HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION
BARNESVILLE, BELMONT COUNTY (1)

by John H. Forbes and Rev. Bede Hansen (2)

As you rightly observe the Barnesville parish is comparatively new and hence not much dates. Whatever dates and facts I give I received from John H. Forbes who has lived here ever since 1853 and has been section boss on the Barnesville hill up to a few years ago. Mr. Forbes says: 1873 one acre of land on the hill south of Barnesville there where now the Catholic Cemetery is was bought from Richard Hunt for $500 by the Catholics, John H. Forbes, Edw. McGinnis and Henry Creigton acting as trustees or rather they were the whole congregation there being only one or two more Catholics in the place, Anthony Armbruster being one of them I can name. At that time we had to go to Beaver Church. I remember very well the old log church at Beaver built in 1825, which in 1853 was succeeded by a brick edifice. Father Bloomer (a Dominican) (3) was then the residing priest at Beaver. Whether he ever said Mass at Barnesville I do not know nor could I find out who said first Holy Mass here. The lot bought in 1873 at Barnesville probably under Fr. Heery was later on found to have been sold for taxes. I went to St. Clairsville to redeem it, for which we had to pay something over $20. I forgot to mention that although the deed is made to read: In consideration of $500 & we paid Mr. Hunt only $250 and Mr. Hunt tho not a Catholic donated $250.

About 1881 if I am not mistaken under Fr. Montag's pastorate the foundation for a church edifice was laid. I remember that Fr. Montag got an offer to trade our lot for a brick school house used by the black people standing at the south of the hill on lower ground. When Fr. Montag came to look at the schoolhouse he turned around and not seeing the town, said: Ach Gott, I cannot see Barnesville from here and he walked away and the deal was off. It would have been indeed a great pity had we lost our church lot on the hill for there we have the most beautiful view over Barnesville and it is no wonder that afterwards when the church was removed to town, many felt greatly dissatisfied. The foundation as I said was laid in 1881, but it was not till 1886 when the first building was put up. At that time some Catholic families had come to town to work in the glass houses among them Louis Miller and the Froelich Brothers. There were then about 17 families in or near Barnesville belonging to the Catholic Church. Mrs. John H. Forbes and Mrs. Lide Bolon and Mrs. John Q. Adams, daughters of Anthony Armbruster above mentioned, were very helpful in collecting funds for the first church. The church was dedicated 1 Oct. 1888 or 1889 by Bp. Watterson. (4)
In Aug. 1899 the church was struck by lightening and it was entirely burnt up; not a bit of the woodwork was left. When the few Catholics who were witnesses saw the little bell fall down and we who saw the ruins a little after, we wept for all our dearest hopes seemed destroyed.

On the 2nd of Aug. 1900 the Rev. D. A. Coffey was sent to Barnesville as the first resident priest. Services were held in a rented hall. On May 15th 1901 two lots were bought by the priest in town at the corner of Main and Gardener street. It was said that the lots cost $2000. Soon after, we found that the old Presbyterian church had been bought, which was then moved to the new site. It was said and it is still told that the Catholics were the cause of a schism in the Presbyterian church, for in order to move the old thing to its present location the movers had to cut the building in two. They then added a Catholic centre piece and then called it "The Catholic Church," but it is still called by many "The Old Presbyterian Church." So far Mr. John H. Forbes.

Now follow a few items of Fr. Bede's church history of Barnesville. In 1904 (14th of Dec.) Rev. Bede Hansen was sent to Barnesville with the special mission "to get the parish out of its financial difficulties." There were in Dec. 1904 - debts: $4374.63, not counting $375.75 due to the Diocese; no priest house, no bell to call the people to mass or benediction. The first thing I did was to get a bell and to let Barnesville know that there were some Catholics there yet. A few weeks after we had our bell in position I met my stepbrother the Second Methodist minister and he said to me: Mr. Hansen, I noticed that you ring the church bell every morning and that you go over to the church too, every morning. Now allow me one question. Do you have an audience that early every morning? And I understood that your people mostly live in the country! What lesson Mr. Hansen gave to the minister about the sacrifice of the New Law and about the office of a priest needs not to be recorded here. This is mentioned only to show how necessary it is that there be a priest here if for no other purpose than to enlighten some benighted teachers in modern religion.

