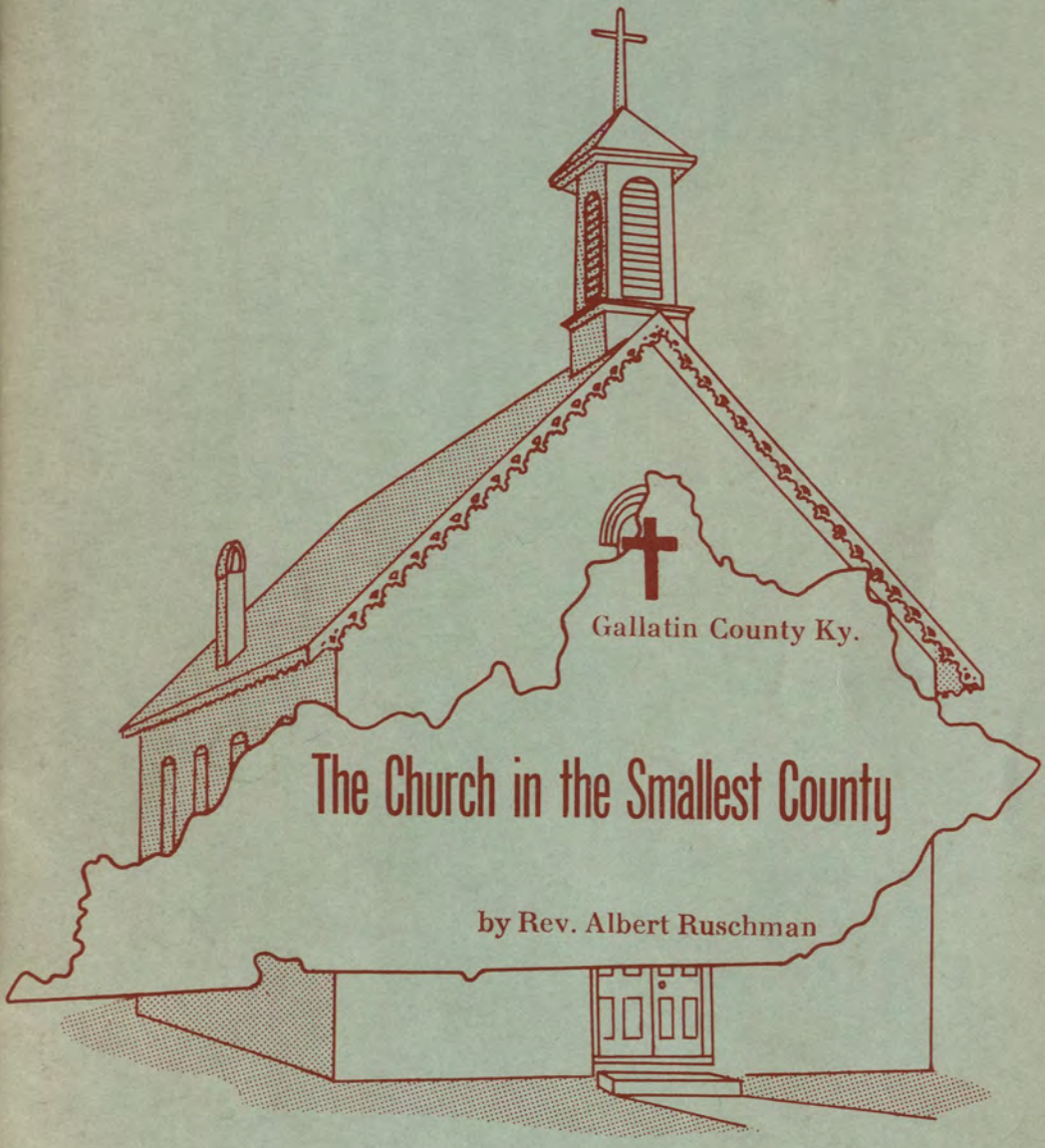


# The Church in the Smallest County

by Rev. Albert Ruschman

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# THE CHURCH IN THE SMALLEST COUNTY

HISTORY
OF GALLATIN COUNTY
AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

by
REV. ALBERT RUSCHMAN

*Dedicated to*
*The People of Gallatin County*

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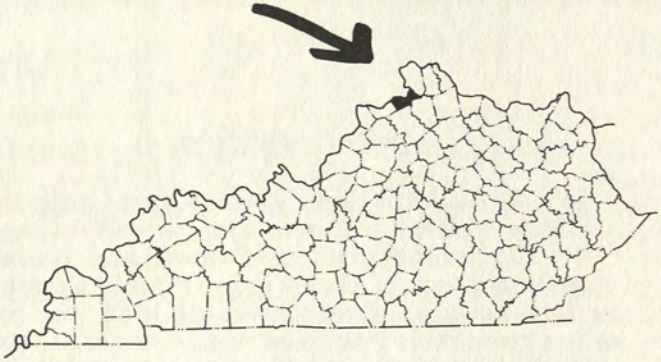
# INTRODUCTION

In 1798 Gallatin County was formed with Port William (present Carrollton) as the County Seat, and included all of Carroll and Gallatin as well as parts of Owen and Trimble Counties. In 1838 Gallatin County was divided, the west ern portion being formed into Carroll County with Carrollton as the County seat; while the eastern portion retained the name of Gallatin County with Warsaw as its County seat. This historical account is concerned with the development of Gallatin County as we know it today.

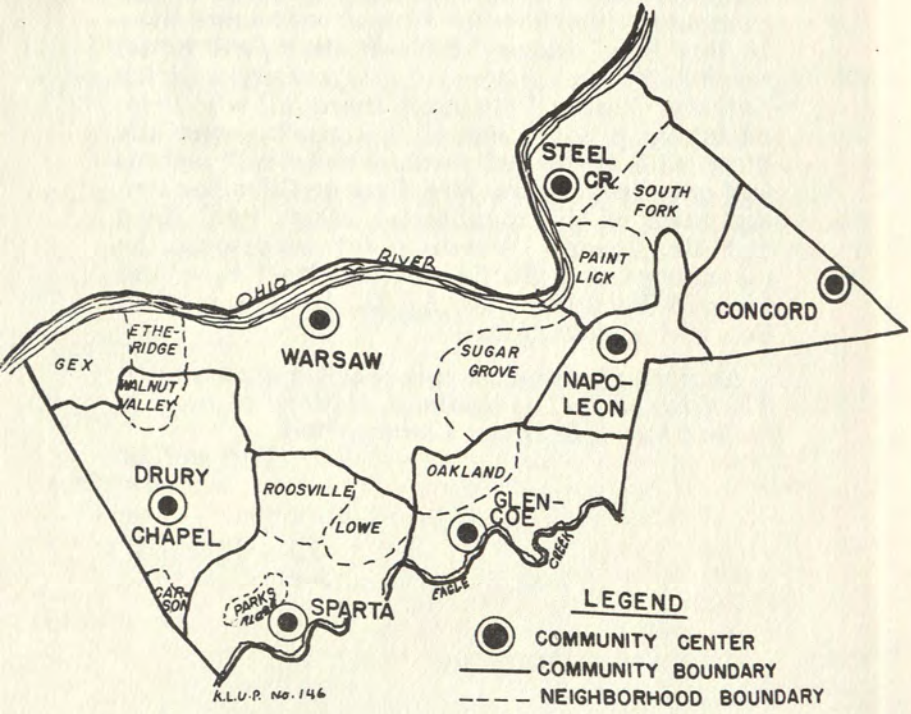
The title "The Church in the Smallest County" seems appropriate for two reasons. Gallatin County has a one hundred square mile area, the smallest, by a mile, in the state; and in this diminutive territory the Church universal lives. In this brief history I have attempted to set down both the history of the county and the Catholic Church. I sincerely thank all who helped in the preparation of this work, especially those who furnished printed historical records and gave interviews, Mrs. George Giles for typing much of the manuscript, Msgr. Paul Ryan and Mr. Joseph Wessling for reviewing the manuscript and His Excellency, Most Reverend Richard H. Ackerman, S.T.D., for his inspiration and encouragement.

