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Sept. 17: St. Robert Bellarmine

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'Rome and Rob: The Green Brothers: Perry County to Notre Dame

by Patrick Mooney

(Concluded, from Vol. XXIV, No. 4)

Part Two: Rob: Robert Lee Green, 1869-1951

Retired Professor Studies Longevity.



Shown in his study in his home, 710 Arch Avenue, is Robert L. Greene, aged 72, inspecting one of the many questionnaires he has received during his "survey of longevity" which he has conducted for more than 15 years. Mr. Greene is a retired University of Notre Dame professor. He was the founder and director of the pharmacy department of the university and a faculty member for 37 years. -- South Bend Tribune, April 7, 1940

Notre Dame, Ind., April 28 [1933] -- The human body was originally intended to live 1000 years, Prof. Robert L. Greene [sic], head of the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Notre Dame, said in an interview today. "Methusaleh lived to the great age of 969 years, but that was before the era of processed foods such as we have today, which make it impossible to provide the body with the proper diet," said Professor Greene. The right diet, one composed principally of fruits, vegetables and plenty of milk and water will enable persons, even in these days, to attain the ripe age of 100 years, is the opinion of Notre Dame's pharmacy head since 1902.

Professor Greene bases his theories on answers received from a questionnaire he sends to every person he hears of who has neared or turned the century mark. He has received more than 40 answers so far, and wants to have 100 before making more definite deductions. His oldest correspondent so far is Blake Shirley, 116-year old Texas rancher, who spends two hours daily in the saddle. Blake's brothers and sisters number 15, the oldest of whom is 104.

A preliminary study of the questionnaire discloses the following factors as conducive to longevity: freedom from worry; temperance in eating, drinking, sleeping, working, and exercising; care in diet; heredity; clear conscience and trust in God and fellow man; and regular hours of sleep.

* * *

Rob Green (October 4, 1869-August 22, 1951) was the second son and eighth child of Joshua Green, Jr. and his wife Emily Flowers of Reading Township, Perry County, Ohio, and only brother to Jerome J. Greene, the first in America to successfully send a message by wireless telegraphy, in 1899 on the Notre Dame campus. (See part 1 of this article.)

Robert Lee and Jerome J. Green came to Columbus in the late 1880s from their Chestnut

Ridge birthplace near the Dominican Priory of St. Joseph to pursue educational opportunities not available in rural Perry County. It is not known where they obtained preparatory, or high school, work, but both matriculated at The Ohio State University, where in 1892 Rob received the degree G. Ph. (Graduate in Pharmacy). He worked for several years as a druggist, first for Volk's Pharmacy, operated by Edward J. and Mary J. Volk at the southwest corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and 17th Street. During 1895 he spent three months assisting his brother, who was installing electrical apparatus at the Cotton States and International Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1896-97 Rob operated a drugstore at 1443 North High Street.

During the five years between 1897 and 1902, before he began his 37-year career as a professor at the University of Notre Dame, Rob was apparently "finding himself," as we would say today. His brother Jerome, four years his senior, had been hired in 1895 as Professor of Electrical Engineering at Notre Dame. Several surviving letters, under a Notre Dame letterhead, written in 1897-1899 from Rome to Rob, show a strong older-brother mentoring relationship. Rob is given advice on travel, dress, health, financial matters, and family relationships, as well as career possibilities. During this time Rob traveled for a time in Mexico, and was involved in Columbus in a short-lived and unsuccessful business partnership called Graphotype Engraving Company, which included photographic engraving. Family tradition calls him a skilled photographer, although no examples survive which can be documented as his work. In 1897 Rob applied through patent attorney Chester C. Shepherd of the Marzetti Block, Columbus, for a U.S. patent for a bill-head design.

Jerome encouraged his younger brother to involve himself as a traveling salesman in order to pursue an active life and meet the ordinary



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame, Ind. Sept 8 1897

*My Dear Rob
Arrived last night, tired and dusty
found everything C.K. Am back plenty early*

people of the world. It was also in 1897, probably at Rome's urging, that Rob drafted a course in pharmacy for the University of Notre Dame, which eventually resulted in his appointment in 1902 as Professor of Pharmacy and director of the department.

