



Barquilla del Santa Maria

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CHRISTMAS, 1918 SERMON

by Most Rev. James J. Hartley, late Bishop of Columbus

There is no day in the year that is surrounded with such glorious and consoling memories for all mankind as Christmas Day.

1. It reveals to man God's plan of eternal salvation.
2. It gives to the world a teacher whose grand lessons respond to the longings of the human heart.
3. It gives him hope and consolation amid all the sorrows that flood around him in this life.

Christmas Day brings before every man God's plan of eternal salvation - it is marked with His power and His goodness. He promised a Savior. He foretold how He would come and when He would come: "Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bring forth a son, and His name shall be called Emanuel, and He shall be the Savior of His people."

So the old stable with the child, the Virgin Mother and the foster father, the angels from on high to sing their welcome to Him whom the world has rejected, the shepherds to adore Him with their simple faith and piety, are all incidents in the divine plan that surrounds the incarnation of the Son of God. It is God's wonderful way of unfolding to man the sublime mystery of the incarnation. The human mind may not comprehend the power of God, but wisdom and reason will tell him to respect it.

Of Christ who is born this day we believe with our whold heart and soul these three things.

1. He is true God and true man. He is true God because having his origin from God the Father He derives His divine nature from Him. He is true man because being born of the Virgin Mary He derives His human nature from her.

2. In the next place we say He has two natures, the human and divine, both distinct; the human is not changed into the divine nor the divine into the human. Both are united in Him just in the same way as gold and silver may be

united, and yet retain their own distinct properties. He has a twofold knowledge, a twofold will, a twofold activity, human and divine; but the human is always subject to the divine.

3. But with all this there is only one person, Christ the eternal Son of God, a distinct divine personality. He knows all things, can do all things, but He cannot sin, He cannot make a mistake, because He is the eternal Son of God, the Savior of the world.

We believe in Him then with our whole heart and soul; we believe that He is true God and true man who came to live for us, to suffer and to die for us in order that we might obtain the grace of eternal salvation.

But He is not only our Savior, He is our teacher, the one who lays down the eternal principles that must be believed beyond everything else in human life.

He teaches every man what he must believe, what he must do in order to work out the salvation of his soul. He points out the errors to be avoided, the truths to be believed, the evils to be rejected, the good that must be done.

He lays down the lessons that speak to the heart, that enlighten the mind, that wake up conscience and make every man realize what is his duty to God, to his fellow man and to himself. And He does this not merely by word, He does it by example. He did not merely speak about poverty or humility or charity or obedience, but He became the living example of how to put all these grand virtues into practice.

If you go to the old stable this morning you will see how poor the Son of God is; you will see His humility; you will see what charity is making Him do for all mankind; you will see how the Master of life and death puts His will aside to obey the hard and cruel commands of those whom He came to bless and save.

No wonder Christianity is the only saving and upbuilding power in the world today. God has placed it upon such foundations as can alone assure true peace and happiness to all mankind. It was born with Christ; its words, its sentiments, its truths, its pledges, its promises, come forth from the heart of God Himself. It has stood the test of two thousand years; it responds to the longings of the human heart as nothing else in this life. Truth, justice, morality flow from its fountains, while peace and charity are the life of its very soul.

Today while our soldiers are coming home from the battlefields of Europe there is much talk about reconstruction of our social conditions. Oh yes the people who have suffered so much in those distant lands, the soldiers who have fought so bravely, the leaders who have guided the destinies of these past sad four years, all feel that something must be done to bring back peace, contentment and prosperity to the multitudes once more. And the only power that can do it is the sublime, the simple, the infallible faith taught by Him who was born into the world in the old stable at Bethlehem on the first

Christmas Day. The world wants peace, wants justice, wants morality, wants charity, and these will come in no other way in this life than by a loyal obedience to the sacred commands laid down by Christ, and by a living faith in His blessed word.

