



Key Moments in St. Peter's History

A series of historical highlights from the first 200 years of St. Peter – Libertytown.

Notre Dame Academy of Frederick County and the School Sisters of Notre Dame



Figure 1 Plaque inside the front door of the academy

In the late 1890's Fr. William H. "Ironsides" Reaney, pastor of St. Peter's, approached Sallie Sappington, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Coale Sappington and granddaughter of Richard Coale who built the 1st St. Peter's, about building a school. Sallie agreed to donate the land – 7 acres, and with her brother Dr. Sidney Sappington and their nephew, James M. Sappington of G., they covered the cost of the construction of the combined school and convent building.

In May 1893 Frederick paper, *The Daily News*, reported that Fr. Reaney returned to Liberty (he had been re-assigned to a post in the US Navy by this time) and "... on Ascension Day had the happy pleasure of celebrating the first mass that has been said in the chapel of the academy. Master Sidney Trundle served at the mass."

The school was staffed by the Baltimore based School Sisters of Notre Dame, who opened the doors of their academy to 17 students on September 12, 1892, across the road from St. Peter's church.

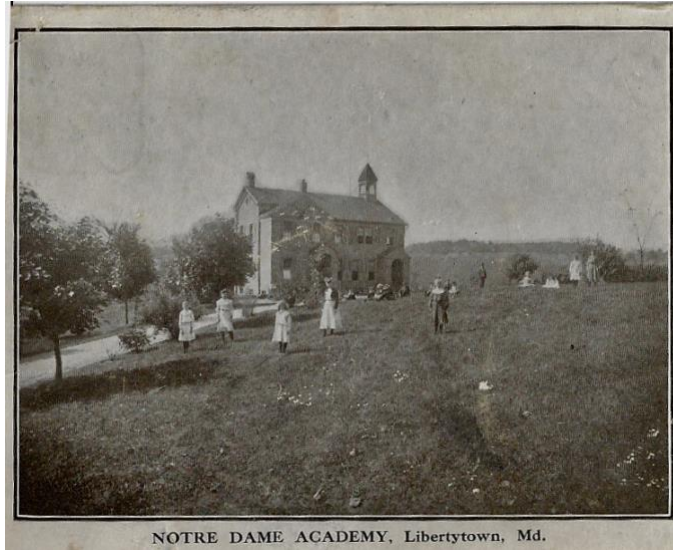


Figure 2 Notre Dame Academy on front of postcard c.1908

Entered	Mr. W.	Miss Mary Rogers	Dr.	Cr.
1893 Sept. 4		Tuition for Sept. Oct. School Books, 57¢ p/dy wheat. Organ Lessons, " Book & Primer		10 00 8 00 10 00
			1 80	
Nov. 6		Pay Wheat		73
" "		Tuition for Nov. Cash		5 00
" "		Book & Primer, " Needlework Materials		1 07
Nov. 17		Pay Cash for Music Lessons, ending Feb. 2, 1894		10 00
Dec. 7		" Cash for Dec.'s Tuition		5 00
Jan. 8		" " " Jan's "		5 00
Feb. 5		" " " Feb.'s "		5 00
" "		" " " for Organ Lessons, ending Apr. 20		10 00
Mar.		" " " Mar.		5 00

Figure 3 Tuition record for 1893-1894 school year

Tuition was \$5.00 per month and was most often paid in cash; however, payment was also made by providing use of a horse for the Sisters, supplying wheat, butter, apples, chickens, corn, lard, and turkeys, and by hauling coal and firewood.

The Sisters offered instruction in French, organ, piano, and voice for an additional charge.

In June 1895, at the end of the Academy's third school year, Frederick paper, The Citizen, reprinted an article which originally appeared in Liberty's newspaper, The Banner of Liberty, on the annual closing exercises of the Academy. In part the article noted that "[t]his school is well established and has a large list of pupils, who receive the very best instruction in all branches of knowledge."

Testimony to this statement can be found in the wide curriculum evidenced in the grade and attendance records which the Sisters maintained from that time period.

Look for more articles on Notre Dame Academy in the coming months – there is much more history to share!

Miss M. Simpson.

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Attendance	90	93	93	94	93	93	96	95		
Punctuality	92	93	93	94	95	93	96	95		
Conduct	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		
Neatness	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		
Orthographic	90	93	93	94	99	94	93	93		
Mental Arith.	91	94	96	94	98	93	97	95		
Reading	84	93	93	93	94	91	93	96		
Etymology	80	93	93	93	93	93	96	97		
History	89	92	98	98	98	95	93	98		
Geography	81	91	97	98	99	96	96	98		
Nat. History	88	93	97	97	98	96	97	99		
Algebra		91	97	98	99	97	98	97		
Book-keeping	85	93	98	97	99	97	98	98		
Botany	84	86	96	97	99	97	97	97		
Grammar	85	92	98	97	98	94	98	98		
Penmanship	89	90	95	94	93	93	97	96		
Drawing	85	90	96	95	94	90	98	96		
German		93	95	94	95	98	98			
French	90	93	91	94	93		90			
Latin	90	92	96	96	98	93	97	97		
Literature	85	91	97	92	97	94	99	98		
Composition				95	94	93	98	97		
Letter Writing				94	93	94	97	96		
Physiology				96	98	96	98	98		
Gen. Average		94	97	95	97	94	97			

Figure 4 Grade and Attendance Record for Miss M. Simpson 1896-1897