

OHRAB Final Report
“Lifting the Veil: Tracing the Expansion of the
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati through Story and Picture”
December 30, 2022

Institution: Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati Archives

Project Director:

Veronica Buchanan, Archivist

5900 Delhi Rd.

Mount Saint Joseph, OH 45051

Phone: 513-347-5348

E-mail: veronica.buchanan@srcharitycinti.org

Summary of Project Activities and Accomplishments

This project has resulted in the digitization of 8,146 photographs and 20 manuscripts (1,342 pages), resulting in the creation of 101 new item records in Ohio Memory. Visual examples of some of the content digitized can be viewed in Ohio Memory through the tailored search links below:

[Mission Photograph Collections – \(ohiomemory.org\)](http://ohiomemory.org)

[Manuscripts - \(ohiomemory.org\)](http://ohiomemory.org)

After examining the project narrative outlined in the original application, every benchmark was eventually met by the end of the year. The primary deviations stemmed from delays with our vendor, Crowley Company, who experienced an unprecedented influx of material from Federal departments because of a looming digitization deadline. We also were delayed by the fact that many portions of the photograph collection were drastically undercounted by our Photo Archivist. Crowley eventually scanned over 15,000 images by the final invoice, nearly doubling the overall cost of the project. The resulting overages were covered by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati archives budget. The scanning phase was finally completed by mid-November; project scans were reviewed and approved by the Project Director by the end of November. The approved scans were then formatted and prepared for the Ohio Memory team to upload into the system by the first week in December and the item records were finalized by mid-December.

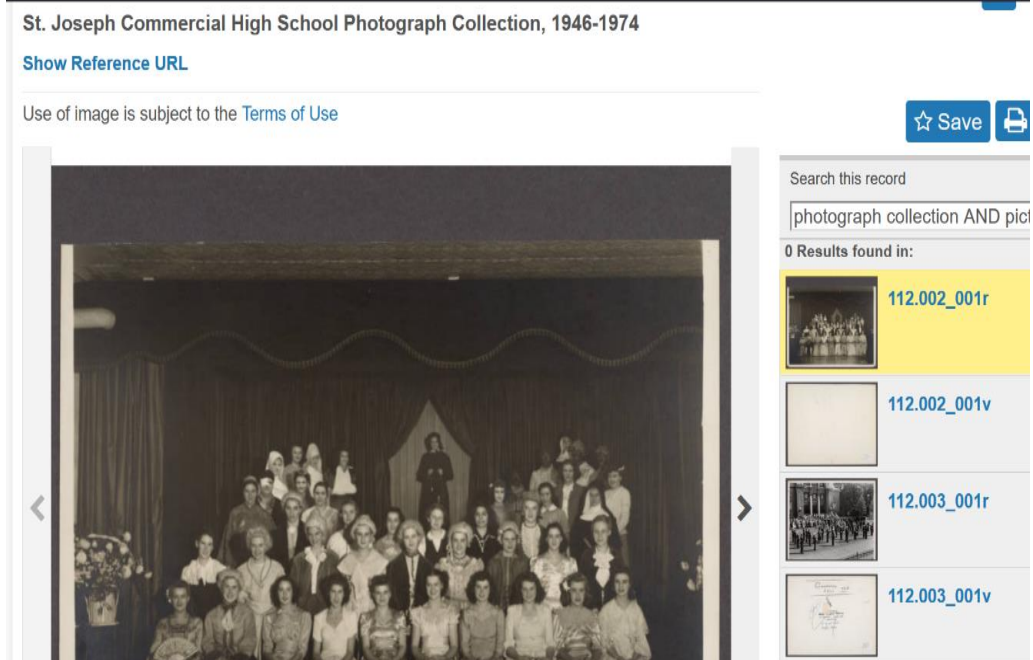
Both Ohio Memory and ACWR have expressed interest in publishing an article on this project early next year. The Project Director will prepare an article to distribute for these outlets by the end of the year, completing the last benchmark of the project outline in the grant period.

