SAINT DOMINIC'S CHURCH, McLuney
PERRY COUNTY, OHIO

Above is an old and damaged picture of the former St. Dominic's church, McLuney, Harrison township, Perry county, Ohio. Built in 1851, it replaced the former St. Lewis Bertrand church in Rehoboth. Of brick construction it was reputed to have been the most beautiful church in the area. The photo makes evident the reason for it having been designated as located on the McLuney Hill. Today there is no church, just a sadly neglected cemetery. The whole area is now a forest of tall trees, making the location of the once prominent church difficult to find.
THE HISTORY OF ST. DOMINIC'S, McLUNEY
PERRY COUNTY, OHIO

The Irish seem to have carried the day when there was question of replacing St. Lewis Bertrand church with a new edifice in Rehoboth, Perry county, Ohio, in 1850 (1). Instead of building a new church in that village, a fine brick one was built in Harrison township along its boundary with Clayton township in an area where there was "a very numerous Catholic population" (2). This population was made up of almost entirely Irish settlers. Some of the family names of those early days were Sweeney, McNulty, Fealty, Noon, Finnen, Smith, McMullen, Snyder (from Alsace), Martin, McCristal, Clements and Hammond (from France).

The new church was built on what was known as McLuney (3) Hill, and was dedicated to Almighty God under the patronage of St. Dominic. It was a beautiful brick structure, the erection of which was most likely supervised by Father Mannes D'Arco, O.P., from St. Joseph's, Somerset, who became the first pastor. He had also served the congregation when it attended St. Lewis Bertrand's in Rehoboth.

St. Dominic's was about three miles northwest of McLuney Station which was on the Trinway-Morrow extension of the Pennsylvania railroad. Father D'Arco donated the marble altar, the base of which is still under the altar in the Church of the Atonement in Crooksville. According to oral history, the older members of St. Dominic's regarded their church as one of the prettiest in that part of Ohio.

Property for the new location of the parish had been purchased in September, 1849. Three acres and 19 links were sold by John Sweeney and his wife, Mary, to the Literary Society of St. Joseph's, Perry county, by a deed recorded on September 24, 1849 (4). John Sweeney, native of Ireland, had come to the area from Pennsylvania. His wife was Mary Shields. The property was for the church, rectory, school and part of the cemetery.

Also bought was an adjoining tract of one-half acre, "more or less," intended for cemetery purposes. It was sold to the "literary society of St. Joseph's of the County of Perry and State of Ohio" (5) by Bernard Smith and his wife, Margery. Both are buried in the St. Dominic's cemetery. Bernard died in 1885 at the age of "about" 70; his wife died in 1904 at the age of "about" 80.

Both tracts of land were transferred by the Literary Society of St. Joseph's to Bishop John A. Watterson of Columbus on October 28, 1896.

With the purchase of the new property the parish was in possession of a substantial barn which was remodeled and used for a social center. It was here that the late Father Mollier, pastor in 1876, who was something of a genius in fine arts and mechanics, gave what was the first moving pictures in the history of Perry county. The gifted priest made his own slides and the entertainment was very popular. The proceeds were used for the benefit of the congregation.

During its early years St. Dominic's was served by the Dominican Fathers of St. Joseph's, Somerset. Father D'Arco was succeeded by Father J. P. McKearney, O.P., in 1859. Two years later Father Dominic H. Noon, O.P., was placed in charge. Father Hubert M. Ralph, O.P., was pastor for a short time in 1864 until Father Thomas J. Cady, O.P., took over. In 1869 Father Cady was
replaced by Father John S. Collins, O.P., who served until 1874, when Father Jeremiah S. Moroney became resident pastor.

Rev. James M. Ryan was there for part of 1876. Father Francis Moitrier succeeded him during that year. During part of 1882 Father Richard J. Fitzgerald was pastor. Father Patrick M. Heery took charge that year and remained until Father J. T. McNally arrived in 1885. Father John Cahalan was the last pastor of St. Dominic's. He arrived in January, 1892, and remained as pastor after the church was closed and a new mission started in Crooksville.

