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VOLUME III NO 2

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Mount Carmel Guild Soup Kitchen, Newark, N.J. Established in the basement of St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral in 1935, the kitchen functioned until returning prosperity allowed its closing in 1941. A sign in front of the church advertised that "All needy regardless of race or creed are welcome to the free dinners." According to a former president of the Mount Carmel Guild, the kitchen served daily from 11 A.M. till 2:00 P.M. and was staffed by "approximately 168 volunteers who worked on four-hour shifts. The only paid worker was a butcher who also cooked." Can some reader explain the sign "SILENCE"?

From the Collections

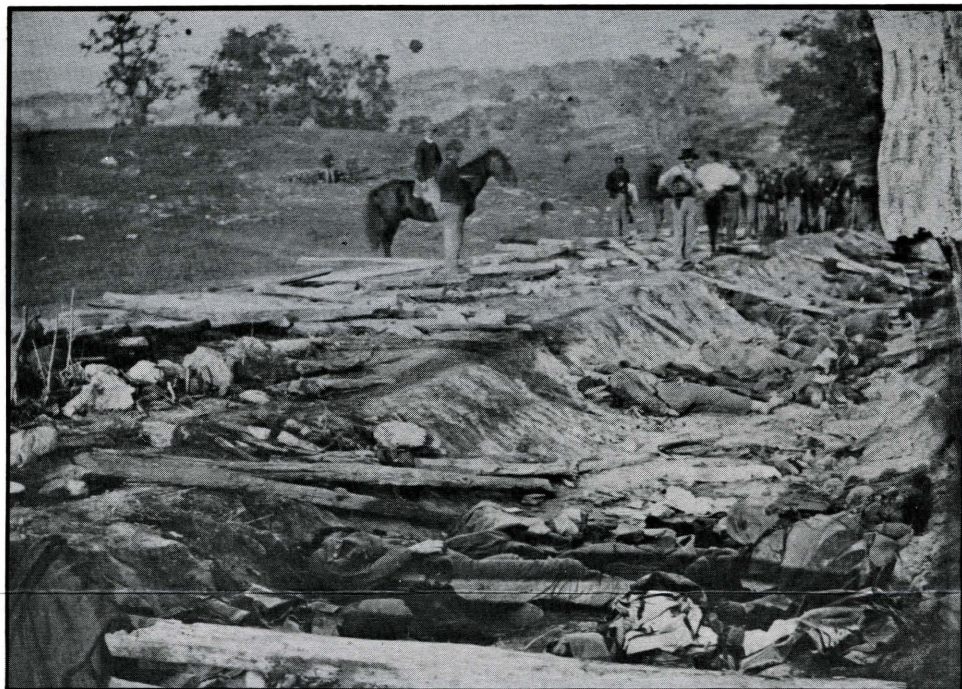
by Stephen Novak

In April, 1861 William Seton Jr., oldest grandson of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, went to war. Volunteering after the fall of Fort Sumter, he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Fourth Regiment, New York Volunteers. His first year and a half was spent behind the lines in Maryland and Virginia—a tedious round of guard duty and patrols.

In September, 1862, however, the Confederates under Lee invaded Maryland in an attempt to capture Washington. General George B. McClellan and the Army of the Potomac rushed to the defense. The two armies met at Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg, Md., on September 17, 1862, in the bloodiest one-day action of the war. Although many historians believe McClellan badly bungled the battle, the Confederates were repulsed after both sides had suffered about 10,000 casualties.

