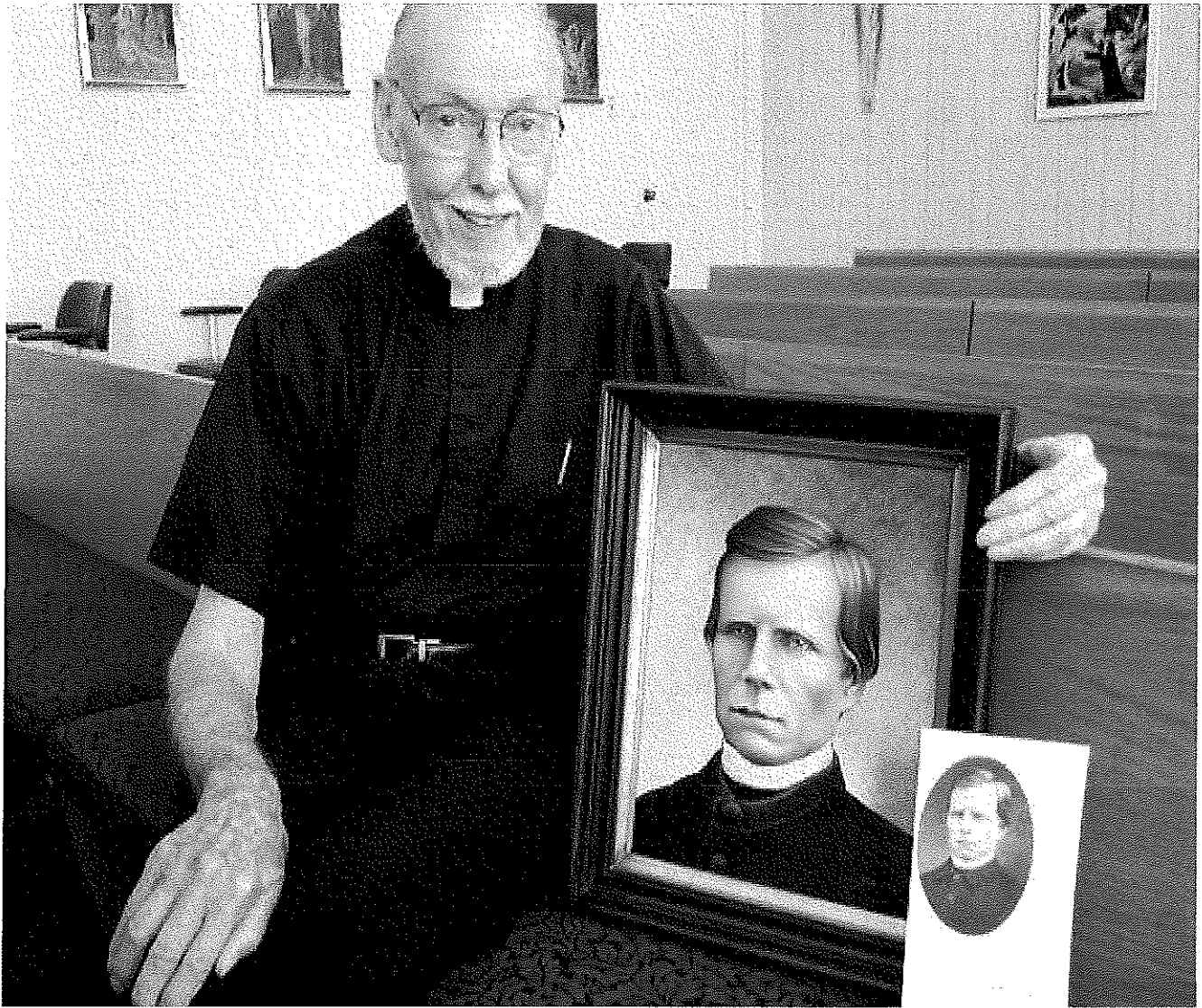


REVEREND FATHER PHILIP SERAPHIN ZORN

August 15, 1825 -- April 14, 1906

REVEREND FATHER PHILIP SERAPHIN ZORN
AUGUST 15, 1825 -- APRIL 14, 1900



The Rev. Francis Partridge, a priest at the Augustine Center Sacramentine Monastery in Conway, shows a portrait of Father Philip Seraphim Zorn. Jane Cardinal of Harbor Springs painted the portrait for the celebration of Zorn's reburial at Holy Childhood Church in Harbor Springs.

