HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF ST. CECILIA BEFORE?
by Kimberly A. Gordon

Saint Cecilia parish has many parishioners who come to worship God. It all began on September 3, 1882, opening day for Saint Cecilia Church. The new church lay in a giant area of open field near the town of Galloway.

Masses were held only when a priest was available, which sometimes was only once a month. News traveled fast though, when a priest was coming. Before this, it took up to one whole day to travel, by wagon team or buggy, to a church, have Mass and get back home. Since this took so long, in the mid
1800s Mr. and Mrs. Fidelius Huf donated some of their land to build a new church. Soon construction began. It is said that there were twenty-three families in the new parish.

The first baptism on record is of Caroline Gregory O'Connel, daughter of Gulielma [William] C. and Lydia Baumeister O'Connel, on November 25, 1883. George Nippel and Anna Schmelzer were the first couple married from the parish, on June 17, 1908. The first Communion class of seven people, with Father Hanna, was in 1911.

On April 11, 1934, the church was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The parishioners arranged for Mass to be said in the Galloway town hall, until a new church could be built. After a long search, a committee found and bought a plot of land on the corner of Norton Road and Sullivant Avenue. For the second time the parishioners waited for a new church to be built, with room for a school to be added later on.

Today Saint Cecilia Church still stands on that same corner. Although a new church and Parish Life Center are being built on the grounds, the "old" church will remain. It would be hard for the older parishioners to let go of the church, for now.... The 8:15 Masses, Monday through Thursday mornings, will still be held there. Weekend Masses will be held in the new church.

The parish has many groups, such as the Youth Ministry, Athletic Association, 50 Plus Club, Young Couples, Choir, Parish Council, School Board and a C.C.D. program. Saint Cecilia parishioners may also receive the following sacraments: Marriage, Baptism, Communion, Penance, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick. Receptions may also be held after the sacraments in the church hall.

My family joined Saint Cecilia Parish a little over eleven years ago, just before I was born. As I was doing research for this paper, I found that on September 3, 1882, Saint Cecilia Church was officially established. I was born on September 3, 1981, almost one hundred years later. I also found that there was a priest named Father James J. Kimberly in the parish who helped form many new groups, my first name is Kimberly. I was baptized and received my First Communion and first Penance at Saint Cecilia Church. These are a few of the reasons Saint Cecilia is special to me.

Sources

t. Cecilia Parish Centennial, 1882-1982
Mr. Dick Keyes, Director of Religious Education, St. Cecilia Parish
Mrs. Dotty March, Secretary, St. Cecilia School

The above was the first-place entry in the Society's essay contest, in the grades 4-6 category. Miss Gordon is a member of St. Cecilia Parish and attends sixth grade at the parish school. The second-place entry was written by Andrea Koenig and third place went to Jennifer Gallagher. These three winners will be honored by a reception at the Society's Spring Quarterly meeting, to be held on May 23, 1993.
THE ANTE-POTATO FAMINE IRISH-CATHOLICS OF COLUMBUS
by Donald M. Schlegel
(Continued from Vol. XVIII, No. 2)

Peter Collins

Peter Collins and his wife Elizabeth (Malone) and their young family had come to Columbus by 1840, for they appear in Ward 3 in the census of that year (page 228). According to his tombstone (Cathedral 57-B at Mt. Calvary), he was a native of Queen's County. Later census records indicate that their eldest son, Joseph, had been born in Ohio about 1836. Their next two children, daughters Margaret Jane and Mary, were baptized at St. Remigius in Columbus in 1840 and 1841. Peter was always listed as a laborer and always lived on the south side of town: in 1843 at New (City Park) and South Public Lane; in 1845 on Front street; in 1850 on Main street east of Washington Avenue. Peter died on July 26, 1852. His widow Elizabeth then operated boarding houses in Columbus until her death in 1885. Although the Collins family lived on the south side and two of their daughters had German husbands, they were members of St. Patrick parish, as witness the marriage records of the daughters there (Elizabeth Collins to Robert Wilkinson in 1865 by Fitzgerald; Kate to Fritchey Lee Myers in 1870 by Rosecrans; and Lucy to Michael Earnest in 1870 by Gallagher). The son Joseph Collins moved to Oswego, Kansas. Descendants of the daughters were in Columbus as late as 1905, but have not been traced beyond that time. Mrs. Collins was connected to the family of Michael Malone, which will be described below.