William Seton, “who when twice wounded would not retire” from the battlefield, was commended for gallantry by his superior officer. He was shot through both legs and was at first listed among the dead. His sister Emily, refusing to believe the reports of his death, journeyed to the military hospitals at Frederick, Md., to search for him. After an exhausting day among the wounded, she still had not found her brother. That night she wrote to her sisters in New York recounting her experiences:

Arrived safely this afternoon at Frederic. Searched in vain for our dear Will as my telegram told you; I have only written now because nothing can be done during the night; if I don't hear through you of his being safe and the papers mistaken, I will go early to the battlefield tomorrow. Great number of the wounded are still there coming in with every ambulance. The carnage is awful, all Frederic is one vast hospital, barns, churches, convents, private houses, hotels in fact the wounded are *everywhere*, you will not believe it till you see it. I am afraid I shall never find Will alone, one should be on the field while another ran through every house and hospital in Frederic; in some places they keep no lists and you are obliged to lift the sheet off hundreds of suffering faces to make sure you do not pass your own without knowing it! I shall never forget what I have seen today. . . . I am waiting your telegram in great anxiety, I cling to the hope that the reporters may have given Will's name by mistake—I went twice to the Surgeon General but he assured me there was far as he remembered no Capt. Seton was registered at his office—he told



The battlefield at Antietam, Maryland, September 17, 1862. This reproduction of a famous Matthew Brady photograph belonged to William Seton, Jr. (1835-1905), a participant in the battle. It is one of the many nineteenth-century photographs in Seton Hall University's Seton-Jevons Collection.

me the confusion was tremendous on account of hundreds of wounded arriving every minute. . . . the drs. [doctors] say the wounded of the last battle are still on the field, they have no means to transport all at once.

Emily never had to go on to Antietam. The next day William was found, severely wounded but alive. He eventually recovered and rejoined his regiment in late 1863. Seton later became a well-known writer of children's historical novels and a leading American Catholic popularizer of the theory of evolution. Emily died of typhus in September, 1868.

This is just one of many fascinating incidents described in Seton Hall's Seton-Jevons Papers. The collection, which contains thousands of letters of

the Setons and a family they married into, the Jevonses, was purchased in 1975 by Monsignors William Noe Field and Francis Seymour for McLaughlin Library's Rare Books and Manuscripts Department. The papers are now being processed for scholarly use through a generous grant from the Henderson Foundation. While the collection contains letters dating to 1782, the bulk of the material spans the years 1850 to 1930 and includes numerous photographs, bills, report cards, broadsides, and other items. Taken in its entirety, the collection illuminates many of the social, political, and cultural currents of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century America. It will be a valuable addition to the scholarly resources of Seton Hall University.

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Most Rev. John J. Dougherty, S.S.D., *Chairman*; Bernard Bush; John B. Duff; Rev. Msgr. William N. Field; Sr. Mary Ellen Gleason, S.C.; Rev. Raymond J. Kupke; Joseph F. Mahoney; Sr. Margherita Marchione, M.P.F.; Rev. Msgr. Robert Moneta; Peter M. Mitchell; Rev. M. Joseph Mokrzycki; Miriam L. Murphy; Rev. Msgr. Theodore A. Opdenaker; Carl E. Prince; George L.A. Reilly; Rev. Francis R. Seymour; Rev. Edwin V. Sullivan; Rev. Robert T. Wister.

Newsletter Staff: Joseph F. Mahoney; Peter Wosh

Seton Hall, Sisters of Charity Honor Mother Seton

Both Seton Hall University and the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth recently conducted programs to remember Elizabeth Ann Seton. On January 9, Convent Station hosted a reception and Eucharist honoring America's first saint. Over 500 sisters, administrators, faculty, staff members, students, and alumnae of the College of Saint Elizabeth and Academy of Saint Elizabeth attended the Convent Station festivities. Rev. Charles F. X. Dolan, Vice-President of Saint Peter's Preparatory School in Jersey City, served as celebrant and delivered the homily.

Following the Eucharist, visitors toured the Heritage Room, which contains memorabilia of Mother Seton on display. This exhibition included an antique desk used by Mother Seton and donated to the Sisters by her grandson, Archbishop Robert Seton, who spent his retirement years at Convent Station. Other items included a footstool, pious objects used by the Saint, original letters to and from her, and various personal possessions of Archbishop Seton. Also exhibited were photographs of the ceremonies and pilgrimages of the beatification and canonization of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in 1963 and 1975.

Sister Mary Ellen Joyce, General Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth served as honorary chairman, and the planning committee

included St. Elizabeth's alumnae Dorothy Connolly and Mary Crecca and congregation archivist Sr. Mary Ellen Gleason.

