

Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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Aug. 20: St. Bernard of Clairvaux

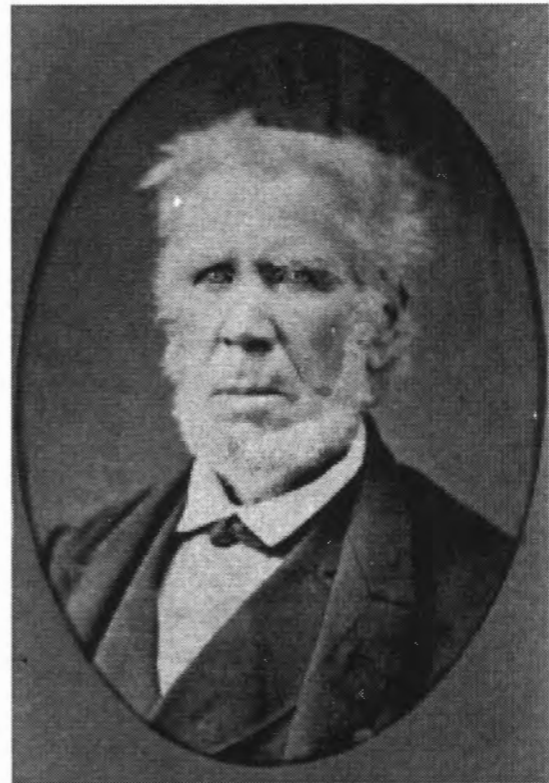
August, A.D. 1999

Bernard and Ellen Mathews Hardin County Pioneers

Bernard Mathews, it is said, came to Ohio with two rare attributes: a classical education and money to buy a farm. These proved valuable indeed to him and, it is apparent, were also of value to his immediate descendants.

He was born in County Dublin, Ireland on April 15, 1801, the seventh son of John and Mary Mathews. Several of his brothers were sailors on the high seas. In 1830 he married Ellen Clinton, a native of Jamestown, County Dublin, born in June, 1811. Ellen, it was said, was related to Sir Henry Clinton, prominent as a General in the British Army during early days of the American Revolution.

Bernard and Ellen and their first two children came to America in 1834, landing in New York on May 15 and moving west immediately, by canal and lake, through Albany, Buffalo, Cleveland, and Columbus. On August 1 they arrived in Kenton, Hardin County, Ohio. Twelve days earlier they had visited the land office and Bernard had entered 44 acres of land in Section 18 in Pleasant Township, within the area now bounded by County Highway 90 and Township Road 100 and west of the railroad right-of-way. In 1835 he entered another 84 acres in that section and in 1836 another 40-acre tract two miles to the north, in Section 6. He worked diligently to begin converting the forest into farmland while building a comfortable cabin for his family. In 1835 he entered a tract of some 280 acres in Cessna Township, where the family



Bernard Mathews (1801-1891)

Courtesy of Mary Clo Owen

moved in 1837. This, the family home for forty-five years, was three miles northwest of Kenton on the Lima Road (State Route 309). Like most of the farmers of his day, Bernard and Ellen slowly improved the land and did mixed farming, keeping cattle, sheep, and hogs while raising wheat, corn, oats, hay, fruit, and potatoes.

Mr. Mathews was active in his community and in the Church. He was clerk of Cessna Township in 1850. In the 1850s, for the grand sum of twenty-five cents, he leased to the township school directors a half-acre lot on the western edge of his farm "for school purposes, and public instruction". He was a Director of the Hardin County Infirmary from 1869 to 1871. In 1871 a new Pioneer Association of Hardin County was formed and Bernard was one of its first and oldest members. He was on the committee for Immaculate Conception Parish in Kenton in 1864 and was its treasurer. In 1863 at a sheriff's auction he purchased for \$128 the lot lying west of the church, which in 1864 he sold to the parish for the same price, where in 1869 the rectory was built. "His rigid adherence to his obligations and word, and his faithful discharge of duty, his uprightness of character, his independent, self-reliant nature, but courteous, fair and considerate treatment of all who differed with him, gained for him the highest respect..."

Few were better versed in both secular and sacred history than he, and this and his knowledge of books he could impart in conversation or discussion in an entertaining and attractive manner. His memory provided much of the early history of Immaculate Conception Parish, as written by Father Siebenfoercher for the 1883 history of Hardin County.