As a companion to this work I recommend *The Church in Tobaccoland, History of the Catholic Church in Owen County,* 1964.

The Author



# GALLATIN CO; KENTUCKY



## CHAPTER I

## THE BIRTH OF A COUNTY—SETTLEMENT AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT IN GALLATIN COUNTY, 1769-1840

### *Hunters, Explorers, Surveyors*

Boone Road, crossing the southern part of Gallatin County, marks the path of Daniel Boone in 1769. The first white men came to explore, hunt and survey. Their reports of a fertile land and lush hunting ground brought frontiersmen through Cumberland Gap and down the Ohio. These pioneers of the 1770's and 1780's built but temporary homes, hunted for meat and furs, and planted small gardens of corn and tobacco for their own use. The Shawnee Indians, unhappy at the invasion of their hunting ground, made settlement difficult for the white men. Horses unwatched or families living or traveling alone fell victim of the Indian.

Following the Revolutionary war, Kentucky land-grants of 1000 acres and more were awarded to officers as pay. The governor of Virginia also made grants as high as 25,000 acres to surveyors and farmers who would move westward. With these encouragements 60,000 people had settled here by 1792, a sufficient number for Congress to declare Kentucky a state.

### *County Named*

After 1794 the Indian ceased to be a major threat to settlements in Kentucky, though occasional raids continued into the early 19th century. In 1798 the legislature named Gallatin the thirty-third County of the Commonwealth with Port William (Carrollton) the county seat. Perhaps Swiss families who had moved across the Ohio from Switzerland County, Indiana, influenced the legislature to name the County in honor of Swiss-born Albert Gallatin, congressman and later secretary of the United States treasury.

### *The First Settlers*

The bulk of Gallatin County settlers in the 1790's and early 1800's were farmers and tradesmen from Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee, though there were some from Maryland and Pennsylvania. These were stable people who came with the intention of establishing institutions and permanent homes. A century of Agriculture had already worn out much land on their eastern seaboard; hence they eagerly accepted western land-grants and opportunity to buy virgin land for $1.00 an acre.

### *The Town of Napoleon*

In 1803 the Spencers, O'Connors, Richardsons and Hamptons came over the ridges from central Kentucky and named the little community which they founded in honor of Napoleon Bonaparte. A year later they established the Ten Mile Baptist Church there.

**The Ohio River Showing Wharf with Town of Warsaw in Background**
PHOTO BY C. ALLEN CALDWELL

### *Warsaw Founded*

Also about 1803 a number of flatboats from Pittsburgh carrying people, tools and farm animals landed five miles below Sugar Creek and established the Great Landing, later Fredericksburg, and since 1831, Warsaw.

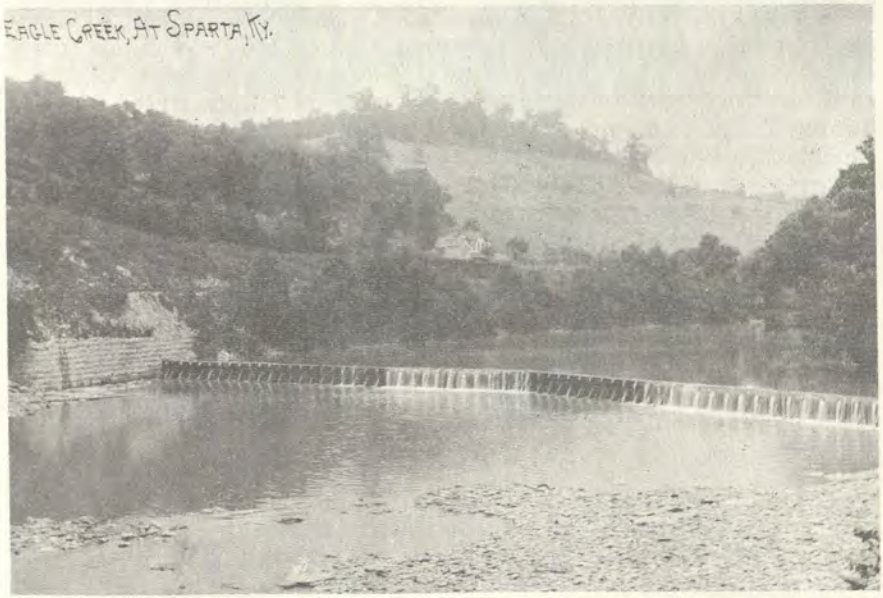
Outbreaks of malaria, however, along with an everplentiful population of copperheads and rattlesnakes made the lowlands less desirable for settlement than the surrounding hills. So the majority of people moved up on the hills, but stayed within a few miles of the river landings.

Sugar, oak, locust, hickory, beech, and walnut groves covered the land; deer, wild turkey, wolves roamed the forests. Many roads, churches and communities in Gallatin County were

named from the type of trees growing in the area.

With each succeeding year more cabins and barns speckled the hillsides and among the stumps on the cleared land grew tobacco, corn and wheat. Barn raisings, quiltings, sugar boilings, corn huskings provided get-togethers. With crude tools the average farm families could tend but ten or twelve acres but large landowners like the Lillards of Napoleon, who owned forty slaves, farmed extensively.

Heavy shipments of pork, tobacco, genseng root, hickory barrel-staves and other products left Warsaw frequently for the big port of New Orleans and then overseas. At first settlers grew flax and hemp for cloth, raised sheep for wool, and tanned hides for making shoes. But as shipping improved stores gradually stocked clothing which by 1840 was cheaper to buy than to make.




**Eagle Creek at Sparta, Ky. Showing Dam and Railroad**

*Sparta, A Milling Center*

Sparta, established early in the 19th century at Eagle and 2-Mile Creek, became prominent for its water-powered gris mills and whiskey-making. The Burke Saloon in old Sparta furnished food and lodging for haulers going to and from the Ohio.

*Religion and Character of Early Settlers*

James B. Ireland, landowner at Sugar Creek from 1822-1859 and relative of Archbishop John Ireland of St. Paul, Minnesota, described the inhabitants of Gallatin County as rough people who engaged in fighting almost as a recreation. Most of the farmers drank whiskey and the minutes of the Warsaw city fathers of the 1830's imposed a fine for cursing at meetings. On the other hand churches were early established and large scale revivals held in 1820's and 30's.

Some settlers, former plantation owners in Virginia, built fine brick homes often bringing family heirlooms across the mountains and importing furniture from abroad. Since the main body of settlers were of English and Scotch Irish descent the first Churches of the County were Baptist. But, while the Catholic population in the county was small, the names of Henry Dougherty, Thomas Kelly, John Hall, Burke, Campbell, Gibson, O'Connor indicates its presence during the early 1800's. Priests from the mission of White Sulphur near Georgetown in Scott County, came on horseback to Gallatin county, offered Mass in the homes, baptized children and performed weddings. Also notable is the fact that in late May of 1811, Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget, first bishop west of the Alleghenies, passed Warsaw aboard a 12'x51' flatboat en route to Bardstown. While the bishop and his companions admired the scenic beauty of the river and surrounding hills there is no mention of stopping at Warsaw.

In 1838 Gallatin County suffered a cut in territory and Warsaw as the new county seat built a courthouse. The population of the county numbered about 4,000 then; Warsaw, about 600. The town's buildings and industries lined the flat land "under the hill". From 1840-1870 the county showed considerable growth.

## CHAPTER II

## THE GROWTH OF GALLATIN COUNTY, 1840-1870

### *Farming and Machinery*

John Deere's steel plow and Cyrus McCormick's grain-cutting machinery changed farming considerably after 1840. In Gallatin County the increasing population, use of better farm implements locally and competition from the use of machinery in western states speeded the cutting of timber and clearing of land. Steam-powered gris-mills and saw-mills readied raw materials for market. By 1850, passable wagon roads connected most settlements with the river and with each other. The Ghent-Warsaw Road and Warsaw-Owenton Road through Sparta are examples. Bus and hauling services to Sparta ran daily. Mail also arrived regularly by steamboat. Prominent landings along Gallatin's northern boundary, running east to west, included Steel, Jackson, Sugar Creek, Warsaw, Craig's Creek, Ethridge, Turners and Gex. And while second generation Scotch-Irish, English and Swiss were developing agriculture and trade, a new wave of immigrants came.

