



# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society -  
Diocese of Columbus

Vol. XXV, No. 1

Jan. 24: St. Francis de Sales

January, A.D. 2000

*Abraham Darling.*

*For the information of our Catholic subscribers.*

*On the 6th of December last, St. JOSEPH'S Chapel near Somerset, in Perry County, was Consecrated.*

This is the first Roman Catholic Chapel erected in this state. It is situated two and a half miles, in a S. E. direction from the town of Somerset, in the county of Perry, on high and pleasant ground, commanding a fine prospect of the surrounding country. On the above day this Chapel was in the most solemn manner dedicated, under the patronage of St. Joseph, to the service of Almighty God.

The divine ministry of our holy religion were celebrated with deep solemnity by the Rev. NICHOLAS D. YOUNG. A pathetic and appropriate discourse was pronounced to a numerous audience, by the Rev. Dr. EDWARD FENWICK, from Rev. (Apoc.) chap. XXI. verse 2. concluding with the humble prayer of Solomon, 1 Kings, chap. VIII. ver. 22. Henceforward there will be preaching at the chapel every Sabbath.

*It is said that not less than ten*

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The above article appeared one hundred eighty-one years ago this month, in the January 6, 1819 edition of *The Ohio Register*, the newspaper of Mt. Vernon, Ohio. It is possibly the only public notice given at the time of the blessing of the first Catholic church in the state. The editor and publisher of the little, four-page weekly was John P. McArdle, an immigrant from Ireland, then thirty-three years old. He was one of the earliest Catholics of Ohio and no doubt the state's first Catholic newspaperman. His life and work are the subject of our first issue of this Jubilee Year.

## John P. McArdle, Pioneer Catholic Newspaperman of Ohio

The McArdle family descend from a fifteenth century king, Ardgal McMahan, who ruled the territory now known as County Monaghan, Ireland. By the seventeenth century some of the McArdles had moved into County Armagh and were followers of O'Neill of the Fews. It was in County Armagh that John P. McArdle was born on March 18, 1785. He came with his father's family to the United States in May, 1801 and located in Washington County, Pa., where he became a printer's apprentice.

In 1809 he moved to Marietta, Ohio, dividing his time between that place and Zanesville. He soon settled in Clinton, Knox County, some say as early as 1813.<sup>1</sup> Clinton was laid out in 1804 for Samuel H. Smith and was a mile or two north of Mt. Vernon. The developers of these two small towns vied for the advantage of being the county seat.

### *The Ohio Register*

The weekly *Ohio Register* was founded in Clinton by John Gilkison, the first issue dated June 26, 1813. Its content was made up almost entirely of news of the current war, along with legal notices and some foreign news. In September the founder of Clinton apparently acquired ownership, for the paper then was published by Gilkison "for Samuel H. Smith." In November management was in the hands of Gastor and Shurtleff, again for Samuel Smith.

These two were relieved of their duties and in mid-January, 1814 the paper was in the hands of Smith & McArdle.<sup>2</sup> Samuel Smith, the founder of Clinton, was engaged in many enterprises and the operation of the newspaper was entirely in the hands of John P. McArdle. According to Hill's History of Knox County, the newspaper office

was in a small log cabin on Clinton St.<sup>3</sup> The plat of the town names no such street, but we know that in April of 1814 John McArdle purchased the eight lots that comprised the northeastern corner, one-twentieth, of the town.<sup>4</sup>

In the end, Mt. Vernon won the local rivalry and one by one the businesses left Clinton and moved to Mt. Vernon. The plat of Clinton was vacated in 1818. In 1816 McArdle moved to Mt. Vernon, where the *Ohio Register* first appeared on April 21 under his sole management.

McArdle expressed his ideals in his first two issues. "Every exertion will be made, within the compass of our abilities, to render the REGISTER worthy of the patronage of our fellow citizens. Unremitted attention will be given to publish the latest News, both Foreign and Domestic. In selecting Moral, Poetical and Miscellaneous pieces, it will be endeavoured to improve the heart while the imagination is amused.

..."Unanimity between the States and people at large, will be inculcated, as a nation divided against itself cannot stand; So, could union succeed discord, the independence of America would be coeval with time itself, and our armies, like the Macedonian Phalanx, become invincible."

