



Heritage Happenings

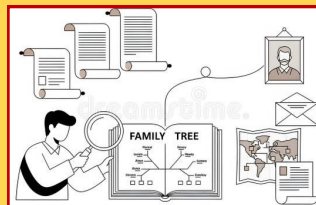
Archives Office

October 2026

Lest We Forget...



National Genealogy Month, also known as Family History Month, is celebrated every October in the United States to encourage people to explore, preserve, and share their family stories and heritage. The National Genealogical Society says: Exploring and preserving family history is a fulfilling journey that enriches our sense of self and deepens bonds across generations. It can cultivate younger family members' appreciation of their roots, let elders know they're valued, and ensure access to memories and stories in the years to come.



Have you ever been curious about: where did I come from? My parents, of course...but...Where did my parents and their families originate from? What country did they immigrate from to get here to America? What circumstances brought them here? Like the saying goes "Curiosity killed a cat ... satisfaction brought it back." it seems like 50% of archive work involves genealogy searches. Someone discovered a religious Sister was a distant family member. Who was she? Thus the focus of this month's Heritage Happening.

Summer "Sleuthing" began June 13. Robert Armbruster writes: *I am working to develop my ancestry on my father's side. I recently found that two of my Aunts may have been professed vows to become nuns. I am searching for information on Louisa Armbruster...Sister Mary Longina DOB: 9/4/1864 DOD 7/23/1956 and Mary Linus Armbruster....Sister Anna Limas DOB: 1882 and DOD 1959. I have a son Anthony ordained a priest in Archdioceses of Indianapolis on June 2024. I'm from Pittsboro, IN.*

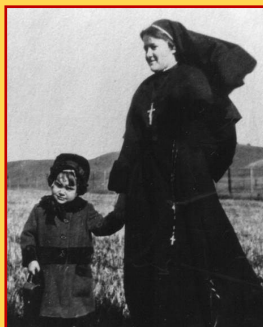


Sisters of St. Francis
OLDENBURG + INDIANA

They were not relatives of Sister Rose Cecile, nor members of our community. The next step: his search was submitted to the ACWR List Serve...and by noon he had his answer. Stacey DiFazio identified the two Sisters as Sisters of St. Francis, both buried in Saint Francis Convent Cemetery in Oldenburg, Franklin County, Indiana.

June 16 Paul Goemans writes: *I have an old family photo of a nun, who is related to me. See photo of Sr. Frances Henry holding my mother's hand. My mother was born in 1914, so that pretty closely dates this photo! It has been suggested that Sr. Frances Henry (Steinbrecher) could be from the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. If so, I would appreciate any information you have on her!*

The Eulogy writeup on her and photos were sent to him! Isn't this a cool picture! Note her candidate habit with veil and crucifix hung on a shoe-string.

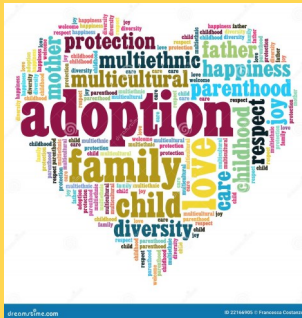


July 19 Julia Noble wrote: *Could you provide anything on my grandfather's aunt, Sr. M. Immaculata (Theresa) Hoffmann, born Oct 25, 1878, died Jul 14, 1892. We have very little information on her except she is the only one that we have a picture of who is on her "death bed"/ laid out for her funeral service. Sent her a copy of her eulogy*



Rest
in peace

June 13 Rose Dunphy wrote: *I am a great-grandchild of William and Kathryn (Jackels) Kerkhof of Hollandtown, Wisconsin, and a grandchild of Francis R. Kerkhof. My Aunt, Sister Rochelle Kerkhof, is a current Franciscan Sister. Looking in particular for any information on Kathryn Kerkhof that we might have. Also . I am curious whether others in the family ever took vows with the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity? Picture: Kerkhof Sisters: Ignatius, Everildis, Theonilla, (Mary Hugh) , Eileen and Merilda. Response; No information on Kathryn. Sent her Find-A-Grave resource on the Sisters and copies of eulogies done on each along with photos.*



June 13 Robert Olson wrote: *My name is Bob Olson, and I am doing genealogy research into Sister Mary Rose. Her birth name was Jane Landreau and she was born in Bay Settlement Wis. I believe in 1857. I'm believing that something happened to her birth parents after her birth and subsequently was adopted by my Great-Great Grandparents, Oliver and Mary Champeau when she was about 2 years old, and then later in life became a Sister. What happened to her birth parents? Response: Records written by Sister Mary Rose My Papa and Mamma who adopted me when two days old, after my mother died. Mary Jane's aunt, Mrs. Oliver Champeau adopted her.*

Response: sent him gravesite location, her eulogy and information she had written about her history as a Sister at Bay Settlement and then her transfer to FSCC. P. S. Bob has arranged for a visit here on September 24 along with Ryan Neville whom he met flying Appleton to Green Bay...long story. Small world!

July 22 Michael Bray wrote: *I'm looking for records of a Sister who was born Susan Janice Chervenak, a daughter of Jan "John" Chervenak (1873–1924) and Anna Bogdanic (1878–1923) of Guernsey County, Ohio. Her sister Agnes was my great-grandmother. I'm most hoping to learn is her parents' place of birth. My family emigrated from what is now eastern Slovakia, and I've not yet been able to identify the village.*

RESPONSE: sent him the Zedella-Chervenak genealogy from her folder (a duplicate) and information about Sister Janice. Recommended Ellis Island boat passenger lists, Find-A-Grave and church records. Now he's hoping to visit Slovakia some day with his wife and five children.



FRANCISCAN MAGNIFICAT

With Mary my soul proclaims the love of the Lord,

My Franciscan spirit exults in God, my Savior.

For He has looked with favor on His lowly servant, Francis —

Behold, all generations will call him blessed. The Almighty has raised up a family of Franciscans — Blessed be His Name!

Who spread peace, love and joy to all in every generation.

Through Francis He has lavished His love on the poor.

And showed us how to love God in His creatures.

He has scattered the wicked in their ways;

He has confused the worldly in their pride.

He has given us a world-wide mission

To fill the hungry heart with our preaching.

And with Lady Poverty to confound the rich.

Through us He has lifted up the humble;

He has remembered His promise of peace and joy.

The promise He made to our Father Francis,

And to His followers, forever.

(Father Gabriel Giles, Capuchin)