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ST. PETER'S COLLEGE, CHILLICOTHE, OHIO, 1855

Although the Doric columned porticos have been added, the above is a sketch of the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Marshall Anderson, members of a prominent Ohio family, which became the site of St. Peter's College in Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1855. Other buildings were quickly added for the college; but all have now been razed. The sketch is copied from the book, Chillicothe, First Capital, Guide Book, by Jocelyn Gough of Chillicothe, and is published here with the kind permission of the author. Built in 1804, it is now called the Massie/Phillips house or the Party house of Governors Place. Besides the Andersons, a number of prominent families there, among them Henry Massies, Thomas James, Duns, Woodbridges, Seldon S. Cook, Edingers, R. Wisslers, L.S. Evans and John P. Phillips, Jr. In 1974 it was acquired by the Contour Development company who named it Governors Place. Father Michael Forde and others bought the property in 1854 as a college site. It served as a college for only one year, 1855 to 1856. Financial difficulties were among the causes for closing the school.

SAINT PETER'S COLLEGE  
CHILLICOTHE, OHIO  
1855-1856

Saint Peter's College? Yes. Where? At Glen-Mary, Chillicothe, Ohio. When? For one year, 1855 to 1856. Who conducted it? Diocesan priests aided by laymen.

Before giving information about the college itself, it may be better to tell of its location, and the origin of the name Glen-Mary. This information is found in a booklet published in observance of the 75th anniversary of St. Peter's church, Chillicothe, in 1922.

"An event which was thought worthy of record appears in a periodical of the time, and mentions the generosity and religious fervor of the William Marshall Anderson family, resident near Chillicothe, who were of the most prominent people in Ohio, and the celebration held at 'Glen-Mary', brings to mind the ill-fated project of Father Michael Forde who attempted ten years later to establish St. Peter's College on that site. Glen-Mary and the main building of the college was on the north side of the Cincinnati Pike about a half mile from the corporation line of Chillicothe, and just beyond what is known as Wissler's Pond.

"Says the periodical:

'On Thursday, May 23, 1844, Bishop Purcell administered confirmation at Chillicothe to sixty-seven persons in the church. After the ceremony the youth of the congregation, the girls dressed in white with a handsome banner representing the Saviour blessing little children, marched in procession through the town, accompanied by a band of music, and were kindly entertained at "Glen-Mary" by Mrs. William Marshall Anderson. Mr. Anderson addressed the happy group from the summit of a beautiful mound over-shadowed by oaks and elms, edifying by reminding them that the day of his first communion and not those of Lodi, or Austerlitz, or Wagram, was that which a Bonapart remembered with the greatest pleasure. Human glory was infinitely inferior to the dignity to which they had been that day elevated, "being partakers of the Divine Nature". He exhorted his innocent hearers to persevere faithfully until death, and that God would give them brighter crowns than emperors, or kings ever wore. Mary the Mother of Jesus would pray for them to her Divine Son, and protect them from the dangers to which their virtue was sure to be exposed in the world. They should catch the spirit of the Catholic piety which consecrated to heaven's Queen the sweet month of flowers, and present to her the bouquet she loved best - the lily of purity, the rose of love, and the violet of modesty, and the forget-me-not of an everlasting remembrance. After the address, the Bishop solemnly blessed the young audience, and it was carried by acclamation that the mound should thence-forward bear the name of Mary'."

It was about the middle of the last century that Archbishop John Baptist Purcell, of Cincinnati, was anxious to have a college which would be the compliment of his beloved seminary, Mount St. Mary of the West. The authors of the History of Mt. St. Mary's of the West wrote (1): "To accomplish this desire, Fathers Ford and Hallinan opened St. Peter's College at Chillicothe, Ohio." Whether they were trying to accomplish a desire of the archbishop or not may be questioned, since he did not give any real encouragement to the project. The account continues: "This college was opened with grand exercises and a lecture by Thomas D'Arcy McGee on July 4, 1855. The Archbishop permitted his name to be used among the references, not that he expected its permanency and usefulness, but only because he would not

place obstacles in the way of the originators of the college, whose intentions were as pure as could have been wished for, and who were sanguine of success"(2).

