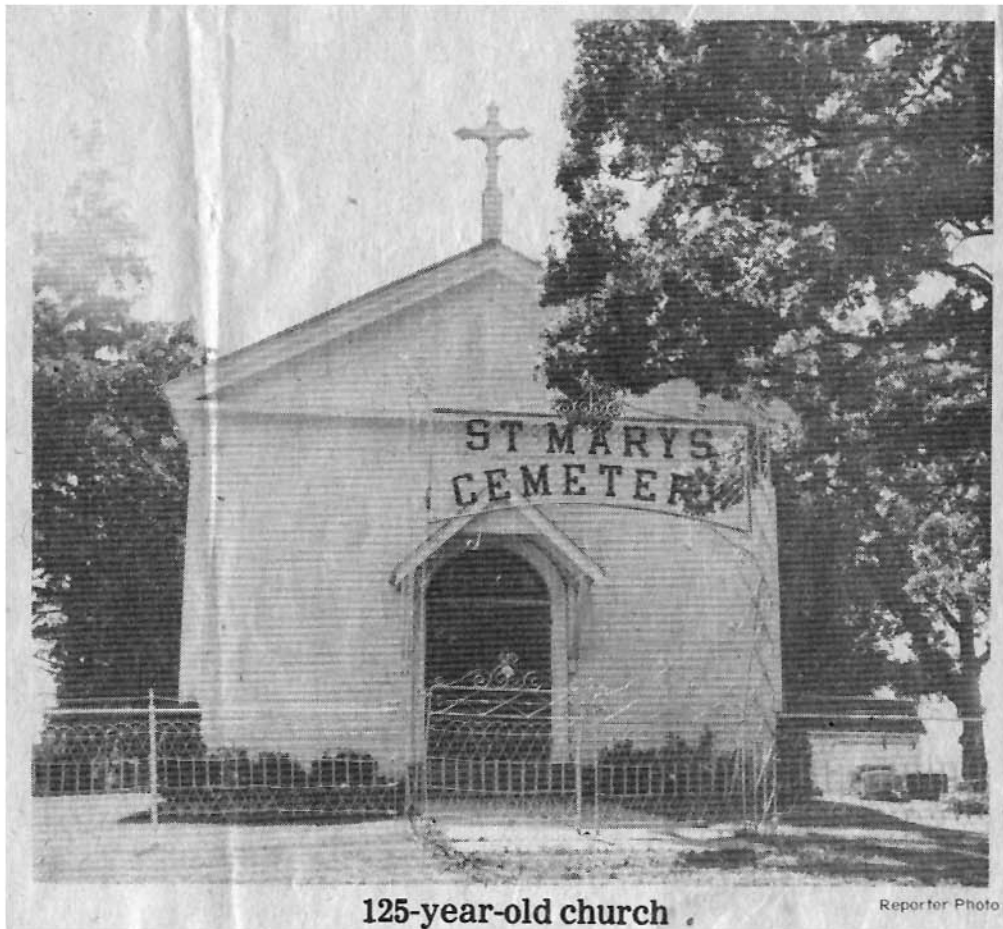


Old church steeped in heritage



125-year-old church

Reporter Photo

A cemetery with many family names recognizable as Irish surrounds St. Mary's Catholic Church in the Town of Springvale. The church was built 125 years ago in 1858 by Irish settlers, many of whose descendants still attend Sunday Mass there. St. Mary's is a mission parish that has never had a resident pastor. The Rev. Eliot Comstock and the Rev. Robert St. Martin of St. Joseph's

Church in Waupun share the responsibility of serving the 23 member families of Mary's. The church has no heat, electric or plumbing and is only open from the first Sunday in June until Labor Day week. Parishioners attend St. Brendan's Catholic Church in Brandon during the cold months their parish is closed.