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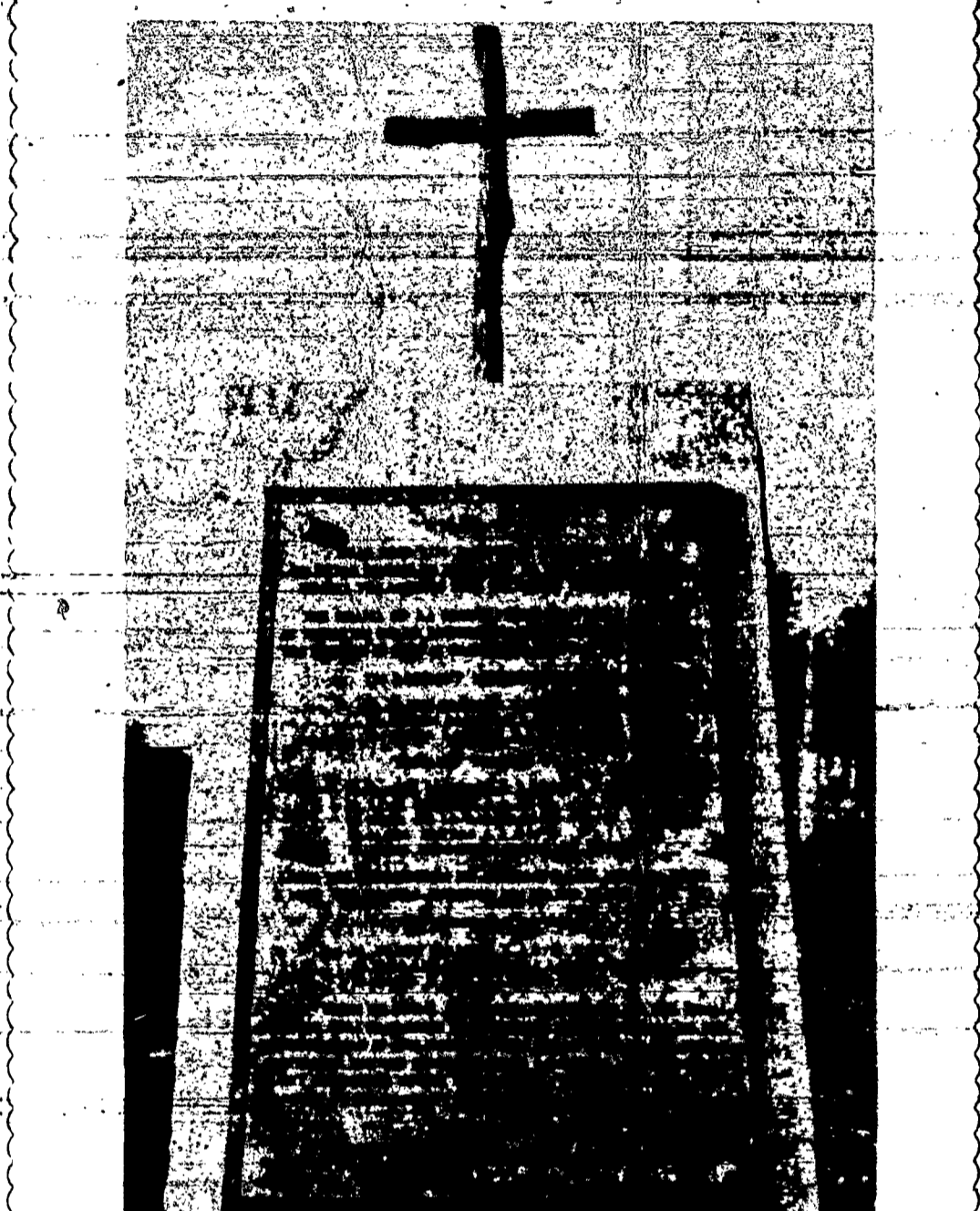
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MARKING OF HISTORICAL SITES OF CATHOLIC INTEREST

By HERMAN G. HETZLER

The increase of interest in the sites which have become notable through connection with important events in the history of our country is an encouraging sign of the present day. Ever since the World War, when many of our ground men during service abroad became greatly interested in the historic localities of Europe and Asia and were conscious of the fact that they themselves were consecrating localities, which would ever afterwards be...



