

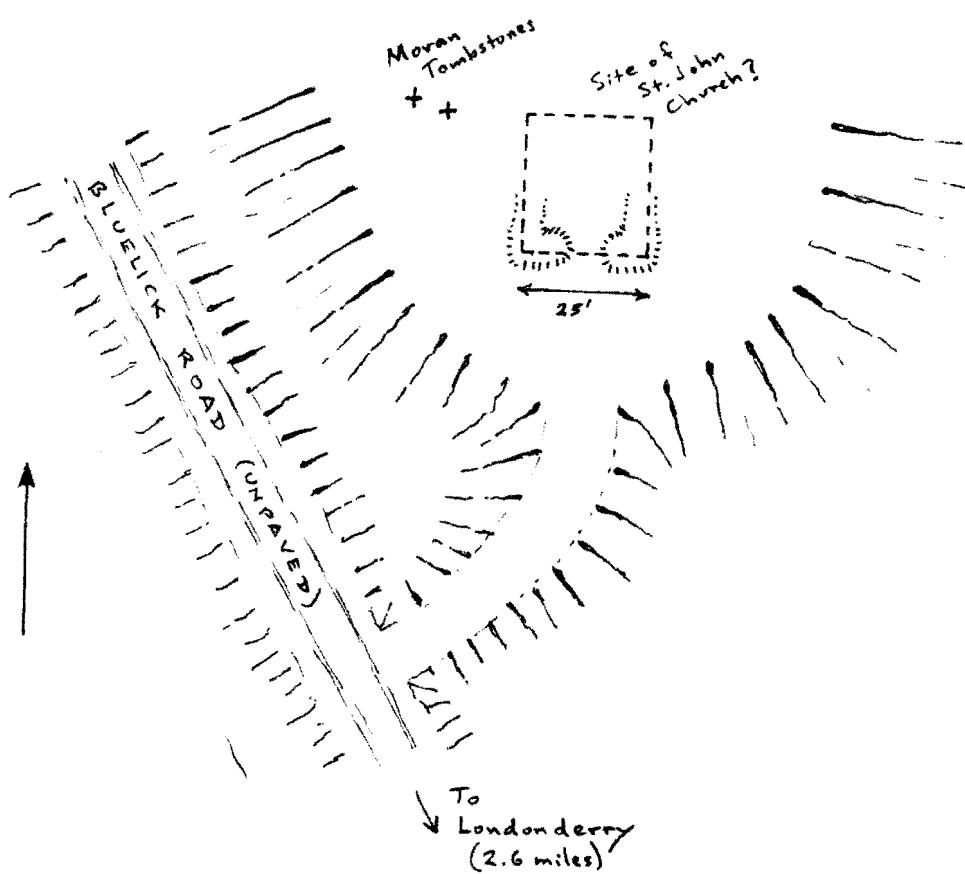
Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society-

Diocese of Columbus

Volume XII, Number 8

August, 1987



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST MISSION,
BLUE LICK (LONDONDERRY P.O.), HARRISON TOWNSHIP, ROSS COUNTY
1857-1890

A few hundred feet beyond the end of the pavement of Bluelick Road, up Blue Lick Run in Harrison Township, Ross County, lies one of the tiniest, least known Catholic cemeteries in the Diocese of Columbus. It contains just two tombstones and has been abandoned for so long that its correct name has not survived in any popular tradition. The history of the mission, especially that of its church, is shrouded in obscurity, but a few facts can be given with certainty.

On September 2, 1857, John Brady and his wife Julia for \$5.00 sold to Archbishop John B. Purcell of Cincinnati two acres, more or less, in the center of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 34, Township 9, Range 20 (Harrison Township) "for the purpose of a church burying ground." (1) The boundaries of the property were not described in the deed. John Brady had been a resident of Muskingum County when he purchased this site and the surrounding 118 acres in 1851. (2) The John Brady family and that of Patrick and Bridget Brady are the first known Catholics of the vicinity; the latters' son was baptized by Rev. Peter Tschieder, S.J. of Chillicothe St. Peter's "at Sugar Run" in 1849. Sugar Run is the next stream, two miles west of Blue Lick Run. The next known Catholic household in the area was that of Thomas and Bridget O'Neil, who were there by 1854. Other Catholic households in the immediate vicinity of the church property in 1860 were those of Thomas and Bridget Aspel, James and Jane Levin, John and Anna Cullen, Hugh Hackett, Francis and Catherine Trainor, Patrick and Ann Corrigan, and John Moran.