Little detail is available about Rob's many years on the Notre Dame faculty. By the early 1930s the university had withdrawn the certificate in pharmacy, after turning out many successful graduates in the field. Green continued to teach courses in food chemistry, general chemistry, and physiological chemistry. In 1928 he had authored *The Chemistry of Health*, a book on which he had been working for several years. In the 1920s he began to work on the study of human longevity, which was to become an avocation sustained long into his retirement years.

In a 1929 interview for *The Notre Dame Scholastic*, Rob Green claimed to have

organized, in 1914, the first Notre Dame Glee Club, composed largely of pharmacy students. (Currently available Notre Dame Glee Club history dates its beginning to 1915 under the directorship of S. Ward Perrott.) The *Scholastic* reporter says, "Mr. Greene [sic] is tall and slender; his head is crowned with silver. ...in toto, Professor Greene is a true Waltonian, and -- implicit in this last -- a gentleman."

From the 1920s Rob and his family (wife Josephine Vanette and sons Robert, Thomas, and Jerome) summered on their farm near Torch Lake in Antrim County, near Grand Traverse Bay in Michigan, where Rob sailed, fished, and gardened.

By 1940, a year after his retirement at age seventy, Rob had amassed data on more than 250 superannuated Americans from all walks of life, and assembled an extensive file of newspaper clippings and letters from doctors, teachers, former students and friends. He stated that



22, 1951. Death notices in Chicago and South Bend papers mentioned his work on human longevity, but gave no funeral or family information.

Family Background

Rome and Rob Green were descendants of several Catholic families of Colonial Maryland and Pennsylvania: Green, Hughes, Flower(s), Elder, and Ambrose. By the late 18th Century there were significant centers of Catholic settlement both east and west of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, and along the Mason-Dixon line in Frederick and Baltimore Counties in Maryland. By the early 1800s, with the development and rapid movement toward statehood of "the territories northwest of the Ohio," many families were drawn westward by the economic and social forces of the time. After the 181 foundation of St. Joseph's in Perry County as the first Catholic church in Ohio, the area became a magnet for Catholic settlement, not only for those from established former colonial centers but also for Catholic immigrants from France, the German states, and Ireland.

anyone can live to a ripe old age by following a "four-fold biological and social diet," comprising absence of worry, a full life of activity, participation in social life with moderation and common sense, and the eating of proper and wholesome foods with a balance of vitamins. He had extended his interests to a survey of the dietary causes of cancer and a study of multiple sclerosis, or "creeping" paralysis. He believed that smoking does not shorten life, but that "sugar gluttony" and lack of proper vitamins play a vital role.

So far as is known, Robert Lee Green's study of human longevity remained an avocation and did not result in any publications. A search for a copy of his 1928 book, *The Chemistry of Health*, has so far been unsuccessful.

Rob Green died in his eighty-second year at his summer home near Bellaire, Michigan on August

Henry Flowers and his growing family arrived in what is now Madison Township in Perry County sometime before 1810, when he purchased 320 acres of federal lands at the Zanesville land office. Henry Flowers was the Johan Heinrich Flower, two-month-old son of Louis Henry Flower and his wife Rosina, who was baptized at Reading, Pennsylvania on May 12, 1771. The baptism was recorded in the church book in the chapel at Goshenhoppen, Berks County (now Blessed Sacrament Church, Bally, Pa.).

According to some researchers, Henry's wife Susannah may have been the daughter of Matthias Ambrose, whose daughter Elizabeth married Henry's brother Joseph Flowers. Joseph and Elizabeth settled in the Muskingum/Perry County area also. The Ambrose family were

neighbors to the Elder family near Emmitsburg in Frederick County, Maryland. In any case, Henry and Susannah's oldest son, Matthias, born in Pennsylvania in 1802, married a Mary Elder in Perry County, Ohio in 1825. Their daughter Emily married Joshua Green, Jr. in 1850 and became the mother of 'Rome and Rob Green.

