



Heritage Happenings

Archives Office
March 2022

Lest We Forget...

Last month, February, the architect Adolph Druiding, outlined plans for the much needed new convent. The 40 acres of land had been purchased earlier and now needed to be cleared. *"The place was overgrown with vines and brush and many trees of the primitive forest were still growing. Stumps revealed bare spots here and there"* as described in the manuscript "Annals by an American Sister". If they want to build here, plans need to be made!!

Builders needed to be selected for this tremendous project. *Valentine Goetzler ... and Xavier Meyer and Co. were chosen as builders. Both were Manitowoc men...* and they knew the art of brick building. So is there anything to learn about them? It's amazing what can be found with a little bit of...sleuthing!!

Sr. Dolorose, Valentine's daughter, entered the convent July 1881, just before the fire!! How devastating to see her father's hard work go up in flames! But he pitched right in to rebuild it...and she became a novice in 1882.



Valentine Goetzler was a pioneer contractor living in Manitowoc. Valentine was born in Germany January 7, 1830. In 1851 he married Catharina Buechler, born May 11, 1826 in Germany. Their first child, Edward, was born in 1854 in New York city. It is presumed that they immigrated sometime between 1851 and 1854. Other Births: Catherine—1856 in Manitowoc; Emma—1859; Victoria (Sister Dolorose) - 1862; Rudolph—1865; and Helen—1869. He will help with the 1873 and the 1879 buildings. Valentine died July 1917, age 87.

Sister Bernardine was Xaver's daughter. She entered the convent in 1871, 24 years old. She would not be received until 1875, after the move to the new convent.

Mr. Xavier/Xaver Meier (Meyer, Mayer, etc.) was born July 26, 1824 in Oberhausen, Baden. He came to America in 1855 and lived for 2-1/2 yrs. in Williamsburg, N.Y., before coming to Manitowoc. He married and had three daughters, one who "took the veil". In 1872, he was chosen to be the builder of the new convent out at Silver Lake. Twenty years later, he died on Monday July 4, 1892 at 3:00 PM of a heart attack. According to his obituary, *he was working that day gathering hay. His wife brought him his lunch. When she returned to pick up the utensils, she found him lying face down. She sought help but nothing could be done for him. He was a well known resident of the city, a man of exceptional character.* He was 68 years old.

The Annals go on: *"It was decided to erect a brick building in such ways that additions could readily be made according to the growing needs of the Community. Architect Druiding drew up the plans and instructed the builders. Farmers in the vicinity and friends of the Sisters from Manitowoc lent willing aid and hauled materials for the new convent."* It is Fall of 1872! It will take two years to put up their new home! Stones are being hauled from the fields. Wood is collected as trees are chopped down. A place for the workers is needed... An accessible road to the building site must be cleared first! So much to do before winter sets in...a helper picking stones!!





WOW! Would you take a look at these photos!!!

Florence Tucker-age 2
(Sr. Mary Eliza)
Her parents
Bridal Veil Falls 1910.

Are you sure it's hard enough?



Perusing,, Selecting, Cataloguing...Which are the chosen few? Such is the work with archive photos: are they dated? Is the event/location given? And the people featured? Are they all named: first and last!



Sr. Anna Tisler



Do you recognize Sr. Noreen Macrorie? Picture on a postcard: Girls club—Kaukauna High School



Sister Verda Hubert loving God in His children and His beauty!



Sr. Ann Patrick
Sr. Justinian



Would you look at this!!! Sister Regula Staskevic...sunning on the Third Floor Infirmary Porch...with company...and their clothes! Did you know...she was born in Russia!

If you look closely at Sister Syra Whitman's left hand, she's holding this deaf child's fingers to her lips...to teach her to feel sound and eventually learn to speak! "I could not speak...and you opened my lips!"



Did you ever get a box of crayons with such cute smiley faces!! October 1993—St. Nicholas Sisters—Zanesville, Ohio Halloween party with the Good Samaritan Sisters



Excavation begins in the spring of 1873!! Get your shovels ready. How big do you think the hole needs to be? More in the next issue.



Sr. Karen Suhr, Sr. Mary Victoria, Sr. Camilla, Sr. Miriam Bosch (red) and Sr. Mary Zigo
Sr. Theresa Luetkenhaus, Sr. Marie Selinsky,