What a depth of meaning my dear friends is there not in the words: faith, confidence in God, devotion, self-sacrifice. The very mention of them lifts the soul up to something that is entirely beyond the confines of this life. Even the man who has no religion at all knows that the ideas, acts and ambitions inspired by them come from above, and flow into the soul like the streams that roll down the mountain gorges and make their way into the ocean.

Oh what feelings of faith, what feelings of piety, what loving confidence in the goodness and mercy of God flow into the soul of the children of the Catholic Church every day, but especially on this glorious Christmas Day with so much joy and peace and gladness, because the desired one of the eternal hills comes more intimately into their lives and softens their hearts with feelings and emotions which no human tongue can express. Oh yes the old faith of our fathers never seems so dear to us as it does on Christmas Day.

The poverty of Christ makes us forget our own sufferings and fills us with love and sympathy for the poor and suffering around us. His humility makes us ashamed of our pride; His self-sacrifice, a rebuke to our selfishness; His love an incentive to do good to all.

The old stable with its Christmas surroundings makes the world seem different; it brings man closer to himself, closer to his neighbor, closer to God.

And his faith -- his confidence in Christ inspired by the sublime mystery of the incarnation -- he would not give it up for every treasure in human life, for it not only promises, but pledges, yea even now pours into his soul, a peace and joy unlike anything else in the world. It is God's best gift to man, His first glorious and best Christmas gift to all mankind. Oh may its peace, the peace of Christ Himself, descend into the hearts of men and nations this blessed day and make them all one: one in faith, one in love, one in devotion to the divine Master who comes with the grace of eternal salvation to all.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SAPP FAMILY IN THE EARLY DANVILLE COMMUNITY 1805-1905

by Francis Sapp

[Concluded, from Vol. XI, Number 11]

Another one of Grand Father's girls that I do not know very much about, that one is Lidie or Lizibeth. She married Dave Porter and had some Family, I only remember one, James Henry. They mooved to Illinois and I do not remember ever hearing anything about them.

Aunt Betsy married John Blubaugh and raised a family, four Boys and two Girls. Their names are Bennie Blubaugh, David and Zach Blubaugh, Hilary and Joseph Blubaugh, Rachel and Martha. Aunt Betsy was one of the best old Souls that ever lived on Mohicken Hills. I hope she is in Heven. Her husband died and she married again. His last name was Collclessor the ugliest man I think I ever saw. I never called Him Uncle that I remember of. He never got his Picture taken. If he had I think it would have bursted the camry. My wife called Them Cow Slashers.

Benny Blubaugh, the first Boy, married a German woman and raised a family of four boys and three Girls. Two of the Boys are in Kansas, Dave and Frank. Joseph Blubaugh, the Squire, and James are living north of Brink Haven.

A man by the name of Snow married the oldest girl. Frank Logsdon married the second Girl. Chris Swingle married the third.

David Blubaugh went to California when very young and stayed there namy years and finally returned to old Knox Co., but only lived here untill he concluded to go to Kansas. He never married. Zacharia married and raised a small family of six boys and one girl. Hilary married Sarah Ellen Bails and raised three Boys; one Henry Blubaugh, Clem, and Charley Blubaugh.

Hilary Blubaugh went to California when a Boy and made considerable of money. Joseph Blubaugh married and raised such a large family I never tried to count them but once and failed. Old Mr. George Gann said the Blubaughs are like quails, run with the shell on their back.

Rachel married Pirer and raised four or five children. Martha married Anthony Smithhisler and raised seven sons and then Anthony moved to Kansas and directed His attention to raising wheat. Martha married Benjamin Draper and mooved to Wyandot Co. and raised a family of five children.