### *Immigration from Southern Ireland and Germany* 1845-1870

The Gardts, Kippenbergers and Stahls from Darmstadt, Germany near the Rhine settled on the hills overlooking Steel's Bottom and the Ohio River. West of Warsaw, from Craig's to Stephen's Creek came the Greeleys, Taaffes, Weldons, Mylors, Donleys, Carrolls, O'Connors, and Gaynors. They were Catholics from Southern Ireland fleeing both the potato famine and English oppression. Aided by Irish already settled, they bought small farms, worked by the day, or as tenants. By saving and working hard they gradually increased their acreages or bought farms.

### *Schools*

Gallatin County had a few private, tuition-type schools in the first half of the nineteenth century. In 1834, school property in Warsaw was publicly owned and the building kept by city taxes. About 1851, the county established school districts, with three trustees elected in each; by 1858, citizens of the districts began building small rectangular school houses on one-acre plots. These free schools at first ran only threee months a year. The districts eventually numbering twenty-eight, plus three colored schools, included Carlisle, Clay Lick, Concord, Cow Branch, Drury Chapel, Eagle Tunnel, Ethridge, Gex, Glencoe, Hamilton, Hogan, Hughes, Jackson, Lick Creek Road School, Lowe, Napoleon, Orr, Park Ridge, Sleet, South Fork, Sugar Creek, Steeles, Union,

**Typical Early School House showing Class of 1906**
PHOTO BY C. ALLEN CALDWELL

and Warsaw. Several private "academies and colleges" (high schools) continued in the county and especially Warsaw until 1900. The private schools supplemented public education with terms running a full forty-week period.

### *The Civil and Mexican Wars*

Following the War of 1812 and lasting into the 1840's many able bodied men of Gallatin County belonged to the army reserve and yearly assembled for training and drill. This history of training made possible swift mustering of sixty-four volunteers for the Mexican War in June, 1846. With home town boys fighting, news of the war was followed closely. Vera Cruz (True Cross) a community about four miles south of Warsaw on Sparta Pike, was so named following a battle at the city of that name in Mexico. After the victory, most, if not all, the boys returned from the Mexican scene.

The Brothers' War of the 1860's was worse. Almost every family had a son in the war; the majority fought with the Union army though county sentiment was divided. Warsaw housed a number of Union soldiers near the courthouse and women of the

town prepared their meals. Collins History of Kentucky mentions but a few minor skirmishes in the county. However, a few citizens whose sympathies strongly supported the south felt safer in leaving the county until the conflict ended. When the war was over some sons, white and colored, had paid the price of war — they never returned. But neither did slavery; an era of shame had passed.

*The Catholic Population and the Building of a Catholic Church at Warsaw*

**Original St. Joseph Church, Warsaw**

Three parishes had come into existence in Warsaw before the Catholic group had formed: the Christian in 1836, the Baptist in 1843, and the Methodist in 1844. Negro brethren, originally members of the integrated Baptist Church, in 1867 formed a parish of their own. Although St. Joseph Church was not completed until 1868, there were several Catholic families already in 1850. The Gardts and Kippenbergers attended Mass occasionally in Cincinnati; the Donleys (Donnelly), Carrolls, and Mylors, at Carrollton.

After 1855, the pastor of Carrollton began offering Mass

occasionally in Gallatin County homes and by 1860 came monthly. Without any pattern of changes during some years the assistant pastors of St. Mary Cathedral, Covington came by boat monthly to Gallatin County. They also held services and administered the Sacraments. Under the guidance of the pastor of Carrollton, the Catholic families bought land and built a brick church, 27'x45', to seat about one hundred people. The Catholic Directory for 1867 lists a new brick church at Warsaw; the deed to the land and later sources indicate the church was completed in 1868. Belle Summons, grandmother of Harold Brown Connelly Weldon, recalled the construction beginning already in 1864.

With the war over, a period of reconstruction followed, but Gallatin County reached its peak in population and production about 1870, then slowly began to decline.

## CHAPTER III

## GALLATIN COUNTY REACHES POPULATION PEAK, AND DECLINE BEGINS 1870-1904

### *The Coming of the Railroad and the Development of Glencoe*

For nearly a century the Ohio River had exported Gallatin County's raw materials and imported finished goods and supplies. The river was the hub of the people's life. Boats brought news, entertainment, ideas. Warsaw in population and trades far outstripped other towns in the county; it had grown and its character had been molded as a river-town. With the completion of the railroad in 1869, other communities grew.

The railroad, connecting Covington and Louisville, followed the southern boundary of Gallatin County along Eagle Creek. Crews of Irish laborers laid the tracks in 1867 and 1868 and their need for housing, services and supplies had much to do with Glencoe's early development. Named after Glencoe, Scotland-Gallatin County's second largest town was incorporated in 1876. As early as 1873, however, it boasted a private high school and from 1900 until consolidation in 1935, had both a public grade and high school. Today it has the only school outside the county seat. Over the years the railroad first spurred, then sustained Glencoe. Even today walnut logs, piled and ready for shipment can be seen there.

### *Sparta after the Building of the Railroad*

Sparta also changed when passenger, boxcars and flatcars began rolling. Old Sparta had developed on the Owen County side of Eagle Creek. When the railroad passed along the opposite shore, the town shifted. A depot was built; stockyards, hotels, stores and other buildings needed for a trading and shipping center grew. Horse-drawn coaches—twice daily—connected Warsaw and Sparta.

Several Catholic families lived in and near the Eagle Creek town. They included those of James Weldon, Patrick Rilley, Martin Kelly, John B. Grant, M.D., Martin Madin, Martin Constantine and William Young; these families farmed and operated business houses. While other towns grew, because of the railroad, Warsaw still held its own.

### *Warsaw in* 1882

In 1880, Warsaw had several hundred fewer people than today and two of its streets lined with shops and homes were "under the hill." (Water or River Street was below Locust.) Yet many of the brick buildings around the courthouse now, were

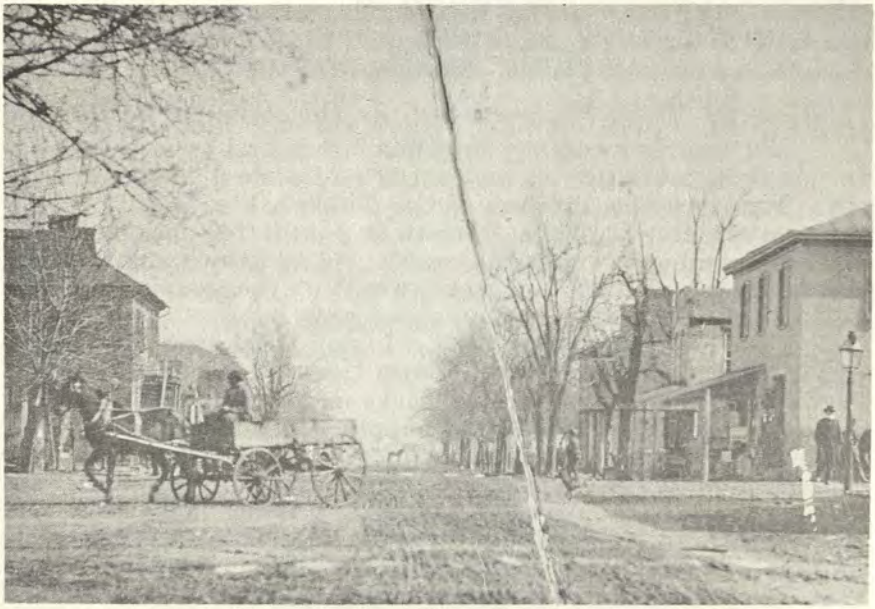


PHOTO BY C. ALLEN CALDWELL **Town of Warsaw, 1882**

there then. Some places like the ice house, slaughter house, bakery, shoe repair shop and stables are only memories. The streets, though graded and stoned, scattered dust in summer and mud in winter. The town, still dominated by the river, moved at a slower pace and the wharf-house handled considerable shipping. Practical jokes and euchre playing occupied many hours at the saloons and hotels. Births, weddings, work and play rounded out the community's life.

