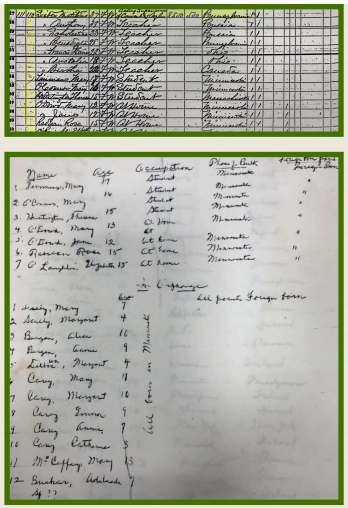

The 1870s census showing the Sisters who worked at the St. Gertrude's Convent and Academy and list of boarders and orphans who attended the academy.

On August 31, 1880, Bishop Ireland advised the Sisters that St. Gertrude's was suppressed, and the thirty sisters needed to join St. Benedict's Convent in St. Joseph, Minnesota or be dispensed from their vows.

Sister Gertrude Flynn, OSB, and the other Sisters who had come originally from St. Mary's Pennsylvanian moved reluctantly to St. Joseph. The merger of this English-speaking community introduced other nationalities that enhanced St. Benedict's community and provided it with a group of zealous religious whose professional experience assisted in meeting the demands of its academy and other apostolates, according to the Saint Benedict's Monastery Archives.

Sr. Otila Nachbar

Sr. Agatha Nachbar

In 1877, the sisters of St. Gertrude's Convent in Shakopee were asked to care for orphan children in temporary quarters in St. Paul. Sisters Benedicta Klein and Agatha Nachbar assumed the responsibility for six orphans. For this they received a salary of $10.00 a month. When this photograph was taken in 1880, Sister Placida Heine had replaced Sister Agatha Nachbar. After St. Gertrude's Convent was amalgamated with St. Benedict's in 1880, the orphanage came under the jurisdiction of St. Benedict's Convent, St. Joseph, MN.

Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict | Saint Benedict's Monastery ST JOSEPH, MINNESOTA

According to a letter to Bishop Ireland, Abbott Alexius Edlebrock of St. John's Monastery noted: "They believe they were wrong, and in my own impression is that they were wronged."

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Mother Gertrude Flynn O.S.B.

St. Gertrude's Convent and Academy in Shakopee 1862 - 1880

Compiled and written by David R. Schleper, Shakopee Heritage Society © 2021

Sisters Clara, Mechtildis, and Adelaide from the Benedictine Convent of St. Joseph at St. Mary, Pennsylvania arrived in Shakopee in 1862.

The Sisters, with ecclesiastical approval, founded the Convent and Academy, according to Julius Coller in ***The Shakopee Story***.

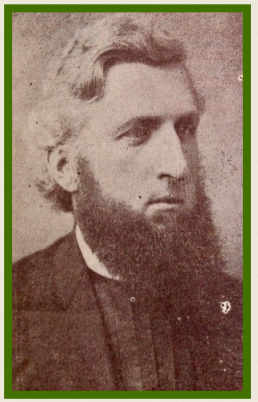
In a letter to King Ludwig of Bavaria on December 2, 1862, Abbott Boniface Wimmer noted that he founded a little mission for the Sisters "to the great joy of the English and German Catholics. "

"The new convent has its own story. First it was a cow shed, then a horse barn, and now it is an embryo of a woman's convent, but it only serves, in any event, only the most necessary purposes."

The Sisters erected a large two and a half-story limestone building at the corner of Fourth and Atwood Street, south of St. Mark's Church.

St. Gertrude's convent and academy by the Sisters of St. Benedict was incorporated on May 4, 1866 said Edward D. Neill in the ***History of the Minnesota Valley including the Explorers and Pioneers of Minnesota.***

On the left is the St. Gertrude's Convent and Academy, which later became the Scott County Poor House and then the second hospital in Shakopee before it was torn down. It is now a parking lot near St. Mark's church. Picture from the Huber Collection, Shakopee Heritage Society. On right is a picture of Fr. Alois Plut, who was pastor of St. Mark's. Fr. Plut did not support the Sisters, and the antagonism lead to the Benedictine Sisters kicked out and the School Sisters of Notre Dame to replace them. The Benedictine Sisters moved to St. Joseph, Minnesota, and Shakopee lost the Academy. Picture from *The Shakopee Story*.



The first commencement exercises of St. Gertrude's Convent and Academy took place on June 20, 1871.

In September 4th, 1871, the academy had an enrollment of 46 young ladies.

The board and tuition for the season was $40.00. Bedding and laundry was $5.00, piano lessons were $8.00, and guitar lessons were $3.00. Lessons in cloth, wax works, and the making of paper flowers were extra.

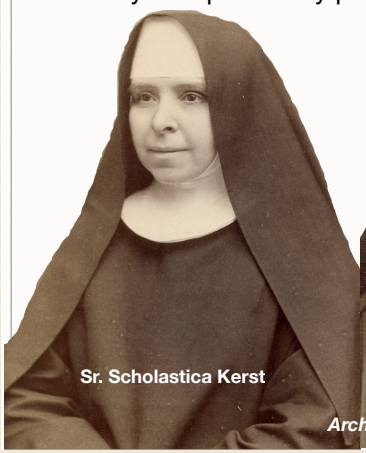
Mother Gertrude Flynn was the prioress. She was admired, and she put the Convent and Academy in firm financial foundation. By mid 1878, the debt of St. Gertrude Convent and Academy was practically paid off.

Fr. Alois Plut, pastor of St. Mark's and intensely German, decided in 1878 to refused to re-employ the Benedictine Sisters as teachers at St. Mark's School because he contended that they were unable to teach German properly. Fr. Plut and the Sisters had a mutual antagonism that developed.

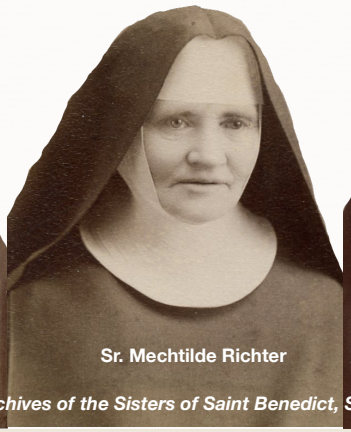
At one point, Fr. Plut refused, for a time, to give the nuns pews in the church.

At this time there were thirty sisters staffing the academy, convent, and three schools in Minneapolis, Carver, and Belle Plaine, and the orphanage in St. Paul.

Fr. Plut replaced the Benedictine Sisters with the School Sisters of Notre Dame from Milwaukee in May 1878.



Sr. Scholastica Kerst



Sr. Mechtilde Richter

Sr. Ignatia Huntington

Sr. Benedicta Klein

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