REVEREND FATHER PHILIP SERAPHIN ZORN
AUGUST 15, 1825 -- APRIL 14, 1900

Harbor Light Newspaper,
April 10, 2013
By Jessica Evans

**Zorn Park Namesake, Father Philip Zorn, to be
Interred Here This Summer**
Subject of Harbor History Talk April 18, 2013

Once a well known and well loved resident of Harbor Springs, Father Philip S. Zorn will soon be returned to the community he called home for more than 22 years.

Father Philip Zorn, the namesake of Zorn Park in downtown Harbor Springs, served as priest of the Holy Childhood of Jesus Church on Main Street from 1862 to 1884, and will be re-interred here in June.

Father Zorn's life and his journey back to Northern Michigan will be the topic of discussion at the next Harbor History Talk, hosted by the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society on April 18, at 5:30 p.m.

According to Father Francis Partridge, of the Augustine Center at the Sacramentine Monastery in Conway, who will be presenting at the Harbor History Talk, Zorn made a lasting impact not only in Harbor Springs, but also much of Northern Michigan.

"Harbor Springs was the main Church up here at the time," Partridge explained, "so the majority of the other area churches were under his domain, Churches in Petoskey and as far away as Beaver Island and Suttons Bay were all stations he was responsible for."

A German immigrant, Philip Zorn had come to Northern Michigan in 1855 with a group of nuns and brothers under the leadership of Father Johann Bernard Weikamp who settled in Cross Village. Bishop Frederic Baraga who was operating a mission in the area was thrilled to have additional help in ministering to the residents here at the time, Partridge said. After a year of training, Father Zorn was ordained in 1856 and following this, served as priest at the Holy Cross Parish in Cross Village.

After a year, though, Bishop Baraga moved Zorn to Harbor Springs, since he had a little more pizzazz than the priest, who was currently there," Partridge said. "Zorn was extremely capable and Harbor Springs was the larger of the two parishes."

Zorn worked closely with the Native American population and in time, learned their language. According to Partridge, Zorn was highly respected by the Native Americans and was given the native name Wassigijig, which means bright or heaven.

Most Harbor Springs residents are only familiar with the name Zorn because of Zorn Park, located on

Bay and Main Streets. The property which is now Zorn Park was once owned by Father Zorn and it's thought that's where his residence was located. Following his death, the land was given to his brother who later sold it to the city of Harbor Springs.

In 1884, Zorn was sent to another Native American Church in Elbridge, Michigan and ministered where he died on April 14 of pneumonia. He was buried in Manistee, much to the curiosity of Partridge.

"They just ended up burying him where he died," he said. "It didn't make sense, because they didn't even really know him in Manistee. He was never stationed there. Why wasn't he buried in Elbridge where he was serving? Or Cheboygan where he had relatives or Harbor Springs where he lived for many years?"

Partridge noted that lack of finances on the part of Zorn's family is what most likely kept them from having him buried elsewhere. It has been Partridge's mission for over 40 years to see that Father Zorn was returned to the place he served the longest.

"I thought to myself what a shame it was for him to be buried in a place that held no meaning to him at all," Partridge explained. "He should be back home where he belongs."

Father Zorn will return home this summer and be buried at the Holy Childhood of Jesus Parish on Main Street in Harbor Springs. Zorn's remains were exhumed last fall and transported to Stone Funeral Home in Petoskey where they are being stored until a funeral service is held at some point this upcoming summer.

Partridge noted that he is happy his goal of bringing Father Zorn back to Harbor Springs has come to fruition. He also said he is happy to be able to share Zorn's life at the upcoming Harbor History Talk.

