THE OLD STONE CHURCH
SHAWNEE, OHIO

The above sketch of the famous "Old Stone Church" in Salt Lick Township, Perry County, was drawn for the Catholic Record Society by Mrs. Edie Herrel, well known artist of Bexley, Ohio. No photographs of the once beautiful church are extant. A number of snapshots and some prints showing the venerable old structure in various stages of decay were used in drawing the above sketch. Located about one mile and a half from Shawnee, the church was built in 1845. It was abandoned in 1880 after St. Mary's Church was built in that city late in 1879. The "Old Stone Church" was dedicated to God under the patronage of St. Peter.
THE "OLD STONE CHURCH" OF SALT LICK TOWNSHIP
PERRY COUNTY, OHIO

On a hillside on the right of the present Old Stone Church Hollow Road, and a little more than a mile and a half north of Monday Creek in Salt Lick Township, Perry County, Ohio, may be found the stone ruins of a mission church erected by hardy Catholic pioneers. It was one of a number of now defunct mission churches of the 19th century founded in that county which was the cradle of Catholicity in Ohio.

Of these former Perry County missions the first was St. Patrick's, Clover Hill, which was replaced in 1833 by St. Lewis Bertrand's, Rehoboth. This was later to give way to St. Dominic's, Clayton Township, started in 1852. It became known as St. Dominic's, McLuney, although situated several miles from that village. Later still, in 1896, a mission church was opened in Crooksville, where the present Church of the Atonement is located. The Crooksville parish now embraces the former St. Dominic's.

Another of the former Perry County missions was St. Francis of Assisi, Chapel Hill, begun in 1840 in eastern Monroe Township. It became a flourishing parish. Today only the cemetery remains. St. Pius', Old South Fork, another abandoned mission, started in 1865. It is now St. Pius' church in the town of Moxahala.

Taking its place among the missions of Perry County in the early 1840's was St. Peter's, Salt Lick Township, which was to become known as the "Old Stone Church" because it was constructed from stone. In the beginning it was referred to as the "Monday Creek" mission, since it was located so near to that creek.

Early records indicate that this mission was attended from 1842 to 1845 by Father A. Olivetti from St. Barnabas', Deavertown (1). It was during this time that property was purchased for a church and cemetery.

On March 19, 1844, John L. McDonal and his wife, Catharine, sold one acre of land to Rt. Rev. John Baptist Purcell, Bishop of Cincinnati (2). The tract was described as follows: "The following land situated in the County of Perry and the State of Ohio, Viz: One acre of the north half of the south west quarter of section seven in township fourteen of range fifteen in District of land subject to sale at Zanesville, Ohio. Bounded as follows, on the south by the Logan Road, and the west by Monday Creek, on the north by the land of John S. Hoy and to extend east from the creek sufficient to contain one acre." From the Deed it is evident why the mission was known as "Monday Creek."

On the same day another Deed was signed between John S. Hoy and Margaret Hoy, his wife, granting one acre and five rods to the Rt. Rev. John Baptist Purcell, Bishop of Cincinnati (3). Both tracts constituted the property for the Monday Creek church and cemetery.

Although the area was quite hilly and difficult for farming, the early Catholic pioneers carved from the wilderness around them what was necessary
for a beautiful stone church. Among those who made up the congregation were John Hoy, Alexander McLean, George Riffle and the Bowes, the Clarks, the Moores and the Parsons. Catholics from New Straitsville, Shawnee and the surrounding area attended Mass in the new stone church well up into the 1870's.

Timothy Fagan was the builder of the church. He rests in the little cemetery which was located behind the church. No tombstone marks the spot of his burial today. There is, however, a tombstone to the memory of three children of Stephen and Alice Fagan.

