



# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

## BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus

Vol. XXIV, No. 1

Jan. 24: St. Francis de Sales

January, 1999

### James T. Carroll Irish, Catholic, and American; Editor and Businessman



*James T. Carroll, 1868-1953, on a St. Patrick's Day.  
(Photo courtesy of his granddaughter, Paddy Cleary)*

James Carroll is best remembered today as the long-time editor of the Columbus diocesan newspaper, the *Catholic Columbian*. More than this, however, he was a businessman, publisher, and legislator, perhaps the most significant Irish Catholic immigrant ever to make Columbus his home. His standing in the business community made possible works of evangelization through good example and the Catholic press; his prominence made his calls for community charity effective; and his leadership gave direction to the local Irish community.

James Thomas Carroll was born in Ballinorig, near Tralee in County Kerry, Ireland on September 4, 1868. He was one of at least four children of Thomas P. and Mary (Harrington) Carroll. He attended St. Michael's Preparatory College in Listowel, County Kerry, and then pursued a college course at the Marist College in Glasgow, Scotland.<sup>1</sup> He came to the United States "on or about the 1st of July, 1887." It is not clear just when he came to Columbus, but he was naturalized here under the name "James T. O'Carroll" on July 10, 1893.<sup>2</sup> One of his sisters, Joanne or Hannah who married Patrick J. Ryle, lived in Columbus as early as 1896.

By October of 1893 he had registered to vote as James Thomas Carroll, 825 North Sixth Street. The 1893 city directory listed him twice, as James T. Carroll, clerk, 895 North Sixth, and as James O'Carroll, janitor, Sixth between First and

Second avenues. The 1894 directory did the same, listing James T. Carroll, janitor, 622 Hamlet Street, and James O'Carroll, janitor, Sixth between First and Second. This is the last we find of the Irish "O" and it seems odd that one of the men who personified the Irish in Columbus for over half a century dropped the prefix so soon after arriving here.

Meanwhile, James had returned to Ireland about 1890 and there married his sixth cousin, Hannah Carroll. She was a daughter of Patrick and Ellen (Cook) Carroll, born in Ballyhemikin, Kilmoyly Parish, County Kerry on June 29, 1869. James left Kerry and came to America again, found a home in Columbus, then went back to Ireland to bring his wife and child to the new world.<sup>3</sup>

James and Hannah had four children:

1) Delia A. Carroll, born on February 1, 1891 in Ballyhemikin<sup>4</sup>, Parish of Kilmoyly, County Kerry. She married Leo W. Jordan in 1916 and moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. They had five children.

2) Irene Mary Carroll, born July 14, 1896, was baptized at Sacred Heart Church with the Ryles as sponsors. She died of pneumonia on April 27, 1904.

3) Thomas Joseph Carroll, born December 8, 1898, was baptized at Sacred Heart Church

4) James Patrick Carroll, born May 19, 1901, was baptized at Sacred Heart Church, Jerry O'Shaughnessy being god-father.

In 1895 Carroll got a job as letter carrier for the Columbus Post Office, which he held until 1904 or '05. The family home was on Hamlet Street until the year 1900, when they moved to 138 Brickell Street (running east of High St., between Lincoln & Russell). Hannah died on September 11, 1901 of typhoid fever, aged 32 years.

## Ancient Order of Hibernians

One of Carroll's greatest loves was his native Ireland. His straight, spare figure was seen March after March in the St. Patrick's Day parade and his stories and his singing of Irish ballads on the great fete day were long remembered.

Soon after arriving in Columbus he joined a local division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a society of Catholic men of Irish descent, dedicated among other purposes to independence and unity for Ireland. The Order, said to date from the sixteenth century, was first organized in this country in New York City in 1836. The first Columbus division was organized in 1876.

