Catholicity in Scioto county, Ohio, extends back to the early years of the 19th century. It is true that Mass was celebrated there for the first time in 1749 by Father Bonnecamp who accompanied Celoron on his famous expedition down the Ohio River (1). Later, in 1812, the Rev. Stephen Badin celebrated Mass in Portsmouth while on his way from Baltimore to Bardstown. Most likely Mass was celebrated in the area from time to time during the succeeding years by passing Missionaries. Father Badin's last visit was in 1835.

While the Ohio Canal was being built in 1831, it became apparent that there should be a church in Portsmouth. Many of the laborers on the canal were immigrant Catholics. But it was not until 1842 that a parish was organized when Father Joseph J. O'Mealy came to be pastor. The first church was built in 1844, and was known as Nativity church.

Meanwhile Catholics were settling in the Ohio valley around Portsmouth, particularly eastward toward Ironton. They were mostly German immigrants who had come to work in the iron and coal mines. The priest in Portsmouth at the time visited them in their places of labor. Among the various furnaces visited by the priest were Clinton, Monroe, Scioto, Union and Junior in Scioto county; Latirobe and Eagle in Vinton county, and Washington in Lawrence county. Mass was celebrated in the homes of the people until the church was built in Portsmouth. Thereafter the people went there.

Father O'Mealy's records show that during '1842-1844 he attended a number of missions: Pine Grove furnace, Ripley, Lick Run, Union Furnace, French Grant, Wheelersburg, Haverhill (French Grant), Little Scioto (Lilly), Aberdeen West Union, Gallia county, and Greenup in Kentucky.

Evidence that Catholicity at Lick Run was almost as old as that of Portsmouth is deduced from the fact that Father O'Mealy visited there in 1843, and listed the following Easter Communicants for that mission: Eberhard Friske, Gerard Rolf, Henry Lipker, Christ. Fred. Lipker, Erhart Friske, Joan Mossman, Eliza Lipker, Luitgard Mossman, Miss Wiesman, --- Friske and Catharine Enlein.

Also in 1843, Father O'Mealy recorded one Lick Run baptism. On April 22, 1843, he baptised John, son of Erhart Friske and ----- Dimmerman (wife). The sponsors were ----- Rolf and Elisabeth Dieker. Later, on August 14, he baptised Catharine Elisabeth, daughter of Henry Lipker and Catharine Endoff. Sponsors were Herad (?) Rolf and Elisabeth Dieker. Two more baptisms were recorded for Lick Run on Jan. 30, 1845; Francis Henry and Erhard Frederick, both sons of Erhard Friske and Angelica Dimmerman.
Already in 1849 it was thought advisable to plan for a church in the Lick Run area. On August 8 of that year Evert Friske and his wife, Mary, donated to John B. Purcell, bishop of Cincinnati, two acres of land on their farm for a church and cemetery. The property was located on Lick Run in Porter township, north of the present Wheelersburg. The Deed stated that "for and in consideration of our attachment and devotion to the Roman Catholic Church and in consideration of the sum of one dollar to us paid, Mr. and Mrs. Friske transferred the parcel of land to "Right Reverend John Baptist Purcell, Roman Catholic Bishop of Cincinnati..... for the exclusive purpose of erecting thereon a Roman Catholic Church and to be used as a Grave yard only for the members of the aforesaid Church." The property was located on the top of a hill, difficult of access. The Deed provided for a right of way to the public road (2).

By 1850 some eleven Catholic families had settled in the Lick Run area. The names of some of these pioneers were Eberhard Friske, Henry Lipker, Michael Delabar, John Moosman, Christopher Flanagan, Louis Deutromont, Mrs. Abigail Cranston, Gerhard Rolf, John H. Riepenhoff and John Kundel.

Father Emmanuel Thienpont, a Belgian, had become pastor of Nativity church in Portsmouth in November, 1845. It was he who arranged the purchase of the Friske Property in 1849, and immediately began plans for a church. With the aid of the men of the parish he constructed a log chapel on the hill top. Finished in 1850, it was dedicated as St. Peter in Chains church, and located on the Sugar Camp road.

