

Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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March 19: St. Joseph

March, 2009

St. Joseph Mission Dundas, Clinton Township, Vinton County 1882-1912

The Village and its Church

McArthur Junction, three miles south of McArthur in Clinton Township, Vinton County, was the crossing point of the Cincinnati, Washington & Baltimore Railroad and the Ohio & Western Railroad. The former line, which later was part of the B&O System, connected from Chillicothe on the west to Athens in the east. The O&W was the Hocking Valley Railroad line from Logan south to Gallipolis and was completed in 1880. Another line, from McArthur Junction south through Wellston to Jackson, was opened in 1896. One-quarter mile to the southwest was the village of Dundas. In 1883 the village at the junction had only the railroad station, an eating house, and a saloon. Dundas had two general stores, one saloon, and residences for about seventy-five inhabitants.¹

In 1882 Bishop Watterson purchased part of lot 5 in Dundas, at the intersection of Second Street and Pine Alley, running fifty feet along the southwest side of Second and 49.5 feet along the northwest side of Pine. He bought the property from the heirs of Thomas Haverty for \$5.00 in September and October, 1882.² The only church in the village, St. Joseph Catholic Church, was built there under the direction of Rev. J. J. Slevin of Zaleski. Its cost was \$600. The frame church building measured about 26 by 45 feet.³

The mission is listed in the annual Catholic Directory beginning in 1883 and is mentioned in the *History of the Hocking Valley* published that year.

Via the railroads, it was a relatively easy journey to Dundas for the pastors of the nearby parishes: St. Sylvester Parish at Zaleski to the northeast, St. Mary Parish at Minerton to the southeast, and Sts. Peter and Paul Parish at Wellston to the south. Except for a very short period, St. Joseph was a mission of St. Sylvester Parish.

Pastors

These pastors of the mission were stationed at Zaleski:

