

Fr. Maurice Gailland, "History [of] St. Mary's Mission," St. Mary's College Archives, St. Marys, KS, quoted in Gilbert J. Garraghan, *The Jesuits of the Middle United States* (New York: Little & Ives, 1938; Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1984), 2:49.

<https://jesuitarchives.org/virtuallygarraghan/>.

See Fr. Gailland's full excerpt below.

for the St. Mary's school be fixed at one hundred dollars.⁸⁸ Nothing, however, it would appear, came of these recommendations. As long as the education of the Indian children at St. Mary's was paid for by government money, the appropriation made for them never went beyond the seventy-five dollar rate.

The first decisive step making for the metamorphosis of St. Mary's from Indian school to college came as a surprise to Father Gailland and his associates as he records with a not unhappy venture into prophecy

When on May 12, 1869, the Reverend Joseph Keller, Socus of Father Provincial, arrived here and told us that it was the settled purpose of Superiors to build a college at St. Mary's, we were all astonished and considered the thing to be a dream. But soon we learned by the arrival of Father Provincial [Coosemans] that the thing was decided upon by the Provincial Board of Consultors, it was even urged upon us by the orders of Superiors to make all necessary preparations for the erection of a college in the following Spring. We indeed, who are already far advanced in years, shall not see the splendor and the glory of the college to be erected, for nothing of any moment is finished in a hurry. That this place is suited in every way for the building of a college every one will allow. For the State of Kansas, located at the very center of the great Republic, is rich in resources and within a few years will stand out in population and wealth among the leading states of the Union. Further, the Mission lies on the railroad which reaches from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and, besides, the house possesses more than 2000 acres of highly fertile land. Hence boarders can be admitted here at a far lower price than in any other place, in which event a large number of students will flock hither to go through their studies. These boys, the sons of farmers, will be stronger in body and more innocent in morals than those who are educated more delicately in the cities, and so a far greater number than elsewhere following higher and purer aspirations will enlist among the members of the Society or of the secular clergy. Wherefore Mary Immaculate, through the medium of the college which is to be built and the patronage of which she has undertaken, will undoubtedly through a long succession of years be the glory of the region and the honor of the Christian people, an issue which is the object of our prayers and hopes in God.⁸⁹

In September, 1869, Father Walter Hill, pioneer American writer of text-books on scholastic philosophy, who had just retired from the presidency of St. Xavier College, Cincinnati, was appointed to the post of socus or assistant to the provincial, Father Coosemans. He had a hand in the first organizing of St. Mary's College.

⁸⁸ Murphy to Mix, June 6, 1868 (H)

⁸⁹ Gailland, *History St. Mary's Mission* (F)