

Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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Diocese of Columbus

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Nov. 11: St. Martin of Tours, Patron of Soldiers

November, A.D. 1999

Thurman Flanagan: Kenton's Catholic Hero

This story concludes our series on Hardin County. For sketches of the parents and grandparents of Lt. Flanagan, see the August Bulletin.

On August 30, 1889 their eleventh and last child was born to Dan and Clotilda (Mathews) Flanagan in Kenton. His father named him Grattan Thurman, after Henry Grattan, champion of Irish liberty, and Allen Thurman, prominent Democratic politician from Ohio. The infant was taken to Immaculate Conception Church on October 26 where Father Anthony Siebenfoercher, believing the boy needed a patron saint, baptized him as "Grattan Thurman Aloysius Flanagan." His sponsors were his uncle and aunt, James and Mary (Mathews) Garrity, then living in Iowa. When at the age of thirteen he and his nearest sister Clo stood as sponsors at the baptism of their niece, Father Siebenfoercher again proudly entered his full name in the register, Grattan Thurman Aloysius Flanagan, but to his family and the world he was Thurman.

Thurman lost his mother when he was only seven years old and his father four years later, but he was lovingly raised in the family home at 347 North Main Street by his older sisters and brother, Helen, Clementine, Daisy, Curran, Irene, and Clo. The latter, his next elder sister, was always his closest friend. He was educated by the Sisters of Charity at the parish elementary school, then entered Kenton High School, where



Thurman's Confirmation photograph

he graduated in 1907. According to J. R. Stillings, who knew Thurman all his life, "His course in school was always creditable and his popularity among his fellow students undoubted. There are many who still [in 1921] recall with pleasure, his prowess on the football field. I think that it was here, in fact, that I first noticed, what always seemed to me his most impelling characteristic, a sort of dominating earnestness. Football was a sport to him, a sport to be played fairly and cleanly, but when his time came to hit the opposing line, he hit it with every intention of going straight on through." This earnestness carried through into his studies, his newspaper career, and his army service.

He started in boyhood as a newspaper carrier for his father and followed this by learning to set type. Following his high school graduation he continued to work at the *Democrat* for two years, where his brother Curran was editor and their sister Clementine assisted in the front office.

From 1909 until 1911 Thurman attended The Ohio State University in Columbus, enrolled in the College of Arts in a preparatory course for journalism. He was a careful student but not a bookworm, his eyes always on a future with the *Kenton Democrat*. He joined Phi Kappa Psi, a social fraternity, and his college associates were among his best friends. While in Columbus, he frequently was asked to cover important assignments for the papers of that city and his work brought appreciation and notice.

Early on it had become apparent that Thurman had a "nose for news" and this developed, along with "industry, courage, judgement and a virile style" which improved as the years passed. After returning to Kenton he rose to the position of assistant manager and associate editor at the *Democrat* and had, apparently, a bright journalistic future. He was recognized by the state's newspapermen as one of their most brilliant young writers.

During these years he was a member of Company I, Ohio National Guard, the Knights of Columbus, and the Holy Name Society. For many years he was a member of the men's choir, lending his voice and talent to make more beautiful the worship of God in Immaculate Conception Church. He later was described by his friend Grant Moore as "manly, masterful, full of courage, and withall so gentle and kindly and patient... bore no malice, harbored no unworthy thought; spoke no unkind word...knew there is nothing so kingly as kindness and nothing quite so royal as truth."

Stirred by the proclamations of the Democratic Party and influenced by the machinations of the British, America entered the World War and President Wilson asked for volunteers. Thurman volunteered for the first Army Officers' Training Camp in 1917 but was turned down. He was accepted for the second class and left for Fort Sheridan, Chicago in August. At the close of this training on November 27 he ranked twelfth in the class of nine hundred and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. During the one-month furlough that followed, "His affectionate desire to care for loved ones was prominently apparent. ...His ancestry was more than ever apparent. His heart was in his cause, and all the earnestness of boyhood had gathered together again for another smash at the line. Like every other Celtic boy, he had dreamed just such drams long ago; dreams of battle, dreams of war, dreams of heroism, sacrifice and struggle; dreams of things so fine and brave, that he could feel them rather than see them..." He left Kenton on December 27 and sailed for France in January.

Soon after landing he entered the Infantry Specialists' School. After completing this training he was attached to the 139th Infantry and soon was transferred to the 106th. While with this regiment he saw his first service at the front. He was sent out into No Man's Land with a little squad that became lost in the dark for hours,

but he finally was able to lead them back to the trench, every man safe and sound. His captain wrote, "He had a hold on his men and they had a real affection for him. He was always cheerful no matter how scant the rations were or how deep was the mud of Flanders. He was an officer, who showed up well in the line because he had a cool head and was fearless."