1882-1884, Rev. J. J. Slevin

1884-1889, Rev. James H. Cotter

1889-1891, Rev. Peter Gladu

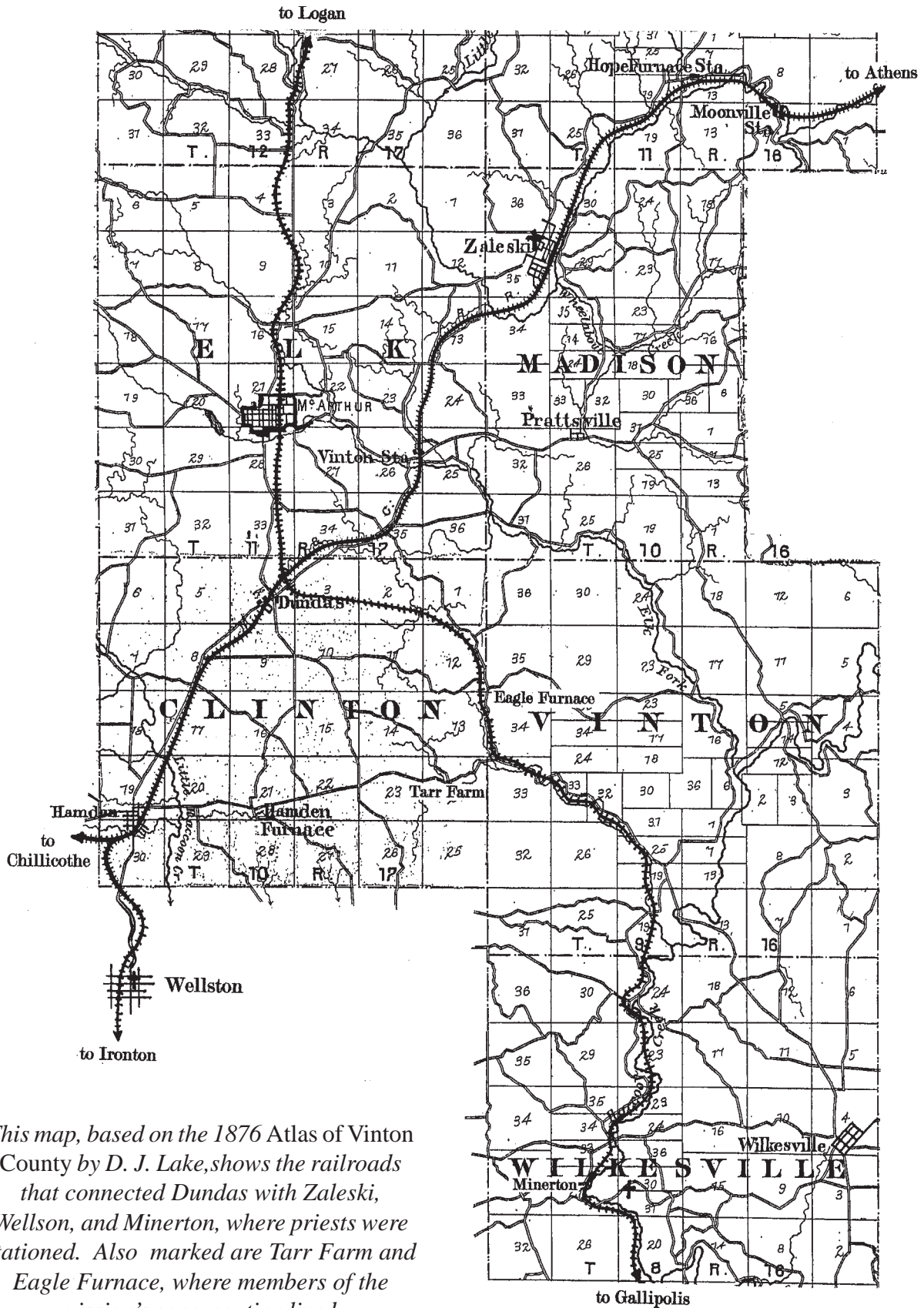
1891-1893, Rev. J. B. Mattingly

1893-1896, Rev. F. E. Clarke

1896-1898, Rev. Louis Grimmer

Father Cotter provided the only complete record of the membership of the mission, as part of his census of St. Sylvester Parish, in the spring of 1888.

Father Gladu in his financial report for the six months ending January 1, 1891, noted the mission had income of \$44.00 in pew rent, \$3.00 for the orphans' collection, \$5.20 for offertory collections, and \$16.00 from a special collection for the building's insurance. Of the total \$68.20, he kept \$44.75 as salary, sent \$1.45 to the bishop as cathedraticum, spent \$1.00 for Mass wine and candles, etc., and \$16.00 for the insurance, and sent the \$3.00 to the



This map, based on the 1876 Atlas of Vinton County by D. J. Lake, shows the railroads that connected Dundas with Zaleski, Wellson, and Minerton, where priests were stationed. Also marked are Tarr Farm and Eagle Furnace, where members of the mission's congregation lived.

orphanage in Columbus.

Father Dennis Edward Meara was sent to Minerton in July, 1899. In the parish register under the date November 6, 1899 he wrote, "Father Specht met me at Pomeroy and instructed me to go to McArthur Junction once in the month on a week day and say Mass, and look after the spiritual wants of the people until further notice." Monsignor F. X. Specht at the time was administrator of the diocese.

By 1904 the mission returned to the care of the pastor at Zaleski. The last pastor of St. Joseph Mission was Rev. J. B. Rooney, who was stationed at Zaleski from 1901 to 1913.

The annual census reports for St. Sylvester Parish, for the years that still exist, list its three missions: St. Mary at Little Hocking, St. Ambrose at Belpre, and St. Joseph at Dundas or McArthur Junction. Father Rooney would include separate reports for the former two missions, but not for Dundas. By that time it apparently was too small to warrant even a sheet of paper.

