

Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus

Vol. XXXIX, No. 2

Feb. 22: Chair of Peter

February, 2014

1905 History of St. Peter's Parish, Chillicothe, Ohio

The following text is taken from the souvenir program of the Seventh General Convention of the German Roman Catholic State Union of Ohio, held on the 4th through the 6th of June, 1905, in the school hall at St. Peter's Parish in Chillicothe. A copy of the program was found in the effects of Joseph Hess of California, uncle of the wife of Dr. Richard C. Rooney of Chillicothe. Dr. Rooney produced some fine copies of the booklet and kindly gave one to the Society.

The program contains a sketch of the history of St. Peter Parish in German and English, on facing pages. Since the German version contains many details not included in the English, that version is presented here, as translated by your editor. A few additional statements, noted within brackets [], are drawn from the English version.

We are fortunate to have this sketch, since Chillicothe at that time was in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the sketch is contemporaneous with those of parishes in the Diocese of Columbus that were prepared in 1903 and 1907 and were published in our Bulletin in August, 1990, July, 1992 and from February, 2004 to October, 2006.

The program also contains a sketch of the town of Chillicothe, in German and English; a one-page story of St. Margaret's Cemetery in English, a one-page historical sketch of the St. Ignatius Beneficial Society of the parish (German), and a one-page statement to the

Knights of St. George Commandery of Chillicothe (English); and rosters of the last two organizations.

A list of the organizations forming the State Union includes, from the present Diocese of Columbus:

*St. Ignatius Verein, Chillicothe
St. Georgius Ritter, Chillicothe
St. Paulus Jung Maenner Verein, Columbus
St. Fr. Xavierus Verein, Columbus
St. Johannes Verein, Columbus
St. Georg's Ritter, Div. A, Columbus
St. Georg's Ritter, Div. B., Columbus
St. Joseph's Hof, C.O.F., Columbus
St. Johannes Verein, Corning
St. Joseph's Verein, Delaware
St. Peter's Verein, Portsmouth*

Historical Sketch of the Catholic St. Peter's Parish in Chillicothe, Ohio

The beginning of the Church in our part of the country, as elsewhere, was small and insignificant. The first missionaries, who did not shirk toils and hardships in exercising their sacred duties, passing through the Ohio Valley, from time to time visited Chillicothe, which then was a flourishing town. They found a few scattered Catholics living in this region, for whom they offered the holy mysteries and dispensed the holy sacraments. These families formed the nucleus of the future Christian parish. The number of Catholics saw such steady growth of German- and English-speaking families that moved here, that

the Most Rev. Bishop Fenwick of Cincinnati, granting their requests, promised to send them a resident pastor.

In the year 1837 the zealous missionary priest Heinrich D. Juncker (later Bishop of Alton, Ill.) was sent to the congregation as their first pastor [by Rt. Rev. Purcell]. Shortly after the arrival of Father Juncker the congregation obtained from the Episcopalians a lot with a church building on Walnut Street. However, after a few years this church was already too small and in the year 1841 the thought arose of building a new church. In the year 1843 Rev. Father Juncker journeyed to Europe to obtain assistance for his parish, and during his absence Rev. Amadeus Rappe was parish administrator.

After his return, Father Juncker was called to Dayton, Ohio, but in recognition of his efforts for the Chillicothe parish he was invited by the Most Rev. Archbishop Purcell to lay the cornerstone of the present St. Peter's Church. The impressive ceremony took place on June 29, 1845, the Feast of St. Peter, the glorious apostle. In the Fall of the year 1845 the parish received its second pastor in the person of Rev. Otto Borgess, who zealously continued and completed the work begun by Father Juncker, so that on the 6th of December, 1846, the new church was ready to be occupied.

That much desired day of rejoicing was held for the untiring, active pastor, as well as for the parish members; they then saw dedicated to the future worship of the Most High the beautifully completed house of God, the result of their united work and their Christian sacrifices.

