



TERMS

For Session of Five Months (Payable in Advance):

Entrance Fee (payable but once).....	\$5 00
Board, Bedding, Laundry, Physical Culture, Sewing, and Tuition in the Collegiate, the Academic and the Preparatory Course..	150 00
Children under ten years.....	125 00
Laboratory Fee (Physics and Chemistry Classes)	3 00
Library Fee	1 00
Domestic Science Fee.....	3 00
Lecture Fee (Senior Division).....	2 00
Retreat Fee for Catholics.....	1 00
Graduation Fee	10 00
Rent of Books.....	2 50
Rent of Books (Primary Grades).....	1 25
Rent of Locker (Optional).....	1 00
Board for Vacation (per Month).....	25 00



St. Mary of the Springs

SHEPARD, OHIO

Boarding and Day School
for Girls

Departments

Academic Commercial Preparatory

Department of Home Economics

Department of Expression

Conservatory of Music

Conservatory of Art



Extensive Grounds

Convenient Location

For further information address

Dominican Sisters
St. Mary of the Springs
Shepard, Ohio

Extras

Piano and use of instrument one hour daily..	\$30 00
Voice Training, with privilege of attending class lessons	30 00
Voice Lesson in class.....	5 00
Harp, Organ, each.....	30 00
Violin (pupil to furnish instrument).....	30 00
Violincello, Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo (pupil to furnish instrument) each.....	20 00
Drawing	20 00
Painting in Oil, Water-colors, China.....	30 00
Dramatic Art, private lessons.....	30 00
Stenography	15 00
Typewriting (lessons and use of instrument)	10 00
Domestic Science	20 00



BASKET BALL TEAM—"CHAMPIONS"

MARYNOTES



SENIOR DIVISION



CENTENNIAL GRADUATING CLASS, ST. MARY'S OF THE SPRINGS ACADEMY



Library
St. Mary of the Springs
Shepard, Ohio

THE SMA BEGINNING

Long before Title IX for Women's equity in education in 1972, before the Women's Liberation movement of the 1960's, before the struggle for Women's Suffrage in the late 1800's and early 1900's and the ratification allowing women to vote in 1920.....

In fact the presumption that women could & should be educated and indeed were educated in Ohio, goes all the way back to St. Mary's Academy in Somerset in 1830. This educational trail of St. Mary's moved unbroken to me and the other hundreds and hundreds of women who also graduated from St. Mary of the Springs Academy until its closure in 1966.

From the 1830's to my time of the 1950's, we received at the Sisters hands, the expectation that we could and should become whatever we wished and we were instructed to do so as best we possibly could.

Of course there are famous examples of graduates: doctors, lawyers, Nellie Sheridan, the first Female Postmaster of Ohio and the first married Postmaster of the United States, Ann O'Hare McCormick, the NY Times columnist and Pulitzer Prize Winner who interviewed Stalin & Eisenhower, authors, scientists, and more...and there are those not so famous. They all became who they were because of the Dominican Sisters who pioneered through many dangerous and daunting years to educate girls and young women.

This album will tell you some of their stories.....

History

The Congregation of St. Mary of the Springs had its beginning at St. Mary's, Somerset, Ohio on February 5, 1830. It was the first branch of the American Dominican Sisters of St. Catharine's in Springfield, Kentucky. The Somerset Foundation was made at the request of Bishop Edward D. Fenwick, O.P., Bishop of Cincinnati, who wished to expand the sisters' apostolate and provide Catholic education for the Ohio Territory. The foundress of St. Catharine's, Mother Angela

Sansbury, assigned four sisters including her own sister, Bernin Sansbury, to St. Mary's, Somerset. Mother Angela herself arrived in 1833.

This is Sister Bernin Sansbury's own account of the Sisters' arrival in Somerset from Kentucky:

"The Sisters of St. Mary's

commented in Somerset, January 11,

1830, having been invited by Bishop Fenwick of happy memory sometime previous to their departure from St. Catharine's, Kentucky.

The buildings in Somerset were a small brick house on one acre of ground and the carpenter's shop which was fitted up for a school house.

The Dominican Sisters being the first nuns to come to

Ohio, the novelty created quite a sensational stir among the citizens.

The Sisters gradually advanced the then growing population in morality and religious training.

By 1833, the Academy was incorporated by the State of Ohio as "St. Mary's Female Literary Society."

The Sisters began their boarding and day school in Somerset with 40 pupils. Children from all denominations were welcomed. From the beginning, the school

was an influential educational force, despite the small number of sisters engaged in the work.

In 1866, a disastrous fire destroyed the convent and school in Somerset. A

Columbus businessman,

Theodore Leonard, father of Sisters

Gervude and Dolores Leonard, gave the Sisters a gift of 33 acres

in the city of Columbus. They named their

new foundation

found on the grounds.

On September 7, 1868, was the opening of St. Mary of the Springs Academy with 35 pupils enrolled.

In 1873, the Community lost in death its last Foundress, Sister Bernin Sansbury at age 79 in her 50th year of religious profession.



Pictured Above Left – Mother Angela Sansbury, First Proress, 1823, St. Mary Magdalen's, Kentucky.



Pictured Above Right – Sister Bernin Sansbury, Elected Proress in Somerset, 1831.

St. Mary of the Springs because of the numerous springs

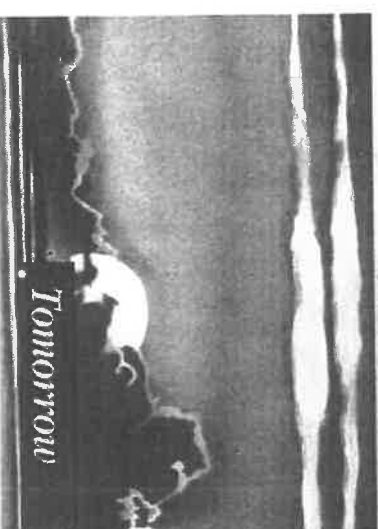
"Founded in an age of change, we take courage from these women as we experience new frontiers today."