It is said by some that Barnesville is one of the most bigoted towns in Ohio. Although I myself have not found it so, for Protestants have been very friendly to me, it must have been thus years ago. (5) I heard it related that some years ago the pastor of Temperanceville for some reason or other wanted to reside at Barnesville. The priest had somebody to rent a house for him and he moved to town. As soon as the woman who owned the house heard that her new renter was a priest, she went to him in holy terror and made him vacate immediately, for no money would she let the priest occupy her property for another hour and the priest had to move twice in one week.

I am now at the end of the string. At this writing I have the debts down to $2900. Families I have 43. I intend to make a little more church history here before I die. One of my fondest hopes is to get the church building from the alley where it now stands to the Main street; another of my hopes is to build a priest house for my successor.

Editor's Notes

1. This history was written by Father Hansen in response to a decision of the Diocesan Synod of 1903 that all parish histories be written and submitted to

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the Bishop. A file containing the results was recently located in the Diocesan Archives, where the late Monsignor Mattingly had left it.

2. Rev. Bede Hansen was born on Nov. 20, 1847 in Bedburg, Rhenish Prussia, in the Diocese of Coeln. He was ordained a priest on March 21, 1874 in Paderborn and arrived in the United States on June 30, 1875. In 1881 and 1882 he was living at a Franciscan monastery in Cleveland. In the Diocese of Columbus, he served at Pomeroy Sacred Heart (1883-1889), Fulda (1889-1899), Calmoutier and Millersburg (1900-1902), Wellston (1902-1904), and Barnesville. He resigned his pastorate at Barnesville in 1911 because of ill health and died that November 23.

3. This was Rev. John W. Brummer, who was not a Dominican. See the Bulletins of September, 1988 and June, 1989.

4. The church was dedicated on Sept. 29, 1889. The Catholic Columbian of October 5, 1889 had this to say: "Father Montag's pretty little Church at Barnesville was dedicated by Bishop Watterson last Sunday. There must have been twelve hundred or fifteen hundred present. Of these the church would hold but 300. In order to reach the crowd, the Bishop preached the dedicatory sermon from the front steps of the edifice. The High Mass was sung by Father Montag, who with Rev. J. Tuohey after the Mass assisted the Bishop in the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation to a class of fourteen. Of these two are adult converts. Exercises of the day began at 9:30 in the morning and did not close until 3 o'clock in the afternoon." (Courtesy of the Catholic Times.)

5. On May 24, 1855 Father Brummer wrote from Batesville to Archbishop Purcell, "Concerning the widow with six children I sent to Cincinnati, I beg to state that it was in my view the best I could advise her to do in order to save her children from evident spiritual distruction. You have there your good schools with Catholic example & its salutary influence on young minds & probably also less difficulties for their temporal support than in this small fanatical place, where she lived. I have grown up in Cincinnati & am here long enough to know that Cincinnati is by 99 degrees more safe for a widow with a house full of children that must be instructed & raised for heaven than out in these degraded, bigoted & vicious little towns in the country filled with hatred of Catholics & other methods of distruction & impurities. What, I beg to ask, would become of a Catholic & perhaps careless widow with six already sadly neglected children, & poor & alone in such a place as Barnesville?" (Courtesy of the University of Notre Dame Archives.)

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THE CATHOLIC CHURCH NEAR GRAYSVILLE
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY, 1875-ca1877

In the set of parish histories mentioned in the note above, which were submitted in response to the Synod of 1903, are histories of Woodsfield St. Sylvester Parish and its missions. The short history of Sts. Peter and Paul mission at Dougherty's Settlement, Cranes Nest Creek, Monroe County, contains this paragraph on the Catholic Church near Graysville in that county.

Mr. Frank C. Oblinger gave to Fr. Rhine a church built by a Protestant denomination. It was situated on the Lamping farm some
two miles from Graysville. Services were held in the Lamping Church for about two years, but owing to the fewness of the people their weakness of faith and drinking habits the church was abandoned. At this time a congregation was formed at Woodsfield, the county seat, and the Catholics of Crane Nest and vicinity were expected to attend at Woodsfield.