"Most people around here don't know much about Father Zorn," he said. "They know the name from Zorn Park, but that's about it."

The Harbor History Talk will be held on Thursday, April 18, at 5:30 p.m. at the Harbor Springs History Museum, 349 E. Main Street in Harbor Springs. Reservations are not required but appreciated. Coffee & cookies will be provided and admission is \$5 per person & free for Historical Society members. For more information, call 231-526-9771.

REVEREND FATHER PHILIP SERAPHIN ZORN
AUGUST 15, 1825 -- APRIL 14, 1900

The Independent Democrat
Friday, April 20, 1900

FATHER ZORN

Father Zorn who was priest in Harbor Springs during pioneer days, made many friends, both Catholic and protestant, who will be pained to hear of the death which took place at Manistee, Monday. Over fifty years of this good man's life were spent in missionary work in Northern Michigan.

OBITUARY

Petoskey News-Review
Monday, July 8, 2013

Written by Fr. Frank Partridge

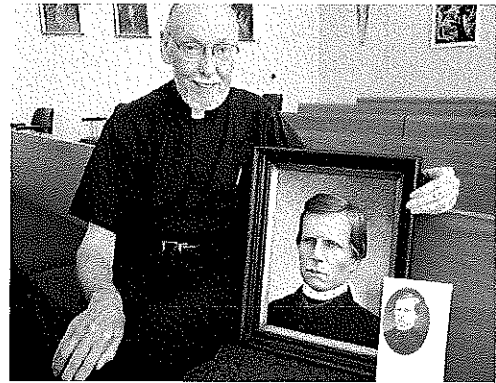
REV. FR. PHILIP SERAPHIN ZORN
AUG. 15, 1825 -- APRIL 14, 1900
Remains of 19th Century Missionary
Returning to Emmet County.

The Rev. Fr. Philip Seraphin Zorn was born in Bernfeld, Germany, on Aug. 15, 1825. He entered the Franciscans in Germany in 1848 and after coming to the United States, became a member of the Benevolent, Charitable and Religious Society of St. Francis, founded by Rev. Fr. John B. Weikamp, in 1855 in Chicago.

The whole Weikamp community moved to Harbor Springs in late 1855 and in 1856 moved to Cross Village where they operated a large monastery until Weikamp's death in 1889.

Brother Seraphin had been studying for the priesthood and the Ven. Bishop Frederic Baraga ordained him to the priesthood at Holy Childhood of Jesus Church, Harbor Springs, on Jan. 20, 1856. Fr. Zorn remained in Harbor Springs as an assistant to the pastor for about a year during which time he learned the local Indian language.

In 1857 he was made assistant at the Cross Village Church and in 1861 he became pastor of Cross Village. In 1862, Fr. Zorn was made pastor of Holy Childhood of Jesus Church in Harbor Springs, and remained here until 1884. During these years, besides being pastor of Holy Childhood of Jesus Church, Fr. Zorn was in charge of some four missions and nine stations. These included such churches as St. Mary's Cheboygan, St. Mary's, Burt Lake, St. Ignatius, Middle Village, St. Ignatius, Beaver Island, Sacred Heart, Garden Island, St. Francis Solanus, Petoskey, St. Mary's, Lake Leelanau, and St. Michael's Suttons Bay. He was also responsible for starting parishes such as St.



**Rev. Francis Partridge, shows a portrait of
Father Philip Seraphin Zorn, painted by
Jane Cardinal.**

Mary's, Charlevoix, and St. John Nepomucene, Praga.

In 1883, the Diocese of Grand Rapids was founded and new bishop, Bishop Henry Richter, asked the Franciscan Fathers from St. Louis, Mo., to send a group of men to work in the new diocese.

They arrived in 1884 and were given Holy Childhood of Jesus Church and Fr. Zorn was made pastor of St. Joseph Church in Elbridge {in Oceana County}. He remained here until his health began to fail in the late 1880's. He was then made chaplain of the Catholic Hospital in Big Rapids and later, chaplain of the Catholic Hospital in Manistee where he died on April 14, 1900, and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Manistee.

