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A CIVIL WAR LETTER

An interesting and historical item among the papers of the Wehrle Foundation of Newark, Ohio, is a letter written March 30, 1865, by Brigadier-General William Burnham Woods to his friend in Newark, Captain J.C. Wehrle. The letter was written from Goldsboro, N.C., where General Woods was on active duty with the army of the North.

General Woods was born in Newark, August 3, 1824. He attended Western Reserve and Yale universities, and was admitted to the Bar in 1847. Elected to the Ohio Legislature as a Democrat he served as Speaker of the House 1858-9. He entered the U. S. service in November, 1861, as Lt. Col. of the 76th Ohio. He marched with Sherman from Atlanta to Savannah, to Raleigh, to Washington. He was promoted to Colonel in 1863; to Brigadier-General in 1865, and later to Major General. He was mustered out of service Feb. 11, 1866.

General Woods was appointed Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of the United States by President Grant in December, 1869. President Hayes named him to the Supreme Court of the United States in December 1880. He died in 1887. His body was brought back to Newark where, two years before, his brother, Major-General Charles B. Woods, was buried.

Captain J. C. Wehrle, to whom General Woods address his Civil War letter, was the former Joseph Wehrle (1836-1890) of Newark. His bride, mentioned in the letter, was the former Philomena Maurath (1840-1907). Mr. and Mrs. Wehrle were the parents of eleven children, six of whom died in Childhood. Among them were the Rev. Joseph Wehrle, who died in 1924 as pastor of St. Mary's Church, Columbus, and Sister Mary Eulalia, O.P., of St. Mary of the Springs. Captain Wehrle was later promoted to Colonel.

The Wehrle family developed a large industrial, oil and real estate business. Many worthy causes received of their charity. Their wealth was placed in the Wehrle Foundation and used entirely for religious and needy purposes. The Foundation was dissolved earlier this year.

None of the Wehrle family is now living.

General Woods letter to Captain Wehrle, now in the possession of the Catholic Record Society, follows:

Hd. Or. 1st Brig., 1st Div. A.C.
Goldsboro, N.C., March 30, 1865

Dear Captain:

I have just received your very welcome letter of Feb. 4th. I thank you for the kind expressions of which it is full. I do not at all regret that I did not remain in Savannah. I prefer field service, and Gen. Sherman told me it would be better for me.

We have had a pretty rough and tough campaign from Beaufort, S.C., to this place. The main fighting fell to the 14th & 20th Corps (left wing). My brigade was twice engaged, once near Columbia and once at Bentonville about 17 miles from here. I only lost 22 killed and wounded & 8 captured on the campaign.

We are very agreeably situated here. I have the most splendid line of worker in front of my brigade I ever saw. I can hold them against all odds should the rebel "come for us."

We are rapidly getting up stores, clothing and ammunition here, and as soon as we are refitted I presume "Tecumseh" will light out again. I believe we shall substantially close out the Rebel by the 4th of July. I do not expect peace till we whip and disperse Lee's army, and I think that between Grant and Sherman that will be done.

Allow me my dear Captain to congratulate you on your marriage with one of the sweetest girls in Licking County. I have to regret that I lost my only chance of kissing your pretty bride by not being at the wedding. Present Mrs. Wehrle with the kind regards of one of her and your best friends. I have know her since she was born and know that you have chosen a good wife who I know will make you happy.

Remember me to my trusty friend Mr. Michael Maurath, and tell him I will return those bottles when I come home.

With kind regards to all Friends,

I am very truly your Friend,

W.B. Woods

Capt. J. C. Wehrle

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IN THE CORNERSTONE OF
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, COLUMBUS

Holy Family parish, Columbus, will celebrate the centennial of its founding this year. Of interest is the document placed in the cornerstone of the present church in 1882. It is given here through the courtesy of the Archives of the University of Notre Dame.

