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St. Patrick Church, McCullough. This probably is the third church of the name.

St. Patrick Church, McCullough, Union Township, Scioto County (1863-1918) and the Beginnings of Our Lady of Lourdes, Otway

The story of St. Patrick Parish at McCullough was presented by Msgr. Mattingly in our Bulletin *of December, 1983. He worked from very limited resources and unfortunately some details of the story were missed. We hope that the present effort fills in all of the lacunae.*

Eight Catholic families are known to have been living along McCullough Creek in what then was Scioto County's Brush Creek Township by 1860. The older folks were all from Ireland. These were Martin and Bridget Connoly, who had come via Pennsylvania; Michael and Mary McManemy, who arrived in Ohio around 1844; Austin and Bridget Crow who also came via Pennsylvania; and Edward (sometimes Edmund) and Margaret Walsh (sometimes Welch) who came via Maine and arrived in Ohio by about 1855. Owen and Johanna Doody and Bartholomew and Emeline Neville were natives of Pennsylvania. Fergus Finn and Anna Welch, natives of Ireland, were married by Father Jacquet in Belmont County before moving on to Brush Creek Twp. Martin and Ann Joyce, also natives of Ireland, were in Ohio by 1850.

It was in March of 1860 that these farmers were first visited by Father James J. O'Donohue, pastor

at Holy Redeemer Parish in Portsmouth, over twenty miles away by horse or buggy. He visited faithfully until late 1863 and his example was followed by his successor in that office, Father Michael Mary Ahern, until 1867. The records of baptisms they administered can be found in our *Bulletin* of December, 1983. After the erection of the Diocese of Columbus early in 1868, the community was attended by the pastor at St. Michael Parish in Ripley (a distance of some sixty miles!), until Father Joseph Mertian was sent to live at St. Patrick's in 1873.

Property for a church and cemetery was donated in the spring of 1863. On April 2, two couples, Edward and Margaret Welch and Austin and Bridget Crow, each donated 2 rods 4 1/2 perches of land on the waters of "McCulochs Creek" with right-of-way from the county road, part of survey 15705.[1] The total size of the lot was just over one acre. This is the site of the present St. Patrick Cemetery, on the west side of the Henley-Comstock Road, about 2 1/2 miles north of Henley, in what now is Union Township. The first known burials in the cemetery were those of Thomas Sheehan in 1862 and Margaret Gaven in 1863.

Soon the hardy farmers had built St. Patrick's Church on the property. This church would be unknown now except that "Catholic Church" is marked at this site on a very detailed map of Scioto County, published in 1875.[2] Nearby on the same eastern side of the creek the map indicates lands owned by some of the congregation's members: F. Gegan, E. Welch, P. Conley, M. Joyce, A. Crow, J. Donahue, B. Neville, and O. Doody.

It was about 1873 that Archbishop Purcell sent Rev. Joseph Mertian to be pastor of this community. Born in Alsace, France in 1829 and ordained in 1853, he had a desire to serve in the mission areas of America that brought him to Cincinnati in 1873. Archbishop Purcell was glad to have a French priest and sent him to western Scioto County to care for the French Catholics of Holy Trinity Church at Pond Creek along with the Irish at McCullough and the little mission at Buena Vista on the Ohio River. Pond Creek lies some ten miles to the southeast of McCullough. Father Mertian organized the St. Patrick community and James Galvin, Joseph Kelley and John Donahoe were named trustees. The membership at that time numbered about 160.[3]



Rev. Joseph Mertian (Courtesy of the Archives, Archidiocese of Cincinnati)

Second Parish Site

In order to provide for Father Mertian, the trustees of St. Patrick's purchased a 46-acre tract of land. The location can be identified now as being less than 1/2 mile east and 1/2 mile south of the intersection of present County Road 117 and Ohio 348—roughly 1 1/2 miles northeast of the site of the first St. Patrick's Church. It was on November 4, 1873 that James and Mary Galvin sold the land to Joseph Kelly, trustee of St. Patrick's Church, for $350. Trustee Joseph Kelly gave James Galvin a mortgage on the property for the $150 still owed by

the congregation.[4] The changing status of the trustees is shown by two further deeds. On Aug. 31, 1875 Joseph Kelly, trustee, deeded the land to James Galvin, trustee and on June 28, 1876 James Galvin as trustee released it to Patrick Henry Doody, trustee. This latter release no doubt indicated that the mortgage on the property had been satisfied. The land finally was deeded to Archbishop Purcell by Mr. Doody on Sept. 24, 1881.[5]

