



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the Midwest about Native Americans
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Diocese of Sioux Falls
SOUTH DAKOTA, MARVIN

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Benedictines,

Blue Cloud Abbey Archives

M-216

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<http://www.bluecloud.org/abbey.html>

Open: Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30
Access: No restrictions
Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Benedictines founded Blue Cloud as a monastery in 1950 and raised it to an abbey in 1954. The Blue Cloud Benedictines (and the St. Meinrad Benedictines before 1954) administered the following Indian parishes and missions:

1884-present (Blue Cloud, 1954-present)	St. Michael Church (Sisseton and Wahpeton), St. Michael, Fort Totten Reservation, North Dakota
1885-present (Blue Cloud, 1954-present)	Seven Dolours Church (Sisseton and Wahpeton), Fort Totten, Fort Totten Reservation, North Dakota
1887-present (Blue Cloud, 1954-present)	Immaculate Conception Church (Santee and Sisseton), Stephan, Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
1892-present (Blue Cloud, 1954-present)	St. Jerome Mission (Sisseton and Wahpeton), Crow Hill, Fort Totten Reservation, North Dakota
1897-present (Blue Cloud, 1954-present)	St. Joseph Church (Brulé), Fort Thompson, Lower Brule Reservation, South Dakota
1917-1978 (closed) (Blue Cloud, 1954-1978)	St. Francis Solano Mission (Yankton), Lake Andes/ White Swan, Yankton Reservation, South Dakota
1917-present (Blue Cloud, 1954-present)	St. Paul Church (Yankton), Marty, Yankton Reservation, South Dakota
1917-present (Blue Cloud, 1954-present)	St. John Mission (Yankton), Greenwood, Yankton Reservation, South Dakota
1917-present (Blue Cloud, 1954-present)	St. Catherine/ Sacred Heart Mission (Sisseton and Wahpeton), Big Bend, Sisseton Reservation, South Dakota

1929-present (Blue Cloud, 1954-present)	Christ the King Mission (Sisseton and Wahpeton), Tokio, Fort Totten Reservation, North Dakota
1931-1957 (closed) (Blue Cloud, 1954-1957)	Sacred Heart Mission (Santee and Ponca), Santee, Nebraska
1933-present (Blue Cloud, 1954-present)	St. Ann Church (Métis and Ojibwa), Belcourt, North Dakota
1933-present (Blue Cloud, 1954-present)	St. Anthony Mission (Métis and Ojibwa), Alcide, North Dakota
1936-ca.1957 (closed) (Blue Cloud, 1954-ca. 1957)	Good Shepherd Mission (unknown), Grace Mission, South Dakota
1938-1958 (closed) (Blue Cloud, 1954-1958)	St. Gregory Mission (Yankton), Greenwood/ Missouri Bottom, Yankton Reservation, South Dakota
1940-1965 (closed) (Blue Cloud, 1954-1965)	St. Catherine of Sienna Mission (Yankton), Rising Hail Colony, Yankton Reservation, South Dakota
1940-present (Blue Cloud, 1954-present)	St. Benedict Mission (Métis and Ojibwa), Turtle Mountain, Turtle Mountain Reservation, North Dakota
1941-1957 (closed) (Blue Cloud, 1954-1957)	Sacred Heart Mission (Santee and Ponca), Niobrara, Nebraska
1948-1957 (transferred to diocesan priests) (Blue Cloud, 1954-1957)	St. William Mission (Santee and Ponca), Niobrara, Nebraska
1956-1982 (closed)	St. John Mission (Santee and Sisseton), Pierre

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1874-1980s, n.d.

Volume: Approximately 24.5 cubic feet

Description: Although Blue Cloud Abbey assumed control of the Indian missions from St. Meinrad Abbey as recently as 1954, most of the Indian mission records, including the majority of the earliest surviving records, are at Blue Cloud rather than St. Meinrad. The exception is St. Ann's Church, Belcourt. Most of its records apparently were destroyed or lost. Records at Blue Cloud are not arranged according to a classification scheme. The records are divided into two basic groups, textual records and photographs. of the two groups, the photos have been more thoroughly processed. An arrangement scheme has been devised and implemented, and approximately one-third of the photos have been cataloged. Textual records are roughly sorted by mission and thereunder by type of record.