Members of the Mission

In his census report for the year ended July 1, 1897 Father Grimmer reported for his parish at Zaleski and for only one mission, that at McArthur Junction. The latter, he reported, had sixteen families. These must have been drawn from a much wider area than Dundas itself, for only a handful of Catholic families in the village can be identified at any one time. Most of the records of St. Sylvester Parish in Zaleski were lost in a church fire in 1929 and a rectory fire in 1938. Father Cotter took a census of the parish in 1888 that included McArthur Junction. The parish burial records survive from 1889 and the marriage records from 1890. These provide the names of a few families of Dundas, which have been combined with federal census and county death records in the comments that follow.

Kane

Mr. and Mrs. John Kane were counted by Father Cotter as parish members in 1888. This appears to be an error for Lawrence or Larry Kane. The 1876 atlas shows L. Kane as owner of the house

and lot across the Wilkesville Road from the Shanahans. The 1880 census gives the names of these Irish natives as Lara and Hanah. Larry then was working on the railroad.

McMahon

The 1888 parish census lists Mrs. McMahan and five children. The 1876 atlas shows P. McMahon owning a lot just south of Dundas on the Wilkesville Road, next to a school. In 1880 Katherine and six children were living next to the Havertys. Her sons Michael and Frank, aged just 15 and 12, both were working on the railroad. As mentioned below, Mrs. J. McMahon, native of County Clare, who died in 1891, was Mary Haverty. And Catherine, Mrs. John Maloney, was a McMahon.

Shanahan

Robert Shanahan, a native of Ireland, was somewhat a mystery to Father Cotter. In 1888 the pastor wrote of him, "Attends Mass, advocates Catholicity, but never goes to Sacraments." R. Shanahan owned lot 16 in Dundas when the 1876 county atlas was made. He and his wife Mary and six children were living in Dundas in 1880. The *Vinton Record* noted in its edition of October 28, 1886, that on the previous Wednesday Mr. Henry McBride and Miss Maggie Shanahan were married in the Catholic church in Dundas by Father Cotter.⁴ The old couple and two children were still there in 1900, when Robert was still listed as a railroad laborer, even though over 70 years old. He died on April 25, 1901 and was buried at St. Sylvester's.

Lanan or Lanane or Lenane and Schlosser

John Lanan died on May 14, 1894 at the age of 75 years and was buried at St. Sylvester's on the 17th. The parish register lists "McArthur Junc." in the column labeled "Place of Birth," but he was a native of Ireland. He appears in 1880 with his wife Bridget and son John Jr. In 1888 they were still there, and had added John Junior's wife and son to the household. The son John was a railroad laborer. He and his wife Lizzie and their four children were living in Dundas in 1900. This younger John Lanane

died of Bright's disease on May 8, 1906. He was buried at St. Sylvester's on the 10th. Elizabeth and the four children were still living near Dundas, on the McArthur-Wilkesville road, in 1910. Edward Joseph Lanan died on October 10, 1897 of the croup and was buried at St. Sylvester's on the 12th. He was a native of McArthur Junction, aged five years. No doubt he was a son of John Jr. and Elizabeth.

The Slossers are identified as Catholics by the 1888 census and a few other records. They owned the northernmost lot of Dundas when the 1876 county atlas was prepared. Mary Slosser, head of the family in 1880, was then keeping the village saloon. Thomas Lanan, her brother, was living with her and her five children. In 1900 Mary and four children were still living in Dundas. Her sons Thomas and Lewis worked for one of the railroads, as a brakeman and a laborer, respectively. On June 11, 1909 the daughter Lucy "Schlosser" died of epilepsy at the age of 38. She was buried at St. Sylvester's on the 13th, attended by Rev. Louis Kelly, O.P.

Thomas Lanane, son of John and Bridget Lanane, married Anna Zimmerman of McArthur before Father Edward Clarke of St. Sylvester's on December 31, 1893. The witnesses were John Shanahan and Helen Slosser.