On November 7, 1854, Edward Purcell (3), Michael Forde (4), and Philip Foley, bought from William Marshall Anderson and his wife, Eliza, 10.4 acres situated in Scioto township, Ross county (5). The price was \$6,000. Since Father Purcell was one of the purchasers and worked closely with his brother, the archbishop of Cincinnati, it can be presumed that the latter knew of the transaction and gave at least tacit approval.

Four months later, April 11, 1855, Father Purcell, for the sum of one dollar, signed a quit claim to his share of the property in favor of Father Forde.

Meanwhile the Glen-Mary estate was being prepared to receive students. The "Catholic Telegraph" of Cincinnati (7), in its issue of November 11, 1855, stated that "A building which is to be used as a Catholic College is now nearly under roof, near Chillicothe, in this archdiocese. The beautiful property on which it is situated was bought by Rev. Mr. Forde of William M. Anderson, Esq., about two months ago. Rev. M. Ford (8) is astonishing those who are not intimately acquainted with him by the energy with which his zeal is pushing forward this work."

Apparently all was going well. The "Telegraph" (9) reported that Father Hallinan had joined Father Forde at the Chillicothe college. He was also assisting Father Forde in the care of St. Mary's congregation in the same city.

On August 25, 1855, the "Telegraph" (10) reported that the college would be ready to receive students on the first Monday of September. "Already its prospects," the story stated, "are very flattering. A full corps of able and devoted teachers are in readiness and the energetic president promises that in every way the college will not be inferior to any in the country. Its situation, combining the advantages of country and city, and unsurpassed for healthiness, will be another guarantee for parents and guardians. It is already prepared to receive 100 students and before the end of the session or at least at the beginning of the next nearly double that number can be accommodated."

An advertisement in the "Telegraph" on the same date listed the professors. They were: Rev. M. Forde, A.M., President and professor of Greek literature; Rev. J. O'Connor, professor of Logic, Metaphysics and Ethics; M. F. McDermott, ex scholar A.M. and first Classical prize man of Trinity College, Dublin, professor of Latin and English literature; H. O'Connor, Esq., professor of mathematics; A. Worthington, M.D., Professor of physiology, natural philosophy and chemistry; J. Theodore McKenna, Esq., professor of music, and Mr. J. Brennan, prefect of discipline. The notice added that there were four other assistant professors. Later announcements would give the names of other professors: Rev. Joseph O'Mealy, chaplain and professor of history; Edward Downing, LL.D., professor of Latin, Greek and French, and James A. Dittoe and T. Mahoney, prefects of discipline.

The Prospectus of the college is worthy of note. Published in the "Catholic Telegraph," (11) it read: "This Institution, situated one mile west of the old and beautiful city of Chillicothe, and within a few hundred yards of the Bellvue Chalybeate waters, will open for the reception of students on the 1st Monday of September, 1855.

"The site of the College is one of the most healthy and picturesque in the

country. The play grounds extensive and convenient - a large tract of land being attached to the college.

"The entire course of studies will consist of eight years - four in the Primary and four in the College departments, but students from other colleges will be allowed to enter the classes for which upon examination they will be found qualified. Students under the age of ten will not be received, nor those who may have been expelled from other colleges.

"The discipline of the college will be mild but firm. The college will be under the direction of secular clergymen, assisted by eminent Professors in the various departments.

"During the entire course special attention will be paid to the study of the Modern languages, English Literature and Greek and Latin Composition. Students intended for Commercial pursuits will be required to study the French and German Languages.

"The religion of the house is Roman Catholic, but while the uniformity of discipline requires a conformity with the religious exercises of the College, the religious principles of pupils of the different denominations will in no respect be interfered with.