At Pentecost of the year 1847 Rev. Father Kalcher, S.J., replaced Father Borgess. Soon his confreres in the order, Reverend Fathers D'Hope, S.J., Carroll, S.J., and Tschiedler, S.J., joined themselves to him. Now the Catholics in the "old Capital City" and the region were plentifully provided with clergymen.

In the year 1849 the number of English-speaking members had increased to such a size that they could establish their own congregation and they separated from St. Peter's. After some five years of unceasing activity and sacrifice, the Rev. [Jesuit]

Fathers departed from Chillicothe, to the great sorrow of the faithful, who had learned to esteem and to value the prudent and zealous shepherds.

In September 1851 Rev. Edward Lieb was sent by the Archbishop to Chillicothe to take over the care of St. Peter's. This Father earlier had belonged to the Capuchin order and as such he had lived seven years in the imperial court in Vienna, where he was teacher and tutor of Prince Maximilian, who later came to a sad end as Emperor of Mexico.

During the long tenure of Father Lieb the congregation purchased a new cemetery and the real estate with the present pastoral residence and the Sisters' convent. The schoolhouse was soon erected there. In the year 1881, after having become gray in serving the congregation for thirty years, the aging pastor laid down his office in order to return to private life.

On April 3, 1889 the venerable priest rested in the Lord and was laid in the new cemetery, amidst his old parishioners, a good many of whom he had ministered to and had handed over to the earth.

Rev. Ernst Windhorst succeeded him as pastor. A few years later Pope Leo XIII. conferred on Father Windhorst the title of Monsignor with the rank of domestic prelate of His Holiness. Rev. Father Windhorst made many notable improvements in the church and school, very valuable for convenience and soundness. There was likewise an addition built to the old schoolhouse and the present schoolhouse adapted. [The interior of the church was renovated, the frescoes adding much to its beauty. It was during his stay here that the new St. Margaret's Cemetery was conveyed to the members of both Catholic parishes of this city.]

On the 24th of June, 1895, Monsignor Windhorst left Chillicothe and took over the administration and pastoral office of St. Ludwig's Church in Cincinnati. Days after the departure of Rev. Windhorst, Rev. W. B. Miggeel began his service. On June 29, 1895 the congregation celebrated its golden jubilee. This day began joyfully and turned in to a holiday for all the Catholics of the region. The Most Rev. Archbishop Elder, of blessed memory, as well as many clergy of the diocese

honored the congregation by their attendance at the celebration. The official speaker was the late Monsignor Jessing, founder and rector of the papal college in Columbus, Ohio. In his address he heartily congratulated the congregation for the magnificent results of a half-century.

In September of the same year the administration of the parish was entrusted to Rev. F. H. Bene. This Father soon won the hearts of the flock and began to plead the necessity of clearing the remaining debt of the parish, which he succeeded in accomplishing through the cheerful cooperation of the congregation. When Father Bene was called to Cincinnati last Fall, his flock manifested their profound sorrow to lose their beloved and esteemed pastor. The present pastor is Rev. Martin A. Heintz.

In the first year of its existence the parish already established a Catholic school. At different times the school was conducted by members of different religious orders. At present the school is under the Notre Dame Sisters from Cleveland, Ohio, and the parish thanks them for the flourishing condition of the school, which is performing as never before. The number of school children, boys and girls, totals 140 [with three sisters teaching].

The parish is also in a flourishing condition and dares to confidently hope in the future, as in the past, to stride ahead and to prosper, not only for the welfare of a few members but also of all those who value the benefit of Christian influence. At the last estimate of the church wardens, some 250 families belonged to the parish.

Chronicle of Events in the Diocese of Columbus for 2013

(Compiled by the Editor)

Universal Church

- Feb. 11 Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation, effective Feb. 28, because of physical and mental weakening.
- Mar. 13 Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, was elected Supreme Pontiff and took the name Francis.
- Oct. 13 Pope Francis consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Church in the U.S.

- June 21 The bishops of the United States began their second annual Fortnight for Freedom to raise awareness of threats to religious liberty.

