



Foundations

Number Five ~ October 2018

St. Ann's Hospital Tobique, New Brunswick

Embers¹ from the archives
Maliseet Indian Village, Tobique, New Brunswick
St. Ann's Hospital and Teacherage
1928 – 1981

The year 1924 was an eventful one for Mother M. Alphonsus and the Sisters of Charity. Although 53 Sisters of Charity had departed to form a new community the NDSC's²; houses were opened in Edmonton, Alberta, Holdfast, Saskatchewan and Johnville, New Brunswick. The Sisters also returned that year to Woodstock, NB to reopen its parochial school. At the same time three Sisters, who lived at the Woodstock Convent, served on the Maliseet Reserve. Two Sisters were on staff at the Maliseet Indian School and a Sister-nurse visited the homes and cared for the sick. So in reality the Sisters served this Maliseet mission for 57 years. During these years nearly 70 Sisters were missioned there as nurses, teachers, home visitors, housekeepers, church organists and sacristans.

The Franciscan Fathers served this mission from 1921 and the Franciscan Sisters of Mary operated a small hospital, built by the Dominion Government in 1924, and taught in the school. Before the Franciscan Sisters taught in the school it was staffed by lay teachers, two of them later became Sisters of Charity—Sisters Agnetis Bradley and Sister Josepha O'Brien.

In 1928 at the request of Father Frederick Ryan, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs in New Brunswick, and former pastor at Maliseet (1906–1921), five Sisters of

Charity moved into St. Ann's Hospital and Teacherage on the Maliseet Reserve to replace the Franciscan Sisters. (These Sisters did not have NB Teachers' licences and therefore could no longer continue in the school.) The five Sisters of Charity who arrived in Maliseet were Sister M. Bridget Quinn, Superior, music teacher and church organist; Sister M. Clare Wallace, nurse and home visitor; Sister M. Praxedes Reynolds, teacher; Sister Quentin Shortill, teacher and Sister M. Anita Campbell, homemaker. Both the hospital and school were under the Department of Indian Affairs.

As one Sister-nurse wrote: "To be the one nurse for over 300 Indians was a never ending duty. The doctor, on call, lived in Andover and during the winter, the roads were impassable and the river not completely frozen or breaking up. On one occasion we undertook to have 20 tonsillectomies done in our hospital on one morning. The doctors came from Bath and Andover."

By 1940, due to more Indian children remaining in school longer, the one-room school was expanded to three rooms. In addition, a home economics and a manual training program were added. The Sisters taught the girls nutrition and preparation of foods, sewing and handicrafts. In 1958 students from Grade 5 up began attending school at Perth-Andover. This same year, with the opening of the Perth Hospital under the direction of the Hospitallers of Saint Joseph, St. Ann's Hospital on the reserve was closed.

Sister Virginia Dalton was the last of our nursing-Sisters at Tobique. The first baby Sister Virginia delivered was

1. This article is used with permission.
2. NDSC refers to Les Religieuses de Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur, they were formed by French-speaking members of the Sisters of Charity who wished to have a French-speaking congregation. When the separation occurred the Sisters of Charity ceded five houses to the new Congregation.

St. Ann's Hospital, Tobique, New Brunswick

All photos courtesy of the Archives of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, Saint John, New Brunswick



Three Franciscan Sisters (who were in charge of the mission prior to the arrival of the Sister of Charity of the Immaculate Conception) stand in front of St. Ann's Teacherage and Hospital, Maliseet, Tobique, New Brunswick



St. Ann's Teacherage and Hospital, Maliseet, Tobique, New Brunswick

St. Ann's Hospital, Tobique, New Brunswick

Graydon Nicholas (now Judge G. Nicholas). Before Sister left in 1958 she was the “nurse dispenser”. Later Sister Josephine Marie, Agnes Buckley, a part-time Home Economics teacher at the school, was hired by the Indian Health Services as the “lay dispenser” from March 1, 1959 till May 1, 1960. After that time there was no medical help for the Indians on the reserve.

In 1975, the Sisters rejoiced with the people at the opening of Mah-Sos (Fiddlehead) School. Now the students, formerly bussed to Perth-Andover, could return to their own school on the reserve. Sister Irene Gallagher became the Principal with Sister Audrey Darrah on staff and Sister Catherine MacDonald, homemaker.

The year 1980 saw the termination of the Sisters' service in the Mah-Sos School at the Tobique Reserve and concentration being turned to parish ministries, to Catechetics, Adult Bible Study, Home Visiting and Parish Census work. This work was completely phased out in 1981.

