



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the Midwest about Native Americans
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Archdiocese of Indianapolis
INDIANA, ST. MEINRAD

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Benedictines,

St. Meinrad Archabbey Archives

M-14

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Hours: By appointment only
Access: No restrictions
Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Benedictines of St. Meinrad Archabbey administered the following Indian missions:

1884-1954	St. Michael Mission (Sisseton and Wahpeton), St. Michael, Fort Totten Reservation, North Dakota
1885-1954	Seven Dolors Mission (Sisseton and Wahpeton), Fort Totten, Fort Totten Reservation, Dakota
1887-1954	Immaculate Conception Mission (Santee), Stephan, Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
1917-1954	St. Paul Mission (Yankton), Marty, South Dakota
1933-1954	St. Ann Mission (Métis and Ojibwa), Belcourt, Turtle Mountain Reservation, North Dakota
1946-1954	St. Augustine Mission (Winnebago), Winnebago, Winnebago Reservation, Nebraska

In 1954, Blue Cloud in Marvin South Dakota, was elevated to an Abbey and administration of the Indian missions was transferred from St. Meinrad to Blue Cloud.

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1862-1965, n.d.

Volume: 3.9 cubic feet

Description: 4 series include Native Catholic records:

/1 "Indian Missions"

Inclusive dates: 1886-1954, n.d.

Volume: .9 cubic foot

Description: Arranged alphabetically by location of the mission.

- A. Belcourt, North Dakota, St. Ann Mission, 1902, 1911, 1933-1954, .1 cubic foot:
 - 1. Land titles, abstracts, and warranty deeds, 1902, 1911, 1933-1934, 1937-1938, 1940, 1954, 3 folders
 - 2. Financial reports, 1935-1953, 1 folder
- B. Fort Totten, North Dakota, Seven Dolores Mission and St. Michaels, North Dakota, St. Michael Mission, 1887-1892, 1902-1906, 1914-1922, 1932-1953, .15 cubic foot:
 - 1. Correspondence, 1890-1892, 1914, 1917-1918, 1921-1922, 28 letters; major correspondents include Reverends Jerome Hunt, O.S.B., Ambrose Mattingly, O.S.B., Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B., and Abbots Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B., and Athanasius Schmitt, O.S.B.
 - 2. Financial reports (annual), 1887-1888, 1902-1906, 1916-1917, 1932-1953, 2 folders
 - 3. Land titles, abstracts, and deeds, 1934, 1937, 1941, 1 folder
- C. Marty, South Dakota, St. Paul Mission, 1920-1921, 1928-1953, .15 cubic foot:
 - 1. Correspondence, 1920-1921, 1940, 8 letters; major correspondents include Reverend Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B., Abbot Athanasius Schmitt, O.S.B., and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
 - 2. Financial reports, 1928-1953, 2 folders
 - 3. Historical notes, ca.1940, 18 pages
- D. Stephan, South Dakota, Immaculate Conception Mission, 1886-1953, n.d., .4 cubic foot:
 - 1. Correspondence, 1886-1908, 1916, 1919-1920, 1922-1923, 1930-1931, 1934, n.d., 190 letters; major correspondents include Reverends Pius Boehm, O.S.B. and Ambrose Mattingly, O.S.B., Sister M. Romana, O.S.B., Saint Katharine Drexel, S.B.S., Bishop Thomas O'Gorman, Abbots Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B. and Ignatius Esser, O.S.B., and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
 - 2. Financial reports, 1891-1953, 2 folders
 - 3. Clippings, 1916, 1 folder
- E. "Indian Missions, Indian Sisterhood (Father Francis Craft) and Origins of Catholicism in Dakotas (Bishop Shanley)," 1888-1900, 1941, n.d., .1 cubic foot:
 - 1. Correspondence, 1888, 1890, 1897-1900, 1941, 14 letters; major correspondents include Reverend Francis Craft, Bishop Thomas O'Gorman, and Abbot Athanasius Schmitt, O.S.B.
 - 2. Clippings, n.d., 1 folder

/2 "Abbots Files"

Inclusive dates: 1862-1897, 1920s-1956

Volume: .6 cubic foot

Description: Arranged chronologically by administration. Most correspondence between the abbots and Indian missionaries is found in the "Indian Missions" and "Monks" files.

