



St. John's Church, Onawa, with the Rectory in the right background.

In the opening along with the new cornerstone box was placed the cornerstone box from the old church which contained the following:

- 1) A short history of the Parish written by Father Ryan, pastor, listing the date of the erection of the first church, the date of the first Mass in this vicinity, the names of former pastors, the present population of the parish (94 souls), etc.
- 2) Copies of the *Onawa Sentinel* of November 12, 1913; the *Onawa Weekly Democrat* of November 6, 1913, and the *Sioux City Journal* of November 12, 1913.
- 3) A copy of the *Onawa Sentinel* of April 3, 1913, containing the story about the building plans for the new church.

The quotation from the *Onawa Sentinel* continues:

"Following the cornerstone blessing came the dedication and blessing of the church itself. Large parts of both of these two ceremonies take place outside of the church, and many of those in attendance braved the cool weather to witness the impressive rites. Another crowd of less hardy souls waited inside the church for the remainder of the morning's services to begin. When both groups were later together on the inside, the new church was filled to capacity.

"Assisting the Bishop at the blessing and dedication were the local pastor, Father B. V. Greteman, Father George Benjamin of Fort Dodge, a native son of the parish, Father Karl Hansen of Holstein, Father Alfred McCoy of Sioux City and Father Joseph Tolan of Sac City.

"Officers for the Pontifical High Mass include the Rt. Rev. Msgr. P. P. Gearen, Algona, arch priest; the

Very Rev. E. C. Lilly, Sioux City and the Rev. John Ryan, Boone, deacons of honor; Father A. H. Ocken, Mapleton, deacon and Father George Benjamin, sub-deacon; Fathers Lawrence Greteman, Halbur, and Harry Dailey, Ida Grove, acolytes; Father Thomas Lawless, Oto, cross and censor bearer; Father Edward Hoffman, Neptune, book-bearer; and Fathers B. V. Greteman, Alfred McCoy, Karl Hansen and Joseph Tolan, masters of ceremonies.

"Members of St. John's choir, under the capable direction of Mrs. Carl Rieff with Mrs. Leo Gaukel as accompanist at the new Baldwin organ, sang beautifully at the Mass.

"Following the Mass and the sermon which was delivered by the Reverend Richard Sweeney of Danbury, who is also the Diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Bishop spoke a short congratulatory message to the congregation and then administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a group of 45 children and adults from the parish.

"After the services in the Church, the pastor and the parishioners were hosts, at a dinner in the new parish hall, to the Bishop, the clergy and the Fourth degree Knights of Columbus from Carroll, who had formed a guard of honor for the morning services. The Knights, resplendent and colorful in their full dress uniforms with plumed hats, capes and swords were old friends of Father Greteman from his native town of Carroll. The dinner was concluded with a short talk of gratitude by Father Greteman to all who had helped to make that day possible and so successful, and by a response from the Most Reverend Bishop."