Maloney

John Maloney and family were enumerated by Father Cotter in 1888. The wife, Catherine Maloney, died on April 4, 1897 in Clinton Township and was buried at St. Sylvester's on the 7th. She was born McMahan, noted as such in the 1914 marriage record of her son Francis Maloney to Mildred Browder at St. Sylvester's. In 1978 a Mr. Morrow of Dundas told Monsignor Mattingly that a John Maloney had donated the property for the church. While the story of the donation of the property is disproved by the deed, the connections of the family with the mission is clear. The Maloney family lived in the next house southeast of the church. In 1900 and 1910 John, a railroad section foreman, was still living in Dundas with his children. John died on January 19, 1912.

Nora Maloney and her daughter Kate also were residents of Dundas, living next to John and his family in 1910 and nearby in 1900.

Haverty

The Havertys who sold the lot to Bishop Watterson also were Catholics. They are listed in the 1888 parish census. Death records of the parish name three of them: "Mary Haverty (Mrs. J. McMahan)," a native of County Clare, Ireland, died on February 17, 1891 at the age of 72; Thomas Haverty, a native of Vinton County, died on February 5, 1897; and Miss Bridget Haverty, a native of Zaleski, died on July 16, 1900 at the age of 43. In 1880 Thomas Haverty and his sister Jane were listed in the census of Dundas. Thomas was working in an ore bank at the time. In 1882 when the lot was purchased for the church, Thomas and Jane Haverty were living in Vinton County, John Haverty made his residence in Allen County, O., and Jane and Norah A. Haverty were in Hamilton County, O.

Cusick and Minitor

The Cusicks were listed at "Eagle," apparently Eagle Furnace, in the 1888 parish census. On March 2, 1894 Josie Cusick died of consumption; she was buried at St. Sylvester's on the 5th. She was a native of McArthur Junction, age 18 months. According to the county records, her parents were Michael and Margaret (Minitor) Cusick. Eleven days later her sister Ellie died at the age of nine years and also was buried at St. Sylvester's. Josie had been attended by Father J. J. McCann of Minerton, but Ellie was attended by Father Clarke of Zaleski. Another member of this family probably was Thomas Cusick who lived in Clinton Township and died on Christmas Eve, 1893 at the age of 18 years. The St. Sylvester's record gives his birthplace as Tarr Farm. A Patrick Minitor, probably related to Mrs. Cusick, died at the age of 50 on September 17, 1894 and was buried at St. Sylvester's.

Gerity

Mrs. Gerity, Hubert, and Annie are listed at Eagle, probably Eagle Furnace, in the 1888 parish

census. On April 25, 1894 an infant of Hubert Garity, born at Tarr Farm, was buried at St. Sylvester's. He or she had died on the 23rd, aged four months.

