Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the Midwest about Native Americans

Archdiocese of St. Louis
MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

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History: Founded in France in 1800 and first foundation in the United States in 1818. Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, R.S.C.J. (1769-1852) and the sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart taught at the following Catholic schools serving American Indian students:

1825-1831 Female Indian School (various), Florissant, Missouri
1841-1848 Sugar Creek Mission School for Indian Girls (Potawatomi), Kansas
1848-1879 St. Mary Mission School (Potawatomi), St. Marys, Kansas
1980 Sister Carol Putnam, R.S.C.J. (and Reverend Frank O’Loughlin) established Hope Rural School (Maya), Indiantown, Florida

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Volume: .4 cubic foot
Description: Indian mission and school records are found in 3 series:

/1 "The Society in General"
Inclusive dates: 1841-1879
Volume: .1 cubic foot
Description: Contains Catalogs of the Sacred Heart, which list personnel at the Indian schools staffed by the congregation.

/2 "The Five Provinces - St. Louis"
Volume: .2 cubic foot
Description:
A. Annual letters, 1841-1879, 60 pages: yearly accounts, which include chronicles and occasionally copies of correspondence, personnel lists, and short biographies of deceased religious

B. "Journal of Mother Philippine Duchesne, 1818-1840," n.d., 94 pages: abridged, handwritten copy, created by an unidentified individual; in French, with English translations

C. "Journal" of the Sacred Heart Convent, 1841-1879, 71 pages: handwritten in French by various sisters; contains information on both the Sugar Creek and St. Mary Mission schools; entries for 1840s and 1870s more detailed and complete than for 1850s and 1860s

D. "Journal of the Foundation of the Mission at Sugar Creek," by Mother Lucile Mathevon, R.S.C.J., n.d., 16 handwritten pages

E. Description of the journey to Sugar Creek Mission in 1841 by Mother Lucile Mathevon, R.S.C.J., n.d., 4 handwritten pages in French: part of the document is missing

F. "Account of the Foundation among the Potawatomies," n.d., 19 handwritten pages in English: author unidentified


H. "Council Book," 1871-1879, 27 pages: minutes of meetings of the council or governing body at St. Marys, Kansas

I. "Register of the Religious of St. Marys, Kansas," begun in 1877, 10 pages: includes biographical information on mission personnel

J. "Lucile Mathevon," by Celeste Thompson, 1926, 1 volume: M.A. thesis, University of Chicago

/3 “Special Collection, Sister Louise Callan”

Inclusive dates: 1920s-1960s

Volume: .1 cubic foot

Description: Consists primarily correspondence (copies) and research notes collected or created by Sister Louise Callan, R.S.C.J. for the history of The Society of the Sacred Heart in North America, published in 1937, for Philippine Duchesne, Frontier Missionary of the Sacred Heart, published in 1957, and for the biography of Mother Lucile Mathevon, R.S.C.J., which was not completed. A notable document included is a letter from Mother Ellen Craney, R.S.C.J. who lived at St. Marys, Kansas, as a youth, describing her memories of the mission and school.