

SISTER M. COLUMBA HEANEY  
251. JANUARY 7, 1943

Sister M. Columba, formerly Anna Heaney, was born in Albany, New York, the oldest of five children born to James and Bridget Ford Heaney, both from Dublin, Ireland. Sister Columba's birthdate given in the Congregation record was listed as November 30, 1868. When this was published at the time of her death, brother Charlie sent the following information about the family:

1861 Anna	Albany, New York
1864 Sarah	Syracuse, New York
1866 Bess	Syracuse, New York
1868 Charlie	Schnectedy, New York, September 26
1870 Nellie	Chicago, IL

Although the pastor of Holy Family Church, Chicago, IL, wrote Sister Columba's recommendation to enter the Congregation, no record of her Baptism was found. Sister Camilla noted that the family moved to St. Francis de Sales Parish in Toledo, OH, before coming to Chicago. With the two sets of information, it seems that Anna would have been eight or nine years old when the family came to Chicago. Anna would have been 31 years old when she came as a postulant, 32 years old when she entered the Novitiate, and 34 years old at the time of First Vows, 37 at Final Vows and slightly past her 81st birthday when she died.

Her years in the Congregation were devoted to sewing:

1893-94	St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1894-00	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1900-12	Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL
1912-14	St. Mary Institute, Bayfield, WI
1914-27	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1927-43	Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL

Sister Columba's final sixteen years were spent at the Orphanage, so fittingly, the other Sisters from the Home were honorary pallbearers and the chaplain of Guardian Angel Home, Franciscan Father Aubert Keuter celebrated the Solemn Requiem. A heavy snowfall was recorded on the day of burial, January 9, 1943.