



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the West about Native Americans
[See User Guide for help on interpreting entries](#)

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings
 MONTANA, GREAT FALLS

new 2006

Ursulines,
Western Province Archives
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W-307

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:

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|-----------------------|---|
| 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"

Inclusive dates: 1896-1992, n.d.

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
- C. Histories, clippings, notes, and pamphlets, 1919-1992, n.d.
- D. School Enrollment Reports to Government, 1899-1906; 1 volume

/2 "Series 420, St. Peter's Mission and School, [Cascade/ Fort Shaw] Montana"

Inclusive dates: 1884-1983, n.d.

Volume: 5 cubic feet

Description: Education and evangelization of Assiniboine, Atsina, 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
 - c. Pings, Mabel Evelyn (1884-), 1959-1969, n.d., 1 folder
 - d. Riel, Louis, article by Henri Letourneau, clippings, notes, 1906-1983, 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"

Inclusive dates: 1931-1981, n.d.

Volume: .3 cubic foot

Description: Education and evangelization of Atsina and Assiniboine Indian children by Ursulines.

- A. Annals, 1934-1936; 2 volumes
- B. Correspondence, clippings, and pamphlets, 1931-1981, n.d.

/4 "Series 430, St. Xavier's School, St. Xavier, Montana"

Inclusive dates: 1916-1990, n.d.

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

/5 "Series 435, St. Ignatius School, St. Ignatius, Montana"

Inclusive dates: 1890-1975, n.d.

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

D. Historical Accounts, notes, clippings, 1890-1975, n.d.; includes *History of St. Ignatius Mission*, Reverend William L. Davis, S.J., 1954

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

H. Scrapbooks, 1955-1972, n.d., .4 cubic foot (2 volumes)

/6 "Series 438, St. John Berchman Mission, Arlee, Montana"

Inclusive dates: 1959

Volume: 1 folder

Description: Evangelization of Salish Indians by Ursulines; clipping.

/7 "Series 440, Holy Family School, Montana"

Inclusive dates: 1911-1960, n.d.

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

C. History of the Holy Family Mission, Montana, from 1890 to 1935, Hugh M. Black, M.A. dissertation, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1960; 1 folder

D. Correspondence, 1927-1940; mostly with Ursuline superiors; approximately .05 cubic foot

E. Photographs, 1911-1935, n.d.; 1 folder

/8 "Series 442, St. Anne's Church, Heart Butte, Montana"

Inclusive dates: 1941-1977, n.d.

Volume: 1 folder

Description: Evangelization of Siksika Indians by Ursulines; clippings and photographs.

/9 "Series 445, St. Charles Mission, Pryor, Montana"

Inclusive dates: 1961, n.d.

Volume: 1 folder

Description: Evangelization of Crow Indians by Ursulines; clipping and photographs.

/10 "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

/11 "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.

/12 "Series 494, Pilgrim Springs, Alaska"

Inclusive dates: 1919-1941

Volume: Less than .3 cubic foot

Description: Evangelization of the Eskimo by Ursulines.

/13 "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.

/14 "Photo Albums"

Volume: Unknown

Inclusive dates: Unknown

Description: Unprocessed.

/15 "Sisters Biographical and Personnel Files"

Volume: 6 cubic feet

Inclusive dates: 1884-present

Description: Arranged alphabetically by surname; includes assignments of individual sisters.