



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society-

Diocese of Columbus

Volume XXXI, No. 7

July 26: St. Anna

July, A.D. 2006



St. Ann Church, Philo, in the 1950s
(Courtesy of Msgr. George Schlegel)

St. Ann Mission Taylorsville (Philo), Muskingum County 1839-2001

The church and congregation of St. Ann in Philo throughout their history were a mission, first of St. John the Evangelist in Zanesville, later of St. Nicholas in Zanesville, after that of St. James in McConnellsville, and finally once again of Zanesville, this time St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. Even in its beginning, the mission

had its roots among the Catholic congregation of early Zanesville.

The Founders

The most prominent laymen involved in the founding of St. Ann Mission were the husband and wife, James and Barbara Taylor.

James was a convert to the Catholic faith. Either Barbara or her immediate ancestors also were converts, but she was the widow of John Simon Dugan, who with his mother and siblings and their children formed the majority of the first Catholic congregation at Zanesville. (It is expected that the life of James Taylor and the ramifications of the large Dugan family will be subjects of future articles.)

John S. Dugan arrived in Zanesville from Brownsville, Pennsylvania in 1817 with his wife Barbara and their son Lewis. Dugan donated the use of the warehouse that was Holy Trinity, the first Catholic church in Zanesville, and was said to have donated a lot for the second church. He was honored to convey Bishop Edward Fenwick home to Ohio from Maryland after returning from a trip to Rome. But near Cumberland, Maryland, while trying to control an unruly horse, he was caught in the lines and dragged to his death. He died on March 11, 1825 and was buried behind the site of St. John the Evangelist Church for which the cornerstone had been blessed just a week earlier.¹

Barbara Caroline Dugan, John's wife, was born Barbara Schweitzer in Springtown, Bucks County, Pa. in October, 1784. She was called Barbary. She probably was a convert to the Catholic faith, for her maternal ancestors were Mennonites. She certainly was a hardy woman, capable of dealing with frontier life and widowhood. The late Norris Schneider of Zanesville told the story of the Dugan family's move west from Pennsylvania in 1817. They had to arrive in town by April 1 to complete John's contract for purchase of the Green Tree Tavern. "At Cambridge, Ohio, a freshet had swollen the water of Wills Creek to flood stage. Crossing would be dangerous. But the date set for closing the deal on the tavern was April 1, and Dugan was determined to be on time."

Dugan told their five-year old son, Lewis Henry, to hold his arms tightly around his father's waist and urged his intrepid German wife to follow. This she did, swimming her horse across the flooded creek, and they arrived in Zanesville in time to close the deal.²

In 1827, two years after John's sudden death, Barbara built a three-story brick addition to her late husband's Green Tree Tavern, on the site of a little log hotel of 1805, and renamed the business the National House. The travellers of those days knew her to be a kind and obliging hostess and an accomplished and interesting lady. She later sold the hotel to Henry Orndorff, but it was still "in the family," for Mr. Orndorff's wife was a niece of John S. Dugan. This building stood until 1925.³

On November 29, 1832 Barbara married the widowed James Taylor at St. John the Evangelist Church before the pastor, Rev. Richard P. Miles, O.P. Taylor was a well-to-do merchant, miller, land-owner, and developer who lived in a splendid house on an isolated hill or mound just north of what would become Duncan's Falls. He built the dam on the Muskingum River there in 1829. About the time he married Barbara, Mr. Taylor entered the Church. Within a year he laid out the town of Taylorsville on a site covered by woods, brush, and grape vines, across the river from his house, and began selling lots. This town later was renamed Philo.

