Parish Histories of 1903 and 1907
(Continued, from Vol. XXX, No. 8)

Shawnee

The following story of St. Mary Parish at Shawnee and Father J. S. Hannan is much more complete than the parish history that appeared in the 1918 diocesan history. It was written for, or copied from, The People’s Advocate, a Shawnee newspaper, where it appeared on page 1 of the July 5, 1901 issue, under the headline, “Rev. Father Hannan Given a Reluctant and Affectionate Farewell, Rev. Father McCann a Warm Welcome as his Successor.” Two additional remarks, in two different hands, were written into the typescript and are reproduced below within braces {}.

Rev. John Sylvester Hannan was born on Washington St., Steubenville, Ohio, October 28, 1951 [sic], son of Bernard and Rose (O’Hara) Hannan, who were natives of County Antrim, Ireland, and on his next birthday will have reached the half century mark—a long and useful life, zealously spent in the service of God.

His early years were spent at school in his native city. For some time he attended the Sisters School in Allegheny City, Pa., then entered Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He completed his philosophical and theological education at St. Aloysius’ Seminary, in Columbus, Ohio. He was ordained to the priesthood on November 8, 1879, by Archbishop Purcell, in St. Francis’ Church, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and has been ministering at the altar of God for nearly 22 years. He celebrated his first Mass in St. Peter’s church, in Steubenville, November 16, 1879.

Soon after his ordination he was stationed at St. Joseph’s cathedral in Columbus, and had charge of the surrounding missions that were then attached to the cathedral. At the same time he was Chaplain to the Ohio State Penitentiary. From these duties he was transferred to Athens, Ohio, and had charge of St. Paul’s church for about three months. On April 27, 1880, he was appointed Rector of St. Mary’s congregation, of this place, and took charge on May 8, of that year. One of the first things he was called upon...
to do on arriving here was to seek a boarding house, as the congregation had neither church nor parochial residence. He secured lodging with Mrs. Ann Coyle, on Walnut st., and the upper part of the Saffel building, adjoining the K. of L. opera house, then known as the Hughes’ hall was used for church purposes until St. Mary’s church was erected.

Previous to 1880 Shawnee was considered a mission and was attended by the pastor of St. Augustine’s church, of New Straitsville and an occasional priest from St. Joseph’s Priory, among whom we remember Father Dominick Young. {The 1st Mass of which their is any remembrance was said by Rev. Fr. O’Sullivan of Junction City who said Mass here on week days from July 1873 to Oct. 1873.}

In the early days Rev. Father O’Boylan was the pastor of St. Augustine’s church, in New Straitsville, and the first Mass in Shawnee was celebrated by him, in the basement of the residence of Mr. and Mrs. James Barrett, on Walnut Street.

Rev. Father O’Boylan was succeeded by Rev. Father Weisinger, and on July 1, 1879, twenty-two years ago last Monday, Rev. Father Weisinger took up a subscription to secure funds with which to build St. Mary’s church. Following are the names of the subscribers and first members of the congregation:


These gentlemen manifested their desire for a house of worship by their generous giving, several of the first named having subscribed as high as $50.00. Many of them have passed to their reward.

When Rev. Father Hannan took charge of the congregation only a small per cent of the subscription had been collected. Young, light-hearted and hopeful he began the task before him. On June 24, after his arrival, a picnic was held for the benefit of the church, from which was realized $1,200.85.

The location for the church had been selected, the lot purchased, and Father Hannan immediately began the work of excavating. Before the excavating was completed the contract for the stone work was awarded to Matthew Murray, and he began laying the foundation about the first of July 1880. The brick work was commenced the latter part of the same month, all the brick being made and burned on the lot where St. Mary’s school now stands.

Work on the walls was discontinued in the fall owing to bad weather, but was resumed early in the spring of 1881, and on June 26, of that year the first Mass was celebrated in the new church. The walls were not plastered nor were there any pews in the church at that time.

