

Introduction

The Daughters of Charity Archives of the Northeast Province is the repository for historical records of the works of the Daughters of Charity in the Northeastern United States. The Community, founded in 1633 in Paris France, has provided healthcare, social service and education to persons in need, and shelter to orphaned children in the United States since the early nineteenth-century. As a result of their service a number of records containing genealogical information about patients, students and orphans are preserved in the archives.

Access

Access is restricted to certain records in the Daughters of Charity Archives including student records, medical records, and orphanage admission records. In certain cases access to the information contained in these records is governed by Federal laws including the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), title 45 Part 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations Regarding the Protection of Human Subjects , Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act as well as state and local laws governing access to certain records.

If you have questions about obtaining access to genealogical information contained in any of the records in this guide please contact the Daughters of Charity Provincial Archivist

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Copies of records in the archives are available for \$0.10 per page and \$3.00 per scanned photograph.

Sisters' Records

The Archives of the Northeast Province maintain files on individual sisters living and working in the Northeast Province since 1969. These files contain materials donated by individual sisters that document their education, community and professional lives. They vary in size from a single document to several linear feet of documents.

The Archives also preserves the Sisters files maintained by the Provincial Administration. These files contain vital records for each sister (Birth and Death certificates, Sacramental records) education records (transcripts, diplomas etc) health records, photographs and materials documenting the careers and community life for each sister.

These files are transferred to the Provincial Archives upon the death of the sister. Access to these files is limited to the Provincial Superior or her authorized representative. The Provincial Archivist will provide general biographical information (dates of birth, death, vocation etc) to individuals conducting genealogical research.

Estate Records

In many of the collections in the Daughters of Charity Archives, there are files detailing bequests made to various local missions run by the Daughters of Charity. Often in the form of real estate, these bequests are documented by wills, deeds, correspondence, plot plans, and legal contracts. The records documenting these bequests form parts of the various mission collections in the archives and are listed in the descriptions of those collections.

Orphanage Records

The Daughters of Charity have been caring for orphaned children in the United States since 1814, when the first group of sisters left Emmitsburg Maryland for St Joseph's Female Orphan Asylum in Philadelphia. With a few exceptions the orphanages operated by the Daughters cared for girls from the ages of 6 to 18. Younger orphan children and infants (boys and girls) were cared for in infant asylums until the age of 6 when they were separated by gender and given a home in local orphan asylums.

The Archives of the Northeast Province does not have individual orphan children's case files in its collections. When the Daughters began closing orphanages in the 1950s the children's case files were transferred to the Roman Catholic diocese in which the orphanage was located. Researchers interested in using these materials are encouraged to contact the appropriate diocesan archives to obtain access to them.

Although the records for individual children are not in the Archives of the Northeast Province, the collections do contain information about the history, operation and conditions of the various orphan asylums operated by the Daughters of Charity in the Northeastern United States. These materials include administrative correspondence and reports, newspaper clippings, commemorative publications and ephemera. Most orphanage collections contain photographs of children and sisters, although often the children are unidentified.

The following collections contain specific genealogical information for children cared for by the Daughters of Charity. Access to records is subject to the approval of the Provincial Archivist.

Columbus Day Nursery, Boston, MA

Ledger of children cared for at the day nursery while mothers worked 1907-1918 (name, date of admission, address, age of children, and notes about family and mothers' employment)

Ledger of Children admitted to day nursery 1921-1925 (name, date of birth, address, name of parents, occupation)

St Ann's Infant Home, Troy, NY

Baptismal Register with alphabetical and chronological list of the 106 children baptized at the asylum.

Children's Records with an alphabetical and chronological list of children placed in St Ann's. Each entry contains the following information: Name, Date Admitted, Baptized, Parents, Religion, Birthplace, by Whom Placed, By Whom Taken, Discharged, Deceased (Date).

Two Address Books with address for relatives/guardians responsible for financial support of children.

Patients Records 1889-1891 includes Name, Date Admitted, and Date Discharged.

St Catherine's Center for Children, Albany, NY 1886-2005

Lists of children at St Catherine's in 1963 (name, date of birth, date of admission) and children at the Anthony N Brady Maternity Home 1915-1928.

