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HOLMES COUNTY, THE UNWANTED CHILD

1847 - ca. 1862

The boundaries of the diocese of Columbus(1) were set by Pope Pius IX in the official document of erection of the diocese dated March 3, 1868. He designated its northern line as the southern boundary of the diocese of Cleveland(2), and including Franklin, Delaware and Morrow counties. But what was the southern boundary of Cleveland?

The diocese of Cleveland was established April 23, 1847, being formed from the diocese of Cincinnati which until that time included all of the state of Ohio. The dividing line between the two Ohio dioceses was set as latitude forty degrees and forty-one minutes. It is quite probable that Bishop Purcell of Cincinnati suggested such a dividing line, thinking that a single line east and west across Ohio would be an easy way of dividing the territory. At any rate, the Fathers of the Sixth Council of Baltimore recommended such a dividing line in their petition to the Propaganda for another diocese in Ohio (3).

But the $40^{\circ} 41'$ line was impractical from the start. "To arrange a diocesan boundary in inhabited country by such an air line," observes Father Jurgens, "was utterly impractical. It followed no county line anywhere, cut through Mt. Eaton, as I recall, and probably went right through the middle of people's bedrooms"(4).

The $40^{\circ} 41'$ line, as far as the future diocese of Columbus would be concerned, cut off the southern part of Columbiana county, leaving such cities as East Liverpool and Wellsville in the Cincinnati diocese; a portion of northern Carroll county would fall in Cleveland; a piece of Stark county would still be in the old diocese; the southern tip of Ashland county, including the city of Loudonville, would remain under Bishop Purcell, and the southern end of Richland county would also remain under Cincinnati.

Strange as it may seem, the problem which arose later concerned Holmes county which remained entirely south of the dividing line, and therefore still within the Cincinnati diocese.

The question of the diocesan boundaries was raised by Bishop Rappe following his consecration by Bishop Purcell in Cincinnati, October 10, 1847. Apparently Bishop Rappe recognized the difficulty he would be facing with the line cutting through counties and wished to have some clarification of jurisdiction. In a letter to the Propaganda(5) Bishop Purcell reports that he has consecrated Rappe in his cathedral in Cincinnati, assisted by the bishop of Richmond (6) and Rev. Edward Purcell, brother of the bishop.

That Bishop Purcell wrote promptly is evident from his letter. "On Sunday last in my cathedral church, assisted by the Bishop of Richmond and my brother, Rev. Edward Purcell, I consecrated Rev. Dr. Amadeus Rappe Bishop of Cleveland." "I regret to inform Your Eminence," he continued, "that immediately after his consecration the new bishop brought up the question of the limits of the diocese of Cleveland. Surely those limits were clearly stated in the petition of the Fathers of the Sixth Council of Baltimore to the Holy See for the erection of the aforesaid See; namely, the 40° 41' line for the southern boundary and the limits of the state of Ohio for eastern and western boundaries" (7). He asks the question be solved, and goes on to give the census figures of his diocese. He concludes by noting that the new diocese has more churches and priests, and more territory to sustain them than he had when he first came to Cincinnati.

The Propaganda, under date of December 15, 1847, acknowledges receipt of Purcell's letter informing the Holy See that he has consecrated Bishop Rappe. The reply goes on to state that "I trust that the question which you report about the boundary of the diocese of Cleveland has, with God's help, been peacefully resolved." It is clear from this that the Propaganda left the matter determining definitely the boundaries to the two bishops. There seems to be no record at the Propaganda about the final solution, nor is it known that any official approval was given to the ultimately accepted boundaries (8).

The matter was not immediately concluded as is evident from letters of Bishop Rappe. He wrote to Purcell from Louisville, Ohio, April 8, 1848 (9):

"Until there is more information as regards the boundaries of our two dioceses, would it be agreeable to Your Grace to publish in "The Telegraph" the names of the counties that border the line of latitude 40° 40' and that belong to the new diocese, in order that they may know which sheep belong to what shepherds to whom they may address their difficulties? Bolivar seems certainly to lie outside the line of latitude 40° 40' though I have not visited it. However Mr. A. Peudeprat (10) is in charge of it at the moment. If you could provide for this latter place with a priest other than from the new diocese, the matter would be simplified. As regards all other boundary lines Your Grace knows the will of Rome in a more exact way than I. I wish to rely on your decision. I do not wish in this matter other than what God wants and I think that the more my attitude is humble the more will I be with the Will of God."