*Ad honorem Sanctissimae et Individuae Trinitatis, Patris
et Filii et Spiritus Sancti, atque Sacrae et Indivisae illius
Trinitatis Terrestris, Jesu, Mariae et Joseph, ex quibus Sancta
constat Familia, cui praesens inchoatur Ecclesia, necnon ad
augmentum Fidei Catholicae, hunc primarium lapidem, Leone
XIII. Papa Pontifice Supremo feliciter regnante, Chester Allan
Arthur horum Statuum Foederatarum Praeside, Carolo Foster
hujus Status Ohiensis iterum Gubernatore Georgio S. Peters
urbis Columbensis Praetore, Reverendo Gulielmo J. Hayes
hujus Facultatis Rectore, hac die 17ma Septembris anni Re-
paratae nostrae Salutis millesimi octingentesimi octogesimi
secundi et Instauratae nostrae Libertatis centesimi Septimi,
frequenti clero populoque adstante, Reverendissimus Joannes
Ambrosius Watterson, Dioeceseos Columbensis Artistes, bene-
dixit sollemniterque collocavit.*

HOLY CROSS: COLUMBUS' FIRST PARISH
SOME HISTORICAL NOTES

By Monsignor Joseph A. Hakel

(Continued)

Death and burial records were begun at St. Remigius' Church by Fr. H. D. Juncker in 1837. Burials were made in the public cemeteries since there were no Catholic cemeteries at first. The North Graveyard on High Street one eighth mile north of the railroad station was donated to Columbus on July 2, 1813, by John Kerr. Later donations of land were made by William Doherty in 1833, and by John Brickell in 1845.

Greenlawn Cemetery was organized in 1847-48. The East Graveyard on Livingston Avenue one and a half miles east of the Court House was donated to the city by Matthew King in 1839. It was used mainly by German people.

The old Catholic Burying Ground (St. Patrick's Cemetery) at Naghten Street and Washington Avenue on the present site of the Columbus Technical Institute was donated to Archbishop Purcell on Sept. 11, 1848. Half was used by the Irish and half by the Germans of St. Remigius Church. St. Jacob Cemetery on South Roosevelt Avenue near East Broad Street was deeded to Archbishop Purcell in 1846 by John Frey and Henry Frey. Catholic burials were made in these cemeteries though they were not consecrated since they were temporary. Individual graves were blessed at the time of burial.

On July 21, 1856, Columbus City Council passed an ordinance forbidding burials within the city limits. Some of these cemeteries had to close; so Catholics buried in them were removed to Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Mt. Calvary Cemetery was bought in 1865 by the Germans of Holy Cross Church and the English speaking Catholics. In 1874 it was solemnly consecrated. Fr. John W. Brummer was the first priest buried in the section reserved for the clergy. For many years the records of Mt. Calvary were kept at Holy Cross Church.

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Rt. Rev. Josue Maria Moody Young, third pastor of St. Remigius Church, was born Oct. 29, 1808, in Shapleigh, Maine, diocese of Boston, the son of Jonathan and Mehetable (Moody) Young. He was reared as a Congregationalist. He moved to Portland, Maine, where he worked as a printer's apprentice for the Eastern Argus newspaper. A Catholic fellow worker loaned him books on Catholic subjects. Soon Josue Young took instructions and corresponded with Bishop Benedict J. Fenwick, S.J., Bishop of Boston. The diocese of Boston at that time comprised the entire New England states.

Josue Young was baptized a Catholic on Oct. 10, 1828, by Rev. C. D. Freney, first Catholic pastor of Portland, Maine. Soon he expressed a desire to become a priest and corresponded with Bishop Edward D. Fenwick, O.P., of Cincinnati. In the fall of 1830, at the invitation of Bishop Fenwick, he went to Cincinnati where he and Rev. James Mullen established The Catholic Telegraph on Oct. 22, 1831.

