Msgr. F. Thomas Gallen, of St. Charles Preparatory School, has provided additional names of some of the Catholic helpers at the Columbus State School. He began helping there in the fall of 1938 and continued until the fall of 1942. Every Sunday he played the organ and taught the hymns that were used. Two of his classmates from St. Charles, who lived in St. Aloysius Parish, took turns serving Mass; these were David W. Murnane (now of Havertown, Pa.) and the late Bishop George A. Fulcher.

The Sisters of Mercy from Holy Family School who served during those years were Sisters Prisca, Joachim, Edwin, and Chrysostom. They were assisted by two students from the High School, namely Lois Garnett (now Mrs. Robert Meyer) and Mary Kathryn Brooks (now Mrs. Tom Wightman). The adult lay teachers whom he remembers were the Misses Grace Price, Susan Price, and Nell Flautt (Ellen F. Flautt, 1894-1978).

Transition to More Formality

On August 27, 1948 it was announced that in September the Oblates of Mary Immaculate of Buffalo, N.Y. would take "temporary" charge of Sts. Simon and Jude Parish at West Jefferson (a parish they still staff today) and would fill the chaplaincies at Orient State Institute and the Columbus State Hospital. Soon they also took over the chaplaincies at the State School and the London Prison Farm. These chaplains lived at Sts. Simon and Jude.

Rev. Francis William McConville, O.M.I., who was born in Boston in 1914, was assigned in August of 1951 as chaplain to serve both the State School and the State Hospital. Unlike the diocesan priests who had been part-time chaplains, Father McConville was the first full-time Catholic Chaplain, and he had been specifically trained for this work. He had a background of medical training and for seven years had worked with psychiatric patients in Chicago. He spent three days each week at each of the Ohio institutions and offered Mass each Sunday at each of them. As chaplain, he was a civil service employee of the State of Ohio.

Changes soon were made in the physical plant of the School. By 1955, "an accumulation of years of neglect" which had begun during the Great Depression and continued during World War II, made parts of the old State School building uninhabitable. Only three of the 35 buildings by then on the grounds had alternating current electricity; in one "cottage" laundry was still done with wash tubs, a scrub board, and a miniature wringer; pressing was done with irons heated on a gas range; other equipment was similarly antiquated. The population of the school was 2,250.
From 1957 to 1959, using money from a bond issue, a new Reception and Diagnostic Center was built for the school, on Sullivant Avenue on the southwest corner of the campus, to accommodate up to 150 new arrivals for about two months each. (From this center, students were sent to the four state schools for continued treatment, namely Columbus, Gallipolis, Orient, or Apple Grove.)

Though he loved the work at the school, Father McConville left because of his health, to take a job with a less exacting routine. Upon his leaving the School in October, 1954, W. A. Butcher, M.D., the superintendent, wrote to Bishop Ready that the students, patients, and staff greatly appreciated McConville's services. He "had an unusually fine understanding of the needs and requirements of mentally retarded persons. His work with them was outstanding. He also established an excellent relationship with the parents of our patients. ...In addition he was always cooperative and active as a member of the total team in care and treatment of our patients."

Rev. Alfred C. Delva, O.M.I., from Haverhill, Massachusetts, was appointed chaplain of the School and Hospital September 1, 1952. He served there for a time in 1952, 1953, and 1954. In 1954, Rev. John F. Grady, O.M.I. was appointed the first full-time chaplain at the State Hospital (where about one-third of the 2,700 patients were Catholics), relieving the priests of the double duty of the two institutions. Other priests who assisted at the institutions were Rev. E. Sweeney, O.M.I., who was chaplain at London Prison Farm, and Rev. T. M. Morrin, O.M.I.

Rev. Walter Mack, O.M.I., was appointed to the State School in December, 1954. Formerly he had been chaplain at the Massachusetts State Hospital, Tewkesbury, Mass. One parent wrote to him, "...this morning I started out very tired and a little discouraged. But when I walked in and heard you talking to the children, I knew, all at once, that someone was finding the right answers for our handicapped people. They were coming alive -- understanding every word you were saying, enjoying the fine music they were helping to make, and full of new joy and hope."

