
Correspondence, journals (1888-1890, 3 vols., re Standing Rock Reservation missions), and other papers of Rev. Francis M. Craft, 1871-1921, with related facsimile documents, research notes, drafts, and power point presentations collected and created by Thomas W. Foley (1931-), 1990s-2011.


Biographical and Provenance Note

Ordained in 1884, Rev. Francis M. Craft (1852-1920), of Mohawk ancestry, served as an itinerant pastor to Native Americans in Dakota Territory, 1884-1900; a U.S. Armed Forces chaplain in Cuba during the Spanish American War, 1900-1901; and the pastor of St. Matthew Church, East Stroudsberg, Pennslyvania, 1902-1920.

As St. Matthew’s pastor, Craft also established and served the nearby St. Mark’s Mission in Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania, where he developed close friendships with the relatives of Thomas Foley (1931-2013). In 1920, Craft died in the arms of Foley’s father Robert. In Delaware Water Gap the Foley family had established a hotel and golf course complex. But it became a casualty of the Great Depression, which led to their relocation to Chicago in 1942.

Thomas attended Fenwick High School and Loyola University in Chicago and served in first the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army and then U.S. Gypsum Corp., where soon after retirement he wrote the official corporate history, United States Gypsum, A Company History (1995). Next, he turned his attention to Father Craft, whose journals and papers, which he had discovered in a closet in his Aunt Mamie’s home in Chicago in 1943. He and his wife Ruth then embarked on research and travels that took them to monasteries and archives from Rome to the Great Plains and Marquette University (first visited in 1992), which led to the successful publication of three additional books: Father Francis M. Craft, Missionary to the Sioux (2002), Faces of Faith, A History of the First Order of Indian Sisters (2008), and At Standing Rock and Wounded Knee, The Journals and Papers of Father Francis M. Craft, 1888-1890 (2009).
Scope and Content Note

The collection comprises two series – the papers of Rev. Francis M. Craft inherited by Thomas W. Foley, and his research papers pertaining to Craft, comprised of his collected facsimile documents by and about Craft and his related writings and presentations.

Series 1, Rev. Francis M. Craft Papers: Series 1 focuses primarily on Craft’s Dakota Territory ministry to Native Americans and his Spanish American War chaplaincy in Cuba. In Dakota Territory, Craft served as an itinerant missionary to the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Standing Rock Indian reservations, missions and the Congregation of American Sisters, a community of Lakota women religious, and his Spanish American War chaplaincy in Cuba, which included service with the four remaining American Sisters, who administered a hospital.


Craft’s journals (vols. 1-3). Add description…


The documentation in electronic form includes a typescript of and introduction to Craft’s journal plus typescripts of Craft’s retained correspondence and his related correspondence from other sources. These scanned documents are numbered 1-102 and 600 plus one is unnumbered, Numbers 1-52 originated from other sources, i.e. MUA (BCIMs1-1), Baltimore Archdiocese, SBS, Sacred Heart Priory, Sr. Mary Ewens, St. Meinrad Archabbey, Northwestern Chronicle [newspaper], The Dakota Catholic [newspaper]; bulk = MUA & ME. No. 53-102: TWF and uncertain provenance (noted by footnotes of likely sources, e.g. U.S. National Archives, ME). No. 600: Image of Craft, undated. Unnumbered: Illustrated story of President Theodore Roosevelt visiting the Watergate House hotel, Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania, August 2, 1910, amid a gathered crowd with Craft.

Container List

Series 1: Rev. Francis M. Craft Papers

Box 1 (letter-size: 0.3 c.f.)
- Folder 1: Correspondence, 1871-year
- Folder 2: Correspondence, year-year
- Folder 3: Correspondence, year-year
- Folder 3: Journals, volumes 1-2, 1888
- Folder 4: Journals, volume 3, 1888-1890
- Folder 5: Objects, year-year

Box 2 (over size: 0.6 c.f.)
- Folder 1: Correspondence, 1871-date
- Item 2: Journal facsimile copy, volumes 1-3, 1888-1890; unnumbered volume

Series 2: Thomas W. Foley Research Papers

Box 3 (1/2 letter-size: 0.15 c.f.)
- Folder 1: Photographs, year-year
- Folder 2: Photographs, year-year
- Folder 3: Discs (total 6), 1888, 2001, 2011
  - Disc 1 (Floppy): Journals, Introduction, undated
  - Disc 2 (Floppy): Journals, volume 1, 1888
  - Disc 3 (Floppy): Journals, volumes 2-3, 1888-1890
  - Disc 4 (Floppy): The Life of Francis M. Craft Sioux Missionary (biography), 2001
  - Disc 5: Craft Correspondence, 1888-1913; more?

G > Digital Projects > Thomas W. Foley Collection (Reformatted from discs)
- Folder 1: Journal typescripts: volumes 1-3, 1888-1890, plus introduction by Foley, undated
- Folder 2: Correspondence typescripts, no. 1-102, 600, unnumbered, 1888-1913
- Folder 3: The Life of Francis M. Craft Sioux Missionary (biography), 2001
Box 4 (record carton: 1.0 c.f.)

Item 1: Hovering Eagle – The Daily Journals & Papers of Rev. Francis M. Craft, volume 4, 1863-1888; collected papers and research notes
Item 2: Hovering Eagle – The Daily Journals & Papers of Rev. Francis M. Craft, volume 5, 1889-1891; collected papers and research notes
Item 5: News Clippings and Notes, volume 8, 1890-1991