On June 18, 1882 the church was dedicated by Rt. Rev. John A. Watterson and was the first new church dedicated by the bishop in the diocese of Columbus. On the same day first
communion and the sacraement of confirmation were administered for the first time in the new church.

In June 1888, the church was frescoed at a cost of about $600.00. At the same time new altars and statues were put in at a cost of about $700.00. The total cost of the church and its equipment amount to about $16000.00

The parochial residence was built and furnished in 1883, at a cost of $2,300.00. Work on St. Mary’s school and Sisters residence was commenced May 11, 1891, and completed in September of the same year. The school building finished, including hot water apparatus for heating, cost $4,452.79. The Sisters’ residence, furnished cost, $1,936.31.

Frank Sharshal was the first child Father Hannan baptized in Shawnee. Daniel Lomax was the first child baptized by him in St. Mary’s church. The total number baptized by him in St. Mary’s church 565; the number confirmed 396. The first couple he married in Shawnee was Timothy Radigan and Bridget Joyce. Philip Allen Celia Riffle, Stephen Boyle and Margaret Conklin were the first couples married in the church. The total number married by him during his ministry here was 76.

Rev. Father Hannan was not only a good and faithful Pastor of St. Mary’s, loved and revered by all of his people, but he was also one of our leading citizens, highly esteemed by all who knew him, regardless of their religious beliefs. He was always ready, after due consideration, to give his aid to pushing forward any movement that might tend to benefit the town, and he was just as ready, regardless of consequences, to denounce, with all his strength, anything that would prove a detriment to the town or its citizens.

[There follows a further glowing account of the character of Father Hannan.]

Rev. James J. McCann, the new pastor of St. Mary’s church, who took charge Tuesday morning, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, June 2, 1861, son of James and Susan (Gildea) McCann, both of whom are natives of Ireland. His Mother died June 8, 1900, his Father still resides in Cincinnati. He studied for the priesthood at Niagara University, at which place he was ordained by Rt. Rev. Stephen V. Ryan, on June 4, 1887. He celebrated his first Mass in Holy Redeemer church, in Portsmouth, Ohio, on June 12, 1887. His first charge was Harrietsville, Noble County, Ohio, to which place he was assigned in July 1887. He was transferred from there to Minerton, Vinton County, Ohio, in July 1891, remaining there until June 1899, when he was transferred to Temperanceville, Ohio, from which place he came to Shawnee. From our short acquaintance with Father McCann we have every reason to believe that he will prove a worthy successor to Father Hannan. May his years be many and his labors fruitful of good results. {Father McCann resigned on account of ill health & was succeeded Nov. 23rd 1902 by the present pastor Rev. T. J. Horan.}

Rev. John S. Hannan (1851-1932)
(Archives, Diocese of Columbus)

...to be continued...
January 7, 1854
ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE, NEAR SOMERSET, PERRY COUNTY, O.--This institution, conducted by the Fathers of the Order of St. Dominic, was opened for the reception of students on the first Monday of September. The system of education will comprise the various branches of the arts and sciences usually taught in similar institution in this country.
The college edifice is large and commodious, the grounds attached to it extensive, and the locality one of the most healthy in the United States; affording every inducement and facility for the promotion of studious habits and the enjoyment of healthful exercise.
A mild and paternal system of government...
The collegiate year will consist of two sessions of five months each; the first commencing on the first Monday of September of each year, and ending on the Saturday after the first Monday of February; and the second beginning on the second Monday of February, and closing with the public exhibition some time in the beginning of July.
TERMS...
GENERAL REGULATIONS...
All letters and communications relative to the institution be directed, post-paid, to the President, Somerset, Perry county, Ohio. REV. JAMES WHEELAN, O.S.D.


January 14, 1854
On page 1 is a letter regarding the Catholic churches in Bellefontaine and Urbana.

