It is a good time to be a museum, especially at Osage Mission. Kansas is celebrating its sesquicentennial this year and we have every reason to share the pride of achieving a 150 year anniversary. And we might allow ourselves to feel a little smug in the fact that we were here seven years before Kansas was a territory, and fourteen years prior to statehood. It was through the incredible dedication of a group of pioneer missionaries that the Osage Mission was founded: it thrived and eventually grew into our home of St. Paul. (left to right)

Father John Schoenmakers: Osage Mission's Director and Protector
Father Schoenmakers was the manager. He was responsible for the education of students, oversight of facilities, missionary work and political matters related to the Mission.

Mother Bridget Hayden: Mission's Mother, "Medicine Woman" and Girls School Leader
She was one of the most remarkable women that have ever set foot on the soil of Kansas (W.W. Graves.)

Father Paul Mary Ponziolone: "The Jesuit Trail Rider"
"Larger than life" is a term Hollywood uses to describe movie characters like Father Ponziolone. Every aspect of his life, from birth to death, is extraordinary. But he was a real person.

Father Phillip Colloton: Father Paul Mary Ponziolone's Co-Laborer
Father Colloton was ingenious and possessed a missionary zeal comparable to Ponziolone. He also facilitated the construction and growth of the Osage Mission schools.

These missionaries established the Osage Mission at the request of the Osage Nation, a proud and introspective people who wanted to prepare their young for the eventualty of civilization. The original Indian schools eventually grew into two of the most influential boarding schools in frontier Kansas; and set the basis for our 164 year old school system. Perhaps most impressive is the fact that, over a thirty year period our missionaries seeded Christianity and their diverse cultures to more than 100 mission stations across a four state area.
“Man of the Journal”
October 26, 1871 - July 22, 1952

New addition to the Museum

This research center is dedicated to William White Graves.

It is ironic that much of the history of the Osage Mission was formally recorded by a student of the Missionary priests and sisters who built the schools. W.W. Graves arrived at the Mission with his parents in 1881, having been taught during the tenure of Father Schoenmakers and Ponziglione and Mother Bridget Hayden.

In 1896 Mr. Graves became owner, editor and publisher of the Neosho County Journal which later became the Saint Paul Journal. He continued in this capacity until 1951 when he sold the journal.

On May 31, 1952 the editors of southeast Kansas, the State Historical Society and the St. Paul community recognized the accomplishments of Mr. Graves with an honorary banquet. He received the honor of Knighthood of St. Gregory from Pope Pius XII for his literary contributions to the Catholic Church. Mr. Graves was also made an honorary member of the Osage in recognition of his friendship and historical work relative to their tribe. An Osage war bonnet presented to him at the event is on display in the main exhibit room of the museum. His desk and Remington typewriter are also in the new research center.

Osage Mission-Neosho County Museum is indebted to W.W. Graves

Museum Hours:
Tuesday through Saturday,
9:00am to 2:00pm. Telephone 620-449-2320.
E-mail us at: museum@osagemission.org

Ambassadors At Work

Our Museum Ambassadors research team has made many trips this year gathering facts of history.

- To Loretto Motherhouse — Nermix, Kentucky receiving documents to St. Ann’s Academy along with pictures.
- Kansas Historical Society Museum and Research Library, Topeka found and ordered digital copy of St. Francis Hall which was part of St. Francis Institute, This structure was probably the first “public” library in the State of Kansas.
- Three visits to Osage Nation - Pawhuska with Director of Osage Nation Cultural Group.
- Spent two days with John Moncreave, Osage Genealogist and Historian focusing on Osage Mission families.
- Attended Columbus Genealogy Meeting.

We are trying hard to make our W.W. Graves Room a first-class research facility. People from all over Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and other locations consider the Osage Mission to be one of the most important frontier historical sites.