Beginning



Growth



Today

TOMORROW



ST. MARY'S CONVENT AND CHAPEL, SOMERSET, OHIO

IMPORTANT DATES

- February 5, 1830 Sisters arrive from St. Catherine's in Kentucky
- February 16, 1830 Date on deed of one acre purchased by Bishop Fenwick for first school
- April 5, 1830 School opens with 40 day students
- Fall 1830 Construction of new building begins
- 1831 Building is completed and a boarding school was opened
- 1845 Gothic Chapel added to school building – 100 boarders
- 1865 137 boarders
- June 6, 1866 Fire destroys building. Sisters and remaining students stay at St. Joseph's. School continues.
- July 7, 1868 Sisters leave Somerset for St. Mary of the Springs

OHIO
HISTORICAL
MARKER

SAINT MARY OF THE SPRINGS ACADEMY

On this site stood St. Mary of the Springs Academy, a school for girls first founded by the Dominican Sisters in 1830 in Somerset, Ohio, to respond to the educational needs of frontier Catholics. The school operated in Somerset until 1866 when a devastating fire destroyed the buildings. The Sisters occupied borrowed space until Theodore Leonard, a Columbus businessman, offered them land and bricks to rebuild in Columbus. The Sisters accepted, and Leonard built St. Mary's Academy in Columbus in 1868. To reflect the natural springs on the property, 'of the Springs' was added to the name. The Academy closed in 1966.



THE OHIO BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
THE INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY FOUNDATION
THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2003

49-25

MARYNOTES

Fifty Years' Genesis



REAT was the sorrow and consternation that befell the Sisters and pupils of St. Mary Academy, Somerset, Ohio, on June 8, 1866, when the alarm was given by a gentleman who happened to be passing, that their beloved convent was on fire. Fortunately, the fire broke out in the morning and the inmates were apprised of it, before it had gained much headway, so there was no difficulty in quitting the burning building. Through the heroic efforts of many brave men of the village, even some of the furniture was saved. When the intense excitement had subsided and all nervous strain removed, many an amusing incident connected with the disaster was recalled; as, that a large trunk was thrown recklessly from a third story window, while a feather mattress was carefully carried down stairs; that a Sister was missing and, as she was sick and aged, the rumor soon circulated that she had died of fright,—the next morning she read her obituary in the "Somerset Press." All the while the inmates of the doomed building stood sadly watching the consuming flames, until soon nothing was left but the smoking ruins of the Convent and its little Gothic chapel. Then tender-hearted, motherly ladies persuaded the homeless ones to go with them and partake of much needed rest and refreshment.

In the afternoon brave, self-sacrificing men conveyed them and their scanty household effects to St. Joseph Priory. This was done at the earnest insistence and kindly forethought of Rev. S. A. Clarkson in the name of the Dominican Fathers. Here there was an unoccupied house, the first which the Fathers erected on the property, and which they had recently vacated for their more commodious quarters. In this the Sisters and girls were made comfortable for the night; and, as soon as possible, the girls were sent to their respective homes. As this building was too small for a school, the Prior, Very Rev. M. D. Lilly, and his Council decided to send their novices to St. Rose's, Kentucky, and give the Sisters the use of their novitiate buildings; thanks to their fatherly solicitude, the Sisters were thus enabled to continue school during the necessary reconstruction period.

Far-seeing friends advised them not to re-build on the old site, but to secure some place nearer the fast-growing city of Columbus. Through the generosity of Mr. Theodore Leonard whose two daughters, Sisters Gertrude and Dolores, were members of the Community, the present location was obtained. Besides deeding them thirty-three acres of his land, he gave his valuable time and experience to superintending the construction of what is now familiarly called "The old building," and he also used his great influence in obtaining necessary loans of money, for the Sisters had only five thousand dollars insurance money, a very small sum toward erecting a convent which was to cost eighty times that amount.

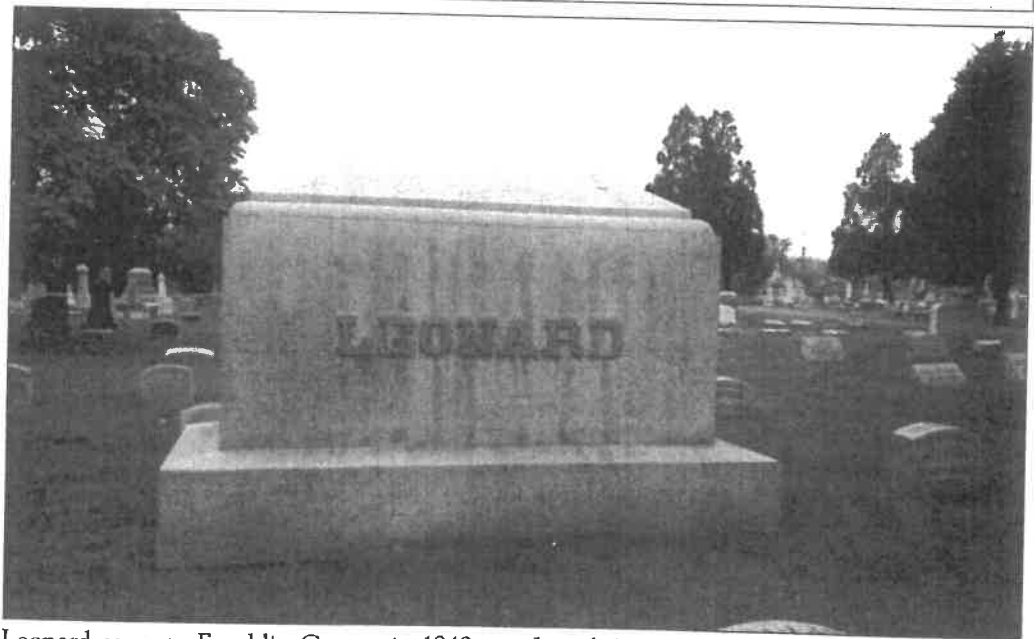
Bravely bearing a heavy debt but firmly trusting in God, they left Somerset on July 7, 1863, for New Lexington where they were most hospitably kept over night; some by the good Franciscan Sisters, others by kind friends, for in those days it was impossible to make the trip from Somerset to Columbus in one day. The following morning they left for Zanesville where they dined with the Sisters of St. Columba Academy. When they arrived late in the afternoon at their destination, they found that some thoughtful ladies of the neighborhood; the Mrs. Purcell, M. Havelin, Thos. Miller, Frank and Theodore Leonard and Miss Mary Zimmer, had supper ready for them. Although these ladies had also seen to the transportation of the furniture which the Sisters had sent on ahead of them, all of it had not been conveyed to the convent, so several of the Sisters had to sleep that night on

IMAGES
of America

MOUNT CALVARY CEMETERY



Theodore Leonard was born October 25, 1820, in Canada and died in Columbus on July 6, 1887. Leonard Avenue is named after him. He died a man of comparative wealth. (Columbus Metropolitan Library.)