Archbishop Purcell visited western Scioto County in September of 1875. Accompanied by Father Ziegler of St. Joseph Church in Cincinnati, he and Father Mertian visited Buena Vista on Sunday the 26th. Joined by Father Nonnen of Portsmouth, they visited Holy Trinity at Pond Creek on Monday. On Tuesday they proceeded to McCullough:

> McCulloch, on Tuesday, a wild, hilly, but healthy, and interesting place. High Mass was sung by Rev. Mr. Ziegler, of St. Joseph's church, Cincinnati. The altar was, so to speak, ereced in Jehovah's "leafy temple." The choir was composed of Rev. Messrs. Martian and Nunnanberger, and Martian, pastor, and a young man residing with the latter. It was a most impressive service. The Archbishop preached to a large congregation of Catholics and non-Catholics. An excellent Catholic, Mr. Doody, and family, lodged and entertained their Rev. friends with a genuine Kerry and Limerick welcome.
>
> The eighteen miles from Portsmouth to McCulloch we passed through a scene of desolation caused by the recent floods in the Ohio and Scioto. The fruit also failed in all this region. Nevertheless, the faithful Catholics are building a good log house for their devoted pastor. There were sixty-nine confirmed. Were it not for Rev. Mr. Martian's zeal and self-denial, these congregations could not enjoy the consolations of religion, or give occasion for a report so edifying.[6]

It is not clear from this account which site was visited, and no hint is given of what had become of the church on the cemetery site. The log house was soon completed and Father Mertian made his home there for the rest of his life. He was joined there by Godfrey Weppel, known as Brother John, who was the priest's faithful companion and assistant, and probably was the young member of the "choir" that sang during the Archbishop's visit.

"Father Mertian, often called 'Father Joseph,' soon won the love and veneration of his people. Faithful in caring for his charges, he is said always to have walked over the hills from one mission to another. It was about 20 miles from McCullough to Buena Vista, and about half that to Pond Creek."[7]

A new St. Patrick's Church was erected on this land, just west of the rectory, in 1876.[8] In 1884 it was reported that St. Patrick's had a membership of about 200. "Service is held twice in six weeks, and instruction class the same and in the afternoon of the day of service."[9] The first church in the cemetery was razed (perhaps used or partly used for the church at the new site) and over time all memory of its earlier existence in the cemetery was lost. The cemetery was expanded on the south when several residents of Perry County transferred one-half acre to Archbishop Moeller in 1914.[10]

In 1902 a new St. Patrick's Church was built on the same site as the 1876 church, at a cost of $800. "This church has 110 communicants and services are held three Sundays each month and Sunday School each Sunday."[11]

The Move to Otway

Father Mertian having reached the age of 85, Archbishop Moeller placed him on the infirm priests' list in July, 1915. He was given the privilege of spending the remaining days of his life in the church parsonage he and his faithful companion, Brother John, had occupied for some four decades. On July 4 Father Henry J. Richter succeeded as pastor of the Catholic missions of the West Side.[12] Father Richter lived in Henley in a house donated by Ignatius Reitz of Portsmouth. This property consisted of 21 acres, part of surveys 15595 and (a small part) 12767.[13] This land was north of the railroad and east of the county and state roads at Henley. Father Richter "fixed up one room in the house as a chapel."[14] From January to July, 1916, Father Richter listed baptisms at the church of the "Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes, Henley, O.," no doubt

referring to this chapel in his house. It is listed in the annual Catholic directories of 1916 and 1917 as Our Lady of Lourdes, Henley.

Soon it was decided that the parish should move permanently into Otway. Archbishop Moeller purchased the site of the present church, containing 0.72 acre, from Dr. George W. Chabot of Scioto County and Thomas H. Breslin of Adams Co. on Sept. 7, 1916.[15]

The next month, on October 19, the Portsmouth Daily Times reported a visit of Brother John to the city.