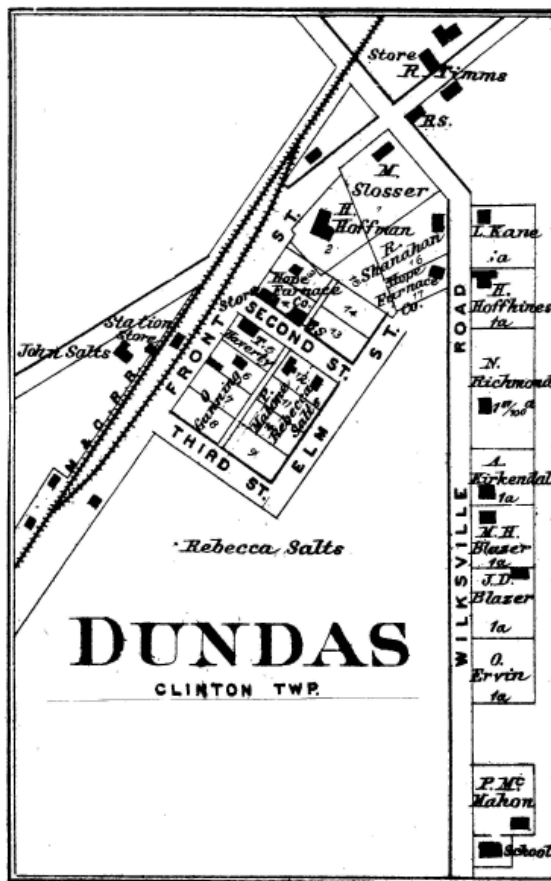
End of the Mission

The number of Catholic residents of the village of Dundas identified in the census records was 29 in 1880, 35 in 1888, 23 in 1900, and only 13 in 1910—three households out of 39 in the village in the latter year. In 1910 the household heads were John Maloney, Nora Maloney, and Elizabeth Lanane. It may be that the death of John Maloney in January of 1912 precipitated the closing of the mission church.

The mission was last listed in the annual *Catholic Directory* in 1915, but it seems that the directory, as often happened, was behind the times. The last parish census report that mentions St. Joseph's is that for the twelve months ending July 1, 1912. The mission was not mentioned by Father Rooney and Father Byrne, his successor at Zaleski, in subsequent reports. No mention of the closing of the mission appears in Bishop Hartley's outgoing correspondence of this period.

The late Monsignor Mattingly looked into the history of this mission and visited Dundas in the late 1970s. He was told by Mrs. Lenora Murdock, aged ninety, that the church was torn down in 1904 or 1905. A Mr. Morrow told him that the church was taken, probably by railroad, to Little Hocking near Belpre. The Little Hocking church, however, was much older than this and Belpre's was a converted house. Msgr. Mattingly also found a note (source now unknown) dated 1946, according to which the old church lot was not then on the tax duplicate, "and the authorities at the Vinton County Court House do not wish to list it. At present, by the verbal consent of the late Bishop Hartley, the land is being used for a garden by Stephen Salts, Dundas, Ohio." The lot is still owned by the diocese.

The little church of St. Joseph in Dundas was opened, served, and was closed in obscurity. But no doubt its presence and the visits of the priests provided much spiritual comfort and a touch of civilization to the Irish Catholics while they lived and worked along the railroad in southern Vinton County.



This plat of Dundas is from the 1876 Atlas of Vinton County by D. J. Lake, C.E. The site of St. Joseph Church was the southeast half of lot 5, marked "T. Haverty."

NOTES

- 1) *History of the Hocking Valley*, 1883, pp 1355-1356
- 2) Vinton County Deed Record 23/138
- 3) *History of Hocking Valley*
- 4) Diocesan property book, c. 1885, p. 43
- 5) from *Vinton County Heritage*, Vol. 16, No. 2

1888 Census

A portion of the April 30, 1888 census of Catholics of St. Sylvester Parish, by Rev. James H. Cotter.

"Junction"	
Thomas Haverty	32
Nora Haverty	20
Anna Haverty	30

Robt Shannahan	62	Mike Mourn	30	Jane Burns	12
Mrs. Shannahan	60	James Landers	29	Cathrine Burns	8
Nora Shannahan	31	Stephen Landers	31	Margret Burns	1
Kate Shannahan	29	Thomas Lenan	30		
Mary Shannahan	27			Stephen Sweany	51
		John Maloney	33	Mrs. Stephen Sweany	50
Mrs. McMahan	58	Mrs. John Maloney	31	Mary Sweany	19
Mike McMahan	31	Mary Maloney	7	James Sweany	17
Frank McMahan	23	Katie Maloney	5	Stephen Sweany	15
Maggie McMahan	20	Maggie Maloney	1		
John McMahan	15			Annie Rhoda	32
Ella McMahan	12	Tarr Farm		Edw. Shea (Rhoda)	1
Grace Lenweber	4	Mr. John McLaughlin	63		
		William McLaughlin	12	Mike Cussick	60
Mr. John Kane	60	Peter McLaughlin	10	Mrs. Mike Cussick	50
Mrs. John Kane	60	Louisa McLaughlin	5	Mike Cussick	32
		Lizzie McLaughlin	2	(Now belongs to Wellston)	
John Lenan, sr.	67	“Married Prot by Priest.		James Cussick	22
John Lenan	35	Children Baptized.”		Maggie Cussick	20
Mrs. John Lenan	30			Mary Cussick	18
Thomas Lenan	2	Eagle [Furnace]		Thomas Cussick	14
		Thomas Burns	40		
Mrs. Slosser	39	Mrs. Thomas Burns	50	Mrs. Gerety	50
Ella Slosser	23	Mary Burns	21	Hubert Gerety	24
Louisa Slosser	20	John Burns	19	Annie Gerety	22
John Slosser	14	James Burns	17		
Louis Slosser	12	Thomas Burns	15	Martin Laden	50
Fredrick Slosser	10			Cathrine Laden	50