The mission church seems to have been completed by 1860. That year's Catholic Directory, the only one in which it is listed, calls it St. John the Baptist, Londonderry. An 1860 tax map of the township shows the "Catholic Church" in section 34, but on the quarter-quarter-section line, approximately one eighth mile up Bluelick Run from the actual location. Rev. Michael Kennedy in June 1861 performed two baptisms at "Blue Lick" but in September 1861, June 1862, and November 1862 he recorded several more as being at "St. John's Church." November 25, 1862 is the last date at which we know the church was standing. The next baptism in the area was performed by Rev. Michael Ahern, "In the house of [blank] Brady in Ross County," on Feb. 18, 1864; on the same day he baptized a child at the Foy residence in Londonderry Station. No mention of the church is made in either record; it is never mentioned again and it would seem that it may have been destroyed, perhaps by fire, about 1863. No mention of the church is made in any of the correspondence (preserved in the Cincinnati Archdiocesan Archives) from the Chillicothe pastors in the period from 1857 through 1868. What appear to be the foundations of the two southern corners of the building can still be traced as grass-covered mounds a few yards from the two tombstones.

In 1885, the heirs of John Brady sold his 120 acres of land to one Boniface Brady. (The heirs were John E. Brady of Malta Bend, Mo.; Charles Brady of Hocking County; Patrick and James Brady of Chillicothe; Elizabeth Brady of Louisville, Ky.; and Mary Brady of Baltimore, Md. Boniface was the youngest son.) All of the deeds written by these heirs were for 120 acres, more or less, and none made any mention whatever of the two acres formerly deeded to Archbishop Purcell. (3) A diligent search of the indices has turned up no record of any deed whereby the Archbishop alienated the property in any way. In 1868, that part of Ross County lying east of the Scioto River became part of the new Diocese of Columbus, but the property at St. John's was not transferred to Bishop Rosecrans. Its existence had apparently already been forgotten.

Londonderry was visited by Rev. Michael Mary Ahern of Chillicothe St. Mary's in 1864. Rev. John B. Murray, who arrived at St. Mary's as pastor in September of 1865, was aware of the presence of Catholics in Londonderry, for with one of his first letters to the Archbishop as pastor there he enclosed "thirteen dollars the alms of St. Joseph's congregation Blue Lick." (4) He had confused the mission of Londonderry or Blue Lick with that of St. Joseph

at Frankfort (there is no way to know which congregation had donated the money). He appears to have visited Londonderry in 1866.

When Londonderry became part of the Diocese of Columbus, it entered a period of sad neglect. The nearest parish in the diocese was at Zaleski, about 27 miles away in Vinton County. The baptismal register of Zaleski for the years prior to 1939 is missing, presumably burned in the rectory fire in 1938. The earliest extant census report by the pastor was made in September, 1882 by Rev. J. J. Slevin; his report included Zaleski and McArthur but made no mention of Londonderry. His successor, Rev. James H. Cotter, began to visit Londonderry regularly. In his annual report dated Aug. 1, 1887, Father Cotter reported ten families at Londonderry. On April 30, 1888 he wrote out a census of his parish and its missions. Concerning Londonderry, he wrote, "Londonderry was utterly neglected, hence its present condition, which from the past I have attended every 3 months for the last two yrs. Previously Chillicothe had it." (5) The last statement is borne out, at least for the early 1880's, by the records of two baptisms performed there by Rev. James J. O'Donohue of Chillicothe St. Mary's in 1884. By "its present condition" he referred to the status of the souls there, many withering branches cut nearly asunder from the Vine by the unavailability of the sacraments; this he indicates by notes as to the high proportion of mixed marriages, some blessed by the Church, others not, and the number who had become negligent or indifferent to their religious duties. In the census he listed the following persons (non-Catholic spouses were not included in the list):

James Corrigan, age 57; James (23), Mary (18), Ellen (15), Nicholas (3), and Mike (8).