- A. Abbot Martin Marty, O.S.B. (Abbot, 1870-1880), 1862-1897, n.d., .1 cubic foot:

1. Correspondence, 1862-1897, .1 cubic foot; primarily outgoing correspondence written in German; major correspondents include Reverends Claude Ebner, O.S.B. and Jerome Hunt, O.S.B., Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B., monks at the Abbey of Our Lady of Einsiedeln (Canton, Schwyz), Switzerland, and Christina Wewer, Reverend Marty's housekeeper, whose letters to Abbot Mundwiler O.S.B. in 1896-1897 provide an account of Reverend Marty's death
2. Biographical information, n.d., 1 folder
- B. Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B. (Abbot, 1880-1898), 1886-1890, .1 cubic foot: correspondence, primarily incoming; major correspondents include Reverends Claude Ebner, O.S.B., Pius Boehm, O.S.B., and Joseph Stephan
- C. Abbot Athanasius Schmitt, O.S.B. (Abbot, 1898-1930), 1920s, .1 cubic foot: correspondence, primarily incoming; major correspondents include Reverends Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B. and Justin Snyder, O.S.B.
- D. Archabbot Ignatius Esser, O.S.B. (Abbot, 1930-1955; Archabbot, 1954-1955), 1930-1956, .2 cubic foot: correspondence files with incoming and outgoing letters (copies) plus enclosures; arranged alphabetically by name of missionary, institution or subject; inventory exists which gives name of correspondent, brief description of the topic, date, and the number of items in the file
 1. "Blue Cloud Abbey, missionaries-Opinions," 1949, 21 items
 2. "Blue Cloud Abbey, Father Pohlen-Sisseton," 1949, 1 item
 3. "Blue Cloud Abbey, Ranch near Stephan," 1950, 6 items
 4. "Mary Jane Borden, employee at Marty, South Dakota," 1930-1936, 27 items
 5. "Fargo, North Dakota-Chancery Correspondence, re: Belcourt and St. Michael's," 1938-1951, 28 items
 6. "Fort Totten Mission and St. Michael's Mission," 1930-1956, 76 items
 7. "Hulsman, Reverend Frank, Indian Missionary," 1935-1952, 40 items
 8. "Marty Mission," 1930-1955, 92 items
 9. "St. Ann Mission, Belcourt," 1932-1955, 71 items
 10. "Sioux Missions, Project reform of real estate tenure in Dakota," 1930-1931, 31 items
 11. "Stephan, South Dakota, Immaculate Conception Mission," 1931-1955, 26 items
- E. Correspondence of abbots and other St. Meinrad monks with the Abbey of Our Lady of Einsiedeln (Canton, Schwyz), Switzerland, 1877-1893, approximately 100 letters: outgoing letters (copies) from St. Meinrad to Einsiedeln written in German with English translations; major correspondents include Reverends John Chrysostom Foffa, O.S.B. and Martin Marty, O.S.B.

/3 "Monks' Files"

Inclusive dates: 1871-1965, n.d.

Volume: 2.0 cubic feet

Description: The files of individual monks are divided into two groups: records generated before and records created after 1930.

- A. "Monks Files, Pre-1930," 1871-1929, n.d., 1.0 cubic foot: arranged alphabetically by first name; files typically contain both official mission correspondence and personal records.
 1. "Ambrose Mattingly, O.S.B., Reverend," 1888-1898, 1918, n.d., 1 folder:
 - a. Correspondence, 1888-1898, 1918, 31 letters; primarily letters to Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B. from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
 - b. Biographical information, n.d.
 2. "Anthony Mannhart, O.S.B., Brother," 1890, n.d., 1 folder:

- a. Correspondence, 1890, 2 letters; to Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B. from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
- b. Biographical information, n.d.
- 3. "Claude Ebner, O.S.B., Reverend," 1878-1900, n.d., .2 cubic foot of 2 cubic feet:
 - a. Correspondence, 1878-1900, .2 cubic foot; both outgoing and incoming; major correspondents include Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B., Reverends Louis Bonin, Ambrose Mattingly, O.S.B., Pius Boehm, O.S.B., Bernard Strassmaier, O.S.B., Jerome Hunt, O.S.B., and Stephan Stenger, O.S.B., and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
 - b. Biographical information, n.d.
- 4. "Fintan Wiederkehr, O.S.B., Reverend," 1887-1897, n.d., 2 folders:
 - a. Correspondence, 1887-1897, 45 letters (in German); to Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B. from Seven Dolors Mission, Fort Totten, North Dakota, and Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
 - b. Biographical information, n.d., 1 folder
- 5. "Giles Laugel, O.S.B., Brother," 1889-1890, n.d., 1 folder:
 - a. Correspondence, 1889-1890, 3 letters (in German); to Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B. from Seven Dolors Mission, Fort Totten, North Dakota
 - b. Biographical information, n.d.
- 6. "January Huber, O.S.B., Brother," 1888-1894, n.d., 2 folders:
 - a. Correspondence, 1888-1894, 15 letters in German; to Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B. from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
 - b. Biographical information, n.d., 1 folder
- 7. "Jerome Hunt, O.S.B., Reverend," 1886-1912, n.d., .1 cubic foot:
 - a. Correspondence, 1886-1890, 1897-1899, 1902, 1904, 1912, 59 letters mostly in German; majority to Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B. and Reverend Claude Ebner, O.S.B. from Seven Dolors Mission, Fort Totten, North Dakota
 - b. Extract from an Indian child's diary regarding a school celebration, n.d., 7 pages
 - c. Biographical information, n.d., 1 folder
- 8. "John Apke, O.S.B., Brother," 1889-1894, n.d., 1 folder:
 - a. Correspondence, 1889-1894, 14 letters in German; to Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B. from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
 - b. Biographical information, n.d.
- 9. "John Chrysostom Foffa, O.S.B., Reverend," 1871-1881, 1887, n.d., .1 cubic foot:
 - a. Correspondence, 1871-1881, 1887, 89 letters in German: primarily to Abbot Martin Marty, O.S.B.; many letters from the Standing Rock Reservation
 - b. Sermon notes, 1873, 1876-1877, n.d., 1 folder
- 10. "Justin Snyder, O.S.B., Reverend," 1925, n.d., 1 folder:
 - a. Correspondence, 1925, 1 letter: to Abbot Athanasius Schmitt, O.S.B. from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
 - b. Biographical information, n.d.
- 11. "Meinrad McCarthy, O.S.B., Reverend," 1890-1899, 50 letters:
 - correspondence by or about Reverend McCarthy; major correspondents include Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B. and Reverend Pius Boehm, O.S.B.
- 12. "Philip Ketterer, O.S.B., Brother," 1889-1894, n.d., 2 folders:
 - a. Correspondence, 1889-1894, 13 letters; to Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B. from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota, and Chamberlain, South Dakota
 - b. Biographical information, n.d., 1 folder