Abstracts from the *Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued, from Vol. XXXIII, No. 12)

June 7, 1856

Died, at Rehoboth, Perry county, in this State, on Saturday, May 31, Mrs. BRIDGET GALLIGHER, at the venerable age of 93.

She was born in the county Donegal, Ireland, June 4, 1763, and emigrated to his country in 1793. Having spent her long life in the exemplary practice of the duties of religion, she at length “rests from her labors and her works do follow her.” Deceased was the mother of our esteemed fellow-citizen Philip Galligher. Her husband, aged 97, survives her.

[For the Catholic Telegraph and Advocate.

On Sunday, May 25th, we had the happiness of

joining in a procession of the Most Holy Sacrament at St. Joseph’s—the church of the Dominicans, near Somerset. Thursday, the festival of Corpus Christi, would seem the most proper day for this solemnity; for various reasons, however, it was transferred to the Sunday following.

...At about three o’clock on Sunday evening the church was crowded... When Vespers were concluded, the Rev. P. D. Noon delivered a beautiful discourse on the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament. It consisted principally of an explanation of the sixth chapter of St. John’s Gospel, and it afforded invincible proof of the truth of this sacred dogma of our Holy Faith. The sermon

McGahan the Liberator and the McGahan Robbers

In his St. Patrick's Day column for 2008, *Columbus Dispatch* columnist Mike Harden raised a glass to his Irish ancestors buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Delaware. These included his great-uncles, robbers known as Red and Monk McGahan. Red, whose given name was George, lived from 1890 to 1963 and spent some 39 of his 73 years in the Boys' Industrial School, the Ohio Reformatory at Mansfield, and the Ohio Penitentiary. Monk, or James Edward, died after a gun battle with Washington, Pa. police in 1921, at the age of barely twenty-three.

Harden, being a journalist, speculated that perhaps he also was related to Januarius McGahan, the famous Perry Countian known as the "Liberator of Bulgaria." This McGahan, as most of our readers should know, was born into a very tight-knit family on Pigeon Roost Ridge south of New Lexington in 1844. He received a solid elementary education from local Catholic teachers and a solid religious education from the Dominican Fathers. He went on to become European correspondent for the *New York Herald* and later wrote for the *London Daily News* until his death at Constantinople in 1878. (His family background is described in the *Bulletin* of September, 1989 and his career in those of August and September, 2002.)

Your editor, looking askance at any possible connection between the robbers and the journalist, took Mr. Harden's column as a challenge and began to look into such a possibility. His conclusion is that there is no connection between the Nineteenth Century McGahan who "road the cannon thunder" in pursuit of news and the Twentieth Century McGahans who wielded guns in pursuit of unlawful gain. The latter, in fact, were not even named McGahan. Their surname was McGaughran. The marriage record of their parents, at Sacred Heart Church in Columbus, shows their father to have been James McGaughran, a native of County Cavan; their grandparents were James McGaughran and Catherine Fagan. James, the father, came to this country in 1885. Many other records, including the burial records of the brothers' mother and sister, verify the McGaughran surname. In addition, the *Ohio State Journal* on December 19, 1923, at the time of Red's apprehension, noted, "Although known throughout the country as 'McGahan,' the bandit captured yesterday really is named 'McGauhran.'"