At the State AOH convention in Columbus in 1900 Carroll was unanimously elected State Secretary. He at once set out to establish a company of the Hibernian Rifles and succeeded to such an extent that it marched in the 1901 St. Patrick's Day parade "with over 60 rifles in line" under its captain, Joseph O'Shaughnessy. (In 1904, Carroll was First Lieutenant of the company.) Six other companies were formed throughout the state and in 1905 they were organized as the First Regiment, Hibernian Rifles, with membership of over 500 men, headed by Col. M. J. Ryan of Columbus. Columbus's Company A participated in many inaugurations of Ohio governors, dedications of churches, and other civic and religious functions. It assisted in relief activities during the 1913 flood.

In 1902 Carroll was re-elected State Secretary. In that post he won the warm admiration of men in high executive positions wherever he became known. In 1904 (while Rt. Rev. James J. Hartley, new Bishop of Columbus, was chaplain of the Franklin County AOH board) Carroll was elected National Secretary and in 1906, upon

nomination by Timothy S. Hogan of Wellston, he was unanimously re-elected. He was defeated in the election for the position in 1908.<sup>5</sup>

In 1904 James bought a home at 681 Neil Avenue (between Collins and Poplar, on the edge of Flytown), the first he ever owned. It was a two-story frame measuring about 27 by 40 feet. The lot was 30 feet wide and about 150 feet deep. Across the alley in the rear was a foundry.

On November 26, 1904 at St. Patrick Church James married again, to Mary G. Sullivan. Mary was a native of Columbus, daughter of Patrick and Catherine (McNamara) Sullivan, and had been educated at St. Patrick's school. She remained a member of that parish for much of her life and was a member of the choir, singing with a ringing soprano voice in the famous choir directed by Professor Lott.<sup>6</sup>

#### Business Interests

It was about this time that Carroll made his first forays into the business world. For a short time in 1905 he was an insurance agent, with an office in room 715 of the Hayden Bldg. at 16 E. Broad, opposite the State House.

#### Union Building and Savings Company

The Union Building & Savings Co. was incorporated on December 7, 1903 to transact a savings deposit business and to make mortgage loans on Columbus real estate. Incorporators were Henry Bohl, president of the board of public service; John L. Lawler, coal operator; Thomas M. Varley of the Columbus Savings and Trust Company; Henry Richter, builder and contractor; Frank J. Dawson, secretary and treasurer of the Columbus Savings and Trust Company; William C. Wallace, cashier at the post office; John Schmidt, butcher; Jerry O'Shaughnessy, superintendent of the city water works; Richard O. Guthke of the hardware firm of Mayer & Guthke; James T. Carroll, State

Secretary of the Hibernians; John R. Hellenthal, florist; Thomas F. M. Koch, hatter; and Nathan Dawson, attorney. Henry Bohl was elected president; John Lawler first vice president, John Schmidt second vice president, and Henry Richter treasurer. In addition to the officers, Frank Dawson, Varley, Guthke, Koch, Carroll, Wallace, O'Shaughnessy, and Hellenthal were elected to the board.<sup>7</sup> Other board members, elected in later years, included Anton F. Schmidt, Dr. Erwin Schueller, and Louis Seidensticker. We can perceive two of Carroll's connections with this group of men: Wallace worked at the post office, as Carroll formerly did; and Carroll and O'Shaughnessy were long-time friends from the Hibernians.

The first offices of this company were on the third floor of the Hayden-Clinton Bank Building at 20 E. Broad. From about 1906 until 1916 they were located in the McCune Building at 21 W. Gay Street and in January of 1916 they moved to the front of the first floor of a nearly new, three-story, fireproof building at 48-50 West Gay, near the corner of Front, where the Beacon Building now stands. (This was a sub-lease from Carroll's Columbian Printing and Publishing Co.)<sup>8</sup>

Initial authorized capitalization of the company was \$100,000, later raised to \$2 million. The company did well even throughout the great depression. Assets of the company at the beginning of 1917 were \$830,000; in 1928, \$2.45 million; in 1929, \$3.23 million; in 1930, \$3.52 million; and in 1931, \$3.78 million. In 1929 the company leased and moved to the Rankin building, which still stands at 22 W. Gay Street, small but solid and imposing, with its neo-classical revival facade.<sup>9</sup> Carroll remained a director and officer throughout the life of this institution, being elected vice president by January of 1935.