Mrs. James Leonard, age 58; Charles (27), Kate (24), Sarah Jane (18), Richard (20), George (16), and James (29).

Patrick Aspwall [Aspel or Aspall], age 35; John (16), Jane (14), Mary (10), Henry (8), Maggie (6), and Grover Cleveland (4).

Larry Galligan, age 75, and John (28).

Frank Trainor, age 52; Mrs. Trainor (50), Frank (34), John (32), George (21); with them was Lizzie Schofield, age 13.

Mrs. Robert Waller, age 42; Mary Jane (20), George (16), and Barney (14).

James M'Coy, age 65; Mrs. M'Coy (60), Wm. (27), James (21), John (14), and Kate (20).

Bernard Corrigan, age 29; Mrs. Corrigan (25), Maggie (3 1/2), Edward (2), and Elizabeth (1/2).

John Corrigan, age 27; Mrs. Corrigan (20).

Abe Speckman, age 25; Mrs. Speckman (23), twins James and Charles (2).

Mr. Thomas Aspall, age 72.

Mrs. Thomas Aspall, age 70.

Barney Corrigan, age 41; Laurence (15), George (17), Jessie (13), Ellie (9), Susie (8), John (11), Charles (5), and Willie (2).

Hugh Hackett, age 60; Patrick (25), and Julia (23).

Andy McCoy, age 33; Willie (10), and Henry (8).

Frank McCoy, age 29; Mary (3), and Ella (5).

Father Cotter left Zaleski in 1889 and was replaced by Rev. Peter Gladu. In his report to the Bishop for the year ended July 1, 1890, Father Gladu listed as his charges Zaleski St. Sylvester, the mission at Dundas St. Joseph, and the stations at Mineral (in Athens County) and Byers (in Jackson County).

Under remarks he explained the absense of Londonderry in his census: "I did not enclose in this report the mission of Londonderry, for they do not wish to have the priest."

Although the Catholic Directory continued to list Londonderry as a mission of Zaleski as late as 1895, Father Gladu did not mention it in his report of 1891, nor did his successors Rev. Jerome Mattingly in 1892 or 1893 or Rev. F. E. Clark in 1894 or 1895. The pastors, it would seem, had their hands full trying to keep their parish and closer missions viable, and had little time to seek out the reluctant sheep in Londonderry. The 1895 report stated that about half of the members of St. Sylvester's parish were very poor and things looked bleak. Those Catholics of Londonderry who kept their faith probably made the journey into Chillicothe, which though across the diocesan boundary was only twelve miles away. No later mention of the mission has been found.

NOTES

- (1) Ross County Deed Record, 60/116
- (2) Ibid., 51/570
- (3) Ibid., 98/446-449.
- (4) Rev. John B. Murray to Purcell, Nov. 15, 1865 (Archives of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati).
- (5) Zaleski St. Sylvester, Confirmation Record Book.

A special note of thanks is due to Rev. George Schlegel for helping to find the site of Blue Lick St. John and for helping to search through eleven years of correspondence in the Cincinnati Archdiocesan Archives.

TOMBSTONES

The WPA survey of cemeteries made in 1938 found five tombstones in the old cemetery but by 1972 only two remained; these were found in the same place and still perfectly legible in 1987. A careful cleaning of the grounds, which are covered by myrtle, might turn up additional markers.

James, son of J. & M. Moran, died Aug. 26, 1860, age 14 years, 10 months, 27 days.

Catherine F., daughter of J. & M. Moran, died Sept. 5, 1860, age 17 years, 5 months, 22 days.

BAPTISMS 1849-1884

The baptismal register of Zaleski St. Sylvester for this period no longer exists; it apparently was lost in a fire in the rectory in 1938. Except for the first one, which is from St. Peter's, the following records are all from Chillicothe St. Mary except the first two, which are from St. Peter's.

Sept. 12, 1849, Hugh, son of Patrick and Bridget Brady, born 8 Aug. in Sugar Run, Ross Co.; spons. Henry Tranor and Bridget Tranor. P. Petrus Tschieder, S.J.

