

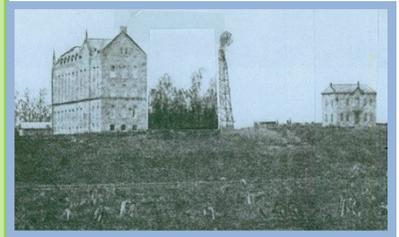


Heritage Happenings

Archives Office
November 2021

Lest We Forget...

While giving a two-hour tour of the Motherhouse to a group of women from the Lifelong Learning Institute out of Green Bay, one of their three objectives really touched me. They wanted to know how we got “here” and what changes the Motherhouse had undergone over the past 152 years. Over the years, many tours had been giving, each citing new information from time to time. Putting it all together was a real challenge but it also generated a need to share and save the stories of these rooms. Don’t we often say “If only these rooms could talk!!” So each Heritage Happening issue is going to focus on... changes over the past 152 years. If you have stories to share, please give to Sr. caritas and when YOUR room comes up, your story will be featured. We begin with the purchasing of the land upon which the Motherhouse was going to be built.



Then—1873 and Now—2021



In the fall of the year 1871, Mother Odelia was on her way to St. Nazianz walking the old road that led past beautiful Silver Lake. She had been praying about the need for a new, larger convent. Her community already had 17 members, 6 new ones just admitted. They were already teaching in three places. They would not fit in their present house much longer. She

was so impressed with the beauty of the lake, the hills and woods, that, when she returned, she met with Father Fessler and discussed the land she had seen. At that time, M. Schmidt, N. Hansen, and J. Drumm owned the property on the east side of the lake. Given the land divisions, a dirt road probably ran between the Schmidt and Drumm sites giving Father Fessler a chance to survey the property nearest the lake. ...and he found it promising!



Documents from the Court House reveal that it is Theresia Fessler who on October 14, 1871 at 3:00 PM purchases “the south-east 1/4 of the South East 1/4 and the east half of the west half of the south east 1/4 of section 33, Township 19, range 23...80 acres more or less.” On the same day, an hour later, Theresia sells 40 acres of this property to Father Joseph Fessler. The *puzzling question is: WHO was Theresia Fessler? How is she related? More in December issue.

On November 3, 1871 Father Fessler purchases 45+ acres from Jacob Drumm for \$1300 ...\$28.75 / acre. See land map to locate these properties.

Ground breaking will not take place for another two years. Our next issue will pursue happenings leading up to official ground breaking.



BE IT REMEMEBED, That on the 14 day of October A. D. 1871 personally came before me the above named Theresia Fessler to me known to be the person who executed the above Deed, and acknowledged the same to be her free act and deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned. Received for Record at 4 o'clock P. M. October 1871 Jahr Franz Register. Jahr Franz Notary Public



Over the past few months, relatives of our Sisters have been searching for information. Some have very little, some have a photo but all with very interesting questions. Hearing from relatives really makes these Sisters come alive again...and it's wonderful to get some history on each of them...especially a photo.

My name is John Uhlman. I am writing you to request information on Sr. M. Angela Majeres, born March 18th, 189 and died November 29th, 1923. She is a distant cousin through my great-great-grandmother's side. **REPLY:** Very little information. She entered April 10, 1912. She worked at Holy Family Hospital 1920, 21, 22 as a seamstress or nurse. She died in 1923 of TB. No photo of her.



August 31 Jeff Wonders wrote: I am following a lead of my 2nd Great Grandaunt, Sister M. Armilla. Her given name was Margaret Rupp born in Potosi, Wisconsin in 1857. She may have been ordained at your Convent on September 2, 1876. I would appreciate if you

could confirm this information and provide me with any additional information you discover. **REPLY:** Sister Armella entered 9/26/1871 at age 14. She was professed on September 2, 1876, with her friend, Sister Bonaventure Hueffer.

Jeff: Could there be a possibility that the Sister's last name was Huepper instead of Hueffer? Was she from Potosi? I found a Mary E. Huepper in my family tree who was born in Potosi in 1857. It was just a thought... **REPLY:** Searching revealed that Sr. Bonaventure's gravestone name is "Hueffer" but papers in her folder identify her last name as Hupper. Sleuthing revealed that, in German, the U with two dots means "ue". If someone forgets to add the two dots, the name is Hupper, or if they translate the two-dots U into ue, then it's Hueffer. I surmise someone skipped the two dots and kept the plain "u". **REPLY:** You also provided me information of another relative: Sister M.

Humiliana Stelpflug. My 2nd Great Grandparents were Peter John Rupp, Sr. [brother of M. Armella Rupp] and Josephine Mary Stelpflug [niece of M. Bonaventure Hüpper and first cousin of M. Humiliana Stelpflug]. **REPLY:** Both of us had a photo of Sr. Humiliana but both are different. Jeff thinks one might be Sr. Bonaventure and the other is Sr. Humiliana. Time and sharing will tell!



Both of these photos are labeled Sister Humiliana. Which one matches more the image above?

July 15 Barbara Hughes writes: I am hoping to see any information you may have regarding the Whelan and Fullmer families. Mother Alexia's mother was Margaret Whelan who married Joseph Fullmer. At least that is what I think. I know that Margaret Whelan died in 1869 and then Joseph Fullmer married Margaret's sister, Ellen. Margaret was the sister to my great great grandmother, Catharine Whelan Hughes. Mary Elizabeth Fullmer marries Jacob Pinion in 1892. Three of their four children chose a religious life.



Margaret Mary (Sr Francis Marie) and Angela Christina (Sr Joseph Marie) were members of the Holy Family Convent. The Fullmers and Pinions were cousins. Barbara came from Duluth, MN and for several hours reviewed records on these Sisters. Time ran out all too quickly so she hopes to return for a tour of the Motherhouse some day.



PRIVATE TOUR