Rev. Mr. Albrink is going to Pomeroy in place of Rev. Mr. Wachter, who comes to St. Bernard’s, near Cincinnati.

Subscriptions: John Gallagher, Christopher Gallagher, Edward Gallagher, and John S. Jeffries, Temperanceville; Dr. E. Lynch, Somerset.

January 21, 1854
Three bells, cast at Menealy’s, West Troy, N.Y., for the Church of the Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio, will be blessed, God willing, by Archbishop Purcell, next Sunday (to morrow.) They weigh, respectively, 2,318, 1,400 and 935 pounds.
In the same church there were, in 1853, Baptisms 152, Marriages 40 and deaths 30.

Mrs. Brittan, of Chillicothe, O., Second street, near Dr. McNally’s residence, has “Boston Pilot,” “Catholic Telegraph,” “American Celt,” “The Metropolitan,” and all Catholic papers and periodicals for sale.


Information Wanted
Of Thomas Kavanagh, who landed in this country in July, 48. He was a native of the county Kerry, Parish of Dingle, Benbawn, Ireland. His address two years ago, was Glen Cove, P.O., Queens County, Long Island, care of Patrick Flaherty. Any information concerning him will be thankfully received by his brother, Dennis Kavenagh, Vinton Co. Charlestown, Ohio.

January 28, 1854
Subscriptions: Wm. Finley, Senecaville; James Smith, Ironton; Lewis Kemmer, Portsmouth; Miss M. A. Bish, Lancaster; Conrad Snider, Jacob Finks, and Francis E. Clark, Somerset.

February 4, 1854
COLUMBUS.
The three fine bells of the German church of the Holy Cross, were blest last Sunday week, by the Most Rev. Archbishop. Sermons appropriate to the occasion were delivered to a very large audience,
by the Archbishop, and Rev. Mr. Hengehold. In two collections upwards of one thousand dollars were raised towards paying for the bells by the generous congregation. Nor was the day only devoted to a ceremony. At the Archbishop’s Mass, some hundreds of the pious congregation, prepared the day previously by the Pastor, Rev. C. H. Borgess, and Rev Mr. Unterthiner of St. John’s, Cincinnati, received the Holy Communion. The High Mass, at which the Archbishop assisted in cope and mitre, was sung by Rev. Mr. Hengehold, Rev. Mr. Borgess being Deacon, and Rev. Mr. Unterthiner, who also preached, subdeacon. The new steeple, in which these bells are hung, is the handsomest in the city. Some fifteen couple of little girls, clad in white and crowned with artificials, stood sponsors to the bells.

On Monday morning, notwithstanding the extreme cold, about one hundred and seventy of the children of the Congregation, assisted piously as they do daily, with a considerable number of older members of the Congregation, at the Holy Mass—an example which we should like to see imitated in some churches here in Cincinnati. The Archbishop visited the school, and felicitated the Pastor and their teacher, and the children on their fervour.

DELAWARE.
The Archbishop, accompanied by Rev. Messrs. Unterthiner, Meagher, Borgess, and Sheahan, visited this place on Tuesday, having preached on his arrival in the new church, on Monday evening, and assisted in hearing confessions. Next day he and Rev. Mr. Unterthiner preached, each, twice, and sixteen persons were confirmed. The church is already much too small; the side rooms and sanctuary were crowded. It is the intention of the Rev. Mr. Meagher to build here another church in the course of the summer, notwithstanding the large building on the beautiful church lot, which he is erecting for schools and presbytery purposes in Columbus. The Archbishop and clergy were delighted with their visit to Columbus and Delaware. The spirit of the Press is decidedly conservative and elevated in Columbus.

Subscriptions: Simeon Dolan, Wilksville; John Joyce, Columbus; Rev. J. C. Kraemer, Mintonsburg.

February 11, 1854
The following is the number of Baptisms, etc., of Saint Thomas Church, Zanesville, for 1853: Baptisms, 118; Marriages, 27; Deaths, 54. Piqua and neighboring stations: Baptisms, 67; Marriages, 18; Deaths 20.

