

CHESTER TIMES – October 14, 1915 – SOCIETY HAS A GOLDEN JUBILEE – Fiftieth Anniversary of St. Mary's Beneficial Association of Kellyville, Observed

The fiftieth anniversary of St. Mary's Beneficial Society of Kellyville was celebrated last night with a banquet and entertainment in St. Charles' School Hall, Oakview. Over 200 members with their wives and invited friends were present.

President Luke Gillespie, Sr., who has held that office continuously for 33 years, was absent on account of illness, and Secretary James Gordon, Sr., presided pro tem. Mr. Gordon has been secretary for the past 40 years. After an address of welcome Vice President Thomas A. Dougherty moved the society extent felicitations to their president. This met with a hearty response.

He stated but a few on the charter members of the organization were now living. These included besides himself, Thomas F. Manley and High Sweeney, who were present and Peter Carney, Thomas Kelley and Timothy Whalen.

Vice President Dougherty gave an interesting review of the society and its endeavors for the past 50 years. He stated \$25,950 had been paid out for sick and death benefits. He was followed by Frank McCue, secretary of the national body, who delivered an impressive speech. Other speakers were John Dider of Wayne; John J. Kierney of Philadelphia; Rev. M. G. Scully, rector of St. Charles' Church, and Rev. A. John Moran. All of these had nothing but words of praise for the society and the good work it has accomplished.

A first class entertainment was next enjoyed, all the numbers being roundly encored. The program follows: Frank Ogden, musical novelty; songs, Viola Wilson; songs and stories, J. Hughes; juggler, Charles Thomas; songs and stories, James O'Brien; German stories, Julius Herman; songs, Charles O'Donnell of Clifton Heights.

The committee in charge of the anniversary consisted of these members: Philip Kerlin, chairman; Thomas Paulley, Patrick McGowan, Patrick Kelley, Thomas McGowan, John Galligan, Sr., Harry Smith, John Galligan, Sr., Harry Smith, John Manley, Andrew Douge, Sr., Luke Gillespie, John McCormack, Charlese O'Donnell, John Gilligan, Jr., James Gorrell Michael Barrow, Frank Sharkey.

HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION – St. Mary's Beneficial Society of Kellyville was instituted October 13, 1865, in old St. Charles' Church, Kellyville, by Rev. Father Albernia, S. J., who was conducting a mission at the church. The first officers who were elected by acclamation were: Rev. Richard O'Connor, president; James Patton, vice president; John Manley, Sr., secretary; Thomas J. Brown, treasurer; Thomas Ring, messenger. These men are now all dead.

The charter was granted to the society by the court of common pleas of this county, August 29, 1866, on motion of George E. Darlington, Esq., who was solicitor for the society. O. F. Bullard was prothonotary and Thomas Fairlamb was recorder of deeds.

The charter members were Richard Adair, John Bray, Thomas J. Brown, James S. Barrett, Patrick Callahan, Owen Carlin, Peter Carney Nichols Carroll, Patrick Dolan, John Dermody, William Dodds, Patrick Devenney, Thomas Green, Michael Clancy, Hugh Gallagher, Sr., Hugh Gallagher, Jr., Martin Goggins, James Gallen, Michael Hollahan, Thomas F. Johnston, John Jordan, James Jordan, Samuel Johnston, Charles B. Kelly, Daniel A. Kelly, John Kelly, Thomas Kelly Sr., Thomas Kelly, Jr., James Kelly, Timothy A. Kelly, Maurice Kane, Joseph Lindsay, Thomas Lindsay Francis K. Loughrey, John Manley, Thomas Manley, Sr., Thomas F. Manley, Nicholas Malloy, John Murray, James Murray, Patrick Matthews William McLoughlin, Neal McFadden, Hugh McLoughlin, Michael McGlenn, John McGoldrick, Edward McClearn,

Jr., Michael McMenamin, Andrew McMenamin, James McMenamin, Denis McLoughlin, Martin McLoughlin, John McCabe, Michael McGouldrick, Daniel McCormick, James McCabe, Daniel McGarrigan, Patrick McHugh, Bernard McCready, Michael McCready, Dennis McNulty, Charles McMenamin, Martin Nugent, James Nawn, William Orr, James Orr, James Patton, Samuel Patton, John Parr James Quinn, Redmond Quinn, Patrick Quinn, Edward Quinn, Thomas Ring, Robert Russell, John Reynolds, William Randolph, Patrick Scanlan, Charles Schreder, Dennis Sweeney, Hugh Sweeney, John Shillingford, Edward Slavin, Miles Sweeney, Peter Schreder, Martin Whelan, Jr., Timothy Whelan, William Wall, Hugh Waters. Of this number all are dead but fifteen.

During the spring and summer of 1865, many of the soldiers were at the front during the Civil War. When they returned to their homes St. Mary's Society was honored by the presence of members of the 58th, 68th, 69th, 90th, 91st, 97th, 116th, 124th, Pennsylvania Volunteers; the 2d, 3d and 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry; the 17th United States Infantry and sailors and marines from the United States Navy. These men who had served their country, but many of whom are now dead, became members of the society.

The presidents of the society have been as follows: Rev. Richard O'Connor, James Batton, Thomas Manley, Sr., Thomas F. Johnston, Thomas Brown, John Bray, Joseph Lindsay, and Luke Gillespie, Sr.

One of the charter members, John B. Kelly was ordained a priest and was appointed by the late Bishop Wood of Philadelphia in July, 1873, to build the rectorship of the Immaculate Heart Church, Chester. Father Kelly never served this charge because he died very suddenly in Atlantic City, July 5, Father Kelly left Philadelphia for Atlantic City, on the following morning. He celebrated mass in the Augustinian Church, Atlantic City. After mass he left for a stroll along the beach, where he suddenly died. Rev. F. J. McShane, L. S. A. of the church, who was present when Father Kelly was stricken, gave him the final absolution. He was buried in Kellyville cemetery, Thursday, July 10, 1873. His funeral was the largest ever seen in the eastern end of the county.

St. Mary's Beneficial Society in its fifty years of existence has been a blessing to the members and their families in times of sickness and death. The society is now in splendid financial condition. The officers today are: President Luke Gillespie, Sr., who has been chief executive of the society for thirty-three years James Jordan is secretary, and he has held this position for forty years; vice-president, Thomas A. Dougherty; treasurer, Martin Dermody; stewards, Hugh Sweeney and Harry Smith; messenger, Hugh Scanlan.