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CHILLICOTHE ACADEMY, 1853-1856
A PUPIL'S JOURNAL

(Editor's note: The following concluding part of Teresa Blair's "Journal" gives a picture of social life in Lancaster, Ohio, before the Civil War.)

Nov. 26 (1855). At one o'clock I leave and must put my journal in my trunk that it may be locked. Night - 11 o'clock - have been home just one hour; just escaped a terrible mistake and lost an adventure. How embarrassing and dangerous too to travel alone. The train was due at 9 o'clock and as I was there before, was obliged to go in the station house. I heard it whispered round that the Lancaster train had passed through. I almost fainted through fright as I glanced round the motley assembly, and did not see one to whom I felt like speaking lest I should betray my unprotected position. Both trains arrived, and being very "verdant" did not know which to take, but ventured to inquire of a very gentlemanly person who came up at that moment, and very kindly showed me on board the right train where I met several friends, and here I am safe in my own room, but much fatigued and must retire.

Nov. 27. First moment of awaking thought I was still at the convent. Some might deem it ingratitude in me to be so fondly attached to the Sisters, but they know not my heart - that affection and the love I feel towards the home circle is a different sentiment, one cannot destroy the other.

Nov. 28. Have received several calls from the girls today, but am alone this evening. Yet I am not lonely, my own thoughts are ever company for they are people with faces and forms dear to my memory. I have been called proud and selfish, but I am not. I care little for gay society, but I value the friendship and affection of the few.

Nov. 29. Was down to Ida's all day, and just returned. Met several there this evening I never saw before. I must mingle more in society though I do not feel like it. Wonder if I will ever change!

Nov. 30. Helped Mother iron all day. Wrote to the Sisters this evening and then practiced till ten. Then the weight of my eyelids warned me to indite today's proceedings before I became too sleepy.

Dec. 2. Sunday - Have been to church all day, but tonight the Spirit of Storm which has threatened all day has spread its dark ominous wings over the earth. The rain and hail are driving in maddening splashes against the closely curtained windows, causing one to draw near the bright glowing fire whilst listening to the ravings of the storm without.

Dec. 3. My life is one of too much monotony to record the few events of each day; its insipidity would disgust me.

Dec. 24. An intensely cold night. Have been at the church all day helping to decorate it. Looks beautifully and reminds me of the Convent chapel.

Christmas. My first at home for two years. There is merry jingling of sleigh-bells and merry peals of laughter floating on the still frosty air. Wrote to Sister today and sent her a book for the library.

New Year's Day 1856. Kept shut house today and saw no one but Julia who was here all afternoon. Was invited out this evening but declined, much against the wishes of all.

Jan. 2. Spent the afternoon at Mrs. Yong's, or rather took dinner there in company with Willis Williams and his sister. Willis and I used to be lovers, but how our feelings have changed. I can meet him without any emotion but the most entire indifference. I presume he feels the same, for so his actions indicate.

Jan. 3. Made several calls today at the great sacrifice of inclination, for if there is anything on earth I despise it is to make formal calls. Am invited to a little party at Mrs. Yong's tomorrow evening.

Jan. 5. Returned from the party at 12 o'clock too late to write. Have been effectually bored for coming home with Mr. Yong in preference to the company of two gentlemen, who, Mrs. Yong says, were very anxious to see me home. Mother says I'll not always feel so, but I vow I will.

Jan. 14. Have been very much occupied helping Mother through with the sewing; have become pretty well initiated in all the mysteries of housekeeping. Miss Lillie Clarke, Philie Crooke, and Cousin Ida spent last evening with me. I am already much attached to them, and will meet every advancement towards cultivating the acquaintance.

Jan. 16. How I long for the soft breath of sunny skies of Summer. Winter is always dull and cheerless to me.

"When will the unwelcome weary days be done?
Time loiters ever when we'd have him fly."

Jan. 18. Received a long interesting letter from Sister, and one from Annie Gilmore. How I treasure these dear missives, reading and rereading lest a single word of meaning should escape me.

Jan. 20. Next week a grand party is to be given to Mr. Tom Ewing who is to bring his ride home on the 26th of the month.

Jan. 25. Have spent all day preparing for the party tomorrow evening.