In the Church of the Sacred Heart, in Pomeroy, Meigs Co. O., there were during the year, 1853, 28 Baptisms, 9 Marriages, 9 deaths; (all under 18 years of age.)

OBITUARY.-- At his residence, West Rushville, Fairfield County, Ohio, 2nd February, at the advanced age of eighty-four years, died WILLIAM WISEMAN. Deceased was a native of Maryland. At the early age of 18, and in February 1791, he was one of the small detachment of thirteen soldiers, and a subaltern officer, that garrisoned Dunlap’s station, in Hamilton county, when it was attacked, and fiercely beleaguered by over 500 Indians. It was an act of daring bravery at which older soldiers in the stockade shrunk back in fear, for him to leave the fort and cross the Miami river, alone, pursued by the balls of perhaps the whole besieging force, and make his way to Fort Washington, Cincinnati, to give the alarm, and bring relief to the siege. He was present also and participated in the disastrous defeat of St. Clair, and also at the victories of Wayne at the Maumee Rapids and Fallen Timbers, ever distinguished for bravery and fearless daring and enjoying the respect and confidence of his commanding officers. Nearly sixty years ago, he settled on the farm where he died, and contributed his share of the labor and toil which has changed the primeval forests of Ohio to fruitful fields, and laid the foundation of our State. Descendant of the Catholic pilgrims of Maryland, he was ever rejoiced to welcome to his hospitable home, the Catholic missionaries when nearly forty years since, he [Father Fenwick] first began to thread the forests of Ohio; and it was his delight, and that of his amiable lady (who preceeded him some fifteen years to the tomb,) to minister with bounteous hand to the way-worn and toil-wearied priest of God, entertaining thus, oftentimes, the invalid, for months, overcoming any apprehension that his guest might feel of being importunate or burthensome, by the emphatic assurance: “This is the priest’s house, sir, will you let me do as I please.” The holy sacrifice of the Mass has been
offered up in his dwelling, a greater number of times, and by a greater number of priests and bishops, than perhaps any other private residence in the United States. It brought down blessing on the venerable old man, not the least of which was the grace that made him neglect no opportunity of feasting his soul with the Bread of Life, and of preparing, in the thoughtful piety of his remaining years, with good works, for death, and for the judgment which has supervened, and at which all who have known him, and especially of the priesthood, will pray that he may have found mercy. Death had given him no warning of his immediate approach. He had risen and dressed as usual, and then knelt down to perform his morning devotions, and in that position and thus occupied, he heard and answered the summons, his last sigh being a supplication for mercy, to Jesus, Saviour. God grant him eternal rest, and may perpetual light shine upon him. Amen.

Married,
On Tuesday the 7th inst., at 9 o’clock A.M., by the Reverend William Barret, Mr. Henry B. Butler of Columbus, Ohio, to Miss Anne Gildea of this city.

to be continued...

The Priest Who Went Over the Top -- Sources

We regret that this list of sources of Mike Finn’s fine article on Father Carpentier was omitted from the December issue.


Cheseldine, Raymond Minshall, Ohio in the Rainbow, Official Story of the 166th Infantry, 42nd Division in the World War, the F. J. Heer Publishing Co., Columbus, Ohio, 1924


Duffy, Father Francis Patrick, Father Duffy’s Story, Garden City Publishing Company, Garden City, N.Y., 1919

Ireland, Major Gen. M. W., Medical Department of the US Army in the World War, Volume 8, Field Operations, Government Printing Office, 1925


Stark, Robert M., The Aquinas Archives, 1995


The Catholic Columbian: May 19, 1919; September 19, 1919, October 14, 1921; November 5, 1926

Columbus Dispatch: September 15, 1919;
Ohio State Journal: May 11, 1919; September 17, 1919;
The Columbus Citizen: May 10, 1919

McGaw, Sister Martha Mary, CSJ, A Raggedy Saint Developed a Strategy of Love, The Sooner Catholic, diocesan newspaper article, actual date of publication unknown.

