

Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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THE CATHOLIC BACKGROUND OF THE NADENBUSH AND WHEELER FAMILIES OF FRANKLINTON

Based on research by Paul T. Millikin

The histories of Holy Cross Parish in Columbus mention that in 1836 the stone for the first Catholic church in this city, St. Remigius, was contracted for by Henry Nadenbush for \$1.25 per perch delivered at the building site and that he was in fact paid \$875.00 in August of 1836 for 700 perch of limestone. (1) Henry Nadenbush lived near the state stone quarries and near the house of William S. Sullivant, near Dry Run Creek at the edge of the hill west of Franklinton. Prior to 1833, Mass was offered at the Nadenbush house and at the house of Vincent Grate and at the old courthouse in Franklinton. (2) These were hints that the Nadenbush family was Catholic, but they were far from conclusive. The histories do not mention the Nadenbush family as members of the Church, nor does the family appear on the surviving (German) subscription list for St. Remigius. Recent publications of sacramental registers by this Society have included more firm evidence of the family's religion, which will be noted below, but all doubt has now been removed by the research of Mr. Paul Millikin of Upper Arlington, whose wife is a descendant of this family.

The letter which follows was written by Mrs. Caroline Custer, a granddaughter of Mrs. Ann Froissart Nadenbousch Clarke, its subject. A copy of the letter was sent to Mr. Millikin in 1976 by Mrs. Julie Newman, of South Lake Tahoe, California, in whose husband's family the letter has been handed down through the years. There are some problems of chronology with the letter, such as the mention of the French and Indian War, which must have been long over before Mrs. Nadenbousch came to this continent. It is impossible to tell just how much in the letter may be exaggeration or embroidery, but it is interesting in its entirety and will be presented here, both for the facts it contains and for the flavor it presents.

Perhaps you would like to hear something of your father's family. I am perhaps the only one living who remembers our grandmother [born Ann Froissart]. She was the brightest of little Frenchwomen ever seen. To me she was beautiful at seventy. She had a good education, received in a convent near the city of Longwy in Lorraine, then a province of France.

Born in 1750, she was taken by an aunt in infancy and placed in the convent at eleven years of age, where she remained until nearly seventeen, was then taken home by the aunt, a maiden lady who had

means to live independently.

One fine day they rode out to see a review of some troops near the city, conducted by some officers of the Court of Louis XV. One of these officers, a Prussian by birth, a tall very fine looking man, over six feet in height, in a grand uniform (so I have heard Grandmother say) while paying court to the ladies in carriages on the grounds, espied her sitting modestly beside her aunt. She saw his look of admiration and was frightened. Young girls just out of a convent were not, I presume, like our American city girls. However, he, Philip Nadenbousch, sought her in marriage, and she loved him so as to leave everything dear to her and come with him to the then (at least to her) wild shores of America.

They were six months on the journey. They were for one little time in Germany. Mr. Nadenbousch had some friends at the court of the Grand Duke of Hesse. I have heard her describe the gardens of the duke. They must have been magnificent, and she was so fond of flowers.

At last they arrived in Philadelphia, bought goods and opened a store at the village of St. Mary's, Maryland.

Philip Nadenbousch was a member of the life guards of Louis Philippe and, as such, was not permitted to marry. He escaped through the kindness of the Grand Duke of Hesse to America, his bride dressed as a page.

She was a long time learning to make bread. She had never seen it made. At her home everything came from the bakers.

They got a black servant woman who taught her to cook and to talk at the same time. They did well for a few years, but the dark days came. When there were three little boys, Philip, Frederick, and Henery, the French and Indians were at war with the English.