That the Monday Creek church was constructed in 1845 is evident from the inscription on the cornerstone. It reads: "Amen, I say to thee thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. St. Matthew 16 chap. 18 ver. AD 1845." This gives evidence of the solid foundation upon which the Faith of those early Catholics rested. That Faith was proclaimed in having their church dedicated to God under the patronage of St. Peter. Begun in 1845, "a new beautiful stone church" was recorded as "under roof" in 1849.

Father J. J. Slevin is said to have celebrated Mass for the first time in the Old Stone Church (4). If so, it would seem that his was only a temporary assignment to the mission.

St. Peter's, Monday Creek, continued to be attended for some years from Deavertown. Father Timothy Farrell came from that mission to Monday Creek from 1846 to 1849. He was followed by Father Cornelius Daly in 1850 in 1851. During the next two years St. Peter's was attended by the Dominican Fathers, no doubt from St. Joseph's, Somerset. Father J. McGee, O.P., came to Monday Creek from Chapel Hill in 1854 (5). Father James Monahan then came from Deavertown from 1856 to 1859. The next year Father Anthony Hechinger replaced Father Monahan at Deavertown. The Dominican Fathers from St. Joseph's, Somerset, again served the mission from 1865 to 1868.

Records of the Diocese of Columbus show that the "Old Stone Church" was attended from Logan by Father Emmanuel Thienpont in 1863. Later, in 1874, it was a mission of Father Joseph Laffan of Straitsville. There was never a rectory or a resident pastor at St. Peter's.

There is no separate register of Sacraments for the "Old Stone Church". Those found are in a book which became the register of Baptisms for St. Mary's, Shawnee. Since the little mission was first attended from St. Barnabas". Deavertown, records were most likely made and kept with those of that church. However, such records have not been found.

The register of Baptisms at St. Mary's, Shawnee, starting in 1854, show that Father J. V. Daly was there in 1854 and 1855. He was succeeded by Father James Monahan who remained until 1859. The name Phew's appears in 1859.

For three years, 1862 to 1864, Father Charles F. Hone was the pastor in charge. As stated above, Father Emmanuel Thienpont and Joseph Laffan were there successively from 1868 to 1874, and were succeeded by Father Bernard O'Boylan who was there in 1875 and 1876. Father Simon Weisinger was in charge of the mission during the years 1877 and 1878. In 1879 Father John S. Hannon became pastor of St. Mary's, Shawnee, with the added charge of the "Old Stone Church" mission.
Father John A. Zahm, famous scientist of the Holy Cross Fathers at Notre Dame University, was among those who attended services in the Old Stone Church. He was from the New Lexington area. Also from the same area came J. A. MacGahan, the Liberator of Bulgaria.

The hills around Shawnee became the scene for the opening of many coal mines in the 1870's. The little town prospered. Catholics became more numerous in Shawnee than in the hills of the Monday Creek mission. Accordingly, a church was erected in the growing village in 1880. Father John S. Hannon became the pastor. He celebrated the last Mass in the Old Stone Church November 23, 1880. He officiated at the last marriage ceremony in the venerable edifice that year when Bernard Sorohan and Miss Catherine Riffle pronounced their vows of matrimony. James L. McLean was the last one baptized there.

Abandoned in 1900, the Old Stone Church gave way gradually to the ravages of time. The roof collapsed in June, 1911. The "Shawnee Advocate" of July 13, 1911, reported the tragedy: "St. Peter's Church, far famed as the Old Stone church, located about a mile and a half north west of Shawnee, adjoining the land formerly owned by Alexander McLean, collapsed and fell to the ground about 7:30 Monday. The old house of worship, built of solid stone, was larger in dimensions than St. Mary's Church [Shawnee]. It was erected by the early pioneers of Salt Lick township and surroundings in the year 1845 and was located at that time almost in the midst of a vast wilderness....."

