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St. Mary's Female Institute, a private academy, was opened in 1848 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in the above historic residence, now St. Mary's Convent, Chillicothe. Noted for its recessed doorways and iron railings, it is one of Chillicothe's showplaces. The sketch by Caroline Williams is from the Cincinnati Enquirer of September 28, 1975.

THE CHILLICOTHE ACADEMY
OF THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR

The recent discovery of a "journal" written by a young lady during her days as a boarding student at an academy in Chillicothe conducted by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur before the War between the States, has directed attention to that institution which was opened in 1848 (1).

The Chillicothe Academy was a boarding and day school, and was known as St. Mary's Female Institute. It was housed in what is now the convent of the Sisters of Charity who teach in St. Mary's School, Chillicothe.

According to Ross County records of deeds, two Sisters of Notre Dame purchased Lot #17 on the southwest corner of Fourth and Faint Streets in Chillicothe on September 14, 1848, for the sum of \$8,500.00. They took up residence in the stately historic house built on the property by John Woodbridge in 1816. The Academy was opened that year and was listed in the Catholic Directory each year until 1861. The school "prospered from the start and was patronized by Protestants and Catholics alike" (2).

The names of the two sisters on the deed of purchase were Hortense Monsen and Constance Remy. Both were from the Notre Dame Convent on Sixth Street in Cincinnati, Ohio. Hortense Monsen was Sister Louis de Gonzague, the first major superior of the Sisters of Notre Dame in the United States. She headed the pioneer group of eight nuns who came from Namur, Belgium, in 1840 at the request of Archbishop Purcell. Constance Remy was Sister Laurentine who came to Cincinnati from Namur with a later colony of Sisters in 1845 (3).

The first superior of the community of the newly opened convent in Chillicothe in 1848 was Sister Mary Hyacinthe (4) who had come to the United States from Namur with a colony of sister missionaries in 1850. She remained in Chillicothe until 1856 when she left to head a new foundation in Philadelphia. Sister Laurentine served as directress of the Academy from 1848 to 1858 when she was recalled to Cincinnati to head the dayschool there.

The names of two other sisters who were at the Chillicothe Academy are known. Both died there. They were Sister Mary Josephine who died in 1852, and Sister Christine who died in 1857. Both were buried in Chillicothe, probably in the old St. Mary's Cemetery. Their remains were taken to the sisters' cemetery at Mt. Notre Dame, Cincinnati, in 1890. It is of interest to note that Sister Mary Josephine was the first American Sister of Notre Dame. She had entered the novitiate at the Sixth Street Convent, Cincinnati, in 1841, and was professed in 1843 (5).

The names of other sisters who were at the Academy during its existence are not recorded. However, the "journal" above mentioned reveals the names of Sisters Aloyse, Clarisse, Marie, Euphrasia and Louise.

Besides conducting the Academy, the sisters also went out daily to teach in the two parish schools (6), St. Mary's, founded in 1837 for the English-speaking Catholics, and St. Peter's, for the Germans in 1845 (7).

No register exists of the early pupils of these schools. A few names of girls attending the Academy survive: Elizabeth Reigney, later Mrs. Walter Poland, was among the early pupils, as were also Estelle and Emma Cook, who became respectively Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Daniels (8).

Another pupil, Lucy Pine (9), was enrolled in the boarding school about 1850. Her parents had emigrated from England to the United States and had settled at Paint Creek Farm, near Chillicothe, where their only child Lucy was born in 1833. She had been baptized in the Episcopal Church in 1846. While a pupil at the Academy she entered the Catholic Church in 1851, having been instructed by Sister Laurentine. Lucy entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Cincinnati in 1854, and was professed Sister Mary in 1856. She became a distinguished and much-loved teacher on the faculty of Mt. Notre Dame Academy, Reading, Ohio, where she served from 1860 until her death in 1880. (During her girlhood in Chillicothe she was organist at St. Mary's Church.)