### *Farming and Surpluses*

Since the towns in rural counties draw their life so closely from the surrounding countryside, we need look again at farming.

Following the Civil War, migrants to Gallatin county came more from neighboring states and counties than from foreign counties. The original large land-grants, already subdivided, became smaller with the passing of slavery. Farmers in Gallatin County cleared the last of the virgin timber, planting wheat and corn on the hills in an effort to compete with the vast fertile grain-plains in the west; however, our hills, poorly adaptable to

machinery, and easy prey to erosion, were no match! In 1873, a widespread over-production of grain provoked a mild depression which plagued agriculture off and on during succeeding decades. Low prices and tiring soils caused youth of Gallatin County to seek opportunities elsewhere. Those who stayed, by thrift and hard work made a living.

*The Catholic Congregation during this Period*

St. Joseph Parish grew slowly from 1870 to 1904. The old folks from Ireland and Germany died. The children who stayed, married and took on responsibility. Louis Gutting, Chris Renyer and Durest Blanchet moved into the county and married. Priests from Covington and Florence, Kentucky, and (in 1878) from Verona, offered Mass at the Church on the second Sunday of the month, at 9:30. The custom was to drive part of the way on Saturday or take the train to Sparta, to stay overnight with parishioners, then come for services and instructions of the children on Sunday morning. The parishioners saw to the care of the church and cemetery and sent word in case of illness or death. The priests, whose tenure averaged but two years, and whose missions covered several counties, administered as best they could to scattered clusters of Gallatin Catholics. The parishioners generally impressed the visiting pastors with their Faith and willingness to support the Church. These qualities weighed heavy in Warsaw's getting a resident pastor in 1904.

## CHAPTER IV

## WAR, PROSPERITY, INVENTIONS, 1904-1926 CATHOLIC CHURCH REACHES PEAK

### *Catholic Church Reaches Peak*

The Catholic Church grew from 45 to 110 members during the years 1904-1926. The economy improved nationally and locally during the period.

### *Farming, From Rags to Riches*

Farm products were still down in 1906, but improved gradually as World War I approached. In 1914 Woodrow Wilson signed into law The Federal Land Bank Act and A Commodity Loan Act, making money more available to agriculture.

During the war local farmers increased acreages of wheat and some even raised hemp as part of the defense effort. Farm prices were especially good about 1920, encouraging a number of Gallatin County's young people to remain. Even prior to the war, industry, sparked by inventions and assembly-line techniques, grew rapidly and this bolstered the local economies.

### *Henry's "Lizzie" and Other Inventions*

Already about 1912, Harold Brown was selling automobiles in Gallatin County; the Gardts, Mylors and Fr. John Kroger were some of the early buyers. During the 1920's the industrial development of the nation skyrocketed; there was mass production of automobiles and household appliances. The economy seemed sound enough, but underneath, its base was eroding. Farm prices slowly declined, but machinery remained high. Wages of the working man stayed the same, but things he bought rose. By 1929 the country, at a time of peak production, would wake to its oversupply—without buyers—and the whole country would grind to a standstill. During this period of good times, the Catholic Church experienced its most impressive growth.

### *First Resident Pastor at St. Joseph's*

In September, 1903, Father Ignatius Ahmann of Carrollton requested Bishop Maes to appoint a resident pastor to Warsaw. The parishioners, in the meantime purchased the two-story frame house adjoining the church property from the Vanice heirs. The Reverend Edward T. Donnelly, appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Verona, and missions in October, began offering Mass on two Sundays of the month at Warsaw; it was March 11,1904, however, that Bishop Maes established Saint Joseph Church, Warsaw as a parish and assigned Father Donnelly

**Original and Present Parish House Taken in 1907**

to residence there.

Father Donnelly, a native of Conneticut, got along well with the people of Gallatin County. He visited his own parishioners, mingled and offered a helping hand to Protestants and Catholics alike. At his untimely death, April 25, 1907, the preacher praised Father Donnelly's brightness of intellect, liberality of heart, and his religious discharge of all duties.

### *Usual and Unusual Recreation*

What did the people of Gallatin County do for recreation fifty years ago? Really, a variety of simple activities spiced everyday living.

Along the railroad, entertainers with trained bears and monkeys performed and "passed the hat", shows featuring patent medicines were also common. A lot of people assembled at Sparta just to see who would be on the train. Occasional home parties with bands and regular Saturday-night square dances with caller and fiddle-playing provided enjoyment for old and "courting" opportunities for the young. Card playing,—euchre

for the men and bridge clubs for women—was also popular.

Not to be overlooked were plays at the neighborhood school houses, with older brothers and sisters and even parents taking part in the shows.

For good measure, Warsaw always had a few practical jokesters preying on visiting strangers; the "glassboat" selling and trading its wares, the Sunday excursion boat and the showboat likewise furnished pleasant diversions.

The automobile too, beginning about 1915, had a significant influence on Gallatin County's everyday recreational activity. It further diminished passenger service by boat and curtailed coach service by rail. It meant that the Reverend Hubert Schmitz could offer Mass at Warsaw and Verona every Sunday.

*America Enters The War*

In the spring of 1917 the war America had feared became fact. Gallatin County, small with its population of 4,500, proved large in its contribution to the war effort.

Two hundred boys donned uniforms for war, at first rushing to France more to bolster allied morale than to fight as well-trained men. Later, with numbers and training, American forces were to turn the tide to victory.

Gallatin County boys distinguished themselves on the battlefield. Sixteen died; sixteen others were wounded.

At home citizens mobilized to increase agricultural production and buy Liberty Bonds.

It was a grand day in May, 1919, when with boys back home a demobilization celebration honored the soldiers and studied plans for their return to civilian occupations.

With nine Catholic boys returning and marrying, and the addition of a number of converts, the small brick church was becoming crowded.

*Additions to and Enlargement of St. Joseph Church*

St. Joseph Parish, with thirty families began a church remodeling program in 1920. A bell tower, housing a peal of bells came first; then following a fire on January 30, 1921, an extension to the rear enlarged the Church to seat one-hundred and fifty. Richard Devereux, Jack and Hank O'Connor did much of the work. The improvements, spanning two years and costing nearly $10,000.00, were paid for by December, 1924. Nor did Father Schmitz limit his pastorate to buildings. He instructed a number of converts, richly carried out religious services and had a camp for boys on the Ohio. With the spiritual and physical cooperation of parishioners, Fr. Schmitz, relieved of the Verona and Walton missions, built the parish to its peak of forty families in 1926.

**Present St. Joseph Church and Cemetery**

**Interior of St. Joseph Church**

## CHAPTER V

## THE DEPRESSION AND THE SECOND GREAT WAR, 1930-1950

Fathers Oscar Poole, Walter Freiberg and John McCrystal served St. Joseph Parish from 1926-30. They were young men who liked Warsaw, and people thought highly of them.

### *The Depression*

The depression hit Gallatin County hard in 1929. Farming was hopeless. Men built roads and enlarged the courthouse at wages of $1.50 a day receivable in food.

With banks in trouble, mortgages were foreclosed. Some farmers lost their land; others survived with the help of Federal Land Bank Loans.

Father Gerald Connelly pastored at Warsaw all during the 1930's. With money scarce, the church property deteriorated. Father, himself an older man, cared for an invalid brother; his sister cooked. For the convenience of tourists and campers, but to the detriment of socializing after services, two Sunday Masses were offered during the 1930's.

### *Some Accomplishments*

Despite poverty in the 30's, no one starved and substantial developments occured. Highway 42 was dedicated in 1930, the courthouse rebuilt, electricity brought to the county, telephone service improved and the schools were consolidated.

### *Consolidation of Schools*

As in most counties the passing of the one-room school in Gallatin caused some furor; nevertheless consolidation became a fact in the 1934-35 school term.

