

“Our buildings and very earth trembled”

An exhibit featuring reflections
on Gettysburg from the Archives
of the Daughters of Charity

June 29 — July 6
1 to 5 PM daily including July 4

Battle of Gettysburg, Pa
17th of July, 1863, the two armies met at
a large town, in Pa., about ten miles
from Gettysburg. They fought until the
evening, advancing by their movements
towards our peaceful Vale, so the
buildings & very earth trembled from
the noise. That night the rain fell heavily & con-
tinued all next day, (Saturday) —
on Sunday morning, immediately after
mass, with twelve
of the Sisters, taking refresh-
ment & intending to d.



Illustrated Checklist of the Exhibition

By Carole Prietto

Bibliography

By Denise Gallo

Introduction

On June 27, 1863, Union troops encamped on the grounds of St. Joseph's Central House in Emmitsburg before marching north to encounter Lee's forces. Despite the dozen miles that separated them from Gettysburg, the Daughters of Charity could still feel the cannon fire shaking the earth when the battle began four days later. When quiet finally reigned, 16 sisters traveled over the corpse-strewn fields to nurse survivors in the town's make-shift hospitals.

"Our buildings and very earth trembled" narrates events at St. Joseph's from June 27 through July 5, 1863, taking first-hand accounts in the Sisters' annals and interpreting them in light of Gettysburg's history. The story of those days is told through daily readings and rotating displays of manuscripts, photographs, art, and artifacts.

Calendar of gallery talks

June 29: An introduction to the Daughters of Charity as witnesses and participants: *the "voices" of Fr. Francis Burlando and Sr. Marie Louise Caulfield.*

June 30: Custer and the Cavalry arrive: *the "voices" of Sr. Marie Louise Caulfield and Sr. Camilla O'Keefe.*

July 1: Bread: *the "voices" of Sr. Camilla O'Keefe and Sr. Mary Jane Stokes.*

July 2: Memories of St. Joseph's: *"voices" of various Sisters and Generals*

July 3: Over the killing grounds to Gettysburg: *"voices" of Sr. Camilla O'Keefe and Sr. Matilda Coskery*

July 4: Care of wounded: *"voice" of Sr. Matilda Coskery*

July 5: Sisters nurse in Gettysburg: *"voices" of Fr. Francis Burlando and Sr. Camilla O'Keefe*

July 6: Fifty years later: *"voices" of Sr. Juliana Chatard and former Union drummer boy Charles T. Barnes*

The Daughters of Charity and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

In 1633, St. Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac founded the Daughters of Charity in Paris as a community of women religious missioned to care for the poor. This ran absolutely counter to what the French government expected women religious to do: stay in cloistered convents and pray. Vincent and Louise used a little word-play so their community would not be forced to do that: instead of calling the Daughters' homes "convents," he called them "houses." Their training was not "novitiate" but "seminary." Most important, the Sisters did not take the perpetual vows: they took and still do take annual vows. Thus, the Daughters are "Sisters," not "nuns."

In 1809, Elizabeth Ann Seton founded a community of women religious at Emmitsburg, Maryland, calling them the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's. Her desire to consecrate her life to works of charity led her to St. Vincent's 1633 Rule of the French Daughters. In 1810, Mother Seton was given permission to adapt that rule for an American community. In 1850, the Sisters at Emmitsburg affiliated themselves with the Daughters of Charity in Paris, adopting their blue habit, the white collar and cornette. Prior to that, they had worn what is called the "black cap" habit associated with Mother Seton and other communities of the Sisters of Charity.