A mission in Holmes county entered into discussion according to a letter of Bishop Rappe written from Cleveland, November 14, 1848 (11). Mt. Eaton was a little place in Wayne county which was entirely north of the diocesan dividing line of 40° 41'. However, St. Genevieve's, the French settlement at the present Calmoutier, was in early days referred to as at Mt. Eaton, the nearest place for designation. Bishop Rappe's letter:

"I am stealing a moment from our precious retreat to ask you to tell me if it is your intention to leave Mt. Eaton within the limits of the diocese of Cleveland or to attach it to that of Cincinnati. The Catholics of the parish of Mount Eaton have asked me several times for a resident priest. I believe it is necessary before answering their request that you, Monseigneur, would have the goodness to direct my conduct on that subject. It is now within your power to trace a line of demarcation between the two dioceses in a clear and positive manner. I would accept it whatever it may

be and I would like to ask Rome to sanction it. I desire a bit more facility in our administration so that the line of division would be none other than the bordering counties. But here again it is my only wish to adopt whatever plan you adopt. I will accept it."

From this letter it is evident that the line of division between the two dioceses has not yet been settled. And there appears for the first time the suggestion of using the county borders in determining the line.

Twelve days later Bishop Rappe is writing again to Bishop Purcell. In this letter is revealed the fact that a plan following the county lines had been proposed to the "Curia at Rome" and approved by it. Bishop Rappe is quite humble in his suggestion and remarks that if the territory is less for him he will be thankful to "Providence for having adjusted the burden to my personal abilities." His letter is dated Nov. 26, 1848 (12):

".....Since you permit me to suggest to you my idea regarding the boundaries of the two dioceses, I venture to give the one proposed to the Curia at Rome and approved by it. At the point of latitude adjacent, all the present and future counties are and will be under the jurisdiction of their respective diocese. And if the said counties are cut through by the line of latitude they belong by right to the diocese in which the greater extent of land of the divided county lies. One could divide them later on. I have put that idea down on paper for your information, Monseigneur, but I attach no importance to it, if you find a means to end that affair in a clearer manner. As for the line of demarcation, the more it will be drawn to the North the more I shall thank Providence for having adjusted the burden to my personal abilities. But I wish to remain neutral to the solution of that affair and shall accept unconditionally the part that will be given to me. However, I wish fervently to know the boundaries of the new diocese and I am confident that Your Grace will do all that you can to straighten out so very important a point for your administration."

A very interesting note was written on Bishop Rappe's letter by Bishop Purcell, agreeing to the latter's suggestion, and putting Holmes county into the picture. Bishop Purcell's note:

"Wrote to say that I agreed to his having the counties called for by this arrangement and threw in, if he accept it for administration during my episcopate of Cincinnati, Holmes County also. Dec. 5, 1848."

Now it is evident that the diocesan boundaries are agreed upon, and that Holmes county is within the old diocese. However, Purcell asks Bishop Rappe to accept administration of that county during Purcell's episcopate. Why did he wish to be free of Holmes county? There seems to be no explanation. He did not propose Carroll county which was farther away from Cincinnati, and which extended for some distance north of the $40^{\circ} 41'$ line. Bishop Rappe did accept Purcell's proposal about Holmes county.

Bishop Rappe decided to send the agreement to Rome, but there was still some question about Allen county. He wrote to Purcell Jan. 2, 1849 (13):

"I am going to send to Rome a request regarding the division of the two dioceses along the boundaries which you have had the goodness to draw in your last letter. But reports may deceive us about the confusion (14) which reigns in the capital of the Christian world, and I decided to

postpone my petition until we know where our Holy Father is living. Since it is beyond doubt that the Curia of Rome will approve our common petition, would it be out of place for me to visit the congregations where I have not yet been, for example Allen county(15). However I would not like to do that if the Catholic Telegraph would judge it unsuitable to publish once more the line of demarcation. I should be leaving next Monday or Tuesday for my new visitation of the diocese and I wish to go as far as Van Wert county. From there I shall go to Allen if you think this apropos....."

Publication in the "Catholic Telegraph", mentioned by Bishop Rappe, did not occur until January 11, 1849. In that issue the following agreement about the diocesan boundaries appeared:

"In order to prevent any misunderstanding or uncertainty with regard to the extent of jurisdiction, as defined only by the geographical line of 40 degrees and 41 minutes, the Rt. Rev. Bishops of these two dioceses have agreed, among themselves, and they direct us to publish, that the counties of Mercer, Auglaize, Hardin, Marion, Morrow, Knox, Tuscarawas, Carroll and Jefferson, which belong to the Diocese of Cincinnati, shall constitute the northern boundary of the Diocese of Cincinnati; that all counties north of those just named, shall compose the Diocese of Cleveland. Holmes county, for the greater part south of the line above traced, is by mutual consent assigned to the Diocese of Cleveland (16). Any new counties that may hereafter be formed by the authority of the legislature, will belong to that diocese in which the larger portion of them is situated. Application will be made to the Holy See to sanction this agreement."