Seven sons and three daughters were born to Mathew and Ellen, all of whom lived to adulthood: Mary, wife of James Garrety (a contractor) of Des Moines, Iowa and later of Seattle, Wash.; John of Wallace, Kansas and later of Christopher, Wash.; James C., Matthew R. and Cornelius M. of Elbert County, Colorado; Lucy P., Joseph C., and Clotilda, wife of Daniel Flanagan, of Kenton; Alfred, of Delaware, Ohio; and Jerome*, of Elbert County, Colorado. Bernard was firm but not severe in raising his children, and their love for him was such that his slightest wish was the rule of their conduct.

In the fall of 1882 Bernard and Ellen retired from their farm and moved into Kenton. At Christmas, 1883, for the first time in over twenty-five years their children all gathered at the home in Kenton, "to once more renew family ties, and forget for the time the cold and rugged struggle of life which confronts us all after we have reached our majority, and left the roof and protection that sheltered and cared for us in our youthful days." Ellen, bedridden, fervently prayed that she might be called to her eternal home before her children would again separate, and some of them never again have the opportunity of seeing her. Her prayer was answered, for she died on January 5, before any of her children had left for their distant homes. She had a great and self-sacrificing devotion to her family. Her son Alfred wrote, "It was hard to say whether she charmed the most by the graces of piety, or by the grandeur of demeanor that had in her so grand a development. If the one captivated the soul, the other made a more enduring conquest over the feelings of the heart." She had "a large share of those Christian graces that always are so noble and becoming to humanity, and which are its great support in times of trouble, and sorrow, and death."

After Ellen's death, daughter Lucy joined the Sisters of Charity in Cincinnati and later worked at Good Samaritan Hospital there. Bernard moved to Des Moines for several months, living with his daughter Mary Garrety, but missed the familiar faces of home and returned to Kenton to live with his daughter Clotilda Flanagan. He died in her home on August 10, 1891.

Mr. Mathews was a man of resolute character, strong, clear judgement, decided opinions, and

* Jerome was sent to the University of Notre Dame to become a doctor but, his health failing after graduating in 1874, he went to Colorado and became a cattle man. He lived into the 1940s and at that time was the oldest living graduate of Notre Dame.

strong convictions. He also displayed many Christian virtues: wisdom, prudence, sympathy to the downtrodden, propriety of conduct, love of truth, a sense of moral and religious obligation, and a just charity which was a principle of his life. However, over all of these he wore a mantle of humility. He thought so little of himself, was so unobtrusive, so truly simple and retiring, that his son-in-law hesitated to write his obituary, "as if that kindly and modest face were rising up before us to deprecate words of praise." These fine qualities were passed on to his children by inheritance, training, and example.

Daniel Flanagan

Dan Flanagan, newspaperman, first arrived in Kenton on Sunday, December 9, 1866, the day on which Archbishop Purcell of Cincinnati dedicated Immaculate Conception Church. He had been told by his employer, Mr. Bloss of the



Daniel Flanagan (1840-1901)
Courtesy of Mary Clo Owen

Cincinnati Enquirer, that Kenton presented a good field for an ambitious newspaper man. Flanagan liked what he saw and in 1867 made Kenton his home.

Flanagan was a native of County Clare, Ireland, born in 1840. He and his parents, Thomas and Catherine (McMahon; also called Mary or Margaret) landed in New Orleans in 1849 and settled in Butler County, Ohio, where Daniel grew up. By 1860 they had moved to Cincinnati, where Thomas was a blacksmith and Daniel was a printer for the *Enquirer*, soon moving to the position of reporter. Daniel's siblings were Michael, Johanna, Thomas, William, Kate, and Ida, all of whom lived in Kenton at various times.

During the Civil War, Daniel edited the *Warren Democratic Citizen* of Lebanon, O. At one point he reprinted from another paper an article critical of the Lincoln administration's war policy. For



Clotilda Mathews Flanagan (1848-1897)
Courtesy of Mary Clo Owen

this he was arrested and sentenced to a term in the military prison at Fort Delaware (on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River, off Delaware City). He was released after a short time and often thereafter laughed about his war-prison life. (No mention of Flanagan as editor is made in that newspaper at that time. It was attacked by a mob in August of 1862 and did not resume publication until November. Whether there was any connection between that event and Flanagan's arrest is unknown.)