Bishop Hartley in his history of the Diocese of Columbus (3) gives the following account of the Lick Run mission: "In that part of Wheelersburg called Sugar Camp, on account of the many maple sugar trees growing there, two acres of a hillside land were donated in 1852 by Mr. Henry Frische, for the purpose of erecting a Catholic place of worship. The Catholic population was then small, and consisted of German and Irish settlers, who were employed in the coaling for the various furnaces. These sturdy settlers themselves built a strong log Church, and the Rt. Rev. Bishop named it St. Peter in Chains. Occasionally a priest from Cincinnati rode here on horseback, and celebrated the holy sacrifice of the Mass, and administered the sacraments to this scattered flock. As the years rolled on and the congregation increased in numbers, the spiritual welfare of these people was attended to by Rev. Father Rauck (4) of Pine Grove, who rode from there on horseback, a distance of sixteen miles...."

In 1860 Mr. Friske donated another small piece of land on the west side of the church to make the situation more suitable (5). Again on October 19, 1863, he donated another parcel, one acre more of less, apparently providing a roadway (6).

A rectory was built in the autumn of 1863 while Father D.M. Winands was in charge. In November of that year Father Louis Schreiber became the first resident pastor. He was there until 1866, and seems to have gone to St. John's, Lilly, afterwards (7). It is not clear, but the priests probably resided at Lilly for some years and took care of Lick Run from there. Those who served during these years included Revs. H. H. Mayrose, Charles P. Schelhamer, Aloysius Nonnen, Francis Karge, Alexander Istwann, F. Albert, J. Neumayer, Peter J. Weisenberger, Philip Luemmer and P. J. Thurheimer.

When Father John B. Ritter came to Lilly in 1880, he decided to move to Lick Run and reside there. He soon found that the parish had outgrown the little log church. Its location on the hilltop was bad and the roads were often impassable. The need for a new church in a better location was apparent. Accordingly, a more suitable location was bought on Dogwood Ridge, about one mile from Wheelersburg,
the site of the present St. Peter's. A frame church, costing $3,000 was built, and dedicated by Bishop Watterson in November, 1885. It is said that the old parsonage on Lick Run was moved to the new site. The "Old" St. Peter's was now the "New" St. Peter's.

3) Diocese of Columbus, the History of Fifty Years, 1865-1918, p. 322.
4) Father John Joseph Rauch, (1817-1894) died as pastor at Fine Govre.
5) Scioto County Deed Books, Vol. 4, p. 95.
7) "Bulletin," Catholic Record Society, Diocese of Columbus, October, 1982.

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Tombstone Inscriptions, Old St. Peter's Cemetery, Lick Run, Scioto County, Ohio.

Note. The old cemetery of St. Peter's, Lick Run, is truly on the top of a hill, and difficult to get to. It is in rather poor condition.

4. Andy Donsbach, b. Nov. 6, 1811; d. Sept. 6, 1869.
5. John Rubert was drowned June 15, 1852.
11. hier Ruht Maria AngelicaChefrau von Heinrich Frisher, geboren zu Twishringen(?) Konig: Hannover den 6 April 1837; gest. den 2 April 1863.
15. Mary, daughter of J. & E. Miller, b. Oct. 13, 1858, aged 6 yrs & 6 d's.
27. Elisabeth, wife of J. Schwamberger, d. June 29, 1869. Aged 41Y.
31. Mary, wife of Philip Donsbach, d. March 21, 1883. Aged 48Y.
32. Peter Kennedy, b. in County Maeth, Ireland, June 29, 1826, d. March 13, 1875.
33. Mary, wife of Peter Nathan, d. April 12, 1875. Aged 80 Y. May her soul rest in peace.
34. J. Hammerstein, b. March 9, 1793; d. Sept. 15, 1871.
37. Anastasia, wife of Constantine Fuller, d. July 15, 1868, in the 77th year of her age.
   Dearest Mother thou hast left
   Here thy loss we deeply feel
   But 'tis God that hath bereft us
   He can all our sorrow heal.
41. Lawrence, son of Christopher & Margaret Flanagan, d. Oct. 6, 1865. Aged 12 Y 2M 17D.
42. John, son of Christopher and Margaret Flanagan, d. Aug. 28, 1865. Aged 16Y 10M 14D.
45. Josephena, dau. of S. & C. Dold, d. June 4, 1865. Aged 4M.
   Sleep Father and take your rest
   The dearest friend we ever had
   'Twas hard indeed to part with thee
   But God's strong arm supported me.
   She was lovely, she was fair,
   And for awhile was given
   An angel came and claimed his own
   And bore her home to heaven.
49. Faragus Kerr d. Nov. 28, 1864. Aged 43 Y.
51. Josc. Neu Co. H. 17 No. INF.
54. William, son of Valentine and Maria Spiller (or Stiller) d. June 12, 1861. Aged 1Y 7M 4D.
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Register of Baptisms