Improvement of the Muskingum River for navigation was carried out from 1837 until 1842. Taylor's dam was replaced by Colonel James Sharp, under a contract with the State, in 1837 and '38. The Taylorsville canal was completed in 1840. It was a mile long, with locks 36 feet wide by 200 feet long. Its course was between the town and the river,

from the dam down to the river east of Sixth Street.⁴ The public works created great demand for labor, timber, and farm produce. Lots at Taylorsville were sold during this boom period for "more money than they would bring since the completion of the public works."⁵

The Founding of St. Ann's Church

By 1834 the priests from Zanesville had stations both at the Taylors' "Mound House" and at Taylorsville. Mrs. Taylor set aside a room in their home where services were held once a month. By January of 1835 the Taylors had commenced a subscription for a church at Taylorsville and Father N. D. Young asked permission of Bishop Purcell to build it.⁶

In July of 1836, Archbishop Purcell stopped at Taylorsville on one of his episcopal visitation journeys. On the evening of the 27th he "preached to a numerous congregation, in the open air, on the banks of the Muskingum." Mass was offered on the 28th. On that day a lot was "given" by "the respected proprietor of the new town, on one of its most eligible sites," for the erection of a church.⁷

The deed for the church property was dated August 23, 1836. According to it, James Taylor and Barbara C. Taylor his wife for \$100 sold to John B. Purcell a lot on the southwest corner of the continuation of Main Street and a street to be named James Street, measuring 75 feet north and south along Main and 132 feet east and west along James.⁸ This is the lot where the second church still stands.

The church was built that same year, a frame building measuring 25 by 40 feet. The contractor was Anton Eberst and the cost was \$1,000.⁹ It was of the old fashioned, barn

style of construction, with six-inch square, hand-hewn oak posts that were mortised and pinned, then raised into position. Handmade oak lath was used. Killian Kimmel built the altars and his daughter Clara painted them. Kimmel had a wood-working shop in the town and visited several churches and studied their altars before building those for the new church. The main altar was built first and later it was decided to build the Blessed Virgin altar.¹⁰

The church was blessed on Ascension Thursday May 9, 1839 by Rev. Stephen T. Badin. Mr. Taylor had given handsome and appropriate lots to several religious denominations. The new Catholic church, though not the largest, was said to have been the handsomest of those erected on the lots by 1839.¹¹

The church was dedicated to St. Ann or St. Anna, mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Perhaps she was named its patroness in honor of the mother and a maternal grandmother and a great-grandmother of Barbara Schweitzer Taylor, all of whom were named Anna.¹²

According to a twentieth century story of the mission, there was debt on the church for quite a number of years. The three trustees of the church had all they could do to get enough money together to pay the interest. Finally socials and suppers were held to raise money to pay the principal.¹³ We can only note in this regard that in the early days Bishop Purcell normally did not allow the blessing of churches that were in debt.

The Congregation through 1988

The population and prosperity of Taylorsville varied through the decades. As noted above, about 1840 demand was high and business was profitable because of the improvements

on the Muskingum waterway, but the completion of the works brought a drop in business and the demand for labor.

The community remained a center for agriculture, with mills powered by the dam. By the early 1840s Lewis H. Dugan, son of John S. and Barbara, in partnership with steamboat captain William Bowen, had built a large, frame flour mill near Taylorsville, making the place a first-class wheat market. Dugan's cousin Robert J. J. Harkins later took over the business, but it was ruined when the railroad came to Zanesville from the east and the farmers began taking their grain north to be shipped by that faster mode of transportation. The wheat market at Taylorsville closed in 1858. (The railroad later came through Taylorsville.) The mill building survived until 1897 when it burned down.¹⁴

Ohio Power Company's Philo Generating Station, built between the town and the river, began operations in October, 1924 and provided regular employment, as well as occasional construction jobs, until it was deactivated in June, 1975. The Ohio Ferro-Alloys plant, on the river just above Philo, was built in 1927.

