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Michael Burns (1834-1892)

William J. Burns (1861-1932)

Burns the Tailor and Burns the Detective

by J. Michael Finn, Ohio State Historian, Ancient Order of Hibernians

Michael Burns, a native of Ireland, came to this country in 1853. He arrived in Baltimore, Maryland where he found work as a tailor, a trade he had learned in Ireland. He married Bridget Treahy in Baltimore and in 1861 they moved west to Zanesville, Ohio. He practiced his trade in Zanesville and eventually became a junior partner in the tailoring firm of Dennis & Burns. In 1873 Michael and his family moved to Columbus, where he opened his own tailoring business at the corner of Gay and High Streets. His business grew and prospered.

Michael was a member of St. Patrick's Church

and he was active in several Catholic societies, including the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the St. Joseph's Mutual Benevolent Society. He was involved in local politics and served as Columbus Police Commissioner from 1878 until 1882. On February 18, 1880 he led the welcoming committee to Union Station when Irish politician Charles Stewart Parnell visited Columbus. Michael Burns died on February 9, 1892, survived by his wife and five children. At his death the Columbus Dispatch described him as, "Staunch and loyal to his friends and devoted to his family and business." His funeral was held at St. Patrick's Chruch.

But, the Burns story doesn't end there. One of Michael Burns' four sons was William J. Burns. William was born in Baltimore in 1861. He came west with his father and attended public school in Columbus. He later attended business school and after graduation joined his father's tailoring business, developing a good reputation as a tailor. His father's appointment as Police Commissioner in 1878 gave William contact with the Columbus Police Department. William's job was to cut and measure the uniforms for Columbus police officers. Through this contact William developed an interest and skill in detective work.

Although never officially in the employ of the Columbus police, William often proved himself useful as an amateur detective. The police, at that time, had no detectives and they often called upon William when they needed help to solve a mystery. William always maintained that, "There is no such thing as a mystery if you will only use a little common sense." Due to his success in solving local crimes, he was called upon by the Ohio Attorney General to investigate an Ohio election scandal. In the Ohio Tally Sheet scandal he found that election fraud had taken place and he identified the men responsible.

As a result of his success in Ohio, in 1889 William Burns received a position in the United States Secret Service. He achieved great success particularly in tracking down and prosecuting counterfeiters. In 1903 he resigned from the Secret Service and worked both inside and outside the government to solve several high profile national cases. As a result, he was hailed as, "The greatest detective, certainly the only detective of genius, who this country has produced." In 1906 Burns trapped and arrested the entire board of supervisors of San Francisco in the act of committing bribery. In 1909 William and his son George E. Burns formed the Burns National Detective Agency (which is still in business today). In 1910 Burns solved the Los Angeles Times bombing case by arresting and bringing to trial the McNamara brothers, who were union officials (this case would mark Burns as an enemy of organized labor).

In 1914 in Georgia, Burns gathered evidence that cleared Leo Frank of the rape and murder of Mary Phagan in that famous case. Allegations were that Frank was prosecuted solely because he was Jewish. As a result of Burns' work on the case, he was almost killed by an angry mob in Marietta, Georgia. Leo Frank was taken from his prison cell by another angry mob and lynched.

In 1921 Burns was appointed by the U.S. Attorney General Harry Daugherty as Director of the Bureau of Investigation for the Justice Department. His most notable achievement during his term of service was the first successful prosecution of the Ku Klux Klan, an organization Burns came to hate as a result of their involvement in the Leo Frank case.

Unfortunately, Burns failed to detect the overt fraud and graft committed by the "Ohio Gang" in the Warren Harding administration and he left office in disgrace in 1925. In 1927 Burns received a sentence of 15 days in jail for contempt in the Albert Fall-Harry Sinclair criminal conspiracy trial. The Supreme Court overturned this conviction due to lack of evidence.

Burns was replaced as Director of the Bureau of Investigation by his assistant, J. Edgar Hoover, and the name of the department was changed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Burns returned to his detective agency where he continued to involve himself in famous criminal cases of the day. He often found himself afoul of the law through his zealous efforts to solve crimes.

