OSAGE MISSION COLLECTION
1832-1997 [BULK 1845-1898]

MIS.3.003
Collection Summary

**Collection number:** MIS.3.003

**Repository Code:** MoSJJA

**Repository:** Jesuit Archives: Central United States

**Title:** Osage Mission Collection

**Date [bulk]:** 1845-1898

**Date [inclusive]:** 1832-1997

**Extent:** 5 linear feet (3 record cartons and 1 oversize box)

**Creator:** Jesuits. Missouri Province

**Creator:** Ponziglione, Paul Mary, 1818-1900

**Language of material:** English, Osage, and Latin

**Abstract:** The Jesuit mission to the Osage Nation, located in what is now St. Paul, Kansas, was established in 1847 on the right bank of Flat Rock Creek. The Osage Mission collection contains correspondence, operational records, writings, publications, photographs, and ephemera related to the history of the Jesuit mission.

**Processing history:** This collection was originally processed by Midwest Jesuit Archives staff, Nancy Mertz, and David Miros. Additional processing and description was completed by Alexandra M. Bisio in 2016.

**Conditions governing access:** This collection is open for research.

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**Preferred citation:** [Identification of item], [Box number], [Folder number]. Osage Mission collection, MIS.3.003, Jesuit Archives: Central United States, St. Louis, Missouri. [Date accessed].
Historical note

The Jesuit mission to the Osage Nation, located in what is now St. Paul, Kansas, was established in 1847 on the right bank of Flat Rock Creek. The Osage people, a Midwestern Native American tribe, originated in the Ohio River valley in the area of present-day Arkansas and Missouri. In the mid-17th century, the Osage migrated beyond the Ohio valley to Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The tribe was removed to the Neosho district of Kansas by the United States Government in the early 19th century. Between 1827 and 1844, the Osage people were visited several times by two Jesuits, Charles Felix Van Quickenborne and Felix Verreydt.

In May of 1844, the Osage petitioned the Commission of Indian Affairs to aid the Catholic Missionary Society of Missouri in the establishment of a mission and school on the Osage Reservation. It was not until nearly three years later, in April of 1947, when Father Van de Velde, Vice-Province of Missouri, sent Jesuit Fathers John Shoenmakers and John Bax to open the Catholic Osage Mission. In 1851, Jesuit Father Paul Mary Ponziglione joined Osage Mission and, with his interest in writing and the Osage language, quickly became the de facto historian.

Soon after their arrival, the missionaries opened schools for Native American children; the Jesuits administered the school for boys, the Osage Manual Labor School, while the Sisters of Loretto, who traveled to Kansas from Kentucky, administered the school for girls. Both schools were very successful, and soon parents from other nations, including the Miami, Wea, Piankashaw, and Peoria, were petitioning to have their children educated by the Catholic missionaries at St. Paul, though the financial agreement between the Jesuits and the US Government only allowed for the education of the Osage. Though the schools often suffered from a lack of financial support, they were able to continue operation among the Osage for nearly thirty years.

During the 1860s, the Osage had been forced to cede a large portion of their reservation to the United States. By 1870, the area that had been home to the Osage at the time of the mission’s establishment was now primarily inhabited by white Americans. Adjusting to this change, the Osage Manual Labor School was transformed into Saint Francis Institute for Boys, and the girls department into St. Ann’s Academy.

St. Francis Institute official closed in June 1891, and the last Jesuit pastor of the parish at St. Paul left the mission in 1892. St. Ann’s Academy succumbed to fire in 1895.

Sources

The Osage Mission collection contains correspondence, operational records, writings, publications, photographs, and ephemera related to the history of the Jesuit mission, established in 1847, amongst the people of the Osage Nation in St. Paul, Kansas. The correspondence series contains letters to and from members of the Osage Mission, members of the Missouri province, and representatives of the United States government. Most of the early correspondence details the establishment and financing of the mission, while later correspondence generally describes daily operations. The operational records series contains materials created during the running of the mission as a place of worship, school, and Jesuit community. The writing and publications series includes written works created for ministerial use by Jesuits, as well as memoirs and historical works. Many of the ministerial writings were translated into the Osage language by John Shoenmakers and Paul Ponziglione. The photographs and ephemera series contains 19th century images of the Osage Mission grounds, buildings, and people, 20th century postcards and prints of from the mission, cemetery photographs, and materials from the mission’s centennial and sesquicentennial celebrations.