"Candidates for graduation will be publicly examined in the subjects taken."

The "Catholic Telegraph" reported on June 2, 1855, that the 4th of July would be celebrated in Chillicothe by the opening of St. Peter's College. Mr. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, well known scholar, was engaged to give a lecture on the "Political Opinion and Public Example of Washington." There were to be other distinguished speakers also. The "Telegraph" gave the departure times of trains from Cincinnati going to Chillicothe.

The college had been in session only a few weeks until it lost in death one of its professors, James H. O'Connor, brother of Father O'Connor, also on the faculty. The "Telegraph" (12) recorded the death: "Died Oct. 18, 1855, of Pulmonary disease, at St. Peter's College, Chillicothe, Ohio, James H. O'Connor aged about thirty-three years. The deceased was a teacher by profession, and was well versed in that difficult science. But he was more. He was a Catholic teacher, and practised most faithfully all he taught, so that his example was the great lesson of his life....."

St. Peter's had a notable celebration for Washington's birthday in 1856 (13). "A crowd of intelligent ladies and gentlemen," reported the paper, "which attended the exercises at Masonic Hall on the eve of the 22nd inst. was an evidence of the good feeling entertained by our citizens towards St. Peter's College and of their charitable disposition. Taking into consideration the short time for preparation and the youth of the several performers we could truly say that parts of the plays were admirably enacted....We must say that in Cato 'a tragedy so difficult to perform as any of our more modern plays,' the actors showed an appreciation of its beauties.....The performance was in Latin...The entire performance reflected credit upon the institution over which Mr. Ford presides."

Father Forde reported to the Archbishop (14) that there were twenty-two boarders and some "day scholars". From a published list of distinctions awarded

at the end of the first session, Feb. 6, 1856 (15), and at the time of the first commencement, July 2, 1856 (16), we are able to list the names of many of the students: J. Bray, Charles Carrel, Robert R. Carrel, Charles Conlan, Eugene Donnelly, George M. Downing, William Dunn, William Heron, Wilfred Kennedy, William Kennedy, John S. Kirk, Charles C. Landry, Ernest C. Landry, Nooma Landry, Timothy Mahony, J. McMahony, John McNally, John Murphy, James O'Brien, D. O'Keefe, John Owns, William A. O'Wesney, Henry Rice and Thomas Rogers. Some of the places from which the students came were Fayetteville and Springfield, Ohio, New York and Philadelphia.

Commencement exercises, July 2, 1856, closing the first year of the college, were held in the Masonic Hall, Chillicothe (17). The program included compositions by the students and the presentation in full costume of Fabio.

The commencement was the last act of St. Peter's College. From the beginning there had been financial trouble and serious differences with Archbishop Purcell. Even before the college opened Father Forde, even though property had already been bought, wrote to the archbishop (18) that he would abandon the project. The archbishop did come to Chillicothe and while there relieved Father Forde of the burden as pastor of St. Mary's (19). Later there were difficulties with his successor at the parish and Father Forde pleaded for a pastor who would be in some way sympathetic with the college.

Father Forde had the best of motives in starting the college. He had hoped that his effort would please the archbishop. "I believe, he wrote (20), "that when the Brown County College (21) did not succeed, you would be pleased to have one in another part of the diocese." Despite his zeal, hard work and estimable ideals, Father Forde seemed always to be having serious differences with the archbishop. His letters (22) during the existence of the college record his constant problems.

Eventually, during the summer after the commencement, the college was sold to the creditors. Still later, in December, 1860 (23), a Sheriff's Deed closed the matter. Meanwhile Father Forde had been assigned to teach at the Seminary of Mt. St. Mary's-of-the-West in Cincinnati. But his stay there was not long. Late in October he was preparing to leave there.