Fr. Zorn was in Manistee only a little over a year and it has always seemed sad that his body hadn't been returned to his last parish for burial. Eldridge was closed as a parish some years ago so a few people have worked to bring his body back to Harbor Springs where he labored for some many years.

In 2012, Bishop Bernard Hebda of the Gaylord Diocese gave his permission for this move. Fr. Zorn's body was exhumed last November and will be reburied in Harbor Springs this July.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by the Most Rev. Bishop Bernard A. Hebda at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 12, at Holy Childhood of Jesus Church, Harbor Springs, assisted by the priests of the diocese.

The Stone Funeral Home of Petoskey is handling the arrangements.

REVEREND FATHER PHILIP SERAPHIN ZORN
AUGUST 15, 1825 -- APRIL 14, 1900

Petoskey News-Review, By Morgan Sherburne
Friday, July 5, 2013

Priest's Remains to Return Home For Burial

Conway.....A headstone marked where **Rev. Philip Zorn** was buried, in a Catholic Cemetery in **Manistee, Mich.** the stone marker read, "**Fr. Sorin.**"

Zorn's misspelled name did not sit well with the **Rev. Francis C. Partridge**, a priest at the **St. Augustine Monastery, in Conway.**

"*I thought, that's a disgrace!*" said **Partridge.** "*This venerable old missionary should have his name spelled correctly on his stone.*"

Partridge's concern didn't stop with the spelling of **Zorn's** name.

Residents and visitors familiar with **Harbor Springs** will see that **Zorn** shares his name with the city's **Zorn Park**, in fact, the park was named for **Father Zorn.**

That's because **Zorn**, who died in 1900 in **Manistee**, spent the majority of his priesthood as pastor of **Holy Childhood Church in Harbor Springs.** He was ordained here, in 1856, by **Bishop Frederic Baraga.** He assisted at **Cross Village Church** in 1857, was pastor there until 1861, and then was made pastor of **Holy Childhood Church** in 1862, where he remained until 1884.

And now, **Father Partridge** believes **Zorn** should be buried here.

Partridge has been working on and off for nearly 40 years to make that happen.

Zorn came to **Northern Michigan** in 1855. He was just 30 years old, born in **Germany** in 1825, where he entered the **Franciscans** in 1848. After he came to the **United States**, **Zorn** became a member of the **Benevolent, Charitable and Religious Society of the St. Francis.** **Rev. Francis John B. Weikamp** founded the society in 1855 in **Chicago**, and moved to **Harbor Springs** in the same year.

Finally the society landed in **Cross Village** in 1856, and operated a monastery on a 2,000 acre piece of land.

The same year, the **Venerable Bishop Frederic Baraga** ordained **Zorn** into the priesthood at **Holy Childhood Church in Harbor Springs.**

He was made pastor of **Cross Village Church** in 1861, then moved back to **Harbor's Holy Childhood** in 1862.

As pastor of **Holy Childhood**, **Zorn** oversaw four missions and nine stations, ranging from **St. Mary's Church** in **Cheboygan** and **St. Ignatius** on **Beaver Island** to **St. Mary's** in **Lake Leelanau** and **St. Michael's** in **Sutton Bay.**

Travel between **Harbor Springs** and those parishes would have been incredibly difficult during that time period, said **Partridge.**

"*And yet he's considered the pastor of these places,*" said **Partridge.**

Zorn remained in **Harbor** until 1884, when he was moved to **St. Joseph Church** in **Elbridge**, in **Oceana County.** He was there through the late 1880s, when his health began to fail.

He was made chaplain of the **Big Rapids Catholic hospital**, then chaplain for a year at the **Manistee Catholic hospital.**

Zorn died there in April of 1900. For whatever reason, said **Partridge**, no family members claimed his body, and he was not sent to be buried in **Harbor Springs.**

"*Why they buried him in Manistee, I don't know,*" said **Partridge.** "*I've never figured that out, I tried to find out everything I could about him.*"

In 2010, **Partridge** approached **Bishop Bernard Hebda** of the Diocese of **Gaylord** about his project, which would include exhuming **Zorn's** remains and reburying them on the grounds of **Holy Childhood Church.**

"*I got very brave one day and was telling him about this priest,*" said **Partridge.** "*He just listened to me and listened to me.*"

A year or so went by without **Partridge** knowing he had approval to pursue the project.

