ST. ELIZABETH'S, KILLBUCK CREEK
COSHOCTON COUNTY, OHIO
1856-1892

Plat of the property of St. Elizabeth's, Killbuck Creek, Monroe township, Coshocton county, Ohio, from the Parish Plat Book of the 1880's, Columbus Diocese Archives.

Thirty-six years does not seem long for the life of a parish. But for a mission parish whose log chapel became too small and was replaced by a larger church at a different location, it is not surprising. Such was the case with one of several early missions of Coshocton county, Ohio.

Located atop the rolling hills of Monroe township in the northern part of that county, our mission was known as St. Elizabeth's, Killbuck Creek, since it was a short distance from that stream. (The present town of Killbuck is located some miles north in Holmes county.) Dedicated in 1856 to Sts. Mary and Elizabeth, it was replaced in 1892 by a larger frame church, St. Rose of Lima, less than two miles north in the town of Spring Mountain.

Some Catholic German farmers were settled in Monroe township by the early 1840's, so that by January, 1844, Father John Baptist Lamy, then stationed at
Danville in Knox county, could report (1) to Bishop Purcell of Cincinnati of his "Killbuck mission." The report was for the year 1843. The list of missions about which he wrote, included, besides Danville, St. Joseph's, Mohican; Pine Run, Richland county (forerunner of St. Michael's, Brownsville, Knox county); Killbuck, Coshocton county; St. Vincent de Paul, Mt. Vernon, and St. Francis de Sales, Newark. Father Lamy reported that in 1843 there were 25 baptisms, three marriages, five First Communions and seven deaths at Killbuck and Pine Run together.

It is worthy of note that Coshocton county has the credit of having had several very early mission churches. The first one was St. Michael's, Plainfield, established in 1841 (2). This was followed in 1844 by St. Mary's, Linton township, where a group of Catholic German immigrants had settled. In 1847 Father Lamy reported that he visited "White Woman" every three months, where there were nine Catholic families (3). Another mission, St. Nicholas, in Franklin township, was established in 1856 to care for some Catholic French immigrants who had settled there. The next year Coshocton itself was to have its own church, named St. George.

Missionaries from Zanesville, Muskingum county, had travelled to Coshocton county very early. It was from that city that the county's first Catholic church, St. Michael's, Plainfield, was attended. In the 1850's the Coshocton missions were under the care of Father Bender (4), then pastor at Newark. He saw to the building of the church at Killbuck Creek in 1856, and of the one at Wills Creek, Franklin township, that same year. In the summer of that year Archbishop Purcell wrote (5) a summary of his visitation of that area.

After celebrating Mass in the home of William Mattingly in Muskingum county where a church was being built, the archbishop went to Coshocton county. He wrote: "On Tuesday, 12th, Church was held at St. Ann's (6), Wills Creek. There were twenty-seven confirmed. On Wednesday, the new chapel of Sts. Mary and Elizabeth, Killbuck, Coshocton county, was dedicated and six persons confirmed. On Thursday, 13th August, two persons were confirmed at St. Matthew's church (7), Dresden. There are very many most excellent Catholics at Dresden, Coshocton, Wills Creek, and Killbuck, but they have no pastor, receiving only monthly, or less frequent, hurried visits from Zanesville and Newark which need all the time and care of their respective pastors...."

Although the church at Killbuck Creek was dedicated in August, 1856, the property on which it stood was not acquired by Archbishop Purcell until the following April 11th. On that date Conrad Hagne (8) and his wife, Elizabeth, transferred a parcel of land in Monroe township, Coshocton county, to the archbishop for seventy dollars. It was estimated to contain one acre and thirty-five hundredths (9).

Although the deed for the church property gives the owner's name as Conrad Hagne, all church records thereafter give his surname as 'Hак'. When he died Father Jacquet wrote of him in his burial record: "Conrad Heck, died Jan. 9, in his 89th year (88Y 2M), born in Foll in 1799 in Hessa. Mr. Heck was a very good man; either occupied as a citizen or as a Catholic; very industrious and generous; for a half century his house was the home of the priest and bishop whenever the little congregatio of Killbuck was visited."