He then was assigned to Company L, 58th Infantry and was sent to an advanced training school for two weeks before returning to the front. His company, commanded by his Captain and with himself the only other officer, was ordered onto the gigantic Meuse-Argonne battlefield, where the Allies were attempting to dislodge the German Imperial forces, who were defending the woods with numerous forces armed with machine-guns. The company advanced early on the morning of October 4, Thurman's platoon in the lead. They had followed Thurman for some three hundred yards when he and a number of the men were hit. Thurman's wounds were painful. His Sergeant put a gas mask on him, dressed the wounds as best he could, and had him carried off the field.

Attended by a Catholic priest, who comforted him with the Sacraments, Thurman died on October 5, 1918 in a field hospital. He was buried in a little American cemetery on the side of a hill near the village of Senancourt sur Meuse.

Thurman's death was devastating to his friends and family in Kenton. His beloved sister Clo, heartbroken at his loss, died in 1919. His friend Grant Moore wrote, "Who can be living, since Thurman Flanagan is dead?" He was the only graduate of Kenton High School who died in the World War.

No doubt through efforts of the family, Thurman's body was returned to Kenton, arriving on Thursday, July 21, 1921. The remains were met by a detail of World War

veterans and members of Company E, Ohio National Guard, who escorted them to the family home on North Main Street and formed a guard over them until their final interment in St. Mary's Cemetery. On Friday morning a procession formed on North Main Street, consisting of Kenton Post of the American Legion, Company E of the Ohio National Guard, Cantwell Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, veterans of the Spanish-American War, and the Knights of Columbus. The veterans of three wars escorted Thurman's remains through streets lined with people, to Immaculate Conception Church, where the people followed but hundreds of them could not enter because of the crowded conditions. There Thurman's funeral Mass was offered by the pastor, Father H. J. Schumacher, accompanied by the choir of men with whom Thurman had so often sung. Father Schumacher, it was said, shaken by emotion, delivered that morning one of the most powerful addresses ever heard in the city of Kenton. His words were quoted in full in the *Kenton Daily Democrat*. After the Mass, the procession re-formed and carried the casket past the office of the *Democrat* to St. Mary's Cemetery. Father Schumacher again briefly presided before turning the service over to the American Legion, which carried out its service of prayer, musket salute, and taps.

The loss of Thurman Flanagan was felt throughout Kenton, but J. R. Stillings wrote, "I can not think then, that even had he known, he would have changed his life. Into its last hours, were crowded more glorious, glowing and beautiful visions, than pass into the course of many ordinary lives. His home town enshrines his memory, his country enrolls him among her heroes, and the lap of the homeland he loved, proudly and lovingly holds his ashes."

+++

Dan Flanagan has no descendants living in Hardin County today. Of all his and Clotilda's children, only two, Curran and Irene, married

and had children. Curran's only grandson lives in the Los Angeles area. Irene married Frank Owen Dugan. They lived in Columbus from 1919 until 1959, where Frank was a coal dealer. Their only child was Helen Owen Dugan (1902-1993) whom they had educated at St. Mary's in Kenton, St. Mary's of the Springs and The Ohio State University in Columbus, and Columbia University. She married G. Francis Doughty. Their only daughter, Mary Clo Owen of Gales Ferry, Ct., provided the photograph of Thurman.

SOURCES

The published sources for Thurman are:

Blue, Herbert T., *Centennial History of Hardin County, Ohio*, 1933, pp 131-132

Kenton Daily Democrat, Nov. 7, 1918; July 21, 1921; July 22, 1921

Abstracts from *The Catholic Telegraph* (Continued from Vol. XXIV, No. 10)

January 11, 1849 (concluded)
Subscriptions: Phillip Patton, Canal Fulton, O.; Levi Sapp, Danville, O.; Thomas McShane and W. I. Clark, Somerset, O.; Ch. Gallagher, Temperanceville, O.; James McGuinness, Steubenville, O.; Rev. C. P. Montgomery, Martin Welsh, John McGee, Mich. Kelly, James Green, Thomas Prasser, John Lilly, and Pat Kennedy, Zanesville, O.; Mrs. Goddard, Gallipolis, O.