They needed goods. the times were fearful, but Mr. Nadenbousch was brave, so he put hundreds of pounds in his belt, buckled on his good sword and started for Baltimore, reached it and sent a wagon load of goods back, was going on to Philadelphia for more. On the way he was murdered and robbed. She, with heart half broken, received the goods many weeks after. Then came the terrible news. But the three little boys must be cared for so she went behind the counter, a tenderly raised, delicate little woman in a strange land, supported herself through terrors and trials that are fearful to think of. Often when she heard the Indians coming, whooping as they came, she would bar the door, fall upon her knees with her little boys around her, and pray God for protection until they had passed, then go on with her work. She had plenty of means to life, but oh, what a life!

After some years she married Mr. Clarke, our grandfather. He was a descendant of one of the fine old Catholic families which came over with Sir Charles Calvert, brother of Lord Baltimore, a gentleman in every sense of the word, as I remember him, and one of the most amiable men I have ever seen. He was a teacher nearly all his life. He received a good education, his father being a wealthy Maryland farmer. Most of his wealth was lost in a singular way. There is romance in that, too. Perhaps Papa could tell you about it.

Well, they had sons and daughters of which our mother was one, and lots of grandchildren.

Oh, the pleasant evenings I have spent with grandfather. He was fond of teaching, I of learning. On long evenings the table was brought near the fire, and I learned, mostly arithmetic. He was so fond of hard problems, and they were often sent to him to solve by gentlemen of the schools and others. I sat and looked on until I learned to do some pretty hard ones. That was before I was thirteen. At that age my woman's work began and has lasted ever since. My dear mother was feeble; the little brothers and sisters must be taken care of, and thus I was an old woman too soon. I only wish my work had been done with more love and patience. This is my only regret now. But I am forgetting Grandmother.

Her sons and daughters grew up and were married. Her eldest son let her live on his farm near Martinsburg [West Virginia]. After I lost my mother, father, and sister, I went to live with Grandfather, Grandmother and Uncle Joseph Clarke, who was a father to the two little girls.

Oh, such a beautiful garden my little Grandmother has! I can see it now -- a great heart-shaped bed in the center covered with myrtle and in the center of that the harvest plum tree that Uncle Philip [Nadenbousch] had brought from the eastern shore when he brought his bride, Miss Elisabeth Alnut, to his home in Martinsburg. They came out to Grandmother's and planted this tree about the time I was born. I heard of it so often that I seem to have seen them plant it, and perhaps, held in the arms of someone, I did see it. Many a fine juicy plum I have eaten from it. Grandmother loved it for her son's sake. From it to the gate next to the house was a broad walk bordered with beautiful flowers. On one side of the gate was the tallest snowbell I ever saw; on the other side a lilac so large they formed a bower over the gate. At the far end of this walk was another gate that led into the orchard, and Carrie, Aunt Terese can tell you that she and I would walk from one end to the other of the long rows of trees on fine large apples, so thick did they lie on the ground in the sunny October days -- and plums, peaches, pears, cherries -- oh, what an orchard that was.

There the bright little grandmother spent her last days in peace and comfort, until one bright fifth of October, at five in the afternoon she died in Uncle James's arms. It is long since, and I was young, but it seems to me her children were frantic with grief, especially James and Anthony. She was an affectionate mother, and they knew in what hard lines her life had been cast. From her your papa and the rest of us inherit our love of the beautiful, and our shaky nervous systems and I perhaps my tendency to dreadful homesickness.

After she was gone and Mother left for a new home the spirit seemed to depart from the place. I have seen it several times since those days. The house was finer, the trees and shrubs were as green; the body was there but the spirit is gone. It seems sad and lonely. Our good kind cousins are there, but I suppose it is ever thus with old people who look back on the home of their childhood.

Ten years after Grandmother's death grandfather died. You have good blood in your veins. Our family were a proud people, proud of their descent on both sides. Grandmother used to say there were no dark spots on her escutcheon. Many of them were poor, some of them were beautiful. ALL, so far as I know, were honorable.