Agencies and Institutions

- Jan. 31 A new academic wing and expanded chapel at Newark Catholic high school were dedicated.
- March Christo Rey High School Columbus purchased the former Ohio State School for the Deaf on East Town Street as its future home.

- Mar. 20 Bishop Campbell, after consulting with representatives of the Marion Catholic High School advisory board, foundation board, and staff, announced the closing of the school at the end of the academic year because of low enrollment and financial problems.

April The diocese became embroiled in public controversy for the firing of Carla Hale, physical education teacher at Bishop Watterson High School, after the fact of her "spousal relationship" with another woman became public. A confidential settlement was reached in August.

Aug. 5 Christo Ray High School opened in the former Diocesan Child Guidance Center.

August The Franciscan Brothers moved from St. James the Less Parish to the former rectory at Our Lady of Peace Parish, 20 E. Dominion Blvd.

Sept. 15 The new West Campus athletic facilities at St. Charles Preparatory School were blessed by Bishop Campbell.

Sept. Three members of the Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (with North Ameri-

can provincial motherhouse in Justine, Ill. and world headquarters in Krakow) took up residence at 957 E. Broad Street. They initially took up religious education, youth ministry, evangelization, and works of mercy at St. Patrick, Holy Family, and St. Mary parishes.

Dec. 4 The new facilities at St. Ann Hospital in Westerville were blessed by Bishop Campbell.

Parishes

Feb. 10 A new organ was dedicated at St. Colman of Cloyne Church, Washington C.H.

Mar. 17 Ground was broken at St. Michael Parish in Worthington for an addition to house an adoration chapel, offices, meeting rooms, and space for other uses.

Apr. 7 Ground was broken at St. John Neumann parish in Sunbury for an expansion to include a chapel building for adoration and weekday Mass, and a transept to the church.

July 9 Missionary Servants of the Word replaced diocesan priests at St. Stephen the Martyr Parish in Columbus.

Aug. 4 Bishop Campbell blessed the altars at St. Joseph Church in Sugar Grove: the church's old altar renovated and moved forward in the sanctuary, as well as an altar from Immaculate Conception Church in Eden, N.Y., against the sanctuary wall as an altar of repose for the Blessed Sacrament.

August St. Mary parish school in Lancaster opened a preschool program.

Nov. 18 Early Thanksgiving morning, Sacred Hearts Church, Cardington, was destroyed by fire.

Nov. 24 Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Marysville held a dedication concert for an updated and improved 1964 Steiner organ, formerly in St. Paul Episcopal Church in Columbus.

Nov. 30 Sisters of the Missionary Servants of the Word took up residence in a convent at Christ the King Church to work with the Hispanic community in that area.

Nov. 30 The new parish ministry center at St. Michael Parish in Worthington was dedicated.

Dec. 18 The expanded St. John Neumann Church

in Sunbury was rededicated and blessed.

Personnel and Vocations

May 3 Bishop Campbell ordained transitional deacons Cyrus Haddad and Vincent Nguyen at the Cathedral.

May 24 In St. Dominic's Church, Washington, D.C., Most Rev. Christopher Cardone, O.P. ordained to the priesthood Rev. Dominic Bump, O.P., who attended Grove City High School and worked in Dublin, O., and was formerly a member of St. Patrick Parish in Columbus. (He had made permanent vows in 2009.)

May 25 At St. Joseph Cathedral, Bishop Campbell ordained to the priesthood Revs. Nicholas Lee Droll, Michael Chisholm Gentry, and Matthew Brian Morris.

June 9 At Fordham University, Most Rev. Thomas Donato ordained to the priesthood Rev. Michael C. Magree, S.J., a graduate of St. Charles High School and recipient of a Masters' Degree from The Ohio State University and former member of St. Patrick Parish in Columbus.