The one-room school had been more than a school, it was a community center where backgrounds blended and friendships grew. Its educational program had gradually increased to a full term over the years. After 1900 public high schools had started at Warsaw, Glencoe and Sparta. St. Joseph Parish, always small and less than rich, never operated a school, though the possibility was considered both in the 1920's and 1940's. A number of students attended Catholic boarding schools for their secondary education. Catholic teachers frequently taught in the common school system, especially in the neighborhood schools. Mrs. Nancy Rainey Gullion of Sparta was perhaps the most notable.

### *The* 1940's: *War Years and Recovery*

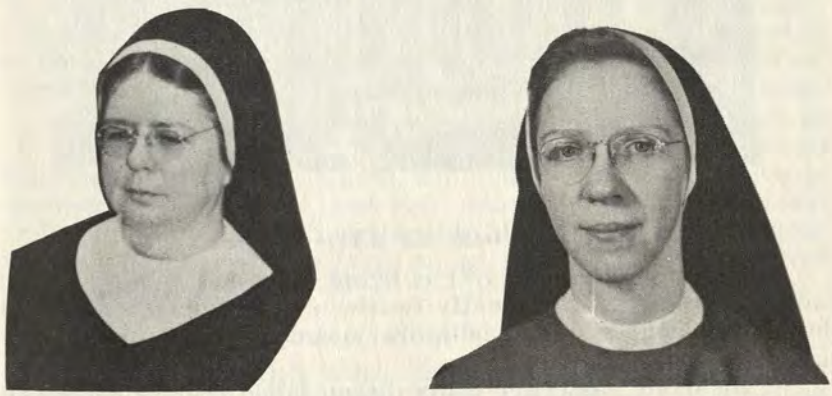
About 1937 the pumping of the "New Deal" relief and agricultural programs coupled with danger signs of War in Europe improved the economy. The farm economy grew stronger; job openings in industry increased.

This pattern accelerated during the war-years as the young men and women entered the Service and the older worked at defense plants in Cincinnati.

Farm production aided by machinery and fertilizer increased substantially.

But few of the boys who returned after the war remained in Gallatin County. Lack of industry and the mechanization of farms caused them to seek employment and opportunity elsewhere. Nine men gave their lives in defense of the Country.

Father George Stier, though young and resourceful, saw the parish hold its own, but not increase during the 1940's. He improved the property considerably, and also taught at Newport Catholic High School. The Benedictine Sisters taught the children during the summer. Two girls, Rosella Jacobs and Mary Ellen Schirmer joined that order, taking the names Sister Frances and Annita, respectively.



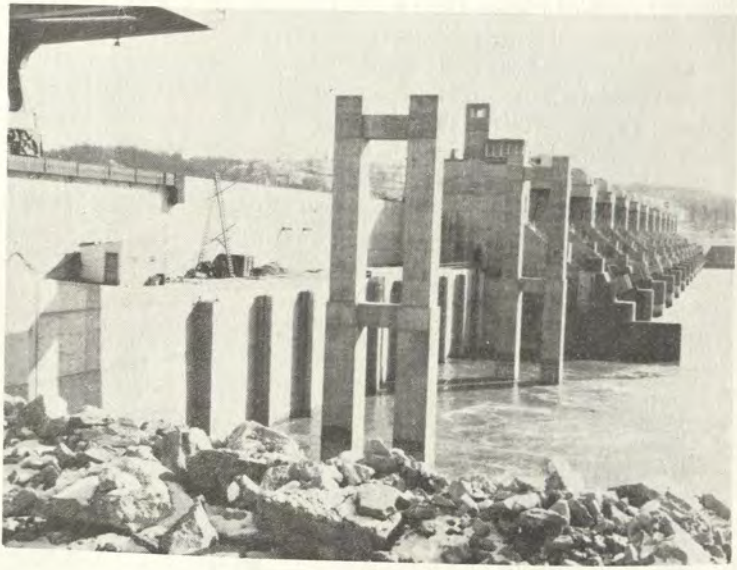
**Sister Frances, O.S.B., and Sister Annita, O.S.B.**

## CHAPTER VI

## MODERN TIMES IN GALLATIN COUNTY, 1950-1967

### *Influence of the River*

It would be an overstatement to say that Gallatin County's life has been continually dominated by the Ohio River; it would be less than honest to minimize the river's influence. Markland Dam, begun in 1956 and completed in 1962, year after year draws an increasing number of boating and fishing enthusiasts to our northern shore. As seen in photo are also supports for a future bridge.



**Markland Dam and Bridge Supports**

Presently stone for I-71 is being unloaded from barges at Jackson Landing. Just recently fourteen barges smashed against the dam causing a severe, temporary, drop in the pool for some sixty miles east of Warsaw.

So while passenger boats discontinued regular service in 1918 and supplies to and from the county moved by rail and now also by truck, the river with its floods, its peaceful shimmering sunsets and tales of crappie catches continues its heavy influence on our county.

## *Our Present Condition*

PHOTO BY DAN MCKAIN

**I-71 Expressway Under Construction in Gallatin County Near Highway 127**

Only the future will tell how the railroad, expressway and river will blend in Gallatin County's future development. Other than the Markland Dam and now the I-71 expressway, the decades of the 1950's and '60's have introduced no significant change in Gallatin County's life. With increased use of machinery farms still increase in size, slowly affecting the overall population of the county; (The decrease during the 1950's averaged fifteen people each year.) Warsaw has continued to grow slightly. As population and industrial development increase in Kenton and Boone Counties, land values here improve. To the west of us, Carroll County's industrial development near Ghent moves closer.

Business houses in Warsaw seem stable with a number of new buildings and apartment houses replacing outmoded and inadequate facilities. The school, while annoyed with turnover in administrative personnel, remains relatively stable in student enrollment. With church membership down, especially in rural districts, a number of Protestant congregations employ part-time student ministers.

## *St. Joseph Parish Today*

St. Joseph Parish today lists thirty families with ninety active members. Some thirty children of grade and high school age participate in the Church's Cathechetical program, conducted during the school year by the Notre Dame Sisters from Carrollton and in summer by lay teachers. Two Masses accommodate parishioners during June, July and August; one Mass is offered

during the remaining months.

Recent years have also seen the growth of an ecumenical spirit and cooperation among the churches of the county.

### *The Future*

We live in times of development and change. Since Gallatin County has abundant water supply and desirable access routes, there are sound reasons for expecting significant expansion —about 10%—in recreational, home building and industrial facilities during the next ten years.

May recalling the past better arm us for facing the future.

# APPENDIX 1

## INTERESTING FACTS AND HUMOROUS ANECDOTES

Civil War Story: One afternoon Pat Greeley, in Warsaw for business and recreation, stood smiling at a Union Soldier. The soldier, judging Pat's smile to be either contempt or ridicule, punished the aged citizen, compelling him to sit for one hour on a cold step outside a saloon. Pat's reply was: "Can't the cat even smile at the queen."

Slow Communications and Before Embalming: Father Benedict Kolb of Verona complained in 1889 that his parishioner, Martin Constantine of Sparta was already buried by the time the news of the death arrived.

Three Hotels "under the hill": In the days of heavy river travel Warsaw had three hotels, the Eagle, Commercial and Lindell (called Argonne following World War I). There were also three furniture factories, the Perry, McDanell and Bogardus.

"Has Anybody Seen Harold Brown?"

About 1912 Father John Kroger bought a car from Harold Brown, local county attorney and auto salesman. "Motored-buggies" rare and strange to most residents of Warsaw remained complicated even to its new clerical owner. Father Kroger got started around the courthouse square and couldn't get the contraption stopped. Each time around on passing the hotel he yelled: "Has Anybody Seen Harold Brown?"

"Have You Ever Seen The Devil?"

During catechism class in 1910 Father Kroger asked twelve-year-old Thomas Klaren if he had ever seen the devil. "No, but I've heard a lot about him" was Tom's quick reply.

Three Bells In St. Joseph's Belfry

The three bells were cast by the Buckeye Foundry of Cincinnati, Ohio in 1920 and installed that same year. The largest is 45 inches in diameter, weighs 1800 pounds, has the note of "E" in the musical scale. The medium bell's description is: 37 inches, 900 pounds, note "G". The small bell: 29 inches, 450 pounds, note "C". The bells were christened St. Thomas, St. George and St. Joseph respectively.

