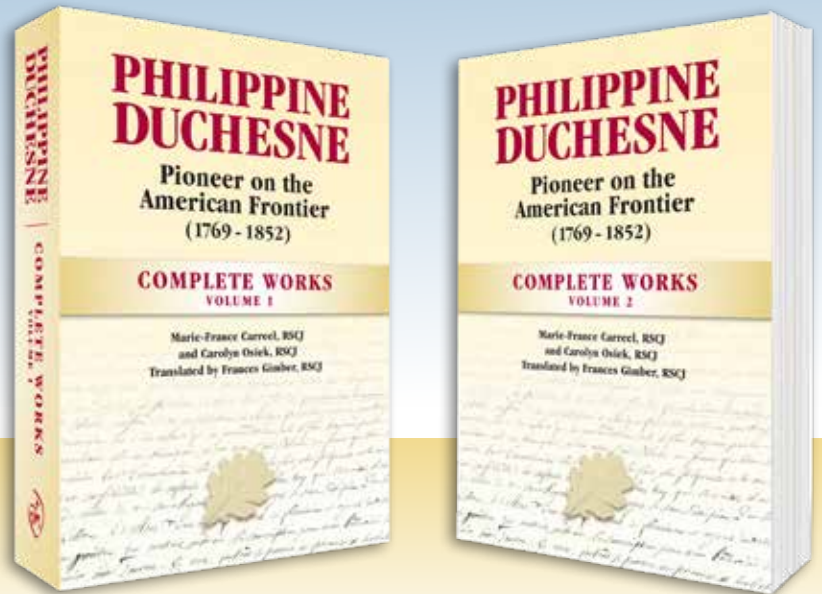


## Life on the Missouri frontier in the early 1800s was harsh.

Rose Philippine Duchesne, daughter of a rising French bourgeois family, left her comfortable French convent life to spread the Gospel to those in need. Her writings tell a story of frontier heroism.

## Philippine Duchesne Annotated 2-Volume Edition



### Pioneer on the frontier • Missionary to the Native Americans Courageous woman who never gave up her vision

In 1818, Mother Rose Philippine Duchesne, of the newly-founded Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, left France to participate in the missionary expansion of the Catholic Church in the New World, at the request of Bishop Louis William Dubourg, named bishop of "Louisiana." This vast area, acquired by the United States from France in 1803, extended over a territory of 530,000,000 acres (828,000 square miles), from New Orleans to Canada, including all the lands drained by the vast river system of the Mississippi and

the Missouri, the future Midwest of the United States. Navigation was often difficult and the postal system disrupted.

Her goal and her intention were to serve the Native Americans still left in what is now known as the Midwestern United States. But as it turned out, she was able to have only minimal contact with them over the years. Her letters document that frustration and the tragedy of "Indian removal" in Missouri and Kansas.

**EDITED BY: Marie-France Carreel, RSCJ, and Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ TRANSLATED BY: Frances Gimber, RSCJ**

**The writings of Saint Philippine—658 letters and five journals** and other documents constitute a major primary source of information about the primitive life of the first years on the Missouri frontier, and the speed of colonization that soon turned that frontier into a melting pot of religions, political views, and economic development. The correspondence and accounts of her thirty-four years on the frontier depict her heroic life, widely recognized by historians of pioneer American Catholic life. All of her writings have not been available to readers and researchers until now. *This annotated 2-volume edition brings them all together.*



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