

"The names of the gentlemen of the committee who have charge of the work, and are authorized to receive subscriptions are: Phil O'Neil, John Kelsey, Thomas Cody and Peter Reily. Those subscribing that day and their payments are as follows:

Rev. B. C. Lenehan ..\$10.00	John Olrey 15.00
Phil O'Neil 15.00	John Jennewine 10.00
Dennis McCarthy ... 15.00	James Gaffney 5.00
Owen Conlan 10.00	L. A. Harper 5.00
Thomas Cody 25.00	Thomas Carroll 5.00
Mrs. Davis 10.00	John Clarke 5.00
William Tone 30.00	Patrick Walsh 25.00
John Kelsey 25.00	

By consulting the "Gazette" for October 19, 1872, we find that Father Lenehan was expected to visit Onawa again, on October 26, 1872, to conduct Catholic services at the M. E. Church, and to check on the progress of the new Catholic church. Later that year the church was completed, and the Catholics now had a place of worship of their own. There is no record of the day on which the first Mass was offered in the new church, but according to reliable information it was around Christmas time in 1872, after it had been blessed by Father Lenehan.

The cottonwood lumber used in the building was grown on the homestead of Timothy and Ellen Murphy in whose home the first Mass in Onawa had been offered in 1858. This little church served the Catholics of Onawa as a place of worship for over forty years, until the erection of the new church during the administration of Father John Ryan in 1913.

It may be appropriate and interesting to note here several of the advertisements found in the copies of the "Onawa Gazette" informing the members of services in

their new church, which, of course, were held at very irregular intervals. In the September 27, 1873 edition we read:

"Religious services will be held in the Catholic Church in Onawa on Sunday, October 5, instead of tomorrow, the 28th inst. Father Lenehan of Sioux City will be the priest."

The June 20, 1874 edition tells us:

"There will be services at the Catholic Church next Sabbath. Father Lenehan of Sioux City will officiate."

And on December 5, 1874:

"Services in the Catholic Church on Sunday, December 6. Full attendance of members earnestly requested."

Father Lenehan and his assistants remained in charge of this new church until the appointment of a pastor at Salix. Among these assistants, best remembered was Father James Barron, who was appointed in 1881 by Bishop Hennessy of Dubuque to be the first pastor of Salix. Because of the number of his missions, he was obliged even then to reside with Father Lenehan in Sioux City. When the Diocese of Sioux City was erected in 1902, Father Lenehan was appointed Vicar General, and later was honored by the Holy Father with an appointment to the Papal Household as a Domestic Prelate.

Father Barron was succeeded at Salix in 1883 by Father M. C. Daly who took up residence there in the fall of that year. During his pastorate the mission of Onawa was divided into four: Onawa, Whiting, Blencoe and Hornick, with Onawa as the center, although perhaps the smallest in point of members.

FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH



St. John's Church, Onawa, 1872-1913, the first Catholic Church in Monona County. It was situated on the present Benson property—912—13th Street