We continue to respond to research requests from all over the continent. For example, during May, four family members from Alberta, Canada spent nearly a week at the museum and the Church conducting research on their family. They departed with much more than anticipated and left generous contributions with the museum and the church. Another Canadian family also visited the Museum, and newly-discovered relatives, in September. This visit was a result of receiving research information, about their family, we had provided earlier. Our webmail server has been a good tool to communicate with research clients from all over the world.
Third daughter of Louis Albert and Louis Mary Vohs Severt. She was born May 15, 1928 at Mercy Hospital, Parsons, Kansas. Her childhood and youth was spent on Beechwood Hill (2 miles East of the Catholic Church) on 2 farms cater-cornered from each other. She spent 12 years at St. Francis School and worked for G.A. Pierce briefly. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, Wichita, KS on Labor Day, 1946. Received the habit and name Sister Denise on March 19, 1947 just 2 months before the parish Centennial Celebration. Took her Normal Training course as a postulant under Sr. Callista. Attended Sacred Heart College, Wichita, now Newman University and received her Master’s Degree in Library Science from Emporia State University. Throughout these years taught elementary grades in KS for 20 yrs. 1979 became the first Archivist of Diocese of Dodge City in 1983 she became the first Archivist of Diocese of Wichita where she served as Asst. Chancellor and microfilmed sacramental records of ALL parishes of the Diocese of Wichita along with Eva Henderson created whatever was needed for the celebration of the Wichita Diocese’s Centennial Celebration for the year 1987. A nine month project was preparation of the Centennial Calendar which will serve as a model for the St. Francis, St. Paul calendar for the celebration of their church’s dedication in 2009. After a 2 year stint as Director of Mission Effectiveness in the Westminster Village Center in Ponca City, OK and three years as the Librarian in Colgan High School I returned to the Motherhouse Library in Wichita. One interruption of this library service was

January, 2002 thru April, 2005 when I returned to my hometown as driver and companion for Sister Julita. During these delightful years I volunteered at Neosho County Osage Mission Museum where I worked with Mr. Dan Willson doing "whatever needed to be done". Since I was familiar with the territory and most of the people this was sheer delight. The Farmer in me came out when Robert Kroenke and his family made a garden spot south of the convent I am forever grateful to the parishioners at St. Paul for the multitude of kindness extended to me during my return there.

On display in the Museum Original Commencement and Graduation Announcements Starting 1912

Sister Denise Day October 9, 2010
Today this picturesque stoic barn can be seen by driving 4 miles East of St. Paul on Highway 47. It is located on the farmland of the late Patrick and Vera Diskin parents of the present owner their daughter, Mary Paula, and her husband A.J Goodsel. The original barn burned and on the same site this mansard roof barn was built in 1930 and thought to be the first in the county. Back then barns served as the farm factory, the place of business and the store houses of equipment and supplies. This is where the farmers thresher grain on the barn floor, stored hay in the loft to feed livestock and sheltered the animals from the weather.

The Barn was the heart of the farm and a place where the “popular neighborhood barn dances” or roller skating or a good ole basketball game or just visiting with neighbors could help pass the long days. Barns represented tradition, lots of hard work and independence. In this particular barn, made of yellow pine, there are horse stalls, milking stalls and a loft. Junior and his wife moved to the farm in 1957, and this barn was an intricate part of their daily lives. Thanks to Sons Charles and Verl for their years of dedication and upkeep we will enjoy this magnificent sight for years to come.

As the old saying goes “lucky in love” well we were lucky in history. In the spring of 2010 we entered a contest sponsored by Kansas Sampler Foundation. There were 170 entries state wide. The contest was launched to bring awareness to their own roots and help educate Kansas residents of our States History. We were chosen as one of the 24 finalists (top 15%). Not being chosen as one of the top 8 wonders we have had lasting benefits.

We are featured in Kansas Display at Eisenhower Museum in Abilene and also to the New Kansas Guidebook. On a broad scale we have earned a spot on the Kansas Explorers website which a lot of people use to plan day-trips and vacations. More importantly, the campaign opened some eyes here at home and rekindled interest in a rich local history that was rap disappearing from our minds. WE THINK WE WON.
Celebrating Kansas 150th Birthday Kansas Day Visitors

7th & 8th Grade Social Studies Class
Mark Terlip Teacher

Cherokee County Geneology

St. Francis Harvest House October 2010
Hosts Cynthia Van Leeuwen & Judy Fager

Books for Sale

History of Neosho County
  Volume I $16.00
  Volume II $16.00

Beacon on the Plains $16.00

Annals of Osage Mission $16.00

Making Money with a Country Newspaper $ 6.00

Hope Cemetery Records
  Addenda I $ 6.00
  Addenda II $ 6.00
  $16.00

The First Protestant Osage Mission

From Highland View Farm $ 6.00
  Sister M. Leonilla Gouvion, C.S.J.

Thanks To All The Volunteers
Who contribute financial assistance or artifacts and perform other tasks for the Museum.

Annals of St. Paul
The Swan Song, 1936-1961
By David O'Bryan.
A book that continues the series started by
W.W. Graves, editor of
St. Paul Journals.
Sells for $35.00.
Available at the Museum.
Osage Mission-Neosho County Historical Society Membership

☐ Single Membership $10.00  ☐ Supporting Membership $25.00
☐ Family Membership $15.00  ☐ Business Membership $100.00

Each Supporting membership ($25.00) may receive one historical book:

☐ Cookbook  Beacon on the Plains  Osage Mission Sesquicentennial
☐ History of Neosho Co. Vol. 1  History of Neosho Co. Vol. 2
☐ St. Francis Cemetery

☐ I will pick up the book at museum.  ☐ I do not wish a book.
☐ Mail the Book. I am enclosing an additional $4.00 for mailing.