By December 13, 1866 Flanagan made a bargain with the owner of the *Kenton Advocate*. This was supposed to have been the county's Democratic newspaper, but in those days of Reconstruction in the south the Democrats were in a shadow even in their long-time strongholds such as Ohio, all being rated as Copperheads who had opposed the war. It took a courageous man to successfully publish a Democratic paper in those days, and Dan Flanagan proved that he had the necessary courage and ability. He change the name of the paper to the *Kenton Democrat* and soon won a fine and widely acknowledged reputation for the newspaper, under the motto "Equal and exact justice to all - special privileges to none." His editorials quickly attracted the wrath of Republican writers, but he enjoyed the wild excitement of the contest and the turmoil of the fight. Still, he won many personal friends in the camp of his political enemies. The Democrats soon controlled every elected office of importance in Hardin County and the credit was given to Flanagan and his newspaper.

On June 22, 1869 he married Clotilda, daughter of Bernard and Ellen Mathews. Born about 1848, Clotilda was a refined, educated woman. Together they had eleven children, seven of whom survived infancy and were raised in their home at 347 North Main Street in Kenton. The family continued to reside in Kenton when in 1875 Flanagan sold the *Kenton Democrat* and bought the *Herald of Delaware*, Ohio, where he

gave the Democratic party another strong organ with a broad circulation. He also took control of the Urbana *Union Democrat* for three years, but despite the increased work he always found time to spend Sundays at home in Kenton.

In 1885 in a transfer of properties Flanagan, with his brother Thomas and Clotilda's brother Alfred Mathew as partners, again took ownership of the *Kenton Democrat*, which he then controlled for the rest of his life. In 1886 they erected a two-story, brick building, the "Democrat Block," near the center of town on East Franklin Street in Kenton to house the paper. A photograph of this building appears on page 98 of Herbert Blue's 1933 *Centennial History of Hardin County*. Though not captioned as such, it is quite clear that Dan is pictured in the doorway, flanked by his sons Curran and little Thurman. Two other men in suit coats no doubt are Thomas Flanagan and Alfred Mathews. In the other half of the building was Staudenheimer's grocery. In 1892 the newspaper added a morning daily to its long-time weekly format. With his brother and brother-in-law, Flanagan incorporated the Kenton Democrat Printing Company in 1898.

Flanagan's efforts united the fractured and feuding Democratic party in the county, both in the early aftermath of the Civil War and in the later struggles over the issues of populism and free silver. His only "spoils" from the party were a short term as assistant journal clerk in the U.S. House of Representatives and a term as clerk for the Ohio Legislature, along with a visit to his home by then-governor William McKinley.

Mrs. Flanagan, the good, cultured, kindly Clotilda Mathews, died in Cincinnati's Good Samaritan Hospital on February 23, 1897. She had been in ill health for some time and had made a trip to Colorado that summer in hopes of improvement. In January she had been taken to the hospital but in February was afflicted with *la grippe* or influenza, which took her life. Daniel

Flanagan died of acute Bright's Disease just four years later, on February 14, 1901, having received the Last Sacraments three days earlier from Father Siebenfoercher.

Daniel Flanagan was a public-spirited man who did good for his adopted hometown at every opportunity. He was generous in his words for his town, its businesses, and his fellow-citizens. No business enterprise was undertaken in Kenton that he did not aid by his financial or editorial influence. He was a whole-hearted, true and broad man, brave, generous, and lovable.

SOURCES

Special thanks to Mary Clo Owen of Gales Ferry, Connecticut, great-granddaughter of Dan and Clotilda Flanagan, for allowing us to use her precious photographs of the family.

The major sources of information on Bernard and Ellen Mathews and Dan and Clotilda Flanagan are:

The Kenton Democrat, February 21 and 28, 1901 and May 17, 1888, Jan. 24, 1884, and August 20., 1891

The Hardin County Republican, Feb. 24, 1897 and Feb. 15, 1901

Hardin County deed records A/386, D/274, E/416, I,224, I/464, S/224, W/598, 40/539, 40/540, 40/541

Herbert T. O. Blue, *Centennial History of Hardin County, Ohio* (1933), pp 96-98, 129-131

Thomas E. Powell, *The Democratic Party of the State of Ohio* (The Ohio Publishing Co., 1913), II/178-9

History of Hardin County, Ohio (Warner, Beers & Co., 1883), p 794 and others

Our series on the Church in Hardin County will conclude in November with the story of Dan and Clotilda Flanagan's son, Lt. Thurman Flanagan.



St. John the Evangelist Church, Zanesville: Baptisms, 1828-1842

(Continued, from Vol. XXIV, No. 5)

1832, continued

April 13 Harriet, daughter of Martin Delong and Catherine W[eldon?]; spons. Matilda McKillen. Richard P. Miles, O.S.D.