The congregation was mostly German, which explains why until 1882 it was cared for primarily by the German priests from St. Nicholas Parish in Zanesville. Many of the early families have been identified from records at the Zanesville parishes and from the mission's cemetery, which will be published in these pages. The earliest records at St. Nicholas often list the place. The records at St. Thomas do not list places, so the names in the baptismal register of about 1850 were compared with the census records to determine which ones lived near Duncan's Falls and Taylorsville. Those so

identified are:

- Henry L. Beeson, a merchant from Pa., and wife Susan (McKibbon) of Duncan's Falls
 - Robert J. J. Harkins, merchant from Zanesville, and Catherine (Dittoe) of Duncan's Falls
 - James Elmore, landowner and cooper, and Eliza (King) of Brush Creek Township (west of Taylorsville)
 - Patrick Jordan, an Irish laborer, and wife Catherine (Howlden), of near Taylorsville
- A few others lived in Wayne Township, but without an inordinate amount of research it is not possible to tell whether closer to Zanesville or Taylorsville.

There were 200 to 300 Catholics in Taylorsville and vicinity when the church was blessed in 1839. On a visit there in 1844, Bishop Purcell confirmed twenty-two persons at St. Ann's and in 1848 another six.¹⁵ In 1899 45 families were reported at McConnellsville and Philo.¹⁶

In the period from 1905 to 1943, annual reports indicate an average of about 75 souls at St. Ann's as mission of McConnellsville. The maximum was 120 in 1924 and the minimum was 49. In 1905 the population was broken down as sixteen married couples, one married Catholic man, four married Catholic women, four widowers, three widows, eight maiden ladies, and 38 young people and children. In 1924, the year of the highest membership, the pastor reported eighty English-speaking, 15 transients, and 25 Italians "who never come to Mass." The transients probably were construction workers at the power plant, which opened that year. The 1943 diocesan history noted about 75 Catholics at the mission¹⁹, whereas the pastor's annual report shows a total of 50. Until about 1920, the mission at Philo had a larger Catholic population than McConnellsville, where the pastor resided.

The next consistent set of statistics is the October Count, the average attendance at Sunday Mass on the Sundays in October, beginning in 1958. From 1958 through 1980, attendance averaged about 80 souls. Sporadic census reports of questionable quality indicate that the total congregation was on the order of 50% larger than the Mass attendance. Attendance jumped in 1981 and averaged 121 through 1988. In the 1980s the mission had about 70 families, including about 40 children in religious education classes.¹⁷ After 1988 the October Count shows a constantly decreasing congregation.

In 1882 the president of the parish board was Christian Kussmaul, the secretary was John H. Basehart [originally Boesherz] and the treasurer was William Krigbaum.¹⁸ The names of some of the later leading members of the congregation have been preserved in newspaper accounts and the annual reports of the pastor of St. Thomas Parish. The leaders in 1975 were Charles Kline, Parish Council president; Mrs. Carl Longstreth, Altar and Rosary Society president; and Miss Hilda Kussmaul, organist.¹⁹ In 1980, Mrs. Carl (Nancy) Longstreth of Duncan Falls was still the president of the council. By 1987 this post had been taken over by Richard Bates of near Blue Rock. The year 1991 found Regina Kabel of Philo as council president. In 1998, Delores Mahon of Philo was council president and Nancy Longstreth of Duncan Falls was chairman of the finance committee. At that time, however, the council was "not active." The last report, of 2001, names Jeff Hardwick council president and Larry Bee chairman of the finance committee.

(To be concluded)