Joshua Green, Sr. and Elizabeth Hughes were married in Frederick County, Maryland on August 12, 1816. They lived in Harbaugh's Valley in the east flank of South Mountain in western Frederick County. The Hughes family were prominent in Emmitsburg, the location of Elizabeth Seton's 1808 foundation of the Sisters of Charity, and a few miles from Mount St. Mary's Seminary.

An 1808 map of Frederick County shows the location of Green's Mill in southern Harbaugh's Valley. A school subscription document of June 2, 1821 carries the signatures, among others, of Joshua Green, William Green, George Flautt, William Flautt, and Jacob Flautt. George Flautt's migration to the Somerset area of Perry County, Ohio in the 1830s with his young second wife, Margaret Harbaugh, began the establishment of the numerous Flautt clan in Ohio. The Catholic families of Harbaugh's Valley walked the seven miles or so "over the mountain" to assist at Mass in Emmitsburg, or to seek the sacraments of their faith at the "Mountain Church" adjacent to Mt. St. Mary's. The site of the Mountain Church, as well as much of the materials and labor for its construction, had been a gift of the Elder family.

The books of St. Joseph's in Emmitsburg contain the baptismal records of three children of Joshua Green, Sr. and Elizabeth Hughes, in 1818, 1820, and 1824. On January 23, 1824 Joshua Green and his wife Elizabeth sold two tracts of land totaling 54 acres for \$315 to John Wolf. Sometime after this date, Joshua and his family

moved to Perry County, Ohio, settling a few miles from the Dominican Priory at St. Joseph's. Joshua appears on the 1830 federal census of Perry County and in 1831 he purchased a tract of federal land in Reading Township.

Family tradition tells of Joshua Green teaching at the college operated by the Dominicans at St. Joseph's in Perry County prior to the Civil War, and of his planting a vineyard and making altar wine to supply the Priory. Whether this refers to Joshua, Jr. or Joshua, Sr. is unclear. Suffice it to say that the Green family ties to St. Joseph's and the Dominicans have been strong from the early days to the present.

Joshua Green, Jr., son of Joshua Green and Elizabeth Hughes, was married in 1850 to Emily Flowers, daughter of Matthias Flowers and Mary Elder. They became the parents of Jerome J. Green and Robert L. Green. Thus came together the several strands which were to produce two extraordinary careers.

How intricately interwoven are the threads of the tapestry of our inheritance, and the promise for our posterity! Deo gratias!

NOTES

The author admits some personal interest: he is a second cousin, twice removed, to 'Rome and Rob Green, on the line of Henry Flowers.

Appreciation is expressed to Patricia Hillis Green of Reading Township, Perry County, for copies of 'Rome's letters to Rob and much other family information;

and to the Archives, University of Notre Dame, for the photograph of Robert Lee Green and copies of articles, press clippings, and news releases.

Abstracts from
The Catholic Telegraph
(Continued from Vol. XXIV, No. 7)

September 7, 1848

ZANESVILLE, Aug. 26, 1848

Mr. Editor: -- I hope you will be kind enough to insert in the columns of your valuable paper the following few lines, as they may prove in some degree interesting to some of your readers:

DIED -- In this place, on the 15th inst., (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.) Mrs. ELIAZBETH DUGAN, consort of Tho's Dugan, deceased, aged 101 years. She was a native of the county Donegall, Ireland, and emigrated to this country in the year 1752 [? the five is not clear] and settled in Westmoreland county, Pa., where she lived many years, not only beloved and obeyed by her children, but highly respected by her neighbors for her many virtues. Obeyed and loved by her children, because from their earliest infancy she had also taught them, by her words and example, the principles of their holy Religion -- for which she had suffered in her native land -- and imprinted in their hearts, by her constant and bright example, a love for the practice of its sacred duties.