July 1 Retired: Deacon Thomas Berg Sr. of St. Joan of Arc Parish, Powell

July 9 Retired: Rev. Justine Reis, Pastor of St. Peter Parish in Columbus, Rev. Michael Reis, Pastor of St. Leonard Parish in Heath, and V. Rev. G. Michael Gribble, Rector of St. Joseph Cathedral. Also Deacons Hank Gundrum of St. Mark Parish in Lancaster and Patrick Wiggins of St. Brendan the Navigator Parish in Hilliard. Deacon Gary Ingold of St. Joan of Arc Parish, Powell, moved away.

Aug. 10 Br. Charles Shonk, O.P., graduate of St. Charles Preparatory School (1999) and Denison University, professed final vows in Washington, D.C.

Necrology

Jan. 4 Sr. Evelyn Ann Schumacher, O.S.F., age 93, in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, a native of Woodsfield who entered religious life from this diocese

Jan. 5 Rev. James T. Smith, age 78, Pastor of St. Matthias Parish in Columbus

- Jan. 12 Sr. Ann (Vincent) Feth, S.N.D. de N. in Cincinnati, a native of Columbus, age 97 (author of *A History of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Columbus, The First Fifty Years, 1855-1905*)
- Feb. 14 Sr. Julia (Teresina) Fala, O.S.F., age 89, at Stella Niagara, a native of Columbus
- Feb. 16 Sr. M. Francis Helene Fox, C.S.C., at Notre Dame, Ind., age 87, a native of Columbus
- Apr. 8 Sr. Clarita Elder, O.P., in Columbus at the age of 80, a native of Somerset
- Apr. 16 Maryknoll Father Robert V. Tobin in Ossining, N.Y., age 85, a native of Mariion
- May 25 Sr. Edith (Mariella) Fitzgerald, O.P., in Columbus, aged 93, a native of Plain City
- June 22 Sr. Agnes (Alcantara) Goode, O.S.F., age 84, in Columbus, a native of Circleville
- June 25 Sr. Loretta (Michael Joseph) Forquer, O.P., in Columbus at the age of 92, a native of New Lexington
- July 29 Sr. Mary Elaine (born Amelia) Tarpy, S.N.D. de N., in Cincinnati, aged 88, a native of Columbus
- Aug. 2 Sr. Mary Carol Kessler, O.P., in Columbus at the age of 92, a native of Lancaster
- Aug. 4 Rev. Ronald L. Arter, age 79, in his native city of Lancaster, retired priest of the diocese
- Sept. 19 Sr. Helen Welch, O.S.F., at Stella Niagara, aged 88 years, a native of Columbus
- Sept. 28 Rev. Jack G. Maynard, in Columbus at the age of 64, priest of the diocese
- Oct. 22 Msgr. Francis X. Schweitzer, age 93, retired priest of the diocese
- Oct. 24 Sr. Dolores (formerly Sr. Patricia) Garner, O.S.F., at Stella Niagara, age 92, native of Jackson
- Nov. 2 Deacon Kasuma J. Santos, Jr., in Columbus, of Christ the King Parish and Latino formation consultant for the Office of the Diaconate
- Nov. 7 in Cumberland, R.I., Rev. James A. (born Francis James) Driscoll, O.P., age 89, a native of Columbus
- Nov. 12 Sr. Mary Emma Muckensturm, O.P., in Columbus, age 87, a native of Lancaster
- Nov. 16 in Columbus, Msgr. James B. Nugent, age 88, priest of the Diocese of Steubenville who lived in Columbus and assisted at various parishes in his retirement
- Nov. 16, Deacon Joseph D. Poland, retired from service in the diocese, age 75
- Nov. 26 Sr. Stella (Joseph Damien) Spangler, O.P., in Columbus, age 91, a native of Woodsfield
- Dec. 8 Sr. Rita Greene, O.S.F., age 84, in Joliet, Ill., a native of Columbus

St. Joseph Parish near Somerset Baptisms, 1834-1850

(Continued, from Vol. XXXIX, No. 1)