According to records compiled by the DAR, James Clarke, the second husband of Ann Froissard Nadenbousch, was born Sept. 24, 1750 and died June 14, 1840. If the letter is correct, then Ann's death ten years earlier must have occurred about 1830. Her remains were interred in the Catholic cemetery at Martinsburg; if that was their original resting place, then she must not have died much before 1830, for erection of the Catholic church in Martinsburg was not begun until that year and the cemetery presumably would have been opened about the same time. Ann and James Clarke had several children.

The three sons of Philip and Ann Nadenbousch appear in the 1800 tax list of Martinsburg as three white males over age 21, taxed for one slave over sixteen years and one horse. They were continuing the mercantile business of their parents, running what was probably the largest establishment in that city in 1802. An advertisement by P. Nadenbousch & Co. in the June 18, 1802 Berkeley and Jefferson Intelligencer listed a large assortment of goods such as linens, teas, coffee, French brandy, Spanish indigo, and leather, salt, iron, etc. Philip Nadenbousch (1773-1863) and his brother Frederick (1778-1854) both lived in Berkeley County. Philip was elected Justice of the Peace in 1807 and Sheriff in 1830 and 1831. Frederick lived near Hedgesville; his son, Moses T. Nadenbousch, was Sheriff of Berkeley County.

It was Henry Nadenbush, apparently the youngest of the three brothers, who came to Ohio; unfortunately, less is known of him than of his brothers. He was living in Martinsburg in 1810 and 1820. In the latter year the census-taker found him with a wife, four sons, and five daughters. This family moved to Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio in 1827, according to the obituary of Mary Jane, the eldest daughter. Henry is recorded in the 1830 and 1840 censuses in Franklin Township but died before 1850. His wife was named Ann, but nothing further is known of her. The couple's remains probably lie in the Franklinton Cemetery. The names of six of their children have been found:

- 1) Nelson Nadenbush, born perhaps around 1808, was still living in 1837; he was sponsor at a baptism performed by Rev. N. D. Young, O.P. in 1832.
- 2) Mary Jane Nadenbush, born about 1810, married to Ignatius Wheeler of Franklin Township on June 28, 1828 by William Lusk, J.P. (See below.)
- 3) Angeline Nadenbush, born about 1812, died 1835; she was the wife of William A. Van Pelt.
- 4) Philip M. Nadenbush, born about 1817, was living in Franklin Township in 1850 with his wife Almira; their children were Electa, Mary L., Ogden, Lucy, Philip Napoleon, Charles W., and Alice E.
- 5) Sarah Elizabeth, born about 1820, died Sept. 30, 1833; interred in the Franklinton Cemetery.
- 6) Margaret, born about 1821 in Virginia; in 1850 she was living in Franklin Township with the Pegg family. Some members of the Nadenbush family seem to have left the Church, but Margaret, "daughter of Henry Nadenbush", was buried from Holy Cross Church on Nov. 5, 1873 (having died two days earlier at the age of 52 years).

The ancestors of Ignatius Wheeler of Franklinton are traced in Walter V. Ball's The Wheeler Family of Charles County, Maryland (Chevy Chase, 1966). John Wheeler, born in England about 1630, took ship for America at Deptford, County Kent, England; he landed in Maryland in December of 1651 or shortly thereafter. He and his wife, Mary, had a son by 1654. He was appointed a Justice for Charles County in 1685 and also was a Major of the County Militia.

In 1689 the Radical Party took control of the government of the colony from Lord Baltimore and it became a royal province. All of the colony's Catholics, including Major Wheeler, were deprived of their positions of authority and the colony's religious freedom, proclaimed by its Catholic founders, was put to an end. John Wheeler died in 1693 or 1694.

The line of descent to Ignatius of Franklinton is as follows: Thomas Wheeler of Charles County, died 1735; Richard Wheeler of Charles County, 1683-1734; Richard Wheeler jr. of Charles County, died 1769 (his wife Eleanor died 1804); Ignatius Wheeler, died in Charles County in 1843. The will of this Ignatius, recorded in Charles County, names as his surviving children Mrs. Elizabeth (Wheeler) Lloyd and Ignatius Wheeler jr., of Ohio, this being the Catholic resident of Franklinton.