Although the various schools of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Chillicothe prospered, the foundation was closed in 1862 (10). The reason is thought to have been the scarcity of priests in those years, when priests had to care for many distant missions as well as their own parishes. These circumstances often left the sisters and pupils for months at a time without Mass or the sacraments. Conditions arising from the War between the States may also have influenced the sisters in closing the Academy.

It may be added that the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur from Cincinnati returned to Chillicothe again in 1867 and remained until 1872. Their third and last foundation in Chillicothe was from 1883 to 1891.

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- (1) The "Journal" of the young lady will be published in future issues of the "Bulletin".
 - (2) Letters of the Sisters of Charity, St. Mary Convent, Chillicothe, Ohio, 1972-1973.
 - (3) Register of European Sisters of Notre Dame, Missionaries to the United States, 1840-1890. Archives of the Sisters of Notre Dame, the Provincial House, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 - (4) Sister Mary Hyacinthe, Memoirs of Sisters of Notre Dame, Vol. III. Archives.
 - (5) Ohio Province Statistics and Register of Professed Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, 1840-1900. Archives.
 - (6) St. Mary's Church, Chillicothe, Ohio, Centennial, 1869-1969. Booklet.
 - (7) Annals of the Convent of Notre Dame de Namur, Sixth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. 1848-1891. Archives.
 - (8) St. Mary's Church, Chillicothe, Ohio, Centennial, 1869-1969. Booklet.
 - (9) Sister Mary - Lucy Pine - Memoirs of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Vol. II. Archives.
 - (10) Memoirs of Sister Louise, Mary Mannix, Editor, 1907. Archives.

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REBELLION IN ROME
(Sylvester Rosecrans' "Journal" Continued)

(Excerpts from the "Journal" of Sylvester H. Rosecrans, seminarian, and later first Bishop of Columbus, published here through the courtesy of the Archives, University of Notre Dame.)

Dec. 11 (1848). I resume my journal. Today I was disturbed a little by a crowd of people who passed from the Piazza del Popolo up the Corso, screaming like crazy persons. . . . It was said they were going to the Capitol to demand some sort of political change.

Dec. 19. I have been to confession this morning. I am going to Communion tomorrow and day after tomorrow. One year ago I did exactly the same thing, go to Communion on the last day of the old year and New Year's day.

Dec. 27. Quotidie morior. Another day has passed into the deep Eternity behind. Today we went to St. Lawrence. In the forenoon we had High Mass. . . . I finished my letter to William tonight. I answered his questions about my Communion, said a little to encourage him in his pursuit of virtue, &c; the last page I wrote to Annie about Christmas, &c; the stable at Ara Coeli; the English going to Church, news of the Pope's Edict, &c.

Jan. 9 (1849). We are in the midst of another retiro (retreat). My life is to be employed in preaching and in the Confessional. For both there is necessary the most tender charity, with all its fruits.

Feb. 8. Another retiro. A great gift of God gratis.

March 6, 1849. It has been a long time since I wrote any by way of journal, and so I commence today a little something. I have bothered my head the last four months with political affairs, but have gained nothing by the operation but a loss of time.

March 29. The day before yesterday Col. Thomas and the Rev. Mr. Parks called on me. I was much pleased with Col. Thomas though I am afraid he will never be a Catholic. His ignorance was very great. He said the Church in this country was not the same as it is in the U.S. and instanced the dress of the clergy. He did not know what Indulgences were.

The retiro of Holy Week 1849. I think it well to preserve a record or two of that. We made three meditations. The first was on the use of grace derived from the tears which our Savior shed over Jerusalem. . . . The second meditation was on the suffering of our Savior. . . . The third meditation was on the duties of our state. This state being the Apostolate, our duties are the same as those of the Apostles.