Despite many setbacks to our schedule and a very tight timeline to get this project back on track for completion by December, the benefit of having some of our most valuable and requested materials available through Ohio Memory has already paid off. A regional historian tasked with writing a book to commemorate a parish's 175th anniversary was able to view all of the images we had from the parish's school and selected many for use in specific chapters. This entire exchange occurred over an afternoon rather than nearly a week that it normally takes to pull materials and scan access copies for review. Another genealogy request from a daughter of a graduate from one of the Community's schools of nursing was able to find a picture of her mother in the collection, a feat we normally can't achieve as most photographs featuring students are unidentified. These are just two examples of the innumerable ways these records have and will continue to be utilized.

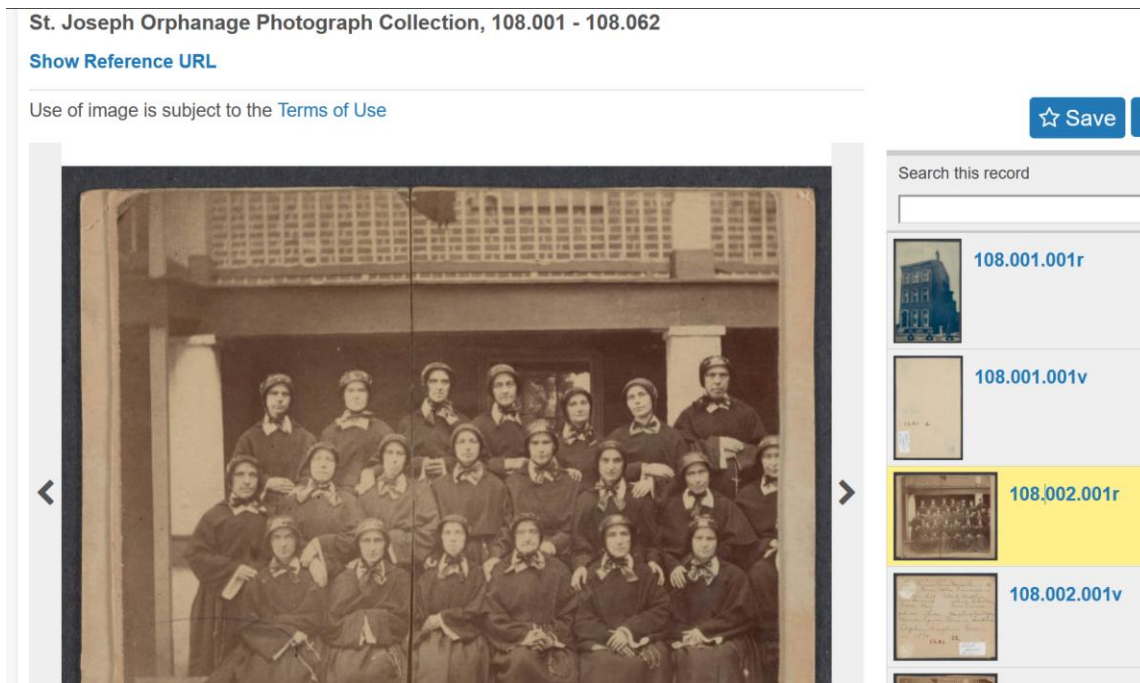
Therefore, it is not surprising to see a stronger showing of overall page views as well as unique users to the collection through Ohio Memory in our last quarter report. Compared with our last Ohio Memory OHRAB-funded project from 2020, we received nearly double the page views to our collection, a definite sign of increased interest in our new content. A marked increase in users outside of Ohio, accounting for over 20% of all sessions, demonstrates the wider scope of this project's content along with confirming the ever-growing trend toward digital scholarship and research. Although we weren't able to promote this project as much as we have due to the delays described above, we anticipate that interest will continue to grow early next year with the publication of blog articles on the Ohio Memory home page and the ACWR Blog and social media outlets. The breadth of the geographic reach of these new records, sharing photographs and first-hand accounts from Colorado, New Mexico, and China among others, underscore the need for increased accessibility to previously undiscoverable materials. OHRAB has graciously provided us with this opportunity and the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati archive team along with researchers and scholars throughout the country will be forever grateful!

Appendix A

1)



2)



- 1) [Example](#) of a school photograph collection, St. Joseph Commercial High School in Dayton.
- 2) [Example](#) of one of the earliest photographs digitized in the project from St. Joseph Orphanage in Cincinnati.