#### Printing and Publishing

Carroll was principal of three successive printing

companies. While the lives of these companies overlapped in the legal sense, the actual operating companies and their years of operation were: The Columbian Printing and Publishing Company, Inc. (1905-1916), the Columbus Printing Company (1916-1931), and The Carroll Press, Inc. (1931-1941).

In late 1904 or early 1905 John Kuster, publisher of the *Catholic Columbian*, the diocesan newspaper, became ill and sought to relieve himself of the duties associated with the newspaper. Carroll became aware of this concern and began promoting a new firm to take over this paper along with the *Columbian Record* of Indianapolis. After several months of negotiations, agreement was reached by a group of investors to form a new company. The Columbian Printing and Publishing Company was incorporated in June of 1905 by Bernard Smith, Louis Seidensticker (also a director of Union Building), James E. Hartman, Timothy S. Hogan, attorney, of Wellston, E. B. Gerlach, T. W. Varley, J. D. Dunnigan, John T. Hart, Dr. W. N. Morgan, Dr. J. J. Magruder (who had tended Mrs. Hannah Carroll in her last illness), E. L. Jacobs, and P. J. O'Neil. James T. Carroll was immediately named Secretary of the corporation, manager of the business, and editor of the paper. With authorized capital of \$100,000, the company intended to purchase new presses, enlarge the *Columbian*, and enter into the general publishing field. Luke G. Byrne, prominent Catholic attorney of Columbus, was the first president of the company.<sup>10</sup> The company soon was doing a general printing and publishing business at 119 E. Long Street and had an extensive patronage.<sup>11</sup> In 1914 the company leased and moved into the building at 48-50 West Gay Street, already mentioned in connection with the Union Building & Savings. The Columbian company purchased this building in 1923 and sold it in 1926.<sup>12</sup>

About 1916 Carroll formed the Columbus

Printing Company. This company and the Columbian company were both located at 50 1/2 West Gay Street, and Carroll was manager of both. In the 1920s Carroll was president of the Columbian corporation and Margaret M. Hammel was secretary. The companies' Gay St. plant contained complete publishing equipment and employed 18 men (unionized) and boys and four women. Some served for over thirty years. It published various papers, books, and periodicals for Catholic societies and fraternities. Each month over 300,000 papers and journals were printed and mailed.<sup>13</sup> One of these was *The Catholic Forester*, the monthly newspaper of the Catholic Order of Foresters. Carroll was a member of this society and was editor and publisher of its paper from at least 1917 to 1929.

In 1931 the Columbian Printing and Publishing Company, then only a shadowy entity, was headed by Carroll as president, his son Thomas J. Carroll as treasurer, and his second son James P. Carroll as secretary; corporate directors were Agnes Shea and Mrs. Mary G. Carroll, while Thomas J. Carroll was agent.

In 1931 Carroll Press was incorporated to be the active business and, as Carroll stated in his will, the original stock of the Columbian corporation was "converted without his knowledge and consent to the Carroll Press Inc." James T. was president, Thomas J. was vice president and manager, and James P. was secretary. Its plant was at 32 to 36 Warren Street (northeast corner of Pearl Alley) on the north side, which the company purchased in 1932. The Columbus Printing Company in turn became only a shadowy entity, with offices remaining at 50 1/2 W. Gay Street and Carroll as president for another year or two.<sup>14</sup>

In addition to printing the *Columbian* and other papers, the Carroll Press won printing contracts from Franklin County (ballots) and the State of Ohio (liquor order blanks).<sup>15</sup>

In 1939 Carroll Press Inc. (by Thomas J. Carroll, Vice President, and James P. Carroll, Secretary) sold the plant on Warren St., though they stayed in business for another year or two.