The little history places this mission in the period just after the closing of Sts. Peter and Paul and before the opening of St. Sylvester's, around the late 1860s, but we know that its dates were a little later than that. This is the property which was mentioned in our story of Sts. Peter and Paul in the Bulletin (June, 1989). The property was deeded to Bishop Rosecrans by B. F. Oblinger of Reading, Pennsylvania on October 25, 1875 "for the Catholics of Elm Cove." (Deed Record 32/118)

Father "Rhine" must have been Father James M. Ryan, who was pastor of St. Henry Parish, Harrietsville, Noble County, from January of 1874 until January of 1876, according to Bishop Hartley's history of the diocese, and was pastor at McLuney during part of 1875. Harrietsville is about thirteen miles west of the site of this church and was the closest parish to Graysville in the 1870s. Woodsfield, though closer, had no resident priest until the 1880s.

The diagram below shows the outline and location of the property, which lies on the west side of State Route 537, about one mile west of Route 26. Bishop Watterson sold the property to William S. Way on Nov. 4, 1882. (Deed Record 39/477) Note: although the 1898 atlas of Monroe County shows the one acre, property of "W.W.S.", on the east side of the road, the deed clearly states that it was on the west side of the road.
page 103, Patrick Dunn, 20 W. University st., south half of lot 42-B, purchased Oct. 13, 1870; graves: Mar. 28, 1897; May 27, 1900; Apr. 30, 1913; Nov. 20, 1926.

Patrick Dunn, 1824 - 1900
Sarah his wife, 1829 - 1897
William C. Dunn, 1860 - 1926

John Hayes, 1847 - 1913
Mary Hayes, 1863 - 1942

page 120, John Crowe, 457 E. Naghten st., north half of lot 86-B, purchased Sept. 24, 1872; graves: Nov. 2, 1879 (child); Apr. 23, 1881 (child); June 3, 1899; May 20, 1905; Dec. 27, 1913.

CROWE:
Mary, 1871 - 1872
Thomas, 1873 - 1879
Frederick, 1875 - 1881
(These are on the rear of the monument, which was lying face-down when this section was read.)

page 124, William Clifford, half of lot 58-B, transferred to Mrs. Healihy.

page 143, Mrs. Stephen Meara, bought lot 101-B from James Naghten, Apr. 25, 1881; graves: Sept. 19, 1906; Apr. 8, 1912; Oct. 14, 1913; Dec. 23, 1921; Feb. 13, 1928; July 11, 1929.

Entrance stone: S. Meara
Mary Meara Hutchins, 1865 + 1912
Sarah Meara Hutchins, 1859 + 1895

page 151, James Duffy, east half of lot 10-B, purchased July 13, 1871; no record of any grave charges.

Elizabeth Duffy, Born County Meath, Ireland; died July 12, 1871, aged 71 y'rs.
James Duffy, Born County Meath, Ireland, June 29, 1821, Died May 29, 1895. Margaret Duffy


William J. Kenney, 1862 - 1916
Barth A. Kenney, 1864 - 1944
Effie M. Kenney, 1870 - 1962
Ann Kenney, 1832 - 1909
James Kenney, 1822 - 1887
Carl Daniels, 1890 - 1932

page 152, Andrew Kearns (corrected to Kerins), 258 N. Fifth St., lot 12-B, purchased Sept. 1, 1870; graves: Jan. 3, 1892; Oct. 30, 1909; Apr. 23, 1912; Nov. 9, 1914; March 17, 1924.

Andrew, son of A. & M. Kerins, Mar. 6, 1867 - Jan. 2, 1892. At Rest.
(Mother) Margaret Kerine, 1836 - 1912
Nellis A. Harkless, 1894 - 1918, Rest in Peace
page 152, Mrs. Thomas Clowery, Mt. Vernon Ave., west half of lot 76-B, purchased 1870; graves: Jan. 4(9?), 1892; Aug. 29, 1892; Nov. 16, 1893.

