



Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society -
Diocese of Columbus

Vol. XXXIII, No. 12

December 27: St. Nicarete

December, 2008



Mary Shea Schomburg (1893-1972) (Courtesy of Trish Mote)

The Work of the Master's Hand—and of St. Mary Parish: Mary Shea, WWI Nurse

Mary Shea of Shawnee returned to Ohio in the spring of 1919 with three service stripes, a wound stripe (the equivalent of today's Purple Heart), and a gold star for transport duty—as well as white hair and injuries she had sustained in Europe.

Columbus newspapers carried her story: "With her hair turned almost white as a result of German phosgene gas, Miss Mary Shea, aged 24, Shawnee, has returned from France after 15 months' service

as an American Red Cross war nurse. When she sailed for France in October, 1917, her hair was dark brown."

When she arrived in France, the limit for nurses to serve at the front was 21 days. However, because of the lack of trained nurses she served three months continuously. After service at Contrexeville, she was sent on detached duty first to Vaccaratt, where she nursed the marines from Belleau Wood (the US

Marine Corps was engaged there from June 3 to June 26). Nurses at the front, she said, served from 22 to 23 hours a day most of the time. They advanced with the troops and often wore khaki shirts and trousers, rubber boots, and helmets, the same as the men, when obliged to be out in bad weather.

On the night of July 23, 1918, near Soissons, the Germans attacked the hospital where she was preparing the wounded to be evacuated to the rear. "With three other nurses I had helped place the boys on the cars to be sent back," she explained. "When the raid was over I was sent to check up on the casualties and found that all but one of the 16 had been blown to atoms. I took off my gas mask too soon and got in on the end of the attack." Her hair turned white seven days later and she was in bed for several weeks with damage to her throat and eyes.

She nursed the American boys at Chateau Thierry. Her last service near the front was at Verdun, just before the AEF made an attack in the Argonne. After that she was sent back to Reims to help with the influenza epidemic in an artillery camp, where an average of 100 patients died each day, including nurses.

Mary underwent surgery herself during her service and heard the caissons rumbling by while it was in progress. She was finally sent home to recover from a nervous breakdown after serving behind the lines. She came home with several disabilities.

"In one ward I nursed 18 Germans. I could not have been treated better by anyone. Two of them, however, both 17 years old, died from starvation because they were afraid to eat, fearing I would poison them. They also were afraid to sleep, having been told I would cut their throats if they did."

Among souvenirs she brought back was a Masonic penny, which she found on No Man's Land, bearing the initials D. H. C., Somerset, Ohio, and an Italian medal, 250 years old, given her by a boy because she managed to get him some spaghetti.

+++

Mary Laurretta Shea was born on January 24, 1893, and was baptized on January 29 at St. Augustine Church by Father J. S. Hannan. Her

parents were James and Sara Shea of West Main Street in Shawnee. Sara was a daughter of the Elder family of Somerset. James was a railroad conductor. Mary was the second eldest of their three girls and four boys, the others being Joe, Tom, Helen, James, John, and Bernadette.

Mary and her siblings attended St. Augustine School, taught by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, and were active and, apparently, talented. Mary received First Holy Communion and was confirmed by Bishop Hartley on May 8, 1905 with her class of forty-five. At the school's commencement exercises, held in the Opera House on June 19, 1906, Master J. Shea played the violin and Master T. Shea the mandolin in several musical numbers. Master J. Shea also acted in the skit, "Wanted a Confidential Clerk." Misses S. Marsh and M. Shea played *Attaque des Ulano*, a duet on two pianos.

After graduation from the parish school she stayed at home for a time, assisting her mother. She then enrolled in the Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing in Zanesville, where she graduated on June 23, 1915. She remained in Zanesville, living at 204 State Street and apparently working at Good Samaritan.

When the United States entered the World War on April 6, 1917, there were 403 army nurses on active duty. By the end of June there were 1,176. One year later there were over twelve thousand. Mary was one of them, and they were greatly appreciated by the doughboys. "I can safely say that American nurses were treated with the utmost respect by all soldiers, including Germans," she said. "Those who were not treated with respect have themselves to blame as much as anyone else."

