

**SPACES 1804 North Van Ness Los Angeles, CA 90028
(213) 463-1629**

Wisconsin - Father Wernerus - Dickeyville Grotto

BIOGRAPHY

- 1873 Father Wernerus born in Kettenis, near Eupen, in the Rhine province of Germany to German and French parents.
- 1880's-
- 1904 He spent his boyhood in Kettenis, and served his required three years in the army. Afterwards, he began his studies for the Catholic priesthood at Liege, Belgium, and continued with the Salesian Fathers in Italy.
- 1904 Father Wernerus discontinued his studies to come to the US. He resumed his studies at St. Francis Seminary near Milwaukee.
- 1907 He was ordained at St. Francis Seminary.
- 1918 The Father came to Dickeyville to be pastor of the Holy Ghost parish, where he remained until his death.
- 1925 He began constructing two urns made of cement and glass, which would stand at the base of the base of the "Crucifixion Group" in the cemetery. Over the next six years he continued to use such inexpensive, readily available materials in the building of the Grotto, etc.
- 1930 The Grotto and surrounding areas were formally dedicated on September 14.
- 1931 Early in this year the Shrine neared completion. The major projects were finished and the plantings were replaced. Shortly thereafter Father Wernerus contracted pneumonia after administering the last rites to a parishoner, and died.

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STERN, Jane and Michael

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STROBEL, Dana

1980 "Six Naive Art Sites in Wisconsin", unpublished survey prepared for Wisconsin Arts Board (January).*

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WAMPLER, Jan

1977 All Their Own Cambridge: Schenkman*

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1980 "Folk Art of Wisconsin Thematic", National Register Nomination form (based largely on Strobel 1980).*

1983 "Dickeyville Grotto and Holy Ghost Park". Folk Art Finder vol. 4, no. 3, Sept./Oct.*

? Grotto and Shrines, Dickeyville, Wisconsin (visitors' guide).*

(* - references in SPACES archives)

SOURCES

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