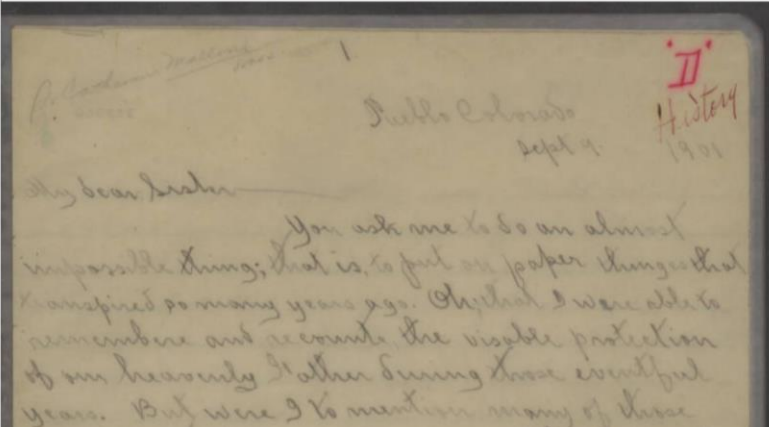
3)

Journal of Sister Catherine Mallon, 1901

[Show Reference URL](#) [View Transcript](#)

Use of image is subject to the [Terms of Use](#)

☆ Save



Search this record

- [Trip of the Sisters Charity from the Mother House to Santa Fe in 1865_002](#)
- [Trip of the Sisters Charity from the Mother House to Santa Fe in 1865_003](#)
- [Trip of the Sisters Charity from the Mother House to Santa Fe in 1865_004](#)

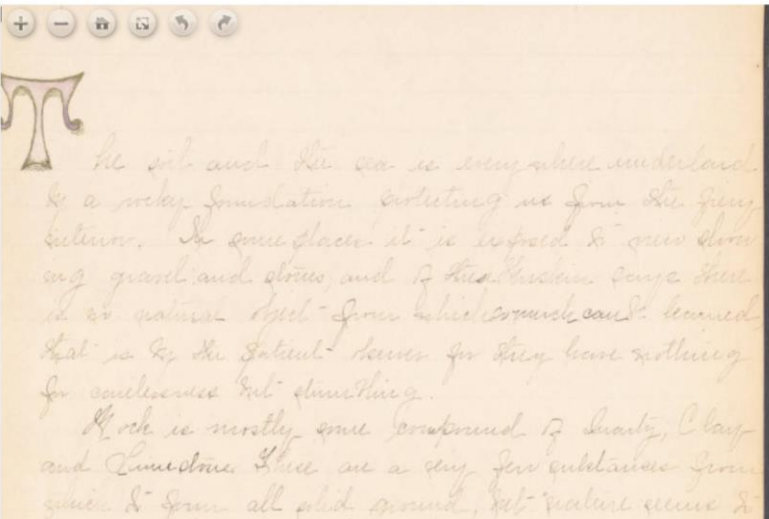
4)

Pupils' Works: Graduate and Undergraduate Classes: Mount St. Vincent Academy

[Show Reference URL](#)

Use of image is subject to the [Terms of Use](#)

☆ Save



Search this record

- [Pupil's Works_079](#)
- [Pupil's Works_081](#)
- [Pupil's Works_083](#)
- [Pupil's Works_085](#)

- 3) [Example](#) of a firsthand Sister account, Sister Catherine Mallon's journal
- 4) [Example](#) of 19th century female student works, compiled from Mount St. Vincent Academy

Project Cost

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| - Scanning 16,917 Photographs and Manuscript Pages from the Crowley Company | \$4,809.48 |
| Subtotal | \$ 4,809.48 |
| • Purchased with matching funds: | |
| - Annual Subscription to Ohio Memory | \$250 |
| - Remainder of Digitization Cost | \$3,529.16 |
| Subtotal | \$3,779.16 |
| Project Total | <u>\$ 8,588.64</u> |
| - Amount of staff time spent on the project (matching funds) | |
| 15% of archivist's time | \$5244.48 |