

## Loretto Heritage Center Archives and Museum

### **Finding Aid: Schools, Kansas**

Collection Code: LHC06.G

Date Range: 1847-2008

Creator: Sisters of Loretto, Kansas Mission

Extent: 1 box

Language: English

Access Restrictions: Materials which provide blood quantum of Osage students or connect names of Osage students with their likeness (i.e., labeled photographs) at the Manual Labor School are restricted indefinitely for research. Permission to view these materials (including photographs) must be granted by the Osage Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). Materials should be requested from the Loretto Heritage Center, and Heritage Center staff will seek approval from the Osage Nation THPO.

Copyright: Sisters of Loretto

Citation: LHC06.G. Schools, Kansas. Box [#], Folder [#] Sisters of Loretto Heritage Center and Archives.

Creator of Material Biography: The Sisters of Loretto first traveled to Kansas in 1847 at the request of Father John Schoenmakers, S.J. to run the Indian Girls department of the Osage Manual Labor School in Osage Mission (St. Paul), KS. Initially, four Sisters traveled to Kansas from their mission in Ste. Genevieve, MO: Mother Concordia Henning, Sr. Bridget Hayden, Sr. Mary Petronilla van Prater, and Sr. Vincentia McCool. The Sisters ran the Girls' department at the Osage Manual Labor School, which was funded by government support, until the school became St. Ann's Academy in 1870. By that time, most of the girls attending the school were the children of white settlers in the area. The Sisters ran St. Ann's Academy until 1895, when it was destroyed by a fire. In 1882, the Sisters opened St. Patrick's School in nearby Parsons, KS, which they ran until deciding to close it in 1896. In 1915, the Sisters returned to St. Paul to teach at the parish school (St. Francis School) and remained there until 1922 when the Sisters of St. Joseph were asked to take over. The Loretto Sisters also taught at St. Patrick's School in Chanute, KS, for only four years, 1920-1924. They then opened and operated St. Agnes School in Rosedale, KS, from 1924 until 1929, when the Ursuline Sisters of Paola were asked to take over.

In 1930, seventeen Sisters of Loretto who were buried on the Osage Mission school property were moved to the St. Francis parish cemetery in St. Paul. The Sisters also participated in two Osage Mission anniversaries, in 1947 and 1997. In the 1997 anniversary event, Sr. Joan Van Leeuwen, S.L. dressed as Mo. Bridget Hayden and rode a float commemorating the arrival of the Sisters.

Description: This collection contains ledger books, newspaper clippings, correspondence, memoir-style accounts, and research materials from Loretto's six schools in Kansas. Most of these materials were not created while the schools were in operation. No materials were collected from or for St. Patrick's School in Parsons, KS. There is a mention of the school in the board records of St. Ann's Academy.

### Related Materials:

Publications: *Annals of Osage Mission*, W.W. Graves (Graves, 1935); *Life and Letters of Fathers Ponziglione, Schoenmakers and Other Early Jesuits at Osage Mission*, W.W. Graves (Graves, 1916); *Life and Letters of Rev. Father John Schoenmakers S.J.: Apostle to the Osages*, W.W. Graves (The Commercial Publishers, 1928); *Getting Sense: The Osages & Their Missionaries*, James D. White (Sarto Press, 1997); *The Osages and*

*Father Schoenmakers, S.J.: Interesting Memoirs Collected from Legends, Traditions, and Historical Documents*, Paul Mary Ponziglione (Felix and Margaret Diskin, 2014); *Beacon on the Plains*, Mary Paul Fitzgerald (St. Mary College, 1939); *Life and Times of Mo. Bridget Hayden*, W.W. Graves (Journal Press, 1938); *Osage Mission Sesquicentennial, 1847-1997: Celebrating 150 Years*, Mary Frances VanLeeuwen Casey (Jostens, 1997); "The Early Work of the Loretines in Southeastern Kansas," Sr. M. Lilliana Owens, SL (Kansas Historical Quarterly 15:3, 1947)

Photos: Our school photograph collection can be found online at <https://lorettocommunity.canto.com/v/archives> and includes images from St. Ann's and St. Francis.

Archival Collections: Personnel Files (LHC04) of Sr. Bridget Hayden and others who worked in Kansas during this period and Osage Srs. Coaina and Lorenza Mongrain; Administrative files (LHC02) of the early administrations (1822-1876), Mo. Dafrosa Smythe (1876-1882, 1888-1893), Mo. Ann Joseph Mattingly (1882-1888), Mo. Catherine Connor (1893-1896), and Mo. Praxedes Carty (1896-1922); General Council materials (LHC03) for 1849-1870. Major decisions and correspondence with the Bureau of Indian Affairs would be found in this collection; Personal Mission Materials (LHC17) of Sr. Lilliana Owens, who researched and wrote about the Sisters of Loretto in Kansas; Published Resources (LHC13) including the Loretto Literary Magazine (1898-1918) and the manuscript "One Hundred and Fifty Years" by Sr. Matilda Barrett; The Sisters of Loretto and the Indian Boarding Schools Century, Libby Comeaux, CoL (December 2023), along with papers, books, and digital records gathered for purposes of this research. Some materials from this collection are restricted.