He did not forget his religion or his Irish heritage. In addition to the news of the dedication of St. Joseph Church, in a Catholic vein he ran in 1820 a long letter "On Luther," which said in part that if Protestants would read Luther's works, "if they did not embrace immediately the religion from which Luther separated, from the disgust they would conceive for every thing that came from him, they would at least make a distant preparation." It went on to detail some of

Luther's absurdities, crudities, and arrogance. No response was ever printed, but there were not many Lutherans in early Knox County. Of interest to the Irish immigrant, in the regular back-page feature "Temple of the Muses" he ran a poem "To the Irish Emigrant." The paper also featured two columns, "The state of Ireland" in 1818 and "Emmet's Last Moments" in 1819.

Among the many marriage and obituary notices he ran, the November 10, 1819 edition carried this, of interest to our readers. "MARRIED -- On Sunday the 7th inst. in Montgomery Township, Richland County, by the Rev. Nicholas D. Young, a Roman Catholic Priest, Mr. John M'Clinchy, merchant of Mansfield to the amiable Miss Margaret Downey, of Montgomery Township." The issue of March 9, 1820 states, "MARRIED -- Mr. Daniel Wildman of Bloomfield Township to the beautiful Miss Rosecrans of Delaware County."

McArdle faced the usual problems one might expect on the frontier: shortage of apprentices, need for a journeyman, and lack of payment by subscribers. For an annual subscription to the paper he charged \$2.00 in advance or \$2.50 at the end of the year. He had fewer than 200 subscribers, and of these only half were paid in advance and he had trouble collecting from the others. In 1817 and 1818 he was having difficulty collecting these debts, but was willing to accept money or rags, or wheat, rye, corn, or buckwheat delivered at Davis's mill in Mt. Vernon. The paper shut down periodically while he devoted his efforts to more remunerative job printing and bookbinding. He suspended publication of the Register for two weeks in 1816 to complete a binding job for the state of Ohio.<sup>5</sup>

The last edition of *The Ohio Register* was issued on October 18, 1820. Apparently the debts incurred in running the paper, and missed payments by his subscribers, had caught up with him, for later deed records indicate that a

judgment of \$101.50 was obtained against him in court in the October term, 1820.<sup>6</sup> He stayed on in Mt. Vernon for two more years.

### Books Published

The first book written in Knox County was also the first published, by Smith & McArdle in Clinton in 1814, a little volume of 62 pages. It was *James Smith's Vindication for Resisting the Ecclesiastical Power and Authority of Their Episcopal Dignity, Michael Ellis & David Young: to which is added a Short Sketch on the Government of God in the Church and a Few Thoughts on Infant Justification; also, the Doctrine of Christian Perfection and Sanctification Impartially Examined*. Smith was a local minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church; his defection from that body will be mentioned again below.

Smith & McArdle printed a second book, a reprint. They issued proposals for publishing by subscription *The American Revolution, Written in Scriptural, or, Ancient Historical Style*, by Richard Snowden. This had been published in Philadelphia in 1793. To this they added *The Columbiad, a Poem on the American War* in thirteen cantos, by the same author, which also had been published in Philadelphia, in 1795. The 238-page volume cost subscribers \$1.00 and non-subscribers \$1.25 and was issued in 1815.

In 1817 McArdle reprinted a book of 47 pages, *A Caveat against the Methodists, by a Gentleman of the Church of Rome* by Richard Challoner, first published in 1760. Bishop Challoner was Vicar Apostolic of London, the leading English Catholic of his time.

As a small-town frontier businessman, McArdle had to work and socialize with his Protestant neighbors and in doing so he became a member of the Masons. In 1817 he was a member of a committee to draft by-laws for Mount Zion

Lodge 9 of the Masons, after it moved from Clinton to Mt. Vernon. On June 6 he was elected "S.W." of the body. Membership in or promotion of Masonic societies has been forbidden to Catholics since 1738. Nothing further is ever stated of such membership by McArdle and it may be that, once priests had arrived in Ohio to explain to him the dangers, he left that body, or did not keep up a membership after moving away from Mt. Vernon.

#### Family Matters

John may have come to Knox County alone, but the rest of the McArdle family, his parents Peter and Nancy and sisters Margaret, Bridget, and Mary, soon followed and took up residence in Clinton Township.