> Brother John, of McCullough, the faithful veteran houseman and life long companion of Rev. Father Jos. Mertian, retired Catholic priest of McCullough, was a visitor in the city Thursday. He reported Father Joseph...is feeling the effects of the present rainy spell. He is closely approaching 90 years of age. They recently disposed of their farm property, live stock, etc., but expect to spend their remaining days at the parish house, which privilege has been accorded them by Archbishop Henry Moeller of Cincinnati.
>
> Brother John reported that active work on building a new Catholic church at Otway would be started early in the spring....[16]

Father Richter labeled the page of his baptismal register beginning February, 1917, "Our Lady of Lourdes, Otway." The next month specifications for the Otway church and rectory were prepared by Anthony Kunz, Jr., architect, of Cincinnati.[17]

The year in the "datestone" above the doorway of Our Lady of Lourdes Church is 1917 and the church was first listed as "Otway, Our Lady of Lourdes," in the annual Catholic directory of 1918. It was dedicated on May 18, 1919.

Otway Church Dedicated

> The new church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Otway, was dedicated last Sunday by Archbishop Henry Moeller, of Cincinnati.
>
> Otway has never seen such a gathering for any religious service, it was even doubted by the oldest citizens if Otway had ever been the site of so large a gathering for any purpose at all. A hundred or more automobiles parked in the school yard and conveyed the hundreds of people from the vicinity and Portsmouth, who thronged the church and grouped about it during the service of dedication and the confirmation Mass which followed.
>
> There are about fifty families in the Otway parish and the pastor is Rev. H. J. Taske, the young priest who succeeded Rev. H. J. Richter, who resigned his charge Christmas, 1917, because of ill health.
>
> The Archbishop made mention of the good management of the parish and the pastor in bing able to erect the church and the attractive parsonage and the up-to-date school, all totaling $20,000, and in being able to pay off all but $3,000 of that debt in this length of time.[18]

Both Father Mertian and Brother John died in 1917. The 46-acre property was sold by Archbishop Moeller on July 11, 1918. This sale excluded 1/3 acre running about 200 feet east of the county road, the site of the church and rectory. The church was still standing then, for its foundatins were used to help define the property line of the excluded land[19], and the last sacrament administered in St. Patrick Church was the marriage of George Joseph July to Helen McManaway, on May 3, 1920, by Father Henry J. Taske, who had taken over the pastorate from Father Richter in March, 1918.

Some time after that, nobody seems to know just when, St. Patrick's Church was razed and parts of it were used to build the chapel now standing in the cemetery.

The rectory at McCullough remained standing long after the church. It was on the east side of Conley Road (Twp. 117) about 500 feet up (southwest) from State Route 348. When it was razed, Father Mertian's chalice was found hidden in a wall. The one-third acre site was sold when Father Wayne Meyer was pastor and after Bishop Herrmann came into office.[20]

Old St. Patrick's continues today as Otway Our Lady of Lourdes. And, as of old, the present pastor, Rev. David Young, has charge of three parishes: Our Lady of Lourdes, Holy Trinity at Pond Creek, and, instead of Buena Vista, Our Lady of Sorrows at West Portsmouth, where he resides.

NOTES

1) Scioto Co. Deed Records 6/268 and 6/269
2) published by Barton & Gibbs, Cincinnati, 1875; viewable on-line at the Library of Congress website, www.loc.gov.item/2007633933
3) *History of the Lower Scioto Valley*: Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co. 1884, p. 423
4) Scioto County Deed Record 20/441 and Mortgage Record 14/307, Chancery files, Diocese of Columbus
5) Scioto County Deeds 24/108, 24/517, and 33/251
6) *The Catholic Telegraph*, Sept. 30, 1875
7) CRS *Bulletin*, Dec., 1983, p. 283
8) The date is provided by the *History of Scioto County*, Evans, 1903, p. 401
9) *History of the Lower Scioto Valley*: Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co. 1884, p. 423
10) Scioto County Deed Record 106/417
11) *History of Scioto County*, Evans, 1903, p. 401
12) obituary of Father Mertian, CRS files
13) Scioto County Deed Record 115/138
14) Monsignor Mattingly made this statement in the 1983 Bulletin article; his source is unknown
15) Scioto County Deed Record 114/551
16) *Portsmouth Daily Times*, Oct. 19, 1916
17) documents at West Portsmouth rectory, provided by Rev. David Young, 11/6/2013
18) *The Catholic Columbian*, May 23, 1919
19) Scioto County Deed Record 125/429
20) Information provided by Rev. John Stattmiller. The property was transferred from Bishop Elwell's administrator to Bishop Herrmann but no deed of sale by Bishop Herrmann could be located in the recorder's index.

