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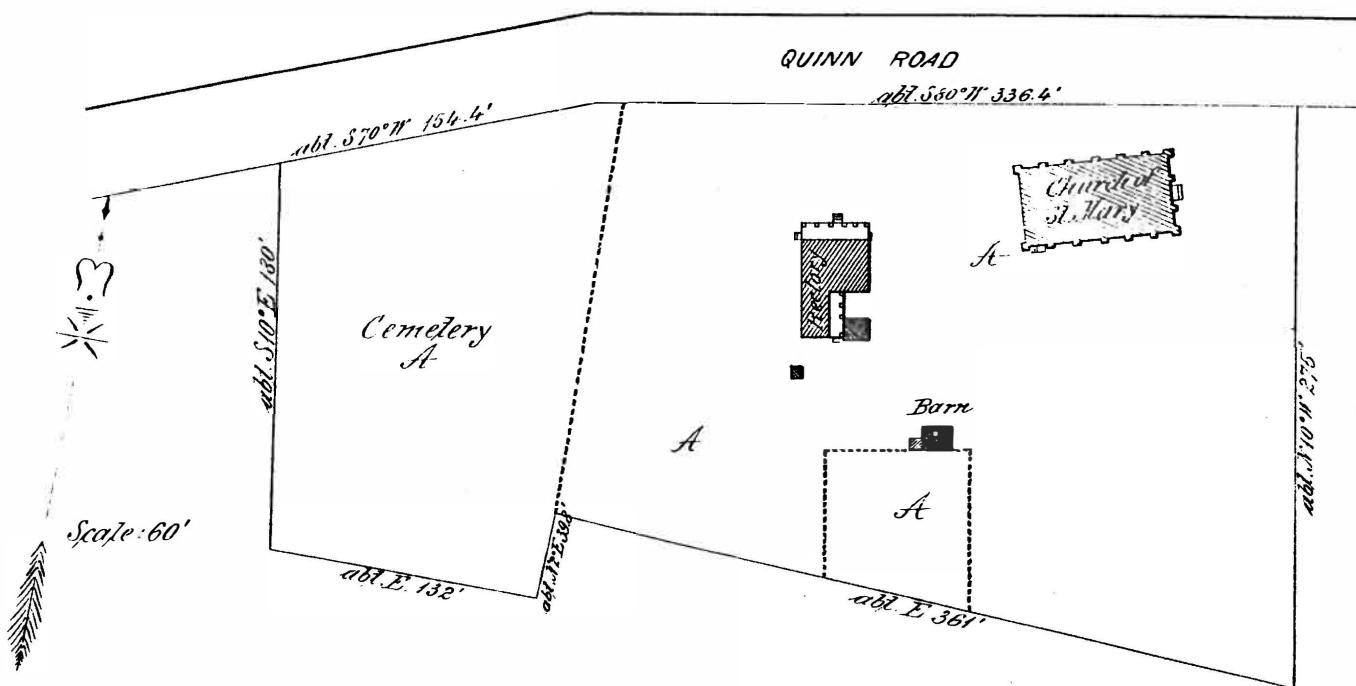
1979

CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY

Diocese of Columbus

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Above is a reduction of the Plat Map of the property of St. Mary's Parish, Minerton, Vinton County, Ohio, as prepared about 1885 by the Diocese of Columbus. The map is in the Diocesan Archives.

THE HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S PARISH

MINERTON, VINTON COUNTY, OHIO
(Continued)

Father James J. McCann remained at St. Mary's, Minerton, until May, 1899. The debt of \$1,023.25 which he reported in 1894 was gradually reduced so that it was completely liquidated by 1898. Festivals held during these years helped greatly in the accomplishment. They netted \$345.00 in 1894; \$210.00 in 1895; \$254.00 in 1897, and \$248.00 in 1898. [No report available for 1896.] Pew rent, the main support of the parish, was also good during these years considering the size of the parish and the times. In 1894 it totalled \$1,128.00; in 1895, \$1,112.00; in 1897, \$933.00, and in 1898, \$1,138.00 (1).

During these years Father McCann also recorded a parish donation for the diocesan celebration of the Bishop's Jubilee, and also the official visitation of the parish by the Bishop on Nov. 4, 1894.