John's sister, the widowed Mrs. Margaret Murphy, married Arunah Peet in 1816 before a justice of the peace. They reportedly had a daughter, Margaret Jane, before moving west. Margaret's elder daughter Nancy Murphy married Absalom Buckingham in 1832 before Dominican Father Charles Bowling. They had five children in Knox County before also moving west. (Absalom, a native of Maryland, was a son of Joseph J. Buckingham and Sarah Logsdon. Though the mother no doubt was a Catholic, the elder Buckingham was not baptized until Bishop Purcell's visit to St. Luke's in 1844. Absalom had married Rachel Stillings in 1830, who apparently died soon thereafter.)<sup>7</sup>

John's sister Bridget married David Morton (1790-1852), a blacksmith in Mt. Vernon, who was a convert and had come to Ohio from Baltimore, Md. In 1818 he and John McArdle purchased lot 5 in the northeast quarter of Miller Township, Knox County.<sup>8</sup> In David's and Bridget's house at Sugar and Main Streets Bishop Purcell said the first Mass ever offered in Mt. Vernon, on May 23, 1834, and the David Morton, Timothy Colopy, and William Brophy

families were chiefly responsible for the construction of St. Vincent dePaul church in 1842. Bridget was born on August 15, 1791 and died Nov. 13, 1850. David and Bridget are buried in Calvary Cemetery, Mt. Vernon, with their son Peter, a veteran of the Mexican War.<sup>9</sup> They had at least three other sons.

John's sister Mary seems not to have married; she was single when the father died in 1823 and appears as a sponsor in the Danville St. Luke baptismal records in 1829.

The father, Peter McArdle, died in mid-August, 1823. His will mentions only his wife Nancy, his daughter Mary McArdle, and his granddaughter Nancy Murphy. However, also signing court papers as heirs were John P. McArdle and Aruna Peet, and David Morton was the administrator of the estate.<sup>10</sup> It would be good to know the final resting place of this early Catholic.

On January 4, 1817 "Jonathan" McArdle and Betsey Hains were married before James Smith, M.G. (formerly of the Methodist Episcopal Church but in 1817 of the Christian Church). A few days later John bought two lots at the southwest corner of Main and Burgess streets in Mt. Vernon. They were mortgaged to the seller, the estate of Colonel John Francis Hamtramck, for the full purchase price. This no doubt was the site of the family home. John and Betsey eventually had a total of ten children.

Betsey or Elizabeth was one of six children of Henry and Mary Hains. The Hains family were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church until 1814 when "some difficulties relative to doctrine and discipline took place" and they followed James Smith into what was called the Christian Church. About 1815 Mr. Hains became mentally unbalanced and in these trying circumstances, from 1817 to 1819, John assisted the Hains family by the loan of a horse, beef, a wagon box, wheat, whiskey, and cash.<sup>11</sup> In 1819

Mr. Hains hanged himself. John McArdle composed and inserted in his newspaper a long notice of his father-in-law, surrounded by a wide black border.<sup>12</sup>

In 1822 John and Betsey moved to Wellsburg, Va. where he began publishing the *Wellsburg Gazette*, which he continued until 1826. Betsey's brother Benjamin D. Hains also lived there.

### Norwalk

From Wellsburg the family moved to Norwalk, Ohio, where they remained for 35 years, their longest residence in any one place. In April of 1827 with Henry Buckingham John started the *Norwalk Reporter*, the first newspaper in Huron County, which he continued for several years. It was printed on a Ramage press, the second to be brought across the Alleghenies, obtained in England and first used in 1794 at Washington, Pa. It later was moved to Sandusky and then to Tiffin. (It is said that there is a Ramage press at the Ohio Historical Society, which could be the same one that McArdle used.) He took a very active part in all the political issues of those days and became personally acquainted with many of the great men of those times. In 1830 the *Reporter* was replaced by the *Norwalk Reflector*, under other management.<sup>13</sup> McArdle then for many years carried on a small book bindery near the old Methodist church in Norwalk.

Norwalk was not the best location to raise his ten children as Catholics. There was no Catholic church nearby when the McArdles first arrived and their home served as the mission station for several years. Father Stephen T. Badin visited Norwalk in 1828 and at that time baptized two of the McArdle children and began instructing Mrs. McArdle in the Faith.<sup>14</sup> It was not until 1831 that a church was blessed in Peru, eight miles away, and even then the Catholics of Norwalk could not always attend because of the distance and the primitive transportation of those days. There

was also a language barrier among the Catholic community of Norwalk. Some ninety percent of the local Catholics were German and only about half of them could speak English. In 1831 a union Norwalk Sabbath School was opened to children of all Christian faiths, which the McArdle children attended (along with siblings of Daniel Decatur Emmett, the composer).<sup>15</sup> There was no Catholic school until 1843 and the Catholic church in Norwalk, St. Peter's, was not blessed until 1846.