During most of these years these same priests had charge of the mission church of St. Pius X, South Fork, which was quite some distance south in Pleasant township.

The reason for closing St. Dominic's was the condition of the building. In 1895 it was condemned by State authorities. A new slate roof proved to be too heavy for the brick walls and caused them to spread. In the following year of 1896 at the suggestion of Bishop Watterson, Father Cahalan opened a mission in Crooksville. A barn was remodeled and converted into a church. This was used until the present Church of the Atonement was built.

There are no records extant giving the number of parishioners in the early decades of St. Dominic's. Nor are there any financial reports available until the 1880's. The earliest financial report made by Father Richard Fitzgerald covered the period from January to July of 1881. It gave receipts as $724.18 and expenses as being $508.12. From July, 1881, to January 1, 1882, he gave receipts as $1125.10 (including a previous balance of $216.06) and expenses as $1125.10, repairs accounting for $680.40.

Financial returns remained pretty constant through the following years. During the latter half of 1883 Father Heery conducted a subscription drive which netted $424.30. He also had a festival which realized $252.90. This enabled him to make repairs costing $633.53. In the 1890's financial reports show the parish was indebted to the pastor for part of his salary. Father Cahalan reported that almost all debts were paid from the proceeds of a picnic held in the summer of 1893.

It is interesting to note that in 1897 Father Cahalan signed his report as pastor of St. Dominic's, Crooksville. The name of the church in the country was still used. The change to the Church of the Atonement came later.

The earliest census statistics of St. Dominic's now extant were made by Father Heery. In 1882 he reported that during the previous year there were 89 families at McLuney and South Fork combined, 51 being at McLuney. There were 499 souls in all. During a two-year period of 1880-1882 he listed 45 baptisms, nine marriages and 42 Confirmations.

Parish organizations were also given by Father Heery. Active were the St. Mary's Married Ladies and the St. Joseph's Married Men's societies. There was also the Sodality of the Children of Mary. Fifty from St. Dominic's and 31 from South Fork belonged to the Father Matthew's Total Abstinence society. There was no school, and the residence was at McLuney.
Parish growth was slow during the years of St. Dominic's existence. Father McNally reported 6 children attending catechism classes in 1890-91, while there were 116 Catholic children in public schools.

Toward the end of its life, which came in 1895, St. Dominic's had 96 families with 478 souls according to statistics assembled by Father Cahalan. After he had moved to Crooksville he reported that the "old parsonage at McUney is taxed." Parish life was now in Crooksville.

(1) See BULLETIN, May, 1880, for history of St. Patrick's, Clover Hill, and of St. Louis Bertrand's, Rohoboth.
(2) History of Perry County by E.S. Colborn, 1883, p. 193.
(3) McUney Station was about three miles south of the location of St. Dominic's.

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ST. DOMINIC CEMETERY, PERRY COUNTY, OHIO

Tombstone Inscriptions

ALLMAN, Mary McNamee, 1861-1884.

BOYLE, Bridget, wife of Patrick,
  d. June 17, 1862. Aged 36Y.
  Native of Co. Roscommon, Ireland.

BROHAN, William, d. June 30, 1874.
  Aged 57Y LM.

BROWN, Rose Agnes, wife of Benjamin
  Franklin Brown, d. Feb. 16, 1893.
  Aged 32Y 5M 10D.

CALAHAN, Mary, dau. of John and
  Margarey, d. Mar. 26, 1858.
  Aged 9Y.

CALAHAN, Mary, wife of Patrick,
  d. May 11, 1877. Aged about 75Y.

CLEMENTS, Edward, b. Jan. 15, 1865;
  d. June 16, 1896.

CLEMENTS, Ellen, 1836-1887.
  Children: Georgia - Katie - Lizzie.