1845, continued

- Feb. 4, John, son of same [John and Ann Haynes]; spon. Patrick McChristian.
- Feb. 4, Ann, daughter of same; spon. Mary McChristian. A. O'Brien
- [no date given] child of Brice and Mary Walsh, born Jan. 31; spon. Mrs. Caton. AOB
- Feb. [illegible], Frances, daughter of Frederick Kintz and Margaret, spouses; spon. Francis Gallagher and Sarah Fink. AOB
- Mar. 28, Edward Thomas, born Mar. 17, son of John Carney and Rosann Cayton, spouses; spon. Elizabeth Largy. J. T. Jarboe
- Apr. 20, Mary Catherine, born Feb. 27, daughter of George Kintz and Margaret Foncannon; spon. William Starner (son of Henry) and Mary Starner (daughter of James Foncannon). E. H. Pozzo
- Apr. 27, William, born Apr. 26, son of William Dittoe and Alice, spouses; spon. Henry Dittoe and Elizabeth Brady. AOB
- [no date given] John Hynes, age 25; spon. Patrick McChristal. AOB

page 121

July 28, a son of Nicholas Tumuelts and Margaret Pyront, spouses, born today, who in danger of imminent death was baptized in the house by Margaret Pyront, aunt of the infant. Manus D'Arco

Aug. 10, Mary Magdalene, born July 22, daughter of Peter Katton and Mary Staley; spons. Josepha Staley daughter of Christopher. EPH

Aug. 24, Joan, daughter of Hugh McGonigle and Mary, spouses; spons. John McGonigle and Rosa O'Hair. AOB

Aug. 25, Patrick, born Aug. 19, son of Thomas Flowers and Margaret McMullen, spouses; spons. Charles Bentz (son of Thomas) and Mary Meghery (daughter of John). Mannes D'Arco

Sept. 9, William, born Sept. 28, 1844, son of John Hall and Mary Hiles, spouses, Protestants, who promise to educate the child in the Catholic religion; spons. Henry Martin (son of Owen) and Catherine Martin (daughter of Hugh Griffing). EHP

Sept. 11, Mary, born Aug. 29, daughter of Alexander McClain and Mary Hoy, spouses; spons. Basil Gordon (son of James) and Elizabeth Hoy (daughter of John). EHP

Aug. 3, James Patrick, son of Anthony Kintz and Sarah Starner, spouses; spons. Henry and Mary Starner. Fr. N. R. Young

Aug. 15, Albert James Martin, son of Jacob Dittoe and Catherine Cluney, spouses; spons. Henry Weller and Mary Cluney. NRY

Pages 122-150 contain marriage records; the remaining pages through 169 are blank.
page 170

Aug. 3, Ann, daughter of Henry [correctly William] Floyd and Mary Welshimer, spouses, who promise to raise her in the Catholic faith; spons. Henry Flaut (uncle) and Julia Ann Flautt. NRY

Oct. 5, Martha Imelda, born Sept. 30, daughter of William Sterner and Mary Foncannon, spouses; spons. Henry Sterner and Mary Sterner. J? O'Brien

Oct. 29, James Hugh, born Oct. 21, son of Henry

Martin and Catherine Griffing, spouses; spons. John and Sarah Cassily (children of Mathew). EHP

Nov. 3, Eugenia Amanda, born Oct. 29, daughter of Jacob Dittoe and Sara, spouses; spons. James McGonagle and Sara Catherine McKernan. Fr. O'Brien

Nov. 3, Mary, born today, daughter of George Redmond and Ruth Lynch, spouses; spons. Patrick Redmond (son of George) and Mary Scullion (daughter of Patrick Redmond). EHP

Dec. 25, Daniel Sylvester, born Nov. 11, son of William D. Anderson and Catherine or Zahm, spouses; spons. Joseph Kregh and Christina Kregh. A. P. Anderson

1846

Jan. 4, Frances Elizabeth, born Dec. 28, 1845, daughter of George Sanders and Elizabeth Bennet, spouses, of the congregation of St. Joseph; spons. Thomas Griffem and Elizabeth Griffem. Fr. Sadoc Vilarrasa, Ord. Praed.

