Records of St. Francis Church at Chapel Hill or Sunday Creek in Perry County as a mission center of the 1840s were presented in the Bulletin of 2003 and 2004. Marriages from 1841 to 1857 appeared in the issue of October, 2003 and baptisms from 1840 to 1850 in the issues of December, 2003, and January through September, 2004. Presentation of the burial records has awaited completion of research into some of the missions' graveyards in Athens County.

Chapel Hill Burial Records, 1840-1850

All of the following records through 1844 were entered in the register by Father Aegedius Olivetti. Those that can be located via tombstones were at Chapel Hill. This would be expected, for those who died in the missions probably would have been buried before the priest could arrive.

1840
Dec. 27 Mary Ann Masterson, age two years

1841
July 15 Abigail Cunningham, age ten months
Sept. 10 Mary Feagan, eight months old
Nov. 5 n.n. Micanelli, a few days old

1842
Jan. 2 James and Eliza Coil, about five years old
Jan. 5 Helen Skennan, age 35 years
July 20 James Curren, age 2 years
July 30 Catharine Skreavner, age 16 years
Aug. 3 Elizabeth Thompson, age 5 months
Aug. 30 John Strong, age 80 years

1843
Mar. 1? Infant Flower
Dec. 10 Infant Ryan
n. Mr. Skreevner

1844
Feb. 11 n., nine years old
Mar. 17 n. Medonah, eight years old
Mar. 24 Bridget Kelan, 35 years old [Killen; child was baptized the next day.]
July 23 Christina Sower, 38 years old
Aug. 19 Ann Mulligan, about 23 years old
Aug. 25 Bridget Cunningham, 43 years old

1845
Mar 31 Patrick Trainer, 65 years --T. O. Farrell
Aug. 4 Mary Murtagh --T. Farrell

1849
Feb. 9 Bella Walsh -- C Daly
Chapel Hill Cemetery, Monroe Township, Perry County

The cemetery at Chapel Hill is still well maintained. The late Father Herman Mattingly presented tombstones dated in the 1840s in the *Bulletin* of February, 1977. A complete reading of the cemetery (though lacking two stones noted by Father Mattingly) was published in 2002 by the Perry County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society, in *Cemetery Inscriptions of Monroe Township, Perry County, Ohio*.

Fagan Cemetery, Canaan Township, Athens County

This cemetery, sometimes called the McCole cemetery, is located on the south side of Athens County Road 98, in section 32, Canaan Township. It was never owned by the Church but until Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Athens was purchased and opened in 1883 it was used by the Irish Catholics living on Angel Ridge (midway between Athens and St. John at Anthony).

In 1943 William E. Peters found the following tombstones, not at the Fagan Cemetery but at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Athens. He does not explain how he knew they had been moved from the Fagan Cemetery. (William E. Peters papers, Ohio University, Peters Range Book, Volume 12, pages 30-32)


Catherine, his wife. 1806-1888


Lizzie C Mullen Apr. 28, 1866. May 26, 1887.

Davis[d] Biddle. Born April 7, 1808. Died August 2, 1875.

Nancy, Wife of David Biddle. Born July 11, 1814. Died April 1, 1883.


Martin Burns. 18 -1888.

Hugh McCormack. 1844-1862.

In Loving Remembrance of Margaret Shay, Wife of Conrad Josten. Died Mar. 27, 1890. Aged 70 Years.


James Casey. Native of Longforn [Longford], Ireland. 1833-1870.

Charles W. Casey. 1865-1889.

James W. Casey. 1870-1889.


Margaret Flanigan. 1834-1871.

Mary A. Flanigan Ferrell 1860-1888.

Sacred to the Memory of Mary, Wife of Peter Fagan who departed this life Feb. 27, 1854 in the 56th year of her age.

Catherine, Dau. of P. & M. Fagan. Died May 27, 1853. AE 1 Y. 1 M. 12 ds.


Mary Kirley, Wife of Jas. Walsh. Died July 29, 1880. Aged 24 Y. 2 M. 4 D.