Illustrated Checklist of the Exhibition

All items from the Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louise Archives except where noted:

EAHS: Emmitsburg Area Historical Society, Emmitsburg, MD

LC: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, DC

NARA: National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC

SCC: Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

YML: Yale University Medical Library, New Haven, CT

St. Joseph's Central House, Emmitsburg



St. Joseph's Academy 1873. Oil on canvas by Ludwig Enke



Left to right: Sisters' Chapel, 1870s; Former Sisters' barn, at present day Highway 15 and Creamery Road, Mother Seton's White House

Town of Emmitsburg



Left to right: Farm House and Hotel, 1863 (LC), Toll House, Town after 1863 fire

Sisters and Priests



Fr. Francis Burlando



Sr. Euphemia Blenkinsop



Sr. Marie Louise Caulfield



Sr. Julianna Chatard



Sr. Mariana Flynn



Sr. Mary Gonzaga Grace



Mother Ann Simeon Norris



Sr. Camilla O'Keefe



Sr. Anthony O'Connell, SC (Cincinnati) (SCC)

Union generals



George Armstrong Custer (LC)



Oliver Otis Howard (LC)



John F. Reynolds (LC)



Carl Schurz (LC)



Dan Sickles (LC)



P.R. de Trobriand (LC)

Selected hospitals where the Daughters of Charity served throughout the Civil War



Left to right: St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Gettysburg; Sketch of General Hospital, Richmond; Ledger from St. Mary's Hospital Rochester, NY



Satterlee Military Hospital, West Philadelphia.
Left to right: courtyard, hospital kitchen, group of Sisters.



Left to right: Gratiot Street Prison, St. Louis, Charity Hospital, New Orleans, St. Mary's Hospital, Detroit.

Images: Battle of Gettysburg / general military images



First row, left to right: St. Joseph Academy omnibus; Commissary Depot, Soldier with amputated limb (YML), Union soldier with haversack and other equipment (LC).

Second row, left to right: Amputation in field hospital near Gettysburg (NARA); Confederate dead near the Emmitsburg Road and the Peach Orchard, 1863 (LC); Emmitsburg Road near Rose Farm and Peach Orchard, 2013

Images: Battle of Gettysburg 50th anniversary, 1913



Top row, left to right: Union drummer boy Charles T. Barnes; Mozart regiment during Battle of Gettysburg; Gettysburg 50th reunion – soldiers arriving (LC)
Bottom row: Gettysburg, 50th reunion – Dan Sickles (LC)

Artifacts



Chaplet, two Miraculous Medals; Green Scapular; Prayer book, *St. Vincent's Manual*, 1860 (left); Daughter of Charity Book of Customs (open book on right)



Two .58 caliber Minie balls and two round balls (on blue fabric); Fragments of unexploded shell and two bayonets (courtesy of Kirk Runkles)

Duplicate.

The United States
 To Sister Camilla O. Kieffer for
 1863
 (Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's House &c.)
 June 29th 109 Colons paid @ 72.50 - \$ 72.50
 " " " 18 1/2 tons Hay @ 7.00 - 121.50
 " " " 120 Bushels Rye @ 1.00 - 120.00
 \$ 514.00

We the undersigned do hereby certify that we have examined and appraised the damage done by the 11th Army Corps to the property of the Sisters of Charity, House of St. Joseph on the 29th day of June 1863 as above set forth, given under our hand at Emmittsburg.

Joseph Kays
 Dietrich Zeck
 Peter Hoke.

State of Maryland, Frederick County, to-wit: I, the undersigned, Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Frederick County aforesaid personally appeared Joseph Kays, Dietrich Zeck and Peter Hoke and made with me in due form of law that the matters and things