Whether or not Bishop Purcell ever made application to the Holy See is not known. Nor is there any official approval of such an agreement known. But it is noted again that Holmes county, entirely below the line of separation, is to be under the jurisdiction of Cleveland. The importance of county lines forming the boundary between the dioceses is evident from Bishop Rappe's letter of June 22, 1849 (17):

"I presume that the trouble in which you are has prevented you from sending me the deeds which belong to the counties of Putnam and Holmes; but the present and urgent condition of the Church affairs in these aforesaid counties are so complicated that without an immediate interference of the legitimate authority, some scandals will take place. You will oblige me very much by directing to me not only these deeds but every one which belongs to the new Diocese. I am frequently placed in an awkward situation by being deprived of these documents so indispensable for the settlement of several difficulties....."

At the time of the erection of the diocese of Cleveland there were two missions in Holmes county, St. Genevieve, Mt. Eaton, and St. Joseph's, Mohican (18). Millersburg may have been a station. Father Grandeler of Danville, Knox county, was still in charge of St. Joseph's in 1848. By 1851 the Catholic Directory listed both missions under Cleveland. In 1856 the entry showed that Father Thomas was stationed at Mt. Eaton and also "visits St. Joseph's and Napoleon (Glenmont) in the same county.

That Holmes county was still considered as belonging to Cincinnati, but administered by Bishop Rappe is evident from his letter to Bishop Purcell Oct. 12, 1851 (20):

"Could you possibly provide for the spiritual care of St. Joseph church in Holmes county. Father Campion who lived in Wooster and now lives in Canton and cannot handle the German language, had asked me even before he left [Wooster from where he cared for the Holmes county missions] to appeal to you to take back that part of your flock."

Bishop Rappe bought property at Mt. Eaton in 1849, and in Napoleon in 1857. He baptised a number of times in the Holmes county missions as is evident from the sacramental registers.

On April 21, 1862, Bishop Rappe wrote (21) to Bishop Purcell that he did not have sufficient priests to supply the needs of Holmes county. Father Joseph Anthony Heimo, a priest of the Cleveland diocese, was at Mt. Eaton in 1860. He was there until some time in 1862. He came back in 1864, as is evident from parish records. He seems to have become a priest of the diocese of Cincinnati in 1863 (22).

The Catholic Directory continued to list the Holmes county missions under Cleveland until 1861. There was no Directory in 1862 and 1863. In 1864 they are back under Cincinnati. It is evident, then that Holmes county in 1862, or as late as 1863, was back home! It remained so until the diocese of Columbus was erected in 1868 when it became a part of that See.

- (1) See "Bulletin", Catholic Record Society, Diocese of Columbus, July, 1979, "The Diocese of Columbus, Jurisdiction and Boundaries."
- (2) The Bull of erection of the Diocese of Columbus merely states that the southern boundary of the Cleveland diocese would be the boundary.
- (3) The Sixth Council of Baltimore was held in May, 1846.
- (4) Father William Jurgens, historian of the Diocese of Cleveland, in a personal letter.
- (5) Bishop Purcell's letter seems to have no date but was answered Dec. 15, 1847.
- (6) The Rt. Rev. Richard V. Whelan was bishop of Richmond.
- (7) Propaganda Archives: Lett. Decr. S. Congr. Biglietti Mons. Segr., p. 1418. 1847 Parte II, Vol. 336, 754-1453.
- (8) Research by this author at the Propaganda uncovered no such document.
- (9) Letter of April 8, 1848, Bishop Rappe to Bishop Purcell, University of Notre Dame Archives (UNDA).
- (10) Rev. Peter Peudeprat.
- (11) Letter of Nov. 14, 1848, Rappe to Purcell, UNDA.
- (12) Letter of Nov. 26, Rappe to Purcell, UNDA.
- (13) Letter of Jan. 2, 1849, Rappe to Purcell, UNDA.
- (14) During a revolutionary movement in Rome Pope Pius IX fled to Gaeta in 1848.
- (15) Only a small part of Allen county was south of the 40° 41' line.
- (16) This does not mean permanent joining to the diocese of Cleveland.
- (17) Letter of June 22, 1849, Rappe to Purcell, UNDA.
- (18) See "Bulletin", Catholic Record Society, Diocese of Columbus, July 1978.
- (19) The national Catholic Directory, 1856.
- (20) Letter of Rappe to Purcell, Oct. 12, 1851, UNDA.
- (21) Letter of Rappe to Purcell, April 21, 1862, UNDA.
- (22) History of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 1821-1921, by Rev. John H. Lamott, New York, 1921, p. 360.