CLEMENTS, Thomas, Nov. 17, 1863;
  Aug. 9, 1908.

COOK, John, d. Oct. 27, 1852. Aged
  about 35Y.

COYL, Catharine, dau. of ----,
  d. Feb. 3, 1860. Aged 12Y 9M.

COYLE, Charles, son of James and R.,
  d. April 4, 1869. Aged 1Y 11M 15D.

COYLE, Cornelius, d. Nov. 28, 1870.
  Aged 32Y.

CUNNINGHAM, Margaret, wife of James,
  d. July 29, 1889. Aged 77Y 7M 29D.
  James Cunningham, d. Sept. 6, 1888. Aged 38Y.

CUNNINGHAM, Michael, d. Feb. 3, 1883.
  Aged 76Y.

CROSBY, Matthew, d. Aug. 15, 1858.
  Aged 71(21?)Y 6M.

DELONG, Martha A., dau. of Edward &
  Ruth, d. Aug. 26, 1860. Aged
  5Y 9M 20D.

DELONG, Sarah, dau. of L. & R.,
  d. Aug. 28, 1853. Aged 11M.

DOLAN, Barnard, d. Sept. 29, 1855.
  Aged 82Y.

FEALTY, Catharine, wife of James,
  d. Nov. 2l, 1870. Aged 100Y.

FEALTY, Michael, d. Oct. 8, 1859.
  Aged about 50Y.

FEALTY, Peter, b. Co. Donegal, Ireland,
  d. Feb. 7, 1874. Aged 65Y.

FEALTY, Edward, son of ----, d. March 7,
  1855. Aged 2- D.

FINNIGAN, Jennie, d. 1874. Aged 65Y.

FRIEL, Edward, d. Feb. 6, 1851. Aged
  101Y. Native of ---- Parish, Donegal
  Co., Ireland.

FRIEL, Hugh, d. April 11, 1856. Aged 39Y.

  10, 1856(?). Aged 1Y 5M 17D.

FRIEL, John P., son of ----, d. April
  26, 1855. Aged 2Y 6M.

FRIEL, Wife of Patrick, d.
  Feb. 1, 1856. Aged 70Y.

