In recent pages of our Bulletin, in the “Abstracts from The Catholic Telegraph” of the early 1850s, the name William Marshall Anderson has come to the fore. The man apparently was a prominent citizen of Chillicothe, a social leader who represented the local Catholic community to the world at large. Who was this man? What was his background that allowed him to represent the Catholics in this manner? What were his accomplishments?

An examination of his life from the available sources at first glance produces nothing that he “did” for a living for many years. However, from an early age he was determined to avoid “feeding and clothing myself from the proceeds of my father’s labour” and a closer examination reveals that he put his skills as attorney and surveyor to good use in managing several farms. In addition, his legal skills and his energy for over twenty years were drawn upon by litigation over his father-in-
law's large estate. Marshall Anderson did lead a peripatetic life, but in this he found the One necessary to make any life worthwhile.

Marshall was one of the thirteen children of Colonel Richard Clough Anderson, born on June 24, 1807 within the massive stone walls of his parents' home, "Soldier's Retreat." The house sat on 800 acres at the headwaters of Bear Grass Creek, ten miles east of the center of Louisville, in Jefferson County, Kentucky. The father had been captain of a company of Hanover County, Virginia regulars and served under General Washington in the Revolutionary War. He was a prisoner of the British for nine months, afterwards becoming aide-de-camp to General Lafayette. In 1783 he was appointed surveyor general of the lands in Kentucky and Ohio that were set aside for Virginia's veterans. The Colonel's first wife was Elizabeth Clark, sister of George Rogers Clark. They had four children. Elizabeth died in 1795 and the Colonel about 1797 married Sarah Marshall, a cousin on her mother's side to the Clarks and on her father's side to U.S. Chief Justice John Marshall. She was the mother of William Marshall Anderson.

Marshall's early education was provided by a tutor. He once wrote, "At that time, all my sources of knowledge & morality were Protestant. I drew Episcopalianism from my mother's breast. A Lutheran taught me my catechism. A Baptist taught me ABC and Latin grammar. Presbyterians taught me to parse glibly the galloping verses of Virgil." "His father, a man of "ordinary ability but great influence," introduced him to such leading figures as Aaron Burr, Henry Clay, and Andrew Jackson.

At the age of fifteen Marshall rode alone from Louisville to Chillicothe, Ohio to the home of his sister Maria, wife of Allen Latham, his father's assistant surveyor. There he stayed two years and attended the Chillicothe Academy. After a brief stay at his father's house he then continued a classical education at Transylvania University at Lexington, Ky. In the fall of 1826 he was called home to his father's death-bed and, being the oldest son then in Kentucky, and was appointed executor of his father's estate, a task that he completed in 1829. He then took up the study of law in Louisville and was admitted to the bar in 1830. Between 1829 and 1834 he spent about half of his time in Chillicothe. In 1832 Governor Breathitt of Kentucky made Marshall a colonel on his staff and from that time Marshall was widely known as Colonel Anderson. He suffered a mild bout of cholera in 1833. In 1834 he visited his brother Lieutenant Robert Anderson in Baton Rouge. After his return to Louisville he came down with yellow fever and after his recovery he visited St. Louis.

While in St. Louis it was decided that Marshall, who was fond of adventure, would join a trader who was about to start for the Oregon country. In this he accompanied seventy rough-and-tumble westerners, a far cry from the gentle society he had experienced until then, and wore with them dirty hunting shirts and greasy leather breeches. This was one of his great adventures and was recorded in a diary, published in 1967 as The Rocky Mountain Journals of William Marshall Anderson. The journey was relatively brief: the entire trip up the Missouri to its headwaters, time spent in Wyoming, and the return took only a few months, but Marshall Anderson is considered one of the original "mountain men." He reached St. Louis again in January of 1835, his health much improved.

