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Sister M. Camilla Woermann, the former Anna Josephine Woermann, tho small in stature being only four feet ten inches tall, easily recalled the highlights of her childhood at Welpe near Vechta, the place of her birth on April 16, 1856. Oldenburg became part of southwest Germany. At 92 for the celebration of her 75th anniversary in the Congregation Sister Camilla still manifested her ability concerning historical and geographical data. Anna was born in Germany to Johann Clemens Woermann and Catherine Vehorn, one of five children. In 1861 the family moved from Welpe to Guenenmoor, between the German and Dutch border. During this time when she was eight years old, Anna's mother died and her father was left to care for two children.

On June 2, 1870, the Woermann children and their father sailed from Bremer Haven and after two weeks at sea landed at Baltimore. Anna was then 14 years old. Sister Camilla recalled, " After our baggage was inspected we boarded the B & O Railroad and sped westward to the Ohio River which we crossed by ferry at Cincinnati before boarding another train carrying us westward. After three days we reached the east side of the great Mississippi. The Ead's bridge was in the process of being built and I remember that one pillar was completed on the west side. We had to cross the river by ferry and this brought us to St. Louis where my father's sister resided."

After a time they proceeded up the river and then westward to Arago, Nebraska. The family found it impractical to remain in Nebraska so they moved over to Quincy, IL, to be near three maternal aunts. Here in Quincy, Anna became acquainted with the Franciscan Fathers and the sisters who conducted the hospital. She first considered joining them, but on of the Friars advised her to join the Joliet Franciscans to be a teaching Sister.

When Anna arrived in Joliet at 10PM, Mother Alfred greeted her and treated her to a good meal and a place to sleep. Anna recalled the tiny window panes in her first room.

Since Sister Camilla had had more than a ordinary education and an excellent command of the English language, she was sent to study in Chicago. This was only 18 months after the great fire and burnt sidewalks were still evidence of it.

After receiving her religious name, Sister Camilla began to teach at St. Peter's, Mansfield, OH, and then on to St. Peter's, Toledo, until the Rochester break in 1878. From that time on she was chiefly stationed in Joliet with various assignments including St. Francis Academy, St. John's, Normal Teacher, School Supervisor, General Secretary, Teacher of languages at Assisi Junior College. She also taught in Chicago at St. Francis Assisi and St. Francis de Sales. Her missions also included St. Joseph, Freeport, IL, and St. Joseph, Galion, OH.

In her later years Sister Camilla became very interested in Braille and encouraged Sister Veronica Haarth to pursue this teaching and publishing of books in Braille. Sister Liberata Haedtke was also encouraged by Sister Camilla to learn type-setting and printing which she later taught to the boys in Guardian Angel Home.

In her final years Sister Camilla's eyesight began to fail. For her this was a severe trial. During this time she spent much of her time knitting and reminiscing. She and Sister Stanislas had been the first of our Sisters to ever travel abroad. They made a pilgrimage to Assisi and several other shrines during the 1927 celebration of St. Francis' death. Later again in 1933-1934, she studied in France with Sister Aniceta Guyette and traveled through Germany visiting with her relatives on the way. She was present in the Vatican for the canonization of St. John Bosco.

Sister Camilla has several relatives in the Congregation:
Sister Gervaise Luesse
Sister Bernardine Kelly and her sisters: Sister Alcuin and Orestes
(from her father's side).

Sisters Raphael Wand, Justa Peter, Vivian Hoebing, Clarissa Wand are relatives on her mother's side of the family.

Sister Camilla was 94 years and one month old at the time of her death and in the 77th year of her religious life.