Aunt Fanny married Edmund Brent, a Brother of Father Brent. They raised a family of Five Boys and Three Girls, a very nice family, their mother being one of the finest and best of mothers. I never had an aunt that I loved more. She is now living in St. Louis, Mo., and is getting old and in all probility I may never see her again. Her Children's names are Edward and Charley, William and Raymond and Walter. The girls were Cecilia and Alice and Anna Brent. The last named became a Sister, a Dominican Sister at St. Mary's of the Springs, Colombus, Ohio. She is dead and perhaps in Heaven. May her soul rest in peace. Edward Brent married a girl by the name of McFarland and lives in Mosouri. Charley keeps a Tobacco and cigar store in Mt. Vernon, O. He married a Miss Dawson and have tow boys. His wife was formerly a protestan, but now a Catholic. William and Raymond are somewhere in the East and I do not know anything of them. Walter and Alice are in St. Louis. Cecilia married James Rolley and has a remarkable large family and live in Colombus.

Aunt Ann married James White and had three Boys and one Girl; Henry and Allen, Osker and Fanny. Henry and Fanny are in Colombus. Allen is in Pitsberg. Osker is dead and the Father and Mother are also dead.

Remember I said George Sapp had Ten Children, of whom I have named all of Them and also gave the names of nearly all His Grand Children. I want to

numerate them. The number is as near as I can calculate 72 Grand Children. The number of Great Grand Children is about two-hundred and fifty.

This Great Old Man, of whom I am going to Speak of coming here in eighteen and nine, came from Holand to Maryland. But when He came is not known, about 1770, was bornd 1745.

My Great Grand Father, George Sapp cenior, came to Danville in the year 1809 and died the year 1810 and was Buried in the corner of a field west of Danville and nearest by a new street running south on the Smithhisler line. I believe his wife, Christena, our Great Grand Mother, is also Buried there. In all probibility this Old Couple was the first to die in Danville. There was no Robinson cemetry at that time, neither was there a Catholic cemetry. The first person that was buried in the Catholic cemetry was a man by the name of Johnson. He died somewhere in 1823 or 1825.

I have in mind a number of Sapps that has not been mentioned and several of those are Descendants of Daniel Sapp of whom I have spoken of on second page. Hon. Wm. A. Sapp was a lawyer of Mt. Vernon. He was elected representative at one time. I remember he married and had two Girls by his first wife, but she did not live long. Her name was Mary Griffin. Consequently it was necessary for a second wife and he was married again, but only had two more Children, a Boy and a Girl. S. W. Sapp I was personally aquainted with. He married a Miss Butler and had two Children, a Girl and a Boy, and his wife died and in after years He married Rebeckey Whitford. His children by his first wife was Mary Ellen and Joseph Sapp. Mary Ellen married Squire Workman. She was a very nice girl and a good wife. Joseph married and lives not far from Cleveland in some Town, Cuyahoga Falls, and kept a Hardware store and died there two or three years ago. He had some family.

S. W. Sapp raised five or six by his second wife. Dr. Winfield Sapp, Ex Sherif Charley and Walter and I believe another by the name of Will or Frank and yet another that died some years ago. The three first named are married and are in the Implement Buisiness at Mt. Vernon. The Father of these two boys did not live more that 60 or 65 years.

Dr. Enoch Sapp place of residence was Coshocton. He practised medacine there and had a family, but I am not prepared to state how many. One of his daughters was married to a man by the name of Willcox of Coshocton and one was married to William Sapp, a dry goods merchant of Mt. Veronon. He being a son of Levi Sapp, William and wife were second Cousins.

Dr. Silas Sapp I believed practised medacine in some Town north of this and had a small family. I do not know how many in nomber. Remember that Hon. W. R. Sapp, S. W. Sapp, Dr. Enoch Sapp and Dr. Silas Sapp, also John Sapp were Brothers and Sons of Daniel Sapp. John Sapp, the last Boy named, was the father of Mrs. Elias Payne of Danville, and also Hon. Fletcher Sapp of Council Bluff, Iowa.

Fletcher Sapp was a Lawyer and a man of prominence. He was States atourney of the State of Iowa two or three times. Also He was a Colonel in the war with the Indians. He died some years since and left one Son and a Girl or two to become Heirs of His estate.