Jan. 27. Last night was a brilliant assemblage of all the elite of Lancaster. Bride looked beautiful and interesting as brides always do.

Feb. 3. Am invited to a party at Mr. Phil Ewing's, but cannot go, as I have made an engagement to stay at home and receive some company.

Feb. 4. Willis and sister, Miss Rainey, Messrs. Kooken and Company, spent last evening here. My curiosity is at last gratified. I have seen Julia's beau, the Apollo of Lancaster. He is handsome, and Julia shows great taste. Mr. C. I never met before and I cannot say the impression was flattering to him.

Feb. 14. Received a number of Valentines, very loving and sentimental, but I rather think I am indebted to the girls for them.

Feb. 17. Julia and Mr. Kooken spent last evening with me. Think they love each other very much.

March 1. Received a long and interesting letter from the Convent. Oh, what would I not give for one hour's communing with the only confidante I ever had on earth. A cold bleak day it has been for the first of the spring months; but winter will spend all his fury during this month and then leave us.

July 11. My life has been monotonous routine, without one incident to vary the path I am treading; but tomorrow I start for Chillicothe to visit my second home. The door bell rings and I must go, for I know it is H. who is always coming when he is not wanted; if he only knew how many times I've wished him in Upper Guinea, I think he would go if it was only to oblige me, which he professes to always be willing to do.

(Thus ends the manuscript)

An added note.

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur conducted the Academy in Chillicothe from 1848 to 1861. It is of interest to note the names of the Sisters at the school as given in the Federal Census of 1850 and 1860. The names, age and place of birth were given in 1850 as follows: Mary Debour, 36, Belgium; Constance Remy, 35, Belgium; Julia Van Bocton, 42, Belgium; Mary J. Haas, 27, Belgium; Caroline Shafer, 25, Holland; Catherine Stem Ramp, 24, Germany; Victoria Weber, 25, Germany, and Mary Sinck, 36, Ga.

The Census for 1860, besides giving the names, age and place of birth, also gives the occupation. All the Sisters are listed as school teachers: Sister Mathilda, 35, Belgium; Sister Honorara, 32, Belgium; Sister Bernhardine, 35, Prussia; Sister Ursula, 33, Prussia; Sister Margareth, 38, Hanover; Sister Appolonia, 28, Prussia; Sister Mary Ignatius, 28, Ireland; Sister Mary Angela, 22, Ireland; Sister Anne Louise, 24, Ireland; Sister Ann Mary, 24, Ireland, and Sister Mary Phillip Neri, 21, M.SS(?)

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REV. WILLIAM T. BIGELOW

A Biography

(Note: The following biography of an early priest of the Diocese of Columbus is published here through the courtesy of Sister Mary Charles, O.P., of St. Mary of the Springs Motherhouse, Columbus. The manuscript was sent some years ago by Miss Ann Pratt, reference librarian at Yale University, to Sister Anselma, O.P., who was a niece of Father Bigelow.)

William Thomas Bigelow was born in Lancaster, Ohio, in May, 1842. His father was John Milton Bigelow, a physician, surgeon, and United States botanist, who accompanied the party that surveyed the territory known as Gadsden Purchase. His mother was Maria Louise Meiers of Lancaster, Ohio. His parents, both Protestants, were converted through the marriage of Mrs. Bigelow's sister Mary to John Purcell Gillespie, uncle of James Gillespie Blaine. Dr. Bigelow was a cousin of John Quincy Adams and of the Smith Brothers of cough drop fame.

William was an exceptionally brilliant boy. At the age of five his father placed him in the parochial school which that year began its existence under the direction of his cousin, Eliza Gillespie, later Mother Angela, C.S.C. At nine he was permitted to make his First Holy Communion though the prescribed age at that time was eleven or twelve years. At twelve he made known to Archbishop Purcell his desire to study for the priesthood and the Archbishop sent him to the Seminary of St. Thomas, Bardstown, Ky., later transferring him to Mt. St. Mary's of the West, Cincinnati, Ohio. Here at eighteen he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts with honors in Greek, Mathematics and History. His companion graduates were Henry Joseph Richter, later Bishop of Grand Rapids, who received honors in Latin and Philosophy; and John B. Murray, his life-long friend, who received honors in Rhetoric and Science. By dispensation he was ordained August 6, 1864, at the age of twenty-two. A few months later he was appointed by Archbishop Purcell pastor of St. Peter's Church, Steubenville, Ohio.