page 171

Jan. 11, Thomas Jefferson, born Jan. 10, son of Johathan Sharp and Elizabeth or Sterner, spouses; spons. William Sterner and Mary Sterner, spouses. APA

Feb. 25, Catherine Cecilia, born Feb. 20, daughter of Martin Bengama [Bringardner] and Ann Greene, spouses; spons. James McGonagle (son of Dennis) and Margaret Foley (daughter of Richard). MD

Feb. 9, Mary, born today, daughter of Simon Flowers and Anna, spouses; spons. Joseph Flowers and Elizabeth Flowers. AOB

Mar. 29, Joseph George, born Mar. 19, son of William Beaver and Ann Zahm, spouses; spons. Jacob Zahm and Eve Zahm. APA

Apr. 30, Robert Michael, born Apr. 22, son of Jacob B. Dittoe and Rebecca or Roads, spouses; spons. William Clark and Frances E. Clark, spouses. APA

May 12, William Francis, born Apr. 25, son of Francis Clark and Rebecca or Flowers, spouses; spons. Elizabeth Flowers. APA

Thomas son of Mathew Flowers and Mary [blank], baptized at home in danger of imminent death by Rev. Raymond Young of this convent; on May 17 was carried to the Church of St. Joseph where I supplied the ceremonies. Sadoc Vilarrasa

page 172

June 8, at this church, ceremonies for Mary, born April 25, daughter of Francis Judy and Susan, spouses, baptized in danger of death by Francis Judy, uncle of the infant. SV

July 20, Frances Cecilia, born July 9, daughter of John Higgins and Margaret Selim, spouses; spon. James McChristian and Margaret his daughter. Fr. N. R. Young

Aug. 30, ceremonies for Frances Catherine, born Aug. 21, daughter of Nicholas Tumolt and Margaret Pirung, spouses, baptized in danger of death by Catherine Dolhauer. SV

Aug. 30, in this church, ceremonies for Daniel Michael, born Aug. 10, son of Joseph Kelly and Mary Musselman, spouses, baptized in danger of death by Anna Gallagher. James Whelan

Sept. 6, James Jerome, born Sept. 2, son of Charles Kints and Elizabeth Foncannon, spouses; spon. William Sterner and Mary his wife. James Whelan

page 173

Sept. 8, at Jackson, Simon, born July 20, son of

Peter Ringel and Catherine or Hite, spouses; spon. John and Catherine McIntire, spouses. A. P. Anderson

Sept. 23, conditionally, William, born Sept. 22, son of Henry Poorman and Margaret or Stroll, spouses; spon. Sarah Rosenberry. APA Oct. 2, Elizabeth Ann Agnes, born Sept. 29, daughter of John Mouter and Mary Ann Hallen, spouses; spon. William I. Riffle and Sarah Ann Fink. James Whelan

Nov. 15, Sarah Elizabeth, born Oct. 26, daughter of Adam Beaver and Rose Thorp?, spouses; spon. Jacob Zahm and Elizabeth Wible. James Whelan

Nov. 22, Infant son of William D. Stine and Anna Kintz, spouses, in danger of death was baptized by me at home. James Whelan

Dec. 20, Thomas, born Dec. 12, son of George Green and Margaret, spouses; spon. Rosanna McGonigle. James Whelan

1847

Jan. 17, John Louis, born Jan. 8, son of Frederick Kintz and Margaret Elder, spouses; spon. John Green and Mary Ann Kintz. JW page 174

Feb. 9, Henry, born Feb. 8, son of George Wellen and Mary Cluney, spouses; spon. Rebecca Dittoe and Frederick Wellen. Sadoc Vilarrasa

(To be continued)