John Conroy

John Conroy appears in the Holy Cross subscription book as a donor of $1.00 toward purchase of the lot for the new church, ca 1845. The only other possible record of him is the John "Killroy" who appears as a sponsor at a baptism at St. Remigius on October 6, 1844. These two records may refer to the John and Ellen Conroy family that still resides in Columbus. Their tradition claims that part of the family came to Columbus during the administration of President Harrison, i.e., March to April, 1841. According to another family tradition, they at one time farmed the land where Franklin Park is now located. The first sure evidence of their presence in the Columbus is the record of the baptism of the son, Charles, at St. Patrick's in 1853. By 1860 they were living in Jefferson Township, Franklin County and John was a "common laborer" (Federal census, page 253). The family at that time consisted of the husband and wife and seven children. Unfortunately, the census provides no clues of their immigration date, for all were reported to have been born in Ireland, even the youngest, aged just two months! Among the descendants of the Conroys was their grandson, Rev. John Priest, pastor of St. Teresa Parish in Cadiz, who died at Zanesville in 1967. Another is the wife of Society member Don Snider, who passed along the family's traditions for use in this article.

Michael and Dennis Corcoran

Dennis Corcoran, according to his obituary, was born in Kings County, Ireland, August 4, 1822. He came to this country when nine years of age in company with his parents and settled in Columbus. He attended school in Columbus and learned the trade of a carriage-maker. (Mt. Vernon Democratic Banner, Feb. 8,
The parents appear to have been Michael and Margaret Corcoran, of whom only a few mentions have been found. Michael "Cohgeran" pledged $2 toward construction of Holy Cross Church, ca 1845. Michael and Margaret Corcoran were sponsors at the baptism of a child at Holy Cross on July 30, 1848. "Mrs. Corcoran" was sponsor at the baptism of Dennis Corcoran's wife, who was given the baptismal name of Mary, on January 6, 1846 at St. Remigius. This was Lavinia Coleman, whom Dennis had married before Mayor S. E. Wright of Columbus, Nov. 19, 1843. In 1845 Dennis was living at the corner of Hickory Alley and North Fourth Street and in 1848 on the north side of Spring, between Fifth and Sixth. In January of 1849 Mary Lavinia, wife of Dennis Corcoran, was buried from Holy Cross.

Dennis moved to Mt. Vernon, Ohio where he took up the carriage making business. In 1870 he engaged in the wholesale and retail trade of liquor, cigars, and tobacco. He was the agent for Born & Company, the Columbus brewers, and operated out of the Corcoran block on West Vine Street. In 1866 he was a member of the Mt. Vernon City Council and was first Treasurer of the St. Vincent de Paul's Beneficial Society at its organization in 1873. (Hill, History of Knox County, pp. 372, 393, and 636) He married a second time and had six children who, according to his will, written in 1890, should "be brought up in the faith and under the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church." He died on January 31, 1894. In 1880, a brother (Timothy) and a cousin (Julia Corcoran) were living with Dennis and his family in Mt. Vernon. Another relative may have been Margaret Corcoran, wife of Bernard McNally of Columbus.

James and John Curran

On April 2, 1833, Mary, daughter of John and Mary Curren was baptized in Columbus by the saintly Dutch Dominican, Father T. J. Van Den Broek, operating out of Holy Trinity Church in Somerset. John Curren was sponsor for another baptism performed that day. Bridget, daughter of James and Bridget Curren, was baptized in Columbus that July. (Bulletin, Vol. XIII (1988), pages 86 and 102) No further records of these families have been found. The timing of the records and the shortness of their stay in Columbus may indicate that James and John were laborers on the National Road, who moved on as construction progressed away from the city.

Nicholas Donely

This man was sponsor at the baptism of the daughter of John and Mary Curren in 1833, mentioned above. As for the Currens, the baptismal register contains the only known record of his presence here.