When Mary enlisted in the Army nursing corps on September 11, 1917 she was joining two of her brothers in the service. Joe had enlisted in the Ohio National Guard on June 4, 1917 in the 7th Infantry, which became the 148th U.S. Infantry. He was sent to Officer Training School and in 1918 received a commission as Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery. He served through the rest of the war and into 1920 at Camp Jackson near Columbia, South Carolina. He spent the rest of his life in Columbia.

Tom enlisted in the Ohio National Guard on June 11, 1917 and served in the supply company of the 148th Infantry in France from June, 1918 until March, 1919. Tom was ill for twenty years from being gassed in the Argonne and spent the last ten years of his life in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Brecksville, Ohio, where he died in 1962, survived by three children.

Mary's service record shows her assigned to General Hospital 1 until Sept. 29, 1917; Ellis Island, N.Y. until Dec 14, 1917; Base Hospital 31 until Dec. 24, 1918; and then Embarkation Hospital 4 until her discharge on February 23, 1919. She served in the AEF from December 14, 1917 to December 24, 1918.

On her return to Ohio after the war, Mary went home to Shawnee, where she lived with her parents and her siblings for a time. She worked there as an "in-home nurse." During the war, however, she had met Lt. Otto Meinhardt Schomburg. Mr. Schomburg was from Columbus, Georgia. He was a graduate of Auburn University and came to Ohio to attend graduate school at Ohio State University. He and Mary went to dances together in Columbus. They were married in Columbus, Ga. and lived there, where their two children were born, until moving to Savannah about 1928.

Their home in Savannah was at 1348 East 48th Street in a house they built, described as a classic two-story Craftsman style, with cedar shingles, a symmetrical design with a central porch entrance, and one-story wings on either side. Schomburg was a partner with Savannah Optical Company at 112 Whitaker Street.

Mary was the first president of Georgia's State Auxiliary of the Optometric Society. She was a member of American Legion Post 135 and a member of the disabled veterans.

Mary remained very devoted to the Catholic faith throughout her life. She and Otto were members of Blessed Sacrament Parish and for a time of Sacred Heart Parish. Their last residence was at 1642 Delmonde Ave.

Otto departed this life in 1969. Mary survived until April 3, 1972, when she went to her eternal

reward at the age of 78 years. Surviving were a daughter, Mrs. Rosemary Sanders, who still lives in Savannah, and a son, James C. Schomburg of Phenix City, Ala., along with seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Also surviving were her brother, James, of Columbus, Ohio, and her sister, Mrs. Bernadette Stultz of Chatsworth, Calif. Her funeral was at Blessed Sacrament Church and burial was in the Hillcrest Cemetery.

Like many other military veterans, Mary remembered her war experiences vividly and, being a very talkative woman, she loved to tell stories about her service. And her service was greatly appreciated. In 1918 Jack Caddigan and James Brennan had written a song, "The Rose of No-Man's Land," honoring the nurses who gave so much to the soldiers. Part of the chorus was, "There's a rose that grows in No-Man's Land and it's wonderful to see, though it's sprayed with tears it will live for years in my garden of memory. It's the one red rose the soldier knows, it's the work of the Master's hand..."

MAJOR SOURCES

Thanks to Mike Finn for calling the 1919 newspaper article to our attention and for "The Rose of No Man's Land."

Catholic Columbian, April 1, 1919.

Ohio State Journal, April 9, 1913

Columbus Register, Jan. 24, 1941, obituary of Mrs. Sarah Shea

Elyria Chronicle Telegram, April 6, 1962, obituary of Thomas Shea

Savannah Morning News, April 4, 1972, obituary of Mary Schomburg

Rosemary Sanders, Savannah, Ga.

