

St. Ann's Orphanage
Worcester, Mass.

ARCHIVES
SISTERS OF CHARITY-GREY NUNS
AMERICAN PROVINCE
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

On the 8th of August, 1889, Rev. Father J. Br illett, pastor of Notre-Dame church, authorized a few young ladies, belonging to the Third Order of St. Francis, to open an orphanage for the American Canadian orphans of Worcester.

In order to carry out this plan, a house on the corner of Grand and Southgate Streets was rented and opened its doors to thirty orphans; this was the nucleus of what is now St. Ann's Orphanage.

The organization of the Canadian Orphanage, as it was then called, became unsatisfactory to all concerned, and it was evident that a more substantial management be substituted for the old one.

Father Br illet, whose charity knew no bounds, applied to the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) of Montreal to take charge of the Orphanage. The Reverend Mother Deschamps, superior General, studied the situation, and, on January 31, 1891, a community of four sisters assumed the responsibility of the new institution. From that time on, it was known as Saint Ann's, in honor of the Superior, Reverend Mother Pich , whose name was Ann.

Laying a solid foundation is always a difficult task. So it had to be with St. Ann's, trials and hardships were overcome by the sympathy of many friends as also by the perseverance of the Rev. Mother Superior and her co-workers.

The cluster of buildings seated on the hill at the terminal on the Providence street-car line on Granite St., the glad shouts of the 200 happy children playing on its premises, testify of the great work which has been accomplished to promote the welfare of the 5633 unfortunate children of both sexes, sheltered and cared for in this remarkable Institution since its foundation.

Nothing is overlooked at St. Ann's. Attention is given to the minutest details; the following incident is a fine illustration of this fact. Only yesterday, a visitor, seeing a small burn on a girl's neck, inquired as to the cause of it. The sister in charge explained that a mole had been removed by means of a chemical. "You don't tell me, Sister, that you remove a flaw that might impair a girl's good looks?" asked the stranger.

At St. Ann's, the children get good food direct from the farm, plenty of playing in the open, up-to-date schooling in two languages, excellent religious training so that the mind and the heart are equally interested in the formation of the character.

While the orphans of St. Ann's are strongly encouraged to love their mother-tongue, to admire their fore-fathers and remain attached to their traditions, at the same time, they are taught always to be true and loyal citizens of their adopted country, the United States of America.