



When Oliver Faribault and Wakan Yanke Wiŋ moved to Prairie des Français (French Prairie), also known as Tinta Otunwe, Father Ravoux also moved the chapel there. It was probably located close to the Faribault Trading Post, near the Springs later called Faribault Springs. The Dakota Indians saw the European immigration as a threat, and so the Dakota threatened to burn the chapel down within the year.

As a result, Fr. Augustin Ravoux decided to dismantle the chapel and sell it to the German Catholics in Wabashah in 1844.

Fr. Augustin Ravoux departed in the spring of 1844, never to return to the area later called Shakopee.

The chapel was placed on a raft and floated down the Rivière Saint-Pierre. It was set up where Main Street was



terminated in Wabashaw in 1844 (changed to Wabasha in 1868). It was used a little for religious services, then was closed and used for newspaper publishing and schooling. Today, traces of the old church are obliterated.

Fr. Augustin Ravoux died on January 17, 1906 at age 91 in St. Paul, Minnesota,



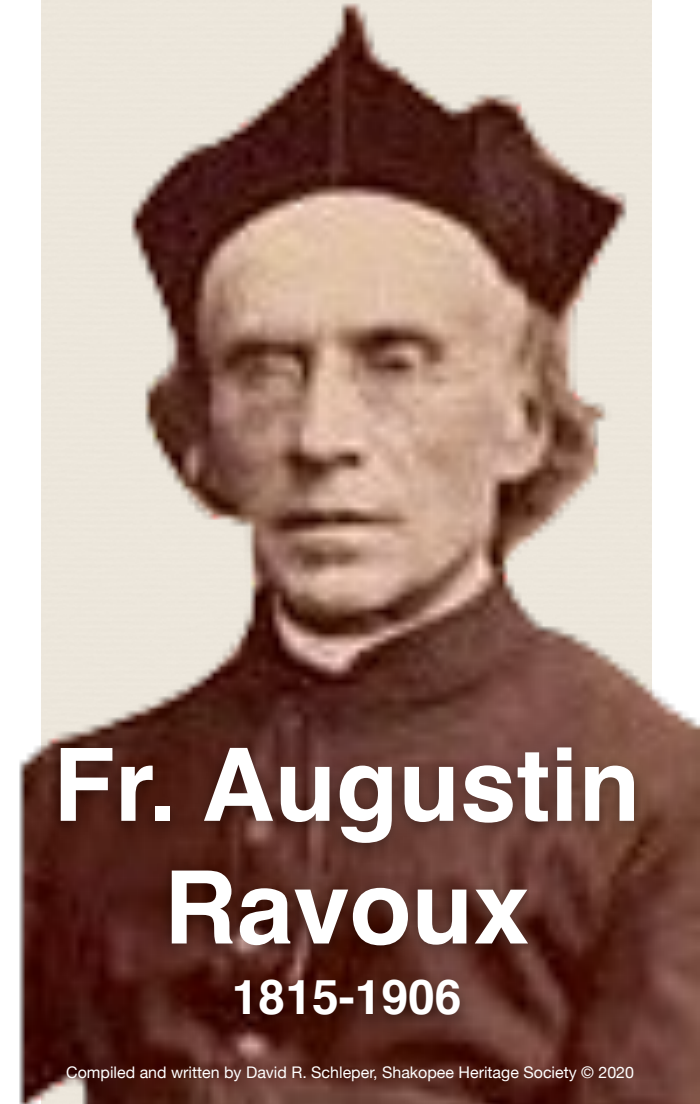
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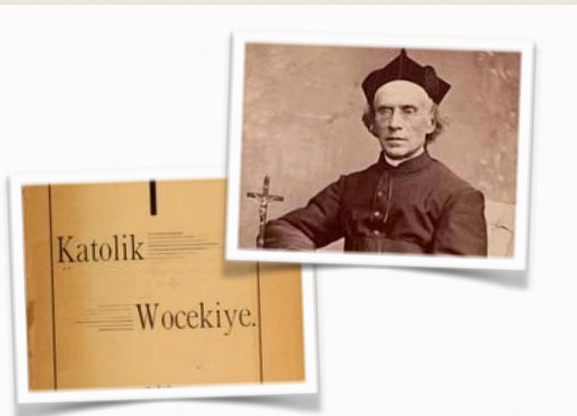
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**Fr. Augustin
Ravoux**
1815-1906