April 24. Friday. I have set down to scribble a few lines of notes that may serve hereafter for some not of this time if I should ever need it. We are cooped up here now for three days uncertain of what is going on in the city and only knowing that it is unsafe to go out. The French who arrived at Civita Vecchia on the 21 are in possession of that city. Yesterday four commissions came to treat with these madmen here. They ordered the Pope's government be restored, then promised that further treating would be had. The Assembly shouted out against it; swore they would maintain their freedom to the last. They became infuriated.

And the French asked them to put an end to their ragazzato (childishness) and talk like men. But they only shouted the more. So that the Ambassadors left dejected for the evils to be brought upon the city. It is said that their army is now on the march from Civita Vecchia. In the meantime the radicals here are preparing for defense. They are building barricades out at the Civita Vecchia gate and ruined the two bridges Ponte Molle and St. Angelo's. New troops seem to be arriving - of Garibaldi, I believe. Several nunneries have been broken up and their inhabitants sent abroad to shift for themselves. One at the Church of St. Sylvester which is very large they sent the nuns away from the sight of us. The people collected in immense crowds to witness the operation. A line of carriages came up, was filled and drove off. Numbers of armed civics were present, whether to keep the people from preventing that the house should be emptied, or to facilitate it or to prevent insult and robbery to the house, I do not know. A very large crowd collected just now in the twilight seemed to indicate the arrival of troops. There (were) only about forty nuns, I believe. The other houses were emptied in the same way.

In the meantime Luchi and the Neapolitans are said to be coming up from Stracina(?). And the German troops are about to occupy Romagna, if they have it not now. What these wretches want to fight for I do not know. What hopes they can have, I do not see. Perhaps God lets them harden their hearts in order that their chastisement may be more signal. Or they may be so mad as for the name of liberty they want to die. That great villains are among them who cannot hope to escape public justice ought to be a reason why they should run away. Perhaps they want to die avenged. Poor Creatures! How many of them ere Sunday night may have seen the realities of human life. God forgive them and save them!

As for us we naturally feel a little uneasy, not knowing but that the nuns as the first got off cheaply. The ignorance in which we are of what is doing. All the papers have been stopped contributes to our uneasiness. Will they resist? A few days will decide. Perhaps tomorrow night may find us bombarded. The civics and carabinieri have refused to fight. We will maintain order, they say. . . . -- God be loved and blessed forever.

Sunday, April 29. We had a walk today in the morning. Troops were arriving at the Porto del Popolo about a company in civics dress. Some grenadiers also arrived on Monte Pinco(?) and insulted us as we passed along. We saw a barricade outside of the city and a battery along the Via Flaminia. The three streets going out into the Piazza del Popolo are being barricaded, barricades of dirt. They are also digging holes in the Piazza itself, whether for materials or for the destruction of the road I do not know. They have ruined the two bridges. They are also barricading by St. Peter's. For materials they have taken down a quarter of a mile of the covered way. Six thousand civics are said to have volunteered, and gone out of the city at 12 past night to attack the French at Civita Vecchia, in addition to other troops previously sent. They seem resolved here to maintain an obstinate defense. The French it is said will be nonplussed at meeting opposition and will have to send back for new instructions.

The edict says that when the French arrive the bell in the Campidoglio will sound and then that all the churches must ring their bells and all good citizens to arms. Two authorities say the vanguard of the French is only 15 miles away. These fellows are determined to enter the houses and fire from the windows, and so to defend the city step by step. Stesbini says which do you want your Republic or the ancient government of the Priests? A sharp hit he made! And they answered

hurrah for the Republic. This evening a mob took the Cardinals' carriages out to make barricades with. Four or five went for ours. They made a bonfire in the evening, I suppose to burn those parts of them that were of no use in the barricades. Al fuoco, al fuoco (to fire, to fire!), they cried here and we thought they were going to put fire to the college.