On October 1, 1955 Rev. Charles J. Costello, O.M.I., replaced Father Mack for a short time, to be in turn replaced in 1956 by Rev. Clarence McIntyre, O.M.I., who served there for three years. Father McIntyre found that the newly arrived patients in the new Reception and Diagnostic Center did not participate in the religious services of the rest of the School because of the semi-quarantine and routine examinations given to all new patients there. He soon inaugurated services right in the Reception Center, offering Sunday Mass in their own Chapel and giving them "the usual complete parish attention."

Chaplain from June, 1958 until 1961 was Rev. Edward Arthur Moan, O.M.I., a native of Massachusetts, born in 1922. He was known among the children for his sense of humor. In 1958 a Catholic Chaplain's Training Program was begun, the first of its kind centered in a state hospital and using the facilities of the hospital.

In 1961 Rev. Ralph J. Karl, O.M.I. arrived as chaplain. Father Karl had been trained for hospital work at Catholic University. His first assignment was the Catholic chaplaincy at Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis. After three years there, he came to Columbus. He was to remain twenty-seven years, during which time several other priests, members of the Oblates, assisted him at the School.

Father Karl published a simplified prayerbook, a religious instruction course, and chaplains' handbook. He designed a special catechism for the mentally disabled, because nothing else was available. He spent hours clipping apart greeting
cards and pasting the pictures into a handmade booklet. He called the catechism Our Lady of Hope. He saw the role of chaplain change tremendously. "It used to be you were silent. You administered the Sacraments and did your work in a quiet, soft way. Now you're a member of a professional team, meet with other professionals and give assistance. Here, my work is to give the Sacraments. But with mental retardation, education is our bag. It's a lot of repetition, trying different methods of working with the kids."

Father Karl was involved in the Ohio and National chaplains' organizations and received many honors for his work. He was President of the Ohio State Chaplains Association, 1964-1967, was national chairman of the religion subdivision in the American Association on Mental Deficiency, and was editor of "Information Service" (reaching the retarded through religion). He also was a member of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains executive board, from 1965 until after 1974 and was President of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains beginning in September of 1974.

By 1962, the St. Dymphna Guild had disappeared and the St. Joseph Guild made its appearance. This, apparently, was the same group under the name of a different but more familiar saint. The parents of School residents were encouraged to meet in March, 1962, to encourage their support of the guild because they could not help directly in the teaching of the students. The stationary now was headed, "St. Joseph's Guild for Exceptional Children"

Early in the 1960s, Holy Family High School closed and the number of Sisters of Mercy assigned to Columbus was decreased. Their ministry at the State School was taken over by the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (Sisters Dolores Sheridan and Maxine Shonk are mentioned among the number who served there). Catechism was taught each Sunday immediately after Mass.

It is in a letter of 1964 that "our new Chapel" at the School is first mentioned, at last replacing the portable altar that had been set up in the gymnasium for Sunday services. Letters of 1966 and 1970 call this the St. Joseph Chapel.
Mass and catechism on Sundays, already mentioned, were only part of the round of religious works carried out at the School. The religious growth of the children was taken care of at all times by means of periodical conferences and personal interviews. All of the Catholic patients had the opportunity to go to Confession at least once a month. In 1962, a dispensation from the Bishop was obtained, whereby all the children who had been baptized could be confirmed, even though they were not able to make their First Holy Communion. Services such as the annual May procession and outdoor Mass on Parents' Day continued to be held.

Changes of the 1980s

Theories and philosophies of care of the "feebleminded" began changed in the 1970s and 1980s. It became accepted that these children would be better off if placed out in the community. "Deinstitutionalization" of the students and downsizing of state institutions came into vogue. By 1974 the number of patients had declined to 1800. Under a state law passed in 1974, students eighteen years of age or older who were not a danger to themselves or others, could demand to be released. The School (by then the Columbus State Institute) instated a "placement program" in which the students were supposed to be taught how to live in the outside world and were "plugged into" social services such as Medicaid, welfare, and social security. They were released to supervised community placement houses, where, ideally, they either would find work or enroll in vocational training programs. In 1976, however, Father Karl was complaining publicly that the programs were insufficient to train the students properly. The placement houses often were in decadent areas and the former students were being preyed upon by criminals. Nevertheless these programs proceeded. Father Karl retired in 1988.