January 18, 1849
ZANESVILLE, Jan. 5th, 1849.
MR. EDITOR:--

...Died, on the 19th ult., in this town, in the 86th year of his age, Mr. JOHN LYNCH.... Mr. L. was a native of Castle Town at the foot of Taraghe hill, county Meath, Ireland; where he lived for

many years, respected for his religious deportment and industrious habits. But having beheld with grief the atrocities committed under the sanction of the English government against his religion and his loved country...he, and several of his brothers, with their families, separated themselves, not from Ireland, but from her wicked government....

Mr. Lynch came to the United States in 1817, and in 1820 travelled westward in company with one of his brothers, Mr. Patrick Lynch, who departed this life about 14 months ago, much esteemed for his great virtues. They settled down in this place in hopes of having, ere long, the full enjoyment of their religion; for here at that time Rev. Father N. D. Young came once a month to celebrate Mass, and console the few Catholics with the word of life. Here these two brothers "of one heart and one soul," most zealously laboured in building, the first Catholic Church of this town, and the third in the state...

The virtues of these two brothers...came with them to the United States, and flourished here as brightly as at home. They were neither ashamed of the country that gave them birth, nor of the religion that consoled them during life, and fortified them at the approach of death.... Mr. Lynch had been long preparing himself for his last moments, yet he never ceased to labor for his family's maintenance, always however endeavoring to sanctify his toils with pure intentions.... On Friday, within the Octave of the Nativity of our Lord, he calmly gave up his soul to our Lord, who came to visit him at this Holy season. He sank into the arms of death as an infant into balmy repose, without the least struggle, and on the following Sunday, his corpse, as was his wish, was conveyed to the Church, where, for the repose of his soul, a Requiem was sung by Rev. Father Wilson, and a most impressive sermon preached by Reverend Father C. P. Montgomery.

...May the soul of Mr. Lynch, and of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

(To be continued)

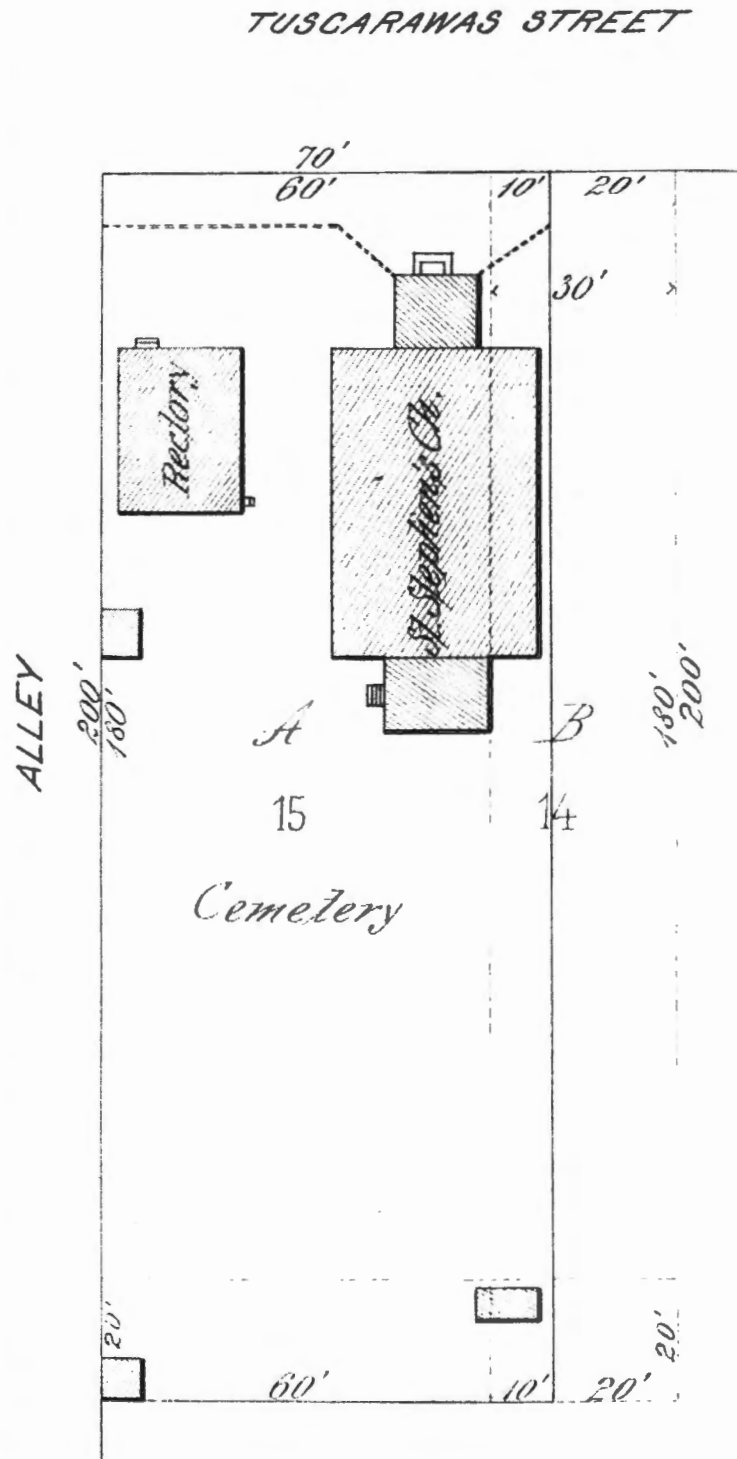
St. Martin (now St. Stephen) Cemetery, Bolivar