Jan. 14, 1850, Margaret Ann, daughter of Thomas Leonard and Elizabeth, born Oct. 9, 1830 in Sugar Run, Ross Co.; spons. Mary McGhin. (Kalcher?)

Apr. 29, 1854, Juliana, daughter of Thomas and Bridget O'Neil, at Sugar Run. Rev. J. N. Thisse

June 21, 1861, at Blue Lick:

- John William, son of James Curriган and Margaret Sollers, born 26 March; sponsors James Linnard and Cath. Curriган. Michael Kennedy

- Mary Elizabeth, daughter of John Madden and Cath. Brennan, born 16 March; sponsors Thomas O'Neil and Elizabeth Brady. Michael Kennedy.

Sept. 6, 1861, at St. John's Church:

- Thomas and Mary, children of Jackson Alde (?) and Sarah Roots; sponsors John and Mary Brady and John and Rebecca Connolly (respectively). Michael Kennedy

- Mary, daughter of John Cullen and Eliza Davis, born 18th; sponsors John Cullen and Mary Powell. Michael Kennedy

- Henry, son of John Cullen and Anna Cregan, born 3 July; spons. John and Jane Laven. Michael Kennedy

June 2, 1862, at St. John's Church:

- Ann, daughter of John and Margaret Kriger, born 1 April; spons. Patrick Corrigan and Bridget Aspel. Michael Kennedy

- Julia Frances, daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth Hacket; sponsors Charles Brady and Ann Laven. Michael Kennedy

Nov. 25, 1862, at St. John's:

- Thomas Linnard, age 86 years.

- Thomas, son of Thomas Cullman [or perhaps Cullinan?] and Mary Connelly, born Oct. 3; spons. Peter and Julia Brady. Michael Kennedy

- Catherine, daughter of August Clomer and Mary Ann M'Elvane, born May 4; sponsors George M'Ginty and Bridget M'Cooy. Michael Kennedy

Feb. 18, 1864, in the house of [blank] Brady in Ross Co., James Michael Butler, son of James Butler and Catherine (Brady) Butler, born in Harrison Township, Ross County, 15 Jan. 1864; sponsors Michael Butler and Elizabeth Brady. Michael Ahern

Feb. 18, 1864, in the house of Thomas Foy and Elizabeth (Francis) Foy at Londonderry Station, Ross Co., Thomas Orland Foy, son of the same, born June 1, 1862; sponsor James Brady. Michael Ahern

Aug. 29, 1864 (no place listed) Catherine Elizabeth, daughter of James Leonard and Catherine Armstrong, born Sept. 9; spons. Thomas and Bridget Aspel. John B. Murray

Same day, James Edward, son of Terence Connelly and Rebecca Aliday, born Oct. 4; spons. James Butler and Elizabeth Hacket. John B. Murray

Oct. 20, 1872, Helen, daughter of John Kennedy and Catherine Curran, born 14 Sept.; spons. John Brady and Jane Levin. J. B. Murray

May 9, 1875, Manain, son of James Leonard and Catherine Armstrong, born 10 March; spons. James Trayner and Mary Armstrong. J. B. Murray

Jan. 17, 1884, at Londonderry:

- Margaret Ann, daughter of Patrick Aspel and Elizabeth Neff, born Feb. 3, 1863; spons. John Corrigan and Catherine Leonard. James J. O'Donohue

- Helen, daughter of ---- and Mary Corrigan, born 30 Apr. 1883; spons. Richard and Margaret Leonard. James J. O'Donohue

BAPTISMS IN PIKE AND SOUTHERN ROSS COUNTIES, OHIO

1838-1900

(Continued from Vol. XII, Number 7)