The institution now is the Columbus Development Center. It has only 150 residents and there is no chaplain. It is said that the residents are able to perform their religious duties in the outside community.

SOURCES

Files of the St. Dymphna Guild
Catholic Times, July 2, 1954
Columbus Dispatch, Feb. 11, 1957 and Feb. 17, 1959, Sept. 7, 1974

The Columbus State School, built in 1868 and rebuilt in 1881 after a fire, was razed in 1987.
The Case of the United States vs. John Elder

In last month's "Abstracts from the Catholic Telegraph" we included a paragraph announcing the innocence of John Elder of Somerset, Postmaster, of charges brought against him by the Postmaster of Zanesville. That account left many questions unanswered, such as the basic one, of what was Mr. Elder accused? The article below has been extracted from Somerset's The Flag of '76, F. Hickman editor and proprietor, dated December 30, 1842 (courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society). This answers many questions about the case.

John Elder was a native of Pennsylvania, born between 1805 and 1810, and came to Somerset before 1820. He and Miss Maryann Snider, daughter of Nicholas and Mary Ann (Eckhart) Snider, an immigrant farming couple of near Somerset, were married at Holy Trinity Church in 1833. They had nine children, of whom the third was an infant at the time of the incident. While Postmaster, Mr. Elder also was agent for the Catholic Telegraph. John later supported this large family by making cabinetry in Somerset. He seems to have died in the 1860s.

UNITED STATES vs. JOHN ELDER

On Wednesday the 23d inst. this cause came on for hearing before the United States district Court in Columbus, on an indictment found by the Grand Jury against the Deft. for delaying, and willfully detaining, vi et armis, a certain mail pack, not designed for his office, while officiating as Postmaster, on the 15th Dec. 1841, at Somerset, Ohio.—The indictment was procured on the testimony of Israel Hoge, Postmaster at Zanesville, O., who testified in substance, that -- for certain reasons he enclosed two ten dollar counterfeit bills, and one fifty cent shinplaster, in a letter or pack, sealed and mailed the same from Zanesville west, for the purpose of laying a trap or snare for the Postmasters, on the western line, and then come on in the stage to Somerset, -- that after the driver stopped to exchange mails at the Post office kept by Deft., the driver proceeded west of the town to the bridge, stopped the stage, and witness opened the mail, when he found that the pack (trap) was missing. He then returned to Somerset, and reported a mail robbery, -- that he called on Josiah Lovell Esq. who accompanied him to the office of Deft. when prosecuting witness asked Deft. if a pack had been detained in distributing the mail, not belonging to his office, on that day, -- that Deft. said there had not. This was the evidence on which the prosecution was based.

IN DEFENCE, Josiah Lovell Esq. testified, that he was called upon by prosecuting witness, in reference to the alleged robbery and went with him to the office of Deft., -- that the prosecutor asked deft. if there had been any mistake made in the mail that day -- that deft. frankly replied, that THERE HAD, THAT A PACK THAT OUGHT TO HAVE WENT TO LANCASTER BY MISTAKE WAS RETAINED, -- that deft., had mistook the endorsement for "Somerset," -- that the mail had come an hour earlier than usual, -- that he was at dinner and came out in a hurry to make up and distribute the mail, and that he was hurried by the driver &c. -- that prosecuting witness, asked for the pack which deft. delivered him, directed in a new envelope, to "Lancaster," -- that it was laying in the proper place -- he saw it opened, the seal was unbroken, and it contained two $10 bills said to be counterfeit, and a fifty cent shinplaster, -- that the prosecuting witness had told him that he had enclosed the same, and put in the mail to entrap or ensnare, the deft. and that he had hurried the mail along an hour earlier than usual for that purpose, so that if he, deft. should make a mistake, it should not be rectified, until after the
mail was gone. --that he stopped the stage west of Somerset, on the bridge, opened the mail, and found the package missing.--that he returned to the village, and reported that he had CAUGHT DEFT. IN A MAIL ROBBERY. -- that at the interview at the Post Office, deft. referred the prosecuting witness, to persons who were in the office at the time of the transaction, and who could give him, the declarations of him the deft., when the mistake occurred, that the prosecuting witness afterwards admitted to witness, that he called on the persons whose names were given him by the deft. and after hearing their version of the affair, he said he believed it was AN HONEST TRANSACTION in the deft.,--further stated, he had known deft. some 7 years and that he sustained a good character, &c.