Meanwhile the status of the parish membership remained stable. There were 50 families in 1892, and 46 in 1897. The number of baptisms remained at 13 or 14 annually. Father McCann was transferred to Temperanceville, Belmont County, in June, 1899.

A parish census taken during Father McCann's pastorate (in 1895) reveals the following family names: Bellerman, Boyce, Buck, Butt, Carr (Karr?), Carpenter, Condron, Fitzsimons, Freker, Fischer, Gallagher, Ginan, Glackin, Haggerty, Hector, Irwin, Keck, Kelly, Kruzkamp, Lawler, Lucas, Mahaffey, McCartney, McClory, McCormick, McGovern, McKenzie, McPeck, Moore, Murphy, Mulholland, Norton, O'Brien, O'Leary, Quinn, Rafferty, Reagan, Ring, Ryan, Simons, Stanton, and Thacker. Almost all of these names were still on a census list taken in 1901.

Succeeding Father McCann as pastor was Father Dennis E. Meara (2) who was ordained in June, 1899, and sent to Minerton the next month by Very Rev. Francis X. Specht, Vicar General, who had become Administrator of the diocese following the death of Bishop Watterson in April of that year.

In a memorandum entered in the parish register, Father Meara recorded the events of his first day at Minerton: "Rev. F. X. Specht sent me to take charge of Minerton on the 29th day of July which was just one month after my ordination. Messrs. Murphy, Stanton and Simons met me on my arrival in Minerton and treated me very kindly.

"Finding no money on hand we at once decided to hold the usual picnic at Hawk's Bridge (3), and I promised to expend the proceeds in repairing the church property. On my first visit to see Sherman Mahaffey (4), I found him as yet unbaptized though in his 17th year. I baptized him and Edward Lawler stood sponsor.

"Returned to St. Mary's and was ushered into the house at midnight, which did not cause me much fear. . . . Tired by travel and the labors of the day, much needed rest and sleep soon put me in dreamland to awake at six for the ringing of the Angelus. The above is what occurred on my first arrival and during my first day spent in Minerton, Vinton County, Ohio. D. Edward Meara."

The picnic held August 26 was pronounced a success, netting \$184.59. Father Meara made a number of other pages of memoranda during his short pastorate. He noted that on Sept. 24 "the Sisters from Columbus came to solicit their annual collection for the poor." Forty Hours' Devotion began on Sept. 26. "We had the solemn opening with Rev. J. Schneider as celebrant; Rev. J. B. Mattingly, deacon; Rev. H. Johnson, subdeacon, and D. E. Meara, master of ceremonies. We did not have solemn closing. The Devotion was a grand success, as 180 souls received the Sacraments."

Father Meara also had charge of the mission at McArthur Junction. Under date of Nov. 6 he wrote: "Father Specht met me at Pomeroy and instructed me to go to McArthur Junction once in the month on a week day and say Mass, and look after the spiritual wants of the people there till further notice."

On April 17, 1900, he made this note: "This year I decided to give these people real palm, it being the first time in the history of the congregation

to have any." The remaineder of Father Meara's memoranda are concerned with invoices for goods bought and repairs made.

Mr. Keck wrote of Father Meara: Father D. E. Meara officiated among us until Jan. 19, 1901 when his health failed and he had to give up his charge (6) which left us without a priest for some time. During Father Meara's stay he was not idle. He made necessary improvements in and out of the building, such as painting, and placing stone sills at the windows, and fine stained glass windows and frames to take the place of the old wooden ones. He also bought a new organ and placed it in the gallery."

During his short pastorate Father Meara bought additional ground for the cemetery. An April 10, 1900, he purchased one acre (more or less) from J. J. Snider and his wife, Mary E. Snider (7). This property was transferred to Bishop Moeller on March 28, 1901 (8).

Father Meara reported 62 families in the parish on July 1, 1899, with 290 souls. There were 15 baptism during the year and 15 children attended catechism classes. Income was good. The parish realized \$431.00 from festivals in 1899, and \$353.00 in 1900. Pew rent in 1900 totalled \$1,320.00. Father Meara reported on the cemetery, stating that it was "in poor condition" (9). There was no charge for graves since the property was donated. Anyone could be buried there. The cemetery was not consecrated, and the priest blessed each grave at the time of burial.

After Father Meara's leaving, priests were sent from Columbus to care for the Minerton parish. It was during this year, 1901, that the little parish received \$1,000.00 from John J. Karr to be used as a trust fund for the benefit of the church.