- 1849, Apr. 8, Anna Isabella, of Michael Kirchmann and Helen Wunderlich, born 31 Aug. 1848 on the Portsmouth road in Ross Co., seven miles from Chillicothe; spons. Fridolin Wunderlich and Gertrude Schäffer. Kalcher (P)
- 1849, May 1, John Baptist, of John Baptist Ross and Marianna Mechler, born 19 Jan. 1849 in Huntington Township, Ross Co.; spons. Michael Kirchmann and wife Helen. Kalcher (P)
- Same, Peter William, of Michael Nessler and Catherine Sauerbrun, born 11 Nov. 1848 in Piketon; spons. Peter Theobald and Magdalene his wife. Kalcher (P)
- 1849, May 2, Francis Anthony, of Peter Helferig and Elizabeth Wack, b. 24 Dec. 1848 in Piketon; spons. Francis Anthony Krauss and wife Maria. Kalcher (P)
- 1849, May 3, Mary Jane, of Louis McLayn and Catherine Bowshy, born in Pike County 14 Dec. 1848; spons. Mary Jane Bowshy. Kalcher (P)
- 1849, May 6, John Karl, of John Adam Streitenberger and Margaret Schäffer, born 30 Apr. in Pike County on the Portsmouth Road at the border of Ross County; spons. John Karl Streitenberger. Kalcher (P)
- Same, John Adam, of John Streitenberger and Margaret Linzel, born in the same place on Apr. 29; spons. John Adam Streitenberger. Kalcher (P)
- 1849, July 1, William Zachary, of Joseph Hirn and Mary Bischofberger, born 23 March in Franklin Twp., Ross Co.; spons. John Hirn jr. and wife Theresa. Kalcher (P)
- 1849, Nov. 17, Valentine William, of Valentine Albert and Mary Elizabeth Youngmann, born 19 Aug. in "Seele" Twp., Pike Co.; spons. Xav. Bartholomew; witnesses Philip Rheinfrank and wife Elizabeth. Kalcher (P)
- 1849, Aug. 27, Catherine Delong, of William Delong and Catherine Ensley, born July 6 in Pleasant Valley; spons. Barbara Windel. Tschieder (P)
- 1850, Jan. 28, James, of William Lenix and Emma Hurt, born 28 Dec. 1849 in vicinity of St. Francis Xavier, Portsmouth road, Ross Co.; spons. Lawrence Lenix and Catherine Braddick; in the church of S. Francis Xavier. Tschieder (P)
- 1850, June 10, Catherine, of William Corcurran and Catherine Bawny, born 27 Mar. 1850 in Waverly; spons. James Byrns and Aloysia Späth. Kalcher (P)
- 1850, Oct. 16, William Theodore, of Frederick Guinzel and Christina Schwenninger, born 13 Sept. in Piketon; spons. Wenceslaus Schwenninger and Catherine Haas. Kalcher (P)
- 1851, Jan. 27, Valentine, of Michael Nessler and Elizabeth Sauerbrun, born 19 Oct. 1850 in Piketon; spons. Valentine Albert and wife Mary Elizabeth. Tschieder (P)
- 1851, June 2, Mary Elizabeth, of Valentine Albert and Mary Elizabeth Youngmann, born 18 Mar. 1851 in Pike Co, "Sealfour" Twp.; spons. Maria Krauss. Kalcher (P)
- 1851, June 5, at Beaver [Township], at Hammerstein's:
- Philip and Valentine, twin sons of Michael Davis and Anna Maria Haas, born 18 Apr. 1851 in Union Township, Pike Co.; spons. Philip Hammerstein and Valentine Albert.
 - John Michael, of Louis McClean and Catherine Ann Pauser, born 30 Sept. 1850 in Beaver Township, Pike Co.; spons. Michael Pauser.
 - William, of ---- and Mary Jane Pauser, born 17 Feb. in Chillicothe; spons. Michael Davis in Union Twp., Pike Co.