His sister, Mrs. Elias Payne, is a very fine Lady and is much respected by all who know Her. She raised a family of five Children. The Boys are John and William, the Girls: Celoria, Lizabeth and Mary. John, the oldest Son, married Squire Butler's Daughter and had some family. William married Cad Parish and has four Children living and two dead. Celoria married Sherman White and had six Children, five Girls and one Boy. Lizabeth married Totton and I believe they only have one Girl. Mary married Will Miller. They have about a half Dose Children.

Now I wish to direct your attention to Joseph Sapp. He is My Grand Father's Brother and my great uncle. I was speaking of him on seventh page and said I was unable to give any account of his family, but by investigation find out that I was personally acquainted with one Boy, Old Dr. Calvin Sapp. He lived in Danville and practised medicine there, also in the surrounding country. He was a good Dr. with wonderful success. He married Miss Baker and had some family. He finally moved to Gambier in his old Days and died there. He has one Son that is a Dr. and he is practising medicine at Brownsville or Jeloway as it is called at the present time. His name is Dr. Clinton Sapp. The young Dr. has a sister living in Cincinnati.

The old Dr. Sapp also has a Brother that resides in Fort Wain, Indiana. I have been informed that He kept a Hotel in that Town. His name was Dilon Sapp, but as far as giving any other account of Him I am unable at the present time.

I very frequently hear of some one meeting with some Sapp in the far West and in almost every meeting the parties will try to explain how they are connected, but the result is a failure and in one Particular circumstance of the kind I was referred to give the necessary Information required. The Sapp Family are so very numerous that they are found in nearly every Western state. They were nearly all raised on Farms, but at the present time there is but very few of them to be found in that line of business.

My Grand Father, George Sapp, brother to Daniel Sapp, Joseph and William, had as many Sisters as there were Brothers. One Sister by the name of Catherine married a Critchfield, I believe his name was Joseph. And another sister married another Critchfield, perhaps his name was William. At any rate Basil Critchfield, Robert J. Elinesor are descendants of that sister and I presume there are others that I do not know.

Well, the third sister, Betsy, married a Waid and Kisi White, Anthony White's wife, was a daughter. Also there was some boys. I believe another sister married Joseph Mirse. I have often heard my father speak of old Aunt Polly Mirse. Those four old Ladies were Aunts of my Father and great aunts of mine. NOTE - Mrs. Stanley, on this page I have just turned over, I will explain a little more satisfactory. John Mirse married Daniel Sapp's Sister, Polly Sapp Mirse, and Daniel Sapp's son, John Sapp, married Betsy Mirse, daughter of Polly Mirse. They were first cousins and raised a large Family and intelligent Family, Fletcher Sapp and Louisa Payne and Mrs. Stanley.

I have been a little surprised to see how many of the Sapp Family have become Doctors. I have eight in number. Eight Doctors, six merchant dealers in Dry goods, boots and Shoes, Three Lawyers and the Sapps were very fairly represented during the Civil War, I have seven in number, one one starved to

death in Libie Prison. And there is Two Preachers and I suppose the two are Dead long before this. You will find the Sapps on the look out for something easy. Farming is a thing of the past with the Greatest number of them. Also had one Sapp, Frank, of Mt. Vernon, a young man in the present War with Spain and probily there are others in some part of the west.

The Sapp family is and has been from the beginning a very remarkable family free from scrofula and all skin deseases, in fact there being no Hereditary deseases of any kind; such things as consumption, Dyspepsia, or Tumors and Cancers. They do not belong in the Sapp family.

I would like to see every young man of the Sapp family to be very carefull and consider well before choosing a companion that he is going to select one of a respectable family and clean of all skin diseases. Generally Speaking, Young people never make Matrimony a study before Marriage, but after they have made a Grand mistake, then and only then will they be ready to take good advice from those whome are interested in their welfair.