1-7-1874 #1

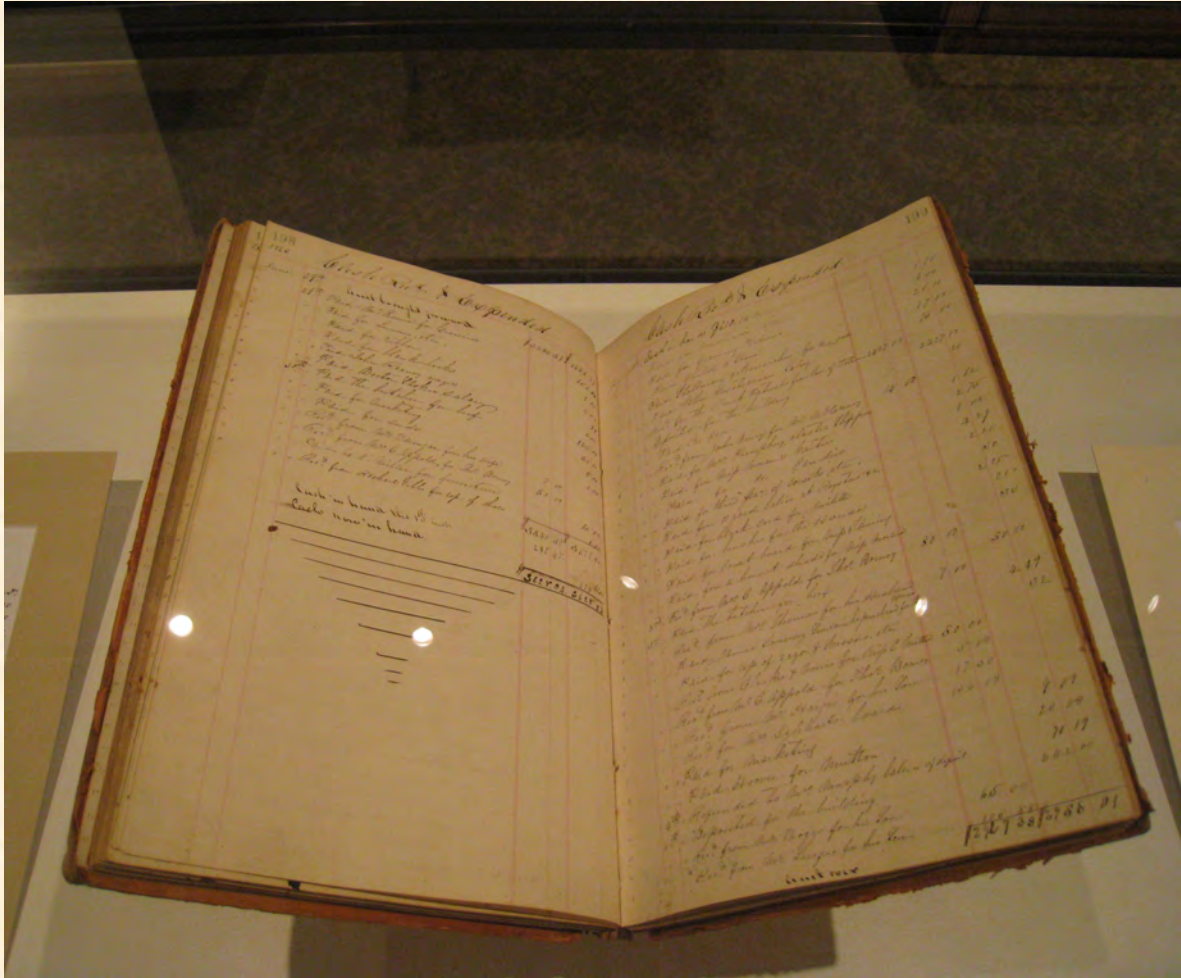
Duplicate

Emmitsburg June 28th 1863.

This is to certify that Joseph Brannan is entitled to pay, for 16000 pounds of Hay, being the amount consumed and destroyed by the 5th Mich. Cavalry while quartered on the grounds of St. Joseph's House (Sisters of Charity) on the night of the 27th of June /63

William A. North
 1st Lt. Ed. A. B. W
 5th Mich. Cavalry.

