

Cornelia's England Timeline

1846	October. Cornelia and three young women, Mary Anne Walker (Sr Aloysia), Emily Bowles, and Veronica, who left soon, arrived at the first Holy Child Convent, Derby.	
1846	15 October. First Mass said in Holy Child Convent at Derby by Bishop Wiseman. Jesuit confessors came from Spinkhill.	
1846	16 December. Cornelia superior, novice mistress, principal and teacher, received the habit and began her year of novitiate.	November: Pope Pius IX issues the encyclical <i>Qui pluribus</i> , in response to the growing trend of agnosticism among intellectuals in Europe.
1847	21 December. Cornelia renewed her vow of chastity and made vows of poverty and obedience. Bishop Wiseman received them, and installed her as superior general of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.	December: Emily Brontë and Anne Brontë publish <i>Wuthering Heights</i> and <i>Agnes Grey</i> , respectively, in a 3-volume set under the pen names of Ellis Bell and Acton Bell in England.
1848	November. Cornelia visited the All Souls property at St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, offered to her by the Reverend John Jones through the mediation of Bishop Wiseman. She accepted.	November: France ratifies a new constitution. The French Second Republic is set up, ending the state of temporary government lasting since the Revolution of 1848.
1848	December. SHCJ left Derby to begin foundation at St Leonard's, in two contingents, on 10th and 21st. At that date, the Society numbered 18 sisters.	
1851	27 February. First mission from the motherhouse; small convent and poor school opened at Gate Street (Lincoln's Inn) London; moved April 5, 1853 to Queen's Square, Holborn, with two more schools to run at Bunhill Row and Baldwin Gardens - further east. All concerned - sisters and children - very deprived.	March: A population census is taken in the United Kingdom. The population reaches 21 million. 6.3 million live in cities of 20,000 or more in England and Wales, and cities of 20,000 or more account for 35% of the total English population.
1853	February. SHCJ took charge of St Ignatius School, Preston.	

1855	09 November. Cornelia reported to the SHCJ teaching in 8 poor schools in London and 7 in Preston. (Infant schools were separate units at that time.)	
1856	Sisters staffed poor school in Blackpool and a boarding school established at the end of the year.	
1861	The first part of the two-part Constitutions (basically approved by Wiseman in 1850) were printed and circulated to the Society. The fact that the Duchess of Leeds was offering some property in USA to the Society would have made the availability of the Constitutions essential.	
1862	02 August. Six SHCJ sailed from Liverpool to open a convent and school on land in Towanda, Pennsylvania, given by the Duchess of Leeds.	August: American Civil War: Battle of Baton Rouge – Along the Mississippi River near Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Confederate troops drive Union forces back into the city.
1862	29 September. First Mass said by Archbishop Wood in SHCJ chapel in America.	
1863	26 May. Whit Tuesday. St Leonards school picnic at Mayfield, which sparked off the purchase of the Old Palace there.	
1863	July. Mother Walburga White, the future first USA provincial, arrived in America and opened a convent and school on Spring Garden Street, Assumption Parish, Philadelphia. This foundation became the provincial house.	July: American Civil War: Battle of Gettysburg – Union forces under George G. Meade turn back a Confederate invasion by Robert E. Lee in the largest battle of the war (28,000 Confederate casualties, 23,000 Union).
1863	October. Duchess of Leeds gave the ruins of the Old Palace, Mayfield, a 14th century manor of the Archbishops of Canterbury, to the SHCJ, on the condition that they would restore it.	October: Ffestiniog Railway in North Wales introduces steam locomotives into general service, the first time this has been done anywhere in the world on a public railway of such a narrow gauge (2 feet (61 cm)).
1864	May. Sharon Academy, Sharon Hill, PA, purchased by Father Carter for SHCJ. Towanda closed because privations destroyed the health of the sisters.	
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1865	15 August. First Mass at Mayfield in restored hall, formerly 14th century synod hall of Archbishops of Canterbury.	August: The Dominican Republic regains independence from Spain.
1867	29 October. Cornelia arrived at Sharon, and on 11 November opened St Leonard's House in Philadelphia. She met many members of her family and some of the Connellys.	October: Italian unification: Giuseppe Garibaldi's troops march into Rome.
1869	November. Cornelia, 3 other SHCJ, and 5 pupils went to Hyeres, France, for the winter; classes were held.	November: In Egypt, the Suez Canal, linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea, is inaugurated in an elaborate ceremony.
1870	June. A near schism developed when SHCJ in Preston sent their signatures approving the revised constitutions to Cornelia, while at the same time sending a protest re Cornelia and the constitutions to Cardinal Barnabo, prefect of Propaganda Fide, Rome.	
1873	Mayfield buildings completed.	
1874	17 August - 4 September. First general chapter held. Cornelia elected superior general. Bishop Danell imposed his entirely new constitutions on the Society.	
1877	08 January. SHCJ opened a school at Neuilly, Paris.	January: Queen Victoria is proclaimed <i>Empress of India</i> by the <i>Royal Titles Act 1876</i> , introduced by Benjamin Disraeli, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
1878	20 January. Cornelia pronounced in danger of death; received the Last Sacraments.	
1879	14 April. Cornelia was anointed for the second time in her long illness.	
1879	18 April. Easter Friday. Cornelia died at St Leonards, leaving a religious congregation which 100 years after her death would be continuing Christ's mission on the continents of Europe, Africa, North and South America.	