"*About a year ago,*" **Bishop Hebda** asked me, "*How is your project coming along? Did you get that old priest back up here to bury him?*" said **Partridge,** "*Am I to understand that I can do this?*"

He was to understand that, providing he paid for the project.

I said to the bishop, "*You'll just get that much less from me when I die,*" said **Partridge,** smiling.

By then, **Zorn's** return to **Harbor Springs** was only a matter of time. **Partridge** had to get permission from the bishop, **Zorn's** descendants, who **Partridge** knew when he was a pastor in **Cheboygan** and permission from the health department. Because **Zorn** died from pneumonia in 1900, the health department was not concerned about contagious disease.

St. Francis Xavier Parishioner Joe Hoffman helped **Partridge** in bringing **Zorn** to **Petoskey.**

"*He's been doing research for years and years, and he has a very extensive collection, but I did help him as much as I could,*" said **Hoffman.** "*The reason we're helping Father {Partridge} is that it's a great thing. Zorn was a great influence in the area, one of the shining stars of helping people.*"

Zorn was exhumed in November of 2012. The 113 year old remains are a little broken, said **Partridge,** "*They had been buried in a wooden coffin, the body laid on top of a horsehair mattress.*"

"*The horsehair from the mattress is still intact, and the bones have sunk into the mattress,*" said **Partridge.** a few buttons, a crucifix and a bottle remained.

Partridge purchased a simple wooden coffin, a headstone and paid for the exhumation. He has also purchased a new cassock and vestments for the remains.

"*At least he'll be dressed,*" said **Partridge.** And at least he will be back home, in **Harbor Springs.**

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by **Rev. Bishop Hebda** at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 12, at **Holy Childhood Church** in **Harbor Springs**, assisted by the priests of the diocese.

Stone Funeral Home of **Petoskey** is handling the arrangements

REVEREND FATHER PHILIP SERAPHIN ZORN
AUGUST 15, 1825 -- APRIL 14, 1900

Petoskey News-Review
July 8, 2013

Written by Fr. Frank Partridge

**Remains of 19th Century Missionary Returning to
Emmet County**

The Rev. Fr. Philip Seraphin Zorn was born in Bernfeld, Germany, on Aug. 15, 1825. He entered the Franciscans in Germany in 1848 and after coming to the United States, became a member of the Benevolent, Charitable and Religious Society of St. Francis, founded by Rev. Fr. John B. Weikamp, in 1855 in Chicago.

The whole Weikamp community moved to Harbor Springs in late 1855 and in 1856 moved to Cross Village where they operated a large monastery until Weikamp's death in 1889.

Brother Seraphin had been studying for the priesthood and the Ven. Bishop Frederic Baraga ordained him to the priesthood at Holy Childhood of Jesus Church, Harbor Springs, on Jan. 20, 1856. Fr. Zorn remained in Harbor Springs as an assistant to the pastor for about a year during which time he learned the local Indian language.

In 1857 he was made assistant at the Cross Village Church and in 1861 he became pastor of Cross Village. In 1862, Fr. Zorn was made pastor of Holy Childhood of Jesus Church in Harbor Springs, and remained here until 1884. During these years, besides being pastor of Holy Childhood of Jesus Church, Fr. Zorn was in charge of some four missions and nine stations. These included such churches as St. Mary's Cheboygan, St. Mary's, Burt Lake, St. Ignatius, Middle Village, St. Ignatius, Beaver Island, Sacred Heart, Garden Island, St. Francis Solanus, Petoskey, St. Mary's Lake Leelanau, and St. Michael's Suttons Bay. He was also responsible for starting parishes such as St. Mary's Charlevoix, and St. John Nepomucene, Praga.