Most families have their bright and their dark sides but there is no connection with bank robbers to darken the family name of Januarius McGahan, Liberator of Bulgaria.

ended, the order of the procession being read, we proceeded in admirable order from the door of the church to a temporary altar, erected in a neighboring grove. The Blessed Sacrament was borne by the celebrant, Rev. Father Bokel, under a splendid canopy, to the altar prepared for its reception. The procession was accompanied by the choir and the college band, who sung and played alternately to the notes of the *Sacris Solemniis*, till its arrival at the destined place. All being come before the altar, the *Tantum Ergo* was chanted and solemn benediction given; the procession then returned to the church in the same order in which it had set out...

In their slow and silent pace not a sound was to be heard except the sweet strains of sacred melody. All seemed intent on the object of their devotions; all were evidently sensible of the divine presence of their Redeemer, and absorbed in the contemplation of the wonders of His mercy to man....

CATHOLICUS.

June 14, 1856

Died, of dropsy, at his residence in Gallia county, on the 14th of April, Mr. SIMON DOLAN, long a respected and generous member of St. Mary's congregation, near Wilkesville.

Deceased possessed many excellent qualities of heart and head... He received the last Sacraments from the hands of the Rev. Mr. Kelly a day or two before he died. ...

June 21, 1856

ST. PETER'S COLLEGE, June 17, 1856

DEAR SIR: The first annual "Commencement" of the students of St. Peter's College will be held in the Masonic Hall, Chillicothe, on the evening of 2d July. The exercises will consist of compositions by the students, and the representation, in full costume, of "Fabiola," dramatized by the Very Rev. Canon Oakly. The clergymen of the diocese are respectfully invited to be present. M. FORDE

June 28, 1856

Married.

at Lancaster, Ohio, on the 24th instant, by the Rev. Henry Lange, L. C. BUTCH to MARY A. BISH.

July 5, 1856

We have received an interesting account of a retreat preached by Rev. Albert Bokel, O.S.D., to the students of St. Joseph's College, Somerset, at the end of which five young men abjured the errors of Protestantism and were received into the true fold. The Very Rev. James Whelan officiated on the occasion, and made a touching address to the youth present, urging them to devote their lives to preserve their baptismal innocence—"for this is all man."**

August 2, 1856

Died, on the 24th July, at the convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Cincinnati, Sister STANISLAUS KOSTKA, in the world, M. Kennedy, in the 29th year of her age.

Deceased was from St. James' Congregation, Meig's Creek, above Marietta. She was devoted to works of religion and piety from her youth, and before entering the convent, was engaged as school teacher. In her last illness she sometimes expressed the belief that it was owing to the prayers of her sister, who belonged to the same community, and who was sent to the new schools opened in Columbus this year, that she did not die until that Sister and her companions should see her when they came to the retreat. They did come on the day of her death, and like Scholastica, after her heavenly conversation with her brother, St. Benedict, Sister Stanislaus peaceably died after spending the evening recreation conversing with her sister! R.I.P.

(To be continued)

** The baptismal register of St. Joseph Parish provides these particulars about the students, who were baptized on June 15, 1856: George, born Oct. 13, 1836, son of Thomas Drake and wife Almira C. Kenchloe, from Zanesville; Patrick B., born Aug. 5, 1838, son of Philip Duffy and wife Rebecca Kelly, from Virginia; James Philip, born Aug. 14, 1834, son of John Grand and wife Mary Ann Hugal, from Cincinnati; Albert Joseph, born Jan. 16, 1838, son of Joseph Walter and wife Mary Cochrill; and John, born Dec. 18, 1840, son of William Colgan and wife Elizabeth Christopher, from Kentucky.