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*Students, including Ann O'Hare, at St. Mary's of the Springs Academy
(Courtesy of St. Mary of the Springs)*

A School and a Scholar: An American Story

by Margaret E. Mooney

An Ohio Bicentennial marker was dedicated September 7, 2003 to honor a school whose doors first opened to 35 students 135 years before, on Sept. 7, 1868. The Dominican Sisters had hastened to open St. Mary's of the Springs Academy just three months after moving from Somerset in Perry County, Ohio to Columbus to establish their new Motherhouse. The enrollment for this school for girls increased to

136 pupils by September, 1869, including Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish girls.

These Dominican Sisters were plucky, innovative, and far-sighted American women. Their Academy embodied the traditional description of the Dominican Spirit authored by St. Thomas Aquinas: "Contemplare tradere . . . to give to others the fruits of our contemplation."

Thus the Bicentennial marker details the founding of an excellent school for young women, "The Academy," treasured by so many to this day.

The reverse side of this marker celebrates the life of an excellent woman: Anne O'Hare McCormick, who was a renowned *New York Times* Columnist and Editorial Board Member, and who had been a St. Mary's student from 1893 until her Academy Graduation in 1898. Although Anne received many honors and honorary degrees during her successful career, she was armed with only one diploma, the one she received from St. Mary's of the Springs Academy on June 22, 1898.

During her eventful and busy career Anne O'Hare McCormick kept in touch with two cherished teachers: Sister (later Mother) M. Stephanie Mohun O.P., and Sister M. Anthony Cohan O.P. A signed copy of Anne's 1928 book, *The Hammer and the Scythe*, published in late 1928 and dedicated to her mother, Teresa Beatrice O'Hare, was sent to St. Mary's with this inscription, "To St. Mary's of the Springs from one of her grateful children." Signed: Anne O'Hare McCormick.

A note, dated November 19, 1928, preceded the book. This note was hand-written on an heavy vellum card, in an envelope now tucked in Ohio Dominican University's Rare Book Room copy of *The Hammer and the Scythe* :

Dear Mother Stephanie,

I am sending by the post a copy of the book on Russia I was working on last spring. It has just come from the publishers, and one of the first copies must go to St. Mary's Library as one of the grandchildren of my old Alma Mater. It was in that library that I first learned that there was such a place as Russia and such a thing as a Revolution -- so here's one of the side effects of planting some seeds of knowledge!

I hope you'll some day find time to examine my brain

child. No one's opinion of its merit and demerits would mean more to me than yours. And if by any chance you should wish extra copies, please let me know and it will give me great pleasure to send them.

At the first opportunity, before long I hope, I'm going to treat myself to a day at St. Mary's. I pray that the college flourishes and that you manage to sail as serenely and humourously as ever on a "sea of troubles."

My constant love to Sister M. Anthony and all the Sisters.

Always affectionately yours,
Anne O'Hare McCormick

Miami Hotel
Dayton, Ohio,
November 19, 1928

In June of 1928 Mother Stephanie and her Council had voted to build two buildings at the same time to enhance the fledgling St. Mary of the Springs College, begun in 1911 as "The Ladies Literary Institute of St. Mary's of the Springs" with a charter to open only as a "Literary Institute". This first college for women in the Diocese of Columbus had been formally opened in 1924 and the first commencement was held in June, 1928. An honorary degree was awarded to Anne O'Hare McCormick. The College Archives has a letter from the honoree in which she expresses that she is pleased beyond measure to have the honorary degree, her first, conferred on her, and that she was hopeful that the first commencement would be the beginning of a brilliant epoch for the college.

After her Academy graduation thirty years before, Anne had become a self-educated, life-long learner. Coupling a keen intelligence and a natural curiosity with a zestful acceptance of the challenge, Anne was a courageous reporter and journalist. She insisted that her reporting be based on first-hand, in-depth observations of all sorts of people and their reactions to their circumstances, and how they related to the events or subjects she was covering.

THE O'HARE STORY

Anne Elizabeth O'Hare was born in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England on May 29, 1880, the daughter of Irish-American parents: Thomas J. O'Hare, a life insurance regional manager who later deserted the family, and Teresa Beatrice (Berry) O'Hare, a poet and a journalist. Anne grew up in Columbus Ohio, attended St. Dominic Parochial School until 1893 when she became a student at St. Mary's of the Springs Academy. Anne was the eldest of three daughters. The family made their home at 216 22nd Street, (on Columbus' East Side.) The 1887-88 *Polk's Columbus Directory* lists Mr. O'Hare as "Superintendent, Metropolitan Life Insurance of New York." Until 1898 he was involved in three other insurance companies. The most interesting to diocesan readers would be his three years as the insurance agent and Secretary of The Hibernian Savings and Loan whose offices were in The Theatre Building at 35 1/2 North High at Hickory. *Polk's 1895 Columbus City Directory* also lists President: Thomas Dundon, and Treasurer: Frank J. Macklin.

