In 1864, eleven Sisters of the Humility of Mary arrived from France and began to live on an abandoned farm in New Bedford, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, now called Villa Maria. By 1870, they had established a school for young orphans in their care. They relied on farming and tending animals for survival. Thus, the loss of a mare put the sisters in a difficult situation. Due to their outreach to the needs around them, the sisters were often referred to as the “Sisters of Mercy” by their neighbors. There is no record indicating that Mother Anna’s mare was ever recovered.