John Duffy

One would think that, with a vocation as important as newspaper editor, John Duffy would have left many records, but that is not the case. His name appears seven times in Columbus in the four-year span from 1842 to 1845. Studer (page 259) mentions him as "Captain" John Duffy, editor of the Ohio Freeman and later of the Columbus Herald in 1842 and 1843. The 1843 directory lists him as editor, residing on Front near Main. The 1845 directory lists him as John Duffey senr., printer, residence on Town Street near Centre Alley. St. Remigius records have John and Elizabeth Dophy as sponsors at an 1844 baptism and John Duphy again in 1845. John Duffee was a member of the
building committee for Holy Cross Church (Studer, p. 168) and he donated $5 for purchase of the lot for the new church.

Fitzsimons

Several records point to the presence of a family of this surname in Columbus, but the references are too few to develop into a pattern. In August, 1843 Mary Fitzsimons was sponsor for a child of James McGuire. In October, 1845 Edward Fitzsimon and Anna Berry were sponsors for another child of James McGuire. Anna was Ann Fitzsimon, wife of James Barry, as mentioned above, under James Barry. Rose Fitzsimon appears as wife of Terence McGuire in the late 1840s and Margaret Fitzsimmons was sponsor for a child of Terence and Rose in 1849.

William Garrett

William Garret and his wife Ann Foley appear as parents of children baptized at St. Remigius and Holy Cross in 1845, 1848, and 1849. No record of them in the city has been found, nor have they been found in the 1850 census. The 1848 baptism, or the one recorded just before it, was performed in West Jefferson, which may explain the lack of other records.

Thomas Griffen

Thomas Griffen and his wife Julia Holahan had two children baptized at St. Remigius in 1837 and another daughter in 1838. Sponsor for the latter was Denis Griffin. Their names point to Ireland as their origin, but nothing else is known of them.

James Handiboe

James Handiboe and his wife Mary Welsh were married in the Catholic church in Clara, County Offaly, Ireland, about the year 1830. He had lived in a house in the town and farmed a plot outside its limits. Mary Welsh's mother was named Catherine (McCormick); her brothers were Adam and Patrick Welsh or Walsh, who came to America and in the 1860s settled in Iowa. Mary and James preceded them in emigrating by some thirty years. Their first child was born in Canada about 1832, their second in New York two years later, their third in Towanda, Pennsylvania about 1837. Their fourth was baptized in the spring of 1839 and the sacrament was recorded at Holy Trinity near Somerset. The 1840 census found them in York township, Athens County, Ohio. Their sixth child, born in December of 1846, was baptized at Columbus Holy Cross, January 17, 1847, the first record of their presence here. They moved immediately to the northern part of the city, residing on Third Street near Spring in 1848.

The Handiboes had nine children, among whose descendants are Columbus families named Cooney, Heinmiller, Reardon, Duffy, Weisenbach, Henry, Matyskella, and others. Their granddaughter Kitty Reardon for many years ran an "art shop" on State Street west of Fourth that carried Catholic books and other items. The three Franciscan Sisters descended from them were mentioned above. The couple's youngest son, John Adam Handiboe, moved to Washington, D.C.; his son, James Aloysius, born and raised in that city, played left field for the Yankees and eventually moved to Savannah, Georgia. It was his son, James Aloysius jr., who was the choir director and composer mentioned above.

(To be continued)
ORIGINS OF GERMAN CATHOLICS OF COLUMBUS
FROM THE HOLY CROSS PARISH CENSUS
(Continued from Vol. XVIII, Number 3)

Saile, Franz Joseph, born 1 Jan., 1814 in Weitingen, Horb, Württemberg, son of Franz Saile and Magdalena Teifel. Wife Anna Maria Wiedemann, born 5 Nov., 1814 in Lindenber, Weiler, Baiern, daughter of John Georg Wiedemann and Theresia Männel. Married at Weitingen. (three daughters)


Saile, Valerian -- see Michael Deinlein

Schäfer, John, born 17 July, 1846 in Baden, son of Ferdinand Schäfer and Rosa. Wife Anna Staudt, born 23 March, 1852, daughter of John Staudt and Maria. Married at Columbus St. Mary's, 9 Sept., 1869. (five children)


Schafhausen, Gerhard, born 18 March, 1828 in Eller bei Düsseldorf, son of Peter Schafhausen and Gertruda Schmitz. Wife Catharina, born in Rens bei Coblenz, daughter of Mathis Schmidt from Urba bei Coblenz and Anna Maria Yung of Madrid in Spain. Married 27 Sept., 1864. To Columbus in 1866. (three children, the first two born in Düsseldorf and in Lexington, Ky.) (Under the letter "L" in the census book.)