"It was there many of the hardy old pioneers, from far and near, came and devoutly offered up their prayer to Almighty God; there their children were baptized; many of them were joined in holy bonds of matrimony; and there, in the lonely yard not a few, including the builder, Timothy Pagan, sleep their last long sleep that knows no walking. Those huge stones lying in one promiscuous heap are a sorrowful sight to behold. The ivy vines, some of which are 2 inches thick, that for many, many years have been entwining the old church as if an effort to bind it together, now hang from the gable ends as though looking down with sorrow and horror upon the ruins they once embraced so lovingly. Since it was abandoned in 1880, the old church has stood there a massive stately ruin and a respected monument of bygone days....."

In the 1960's when Father Peter McEwan was pastor in Shawnee, many of the stones of the Old Stone Church were taken into the town to make a shrine of the Blessed Virgin in the church yard there. The cornerstone of St. Peter's was embodied prominently in the shrine. Today not much remains of the "Old Stone Church" in Salt Lick Township, Perry County, Ohio.

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(1) Deavertown is located in Morgan County, just east of the border of Perry County.
(3) Perry County Deed Books, Vol. P., p. 239.
(4) Diocese of Columbus: The History of Fifty Years, 1868-1918, p. 471.

(To be continued)

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RECORDS OF BAPTISMS, ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH
ZANESVILLE, OHIO 1843 - 1847
(Continued)

1844

Filomena, b. Aug 10; bapt. aug. 18, of Andrew Hemling and wife, ------. 
Sponsors: Mary Rink and Anton George R.
Mary, b. Aug. 28; Bapt. Sept. 10, of George Bauer and wife, Barbara Heinrich, at St. Mary's [Coshocton County]. Sponsors: Caspar Heinrich and Mary Scherer. 
John, b. Sept. 12 and baptized the same day, of Adolph Hurstand wife, M. A. Ruf, in Roscoe. Sponsors: John Klosner and Mary Bachmann.
Mary, b. July 20; bapt. Sept. 22, of John Zingerlport(?) and wife, Margaret Gall. 
Sponsors: Jacob Freudereich and wife, Anne Mary.
Margaret, B. Aug. 9; bapt. Sept. 27, of Peter Schmied and wife, Margaret, by Taylorsville. Sponsors: John Goter and Sophie Kummerlin, Taylorsville.
Theresa, b. Sept. 8; bapt. Oct. 6, of Andrew Becker and wife, Magdalen Link, Zanesville. Sponsors: George and Agatha Gall.
Francis Xavier, b. Oct. 21; bapt. Oct. 27, of Jacob Stehle and wife, Philippina Haehne, in Taylorsville. Sponsors: Xavier Pirkle and Catherine G------.
-----------twins [names and dates not legible] Sponsors: Victoria Gunther and Melchior Stehle.
Agatha, b. Oct. 27; bapt. Oct. 28, of Joseph Rink and wife, Catherine Kronenbitter, in Taylorsville. Sponsors: Catherine Eberst and Meinrad Stehle.
Anne Mary, b. Nov. 5; bapt. Nov. 10, of Caspar Bat(?) shoemaker, and wife, Magdalen Hof. Sponsors: Franz Joseph Hof and his sister, Anne Mary.
Rosina, b. Nov. 12; bapt. Nov. 25, of Felix Kessler and wife, Christine Fetzer, near Taylorsville. Sponsors: Xavier Pirkle and Anastasia Bruter.
Juliana, b. Nov. 17; bapt. Nov. 27, of Michael Paul and wife, M. A. Zaehne, near Zanesville. Sponsors: Jacob Paul and Juliana Bittenbeck.
Michael Andrew, b. Nov. 30; bapt. Dec. 7, of Franz Rink (owner of restaurant) and wife, Margaret Tal. Sponsors: Michael Albert and Barbara G------.
Catherine Elizabeth, b. Dec. 6; bapt. Dec. 12, 1844, of Jacob O-----, hotel keeper, and wife, Elizabeth Roll. Sponsors: Ignatz Roll and C therine O-----.