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ST. REMIGIUS' CHURCH, COLUMBUS
MARRIAGES (1837-1846) AND FIRST COMMUNIONS (1844)
By Donald M. Schlegel

The baptismal records of St. Remigius', the first Catholic church in Columbus, were published in the "Bulletin" beginning in February of 1981 and concluding in the December issue of that year. The few burial records of this parish which were kept may be found in the "Bulletin" of January/February, 1982. The marriage and First Communion records published here are the final installment of the series, completing the publication of all extant St. Remigius' sacramental registers.

As in previous parts of this series, the family names are reproduced exactly as in the original record, whereas the Latin forms of Christian names have been rendered into German or English forms; when in doubt, the English form has been used. The initials given with each entry indicate the name of the priest performing the ceremony: Henry D. Juncker, Josue M. Young, Bishop John B. Purcell, or William Schonat.

Several of the marriage records in 1840 and 1841 were noted "previously married by a civil magistrate" or similarly, indicating the difficulties the local Catholics had in obtaining the services of the priests, who were responsible for large territories besides Columbus.

The twelve first communicants in 1844 are the only ones noted in the register. Those communicants who can be identified ranged in age from about eleven to fifteen years.

Marriage Records

1837

1.	26 June: Johann Herman Steineke - Anna Maria Hackedorn.....	HDJ
2.	27 June: Jacob Schäringer - Theresia Stephan.....	HDJ
3.	28 June: Franz Xavier Mittelholse - Elizabetha Maddemüller.....	HDJ
4.	8 October: Georg Schmidt - Carolina Gross.....	HDJ
5.	8 October: Mathias Rut - Lara Ludwick.....	HDJ
6.	8 October: Wendolin Pappert - Justina Schrempf.....	HDJ

1838

7.	8 January: In Belpoint, Delaware county, according to civil law, Jonathan Steckerman and Elizabeth S. Bogan.....	HDJ
8.	9 January: In Delaware, Gregor Pfeiffer - Anna Maria Beck.....	HDJ
9.	1 May: Andreas Beck - Salome Steinmetz.....	HDJ
10.	29 May: Joseph Becherer - Sophia Bellicamp (both Catholic).....	HDJ
11.	15 July: Joseph Knedler - Nancy Mary Ackerman (after Baptism).....	HDJ
12.	1 October: Andreas Johann Schol - Katharina Schaeffer.....	HDJ
13.	24 July: Michael Morette - Elizabetha Jacobs.....	HDJ
14.	4 November: Friedrich Fry - Theresia Fallbusch.....	HDJ

1839

15.	18 January: Adam Jahn - Veronica Zahf.....	HDJ
16.	21 January: Georg Bichner - Maria Trimbach.....	HDJ
17.	22 January: Near Lithopolis, Henry Wiand - Anna Margaretha Dereling.....	HDJ

1839 (Cont.)

18. 23 January: Andrew Perry - Louisa Fry..... HDJ
19. 2 May: Georg Bauman - Sibilla Elenhard..... HDJ
20. 14 May: Franz Anton [Buss] - Maria Jacobina Fischer..... HDJ
21. 18 May: Ignaz Neuman - Maria Zender..... HDJ
22. 18 May: Friedrich Fischinger - Blandina Rhode..... HDJ
23. 28 November: Martin Herholder - Katharina Zender..... HDJ
24. 30 November: Franz Risch - Sidonia Leibold..... HDJ
25. 11 December: Johann Long - Louisa Kaiser..... HDJ
26. 11 December: Andreas Haas - Maria Heim..... HDJ

1840

27. 27 July: Lorenz Beck - Theresia Engle..... HDJ
28. 28 July: Adam Weissbacker - Victoria Roth..... HDJ
29. 23 November: Georg Euerman - Margaretha Christ..... JMY
30. 28 November: Valentin Hedesheim[er] - Margaretha Keefer..... JMY
31. 28 November: Andrew Kelly - Margaret Agnes Dowling (formerly of the
Diocese of Baltimore)..... JMY
32. 29 November: Friedrich Henemann - Eva Rosa Trautman..... JMY
33. 30 November: James O Hearn - Mary Hammond..... JMY

1841

34. 4 January: Ludwig Keller - Anna Maria Schreiner..... JMY
35. 25 April: Joseph Rosenfels - Barbara Breidenbach..... JMY
36. 26 June: Conrad Campbell - Katharina Wölfel..... JMY
37. 13 September: Christian Seifert - Maria Wölfel..... JMY
38. 30 October: Constantin Engler - Katharina Bauer..... JMY
39. 30 October: John France - Elisabetha Wölfel..... JMY
40. 28 November: Jacob Frank - Elisabetha Engler..... JMY