At one point, Carroll was a director of Ohio National Bank. As a prominent member of two financial institutions and a local businessman, Carroll also was a director and one-time vice president of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.<sup>16</sup>

#### The Catholic Columbian

Carroll became manager and editor of the *Catholic Columbian* in 1905. As editor he proved himself competent, manifesting a spirit of progress in all that he undertook, continuing the work that Bishop Rosecrans had begun under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales in 1875. The paper became a power for the spread of Catholicism and Catholic ideals under his leadership. As editor he seems to have had an almost, but not quite, free hand. Only once is it known that Bishop Hartley sent a note regarding his editorial policy, in October of 1908. When the term of the rector of Catholic University in Washington expired, Carroll suggested that, since most of the students at the university came from Jesuit-run colleges and seminaries, if it ever was to have a full measure of success the university should have a Jesuit as its next rector. Hartley thought the remark imprudent and uncalled for and, perhaps, that it had been suggested to Carroll by someone else. Catholic University being the project of the U. S. bishops, they no doubt would have considered it inimical to their purpose to have a regular in charge.

In the spring of 1910 there seem to have been hard times, in response to which Carroll obtained from Hartley a letter of commendation for his conduct of the paper, with permission to show it to the other bishops in Ohio. Also, in response to a request from Carroll, on May 28, 1910<sup>17</sup> the bishop wrote this for publication:

The Catholic Press, in accordance with the instructions of our Holy Father, should always be prudent and fearless champion of Catholic truth and the constant defender of Catholic interests.

The Bishop believing that such is the aim of the Catholic Columbian under its present management gives it his approval, and hopes that it may be a welcome visitor to every home in the Diocese.

In March of 1915 the *Columbian* secured as editorial writer Rev. James Cotter, pastor of Ironton St. Lawrence O'Toole parish, who for some years had been carrying on that effort for the *Catholic Union and Times* of Buffalo. By 1915 his editorials were already widely known to provide trenchant, argumentative, and eloquent opposition to the false teachings of the day and the *Ohio State Journal* complimented the *Columbian* on obtaining his services.<sup>18</sup> Carroll had other rosy plans and hopes for the *Columbian* that circumstances never permitted him to realize.

In January of 1938 James T. Carroll, E. A. Moriarty, and James A. Lyons incorporated The Columbian Printing and Publishing Company, "To publish and distribute the official Roman Catholic newspaper in the Columbus diocese."<sup>19</sup> Carroll was ready to hand the reins of the paper over to others. He and his sons in a "spirit of generosity and faith" offered the paper to Bishop Hartley in such a manner as to enable him to direct and encourage the editing without the diocese incurring any financial obligations. The new Columbian Printing and Publishing Co. agreed to look after the material publication of the paper without obligation upon the part of the diocese. Any surplus income from the publication was to be spent in the improvement of the paper and in the helping of such works of charity and Catholic interests as might be designated by the Bishop.<sup>20</sup>

Bishop Hartley appointed Rev. Herman E. Mattingly as editor and Rev. Gerard Spencer as

associate editor, while Margaret Hammel, assistant editor under Carroll, stayed on at the same position. With a "Thanks! God bless you!" Carroll walked away from the paper that he had edited and published for thirty-four years, happy to be relieved of the many burdens attached to the office. The new editors in reply thanked him, saluted him, and wished him many years of peace.

The new arrangements lasted only eight months. In mid-October, 1938 the paper's editorial staff became only Margaret Hammel, associate editor. According to insiders, a contractual dispute had broken out between the Carrolls and Hartley.<sup>21</sup> The last issue of the *Catholic Columbian* was issued by Hammel as the Columbian Printing & Publishing Co. on December 30, 1938. The diocese had no newspaper during all of 1939 and it was not until January 5, 1940 that the staff of the short-lived diocesan *Columbian* issued Vol. I No. 1 of the *Columbus Register*, belonging "entirely to the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Columbus."

