

by fire. Undaunted, Sister Hughetta, being a woman of unusual optimism and magnetism rallied her friends to her aid, and from the ashes of the old school, arose a fine stone structure.

Here she stayed and labored untiringly, until a year before her death, when she asked for relief from active work, as she was beginning to feel the weight of years.

Aside from her great work in the religious field, Sister Hughetta was gifted in art and had considerable literary ability.

Bishop Gailor says of her: "Her keen intelligence, her exquisite refinement of thought and feeling, the aesthetic beauty of her countenance, combined to create an unique and striking personality. She gave her mind and heart and life to the service of the Lord she loved. May she rest in peace and may the Light Perpetual shine upon her."

It seems fitting that a memorial should be erected to this saintly woman in the hallowed place where she started her ministry in the South, contributed by those whom she loved and who loved her, and who have been benefited by her generous and unselfish service to humanity.

MISS MATILDA REID,
Chairman.

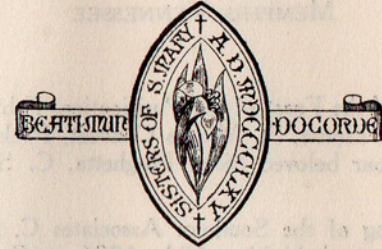
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COSTELLO-GAITHER & CO., INC.



Sister Hughetta Memorial

St. Mary's Cathedral
(Gailor Memorial)



Memphis, Tennessee

SISTER HUGHETTA MEMORIAL
ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GAILOR MEMORIAL)
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

ON THE eve of the Feast of the Purification, February 1st, 1926, at the Mother House, St. Mary's Convent, Peekskill-on-the-Hudson, New York, our beloved Sister Hughetta, C. S. M., passed to her eternal rest.

A called meeting of the Southern Associates C. S. M. Alumnae and former pupils was held May 18th, 1926, at St. Mary's School, 1257 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. Bishop Gailor, who presided, proposed a memorial to Sister Hughetta. It was heartily endorsed by all present and was voted this memorial be a Reredos (to cost not over \$15,000.00) to match in material and design and to be part of the altar in St. Mary's Cathedral (Gailor Memorial).

This, it is believed, will be most appropriate, because it was through Sister Hughetta's efforts that the altar was erected years ago in the old cathedral in memory of the four Sisters C. S. M., viz.: Sister Constance, Sister Thecla, Sister Ruth and Sister Frances, with whom she started her ministry in the South, and who lost their lives during the yellow fever of 1878.

Sister Hughetta alone remained of this little band of self-sacrificing women, for although she was a willing martyr to the cause, and was desperately ill of the fever, the Lord spared her for future work in His Service.

Of the Sisters' ministry, Keating wrote: "It would be impossible to speak in too high terms of laudation of these women—they had made no provisions for an emergency so dreadful, yet when it was announced, they did not hesitate as to their duty." The Nashville American said of them: "Faithfully, constantly, unflinchingly and with holy zeal, these faithful women administered to the sick and dying until they themselves were stricken down."

HISTORY OF HER WORK

Sister Hughetta was a Southern woman. Born in Nashville, Tennessee, February 16th, 1848.

In 1865, in New York City, on the Feast of the Purification, a little band of religious women, four in number, formed the Sisterhood of St. Mary.

A few years later, a young girl of culture and prominence, Hughetta Snowden, felt the call of the religious life, and turning away from the world, entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Mary.

In 1873, through her influence, though still a novice, the work of the Sisters was brought to the South, at Memphis, Tennessee. Shortly afterwards, the yellow fever broke out and the Sisters obtained permission to nurse. They endeared themselves to the whole community.

In the fall of 1873, St. Mary's School for Young Ladies was founded. It was started in the Bishop's House and later moved to its spacious home next door to the Cathedral.

August 21st, 1874, Sister Hughetta took her final vows and became the nineteenth choir sister in the Community of St. Mary.

In 1878, she was made Sister Superior of the Southern work, and she held it together through the years by her indomitable will and strong personality.

In 1888, the Sisters again increased in numbers, and a summer home was established at Sewanee, Tennessee, and named "St. Mary's-on-the-Mountain."

Finding the need great for missionary work among the mountaineers, Sister Hughetta obtained permission from the Mother Foundress to start such work, and in 1897, a training school for mountain girls was opened. In 1899, it was closed for lack of sufficient workers.

In 1902, Sister Hughetta relinquished active work at St. Mary's, Memphis, to go to Sewanee to re-open the mission school of St. Mary's-on-the-Mountain. It prospered beyond all expectation.

On the night of May 3rd, 1909, the school was completely destroyed