(Concluded, from Vol. XXIV, No. 10)

On November 4, 1856 title to the former brick township school building on Tuscarawas Street in Bolivar was transferred from the Lawrence Township Board of Education to Archbishop Purcell of Cincinnati. This building was remodeled to serve as a church for the Catholics of the community and was named after St. Martin. It seems likely that the patron of the church was chosen from the middle name of Father Dieter Martin Winands, pastor of St. Joseph in Dover, who had charge of the new mission at Bolivar. A cemetery was established on the vacant land behind the church.

Early in 1882, Mr. Sophonicus Lash of Navarre donated a bell to the church of St. Martin. The bell was joyfully accepted, but caused immediate dismay, since the church had no bell tower. Father Henry Dues, the pastor, called a meeting of the congregation, at which it was decided to dismantle the brick building and replace it with a more suitable structure. The new church, of frame construction, with a bell tower, was erected on the same site as the former church, at the north entrance of the present cemetery. This new church was dedicated by Bishop Watterson under the patronage of St. Stephen on November 4, 1882.

The church of St. Stephen was destroyed by a tornado in 1902 and was replaced by a new church of stone and brick, a short distance north in the village. The old site eventually became used strictly for burial purposes.



*St. Stephen's in Bolivar,
from the diocesan property book of the 1880s.*

Row 5 North

five illegible stones

+ Clara Catherina daughter [sic] of J. & E. Kohl, died Ap. 2, 1870 age 9 Y 5 M 27 D R.I.P.

Anna Teresa daughter of Felix & M. Lab, died Oct. 10, 1871 aged 1 mo & 19 d

----- [child of] A. & M. Lab died July 29, 1873? aged 13 D.

Stephen A. son of A. & E. Gilbert, died July 19, 1875, aged 5 m & 19 d

Urbanus [Sohn von] ---- Aman, [died] -- Feb. , 1881, aged 9 Jr 9 m 17 t

Ranah Matilda, daughter of --- & Nora Reger, died Nov. 10, 1882, aged 8? yrs 7 m 19 d

Nicholas Phillips Rokisky Dec. 4, 1991

{Mohart: June M. June 23, 1926 - Nov. 26, 1989

{ Charles A. Feb. 9, 1924 - blank

{ wed June 19, 1948 In God's care

[Hall: Charles J. Sept. 4, 1935 - blank

[Cletus Z., Nov. 25, 1926 - Dec. 17, 1993

[married Oct. 19, 1961

Row 6 North (The stones in rows 6 and 8 are on the north end of the lot, on the site of the original St. Martin Church.)

{Burkhart: Walter J. Jr. May 13, 1925 - July 18, 1997

{ Wanda M. Sept 15, 1943 - blank

{ married Feb. 4, 1967

second stone: Walter J. Burkhart, TEC 4 US ARMY WORLD WAR II PURPLE HEART

Row 7 North is empty

Row 8 North

John F. Reicosky Jan. 21, 1913 + Apr. 27, 1983

Row 1 South is empty

Row 2 South

Martin E. Kullman, 1884 + 1957

Leona T. Kullman, 1832-1945

Mary A. Kullman, 1891+1944

William D. Kullman, 1929-1936

{Anna R. Robbins, 1869-1940

{Joseph J. Robbins, 1872-1959

[(Son) David R. Robbins, 1940

[(Father) Charles W. Robbins, 1906-1950 Rest in Peace.