James Carroll had left the editor's chair in 1938, never to return.

(To be concluded)

#### NOTES

- 1) Galbreath, Charles B., *History of Ohio*; The American Historical Society Inc., 1925, V/116. Franklin County Marriage Record 38/520. Tombstone at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cathedral Division, Section H, lot 30. Ohio death certificate (1953, number 66255)
- 2) Franklin Co. Probate Court, Record of Naturalization of Minors, Vol. 4, p. 248.
- 3) Columbus Health Department, Record of Deaths, Vol. 3, page 188, line 27 (O.H.S. BV 6636) The story has been pieced together from conflicting records, including the 1900 and 1910 censuses, Hannah's death record, Delia's

marriage record, James's naturalization record, and information passed down to James's granddaughter, Paddy Cleary of Columbus. Mrs. Cleary also provided the precise location of James's birth.

- 4) Franklin County Marriage Record 64/353.
- 5) Information provided from various sources by J. Michael Finn, Ohio State Historian, AOH, including John O'Dea, *History of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and Ladies Auxiliary*, the National Board, 1923, Vol. III, pp 1310, 1376, and 1406.
- 6) *Catholic Columbian*, Aug. 13, 1937
- 7) *Columbus Dispatch*, Dec. 8, 1903
- 8) Franklin County Lease Records 27/597, 36/137, and 55/461
- 9) *ibid.*, 68/243
- 10) *Ohio State Journal*, June 8, 1905
- 11) Taylor, William Alexander, *Centennial History of Columbus*; J. S. Clarke Publishing Co., 1909, II/817-818
- 12) Franklin County Deed Records 767/311 and 843/201
- 13) *Catholic Columbian*, April 10, 1925 golden jubilee edition, page 15
- 14) A new Columbian Printing and Publishing Company was incorporated on June 18, 1932 by E. Mowery, John A. Callahan, and Margaret M. Hammel to print and publish the *Catholic Columbian* but nothing came of this. Secretary of State incorporation record.
- 15) *Ohio State Journal*, Sept. 29, 1934; Aug. 5, 1935; April 13, 1939
- 16) Galbraith, *op. cit.*; *Catholic Times*, Oct. 30, 1953
- 17) Bishop Hartley's correspondence, Archives, Diocese of Columbus
- 18) *Ohio State Journal*, March 1, 1915. See the *Bulletin* of March, 1989 for a sketch of this Tipperary-born priest.
- 19) Incorporation papers, Ohio Secretary of State
- 20) *Catholic Columbian*, February 4, 1938
- 21) *The Catholic Times*, Feb. 16, 1996

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

page 1

**1828**

Dec. 25 Thomas and Peter, sons of Francis Dusouchet and Catherine Surchet; spon. William McCaddon and Barbara Dugan. Richard P. Miles, O.S.D.

**1829**

Jan. 11 Martin McCarty son of Terence McCarty and Ann Burk; spon. James Kennedy and Sarah Webb. RPM

same day Hugh McConnoughy son of Hugh McConnoughy and Jane Maxwell; spon. John and Rose Gallagher. RPM

Jan. 14 James Temple son of William Temple and Bridget Egan; spon. Hugh Sharkey and Elizabeth Rogers. RPM

Jan. 15 David Dougherty son of Patrick Dougherty and Elizabeth Tuttle?; spon. Thomas and Bridget Monaghan.

same day Susan and Mary Ann Coyle, daughters of John Coyle and Margaret Timmony; spon. of Susan, Margaret Slaven and of Mary Ann, Patrick Slaven. RPM

Jan. 16 Ann Timmony daughter of Denis Timmony and Ann Power; spon. Daniel Timmony. RPM

Jan. 18 John Deford, convert; spon. James Kiernan.

