



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the Midwest about Native Americans
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Diocese of Bismarck
NORTH DAKOTA, FORT YATES

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St. Peter Mission

M-131

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Access: Some restrictions apply

History of Standing Rock Reservation Churches and Schools

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| 1876-1879 | Benedictines (St. Meinrad Abbey, St. Meinrad, Indiana) began evangelizing the Standing Rock Reservation (Hunkpapa) |
| 1877-1878 | Benedictines established and staffed an Indian school for boys and girls (Hunkpapa), Fort Yates, North Dakota |
| 1878-1881 | Benedictine Sisters (Ferdinand, Indiana) staffed the Fort Yates Government Indian School (Hunkpapa) |
| 1879-present | Benedictines established and administered St. Peter Mission |
| 1879-1906 | Benedictines under Reverend Martin Kenel, O.S.B., established and administered the Indian Farm School/ St. Benedict Mission School (Hunkpapa), Kenel, South Dakota |
| 1879-1906 | Benedictine Sisters (formerly Ferdinand, Indiana; later Yankton, South Dakota) also staffed the Indian Farm School |
| 1880-1971 (closed) | Benedictines (formerly St. Meinrad's; later Conception Abbey, Conception, Missouri) established and administered Church of the Assumption of Our Lady/ St. Benedict Mission (Hunkpapa), Kenel, South Dakota, which was destroyed by fire |
| 1881-1924 | Benedictine Sisters staffed various Standing Rock Reservation government Indian schools (Hunkpapa) |
| 1883-1919 (closed) | U.S. government administered the Indian Farm School |
| 1924-1961 | Benedictine Sisters established and staffed St. Bernard School, Fort Yates, North Dakota |
| 1960s-1980s | Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods (Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana) served the parish with pastoral ministry and summertime religious education |

Benedictines from St. Peter's and St. Benedict's attended the following Hunkpapa Indian missions and stations on the Standing Rock Reservation:

1882-1890 (became a mission)	Cannonball station, North Dakota
1887-1890 (became a mission)	Bullhead station, North Dakota
1887-1918 (transferred to St. Bernard's, McLaughlin, South Dakota)	St. Bede Mission, Wakpala, South Dakota
1890-1908 (transferred to St. John's, Odense, North Dakota)	St. Elizabeth Mission, Cannonball, North Dakota
1890-1918 (transferred to St. Bernard's, McLaughlin, South Dakota)	St. Aloysius Mission, Bullhead, South Dakota
1896-1910 (became a parish)	St. James Mission, Porcupine, North Dakota
1896-1926 (transferred to St. Bede's, Wakpala, South Dakota)	St. Edward Mission, Mad Bears Camp, South Dakota
1910-1920 (transferred to Sacred Heart, Solen, North Dakota)	St. Elizabeth Mission, Cannonball, North Dakota
1912-1921 (transferred to St. Philomena's, Selfridge, North Dakota)	St. James Mission, Porcupine, North Dakota
1938-present	St. Elizabeth Mission, Cannonball, North Dakota
1956-present	St. James Mission, Porcupine, North Dakota

Benedictines from St. Peter's and St. Benedict's attended the following Indian missions and stations elsewhere in South Dakota:

1879-1883 (transferred to Jesuits, Rosebud Reservation)	Rosebud Reservation station (Brulé)
1879-1884 (transferred to Jesuits, Rosebud Reservation)	Pine Ridge Reservation station (Oglala)
1883-1892 (transferred to Immaculate Conception, Stephan)	Cheyenne River Agency station (Sans Arc)
1885-1910 (closed)	St. Francis De Sales School (Sans Arc?), Flying Boy's Camp station
1910-1916 (closed)	Flying Boy's Camp station (Sans Arc?)
1913-1918 (transferred to St. Bernard's, McLaughlin)	St. Ambrose Mission (Sans Arc), Black Horse
1916-1918 (transferred to St. Bernard's, McLaughlin)	Sacred Heart Mission (Sans Arc), Little Eagle

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1868, 1876-present

Volume: 9 cubic feet

Description: The records at St. Peter Mission and St. Bernard School are not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

St. Peter Church

- A. Sacramental records, 1868, 1876-present, 31 volumes:
 - 1. Fort Yates, St. Peter Church, 1868, 1876-present: baptisms, 1868, 1876-1921, 1940-present, marriages, 1876-present, deaths, 1881-present, first communions, 1878-present, and confirmations, 1880-present
 - 2. Kenel, Assumption/ St. Benedict Church, 1879-1971: baptisms and marriages, 1879-1971, deaths, 1880-1971, first communions, 1882-1971, and confirmations, 1883-1971
 - 3. Cannonball, St. Elizabeth Mission, 1868, 1877-present: baptisms, 1868, 1877-present, marriages, 1883-present, deaths, 1881-present, first communions, 1892-present, and confirmations, 1892-present
 - 4. Bullhead, St. Aloysius Mission, 1911-1940: baptisms, 1911-1940 and marriages, 1911-1926
 - 5. Porcupine, St. James Mission, 1908-present: baptisms, 1908-present, marriages, 1909-present, deaths, 1922-1933, 1943-present, first communions, 1922, 1935, 1944-present, and confirmations, 1945-present
- B. "Status Animarium" or census records, 1878-1960s, 7 volumes:
 - 1. Fort Yates, St. Peter Church, 1896-1906, 1913-1940, 2 volumes: includes names, birth and death dates, and dates when sacraments were administered
 - 2. Kenel, Assumption/ St. Benedict Church, 1878-1960s, 3 volumes: include names, birth and death dates, and dates when sacraments were administered
 - 3. Cannonball, St. Elizabeth Mission, 1887-1908, 1 volume: includes names, birth and death dates, and dates when the sacraments were administered
 - 4. Porcupine, St. James Mission, 1877-1919, 1 volume: includes names, birth and death dates, and dates when the sacraments were administered
- C. Sodality membership lists, 1886-1947, 8 volumes:
 - 1. Wakpala, St. Bede Mission, 1894-1910, 2 volumes: members of St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Societies
 - 2. Bullhead, St. Aloysius Mission, 1894-1907, 2 volumes: members of St. Joseph and St. Mary Societies
 - 3. Kenel, Assumption/ St. Benedict Mission, 1886-1947, 1 volume: membership in the Scapular of Mount Carmel
 - 4. Fort Yates, St. Peter Mission, 1896-1935, 3 volumes: membership in the Scapular of Mount Carmel and in Promoters of Apostleship of Prayer in League with the Sacred Heart
- D. Financial records, 1890-1948, 5 volumes: include financial journals of St. Peter Church, 1890-1948, 2 volumes, and financial journals for all Indian missions on the Standing Rock Reservation, 1915-1936, 3 volumes
- E. School records, 1889-1905, 1 volume: register of Indian students who attended the Farm School

St. Benedict School

- A. "Teacher Registers," 1925-1963, 38 volumes: student reports of attendance and grades
- B. Student files, 1964-present, 4 cubic feet: arranged alphabetically by surname; includes attendance reports, grades, biographical information, and progress reports