. 25
Schwieger, Eva Franz, Oct. 2
Schoppelrey, Joseph, Oct. 16
Biechner, Adam, Oct. 24
Gartner, Berhart, Nov. 8
Baur, Mary, Nov. 9
Koch, Leopold, Nov. 16
Babbert, Philip, Nov. 18
Neth, Eva, Nov. 28
Koerbel, A. Gertrude, Nov. 27
Reil, Georg, Nov. 27

1869

Dolbert, Nickolaus, Jan. 4
[Karg], Andreas, Jan. 8
Hill, Wilhelm, Jan. 26
Spencer, Maria, Jan. 28
Lang, Anna, Feb. 4
Heimann, Valentin, Feb. 5
Graeber, Robert, Feb. 17
Pfeifer, Maria, March 16
Keller, Franziska

(To be continued)

Note: The conclusion of the history of St. Joseph's, Jersey, Licking
County, will be published in next month's BULLETIN.