

**INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SISTERS**

From the Archives

By
**SISTER
ANNE
FRANCIS**

Obituary for Sister M. Agatha MacNamara

SISTER MARY AGATHA of the Community of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy of this city, died yesterday morning, July 19, 1901, in the 72nd year of her age and the 43rd in the Community of the Sisters of Mercy. Sister M. Agatha was known in the world as Miss Louisa MacNamara. She was born in Salisbury, North Carolina. Her father was Colonel MacNamara, one of the early settlers of North Carolina. He married Miss Elizabeth Steele of Salisbury. Miss Steele was related to the Henderson family and was also the great grand-daughter of Elizabeth Steele of Revolutionary fame. Louisa was the fourth daughter of this marriage and in her earliest years gave many proofs of her desire to enter a religious state. In 1858, she was admitted into the Community of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in this city. Her early training was under the Ursuline Nuns. As a Sister of Mercy, she gave early evidence of fine administrative ability, and of great aptitude for teaching others, in which she was eminently successful. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Sister M. Agatha was one of that noble band of Sisters, who for four years nursed and cared for soldiers in the hospitals of Virginia. At the close of the war and up to the year 1878, she was Directress of Academies in Charleston and Sumter, SC. In that year she was elected Superioress of the Community and held that office with ability for four years. After her term of office, she became again the Directress of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Charleston, and for sixteen years administered it with the greatest prudence and success. In 1897, at the close of a long and active life, her health failed completely. She bore her years of great suffering without a murmur and awaited the will of her Divine Master.

Thus has passed away one of those noble women whose every impulse was for good, and whose life and example will live for long years to come. The many who have come under her influence in this and other states will mourn with sincerest regret the death of Sister Mary Agatha. The Community of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy has lost one of its brightest and noblest members, who was in every sense of the word a true follower of her Divine Master and consequently a true Religious.

Sister Mary Agatha's file contains a copy of this obituary notice. Unfortunately, it does not include the name of the newspaper or the date of publication.

We do know that Sister Mary Agatha's sister married John Lynch, brother of Bishop Patrick Lynch, and lived in Columbia, SC. Their daughter, Louisa, entered the Community in 1898 and took the name Cecilia. She taught for many years at St. Angela's Academy, Aiken, and, St. Joseph's Academy, Sumter. According to Sister M. de Neri, Sister M. Cecilia was very proud of the fact that she had once danced at the Governor's Ball in Columbia, SC. Sister M. Cecilia died at St. Francis Xavier Infirmary, Charleston, in 1937.