The Osage Mission collection is arranged in four series:

- Series 1. Correspondence
- Series 2. Operational records
- Series 3. Writings and publications
- Series 4. Photographs and ephemera

Collection Contents

Series 1. Correspondence, 1832-1910

Scope and content note:

The correspondence series contains letters to and from members of the Osage Mission, members of the Missouri province, and representatives of the United States government. Most of the early correspondence details the establishment and financing of the mission, while later correspondence generally describes daily operations. Correspondents in this series include Father Van de Velde, Vice-Provincial of the Missouri province in the early nineteenth century, John Shoenmakers, John J. Bax, and Paul Ponziglione, three of the first Jesuits to staff the Mission, Pierre Jean de Smet, explorer and Jesuit missionary, as well as T. Hartley Crawford, Thomas Harvey, and other representatives of the United States departments of the Interior and Treasury. Of particular interest
is a letter penned in the Osage language by members of the Osage Nation to Pope Leo XIII regarding the canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha.

*Arrangement note:*

This series is arranged chronologically.

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<td>Office of Indian Affairs, 1846 August 18</td>
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<td>Father Van de Velde to William Medill, 1849 August 30</td>
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<td>Department of the Treasury to Pierre Jean de Smet, 1849 March 26-August 28</td>
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<td>Shoenmakers, John to Pierre Jean de Smet, 1849 April 4</td>
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<td>De Smet, Pierre Jean to William Medill, 1849 April 30</td>
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<td>Haverty, John to Pierre Jean de Smet, 1852 April 21</td>
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<td>Ponziglione, Paul to Pierre Jean de Smet, 1870 February 14</td>
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<td>Ponziglione, Paul to Father Coosemans, 1870 March 31</td>
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<td>Shoenmakers, John, 1870 April 14</td>
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<td>Ponziglione, Paul to Father Coosemans, 1871 January 9</td>
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Ponziglione, Paul to Father Coosemans, 1871 January 16  Box 3.0061 Folder 21
Ponziglione, Paul to Father Coosemans, 1872 April 3  Box 3.0061 Folder 22
Kuhlman, Joannes to Mauritio McSheer, 1884 February 13 Box 3.0061 Folder 23
Kuhlman, Joannes to Joanne Baptiste Lohmann, 1885 July 1 Box 3.0061 Folder 24
Ponziglione, Paul regarding the Bellieu Family, 1884 June 16-1888 September 1 Box 3.0062 Folder 2
Osage Nation to Pope Leo XIII regarding Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, 1885 Box 3.0062 Folder 3
Chapelle, P.L. to Rudolph Meyer, 1886 November 19 Box 3.0061 Folder 25
Ponziglione, Paul to J.R. Rosswinkle, 1887 June 9 Box 3.0061 Folder 26
Ponziglione, Paul regarding Windfield, 1888 November 2 Box 3.0061 Folder 27
Frank, R.A., 1910 July 12 Box 3.0061 Folder 28

Series 2. Operational records, 1846-1892, undated

Scope and content note:
The operational records series contains materials created during the daily functions of the mission as a place of worship, school, and Jesuit community. Included in this series are charters, land and financial documents, account ledgers, narrative reports, and meeting minutes. Church records include meeting minutes from various sodalities, church attendance charts, and one baptismal card from 1847, shortly after the mission’s establishment. School records from St. Francis Institute for Boys, consisting of student ledgers and club meeting minutes, are also included.

Arrangement note:
This series is arranged chronologically.

Land survey documents and maps, 1846-1890 Box 3.0061 Folder 29
Land survey documents and maps, 1846-1890 Box 3.0062 Folder 4

Baptism card, 1847 Box 3.0061 Folder 30

Scope and content note: Removed from III St. Stanislaus Ledger Book Box 3, Day Book and Journal 1862-64.

Financial statements, accounts, and bills, 1847-1849, 1877-1878 Box 3.0061 Folder 31
Financial statements, accounts, and bills, 1847-1849, 1877-1878 Box 3.0062 Folder 5

“Necrologium, S.J.,” “Historia Missionis St. Stephani,” and “List of Box 3.0061 Folder 32
Jesuit Missions,” 1852-1891

Historia Domus and Litterae Annæ, 1854-1891

Title bond to John B. Duerinck, 1857

Status Temporalis, Fructus Ministerii, 1861-1878, 1880-1892

Summary of agreements between the United States and the Osage Mission, circa 1861

“Pious Association and Arch-Confraternity of the Most Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary,” 1863-1869

“Record of the Sodality of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,” 1865-1870