1842

41. 4 April: John Röhrenbeck - Carlina Frank..... JMY
42. 10 May: Michael Bolsley - Margaret Habner..... JMY
43. 18 May: Johann Andres [Endert] - Josephina Bisig..... HDJ
44. 18 May: Ferdinand Lichtenecker - Eva Maria Dovley..... HDJ
45. 11 July: Caspar Zigler - Anna Zetterer..... JMY
46. 8 August: Georg Schneider - Maria Rhode..... HDJ
47. 8 August: Vincenz Burckly - Therelia Stelzer..... HDJ
48. 9 -----: Charles W. Russell - Margaret W. Moore..... Purcell

1843

49. 29 January: Michael Buckhart - Maria Fogle..... JMY
50. 25 April: Johann Frey - Maria Uri..... WS
51. 27 April: Joseph Rudolph - Katharina Schlitt..... WS
52. 6 June: Andreas Schlaeritt - Margaretha Schaeringer..... WS
53. 25 July: Johann Joseph Müller - Sibilla (widow Sitzmann) born Trott..... WS
54. 1 August: Johann Siefert - Barbara Reinhardt..... WS
55. 21 August: Georg Ranft - Barbara Wohlleber..... WS
56. 22 August: Valentin Jaeger - Maria Koch..... WS
57. 27 August: Caspar Betzold - Margaretha Riemer..... WS
58. 26 October: Georg Fischer - Kunigunda Ross..... WS
59. 26 October: Heinrich Lotz - widow Salome Beck born Steinmetz..... WS
60. 19 November: Johann Eigensee - Anna Seitz..... WS

1844

61. 23 January:	Joseph Siegstein - Maria Eva Bierly.....	WS
62. 20 February:	Nicolaus Hanauer - Katharina Wölfel.....	WS
63. 20 February:	Heinrich Frey - Maria Anna Zimmer.....	WS
64. 12 August:	Nicholas Rumbush - Anna Maria Welline.....	JMY
65. 27 August:	Johann Schneider - Katharina Miller.....	JMY
66. 8 September:	Anton Leipold - Margaretha Hensler.....	WS
67. 8 September:	Peter Igel - Barbara Akkermann.....	WS
68. 10 September:	Eugene Sauer - Aurelia Fey.....	WS
69. 10 September:	Ignaz Trott - Petronella Geb.....	WS
70. 10 September:	Nicolaus Brehl - Elisabetha Brehl.....	WS
71. 2 October:	William Doran - Catherine Stokes, near Delaware,.....	WS
72. 12 November:	Ignaz Fitterer - Helena Weingardt.....	WS
73. 19 November:	Joseph Schneider - Margaretha Fischer.....	WS

1845

74. 3 January:	Adam Drisch - Elisabetha Schaefer.....	WS
75. 7 January:	Michael Buchner - Maria Anna Jahn.....	WS
76. 20 January:	Nicholaus Götzelmann - Katharina Ilm.....	WS
77. 21 April:	Adam Grön - Katharina Wittmann.....	WS
78. 10 June:	Benedict Lotz - Maria Johanna Postle.....	WS
79. 18 June:	Francis Mougey - Agatha Kaufmann, in Marion county.....	WS
80. 1 July:	Johann Pirrong - Sidonia Mittelholz.....	WS
81. 3 July:	John Albert - Maria Colhep.....	WS
82. 8 September:	In Delaware, John Freck - Helena Dummel.....	WS
83. 8 September:	Franz Weiss - Elisabeth Sühnlein.....	WS
84. 30 September:	Georg Sonner - Maria Francisca Wilging.....	WS

1846

85. 4 January:	Friedrich Peter - Maria Anna Kaelar.....	WS
86. 6 January:	Franz Xavier Mittelholz - Charlotte Limburg.....	WS
87. 8 January:	Lorenz Hack - Anna Margaretha Knittel.....	WS

[End of Record]

ST. REMIGIUS' CHURCH, COLUMBUS
FIRST COMMUNIONS - 19 MAY, 1844

1. Jos. Nenzel	9. Sophia Reinhardt
2. Ludwig Zettler	10. An. Mar. Nenzel
3. Georg Kellner	11. Susanna Lotz
4. Peter Zettler	12. Eva Scheuner
5. Wilhelm Reinhardt	
6. Caspar Kuhn	
7. Anton Becker	
8. Gabriel Schaeringer	