1836
Aug. 15: Philip. P: Philip Smithisler and Mary Smithisler.
Aug. 23: (Patton Settlement) Theresa. P: Noe Edginton and Susanna Jion(?).
Aug. 24: (Patton Settlement) John. P: John Rech and Margaret ______.
Aug. 24: [Blank space]
Aug. 24: [Blank space]
Aug. 28: Mary Louise. P: Peter Jeanvoine and Johanna Antonia Joli.
Aug. 30: (Massillon) Mary. P: Patrick Harney and Mary Birdges.
Aug. 30: (Massillon) Peter. P: James Peter Curran and Elisabeth Dugan.

1837
Jan. 28: Mary Beatrice. P: John Claud Geoffrey and Helen Cantinet.
Jan. 29: Charles Augustus. P: John Francis Martin and Margaret Corborun.
Jan. 29: [Blank space]
Feb. 15: (Randolph) John Joseph. P: John Schrauer and Mary Anna Antez.
Feb. 23: (Fulton) Josias Felix. P: Josias Jones and Mary Ruffner.

1836
May ---: (Fulton) Reason. P: Parker Bell and Mary Shorbe.
May ---: (Fulton) James Kerr. P: Philip McQue and Mary Kerr.
May ---: (Fulton) Margaret Joan. P: William Schaeffer and Gratia Kerr.
May ---: (Fulton) Catharine. P: James Meere and Bridgit Kerr.

1837
Feb. 26: Andrew. P: Laurence Heimer and Rosina Link.
Feb. 26: Elisabeth. P: John George Ostgen and Agnes Stein.
Feb. 28: (Massillon) Catharine. P: Daniel McCormick and Julia McDonald.
March 1: (Bethlehem) Veronica. P: Christianus Jeantel and Mary Ann Royes.
March 1: (Bethlehem) Barbara. P: Nicholas Rohr and Catharine Beck.
March 1: (Bethlehem) Mary Louise. P: James Benier and Mary Eva Bollinger.
March 1: (Bethlehem) Louise. P: Ignatius Burger and Mary Anna Kehlhofer.
March 1: (Bethlehem) Barbara. P: Ignatius Burger and Mary Anna Kehlhofer.
Aug. 2: Mary. P: Hubert Pierson and Frances Piney.

1839
April 10: Francis, b. 7 May '838. P: Joseph Saintvoirin and Joanna Baptista Goulu.
April 11: John, b. 8 Oct. '838. P: John Baptist Pierson and Frances Piney.
April 11: Eugenie, b. 27 March, P: John Roussel and Mary Bollet.
April 11: Mary Cabut, b. i Jan. '838.
Baptism (cont.)

1839 (cont.)
Aug. 1: Claude Francis, b. 31 May. P: Claude Druhot and Eulalia Bollet.
Aug. 1: Anna Claudia Adelaide, b. ----. P: Francis Martin and Margaret Corberon.

1840
July 26: Peter Augustus. P: Peter Jeanvoine and Joanna Joli.
July 27: Rebecca, b. 29 Dec. 1833. P: Daniel Kelter and his wife.
Sept. 11: Mary Aurelia, b. 12 Aug. P: Francis Boigegrain and Joanna Frances Marthey.

1841
Feb. 14: Louis Jerome, b. 6 Nov. 1840. P: Francis Olivier and Louise Curie.
May 9: Mary Felicia, b. 20 Feb. P: John Baptist Roussel and Mary Theresa Bollet.
May 9: Charles Augustus Boigegrain, b. ----. P: Joseph and Josephine Boigegrain.
May 9: Mary Louise, b. 6 April. P: Francis Martin and Margaret Corberon.

