

In her account of the journey [made by Mother Caroline Friess as companion of Mother Theresa] in the year 1848 for the purpose of founding houses, young Caroline tells of their meeting with Native Peoples at Niagra Falls.

“On the island which I mentioned before, there were stores in which are kept for sale needlework made by the Indians, very pretty shells, sea plants and petrified objects. We bought a few articles and expressed the wish to see not only the artifacts but the workers as well. Our desire was granted. Two Indian squaws came forward and offered their wares: pin cushions, little bags, etc. They seemed quite timid and by raising their fingers gave us to understand how many shillings the articles cost. We pleased them very much by buying several pieces. As soon as we had paid, they withdrew quickly as if they feared we would do them harm. Whilst they were with us I examined them as closely as I could from their feet to their heads. They have a copper colored skin, black eyes and black hair, which hangs uncombed down the back. Their clothing consists of a long skirt of woolen cloth, and a frock of the same goods; around their shoulders they wear a heavy blue woolen cloth and on their heads a felt hat.”

*Letters of Mother Caroline Friess, SSND*, edited by Barbara Brumleve, 1991. Letter # 9.