William Burns died at his St. Armand's Key winter home in Florida on April 14, 1932 of a

heart attack. He was survived by his wife Anna Marie (Ressler) Burns and six children. The detective business he founded is still in operation today. He was the author of "The Masked War" (1913) that concerned the Los Angeles Times bombing case and two works of fiction "The

Argyle Case" (1913) and "The Crevice" (1915).

William J. Burns once said, "Every criminal leaves a track and if a detective fails to find that track he hasn't searched hard enough."

Abstracts from The Catholic Telegraph

(Continued, from Vol. XXVIII, No. 4)

August 21, 1852

...we hear that Rev. Mr. Meagher will be prepared to lay the corner stone of a new Church in Columbus on the first Sunday in November. The Archbishop has promised to attend on the occasion. This church is to be upwards of a hundred feet long and built in the Gothic style.

The Archbishop's visit to Freyburgh, St. Mary's, St. Henry's, Wappakoneth, Mercer Co. and Minster is described.

August 28, 1852

The Archbishop's visit is continued, to Holy Family, French Settlement, Dark Co.; St. Raphael in Springfield; the Church of Emmanual and St. Joseph Church i nDayton; and Xenia.

The corner-stone of the new Church in Columbus will be laid on Sunday, 5th of September, by Archbishop Purcell. The Church is already well advanced.

Deaths

At Lancaster, Ohio, 2d instant, MRS. WINIFRED LILLY, aged 65 years. Of the old Maryland stock, this estimable lady closed a life eminently full of faith and good works, by a most edifying death, after a long martyrdom of intensive suffering. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Died on Tuesday evening, at the Convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame, in Chillicothe, Sister MARY JOSEPHINE (in the world Miss Linch,)...

September 4, 1852

[Ordinations: on Aug. 20, to the diaconate, J. Riordan (for Pittsburgh), Richard Gilmour, and John Quinlan. On the 30th, the same to the priesthood.]

September 11, 1852

[Extracts from a column titled, "OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS!"]

In Dayton and Chillicothe the Sisters of Notre Dame have houses of their Order which, notwithstanding the sectarian hostility to our Institutions amongst the ... and prejudiced, are doing well and with every prospect of future usefulness. It is a great blessing to the Catholic families in those two flourishing towns, to have such a facility offered for the education of their children.

In Somerset the Nuns of the Dominican Order continue their useful labors in education. We have never known any of their pupils who did not by their piety and excellent character, reflect high honor on the name and reputation of the Convent.

In Somerset, Perry county, the Dominican Fathers have commenced a College for boys, to which many pupils have gone from this city during the past week. The College is presided over by the Rev. Father Wheeler, a gentleman highly qualified for the position in which he has been so justly placed by the Superiors of his Order. A large and most convenient as well as

handsome edifice has been erected for the use of the pupils. The terms of this Institution are very moderate, so that we may fairly anticipate for this new college a crowd of pupils.

VISIT OF THE ARCHBISHOP TO COLUMBUS.

The Most Rev. Archbishop arrived in our city on Saturday evening, the fourth inst., and on Sunday he laid the foundation stone of the new Catholic church, now being erected by the Rev. Father Meagher for the use of the Catholics who speak the English, our German Brethren having already a very beautiful church. The visit of the Archbishop was very gratifying, particularly to the Catholics; but his eminent position in the Hierarchy attracted a very large concourse of all classes anxious to listen to his preaching. I may say of him as the Roman Orator said of Archias, "the fame which other men enjoy often exceeds their merits, but he surpassed his fame."

At 8 o'clock he offered the Holy mysteries and at the service at 10 o'clock he addressed a very large congregation of Catholics and Protestants, including many of our most respectable citizens. His discourse was admirable and worthy of one bearing the sublime dignity of a successor of the apostles. For genuine eloquence, strong and convincing argument, and heart-felt piety, it was just such a sermon as would excite inquiry in the minds of he most indifferent, and confirm the wavering in the way of truth.

After Mass the Most Rev. Archbishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to sixty of the German and twenty-five of the Irish Catholic congregations.

At the hour of 4 o'clock, the Archbishop, accompanied by the clergy, proceeded to the site of the new Church and after concluding the ceremony of blessing and placing the corner stone, he delivered a discourse most remarkable for its brilliancy, beauty of illustration and argument. His text was from the 32d ch. of Genesis, which he applied in a variety of readings to the subject of his discourse, to the great delight

of a most attentive and numerous assemblage.