He immediately continued eastward to Chillicothe, with important matters in mind. His 27th birthday had found him in the mountains, "Regretting the little good which I have done for myself, for God or my country." In the spring of 1829 he had met Eliza Ann McArthur, then a barely-teenaged, brunette, "Highland beauty." She was born on Nov. 14, 1815, daughter of Duncan and Nancy (McDonald) McArthur. Her father had won fame as a general at Fort Meigs in the War of 1812. He had large estates around his home northwest of Chillicothe, called Fruit Hill, and in Pickaway, Scioto, and Clarke counties. He
served in the Ohio Legislature and the U.S. House and was Governor of Ohio from 1830 to 1832. Marshall and Eliza were married on February 15, 1835 before Edward W. Peet, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chillicothe.

The young couple lived in Louisville, where Marshall practiced law, until late in 1838. In January of 1839 he was appointed to succeed his brother-in-law, Allen Latham, in his father's old position as Surveyor General of the Virginia Military District, a post, by then requiring little work, that he held until 1847. He returned to Chillicothe and Ohio remained his home thenceforward. He soon returned to the practice of law. In 1838 Marshall took over management of the estate of General McArthur, whose health was failing. The General died in May of 1839 and left a will that ensnared the family, including Marshall Anderson, in a legal quagmire that consumed time, money, and energy until the 1870s when it finally was settled by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Marshall and Eliza joined the Catholic Church in 1839. Their conversion was part of a large movement across the young country. In Ohio the movement was facilitated by the practice of Bishop Purcell and the Dominican missionaries of preaching, in a non-controversial manner, in courthouses or whatever other public place was available, by the founding of the Catholic Telegraph in 1832, by the printing of cheap pamphlets at St. Rose Priory in Kentucky, and by the openness of non-Catholics to listen. Notable, early, local converts included George Wilson at Zanesville (1827) and Peter Anderson at Somerset (1830), who became Dominican priests, and Rev. Josue M. Young, who became pastor at St. Mary in Lancaster in 1839.

The Andersons "read about religions and decided" that the Catholic Church was the true one. One story handed down was that they were influenced by a distinguished priest who, on arriving in town with no accommodations, was invited into their home and comforted them upon the death of their second child 4 (Sally, who died on July 4, 1839 at the age of 14 months). However, it is clear that there was an interest in the Faith prior to that time, for Marshall was a subscriber to the Catholic Telegraph as early as August, 1838. 5 Marshall received his first Holy Communion on December 28, 1839 and Confirmation on January 1, 1840. 6 This no doubt was in Cincinnati, but the records of St. Peter in Chains Cathedral for this period are missing. Eliza probably traveled to Cincinnati with him to receive these sacraments, even though she then was carrying their third child. This son, William Duncan Anderson, was baptized by Father Henry D. Juncker at St. Mary Church in Chillicothe on July 5, 1840. On the same day the oldest son, four year old Thomas McArthur Anderson, was received into the Church by having the holy oils administered. The sponsors for both were Bishop Purcell (who was present) and Mrs. Mary Latham, Marshall's sister. 7

Another Catholic family member was Thomas W. Bourne, son of Eliza's sister Helen and her husband Col. Alexander Bourne. Convinced, like his aunt, of the claims of the Catholic
Church, in the summer of 1841 at the age of twenty-two he visited Cincinnati to spend some time in retirement from the world and prepare for his reception into Her bosom. He received the Holy Eucharist in Cincinnati and returned to Chillicothe. There he was visited by Fathers DeGoesbriand and Rappe. He died on October 5 of that same year and, after ceremonies conducted by Father Rappe, was interred in the McArthur family burial ground at Fruit Hill.  

For the rest of his life, Marshall was involved in religious controversy, not always congenial, with his family and friends, most of whom were Protestants.

In 1839 the Andersons bought ten acres with a large house, called Glen Mary. This was on the western edge of Chillicothe and adjacent to Fruit Hill, on the north side of what is now Route 50. The house still exists as a meeting or party house called the Massie/Phillips House, part of the Governor’s Place complex.