Trish Mote of Green Valley, Arizona, Mary's granddaughter

Commencement Program, St. Mary's School, Shawnee, June 19, 1906 (in CRS file)

Ohio Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, World War, 1917-18 #15622 and #15623

Tombstones of James J., Sarah C., and Thomas L. Shea at Holy Trinity, Somerset.

Abstracts from the *Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued, from Vol. XXXIII, No. 10)

First quarter 1856 subscriptions, Name, Location,
Issue date:

Rev. J. C. Albrinck, Pomeroy, Mar. 8
 William Anderson, Circleville, Jan. 5
 George Arnold, Lancaster, Jan. 26
 Rev. C. H. Borgess, Columbus, Jan. 5
 James Boulger, Chillicothe, Jan. 26
 Michael Boyle, Mt. Vernon, Jan. 26
 William Brophy, Mt. Vernon, Feb. 16
 N. Creenan, Jackson, Mar. 8
 Michael Davis, Chillicothe, Mar. 29
 Peter Dittoe, Lancaster, Mar. 15
 Michael A. Dougherty, Lancaster, Jan. 19
 L. H. Dugan, Duncan's Falls, Jan. 26
 P. B. Ewing, Lancaster, Mar. 15
 Jacob Finck, Somerset, Jan. 19
 William E. Finck, Somerset, Feb. 16
 W. E. Finck, Somerset, Mar. 8
 William Finley, Senecaville, Mar. 29
 Christopher Gallagher, Temperanceville, Jan. 26
 John Gallagher, [following Christopher] Jan. 26
 Rev. R. Gilmour, Portsmouth, Mar. 29
 Jacob Grant, Somerset, Jan. 19
 John Hand, Taylorsville, Feb. 9
 James Heenan, Zanesville, Feb. 4
 James Heenan, Zanesville, Feb. 9
 Rev. J. B. Hemsteger, Jan. 26
 James W. Hilliard, [following Jn Poulton], Jan. 26
 J. J. Jackson, Somerset, Jan. 19
 James Joyce, Columbus, Jan. 26
 S. J. Keist, Coshocton, Feb. 23
 Rev. Michael Kennedy, Bellaire, Jan. 26
 R. McMullen, Rehoboth, Feb. 9
 E. R. Magruder, Somerset, Jan. 19
 Peter Malone, Hanging Rock, Jan. 26
 William Mattingly, Zanesville, Feb. 16
 Rev. C. P. Montgomery, Zanesville, Jan. 5
 Luke O'Brien, Taylorsville, Feb. 9
 John Poulton, Graysville, Jan. 26
 Peter Ryan, Washington Co., Mar. 29
 St. Joseph's Literary Society, Somerset, Feb. 23
 Capt. W. J. Sherman, San Francisco, Feb. 9

Conrad Snider, Somerset, Jan. 19
 Jacob Snider, Rehoboth, Feb. 9
 Edward Stanton, Wilkesville, Mar. 8
 Arthur Taggart, Stockport, Feb. 4
 Rev. Mr. Thienpont, Steubenville, Feb. 16
 L. A. Zimmer, Portsmouth, Jan. 19

April 5, 1856

[Communicated.]

Died,

At St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception, near South Bend, Ia. [Indiana], on the 12th instant, of pneumonia, after an illness of six weeks, Mr. WILLIAM PHELAN, aged sixty years.

Mr. Phelan was born in Ireland of highly respectable parents. He emigrated to his country at a very early age; and after living many years in Columbia, Tenn., successfully engaged in the mercantile business, he removed to Somerset, and from thence to Lancaster, Ohio, where he has been recognized for the last twenty years as one of the most prominent citizens. Characterized by strong common sense, strict integrity, and untiring business habits, he was the type of thousands in the United States who, deeply engaged in the accumulation of wealth, grow careless in their faith, and forget to approach the Sacraments; yet, through the infinite mercy of God, his last days were so abundantly blessed, that, according to the words of his confessor, they bore every mark of predestination.