April 22 Cecilia, daughter of Gabriel Paget and Elizabeth Wine(?); spons. George Spurck and Ann Spurck. RPM

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Apr. 21 George Reece

same day James Reece, and Thomas Hughes was sponsor for both. RPM

May 27 Helen Heenan, daughter of James Heenan and Charlotte Heenan; spons. James McKibben and Sarah Ann Silvers. N.D. Young, O.S.D.

June 6 Jane, daughter of Christian and Jane Cobber; spons. Charles & Mary Eberton. NDY

May 10 John Carpenter, son of Jessy & Mary

Carpenter; spons. John & Catherine McDaniel.

same day Elizabeth Jones, daughter of Jared & Ann Jones; spons. John & Elizabeth Delong.

same day Sylvester Tittle, son of Henry & Lydia Tittle; spons. William Wine.

same day Hannah Gallagher, daughter of John & Mary Ann Gallagher; spons. Rosanna Gallagher. CDB [Beaver St. Dominic names]

May 15 Margaret Monnahan, daughter of Patrick and Mary Monnahan; spons. William Monnahan and Cecilia Jiwity.

same day Dennis Brewer, son of Richard and Mary Brewer; spons. James Gallagher and Elizabeth Coyel. CDB

June 6 John Milligan, son of Michael and Eliza Milligan; spons. Jane Elizabeth Mullen. CDB

June 19 Paul, son of Nazara Pioll and Magdalen Fisher; spons. Boston Lutz and Barbara Dederkoch.

same day Mary, daughter of same; spons. Charles A. and Mary Riley (?). RPM

July 1 William Thomas, son of Richard Magher and Catherine Cantwell; spons. Andrew Magher and Bridget Hughs. RPM

July 10 Magdalen, daughter of Peter Chardon and Margaret Mordean [or Mordeau?]; spons. Magdalen Meetzleman. RPM

Aug. 6 Lusiana, daughter of Henry Orndo[r]ff and Catherine Dugan; spons. John and Ann Cassilly. CDB

Aug. 12 Mary Ann Conway, daughter of William and Martha Conway; spons. Peter Cassilly and Matilda McKibber [McKibben].

Aug. 12 Michael Carr, son of John and Catherine Carr; spons. Thomas Cassilly and Catherine Fealld.

Aug. 12 Jane S. Smith, daughter of Walter & Jane Smith; spons. Brice & Catherine Helmick.

Aug. 12 Ann Adams, conditionally. CDB

Sept. 8 Mary Ellanor, daughter of John Redmon and Bridget Jordan; spons. Ann Sherkly. RPM

Nov. 29 Michael, son of Michael Rigney and Elizabeth Dougherty; spons. Henry Musselman and Catherine Magher. RPM

Dec. 12 Charlotte Herret, daughter of George and Catherine Flood; spons. Henry Flood and Susan McKibben. RPM

Dec. 30 Mary Magdalen, daughter of Francis Rink and Lydia Coyle; spons. William Kelti and Magdalen Rink. RPM

1833

Jan. 1 Rose, daughter of George Christy and Sara Simms; spons. Barnabas McGehan and Margaret Conway. RPM

same day John, son of same; spons. Francis McDonough and Ann McGehan. RPM

Jan. 29 Mary Margaret, daughter of John Everhet and Margaret Plunket; spons. Ann Lynch Sen. RPM

Feb. 15 without ceremony, Jane Mary, daughter of Jacob Costigan and Cecilia Elder. RPM

Feb. 17 Alfred, son of James Walter and Elizabeth Good; spons. Jacob Costigan and Mary Conroy. RPM

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Mar. 17 Thomas, son of Thomas Slaven and Margaret Sher [page cut off]; spon. Margaret Conlon. RPM

Mar. 31 Cecilia Caroline, daughter of James Reece and Sara Ward; spon. Margaret Hurl(?). RPM

Apr. 6 Ann Hasket, adult; spon. Elizabeth Padget.

same day Teresa Miranda Hasket, adult; spon. Winefrid Regan. RPM

Apr. 6 Mary S. Hasket, adult; spon. Evaline Regan.

same day Sara Catherine Young; spon. Ann Cassilly. RPM

April 7 Philip, son of Francis McD[on]ough and Jane Brady; spon. John Sanders and Ann Cassilly. RPM

same day Sara Jane, daughter of James Rogan [Regan or Rogers?] and Sara Duffy; spon. Cornelius Rogers and Ann Rogers. RPM

April 11 Ann Jane, daughter of William Monaghan and Louisa Romine; spon. Elizabeth Reed. RPM

April 21 Cornelius (born April 17), son of David Hughs and Catherine Slaven; spon. William Smith and Mary Delong. T. J. Van Den Broek, O.S.D.