Leonard came to Franklin County in 1840, purchased 50 acres of land in Clinton Township, and later acquired 368 acres of land in Mifflin Township. He founded the brickyard of Leonard and Roberts, as well as a grocery store. A charitable man, he gave \$5,000 to the building fund of St. Joseph's Cathedral and to St. Mary's of the Springs, he gave 33 acres of land and \$10,000 in cash.

A General Timeline & Stories about ST Mary of the Springs, 1830-1966 Part I

The following is mainly from 3 sources and is intended to be a simplified and much shortened overview and not a history per se... Sources: "A Place of Springs: A history of the Dominican Sisters of St Mary of the Springs 1830-1970" by Sr. Camilla Mullay, OP. "Dominican Sisters of St Mary of the Springs, A history, " in 9 Historiettes (booklets) by Sr. Monica Kiefer, OP. "Make the Way Known" by Katherine Burton.

1822 Kentucky

Four American born frontier women in the first native born congregation of Dominican Sisters were asked by Bishop Fenwick to come to Ohio from Kentucky to open a school. Just prior to that, Bishop Fenwick's diocese included Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin and about 10,000 Catholics. The Academy of St. Mary Magdalen School was originally located in an old still house near Springfield Ky. (The name was changed to St Catharine in 1852.) Classes began there in 1823 with 15 pupils who brought provisions of apples, molasses & potatoes for 1 year. Very little cash was received for tuition. A system of barter was used which included the custom of giving a certain number of slaves as a dowry for a daughter entering the religious life. Some families retained ownership of the slaves and gave only the work. This certainly must have been an enormous help, although today we look at even the idea of slavery with abhorrence. Some families gave other provisions and livestock. To survive, the Sisters had much to do when they originally arrived. They themselves felled trees, made fences, wove flax and wool into cloth, made soap, and lived a working frontier life of hardship. The school and community of Sisters who initially lived in a windowless log cabin had many difficulties, but they eventually prospered. This type of hard work went on for many years and diseases such as malaria, typhoid and cholera were common.

1830 Somerset, Ohio

The four Dominicans who came to Somerset, Ohio were Sisters: Benven Stansbury, Emily Elder, Agnes Harbin, & Catherine Mudd. Their trip from Kentucky had to be a difficult one in winter by stagecoach and over terrible roads. Roads in the area were originally Buffalo or Indian trails which had deepened in time and then were widened. The early years of the 1800's provided a rough frontier and pioneer lifestyle. Somerset was established by 3 families from Somerset, Pennsylvania and they named their settlement after the town they left. The new Somerset was established in 1810 and located about 50 miles from Columbus, half way between Lancaster and Zanesville. The School opened in April of 1830 with 30 students: Catholic, non-Catholic and several Jewish girls. The 4 sisters themselves were quite young, ranging in age from 18 to 35 years. Life was indeed difficult. Ten sisters died between 1839 and 1849. The revered Mother Angela Stansbury died at 45 years of age. She was Prioress of St Mary's and her remains were later transferred to St. Mary of the Springs cemetery.

Life of the girls was simple as it was for the Sisters. However, the students had butter on their bread at breakfast, a big meal at noon and a substantial supper. It is recorded the sisters had two meals per day and butter on their bread on important feast days only. Typical foods were biscuits, honey, apple and pumpkin butter, real butter, corn, mush, milk and maple syrup, Meat must have been relatively rare, but bacon would have been available when livestock was acquired.

The reputation of the school grew, and girls came from farther and farther away: Massachusetts,

Indiana, Louisiana, Texas and even Mexico and by 1866 "Old St Mary's" had 80 boarders.

The Fire: June 1866

Preparations were well under way for the final all-day long celebration for the 34th St Mary's graduation festivities when a fire began in the chapel. It quickly spread to the convent and the school. While there were buckets and wells, one can easily imagine how difficult it would be to staunch a 3-building fire on a windy day with only this equipment. It was thought that a faulty flue was the culprit. There was little left remaining but no was seriously injured. Fortunately, there were three options: to remain and rebuild on site, or to move to the nearby College of St Joseph which the sisters did and carried on there for 2 years. Theodore Leonard of Columbus had 2 daughters at St Mary's Academy and one in the Novitiate. He offered land and bricks to build anew in Shepard Ohio, then quite near to and eventually absorbed by Columbus. To this day there is a Shepard Library branch and well past the year 2000, Shepard Elementary School was located on E. Fifth Ave as part of the city public school system. The vote was taken, and the decision was made by a large margin to move to Shepard Ohio.

SMA Stories of Somerset from the Sister Monica Kiefer OP chronicles:

1844 PROSPECTUS OF ST. MARY'S FEMALE ACADEMY "Young ladies of any religious profession are received without preference or distinction and without any interference of their religious..." (St Mary's had a long tradition of non Catholics attending. My own then Lutheran Mother attended SMA about 1920 and her best friend there was Jewish). "No particular uniformity of dress is required during the week but on Sunday, the dress is to be of Black Merino, with a white muslin apron, cape and sun bonnet trimmed with blue ribbon." There are numerous notations during the 1800's of poor, orphan, or motherless girls being admitted for free or reduced tuition. This helped create the considerable debt of the school but the Sisters apparently felt this was the right thing to do. What was the curriculum that enticed those from a long distance and/or other religions to send their girls to "old" St Mary's? Question: In school did you study Orthography and Ancient & Modern Chronology? I am sure you did but we refer to them today as Spelling and History. Some of the subjects listed for study in 1844 at St Mary's were: Arithmetic, Astronomy & globes, Botany, Chemistry, Composition, Drawing, English Grammar, Guitar & Piano, Reading, French, Geography, Mythology. Plain Sewing, Rhetoric, Writing as well as Ancient and Modern Chronology and Orthography. With the lack of TV, radio, & Internet, there was time for an exceptional education. No doubt this renowned education was the reason for the success of the school.