It was quite a disappointment for the congregation not to have a resident pastor after Father Meara's departure. However, in 1902 Father Lucius J. Kessler (10), pastor at Gallipolis, who was directed to care for Minerton as a mission. In his first report of the parish he listed only 38 families with 180 souls. Yet he declared it to be "by far the larger place" than his parish at Gallipolis. His financial report for 1903 showed a total of \$1,282.00 in receipts.

Mr. Keck wrote that Father Kessler visited Minerton on alternate Sundays and on festivals. He endured the hardships of "leaving home on Saturday and bringing the necessary things he needed to last him two or three days, and walk about a mile through mud and snow and there a big building without fire or comfort awaiting him."

Mr. Keck's history ends during Father Kessler's time as pastor. However, he adds some items of interest, and expressed his own hopes for the parish. He named several priests who visited the parish from time to time. Among them was Father Patrick McClory, O.F.M. (11). "In his youth he was a member of St. Mary's. He served as an altar boy quite a while, until his parents moved to near Effingham, Ill., where he studied for the priesthood. He visited us on different occasions to help Father Grimmer at Forty Hours' Devotion."

Three other priests visited the parish at different times to enable the aging Germans to make their Easter Duty. Father Francis Karge (12) came from Portsmouth, and Father Francis Wachter (13) and Father Diltz (14) came from Pomeroy. According to Mr. Keck "Father Dilz gave us quite a surprise one Sunday morning after reading the Epistle and Gospel in English and German. He gave us a most eloquent sermon in German. It was a treat for the few who understood him. He was most forceful and clear. I remember the text to this day, although it was over 30 years ago. Although the majority of the congregation did not understand him, they could see from his gestures and from the rise and fall of his voice that he gave us a very interesting sermon. It was the first and only German sermon ever preached at St. Mary's."

Mr. Keck lamented that nearly all the early settlers were gone and laid to rest in the cemetery "to await the resurrection." He expressed the hope that St. Mary's would one day be filled with faithful worshippers. He noted that the area was "the richest in the state for its mineral resources, three veins of the best coal averaging $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 feet thick, besides any amount of the best limestone for cement, fine clay and oil. Geologists say we are right in the oil field." He further stated that the Toledo and Hocking Valley railroad passed right through Wilkesville Township.

In 1905 the parish again had a resident pastor in the person of Father Joseph Pollmann (15). Although he could report good financial conditions as late as 1910 when receipts totalled \$1,559.00, yet he also could note a gradual decline in membership. In 1906 there were 227 souls. This dropped to 196 in 1910.

Father John P. Vonville (16) became the next resident pastor when Father Pollmann was forced to leave in 1912 because of poor health. His reports showed the continual decline in the number of parishioners. In 1915 there were only 150 souls, a little more than half of the 227 given by Father Meara in 1899. Also, receipts dropped to \$907.00 in 1917.

The second tragedy of fire came to the parish late in 1921 during Father Vonville's pastorate. On a Saturday in December (17) of that year the beautiful church and its imposing tower were destroyed by fire. It was a shock to the people the next morning to find their church gone. Father Vonville was transferred in 1922, and the task of building a new church was given to Father George F. Gressel (18), pastor at Gallipolis, who visited Minerton each Saturday. Built of brick, the new house of worship was considered a "very nice church."

The remaining history of St. Mary's, Minerton, is one of a succession of pastors from Gallipolis and from Jackson, and of the declining membership until its final demise. The decline is emphasized by reports made by Father William Connolly (19) who succeeded Father Gressel at Gallipolis in 1923. In 1924 he reported the parish receipts to have been \$198.74; and in 1925 they were only \$152.53.

Father William G. Dowd was in charge from August, 1928, to April 1932. It seems that Father Eugene Dunn came for a few times from Pomeroy at this time. Father Charles B. Ryan had care of the Minerton mission from 1932 to 1936. Several priests came in the interval until Father Francis Riehld was appointed pastor of Jackson in 1938. In 1945 when Gallipolis became part

of the new Diocese of Steubenville, Minerton was henceforth under the care of the pastor at Jackson.

Father Edward Sullivan was at Jackson for a short time beginning in March, 1947. He died of a heart attack Sept. 1, 1948.