NOTES

- 1) For dates of St. John the Evangelist, see "The Second Catholic Church in Zanesville, Some Historical Puzzles" by Anthony J. Lisska, *Bulletin*, XII No. 12 (Dec., 1987) 285-287
- 2) *Bulletin*, Vol. I, pp5-8 (Jan. 1975)
- 3) Norris Schneider story in the Zanesville *Times Recorder*, Dec. 12, 1982. Zanesville *Signal*, Nov. 21, 1867
- 4) History of Muskingum County, Ohio; J. F. Everhart & Co., 1882, pp. 348 and 350
- 5) *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Muskingum County, Ohio*; Chicago, Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1892; p. 96
- 6) *Catholic Telegraph*, June 13, 1834. "History of St. Ann's Catholic Church of Philo", Ohio by Mary Amelia and Hilda G. Kussmaul, 1955, typescript in the files of the Catholic Record Society. Letter of Rev. N. D. Young to Bishop Purcell, January, 1835; see the *Bulletin*, Vol. I, p. 51.
- 7) *Catholic Telegraph*, Aug. 18, 1836
- 8) Muskingum County Deed Record U/293
- 9) Goodspeed, 312. Everhart, *op. cit.*, p. 350
- 10) Kussmaul and Kussmaul, *op. cit.*
- 11) *Catholic Telegraph*, May 23, 1839
- 12) For Barbara's family see the websites www.reynolds-lake.com and freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~clemens
- 13) Kussmaul & Kussmaul
- 14) Goodspeed, 476. Zanesville *Courier*, Apr. 25, 1899
- 15) *Catholic Telegraph*, June 29, 1844 and Sept. 14, 1848
- 16) See the *Bulletin*, Vol. I, p. 274
- 17) *Catholic Times*, Dec. 14, 1984 and July 18, 1986
- 18) Everhart, *op. cit.*, p. 350
- 19) *Catholic Times*, Apr. 18, 1975

**Baptisms of Persons Living Near
Taylorsville, 1848-1850
From the Baptismal Register of
St. Thomas Aquinas Church,
Zanesville**

These baptisms were identified as relating to the congregation of St. Ann's by comparing the parents' names in the three years of parish baptismal records with the census of 1850.

1848

- Jan. 9 Cecilia, born Nov. 22, daughter of Robert Harkins and Catherine Dittoe his wife; spons. John Orndorff and Elizabeth Harkins. Fr. J. B. V. DeRaymacker, O.S.D.
- April 1 Mary Elizabeth, born Jan. 15, 1847, daughter of James Elmore and Eliza King; spons. Paul Right and Margaret Fullertotn. Fr. G. A. J. Wilson, O.S.D.

1849

- Sept. 4 Clara, born July 20, daughter of Henry S. Beeson and Susan McKibbon; spons. Thomas McKibbon. Fr. C. P. Montgomery[, O.S.D.]

1850

- Jan. 6 I baptized or supplied baptismal ceremonies for Robert John, son of Robert Harkins and Catherine Dittoe, born Dec. 3; spons. James and Mary Orndorff. Fr. Albert Bokel, O.S.D.
- Mar. 10 Patrick, born yesterday, son of Patrick Jordan and Catherine Howlden his wife; spons. Edward Jordon and Judith Comefort. Fr. Eug. Hyac. Pozzo O.S.D.

**Taylorsville Baptisms, 1843-1882
Recorded at
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville**

1843

- Peter Ludwig, b. May 3, bapt. May 28, son of Jakob Dippold and wife Anna Maria Kelz, from Schleithal in Elsass, living near

- Taylorsville. Sponsors Michael Diel from Taylorsville and Elisabeth Hersch Katharina, b. April 22, bapt. June 4, daughter of Joseph Kiener, Taylorsville, and wife, Katharina Schram from "Muhelbach" in Unterfranken. Sponsors Felix Lang, wagonmaker, and his wife, Barbara Christian, b. June 10, bapt. June 25, son of Joseph Keck, stone cutter, Taylorsville, and wife Katharina Kronenbitter, from Württemberg. Sponsors Johann Keck and Barbara, dayworker in Taylorsville Emmelia, b. July 17, bapt. July 30, of Anton Eberst, joiner in Taylorsville, and wife Katharina Grether, from Elsass. Sponsors Lucia Bruter and Jacob Kronenbitter Gregor, b. Oct. 24, bapt. Oct. 29, of Gregor Hänle, joiner in Taylorsville, and wife Barbara Boscherz from Elsass. Sponsors Kilian Kimel and Phillippina Stolle in Taylorsville