In 1883, the diocese of Grand Rapids was founded and new bishop, Bishop Henry Richter, asked the Franciscan Fathers from St. Louis, Mo., to send a group of men to work in the new diocese.

They arrived in 1884 and were given Holy Childhood of Jesus Church and Fr. Zorn was made pastor of St. Joseph Church in Elbridge {in Oceana County} He remained here until his health began to fail in the late 1880's. He was then made chaplain of the Catholic Hospital in Big Rapids and later, chaplain of the Catholic Hospital in Manistee where he died on April 14, 1900, and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Manistee.

Fr. Zorn was in Manistee only a little over a year and it has always seemed sad that his body hadn't been returned to his last parish for burial. Elbridge was closed as a parish some years ago so a few people have worked to bring his body back to Harbor Springs where he labored for so many years.

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Rev. Fr. Phillip Seraphin Zorn

FATHER PHILIP SERAPHIN ZORN

Petoskey News-Review

July 15, 2013

By Kendall P. Stanley

A FITTING REBURIAL FOR ZORN

History is fascinating, a look back to an earlier time before our own, and there are always those willing to capture that history and bring it to light.

The Rev. Francis Partridge is one of those, a priest at the St. Augustine Monastery in Conway who not only captured the history of the Rev. Philip Zorn but worked to have him reburied in Harbor Springs where he belongs.

Zorn's life is intertwined with the activity in this area in the 1800s by the missionaries of the Roman Catholic Church.

And it was intertwined with Harbor Springs where one of the most precious parks in the area, Zorn Park, bears his name.

Partridge has documented Zorn's life over the past 40 years, on and off, and his efforts reached fruition last Friday when a Mass of Christian burial was held at Holy Childhood of Jesus Church in Harbor Springs with the Most Rev. Bishop Bernard A. Hebda of Gaylord celebrating the Mass along with priests of the diocese.

Zorn came to Northern Michigan from Germany in 1855, a member of the Franciscan order. He became a member of the Benevolent, Charitable and Religious Society of St. Francis, founded by the Rev. Francis John B. Weikamp in 1855, in Chicago and moved to Harbor Springs the same year.

And yes, he's that Weikamp of Weikamp Lake. The society moved to Cross village in 1856 and bought 2,000 acres of land. The Venerable Bishop Frederic Baraga ordained Zorn into the priesthood at Holy Childhood that same year.

Zorn went on to pastor at Cross village and then moved back to Holy Childhood in 1862 according to Partridge's history as told to reporter Morgan Sherburne.

As pastor of Holy Childhood, he oversaw four missions and nine stations throughout Northwest Michigan.

According to his obituary written by Fr. Partridge, *"During these years, besides being pastor of Holy Childhood of Jesus Church, Fr. Zorn was in charge of some four missions and nine stations. These included such churches as St. Mary's, Cheboygan, St. Mary's, Burt Lake, St. Ignatius, Middle Village, St. Ignatius, Beaver Island, Sacred Heart, Garden Island, St. Francis Solanus, Petoskey, St. Mary's, Lake Leelanau and St. Michael's Suttons Bay. He was also responsible for starting parishes such as St. Mary's Charlevoix and St. John Nepomucene, Praga."*

Covering that amount of territory would be tough enough today, let alone back in the 1950s, '70s and '80s.

Eventually Zorn moved down around the Manistee area, ministering at Catholic hospitals. He died there in 1900 and was buried in the church cemetery.

Alas the good folks in Manistee couldn't get the grave marker right, putting "*Fr. Sorn*" on the marker; Partridge thought that a disgrace, as was the fact Zorn was buried in Manistee and not in Harbor Springs where he certainly belongs.

When Bishop Hebda gave Partridge the go-ahead to move Zorn from Manistee to Harbor Springs, the wheels went into motion and as of last week, the effort was completed.

The wonderful thing about history is you don't have to make stories up, they are what they are and some are fascinating and ultimately rewarding for the chronicler. And you can change the course of history in the annals of the life of the Rev. Fr. Philip Seraphim Zorn it ends in Harbor Springs, where he certainly belongs.