- John, born 4 June 1848, and Simon, born 24 Mar. 1850, of Adam Steer and Amanda Levaney, born in Marion Twp., Pike Co.; spons. George Laufer and wife Anna Maria. - Kalcher (P)

1851, June 6, at St. Francis Xavier in Pleasant Valley, Jacob, of Jacob Wunderly and Elizabeth Klem, born in Huntington Twp., Ross Co., 22 Jan. 1851; spons. Anton and Theresia Wunderly. (P)

1868, Apr. 26, James, of Alfred Ridgeway and Monica Streitenberger, born Aug., 1867; spons. Thomas Monahan and Eliza Ennis. J. B. Murray (M)

Same, Helen, of William Sanders and Nora Downey, born 9 (or 19?) Apr.; spons. John Leonard and Helen Sanders. J. B. Murray (M)

1872, July 28, Anna M., of Jerome Streitenberger and Henrietta Bietzell, born June; spons. John Streitenberger and Helen Conly. J. B. Murray (M)

1872, Oct. 20, Joseph, of John Streitenberger and Rachel Dennewitz, born Oct.; spons. Cornelius Cahill and Margaret Leahy. J. B. Murray (M)

Same, Joseph Ambrose, of John Ambrose Klunk and Elizabeth O'Neill, born 8 Oct.; spons. Patrick McSweeny and Catherine Carson. J. B. Murray (M)

Same, Mary Ann, of Daniel Hickey and Mary Shea, born 18 Oct.; spons. Daniel Mackey and Helen Burns. J. B. Murray (M)

1873, 23 Nov., Lucy E., of Alfred Ridgway and Monica Streitenberger, born July; spons. Amelia Knapp. J. B. Murray (M)

1874, 13 Aug., Henry, of Adam Streitenberger and Margaret Bland, born 2 Apr.; spons., John and Margaret Streitenberger. J. B. Murray (M)

1876, Apr. 2, Ida, of Hiram Streitenberger and Henrietta Beitgh (?), born 20 June 1874; spons. John Streitenberger and Margaret Pfeifer. (M)

Same, Timothy, of James Sweeney and Bridget King, born 30 Mar.; spons. Garrett Fitzgerald and Anna Sweeney. (M)

1878, May 5, Edward, of Charles Paterson and Elizabeth McGovern; spons. Hennio Henderson and Mary McGovern. J. A. Murray (M)

Same, Charles, of James Walsh and Ann Smith, born 28 Apr.; spons. Hugh Smith and Bridget McCarthy. J. A. Murray (M)

Same, Emma, of Dennis Corcoran and Sarah Downey, born Feb.; spons. Hugh and Mary Corcoran. J. A. Murray (M)

Same, Amelia, of August Seeling and Amelia Ferguson, born Dec., 1872; spons. John Streitenberger and Catherine Corcoran. John B. Murray (M)

Same, Otto George, of George Streitenberger and Helen Smith, born Jan.; spons. Otto Zimborn and Hanna Streitenberger. John B. Murray (M)

Same, Margaret, of August Steineke and Catherine Green, born Jan. 1877; spons. John Feeker and Margaret Beaty. John B. Murray (M)

Same, John David, of John McLean and Helen Jarvis, born Oct., 1876; spons. George Meyers and Sarah Gemeift (?). John B. Murray (M)

Same, John, of Joseph Emmitt and Clara Lambert, born June 1876; spons. Joseph Meyers and Jennie Rennick. John B. Murray (M)