Thoughts While Contemplating the RUINS of ST. MARY'S ACADEMY, SOMERSET

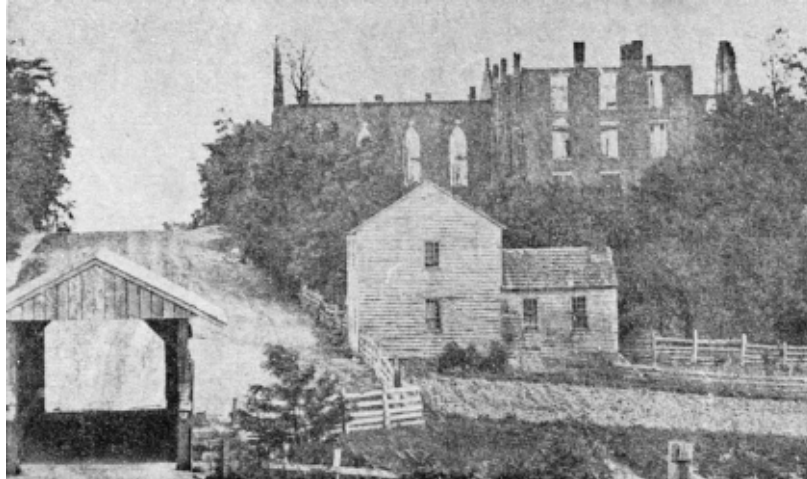
by F. J. W. Spencer

What though the sands stain Tadmor's marble
white,
The vine clothe Coliseum or Melrose,
What though a Byron waked his harp by night
Amid their courts of grandeur and repose,—

List, did the euphony Time's legions stay,
For evermore to linger in their isles?
Doth their wierd witch notes never wandering play
Like Cato's strings 'round other crumbling piles?

What storied relics deck the march of time!
What ghost-like requiems from nurtured power
Arise from babel throngs felled by his rime
Now heaving high where tottering Memnon's
tower

The very void that fashioned the dumb life!
Thy death, St. Mary, simply tells of yore
And types the ruts with which time's tide is rife—
Unleashes restless destiny—what more?



I near with saddened brow where once did blend
 The indices of Heaven and labored lore;
 The moonbeams to the shattered casket lend
 A sheen of woe where ruin seethed before;

Hushed is the offering at the vesper hour,
 The silvery curfew, and the voice of joy
 That once arose, true elements of power,
 To wield the standard that high aims employ.

Fate, so seeming multifarious, calls
 And I depart with doubt upon the tongue
 To view a mighty scroll on which there falls
 Deft argument and pictures one by one,

I see dispersed far o'er our goodly land
 The benefits these walls bestowed amain.
 And turning, long to clasp a Guizot's hand
 And hear him tell how naught was made in vain.

Unto my simple mind it is, forsooth,
 Most wholesome food to wrap me in the woof
 Of thought where noble purity wins ruth
 Through shattered stone and tile thrown so aloof.

St. Mary, soon thy patrons, and shall I,
 Commingle with the dust that oft may rear
 Full many a fane whose classic towers high
 Shall, crumbling, start from other eyes a tear.

+ + +

The above verses appeared in *The Somerset Advocate* on July 2, 1868, two years after the fire of June 6, 1866 that destroyed the academy and its chapel and two days before the community of Dominican Sisters moved to Shepard, near Columbus. The identity of the author is not known. The most likely person seems to be John W. Spencer (1845-1925), a school teacher in Somerset, who in 1870 was living at home with his father, attorney William Spencer, and mother and siblings. The family are buried in the Somerset Methodist Cemetery. But this does not explain the first initial of "F."

A few identifications for today's classically challenged reader:

- Tadmore was an ancient city in present central Syria, disused after the 1500s.
- Melrose is the Abbey in Scotland, in ruins.
- Memnon, according to the Greeks, was the Pharaoh at the time of the Trojan War.
- Francois Guizot (1787-1874) was a French historian, orator, and statesman.

We leave you on your own to look up other unfamiliar words!

Copyright 2014,
 Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus
 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, Ohio 43215
 Donald M. Schlegel, Editor