

About ten o'clock a large majority of those present repaired to the Grange Hall, where they enjoyed a social dance. Upon the whole, it was an enjoyable affair; general good will and order prevailed. Net receipts were \$75.00." This first church served the Blencoe parish until 1903, when the second church was completed.

Father Daly continued in charge of Onawa and Blencoe as missions from Salix for less than a year after the first Blencoe church was a reality. His visits to each of his many missions numbered about one a month. In 1887 he was transferred to Sioux City to organize a new parish, but before he could build a church there, his health failed and he was forced to resign his new assignment.

Catholic Church at Whiting

Our information regarding the foundation of a parish at Whiting is taken from the *History of Monona County, 1890*. "During the summer of 1886, again through the instrumentality of Father Daly, St. John's Roman Catholic Church at Whiting was organized. In the spring of 1887 a movement was initiated by the pastor, to purchase the church building owned by the United Brethren, built in 1882, that denomination having lost most of its members by removals. The movement culminated in the transfer of the property to the Catholics on June 17, 1887. An altar was at once erected, and the house fitted up for services of the church. Father Daly remained in charge of the church until August, 1887, when he was transferred to Sioux City, and was succeeded by Father Reynolds. The charge includes Onawa and Blencoe.

The Rev. Father Bowen is the present pastor." According to the Courthouse records, the sum of \$500 was paid to the United Brethren for their building, its furniture, and the lot in East Whiting.

The Mission of Whiting was discontinued in 1909 because many of the members had moved away, and those remaining had made arrangements to attend the Church in Onawa, Hornick or Salix. The church building was sold; and the lot was disposed of in January of 1918 to William and Henry E. Rathbun for fifty dollars.

Early Pastors of the Monona County Missions

Father J. A. Griffin succeeded Father Daly at Salix in the fall of 1887 and later also became pastor of the Monona County Missions. Father Griffin was a man of scholarly attainments and indomitable energy and perseverance. He served the parishes with much success until 1897 when the first resident pastor for Monona County, Father George Cooke, took up his duties at Mapleton and was in charge of Onawa, Blencoe, Whiting and Hornick. In 1918 Father Griffin was transferred to Fort Dodge, and like Father Lenehan, who had been pastor here years before, also became Vicar General of the Diocese and a member of the Papal Household as "Monsignor Griffin."

Father Cooke ministered to the spiritual needs of Monona County residents for one year, and then was succeeded by Father G. Weinhold early in the year of 1898. Father Weinhold looked after the same territory.

The Whiting Catholic Church



St. John's Church, Whiting, acquired in 1887 and discontinued in 1909.