Thomas Clowry, died Mar. 10, 1868 aged 78 yrs.
James Clowry, died July 27, 1867, aged 23 yrs.
Mary Clowry

page 152, Richard Walsh, lot 32-B, purchased Oct. 29, 1870; graves Oct. 29, 1870 (removal of children from old cemetery); ----, 1894; Apr. 11, 1899; Dec. 5, 1902.

Ellen Dunn, born in Ireland, died Apr. 9, 1893 aged 82 years.
John Dunn, born in Ireland, died June 25, 1874, aged 66 years.
Children of Richard & Mary Walsh:
   Michael, died May 10, 1862
   Richard, died Sept. 20, ----

page 153, Alexander McMullen, lot 33-B, purchased July 12, 1871; graves: Oct. 30, 1876; Dec. 5, ---- (child); July 4, 1902; May 4, 1902? (two graves); March 15, 1905; June 8, 1912; Jan. 29, 1914.

James A. Landers, 1859 - 1915   Robert McMullen, 1903
Lillian McMullen, 1905   Joseph McMullen, 1902
(Mother) Eliza McMullen, 1925   Mary McMullen, 1950
(Father) Alexander McMullen, 1903

page 153, Patrick Keane, 90 Warren st., lot 41-B, purchased Mar. 3, 1871; graves: June 6, 1885; Sept. 29, 1899; July 18, 1905; June 15(?), 1906.

KEANE: Patrick, 1814 - 1899   Maria A. Keane, 1859 - 1947
   Ellen A. his wife, 1832 - 1906   May they rest in peace.
   James P. his son, 1858 - 1905
Lizzie, daughter of P. & E. Keane, died June 5, 1885, aged 22y 2m 17d.
John, son of Patrick & Ellen Keane, died Mar. 3, 1871, aged 16y 1m 18d.

page 153, James Clahane, lot 134-B, purchased Jan. 19, 1874; graves: Oct. 6, 1876 (for Booth); Aug. 25, 1885; June 14, 1886; March 10, 1893 (for James Clahane); Nov. 18, 1894 (Ellen Donahue); March ----, 1898; Apr. 20, 1903 (James Donaghue); Oct. 31, 1925.

James Clahane, born in Charleville, Co. Limerick, Ireland, 1823, died March 9, 1893.
Mary his wife, born in Co. Limerick, Ireland, 1829, died March 9, 1898.
   Erected by Mary Clahane.
(Mother) Johanna Clahane, 1840 + 1925, born in Co. Limerick, Ireland
(Son) John J. Clahane, 1867 + 1939, born in Co. Cork, Ireland
   Erected in Memory of Patrick Clahane, died Oct. 6, 1876, aged 53 years.

page 154, John Byrne, lot 26-B, purchased Nov. 13, 1868; graves: Dec. 20, 1901; Aug. 26, 1906.

(Mother) Maria Byrne, 1826 - 1906
(Father) John Byrne, 1807 - 1893
(Sister) Rosa Kane, 1858 - 1902
(Grandson) John J. Ryan, 1909 + 1983
(There is also a BYRNE monument, but the entire center of it is missing; with it is a World War veteran's marker.)

page 155, John Early, lot 43-B, purchased Mar. 28, 1869; graves: ----; July 22, 1886; Dec. 5, 1891; May 6, 1898 (child); Jan. 23, ----; July 17, 1900 (child); Apr. 4, 1923.

Mary P. Young, 1922 + 1969
(Husband) Michael J. Barry, 1860 - 1918

page 155, Mrs. Michael Finnegan, 156 W. Chestnut St., south half of lot 44-B, purchased July 6, 1869; graves: Sept. 22, 1878; Aug. 10, 1881 (child); Nov. 15, 1890; Nov. 1, 1912. [Appears to be the east half of the lot:]