Late one afternoon in 1865 he arrived in Steubenville and went directly to the priest's house only to find Father Thienpont not at home. Not receiving an invitation to await his arrival, he went to a hotel for his supper, after which he again called, found Father Thienpont at home, presented his papers appointing him pastor. Father Thienpont, not having received word of the change, refused to honor them; but consented to Father Bigelow's request to say Mass the next morning. An hour was appointed for this; when Father Bigelow arrived at the stated time, he found the Church locked and so he sat on the steps to wait. He waited two long hours. After breakfasting at the hotel, he called again. The morning mail had brought Father Thienpont a letter from Archbishop Purcell assigning him to another parish.

On assuming charge, Father Bigelow's first care was to open a parochial school. For this purpose he fitted up the basement of the Church and secured the services of a couple of ladies to teach the children.

St. Peter's was one of the few brick churches in the Diocese of Cincinnati at the death of Bishop Fenwick. It stood far back from the street and was surrounded by a small cemetery. It had been built by Father John Hyacinth

McGrady, O.P., who had named it St. Pius. As the Dominicans were few in number at this time and Bishop Fenwick had now a number of secular priests, the Order gave up St. Pius'.

Father Bigelow soon found the Church too small for his congregation and extended it to the street, thus doubling its length. As the Church was two stories high, the lower story was fitted up as a school. Sometime before he had built the present rectory in what had been the cemetery, as ground for a new cemetery had been purchased on Market Street and the bodies removed there, as was supposed; but on digging the foundation for the rectory, human bones were unearthed.

Father Bigelow did not live long in the new house but soon turned it over as a home for the Sisters of Charity whom he obtained from St. Joseph's-on-the-Ohio, near Cincinnati, to teach the school; and he went to board at an old-fashioned boarding house nearby. These Sisters had had charge of St. Mary of the West Seminary when he was a student there, and had witnessed his heroism during the fire which on October 20, 1863, destroyed an entire wing of the Seminary. He was one of the nine seminarists who volunteered to patrol the grounds during the night lest the fire break out again.

Smallpox broke out in Steubenville in 1871 and two pest houses were opened on South Fifth Street. These were visited daily by Father Bigelow; in fact, he spent by far the greater part of the day there, cheering patients and nurses alike, and visiting Protestants as well as Catholics as the ministers feared to come in contact with the dread disease.

On the twentieth of January, 1872, Father Bigelow was summoned on a sick call, sixteen miles out in the country. It was a rainy morning, the roads were unpaved the only means of transportation was on horse back. Before he reached his destination the weather had changed and his clothes, wet to the skin, were frozen stiff when he at last arrived. The farmer was a very sick smallpox patient. Father Bigelow was persuaded to don his clothes while his own dried before the kitchen fire. After administering the Last Sacraments, he returned home. The next day he was exceedingly ill from congestion of the lungs and varioloid. In two days he was dead, a martyr to duty.

His remains were laid out in the Church and Catholics and Protestants alike flocked to pay their respects. The Catholics touched the remains with their rosaries, medals, etc. The leading physician Doctor Tappan declared that he would cut off his right arm if there were not a hundred new cases of smallpox in town. In this he was mistaken, for there was not even one new case and all suffering from it recovered. His funeral was the largest at that time Steubenville had ever had. Many who had no conveyance walked to the cemetery over slippery cobblestones.

Had Father Bigelow lived until May he would have been thirty years old. In his few short years he had lived a long time. All his parishioners loved him. The children idolized him. He liked to see them scramble for the pennies he would toss in the air for them.

When he died the total sum of his wealth was three dollars and fifty cents and a number of good books which were sent to Bishop Rosecrans.