Fr. Augustin Ravoux met with Jean-Baptiste Faribault and three of his children, Oliver Faribault, David-Frederic Faribault Sr., and Alexander Faribault, who helped Ravoux translated a book into Dakota. Jean-Baptist Faribault had Ravoux build a mission in Little Prairie. When Oliver and Wakan Yanke Wiŋ moved to Prairie des Français (Shakopee), the mission was moved there. The mission was never used, and moved to Wabashah.

Fr. Augustin Ravoux was born on January 11, 1815 in Auvergne, France. One of 7 seminarians recruited to America, he almost drowned in the Mississippi River on a trip to Dubuque, and nearly died of thirst crossing the prairies to Ft. Pierre. After he was ordained in Dubuque, Iowa in January 1840, he visited outpost in the northern part of the diocese in Minnesota Territories and Dakota Territories to see if a mission for the Indians might be established. Fr. Ravoux traveled the Mississippi River at juncture of the Rivière Saint-Pierre (St. Peter's River) and found Catholic families in Mendota (Iowa Territory) and across the valley at Fort Snelling (Wisconsin Territory).

Fr. Ravoux spent winter of 1842-1843 with the Faribault family at 'la Petite Prairie, near Inyaŋ Çeyaka (Village at the Barrier of Stone) or Little Rapids or Carver Rapids. It was called Little Rapids, and was a fur post just south of present-day Carver along the Minnesota River. Jean-Baptiste arrived at the post at Little Rapids in 1803. He met his wife, Pelagie Kinnie Hainse Faribault, here. In 1808 they moved to Prairie du Chien, but returned in the 1830s and operated the post with help of his sons Alexander, David, and Oliver.

During 1842-1843, Fr. Ravoux learned the Dakota language from David, Oliver, and Alexander Faribault. Ravoux said learning Dakota was much harder than learning Latin and Greek.

Fr. Augustin Ravoux wrote in 1842: "A few days later, I was induced by the Faribault families, but most especially by that old and respectable gentleman, Jean-Baptiste Faribault, to spend the winter with him and two of his sons, Oliver and David, both married, at Caska (Little Prairie). He had a trading post there for the Indians of Shakopee and also for the Sioux of another village at Carver (Little Rapids). I was most pleased to be with them, for they loved the Indians and were deeply interested in the success of my mission. They spoke equally well the French, English and Sioux languages. They were good interpreters and very useful to me in translating my book into the Sioux language."

Fr. Augustin Ravoux wrote a devotional work, ***Katolik Wocekiye Wowapi Kin***, or ***The Path to the House of God***. The book was translated from the French to Dakota by Alexander, Oliver and David Faribault.

Jean-Baptiste Faribault urged the priest to establish a permanent Roman Catholic mission at the site. He built a small log cabin near the Faribault compound at Little Prairie.

The Catholic mission "Sioux Mission of St. Francois Xavier" was constructed in June 1843 and operated until the spring of 1844. The dimension of the chapel was 15x30 feet. Presumably, it was of log construction, similar to the Faribault's Trading Post. It was probably built in the style of *la maison en pièce sur piècela*, or a cabin built of hewn logs, laid horizontally.

On February 11, 1844, Oliver married Wakan Yanke Wiŋ in a religious ceremony (after the 1837 civil/Indian ceremony) at the St. Francois Xavier Sioux Mission, located at Little Prairie on the St. Pierre River. Wakan Yanke Wiŋ spoke Dakota and French, and a bit of English. Oliver and Wakan Yanke Wiŋ moved to Tínta Oturŋwe (which the French and Métis people was called Prairie des Français.)

So when Oliver and Waken Yanke Wiŋ moved here, the mission moved here also.