IHS Ellen wife of M. C. Finegan, died June 15, 1869(?) in her 2 year.
Maggie, D(aughter of ?) [illegible] page 155,

page 156, Patrick Leonard, Delaware, Ohio, east half of lot 53-B, purchased Dec. 10, 1872; graves: Sept. 16, 1878 (?); Oct. 14, 1886; Jan. 13, 1892; Oct. 24, 1899; Feb. 3, 1905; Dec. 30, 1908. [Some of these dates match those on the Leonard and Lennon monument on the west half of the lot; see the Bulletin of March, 1990, page 228. No tombstones on the east half.]

page 156, James (Ellen) McMahon, 155 Cleveland Ave., lot 66-B, purchased Feb. 22, 1869; graves: Mar. 25, 1879; July 25, 1897 (child); Dec. 10, 1897 (child); July 3, ----; Mar. 19, 1927. (North half?) sold by Ellen McMahon to Mrs. Hannah O'Donnell. [No tombstones]

page 156, Mrs. Ann Brodie, lot 67-B, purchased Aug. 12, 1871; graves: June 28, 1886; May 6, 1887; Apr. 19, 1895; Aug. 7, 1911. "On June 6, 1877 Mrs. Ann Brodie transferred the south half of this lot...to Mrs. Julie McCabe who died April 11, 1877 & left as the heir of her estate Mrs. Anna Clark and Miss Ellen McCabe." "Above half lot 67 south side transferred to Mrs. Anna McCabe, 652 Kerr St. One grave vacant reserved for Mrs. Anna McCabe."

[Tombstones on the north half:]
William Brodie Sr., born Mar. 8, 1822, died Aug. 11, 1871
Michael Brodie, born Nov. 18, 1865, died July 8, 1867
Augustus Brodie, born Aug. 23, 1867, died Apr. 19, 1895
William Brodie Jr., born Apr. 30, 1862, died June 24, 1886

page 162, Dennis Walsh, 110 Burnett St., lot 88-B, purchased Oct. 10, 1871; graves: Jan. 20, 1880; Mar. 19, 1883 (child); Dec. 12, 1898 (child); July 28, 1907(1?); May 4, 1903; Nov. 16, 1905.

WELSH: John A. 1864 + 1936 
David J. 1859 + 1922 
Richard, 1862 + 1932 
Edward M. 1866 + 1905
In memory of James E. Welsh, son of Dennis & Bridget Welsh, died Jan. 20, 1880, aged 25y, 8m, 5d.

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BROWN, Co. Limerick, Ireland
(Father) John, June 3, 1873
(Mother) Ellen, Apr. 11, 1878
Julia, wife of Michael Burns, born in 1790, Native of Queen's County, Ireland, Died July 10, 1886, May she rest in peace, Amen.
Charles H. Tyler, Ohio - Tec 5, 401 Glider Inf, 101 ABN Div, WWII, Apr. 7, 1918 - Dec. 19, 1944
(Father) Cyril J. Tyler, 1891 - 1936
VOGT: Edmund, July 23, 1889 - July 29, 1935
Hilda, May 4, 1896
Rest in peace!

page 157, James Connors, 93 E. Goodale St., lot 59-B, purchased Jan. 22, 1872; graves: May 10, 1881 (child); Sept. 5, 1882 (child); Apr. 18, 1888; Nov. 22, 1891 (child); Apr. 4, 1896; Mar. 25, 1898; Nov. 25, 1898; Feb. 4, 1908.

James and Mary Connor and Family

page 157, Owen Callahan, 526 Boone Street, east [north?] half of lot 83-B, purchased May 28, 1872; graves: Nov. 15, 1880 (child); Apr. 15, 1882 (child); Apr. 2, 1894; July 3, 1897 (child); Nov. 25, 1903; Aug. 1, 1907. [No stones]

Michael Galvin, died Dec. 29, 1878, aged 60 years, Native of par--- Ca---, Ireland.
M. Galvin
This ---ds the fond affection of Bridget Sullivan for her beloved husband Jeremiah Sullivan, a native of W盐城 Co. Limerick, Ireland.

(To be continued)

ST. ANN BY THE WAYSIDE - PHOTO CREDIT

The photograph of St. Ann by the Wayside church in Buena Vista which appeared on page 255 in the July Bulletin was taken by Rev. Pat O'Donnell. It was used with permission of the Glenmary Home Missioners.

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

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