Ignatius Wheeler jr. was born in the 1790's. As mentioned above, he married Mary Jane Nadenbush in 1828. He apparently died late in 1849 or early in 1850. At that time, the family lived in a small brick house northwest of the hub of Franklinton. A deed for it, made out to "Ignatius Wheeler (deceased) heirs", was delivered to Mrs. Wheeler on July 3, 1852. It was on lot 11, the southeast corner of Green Street and the present Gay Street; it was the second house north of Broad. Mary Jane (Nadenbush) Wheeler continued to live in this house for many years. According to the Catholic Columbian, for a period of her life Mrs. Wheeler became somewhat indifferent to her religion, but in later years "led a life of great edification." She died on November 16, 1891 at the age of 81 years, having been prepared to meet her Maker by Rev. S. S. Mattingly. Father Mattingly was not stationed in Columbus at the time, but in 1888 he had been chaplain at the Good Shepherd Convent and at Mt. Carmel Hospital. The Convent sat behind a high brick wall on the south side of Broad St., in the old home of Lucas Sullivant, scarcely a block from the Nadenbush home. There obviously was some connection between Mrs. Nadenbush and the Sisters at the convent, for she was buried on November 18, after a Solemn Requiem Mass at the convent chapel. (3) The known children of Ignatius and Mary Jane Wheeler were the following:

- 1) Henry, baptized Jan. 12, 1832 by Rev. N. D. Young, O.P. He died Jan. 8, 1850 and was interred in the Franklinton Cemetery.
- 2) Samuel, 1832-1904, married Eliza Conway.
- 3) Ignatius Frederick, born Nov. 10, 1838, baptized by Father Juncker at St. Remigius on Feb. 26, 1839; the sponsor was Anna Nadenbush, probably Mary Jane's mother. He married Sarah Staley.
- 4) John William, baptized June 20, 1841 at St. Remigius by Father Josue Young. He married Mary Esther Fondersmith; this couple were the ancestors of Mrs. Millikin.
- 5) Anastasia or Annie, born May 20, 1842 and baptized Aug. 28 at St. Remigius by Father Josue Young. She married Enoch A. Needles.
- 6) Philip Marshall, born Oct. 6, 1844, baptized Dec. 15 at St. Remigius by Father Schonat. He died on Dec. 17, 1849 and was interred at the Franklinton Cemetery.
- 7) Isabel, born about 1850.

It is sad to record that some members of this family, like some of the Nadenbushes, left the Church. The burial places of Ignatius and Mary Jane Wheeler are unknown. His remains probably lie at the Franklinton Cemetery, not far from the now-unmarked graves of their children and her parents. The

Franklinton Cemetery was within the city limits by the time of Mrs. Nadenbush's death and burials were prohibited. Her grave may be in one of the single grave sections of the Cathedral Division of Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

NOTES

1. See, for example, the notes on Holy Cross Parish prepared by Father Joseph Hakel and published in the Bulletin, Vol. IV, page 301.
2. Taylor, William A., Centennial History of Columbus and Franklin County; vol. I, page 195.
3. Catholic Columbian, Nov. 21, 1891. The record at Holy Family Church disagrees with the Columbian in details as to attending priest and location of the funeral Mass; the former is assumed to be more accurate.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, SOMERSET, OHIO
REGISTER OF BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES, 1827-1851
(Continued from Vol. XIII, No. 7)