Josue Young attended St. Francis Xavier Seminary, Cincinnati, and then completed his theological studies at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg. He was ordained by Bishop John B. Purcell April 1, 1838, in the old Cathedral in Cincinnati.

Father Josue Young was appointed pastor at Lancaster with Missions in Columbus, Logan, Delaware and Marion. He visited these Missions once a month. In the spring of 1842, Father Young decided to move to Columbus provided the congregation would build a rectory. A small frame house was completed on April 1, 1843. Since he knew no German, Father Young asked for a German assistant. Bishop Purcell sent Father William Schonat to assist during Lent and Easter of 1843. Father Young meantime was busy with pastoral and missionary work until 1853. He was one of the theologians to Archbishop John B. Purcell at the First Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1852. Because of his great learning and zeal, Father Young was appointed Bishop of Pittsburgh on July 29, 1853; but because of his profound humility, he chose to be transferred to the new and poorer diocese of Erie on Feb. 20, 1854. Bishop Young was consecrated on April 23, 1854, in Cincinnati by Archbishop Purcell, assisted by Bishop Martin J. Spalding of Louisville, Ky., and Bishop Louis A. Rappe, of Cleveland. In his first year in Erie Bishop Young had only 28 churches and 14 priests. Twelve years later there were over 50 churches and 51 priests. Bishop Young had a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother, and in her honor changed his name to Josue Maria. He died September 18, 1866, and is buried in the splendid Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Erie, Pa. He was noted for his humility, earnestness, learning, eloquence and zeal.

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The location of St. Remigius Church made it very vulnerable especially since the pastor, Father Josue M. Young, lived in Lancaster and visited Columbus only once a month. Thieves broke into the church in December, 1840, and stole four silver plated candlesticks, some vestments, a stole, a maniple with gilt edging, an alb and chasuble. They also tore the gilt image from the crucifix on the altar and took a black coat belonging to Father Young. About two years later, a convict in the Ohio Penitentiary confessed that he and some accomplices had broken into the church and that some of the stolen articles were hidden in a hollow tree near the Alum Creek bridge on East Broad Street. Mr. Vance McElwain and some other men went in search of the tree. After spending most of the day searching, they found the missing articles in an old saddle bag in the tree. The four candlesticks, the stole and maniple were recovered, but the other articles were never found.

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Father Josue Young, being a very conscientious priest, realized that he alone could not adequately care for the Catholics of his scattered Missions. On July 21, 1840, he wrote to Bishop Purcell that the Catholics of Columbus had been without a priest for 3 months. He asked that a German priest be sent to St. Remigius Church since he himself had a limited knowledge of German, and the parishioners spoke only German at that time. Bishop Purcell sent Father William Schonat to Columbus on Feb. 25, 1843. Father Schonat had arrived recently from Silesia in Germany. The congregation was so happy with their German priest that they asked the Bishop to make the appointment permanent. On May 10, 1843, Father Schonat became the first resident pastor of St. Remigius' parish. On June 6, 1843, Bishop Purcell confirmed 55 parishioners at St. Remigius'. He asked Father Schonat to accompany him on his pastoral tour through northern and eastern Ohio. In the meantime, Father J. B. Emig, S.J., took care of the parish during the several weeks of July. Father Schonat returned to Columbus in September, 1843. The congregation was rapidly increasing, so Father Schonat announced in April, 1844, that it would be necessary to build a larger church, since he was then saying two Masses on Sunday and the number of the faithful was growing steadily. Father Schonat presided at a parish meeting on Dec. 8, 1844, when it was decided to build in the Gothic style a plain but

substantial church with a thick stone foundation and a wall of brick. The church would be 115 feet long and 62 feet wide, exclusive of the buttresses, and 40 feet high from the floor to the ceiling. The walls would be supported with cut-stone and the building finished without unnecessary ornamental work.