Seton Hall University, combining its annual March 15 Mother Seton Day with a celebration honoring its 125th anniversary, presented a symposium entitled "Catholic Education: Then and Now." Co-sponsored by the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission and Seton Hall University's 125th Anniversary Committee, the conference focussed on historical issues concerning Catholic pedagogy. Bishop William E. McManus of Fort Wayne-South Bend, delivered the keynote morning address, with Msgr. William Noe Field presenting an overview of the Commission's work. An afternoon panel presentation featured James Sanders of the College of Staten Island discussing parochial education, Thomas P. Melady (Assistant Secretary for Post-Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education) commenting on higher education, and Immaculate Conception Seminary history professor Rev. Robert Wister addressing seminary training. Former St. Elizabeth's President Sr. Hildegard Marie Mahoney presided over this session. Her successor, Sr. Jacqueline Burns, delivered a luncheon address.

WANTED: PHOTOS

The New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission is looking for photographs that document Catholic life and institutions in Essex and Bergen Counties for an upcoming publication. Katherine Fogarty (Fairleigh Dickinson University-Rutherford), Charles Cummings (Newark Public Library) and John O'Connor (New Jersey Institute of Technology) are compiling a photohistory to help celebrate these counties' 1982-1983 tercentenaries. Cummings commented that the authors seek "the unusual, the beautiful, and the representative" in compiling the volume.

Several NJCHRC photos will appear in the book; the collections at Seton Hall, however, do not fully document the rich variety of Catholic life and experience in the two counties. Any pastor, parishioner, sister, or other interested person is invited to lend or donate photographs relating to Essex and Bergen to the Commission's archives at Seton Hall for possible publication. Illustrations of life during the depression, World War II relief agencies, women and children, and Catholic ethnic festivals are especially welcome, though interest is not limited to these topics. Please contact Peter Wosh and the Commission's archives, or any of the co-authors mentioned above, if you have any relevant photos in the attic.

Reverend Stephen Szymanowski, pastor, and his altar boys pose for a picture to grace the History of St. Stephen's Polish Catholic Church. The booklet, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Perth Amboy parish in 1902, is a recent addition to the Commission's collection of parish histories.



Meet the Commission

Chairwoman of the Commission's Public Programs Committee, Miriam L. Murphy is one of its most active members. Born in Montclair, New Jersey, she attended local public schools and matriculated at Wellesley College, where she obtained the baccalaureate with a major in history. When her children grew older, she enrolled in the American Studies program at Seton Hall, graduating as a Master of Arts.

From 1967 until 1975 Mrs. Murphy served as Director of Student Activities at Fairleigh Dickinson University. She supervised the professional and student staffs, guided the programming, counseling, and public relations activities of extracurricular clubs and organizations, and sought to develop responsible leadership in student-controlled systems—a taxing assignment in that period of student unrest. Additionally, she was a member of the University Senate and of the University Priorities Committee.

Since 1975 Mrs. Murphy has served with outstanding success as the executive director of the New Jersey Committee for the Humanities. The Committee consists of twenty-three citizens of the State who implement a State-based grants program supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and by private and corporate foundations. During her tenure the Committee has broadened the effective range of its programs and greatly enhanced the work of the humanists—and the public awareness



Mrs. Miriam L. Murphy

of that work—by the wide variety of programs it has funded.

Mrs. Murphy continues today a long-standing commitment to a wide range of personal activities in support of historical and other interests. In the 1960's she chaired the Montvale Township Tercentenary Committee and was a catalyst in establishing the township museum—the first municipally owned museum in the state. In the 1970's she chaired the

Youth Division of the Morris County American Revolution Bi-Centennial Committee and coordinated county-wide youth activities commemorating the nation's independence. She currently serves on committees of the Rutgers University Art Gallery and the American Association of University Professors, and is an active member of the New Jersey chapter, Society of Architectural Historians, the New Jersey Historical Society, and other history-focused organizations.



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