Receipts for items used by the Union army during their time on the Emmitsburg grounds



Cash book showing expenditures made by the Sisters in late June and early July 1863

Bibliography of sources consulted in preparing the gallery talks for "Our buildings and very earth trembled"

By Denise P. Gallo, Ph.D., Provincial Archivist

Manuscripts from the Archives of the Province of St. Louise [APSL, formerly ASJPH]

Annals of the Civil War, compiled by Sr. Loyola Law, Vol .1: 40-47. Gettysburg. CWA 7-5-1-2, #6

Civil War Related Correspondence, 7-5-1- 2,#5

Provincial Annals, 1861-1864, 7-8-3

Sr. Matilda Coskery, *Advices Concerning the Sick* 16-2-4

Many published resources are available on the Battle of Gettysburg. Among those we consulted, we found the following particularly useful as we compiled research for gallery talk topics; these books in particular helped to support, clarify or revise the remembrances in the archival sources.

Original memoirs

Autobiography of Oliver Otis Howard, Major General United States Army. New York: The Baker & Taylor Company, 1907.

Doubleday, Abner. *Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.* New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1882.

Floyd, Sergeant Fred C. *History of the Fortieth (Mozart) Regiment New York Volunteers.* Boston: F.H. Gilson Company, 1909.

Hard, Abner, M.D. *History of the Eighth Cavalry Regiment Illinois Volunteers, During the Great Rebellion.* Aurora, IL: N.P., 1868.

Kidd, J.H. *Personal Recollections of a Cavalryman with Custer's Michigan Cavalry Brigade in the Civil War.* Ionia, MI: Sentinel Printing Company, 1908.

Meade, George, author and editor. *The Life and Letters of George Gordon Meade.* Vol. 2. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913.

Michigan in the War. Compiled by Jno. Robertson. Rev. Edition. Lansing: W.S. George & Co., 1882.

The Life and Memoirs of Comte Régis de Trobriand, Major-General in the Army of the United States by his Daughter, Marie Caroline Post. New York: E.P. Dutton & Company, 1910.

The Reminiscences of Carl Schurz. Vol. 3: 1863-1869. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Page & Company, 1917.

Trobriand, Régis de. *Quatre Ans de Campagnes a L'Armee du Potomac par Régis de Trobriand.* Tome Second. Paris: Librairie Internationale, 1868; trans. George K. Dauchy. *Four Years with the Army of the Potomac.* Boston: Ticknor and Co., 1889.

N .B. Many of these personal memoirs have been digitized for online reading and can be accessed through GoogleBook Search.

Modern Studies

Catton, Bruce. *Gettysburg: The Final Fury*. New York: Doubleday and Company, 1974.

Coddington, Edwin B. *The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command*. Originally published in 1968. New York: Touchstone, 1997.

Foote, Shelby. *Stars in Their Courses: The Gettysburg Campaign, June-July 1863*. Originally published as Vol. II of *The Civil War, A Narrative: Fredericksburg to Meridian* (1963). New York: Random House Modern Library Edition, 1994.

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Guelzo, Allen. *Gettysburg: The Last Invasion*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.

Longacre, Edward G. *The Cavalry at Gettysburg: A Tactical Study of Mounted Operations during the Civil War's Pivotal Campaign, 9 June- 14 July 1863*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1986.

Longacre, Edward G. *Custer and his Wolverines: The Michigan Cavalry Brigade, 1861-1865*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1997.

Nevins, Allan, ed. *A Diary of Battle: The Personal Journals of Colonel Charles S. Wainwright 1861-1865*. Originally ed. New York: Harcourt, 1962. New York: Da Capo Press, 1998.

Stackpole, Gen. Edward J. *They Met At Gettysburg: A Step-by-Step Retelling of the Battle*. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1956.

Acknowledgments

The Provincial Archives is grateful to the historians and librarians at the Gettysburg National Military Park for their assistance in explaining the dates and times of troop movements through Emmitsburg and also of the types of ammunition and weapons that created the wounds the Daughters nursed after the battle. We also thank agricultural historians at the Carroll County Farm Museum in Westminster, MD, and the Landis Valley Museum in Lancaster, PA for explaining the importance of clover crops in the 1860s.

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DAUGHTERS *of* CHARITY

PROVINCE *of* ST. LOUISE