

These are parishes that have closed, but the dates of when they did so, is uncertain. Information that we have included is just an excerpt of history that we have found.

# Artesian St. Charles



Artesian (Sanborn County) St. Charles

A colony from Michigan, joined by another from New York, settled ten miles east of the James River in Sanborn County, naming their settlement Denton. When the railroad (Milwaukee) passed some two miles northeast, the people moved their town to the railroad and renamed it Diana. In 1887 the U. S. Postal Dept. changed the name to Artesian.

It was fortunate for Catholics that among the homesteaders was Father John C. Ahern who had come from Denver, Colo. He offered his services to Bishop Marty and when assigned in 1862 to minister to Catholics in Sanborn and Miner counties, he operated from his homestead northeast of Diana. He offered Mass most frequently in the railroad depot. He purchased two blocks at the south end of Main Street in Diana for a church site. No building was erected, however, until the 1890s; the number of Catholics remained small. Another rural community that maintained its first church over many years is Artesian. Erected in 1891, it served until 1950 when a new edifice costing \$45,000 was constructed on the west edge of the town under the supervision of Father Paul Quinn of Letcher. In 1973 there were 62 Catholic households in St. Charles Parish. One of them -- the Howard Bechen family -- had eight sons serving at their parents' silver wedding anniversary Mass in 1977. At various times Artesian was a mission of Letcher and Woonsocket. (OD)



# Bijou Hills



In the eastern portion of southern Dakota, Sessler's Catholic Directory for 1880 listed churches only at Bon Homme, Jefferson, Tabor, Wheeler (sic) and Yankton, with missions at Maxwell, Olivet, Smetland, Wanari, Bijou Hills, Fort Sully, Bloomingdale and Turner Gale. In 1882, which represented the growth in 1881, the Directory roster included (in the spellings of the day) Alexandria, Aurora, Badus, Bigstone City, Bijou Hills, Bonhomme, Canton, Columbia, Conception (Yankton County), De Smet, Elkpoint, Elkton, Emmet, Farmington, Flandreau, Fort Sully, Grenfield, Huron, Jefferson, Kranzburg, Lennox, Lodi, Marion Junction, Milbank, Mitchell, Montrose, Parker, Pierre, Rome, Running Water, St. John's (Yankton County), Salem, St. Michael's at Sioux Falls, Springfield, Swan Lake, Tabor, Vermillion, Volga, Watertown, Weistown, Wheeler and Yankton.

# Brisbine St. Anthony



## INCOMPLETE HISTORY St. Anthony's Church

An old record book states: As far back as 1883 the Catholics around Brisbine clubbed together and built a neat little chapel. (The older people are not agreed on the above date). This was the very first house of worship in the country. It was known as St. Donatus church.

Father Ahern was the first pastor.

A record of lumber purchased indicates that the church recently destroyed was built in 1888. Father Thomas Stecher was pastor then. An unsigned notation lists the total cost of the church as \$77.24.

The parish was incorporated (according to copies of incorporation records found) July 16, 1923, as "Saint Anthony's Roman Catholic Church of Afon Township."

Probably the name was changed to St. Anthony in 1898.

The destructive storm occurred June 27, 1947, and services were held in the house until August 31, 1947.

Very likely it was St. Anthony (or Antony) of Padua who was chosen as patron of Brisbine. He was known as a wonderful preacher and worker of miracles. He is often pictured holding the child Jesus in his arms. He died in 1231.

## Country Church at Brisbine Destroyed

St. Anthony's church, Brisbine, located seven miles northwest of Artesian, and a mission church of Father Paul Quinn of Letcher, was completely destroyed by a tornado on the night of June 27th. The church was the first house of worship in Sanborn county. The wind scattered parts of the building as far as a mile from the church grounds. Many of the parishioners suffered much damage to buildings from the storm. The same storm did considerable damage to Sacred Heart church, Carthage, of which Father Richard Gleason is the pastor.

BRISBINE, Sanborn County (Artesian, P.O.) 1 1/2 miles northwest of Artesian St. Anthony

- 1882 Mass was offered in the homes of Joseph Gressel and Mike Creegan
- 1883 Germans, mostly from Iowa; Irish from Minnesota, others from Wisconsin some directly from Europe, came to take up homesteads.
- 1882-1888 Rev. J.C. Ahern lived on a homestead and visited surrounding settlements including Brisbine, about once a month.
- 1884 The parishioners clubbed together and themselves built a church called St. Donatus Church, for about \$300.
- 1892 Families: 10 German; 9 English; 1 French. SCHEMATICUS, 1892
- 1893 The cemetery was fenced in and roads graded.
- 1898 Fr. Thomas Stecher, of Howard, built the church which was still in use in 1940's. Cost \$77.24.
- 1921 Brisbine became a parish.
- 1922-? A rectory was built, a substantial brick building, cost \$14,000.
- 1947, June 27 The church was demolished by a tornado. B.B., Aug. 1947
- 1947, Aug. 31 The mission of Brisbine was permanently closed. Shortage of priests and loss of the church given as reason. Catholics are to attend at Carthage Artesian of Cavour.

# Castalia



## HISTORICAL SKETCH

### INTRODUCTORY - PRE-CHURCH DAYS

A government land survey of that portion of Charles Mix county, lying west of a line running north and south at the west edge of Geddes, S. Dak., was performed in the year of 1866. This area included the vicinity of Platte. The survey job was careless and desultory, resulting in a lot of crooked section lines. Presumably the surveyors thought the land would always be occupied by the native Indians. An accurate survey of the eastern half of the county was made at a later date.