Not much is known about the little mission parish during its early years. It was soon to live through the Civil War years of the country. Eventually the small log church was abandoned and came to ruin. The cemetery which surrounded the church came to ruin also. Not many tombstones remain today. Broken ones have been hauled to a nearby ravine and covered over.

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Sacramental records of the early years have not been found. After Father Bender built the church in 1856, he continued to attend the mission through 1858. The annual Catholic Directory of 1859 gives him as still looking after Killbuck Creek. However, Father Serge de Stchoulepnikoff came to Coshocton as pastor in 1858 and took charge of the missions of the county. This meant he was responsible for the spiritual care of the congregation of St. Elizabeth's. He was succeeded in 1862 by Father Andrews (10), who in turn was succeeded by Father Rauch (11) and Nordmeyer (12). Unfortunately, records for these years have not been preserved.

Father John Mary Jacquet became pastor at Coshocton in 1869. From that time until the demise of St. Elizabeth's in 1892, complete records are available. It was in that year that Father Jacquet built St. Rose of Lima church in Spring Mountain to replace St. Elizabeth's, now too small for the congregation.

Three baptisms in May 1869 were the first recorded by Father Jacquet for St. Elizabeth's. The following year he began recording the number of those who made their Easter Communion. There were 72. This number gradually increased, reaching 83 in 1892, the last year for the church. In 1874 he reported 18 families at Killbuck. This increased only to 20 in the years to follow.

Fortunately, a list of the names of the families is found in the census of the parish which he took in 1874. The list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Families</th>
<th>Number of members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. &amp; E. Grassbaugh</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Philips</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conrad Heck</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Cronaple</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincent Havrick</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Hemmer, Sr.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Hemmer, Jr.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Havrick</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Lentz</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Cronaple</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Feuler</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Misses Out</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Daugherty</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Lauher</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clement Weil</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Weil</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Tirally</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widow Ripl</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18 families</strong></td>
<td><strong>82 members</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Later, in 1881, Father Jacquet compiled a complete census of the Killbuck parish, giving the names of the parents and the children in each family.

Bishop Rosecrans visited St. Elizabeth's on Nov. 8, 1870, and confirmed four persons: Clement Lower, Elizabeth Havrick, Margaret Lower and Mary Magdalene Havrick. On Oct. 7, 1877, eleven from Killbuck were confirmed by Bishop Rosecrans in St. George's, Coshocton. A few years later, June 21, 1885, Bishop Watterson came to St. Elizabeth's and confirmed eleven.

(1) Letter of Father Lamy to Bishop Purcell, Jan. 12, 1844, University of Notre Dame Archives.
(2) See history of St. Michael's, Plainfield, "Bulletin", Catholic Record Society, Columbus, Ohio, October, 1975.
(3) "White Woman Rock" is about three miles northwest of Coshocton.
(4) Father Damian Bender (1831-1914), pastor at Newark 1855-1865.
(5) Archbishop Purcell's report was published in the "Catholic Telegraph," Cincinnati, August 23, 1856, Archdiocese of Cincinnati Archives.
(6) This was probably St. Mary's, Linton township, Wills Creek.
(7) St. Matthew's, Dresden, later became St. Anne's.
(8) Conrad Hagne is clearly the name in the deed. Later records have "Heck".
(10) Father M. Andrews, pastor for two different periods between 1862 and 1865.
(12) Father Johann G. Nordmeier (1838-1894), pastor at Coshocton, 1867-1869.