William S. Wickham remembered the McArdles' long residence in Norwalk. "Mr. McArdle," he wrote, "...lived in the house...on the corner of Wooster and Seminary streets, ...near which he had his workshop. There were ten children in the circle," one of the largest families in the east end of town.<sup>16</sup> The site of the house has been described more recently as the yard of the Cole School building on East Main Street, opposite St. Paul's Catholic Church.<sup>17</sup>

### Retirement

About 1860 John and Elizabeth moved to Fremont, Ohio, where his son John H. McArdle lived, and in 1864 he at last retired, at the age of 79 years.<sup>18</sup> A short time after this the son moved to Michigan, where McArdle resided with him for a time, but soon he returned to Ohio and passed the remainder of his days at Republic, Seneca County, in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Dr. William L. Hamilton.

While living with his daughter he suffered a stroke in the spring of 1873 and after that was confined to his bed. For the last three weeks he survived on only a little milk. He died on October 26, 1874, in his 90th year. "The remains were taken to Tiffin on Tuesday, where the religious rites were conducted, and the remains interred in the Catholic cemetery."<sup>19</sup> He was survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, four daughters, and two sons.<sup>20</sup>



John P. McArdle had been an industrious man, which enabled him to rear a large family who were highly respected in their communities. He was generous and kind to his wife's family in good times and in bad. He was remembered as a kind neighbor and was noted for his genial and friendly disposition, earning by his work and his character the respect and esteem of all the citizens of his long-time home of Norwalk. He was one of the first Catholic newspapermen and book printers and binders in Ohio, if not the first, and as such was "an excellent artisan." From an examination of those issues of his paper that survive, we know that even in the sometimes-hostile environment then existing he was not afraid to use his trade to evangelize in the limited way that it allowed.

#### NOTES

- 1) *The Firelands Pioneer*, 1874, p 113-114 (largely taken from the *Tiffin Tribune*, Oct. 29, 1874)
- 2) Surviving issues of *The Ohio Register* can be found on microfilm reel 35,825 at the Ohio Historical Society.
- 3) Hill, N. N., *History of Knox County, Ohio...*; Mt. Vernon: A. A. Graham, 1881; p 540
- 4) Knox Co. Deed Record C/21
- 5) Hill, 358-9,362
- 6) Knox County Deed Records I/278, I/345
- 7) Society member Jim Logsdon kindly provided information on the Buckinghams and otherwise assisted with this article.
- 8) Hill, 524
- 9) Hartley, (Rt. Rev.) James J., *The History of*

*Fifty Years, 1868-1918*; Columbus: 1918; 382-383. See also Mulhane, (Rev.) L. W., *History of St. Vincent De Paul's Parish*; Mt. Vernon: Republican Book and Job Office, 1895; pp 6-7. On page 7 he records David's tribute to Bridget at the time of her death.

10) Witnesses were Timothy Colopy and Jacob Collopy. Knox Co. Probate Court, Box 17, #12 and Box 5, #76.

11) Knox County Probate Court, Box 5, #64

12) *The Ohio Register*, Dec. 1, 1819

13) Williams, W. W., *History of the Fire Lands*; Cleveland: Press of Leader Printing Co., 1879; p 58. Hooper, Osman C., *History of Ohio Journalism, 1793-1933*; Columbus: The Spahr & Glenn Co., 1933; p 134

14) Jurgens, (Rev.) W. A., *A History of the Diocese of Cleveland*; Cleveland: Diocese of Cleveland, 1980; I/123

15) Timman, Henry Reinier, "Just Like Old Times" (notes from the Norwalk Reflector); Book Two; Norwalk: 1983; p 9

16) *The Firelands Pioneer*, 1918 (new series vol. 20), pp 2107-8

17) Timman, op. cit., p. 6.

18) *The Fire Lands Pioneer*, June, 1866, p 49

19) *The Tiffin Tribune*, October 29, 1874

20) Mulhane, 1895, p. 6. *The Firelands Pioneer*, 1874, p 113. John has no tombstone, but his son Edwin had John's and Elizabeth's names inscribed on his monument in the Farewell Retreat Cemetery at Republic. Likewise, John's older son Lucien has a stone over his grave at Greenlawn Cemetery in Tiffin, but his name appears with Edwin's and John's and Elizabeth's at Republic.

**St. John the Evangelist Church,  
Zanesville: Baptisms, 1828-1842**  
(Continued, from Vol. XXIV, No. 12)

1834, continued

page 10, continued

October 27 Elizabeth, daughter of John Bets and Catherine McCafferty; spon. Mary McCafferty.

same day Charles C., son of Arthur Tagga[r]t and Margaret Cornyn; spon. Joseph and Elizabeth Noble. C. P. Montgomery, O.S.D.