St. Mary’s Parish, Johnson City, Tennessee, 50th Anniversary publication, 1966

Sister Christine Ereiser, OSB, and the Benedictine Sisters, St. Joseph Monastery, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Father Gerard Finucane, Pastor, St. Mary’s Church, Johnson City, Tennessee

Father Denis Hanrahan, Pastor St. Mary’s Church, Guthrie, Oklahoma

Stephen L. Harris, author, Weybridge, Vermont

Anthony J. Liska, Dennison University, Granville, Ohio.

Father Richard A. McAlister, O.P., Dominican Province of St. Joseph.

Msgr. Joseph Susi, Chancellor/Archivist, the Diocese of Alexandria, Alexandria, Louisiana.
These are the names of parents of children being baptized and the date is that of the child's baptism, unless otherwise noted.

Rogers, Elizabeth (non-Catholic) (wife of Hugh Ross, mother of Gladys Becker), London, England, June 15, 1894
Roll, Henry (non-Catholic), Fredonia, Mercer Co, Pa., Aug. 9, 1893
Roller, William Louis (husband of Lilly Ann Trovinger), Huntington, Ind., Nov. 3, 1895; June 27, 1897
Roohan, Patrick, Hamilton, Ontario, Aug. 23, 1891
Ross, Hugh (husband of Elizabeth Rogers, father of Gladys Becker), Virginia, June 15, 1894
Rosser, Lucy (wife of William Jenkins, mother of Margaret), Merthyr (vil. Tydfil), Glamorganshire, So. Wales, Apr. 1, 1893
Ryan, Cornelius (husband of Catharine McMahon) (of Cardington), Bally Philip, Co. Tipperary, Apr. 22, 1894
Ryan, Dennis (husband of Catharine Miller), Balodahab, Co. Cork, May 15, 1892
Ryan, Dennis Francis (husband of Ann M. Dwyer), Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary, July 26, 1896; July 18, 1897
Ryan, Maria Henrietta (wife of William G. Minshall), DeGraff, Logan Co., O., Apr. 5, 1896
Ryan, Mary (wife of Patrick Gillooly), Manchester, England, June 22, 1890
Ryan, Thomas J. (husband of Ann Montgomery), De Graff, Logan Co., O., Sept. 6, 1891; Thomas Joseph Ryan, Sept. 23, 1894
Sargent -- see Fortney, Naomi
Scarlett, Anna (wife of Milton Naylor), Yellow Springs, O., Mar. 27, 1892; Ann Elizabeth (wife of Milton Pinckney Naylor), Indianapolis, Ind., Apr. 15, 1894
Scharf -- see Chapman, Elizabeth