1832, Continued

May 6 James Talbort, son of John and Catherine Talbort; spons. George and Christina Smith. NDY
May 13 George Gordon, son of William and Mary Gordon; spons. James Slevin and Elizabeth Gordon. NDY
May 23 James Gallagher, son of William and Martha Gallagher; spons. Sarah Mathes. James V. Bullock
May 3 Without ceremonies, Mary Downhour, daughter of Stephen and Mary Downhour; spons. Isidor and Fanny Fry. C. D. Bowling
June 3 William Chies, son of Isador [and] Cecilia Chies; spons. John and Margaret Dittoe.
June 24 Owen Thomas Dempsy, son of William and Mary Dempsy; spons. D. Buckaman (?). NDY
July 29 Brigit Kelly, daughter of James and Elizabeth Kelly; spons. Edward McShane and Catherine Manen. CDB
Aug. 26 Teresa Coll, daughter of James and Catherine Coll; spons. William M'Kenny and Rose Black. CDB
Aug. 26 William Snider, son of Joseph and Catherine Snider; spons. Louis and Anna Snider. CDB
Sept. 16 Without ceremonies, Magdalene Horter, daughter of Morremer and Mary Horter; spons. Magdalene and Jeremiah Gross. CDB
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Sept. 2 Louis, son of Alexander Schwarz and Elizabeth Adam; spons. Joseph Hamman and Sophia Kircher.
same Elizabeth, daughter of James Johnson and Sarah Fink; spons. John and Elizabeth Fink.
same John Augustine, son of Thomas H_____ and Mary Mearvy; spons. Felix and Mary Call. Martin Kundig
[Father Kundig, a diocesan priest, wrote the above three entries in his exceptionally fine hand; the loss of the family name in the last is due to its being too close to the bound edge, not to his writing.]
Sept. 16 Anna M'Kinney, daughter of Michael M'Kinney and Mary W[ard], alias M'Kinney; spons. Cornelius Crossing and Fanna Crossing.

same Michael M'Davitt, son of Henry M'Davitt and Helen Donolly alias M'Davitt; spons. James Footman and Mary Footman. JVB

Oct. 7 Samuel Bond, son of Alexander and Sarah Bond; spons. James Scallan and Catherine Redmond. CDB

Oct. 13 without ceremonies, Lawrence Brown, son of Henry and Anna Brown; spons. Catherine Ward. CDB

same William Clark, son of Daniel and Eleanor Clark; spons. James and Sarah Litzinger. CDB

same Joseph Close, son of Anthony and Cecilia Close; spons. Rody Ryon and Mary Ryon. CDB

Oct. 6 William Guisinger, son of Michael and Mary Guisinger. NDY

Oct. 29 John, son of Henry Brown and Anna Allwine alias Brown. D. J.

O'Leary

Oct. 21 Joseph, son of Joseph Kim and Rose Polni (?); spons. Adolph Kim and Mary Ann Wirthlin.

same Rosalia, daughter of Benedict Broke and Crescentia Hollinger; spons. John Orbnunmerkt and Rosalia Hollinger. T. J. Van Den Broek
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Nov. 5 James, son of John Fauwl and Mary Grees; spons. James Fauwl and Anna Grees. TJVDB

Nov. 5 Mary Jane, daughter of Ceol (?) M'Coy and Margaret Muselman alias M'Coy; spons. Adam Fink and Allas Fink. DJO

Nov. 5 Felix M'Larney, son of John M'Larney and Mary Cull; spons. Patrick Cull and Mary Cull. DJO

--- -- Samuel (born July 30), son of Susan Kemme; spons. Joseph Freyenmuth and Joseph Kiem. TJVDB

Dec. 3 Mary Ann Huit, daughter of James and Frances Huit; spons. Mary Finck. NDY

Dec. 4 Joseph, son of Isidor Frey and Francisca Tol; spons. Joseph Tol and Agnes Huisser. [Isidor Frey lived in Franklin County, east of Columbus.]
same Theodore Joseph, son of David Horhuit and Isabella Muller; spons. John Muller and Hendria Vor. TJVDB

Dec. 9 Mary Grogen, daughter of Thomas and Judie (?) Grogan; spons. Alexander Bond and Mary Galliger.