As the Sisters prepared to withdraw from the reserve, they realized they could never really leave it, especially Sister Aileen Kane who spent over 35 years teaching the Maliseets in Woodstock and Tobique. Father F.C. Ryan's hopes both spiritual and temporal for the future of the Indians had been realized due to the help, encouragement and guidance of the Sisters who had served there for over a half a century. The Sisters loved this mission and the Maliseet people who had always shown the Sisters great respect.

Reluctantly and with regret, the Sisters of Charity closed a chapter on their history on June 11, 1981 when they took leave of the Tobique Reservation and their ministry to the Maliseet people.

Monica Plante, scic
Archivist
November 27, 2007

APPENDIX ONE

**Superiors at St. Ann's Hospital
Tobique, New Brunswick**

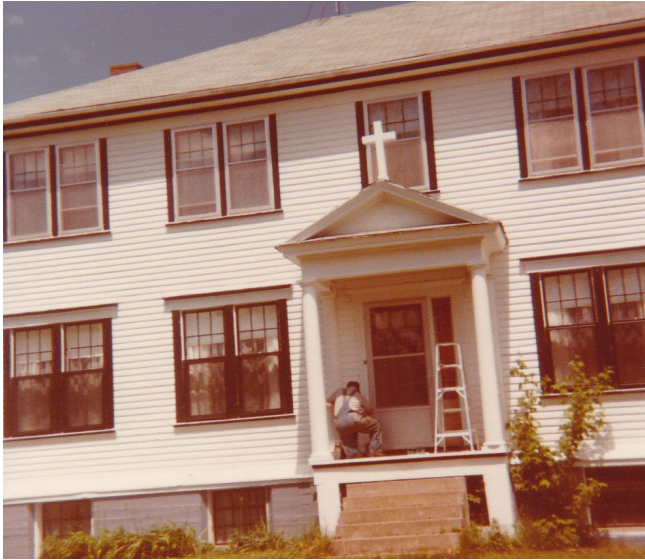
Baptismal Name	Religious Name	Years as Superior
Mary Agnes Quinn	M. Brigid	1928 – 1931
Agnes Buckley	Josephine Marie	1931 – 1934
Louise King	M. Electa	1934* – 1940*
Edna Caples	M. Casimir	1940* – 1943*
M. Florence Callaghan	Maria Gertrude	1943 – 1944
Mary Ann Johnston	M. Benedicta	1944 – 1946*
Marie Melanson	M. Inez	1946* – 1949*
Margaret Hill	Margaret Mary	1949 – 1951
M. Anna Tremblay	M. Symphorosa	1951 – 1955
Aileen Kane	M. Dolorosa	1955 – 1961
Veronica McCarthy	M. Callista	1961 – 1963
Aileen Kane	M. Dolorosa	1963 – 1965
Veronica McCarthy	M. Callista	1965 – 1971
Evangeline Robichaud	M. Leonie	1971 – 1974
Irene Gallagher	M. Dominica	1974 – 1981

* Different sources give conflicting dates, the most trustworthy is given.

Researched and compiled by:
Lex Stephenson, MA
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SCIC Archives, Saint John, NB
September 2018

APPENDIX TWO

**Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception
Missioned at Maliseet, NB 1928–1981**



Tobique Indian Hospital ~ Front entrance



Tobique Indian Day School 1928, Maliseet

Baptismal Name	Religious Name	Apostolic Assignment	Years of Service
Agatha Campbell	M. Anita	Homemaker	1928 – ?
Mary Agnes Quinn	M. Brigid	Music Teacher, Superior	1928 – ?
Agnes Reynolds	M. Praxedes	Teacher	1928 – ?
Martha Shortill	M. Quentin	Teacher	1928 – 1930
Stella Wallace	M. Clare	Nurse	1928 – ?
Elsie Teed	Anna Marie	Cook (?)	1929* – 1931*
Aileen Kane	M. Dolorosa	Teacher, Superior	1930 – 1940 1955 – 1961 1963 – 1965 1969 – 1970
Louise King	M. Electa	Nurse, Superior	1930 – 1942
Agnes Buckley	Josephine Marie	Teacher, Lay Dispenser, Superior	1931 – 1936 1951 – 1952 1954 – 1961
Mary R. Sullivan	M. Agnes	Teacher	1931 – 1933