Back to some basics... everyday life...So what did the people drink other than water or milk? In 1846 a man's wages were \$5 per month. Imported tea from China was \$5 per pound & coffee was \$3 per pound. Of course there was water & milk and cider but beyond that the people on the frontier made due with what they had at hand. That included whiskey which was available almost everywhere. As some of us may know, while whiskey does not really cure anything, it certainly helps make many conditions more bearable. Whiskey as now was often used for chills and colds for adults. Cider was a very common drink and was also used as vinegar for pickling vegetables. The Sisters roasted or boiled rye, chicory and most often acorns for a coffee substitute. Raspberry leaves, the bark and roots of the Sassafras tree were also boiled as well as other dried fruits & berries to make flavored drinks... There were few battles in Ohio during the Civil War but that did not mean that the populace was not affected. Many girls from the South stayed the entire time of the Civil War at St. Mary's. This added an additional burden to the school as they had to be fed & cared for during time that was formerly considered vacations.

bury and Johnstown Rds. (Route 62).

"St. Mary's Girls" share a special pride in their alma mater and love for the sisters who taught them. But we were typical teenage students.

Once a year we were expected to attend a three-day religious retreat on campus. We slept in a dormitory in which the only attempts at privacy were the white sheets which separated our beds. It was an austere environment, to say the least.

A requisite of the retreat was that we were to keep silent for most of the three days. As parents of today's teen-agers would guess, we talked at every opportunity. A

until we saw a nun coming our way.

The grotto has been replaced by tennis courts and Spangler Library has been erected on the site of our path to prayer and meditation.

But despite the mischief, many of us were sure we wanted to join the convent as the retreat ended. It was a conviction that lasted at least until the first day back in class.

My 1937 class was part of a difficult period at St. Mary's. The school was having a hard time financially. We had none of the extras that later became commonplace: yearbooks, dances and other social events. Tuition went

students and alumnae. The era of a school for young ladies seemed to be coming to an end. Emphasis was being placed on the future of St. Mary of the Springs College—later to be co-educational and renamed Ohio Dominican College.

It is not unusual to hear an alum say, "It's so sad we can't send our daughters to St. Mary's." For those of us who attended the Academy our days at the school and the teachers who strived to make us "ladies" will always hold a special place in our hearts.

To have been a "St. Mary's Girl" is an honor and a privilege to be treasured always.

SMA Buildings

St. Mary of the Springs 19th and some 20th century buildings

Mother Stephanie Mohun, b.1867, d.Sept 22,1954

Mother Stephanie Mohun came from a prominent and literary American family in Maryland, and was a prolific writer herself including a book of poetry titled " Driftwood" using her family name of Lee. MOHUN HALL was dedicated for the care of elderly or ill Sisters on April 13,1958.

SANSBURY HALL Sister Angela Sansbury 1794-1839 was the first American born Dominican in the US. Her sister, Sister Benvin Sansbury, 179?-1873 was born Elizabeth Sansbury in Prince George County Maryland.

Sanbury Hall was dedicated 1929 and named in honor of these two Pioneer Sisters.

WEHRLE ART MEMORIAL 1912 It was a gift from the family of Sister Eulaliah Wehrle. The building featured a large gallery, stained glass windows and provisions for kilns and photography.

HAMILTON HALL was begun in 1927 for use as a dining hall for the college and some SMA events, such as dances, Christmas Dinners, and Graduation Breakfasts. It has a seating capacity of 400 and was named for Dr. William Hamilton who helped the Sisters during the Typhoid Epidemic and beyond and his son, Dr. Charles Hamilton, who continued in his father's generous service to the Sisters. It was dedicated in 1932.

ERSKIN HALL Mother Vicentia Erskin (1852-1919) is considered a builder. She oversaw the addition of 4th floor of the Mother House in 1885,an addition in 1892,the completion of the beautiful Romanesque Immaculate Conception Chapel in 1903, the Chaplin's residence in 1904 and in 1908 an addition to the front of the 1892 Academy which permitted it to be flush with the original building. Mother Stephanie Erskine was one of nine children from Irish born parents and attended secondary school in NYC. She then came to St. Mary of the Springs novitiate at age 21 in 1873 and was elected Prioress at 39 and remained so for 26 years.



Mother M. Vincentia Erskine

Property of
Saint Mary of the Springs Academy
historic artifact collection at
Ohio Dominican University Library

**A TREASURED LEGACY
MOTHER M. STEPHANIE MOHUN, O.P.
HER LIFE AND LETTERS**





To the memory of
Mother Stephanie Mohun, O.P.,

whose crucifix remains embedded in the tower of Erskine,
whose spirit continues to encourage our literary efforts,
the staff gratefully dedicates this issue.

My Great Grandmother SMA.'59 & I (1859)
by Jean Chase Warnick, SMA.'58 (1958)

Two St. Mary's Girls

I did not know my great grandmother but I do know we have two important things in common. We both graduated from St. Mary of the Springs Academy, 1830-1966 and we both played the organ at many churches. I graduated in 1958 and she graduated in 1859. In her day, students came to St. Mary's from all over the US and even Canada and that was the case of our family. Julia Ann Genevieve Collins was born in St. Catherine Ontario. Her mother died when she was quite young and my Great Great Grandfather Patrick Shea, who was originally from Ireland, sent her to boarding school with the Dominicans in Kentucky and then on to St. Mary's Academy in Somerset, Ohio.

My GG grandfather moved to Delaware, Ohio where my Great Grandmother Julia eventually was the organist at St. Mary's Church in the 1880's. Her daughter, my Grandmother, Mary Ellen Farrell married another musician, my grandfather Francis Shea in Columbus in 1907. He directed the choir at St. Francis on Buttles Ave. where I grew up. St. Francis is a lovely church in the Short North neighborhood of town and I played the organ there for Mass every weekday at 6:30am and 8:am from the 4th grade until graduation from the parish Elementary school!

It appears my life was preordained as I studied music from the age of 4. I majored in Pipe Organ at The Ohio State University and received my Masters degree in music from there as well.