Marshall was not afraid of controversies. He contributed to some that were carried on in the pages of the Scioto Gazette, such as those in the 1850s over the visit of the anti-clerical Louis Kossuth to the U.S.; and against Horace Greeley’s recommendation against use of wine in the Eucharist. In 1853 he ran as an independent candidate for the Ohio Senate, on a platform in opposition to prohibition. He led the Catholics of Chillicothe in demanding action by the city government when the convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame was attacked.  

NOTES


2) William’s extensive family record from the family bible is photographically reproduced in Anderson Family Records by W. P. Anderson; Cincinnati and Biddeford Pool [Maine]: 1936.

3) Morgan, p. 48

4) ibid., 55-56

5) Catholic Telegraph, August 30, 1838 (Bulletin, April, 1996)

6) Morgan, p. 56


8) Catholic Telegraph, October 19, 1841 (see the Bulletin, March, 1997). The cemetery at Fruit Hill, including Thomas’s tombstone, near the intersection of the present Tecumseh and Fruit Hill drives, survived into the 1950s. At that time, according to the 1997 book Tombstone Inscriptions, Scioto Township, Ross County Ohio by the Ross County Genealogical Society, “the cemetery was destroyed (surreptitiously during the night to avoid objections) to make way for the construction of new homes.”

9) Catholic Telegraph, August 31, 1850. See the Bulletin, September, 1901, and March, 1902.

(To be concluded)
We feel great pleasure in publishing the lists forwarded by the Reverend Collectors.

CHILLICOTHE, ROSS CO., O.
Rev. Thomas J. Boulger $30; Walter Walsh $10; Thomas McGirr, Adam Crook, William Poland, John Rodgers, John McNally, Michael Davis, James Gallagher $5 each; Mrs. Boulger and son John, James & Mrs. Murphy $4 each; Catherine, Rose, Ann, Margt. & Eliza Keys $3.50; Michael & Mrs. Flood, Michael Rigney, James Dunn, John Cull $3 each; John Poland, Nicholas Basquel, John Howard, Bridget Doran, Christopher Sherlock, George Beck, Patrick Murphy $2 each; Ellen Monaghan, Patrick Finn, Stephen Dolan, Matt McBride, Joseph McBride, Jn Downey, Owen Ennis, Cot Cronin, Martin Curran, J Murphy, Fr Howard, Michl McNamara, James Gribbins, John Reynolds, Patk O'Hare, Charles Mcgee, John Toohy, Martin O'Neil, Thos Byrne, John Scully, Patk Scully, John Hickey, H Savage, J Egan, Bridget Carrville, J Carrville, Mary Connor, W B Hanley, William Hanly, J Juealy, Elizabeth Brady, J Hogan, J Morgan, Rose Monaghan, M Brennan, WByrnes, J Trainor, Thos Walter, Michael O'Neil, Michael Kelly, M Boyle, P Barron, A Crawford, J Higginbotham, Mary Wheatley, J Clendon, Mary Nolan, Andrew Campbell, Waler Poland, P Fay, Thos Kinsella, P McGrath, H Lynch, Margt Cull, Anthony Alberty, Maria Martin, Andrew Malone, Matt Smyth, Humphry Sughrea, Tim Sullivan, Mrs Kelly, Susan Martin, John Kinsella, Elizabeth Murphy, J Flynne, Mrs Fay, Mary Tuohy, Valentine Stark, Owen Sheehan, Charles Martin, Tim King, Chr Flanagan, J Collins, Dr Sheehan, A L Cooke, J Smyth, Mrs Dougherty, Catherine Carvile, James Scully, Ann Scully, Mrs Cravin, James Moonan, Mary Smyth, Martin Curran, Susan Shields, Rodger Cull, Robt Cunningham, Bridget Doyle, $1 each.
Rev. Michael Ford, Circleville, is also noted as a donor of $25.