The year Anne graduated, 1898, her mother Teresa O'Hare was listed as having a dry goods store and residence at 1009 West Broad St., far from the east side where they had lived a number of years.

When Anne was in high school, her father, by now a regional manager for Home Life Insurance Company, deserted the family. To earn money Teresa O'Hare ran the dry goods store and sold door-to-door a book of her self-published poetry (*Songs at Twilight*, Columbus Printing Co., 1897). There is a copy of this slim book in the Columbus Metropolitan Library. The book is dedicated to Rt. Rev. Bishop Watterson and includes a poem to the Bishop, "written by Mrs. O'Hare, and read by her for The Watterson

Reading Circle, at St. Joseph's Academy, December 27, 1895."

"...In all undertakings fade doubt and fear
By those magic words, 'Our Bishop is here!'

Perhaps a more significant and telling poem is "An Echo":

I found a heart's echo,
A gladsome heart's echo.
With notes full of joy
How it answered each throb!
I lost a heart's echo,
A faithless heart's echo.
'Twas silenced and hushed
By a tear-laden sob.

Could this "faithless heart's echo" refer to Mr. O'Hare's desertion? If so, imagine the family of mother and three daughters needing money so urgently that Mrs. O'Hare sold this book door-to-door.

A freshening wind was blowing. Mrs. O'Hare and her girls moved to Cleveland shortly after Anne's graduation. Mrs. O'Hare wrote a column (The "Cosy Corner") and edited The Women's Section of the Cleveland Catholic newspaper, *The Catholic Universe* (later the *Universe-Bulletin*). Eventually Anne O'Hare herself became Associate Editor for that paper, working on the paper until her marriage.

In 1910, 30-year-old Anne married Francis J. McCormick, eight years her senior. He was a Dayton engineer and an importer of industrial equipment. His company also produced plumbing supplies. They never established a home, choosing instead to live in their favorite hotels, in the United States and abroad. In Dayton they lived in the Miami Hotel. After World War I, they made frequent and extensive business trips to Europe.

In the ten years following her marriage Anne continued to write. She sold articles to *Catholic World Reader* and *The New York Times Magazine* and poetry to *The Smart Set* and *The Bookman*. She also wrote a history of her former parish church community entitled, "St. Agnes Church, Cleveland Ohio: An Interpretation" (1920).

On the McCormicks' trips throughout Europe Anne talked with a variety of everyday people, and, with the same ease, interviewed noted leaders. She wrote freelance articles for *The Catholic World, Reader Magazine, The Saturday Evening Post, and The Atlantic Monthly*. She had a talent for making astute connections by listening and observing carefully and courteously. Anne had a keen memory. To keep those whom she interviewed at ease, she rarely took notes. She was known for her accuracy and attention to detail.

In 1921 she wrote to Carr Van Ada, managing editor of *The New York Times*, asking if he might be interested in some news stories that she would write during her overseas travels. He wired back, "Try it!" Try it she did. Anne's interest in foreign affairs grew as did the length of the McCormicks' travels. She began keeping a journal of observations of Europe's recovery after World War I. One biographer called her writings "impressionistic pieces." In 1922 *The New York Times* hired her as a regular correspondent. Until her death she wrote exclusively for *The Times*.

In 1935 Arthur Hays Sulzberger, president and publisher of *The Times*, asked Mrs. McCormick to join the editorial board: "You are to be the 'freedom editor.' It will be your job to stand up on your hind legs and shout whenever freedom is interfered with in any part of the world." In 1936, she joined the editorial staff, the first woman to serve as a regular contributor to its editorial

page. Thus began a long association with the paper. *The Times* said, at her death, that, "... she brought light without heat to her readers out of increasingly complex national and international politics...she became the expert the experts looked up to."

She brought to her column, "Abroad," the important European figures of her day: Mussolini, De Valera, Leon Blum, Hitler, Stalin and countless others. She wrote about The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Korean Conflict, and the United Nations and covered the 1947 guerrilla war in Greece at age sixty-seven. She wrote, "The imagination cannot picture the desolation that this hit-and-run fighting leaves behind it...everywhere...suspense. In such fearful quiet must the early settlers in the West have waited for the descent of the Indians."