#### Priests on the Faculty of St. Peter's College

We have little or no information about the laymen on the faculty of St. Peter's College, and little about its President, Father Forde. He was born in Ireland and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he received honors. He came to the United States and completed his studies for the priesthood at Mt. St. Mary's-of-the-West. He was ordained there with Father Martin Winand on November 21, 1851 (25). What else is known of him is contained in the story of St. Peter's.

Father Joseph J. O'Mealy was born in Ireland Sept. 27, 1814. He came to America early in life. His studies were made at Mt. St. Mary's, Emmitsburg (26), at the Propaganda, Rome, and in Cincinnati. When the seminary of Cincinnati was transferred to Brown county in 1839, Father O'Mealy was placed in charge. He resigned in 1842 and was assigned to Portsmouth where he had care of a number of missions. He was the first priest to visit Minerton (Wilkesville), Vinton county. He later served in Pittsburgh where his friend, Most Rev. M. O'Connor, was bishop. He edited the Pittsburgh Catholic from 1846 to 1849. He then succeeded his brother, Rev. Patrick O'Mealy, as pastor in Dayton, Ohio. Later he served in Cincinnati, building St. Augustine church there. He died in Springfield, Ohio, October 20, 1856.

In August before his death he was listed as chaplain and professor of history at St. Peter's College.

Father Michael Mary Hallinan was born in Ireland, July 6, 1827 (28). Another reference gives his birth as Sept. 29, 1827 (29). He studied at St. Sulpice, Paris, where he met Bishop Purcell of Cincinnati. He received the doctorate upon completion of his studies in theology. He was ordained June 18, 1851, and came to the United States in August of that year. When the new seminary was completed he was placed in charge, a post he held for three years. He severed his connection with the seminary during the vacation of 1854, and went to Chillicothe where he labored with one of his former students, Father Forde, in the establishment of St. Peter's College. He next went to Dayton, Ohio. His health caused him to give up his work there, and he went east to Baltimore and Philadelphia. In 1868 he went to the diocese of Fort Wayne and was pastor for some years at Lafayette. In 1882 he went to the diocese of Little Rock at the request of his former pupil, Bishop Edward Fitzgerald. Father Hallinan died in Little Rock, December 12, 1887.

Father Jeremiah O'Connor was a talented student at Mt. St. Mary-of-the-West, Cincinnati, and was assistant professor there before his ordination, April 25, 1852. He continued there as professor of Scripture, Church History and Moral Philosophy until 1854 when he was transferred to St. Mary's, Oxford, Ohio, with several missions. We have no further information about him (30).

- (1) History of Mt. St. Mary's Seminary of the West by Michael J. Kelly and James M. Kirwin. 1894. Page 87.
- (2) Ibid, p. 87.
- (3) Very Rev. Edward Purcell, Cincinnati, Ohio, brother of the archbishop.
- (4) Rev. Michael Forde, founder and president of St. Peter's College.
- (5) Ross County, Ohio, Deed Books, Vol. 56, p. 362.
- (6) Ross County, Ohio, Deed Books, Vol. 57, p. 151.
- (7) Courtesy of the Archives of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.
- (8) Father Forde's name is spelled "Ford" and Forde" in published records. His letters were all signed "Forde".
- (9) "Catholic Telegraph," Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 6, 1855. Archives of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.
- (10) Archives of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.
- (11) "Catholic Telegraph," March 31, 1856. Archdiocese Archives.
- (12) Ibid., Oct. 27, 1855.
- (13) Ibid., March 1, 1856.
- (14) Letter of Father Forde to Archbishop Purcell, Oct. 4, 1855. Archdiocese Archives.
- (15) "Catholic Telegraph," March 1, 1856. Archdiocese Archives.
- (16) Ibid., June 17, 1856 and Aug. 2, 1856.
- (17) Ibid., June 21, 1856.
- (18) Letter of Father Forde to Purcell, May 3, 1855. Archdiocese Archives.
- (19) Ibid., Sept. 5, 1855.
- (20) Ibid., July 16, 1855.
- (21) Father Forde evidently refers to St. Francis Xavier Seminary which was at the Brown county location from 1839 to 1845.
- (22) Archives of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.
- (23) Ross County, Ohio, Deed Books, Vol. 128, p. 543.
- (24) Ford to Purcell, Oct. 30, 1856. Archdiocese Archives.
- (25) History of Mt. St. Mary's of the West, op. cit., p. 70.
- (26) Ibid., p. 18.