Martin Silvers. 1828-1885.

In addition, Peters noted, “It is understood that Martha Ann Biddle, first wife of James Walsh, who had three wives, is buried in this cemetery.”

In 1938 Peters looked at the Fagan cemetery and found only one stone, no doubt because the lot was somewhat overgrown at the time, as shown in a photograph in his collection. He recorded this one inscription as “Thomas Kell Died, 1859.” In 2003 the cemetery was visited by Msgr. George Schlegel, Kate Schlegel, and Donald Schlegel. At that time it was well kept and several stones were found, the first listed here being the same one Peters found in 1938:

Thomas Kelly Died Aug. 18, 1859, aged 30
Years A native of the County of Kerry, Parish of Licksna, Ireland (there follows a poem)
David, son of Thomas & Ellen Kelly, Died Sept. 28, 1859 Aged 5 y's & 21 Ds

Emelia wife of Wm Ryan, [uncertain reading: Advocate Monreal Canada East], Died Sep. 14, 1858, Aged 60 yrs.

+ Rosa Dau. of P. & M. McCole Died July 14, 1855 AE 7 m's & 28 d's Suffer little children to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

+ Patrick Mongovan Died Jan. 5, 1856... [stone broken]

May his soul rest in peace + John Cahill, Co. C, 18th O.V.I. Died...
The stone is broken off here, but apparently the inscription continues on a broken base found several yards away:

... 28, 1865 aged 46 yrs. 3 ms & 1 d. Native of Ireland County of Tipperary
According to the regimental roster, Mr. Cahill enlisted on September 10, 1861, at the age of 43. The regiment was organized in Athens County. This confirms that the two pieces of tombstone belong together.

St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Carthage Township, Athens County

As noted in the Bulletin of October, 2003, this German Catholic community, now represented by St. John the Baptist Church at Anthony in Lodi Township, formed around the immigrant families of Martin Schueler and Burigard Sees, who came north from Pomeroy around 1838. They were tended in the 1840s by the priests stationed at Chapel Hill.

The first church and cemetery property was donated to Bishop Purcell by John “Hoofman” and Elizabeth his wife (for a nominal $3.00) on May 17, 1849. It is on the west side of Dutch Ridge Road in section 32, described in the deed as beginning at a stake in the road, South 28 [degrees East] 10 1/2 rods, then North 86 degrees West 24 rods, North 7 1/2 rods, and East 18 1/2 rods to the beginning. (Athens County Deed Record 16/652) It contains about one acre. A log church was built there in 1845 and was used until 1861 when it was replaced by a new church in Anthony.

William E. Peters in 1939 found eleven tombstones on what was then a well maintained lot (William E. Peters Papers, Ohio University, Peters Range Book, Volume 13, pages 92-93):

Francis. Son of J. & B. Beaty. Died Apr. 4, 1849. Aged 17 Ys. 2 M 4 d.


Xaver. Son of Wm. & G. Streigher. Died Dec. 15, 1865. Aged 17 Y. 2 M.

Elizabeth Ward. Died Aug. 31, 1852. In the 92[.] year of her age.

Jacob. Son of J. & N. Konkoski. Died Aug. 27, 1853. Aged 7 Mo. 11 ds.

George. Son of John & E. Kinney. Died Aug. 6, 1858

Mary Jane. Dau. of P. & E. Timoney. Died Aug. 16, 1848. Aged 8 Yrs. 6 Mo. 8 ds.


John Beaty. Died Aug. 2, 1876 in the 80th Yr. of his age.

A visit in 2003 by Msgr. George Schlegel, Kate Schlegel, and Donald Schlegel found the cemetery overgrown and almost impossible to enter, even though it had been cleaned by Boy Scouts a few years earlier. Only two stones were found, near the large cedar trees in the center of the cemetery. One was that of Xaver Streigher noted above. The other was:

Jacob, son of B. & C. Sies, died Nov. 2, 1854, aged 7 years.