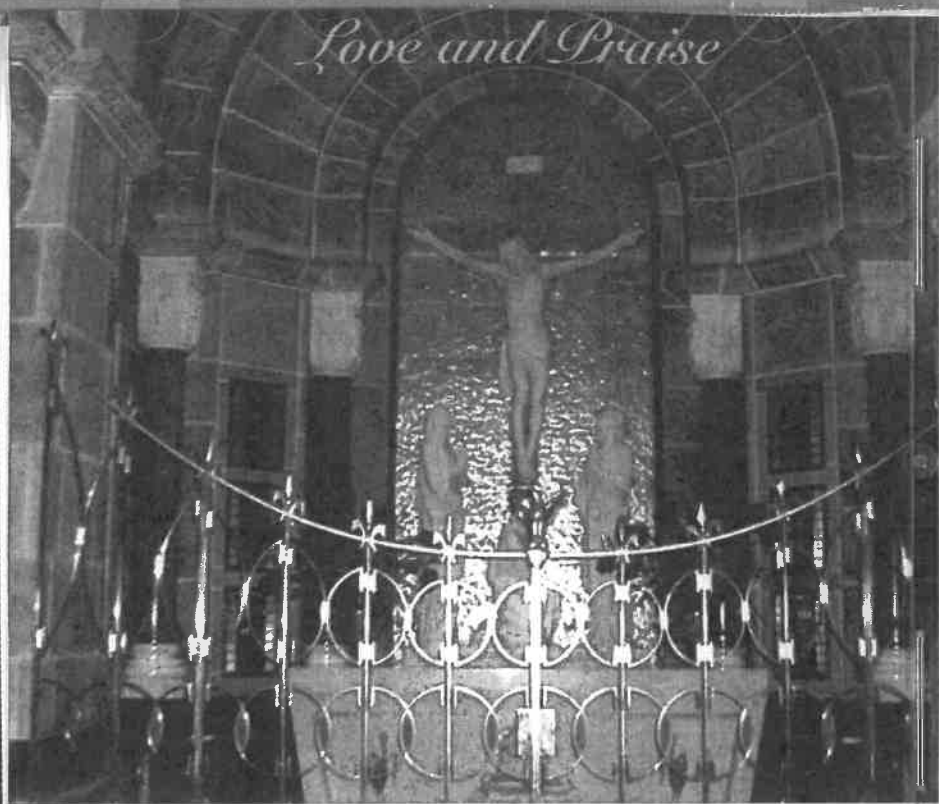
Over the years I have played at St. John the Baptist, St. Patrick's, St. Agatha's, Crestview Presbyterian, Westminster Thurber, and recently in the Lobby and on the Cancer floor at Riverside Hospital.

I often think of my musical heritage and my singing organist Great Grandmother. I hope she would have been pleased that I followed in her footsteps.

A line from the lyrics from the well known Christmas Carol, The Holly and the Ivy might well have been penned for her, "The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir." May she rest in Peace.

Jeanie Chase Warnick, SMA,'58

Note: Please see following photo of Jeanie's Great Grandmother



Love and Praise

Jean Warnick



*Jean Warnick
My Voice*

Three of these ... one for each daughter

Rose, Kate & Cecilia Taggart - 1865, 1866? Will be see Tuition receipts for Staggert girls

Summit Ohio 1866

Miss Margaret

St. Mary's Academy, 202

21 Board and Tuition of 1/2 length of Year, 1865 & 1866

\$ 1.60. 00

EXTRAS

- Expenses on riding
- Travelling Exp. to German
- Board on Home
- Travelling
- Travelling
- Use of Instruments
- Travelling, Printing, &c.
- Outfit for Hunting and Shooting
- Travelling
- Travelling and Shooting
- Board and Printing
- Travelling
- Travelling
- Travelling
- Travelling and Physicians

\$. 44

Miss Margaret - 1865 & 1866 - 44

Tuition Receipts from Misses Kate, Cecilia & Rose

Devotion to Truth

THE LIFE OF
RT. REV. SYLVESTER H. ROSECRANS, D.D.,
FIRST BISHOP OF COLUMBUS



Donald M. Schlegel

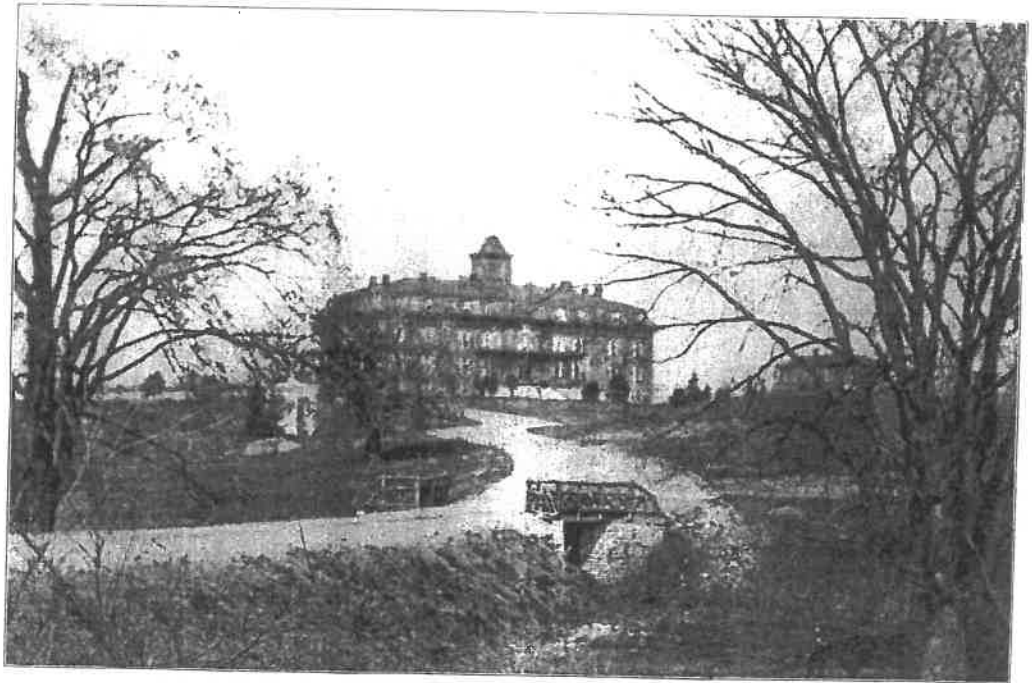
Devotion to Truth

to whom they owed obedience. This was the result of a Vatican decision of 1863, fully in place by 1866, that jurisdiction over the Sisters did not rest in the Dominican Order but in the local bishop.⁴