Name ___________________________________________ Phone ______________________

Address _________________________________________ Date ______________________

City ___________________________ State ______________ Zip ________________

Annual Memberships are renewable each January. They help defray costs of postage, the newsletter, utilities and other Museum upkeep.

Violin From Saint Ann’s Academy

During the latter part of the 19th century the Academy attracted students from several states. Many were drawn to the excellent art and music programs that the school offered under Mother Bridget Hayden’s leadership. This violin, bow and case were donated to the museum by Tom Severt of Blue Springs, Mo. It was passed down from Mr. Severt's grandfather who received it as a gift from Sister Hayden. Tom’s family tells stories of their grandfather playing this violin on several occasions.

Alumni Association:

Check out the St. Paul Schools Alumni & Friends Association website www.stpaulks.org. The Alumni website contains more than 70 years of class pictures and over 160 years of school history in Osage Mission and St. Paul. The site also provides current information regarding the district and school, plus news and events in the community.

This would be a great time to join or renew your membership to the association. A $5 a year for individuals this is a great opportunity to support “education through generations”.

St. Paul Schools Alumni & Friends Association
Box 263, St. Paul, KS 66771
New Exhibits
- **Saddle**
  Hand made leather Myron Ellis
  married to Helen McCall

- **Firefighters Display**

- **Divine Chaplet Display**

- **1923 Cedar Rapids Rock Crusher**
  These small crushers were used by all the farmers
crush rocks collected from clearing their pastures.
The crushed rock was then put on their drive roads.
The earliest crushers were hand-held stones,
where the weight of the stone provided a boost
to muscle power, used against a stone anvil.

- **Horse Drawn Sickle Bar Mower**
  These mowers are sometimes referred to as
reciprocating sickle mowers because the cutting
bars move back and forth against each other.
Because of the way the bars move against one
another, the sickle mowers are easy to clog when
cutting thick stalks of vegetation, like grass or hay.
Also, if the hay or vegetation is not standing up
fairly straight, these cutters are not very efficient.

- **Bell Cradle**
  Mounted on West side of machinery shed was
once used to ring the church bells located in
the church tower. Angelus Bell Replacement Cradle.

- **Chief Master Sargent Uniform**
  Mark Ward retired

- **World War II**
  Bernard LaForge, United States Marines

- **Canville Trading Post Artifacts**
  Site of the 1865 Treaty whereby the Osages
ceded the territory.

- **Guns and Pocket Watches**
  1895 Elgin Pocket watch/cameo.
  Double wound Swiss Silver with key
  Dueling Pistols-Made in Germany
  1837 Pocket Pistol
  President Edward Born
  Vice-President Bob Harmon
  Secretary Twila Wagner
  Treasurer Jolene Born
  School Article Felix Diskin
  Network Article Ronald Brogan
  Newsletter Jolene Born

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In 1947 monastery students built this stone tower, which houses the
bell from the original Mission Log Church. The bell was brought from
St. Louis, Missouri by Father Schoenmaker S.J. in 1849. It is the first
church bell to arrive in the Kansas Territory. The light stone for the
tower is from old Mission sidewalks.

The bell was given away as a prize in 1921 to Cornelius Duling of
East Mission. Mary, his wife, donated it back to the Church in 1945
for the Golden Jubilee of the Name change from Osage Mission to
Saint Paul.

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**Mark Your Calendars**
- March 31  Knowledge @ Noon Speaker
- May 26  Golf-Cart Walking History Tour
- May 28  Smokey Hills Free Trapper
- May 28  Buffet Lunch
- May 29  Breakfast
- May 29  Golf-Cart Walking History Tour
- June 5  St. Paul Public School Reunion

**2010 Raffle Winners**
- Lon Smith
- Don Norris

**Memorials for 2010**
- Cora Mae Umbarger
- Jesse Phillips
- Ronald Fager
- Cleo O’Brien

A 501 C (3) non-profit organization
Federal ID# 48-1001071

**Visitors for 2010:**
- 528 States and 1 Country

**Board of Directors:**
- Alberta Westhoff - Alice Coomes
- Charles Schettler - Alice Schettler
- Dennis Vitt – Rose Harmon

**Ambassadors:**
- Felix and Margaret Diskin
- Mary Lou Boone
- Ron and Rose Brogan

**Volunteers:**
- Judy Edwards - Lon Smith
- Mary Jane Gouvier