



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

MIS.3.003

JESUIT ARCHIVES: CENTRAL UNITED STATES
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Collection Summary

Collection number: MIS.3.003

Repository Code: MoSIJA

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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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 1847, when Father Van de Velde, Vice-Provincial 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 administrated the school for boys, the Osage Manual Labor School, while the Sisters of Loretto, who traveled to Kansas from Kentucky, administrated 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

Joyce, Mary, editor. "Centennial Celebration: Osage Mission, 1847-1947." St. Paul, KS: St. Francis Parish, 1947

Scope and content note

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.

Arrangement note

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.

Bax, John J. to Father Druyts, 1832 June 4	Box 3.0061 Folder 1
<i>Scope and content note: The date on this letter is probably 1852, not 1832. Fr. Bax, born in Turnhout on January 15, 1817, did not enter Jesuit seminary until 1840. He died at Fort Scott on August 5, 1852.</i>	
Crawford, T. Hartley to Thomas Harvey, 1845 April 25	Box 3.0061 Folder 2
Office of Indian Affairs, 1846 August 18	Box 3.0061 Folder 3
Father Van de Velde to William Medill, 1849 August 30	Box 3.0061 Folder 4
Medill, William to Thomas Harvey, 1846 September 11	Box 3.0061 Folder 5
Medill, William to Thomas Harvey, 1847 March 22	Box 3.0061 Folder 6
Medill, William to Father Van de Velde, 1847 August 16	Box 3.0061 Folder 7
Medill, William to Father Van de Velde, 1848 February 10	Box 3.0061 Folder 8
Bax, John J., 1849 February 9	Box 3.0061 Folder 9
Medill, William to Pierre Jean de Smet, 1849 March 23	Box 3.0061 Folder 10
Department of the Treasury to Pierre Jean de Smet, 1849 March 26-August 28	Box 3.0061 Folder 11
Shoenmakers, John to Pierre Jean de Smet, 1849 April 4	Box 3.0061 Folder 12
De Smet, Pierre Jean to William Medill, 1849 April 30	Box 3.0061 Folder 13
De Smet, Pierre Jean to Orlando Brown, 1849 August	Box 3.0061 Folder 14
Haverty, John to Pierre Jean de Smet, 1852 April 21	Box 3.0061 Folder 15
Shoenmakers, John 1855 January 22	Box 3.0062 Folder 1
Ponziiglione, Paul to Father Coosemans, 1867 December 17	Box 3.0061 Folder 16
Ponziiglione, Paul to Pierre Jean de Smet, 1870 February 14	Box 3.0061 Folder 17
Ponziiglione, Paul to Father Coosemans, 1870 March 31	Box 3.0061 Folder 18
Shoenmakers, John, 1870 April 14	Box 3.0061 Folder 19
Ponziiglione, Paul to Father Coosemans, 1871 January 9	Box 3.0061 Folder 20