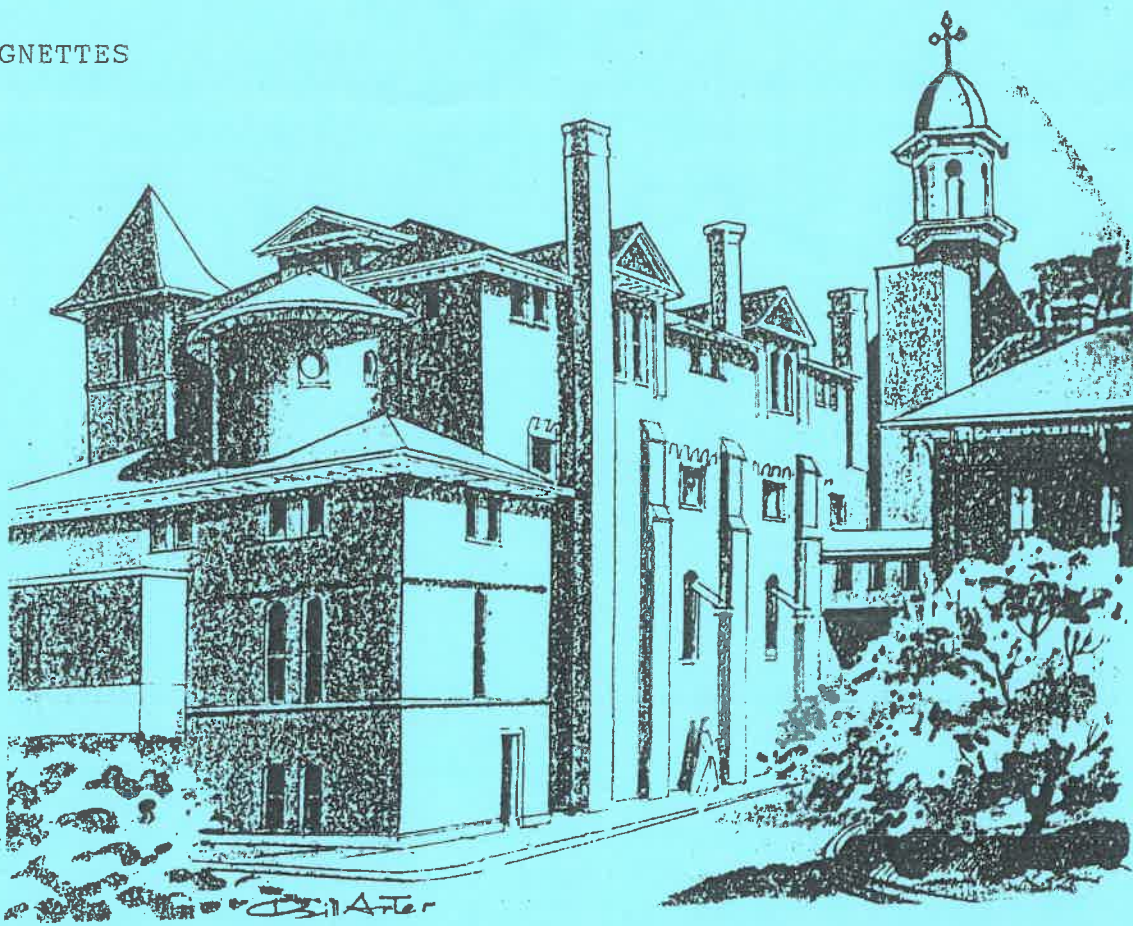
At the end of this academic year, on Sunday, June 21, 1868, he visited once again. Three young ladies of the academy were baptized and received first Communion; they then, along with others, were confirmed by him. Rose Taggart made her profession as a Sister of St. Dominic and two young ladies received the white veil at six o'clock Mass in the Academy Chapel. Ten o'clock High Mass was offered by the Dominican Fathers at St. Joseph's Church, with the girls of the Academy as the choir. After Mass the bishop preached and administered Confirmation. This may be the occasion, placed in 1867 in *Make the Way Known*⁵, when the students put on Cardinal Wiseman's *The Hidden Gem* in a big shack, once a sheepfold and by then a laundry, on a temporary stage. "The bishop loved it and showed his appreciation by giving the school a holiday." He visited St. Patrick's Church, Jackson Township, that afternoon.⁶

Accepting a generous offer from Theodore Leonard, the Sisters moved from their temporary home to Shepard, northeast of Columbus, in the summer of 1868. They arrived at the Union Depot on July 8 and were met there by Bishop Rosecrans, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Miller, and others, who conducted them to the new site in their carriages.

The next morning the Bishop went to the new convent with altar breads and an altar stone to offer Mass for them. Dominican Father Clarkson "had found and unpacked their little harmonium and he played while the Sisters sang hymns." Bishop Rosecrans promised them full cooperation in their new work. No one had considered a name for the new convent. "Saint Mary's was so much a part of them that it was taken for granted they would use that name in the new home as they had in the old. But when they said that, he had a suggestion. 'There are so many springs on your grounds,' he said, 'why not add of the Springs to distinguish it from the old Saint Mary's?' So the new institution became St. Mary's of the Springs.⁷ At the Springs, the academy's student body was composed entirely of boarders. Though "near" Columbus, the site was over four



ST. MARY'S IN 1868



St. Mary of the Springs

THE CIVIL WAR was barely ended. It was a hundred years ago, June, 1865, and the pupils and Sisters at St. Mary's Female Academy were joyfully preparing for the year's closing exercises. The little school at Somerset, Ohio, had been founded 33 years earlier by Dominican Sisters from the first American Congregation of that order.

The sudden cry, "Fire!" shattered the pleasant scene. Flames soon destroyed the pretty school and practically everything the Sisters had worked so hard to create. Make-shift arrangements allowed the school to continue, but rebuilding was delayed. Then came a handsome offer from Theodore Leonard who had two daughters in the Congregation. He offered to donate 35 acres of land, bricks from his flourishing brickyard and \$10,000 cash to build a new academy at Columbus. His offer was gratefully accepted.