Some years since his only step-son [Rev. Neal Gillespie] devoted himself to the priesthood, and entered the novitiate of the Holy Cross at Notre Dame, near South Bend, and a few years afterwards a step-daughter [Sister Angela Gillespie] became a religious in the same Order. These events naturally directed his attention to this community. Animated by the spirit of zeal which he saw manifested for the honor and glory of god by the different branches of this useful Society, he offered to its Superior a large and valuable farm near Lancaster. Last July, when on the eve of making a legal transfer of the same, he

voluntarily added to it his entire fortune—merely reserving an annuity for himself and wife. This unexpected act, while it edified his friends, excited the apprehension of some who, knowing his former active business life, feared this step would produce too great and sudden a change, and that he afterwards might repent the same. The sequel testified how groundless were such fears, and how fully he realized the joy felt, the hundred fold, returned to those who make an offering to God.

After this transaction, having nothing to retain him in the world, he selected for the future home of himself and his wife two small rooms near St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception (the principal establishment of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.) Seeing how much was to be done for this new institution, he gave to it all he had left—the active energies of his mind and the daily labor of his hands.

During the few months that he spent at his new home, he frequently expressed in words and writing to his friends his great happiness at finding himself in the evening of life so free from all worldly cares, so rich in spiritual blessings, acknowledging with deep thankfulness the hand of Providence that had guided him, while among all those who had commenced life with him, the friends of his youth, the associates of later years, scarce one remained, and few among the departed had died in the bosom of the Catholic Church. To him alone had been given the great grace of restoring to God his possessions, and even the sweat of his brow and the labor of his hands, in his grey old age.

When attacked by his last sickness, he desired to recover only to devote a few years entirely to the service of God, bearing his great sufferings with equally great patience. He often expressed a hope that God would give him his purgatory here. His mental faculties were unimpaired until the hour of his death; and with the most edifying devotion he received the last Sacraments of the Church.

It is seldom one witnesses a death so consoling in all its circumstances; and for this happy end, under God, he was indebted to the Blessed Virgin. He several times observed that during many years he had never failed in saying the Litany of Loretto for a

good death. Here was the secret of the happy change in the worldly-minded man: the Litany of Mary had been his protection....

The morning of the 13th the deceased was taken to the chapel of the Immaculate Conception, where solemn High Mass for the dead was sung by the Rev. Superior, assisted by Rev. Fathers Granger and Shertiss, all the members of the community at St. Mary's receiving Holy Communion for the repose of his soul.

At three o'clock in the afternoon the body was carried to the church of the Sacred Heart, where it was placed under a catafalque before the sanctuary, while the beautiful and affecting Office of the Dead was changed by the priests and seminarians. The entire body of the church was crowded; not a stranger was present. After a most impressive sermon, delivered by the Rev. Superior, the funeral procession, which was composed of the apprentices from St. Joseph's Manual labor School, the students and professors from Notre Dame, the priests and seminarians immediately preceding the bier,—this last followed by the widow of the deceased, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, and the pupils of St. Mary's Academy, and the apprentices of the Manual Labor School of the Immaculate Conception,—passed to the cemetery of the Order, where, with the prayers of the Church, the body was consigned to its last resting place, at the foot of the cross. May he rest in peace.

Information Wanted

of Michael Smith, a native of County Clare, parish of Cratla, Ireland, aged about 30 years, sandy hair, and sandy complexion. When last heard from, four years ago, he was employed in Kenton county, Ohio. He left Ireland six years ago.

May 3, 1856

Episcopal Visitation Schedule

August 3 - St. Joseph's near Somerset

August 5 - St. Patrick's, Perry county

August 6 - St. Dominick's, McCluney's Settlement

August 7 - St. Francis, Sunday Creek

August 10 - St. Thomas Aquinas, Zanesville

August 11 - Dresden
 August 12 - St. Ann's, wills Creek
 August 13 - Kilbuck
 August 15 - St. Francis de Sales, Newark
 August 16 - Jersey Settlement

May 10, 1856

Address to Rev. R. Gilmour

*By the congregation of Portsmouth, Ohio,
 on the occasion of his removal, and
 Presentation of a gold watch.*

REV. SIR:—Amongst the many trials to which we are all subject, not the least unpleasant is the separation of friend from friend, but parting from the zealous and hard working pastor brings something more than a passing regret. Hence we have heard with real sorrow of your removal from amongst us, where you have labored with untiring zeal for the last three years and a half; we feel that in parting from you we are all losing what as citizens we must respect, the kind friend and accomplished gentleman, what as Catholics we must ever hold most dear, the zealous and pious priest.