- (27) "Catholic Telegraph," May 31, 1856. Archdiocese Archives.  
 (28) History of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 1821-1921, by Rev. John H. Lamott, 1921, p. 359.  
 (29) History of Mt. St. Mary's of the West, op. cit., p. 143.  
 (30) Ibid., p. 69.

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ST. REMIGIUS CHURCH, COLUMBUS  
 SACRAMENTAL REGISTER, 1837 - 1846  
 (Continued)  
 By Donald M. Schlegel

Year 1843, continued

208. Same Day: Johann, born 20 January, 1843, son of Christoph Kirchner and Maria Nuss. Sponsor Erhard Nuss.  
 209. 30 January: At Delaware, Maria Anna, daughter of Gregor Pfeifer and Maria Beck. Sponsors Johann Getreu and Christina Edelman. J. M. Young  
 210. 28 January: Supplied ceremonies for Maria Elizabetha, daughter of Herman Steinecke and Anna Maria Hagedorn, whom the Bishop baptized on January 22. Sponsors Gerhard Steinecke and Maria Olding. J.M. Young  
 211. 1 March: Joseph Heinrich, son of Peter Derick and Maria Schmidt. Sponsors Joseph Schmidt and Magdalena Schmidt. W. Schonat  
 212. 2 March: Cecilia, born 1 March, daughter of Vincens Burkle and Theresa born Felzer. Sponsors Johann Birong and Sophia Ullrich. W. Schonat  
 [Vincens Burkle was a tailor living at the northwest corner of Friend and Third streets in 1834.]  
 213. 5 March: Joseph, born 23 February, son of Georg Endert and Sophia born Biesig. Sponsors Joseph Rudolph and Anna Katharina Schlitt. W. Schonat  
 [George Endert was a stone mason, born in Germany around 1821. (1850 Wd., 5, p. 447)].  
 214. 12 March: Maria Magdalena, born 7 September 1842, daughter of Georg Vogel and Maria born Schweizer. Sponsors Michael Buchert [?] and Maria Vogel. W. Schonat  
 215. 12 March: Johann, born 1 March, son of Franz Anton Rieg and Sidonia [?] born Leipold. Sponsors Margaretha Leipold and Johann Birong. W. Schonat  
 216. 26 March: Johann Friederich, born 11 March, son of Caspar Ziegler and Anna born Zaeder. Sponsors Friederich Frey and Theresia Frey. W. Schonat  
 [Note in later pen: "424.6.'09"]  
 [In 1843 Caspar Ziegler was living on the west side of Fourth street between State and Town streets.]  
 217. 2 April: Joseph, born 19 March, son of Franz Grambig and Maria Anna born Hotz. Sponsors Vincens Weigenandt and Christina Kessel. W. Schonat  
 218. 9 April: Lucy, born 1 March, daughter of Henry Moore and Anna C. Sponsors Charles W. Russell and his wife Margaret. W. Schonat  
 219. 24 April: Joseph, born 4 February, son of Bernard Klaus and Anna Maria born Zimmermann. Sponsors Peter Schwarz and Barbara Rothefels.  
 220. 24 April: Heinrich, born 16 February, son of Georg Müller and Rebecca born Miki. Sponsor James Müller.  
 221. 24 April: Joseph, born 30 August 1842, son of Leopold yer and Crescentia Obert. Sponsors Georg Müller and James Müller. W. Schonat  
 222. 27 April: Maria Anna, born 18 April 1843, daughter of Valentin Hette-sheimer and Margaretha. Sponsors Jacob Brandmüller and Maria Anna Zettler. W. Schonat

