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Sister Hortulana O'Connor

On the day after Mother Alberta's death the Community lost another professed member - Sister M. Hortulana, formerly Julia O'Connor of Tama City, Iowa, who died of pneumonia on February 22, 1908, in St. Anthony's Hospital, Rockford, Illinois. She was in the forty-eighth year of her age and the thirtieth of her religious life.

Sister Hortulana was considered a successful teacher and she was, moreover, a faithful observer of the rule and constitutions. Always having enjoyed the blessing of good health, she was somewhat alarmed when about two years before her death asthmatic trouble set in. Still she continued in her school duties until the summer of 1907 when the ailment became so serious as to disable her for further work in the classroom for the time being. Her sister, also a religious, belonging to the Franciscan Order and superior of the hospital at Rockford, Illinois, on learning of Sister Hortulana's condition, asked that Sister be permitted to spend some time with her to receive special care and treatments. Sister Hortulana left for Rockford during the latter part of August and as she seemingly improved in health, her stay at the hospital was extended to an indefinite period. Great then was the surprise at the Motherhouse in Joliet on receiving word from her sister, Sister Clara, that Sister Hortulana had a serious attack of pneumonia. The Mother Superior with a companion set out at once for Rockford and on arriving at the hospital found Sister Hortulana in a dying condition. On the following morning she calmly expired. The remains were brought to Joliet and were interred in St. John's Cemetery on the day of Mother Alberta's funeral - February 24, 1908.