June 25, 1853

IRONTON.
The foundation of the new church is solidly laid. Contracts for building it have been satisfactorily made, and it is hoped that it will be under roof before fall. Rev. Mr. Gilmore is doing all in his power to provide the means. -- The town is increasing rapidly and substantially. Its future prosperity is still in the hands of the enterprising company to which it is indebted for its existence; but they are giving an interest in the soil to settlers and employment to the mechanics and laborers who will largely contribute to its permanency and success. Rev. Mr. Gilmore speaks with gratitude of the generosity of the Catholic workmen engaged in the various furnaces in Lawrence and other counties, in contributing towards the erection of the church. Hands are every where in demand, and there are good wages given and sure pay. How many are cooped up in miserable abodees in the cities, exposed to sickness and unpleasant and dangerous society who could create for themselves and their children happy and comfortable homes if they would only come and avail themselves of the advantages here offered to the provident and industrious.

The Archbishop preached in the morning of Sunday, 5th inst., in the frame, temporary chapel, and the afternoon in the new court-house. There were none prepared this time for Confirmation. Many went to Holy Communion, for which they were prepared by the Rev. Pastor, Rev. Mr. Eberhard and the Archbishop.

GALLIPOLIS.
This place is still pretty much of a blank on the Catholic map of Ohio. It is retrograding in every sense. The little Episcopal church, once offered us for sale, is turned into a warehouse, or lumber-room. The prospect of a Rail-Road has nearly vanished and business gone, to a great extent with it. The effects of the failure of the swindling bank of Gallipolis some years ago are still felt. Your eclectic Doctor Newton, who presented the epither to the Editor of the Times, hails from Gallipolis. His associates in the war on the Catholics were preacher Rice, who was convicted, in spite of
their prejudice, by a Protestant Jury of slandering and foully libelling the Rev. Mr. Duparcq, of Kentucky; and the Rev. Mr. Lord, who is, if we mistake not, the brother of the preacher of that name who proclaimed from his pulpit, on one Sunday, that the cholera was a judgement from God on the Catholics, and who was himself, the next Sunday, a corpse from the cholera! Such are the men whom we have had the honor of having for our foes in the late excitement. We could tell something of the sale, in old times, of a certain description of cards to gamblers another of its leaders, but let this hint be sufficient for him, for the present. We return to Gallipolis. The only means of checking its downward course is to establish in it a new and faithful and rigorous Catholic colony. This, with God's blessing, we shall do. Madame Derac, a Parisian lady, who has been her for sixty years, has partly sold and partly donated a lot for a Catholic church. A worthy Doctor, Cromwell, of no particular religion, is kindly exerting himself to procure subscriptions for the building of the church. He has already received promises to pay to the amount of $600. The Archbishop, in gratitude for what France has done for all our misions, has promised $400 for the same object.

ST. MARY'S, OR QUINN'S SETTLEMENT, NEAR WILTSVILLE, VINTON CO.--This [Wilkesville] is one of the most thriving places in the diocese. The mineral wealth of the country is inexhaustible.--Coal, iron, limestone, salt, are found in abundance, and of excellent quality. The water is cold and pure and the climate healthy. New furnaces are being built in various places around the church, and the Railroad from Parkersburgh (and Baltimore) to Cincinnati, will run within a half mile of it. There will be a depot at Wilkesville and another not a mile from the church. A town will be laid out by Mr. Quinn's heirs, and Catholics have gathered in from Rhode Island, New York and Pittsburgh, who are soon to be followed by many more. Here there is not yet, but in a few weeks we hope there shall be a resident pastor. At present it is attended from Pomeroy. There were many communions and ten were confirmed.

There were 38 persons confirmed in the Church of the Sacred Heart at Pomeroy on Sunday and Monday, the 12th inst., by the Most Rev. Archbishop Purcell.