St. Patrick, McCullough, Additional Baptisms

Baptisms at McCullough for the years 1860 through April, 1867, recorded at Holy Redeemer Parish in Portsmouth, were published in our *Bulletin* of December, 1983, along with one dated 1868 and recorded at Nativity Parish. Four additional records have been found at Holy Redeemer:

1867 Sept. 30 Margaret, daughter of Bartholomew Neville and Emaline (Cox), born Sept. 14; sponsors James Galvin and Mary Collins. John Curley

Same day Catherine Eleonore, daughter of Martin Byrne and Margaret (Galvin), born Sept. 24; spons. Mr. Galvin and M. John Curley

1871 July 4 Catherine, born June 15, daughter of John Finn and Bridget (Conelly) (from McCullough); spons. Martin Conelly and Sarah Spellacy. A. O. Walker

1872 Sept. 26 Mary, born Sept. 10, daughter of Michael Burns and Mary (Crow); spons. Frank Crow and Sarah Spellacy. A. O. Walker

Tombstones and Records, St. Patrick Cemetery, McCullough

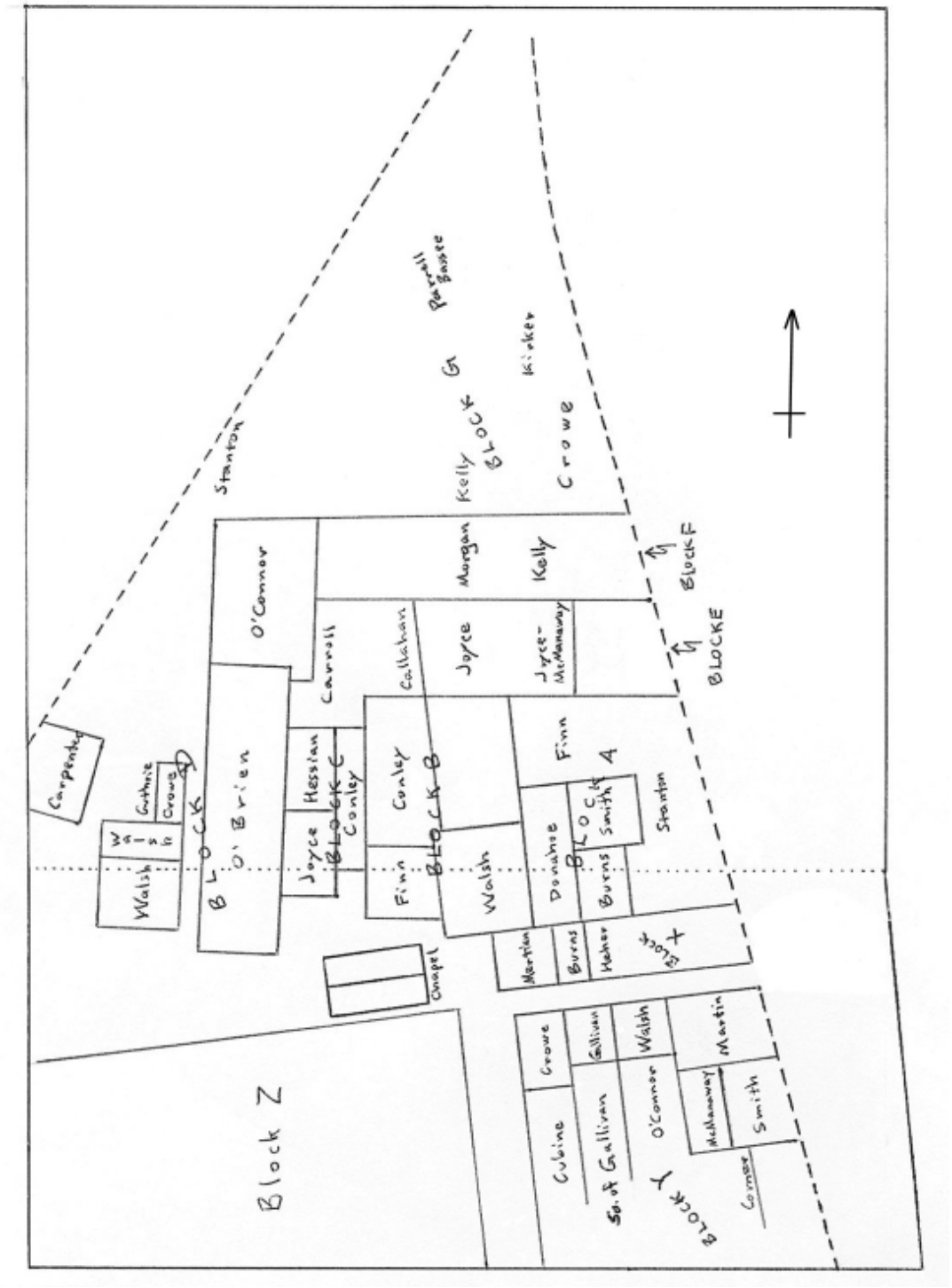
This cemetery was read on July 17, 2014. The "blocks" noted in this reading are defined only for purposes of locating lots and tombstones and have no official existence. The lots are indicated only for the same purpose. Some have stone corner markers but many do not. The readings generally run away from the walkway at the front gate and from front to rear within lot or block. Initial braces or brackets indicate names on the same stone.