Father Bigelow was slight of build, about medium height, with kindly, deep-set gray-blue eyes and shock of bushy dark brown hair. He was a keen, rapid thinker, so rapidly did his thoughts tumble upon one another that it was

impossible for his hand to jot them down; hence, he did not write his sermons; but spoke his words from the abundance of his heart, simply, directly, surcharged with the love of God and his neighbor. He had the gift of making himself all to all from the brilliant lawyer of his congregation to the most unlearned. His visits to the homes of his parishioners were visits of joy. To a cheerful disposition he added a fine sense of humor and of wit. The story is told of him that when the music teacher asked him if he had heard the newly published piece Minnehaha, he replied instantly, "No, but I have heard Minnie boo-hoo." He had a niece by that name a few months old.

When Dean M. M. A. Hartnedy opened the new cemetery Mt. Calvary in 1883 and the remains of all buried in the old were ordered removed, many of the older members of the congregation wished Father Bigelow's casket to be opened, fully expecting to find the remains intact. The Dean acceded to their wishes and had the undertaker open the casket in his presence, but only a few bones were found in it. As there was no plot in the old cemetery for the priests, Father Bigelow had been buried in the plot of his brother-in-law, Mr. M. J. Basler, which lay in the lowest part of the cemetery. To ease the disappointment of the people, the Dean explained that it would have required a double miracle to preserve the body which had for years been lying in damp ground.

As an inscription giving this data concerning him had been carved on the Basler monument, the place selected for his remains by Dean Hartnedy was determined by this inscription. The following excerpt from the History of Mt. St. Mary's Seminary of the West, Cincinnati, Ohio, by Michael J. Kelly and James M. Kirwin is appended pp. 282, 283.

"Another of the old students of the "Mount", Rev. M. T. Bigelow, was called to his reward in the beginning of the year. We have become acquainted with him throughout this history, and have learned to revere his many eminent and Christian qualities. He died at his post working for the poor and deserted who had fallen victims of the dreaded smallpox.

"At the outbreak of the pestilence, Father Bigelow applied for a number of Sisters of Charity to attend the stricken, many of whom were dying from want of proper care and nursing. The devoted Sisters cheerfully responded to the call, but when they arrived in Steubenville foolish and blind prejudice refused to permit them to undertake their dangerous work of mercy. The door of the hospital was closed against them, through fear that their good deeds would be rewarded with the gratitude and the blessings of the victims of disease whom their charity had snatched from death.

"In this city of pestilence, in the midst of death, with contagion clinging to his garments, Father Bigelow labored by day and night at the bedside of the sick and dying. It was hoped by his friends that he would escape, but God willed otherwise. The Divine Master, Whom he so faithfully followed from boyhood to the last moment and last work of his life, measured his merits, not by years but by labor, and so called him to his reward in the full vigor of his manhood, and in the first decade of his priesthood.

"Father Bigelow was born in Lancaster, Ohio, in 1842, of a family that had given a daughter and several near relatives to a religious life. At the age of

twelve he was sent by the Archbishop of Cincinnati to the Seminary of St. Thomas, Bardstown. After some years of study there he was transferred to Mount St. Mary's of the West, where he was graduated with high honor in 1860. At both places he was distinguished for his rapid and unsurpassed proficiency in all his studies. God had gifted him with extraordinary talents which his intense, restless love of knowledge actively employed in storing his mind with everything that could fit him to discharge in the most perfect manner the duties of his high and holy vocation. Those who knew him in the days of training and discipline for the spiritual battlefield, on which like a true soldier of the cross he breathed out his life, will well remember him for exemplary conduct as well as for his modest leadership of his classes.

"In 1864, the faithful Levite became a worthy priest. His first and only mission was Steubenville. To his people he was ever a priest of God, always toiling, living only for their benefit; never thinking of himself, doing all that was possible for their spiritual and temporal improvement. His influence was felt throughout the whole community, and his Protestant fellow citizens felt honored by his acquaintance, admired him for his ability as a scholar, and respected him for his virtues. He left to his successor a large and flourishing school under the direction of the Sisters of Charity. Success in everything he undertook accompanied him during his ministry. He had an enthusiasm for God and the Church that was never darkened by the shadow of fear or despondency. Had he lived he would have been, without doubt, a great priest in the history of the American Church. He was and always will be a great priest in the history of God and His Angels."