About Anne, *Time Magazine* once wrote, "...she...was as tireless as a self-winding clock." Oh, but she had wit. James Reston wrote, "Anne was full of mirth and spunk. This was the Irish in her! Everything and everybody interested her; and she illuminated every subject she touched." Mr. Reston remembered that, at the 1952 Republican Convention, "...she wore a lovely white silk dress patterned with tiny Democratic donkeys, and, at the Democratic Convention...another white silk dress...with small blue Republican elephants." Reston writes of her "fierce pride in the American reporters who wrote early on about the rising dangers of Hitler and Mussolini." Anthony Eden, then British Foreign Secretary, commented to Anne (condescendingly), that American reporters had "also" realized the menace of the dictators. "As a matter of fact," she replied, "they were ahead of the diplomats who, after all, are only badly trained reporters."

(To be concluded)

Abstracts from *The Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued, from Vol. XXVIII, No. 11)

January 15, 1853

T. F. MEAGHER IN COLUMBUS.

On Thursday night the 6th inst., this distinguished patriot remained at Columbus en route to New York. On Friday morning he was prevailed upon by a deputation of our citizens to remain for the day, and give a lecture in the evening; he lectured, and immediately after, started by the night train for Cleveland.

Mr. Meagher's accidental visit raised great excitement and much anxiety to hear the far-famed orator and patriot; it called forth a little gossip also as to the morality of his political views and his notions of liberty. But all was soon composed--he appeared, he spoke, he convinced, he charmed and he satisfied the most scrupulous rigidist as to the integrity, and strict morality of his political doctrines.

Why Mr. Meagher should have been suspected of red republicanism, or of Mazzinyism I cannot tell; I have never seen any plausible proof of it. Let us judge the man fairly by his words and his actions... His subject was New South Wales and Australia, its origin, its present position and its prospects. The subject did not seem judiciously chosen; any other would have been more welcome to our anti-English hearts...

...He is to be here again in the month of March, and he will be heartily welcome. C.

Subscriptions: James Joyce, Columbus; Edward Smith, Circleville; Elias Paget, Jacksontown, O.

January 22, 1853

THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER

This gentleman's name has heretofore received no other than favorable notice in our columns, but he has lately delivered a speech in New York to an audience chiefly Protestant, in which he has indulged in invectives and sneers, for which it is difficult to account. Mr. Meagher wishes, it is

now quite evident, to select his friends from amongst those who never hear Mass on Sundays. He has an undoubted legal right to do as he pleases in this respect, but those true men who believe in Christianity and who think that the service of God and Patriotism are not inconsistent, have also the privilege of treating with the "contempt" it so richly deserves, such peevish and impertinent speeches, as that which he delivered in New York. Nothing has been said in Cincinnati, so far as we can learn, to offend him; no Catholic clergyman called on him, or authorized any other person to do so, to ascertain his sentiments on any subject whatsoever. We, like others, were willing to treat him with respect, and have done so heretofore; but he has thought proper to place himself in the position of an antagonist, and take up his quarters with those who treat "pious admonitions" with "shouts of laughter." He will now find himself popular with those who have been ever prominent in hating the land of his birth. His hostility is already the subject of their applause.

Circleville, Jan. 17, 1853.

VERY REV. SIR--While the rapid progress which the sacred cause of Catholicity has within a few years been making in our great and flourishing Diocese, affords a subject of astonishment to those not of the "household of the faith," and of serious alarm to the frenzied disciples of the No Popery school: to the Catholic heart her onward course is a source of purest consolation and holiest joy. The mind, enlightened by the rays of divine faith, sees in the glories and triumphs of the Church, only the development of that spirit of vitality imported to her by her divine Founder, in the memorable words: "Lo, I will be with you all days, even to the consummation of the world." Some few years ago, a son of the Emerald Isle came to this town with a view of procuring a permanent home for himself and family: the day