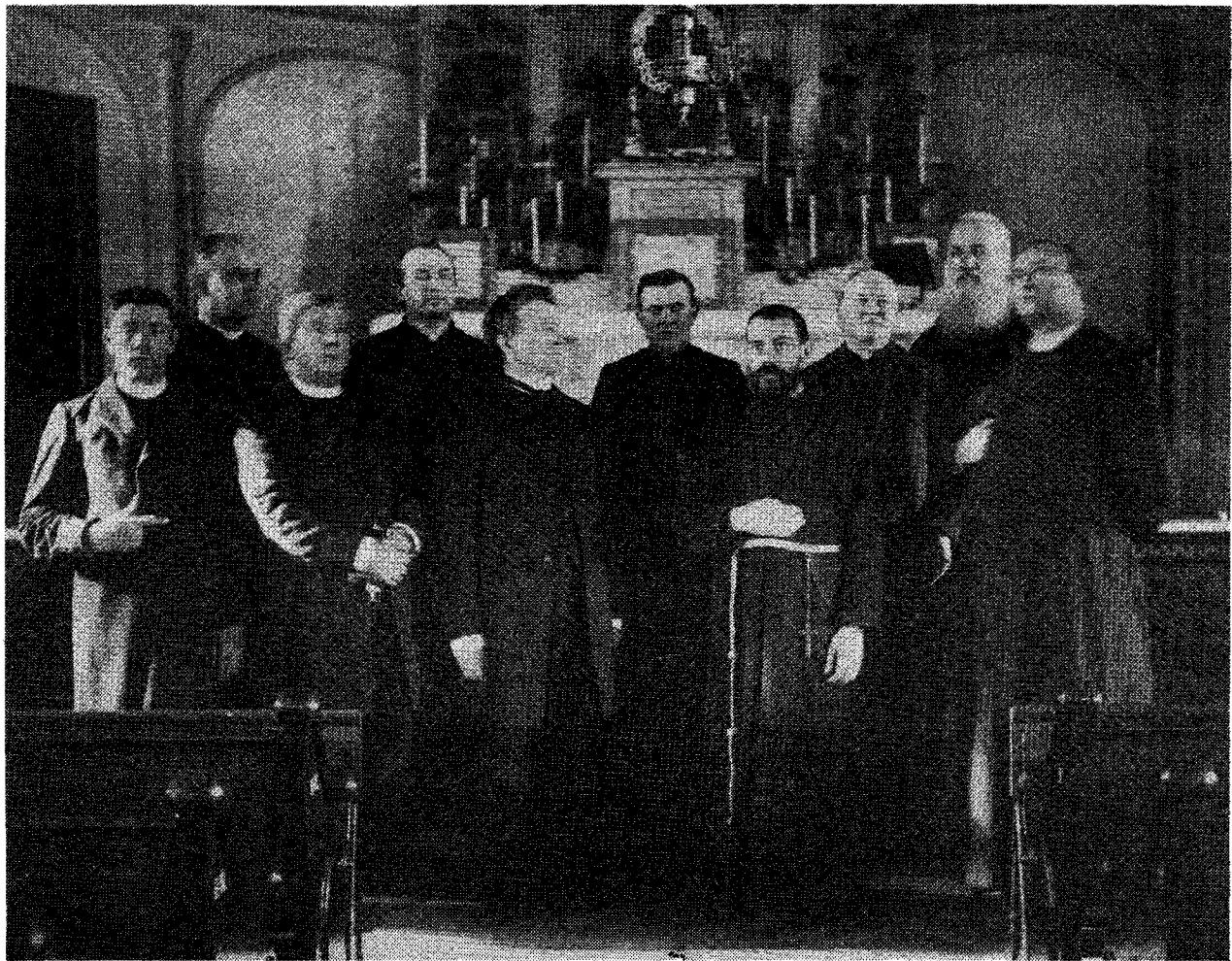
1878, Nov. 17, Rachel Elizabeth, of Conrad Schooler and Theresia Streitenberger, born Sept.; spons. John Streitenberger and Sara Genuch. John B. Murray (M)

Same, Rosan A., of John A. Streitenberger and Rachel Dennewitz; spons. John Streitenberger and Anna Hofman. John B. Murray (M)

Same, Manain, of Adam Streitenberger and Margaret Bland, born June 1877; spons. Margaret Streitenberger. John B. Murray (M)

Same, Francis, of Adam Streitenberger and Margaret Bland, born Jan. 1876; spons. Michael Streitenberger. John B. Murray (M)

(To be continued)

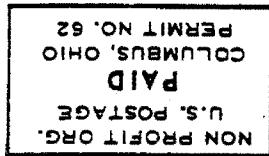


The above photograph always brings remarks from those who see it, primarily because of the looks on the faces of some of the priests. It was taken in a small church of twenty-six pews. On the back is stamped, "Loehr's Photo Studio, Malvern, Ohio." Does enough of the sanctuary show for anyone to determine if this was St. Francis Xavier Church at Malvern or Lodi, in Carroll County? Does anyone know of an occasion, probably early in this century, which would have caused the assembly of such an "august"-looking group of clerics? Does anyone recognize any of them?

There has been only a little response to the photograph which appeared in the February issue. Leo Thurn identified the Eckstein who appears there as his grandfather, Charles Eckstein (1849-1922), of St. Mary's parish in Columbus.

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-260-



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