The following notice appeared in the Catholic Telegraph of Feb. 9, 1871 and memorializes the father of Mary Jane Timoney, whose tombstone is noted above:

DIED, Monday morning, January 16, 1871, after a lingering illness, at his residence in Lodi Township, Athens County, Ohio, Peter Timoney, aged 90 years, 2 months and 29 days. Deceased was a life-long member of the Holy Catholic Church. He was a native of Donegal County, Ireland, and came to this country with his parents in 1803. He resided in Pennsylvania for some time, and then removed to Guernsey County, Ohio, where he married Miss Elizabeth Ward, of Virginia, who survives him. From Guernsey County he removed to Athens County, Ohio, in 1845. He leaves a wife, five daughters and three sons to mourn his loss. During his illness he was attended by Father William O’Riley. By industry, economy, and strict integrity, he had during his lifetime acquired a competency, and by his kindness of heart, affability, and charity, had won the love and esteem of all who knew him. His piety, his universal benevolence, and his strict observance of all his religious duties, leaves no doubt but that he was of those declared “Blessed who die in the Lord”... [He was buried at the new St. John the Baptist Cemetery at Anthony.]

Seven Dolors Cemetery, Chauncey, Dover Township, Athens County

On Sept. 1, 1860, Thomas and Maria Ewing of Lancaster and Samuel F. Vinton of Washington, D.C. and Craig Biddle of Philadelphia and Henrietta Chauncey and William Lyttleton Savage and Sarah Chauncey Savage of Philadelphia sold a lot to John B. Purcell, trustee of the Catholic Congregation of Chauncey, Ohio, for $1.00, for a cemetery to the use of the Catholic Congregation of Chauncey. The lot is in Ohio Company Purchase, Section 26, Township 10, Range 14. It is a square, 264 feet on each side, containing 1.6 acres, and is oriented 32 degrees East of North. Its southeastern corner lies North 25 degrees West 622 feet from the northwest corner of lot 371 in square 25 in Chauncey. Lot 371 is the westernmost lot on the north side of Main Street, so the cemetery was laid out on the top of the hill that overlooks that west end of the town.

It is said that previous to 1860 there was a small cemetery at Seven Dolors church lot, the second lot south of Sycamore on the east side of Converse Street, which was deeded to Bishop Purcell in 1843 by Thomas Ewing and Samuel
F. Vinton. The History of Chauncey, Ohio, a typescript at the State Library of Ohio, says, “Sometime in the middle of the 19th century the Roman Catholic membership organized and built a church at the corner of Converse and Sycamore streets. A cemetery was opened in an adjoining lot, and was used for a number of years. After the church burned, the bodies were exhumed and moved to the hill overlooking the village at the west end of High Street.” The source of this information is not given, but apparently is “Pearl Henry’s Memoirs” cited on the history’s title page. No other mention of the church burning has been found, and we know that the church building survived until 1875 when it was dismantled and the woodwork was reused in St. Paul Church in Athens. (The church lot was sold by Bishop Watterson in 1886.)

Regarding the hilltop cemetery, William E. Peters noted in 1943, “In 1882 all signs of graves were practically obliterated. Just a few old sandstones. November 20, 1940 there were no signs whatever. Nor stones.” In 1992 Father Frank Patala, pastor of St. Jude Church in Chauncey, noted that he had not been out to the cemetery in at least fifteen years and remembered seeing only one tombstone there. The hill on which the cemetery lies is now heavily wooded, but a photograph taken by Peters in 1940 shows that it was mostly clear then.

Peters found three stones in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Athens that were from Chauncey, but he does not say how he knew this. (William E. Peters Papers, Ohio University, Peters Range Book, Vol. 15, page 90):


One must suspect that it was the death of Susan Edwards, daughter of the leading couple of the Chauncey congregation, that prompted the donation of the cemetery land, with the deed dated the following month.

Old Stone Church Cemetery, Salt Lick Township, Perry County

A listing of the thirty-nine tombstones in this cemetery in the 1970s was published in the Bulletin of January, 1979 by the late Monsignor Herman Mattingly.