13. "Pius Boehm, O.S.B., Reverend," 1887-1907, 1909, 1911-1914, 1916, 1923, 1925, 1927-1929, 183 letters; primarily correspondence to and from Abbots Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B. and Athanasius Schmitt, O.S.B.
14. "Stephan Stenger, O.S.B., Reverend," 1877-1881, 1885, 1888-1892, 1896-1900, 1920, 50 letters: incoming and outgoing, in English and German; major correspondents include Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B., Reverend Claude Ebner, O.S.B., and Bishop Martin Marty, O.S.B.
15. "Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B., Reverend," 1910, 1919-1921, n.d., 1 folder:
 - a. Correspondence, 1910, 1919-1921, 4 letters; to Abbot Athanasius Schmitt from Ravinna, South Dakota
 - b. Biographical information, n.d.
- B. "Abbatial File of St. Meinrad Monks," 1930-1965, 1.0 cubic foot: Includes incoming and outgoing correspondence filed alphabetically under the religious name of each monk. The "Abbatial File" was initiated by Archabbot Ignatius Esser, O.S.B. at the beginning of his administration in 1930. Subsequently Archabbot Bonaventure Knaebel, O.S.B. and Archabbot Gabriel Verkamp, O.S.B. added their records to the file. In the spring of 1975, files pertaining to monks who had died, transferred, secularized, laicized, or otherwise had left the Archabbey, were transferred to the Archives.
 1. Alan Berndt, 1946-1957, 8 items: from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota, and St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota
 2. Alfred Baltz, 1938-1941, 22 items: from St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota
 3. Ambrose Mattingly, 1930-1941, 90 items: from St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota, St. Ann Mission, Belcourt, North Dakota, and St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota
 4. Augustine Edele, 1946-1958, 1 folder: from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
 5. Benno Fellinger, 1945-1949, 19 items: from St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota
 6. Boniface Armbruster, 1948-1951, 6 items: from St. Ann Mission, Belcourt, North Dakota
 7. Boniface Benkert, 1935-1936, 1 folder: from St. Paul Mission, Belcourt, North Dakota
 8. Brendan Keane, 1946-1949, 18 items: from St. Ann Mission, Belcourt, North Dakota, and St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota
 9. Casimir Kot, 1943-1950, 1 folder: from St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota and Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
 10. Celestine Sander, 1943-1953, 1 folder: from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota, and St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota
 11. Cletus Miller, 1945-1950, 18 items: from St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota
 12. Cuthbert Hughes, 1944-1963, 30 items: from St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota, and St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota
 13. Damien Preske, 1929-1937, 1 folder: from St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota
 14. Daniel Madlon, 1934-1953, 70 items: from St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota, Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota, and St. Augustine Mission, Winnebago, Nebraska
 15. Edward Berheide, 1934-1939, 1 folder: from St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota
 16. Felix Haug, 1930-1952, 42 items
 17. Fintan Baltz, 1931-1937, 1 folder: from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
 18. George Lyon, 1951, 1 item

19. Gerald Nilan, 1936-1952, 13 items
20. Giles Laugel, 1935, 2 items
21. Gregory Kunkel, 1941-1953, 1 folder: from St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota, and St. Augustine Mission, Winnebago, Nebraska
22. Gaulbert Brunzman, 1948-1965, .1 folder: from St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota
23. Hildebrand Elliot, 1931-1952, 248 items: from St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota, and St. Ann Mission, Belcourt, North Dakota
24. Ildephonse Kreidler, 1940-1949, 1 folder: from St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota
25. Julius Armbruster, 1945-1949, 8 items: from St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota
26. Justin Snyder, 1931-1942, 1 folder: from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
27. Lawrence Riebenthaler, 1938-1941, 1 folder: from St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota
28. Louis Fuchs, 1949-1958, 1 folder: from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
29. Gerald Buehlman, 1930-1937, 1 folder
30. Paul Thoma, 1942-1956, 1 folder: from St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota, and: Seven Dolors Mission, Fort Totten, North Dakota
31. Philip Ketterer, 1944-1949, 2 items
32. Philip Seib, 1938-1939, 1 folder: from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
33. Pius Boehm, 1931-1935, 16 items: from Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota
34. Roger Dieckhaus, 1948-1954, 17 items: from St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota
35. Stanislaus Maudlin, 1943-1955, 1 folder: from St. Ann Mission, Belcourt, North Dakota, and St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota
36. Sylvester Eisenman, 1931-1951, 257 items: from St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota
37. Timothy Sexton, 1934-1951, 1 folder: from St. Michael Mission, St. Michaels, North Dakota, St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota, Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, South Dakota, and Seven Dolors Mission, Fort Totten, North Dakota

/4 Photographs

Inclusive dates: 1880s-1950s

Volume: 545-720 prints and negatives

Description:

- A. Members, 1880s-1950s, 200-300 prints: includes 1 folder for each Indian missionary, arranged alphabetically by last name; each file contains 1-10 prints
- B. Missions, 1880s-1950s, 4 negatives
 1. Indians of South Dakota, 6 negatives
 2. St. Ann Mission, 5 negatives
 3. St. Michael Mission, 20 negatives
 4. Immaculate Conception Mission, 4 negatives
 5. St. Paul Mission, 10 negatives
- C. "Missions," 1880s-1950s, approximately 200 pages
- D. "Indian personalities," 1880s-1910, 50-75 prints
- E. "Missionaries, Government Agents," 1880s-1910, 50-100 prints