Dec. 6 Elizabeth, daughter of Michael Wagener and Magdalene Stuter; spons. Joseph Stuter and Elziabeth od____. TJVDB
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Dec. 30 Mary Gordon, daughter of Adam and ---- Gordon; spons. ---- Gordon and wife. NDY

Dec. 30 Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Scheyerman (born Dec. 9) and Catherine Sherkie; spons. Mary Frances Gangelhoff. TJVDB

1833

Jan. 20 Joseph, son of Xavier Betsch and Augusta Smits, born Jan. 12; spons. John Smits and Magdalena Macolt. TJVDB

Jan. 27 Mary Jane (?) Jackson, daughter of William and Mary; spons. Joseph Hodge and Rachel Hodge. NDY

Feb. 6 Augustine, son of George Müller and Mary Smitters; spons. John Fink and Elizabeth Walker. TJVDB

Mar. 3 in Lancaster, Charles August, son of Elizabeth Vox; spons. Catharine Miksmanul (?). TJVDB (born 9 May, 1832)

Mar. 24 Samuel Rudy, son of Rudolph and Elizabeth Rudy; spons. Samuel Dean and Mary Dean (?). NDY

Apr. 5 Mary Elizabeth Finck, daughter of Adam Finck and Cecilia Finck;
spons. Robert Harkins and Mrs. Elizabeth Dittoe. NDY
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Apr. 7 James Lambang, son of John Lambang and Margaret Lambang; spons.
Patrick McDonald and Sarah Litzinger. NDY (but in a fancy hand, not his)

Apr. 9 Robert Hutchison, adult, conditionally; spons. Patrick McDonald.
NDY

Apr. 2, all of the following in Columbus:

- Mary, daughter of John Curren and Mary Curren; spons. Nicholas Donely.(b 28 Nov.)
- Elizabeth, daughter of Patrick Tuben [Tobin?] and Bridget Tuben, born 2 Oct.
1832; spons. Thomas Marten and Nance Roney.
- Andrew, son of Fidelis Kistener and Richarda Siclerin (born 17 March);
spons. Andrew Fols and Mary Filican.
- Mary Caroline, daughter of Rogny Renny [perhaps Roger Rooney?] and Anna
Renny (born 19 June, 1832); spons. John Curren and Bridget Tobby.
- Clement, son of Clement Pere [Baehr] and Agnes Tol [usually Doll] (born 8
Dec., 1832); spons. Adell (?) Parcker.
- Basthon (?), son of Saraphin Murdi and Martha Relle (born 26 June 1832);
spons. Agnes Tol.
- Leopold, son of Leopold Leeman and Magdalena Legeler (born 28 Feb. 1833);
spons. Michael Stipicz and Catharine Wied. TJVDB

(To be continued)

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

The Pope in America, II: The Addresses of Pope John Paul II During His Second
Visit to the United States; The Wanderer Press, 1987.

- Anonymous donation

Smith, Walter G. and Helen G. Smith, Fidelis of the Cross: James Kent Stone;
New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1935.

- Gift of Donald M. Schlegel

Profile of Youth - 1988: The Way We Are, by Catholic Youth Council Alumni,
Judi Rauch Badger and John E. Jones, eds.

- Gift of Anthony J. Lisska

McGovern, Rev. James J., D.D., Catholic Pocket Dictionary and Cyclopeda;
Chicago: Extension Press, 1906.

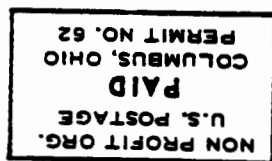
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The following two items are gifts from the Liturgy Office of the Diocese:

- Gethsemani Magnificat: Centenary of Gethsemani Abbey; Trappist, Ky.:
MCMXLIX.

- Young, Rev. J. B., S.J., The Roman Hymnal..., 15th edition; New York &
Cincinnati: Fr. Pustet & Co., 1897.

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197 E. Gay Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 Donald M. Schlegel, editor



CHANCERY OFFICE
DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS
198 EAST BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215