Apr. 24 Joseph Timony, son of Peter Timony and Elizabeth Ward; spon. James Carr and Sara Donaghoe. James V. Bullock, O.S.D.

May 26 Michael D., son of George Spurk and Anna Dugan; spon. Thomas Hughs and Bridget Hughs. RPM

June 2 Stephan Wa[r]d, son of Joseph Ward and Margaret Curran; spon. Margaret Hore.

same day William Ward, son of same; spon. Sara Ann Silvers. Charles P. Montgomery, O.S.D.

same day Patrick, son of John Powers and Catherine Shearlock; spon. Arthur Taggart and Elizabeth Carr. RPM

nona June Francis Aloysius, son of George Reese and Emily Ward; spon. John and Catherine Ward. CPM

same day Frances Emily, daughter of John Ward and Catherine He [page cut off]; spon. John and Emily Reese. CPM

June 11 Oliv. Robert, son of Oliv. Barret and Margaret Harkin(s); spon. Andrew and Margaret Dugan. CPM

June 14 Louis James, son of Peter Cassilly and Catherine Sh[page cut off]; spon. James McKibben and Sara Lockman. CPM

June 16 Lucy, daughter of Edward Farrell and Margaret Denny; spon. Michael Rigney and Ann Davis.

same day Catherine, daughter of same; spon. Cornelius Rogers and Ann Dugan. CPM

July 7 James, son of Thomas Weir and Elizabeth Scott; spon. Matthew Scott. CPM

July 10 James, son of Patrick Killeen and Mary Gruin(?); spon. Hannah Truck. CPM

July 14 William, son of Philip Callohan and Mary Curran; spon. Mary Ann Callohan. CPM

Aug. 11 James Henry, son of Isaac Kain and Mary Ann Reed; spon. Elizabeth Reed.

same day William John Mattingly, son of Joseph Mattingly and Ellen Mattingly; spon. William and Mary Mattingly.

same day Edward, son of Barnabas King and Elizabeth McNamara; spon. James Noon and Mary Carr. CPM

Aug. 18 James Robert, son of John Cassilly and Anna Hark [page cut off]; spon. Andrew and Margaret Dugan. CPM

Aug. 25 Nathaniel, son of George Morgan and Ann De[page cut off]; spon. Effy Windle. CPM

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Aug. 25 Francis, son of Michael Brady and Mary Crayton; spon. Mary Temple.

same day, James, son of John McConahay and Elizabeth Winoff[?]; spon. John McDaniel and Jane Morgan.

same day Mary, daughter of Peter Meahan and Elizabeth Morrison; spon. Thomas and Catherine Delong.

same day Sara, daughter of Henry Little and Ann Mary Holdetrussel; spon. Ann Timmony.

same day Mary, daughter of Henry Lowe and Ann Dillehay; spon. Lucinda Lowe. CPM [Beaver St. Dominic names]

Sept. 14 James Masterson, son of Charles Masterson and Jane Ann Logan; spon. Teresa Hasket. CPM

Sept. 22 Mary McKenna, daughter of Hugh McKenna and Mary McKiterick; spon. Ann Cassilly. CPM

Oct. 6 John Peter Shearlock, son of Martin Shearlock and Ann Gerry; spon. John and Mary Shearlock. CPM

Oct. 8 Mary Ann, daughter of Daniel McDonald and Catherine Panny; spon. Ann Shearlock. CPM

Oct. 27 John, son of John Letzer and Mary Kan; spon. Joseph Smith and Sophia Keriker. CPM

Nov. 1 Charles, son of Eli Green and Catherine Rogers; spon. Andrew Louis [Fullerton?] and Margaret Fullerton. CPM

Nov. 3 Edmund, son of Edmund Flinn and Sara Davis; spon. Mrs. Padget. CPM

Nov. 22 William, son of James Kannady and Judy Taughay; spon. Ann Shearlock. CPM

same day Ann, daughter of Dennis Ryan and Catherine Gory; spon. Edward Shearlock and Mary Gory.

same day Mary, daughter of Robert Pilkinson and Catherine Bimpoon [Simpson?]; spon. James and Judy Kannady.

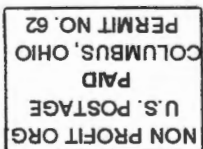
same day John, son of Jeremiah McCarty and Ann Bark; spon. Patrick Shearlock and Honora Duffy. CPM [Meigs Creek names]
(To be continued)

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