FRIEL, Patrick, d. ----. Aged 57Y 10M.
  16D. Native of Co. Donnyall, Ireland.
GILES, John J., 1814-1903
GILES, Rebecca, wife of John, d. March 21, 1881. Aged 64 Y 4 M 22 D.
GILES, Rosanna, d. April 6, 1861.
GRIELEY, Edward, d. Oct. 25, 1869. Aged about 70 Y.
GRIELEY, Mary, wife of Edward, d. May 23, 1868. Aged 39 Y.
HALL, Maggie, d. July 16, 1885. Aged 11 Y 2 M.
HAMMOND, Mary m., dau. of Robert & Maryann, d. April 21, 1854. Aged 2 Y 4 M 5 D.
HAMMOND, Mary M., wife of Joseph, d. May 29, 1869. Aged 8 Y 4 M 18 D.
HOOVER, Michael, d. Feb. 21, 1870. Aged 11 Y 10 M 21 D.
HAMMOND, Sarah Elizabeth, dau. of Robert & Margaret, d. Sept. 5, 1863. Aged 9 Y 1 M 23 D.
HOOVER, Mary A., wife of Michael, d. June 2, 1867. Aged 7 Y 9 M 15 D.
LONGSTRETH, Margaretta, dau. of J.R. & E., d. Sept. 27, 1861. Aged 6 Y 6 M 28 D.
LONGSTRETH, Mary, dau. S. & C., d. Feb. 24, 1883. Aged 5 M 21 D. --
LONGSTRETH, Stephen T., son of Jas. & ---, d. Nov. 18, 1862. Aged 5 Y 1 M 22 D.
LUCAS, Joseph, d. Aug. 12, 1906. Aged 1 Y 10 Y.
McELWEE, James, 1830-1899.
Rose, his wife, 1834-1898.
Elizabeth, 1870-1902.
James, Jr., 1872-1908.
McGOLDRICK, Ann, dau. E. & E., d. March 22, 1854, in the 23rd year of her age.
McGOLDRICK, Catharine, wife of Edward, d. Jan. 1, 1877. Aged about 85 Y.
McGOLDRICK, Michael, d. Oct. 5, 1859. Aged 30 Y.
McHUGH, James, Sen., native of Ireland, d. at Windsor, Ohio, May, 1872. Aged 77 Y.
McLAUGHLIN, Ann D., wife of John, d. March 3, 1871. Aged ---.
McLAUGHLIN, Elizabeth, wife of T.J., d. Dec. 1, 1883. Aged 20 Y 10 D.
McMULLIN, John, Co. Antrim, Ireland, d. Sept. 30, 1853. Aged 4 Y 7 D.
McNAMEE, Patrick, son C. & M., d. Sept. 4, 1873. Aged 16 Y 5 M 21 D.
McNULTY, Bernard, d. Feb. 25, 1900. Aged 93 Y.
Sarah McNulty, d. June 2, 1888. Aged 69 Y.
McSHANE, Frank, Co. G., 61st Ohio Inf.
MEENAN, James, b. Co. Donegal, Ireland, d. Dec. 20, 1882, Aged 78 Y 7 M 26 D.
Margaret, wife of James Meenan, b. Co. Donegal, Ireland, d. July 2, 1883. Aged 68 Y.
MEENAN, Nancy, native of Ireland, d. Dec. 12, 1890. Aged about 75 Y.
MEENAN, Neal, d. Aug. 4, 1862. Aged about 4 Y 7 D.
MEENAN, Patrick, son of J. & ---, d. Aug. 10, 1854. Aged 7 M 4 D.
MILLER, Francis M., son of Adam & Sarah, d. Mar. 23, 1857. Aged 3 Y 10 M.
MILLER, George W., son of S.W. & J., d. Jan. 12, 1881. Aged 16 Y 7 M 5 D.
MILLER, Johanna, d. Nov. 30, 1889. Aged 60 Y 3 M 8 D.
MULLLEN, Mary, wife of William, d. Jan. 15, 1878. Aged about 71 Y.
MULLLEN, William, d. Aug. 15, 1887. Aged 83 Y.
Rose, wife of William Mullin, d.
July 30, 1885. Aged 74Y.
MULLO, Thomas, native of Ireland, Co. Kildare, d. Oct. 24, 1854, Aged 63Y.
MULLO, William, d. Nov. 27, 1871. Aged 73Y.
    Catharine, wife of William Mulloy, d. May 8, 1865. Aged 56Y 6M.
MULROY, —— son of Thomas & Bridget, d. May 19, 1874. Aged 20Y 2M 27D.
MULROY, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas, d. Mar. 28, 1877. Aged 71Y 3M 12D.
MULROY, Bridget, wife of Thomas, d. Mar. 3, 1862. Aged about 35Y.
Mayo, Ireland.
MULROY, Nicholas, native of County Kildare, d. April 25, 1857. Aged 60Y 4M.
NOON, Albert, d. Sept. 18, 1883. Aged 29Y 8M.
NOON, Ann, who departed this life Feb. 8, 1881. Aged 67Y 6M 11D.
NOON, Charles, d. May 26, 1883. Aged about 85Y.
NOON, Lydia, d. March 9, 1882. Aged 62Y 2M 10D.
O’ROURKE, Catharine, wife of John, d. Mar. 11, 1857. Aged 46Y 3M.
O’ROURKE, John, d. June 10, 1871. Aged 60Y 5M 9D.
PEARL, Lawrence, d. Oct. 28, 1868. Aged 76Y 2M.
PFLIEGER [Two large tombstones overturned].
PFLIEGER, Francis, 1822-1908.
    Joseph, 1810-1886.
SANDERS, John, d. Dec. 20, 1850. Aged 67Y 9M 10D.

