

ITURBIDE

1965 Apr.

Died 1967, Sep. 17-

Here's Saga

Mary Louise Kearney de Iturbide, bright and alert at 93, is a Washingtonian who married into Mexican history.

She lives now in Arlington; arthritis curtails her physical activity but she is charmingly philosophical about her happy past and even her 30 years of widowhood.

Gold blonde hair, bright blue eyes and gentle mien made Emperor Maximilian's adopted son notice her at church, inquire as to whom she was and request an introduction.

They were married in 1915.

Eighteen years of her life had been devoted to caring for an invalid aunt, and after her marriage she cared for her husband who suffered with tuberculosis of the bone until his death in 1925.

The Visitation Convent in Georgetown will exhibit some of the personal effects of the Iturbide family on their historical tour and reception tomorrow and Sunday. The convent, too, was involved in the family's history.



MRS. ITURBIDE

The present Mrs. de Iturbide has arranged for the convent to exhibit these, the last remaining mementoes of her husband's grandfather, the first Emperor of Mexico.

History says Agostin Iturbide, in the early 1800's, fought for Mexican independence and was elected President of the new republic,

Robertson W.S.: (Memorabilia
of Agostin de Iturbide
(Hispanic American
Historical Review,
1947 aug., 436-55)

THE EVENING STAR

Washington, D. C., Friday, April 23, 1965

of Royal Intrigue

later making himself the first Emperor of Mexico. After 11 months of imperial rule, he abdicated and was sent into exile.

Upon attempting to return to his native country he was seized and shot before a firing squad by his erstwhile comrades in arms.

The Empress and her small children went into exile once more, eventually coming to Washington, where she lived for a while at the Georgetown Convent while her daughters attended the Academy.

President John Quincy Adams mentions in his diary how he gave premiums, at the Georgetown Visitation convent graduation, to the daughters of the "sometime Emperor of Mexico."

One of the daughters became a Visitation nun and is buried there.

One of the Emperor's sons married a Washington girl named Alice Green and their only child Agostin was destined for brief glory.

In 1865 the childless Emperor Maximilian and Carlotta adopted him as a political gesture. But 2 years later the Hapsburg Maximilian, lost his Mexican throne and was shot by a firing squad; Carlotta lost her mind and the little 4-year-old Agostin Iturbide was returned to his doting mother and father in Washington.

Washington was his home. He was graduated from Georgetown University and then he was permitted to return to Mexico where he attended the military college at Chapultepec. From there he entered the Army of his native country.

While an army officer, an indiscreet criticism of President Diaz caused young Iturbide's court martial, 14 months imprisonment and final banishment from Mexico.

Only his personal popularity saved him from the same fate as his grandfather and adopted father.



He went from the dashing life of a handsome young cavalry officer — trips abroad and the chic gay life at American resort towns — to the quiet life of a college professor in Washington.

Having been buffeted by politics since he was two year old, then the final blow of his mother's death in 1892 (at the time of his imprisonment) its little wonder that his life with Mary Louis Kearney of Georgetown was a time of quiet contentment.

All his worldly goods were confiscated and he ended his days as a professor of languages. He taught at Georgetown University, Notre Dame and Gonzaga.

Today Mary Louise de Iturbide lives in Arlington surrounded with the beautiful furniture of her eminent Kearney ancestors, a handsome oil painting of her husband in Mexican uniform, a few scrapbooks and many memories of her Iturbide heritage. — N. HAIGHT.

agostin became college professor in Washington

Son: Salvador (February 1892)
Iturbide's grandson (Agostin)
N.Y. Times 1868 Feb 29.
(5-5)

(Agostin Iturbide's wife, Louise Kearney died in Arlington, Va.
95 yrs old, 1967 Sep. 18)
Linda K. Keesen