St Joseph's Female Orphan Asylum, Philadelphia, PA 1814-1894

Children's records include a register of Baptisms, Confirmations, and First Communion for St Joseph's Asylum, Gonzaga Memorial Asylum and St Joseph's-Gonzaga Home 1895-1976.

Admissions and discharge registers for St Joseph's-Gonzaga Home 1960-1973, St Joseph's Hall for Girls and St Vincent's Emergency Shelter 1968-1984. Also includes records of schools attended by children at St Joseph's Hall for Girls and St Vincent's Emergency Shelter 1978 and 1984.

Hospital Records

From the humble beginnings of an unfurnished one room hospital ward in Troy, NY to the current co-sponsorship of Ascension Health, the largest Catholic healthcare system in the United States, the Daughters of Charity have provided quality healthcare to people-in-need throughout the Northeastern United States.

The Archival collections in the Daughters of Charity Archives document the administration of these hospitals as well as the medical care given to patients, and working conditions for doctors and nurses who staffed these hospitals. Although the Archives do not contain large series of medical records, there are several collections that contain genealogical information about patients treated at the hospitals, and the staff and students who cared for them.

Carney Hospital Boston MA

The Carney Hospital records include an admissions register containing an alphabetically indexed list of patients admitted from 1907-1914, and a ledger of attendance records for male student nurses attending the Carney Hospital School of Nursing from 1912-1918.

Access to the register of admissions is restricted for 100 years from the date of admission unless researchers can provide documentation that the subject of their research is deceased.

Providence Retreat, Buffalo, NY

The records of Providence Retreat contain a very limited sampling of correspondence, court petitions, and accounting records for patients treated at the asylum between 1895-1942.

St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, NY

The St Mary's collection contains three ledgers of potential interest to genealogists.

- Bills submitted to the Commissioners of Emigration of the State of New York 1861-1874.
 - Contains the name, age, native country, name of ship, date of arrival, last residence, admission and discharge dates for immigrant patients treated at St Mary's
- Patient Bills 1866-1889
 - Chronological listing of patients treated at the hospital. Contains name, diagnosis, date of entry, date of discharge, improved/unimproved condition, and date of death.
- Register of Union Army Soldiers Treated at St Mary's 1861-1865. Manuscript copy of ledger submitted to War department for compensation for treatment given to soldiers.
 - Contains, name, rank, company, regiment, date of entry, date of discharge and remarks regarding treatment.

St Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing Records, Philadelphia, PA

The School of Nursing records contain student records from 1932-1957 that include application materials; correspondence between students, administrators, family members; recommendations, curriculum materials, and transcripts.

An index of students is available in the Archives. Access to the records is limited to 80 years from the date of graduation unless the researcher can document the death of the student.

School Records

From the middle of the nineteenth-century until the present the Daughters of Charity have staffed numerous elementary and secondary schools in the Northeastern United States. Occasionally these schools were connected with the orphanages the Daughters' operated, but they also taught in parish schools, and, in the later half of the twentieth century, consolidated elementary and secondary schools sponsored by various dioceses.

Similar to many of the orphanage records, individual student's records were transferred to the parish or diocese that operated the school. A majority of the education related collections in the Daughters archives document the administration of the schools, the curriculum, and school activities; they do not contain individual student's transcripts or official educational records. Although dioceses have the most detailed records for students educated by the Daughters of Charity many traces of individual students remain in the Archives of the Northeast Province.

Bishop Maginn Albany, NY

- Yearbooks 1978-2002

Cardinal McCloskey High School, Albany, NY

- Yearbooks 1958-1977

Cathedral Academy, Syracuse, NY

- Yearbooks 1958-1981 (incomplete)

Nativity High School, Pottsville, PA

- *Lawtonian* Yearbooks 1979-1993

Our Lady of Lourdes School, Utica, NY

- List of Lourdes graduates 1932-1986;
- student attendance records 1931-1985

St James School, Johnson City, NY

- Class rosters 1962-1985

St John's High School, Albany, NY

- Yearbooks, 1946, 1948-1950, 1957

St John's Home and School, Utica, NY

- Register of student-members of the Children of Mary 1966-1971 including children's name and the date of reception into the society.

- Yearbooks 1945-1995

St Peter's Cathedral School, Wilmington, DE

- Register of Students in the Children of Mary 1956-1968 includes student's name and date of reception into the society.