



Heritage Happenings

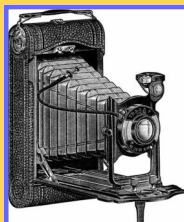
Archives Office
February 2021

Lest We Forget...

Sleuthing in the Archives—the Remembrances Binders



One never knows where an exciting or questionable find will lead! So it was this past month in the Archives as envelopes containing photos of deceased Sisters began to be reviewed and re-evaluated for keepers vs non-keepers. Was the photo clear? Was the sister identifiable? Where was it taken? At the same time the question was asked: “Does she have a writeup in the Remembrances binders?” If not, Sisters often ask the question: Who was she? What did she look like? What do we know about her? Little did we know where these questions would all lead...but “sleuthing” was where to begin. So we “followed the yellow brick road.” Come along... “Sleuthing: Photos and Remembrances”



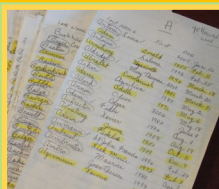
Step 1: PHOTOS: Deceased Sisters had photos removed from personal folders, put in individual envelopes and then filed by last name. Now the photos in each envelope were evaluated for clarity, correct identification, age of Sister, subject of photo, feature interest. Best photos were kept and refiled.



Step 2. REMEMBRANCES WRITEUP: At the



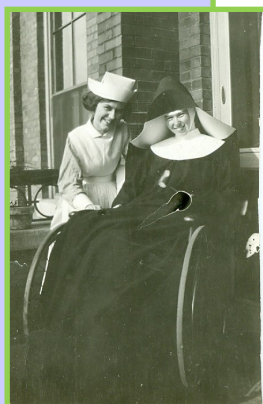
same time that photos were being assessed, lists composed from the binders by Sister Delia were utilized to identify which Sisters did not have any writeup. Those who were yellowed .. did not.



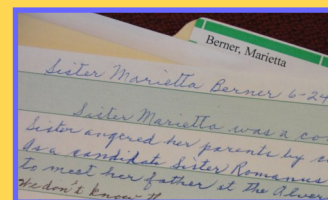
Step 3: COMPARISON: If a Sister had a good photo(s), and was yellowed out, then her name was circled. Her info. needs to be typed up so that we can get to know her better.



Step 4: QUESTIONS: Sleuthing seems to be triggered by a question with a presently unknown answer so, on reaching the “B”s, who was Sister Marietta Berner? On the back of her photo was written: “Convert from Antigo. Baptized in St. Mary’s Chapel. Had surgery on spine. Unable to walk after.” Who was she??

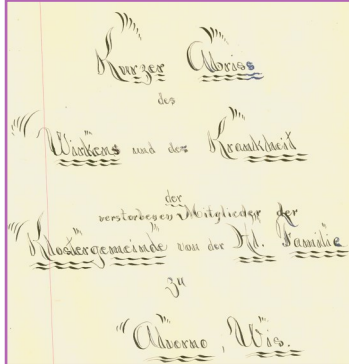
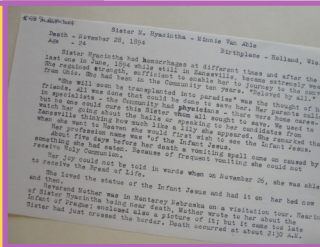


Step 5: PERSONAL FOLDER: Sleuthing took us to her personal folder which contained a green striped paper with all sorts of hand written information on it. Who knew her in the past? The last line read: “Concerning her entrance here, she just took off by herself on the train (with a little wagon) and her suitcase and the Sisters met her at the depot”. Sr. Marietta looks to be most interesting.



Step 6: GERMAN LEDGER: Question: why did Sister Hyacintha Van Able have a TYPED description in her folder but no remembrance writeup?

More sleuthing! Sister Caritas pulled out the old German ledger titled "**Brief Outline of the Minis-**



tries and Illness of the Deceased Sisters (German Community)". This ledger was originally maintained by Sister Seraphica Oyen, one of the German Sisters. She wrote up the first 58 deaths that occurred in the combined Communities beginning with the

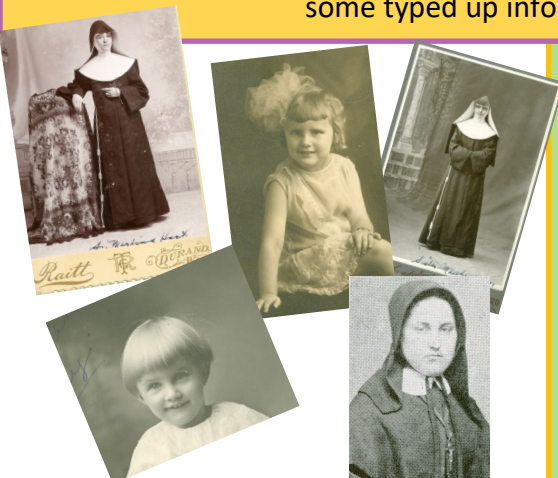
Sisters who originally belonged to and founded the Gieboldehausen Sisters. Her first entrée was Sr. Bernarde Schlote with the history of her ministry and death written in German on the right hand pages. On the left side was the English translation written by someone else...unknown who. The last entrée was Sister Hyacintha Van Able who died in November 28, 1894. The ledger contains 300 pages ending with an outline of all those included. Sr. Seraphica died in 1904 and the writeups stopped. So now we knew why the earliest deaths had some typed up information.

STEP 7: REMEMBRANCES: So why does Sister Hyacintha who died in 1894 have a typed sheet, Sister Matthew who died in 1961 have a written sheet, and yet numerous Sisters between them had no information. Eventually (*more sleuthing!*) a long list was found requesting the Community to send in any information they knew about these Sisters. The green striped sheets were compiled from the collected information...but never typed up.



STEP 8. BACK TO PHOTOS / YELLOWED NAMES: We seem to have come full circle. Our sleuthing has identified:

- 1) A list of deceased Sisters by last name: yellowed out ones do not have any writeup in the Remembrances Binders
- 2) Folders with no write up of any information after the Sister's death
- 3) Folders with a typed writeup after death but not in Remembrances writeup
- 4) Folders with hand written information but no typed copy in Remembrances writeup
- 5) A growing list of Sisters who do not have any photo for inclusion on a deceased writeup. Thus a picture of her gravestone could be used.



STEP 9: BACK TO WORK identifying keepable photos, Sisters that need their information typed up and added to the Remembrances binders. There IS a catalogue card on every Sister who was received into the Community that contains: Date of Birth and Death, Date of Entry, Reception, First Profession names of her parents and where born.