WILLIAM E. FINK, stated he came into the Post office, at the time the mail arrived, on the day the offence should have been committed,--that deft. was at dinner,--came out in a hurry, opened the mail, and distributed it, during the whole of which time the driver was hurrying him, that he saw the pack in question, and took the endorsement to be "Somerset," that after the mail was gone,---deft. took off the wrapper, and observed that he was mistaken, that, THAT PACK should have gone on to Lancaster, that he laid the pack away in the desk, in the presence of himself and others.

JOHN RITCHIE, (Senator,) had known deft. from a boy, had dealings with,--and believed him an honest man, and sustained a good character.

JACOB BRECHBILL. In answer to the question if he believed deft. to be an honest man? He did. Interrogated by the Court as to his answer,--that he believed deft. to be as honest as any man in the house or out of the house, had known him for 20 years.

SAMUEL MURDOCK,--was present, when prosecuting witness called at the deft's office, as alluded to by Mr. Lovell, that prosecutor, asked deft. if there was a mistake in opening the mails, that day, deft. said there was. Interrogated by counsel if he knew Burroughs, a driver then in custody, on charge of robbing the mail,--answered he did. Did he drive on the western route from Zanesville through Somerset, answered. he did for some two years previous, up to the time when the deft. was arrested. Did he know of Burroughs having certain keys in his possession, here counsel was interrupted -- that the testimony was improper &c. Deft. counsel remarked, that he only sought by this evidence to show that, others might have access to the mail as well as Postmasters, to offset some extraneous evidence that had been introduced, as to monies lost on that line, at this stage of the examination the Prosecuting Attorney entered a nolle prosequi, remarking that the evidence did not sustain the indictment, that it was useless to spend further time with it &c.

Thus ended a persecuting prosecution, which should never have disgraced a Court of Justice with its malevolent front. Our conclusions are drawn from the testimony as given which we have taken in substance from the Defendant who is responsible, if there is misstatement in the case. We think there is in this instance, as much rule-working, systematic maliciousness brought to bear, as could be exercised in the nature of the transaction. In giving the case to the public, we have been actuated from a sense of justice to the defendant, Mr. Elder, that the shadow of suspicion, might no longer linger over him, to tarnish his good name or blight a well earned reputation.

But while we applaud a faithful and fearless discharge of duty in an officer, we must condemn the means made use of to ensnare and ruin the defendant in this case, the solemnities of the oath of Office, do not impose dishonorable and minded finesse, in order to guard the trust confided to carry out its duty. The law regulating Postmasters, if we are rightly informed, requires them to keep an office, and in that office to perform certain duties, beyond its confines, he sustains the humble relation to the department, of a private citizen. This being the case, the enquiry
naturally suggests itself, by what authority Mr. Hoge, could STOP THE MAIL ON THE PUBLIC HIGHWAY, unlock and examine its contents, after it had legitimately passed from his jurisdiction, through four Post Offices. Can he vainly hope, that this incredulous world will accord to him, for the part he bore in this transaction, merely that of an honorable and zealous disinterestedness for the public welfare? Can he be justified in setting a precedent that would inevitably involve in doubt and suspicion the character of those against whom suspicion had never dared to breathe her baleful slanders! Suspending on his ipse dixit, the personal liberty, and what is dearer by far, the reputation of his fellow citizens! Is it not a fearful stretch of privilege, to pursue such a plan even under the specious pretext of jealously [sic] for public interests, UNAUTHORIZED by PRECEDENT or LAW? One designing man, if this be sanctioned, might ruin the fairest fame, and break down the best fortified reputation! If a Postmaster be admitted to such unheard of privileges, then, it is only necessary for the infallible immaculate, to perpetrate robberies, by plundering and rifling the mails of their contents, and then follow them beyond the office of his victim, stop the mail, examine it in presence of his driver, declare the theft and on his testimony the guilt of the alleged offender would be fully confirmed.-- If Mr. Hoge did not outstep his privileges, by stopping the mail, and opening it on the highway, where no Post Office had been established, then why do other sections of the law require, the Post Office to be locked or otherwise secured, while mails are being opened and distributed and that they be only opened, and distributed in the presence of the Postmaster, and his deputy. But Mr. Hoge 18 or 20 miles from his office, is found under mysterious influences, exercising the functions of Postmaster, in another county that is to say, he is acting as a kind of locomotive Postmaster, doing what under some circumstances might entitle him to a less agreeable title. In what attitude, does Mr. Hoge, place himself before community, by stopping and opening the mail on the highway, outside of the privileges of his office! Alas! for the gallows of Hamon, it would not long have wanted its victim, if JOHN ELDER had been as well skilled in the finesse of low cunning as was the adroit loco-motive Postmaster. It will be recollected that Mr. Hoge testified when he called on the defendant, &c., told him there had been no mistake in distributing the mail that day. While Messrs Lovell, and Murdock, state that defendant told Hoge frankly, there had been a misstake [sic], and when defendant, refers Mr. Hoge to those present when it occurred, after seeing them & hearing their version of the affair, upon which he pronounced the defendant honest in the transaction, yet still, with sleepless vigilance, actuated by a zeal worthy of a better cause, he is found in the privy chamber of the Grand Jury, and thence confronting on the trial, the accused, until the Prosecuting Attorney himself, from a sense of Justice to Mr. Elder, in the midst of the examination, abandons the prosecution. If the res gesta of the case had involved a suspicion, then could the prosecuting witness plead an extenuation for the prosecution; but what does the evidence disclose? but innocence, made more innocent, by the inquisitorial fires of a malicious Prosecution. Secrecy, is the hand maid of guilt, yet this offence was committed in the presence of a number of witnesses, all of which were made cognizant of the affair at once, one of whom, testifies, he was misled in the direction of the pack, under the same impression with defendant, as to the place of its destination. In making the above comments we have no ill feelings to gratify towards Mr. Hoge -- holding ourselves ready at all times to render to him that justice we require for others. Our motto is "Let Justice be done if the Heaven's should fall."