The fifth of September we will cherish as a memorable day, as the commencement of happier prospects for the Catholics of Columbus. The visit of our Archbishop has aroused the faith of all and animated the energies of a good and devoted people, and will be the means, under God, of producing great spiritual fruit amongst all the faithful.

September 18, 1852

Rev. Mr. Gilmour [has been appointed pastor] of St. Mary's, Portsmouth, (with Rev. Mr. Henghold) and of Ironton, Wilksville, Gallipolis, and the stations at the furnaces in Lawrence and Scioto counties. Rev. Mr. Henghold will give the benefit of another mission to the Catholics of Guernsey and Monroe counties to prepare them for the visit which the Most Rev. Archbishop purposes to make them in November.

The Most Rev. Archbishop will visit the German Church of St. Nicholas in Zanesville, God willing, next Sunday, and during the ensuing week the congregations at Dresden, Coshocton, &c., attended by Rev. Mr. Dieters.

October 2, 1852

EPISCOPAL VISITATION

There were eighteen persons confirmed at St. Nicholas's church, Zanesville, on Sunday the 19th of September. Fifty at St. Ann's, Wils Creek, on Tuesday the 21st; five at Coshocton on Wednesday the 22d, and six at St. Matthew's, Dresden, on the 23d.

At St. Michael's at Zanesfield and St. James's, Taylorsville, there were none confirmed, as the candidates for this holy Sacrament attended at some of the above places.

A regard for the personal relations which it is so pleasant to see existing between the pastor and the flock, induces us to publish the following address with which the youth of the German Catholic Congregation of Zanesville greeted the Archbishop at the door of the church. It was sung by two choirs of the school children, whose voices were very sweet, and when concluded, one of the smallest of the little girls, dressed in snowy white and crowned with roses advanced from among her companions and in their name presented a copy of the address to the Archbishop.

TOTAL MAKE

At Dresden a subscription was opened to purchase a lot for a new church, the congregation having much increased within a few years, especially the English portion, although rarely visited by an English priest, the German clergyman being unable to hear their confessions or instruct them. At Roscoe and Coshocton the English Catholics are also left in a very destitute condition. Rogate "Dominum messis ut mittet operarios in vineam suam."

The following is the address of the children of Zanesville to the Archbishop. If we have any poet amongst our readers who understands the language which will live forever, we solicit a translation of these pleasant verses:

REVERENDISSIMUM, DILECTISSIMUM ARCHIEPISCOPUM JOANNEM BAPTISTAM SALUTANT GREGIS ZANSVILLENSIS OVICULÆ

O' bone Pastor, salve In nostro medio! Sic Senes liberique Clamant ex animo.

Quod Te apud nos videmus Unde est haec gratia? Quid, Tuos, Pie! gressus Regit arva in nostra?

Amore Semper omnes
Vero prosequeris
Quae Tibi fidae oves
Sunt et officiis

Vel gregem sancto invisis,

Quem Serves, Studio, Dulcique orationis Compascas pabulo.

Quis est, O Pastor gregis, Quin ovet gaudio? Est salus quo devertis, Et benedictio.

> Venite et exultate, Urbani, Rustici! En salus fit in sede Et nobis Domini.

Non templum e ligno, saxis,-Sed templa Sunt tibi
Et pulchra, quae sacrabis,-Nos ipsi liberi.

Extendes ad firmandum Mox manus; et sacro Sacrabit Dei Domum Nos chrismato unctio.

Eten at Tuas preces
Dei in nos spiritus
De Cœlo, donis dives,
Venit, Paraclitus.

Ut templum Simus us que Dei purissimum, Ut fides, spes amorque Sint decus cordium.

Pro nobis hoc exora
Deum, piissime!
Et nemo ex hac corona
Oblivis cetur Te.

O vivas longe, fauste, Et senex animo In pedum Episcopale Portes lœtissimo!

Gubernet Teque legat

Ubique Altissimus, Labores benedicat! Gregemque protinus.

Hoc, Pontifex! Tibi usque
Exoptant deditae
Omnique orabunt die
Deum oviculae.