Information from the burial records of the Catholic parishes from 1915 to 1997 has been added in braces { }. Data alone within the braces indicates information found in the register of Our Lady of Lourdes, Otway and Holy Trinity, Pond Creek. {...WP} indicates burial from West Portsmouth Our Lady of Sorrows. {...HR} indicates burial from Holy Redeemer Parish in Portsmouth. Persons noted in these records as being buried at McCullough but having no tombstones are noted at the end of this record. No burials at St. Patrick were found in the records of St. Mary Parish in Portsmouth.

<u>Block X</u>

Katherine Jung 1864-1932 At Peace {Catherine (Miller) Yunk died Mar. 19, 1932, age 67}

[+Michael Heher 1829-blank {Michael Heher died Sept. 26, 1924, age 96}
[Bridget his wife 1835-1916 born in Gallway Co.



This map of St. Patrick Cemetery shows approximate locations of the original property boundaries, the chapel, and the lots. It is intended, and Blocks have been defined, only to assist persons searching for graves.

Ireland {Bridget (Kelly) Heher died June 12, 1916, age 82}

Patrick E. Heher 1874-1954 {Patrick Edward Heher died May 31, 1954, age 80}

Mary P. Burns Apr. 8, 1915-June 21, 1994

Clarence M. Burns Aug. 22, 1905 - Feb.19, 1983 {Clarence M. Burns died Feb. 19, 1983, age 77 HR}

(Mother) Philomena J. Burns 1875-1963 {Mary Burns died Jan. 4, 1963, age 87 HR}

Godfrey Weppel Born in France Nov. 9, 1841 Died Oct. 11, 1917 Rest in Peace. Amen.

{Godfrey "Brother John" Weppel died Oct. 10, 1917, age 76}

Rev. Joseph Mertian Born Dec. 26, 1829
Died Apr. 11, 1917 Ordained May 2, 1853
Was pastor in McCullough from June 1873 til April 1917 {Rev. Joseph Mary Mertian died Apr. 11, 1917, age 87}

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Block Y

Southeast Corner

Joseph D. Angel May 14, 1970 {Joseph Angel died May 14, 1970, infant WP}
Kevin L. Angel born Mar. 27, 1965 died Nov. 2, 1965 {Kevin Angel died 1965, age 7 months}
Tanya L. Taylor Feb. 2, 1970 {Tonya Taylor died Feb. 2, 1970, age six minutes}

Comer Lot

COMER
Leslie W. 1912-1977
Thelma 1914-2001
Mary Teresa Comer Gayheart July 31, 1935 - May 6, 2011

Smith Lot

Margaret E. Smith June 28, 1884 - Feb. 20, 1975
Jane E. Baele May 24, 1887 - Mar. 28, 1960 {Jane Edith Baele died Mar. 28, 1960, age 71}
Edward W. Smith Feb. 20, 1893 - Feb. 11, 1964 {Edward W. Smith died Feb. 11, 1864, age 71}
William M. Smith Feb. 22, 1883 - Apr.18, 1964 {William M. Smith died apr. 18, 1964, age 81}
Catherine H. Smith Dec. 24, 1885 - May 21, 1965 {Catherine Smith died May 21, 1865, age 79}

Martin Lot

Sally A. Martin Sept. 18, 1933 - Apr. 10, 1988 (Beloved wife and mother)
James W. Martin M SGT US Army Korea 15 Apr 1928 - 21 Mar 1988

MARTIN
George L. 1924-1940 {George Louis Martin died June 26, 1940, age 16}
Edward M. 1923-1940 {Edward Martin died June 26, 1940, age 17}
Anne L. Martin 1891-1976
Manton M. Martin 1884-1962 {Manton M. Martin died Feb. 28, 1962, age 78}