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ST. ELIZABETH'S, KILLBUCK

Tombstone Inscriptions

1. HAMMER, Infant dau. of J.P. & A.C. Died March 2, 1867.
2. HERBERICK, Joseph M. Died April 7, 1888, aged 78Y 4M 7D.
3. HERBERICK, Ann Elizabeth, wife of Joseph M. Died Sept. 19, 1869. Aged 50Y 3M 8D.
5. RIPFL, Wenzel, d. July 29, 1873. Aged 35Y 1M 15D.
7. LENZ, Rosina, wife of A. Died April 11, 1888. Aged 48Y 6M.
8. HEFT, Theresa, dau. of J. & M. Died Feb. 17, 1886. Aged 4Y 10M 8D.
9. HEFT, Sylvester, son of J. & M. Died March 7, 1886. Aged 3Y 2M 6D.
11. LAUER, Mary Katie, b. Dec. 11, 1862, d. March 23, 1886.
12. HAMMER, Mary E., wife of Jacob. Died Dec. 5, 1880. Aged 70Y 3M 4D.
13. HAVRICK, Hester, wife of V. Died March 20, 1853. Aged 36Y.
   Cornelius M. Died Sept. 25, 1873. Aged 1Y 9M 13D.
   Elizabeth, Died Oct. 8, 1873. Aged 9Y 8M.
   Louis. Died Sept. 25, 1862. Aged 1Y 6M.
   Normand P. Died Sept. 25, 1873. Aged 11Y 7M 2D.
   Children of V. & H. Havrick.
14. WINKLEY, Catharine, wife of T. Died Sept. 15, 1861, in her 40th year.
15. WINKLEY, Lucy A., dau. of T. & C. Died Sept. 1, 1861, in her 4th year.
16. WINKLEY, Alice J., dau. of T. & C. Died June 20, 1858, in her first year.
17. OUTF, Elizabeth, wife of Matthias. Died Dec. 1853. Aged about 10 [o.k.] years.
20. HECK, Katharine, dau. of C. & E. Died Oct. 7, 1863. Aged 18Y 7M.
   Anne, wife of Conrad, b. Feb. 17, 1803; d. March 7, 1889. Aged 86Y 20D.
22. KRONAPLS, Anna Adeline, dau. of William & T., d. Feb. 1, 1869. Aged 17Y 4M 6D.
23. RODOCK, Henry, d. March 14, 1864. Aged 63Y.
   Anna, wife of H., d. Sept. 18, 1893. Aged 83Y 2M 22D.
24. GRASSBAUCH, Martha, d. July 17, 1865. Aged 79Y.

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ST. ELIZABETH'S, KILLBUCK

Burials (from records at Sacred Heart church, Coshocton)

1873, July 7: Conrad Weil, ca. 60 years.
1878, Feb. 1: Mary Tiralli, aged 64. Died Jan. 30.
1881, Sept. 22: Apolonia Grassbaugh, died Sept. 20, in her 80th year.
1886, March 25: Catharine Lower, died March 23, in her 25th year.
1887, Jan. 11: Conrad Heck, died Jan. 9, in his 89th year.
1887, April 9: Joseph Havrick, died April 7, in his 79th year.
1887, April 13: Rosa Anna Lentz, wife of Anthony, died April 11, in her 49th year.

Marriages (from records at Sacred Heart church, Coshocton)

1873, Nov. 25: Joseph Fesler and Rebecca A. Slifer. Witnesses: Michael Fesler and Mary Ann Fesler.
1875, Feb. 4: Michael Fesler and Armia Elizabeth. Witnesses: George Fesler and Catharine Carey.
1877, Feb. 5: Jeremiah Heshelman and Mary Anna Fesler. Witnesses: George Faxter and Michael Wimmer.
1879, Nov. 27: John C. Heft and Mary Herberick (in the home). Witnesses: Mary Herberick and Joseph Herberick.
1880, Dec. 23: George W. Gaumer and Frances Philipps (at the home of John Philipps). Witnesses: Many.
1882, ______: Michael Fesler and Old Mrs. Heft (nee Havrick).
1886, Jan. 7: John Zimmerman and Margaret Havrick. Witnesses: Vincent Havrick and George Havrick, Lydia Carter, Helen Gilbert, and others.

