

The Journey ***Sister Cornelia Connelly 1809 - 1879***

A Journey

A special machine that has led us on a wonderful journey of discovery is told in this article.. Through an inscription in the owner's manual, we've come to learn of the original purchaser *Saint Walburga's Academy - the Society of the Holy Christ Child Jesus* and it's history

This lead us to the Societies foundress, the venerated ***Sister Cornelia Connelly***. It's an incredible story of a woman and her struggles. The story of her life and her work have embedded this machine as a mainstay of our collection.

Singer Featherweight - AE220983 - July 13, 1936 - 9th Production Run

We were drawn initially to the machine at a Goodwill store in upstate New York because of the combination of features from the early AD series Featherweights and those of later 221s. Retained from the earliest machines are the wrap-around bed decals, the non-numbered tension dial, the serial number boss/ escutcheon under the drip pan, and the 1st style scrolled faceplate. The changes found on this machine were the new solid base casting, the top-mounted thread tension guide covering the bed decals, the new style bakelite slotted foot controller, and the 700 series 110v motor. It became obvious that Singer's engineers had developed improved designs and had begun incorporating them. Because of these multiple combinations we call it our #1 Transitional 221. (I personally love the improvised handle made by one of the students!)

Included with this Featherweight were the attachments, the #4 style case (with wide toe bar/oil can cleat) and the improved aluminum hardware, the previously mentioned slotted bakelite foot controller and its owners manual.

The manual had two inscriptions one on the front cover and the second on the 1st page. The inscription "St. Walburga's Academy - the Society of the Holy Christ Child Jesus" has provided months of learning about a woman, her devotions, her family, and her eventual veneration in a time when women and children were considered property.

The Venerated Sister Cornelia Connelly

In the space of this article I cannot give her story justice but refer you to three articles;

* *two Wikipedia* articles that do a fine job of summarizing her story and that of her life's mission.

* Noted also is a link to an illustrated timeline of her life and struggles

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornelia_Connelly

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Walburga%27s_Academy

<https://www.shcj.org/our-story/cornelia-connelly/timeline/>

The Journey
Sister Cornelia Connelly 1809 - 1879



The Journey
Sister Cornelia Connolly 1809 - 1879