same day George Mart, convert; spon. William McCaddon. RPM

Feb. 15 Patrick McGeehan son of Bernard McGeehan and Ann Townslen; spon. Walter Smith and Mary Smith. RPM

same day William McGeehan, son of same; spon. James Sherlock and Frances Sherlock. RPM

Feb. 22 Catharine M. Davis, convert; spon. Susanna Fouche. RPM

Mar. 22 Elizabeth Smith daughter of Walter Smith and Mary Dillon; spon. Cornelius Donolly and Mary Fortune. RPM

May 4 Jane Kelly daughter of Walter Kelly and Susan Kelly; spon. Michael Milligan and Angeline Whelan; Joseph D. O'Leary, O.S.D.

Aug. 2 Margaret McGarry daughter of John McGarry and Elizabeth Williams; spon. John Nunan. RPM

Aug. 5 Elenor McCafferty daughter of Cornelius McCafferty and Mary Keenon; spon. Catherine McCafferty. RPM

Nona Aug. Henry Tittle son of Israel Tittle and Mary Coon; spon. Mary R Tittle. RPM

same day Susan Rinehart daughter of Simon Rinehart and Ellen Mulrine; spon. Elizabeth Timmony. RPM

Aug. 14 Laurence Waldon son of Michael Waldon and Elanor Duffy; spon. Barnabas King and Catherine Roberts. RPM

Aug. 30 Ann McHugh daughter of Michael McHugh and Ann Steen?; spon. James and Frances Sherlock. RPM

page 2

Sept. 20 Margaret daughter of James Clark and Mary Rowe; spon. Edward Lynch and Jane Lynch. RPM

Oct. 10 Margaret Lynch daughter of Thomas Lynch and Egidia Corngan [perhaps originally Corrigan; the existing record is a transcript]; spon. James Fitzpatrick and Margaret Conlan. RPM

Nov. 16 Rebecca daughter of David Kirkpatrick and Hannah Hayt; spon. Thomas Hughs and Frances Sherlock. RPM

Dec. 2 William Aug. son of John Faust and wife Elizabeth; spon. William and Ann McCaddon. RPM

Dec. 9 Elisha son of Elisha Leek and Margaret Magraw; spon. James and Ann Gallagher. RPM

Dec. 11 Daniel son of William Windell and Effa Delong; spon. John Delong and Elizabeth Jeffries.

same day Sara daughter of John Delong and Elizabeth Jones; spon. John and Catherine McDaniel. RPM

Dec. 12 Elizabeth Ann daughter of Peter Ward and Elizabeth Timony; spon. Bridget Ann Gallagher.

same day John Augustine son of Christopher Gallagher and Mary Delong; spon. Robert Gallagher and Effa Windell.

same day Mary A. daughter of Michael Brady and Mary Creaton; spon. Christopher and Bridget Gallagher. RPM

Dec. 13 Cathreine Ann daughter of William Temple and Bridget Egan; spon. Rose Gallagher. RPM

Dec. 14 Priscilla and John children of Michael Creaton and Rachel Conden. RPM

Dec. 25 Ignatius son of Michael Milligan and Eliza Mullen; spon. William and Sarah Mattingly.

same day Mary daughter of David Walsh and Isabell O'Neil; spon. Henry McAnally and Rose Rork. RPM

Dec. 26 James son of James Owens and Elizabeth Ramey; spon. John Herron. RPM

same day Hanna Herron daughter of John [Herron] and Susan A. Smith; spon. James Owens. RPM

### 1830

Nona Feb. Barnabas son of Hugh Murphy and Ann Arkins; spon. Barnabas Murphy and Margaret Slaven.

Feb. 21 Mary daughter of John Worck and Fanny Hooper; spon. William Kane and Margaret Paragy. RPM

Feb. 28 Lydia daughter of Henry Musselman and Lydia Mart; spon. Patrick and Mary Lynch. RPM

(To be continued)

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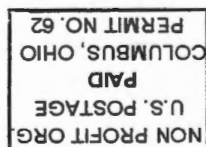
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