We thank you for the many spiritual advantages we have received at your hand, and for the zeal, prudence and economy with which you have managed the small means placed at your disposal; in proof of which we point with pleasure to this neat and spacious church, erected mainly by your exertions, and which you now leave entirely out of debt. We are consoled, however, in knowing you are going whither God calls, and leaving in your place one whom we believe every way worthy to succeed you.

As a small token of our esteem and gratitude, we beg, Rev. sir, you will accept this watch, and may you long live to wear it and continue your labors in your sacred calling is the sincere wish and will ever be the constant prayer of this congregation.

THOS. CRUMLY,
 WM. PENDERGAST,
 WM. BARRETT, Committee.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS
 OF THE CONGREGATION,

It would be hard for me to conceal from you and

impossible to hide from myself how far my feelings are interested in your welfare.... It is not unusual to use words of compliment to parting friends, but when accompanied by such substantial evidence as yours are, they are no more vain words. I think, however, you have overrated my efforts, and in the excess of your kindness attributed to me what was mainly due yourselves. For if I have erected a church, and affairs are in a flourishing, prosperous condition, you and many other kind, charitable friends have supplied the means. And this beautiful and costly watch is another proof of your liberality. I will ever keep it as a lasting token of the days I have spent amongst you, and while it lasts it will daily tell of your gratitude and kindness to me.

Urging again what I have often taught, unity of action and charity of feeling to all, I have nothing to leave but my blessing, and to ask, what I will not fail to offer for you, an occasional prayer in my behalf, and to express the hope that we may all meet in a fairer and brighter world to enjoy what together we have labored for—eternal happiness.

I remain, yours in fond remembrance,

R. GILMOUR.

(It is but right to add, to avoid misapprehension in future, that there are still due on the church lot at least five hundred dollars.—ED. OF TELEGRAPH.)

Second quarter subscriptions, Name, Location,
 Issue date:

Peter Dages, Gallipolis, May 3
 James R. Dautremont, Wheelersburg, Apr. 12
 Hon. Thomas Ewing, Lancaster, Apr. 5
 Mrs. Postlewaite, Homer, May 31
 C. B. Weber, Ironton, Apr. 12
 Enoch Yoerger, Thornville, June 7

June 7, 1856

Obituary.

Died, in Washington city, D.C., on the 8th inst., Miss MARIA COSTIGAN, daughter of Jacob Costigan, Esq., Somerset, O., aged 23 years, 3 months and 2 days.

Miss Maria Costigan was born in Zanesville, Ohio, February 6th, 1833. Brought up from her most tender

years in sentiments of piety, she was early distinguished by the practice of every amiable virtue. ...when she had arrived at a proper age, she was placed in the Academy of St. Mary's, Somerset, O., under the direction of Sisters of the order of St. Dominic. Here she passed some of the happiest years of her life. ...At the Academy she paid particular attention to vocal and instrumental music, in both of which branches she excelled. It was her delight, after she left the quiet retreat of St. Mary's, to sing the praises of God in his holy temples; and the writer of this notice will not soon forget the deep pathos, melody and power of her voice (alas! too soon hushed on earth, but, let us hope, still heard in Heaven,) as she led the choir, Sunday after Sunday, in the church of Holy Trinity, Somerset, O. Others too, who heard and admired that voice elsewhere, and especially in Zanesville, O., where she also led the choir in St. Thomas Aquinas' church, will not refuse the tribute of a tear nor fail to breathe a silent