1844

- Johann, b. Feb. 12, bapt. Feb. 25, of Joseph Ecker in Taylorsville, and wife, Krescenz[ia] Stelle[?] Sponsors Vincenz Stelle and wife Phillippine
- Maris Theresia, b. March 1, bapt March 31, of Michael Tull, cooper in Taylorsville, and wife Barbara Simon. Sponsors Adolph Beuter and Theres[ia] Dipten[?]
- Franziska, b. March 7; bapt. March 31, of Matthias Hurm, cooper in Taylorsville, and wife Anna Bohrer. Sponsors; Fidelis and Eva Kessler
- Johann, b. March 17; bapt. March 31, of Christian Kussmaul and wife Kath. Keck in Taylorsville. Sponsors Melchior Stehle and Franziska Keck
- Joseph, b. March 21, bapt. March 31, of Melchior Stehle, and wife Barbara Keck in Taylorsville. Sponsors Vincenz Stehle and Francisca Keck
- Jakob, b. May 5, bapt. June 6, of Jakob Dippold, near Taylorsville, and wife A. Maria Kelz. Sponsors Jakob Christ and

his sister Katharina
 Jakob Joseph, b. June 9, bapt. June 16, of
 Anton Becker, school teacher here, and
 wife Elizabeth R ath. Sponsor Jakob
 Kronenbitter, school teacher in
 Taylorsville
 Maria, b. April 4, bapt. June 30, of Georg
 Schwingel and wife Barbara Los near
 Taylorsville. Sponsors Jacob Kronenbitter
 and Susanna Wettler
 Heinrich, b. June 21, bapt. June 30, of Fidelis
 Henle and wife Victoria Beuter in
 Taylorsville. Sponsors Matthias Hurm and
 Philipine Stehle
 Elisabeth Emma, b. Sept. 11, bapt. Sept. 29,
 of Jakob Kronenbitter, school teacher in
 Taylorsville, and wife Kath. Grether.
 Sponsors Matthias Hurm and Elisabeth
 Grether
 Margareth, b. Aug. 9, bapt. Sept. 27, of Peter
 Schmied and wife Margareth near
 Taylorsville. Sponsors Joh. Hetter and
 Sophie Kumel in Taylorsville
 Clara, b. Oct. 26, bapt. Oct. 27, of Joseph
 Beuter, cooper in Taylorsville, and wife,
 Anastasia Haim. Sponsors Joseph Egger
 and Gertraud Fischer
 Franz Xaver, b. Oct. 21, bapt. Oct. 27, of
 Jakob Stehle and wife Philippine H hnle
 in Taylorsville. Sponsors Xaver Pirkle and
 Kath. Geppert
 Ursula Theresia, twin sister of the foregoing.
 Sponsors Melchior Stehle and Viktoria
 Beuter
 Agatha, b. Oct. 27, bapt. Oct. 28, of Joseph
 Keck and wife Katharina Kronenbitter in
 Taylorsville. Sponsors Katharina Eberst
 and Meinrad Stehle
 Rosina, b. Nov. 12, bapt. Nov. 25, of Felix
 Kessler, cooper, and wife Christina Fetzer
 near Taylorsville. Sponsors Xaver Pirkle
 and Anastasia Beuter

1845

Adam, b. Dec. 29, 1844, bapt. April 27, 1845,
 of Joseph Fischer and Louisa Geppert in

Taylorsville. Sponsors Adam Heilmann
 and Ruth Geppert
 Anna Maria, b. Aug. 23, bapt. Aug. 31, of
 Kilian Kimmel and Ursula Rothard in
 Taylorsville. Sponsors Menard Stehle and
 wife Gertraud

1846

Franziska, b. Feb 21, bapt. March 1, of
 Christian Kusmaul and Kath. Keck.
 Sponsors Melchior Stehle and Bar. Kelz

*In 1847 the records switch from German to
 Latin and our translation will switch from
 German to English forms of given names.*