after his arrival he was met by a brother Irishman *who, in a good natured way*, advised him to deny the fact of his being a Catholic, for, said he, so extravagant are the notions which the people here have of the principles of your religion, that its avowal will deprive you of all employment. "Well," replied the stranger, "I will see myself and family starve on the street rather than conciliate their kindly feelings by the denial of my religion." What has been the result? But a few short years, and he who clung to the "good old church," "thro' good report and thro' evil report," has lived to see the object of his wishes amply realized: a pious and respectable family has grown up around him; the little frame church--50 by 25 feet--which the exertions of the good and pious Pastor of Lancaster, Rev. Josue M. Young, succeeded in erecting, four or five years ago, with every available inch occupied, does not now afford accommodation to half the Catholic population. But "God tempers the wind for the shorn lamb." Our prospects of building a large and commodious church this year, are bright and cheering. We have a long line of railroad in progress of construction thro' this town. There are employed on it some hundreds of warm, generous-hearted Irishmen; a more orderly, peaceable, and industrious body of men it would be difficult to find. Numbers of them have taken the Temperance Pledge, and no exception to its strict observance has up to this occurred. Modern philanthropists are every day giving to the world their finely drawn theories for the amelioration of the moral condition of all "ages, sexes, and conditions of men;" their Maine Liquor Law speculations, Women's Rights Conventions, cum multis aliis, are the great levers by which humanity is to be raised from earth to heaven.-- Time, however, is the great touchstone to test the soundness of such theories. We can dispense with all of them. Let the Catholic be placed within the influence of his religion; let her holy principles be brought to bear upon his conduct, and soon will the reckless and dissolute be transformed into the steady and

industrious citizen. The subscription list for the building of our church was opened on yesterday. It would please you to see that spirit of generous emulation, which on such occasions so peculiarly belongs to the children of Old Ireland, nobly displaying itself,--some of our own kind neighbors have promised to assist us with the material aid, and tho' the capital and interest will not be secured to them in "Hungarian scrip," still they will have the consolation of knowing that their names will be recorded in the memory of Him, who has said, "a cup of cold water given in His name, will not pass without its reward." We hope to see our good Archbishop amongst us early in the Fall, to dedicate our new Church.

M. FORDE.

January 29, 1853

DREADFUL ACCIDENT NEAR COLUMBUS.--In a gravel pit near the depot at Columbus, on the Columbus and Indiana Railroad, two fine young Irishmen were killed on Friday, the 21st ult., by the falling of a gravel bank. Whilst they were filling the cars, the bank, which had been previously undermined, gave way, and the cars being drawn up too closely to the bank, allowed no passage for escape.

These were two young men of excellent character, and it must be a consolation to their afflicted friends to know that though they were hurried away before their God, without the last rites of their Church, they had lived good and Christian lives, and had faithfully complied with the holy rites of their faith, at the late festival of the Nativity.

The name of one was William O'Brien, from the Parish of Emly, in the County Tipperary; he was 23 years old, and one of the tallest, stoutest, and best young men in the city of Columbus.

The other was John Moran, from the County of Waterford, a fine young fellow, of a remarkably quiet temper, and an agreeable manner.

They were both much beloved by their companions, and sincerely regretted.

(To be continued)

Chapel Hill, Perry County, Baptismal Register

1840-1850

Two leaves of the baptismal register of St. Francis Church are now missing, comprising pages 3 through 6. Happily, these were among the records of 1841 transcribed by the late Monsignor H. E. Mattingly and published in the 1977 *Bulletin*. His transcription and a partial photo-copy of page 5 were used here. The records do not list any locality. In brackets following the date has been placed the most likely location of each baptism, based on the residences of the persons involved. Sunday Creek or Chapel Hill St. Francis is indicated by [SC], Monday Creek St. Peter by [MC], Deavertown St. Michael by [D], Chauncey Seven Dolors by [C], and Athens County St. John the Baptist by [A]. Keep in mind, however, that St. Peter's Church was not finished until 1850, so the people of that congregation may have traveled to Sunday Creek for baptisms. This seems to have been the case on some dates when names from both locations are present. Also, traditions state that the Irish Catholics of Angel ridge, lying between Athens and St. John Church at Anthony, often would travel north to services at Seven Dolors at Chauncey. From the combinations of names that appear in these records, it appears that the Catholics of Bearfield Township, Perry County, site of the later St. Dominic Church at South Fork, attended most often at Deavertown.