Ponziplione, Paul to Father Coosemans, 1871 January 16	Box 3.0061 Folder 21
Ponziplione, Paul to Father Coosemans, 1872 April 3	Box 3.0061 Folder 22
Kuhlman, Joannes to Mauritio McScheer, 1884 February 13	Box 3.0061 Folder 23
Kuhlman, Joannes to Joanne Baptiste Lohmann, 1885 July 1	Box 3.0061 Folder 24
Ponziplione, 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
Ponziplione, Paul to J.R. Rosswinkle, 1887 June 9	Box 3.0061 Folder 26
Ponziplione, 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 Box 3.0062 Folder 4
Baptism card, 1847	Box 3.0061 Folder 30
<i>Scope and content note: Removed from III St. Stanislaus Ledger Book Box 3, Day Book and Journal 1862-64.</i>	
Financial statements, accounts, and bills, 1847-1849, 1877-1878	Box 3.0061 Folder 31 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 Annae, 1854-1891 35	Box 3.0061 Folder 33- 35
Title bond to John B. Duerinck, 1857	Box 3.0062 Folder 6
Title bond to John B. Duerinck, 1857	Box 3.0061 Folder 36
Status Temporalis, Fructus Ministerii, 1861-1878, 1880-1892 38	Box 3.0061 Folder 37- 38
Summary of agreements between the United States and the Osage Mission, circa 1861	Box 3.0061 Folder 39
"Pious Association and Arch-Confraternity of the Most Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary," 1863-1869	Box 3.0061 Folder 40
"Record of the Sodality of the Immaculate Heart of Mary," 1865-1870	Box 3.0061 Folder 41
Articles of incorporation and meeting minutes, 1867-1891	Box 3.0062 Vol. 14
Deeds, leases, and tax lists, 1868-1891	Box 3.0062 Folder 7
Land patents to John Shoenmakers, 1868	Box 3.0061 Folder 42
Tax receipts, cancelled bank notes, letters, and sales receipts, 1868-1892	Box 3.0061 Folder 43
"Status Animarum of Western Missions," 1870	Box 3.0061 Folder 44
St. Francis Institute ledger, 1870-1887	Box 830: Vol. 3
Regular Sunday attendance from the Osage Mission, chart, 1873	Box 3.0062 Folder 8
US Commission of Indian Affairs and Osage Mission agreement, 1875 July 8	Box 3.0062 Folder 9
Cash book, 1882-1887	Box 3.0062 Vol. 16
<i>Catalogue of St. Francis Institution for Boys</i> , Osage Mission, Kansas: Neosho County Journal Office, 1882	Box 3.0061 Folder 45
St. Francis Institution ledger book, 1882-1887	Box 3.0062 Vol. 18
Department of the Interior and Department of the Treasury Claims, 1883	Box 3.0061 Folder 46
College cash book, 1887-1891	Box 3.0062 Vol. 17
Land patent to Alexander Wyatt, 1887	Box 3.0061 Folder 47
Philalethic Society constitution and meeting minutes, 1887-1888	Box 3.0062 Vol. 15
Student ledger, St. Francis Institute for Boys, 1887-1889	Box 830: Vol. 1

Account of the Osage Mission, report, 1889	Box 3.0062 Folder 10
Status Temporalis, 1889-1892	Box 830: Vol. 2
Form of charter for the Osage Mission, undated	Box 3.0062 Folder 11
Stations from the Osage Mission list, undated	Box 3.0061 Folder 48

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	Box 3.0061 Folder 49
“Dialogues ns. I and II,” circa 1840s-1870s	Box 3.0061 Folder 50
“Holy History, volumes I and II,” circa 1840s-1870s	Box 3.0061 Folder 51
“Osage-English dictionary,” John Shoenmakers, circa 1840s	Box 3.0061 Folder 52
“A Short Catechism for the Indians,” circa 1840s-1870s	Box 3.0061 Folder 53
“Instructions on the Christian Doctrine for the teaching of the Osage Indians,” Paul Ponziglione, 1847-1867	Box 3.0061 Folder 54
“Indian Catechetical Instructions,” 1848	Box 3.0061 Folder 55
Prayer in Osage Language, John J. Bax and John Shoenmakers, 1848	Box 3.0061 Folder 56
“Christian Sentences to Instruct the Indians, n. 1” and “Dialogues and Sentences, n. 2,” 1853	Box 3.0061 Folder 57
Apostolic letter on the Immaculate Conception by Pius IX in the Osage Language, circa 1854	Box 3.0061 Folder 58

“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 70	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.” 78 Paul Ponziglione, 1897	Box 3.0061 Folder 75- 78
<i>The Ledges of Greenbush: The Story of a Pioneer County Church,</i> 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.

Arrangement note:

This series is arranged chronologically.

Groups, circa 1880s	Box 703: Folder 17
Buildings, 1881-1889, undated	Box 703: Folder 18
Postcards and prints, circa 1940s-1985	Box 703: Folder 19
Osage Mission centennial and sesquicentennial material, 1947-1997	Box 3.0061 Folder 80 Box 3.0062 Folder 13
Osage Mission centennial table decoration, 1947	Box 3.0061 Folder 81
Cemetery and headstone photographs, circa 1950s, 1993	Box 703: Folder 20
Negatives and reproductions, undated	Box 703: Folder 21 File drawer 865