Father Joseph A. Hakel became pastor at Jackson Oct. 18, 1948, and remained until July 14, 1952. The next two years saw Father William A. Stecker in charge. In June, 1955, Father John E. Simon became pastor, and remained until January, 1962. Father Richard Dodd was administrator for a short time until Father Joseph Jerabeck, the present Jackson pastor, was appointed in 1962.

During the pastorate of Father Charles B. Ryan the Minerton parish observed its centennial. The occasion was marked by a homecoming, a Mass, visiting, dancing, and plenty of home-cooked food.

Father Simon was the last priest to visit Minerton for Mass on a regular basis. However, the parish was reduced to a minimum some years before. for example, in 1949 the receipts were \$123.28, while expenses were \$180.34.

Consequently, Father Jerabeck arranged a homecoming each year, a day on which a Mass was celebrated, and the people came prepared to clean up the grounds, and mow the cemetery. Eventually this was discontinued. In recent years the little brick church stood idle. It was a lonesome picture, surrounded by forests with no homes near. It became a prey to vandals who destroyed the windows, doors, and all the interior furnishings. Thus abandoned it should have been no surprise when it burned to the ground in late December, 1978 (20). The fire was probably started by hunters who used the inside of the church to build a fire and shelter themselves from the cold.

St. Mary's parish, Minerton, once a bit of transplanted Ireland, and for a while a small flourishing congregation, is now a forest of undergrowth, with a neglected cemetery taken over by weeds and saplings, where the pioneers, as Mr. Keck wrote, "await the resurrection."

- 1) Financial and parish statistics are from Columbus Diocese Archives.
- 2) Father Dennis E. Meara was born March 16, 1866, in Lima, N.Y. He was ordained at the Josephinum, Columbus, June 29, 1899.
- 3) Hawks was a small village in Wilkesville Township, about three miles north of Minerton.
- 4) Sherman Mahaffey was buried in St. Mary's cemetery. The dates on his tombstone are 1884-1899.
- 5) The present village of Dundas. The mission church was St. Joseph's.
- 6) Father Meara died in 1901.
- 7) Vinton County Deed Books, Vol. 40, p. 152.
- 8) Ibid.
- 9) Later the cemetery was well cared for.
- 10) Father Kessler was ordained Sept. 2, 1902, and sent to Gallipolis. He later served at Lowell, Bremen, Jackson and Shawnee.
- 11) Not much is known about Father McClory, other than what is given by Mr. Keck.
- 12) Father Francis Karge was born in 1810 in Germany. He was ordained Oct. 4, 1834, and died in Cincinnati, April 23, 1875. (Cf. Lamott, History of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

- 13) Little is known about Father Francis Wachter.
- 14) The only information about Father Dilz other than that given by Mr. Keck is in the History of the Diocese of Columbus by Bishop Hartley, who merely states that he visited Minerton from Pomeroy.
- 15) Father Pollmann was born in Steinkeim, Westfallen, Germany, Oct. 12, 1850. Ordained by Bishop Watterson, he served at Minerton from 1905 to 1912, when he retired. He died at Dearborn, Michigan, and is buried at Minerton.
- 16) Father Vonville was born May 18, 1873, in Alsace-Lorraine. Ordained July 6, 1896, he came to the Diocese of Columbus in 1912. He died in St. Louis, Mo., April 6, 1936.
- 17) Bishop Hartley states in his history that the fire occurred on the day before Christmas in 1920.
- 18) Father Gressel was pastor of Holy Family parish, Columbus, when he retired. He died Dec. 29, 1969.
- 19) Father Connolly was pastor of St. Francis of Assisi parish, Columbus before his death, April 22, 1969.
- 20) The date of this fire was incorrectly given as October, 1978, in the BULLETIN of August, 1979.

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THE FAMILY OF MICHAEL McDONALD

By Donald Schlegel

Correction

A petition recently found in the Clerk of Courts office in Perry County, Ohio, shows that two of the children listed in the article, "The Family of Michael McDonald," published in Volume III (1) of this BULLETIN, were incorrectly identified. The petition was filed on March 21, 1840, by John McDonald against Michael Scully et al(2). In the petition John stated that he had a one-fifth interest in and sought partition of the following lands:

- 1) The east half of the north-east quarter of Section 26, Township 15, Range 16.
- 2) the south-west quarter of the north-west quarter of Section 25.
- 3) The north-west quarter of the north-west quarter of Section 25.