Sources for His Parish ...His People ...His Town: Father William J. Spickerman, by J. Michael Finn

Arcuri, Carmen, An Historical Sketch of the Development and Organization of the Catholic Church in Marion County, Ohio; thesis, College of St. Charles Borromeo, 1957

Catholic Telegraph (Archdiocese of Cincinnati): September 18, 1919; January 15, 1971

Catholic Times (Diocese of Columbus): June 16, 1958; January 10, 1971


Cincinnati City Directory: 1883; 1887; 1892; 1893; 1896; 1901
May 13, 1854 continued...

Subscriptions: John Morsman, Wheelersburg; Ralph Payne, Mt. Vernon; B. Mathews, Kenton.

May 20, 1854
Subscription: Wm. Barrett, Portsmouth.

May 27, 1854
Subscriptions: John Conahan, Columbus; Mrs. Postlewaite, Homer P.O.

June 10, 1854
Donations to the Boys’ Asylum: Mrs. E. Sherman, Lancaster, $10.

Subscriptions: Dr. E. R. Magruder, Somerset; John McNally and Zacharias Norris, Frankfort.

June 24, 1854
Rev. J. C. Kraemer, of Miltonsburgh, informs us that he had the happiness to receive into the bosom of the Church on the 30th Ult., Mrs. Nancy Thomas and Miss Maria Oblinger. In the congregations attended by this Rev. clergyman, there were five hundred and sixty-one Easter communions, the number having been more than doubled since he was stationed at Miltonsburgh. We have reason to rejoice that God has done so much for a region of which the Rev. Father Miller, R.O., about twelve years ago, said there never would be a church or resident clergyman.

Communication.

MOUNT VERNON, June 6th, 1854.
MR. EDITOR:-- I am confident you will be glad to hear of the progress of Catholicity in this thriving city, and the good and generous spirit manifested by our Catholics, who earnestly endeavor by word and deed to forward in everything the cause of our religion. On last Sunday a meeting was called to take into consideration the feasibility of building a suitable residence for our beloved pastor, and it would have delighted you to see with what promptness the members came forward and subscribed the handsome sum of seven hundred dollars. I call that a good beginning, and creditable to the good Catholic spirit of this place. A few years ago our whole congregation did not number fifty, but now, thank God, we can count them by the hundreds, nay, I might say without exaggeration, that there are at present alive above one thousand members belonging to the congregation; whence you perceive, Mr. Editor, that we will soon need a resident clergyman who may be with us at all times, to attend to our spiritual wants, to administer the last Sacraments to the dying, to watch over the living, and to take care of the little ones of Christ. Our next effort will be to build a school-house for our children, who are now obliged to go to the public schools, where their morals are in danger and their faith sneered at. This is something we shall not lose sight of, since we desire to save for God the little ones committed to our charge, and to transmit to them, in all its purity, the religion of our fathers, knowing, as we do, the strict account we must render before the throne of God of every one of them. P.C.

July 15, 1854
In the list of students who distinguished themselves at St. Mary’s College, Emmitsburg, for talents, good conduct, and attention to their studies, we notice with pleasure... James McGinnis of Steubenville, and Thomas Anderson, of Chillicothe. The Most Rev. Archbishop will, God willing, administer Confirmation to-morrow in Chillicothe.

This issue carries an interesting letter on the state of the Church in Detroit and another from Mackinaw.

Communication.

Raccoon Creek, Vinton County.
EDITORS TELEGRAPH:--The Fourth of July was celebrated here by the Irish Catholics of this place, and was conducted with a regularity that is creditable to them.
The place allotted for the company to gather was
in a solitary and shady grove on the banks of a creek... At 11 o’clock A.M. one could see them wending their way with pleasant countenances and smiles playing on their features, as they were going to partake of a pic-nic...

At one o’clock the Declaration of Independence was read by Arthur Morgan, Esq.; after that Dr. Bishop was called on, and he addressed the assembly in an able discourse. The Rev. D. Kelly, our most worthy pastor, was called on, and his words went like a healing salve to the wounded hearts of our fellow-countrypeople, who had stood under the oppression of a tyrant’s rod and tried to forget their past sufferings. At two o’clock the dinner was served... P. P. McV.