Year 1834, continued

223. 2 May: At Marion, Karl, born 8 January, son of Georg Klaus and Katharina born Suttel. Sponsors Johann Getreu and Maria Barbara Volpert.
224. Same Day: Maria Elisabetha, born 1 April 1842, daughter of Ludwig Henselmann and Elisabetha born Rieder. Sponsors Johann Getreu and Barbara Volpert. W. Schonat
225. 7 May: Catherine, born 13 January, daughter of John Weaver and Katharina Fry. Sponsor Elizabeth Busey.
226. Same Day: I supplied ceremonies for Cecilia, born 6 November 1842, daughter of Patrick Busey and Eliz. James. Sponsors Jac. Econroth and Maria Econroth and the baptism was done by the Bishop.  
[Probably one of the three Jacob Eckenrodes of Perry county.]
227. 21 May: Maria, born 9 May, daughter of Ludwig Keller and Anna born Schreiner. Sponsors Anna Maria Frank and Philip Wilking.
228. Same Day: Maria Barbara, born 5 May, daughter of Joseph Rothenfels and Barbara born Breitenbach. Sponsors Peter Anton Reinhardt and Barbara Reinhardt. W. Schonat
229. 25 May: Friederich Georg, born 1 December 1842, son of Isidor Frey and his wife Francisca born Doll. Sponsors Friederich Mutter and Maria Birk. W. Schonat
230. 4 June: Mary Anne, born 25 November 1842, daughter of Andrew Perry and Louisa Frey. Sponsors Maria Anna Zimmer and Valentin Kochendorf. W. Schonat
231. 18 June: Mary Jane, daughter of John Rinehard and Sara M'Goulrick. Sponsor Dorothy Fealty. J.M. Young
232. 19 June: In Lithopolis, Perpetua Elenor, daughter of Daniel Laure and his wife Esther, born 8 May. Sponsors Michael Heck[?] and Dorothy Wtz[?]. W. Schonat
233. 25 June: I supplied ceremonies over Elizabeth Jane, born 5 June 1843, daughter of Charles Ellis and Catherine Ellis. Sponsors Joseph Ender and Eva Ender.
234. Same Day: I supplied ceremonies over Rosina, born 22 November 1841, daughter of August Ilgert and Rosina born Brosmer. Sponsors Margaretha Eberner and Paulus Käli. The baptism was performed by Rev. D. Young
235. 26 June: Johann Georg, born 17 June, son of Friederich Frey and Theresa born Forbusch. Sponsors Georg Eiermann and Margaretha Eiermann. W. Schonat
236. 23 July: Michael, born 15 July, son of Wendelin Riedel and Eva born Simonis. Sponsors Michael Kuhn and Katharina Kuhn.
237. 9 August: Anton, born 6 August 1843, son of Jacob Frank and Elisabetha born Engler. Sponsors Jacob Frank and Elisabetha Engler. W. Schonat
238. 13 August: William Ignatius, born 22 July 1843, son of John Clark and Elizabeth Sandars [?]. Sponsors William Ignatius Clark and Martha Clark. W. Schonat
239. 13 August: Peter, born 7 August 1843, son of Georg Schmidt and his wife Margaretha born Kempel. Sponsors Peter Brandt and Marianna Brandt. W. Schonat
240. 15 August: Maria, born 17 April 1843, daughter of Ludwig Frey and Maria Anna born Möhler. Sponsors Johann Muller and Maria Frey. W. Schonat
241. 19 August: Heinrich, born 18 June, son of Nicolaus Schöp and his wife Caroline born Kessler. Sponsors Andreas Kaifer and Katharina Rudolph. W. Schonat

(To be continued)

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