SANDERS, Mary, wife of John, d. Sept. 11, 1854. Aged 74Y.
SMITH, Bernard, d. March 19, 1885. Aged about 70Y.
    Margery Smith, d. Mar. 31, 1904. Aged about 84Y.
    Michael J., son of M. & B., d. Nov. 27, 1871. Aged 11Y 7M.
SMITH, John Janarius, son of John & Margaret, d. Jan. 22, 1862. Aged 6M 13D.
SMITH, Sarah H., d. A.D. 1855. Aged 27Y.
SNIDER, Charles E., son of Henry & Mary, d. May 2, 1861. Aged 3M.
SNIDER, Emily, dau. of John & Mathilda, d. Nov. 6, 1854. Aged 1Y 4M.
SNIDER, Jacob, d. Feb. 10, 1872. Aged 72Y 7M 3D.
TAGUE, Edward, son of Peter & Elizabeth, d. May 16, 1864. Aged 7Y 3M 12D.
TAGUE, Elizabeth, wife of Michael, d. Aug. 17, 1903. Aged 81Y.
    Michael Tague, d. Feb. 23, 1893. Aged 64Y.
TAGUE, Vincent, d. Sept. 27, 1883. Aged 22Y 9M 23D.
    Son of Michael & Elizabeth.
WELCH, James, d. Feb. 22, 1863. Aged 11Y.
    ---, Clara M., d. Oct. 20, 1887.

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An added note

Stones of St. Dominic’s church, McLuney, were used for the foundation of the Catholic church in Crooksville. The temporary church in Crooksville was called St. Dominic’s. The first structure built as a church was called St. Matthew’s. Later it was changed to the Church of the Atonement.
SACRAMENTAL RECORDS, ST. DOMINIC'S
MCLUNNEY, PERRY COUNTY, OHIO

Since St. Dominic's was attended in its early years by the Dominican Fathers of St. Joseph's, Somerset, some of the earliest sacramental records of the McLuney mission are found among those at St. Joseph's. Those given here are from St. Joseph's.

Baptisms

1851, March 23. Martha, dau. of Joseph Pearl and Mary Ann Hiles, b. Jan. 28. Sponsors: John Giles and his wife, Rebecca. (From the congregation of Deavertown.) Fr. Mannes, D'Arco, O.P.

1851, June 5. Elizabeth Anne, dau. of Rubin Deaver and Ruth Pearl, b. March 10. Sponsors: Benedict Pearl and Brigid Goldrick. (From Deavertown.)

1851, Aug. 10. Joseph Charles, b. June 2, son of Hugh Friel and Sarah Deking. Sponsors: John Friel and Anna Harokens Friel. (From Sunday Creek Congregation.) Fr. D'Arco, O.P.


Marriages


1858, Jan. 28. John Cusack, son of Patrick and Catharine, and Gratia Sweeney, dau. of Edward and R(?) Sweeney.


1858, Sept. 2. Jefferson Marian Buchanan son of Tossi and Elizabeth Woridam, and Anna Friel, dau. of Charles Friel and Catharine Ciphers. Witnesses: Michael Tague and Bridget Dolan.

1858, Sept. 28. Augustine Miller, son of George Miller and Paula Smothers, and Armes, dau. of Louis Snider and Anna Dean. Witnesses: Raymond Dean and Julia Sheeran. Fr. D'Arco.


1859, May 26. James Cunion, son of Peter Cunion and Debra Rye, and Anna Curren, dau. of Michael Curren and Anna Mitchell(?). Witnesses: William Curren and Anna Coughran. (From the congregation of Sunday Creek.) Fr. D'Arco.