Related Collections not in the Archives: Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Collection, Marquette University, Department of Special Collections and University Archives, Milwaukee, WI; National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, Ft Worth, and DC; Annual Reports to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs (available online); Osage Mission Neosho County Museum, St. Paul, KS; Osage Mission Collection, Jesuit Archives and Research Center, St Louis, MO; The Western History Collection, Denver Public Library, Denver, CO; Resource List from the U.S. Catholic Indigenous Boarding School Accountability and Healing Project. <https://ahprojectusa.org/resources>; Osage Mission Neosho County Museum

Artifacts: Objects related to Loretto's schools in Kansas can be found here: <https://lorettoheritagecenter.omeka.net/items/browse?tags=schools+-+Kansas>

## **Arrangement**

This series is arranged in sub-series. All materials from this sub-series are housed in the same box (LHC06.G.a.01). Folder numbers reflect this arrangement. This collection was originally processed in the 1970s or 1980s, and materials were regularly added to the collection. Original order was not maintained. In 2023, the materials were reprocessed and the order of the original processing was maintained, except in rare cases where materials were split into multiple folders. In those cases, the folder materials were split by school. Handwritten annals were moved from another collection into this one. A crosswalk showing the relationship between the original folders and the new folders was created and is available upon request.

## **Sub-Series 1: Chanute, Kansas, LHC06.G.a**

Description: This sub-series consists of two folders containing research materials, correspondence, and newspaper clippings about St. Patrick's School in Chanute, KS, as well as the manuscript draft about the school written by Sr. Matilda Barrett. With the possible exception of the newspaper clippings, these materials were collected after the school closed as Sr. Matilda Barrett was researching and collecting information for her manuscript, *One Hundred and Fifty-Years*.

Creator of Material Biography: The Sisters of Loretto taught at St. Patrick's School in Chanute, KS, for only four years, from 1920 to 1924. The schoolhouse was built in 1919 at the request of Rev. John J. MacInerney, who asked the Sisters of Loretto to teach there. Sr. Guadalupe Dyer was made superior and music teacher and was joined by Sr. Ethelbert Owens, Sr. Ancilla Cole, and Sr. Ann Vincent Toon. In 1920, 65 children attended the school. In 1924, the Sisters of St. Joseph replaced the Sisters of Loretto at the request of the Bishop of Wichita, Most Rev. Andrew Schwertner, D.D.

**Box 1: LHC06.G.a.01**

Folder 1: St. Patrick's School Research File

Folder 2: St. Patrick's School Manuscript for Proposed Book by Sr. Matilda Barrett

**Sub-Series 2: Rosedale, Kansas, LHC06.G.b**

Description: This sub-series contains one folder of research materials and one folder of Sr. Matilda Barrett manuscript for her proposed books.

Creator of Material Biography: The Sisters of Loretto taught at St. Agnes School in Rosedale, KS, from 1924, when the school opened, until 1929, when the Ursuline Sisters of Paola were asked to take over. In 1927, the school was attended by more than 200 children. As Rosedale is a suburb of Kansas City, MO, the sisters who taught at St. Agnes lived at Loretto Academy (Kansas City, MO) and commuted daily to teach.

**Box 1: LHC06.G.a.01**

Folder 3: St. Agnes School Research File

Folder 4: St. Agnes School Manuscript for Proposed Book by Sr. Matilda Barrett

**Sub-Series 3: Osage Mission / St. Paul, Kansas, LHC06.G.c**

Description: This collection contains ledger books, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and memoir-style accounts from the Manual Labor School for Girls, St. Ann's Academy, and St. Francis Academy in Osage Mission / St. Paul, KS. It also contains research materials and manuscripts collected and written after the closure of the schools.

Creator of Material Biography: For twenty-three years (1847-1870), the Sisters of Loretto conducted the Indian Girls department of the Osage Manual Labor School in Osage Mission, KS (now St. Paul, KS). Father John Schoenmakers, S.J. founded the school with federal government support. Students were primarily from the Osage Nation, whose prior relationship with the Jesuits led them to prefer the Jesuits to other American educators for their children. Also called the Osage Mission Industrial School, both the Indian Girls and the Indian Boys departments closed with the

departure of the Osage Nation to Oklahoma. The Treaty of 1865 concerning that departure formalized the gift from the Osage Nation to Father Schoenmakers of 640 acres of land for the continued mission project. He gave 100 acres of that gift to the Sisters of Loretto, who conducted St. Ann's Academy for girls there until a fire destroyed it in 1895. Some federal money intermittently supported as many as three Indian girls boarding at St. Ann's as late as 1891, but most students were white by then. The Sisters of Loretto no longer own that land; its current occupant is the Osage Mission Neosho County Museum. The boys' department on the original Osage Mission site (also part of the gift from the Osage Nation) became St. Francis Institute, which closed in 1891. In 1915, the Sisters returned to St. Paul to teach at the parish school, St. Francis school, and remained there until 1922 when the Sisters of St. Joseph were asked to take over.

**Box 1: LHC06.G.a.01**

Folder 5: Research File

Folder 6: Newspaper Clippings

Folder 7: Dissertation of Sr. Mary de Salles Kelley "A Study of Osage Mission..., 1847-1870"

Folder 8: Memoirs and Eyewitness Accounts

Folder 9: Anniversaries and Recognitions

Folder 9a: Property Records from Motherhouse Finance Office

Folder 10: Property Maps and Information

Folder 11: Correspondence with W.W. Graves

Folder 12: Interment of Sisters, 1930

Folder 13: Osage Manual Labor School for Girls Research Materials

Folder 14: St. Ann's Academy Land Charter and Board Records

Folder 15: St. Ann's Academy Correspondence

Folder 16: St. Ann's Academy Student Accounts, 1886-1895

Folder 17: St. Ann's Academy Expenses, 1887, 1892-1896

Folder 18: St. Ann's Academy Prospectus, 1891-1892

Folder 19: St. Ann's Academy Commencement Ceremony and Event Programs

Folder 20: St. Ann's Academy Student Reports and Awards

Folder 21: St. Francis School Correspondence

Folder 22: St. Francis School Commencement Programs