April 30. The French came. The firing commenced about eight o'clock in the morning. Though in good truth I did not hear it until after 12. I saw the shops closing at 9, and the soldiers running through the streets like mad. Drums were beating and the wildest confusion filling the city. They saw the cannon from the first off from the wall behind St. Peter's at Monte Mari. Finally in the afternoon came a rattle of musket shots which lasted for some time. Then about us began to run the "viva" through the city that the French were beaten. A little after four the shots ceased, except here and there a shot in joy over the victory. The Italians have several hundred killed and wounded. They have also lost some prisoners. They took some prisoners also, some twenty or thirty daring fellows who scaled the wall to spike the cannon. They pretended to have taken two cannon but this is not so clear. About the position they had I cannot gather anything intelligible. Nor as to the number of the French does anything appear. A wounded French prisoner told his Doctor that they were a vanguard of 15,000.

This story is very probable that this vanguard approaching encountered the Tiraioli(?) and some of the Garibaldi assassins outside of the walls, defeated it and followed it up to the gates. Out of 200 Sapienza students only 14 remain now. The Frenchman tells that the main body rests about 16 miles away. Tonight the Romans fanno festa (make feast). All the windows in the city are illuminated; even ours have lamps sitting outside. Mine fell by the way into the street and was lost, as did Ryan's. Garibaldi was wounded in rescuing the Tiraioli.

May 1. Instead of the roar of cannon this morning all was perfectly quiet. The Blacksmith across the way opened his shop at the usual time. And commerce goes gaily on. The French retired in the night and we know nothing more of them. Today it rains and little will be done towards marching today. The civics seem determined to keep order.

May 2. Today also was quiet enough, though particulars are being collected of no pleasant terror. Many priests have been arrested, and two French priests were shot on the day of the battle. A Trasteverino priest was shot last week. Another priest has been hewn in pieces in the city, the same day of the battle. The populace entered the French Ambassador's office and siezing upon a Frenchman dragged him out and shot him. The secretary of the Ambassador escaped. New troops arrived from Frascati and vicinity today, about 20,000 it was daid. Saturday evening came a rumor that the Neapolitans crossed the confines and somebody had read the Proclamation of Philangelli; also that the Germans would arrive at the same time with him.

It was also rumored that 14,000 went out of Rome to drive off the French and were cut to pieces in the night of the 2nd.

May 3. We cannot go out into the street yet, but are cooped up here from morning till night. Know nothing.

May 4. Today the drums beat after dinner and Garibaldi's assassins met and marched towards St. John Lateran's; it was said to meet the Neapolitans who were at Albano with 10 pieces of cannon. Today four men, one of them a priest, were killed and dragged through the streets and thrown into the Tiber. caroled out some little children in the streets as they battered a cardinal's carriage wheel. We hope the Garibaldani a buon viaggio. They say they have ruined the Dorian Palace. Days of blood to succeed yet. God help us.

May 5. The Garibaldani should have returned, but they have engaged the Neapolitans it is said and been cut to pieces. A few of them with Garibaldi escaped and ran away nobody knows where. At the same time the Caribiniers and the Dragoons deserted to the Neapolitans.

May 7. Vigil of St. Michael's apparition. Today the Republic sent out the French prisoners, with sound of trumpet and festival. The red flag was taken down from the castle and the triumvirate (it is said) have told the French that they had hitherto mistaken their object; but that now, when the French have received 12,000 reenforcements and the Neapolitans in frightful numbers are standing at Albano. We begin to see through the affair and are willing, nay wish, for the French to enter the city. The Italian revolutionists would link Italy with France in the coming ruin(?) of that unhappy nation. The devil is working hard and Europe is going to Barbarism; we shall see, or other generations shall see.

May 8. We are floating down the tide of time again without port in view. The finishing of the war and the return of tranquillity has been my part, but the story yesterday about the French having exploded, we are thrown adrift again. When will we get out? When will we have school? When will the Austrians the French the Spanish the Neapolitans enter? But after all, this serves me right. What are these things to me? Will I be more virtuous, better prepared to die by their entrance? Will it be easier to show fortitude, humility, simple mindedness then? Thou dost well, O my God, to deny me what I want and delay what I desire. But in the meantime what horrid stories will poor mothers. . . .and the boys here. . . .I must write to them. A good plan will be to write a short letter. . .