[This last is, of course, the inscription over the doorway of the courthouse in Somerset and is to be read, "even if the heavens should fall."]
St. Luke Parish, Danville, Ohio
Baptisms and Marriages, 1829-1842
(Continued, from Vol. XXII, No. 7)

Two corrections need to be made to last month's issue. The 1841 records should be noted as beginning page 55 of the register. The birth date of Catherine Sapp (baptized January 1, 1841) was October 11, not October 1, 1840.

1841, continued
page 55, continued

page 54 [this page contains only one record]
6 January, Magdalen Homan b 16 Dec 1840 d/o Michael & Elizabeth [Neuth] [Homan] Sps: Adam Chop & Magdalena Chop. JL

page 55, continued
17 January, John Blele [Boyle] b 7 (or 9) October, 1840 s/o Michael & Margaret Boele [Boyle] Sps: David Morten & wife Bridget. JL

24 January, Samuel White s/o David [White] & Rebecca Magers Sps: Benjamin Durbin & Catherine Arnold. JL

27 January, Benjamin Blubaugh b 6 January, 1841 s/o Benjamin [Blubaugh] & Elizabeth Durbin Sps: James Blubaugh and wife. JL

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same day, Joseph Crops b 5 January, 1841 s/o Joseph [Crops] & Elizabeth Medrick Sps: Joseph Posshats [Boeshart] & Barbara Morgan. JL

7 February, Joanna Fisidor Chrichfield [Phedora Jane Critchfield] born 5 December, d/o Aaron [Hiram] Critchfield & Harriet Porter Sps: George Sapp & Catherine Arnold. JL

9 March, Catherine Logsdon b 29 October, 1840 d/o Daniel & Catherine [Logsdon]; Sps: Elias Arnold [Jr] & wife [A Lovina Logsdon.] JL

George Payne's daughter [possibly Susanna d/o George Payne & Anna Croy; 1850 census shows Susanna, age 9]

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11 April, Jacob Shults Sps: Levi Sapp & Anna Brent. JL

same day, John Julius Brent Sps: Levi Sapp & Anna [Anna] Brent. JL

same day, Julius Johns b 20 September, 1840, s/o Gabriel [Johns] & Catherine Huits Sps: Jacob Holler & Catherine Trobley. JL

page 58
11 April, Mary Miller b 27 Jan 1841 d/o Martin & Margaret Miller Sps: Jacob Swots [Swarts] & Maria Hess. JL

same day, Margaret Shenebard, b 9 March, 1841 d/o Michael [Sheneberger] & Margaret Richeman [Richard] Sps: Michael Shenebard & Margaret Shenebard [Sheneberger]. JL