Schipper, John, born 1817 in Völkerschleier, Hammelburg, Baiern, son of John Schipper; died 15 Sept., 1864. Wife Theresia Bock, born 1 Jan, 1832 in Michelau, Gmünden, Baiern, daughter of Andreas Bock and Marianna Lutz. Married in Völkerschleier. (three children)

Schipper, John, born 12 Nov., 1858 in Delaware, Ohio, son of John and Theresia (above); died March, 1911. Wife Kath. Mack, born 7 June, 1863 in Michelau, Germany, daughter of Georg Mack and Kath. Markfelder. Married 17 April, 1888 at Holy Cross. (three children)


in Thurmansbang, Grofenau, daughter of Thomas Dick and Catharina; died 10 Feb., 1893. (six children)


Schlereth, John, born 6 May, 1829 in Wallfinzen, Kissingen, B[aiern], son of John Schlereth. Wife Maria Ernst, born 28 Jan., 1836, Pilsen, Prag, Böhmen, daughter of Peter Ernst and Catharina. (six children)

Schlitt, Heinrich, born March, 1817 in Neustadt, Kurhessen, son of Conrad Schlitt and Margaretha Lotz; died 26 Feb., 188-. Wife Katharina Ims, born 16 May, 1829 in Baierfeld (an earlier entry has her birth date as 29 May, 1828); died 28 Feb., 1897. (There is a note, "vide Ims", probably indicating a relationship with Jacob Ims, for whose entry see page 166 (Sept., 1992)) Married at Holy Cross, 15 July, 1852. (eight children)


Schmidt, Joseph, born 19 March, 1819 in Bergalingen, Seckingen, Baden, son of Peter Schmidt and Agnes Albitz. Wife Agnes Schmidt, born 4 Feb., 1813 in Bergalingen, daughter of Philip Schmidt; died 30 Nov., 1878. (two children)

Schmitz, Joseph, born 1851 in Köln, Obladen, son of Ludwig and Josepha. Wife Elisabeth Steffan, born Sept. 1851 in Münster, Westphalia. (four children)


Schneider, Friedr., born 18 May, 1851 in Württemberg, son of Nicholas and Maria. Wife Maria Kaiser, born 6 July, 1858, daughter of Christian Kaiser. Married 1 May, 1879. (one son)


(To be continued)
This photograph of the 1877 girls' fourth grade class of Columbus St. Patrick School was given to the Society by Marion Swickard. On the reverse are the following names:
1. Lizzie Coughlin  17. Grace Leibold  33. Tillie Wolfel
2. Annie Hurley    18. Winnie Carney  34. Maggie Welsh
5. Susie Fleury    21. [blank]       37. Kate Cloney
8. Mary McMullen   24. Minnie Meara  40. [blank]
10. Kate Lacey     26. Nellie Burry  42. [blank]
11. Nell McMullen  27. Kate Cunningham 43. Annie Burns
14. N. Pickens     30. Minnie Handiboe 46. Rose Lennon
15. Mary Lennon    31. Nell Coughlin  47. [blank]
16. Lillie Lane    32. [blank]       48. [blank]

Rev. Nicholas Gallagher, the pastor, is on the right (as viewed). The priest on the left we may assume was the assistant, Father J. M. Toohey. This photo is a mate to those of the third and fourth grade boys' classes that were published on page 47 of the St. Patrick Centenary Book in 1952.

Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus
197 E. Gay Street    Columbus, Ohio 43215    Donald M. Schlegel, editor
SPRING MEETING -- SUNDAY, MAY 23 -- 2:30 P.M. -- SPECHT CENTER -234-