1845

Eva, b. Nov. 9, 1844; Bapt. Jan. 1, 1845, of Valentine Muehlfeld and wife, Kunegunda B------, zanesville. Sponsors: Adam Voll and his wife, Eva.

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Mary, b. Dec. 15; bapt. Feb. 1, of John Doll and wife, Catherine Z--------. Sponsors: Barbara S-------- and Peter Klein.

Jacob, b. Feb. 18; bapt. Feb. 20, of Jacob Friedrich and wife, A. Mary Douron. Sponsors: Frank Rink and Barbara Douron.


John Franz, b. Feb. 19; bapt. March 1, of Adam Draud and wife, Elizabeth ------. Sponsors: ---- Raus and wife, Francisca.

Catherine, b. Feb. 26; bapt. March 1, of Adam Voll and wife, Eva Kelinanz, near Zanesville. Sponsors: Catherine Kimmel and Sus--------.

Martin, b. March 1; bapt. March 9, of John Paul, shoemaker, and wife, R--------, Zanesville. Sponsors: Martin ------ and Eva Anna.

Regina, b. and baptized March 12, of Michael --------, tailor, and wife, Barbara Staub, Zanesville. Sponsors: Matthew -------- and Regina Bollinger.


Joseph, b. March 5; bapt. April 15, of Gregor Bollinger and wife, Magdalen Bodenkircher. Sponsors: Jacob Hegl and A. M. Bodenkircher.

A, Mary, b. Feb. 18; bapt. April 15, of John W. Kelz and wife, Elizabeth Hindenburg. Sponsors: John Poll and Barbara S--------.

Gertrud, b. April 12; bapt. April 20, of George Bauer and wife, Catherine Schneider. Sponsors: John and Gertrud Keller.

Heinrich, b. March 25; bapt. April 25, of Joseph Metzger and wife, A.M. Berthold(?). Sponsors: Andrew Gassmann and his daughter, Mary Anne.


George, b. May 5; bapt. May 18, of Caspar Douran and wife, Mary A. Christ. Sponsors: George and Catherine Douran.


Elizabeth, b. April 29; bapt. June 21, of Philip Krummeraehren and wife, Mathilda Dupre. Sponsors: Frank A---- and Elizabeth Schuh.


Heinrich, b. May 8; bapt. June 7, of Valentine Schenk and wife, Catherine Miller in Dresden. Sponsors: Heinrich Grossal and wife, Mary Anne.


Mary, b. May 5; [date of Baptism not given] of Martin Douran and wife, Catherine Zorn. Sponsors: Peter Schmid and Margaret Zorn.

Margaret, b. June 26; bapt. July 7, of Friedrich Heimruh and wife, Catherine Kaufmann, Zanesville. Sponsors: Jacob Heimruh and Margaret Kaufmann.


Catherine Miller, wife of Valentine Schenk, Dresden, had their 7 year old daughter, Susanna Catherine, baptized in the Catholic Church on July 21.


Kresse, b. April 12; bapt. Aug. 18, of John Roller and Margaret Guerlein, Sponsors: Heinrich Grasel and his wife, M.A. (Mary Anne).


Michael, b. Aug. 16; bapt Aug 23, of Adam Pfeffer and wife, Elizabeth Boesper, in Dresden. Sponsors: Michael Boesper and his sister, Eva.


Jacob, b. Oct. 4; bapt. Oct. 20, of Peter Douan and wife, Elizabeth Pauker. Sponsors: Jacob Friedrich and Catherine Douan.


David, b. Oct. 9; bapt. Nov. 10, of John Bodenkircher and wife, Catherine Aschbacher, near St. Mary's [Coshocton County]. Sponsor: Wendelin Bodenkircher.

John, b. Aug 25; Bapt. Nov. 10, of Wendelin Bodenkircher and wife, M. A. Rauphang, St. Mary's [Coshocton County]. Sponsors: John Bodenkircher and Anne Mary Bodenkircher.