1842
Nov. 1: John George, b. 14 August. P: Joseph Nuspaum and Barbara Jasuet.
Dec. 11: Mary Augusta, b. 22 August. P: Joseph Boigegrain and Josephine Migeon.
Dec. 14: Claudia Frances, b. 12 December. P: Claude Francis Henry and Frances Varenne.

1843
June 11: Joanna E., b. 1 June. P: John B. Gauthier and Anna Lue(?).
Sept. 10: Eulalia, b. 23 July. P: John C. Mougin and Anna Pagin.
Dec. 4: Christina Felicia, b. — May. P: Francis Villemet and Frances Jacquet.

1844
April 21: Mary J. E., b. 25 March. P: Peter Cholley and Caroline Socie.
April 21: Caroline, b. 9 Feb. P: John Liffert and Elisabeth Eipres.
April 21: Francis Felicien, b. 11 March. P: Claude Druhot and Eulalia Bollet.
April 21: James Alphonse, b. 12 March. P: Nicholas Tisserand and Anna B. Durand.
March 5: Julia Virginia, b. 10 Jan. P: George Philippe and Adelaide Cholley.
June 2: Peter Joseph, b. 4 May. P: Stephan Marthey and Augustina E. Grojean.
June 2: Mary Victoria, b. 24 April. P: Peter Pierson and Eulalia Roussel.
July 13: Mary Melonia, b. 14 June. P: Nicholas Noel and Barbara Mazquil.
July 14: Francis Augustus, b. 17 June. P: Peter Drouhard and Louise Cholley.
July 14: Gabriel Eugène, b. 17 June. P: Francis Henry and Frances Varenne.
Baptisms (Cont.)

1845
April 20: Charles Sebastian, b. 23 March. P: Peter Cholley and Caroline Socie.
March 2: John Bapt. F., b. 30 ----. P: Joseph Daiss and M. A. Adams.
March 3: Mary E., b. -------. P: Joseph Defert and Mary Heupker.
Sept. 7: Joanna Mary, b. 9 Aug. P: Stephan Marthey and Augusta Grojean.
Aug. 7: Frances Teresa, b. 16 Aug. P: Eugene Det and Christina Helstein(?).

1846
Jan. 13: John Peter, b. ----. P: Francis Boigegrain and Frances Marthey.
March 24: John Baptist Roussel, b. 3 March.
March 26: Anna Rosalia, b. ----. P: Peter Drouhard and Louise Cholley.
June 1: John Peter, b. 4 April. P: Claude Druhot and Eulalia Bollet.
July 18: Mary Victoria, b. 10 July. P: John B. Gauthier and Anna Lue.
Aug. 16: Claude Joseph, b. ----. P: Joseph Boigegrain and Josephine Migeon.
Aug. 20: Mary, b. two months. P: George Philippe and Adelaide Cholley.
Sept. 20: Mary Eugenia M., b. 8 Sept. P: Claude Etienne Marthey and Euphrasia Grosjean.

1847
Sept. 20: Mary Anna, b. 7 Sept. P: John ---- and Mary Anna Gasser.
July 12: Felicia Louise, b. 25 May. P: Xavier Echemann and Mary A. Cortat(?).
July 12: Ferdinand, b. 4 June. P: Nicholas Zuber and Mary Gasser.
Dec. 6: Francis Albert, b. 30 Nov. P: Nicholas Echemann and Maria Rosa Simon.

1848
Feb. 4: Sylvester, b. 13 Jan. P: Joseph Doss and Mary Adams.
Aug. 6: Mary Augusta, b. one month. P: John C. Martin and Victoria Roussel.
Aug. 6: Peter Augustine, b. 2 months. P: John P. Pagniard and Catharine Mougey.
Sept. 26: Joseph Eugene, b. ----. P: Claude F. Det and Christina Helstein.
Dec. 5: Nicholas, b. 15 days. P: John F. Draine and Catharine L'Hallemand.

1849
April 27: Francis Victor, b. 25 April. P: Peter Eresson and Melania Meunier.
Aug. 6: Mary Josephine, b. ----. P: John M. Delcommune and Mary A. Delaplane.
Sept. 7: Augustus Nicholas, b. 11 August. P: Nicholas Martin and Catharine M. Bouvier.
June 7: Mary Anna, b. ----. P: Peter Shehan and Catharine Newman.