Baptisms (from records at Sacred Heart church, Coshocton)

1869
May 13: Emma RIPL, b. 9 April, dau. of Wenzel and Elizabeth. Sponsors: James and Mary Magdalen Hemmer.
      JOHN MARY JACQUET
May 14: Louis WEIL, b. 5 Jan., son of Clement and Anna Mary. Sprs: August and Mary Anna Fesler.
      JMJ
      JMJ

1870
May 5: James Wilfred PHILIPPS, b. 26 Dec., son of Joseph and Mary. Sprs: Hugh and Anna McDevitt.
      JMJ
      JMJ

1871
May 8: [in Spring Mountain] Mary Helen McDEVITT, b. 2 April, dau. of Hugh and Anna. Sprs: Joseph and Mary Philipps.
      JMJ
Dec. 31: Joseph LAWLER, b. 8 Nov., son of John and Mary Anna. Sprs: Joseph and Mary Philipps.
      JMJ
1872

April 9: Cornelius HAVRICK, b. 11 Jan., son of Vincent and Axiliae. Sprs: Anthony and Rosa Anna Lau.

May 9: Adeline CRONAPLE, b. 21 Feb., dau. of John and Margaret. Sprs: William and Theresa Cronaple.


Nov. 24: Eva Margaret Josepha HEMMER, b. 10 Oct., dau. of James and Anna Catharine. Sprs: James and Mary Eva Hemmer.

1873

June 22: Charles Clement RIPL, b. 18 May, son of Wendel and Elizabeth. Sprs: Clement and Mary Weil.

Sept. 30: William Joseph CRONAPLE, b. 30 Aug., son of John and Margaret. Sprs: Joseph and Margaret Cronaple.


1874

March 12: James Andrew McDEVITT, b. 22 Sept. [1873], son of Hugh and Anna. Sprs: James Doherty and Rosa Lentz.

April 30: Honora Magdalen SULLIVAN, b. [Jan., dau. of Timothy and Anna. Sprs: Dennis O'Shea and Mary White.


Aug. 29: Nathaniel FESLER, b. 15 July, son of James and Rebecca. Sprs: Benjamin Grassbaugh and Mary Ann Fesler.

1875

March 11: Clement GRASSBAUGH, b. 10 Dec. [1874], son of James and Catharine. Sprs: Clement Weil and Mary Anna West.

April 29: Emma Delila Catharine HEMMER, b. 25 Feb., dau. of James and Anna Catharine. Sprs: Clement and Mary Weil.


Aug. 29: [At Joseph Philips'] Rosa Anna PHILIPPS, b. 22 Aug., dau. of Joseph and Mary. Sprs: Joseph and Mary Cronaple.


1876


1877


Oct. 9: Joanne Elizabeth BSSELMAN, b. 17 Aug., dau. of Jeremiah and Mary Anna. Sprs: Laurence and Joanna Fesler.
1877 (cont.)

Oct. 9: Mary Elizabeth FESLER, b. 7 Sept., dau. Michael and Anna Mary. Sprs: Michael Warner and Mary Anna Esselman. 

1878

May 1: Flora PHILIPS, b. 21 April, dau. of Joseph and Mary. Sprs: William and Theresa Cronable.

July 5: Agnes CRONAPLE, b. 27 May, dau. of Anthony Cronable and Ann Lentz. Sprs: Joseph Philipps and Mary Philipps. 

T. J. LANE

1879


April 17: Rosa Anna Melitia(?) HEMMER, b. 17 May, dau. of James and Anna Catharine. Sprs: John and Mary Anna Lower. 


1881


March 24: Mary Alberta PHILIPS, b. 28 Jan., dau. of Joseph and Mary. Sprs: Celestine and Margaret Fye. 

April 21: John GRASSBAUGH, b. 11 March, son of James and Catharine. Sprs: John Cronable and Margaret Cronable. 

May 29: George William McDHVITT, b. 29 April, son of Hugh and Anna. Sprs: Vincent and Aza Havrick. 