Subscriptions from this and following issues:
June 25 - Frederick Goldcamp, Pomeroy
July 2 - Dr. E. R. Magruder, Somerset; Simon Dolan, Wilksville
July 9 - J. F. Biderham [Bidenharn], Malaga
July 16 - And. Gardhoffner, Canal Fulton; Ralph Payne, Mt. Vernon

July 2, 1853
Catholic Book Store in Columbus
WILLIAM O'DRISCOLE, on Third street near State, Columbus, Ohio, has constantly on hand a large assortment of Catholic Books, in various bindings, at Eastern prices. English, German, and French Prayer Books, Beads, Pictures, Crosses, Medals, Stationary, & c. Orders are respectfully solicited. W. O'D. is agent for the Boston Pilot; and HAS THE "CATHOLIC TELEGRAPH" FOR SALE.

July 9, 1853
MARIETTA. The new church is rapidly progressing. The walls are ready for the roof. It will be the handsomest and one of the largest in the town. There were seven persons, one of whom was a convert, confirmed.

UNION TOWNSHIP. The nice frame church lately erected is nearly ready for service. It is about 6 miles from Marietta.

STEUBENVILLE. Rev. Mr. Thienpong hopes to have the large and beautiful church building here ready for dedication in three months.

CANAL DOVER. The church of St. Joseph is finished. It was blessed last Sunday. The Most Rev. Archbishop preached here for four days, every evening, to large audiences, and himself and Rev. Mr. Eberhard addressed the congregation on the occasion of the blessing of the church. It is of brick, 90 by 48. There were 54 confirmed.

(to be continued)
Chapel Hill, Perry County
Baptismal Records 1840-1850
(Continued, from Vol. XXIX, No. 3)

1844

Jan. 1, Juliana, daughter of John and Bridget Cunningham; spons. Bartholomew McKearman and Mary McKearman Aegidius Olivetti

Jan. 6 [A], I administered baptismal ceremonies for Helen, daughter of John and Mary Rynes (Wynes?); spons. Mr. Donahoe and Ann Fennely AO

same day Fibiana, daughter of Valentine and Fibiana Smith; spons. Michael Smith and Elizabeth Hofman AO

Jan. 9 [A], Mary Ann, daughter of Martin and Philippina Shulor; spons. John Shuler and Jane Sweet AO

Jan. 11 [A], Peter, son of Anthony and Elizabeth Shuler; spons. Peter and Rose Fitspatrik AO

Jan. 25 [D], Mary Ann, daughter of Cornelius and Agatha Clegar; spons. Florian and Agatha Shreder AO

Feb. 5 [A], John, son of Jacob and Margaret Oerlik [Ulrich?]; spons. John and Margaret Wrikes AO

same day, conditionally, John Bety, age 50 years; spons. Edward Sheridan and Christina Sweet AO

same day, Jane, daughter of James and Caroline Stone; spons. Michael and Alex [Alice?] Mccullar AO

Feb. 10 [SC], Thomas, son of Peter and Ann Carrol; spons. John and Mary Mcdonnal AO

Feb. 15, Margaret Ann, daughter of William and Ann Homes, age 7 years; spons. Patrick Solan and Rose Ann Feardy AO

same day, Michael Oliver Perry, age 4 years; son of William and Ann Homes; spons. Patrick Smith and Rose Ann Fealdy AO

same day, James William, age 1 year, son of William and Rose Homes; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Rose Ann Feardy AO

Feb. 18 [SC?], Helen, daughter of Thomas and Bridget Hokran; spons. Patrick Feagan and Bridget Malan AO

Feb. 24 [SC], Sarah Ann, age 3 years, daughter of John and Jane Walpol; spons. Thomas and Catharine Walpol AO

same day, Luke, 3 months old, son of John and Jane Walpol; spons. Mathias Walpol and Sarah Skreevner AO