- A. "Fort Totten, St. Michael's Church and Seven Dolours Church," 1874-1981, approximately 6.7 cubic feet:
 - 1. Correspondence, 1886-1890, 1893, 1895, 1897, 1899, 1906-1907, 1914, 1916, 1918-1954, 1957, and 1966, .4 cubic foot: major correspondents include Reverend Vincent Wehrle, O.S.B., Reverend Jerome Hunt, O.S.B., Reverend Ambrose Mattingly, O.S.B., Reverend Edward Berheide, O.S.B., Reverend Ildephonse Kreidler, O.S.B., Abbot Fintan Mundwiler, O.S.B., Abbot Athanasius Schmitt, O.S.B., Abbot Ignatius Esser, O.S.B., Bishop John Shanley, Bishop James O'Reilly, Bishop Aloisius Muench, and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
 - 2. Chronicles, diaries, and announcement books, 1874-1966, .75 cubic foot:
 - a. Chronicles of the Soeurs grises (Montréal, Québec, Canada) (edited, typed copy), 1874-1900, 1 folder

- b. Reverend Alan Berndt, O.S.B., daily diaries, 1956-1957, 1961-1966, 7 volumes
- c. "Office Diary," 1945-1946, 1 volume
- d. Diary, 1934-1940, 1 volume: author not identified
- e. Announcement book, 1940-1944, 1 volume
- f. Journal or chronicle (typed copy), 1874-1903, 1 volume: author not identified
- 3. Sacramental records, 1874-1920, .5 cubic foot: baptisms, 1874-1907; marriages, 1875-1907; deaths, 1905-1920
- 4. School records, 1874-1926, 1929-1953, .5 cubic foot: records typically include name, age, grade, parents' names and address, and dates when student entered and left school
- 5. Financial records, 1896-1916, 1931-1945, 1948-1950, 1956-1972, approximately 2.5 cubic feet: include 8 general journals, a ledger, and monthly and annual financial reports
- 6. Minutes of parish meetings, 1971-1981, 1 folder
- 7. Subject file, 1960-1961, 1970-1971, 1.5 cubic feet: alphabetically arranged; primarily correspondence with various businesses and receipts and vouchers
- 8. Publications, 1892-1971, .5 cubic foot:
 - a. Appeal form letters and mail campaign literature, 1932-1970
 - b. Announcements for Seven Dolors Church, 1938-1947
 - c. *Sinasapa Wocekiye Taeyanpaha*, 1892-1897, 1900-1901, 1905-1918, 1921-1922
 - d. *Northern Lights*, 1932-1956, 1970-1971
 - e. *Our Lady's Bulletin*, 1950-1952, 1958-1964
- B. Marty, South Dakota, St. Paul's Mission and School, 1920s-1970s, 2.5 cubic feet:
 - 1. Correspondence, 1920s-1970s, 1.5 cubic feet: major correspondents include Reverend Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B., Reverend Gaublert Brunsman, O.S.B., Reverend George Lyon, O.S.B., Abbot Gilbert Hess, O.S.B., Abbot Alan Berndt, O.S.B., Bishop Bernard J. Mahoney, Bishop William O. Brady, Bishop Lambert A. Hoch, and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions; a prominent subject is the construction work at St. Paul's Mission in 1941-1942; besides St. Paul's Church, correspondence relates to St. John's School, Greenwood, South Dakota; Sacred Heart Mission, Santee, Nebraska; St. Gregory's Mission, Greenwood, South Dakota; St. Catherine of Sienna Mission, Rising Hail Colony, South Dakota; and St. Francis Solano Mission, Lake Andes, South Dakota
 - 2. Chronicle, 1948-1955, 138 pages
 - 3. Financial reports, 1920s-1970s, .2 cubic foot: primarily annual reports
 - 4. Minutes of meetings, 1948-1958, 1970s, 2 folders: School board minutes and minutes of the Boys' Unit of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - 5. Publications, 1920s-1972, .5 cubic foot:
 - a. Appeal form letters to benefactors, 1920s-1940s
 - b. *The Little Bronzed Angel*, 1924-1972
 - c. *The Catholic Sioux Herald*, 1932-1948
 - 6. Newspaper clippings, 1974-1978, 2 scrapbooks
- C. Stephan, Immaculate Conception Mission and School, 1887-1970s, n.d., 3.0 cubic feet:
 - 1. Correspondence, 1890, 1893-1903, 1911, 1916, 1922-1923, 1940s, 1970s, .1 cubic foot: major correspondents include Reverend Pius Boehm, O.S.B., the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, and Mother Katharine Drexel, S.B.S.
 - 2. Diaries and journals, 1892-1959, .7 cubic foot:
 - a. Diaries of Reverend Pius Boehm, O.S.B., 1892-1930, 11 volumes (2,310 pages): handwritten, daily entries; in 2009, these diaries were reported no longer at Blue Cloud Abbey and their whereabouts were unknown.

