

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE4196

Gibbons, Geraldine Scholastica

(1817 - 1901)

Born 1 January, 1817, Kinsale Cork Ireland

Died 15 October, 1901, Marrickville New South Wales Australia

Occupation Religious Sister

Summary

Born and educated in Ireland, Geraldine Gibbons arrived in Sydney, New South Wales with her family in 1834. She and a sister joined the newly-arrived Sisters of Charity, and on 17 July 1847 Geraldine was professed as Scholastica, beginning work in the Female Factory at Parramatta. On 9 April 1848 she went to Sydney to establish a home for penitent women in Campbell Street. The home was moved to Carter's Barracks in Pitt Street in March 1849.

At around the same time, the Archbishop of Sydney, John Bede Polding decided to found an order following Benedictine rules but suited to Australian conditions. He found a group of volunteers and requested Mother Scholastica to be superior of both orders. On 2 February 1857 she helped to establish the Community of the Good Shepherd which took the name of the Good Samaritan to avoid confusion with a similar congregation in Europe. She acted as a Novice Mistress and Superior for the Good Samaritans for nearly ten years, wearing the habit of the Charity order while living with the Good Samaritans. Both the Samaritans and the Sisters of Charity prospered under her leadership.

Published resources

Book

The wheeling years : Sisters of the Good Samaritan, 1857-1957, The Sisters of the Good Samaritan, 1956

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Resource Section

Gibbons, Geraldine Scholastica (1817-1911), Duffy, C. J., 2006, <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A040272b.htm>

Archival resources

Sisters of the Good Samaritan Archives

[Archives of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan](#)

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