Camp Goulash

Father Hubert Schmitz had a camp a mile above Warsaw in the early 1920's called Camp Goulash. The twenty local boys who were guests selected the name from Father's Hungarian Specialty. Besides swimming and fishing the campers enjoyed a daily class reading Caesar's Gallic Wars—in Latin of course.

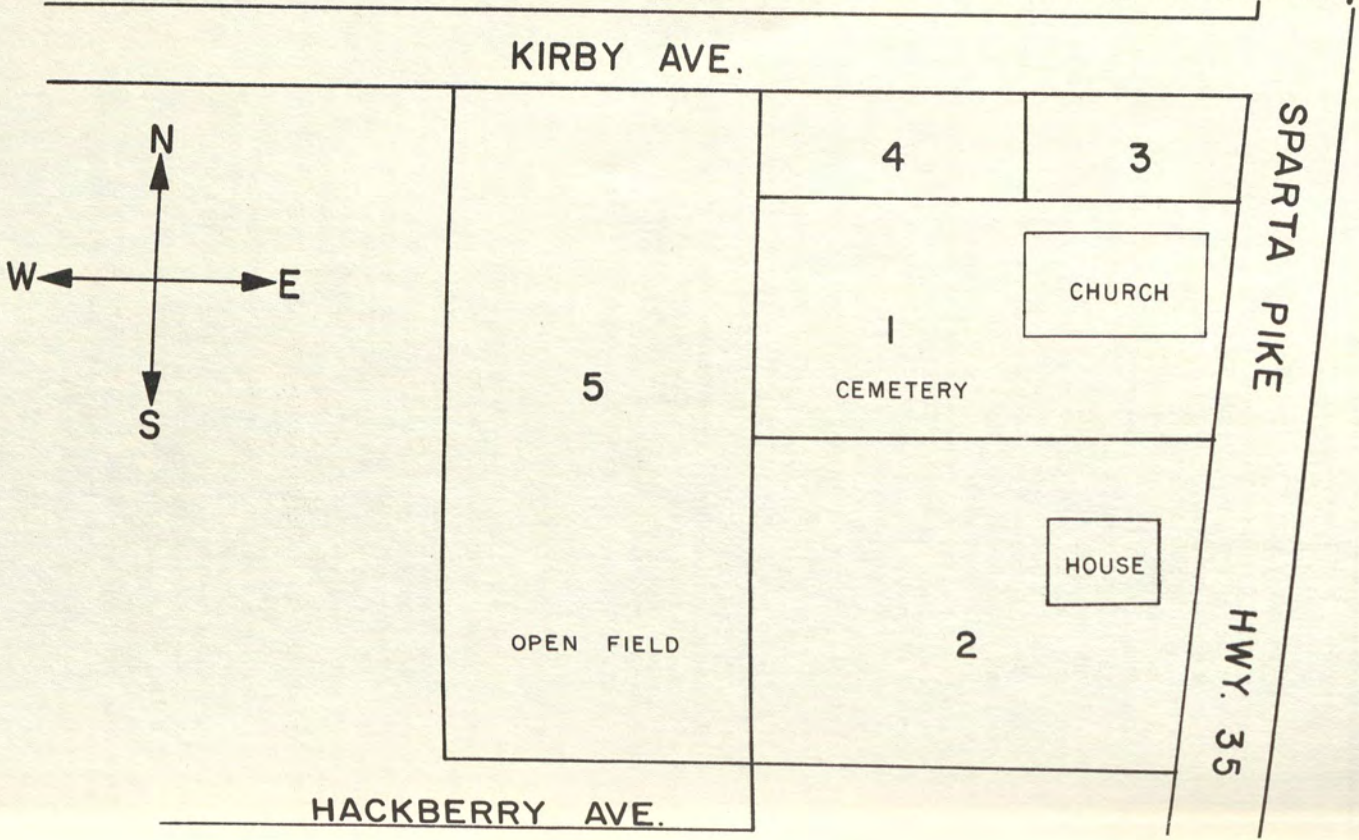
Some Facts About Funerals

Funerals have changed considerably since the early days. George Winters, an excellent carpenter and noted citizen of Warsaw made coffins at his shop on Main St. during the 1860's to the 1890's. Prior to that time people often buried their dead privately on farms, though the town of Warsaw had a cemetery "under the hill". Since bodies were not embalmed they were buried the day following death. During cold weather the bodies were laid out at the home on the day of death.

Embalming started here in the 1890's with mortician Joe K. Nesbit. This work was done at the homes and funeral services were generally conducted at the churches but sometimes at the residence. The hearse, drawn by black horses, had glass windows exposing the coffin.

When Mr. Nesbit died suddenly in 1923 Claude Carlton who had been undertaker at Glencoe bought the Warsaw firm. Mr. Carlton later built a funeral home which his son, Ulous, owns. Vernon Kemper conducted a funeral home for a time in the French-style house on Main St. now occupied as a residence by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Arrasmith.

# MAP & DESCRIPTION OF CHURCH PROPERTY, WARSAW, KY.



1. Plot #1 Purchased from Wm. & Nancy Lantz Jan. 22, 1868. This deed was delivered to Wm. Taaffe Jan. 25, 1868. Purchase price was $225.00, land only. Lantz had purchased lot from J. L. Robinson, Nov. 29, 1865, part of 10 acre plot.

2. Plot #2 Deeded to Parishioners Benj. Mylor, Martin Mylor, Mike Klaren, Peter Weldon, James Weldon, Robt. Lavelle, Thomas Mylor and their wives, and Thos. Mylor, Jr., single, on 5/13/03 for $1600.00 Same lot transferred to Bishop Maes 6/13/04. Mollie F. Vanice had purchased this lot from W. H. Kirby and Lydia Kirby for $300.00 11/2/84. The Parish House was built about 1885.

3. Plot #3 North of Church 100' x 100'. It was purchased for $300.00 by the Catholic Church from Linda Brown, Sept. 25, 1906 with stipulation that if said lot is ever used for cemetery purposes, it reverts to heirs.

4. Plot #4. Purchased by Catholic Church from Louise Craig Wilson in 1938 for $200.00. The lot was acquired to square off property and for future cemetery use. The land previously belonged to S. O. Kirby heirs.

5. Lot 120.5' x 250.6' exchanged for a 50' by 196.5' right of way on the north end of the parish property. Exchange between Chas. and Margaret Finnell and Bishop Wm. T. Mulloy.

The entire area of property measures about 1.9 acres. cf. Letter - Mulloy to McCracken, June 2, 1949.

## APPENDIX 3

### STATISTICS

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH, WARSAW, KENTUCKY

I. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Baptisms Recorded 1871-1967—350
B. Marriages Recorded 1871-1967—154
C. Deaths Recorded 1871-1967—210
D. Average Size of Parish 1867-1967—25 Families

II. PRESENT FACTS

A. Resident Baptized Catholics in Gallatin County, 1967—135 (Of the 135 Baptized Catholics, 90 attend Church regularly.)
B. Percentage of total County population, Catholic—3½%
C. Eight additional families with summer homes, plus boaters increase summer church attendance to 150.
D. Several other Catholic Families own farms in County, but do not live here.

# APPENDIX 4

## RESIDENT PASTORS AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH WARSAW, KENTUCKY

Donnelly, Reverend Edward (March 11, 1904 to April 25, 1907). He died at Warsaw and is the only priest buried in the Catholic Cemetery here.

Cooney, Reverend Thomas. He cared for the parish for three months following the death of Father Donnelly.

Bocklage, Reverend Frederick. He came when Father Cooney left Warsaw and remained as pastor until July 28, 1908.

Broerman, Reverend Joseph (July 28, 1908 to November 15, 1909).

Kroger, Reverend John (November 15, 1909 to October 25, 1916).

Schmitz, Reverend Hubert (October 25, 1916 to April 1, 1926).

Poole, Reverend Oscar. He attended Warsaw from Verona for several months until a pastor was appointed.

Freiberg, Reverend Walter. He was appointed pastor at Warsaw for August 9, 1926 and remained fourteen months.