These were three tracts owned by Michael McDonald, Jr (3).

From this it is obvious that Michael McDonald, Jr., of Jackson Township was not the same Michael McDonald who married Mary Gloyd in Perry County in 1839, and subsequently moved to Lancaster. Michael, Jr., of Jackson Township must have died between 1834 and 1840. John McDonald and the defendants named in the petition were his heirs. This petition confirms the identities of several of the other children of Michael McDonald, Sr., and provides a correction for one of his daughters. They are named as

Nancy Scully, wife of Michael Scully, of Perry County;
Elanor Gongloff, wife of Jacob Gongloff, of Perry County;
Daniel McDonald, of Perry County, and
Mary Damaugh, wife of Archibald Damaugh, of County Antrim of the Kingdom Ireland.

The Mary McDonald who married Thomas Moran and lived in Jackson Township, previously thought to have been Michael's daughter, was probably the daughter of Robert McDonald. Robert's will names a daughter Mary, but does not give her married name.

- 1) May, 1977, BULLETIN, p. 223.
- 2) Partition and Power Petition Records, Book B., p. 240.
- 3) BULLETIN, Op. cit., pages 224-225.

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Gifts and Acquisitions

Angels on the Bough by Sam M. Stewart. 1933. Gift of Monsignor Joseph A. Hakel.
Diocesan authors collection.

The Dividing of Time, an allegorical novel, by Elizabeth Sewell. Doubleday & Co., New York. 1951. Gift of Miss Marion Swickard.

Program of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Watterson Reading Circle, Sunday, Oct. 1, 1944. (Contains a history of the Circle). Gift of Monsignor F. Thomas Gallen.

Diocese of Harrisburg (A History), 1868-1968. Gift of Monsignor Robert J. Maher, Lebanon, Pa.

The Very Rev. Charles Hyacinth McKenna, O.P., by very Rev. V. F. O'Daniel, O.P. The Holy Name Bureau, New York. 1917. Gift of Sister Thomas Aquin, O.P.

Father Meara, a Personal Tribute, by Rt. Rev. J. M. Kirwin. Catholic Columbian Press. Gift of Monsignor F. Thomas Gallen.

John Henry Newman Commemorative Essays, edited by M. K. Strolz. Rome. 1979.
Gift of Bishop Herrmann.

California Catholicity by Monsignor Francis J. Weber. Gift of the author.

Subscription List, Church Building, 1844, Holy Cross Church, Columbus. Gift of Father Edwin McNulty, pastor.

Dictionary of the American Hierarchy (1789-1964) by Joseph Bernard Code. Joseph F. Wagner, New York. 1964. Gift of Monsignor Joseph A. Hakel.

Refining His Silver, Pioneer Days of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, 1866-1911, by Sister M. Teresita Kittel, O.S.F., Ph.D. 1979. Gift of Bishop Herrmann.

The Development of Catholic Social Doctrine from Pope Leo XIII to Pope Paul VI. By Monsignor John P. Kleinz, Ph.A. Gift of the author.

St. Martin's Society, Constitution and Minutes, 1858-1868, Holy Cross Church, Columbus. Gift of Father Edwin McNulty, pastor.

St. Mary's Young Ladies Sodality, 1860-1880; Constitution [German] and Attendance Records. Holy Cross Church, Columbus. Gift of Father Edwin McNulty, pastor.

Memorial Calendar, St. Patrick's Church, Columbus, Ohio. Vol. VI, No. 1, May 1899. [Memorial to Bishop Watterson] Gift of Monsignor F. Thomas Gallen.

St. Catharine's Society [1843], Records, 1860-1873, Holy Cross Church, Columbus. Gift of Father Edwin McNulty, pastor.

St. Elizabeth's Society, Constitution [1860] and Attendance, 1867-1878. Holy Cross Church, Columbus. Gift of Father Edwin McNulty, pastor.

St. Elizabeth Society, 1879-1921. Holy Cross Church, Columbus. Gift of Father Edwin McNulty, pastor.

Fray Marcos De Niza and His Journey to Cibola by Monsignor George J. Undreiner. Reprinted from The Americas, Vol. III, April 1947, No. 4., Washington, D.C. Gift of the author.