On July 8, 1868, a little caravan of Sisters arrived at the still uncompleted academy building at the northern terminus of Nelson Road. A corner of that first building, now nearly a century old, is seen at extreme right in my sketch. Bishop Rosecrans welcomed the Sisters and suggested their school be named St. Mary of the Springs for the numerous springs on their land.

The site was picturesque—an eminence on the banks of Alum Creek—but raw and scarred. The Sisters worked furiously at beautifying it and furbishing their new home

and school. In the fall 90 students were enrolled—"Catholic, Protestant and several Jewish girls."

In 1892, a new building was added to the west for the Academy. In 1903, a new chapel and convent was built, east of the original building and the principal subject of my drawing. In 1911, William Wall made a gift of 19 acres adjoining the land and the next year beautiful Wehrle Art Museum was opened.

Until 1911, the formal name was the Ladies' Literary Institute. That year a charter was granted, making it a literary college. In 1924, it began to function as a four-year, degree-granting college and day students were accepted for the first time. In 1929, two new buildings were added. Others have been built since then.

Today there are two distinct corporations at St. Mary of the Springs: the Congregation and the College. The Congregation occupies the Mother House, Novitiate, Convent, Academy and Sisters' Infirmary. The College operates three academic buildings, three residence halls and a dining hall. It recently became coeducational and the fall enrollment of over 500 degree candidates will include more than 50 men. Evening and day classes will add some 400 additional students. The usual view of the campus is a vista of wide lawns and beautiful trees. I chose my point of view for the contrast and because it suggests the solidity of 133 years growth.



THE OLD CEMETERY

1870

REMAINS OF PIONEER SISTERS
BROUGHT TO THE SPRINGS

A few days after Sister de Sales' funeral, Mother Rose made plans for Father Clarkson and three Sisters to go with her to Somerset to remove the remains of the Sisters who had been buried there. In another letter to her brother, written on October 22, Mother asked his help in this grim undertaking and gave him some sisterly exhortation on moral courage:

Next Wednesday, October 26th, is the day we have now fixed for going to Somerset to take up the remains of our dead. Please come to Somerset Thursday and see if you can assist by word and otherwise. It is a serious task but I never could be easy while they lie there in a protestant (sic) man's field. Father Clarkson will go to

1870

TYPHOID FEVER EPIDEMIC, 1870

A horrifying epidemic of typhoid fever ravaged the city and marked 1870 as a year of disaster. In August of that year, Sister de Sales Higgins was permitted to go to her own home in New Lexington, Ohio, to nurse her mother and brother who had been stricken with the fever. In a few weeks they recovered and Sister returned to St. Mary's where she soon became ill and died after four weeks of delirium. A letter of Mother Rose to her Dominican brother, Father John Lynch, reveals Mother's compassionate concern for her suffering Sister:

I think I must drop you a line besides the letter we sent to your Community. Poor Sister De Sales died a calm, and seemingly easy death this morning after a most horrible and painful sickness. We never saw anyone suffer as she did. She went home as you know in vacation, took sick there, was very anxious to return here. When she got here her mind was deranged though we did not notice it. She repeatedly told us she was out of her mind. We could not believe her. We thought it was only want of sleep. Yet she did some strange things. We sent for the Dr. She was poisoned by typhoid fever or rather by inhaling the air of the typhoid. For three weeks she has been so completely out of her mind, yet so strong in body that it sometimes took six or eight of us to hold her in bed. Her constant cry was to take her home here. She would sit up in her bed and look out the window to see if the Lexington Hack was coming by. She wanted to get in. She wanted to get here before she would get sick. It was really pitiful to hear her pleading and begging to take her to St. Mary's.

May her soul rest in peace.

(Sr. Rose)

The dread disease soon spread to other members of the Community, to the students in the school and even to the workmen. Father Clarkson, having vacated his house, lived in the Academy; his cottage was used as a place of quarantine.



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Newark Monday with Sr. Agatha and then go on to Somerset and meet us there.

Your letter was rather a sad one. I believe you sometimes forget that life is a state of trial. 'Life is a warfare.' I found that out long ago. I never expect to meet anything but trials and troubles. I never desire anything else. If your health was better you would not feel the trials of life so keenly, but tried you must be and you may as well bear all patiently. Life will soon be over for you as well as for me and at the end we will be glad we did suffer something. You are no longer a boy. You must meet and bear the trials of a man.

Sister Rose

On the appointed day, October 26, the exhumation took place, and the remains of the nineteen pioneer Sisters were brought to Columbus and reinterred under the little mound at the entrance to the Convent cemetery. A marble slab with the Sisters' names inscribed was placed there later.

Mother Rose's reference to a "protestant man's field" has been identified as a lot located directly behind the present playground of Holy Trinity School. It was the property of a Mr. Miller, a strip of which had been made into a road leading to his barn. The graveyard must have been behind old St. Mary's Convent. It was so described in the letter of "Jane Lawe, student, Somerset, to her cousin Rachel Lawe, December 12, 1839" at the death of Mother Angela Sansbury. This letter can be found in *Historiette Three, Part One, In the Greenwood*. Among the Somerset people there is the tradition that a number of men who excavated the graves "died of a disease contracted while they worked in the cemetery." Some of the Sisters buried there had died of yellow fever or cholera. The translation of their bodies was made at a great cost of human life.