Schiller, Anna (wife of Dominic O’Donnell), Bucyrus, O., Aug. 16, 1892
Schroeter, John A. (husband of Catharine C. Huber), Scioto Twp., Delaware Co., O., Aug. 16, 1891; Schraeter, Nov. 6, 1892; John Adam Schroeter, Warrensburg, Delaware Co., O., July 18, 1897
Schuler, Henry A. (husband of Philomena A. Amann), Morris, Ripley, Co., Ind., Sept. 14, 1890; Henry Adam Schuler, Apr. 3, 1892; Nov. 26, 1893; Mar. 8, 1896
Shea, Ann Joanna (wife of Thomas J. Woodcock), Yellow Springs, O., July 5, 1891; Mar. 4, 1894; Ann Beatrice, Mar. 22, 1896
Shever, Frederick (husband of Mary T. Alge), Cleveland, O., Oct. 29, 1893
Shisler, Jesse (non-Catholic) (husband of Anna M. Hausen, Hansen, Hensen), Paulding Co., O., Jan. 31, 1894; Feb. 25, 1896; Bryan, Williams Co., O., Sept. 1, 1896
Smeltzer -- see Moloney, Julia A.
Smith -- see Vogel, Barbara E.
Smith, Ida M. (wife of William A. Guthrie), Zanesville, O., Nov. 30, 1890
Snyder, Francis John, Jefferson, Greene Co., Pa., June 12, 1890
Snyder, John Jacob, Cleveland, O., July 17, 1892
Straub, John A. (husband of Ann Margaret Reimer), Mansfield, O., Mar. 26, 1893
Stubler, Leo (husband of Appolonia Miller), Kreek Statten, Switzerland, Mar. 1, 1891; Solothurn, Switzerland, Apr. 9, 1893; Krigstetten, Switzerland, Oct. 27, 1895
Stubbs, Mary Cecilia (wife of Felix A. Irwin), Sampson near Greenville, O., Dec. 15, 1895
Stumpf, Veronica Rosanna (wife of Conrad Bader), Galion, O., July 12, 1891; May 3, 1896
Sullivan, John (husband of Helen Durkin), Guelph, Ontario, Dec. 18, 1892; Mar. 1, 1896
Sullivan, Mary (wife of Thomas Malachy Hogan), Ridge Berry, Pa., Aug. 19, 1894
Sullivan, Thomas (husband of Mary Conlan), County Cork, Feb. 1, 1891
Sweeney, Ann Elizabeth (wife of Albert Joseph De St. Germain), Glenamoy, Co. Mayo, Ireland, Jan. 5, 1890
Sweeney, Catharine E. (wife of James W. Bonser), Shenandoah, Schuylkill Co. Pa., Oct. 25, 1890
Sweeney, John M., Leeds, Yorkshire, Dec. 12, 1891
Sweeney, Michael Joseph (husband of Sarah Agnes Naven), Leeds, Yorkshire, England, Nov. 9, 1890
Swick [or Smick?], John H. (non-Catholic’”?) (father of Mary Helen, born 1872, husband of Hannah M. Eckenrode), Canton, O. June 12, 1892
Swintman, Henry, Liverpool, Medina Co., O., May 17, 1891
Thieken, Henry John (husband of Ann E. Perry; Berry at 4/1/95), Vernon Twp. near Wheelersburg, O., Aug. 13, 1893; Lyra P.O., Vernon Twp., Scioto Co., Apr. 21, 1895; Aug. 15, 1897
Tobin, Maurice (husband of Mary Jane Bowen), New Paris P.O., Preble Co., O. May 20, 1894; near Eaton, Preble Co., O., June 27, 1897
Tobin, Joanna (wife of Bryan Moloney), Eaton, Preble Co., O., Apr. 25, 1897
Tool, Mary Ann (wife of Michael Hillery), Delaware, O., Sept. 9, 1890
Torrance, Helen J. (wife of Henry W. Campbell), Cattanaugua, Cattanaugua Co., N.Y., Aug. 19, 1895
Trovinger, Lilly Ann (wife of William L. Roller), Huntington, Ind., Nov. 3, 1895; June 27, 1897
Tyner, Thomas (husband of Adeline Dee), Rushville, Rush Co., Ind., Aug. 21, 1892
Vogel, Barbara Eva (wife of Charles Smith), Six Mile Woods, Lucas Co., “at the Hotel Gate, Henry Co., O.”, May 14, 1893
Voll, Joseph (husband of Mary A. Nulk), Stangenroth, Bavaria, Aug. 16, 1896
Vonkenel, John (husband of Amelia Amann), Galion, O., July 3, 1892; John Elderich VanKenel, Mar. 11, 1894; VonKaemel, Apr. 25, 1897
Wall, James (husband of Mary O’Reilly, father of Mary Wall O’Ragan), Lough Ray, Co. Galway, July 11, 1897
to be concluded...