Articles of incorporation and meeting minutes, 1867-1891

Deeds, leases, and tax lists, 1868-1891

Land patents to John Shoenmakers, 1868

Tax receipts, cancelled bank notes, letters, and sales receipts, 1868-1892

“Status Animarum of Western Missions,” 1870

St. Francis Institute ledger, 1870-1887

Regular Sunday attendance from the Osage Mission, chart, 1873

US Commission of Indian Affairs and Osage Mission agreement, 1875 July 8

Cash book, 1882-1887

*Catalogue of St. Francis Institution for Boys, Osage Mission, Kansas: Neosho County Journal Office, 1882*

St. Francis Institution ledger book, 1882-1887

Department of the Interior and Department of the Treasury Claims, 1883

College cash book, 1887-1891

Land patent to Alexander Wyatt, 1887

Philalethic Society constitution and meeting minutes, 1887-1888

Student ledger, St. Francis Institute for Boys, 1887-1889
Account of the Osage Mission, report, 1889
Status Temporalis, 1889-1892
Form of charter for the Osage Mission, undated
Stations from the Osage Mission list, undated

Series 3. Writing and publications, circa 1840s-1937

Scope and content note:
The writing and publications series includes written works created for ministerial use by Jesuit members of the Osage Mission, as well as historical works and memoirs about the Osage Mission. Many of the ministerial writings are in the Osage language, including catechisms, hymnals, prayer books, biblical verses, and apostolic letters. Father John Shoenmakers’ incomplete Osage-English dictionary is also included in this series. Historical works and memoirs primarily consist of writing by Father Paul Ponziglione, but also include narrative histories by other Jesuits stationed at the mission, as well as works by later historians.

Arrangement note:
This series is arranged chronologically.

“Collation of Epistles and Gospels for the Sunday and Holy Days,” circa 1840s-1870s
“Dialogues ns. I and II,” circa 1840s-1870s
“Holy History, volumes I and II,” circa 1840s-1870s
“Osage-English dictionary,” John Shoenmakers, circa 1840s
“A Short Catechism for the Indians,” Paul Ponziglione, 1847-1867
“Instructions on the Christian Doctrine for the teaching of the Osage Indians,” Paul Ponziglione, 1847-1867
“Indian Catechetical Instructions,” 1848
Prayer in Osage Language, John J. Bax and John Shoenmakers, 1848
“Christian Sentences to Instruct the Indians, n. 1” and “Dialogues and Sentences, n. 2,” 1853
Apostolic letter on the Immaculate Conception by Pius IX in the Osage Language, circa 1854
“Annales Missionis Santi Francisci de Hieronymo,” 1856-1859  Box 3.0061 Folder 59

“Catechism without Questions for the Instruction of the Osage Indians,” 1856  Box 3.0061 Folder 60

“Anecdotes,” Paul Ponziglione, circa 1860s-1870s  Box 3.0061 Folder 61

“Daily life,” notes, Paul Ponziglione, circa 1860s  Box 3.0061 Folder 62

Dictionary of the Osage Language, Paul Ponziglione, circa 1860s-1870s  Box 3.0061 Folder 63

Sentences in the Osage Language and Catechetical Instructions, circa 1860s-1870s  Box 3.0061 Folder 64

“Osage Prayer Book and Short Catechism,” 1862  Box 3.0061 Folder 65

“Osage Singing Prayer Book,” 1862  Box 3.0061 Folder 66

“Western Missionary Journal,” Paul Ponziglione, 1867-1896  Box 3.0061 Folder 67-70

Prospectus of the St. Francis Institution, circa 1870  Box 3.0061 Folder 71

“Record of Missionary Stations and Churches Established by the Fathers of the Mission of St. Francis of Jerome amongst the Osage Indians in the State of Kansas,” 1870  Box 3.0061 Folder 72

Newspaper clippings, 1872  Box 3.0062 Folder 12

“Guide to the Western Missions for the use of the Missionaries who visit them,” handwritten booklet, 1874  Box 3.0061 Folder 73

Catalogue of St. Francis Institution for Boys, 1881  Box 3.0061 Folder 74

“The Osages and Father John Shoenmakers, S.J.” Paul Ponziglione, 1897  Box 3.0061 Folder 75-78

The Ledged of Greenbush: The Story of a Pioneer County Church,” W.W. Graves, 1937  Box 3.0061 Folder 79

Series 4. Photographs and ephemera, circa 1880s-1997, undated

Scope and content note:
The photographs and ephemera series contains 19th century images of the Osage Mission grounds, buildings, and people, 20th century postcards and prints of from the mission, cemetery photographs, and materials from the mission’s centennial and sesquicentennial celebrations.

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Postcards and prints, circa 1940s-1985</td>
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<td>Osage Mission centennial and sesquicentennial material, 1947-1997</td>
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