November 7 Joseph Wine

same day Ann Wine, both children of Joseph Wine and Ann Hasket; spon. for both Catherine McCane. CPM

November 9 George M., son of John Redmond and Bridget Jordan; spon. Ann Word. CPM

November 11 Ann, daughter of Philip Colahan [*interlinea*, Callahan] and Mary Curren; spon. Ann Wellpose. CPM

Nov. 16 John, son of Dominic Heustock?; spon. John and Helen Lecheret. CPM

November 21 Pius F., son of Gabriel Pagit and Elizabeth Wine; spon. Sarah Looharius. CPM

November 30 Francis Kealty

same day Elizabeth Kealty, both children of Robert Kealty and Frances Brown; spon. Ann McClove [McGlone? See Feb. 6, 1835] and Margaret Fulerton. CPM

December 8 Elijah M., son of David Whitehead and Julia Scott; spon. Matthew and Elizabeth Scott.

same day Martha, daughter of Nathaniel Sharkly and Mary Kiggan; spon. Winefrid Kiggan.

same day C. Pius Peck

same day Joseph Peck, both sons of James Peck and Christine Wine; spon. Winefrid Kiggan and Susan Wine. CPM

December 14 Francis Joseph, son of Francis Rink and Lydia Call; spon. John Letcher and Mary Cann. CPM

December 25 Elizabeth Havamon (or Flavamon?); spon. Ann Rogers.

same day Lucy S., daughter of Robert Kealty and Frances Brown; spon. Margaret Herrel. CPM

December 28 Mary, daughter of Bernard Rogers and Lydia Davis; spon. James Rogers and Margaret Fullerton. CPM

same day William, son of Bernard Rogers and Lydia Davis; spon. Andrew L. Rogers and Elizabeth Harkins. CPM

page 11

1835

Jan. 11 Laura Eillen, daughter of James Reese and Sarah; spon. Margaret Herral. CPM

January 19 Johanna, daughter of John Emmeret and Margaret Ca[cut off]; spon. Paul Hofmann and Ann M. Hofmann (or Hoffanann?). J. B. V. DeRayma[eker, O.S.D.]

January 25 Mary Ann, daughter of Elizabeth Hammon; spon. Ann Rogers.

same day James Matthew, son of Elizabeth Hammon; spon. Margaret Fulerton. CPM

February 10 Robert, son of James Heenan and Char[cut off] Wilmott; spon. Richard Dugan and Victoria H. Keightly. CPM

February 6 Georgina Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Keightly and Frances Brown; spon. Thomas Kelly and Ann McGlone. CPM

March 1 Edmund, son of Robert Keightly and Frances Brown; spon. Elizabeth Hammon.

same day William, son of Elizabeth Hammon; spon. Ann Keightly.

March 6 Mary, daughter of John Deocorts and Elizabeth Marcus; spon. Frances Rink. Th. Martin, O.S.D.

March 8 James, son of Michael Cunningham and Mary Barry; spon. James Cunningham and Ann Daly. TM

same day George Thomas, son of George Mart and Mary Smith; spon. Walter Smith and Mary Dillon. TM

March 15 Peter, son of William conway and Martha Mann; spon. Mary McGovern. CPM

March 25 Mary Ann, daughter of John Delong and Ann Shortel; spon. Patrick Brennan and Ann McDonald. CPM

April 13 Joseph Pancoast; spon. Patrick O'Neil. CPM

April 20 Leonard Vernor, son of Leonard Vernor and Elizabeth Georie Nier. Spon. Leonard Vernor.

May 3 Augustine, son of Anthony Bercke and Mary Hoff; spon. John Hoff and Mary Ann Hoff.

same day Thomas, son of Maurice O'Connell and Catherine Collins; spon. Henry Musselman and Helen Cunningham. JBVD

May 10 Charles Thomas, son of Lawrence Lynch and Mary M. Sheels; spon. Ann Hasket.

same day Thomas, son of John Masterson and Rosana Rogan; spon. John and Ann Lynch. CPM

June 7 William Thomas, son of Oliver Barret and Margaret Harkins; spon. John and Ann Cassily. Anthony Fahay

June 8 Richard, son of William Reddis and Catherine Dogherly; spon. Michael Rigney and Jane Lynch. Anthony Fahy, O.S.D.

same day William, son of Matthew Coyel and Ann Masterson; spon. John Masterson and Helen Dolan. AF

July 5 Charles, son of John Faust and Elizabeth Fetter; spon. William and Ann McCaddon. CPM

(To be continued)

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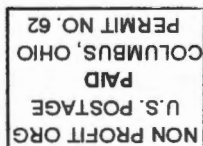
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Donald M. Schlegel, editor

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