21 April, Anna Maria Croy w/o George Payne Sps: Jacob Blubaugh & Maria Blubaugh. JL

25 April, [blank] Rowley s/o Rufus [Rowley] and [blank] Welch Sps: Michael Boyle & wife Margaret. JL

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6 May, Maria Logsdon, b 1 October, 1840 d/o John [Logsdon] & Elizabeth Harty [Hardy] Sps: Nathan Magers & Maria Durbin w/o Samuel. JL

23 May, Mary Hifert [Eifert], b 28 March, 1841 d/o Michael [Eifert] & Elizabeth Brell Sps: Henry Hossephelt [Hosfeld] & Margaret Hossephelt. JL


same day, Francis Logsdon b 23 April, 1841 s/o David [Logsdon] & Rebecca Houlis [Uhl] Sps: David Durbin & Rosa Durbin. JL

same day, Stephen McKenzie b 6 April, 1841 s/o Nathan McKenzie & Eliza Magers Sps: Jacob Sapp & Maria Blubaugh. JL

31 May, Catherine Douche, b 7 February, 1835 d/o Joseph [Douche] & Catherine Holea [Holler] Sps: Christopher Braeckler & Maria He[ss]. JL

31 May, Elisabeth Douche, b 29 March, 1841 d/o Joseph [Douche] & Catherine Holera [Holler]. Sps: same. JL

31 May, Elizabeth Jones, wife. JL

10 June, Anna Stopher [Stoffer], b 15 August, 1840 d/o John [Stoffer] & Anna [Harriet] Durbin Sps: Benjamin Durbin & wife. JL

same day, Jacob Sholts [Shults] b 7 May, 1841 s/o Jacob [Shults] & Catherine Braeckler Sps: Jacob Swarts & [blank] Gardner. JL


same day, Anna Sara Hosefett [Hosfeld], d/o Henry [Hosfeld] & Veronica Bisof Sps: Joseph Latche & Anna Fulzer. JL

12 July, Maria Keiler [Keller] b 29 April, 1841 d/o Michael [Keller] & Maria Morning Sps: Jacob Wollensneider & wife. JL


same day, Joan Frances Brent b 5 June, 1841 d/o Edgard [Edmund Brent] & Rebecca Magers Sps: Gabriel Magers & Frances Brent. JL

same day, Anna Arnold b 27 May 1841 d/o John [Arnold] & Christina Sapp Sps: William Magers & Sarah Ann Durbin. JL

same day, Edward Payne, b 15 June, s/o Raphael [Payne] & Winifred Porter Sps: Elias Arnold & wife. JL

page 62
1 August, Simon Blubaugh b 8 Mar 1841 s/o Stephen [Blubaugh] & Honora Logsdon Sps: Anthony Gardner & wife Maria Barbin. JL
15 August, Norman Maguiot [McGough], b 6 July, 1841 s/o Patrick McGough & Helen Durbin Sps: Benjamin Blubaugh & wife Elizabeth Durbin. JL


29 August, Rebecca Breaker [Bricker], b 17 September, 1834 d/o George [Bricker] & Catherine Buckingham Sps: Absolam Buckingham & Honora Trullinger. JL

29 August, Mary [Aparilla] Breaker [Bricker], b 18 February, 1835 d/o George Bricker & Catherine Buckingham Sps: Basil Durbin & Maria Buckingham. JL

2 September, George Thomas Christian b 24 Nov 1840 s/o Thomas [Christian] & Susanna Shink Sps: Peter Morton & Briget Morton. JL


same day, Marianna Etrick b 19 August d/o Joseph [Etrick] & Marianna Letsler Sps: Demetrius Thomas & Catherine Emberish. JL

29 August, Mary Breaker [Bricker], b 18 February, 1835 d/o George Bricker & Catherine Buckingham Sps: Basil Durbin & Maria Buckingham. JL

8 October, Joseph Close b 17 July, 1836 s/o James [Close] & Mary Arnold Sps: George Sapp & [wife] Catherine Arnold. JL

(To be continued)