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Father William Schonat was born January 6, 1813, at Strehlen in Prussia Silesia. He was ordained in Breslau March 31, 1838. He served as assistant priest for four years in that diocese. In 1842 he was transferred to Wuerben near Schweidnitz. Later in 1842 he emigrated to America arriving in Cincinnati in January or February of 1843. Bishop Purcell sent him to Columbus Feb 25, 1843, to assist Father Young during Lent and Easter. Father Schonat was so well liked that the people petitioned the Bishop to appoint him pastor of St. Remigius' Church. On May 10, 1843, Father Schonat moved into the new rectory which had been built for Father Young. One year after the successful completion and dedication of Holy Cross Church, Father Schonat was promoted to Holy Trinity Church in Cincinnati. On January 16, 1849, he sang his last High Mass in Holy Cross Church on the first anniversary of its dedication.

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Father Schonat remained in Cincinnati until April 16, 1850, when he visited his home town in Germany. He returned to Cincinnati in the fall. On August 29, 1852, Holy Trinity Church and rectory burned to the ground. On April 24, 1853, the cornerstone of the new Holy Trinity Church was laid. However, the whole disaster shattered Father Schonat's health, and he decided to go back to Germany. On May 12, 1853, he left Cincinnati for New York where he boarded the steamer "Herman" on May 21, 1853. For a year and a half he recuperated in his home diocese. On Jan. 31, 1855, he was appointed pastor at Oels in Silesia. In 1871 he was promoted to Fuerstenau in Silesia where he remained until his death Jan. 4, 1897, at the age of 66 years less 2 days. He will always be remembered for his heroic work in building Holy Cross Church in spite of financial difficulties that would have broken a less courageous priest.

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The new Holy Cross Church contained 800,000 bricks and its original cost was \$10,000.00. Lack of money was a continual problem during the entire time of construction. The cornerstone was laid May 18, 1845, by Bishop Purcell assisted by Fathers Schonat, Young and Juncker. The stone foundation walls were finished and the brick walls begun by July first. The walls were ready for the roof beams by October 15, 1845. The roof was completed about December 20, 1845. The doors and windows were then temporarily closed with boards and the work was suspended until the summer of 1847. Father Schonat wrote repeatedly to Bishop Purcell about the desperate need for money and his great desire to complete the church building. On October 7, 1845, Father Schonat wrote to the Bishop that the roof would be put on the new church in two weeks. However, money was exhausted and he was unable to pay the workmen. Many of them were unwilling to continue working until they were paid. Creditors wanted to be paid. Father Schonat wrote to charitable societies in Vienna, Austria, and Munich, Germany, for donations. He sent two men of the parish to collect money in the East and West but without success. He also tried to raise a loan of \$1,000.00, but with no result. The parishioners had already given all they could. These persistent appeals for money caused Bishop Purcell to consider removing Father Schonat from Columbus. The Bishop himself was having financial problems.

(To be continued)

PRIESTS OF SOUTHEASTERN OHIO
IN THE 19TH CENTURY
(Continued)