1850
April 15: Mary, b. 9 April. P: Alexander Olivier and Barbara Mercier.
June 10: Victor Napoleon, b. 7 April. P: Joseph Boigegrain and Josephine Migeon.
June 24: Peter V., b. 23 May. P: Simon Besancon and Frances Gavoille.
Aug. 1: Joseph E., b. ----. P: Joseph Sander and Josephine Roberti.
Aug. 19: Mary Josephine, b. ----. P: John C. Martin and Victoria Roussel.
March ----: Francis J., b. 7 March. P: Joseph Marthey and Margaret Genet.
Baptisms (Cont.)

1849 (cont.)
Nov. 4: Mary Frances S., b. ——. P: John P. Bresson and Melanie Meunier.
Oct. 22: James, b. 2 Oct. P: Jacob Voguel and Catharine Andrey.
Nov. 17: Mary Margaret, b. ——. P: Claude F. Dete and Christina Helstein.
Dec. 30: Mary Xavier, b. ——. P: Anthony Morel and Josepha Mougey.

1850
Jan. 30: Peter Joseph S., b. 10 years. P: Peter Bourlier and Mary J. Vuillemenot.
Jan. 30: Mary Stephania F.C., 8 years. P: Peter Bourlier and Mary J. Vuillemenot.
Jan. 30: Mary Antonia E., 2 years. P: Peter Bourlier and Mary J. Vuillemenot.
March 30: Francis Xavier, b. ——. P: John B. Bardin and Joanna M. Marthey.
March 30: Mary Victoria, b. ——. P: John P. Boigegein and Augustina Milliot.
April 11: Peter Emile T., b. ——. P: Peter Bourlier and Mary J. Vuillemenot.
April 11: Mary Augustina, b. ——. P: Stephane Tisserand and Claudia Durand.
April 18: Peter Francis, b. ——. P: Peter Drouhard and Anna Louise Cholley.
May 8: Peter Hubert, b. ——. P: John M. Delcommune and Antonia Delaplace.
May 9: Mary H., b. ——. P: Alfred Boisseau and Adelaide Georgeot.
May 11: Mary Appolonia Virginia, b. ——. P: Nicholas Girard and Margaret Pahin.
June 16: Mary Barbara, b. ——. P: George Voguel and Anna Mary Thiry.
July 21: Mary Euphrasia, b. ——. P: Peter E. Marthey and Joanna Margaret Genet.
Aug. 4: Mary Francoise, b. ——. P: Francis Ledeur and Margaret Prevot.
Sept. 29: Joseph A., b. ——. P: Augustus Boigegein and Margaret Stregen.
Sept. 29: Mary Felicitas, b. ——. Joseph C. Boigegein and Josephine Rouhier.
Oct. 6: Emilia, b. ——. P: Peter Pagniard and Catharine Mougey.

1851
Feb. 7: Michael Edward, b. ——. P: Nicholas Echemann and Mary Rosa Simon.
Feb. 9: Mary Anna, b. ——. P: Daniel Baister and Rosalia Larin.
March 2: Peter Joseph, b. ——. P: August Blanc and Elisabeth Marthey.
April 22: Marie Victoire, b. ——. P: Jean Pierre Boigegein and Augustina Millot.
April 27: Mary Eugenia, b. ——. P: Joseph Henry and Josepha Agmery.
May 2: Francis Joseph, b. ——. P: Augustine Echemann and Frances Barbier.
Aug. 17: Mary Alexia, b. ——. P: Alfred Boisseau and Adelaide Georgeot.
Aug. 17: Joseph E., b. ——. P: ——
Sept. 21: Peter Anthony, b. ——. P: Claude Geoffrey and Adelaide Cagnet.
Nov. 9: Mary Theresa, b. ——. P: Peter Lab and Catharine Saintnoirin.
Nov. 9: Francis Eugene, b. ——. P: Theophilus Vernier and Adelaide Agneus.
Nov. 16: Mary Josepha, b. ——. P: Joseph Sander and Mary Barbara Robert.
Nov. 23: Mary Louise, b. ——. P: John Francis Druhot and Rosa Giauque.
Dec. 27: Mary Augustina, b. ——. P: Sebastian Cholley and Melania Cagnet.

(To be continued)

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