Feb. 25 [D], I supplied baptismal ceremonies for Catharine Funk, age 50 years; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Agatha Rehart AO

same day, Rebecca, daughter of Christopher and Catharine Funk; spons. David and Mary Jane Flower AO

same day, John Thomas, son of David and Mary Jane Flower; spons. Thomas and Mary Flower AO

Mar. 10 [SC], John, son of Joseph and Ann Mary Ry; spons. John and Catharine Wise AO

Mar. 15, Catharine Funk, age 50 years; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Agatha Rehart AO

same day, Sarah, daughter of Emeline and Philip Klipstine; spons. George Thompson and Helen Mallan AO

same day, Mary, daughter of Michael and Mary Hays; spons. John Mccabe and Mary Mountah AO

Mar. 21, Bartholomew, son of James and Margaret Cunningham; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Ann Cunningham AO

same day, John, son of John and Ann Linch; spons. Thomas Sweeney and Mary Ryans AO

Mar. 25, Bridget, daughter of Bridget and Patrick Killen; spons. Peter Curren and Mary Fegan AO

same day, Margaret, daughter of John and Mary Ann Skennan; spons. Martin Walpol and Mary Kyley AO

same day, I administered baptismal ceremonies for Mary Ann, daughter of Stephan and Agatha Brosmer; spons. Ml. Olivetti and Frances Geiger AO

same day, Martha, daughter of Tilman and
Susanna Deaver; spons. Patrick Masterson and Catharine Pearl AO
Mar. 27 [SC], Nicholas, son of James and Bridget Duffy; spons. Hugh and Helen Donnaly AO
Apr. 1, Laurence, son of Laurence and Bridget Hays; spons. Thomas Kyley and Mary Downey AO
same day, Teresa Ann, daughter of William and Elizabeth Turner; spons. Catharine Fogerty and Laurence Hays AO
Apr. 4, conditionally, Barbara Bargoun, age 44; spons. ML Olivetti and Mary Burgoun AO
same day, conditionally, Elisa Ann Bargoun, age 36 years; spons. ML Olivetti and Mary Burgoun AO
same day, conditionally, Juliana, daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann Foareger [Forquer?], age 8 months; spons. John Cahill and Caecilia Burgoon AO
same day, I administered baptismal ceremonies for Frances, daughter of James and Mary Ann Burgoun; spons. John Flum and Cecilia Burgoon AO
page 19
same day, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Eliza Ferrel; spons. John Skentlin and Ann Mary Skentlin AO
same day, Catharine, age 27 months, daughter of Thomas and Eliza Ferrel; spons. ML Olivetti and Jane Cahill AO
same day, Alexander, age 5 years, son of Thomas and Eliza Ferrel; spons. Thomas Skentlin and Mary Jane Cahill AO
same day, Robert, son of James and Elizabeth Burgoun; spons. James Burgoun and Margaret Burgoun AO
Apr. 5, William, 5 years old, son of Benjamin and Mary Ann Fekle; spons. ML Olivetti and Margaret Burgoun AO
same day, James, 4 years old, son of Benjamin and Mary Ann Fekle; spons. ML Olivetti and Margaret Burgoun AO
same day, Mary Ann, 3 years old, daughter of Benjamin and Mary Ann Fekle; spons. ML Olivetti and Margaret Ann Burgoun AO
Apr. 7, Eliza, daughter of James and n. O’harra; spons. Thomas Rainells and Mary Fitspatrik AO
Apr. 14 [D], Isaac, son of Andrew and Mary Brown; spons. Isaac Wise and Agatha Rehart AO
Apr. 16 [SC], Mary Emeline, daughter of Francis and Mary Grimmel; spons. Bryon Mortah and Catharine Thompson AO
Apr. 19, Moses, son of Thomas and and Jane Plumer; spons. Charles and Elizabeth Daly AO
May 3 [C], Ann, daughter of William and Ann Donahoe; spons. Michael Mccullar and Martha Powers AO
Apr. 22, John, son of Thomas and Catharine Bean; spons. George and Mary Benet AO

(to be continued)