Dum post templo in colesti Deum per ominia Et Pastor et Grex laeti Laudebunt secula.

NEWARK.--The Most Rev. Archbishop confirmed sixty-five persons, five of whom were converts, in the Church of St. Francis of Sales, Newark, Licking county, Ohio, on last Sunday; and in the afternoon baptized four young girls in the true faith. The Rev. Mr. Dieters of Zanesville sang the High Mass, the Choir, as they always do, performing their part admirably well. The Archbishop preached morning and afternoon-Rev. Mr. Dieters also in afternoon.

Thanks to the exertions of the Rev. Mr. Brunemann and the liberality of the Catholics of Cincinnati, Chillicothe, Somerset, &c.--and to the poor, but generous Irish Catholic laborers on the Railroads, the Church and property are now entirely free from debt.

An Irish Catholic of Homer, in the same county, has offered a piece of ground and three hundred dollars for the erection of a Church in Homer.

Subscriptions: Thomas Mullen, Willscreek, O.; Michael Carroll, Mr. Hallec, and Thomas Callopy, Roscoe, O.

October 9, 1852 Subscription: Joseph Ward, Columbus, O.

October 16, 1852
[Rev. S. H. Rosecrans, D.D., has joined the editorial staff of the Telegraph and Advocate.] If

anything particularly good should hereafter appear in our columns, the reader will please attribute it to the pen of our young friend.

Rev. S. H. Rosecrans returned on Saturday, to this city from Rome, where he had been pursuing his Ecclesiastical studies, in the Propaganda, for the last five years. At the close of his Collegiate course, he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

October 23, 1852

Ordinations by the Archbishop in the seminary chapel on Oct. 18--tonsure: Joseph Witler, David Keily, John N. Thisse; minor orders: Bernard Hemsteger, John Donahoe, J. N. Thisse, D. Kelly; subdeacons: William Barrett, Henry Francis Lange.

Subscriptions: Charles W. Russell, Wheeling, Va., per Rev. R. J. Laurence; Martin Walsh, Zanesville, O.; Rev. E. Theinpont, Steubenville, O.; Thomas D. Spare, Somerset, O.; Michael Corcoran, Mt. Vernon, O.; Michael Boyle per Rev. J. Brent.

November 6, 1852

An account is given of the blessing of the 75 by 45 foot, brick St. Bridget Church in Xenia on Oct. 31 by the Archbishop.

A short letter from Bishop John Lamy, Vicar Apostolic of New Mexico, written after his arrival there, is printed.

A Young Men's Catholic Literary Institute is organized in Cincinnati; Rev. S. H. Rosecrans was appointed its Clerical Director by Archbishop Purcell.

Subscriptions: John Ennis, Zanesville, O.; F. McGrath, Wheelersburg, O.

November 13, 1852 On page 1 is an article on the consecration of the new cathedral in Cleveland, by Archbishop Purcell.

We learn with much pleasure that the new church at Marges' settlement, Carroll county, is nearly completed.

Subscriptions: Arthur Taggart, Stockport, O.; Joseph Mattingly, Zanesville, O.

November 20, 1852

The Most Rev. Archbishop, on his return from Albany, N.Y., intends to give confirmation at St. John's Church, Miltonsburgh, Monroe county, on Sunday, 28th of November, and to be present at the blessing of the new Church of the Immaculate Conception in Noble county, the Thursday following. St. Dominic's, Guernsey county, and St. Michael's, Archer's Settlement, will be visited on days designated by the Pastor. Marietta will be visited on the second Sunday of December.

Died at Washington City on the 10th inst., in the 30th year of his age, DANIEL CONVERS GODDARD, son of Gen. Charles B. Goddard, of Zanesville, and late Chief Clerk in the Department of the Interior.

December 11, 1852

Subscription: Mrs. Elizabeth Collins, Columbus

December 18, 1852

The Most Rev. Archbishop, on his late visitation of some of the North Eastern counties, was detained at Sun Fish, Monroe Co., otherwise called Clarenton, on Sunday (last of November.) He found there two Catholic families, on e of a Mr. Troy, a tavern keeper who was baptised a Catholic in his infancy. His wife was born in Washington Co., Penn., but of Episcopalian parents. They have had eleven children--two of whom died after Catholic Baptism, in childhood, and the nine other survive, all, including the youngest, baptised by the Archbishop, members

of the Church by baptism, but without any religious instruction whatever--all for the want of proper opportunity of attending church or school. The other family was that of a Mr. Beck, his wife and four children.