Catherine, b. Aug. 31; bapt Nov. 10, of Jacob Gegel and wife, Regina Bodenkircher. Sponsors: John Aschbacher and Magdalen Bodenkircher.

Adam, b. Sept. 20; bapt. Nov. 13, of Valentine Geb and wife, Hildegard Kalb. Sponsors: Joseph Glopan and A.M.


M. Anne Barbara, b. Dec. 23 [no date of Baptism], of Jacob Gunther and wife, M. Catherine Z------, Zanesville. Sponsors: Francis Rink and Barbara Hinderlang.

1846


M. Barbara, b. Jan. 29; bapt. Feb. 5, of John Emert and wife, Margaret Giess; Sponsor: Margaret Keller.

Barbara, b. Nov. 25, 1845; bapt. Feb. 9, 1846, of Michael Stein and wife, Margaret A------. Sponsors: Valentine Schenk and his wife, Barbara.
George Anthony, B. Jan 12; bapt. Feb. 10, of Sebastian Dollich and wife, Regina Scherer, near St. Mary's [Coshocton County]. Sponsors: Anton Scherer and Catherine Klein.


John, b. Jan. 17; bapt. March 1, of Felix Kessler and wife, Christina Betzer; Sponsors: Fedelis Kessler and Anastasia Keim.

Francisca, b. Feb 21; bapt. March 1, of Christian Kussmaul and wife, Catherine Rink. Sponsors: Melchior Stehle and Barbara Kelz.

Constantin, b. Jan 15; bapt. March 1, of Joseph Eyer and wife, Catherine Stehle; Sponsors: Michael G---- and Louisa ----.

M ary M ethilda, b. March 1; bapt March 7, of Anton Menger and wife, Catherine Asche. Sponsors: Jacob Asche and Elizabeth his wife.

M ry Eva, b. March 5; bapt. March 8, of John Keller and Gertraud. Sponsors: John Michael Albert and his wife, M. Eva.

Sara Anne, b. March 5; bapt. March 9, of Gregor Wagner and wife, Agatha Loesch, near St. Mary's [Coshocton County]. Sponsors: Joseph Gunther and Elizabeth Loesch.


Magdalen, b. March 6; bapt April 1, of Adam Heilmann and wife, Catherine Geppert, Zanesville. Sponsors: Peter Goetz and Magdalen Stehle.

Margaret, b. April 13; bapt. April 19, of Caspar Coll, shoemaker, Zanesville, and wife, Magdalen Hof. Sponsors: Philip Reach and his wife, Mary.

John, b. April 23; bapt. April 26, of John Recker and wife, Margaret Rack; Sponsor: Adam R----.

Agnes Ottilia, b. April 23; bapt. May 5, of Andrew Baecker and wife, Magdalen Link. Sponsor: Eva J------.

John, born and baptized May 6, of Heinrich Rattenbruck and wife, Mary B----. Sponsors: John Keller and Mary Wohlfahrt.

Elizabeth, b. April 21; bapt. May 10, of Michael Hauser and wife, Margaret Grech in St. Mary's [Coshocton County]. Sponsors: Anton Werner and Barbara Heimruh.

Margaret, b. April 26; bapt. May 17, of Melchior Hafner and wife, A. Catherine Stierle. Sponsors: Francis and Margaret Rink.


Martin Ignatius, b. July 28; bapt. July 31, of Michael Albert and wife, Mary Eva Rink. Sponsors: Martin Rink and Anne Gessinger.


Elizabeth, b. June 29, bapt. Aug. 1, of Peter Schmid and wife, Margaret Mueller. Sponsors: Martin Douran and Elizabeth Frosch.

(To be concluded)

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Note 1: We extend the season's greetings to all our readers. May all be blessed during this holy season and during the coming year.

Note 2: Membership renewals for 1979 are now due. The membership fee is ten dollars ($10.00) for the calendar year, and includes subscription to the monthly "Bulletin." A form for membership renewal is enclosed.