St. Ann's Hospital, Tobique, New Brunswick

Baptismal Name	Religious Name	Apostolic Assignment	Years of Service
Marie Toner	M. Ambrose	Teacher	1933 – 1934
Mary Fahlman	M. Laureen	Teacher	1934 – 1935
Mabel Foster	Stella Maris	Nurse	1934 – 1935
Jessie O'Halloran	M. Francis Joseph	Teacher	1935 – 1938
Agnes Quirk	Marietta	Teacher, Nursing, Cooking	1936 – 1945 1953 – 1954
Zetta Whelley	M. Columcille	Teacher	1938 – 1939
Mary Clancy	Mary	Homemaker	1939 – ?
Helen Jeffrey	Mary Margaret	Nurse	1939 – 1945
Edna Caples	M. Casimir	Homemaker, Superior	1940* – 1943*
Helen Vickers	M. Honora	Teacher	1942* – 1951*
M. Florence Callaghan	Maria Gertrude	Superior	1943 – 1944
Mary Ann Johnston	M. Benedicta	Nurse, Superior	1944 – 1946 1951 – 1952
Susan Harrigan	M. Kevin	Music Teacher, Homemaker	1945 – 1947
Mary Dalton	M. Virginia	Nurse	1946 – 1959
Margaret Hill	Margaret Mary	Nurse, Superior	1946 – 1951
Marie Melanson	M. Inez	Superior	1946* – 1949*
Susan MacDonald	M. Victorine	Teacher	1948 – 1953
Mary McHugh	Mercia	Teacher	1950 – ?
Teresa Mellon	M. Geraldine	Homemaker	1950 – 1952
Thérèse Aucoin	M. Bernadette	Cook	1951 – 1955
Margaret McCarthy	M. Hugh	Teacher	1951 – 1952
M. Anna Tremblay	M. Symphorosa	Nursing, Superior	1951 – 1955
H. Catherine Taylor	M. Margaret Anne	Teacher	1952 – 1955
Mary McQuinn	M. Agnella	Teacher	1953 – 1955
Audrey Darrah	Jean Marie	Teacher	1955 – 1972 1976 – 1979
Pauline Dubey	M. Theresa Pauline	Homemaker	1955 – 1962
Dorothy O'Neil	M. Joseph	Nurse	1955 – 1956

St. Ann's Hospital, Tobique, New Brunswick

Baptismal Name	Religious Name	Apostolic Assignment	Years of Service
Marie Ecker	M. Aelred	Nurse	1958 – 1958
Clara Kilfoil	M. Bernarda	Teacher	1959 – 1960 1978 – 1979
Veronica McCarthy	M. Callista	Teacher, Superior	1961 – 1963 1965 – 1971
Lenora Mclsaac	Catherine Marie	Homemaker	1962 – 1964
Mary O'Hara	M. Raphael	Cook	1964 – 1965
Viola Colton	M. Liguori	Cook	1965 – 1969 1980 – 1981
Margaret Dunn	Mary Bertrand	Teacher	1965 – 1968
Mary Morrissey	M. Agnes Raymond	Cook	1965 – 1966
Elizabeth Walsh	M. Arthur	Teacher	1969 – 1970
Evangeline Robichaud	M. Leonie	Teacher	1971 – 1974
Mary E. Callaghan	M. Albina	Cook	1972 – 1973
Margaret Dooley	M. Rose de Lima	Cook, Parish Secretary	1972 – 1977
Loretta Blanchard	M. Cornelia	Visiting Families	1973 – 1974
M. Catherine MacDonald	M. Andrina	Homemaker	1973 – 1980
Mary McCrossin	Rita Marie	Teacher	1973 – 1975
Irene Gallagher	M. Dominica	Teacher, Superior	1974 – 1981
Jean Lundy	M. Patricia	Teacher	1976
Patricia Kennedy	M. Josepha	Unknown	1980 – 1981

SCIC who were missioned in Maliseet but the date is unknown:

Veronica Hanlon	M. Olive	Teacher	Sometime between 1954-1962
Elizabeth Maloney	Mary de Sales	Teacher	Unknown
Anita Naves	M. Constance	Homemaker	Unknown
Katherine Savage	M. Arnolda	Teacher	Unknown

SCIC who appear on a list of Sisters missioned in Maliseet but whose presence there cannot be otherwise confirmed:

Baptismal Name	Religious Name	Apostolic Assignment
Rose Anheliger	M. Emeliana	?
Helen Bain	M. Gerarda	Cook (?)
Isabella Cassidy	M. Evalyne	Teacher
Elsie Green	M. Helen	Nurse
Elaine Henigman	M. Angeline	Homemaker (?)
Ella Kingston	M. Thecla	Homemaker / General work
Dorothy Lochart	M. Annet	?
Agnes McCaffery	Maureen	Teacher (?)
Dymphna McNally	M. Aloysius	?
Corinne O'Leary		?
Anne Sweeney	M. Dolores	Music Teacher

* Different sources give conflicting dates, the most trustworthy is given

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Foundations is a publication of the *The Great Canadian Catholic Hospital History Project* and the *Catholic Hospitals Digital History Books Collection* project which have as their mission "Documenting the legacy and contribution of the Congregations of Religious Women in Canada, their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals." When a book or booklet of a Catholic hospital or nursing school is not available for digitizing, *Foundations* provides basic historical information and dates of the organization and the ministry of the Sisters.

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