

Heritage Happenings

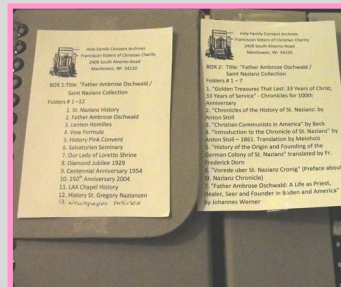
Archives Office
April 2020

Lest We Forget...



Five years ago I knew very little about what all the boxes held that were lined up on the metal shelves in Rooms 106 and 108 Generose Hall. Now that I've been through them and have purchased the PastPerfect program for Archives, museums, Libraries etc., it's time to begin uploading individual box contents to this new program which eventually will be a marvelous Finding Aid Tool when searching for something.

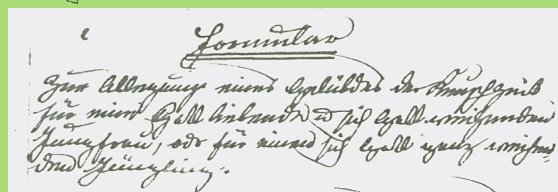
The first boxes focus on Pre-Foundation of the Community. If Father Ambrose Oswald hadn't immigrated to the United States, if he hadn't founded St. Nazianz, would our Community have ever been established. What a thought provoking question. But he came and our history took root. This issue of Heritage Happenings, therefore, focuses on the holdings we presently have on Father Ambrose Oswald. The first box contains 14 folders and the second box has 7.



Folders 1 and 2 contain History of St. Nazianz and information about Father Ambrose Oswald and the Oswald Association.



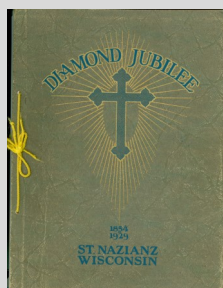
Folder 4 contains a "Vow Formula"...for pronouncing the vow of chastity for a God loving virgin who



Folder 3 contains "Lenten Homilies on St. John of the Cross's Spirituality delivered by Rev. Ambrose Oswald, Lent of 1865. In 1978, While doing research at St. Nazianz on Father Oswald, Sr. Donna Marie Kessler

made copies of the notes of the homilies that were written by Sister Catherine Mohr, an Oswald Sister. The homilies in German script were translated by Father Bernard Strasser. There are 28 of them beginning with "First Sunday of Lent—1865."

Imagine Teresa Gramlich listening...



Folder 8 contains the Diamond Jubilee 1854—1929 book. On page 35 - 36 one of Father Oswald's first students, Rev. Dr. Charles Stetter, described pioneer life in St. Nazianz. He writes: "During one year we had also a parochial school. The teaching Sister was Sr. Rosa who had come from Ohio with other sisters. She was an able and energetic teacher..."

Rosa who had come from Ohio with other sisters. She was an able and energetic teacher..."



Folder 5 holds stories of the Pink Convent (the Rosa Kloster). Augusta Schmidt, mother of nine children, spending the last of her 23 years as one of two survivors who

were with the community found by Father Oswald in 1854, tells stories about the early years: their work, their clothing, the rooms in the kloster. This picture shows our Sisters visiting the Rosa Kloster. The last Oswald Sister died in 1949. Her story is historic in its description of the convent inside. You can read it in the Heritage Display Room.



Several of the items in the Oschwald Collection triggered questions about those early families. One in particular was: Were the Gramlich's members of the Oschwald Association or did just individual family members belong. A trip was arranged to visit the Salvatorian Archives in Milwaukee after it was discovered that they hold the entire Oschwald Collection including memorabilia. Father Mike Hoffman introduced himself and then gave the tour thru "The Tower" where the archives are located in the narrow tower on four floors each connected by winding stairs.

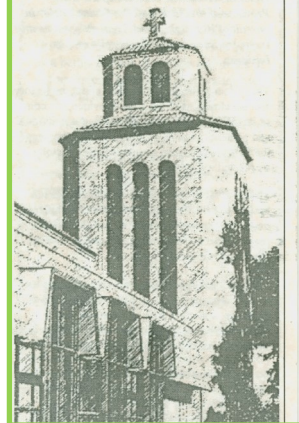


Here are just a few of the archival boxes containing numerous records in English and in German about Oschwald. Several manuscripts are also in our archives but some things had never been seen before.



Salvatorian Archives

Society of the Divine Savior
USA Province



One such finding was the pages of death records that Oschwald kept. Scanning over the pages. No. 19 listed was the record for Amalia Fessler, shown below, Joseph's sis-

Handwritten German death record for Amalia Fessler, dated 1866. The text mentions her death on September 26, 1866, and includes a signature.

ter, and Maria Helena Gramlich, Teresa Gramlich's sister. Amalia died September 26, 1866. Note the signature of Fr. Oschwald. The German script is not easy to decipher.

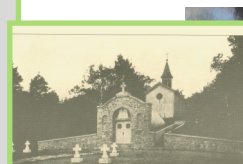
Handwritten German death record for Maria Helena Gramlich, dated 1866. The text mentions her death on August 10, 1866, and includes a signature.

Another exciting find was a provisional membership list of the St. Gregory's Association compiled by Alvred Schneble, Salvatorian in 1967. Members who died on the high sea, in New York or Milwaukee were not included in the research but still needed to be found. Mother Gabriel's family was all listed as members including Theresa which confirmed the idea that they were members.



37. Gramlich Joseph one Gramlich Joseph donates in 1865 two bells for the church at the Brothers' Monastery (St. Ambrose). green booklet pg.25. - On April 8, 1875 : Secretary of the Association (acting as...) (1874) (1896) died April 7, 1913 (1929) But :
38. Gramlich Joseph died Sept. 29, 1887 (1929) ??? Which one is "J.H." ?
39. Gramlich Marianna (Maria A.) (1874) (1896) (1908) died June 29, 1916 (1929)
40. Gramlich Peter Anton (1874) died Feb. 7, 1884 (1929)
41. Gramlich Thecla died August 10, 1879 (1929)
-- 41 a. Gramlich Theresa, sister of Gramlich, John, last house-father of Loretto Monastery at St. Nazians : later Mother Gabriel, first Superior General of the Alverno Sisters. - No personal data known except that she came from Baden (Germany) and died at Alverno on Aug. 10, 1914. (Biography by Sr. Rosemund Nugent BURIED WHEAT, Milwaukee 1967. - Cfr. Diamond Jubilee pg.38).

Father Ambrose Oschwald died on February 27, 1873. He was dressed in priestly vestments as you see him here. On March 3, his corpse was placed in a crypt under the high altar of St. Ambrose Church. Meanwhile a special vault had to be prepared. On April 29 the coffin was opened. The top image was made at that time. He still looked like he was living. 63 days after his death, his coffin was finally closed, placed in the vault and sealed. He rested here until October 4, 1926 when his remains were transferred to the new stone mausoleum below Loretto Hill. Upon viewing his body thru the glass over the top of the casket, his body still retained its shape...after 53 years. The second phot shows him as he looked then in 1926, with renewed vestments. These two pictures on the left were made from tintypes. (Tintype was a positive photograph produced by applying a collodion-nitrocellulose solution to a thin, black-enameled metal plate immediately before exposure.) These tintypes are held in the Salvatorian Archives.



Rest in
Peace