The Archbishop said Mass at Mr. Troy's, and in the evening preached in the Campbellite meeting house, courteously offered by Mr. Ewing, the regular preacher, whose first wife was a daughter of Alexander Campbell. The Protestant citizens expressed themselves highly gratified at the exposition of Catholic tenets-which most of them had never had a chance of hearing before, and were anxious to induce the Archbishop to remain with them a few days more--but this his engagements would not He left the place with feelings of gratitude for kindness received from his worthy host and the citizens generally and expressed a hope that one of the Rev. clergy of Miltonsburgh or St. Dominick's, might now and then stop at that place and cultivate the good disposition evinced to profit by the truth.

On Tuesday, St. John's Church in the same county, was visited. There were twenty-five confirmed. On Thursday, the visitation was held at St. Dominick's, where Rev. Mr. Hengehold had been engaged for several days preparing the congregation for the reception of the holy Sacraments. The unusually large number of fiftyfour were confirmed. Of this number, the following were converts:--Mrs. Margaret Hilliard, Margaret A. Harding, Susannah Gallagher, William A. J. Hiliard, Mary E. Williams, Sarah Jefferies, G. H. Hilliard, Maria Hilliard, John Hilliard, Ruth Harding, Cass Anne Harding, Geo. W. Harding, Margaret Harding, Elizabeth Harding, Charles Harding, John Reinhard and child, Mary Heidelbach and three children, two ladies of the family name of Erskin and Ballard, married to two sons of Mr. James Gallagher of Leatherwood, Mrs. Pius Jeffers and two children, Mrs. Creighton and her ten grown up children, Mrs. McConnaghey and her eight sons and daughters, Mr. Summers and family,

Mr. and Mrs. Green with their two children, the mother of Mrs. Green with her two children, Mrs. Peter Flanagan and one child, Richard Turner, Mr. Peter Eller and three children, David Higginbottam, Joseph, Margaret, Mary Higginbottom, and mother, Mrs. Lawn, at St. Michael's Archer's Settlement, Mr. and Mrs.

McCarthy and four children, Mrs. Elias Archer and her sister, Mrs. Isaac Archer, Mr. Mercer, Mr. and Mrs. Yoho, (of Frederick, Maryland) baptised by the Archbishop at the close of the mission.

(To be continued)

Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Columbus Cathedral Section C, Lot Records, 1867-1926

(Concluded, from Vol. XXVIII, No. 8)

136-C

p. 246, Mary Burns, Galloway, 1872, lot 136C. Graves: 1897 Oct. 1; 1899 July 2 child; 1899 June 8 child. [no stones]

137-C

p. 147, Thomas Keller, 1870 Dec. 17, lot 137.
 Graves: 1870 Dec. 17 two graves; 1878 May
 11 child; 1888 Feb. 16 child; 1905 March 17.
 entrance stone: KELLER

138-C -- see lot 125

139-C west

p. 147, John Donlan, 1870 Oct. 20, lot 139.
Graves: 1876 March 21; 1914 Oct. 23; 1929
Jan. 22. 1906 Dec. 27, half of above sold to
William Dundon by John Donlan.
+ Norah wife of John Donlan died Nov. 16, 1868

139-C east

p. 466, William Dundon, 58 Lorain Ave., 1906
Dec. 27, half of lot 139 bought from John
Donlan. Graves: 1906 Dec. 27; 1913 Apr. 24.
DUNDON: (Wife) Dorothy M. 1911-1959
(Husband) William B. 1903-1971
DUNDON: (Mother) Bridget M. 1875-1964
(Father) William B. 1871-1913

140-C

p. 150, Patrick Hannivan, 1868 Apr. 14, lot140. Graves: 1876 Apr. 25 child; 1879 Jan.21; 1888 March 9; 1913 Jan. 3. [no stones]

141-C -- see lot 122-C

142-C -- see lot 121-C

++ End of Section C ++

Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus

Donald M. Schlegel, Editor

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