

Margaret Cunningham
Feb. 14, 1872 - March 25, 1966

Miss Cunningham Is Taken by Death, Services To Be Held on Monday

A person long identified with Dayton and its area, Miss Margaret Cunningham, 94, died yesterday in Monroe Manor Nursing Home.

Her funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Monday in St. James Catholic Church at Dayton, whose congregation is only three years older than Mrs. Cunningham. Burial will be in St. James Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Becker Funeral Home in Belleville after 1:30 p.m. tomorrow. The Rosary service will be at 8 p.m. tomorrow.

Miss Cunningham was born on St. Valentine's Day in 1872, the daughter of James and Catherine Joyce Cunningham, both natives of Ireland, who were married in Dayton. Miss Margaret was the oldest of their three children. Both of her brothers, James and John, are deceased. James was a longtime clerk of Exeter Township. Miss Cunningham had two half-sisters and four half-brothers, from her father's first marriage.

For 16 years she taught rural schools in the Dayton area — five years each at East and West Dayton and then, at Ferguson. Her first year of teaching was at Hard-scrabble to complete a term. In those days teachers could stay but five years at one school.

Miss Margaret was eight years old when the family moved from the Exeter Township home farm, 1 1/2 miles from Dayton, which her father had taken up from the government in 1884. Her father died a couple years after moving to Dayton. The mother died in 1918, when she was past 80.

Miss Cunningham had a wealth of historical background of her community — and recalled it well and often, as if it were yesterday.

She had been in nursing homes since she fell in her home at Dayton nine years ago.

There are no immediate survivors. A nephew, Dr. John Cunningham is in Indiana. Another nephew is Msgr. Donald A. Cunningham, Austin, Minn.