TOTIARTON—1688—Jesuit—Fremm and Garnier—First White Men of Monroe County.

memorable, there seems to have been in our country a revival of interest in the places made memorable by the noteworthy events in the history of our own land.

The increasing number of visitors to the principal sites of historic interest in our own country's past is evidence of this enhancement of public interest. The numerous celebrations of these events is likewise an indication of growth of interest.

The great attention on the part of the public which was shown a few years ago in the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Rochester becoming a city and of the celebration of the one hundred and fifth anniversary of the Sullivan expedition of the Revolutionary War and in the ceremonies of the past summer in commemoration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the De Nonville expedition all are encouraging signs of an increase of local interest in the history of our own past.

Much has been done to promote this interest which remains to be done to further it still more.

When History Really Begins A few years ago in the opinion of the average citizen the history of this locality seemingly began with the Revolutionary War period or at most it was that of the French and Indian War when one looks into the text books, used in our schools, one can readily see one of the sources of this impression.

But gradually through the insistent efforts of a small group of citizens, attention being drawn to the fact that the settlement of this region by white men dates back to the early years of the seventeenth century. The first descriptions, the earliest maps of this region are from the hands of the Franciscan, Sulpician and Jesuit Missionaries, who labored among the Indians to convert them to Christianity.

The reports which were sent to their superiors in Europe from the most precious sources of information concerning our country at that time. The sites of the principal Christian Missions, have now been suitably marked and can be easily visited by our citizens.

The history of these early efforts to bring culture to these parts ought to have a peculiar interest to our Catholic people, for these earliest endeavors were made by men of our own faith. These first Missionaries came along with the French traders and colonists. It is true; but the object of their zeal was the conversion of the Indians and the source of their energy was not of a worldly nature. One has but to read the narra-

great men who first brought the doctrines of Christ to our region. The sight of the first Christian Chapel within the confines of our...

against great difficulties by the untiring efforts of Rev. Dr. Edward Byrne of St. Bernard's Seminary.

A noteworthy Memorial A plan of marking the Missions among the WESTERN Indians with a fitting monument after a long delay received an impetus from this dedication of the Memorial Bridge with the result that in late October, 1933 through the co-operation of Rev. Dr. Edward Byrne and the writer with a committee of the Order of the Alhambra of Rochester, there was placed on a suitable spot on the Lima-Rochester Falls Road one of the most noteworthy historical monuments in the State of New York.

As the tablet thereon records, the monument marks the neighborhood of the Chapel of La Concepcion erected in 1688 at the Indian village of Totiarton (near Rochester) and of the site of the Chapel of St. Jean erected at Saschagago on the Lima Road and of a later Chapel founded nearby in Spring Brook after the De Nonville Expedition of 1687.

The names of the resident Missionaries who served the Chapel during a long period of years, and of some of the distinguished visitors to the locality are recorded on the magnificent bronze tablet on the stone shaft under a rustic that in this locality occurred many events not only of religious value but of great secular in the history of our state.

Let all who are interested in the history of the first white residents of the vicinity of Rochester study the records of the happenings in these Missions commemorated on this monument. In October, 1935 with the co-operation of Rev. Dr. Edward Byrne, of Mr. George Sel den, and Mr. A. M. Stewart, the writer erected a monument on the grounds of Mercy High School in commemoration of the first building for Christian worship in the Rochester and Irondequoit area and in memory of the Franciscan Missionaries who worshipped therein.

The names and activities of Fathers Hennepin, Gabriel de la Rivourde and Zenobe Membre have become familiar to the passing public of Rochester.

Other Monuments Near Likewise there are monuments and commemorative tablets marking the site of the Mission of St. James (Gandagara) on Boughton Hill near Victor, and of the Mission of St. Michael (Caddougaras) near Holcomb. The monuments at the above places are due to the initiative of Rev. Father James Dougherty and the Knights of Columbus of Auburn and Canandaigua respectively.

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