Row 3 South

Joseph Nolty 1851-1925

Mary Nolty 1855-1922

Elizabeth M. Kullman 1912-1925

Martin Lawrence Robbins 1904+1921

Earl Hanenkrat 1908-1927

{Miller: Edward J. July 16, 1893 - Dec. 23, 1966

{ Emma E. June 6, 1887 - Feb. 29, 1968

Row 4 South

Walter D., son of ----- Huth, born Nov. 22?, 1883, died Mar? 6?, 1886

{Weaver: Lissetta 1851-blank

{ Charles W. 1836-1908

[Jacob Heim, died Sept. 15, 1902, aged 47 Y 10 M 9 D

[Emma M. daughter of J. & C. Heim, died Sept. 3, 1898, aged 18 Y 8 M 7 D

{Mike Maher 1846-1915

{Kate Maher 1852-blank

three concrete crosses

Marguerite D. Baker 1914-1940

Rows 5, 6, and 7 are empty

Row 8 South

{Meyer: Edward J. 1897-1967

{ Mildred E. 1905-1960

[Janson: Victor C. 1904-1964

[Alma G. 1908-1966

Sallie Fannie Henison 1906+1962

John F. Meyers Jr. 1971-1997

{LeGlise: Philip F. Sept. 13, 1916 - blank

{ Marie M. Mar. 30, 1918 - Sept. 11, 1998

Philip John Worley Born in Toledo April 10, 1928 Died in Zoar February 9, 1903

{Ewing: Margaret M. Dec. 7, 1935 - blank

{ John A. July 5, 1932 - Mar. 4, 1976

second stone: John Andrew Ewing, Cpl US Army Korea

{Tarr: Sonia Galay Aug. 25, 1938 - Oct. 17, 1989

{ David F. Apr. 18, 1937 - blank

[Breitmeier: Mary A. Sept. 11, 1918 - blank

[Frederick R. Jan. 5, 1915 - Dec. 28, 1992

[married Sept. 21, 1940

Row 10 South

{Murray: Ramon V. Apr. 5, 1929 - blank

{ Sylvia T. Mar. 13, 1928 - blank

{ Mitchell E. Nov. 13, 1955 - Mar. 10, 1974

{ Viola Kay July 12, 1962 - Sept. 22, 1978

{ Patrick R. Mar. 6, 1954 - Aug. 20, 1991

Lida Henison Myers 1926 + blank

Earl Blair Myers 1915 + blank

Cletus Lee LeGlise Jan. 24, 1950 - May 7, 1964

Carl P. LeGlise Sept. 30, 1943 + Jan. 13, 1966
 {Lab: Mary C. 1894-1978
 { Felix H. 1892-1970
 + James M. Tallman Ohio PFC Co A 168 Infantry World War II,
 Aug. 26, 1914 - Nov. 26, 1967
 {McDonnell: devoted mother M. Dorothy 1911-1981
 { beloved father Michael 1901-1982
 Shaun M. Arter Aug. 2, 1960 - Aug. 19, 1990
 {Lundenberger: Mary L. Feb. 20, 1937 - blank
 { Maurice H. Nov. 21, 1932 - blank
 { married Dec. 15, 1955
 { James S. Dec. 14, 1960 - Jan. 1, 1982; second stone: US Navy
 [Clark: Fairy July 3, 1912 - Jan. 9, 1996
 [Andrew J. July 18, 1913 - Jan. 5, 1991

Row 11 South

{Lab: Raymond C. May 8, 1896 - Sept. 12, 1972
 { Mary E. Dec. 7, 1896 - June 29, 1982 Thy will be done.
 2nd stone: Raymond C. Lab Ohio Pvt Co L 163 Infantry World War I

Samuel Raymond Black Aug. 7, 1939 - Mar. 21, 1993
 Mickey P. Jennings 1939-1994
 beloved son Donald P. (Donny) Hathaway Sept. 21, 1958 - Dec. 31, 1995 To know him was to love him.
 {Lab: William J. Oct. 15, 1931 - Feb. 2, 1996; 2nd stone: PFC US ARMY KOREA
 { Irene M. Apr. 10, 1934 - blank
 { married Nov. 24, 1956
 Trey A. Anderson Hardy 1996 + 1996
 Rose Parsons May 3, 1926 - Oct. 3, 1997 In God's care. Beloved mother.



Correction -- Frische

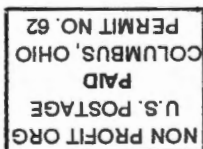
In the June *Bulletin* it was incorrectly stated that the cemetery at Old St. Peter's near Wheelersburg was donated by Everhardt and Mary Adelaide Frische. The wife's name as recorded in the deed was simply Mary A. Frische.

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Donald M. Schlegel, editor



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