



Heritage Happenings

Archives Office
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Lest We Forget...



Last month Mother Gabriel's annals ended with June of 1868. She had just moved her things from Clarks Mills to the third floor of the Roemer house where she was now going to live. Teaching school would begin on Monday July 6, 1868 with 40 pupils ages 6—16. Where were the other four young women? Rosa Wahl was still going to school in Milwaukee. Josepha Thoenie was staying in Clarks Mills where she and Mary Ann Graf were busy around "The Shanty." The vegetable garden needed to be tended or they wouldn't have anything to eat in the coming months. A flower bed surely graced some of the land around their little house. Then the sheep needed to be tended, shorn and wool carded and spun to get ready to knit socks and mittens, warm shawl for the winter months. The cow needed to be milked and the eggs from the chickens collected everyday. Butter needed to be churned. Both of them were very busy that summer. Mary Ann was probably teaching summer school children. Sophia Fessler was living in Manitowoc, now caring for the parsonage where her brother was living. Theresa did not share anything about time the four of them might have met together, prayed together, recreated with each other, but surely Father Joseph would meet with them periodically to continue making plans for their future move to Manitowoc and the organizing of their new community. Father Joseph was probably busiest trying to figure out how and when to move his little flock to St. Boniface. He needed a school and convent. He probably dreamed about "Little Nazareth", pictured above. Time would tell... more in September.



Heritage Display Room Articles used at one time by our Sisters: large spinning wheel, carding tools (donated), pair of knitted socks, swift for winding up wool.

It's hard to imagine what the four of them really had to do during those years together in Clarks Mills.

Mary of the Annunciation Meets Elizabeth of the Visitation !!



In 2005-6 the Sisters located at St. Mary of the Annunciation convent in Kaukauna prayed for a year that the convent they were leaving would eventually be used by a ministry that would keep open the chapel. Three of our Sisters, Pacifica, Eugene and Genevieve, arrived in 1887 to take over the school. After 121 years of service, in June of 2006, our Sisters said their good-byes. Twelve years later, Mary of the Annunciation joined Elizabeth of the Visitation and this convent became the headquarters for the Elizabeth Ministry International Headquarters Center. Cont...





On May 31, 2018, the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity were invited to celebrate the Feast of the Visitation at the open house for the Elizabeth Ministry International Headquarters Center now located in our old St. Mary's Convent. In the afternoon a special rooms dedication service was held.



A Certificate of Dedication, received by Sister Natalie, reads: *This acknowledges that the Visitation Chapel has been dedicated in honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity in recognition of their presence which created this sacred space.* Here is Sister Natalie applying the dedication plaque to the chapel wall...and those who attended.



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Sister Camilla enjoyed seeing her old bedroom now called the Contemplation Room.



The Visitation Chapel



Native American Artifacts

Re-acquisition of Heritage Artifacts continues along with a history of each item, if available, in particular articles from Native Americans that were served in Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Recently seen in the February-March issue 2018 Our Wisconsin was an article "The Need to Bead" about Native American bead work. Interest in the Native American Craft work led to contact with personnel at the Oneida Nation Museum in De Pere, WI. A meeting is set up to evaluate artifacts pictured here.



This beautiful photo album is made of sheets of birch bark, sewn together and a space cut out for a picture. Flowers made of painted porcupine quills have been stitched on each of the 28 pages. Inside the cover is written: *Made by women of the Ojibwa tribe.*



This is a model of an Indian burial hut of the type used by some Indians in the midwest, i.e. Wisconsin, Chippewas, Menominee, Ottawas, etc. No further data.

This Indian artifact is a stone wrapped with animal skin around a long wood handle. The end is shaped for cutting or chopping.



Here are two Indian snowshoes that measure 14" long. No information on where they came from.



This is a musical instrument. At one end is a tortoise shell on which an inserted wood piece holds the ends of three strings. At the opposite end are three "plugs" which each hold one string and can be twisted to tighten them. Sister Eligius Hoolihan's name was taped on one end. She was a musician who specialized in the violin and also taught in upper Michigan and northern Wisconsin. Maybe she played this instrument??