



Window featuring St. Anne and Mary
Donated by John Sweitzer Sr. Family

John Sweitzer, another immigrant from Germany, was born on July 17, 1844, in Baden, Germany. His father died when he was 4 years old, and his mother cared for John (the youngest) and his four siblings. When he was 20 years old (1864), he and his brother Frank came to America. They initially came to Cincinnati, Ohio, and lived there for a short while before coming to Cobden and settling here.

After a short stint with the limekilns in Anna, John went to work for James Bell, a major fruit grower in Cobden at the time. John enjoyed farm work and learned all he could from Mr. Bell for sixteen years.

In 1882, John purchased his own 90 acres of fertile land near Cobden (currently the Spalt homestead and surrounding acres). His long and faithful employment with Mr. Bell had trained him well in the intricacies of fruit and vegetable growing and he was able to prosper on his own. He added to his original purchase and eventually owned 178 acres of valuable fruit land, as well as a residence and farm buildings.

By the early 1900s, he was shipping large quantities of apples, peaches, pears, rhubarb and asparagus. He also raised several acres of sweet potatoes, shipping over 1,000 a season. He produced considerable quantities of hay and wheat for his cattle, hogs and horses.

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Priests of the past

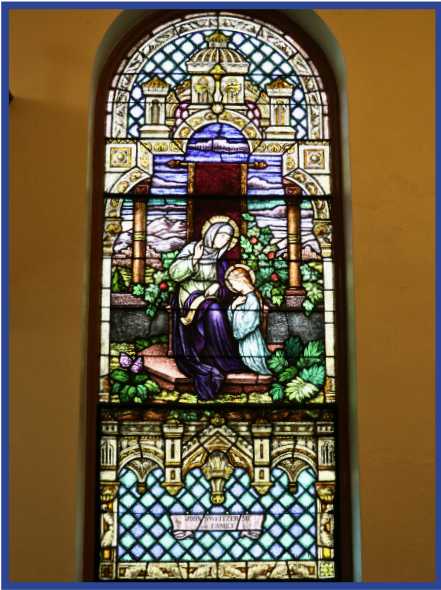
Rev. Charles Frankovich 1942-1952

In November 1942 Father Frankovich was assigned as pastor. On January 23, 1946 the rectory was destroyed by fire, nothing being salvaged except a few parish books. The loyal parishioners willingly helped to remove the debris and raise money to build a beautiful seven-room modern brick rectory at the cost of \$14,000.



Father Charles Frankovich

Stained glass window of The Blessed Virgin Mary and her mother St. Anne.
~Donated by the family of John Sweitzer Sr.



Father's corner: The Faith of our Grandparents



This month we remember and celebrate Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandparents of the Lord Jesus.

Through them, tradition helps us become more aware of the value of being in contact with

the "large family (grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins and other relatives) and, in particular, of the importance of grandparents, with whom we share "intergenerational encounters and dialogue...

The Aparecida Document reminds us: "Children and the elderly build the future of peoples. Children because they will carry history forward; the elderly because they transmit the experience and wisdom of their lives."

Joachim and Anne – patron saints of grandparents – were people of profound faith and trust in God's promises. Both raised the Virgin Mary in the faith of

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Stories from the pews

St. Joseph's has a special place in many hearts. This was demonstrated in a conversation with Karol Sweitzer Gill and her husband, Gary. While they are currently not living in Cobden, but in Texas, they purchased the home that Karol and her siblings grew up in on new Highway 51. When Karol and her husband are in town, Karol said they frequently attend Mass in Anna because of the 8 a.m. Mass schedule. However, on June 22, they made a point of coming to Mass at St. Joseph. This was their 40th wedding anniversary and they wanted to attend Mass in the church where they were married. Karol played a special part in St. Joseph's Liturgy. When she was a high school student, she was the organist for Sunday Masses.

~Contributed by Paulette Aronson



St. Joseph School Class of 1931

Charles Ehrhardt, Edlein Stegle, Pauline Fischer, Irene Menees, Edward Sweitzer



St. Joseph Catholic Church, Cobden

The Sweitzer family (CONTINUED)

He married Mamie Caising in 1870, who died in 1874, leaving him three sons to raise: Edward, Harry and Fred. His second marriage in 1879 was to Annie Bigler, whose father had migrated from Switzerland. John and Annie had eight children, all who were raised in Cobden and graduated from Cobden High School: Joseph (from who Karl Sweitzer descended), Annie, John, Mary, Josie, Charles, Frances and Emma. The John Sweitzer family name is on the window featuring Mother Mary as a child with her mother, St. Ann. The Sweitzer family has long held a particular devotion to the Blessed Mother, so it is no surprise John sponsored a window featuring her. We suspect, though we do not know for certain, that his beloved wife's name being Ann (Annie), this contributed to his decision to sponsor this window with Mother Mary AND St. Ann.

~Thank you to Karol Sweitzer and Molly Cerny for this article.

Father's corner (CONTINUED)

the People of Israel, nurturing in her a love for the Creator and contributing in a unique way to preparing Our Mother for her unique vocation. It is through her parents that Mary joins that portion of the chosen people who await the arrival of the Savior of humanity, the Messiah. Through the figures of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, the treasure that grandparents represent within the family is highlighted, especially in the educational aspect. The Pope said that grandparents "are custodians and often witnesses of life's fundamental values." Pope Francis also emphasized that "Saints Joachim and Anne are part of that long chain that has transmitted the faith and love of God, in the warmth of the family, to Mary, who welcomed the Son of God into her womb and gave him to the world, and has given him to us." We give special thanks to all the generations who have passed through our community, leaving a strong mark of faith in every heart. It is a tremendous testimony to see that every Sunday we gather as a family in our St. Joseph's Church to live out our faith, and today, in a special way, we give thanks to all the grandparents and parents who continue to be God's instruments in transmitting the faith to each of their children and grandchildren. "How precious is the value of the family, as a privileged place to transmit the faith!"