Though obliged to reside in the neighborhood of the Indians, and deprived, for a long time, of the happiness of assisting at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and of receiving the Sacraments, she was never known to have omitted the duties of prayer and of keeping the Sundays and Holy days in the best manner she could; being convinced that God would not desert her if she did not first desert him. Thus she kept alive the faith in the minds of her children, notwithstanding the many worldly inducements, so often held out to them to abandon its practice and principles. In her sleep, one night, she fancied she heard the voice of the mother of the Machabees exhorting her children rather to die than to abandon the Religion of their

fathers. Her daily aspirations to Heaven were that God, through the intercession of the glorious Queen of Heaven, would hasten the time in which she could again kneel before his Holy Altar, and assist at the adorable and mystic Sacrifice. God was not deaf to the voice of his servant; she had the happiness of seeing a priest, who had volunteered to come to the missions of America, and of enjoying the blessings which she so ardently desired.

At length circumstances appeared to render it expedient for her to move farther West, and settle in the State of Ohio. One of her sons had chosen Zanesville for his place of residence, and in a short time he was surrounded by a great many relatives desirous of having a church; and all of these children of so pious a mother, mindful of their early impressions, erected, with the assistance of other pious Catholics, a small church in the town of Zanesville, on the spot where now stands a splendid church of cut stone, in Gothic style. The good mother, the subject of these few lines, having lived here about 30 years, never ceased to go, whenever there was Mass in the town, to offer up her fervent prayers before the altar, for the advancement of that holy Religion which was her sole consolation; and she had the happiness of beholding a large congregation gathering around her, not only of those born of Catholic parents, but also of converts. Her great devotion was the holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin, and no one could any day find her without her Rosary in her hands.

Being fortified with the rites of the Church she met death with the most perfect resignation to the Divine will, and, notwithstanding her age was that of a hundred and one years, yet she preserved her recollection and also her cheerfulness, till about two hours before she expired, when she became unconscious, and we have every reason to hope that her life of more than a century, being filled up with good works, is now rewarded with the full enjoyment of that

Divine Being who had always been the object of her love. May her soul rest in peace.

CATHOLICUS

[Could Catholicus have been Father N.D. Young, who gave the sermon at her funeral?]

MARRIED

On Thursday morning, the 31st ult., by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Purcell, PHILEMON B. EWING, Esq., son of the Hon. Thomas Ewing, to MISS MARY GILLESPIE, all of Lancaster, Ohio. The ceremony took place in church, at Mass, and both received the holy communion.

Subscription: Mart. Stafford, Marietta, O.

September 14, 1848

EPISCOPAL VISITATION. -- There were fifteen persons confirmed at St. James' Church, Meigs' creek, of whom five were converts. The grandmother, the daughter, and three grand-children, were here, all at once, presented, or offered for the Sacraments. At St. John's, Millersburgh [Miltonsburg], St. Dominic's [Beaver], Guernsey, St. Michael, Archer's Settlement -- about fifty confirmed. These congregations, especially the first and last, continue to prosper -- but in all there is improvement, and hope for the future. St. Dominic's has no resident Pastor, and yet we hardly know where more good might be done by a devoted missionary than in that good congregation.

Sunday Creek -- St. Francis -- Thirty-four confirmed, of whom three intelligent men and one or two ladies were converts. *Monday Creek* -- St. Peter's, a new and handsome church, of cut stone, roofed in, but not completed -- all this, in great measure, accomplished by the zeal and generosity of one Catholic, who built the Church without calculating when or how payment could be made. There were five or six confirmed. Zanesville -- St. Thomas -- Sixty-four confirmed in the forenoon, and sixty-two in St. Nicholas in the afternoon. These two congregations, especially the latter, have considerably increased

since last Visitation. -- Among the former were nine converts, and six in the latter. The Church of St. Thomas is still unplastered, but around it several valuable improvements have been made. The congregation of St. Nicholas find it necessary to build a new school-house, which, if (m?) a few days will be commenced; and this done, they will next -- but not this year -- enlarge the church. At St. James', Taylorsville, there were six confirmed.