The Austrians are said to be in Ferrara 200 miles away, and it is said that they are yet to come before our affair will be consummated. Last night an edict was issued saying that it mattered little to us whether there were three or four powers engaged in the matter, very courageous. The French prisoners who were commissioners taken when they came to treat were delivered up at a threat of Oudinot (French General); that if not he would enter the city in 24 hours. And so things stand where they stood.

May 9. Another day of confinement. I wrote to William today, not to be anxious, &c. I saw Col. Thomas in the streets today. About 1500 line troops entered today, said to be of Ancona and the adjacent places. What will be the result of the affair? Blood, blood. O folly of men that for the trifles of an honor thus murder each other and themselves!

The French are encamped quietly about 10 miles off. The Spaniard 8000 at Fiumicelli. The Neapolitans at Albano, &c, and here they are fortifying. Garibaldi did have a brush with the Neapolitans and then ran away to Licoli and robbed the Cathedral there of all chalices &c. Are they waiting for the

Germans? They are in Florence. I thought something of going away today. I was going to borrow the money from Callen. If I had money of my own I would certainly go tomorrow. But as I have tried so lately the temper of the superiors about this I hesitate. France too will soon be in uproar unless this affair is carefully conducted to a close, for the sovereigns of Europe cannot stand long this fire in their midst. They are too combustible.

May 11. This morning there was a tremendous beating of drums and great excitement, caused apparently by the approach of the French who are now in sight. It does not seem that the Iterians(?) have approached at all, though nothing certain can be gathered from the rumors we hear. The French will probably approach nearer tomorrow. They say there are now about 30,000 troops about the city, though most probably the number is really a little short of 60,000. In like manner they say there are 60,000 or 70,000 men under arms in Rome, though really I cannot believe that there are more than 30,000. So we stand; each day we say perhaps it will come tomorrow, and then again tomorrow. We feel tolerably secure, though the soldiers will probably enter the buildings to fire from the windows, and they have already filled little bags of dirt to throw out our windows on them. Tomorrow now, says a well circulated rumor, a voce commune. Perhaps the Austrians are yet to come.

May 12. Nothing. I saw Callen in secular dress. He cut a most ludicrous figure. . . . They are laying all about Rome & very close, within a mile. Tomorrow being Sunday they will do nothing.

May 13. All night there was and they blew up Ponte Molle. The city was illuminated in ½ hour. A false alarm of some carrier who tried to drive his carriage through the French lines without answering the (who goes there?) and was so frightened by a pistol shot that he drove clear back to the city and raised an alarm that they were coming.

May 14. We are surrounded. The French stand at Nero's sepulcher.

May 19. Here we are at May 19 in statu quo. But I have changed my taste. I thought of preserving a sort of record of these times, but that thought with my usual inconstancy I have changed. I now fear that I shall remember too much of these villainous affairs.

June 4. Yesterday at 4 o'clock in the morning the French approached the gate in three or four places and there was sharp firing from 5 o'clock until after 8 p.m. The hospitals are full of wounded and there are numbers in St. Andrew's. The French it seems merely wished to plant their cannons in good positions and the Romans went out to impede them. Five companies of Romans were taken prisoners. Several of Garibaldi's were destroyed and his adjutant was shot. The Teraioli(?) after a night's debauch in the Roman College in which they had a procession for C.D. and a High Mass went out to fight and were nearly destroyed. Today there has been a little firing almost all day, on the part of ours, I believe. The French, having lain quietly behind their barricades. We were called upon for thirty beds today. They gave twelve. Tomorrow will probably be the day, three days of blood.

(To be continued)