Celebration of the Fourth of July in Chillicothe.

Tuesday last... at 8 o’clock A.M. a procession of native and adopted citizens was formed in front of St. Mary’s church, and marched to the beautiful grounds of William M. Anderson, Esq., a mile from town. The procession was headed by the pupils of St. Mary’s and St. Peter’s schools, with their tastefully executed banners. Next in order was a long line of the fair sex, in their gala dresses. Next in order was a long line of the fair sex, in their gala dresses.

...Having reached the grounds, circles were formed and “dancing on the green” commenced. The sons and daughters of the Emerald Isle most cheerfully participated in the sports... At one o’clock P.M., the meeting being called to order, Rev. Mr. Forde made appropriate remarks on the occasion and then read the Declaration of Independence. Honorable George E. Pugh, United States senator elect...delivered an address of an hour’s length... Judge Keith followed... His humorous dialogue on “Know-Nothings” kept the meeting in roars of laughter. William M. Anderson, Esq., then read a finely composed discourse... The pupils of the German school sang and spoke some spirited and patriotic pieces in their native language. At four o’clock P.M. the procession was again formed and marshalled by R. Cull, Esq. It proceeded through the city in the same order and decorum with which it was marked in the forenoon. The entire procession drew up in front of the Sisters of Notre Dame; the Band struck up “Hail Columbia;” and giving three loud and hearty cheers for the land of Washington, they quietly dispersed. It was in truth a joyful day for all, but especially for those whom tyranny and oppression had driven from their native homes. May we live to see the recurrence of every such anniversary so well and happily celebrated in old Chillicothe.

July 22, 1854

A long article, written by a graduate of the previous year, describes the annual exhibition at St. Mary’s Academy, Somerset, on July 5.

Those receiving awards were: Seniors: Catharine Lynch, Mary Agnes Elder, Emily Elder, Lucinda Sherky, Caroline Jackson, Hannah Whitehead, Mary White, Mary Padget, Mary Lynch, Phoebe Devany, Hatty Brice, Rose Prior. Juniors: Mary Dougherty, Elizabeth A. Zinn, Margaret Minaugh, Julia Collins, Altha Krigbaum, Philomena Morath, Sarah Wilson, Mary Denman, Sarah Sullivan, Martha Jane Zinn, Cecilia Impy. Class not specified: Gertrude Dittoe, Mary Hook, Elizabeth McKenney, Louisa L. Sherky, Lucinda Sherky, Eliza Wagoner, Lucy Bennett, Susan Denman, Sarah Freeman, Louisa Costigan, Teresa McDonough, Anna Wagoner, Sarah Kennedy, Bridget Elder, Martha Elder, Mary Clark, Catherine Dougherty, Elizabeth Inglis, Louisa Krigbaum, Margaret Phillips, Susanna Parcels, Euphemia Bates, Mary Walker, Margaret Moor, A. Burgen, Mary Hook, Elizabeth Brady, Mary Deveny, Ellen Lilly, Rose Minaugh, Harriet Bennett.

Third Annual Commencement at St. Joseph’s College.

The third annual commencement and distribution at St. Joseph’s College was held on the sixth of July...large concourse of persons... the institution...has already acquired a not unenviable reputation...

...the audience was collected together in the shade of a majestic old forest that is standing not far from the new college. ...The College Band... The Philadelphian Society... the Philopedian... the Phil-historic... dressed in uniform... the ecclesiastical members of the community, dressed in the white robes of the Dominican order. ...Arriving at the ground, the ceremonies were opened by a few words from the Rev. J. Whelan, President of the College....

Subscriptions: Wm. O’Driscoll, Columbus; J. J. Jackson and St. Mary’s Academy, Somerset.

July 29, 1854
An editorial on the schools mentions students Miss Engert and Misses Ewing and Van Trump of Lancaster, who were attending the Ursulines’ academy in Brown County.

_to be continued..._