prayer for her soul! ...From the time she left St. Mary's... she was almost constantly employed in conducting Catholic schools, formerly in Zanesville and latterly in Washington city. Everywhere she was distinguished for piety, modesty, amiability and good sense. ...She retired to her apartment on the evening of the 7th inst. in her usual health; but in the morning she was found dead in her bed! ...Death, since its nature has been changed by the Saviour's passage through it, is only terrible to the worldling; to the Christian who is familiar with it by meditation and whose hopes even walking in earth, are nevertheless all beyond the grave, its approach is not bitter. We may truly say of the death of such a one in the language of faith: "Death! Death! Lovely Death!" such is our hope in regard to the death of the subject of this notice. But, who is perfect? Therefore, Christian reader, we solicit from you a prayer for her soul. R.I.P. P.D.N. [perhaps Father Noon]
(To be continued)

New Straitsville St. Augustine Parish Census, 1888

Concluded, from Vol. XXXIII, No. 11

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Joseph Wahl 45 | Denis 15 | Michael 4 |
| Catherine 36, parents | Frances 12 | Sarah 3 |
| Joseph 18 | William 10 | |
| Mary Ann 16 | Thomas 8 | James Hart 37 |
| Clara 13 | John 6 | Mary Ann 27 parents |
| Catherine 10 | Mary Ellen 3 1/2 | John Thomas 7 mons |
| Christina 8 | Ann Maria 1 | |
| Adam 7 | "Left" | Joseph Winefordner 67 |
| Henry 5 | | Elizabeth 52, parents |
| Louisa 3 | Michael Monaghan 34 | Margaret 16 |
| John 5 mons. | Catherine 29, parents | William 14 |
| | Mary 8 | Catherine 12 |
| Lawrence Wahl 30 | James 4 | Christina 10 |
| Mary 27, parents | Daniel 13 mons | Elizabeth 7 |
| Mary 5 | | |
| Jacob 4 | John Harrington 60 | Thomas Whalen 30 |
| Francis 2 | Norah 60, parents | Margaret 30, parents |
| John 1 mon. | James 35 "gone" | Sabine Ellen 8 |
| | | Francis 7 |
| Thomas Gallagher | Peter Convery[?] | Thomas Michael 5 |
| Mary, parents | Mary 25, parents | Mary 2 |
| Sarah 17 | Jackses [?] 6 | Daniel 4 mons |

Peter Eberst 52
Catherine 42, parents
Mary 24
Ann 22
Christian 20
Margaret 18
Jacob 16
John 14
Elizabeth 12
Joseph 10
Anthony 8
Catherine 5
Emma 2
Vincent Eberst, uncle 48
“all gone”

Henry Sohlbochmer 33
Ann 29, parents
Elizabeth 3
Mary 1

Michael O'Reilly 33
Mary 23, parents
Margaret 4
John 2

Patrick O'Reilly 42
Elizabeth 33, parents
Margaret 14
Mary 10
Catherine 6
Ellen 3
Peter 12
John 8
William 8 mons

Cecilia Vernon (mother) mixed
marriage 23
Odo Simon 5
Abner Daniel 4
Emma 3
Rose 1 “gone”

Charles Carpenter husband 32
Nancy wife 25

Elizabeth Pritchert (mixed
marriage) 27
Mary Jane 3

Mrs Catherine Butler (mixed
marriage) 28

Single Men:
John Garrigan
Michael Fitzpatrick 66
Joseph Stewart
Thomas Hughes
William Bristol 29
Patrick Powell 61
Henry Forsbach 24
Theodore Wilhelmsan 31
Henry Wilhelmsan 26
James Riely 57
William Blaney 55
John Blaney 35
John McMullen 35
Peter Highland 30
Michael O'Brien
Michael McDonnough
Thomas Barrett 28
Patrick Nugent 22
Stephen Emil 30

John Harrington 24, husband
Ellen 26, wife

Thomas Healy, husband
Ann, wife