MEMORIAL MASS
Memorial Mass will be held Sunday, May 24 at 11:30 a.m. Weather permitting, services will be held outside the Memorial Chapel. Father Gene Contadino will preside. Please join us.

All gave some—some gave all. We honor all the soldiers who give us our freedom.

GUSTAV STOMPS
STOMPS BURKHARDT CHAIR COMPANY

The Stombs Burkhardt Chair Company manufactured good quality chairs and rockers and was known for their flair in woodworking. They were famous for their Roman type chairs with a boat seat. The chairs are still known throughout the antique market.

Gustav Stomps, the son of a civil engineer, was born in Prussia (now Germany) on Sept. 29, 1827. Stomps received an excellent education in the German school system where he learned the trade of leather tanning. Stomps left Germany in the spring of 1848 during the political disturbances of Germany. He landed in New York with only a few cents in his pocket. Stomps stayed in New York for six months before coming to Cincinnati where his oldest brother, Joseph, was living. There he found employment at McCabe’s tannery. In 1850 Stomps contracted smallpox and during his recovery time he learned the trade of chair making. By 1851 Gustav and Joseph manufactured chairs in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. A year later a flood destroyed most of Lawrenceburg. The Stomps brothers sold out their company and moved to Dayton where they worked with several furniture manufacturers.

In 1860 The G. Stomps Bro. & Company was established with Gustav and Joseph Stomps, and Martin Brabec. They produced chairs of all kinds—upholstered, leather, plush, cane and wood seat chairs, and rockers. On Nov. 2, 1869 R.P. Burkhardt purchased Martin Brabec’s interest in the company and a month later Gustav bought out his brother’s interest. The firm then became known as G. Stomps & Co. Soon thereafter the plant installed machinery that would enable them to produce chairs by machine instead of by hand. The chair factory and two-story office was located at 229-233 East First Street near Mill Street. The warehouse was one block south on Canal Street. The buildings were on opposite sides of the Erie Canal. The chairs were shipped by canal boat to their eventual destinations. (The Erie Canal was eventually filled in and is now Patterson Boulevard.)

On December 11, 1884 after all the employees were gone for the day, a fire started near the packing room on the 2nd floor. Flammable material such as lumber shavings, paint and varnish made the fire spread quickly. The fire was contained to one building, but the loss was estimated to be at least $40,000.00. Insurance covered only $17,000.00 of the loss.

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Stomps married Catherine Mahrt in 1852. Catherine, also a native German, was born on April 7, 1828. She came to the United States in 1850 and resided in Philadelphia for some time. It is interesting to note that Catherine’s sister, Anna, had come to the states prior to Catherine. She married Joseph Stomps, Gustav’s brother, and they resided in Cincinnati. It was Gustav’s job to travel to Philadelphia to escort the newly arrived Catherine to Cincinnati to be with her sister. The two must have gotten along during the trip as they were married soon after. The union of Gustav and Catherine bore eight children—Mary Adelaide (Burkhardt), Catherine (Vogel), Elizabeth (Stengel), Theresa (Kramer), Anna (Mahrt), Francis, Gustave and Rose. Stomps first child, Mary Adelaide, married R.P. Burkhardt who bought into the Stomps Chair Company. The company also employed Stomps’ son and most of his sons-in-law. A young 14 month old son, Karl, died May 18, 1870 drowning in a cistern. The Stomps attended Emmanuel Church.

On June 26, 1890, Gustav was on his way to his youngest daughter’s graduation in Oldenburg, Indiana. She was to graduate as valedictorian of her class. Gustav and Catherine left Dayton for the ceremony. The weather was extremely warm. Gustav was overcome with the heat and died of a stroke in Batesville, Indiana before ever reaching the graduation. He left his family a fortune. Catherine Mahrt Stomps died May 9, 1911.

The company name was changed to Stomps Burkhardt Company. At its peak from 1890-1900 the company employed 250 workers and had sales offices in Ohio, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and overseas. The company was hurt by the flood of 1913 and liquidated in 1928.

Richard Peter Burkhardt was the son-in-law of Gustav Stomps and president and manager of the Stomps Burkhardt Chair Company. Born in Baden, Germany on October 28, 1845 the son of Joseph and Theresia (Berberich) Burkhardt. They came to the United States in 1850 with their seven children and settled in Dayton. One child, Frank Stephen, had come to the United States earlier. The children of Joseph and Theresia are Frank Stephen, Theresa (Huberty), Gertrude (Burkhardt), August, John V., Mary (Sacksteder), Mark A., and Richard P. Jr., the youngest.

Richard was five years old when his parents came to the United States. He attended parochial grade school and St. Marys Institute and later became an errand boy in the cabinetmaker’s union. Burkhardt apprenticed as a cabinetmaker with Philip Haverstick. He took employment with the M. Ohmer Co., a furniture manufacturing company, and remained there until a fire destroyed the company in 1869. In 1869 Burkhardt purchased an interest in the G. Stomps & Co., manufacturer of chairs. Eleven years later on November 21, 1871 he married the boss’ daughter, Mary Adelaide Stomps. On January 1, 1890 the company merged into the Stomps-Burkhardt Company with Burkhardt as vice-president. Six months later Gustav Stomps died and Burkhardt became president of the company. Burkhardt invented several machines used to manufacture chairs. Mary Adelaide Stomps Burkhardt, born August 27, 1853 died on May 12, 1893. She was only 39 years old. They had six children—Richard P. Jr., William M. (both worked for the company), Mary A., Catherine T. (Wagner), Eleanor (Keyes) and a child that died in infancy. The health of R. P. Burkhardt declined after a trip to Europe. He died several years later on October 25, 1912.

Judy Pavy—Calvary Employee Marks 25 Years

Judy Pavy has been with Calvary Cemetery for 25 years. Pavy started in March 1984 as administrative assistant. In 1999 she was promoted to Marketing/Public Relations director, a position she currently holds. Pavy is married to Tom Pavy and has two beautiful, successful daughters, Krishna and Kalindi Mehlick. Judy enjoys gardening and traveling. Her passion is traveling to Hawaii and hopes to move there when she wins the lottery. Superintendent, Rick Meade adds, “Her most noteworthy accomplishment is the thousands of families she has helped in designing memorials for their loved ones.”