1840

page 1 [top portion torn away]

[torn ---] [SC], Rev. Mr. Mccaffrey baptized conditionally George Thompson; spon. Patrick Masterson [signed "Rev. James Mccaffrey" but in the hand of A. Olivetti]

[torn ---], John, son of Timothy and Ann Wright?; spon. James and Ann Mccarty Aegidius Olivetti

[torn] 28, Thomas, son of Michael and Ann Cunningham; spon. Margaret Cunningham

and Ml. Olivetti AO

1841

Jan. 3 [D], Andrew, son of Joseph and Agatha Richards; spon. Mary and Solomon Feny[?] AO

Jan. 15 [SC], Michael, son of John and Helen Mitchel; spon. John Malan and Mary Skenna AO

Jan. 23 [D], Joseph Philip, son of Paul and Catharine George; spon. Ml. Olivetti and Abigel Longstret Ml. Olivetti

Jan. 24? [D], I supplied ceremonies of baptism for Daniel Dekes, age 27; spon. Ml. Olivetti and Abigail Longstreth AO

Jan. 24 [SC], William son of Patrick and Bridget ----- [Heekan?]; spon. Andrew Leady and Tybia Curnean AO

Jan. 31 [C], Catharine, daughter of John and Mary Curtan; spon. John Swifth and Tenix? Mcdearmat AO

same day, James, son of Thomas and Mary Car?; spon. Patrick Morn and Mary Brufy AO

same day, I supplied ceremonies of baptism for Margaret , daughter of Thomas and Catharine Bane; spon. Patrick Kendrik? and Ann Kennan AO

Feb. 1 [C], Francis John, son of James and Sylvia Alice prot[estant] Mcnamara; spon. Joseph Omeany and M. Denman AO

same day, Elizabeth Mary, daughter of William Emery? prot and Catharine Cant; spon. John Duffy and Mary Keaghy? AO

page 2 [top portion torn away]

Feb. 23 [SC], Mary Ann, daughter of Mathew and ---- [torn] Mcgouvern; spon. Thomas Walpol and Ann Smith AO

Mar. 2 [C], Anastasius, son of Silvester and Margaret --arm; spon. Joseph Meleon and Ann Denman AO

Mar. 3 [MC], I supplied ceremonies of baptism

to Julia daughter of Stephan and Alice Feagan; spon. John Gret and Mary Ryan AO
same day, Mary, daughter of Stephen and Alice Feagan; spon. Hugh Harrington and Catharine Dunning AO
Mar. 5, Mary, daughter of N--- and Sarah Harking; spon. John Shorlin and Catharine Coesblen AO
same day, John, son of Joseph and Margaret Heartman; spon. Michael Mcdaniel and Alex [Alice?] Mccullaugh AO
same day, Mary, daughter of Condy and Mary Gallagher; spon. Patrick Mcconl and Catharine Mcoughlin AO
same day, Mary, age six years, daughter of John and Helen Mcclusky; spon. Charles Breslin and Mary Gallagher AO
same day, I supplied ceremonies of baptism for Thomas Fitzpatrik, age 27; spon. Aegs. Olivetti AO
same day, conditionally, Elizabeth Logan, age 48 years; spon. Aegidius Olivetti AO
same day, conditionally, Sarah Logan, age 25 years; spon. Aegidius Olivetti AO
Mar. 19 [SC], Elizabeth, daughter of Michael and Catharine Welch; spon. Michael Cragan and Bridget Kensley AO
same day, James, son of James and Elenore Rain; sons. Thomas Sweeney and Bridget Sweeney AO
[pages 3 and 4 and first record on page 5, as transcribed by Msgr. H. E. Mattingly:]
page 3
---- [SC], James, son of Michael and Judith

Doyle; spon. Cornelius Clennen and Mary Schean
---- [SC], Rose, daughter of John and Bridget Cunn----; spon. Maatthew Walpol and Mary Smith
---- [SC], Angela, daughter of Hugh Donley and Helen Don---; spon. Andrew Masterson and Mary Donley
Apr. 24, Michael, son of Richard and Margaret Geordan; spon. Thomas Mcgloklin and Catherine Mcgravy
same day, Helen, daughter of James and Bridget Berry; spon. Mary Enland and Hewgh Fitzpatrik
Apr. 25 [SC], Helen, daughter of Michael and Mary Heg; spon. Michael Molan and Helen Mourtough
May 2 [D], Philip, son of John and Temperance Gaigher; spon. Patrick Canada and Mary Ann Begin
May 4 [MC], Jesse, son of James and Ann Haket; spon. Jesse and Mary Carpenter
May 6, Mary Ann, daughter of Edward and Mary Kensley; spon. Thomas Gallagher and Joanna Lee
same day, Joanna, daughter of Michael and Helen Megra; spon. Laurence Footman and Catherine Searlok?
May 10 [D], Ann Mary, daughter of Philip and Ann Longstreth; spon. Aeg. Olivetti and Abigail Longstreth
May 15, Samuel, son of Own and Helen grennen [Brennan?]; spon. Patrick Tool and Ann Tool
(To be continued)