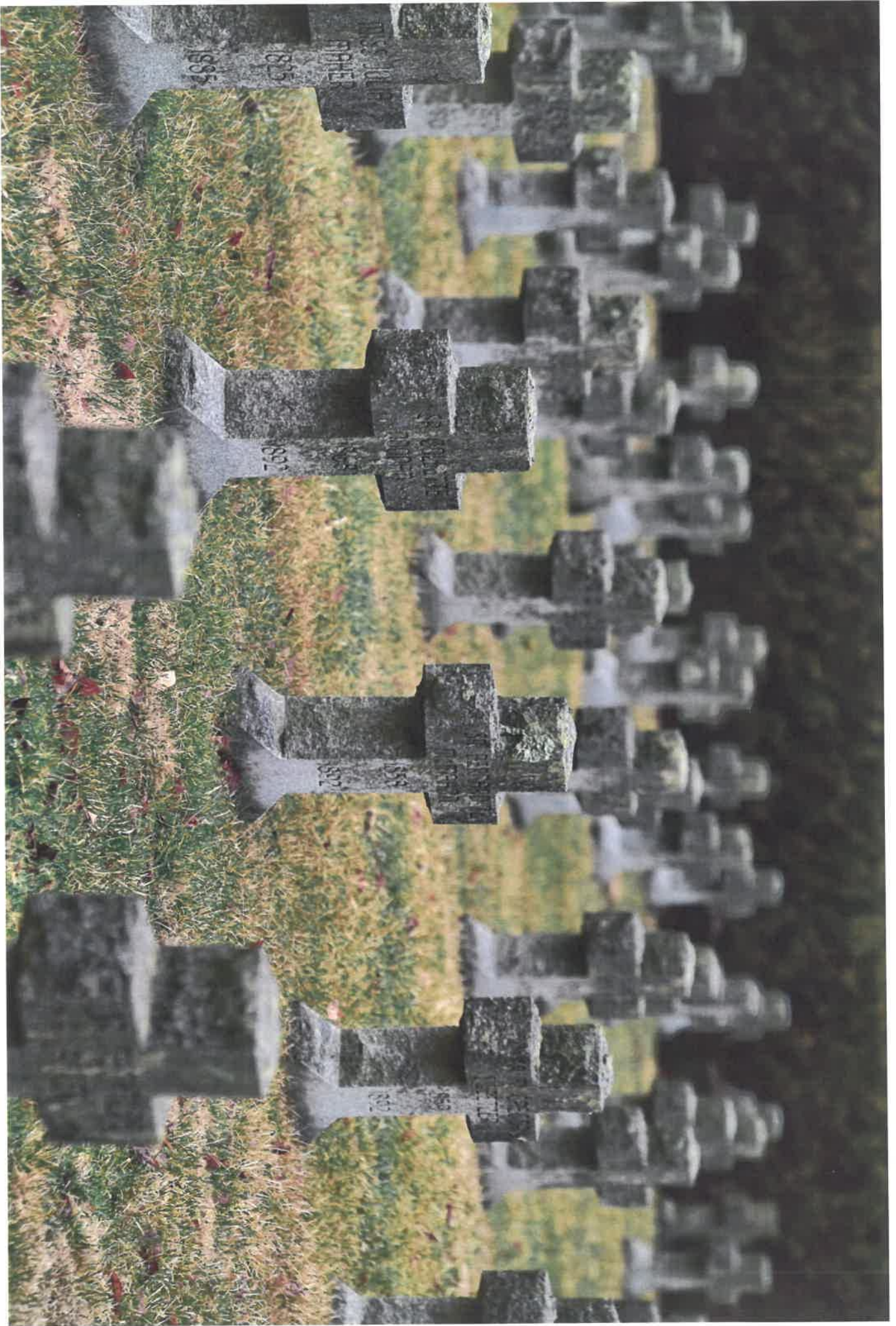
Mother Rose had hardly returned from Somerset when three of the Sisters and a number of workmen became seriously ill. Doctor William Hamilton, the Sisters' physician, soon pronounced the fever typhoid and advised the Directress to send the Academy students home and that those who already had the fever be isolated in the chaplain's residence. Father Clarkson and Lackey Burns carried over each patient in a high-back upholstered chair. Two of the pupils died and one of the workmen. The girls who died were Elizabeth Stimmel, a Protestant boarder, who was one of the first to be stricken and who could not be taken home. The other girl, Mary Schilder, refused to go home when the order was given for all the boarders to leave at

once. Mary died in the chaplain's residence at the moment when Sister Mary Joseph Bohn died of tuberculosis in the Convent. Old Doctor Hamilton used to tramp out to the Springs two or three times a week, gather the Sisters around him in a fatherly way, and advise them of the measures to take to avoid contracting the illness. The epidemic lasted several months but as the annals record, "It was many a year before the school recovered from the results of it." A letter of Mother Rose indicates the trial the Sisters endured from false reporting in the press:

It is not true about the fever being here again. There is no one sick in the house now. We have had no new case of fever here since three weeks before Christmas. True - poor M. Schilder died the 10th of this month, but her death was caused by imprudence on her part. Mary had the fever slightly about the 1st of Dec. She did go to bed with it. We kept her in a warm room for two weeks. She then thought she was as well as ever. At Christmas the girls all got boxes. Mary was not well enough to eat such rich things as fruit cakes, candies, etc. Besides the girls went skating on the creek with the Bishop and she stood there a good while looking at them. She took a cold that night. Thursday after Christmas she took very ill. No remedies gave any relief. She died the evening of the 10th, and Sr. Mary Joseph at the same time died of consumption. We have had no symptom of typhoid now for about six weeks. All here are real well.

Our school is again filling up nicely - we have about fifty boarders - There have been some terrible reports about this fever. Have you seen the pieces in the Chillicothe paper? 'Twenty pupils and two Sisters died here last week.' The Bishop contradicted it in the *Journal* and Dr. Hamilton in the *Statesman*. I would send you one of these notices but the Sisters sent out all I could get before your letter arrived. You may contradict all reports about sickness here. We had enough, it is true, but there is no more of typhoid here now than there was a year ago. We are all well.





SISTER ANGELA SANBURY

1794 — 1839

FOUNDRESS OF DOMINICAN SISTER
HOOD IN THE UNITED STATES

1822

SR. ANN HILL

1805 — 1840

SR. FRANCES WHELAN

1815 — 1844

SR. MARTHA McDERMOTT

1815 — 1845

SR. JOSEPHA LYNCH

1812 — 1847

SR. TERESA SMITH

1824 — 1847

SR. ANGELA LYNCH

1822 — 1847

SR. CATHARINE BECK

1815 — 1848

SR. CLARA OSMAN

1819 — 1849

SR. TERESA MURPHY

1831 — 1850

SR. ANGELA McCORMICK

1824 — 1850

SR. STANISLAUS McCORMICK

1826 — 1851

SR. DOMINICA WILSON

1824 — 1852

SR. OSANNA MORRIS

1820 — 1855

SR. MARTHA BATES

1831 — 1861

SR. CECILIA DUNN

1838 — 1864

SR. TERESA McCANN

1836 — 1865

SR. MONICA LYNCH

1785 — 1867

SR. HYACINTHA DITTOE

1845 — 1867