MT. CALVARY CEMETERY, COLUMBUS, OHIO
 BURIAL RECORDS
 (Continued)

1878 (Cont.)

Schoppelri, Barbara, May 29
 Reinhart, Michael, May 30
 Straub, Anna, June 4
 Fister, Barbara, June 6
 Kochendorfer, Bernart, June 9
 Spahn, Joseph, June 10
 Sieger, son of Mr., June 15
 Karg, Flora, June 18
 Straser, Louise, June 24
 Schneider, Johann, June 15
 Eisel, Nicolaus, July 10
 Dotter, Paul, July 11
 Reinhart, Heinrich, July 16
 Kuerklei (Burkley?), Amalia, June 18
 Messmer, Mary, July 21
 Hanf, Carl Friedrich, Aug. 19
 Roedel, Adam, Sept. 4
 Igel, Barbara, Sept. 10
 Schuhmacher, Mathilde, Sept. 19
 Scharf, Nicklaus, Sept. 21
 Schuhmacher, Friedrich, Oct. 1
 Bauer, Elizabeth, Sept. 27
 Jackob, Johann, Oct. 11
 Houston, Milden Mary, Oct. 15
 Kiesenwetter, Aloisius, Oct. 15
 Gleich, Philip, Oct. 20
 Messmer, Ferdinand, 2 children
 moved, Oct. 28
 Dechling, Heinrich, Nov. 8
 Gottwalt, Maria, Dec. 19
 Frehlich, Katharina, Dec. 17
 Woelfel, Maria, Nov. 19
 Weber, Alexander, Nov. 21
 Weber, Rosa, Nov. 26
 Schmitt, Agatha, Nov. 30
 Ziegelmiller, Franziska, Dec. 1
 Rippel, Elizabeth, Dec. 2

1879

Schiesser, Barbara, Jan. 2
 Lind, Christof, Jan. 9
 Guesler, Edward, Jan. 15
 Frank, Elizabeth, Jan. 19
 Mueller, Adam Daniel, Feb. 5
 Rosser, Mary Anni, Feb. 7
 Eissel, Franz, Feb. 10
 Lang, Georg Albert, Feb. 14

Hellenthal, Adam, Feb. 14
 Seibel, Leopold, March 29
 Fischer, Mary Juliana, April 23
 Roedel, Adam, April 16
 Frey, Theresia, May 1
 Getreu, Emilia, May 3
 Roessell, May 9
 Purrung, Theresia, May 15
 Igel, Catharina, May 15
 Kessler, Josephina, May 13
 Renner, Maria, June 4
 Reinhart, Michael, June 12
 Schwarz, Maria, June 23
 Baumeister, Maria Anna, June 27
 Huck, Bernhart, June 27
 Straub, Catharina, July 6
 Schwarz, Catharina, July 13
 Lovener, Maria Catharina, July 13
 Hermann, Johann, child of, July 20
 Reinhart, Martha, July 18
 Wagner, Adam, July 19
 Kuhn, Catharine Anna, July 28
 Schreiner, Anna, July 31
 Selig, Michael, child of, Aug. 7
 Storch, Alois, Aug. 11
 Weber, Johannes, Aug. 19
 Mehling, Catharina, Aug. 28
 Kaisser, Anna Maria, Aug. 31
 Hinterschitt, Catherine, Sept. 1
 Neimeier, Elizabeth, Sept. 14
 Russel [bones of], Sept. 17
 Thomas, Maria, Sept. 19
 Storch, M., Sept. 28
 Johim, Wilhelm, Aug. 6
 Kelle, Maria Agatha, transferred
 from old cemetery, Aug. 7
 Hinkelmann, Johann, Oct. 8
 Schlerett, Franziska, Oct. 3
 Trott, Laura, Oct. 4
 Trott, Johan, Oct. 20
 Gaertner, Nicklaus & Margaret
 from old cemetery, Oct. 21
 Kete, Johan, from old cemetery, Oct. 21
 Schaefer, Jakob, Oct. 30
 Baumgart, Veronika, Nov. 4
 Hermann, Johan & Charlotte, Nov. 8
 Mehling, Johan Adam, Nov. 20
 Wagner, Margaretha, Nov. 29
 Saile, Anna Maria, Dec. 5
 Sauer, Franz Valentin, Dec. 24

(To be continued)