



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the Midwest about Native Americans
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Diocese of La Crosse
WISCONSIN, LA CROSSE

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Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Archives

M-256

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Hours: By appointment only, Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00

Access: No restrictions

Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration of La Crosse staffed St. Mary's School (Ojibwa), Odanah, Bad River Reservation, Wisconsin, 1883-1969.

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1895-1978, n.d.

Volume: Approximately 2.5 cubic feet

Description: The Native Catholic records are kept in the Generalate Office and Viterbo College Museum.

Generalate Office

Inclusive dates: 1895-1978, n.d.

Volume: 1.5 cubic feet

Description: Indian mission and school records are found in the series "Parish Files, Odanah, St. Mary's School."

- A. Correspondence, 1938, 1941, 1944-1945, 1960, 1964, 1969, 19 letters: major correspondents include Sister Macaria Murphy, F.S.P.A., and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
- B. Chronicles, 1895-1896, 1906-1969, 1 cubic foot: entries note major events, religious celebrations, visitors, and the weather; entries in older chronicles are more detailed than those in the more recent ones
- C. Community history, "Our Missions, 1864-1934," by Sister M. Bonaventure Schoberle, F.S.P.A., 1934: contains a 16-page history of St. Mary's Mission and School, Odanah
- D. Scrapbook, 1930s-1970s, n.d., .3 cubic foot:
 1. Scrapbook by Sister Carolissa Levi, F.S.P.A., 1950s-1970s: contains clippings, correspondence, and information regarding Ojibwa Indian culture

2. Scrapbook of paintings and etchings depicting Ojibwa culture, most by Peter Whitebird, n.d.
3. Scrapbooks, 1930s-1960s, 3 volumes: contain photographs and clippings
- E. Photographs, 1930s-1940s, n.d., 15 photos
- F. Publications, 1943-1978, .15 cubic foot:
 1. *The Story of a Little Log Cabin. The History of St. Mary's Indian School, Odanah, Wisconsin*, by Sister Macaria Murphy, F.S.P.A., 1943, 11 pages
 2. *Chippewa Indians of Yesterday and Today*, by Sister Carolissa Levi, 1956
 3. *Chippewa Indians Folklore*, by Sister Carolissa Levi, F.S.P.A., 1978

Viterbo College Museum

Inclusive dates: 1896-1954, n.d.

Volume: Approximately 1 cubic foot

Description: Records at the Museum are not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is primarily by record type.

- A. "W.P.A. Research Project," 1930s, .5 cubic foot: The Indian Research Project was funded by a U.S. Works Progress Administration grant obtained in 1935, and was completed by Ojibwa Indians under the direction of Sister Macaria Murphy, F.S.P.A., who taught at St. Mary's School, Odanah. Interviews and questionnaires played a prominent role in the Project. The Collection is arranged by subject and was microfilmed by the Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1983. Prominent subject headings include: "History of the Ojibwa Indians"; "Chippewa Indian Customs"; "Occupations and Activities"; "Clothing"; "Amusements"; "Recollections and Biographies"; "Legends"; "Military-War Records"; "Treaties and Tribal Claims"; "Folk Lore and Local History of the Bad River Reservation"; and "Chippewa Language, Leaders, and Folk Lore"
- B. Correspondence, 1896, 1910, 1915, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1943-1944, 1954, 13 letters: major correspondents include Sister Macaria Murphy, F.S.P.A., and Reverend Philip Gordon (Ojibwa)
- C. School publications, 1908, n.d., 2 volumes:
 1. *Noble Lives of a Noble Race*, stories from Ojibwa oral traditions with illustrations by the Indian children of St. Mary's School, Odanah, published in 1908: manuscript and published copy
 2. *Hiawatha Told Again*, by the pupils of St. Mary's School, Odanah, n.d.
- D. Photographs, 1907, 1918, 1926, 1933, 1936, 1939, 1941, 1943-1944, n.d., approximately 150 photos: includes prints depicting the construction of a canoe from which Peter White bird created his oil paintings
- E. Peter Whitebird's paintings and etchings, n.d.: included are 24 oil paintings depicting the building of a birch bark canoe and 23 etchings depicting Ojibwa culture