(To be continued)
1890

Albert, Caspar (64), Jan. 2
Steff, Frank (75m), Jan. 7
Jacobs, Maria (91), Jan. 11
Straub, George (58), Jan. 11
Jaehring, Georg (52), Jan. 26
Mueller, Harry (5), Jan. 11
Finkle, Rose (2), Jan. 22
Marotte, Edward (3), Jan. 25
Marotte, Adeline (47), Jan. 24
Marotte, Francis (16), Jan. 27
Deinhart, Margaret (58), Jan. 28
Muth, Gilbert (__, Feb. 7
Trott, Rosa Barb. (3), Feb. 15
Ranft, Peter Wilhelm (1y), Feb. 13
Gartner, John (59), Feb. 9
Dauer, Adam (65), Feb. 24
Dotter, Theresia (65), Feb. 27
Goetz, Franz (72), Feb. 10
Young, Agnes (14), Feb. 22
Friedrich, Karl (75), Feb. 20
Ehrett, Catharine (59), Mar. 11
Volmer, Helena (43), Mar. 13
Schmitt, John (14d), Mar. 20
Trott, Bernhart (40), Mar. 21
Matt, Joseph (22), Mar. 23
Schwarz, Philip Jakob (83), Mar. 28
Tress, Johannes Carl (8), April 3
Burgsthaler, Anna Catharina (2), April 17
Mayer, Maria (2), April 22
Zuck, Franz (33), April 24
Gerhardt, Carl Conrad (4), April 24
Lehmann, Catharina (14d), April 22
Bellen, Louis (32), April 16
Beltzer, Philip (35), May 22
Strasser, Maria Theresa (5), May 25
Bermhart, Philippine (2), May 26
Siegel, Peter (1y), May 4
Sachs, Joseph (1m), May 6
Arnold, Georg (78), May 21
Stock, Herman John (63), May 6
Lipps, Agatha (68), May 4
Sister Maria Loyola, May 20
Briebach, Johannes (78), May 5
Schaechter, Joseph (4d), May 9
Stey, Wilhelm (5), May 19
Bagley, Francis (2), May 29
Glatz, Charles (2), June 3
Mayer, Joseph (35), June 5
Kunzig, Catharina Franziska (11m), June 10
Wagner, Barbara (2m), June 12
Zengker, Catharina (60), June 12
Eisel, Anna (45), June 15
Bohn, Stephan Philip (7m), June 15
Fleghner, H., June 21
Kegelmayer, Emilus Joseph (2m), June 22
Scheibek, Ludwig (46), June 22
Wagner, John (53), June 24
Schmid, Philomena (44), June 27
Boehm, Petrus Paul (5m), June 27
Sauer, Anna (2m), June 27
Lunz, Michael (84), June 30
Stutz, John (20), July 1
Ehret, Mame Gertrud (10m), July 6
Schmitt, John (5m), July 2
Schwarz, Mary (14d), July 7
Koehl, Ella (26), July 11
Keller, Ludwig (73), July 16
Frey, Friedrich (81), July 22
Bobetyne(?), David (25), July 22
Rusinger, Carl Joseph (1y), July 25
Lang, Anna Barbara (44), July 24
Steiff, Francis Wm. (2), July 30
Wese, Joseph (1y), Aug. 4
Gleicher, Catharina (73), Aug. 9
Zimmer, Joseph (27), Aug. 21
Mueller, Maggie (3), Aug. 23
Hanf, Elizabeth (6m), Aug. 23
Meinert, Carolina Bentero (10d), Aug. 29
Wallenmeier, Child of Mrs. (5m), Aug. 30
Stormer, Joseph (51), Sept. 10
Voll, Maria (36), Sept. 13
Stengel, Clarence (2m), Sept. 14
Pulzer, Theresia (5m), Sept. 8
Regner, Johan (79), Sept. 5
Sachs, Heinrich (5m), Sept. 17
Shal, Anton (54), Sept. 23
Schmeltzer, Agnes (6m), Sept. 29
Sauer, Katharina (19), Sept. 19
Sullivan, Thomas (33), Sept. 24
Motz, Johan (23), Sept. 7
Markle, Adelaide (21), Sept. 27

(To be continued)