We have such a large number of relatives that it would be almost Impossible to try to give a full account of them. My Grand Mother, Catherine Sapp, was a Daughter of Archable Arnold of Alegheny Co. Maryland. And also My Grand Mother Durbin, wife of Eligia Durbin, was an Arnold and a first Cousin to Grand Mother Sapp. Those two Grand Mothers were Brothers Children. As far as that goes it is all perfectly right, but my father and mother should not have ever married at all. It is not right and contrary to the Teachings of the Catholic Church. About one half of their Family died young. I hope the young of whomsoever reads this will take a word of advise and never marry a cousin.

I cannot Remember very much about my Grand Mother Durbin. She was a very nice old Lady and a Sister of Mrs. Anna Noll of Wyandot Co. and also a sister to My Great Uncle George Arnold and Anthony Arnold. Those two men were very highly Esteemed by all who knew Them. They were very nice looking and in fact, perfect Gentlemen. Anthony never married and had a large estate to be divided among his Brothers and Sisters, Two of whome I know nothing about. The Sapps Grand Father's family and the Arnolds are very near relation. Also my father's family of Sapps and the Arnolds and Durbins, in fact all the Durbins are relation. They are so numerous that I would not attempt to give full account of them.

Formily the Sapp Family were protestans and in fact the largest number of them at this present time belong to protestan Churches. Some belong to the Methodist, others belong to the Baptist and some to the Episcopalian Religion, while Grand Father and his descendants are Catholic except a few. Grand Father married a Catholic lady and one of the best of mothers and a good Christian. Consequently He had good reason for finding the true Faith, the only thing in this world that I have or could posibly have to be proud of is that My family belong to the one True, Holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church. I thank God a thousand times for permitting me to be Bornd of Catholic Parrents. May they rest in peace.

I have written about all the important nuse concerning the Sapp family or at least I have written a suficient amount to explain all that is really necessary for any of the Sapp descendants to trace back to their forefathers

and find out where they belong and how they are connected. If I have accomplished that much, then I have did all that I desired to do from the beginning. Consequently it is not necessary to prolong the subject. Therefore I will not say any more at present in reference to the Sapp family, hoping that the reader will excuse all imperfections.

In reference to the numerous familys of Sapp that I have been refering to from the beginning to the end was to give the reader a fair and Impartial statement of all concerned, and I believe that I have did this with a few exceptions.

I failed to mention a few names, two of those being William Sapp's Boys by his first Wife. I remember I said on page seven he had two or three Boys, Rese and Lem. The others are Alven and William. Their familys are unknown to me and also there is two or three other Boys of the Kentuckey family. They are knowen as Black Head George and Frederick Sapp, brothers to Adam Sapp and Kentuckey George, also Joseph Sapp. I have been informed that those boys are all Brothers and I cannot tell anything of them except Frederick. Joseph Sapp formily lived on a run in Brown Township, and it has allways been called Jose run.

Frederick Sapp is the Grand Father of the Brink Haven Boys. He married and had three or four Boys and one Girl. The Boys were Robert Sapp, Samuel and Ben. The girl married John Porter and had two children and died soon. The Mother of the three boys and girl as I know her, Polly Porter, lost her husband, Frederick Sapp, and then married old Tommy Porter and raised Two children, Henry Porter and Harriet Porter.

Robert Sapp and Samuel raised their Familys at Brink Haven and had large Familys. - The End.

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Two file folders of photographs and data on Holy Rosary parish, Columbus.
Gift of Rev. Jack Fulcher.

Grabb, John R., The Canal - Its Rise and Fall in Ross County; Jackson (O.):
Ross Co. Historical Society, 1985. Gift of the author.

McGovern, Rev. James J., D.D., The Life and Life-Work of Pope Leo XIII;
Chicago: The Educational Co., 1903. and

The Complete Office of Holy Week; New York: P. J. Kenedy & Sons, 1875.
- gifts of Rev. William Patterson

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197 E. Gay Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 Donald M. Schlegel, editor