May 29: Honora Teresa Elizabeth HAFT, dau. of John and Margaret. Sprs: Benedict Grassbaugh and Rebecca Havrick. 

June 25: Frances Agnes LENTZ, b. 9 June, dau. of Anthony and Rosa Anna. Sprs: Conrad and Elizabeth Heck. 

July 31: Charles Michael FESLER, b. 24 May, son of Michael and Anna Mary. Sprs: Michael Warner and Margaret McGrady. 

1882


Nov. 30: Joseph Franklin WEIL, b. ca. one month, son of Clement Weil and wife. Sprs: James Hemmer and wife. 

1883


April 29: Andrew Otto HEMMER, b. 7 March, son of James and Anna Catharine. Sprs: Michael Schaub and wife. 

July 23: Mary Frances GRASSBAUGH, b. 2 June, dau. of James and Catharine. Sprs: Conrad and Elizabeth Heck. 

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Baptisms (Continued)

1884
Oct. 29: James Andrew WATSON, b. 30 May, son of Henry and Margaret. Sprs: William and Theresa Kronapel. JMJ

1885
July 28: Charles Anthony WATSON, b. few weeks, son of Henry and Margaret. Sprs: James and Mary Daugherty. JMJ
July 28: [At William Kronapel's] Francis William Kronapel, b. 23 June, son of Joseph and Mary. Sprs: William and Mary Kronapel. JMJ
Oct. 27: Clara Elizabeth GRASSBAUGH, b. 15 Sept., dau. of James and Catharine. Sprs: Clement Weil and wife, Helen Mary. JMJ

1886
March 26: Sara BROPHY, b. 4 Dec. 1885, dau. of Francis and Elizabeth, his wife. Sprs: Henry Sowert (?) and Anna Lentz. JMJ
April 27: Mary Margaret PHILIPPS, b. 7 April, dau. of Albert and Adeline. Sprs: Celestine and Margaret Pye. JMJ
Aug. 29: Raymond HEMMER, b. 2 July, son of James and Catharine. Sprs: Celestine and Margaret Pye. JMJ
Nov. 26: Clara May HERT, b. 9 Oct., dau. of John and Margaret. Sprs: Vincent Havrick and Axa, his wife. JMJ
Nov. 25: Albert ----- KRONAPEL, b 31 Oct., son of Joseph and Mary. Sprs: William and Theresa Kronapel. JMJ

1887
July 31: Rosa Anna FESLER, b. 3 June, dau. of Michael and Anna. Sprs: Hugh McDevitt and his wife, Anna. JMJ

1888
Jan. 29: Romanus GRASSBAUGH, b. 16 Nov. 1887, son of James and Catharine. Sprs: Clement and Mary Weil. JMJ
March 20: Catharine Theresa KRONAPEL, b. 20 Dec., dau. of Joseph and Mary. Sprs: James and Mary Daugherty. JMJ
March 20: Rosa Anna LOWER, b. 23 Jan., dau. of John and Mary. Sprs: John Lower and Catharine Pye. JMJ
May 29: Catharine PHILIPPS, b. 14 April, dau. of Albert and Adeline. Sprs: Joseph and Mary Philipps. JMJ
July 28: Henry WATSON, b. 8 Nov. 1886. [Convert] Sponsor: Vincent Havrick. JMJ

1889
March 31: George Henry WATSON, b. 9 Feb., son of Henry and Margaret. Sprs: James and Mary Daugherty. JMJ
March 31: [At home of William Kronapel] George Edward KRONAPEL, b. 22 Feb., son of Joseph and Mary. Sprs: George and Catharine Fogle. JMJ
June 30: Louis Albert LOWER, b -----, son of John and Mary. Sprs: Albert Pye and Margaret Pye. JMJ

1890
March 23: Bertha Catharine LOWER, b. 3 Feb., dau. of James and Mary. Sprs: John and Mary Anna Power. JMJ
April 29: Clement Joseph WEAVER, b 24 March, son of John and Mary. Sprs: Clement and Mary Weil. JMJ

(To be concluded)