McManaway Lot

McMANAWAY
Catherine McManaway 1869-1953 {Catherine McManaway died Jan. 23, 1953, age 81 HR}
Thomas McManaway 1861-1943 {Thomas McManaway died 1943, age 82}
Thomas McManaway IL CPL US Army WW2 26 Feb 1893 - 15 Dec 1969
Veronica C. McManaway 26 Nov 1903 - 21 Dec 1993 {Veronica McManaway died Dec. 20, 1993, age 90 HR}

Walsh Lot

Edna K. Walsh 1902-1990 {Edna Kathryn Walsh died Nov. 20, 1990, age 87}
James E. Walsh 1895-1941 {James Walsh died May 13, 1941, age 45}

O'Connor Lot

John M. O'Connor Ohio Tec 5 CO B 194 Glider Inf Regt World War II Feb 27 1916 - Oct 22 1968
Francis J. O'Connor PFC US Army World War II Korea Jun 10 1920 + Jan 24 1976

Basore Lot

BASORE
Charles A. 1939-1980
Kay E. 1943-blank
Life's Beauty Never Ends

Gallivan Lot

John Robert Gallivan 1855-1932 {John R. Galvin died Sept. 18, 1932, age 77}

GALLIVAN
Mary 1862-1947
Catherine A. Koelker 1857-1937 {Catherine Agnes (Galvin) Koelker died Nov. 18, 1937, age 80}

South of Gallivan
John McManaway 1888 + 1932{John McManaway died Nov. 21, 1932, age 74}
Jane Joyce + Anna Dwyer
Margaret Donahoe Joyce Mar. 19, 1948 {Margaret Ellen Joyce died Mar. 20, 1948, age 84 HR}
HOCKADEN
Margaret 1876-19__ {Margaret Hockaden died Mar. 10, 1965, age 89}
John 1875-1956 {John Hoekaden died Feb. 12, 1956, age 80}

Hagerty Lot
HAGERTY
Joseph 1861-1933 {Joseph Haggerty died Feb. 11, 1933, age 71}
Andrew 1858-1934 {Andrew Haggerty died July 24, 1934, age 76}
CROWE
Catherine H. Crowe 1854-1927 {Catherine (Hagerty) Crowe died Nov. 21, 1927, age 73}
Mary A. Crowe her daughter 1878-1978

Cubine Lot
Amanda 1867-1939 {Mary (Whalen) Cubine died May 14, 1939, age 72}
John P. 1861-1929 {John Cubine died Jan. 4, 1929 age 70}
George D. 1941-1942 {George David Cubine died Feb. 24, 1942, age 5 months}
Agnes 1906-1944 {Agnes (Altman) Cubine died Sept. 16, 1944, age 38}
John 1884-1960 {John Cubine died Aug. 8, 1960, age 76}
John Patrick Cubine Ohio PVT Co A 98 QM BN March 17 1940 - Sept 9 1964 {John Patrick Cubine d. Sept. 8, 1964, age 34 WP}

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Block Z

Row 1
Johnny Ralstin Nov. 2, 1948 - Feb. 7, 1949 {John Ralstin died Feb. 8, 1949, age 2 months}
Margaret Ralstin Feb. 21, 1919 - Aug. 23, 2009
+ Chester Ray Ralstin CPL US Army World War II Feb 27 1918 Jan 27 2010 Purple Heart
Michael J. Hehir July 22, 1868 - Sept. 11, 1950 {Michael Heher died Sept. 11, 1950, age 84}

Row 2
Anthony M. Pasturzak 1952-1952 {son of Arthur Pasturzak died Oct. 8, 1952, age zero}
Mary R. Pasturzak Snyder Sept. 23, 1933 - Oct. 14, 2010
BECKETT
Grant Eugene "Gene" Mar. 19, 1946 - Dec. 19, 2009
Marian Fischels Jan. 4, 1965 - blank
Walter J. Speich 1918
PASTURZAK
A. John Pasturzak 1893-1971
Frances 1908-1986
Arthur Pasturzak PA PFC 3 Army Composite GP WWI PH July 4 1893 - Dec 27 1971

Row 3
(Loving Mother) Elizabeth Gloria Hayduke Kingrey Jan. 5, 1921 - Dec. 4, 1999
Hester Hummel Sept. 7, 1914 + Jan. 21, 1986
Edith Louise Kowalsky Feb. 23, 1946 + Nov. 1, 1984
HALE
Cecil C. 1923-1993
Donna R. 1928-1983

(To be concluded)

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