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THE FIRST FINANCIAL REPORT OF
BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, NEWARK, OHIO

It is of value to compare the prices of services and commodities at the beginning of this century with those of the present time. Presented here is the first financial report of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Newark, Ohio.

Founded during the year April, 1904, the parish had its first Sunday Mass in mid-August of that year. The Rev. Charles H. A. Watterson had been named first pastor. The new parish church was dedicated in March, 1905, and children of the parish attended their own school for the first time the following September.

The financial report given here was the first issued by Father Watterson. It includes the expenses and receipts of 1904 (a partial year) and of 1905. Unfortunately the top of the report (reproduced on the following page) has been torn away.

Office collection, 1904 and 1905	206 10
Peter's Pence collection, 1904 and 1905	51 81
Indians and Negroes	12 35
Holy Land	8 65
Catholic University	23 79
School collections	245 31
Aitar and Rosary Society	89 00
Rent of property	15 00
Candle offerings	14 40
Ordinary receipts	<u>\$2,658 32</u>

EXTRAORDINARY RECEIPTS.

Monthly collections	\$3,456 18
Fair and socials	2,854 12
Donation for main altar	335 75
Donation for side altars	251 10
Donation for statues	142 00
Donation for sanctuary lamp	34 00
Donation for baptismal font	50 00
Donation for chalice	51 75
Donation for ciborium	80 00
Donation for cement walk	150 00
General donations	406 87
Borrowed money	40,250 00

Extraordinary receipts	\$48,151 77
Ordinary receipts	2,658 32

Total receipts	<u>\$50,810 09</u>
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ORDINARY EXPENDITURES

Cathedraticum	\$25 00
Pastor	764 00
Teachers	240 00
Dedication and Confirmation expenses	55 00
Missioner	75 00
Fuel—house, church and school	217 18
Light—house, church and school	111 74
Diocesan collections—Orphans	206 19
Peter's Pence	51 81
Seminary	60 00
Indians and Negroes	12 35
Holy Land	8 65
Catholic University	23 79
Candles, oil and incense	59 54
Mass wine	18 00
Sweeping and cleaning church and school	97 50
Water rent and meter	19 34
Telephone	21 25
Insurance	124 00
Taxes	67 18
Repairs and material	62 82
Plumbing and gas stoves	33 30
Expressage and freight on school desks, etc.	40 53
Cistern for sisters' residence	26 00
Driving well for school	19 20
Window screens and doors	23 50
Repairing organ	15 00
Paint for school floors and convent	27 30
Sundries	23 35

Ordinary expenditures	<u>\$2,528 52</u>
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Interest on loans	7,637 92
Architect	164 25
Cash paid on lots	2,000 00
Sewerage	1,941 25
Heating apparatus	419 47
Church furniture—pews, altars, etc.	307 45
House furniture	244 81
School furniture	157 40
Convent furniture	124 15
Cement walk	100 00
Electric light fixtures	14 52
Hardware for building	36 10
Glass for sacristy	
Window guards for church basement	

Extraordinary expenses	\$47,934 51
Ordinary expenses	2,528 52

Total expenses	<u>\$50,463 03</u>
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Total cash received from all sources	\$50,810 09
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Total cash expended	50,523 03
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Cash on hand January 1, 1906	\$287 06
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SUMMARY OF THE CHURCH DEBT.

Cost of the five lots	\$8,200 00
Cost of church building	23,693 74
Cost of heating apparatus	2,500 00
Plans and specifications	750 00
Church furniture—pews, altars, etc.	2,243 16
Furniture—Priest's house	\$419 47
School	307 45
Convent	244 81
	<u>971 73</u>
Sewerage	164 25
Electric light and gas fixtures	124 15
Hardware for church and school	149 60
Cement walk	157 40
Interest on loans to January 1, 1906	1,490 54
	<u>\$40,444 57</u>
Current expenses	2,528 32
	<u>\$42,972 89</u>

CREDIT.

Cash paid for current expenses	\$3,528 32
Cash paid on debt	7,549 94
	<u>\$10,078 26</u>
	<u>\$32,894 63</u>
Cash on hand	287 06
Total debt January 1, 1906	<u>\$32,607 57</u>