- Schmitt, Rev. Joseph
Holy Redeemer, Portsmouth, 1887-1888; St. Joseph's, Ironton, 1889-1899.
- Schneider, Rev. John J.
Cathedral, Columbus, 1893-1896; Pomeroy, Gallipolis and Syracuse, 1897-1898;
Pomeroy and Syracuse, 1899-1900+.
- Schneider, Rev. L. R.
St. John's, Union Twp., and Ave Maria, 1870.
- Schonat, Rev. L.R.
St. Remigius', Columbus, 1844; St. Remigius', Columbus; Delaware, Marion,
1845; St. Remigius', Columbus, 1846-1849.
- Schreiber, Rev. J.
St. Peter's, Scioto Co., 1864; St. Peter's, Lick Run; Monroe, Washington
Junior and Clinton Furnaces, 1865-1866; Immaculate Conception, Buena
Vista (Freestone P.O.), 1867.
- Schwarz, Rev. Raphael, O.M. Cap.
St. Joseph's, Canal Dover, 1897-1898.
- Senez, Rev. Dominick
St. Mary's, Chillicothe, 1846.
- Seuffert, Rev. John L., D.D.
Josephinum Seminary, Columbus, 1897-1900+.
- Sheehy, Rev. J. D., O.P.
St. Joseph's College, Somerset, 1858-1861; St. Joseph's, Somerset,
1865-1871; Superior, St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1867, 1869.
- Sheridan, Rev. J.A., O.P.
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1864-1866; 1872; St. Thomas', Zanesville, 1873-1874.
- Sheuerman, Rev. J.A., O.P.
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1861.
- Shnyder, Rev. Lawrence B.
St. John the Baptist, Union Twp., Washington Co., and Ave Maria, 1870.
- Shorb, Rev. Basil
St. John's, Canton, and St. Fidelis, Carroll Co., 1838.
- Sipowsky, Rev. Henry C.
St. Sylvester's, Zaleski, 1870.
- Slevin, Rev. J.J.
St. Aloysius' Seminary, Columbus, 1872; Athens, Jackson and St. Sylvester's,
Zaleski, 1873-1874; Jackson and Zaleski, 1875-1876; Zaleski, Latrobe,
Madison, McArthur, 1877; Zaleski and McArthur, 1878; Zaleski, 1879-1883;
Zaleski and St. James', McArthur Junction (Vinton Co.), 1884; Holy
Redeemer, Portsmouth, 1885-1887; Sts. Peter and Paul, Wellston, 1888-1900.

- Slinger, Rev. J.H., O.P.
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1864, 1866; St. Thomas', Zanesville, 1887-1890;
St. Patrick's, Columbus, 1899.
- Smith, Rev. Matthew A.
St. Peter's, Steubenville, 1891; Pine Grove, 1892-1900+.
- Soentgerath, Rev. Joseph L., D.D.
Josephinum Seminary, Columbus, 1897-1900; Rector, 1899.
- Spaulding, Rev. M.P., O.P.
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1892.
- Specht, Rev. Francis
Holy Cross, Columbus, 1865-1868; St. Mary's, Columbus, 1869-1900; Vicar
General, 1886-1900+.
- Spencer, Rev. F.A., O.P.
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1885; St. Patrick's, Columbus, 1886; St. Joseph's,
Somerset, 1887-1889; St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, 1894.
- Splinter, Rev. C.A., O.P.
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1894-1896.
- Stall, Rev. Philip
Athens, Belmont Station, Athens Co., 1872.
- Stchoulepnikoff, Rev. Serge de
St. Joseph's, Somerset, 1858; St. Mary's, Chillicothe, 1859; St. George's,
Coshocton, 1861; St. Joseph's, Circleville, 1870-1872; Calmoutier,
Millersburg, Napoleon, 1873; Millersburg, Napoleon, 1874.
- Steyle, Rev. Philip
St. John's, Belair, 1872; Belair, Belmont Station, Martinsville, Stewards-
ville, 1873-1874; Belair, Belmont Station, Cambridge, Glencoe, Martinsville,
Stewardsville, 1875-1878; Holy Redeemer, Portsmouth, 1879-1884; St. Mary's,
Delaware, 1885; St. Mary's, Delaware, and Lewis Center, 1886-1893;
St. Mary's, Delaware, Lewis Center, St. Joseph's, Cardington, 1894-1900.
- Sullivan, Rev. William H. (See O'Sullivan, Rev. William H.)
- Swierczymski, Rev. A.L.
Dillonvale, 1899-1900+.
- Synan, Rev. Owen J.
St. Peter's, Steubenville, 1894-1896; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Glouster,
1897-1899; Glouster and Vincent, 1900.
- Szczepankiewicz, Rev. Sylvester
St. Mary's, Pine Grove, Lawrence Co., 1867.
- Tamchina, Rev. J.R., O.S.F.
St. Peter's, Chillicothe, 1853.

(To be continued)