McCrystal, Reverend John. He served as pastor for three years leaving in 1930.

Connolly, Reverend Gerald. He was pastor from 1930-1940.

Stier, Reverend George. He served the parish from 1940-1947.

Schneiders, Rev. Nicholaus, O.P. He followed the pastorate of Father Stier, remaining from June to December, 1947.

McCracken, Reverend Albert. He was pastor for nearly ten years leaving in June 1957.

Ruschman, Reverend Albert. (June 19. 1957 to June 4, 1967).

## APPENDIX 5

*EARLY CATHOLIC FAMILIES . . . ST. JOSEPH CHURCH GALLATIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY*

BALTZ—John P., born in Hesse, Darmstadt in Germany. He was naturalized 6-15-57. He married Anna Mary Gardt, by whom he had two sons. The family later moved to Tennessee and Missouri. Two descendants are now priests.

BAINES—Jerry, born in Ireland. He was a friend of James Donley, Sr.

BARNES—John, a Negro. He worked at the old Sparta Hotel for Martin and Albert Kelly. He is buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Warsaw.

BEALL—Harvey, non-Catholic. He married Louise Gardt. They were the parents of Louise Beall Mylor and Gracie Beall Schirmer.

BLANCHET—Durest Marie, born at Gaudalupe, France about 1850. He married Sarah Wade about 1875. H. L. Blanchet was a generous contributor to St. Joseph Church at Blanchet Station about 1871 in Grant County, Kentucky. H. L. had a brother who was a priest. Durest came to Napoleon Precinct, Gallatin County, as a young man. Charles and Lula Blanchet, children of Durest and Sarah married Rose and George Gardt, children of George Gardt and Mary Heimbach.

BLEDSOE—Alphonse C., born in 1888. He became a convert in 1917 at Sparta, Kentucky.

BREEN—Margaret, born in Ireland. Margaret was the wife of James Donley, Sr., and a godparent of Mary Frances Graham.

CARROLL—William, (1800-1890) born in County Cork. He married A. Carroll (1813-1891) from County Meath. They landed at New Orleans. Daughter Margaret (1842-1939) married Robert LaVelle in 1861. Margaret died in 1939 as Warsaw's oldest citizen. Margaret's sister Ann married a Story.

CAVANAUGH—Mary, the cook for her brother, Father John Cavanaugh, 1901.

CAVEY—John, married Charlotte Cotton in 1883. Mary Ellen, their daughter, was born in 1884 and baptized at Sugar Creek.

CONNELL—Anne (1825-1884).

CONSTANTINE—Martin, (1819-1889). He was buried in the Catholic Cemetery without Father Kolby's knowledge. Jeremiah Constantine married Louise Little of Sparta in 1885. Jerry Constantine was station master at Sparta and was crippled. Dan Constantine (1866-1886) was a railroader and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Warsaw without Catholic rites.

COYN—Michael, and Maggie Carrigan had a son Thomas who was baptized in 1889.

DEVREUX—Richard, (Uncle Dick) married Dora O'Connor. Their daughter Mary was baptized in 1881; a son Peter Paul was baptized in 1883. Richard married a Hughes after Dora's death and had several children by his second wife including William, Mrs. A. M. Arrasmith, and Mrs. Paul Carver.

DONLEY—(Donnelly) James, Sr., (1831-1901) born in Wexford County, Ireland. He married Margaret Breen (1826-1903). They left Ireland ten days after the wedding by sailboat and landed at New Orleans. He worked in Cairo, Illinois, as a tailor for a short time and then went on to Covington, Kentucky. He came to Warsaw in 1851 at the invitation of Walter Brown. and bought property in 1863 at Stephen Creek. He was thrifty

and owned a large farm at his death. Mose Donley, brother of James, came from Wexford and was naturalized in 1859. Thomas Pat Donley married Johanna Galvin about 1859. James and Margaret Donley had seven children . . . Ellen, Mary, Frances, Ann, John, Maggie and James. Margaret Donley Rodenback is a sister of James Donley Sr. Another James Donley bought property in Gallatin County as early as 1846. His descendants live in Illinois.

DOWNEY—Michael, He married Jennie White who was not Catholic, but their son William Harvey was baptized in 1885. Another son, George, was also baptized but was not reared Catholic. Jennie was paralyzed.

DUNAWAY—Mrs. Lizzie, (1873-1920) probably Catholic.

DWYER—Ellis, a godparent to Mary McDonnold.

EGGLESTON—James, of Glencoe, non-Catholic. He married Hazel Grant, the daughter of J. C. Grant.

EWERS—E. P., non-Catholic. He married Mary O'Toole in 1902.

FARRELL—William.

GAINES—James, godparent to Peter Paul Devreux in 1883.

GARDT—Mathias, (1800-1886) born in Hesse, Darmstadt, Germany. He had a brother a priest. He married Maria Theresa (1800-1871) and they had ten children. They left Germany in 1848, landed at New York, came on to Cincinnati where they stayed about one year, and then came to Gallatin about 1850 and settled on Telegraph Road. Only six of the children came to the United States . . . Anna Mary, Joseph who married Rose Murphy, Appalonia who married George Rose, Daniel who never returned from the Civil War, George who married Mary Heimbach, and Frances who married Nick Bauer. The priest would offer Mass at the Gardt home.

GAYNOR—James, came from County Kildare. He lived west of Warsaw and married Ellen Donley. They had two daughters, Mary and Margaret. These girls were baptized Catholic but joined other churches in later life.

GRAHAM—Francis, married Ellen Donnelly. Their daughter Frances was baptized in 1880.

GRANT—John B., (1855-1922) a doctor. He married Elizabeth Kelly. Their children were Louisa, born 1882, and J. C., baptized 1889. Dr. Grant operated the Clover Farm Store at Sparta from 1881, and his son J. C. later operated it and married Lillian Smith. Dr. Grant had his Clinic in Sparta on Railroad Steret.

GREELEY—Pat, (1796-1883) from County Kildare, Ireland. He married Mary O'Connor. No children were born of this marriage. He bought one hundred acres of land on Craig's Creek in 1858 and in the same year sold forty-five acres to Betty Weldon. Cornelius O'Connor, a nephew, stayed with them about 1871.

GULLION—Curtis, non-Catholic. He married Nancy Rainey in 1902. She was a convert. Nancy was also a prominent school teacher, local historian and community worker. She died at Sparta in 1945.

GUTTING—Louis (1866-1937) came to Warsaw in 1885 to work in the meat market. He bought the market in 1886. He married Mary Gardt and in 1890 bought the corner brick house opposite the Courthouse and erected a new meat house adjoining. He had a slaughter house "under the hill." They had several children, among whom were Nesbit Gutting, Margaret B. Gutting Beall, Dorothy Gutting LaVelle.

HALL—John, married Beatrice Taaffe. Both of them died in 1879. Thomas Hall (1837-1881) married Catherine Hickey (1835-1875). They are bur-

ied in the Catholic Cemetery at Warsaw along with Margaret, Bridgett, Catherine, Helen and Pat S.

HARPER—Scott, non-Catholic. He married Frances Donley, and they had a number of children among whom were James, Elizabeth and John. Most of the children were baptized Catholic but not all practiced the faith as they got older.

HART—Patrick, naturalized in 1857. Peter and Catherine Hart are listed in the baptismal records of 1888.

HEFFERIN—John, married Catherine Hart. Their daughter Mary was baptized in 1888.

JACOBS—F. P. moved to Sparta from Sanders in 1905 and married Angela Weldon in 1909. He was Station Master and a prominent businessman in Sparta for half a century. Jacobs Coal and Transfer Company is presently operated by a son, J. F. Jacobs. The Jacobs sisters of Sanders have attended St. Joseph Church since the closing of the New Liberty church in 1911.

IRELAND—James Beatty, (1797-1901) born in County Antrim in Ireland and lived in Gallatin County 1822-1859. He is the great, great grandfather of Virginia McGavock Davis of this county. He first settled near Georgetown and after 1859 moved to Hawesville, Kentucky. He published dist, this Ireland family was related to Archbishop John Ireland of St. Paul, Minnesota.