MARRIED

On Thursday, 7th inst., at Rehoboth, Perry County, by Right Rev. J. B. Purcell, D.D., Dr. THOMAS MCKIBBIN to Miss MARY ANN BECKWITH, a convert to the Catholic Faith.

September 21, 1848

CONFIRMATION. -- There were seventy-five confirmed in Holy Trinity Church, Somerset, on Sunday, 12th inst. Fifty on Monday, at St. Louis B., Rehoboth; sixty-four at St. Patrick's, on Tuesday; twenty-three at St. Francis de Sales, Newark, on Thursday and Friday following. In all these churches there were many edifying and highly intelligent converts confirmed, some of whom had been previously, in the presence of the congregation, baptized. We were exceedingly gratified at these results in places where we could not have anticipated their occurrence.

At St. Patrick's, the zealous father O'Brien celebrated the anniversary of the establishment of the Temperance Society, in his congregation. Between two and three thousand persons walked in procession with banners and music; and, after an address, which lasted an hour, and which was delivered by the Bishop from a stage erected in a wood near the beautiful and large new church, all partook of a splendid repast furnished by the congregation. It was, altogether, one of the best "got up" affairs we have ever witnessed, or that, we think, could be witnessed elsewhere. The worthy Pastor assured us that there had been one solitary instance of intoxication among his flock, for the last four years! Would to God that the like

could be said of every other!

We were much pleased to hear of the increasing prosperity of ST. MARY'S FEMALE SEMINARY, at Somerset, where the devoted Sisterhood leave nothing undone to inspire a truly and eminently religious spirit into the minds of their pupils, while they qualify them, by literary attainments, to move with becoming grace in the various stations of life, which may be allotted to them by Divine Providence.

At St. Mary's church, Lancaster, seventy-three persons were confirmed on the 17th inst.

(To be continued)



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

(Continued, from Vol. XXIV, No. 8)

1833, continued

Nov. 28 William, son of Thomas Sullivan and Mary Kelly; spon. Thomas Crousby and Sarah Lockarz (Jackson). Charles P. Montgomery, O.S.D.

same day John, son of Patrick Kelly and Lucinda O'Flanagan; spon. Mary McGraw. CPM

Nov. 30 Ellis Jane, daughter of William Linsey and Elizabeth McKee; spon. Mrs. Cassilly. CPM

Dec. 15 Mary, daughter of Christopher Mulvany and Helen Mulvany; spon. William Lynch and Jane Lynch. T.J.V.D. Broek

Dec. 25 Ev. Teresa, daughter of David Watkins and Margaret Kiggan; spon. Teresa Hasket. CPM

Dec. 28 Lydia Call (adult); spon. Lydia Cassilly.

same day Emily, daughter of Lydia Call; spon. Joseph Roll and Margaret Kelly. T. J. Van D Broek

1834

Feb. 17 Ann, daughter of Robert Smith and Jane McCandle; spon. William McGary and Catherine Powers. CPM

Feb. 18 Mary Ann, daughter of Henry Musselman and Lycia Mart[?]; spon. Margaret Herrel and John Sanders. CPM

Feb. 23 Anton, son of Jacob Huff and Mary Ann Ackeman; spon. Anton Berkey and Anna Maria Berkey. CPM

Mar. 8 Rose Ann, daughter of Edward Downy and [? It looks as if the transcriber skipped a line.]

same day Bridget, daughter of John Carroll and Ann Stillwell; spon. James Heenan and Mary Shaikley. CPM

March 18 James, son of James Carr and Sara Donohough; [page 9] spon. William Monahan and Susan Gallagher. CPM

(To be continued)

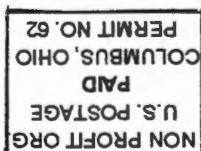
SUMMER MEETING: SEPT. 12, 2PM, SPECHT CENTER, ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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Donald M. Schlegel, editor



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