

Biography (fr. guidebook)

1873. Father Werners born in Kettweis, near Eugen, in Rhine province of Germany to German + French parents.
- 1880's- He spent his boyhood there 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 Silesian Fathers in Italy.
- 1904 (7) Father Werners discontinued his studies to come to the U.S. He resumed his studies at St. Francis Seminary nr. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 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, forming two arms made of cement and glass, which would stand at the base of the "Circumfixion Spring" 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 Werners contracted pneumonia after administering the last rites to a parishoner, and died.

Bibliography / References

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DICKEVILLE  
GROTTO

Soanes

Father Francis J. Steffen, Pastor  
c/o Dickerville Grotto  
P.O. Box 427  
Dickerville, WI 53808

Spin City Restoration (Tom Farley, Sally Farley, Don Howlett,  
and Lisa Stone)

Judy Riniker and Mary Timmerman  
Co-Managers  
Dickerville Grotto  
P.O. Box 427  
Dickerville, WI 53808