Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the West about Native Americans
See User Guide for help on interpreting entries

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings  new 2006
MONTANA, GREAT FALLS

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Hours: By appointment only, Monday-Friday, 9:00-12:00
Access: Some restrictions apply
Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Ursulines were founded in Italy in 1535 and made their first U.S. foundation in 1727. They established the Montana Missionary Province in 1900, which was succeeded by the Western Province in 1932. The Ursulines Western Province and its predecessor staffed the following Indian and Eskimo schools, missions, and parishes:

1884-1933  St. Labre School (Cheyenne), Ashland, Montana
1890-1917 (closed)  St. Peter School (Assiniboine, Atsina, Siksika, and Métis), Cascade/ Fort Shaw, Montana; expanded and staffed until destroyed by fire
1887-1921  St. Francis Xavier School (Crow), St. Xavier, Crow Reservation, Montana
1887-1936  St. Paul School (Atsina and Assiniboine), Hays, Fort Belknap Reservation, Montana
1890-1931 (closed)  Holy Family School (Siksika), Browning/ Birch Creek, Blackfoot Reservation, Montana
1890-1962 (closed)  St. Ignatius School (Salish), St. Ignatius, Flathead Reservation, Montana
1890-1897 (closed)  St. John Berchman School (Salish), Jocko/ Arlee/ Jocko Valley, Flathead Reservation, Montana
1890-1898 (closed)  St. Charles School (Crow), Pryor, Crow Reservation, Montana
1895-1905  Pryor Creek Boarding School (Crow), Crow Reservation, Montana
1905-1943 (relocated)  St. Mary School (Eskimo), Akulurak, Alaska
1910-1920s  St. Michael School (Eskimo), St. Michael/ St. Ursula’s-by-the-Sea, Alaska
1919-1941  Our Lady of Lourdes Mission and Orphanage (Eskimo), Pilgrim Springs, Alaska
1919-1941  Pilgrim Springs Mission and Orphanage (Eskimo), Pilgrim Springs, Alaska
1950-1987 (closed)  St. Mary’s School (Eskimo), Andrefsky River, St. Marys, Alaska
1989-1995 St. Aloysius Church (Eskimo), Tanana, Alaska

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1884-present, n.d.

Volume: More than 25.7 cubic feet

Description: 15 series include Native Catholic records:

/1 “Series 415, St. Labre’s School, Ashland, Montana”
Volume: 1.2 cubic foot
Description: Education and evangelization of Cheyenne Indian children by Ursulines.
   A. Annals, 1896-1910; 2 volumes
   B. Correspondence (mostly copies), 1911-1933; mostly with Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions; mostly from Marquette University, entry number M-261
   D. School Enrollment Reports to Government, 1899-1906; 1 volume

/2 “Series 420, St. Peter’s Mission and School, [Cascade/ Fort Shaw] Montana”
Volume: 5 cubic feet
Description: Education and evangelization of Assiniboine, Apsara, and Siksika Indian children by Ursulines.
   A. Annals and Convent Diaries, 1884-1927, .4 cubic foot (10 volumes)
   B. Correspondence and Subject Files, 1902-1989, n.d., .8 cubic foot
      1. Commencement Programs, 1902, 1907, 1 folder
      2. Fire, 1918, 1 folder
      3. Biographical Files, re: former students and teachers
         a. De Camp, Ralph, n.d., 1 folder
         b. Lewis Tabor, Isabel (1866-, Siksika), news clippings, notes, n.d., 1 folder
   4. Reminiscences by former students
      a. Conelly Sullivan, Mary Nora (non-Indian), n.d., 1 folder
      b. Hayes, Mary Agnes (1874-) as told to Mother Bernadette, O.S.U., 1959, 1 folder
   5. Financial Accounts, 1893-1918, 1.2 cubic feet
   6. Financial Accounts to Government, 1885-1897, .4 cubic foot
   7. Minutes of Local Chapter Meetings, 1893, 1.2 cubic feet
   8. School Enrollment Reports of Student Boarders, 1898-1899, .4 cubic foot

