



# Heritage Happenings

Archives Office  
January 2018

Lest We Forget...

Last month our heritage saga ended with Mary Ann Graf and Theresia Gramlich leaving for Milwaukee just one week before Christmas to attend school at Notre Dame Convent/St. Mary's Academy. Do you ever wonder how they spent this first pre-Christmas together? Did they have a small, table top Christmas tree decorated with candles, peanuts hung with yarn or string, dried orange rings, small bows tied from scrapes of material...just a simple tree...poor, humble, with a small paper Nativity? Might Josepha and Mary Doyle gone up to the Pink Convent where they would celebrate Christ's Birth with prayer and community? It is so hard to imagine their life in their Clark's Mills home.



Mother Gabriel has very little to say about these weeks. Her journal notes: *Rosa Vahl now traveled to Milwaukee to attend school.* Notes from Notre Dame Convent state that "*the last one (Rosa Vahl) took classes in English, German, French, piano, art, and wax-work.* Now the three of them were together...studying and getting ready for wherever God was leading them. But their time together was going to be very short-lived. Changes in the Milwaukee dioceses would strongly influence their future. More on this in February.



German

One task in the archives is preservation of newspaper articles. Recently this picture was "next on the pile." In January of 1973 the oldest section of Holy Family Hospital was demolished. This photo shows where that original section use to be, almost surrounded by other sections of the hospital. When St. Clare's Convent closed last summer, a cabinet with three drawers, the top one with a key for locking it, came to the archives, marked "From Original Hospital" — built in 1898!! What a treasure!!



Gradually photos are also being re-evaluated, catalogued and filed. This photo was of particular interest. Research revealed the man on this photo was John Kubatsky (i). On January 14, 1936, Mother Generose wrote the following: "*My dear Sisters, Yet ever and anon a trumpet sounds from the battlements of Eternity. This time the call was not for one of the community but for one who was closely associated with the community for over thirty-one years. Early Sunday morning John died suddenly in the workmen's residence. Wednesday morning his remains will be laid to rest in our cemetery He requested that he might have a little corner where we "would not bury a Sister. Sister Mary John, his sister, and two brothers mourn his loss."* John died at age 52, victim of a heart attack. He was employed as superintendent of farming since 1905. He is standing by the south porch with the horses and wagon used in farming at that time.

Many of you often wonder what is all behind those closed archive doors in Generose Hall. Back in November, an email request came to the archives from Brother Jason Roberts, O.S.S.M. via Sr. Natalie. Jason works at Cross Care Center in Jacksonville, Florida and he was looking for holy cards or medals or relics, devotional items that people at the nursing home / rehabilitation facility. The facility is a 120 bed, skilled nursing facility which provides both short term rehabilitation, and long term custodial care. The nursing home chapel is the perfect place to venerate even relics that do not have certificates since, canonically, it isn't fully-public chapel. This request led me to check out any relics that were available from the extensive collection we have...and thus this article. You'll be amazed at what we have.



The relics in our archives are not those being considered for someone's Beatification....but they are relics of long ago Saints, many of whom I've never heard of. First of all, relics are defined as:

- 1st Class: Body or part(s) of a person's body.
- 2nd Class: Part of clothing or article used by person.
- 3rd Class: Any object touched to a first class relic.

Regardless of the classification of a relic, relics are only considered to be true and valuable if they have a document certifying their authenticity. That being said, our archives contains over 250 relics in various shapes and forms that have certification papers. Then there were over 50 relics that had no documents to justify authenticity. These were sent to Brother Jason with a special request that anyone praying with the relic would include prayers for vocations to our community.



### Holy Family Hospital 1898 Cornerstone

In 1948 Holy Family Hospital opened its 1898 building cornerstone. Contents included sand from the catacombs; dust from the urn which in 1230 held the remains of St. Francis of Assisi; and then a copper box with 12 relics: St. Fulgens, St. Desidera, St. Blandus, St. Fusanti, St. Alesuin etc.; a reliquary; 1898 newspapers etc. Here are some of the photos of these items.



The above pink bundles contain the relics each in an outer covering with red cross, an inner covering, then the relic such as a bone piece.



### Images of Archive Relics



Start upper right: Bernardi, True Cross, Ant. M. Claret, Clare & Francis set, Pius X, SS.M Crucis, Bonvent. **Question:** Where are relics located throughout the convent and in offices??? and who is the Saint? (Soon to be displayed)



Dust collected round the [unclear] which at the end of 1230 were [unclear] the Sacred Remains of the [unclear] Patriarch Saint Francis [unclear] remained there until 1818. at [unclear]

Plaque of relics given to Mother Generose with 24 Saints names on pieces of paper and tiny statues of Saints with symbols of Christianity. Saints included: Gaudentius, Probus, Venerandus, Coronata, Severin, Hilaritatis, Felicis, etc.