KEATING—Johanna, aged 48, and a daughter Mary Agnes, 20, were baptized on their deathbeds and buried from St. Joseph Church in the Ghent Cemetery.

KELLY—Martin, (1828-1913) and his wife Mary Ann (1836-1885) operated the Sparta Hotel. Their daughter Elizabeth (1858-1921) married J. C. Grant. Albert Kelly married Matilda Martin and their daughter Mary Ann was baptized in 1892. An Edward Kelly bought two hundred acres of land on Sugar Creek in 1819, but we can only guess at his religion.

KELLEY—Lude, the son of Martin Kelley and Laura Thursdale. He was born in 1898 and married an O'Connor. He joined the church in 1922 and had a son, Robert.

KING—Thomas, married Anna. Their daughter Mary was baptized in 1883 and her godparents were James and Catherine King.

KIPPENBERGER—Jacob and Eliza, from Darmstadt, Germany. They settled on Telegraph overlooking Steel Bottom. Eliza was a Gardt. They came to Gallatin County in 1848 and moved to Richmond, Indiana in the 1880's.

KLAREN—Mike, married Mary Mylor late in the 19th century. They temporarily moved to Chicago. Children were Thomas and Anna Klaren Schirmer.

LANDWEHR—Mary, born in 1899. She was reared by Patrick and Mollie Riley and joined the church in 1917. She married Charles McKinney.

LARKIN—Thomas, born in Ireland. He lived near James Weldon at Sparta. He was a friend of James Gaynor.

LaVELLE—Robert, a native of Gallatin County, born in 1839. His parents had come from France. Robert joined the church in 1861 and married Margaret Carroll. He served with the Union forces in the Civil War and lived on the hill above Sugar Creek. Priest offered Mass at the LaVelle home. Children included Robert, Jr., William, Richard, Nannie who was a school teacher at Gex and Kate LaVelle Ryle.

MADIN—Martin, married Nannie Riley in 1901 and moved from Verona to the Sparta area. Their children included Riley Madin Ellis, Marie Ma-

din Mylor, and Beatrice Madin Wilson. A tragic fire in 1936 claimed the lives of Martin, his wife and a daughter, Babe Madin Gex. Martin worked for the Federal Land Bank.

MOORE— Mary, witnessed the Constantine wedding.

MYLOR—Thomas, from County Kildare, Ireland. He came to Gallatin County in 1851 with his parents. They landed at New York, went to New Orleans, then to Cincinnati and then back to Gex Community. He married Rose Culligham in 1866, and their children included Thomas, Jr., Martin, John, Annie, Mollie, Elizabeth, Margaret, Rose, Jimmy, Benjamin (said to be the first child baptized in St. Joseph Church), and Rose Catherine. E. A., W. B., Thomas and Mary Mylor Renyer are grandchildren of Thomas Sr., and Rose Mylor. Mass was offered at the Mylor home in the 1860's. The family has long been prominent in farming.

McCARTY—Mary, godmother of Helena Spencer.

McCORMACK—George W., came to Sparta about 1888 with his parents. He married Mary E. Weldon and operated the Sparta Hotel, dying in 1941.

McCORMICK—James, married Elizabeth Riley, a school teacher about 1890.

McCORMICK—Joseph, a convert in 1908. He was an orphan and his parents had not been Catholic.

McKINSEY—Thomas, married Catherine. Their daughter was baptized in 1872 with Pat and Mary Greely as sponsors.

NIERNEY—Elizabeth, the godmother of Elizabeth Weldon in 1883.

O'BRIEN—James, of Sparta, Kentucky. He was baptized a Catholic and is the father of Sabe O'Brien.

O'CONNOR—(Connor), Cornelius, of Kildare County, Balatore, Ireland. He came to Gallatin County in 1871 as a young man. His mother Rosey Owen O'Connor came later. Cornelius married Mary E. Wheeler in 1879. A son Neal lives in Sparta. Other brothers and sisters from Ireland were Owen (single), Patrick, John who married Ellen Whalen, Dora who married Dick Devreux, and Mary.

O'CONNOR—J. Henry (Hank), married Blanchie. Henry had two children and they all joined the church in 1918. After the death of his first wife he married Anna Blanchet in 1919 and had a large family. He was a carpenter and helped remodel the church. John L. (Jack), a brother, married Ida Noe. Parents and children joined the church in 1920. He was the bricklayer on the church remodeling in 1920.

O'DONNELL—John and William, were naturalized in Gallatin County in 1850. See "Church in Tobaccoland."

O'NEAL—Hattie, was probably a Catholic.

RADER—Mr. C. C., taught Sunday School at St. Joseph Church to ten children before 1900.

RENYER—Chris, (1845-1932), born in Monheim, Germany. He came to Gallatin County about 1875. He married Mary Troll from Elsace and they lived near Jackson Landing and later moved to the Ambrose Farm on Telegraph Road. Harry and Kate are among several children.

RICE—Callie, witnessed the wedding of John Mylor and Lucille Montgomery.

RILEY—Patrick (1854-1916) married Mollie Ryan (1857-1918). They moved to Gallatin County from Verona, Kentucky, after the birth of the majority of nine children. They owned a large farm near Sparta. Their children included Elizabeth, a schoolteacher; Nannie, who married Martin Madin; Will; John, whose wife was Bessie; Joe; Katherine, a schoolteacher who married William Gardt; Laura, who married Thomas E. Weldon; Patsy, who married Emma Keehan, and Orville.

ROSS—Joseph (Buddy), non-Catholic. He married Mary Donley. Charles, a son, married Josephine Fritsch. Charles had a grocery store at Rossville on the Sparta Pike and later was a Dodge automobile dealer. Another son became a doctor and a daughter Margaret married Louis P. Gardt.

SIMMS—Ray, baptized in 1907. He was the son of Alfred L. Simms and Anna Drescher.

SPENCER—John, married Josephine Froman. Several of their children were baptized about 1800. Thomas and Mary Ann Spencer were godparents.

STORY—(?), married Ann Carroll. He was an ancestor of Jack Story.

SULLIVAN—William Thomas, moved to Gallatin County about 1896 from Owen County. He was the son of George S. Sullivan, a Catholic from Ireland. William Thomas Sullivan was the father of Claude, great uncle of Hansel and William D. of Gallatin County.

TAAFFE—William, naturalized in 1857. He was a native of Ireland and married Emma (?). He was the caretaker of the Catholic Cemetery about 1885. They were relatives of Reverend James J. Taaffe, priest of the diocese of Covington.

TROLL—Louis, married Anna Hahn. Anthony a son, was baptized in 1889 and lived near Renyers.

THOMSON—Elizabeth, married to a Weldon. She bought forty-five acres of land from Pat Greely in 1858 on Craig's Creek.

WAGGONER—Henry, non-Catholic. He married Margaret Devreux. A son, Rudolph, was baptized in 1886. Mary E. Waggoner married John LaVelle, about 1855. Probably neither was Catholic.

WEBB—Benjamin Lydle, (1888-1927) baptized in 1924. He married Eva Howlett. They had two children who were baptized in 1924 also. Benjamin L. was killed by a train at Delhi, Ohio, in 1927 and was buried from St. Joseph Church.

WELDON—There were several boys born in the 1830's and 1840's, including Patrick, Peter, Richard and James. They came from Counties Cork and Caven. Pat was born in 1831 and came to the United States in 1848, landing at New Orleans. He spent some time in Indiana and then moved on to Kentucky. Pat was naturalized in 1858. Weldons settled in the lowlands near Warsaw on both Dry Creek and Craig's Creek. Many Weldon descendents are still in the County.

WHALEN—See O'Connor.

WHITE—see Downey

WINTERS—Edward W., non-Catholic. He married Mary Casgrove, and their daughter Mildred was baptized in 1904.

YOUNG—William, (1876-1957). As a boy he worked for James Weldon. William's father had died. At the death of Mrs. James (Anne) Weldon, James Weldon married Sarah Farrell Young, William's mother. William married and had nine children who were baptized at St. Joseph Church. His widow Ruth lives at Sparta

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## *INTERVIEWS*

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