/3 “Series 425, St. Paul’s School, Hays, Montana”
Volume: .3 cubic foot
Description: Education and evangelization of Apsara and Assiniboine Indian children by Ursulines.
   A. Annals, 1934-1936; 2 volumes
   B. Correspondence, clippings, and pamphlets, 1931-1981, n.d.
Series 430, St. Xavier’s School, St. Xavier, Montana
Volume: .3 cubic foot
Description: Education and evangelization of Crow Indian children by Ursulines.
A. Correspondence, clippings, and pamphlets, 1916-1990, n.d.
B. Photographs (copies) by Reverend Prando, S.J., ca. 1890, n.d.; 16 prints; from Smithsonian Institution

Series 435, St. Ignatius School, St. Ignatius, Montana
Volume: Approximately 6 cubic feet
Description: Education and evangelization of Salish Indian children by Ursulines and Jesuits.
A. Annals and Convent Diaries, 1919-1972, .9 cubic foot (17 volumes)
B. Correspondence
   1. With Ursuline Provincials, 1941-1962, 1 folder
   2. With Reverend John B. Tenelly, S.S., Director of Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, 1961-1972, 1 folder
C. Financial Accounts, 1966-1972, 2 volumes
E. Minutes of Local Chapter Meetings, 1953-1970, 1 volume
F. Personal Papers: Mother Amata Dunn, O.S.U., correspondence, clippings, notes, pamphlets, teaching notes, 1930s-1970s, n.d.
G. Photographs, 1922-1955, n.d.; approximately 20 prints

Series 438, St. John Berchman Mission, Arlee, Montana
Inclusive dates: 1959
Volume: 1 folder
Description: Evangelization of Salish Indians by Ursulines; clipping.

Series 440, Holy Family School, Montana
Volume: Less than .3 cubic foot
Description: Education and evangelization of Siksika Indian children by Ursulines.
A. Annals and Diaries, 1934-1939; 2 volumes
B. Financial Accounts, 1936-1939; 2 volumes
D. Correspondence, 1927-1940; mostly with Ursuline superiors; approximately .05 cubic foot
E. Photographs, 1911-1935, n.d.; 1 folder

Series 442, St. Anne’s Church, Heart Butte, Montana
Volume: 1 folder
Description: Evangelization of Siksika Indians by Ursulines; clippings and photographs.

Series 445, St. Charles Mission, Pryor, Montana
Volume: 1 folder
Description: Evangelization of Crow Indians by Ursulines; clipping and photographs.
Series 491, St. Mary’s School, Akulurak and St. Marys, Alaska
Inclusive dates: 1905-1980s
Volume: Approximately 3.5 cubic feet
Description: Education and evangelization of Eskimo children by Ursulines and Sisters of the Snows (Eskimo).
A. Annals, 1931-1988, 2.4 cubic feet
B. Correspondence, 1939-1987; with Ursuline superiors and Jesuits, e.g. Reverends Segundo Llorente, S.J., John Fox, S.J., approximately .6 cubic foot
C. Journals, 1954-1955, 3 folders
D. Photograph Albums, 1937-1963, n.d., 3 albums
E. Newsletters
   1. Alaskan Shepherd, 1980-, 2 folders
   2. St. Mary’s News Notes, 1934-1956, 1 folder
   3. The Bells of St. Mary’s, 1957-1960, 1 folder
F. Sister Antoinette Recalls the Eskimos of Akulurak, Alaska, Lois Lyford, 1975, 1 folder

Series 492, St. Michael’s Mission, St. Michael, Alaska
Inclusive dates: 1907-1918
Volume: Less than .3 cubic foot
Description: Education and evangelization of Eskimo children by Ursulines.

Series 494, Pilgrim Springs, Alaska
Inclusive dates: 1919-1941
Volume: Less than .3 cubic foot
Description: Evangelization of the Eskimo by Ursulines.

Series 495, Hooper Bay Mission, Alaska
Inclusive dates: 1941-1943
Volume: Less than .3 cubic foot
Description: Evangelization of the Eskimo and training for the Sisters of the Snow (Eskimo) by Ursulines.

Photo Albums
Volume: Unknown
Inclusive dates: Unknown
Description: Unprocessed.

Sisters Biographical and Personnel Files
Volume: 6 cubic feet
Inclusive dates: 1884-present
Description: Arranged alphabetically by surname; includes assignments of individual sisters.