1849

Dec. 29, in the church of St. Anna,
 Taylorsville, John William, born Aug. 11,
 son of Nicholas Groder and Sarah Thomas
 his wife; spon. John George Kehm? and
 Maria Cecilia Till. Deselaers

1850

Feb. 23, at St. Anna, Taylorsville, Louis
 Henry, born Feb. 13, son of Gregor St hle
 and Barbara B sherz; spon. John George
 K hrer and Elisabeth Glaufpecker. M.
 Deselaers
 Same, Elisabeth, born Feb. 20, of John
 George K hrer and Eva Mildner; spon.
 Caspar Kehls and Elisabeth Stammler.
 Same, Maria Rosa, born Feb. 12, daughter of
 Matthew Hunn? and wife Maria Porr;
 spon. John Porr and Mary M'Kit. M.
 Deselaers
 March 10, at Duncan Falls near Taylorsville,
 Patrick, born Mar. 9, son of Patrick Jordon
 and Catherine Howlden; spon. Edmund
 Jordon and Judith Comefort. M. Deselaers
 April 13, at St. Anna, Taylorsville, Barbara,
 born April 4, daughter of Christian
 Kusmaul and spouse Catherine Keck;
 spon. Jacob Stehle and Barbara Stehle.
 M. Deselaers

July 26, in the church of St. Anna,
 Taylorsville, Andrew, born in July, son of
 Peter Schmid and Margaret; spons.
 Andrew ---- and Anna Deubel. M. St.
 Herzog

Aug. 8, in the church of St. Anna, Charles
 Henry, born Feb. 29, son of Robert Palis
 and wife Elizabeth; spons. John George
 Känner and Julia Churdon. M. St. Herzog

Same, Matilda, born May 23, 1848, daughter
 of Robert Palis and wife Elizabeth; spons.
 matilda M. Kepper. M. St. Herzog

Oct. 13, in the church of St. Anna,
 Taylorsville, John, born Sept. 30, son of
 John Fettle and Caroline Schmidt; spons.
 Peter Schmidt and Susanna Teufel. W.
 Deiters

Oct. 27, in Taylorsville, Thomas Maurice,
 born Sept. 8, son of Alfred Romain and
 Margaret Muselmann; spons. Elisabeth
 Mackfesten? W. Deiters

Nov. 10, in the church of St. Anna,
 Taylorsville, Joseph, born Nov. 6, son of
 John Fischer and Joanna Stoeh (or Hoeh?);
 spons. Joseph Fischer and Magdalena
 Stehle. W. Deiters

Nov. 23, in the church of St. Anna,
 Taylorsville, Clement, born Nov. 10, son
 of Anton Stehle and Tecla Reisch; spons.
 Fidelis Hinle and Philippina Stehla.

1851

June 22, in the church at Taylorsville,
 Antonia, born June 14, daughter of Joseph
 Fischer and Louisa Heitzmann; spons.
 Nicholas Till and Elisabeth Raufhake. W.
 Deiters

Aug. 3, in the church at Taylorsville, William
 Henry, born July 2, of Francis Kessler and
 Catherine Förtler; spons. William Förtler
 and Susan Teufel. W. Deiters

Aug. 31, same, Augustine, born Aug. 9, son
 of John Keck and Crescentia Spingler;
 spons. Frederick Keck and Barbara Stehle.
 W. Deiters

Same, Maria Magdalena, born Aug. 9,
 daughter of Anton Stehle and Sophronia
 Schwarz; spons. Franz Roll and Catherine
 Stehle. W. Deiters

Sept. 7 [no place listed], John Anthony and
 George Henry, twins, born Aug. 25, of
 Francis Roll and Magdalena Stehle; spons.
 for John, Anthony Stehle and Margaret
 Roll; for George, George Hosan and
 Josephine Roll W. Deiters

Sept. 21 at Taylorsville, Charles Anthony,
 born Sept. 17, of Albert Stehle and
 Elisabeth Eberst; spons. Anthony Eberst
 and Catherine Kräther. W. Deiters

(To be continued)