- b. Diaries of Reverend Louis Fuchs, O.S.B., 1949-1959, 3 volumes handwritten, daily entries
- 3. School records, ca. 1888, 1 volume: School register
- 4. Census record, ca. 1899, 1905, 1917, 1 volume: lists names of parents and children and their ages
- 5. Financial records, 1887-1921, .75 cubic foot: records for both the Mission and the School
- 6. Publications, 1902-1976, n.d., 1.25 cubic feet:
 - a. Appeal form letters, 1902-1903, 1914, 1926-1947
 - b. History of Immaculate Conception Mission by Sister Marmion Maiers, O.S.B., ca. 1961
 - c. *Wopeedah*, 1934-1976
 - d. *Little Monitor*, 1915-1917
 - e. *Mission Echoes*, 1935-1943
 - f. *Chieftain*, 1957-1959, 1963
- D. General, 1920s-1954, n.d., .3 cubic foot:
 - 1. Indian language records, 1920s-1940s, .15 cubic foot: primarily correspondence to and from Indians in Dakota and language study guides; many of the records were generated by Reverend Timothy Sexton, O.S.B.
 - 2. Historical notes and clippings on Indians or missions, n.d., .1 cubic foot
 - 3. *The Trumpet Call*, 1945-1954, 1 folder: publication of St. Augustine's Mission, Winnebago, Nebraska
- E. Photographs, 1880s-1980s, over 50,000 photographs or approximately 12.0 cubic feet: The photographs are arranged alphabetically by reservation and thereunder by mission. Approximately 35% of the photographs have been cataloged by name of individual or mission and by subject. For most photographs there is a negative and one print and most are from 1940-present. 28 of the images can be viewed online at http://www.usgs.gov/features/native_americans.html
 - 1. "CH," Cheyenne River Reservation, a few prints
 - 2. "CC," Crow Creek Reservation, 1,000 catalogued prints and 5,000-6,000 uncatalogued prints: primarily from Immaculate Conception Mission and School
 - 3. "FT," Fort Totten Reservation, 1,000 catalogued prints and 3,000 uncatalogued prints
 - 4. "LO," Lower Brule Reservation, a few prints
 - 5. "PI," Pine Ridge Reservation, a few prints
 - 6. "RO," Rosebud Reservation, a few prints
 - 7. "SA," Santee Reservation, a few prints
 - 8. "SI," Sisseton Wahpeton Reservation, 2,500 catalogued prints
 - 9. "ST," Standing Rock Reservation, 300 catalogued prints
 - 10. "TU," Turtle Mountain Reservation, 3,000 catalogued prints: primarily from St. Ann Mission and School, Belcourt
 - 11. "YA," Yankton reservation, 1,000 catalogued prints and 2,000 uncatalogued prints
 - 12. "IN-Indians of North America to indicate unidentified Indian persons," a few prints
 - 13. "IP-To indicate identified Indian person," a few prints
 - 14. "CI-To indicate city of place not on a reservation," 250 catalogued prints
 - 15. "PO-Portraits," 400 catalogued prints