In July, 1878, before statehood, President Hayes opened by proclamation the western part of the county for settlement. In the late spring of 1880, after the heaviest snow of recorded time, a few settlers arrived to file on homestead claims. These pioneers came by team and buggy or wagon. They found the grass green and lush and all lakebeds, sloughs and creeks were running over. They sent word back home to their friends and relatives to come quickly. Animals they saw in the vicinity were prairie wolves, coyotes, prairie dogs, bobcats, deer and antelope. Antelope? Right.

In the year of 1882, the rate of immigration to this part of the country was sharply accelerated. As an example, a colony of Catholic young persons from Dubuque, Iowa, settled in the five-mile area west of Platte. Among the family names were the Bolands, Killeens, Reynolds, Connors, LaMotts, Andersons, Henneberry, MacVoys, and others.

Trading posts or stores with post offices, and small villages or hamlets were built strategically in the western half of the county. Examples were: Old Wheeler on the river south of Platte; Edgerton and Bloomington in the Bovee vicinity; Academy; Chandler; Bijou Hills; Old Platte, along Platte creek, near the old Platte Cemetery; and finally, Castalia.

Castalia, located six miles west and one mile south of the city of Platte, was one of the better villages. Its amenities consisted of a couple of general stores, a post office, a saloon, blacksmith shop, hardware store, a suitable residential area, and a "grist" mill for flour, operated by horse power. One of the two old grinding stones may be seen at 213 East 7th St. in Platte. Furthermore the old Castalians bragged about one of the best saddle horse tracks in the middle west. Horses were brought in from several states. Doubtless many of the old tracks by flying over the area or by looking at an aerial map of the environs of the abandoned village.

Residents of western Charles Mix county in early days hauled their grain by team and wagon, and drove livestock to the railroad towns of Armour and Kimball, and brought home commodities not available at the local village. Several persons, on such trips, lost their lives while on the road during the worst of all recorded blizzards on January 12, 1888.

### EARLY DAY RESIDENTS OF PLATTE ATTENDED THE CASTALIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

There was a small frame church in old Castalia to which people of the Platte area drove to Mass by team and buggy. There were early small churches of other denominations in the general area, but the Catholic church at Castalia was the only one of this faith within a drivable distance of the Platte locality.

Another rural church was located at Bendon in Brule county, north and east of Bijou Hills. The Lynches, Lucas's and Quins attended the mission at Bendon. Still another Catholic church was located about nine miles south, southwest of Geddes, at the junction of Pease creek and the Missouri, before the railroad hauled in the lumber to build the Catholic church in Geddes, about the year of 1904.

Mass was held in Castalia at the start in private homes, by Mission Priests from such places as Kimball, Armour, White Lake, and Yankton. Mrs. J. R. Murray, deceased, who lived in Castalia and later, for many years in Platte, reported that she made Hosts for the visiting Priests on many occasions, from bread dough which she rolled into thin sheets and cut them with a thimble. The Hosts were then baked between heated sad-irons. Mary Murray, her daughter at Spencer, Nebraska, has reported that a year or two before the family moved to Platte, the frame church referred to above was constructed, and a resident Priest by the name of Father Stanton was stationed there for a while.

Why all the fuss about the Catholic church in Castalia in this report? Primarily because most of the parishioners became part of the first congregation in Platte. Moreover, the church building itself was in name at least, the first Catholic church structure in Platte. The association, in a way, represented a sort of umbilical connection between the parent and the offspring. The structure itself, therefore, represents an historical landmark.

There is no word of mouth information whether or not church services were actually held in the building after it was moved to Platte. In any event the building was converted to residential purposes and it is located across the street due east of the Moller IH implement shop.

When the Milwaukee railroad was being extended from Geddes to Platte, a wholesale moving project occurred. Residences and buildings were moved to the railroad town of Platte from Old Platte, Edgerton, Bloomington and Castalia. An example of two buildings which "took a trip" are the Cahill car wash building and the Bill Gray seed store next door to the south.

In the old days building moving operation was slow, according to present-day standards. The two-story structures were jacked-up, placed on wooden rollers and attached to a horse-power winch by cable. As the cable tightened the rollers were carried by hand from the rear to the front, foot by foot, as the building moved forward.

The smaller one-story buildings were placed on beams over large iron or steel wheels and pulled by eight, twelve or sixteen horses. Wet weather, snow and creeds delayed the removal operation. Public utility lines created no problem.

# Crow Lake Immaculate Conception

## Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Crow Lake



Mr. and Mrs. Anton Reindl were the pioneers of the Crow Lake Catholic Church. They came to America immediately following their marriage on November 7, 1882, in Tyrol, Austria. In spring of 1883, they came to Dakota, filed for, and settled on a homestead on Section Seven in Crow Lake Township of Jerauld County. Here they built a sod house and settled down to make their home on the prairie.

Mr. Reindl was a stone mason by trade. Several years later he built a stone house to replace the one built of sod. During those years, Mr. Reindl built many foundations of stone for his neighbors, as well as stone structured bridges, one of which remains on "the old grade" leading from Westington Springs west of the city park.

In 1905, Mr. Reindl donated three acres of land on which to build a Catholic church. This tract is the site of the present Crow Lake Catholic Church.

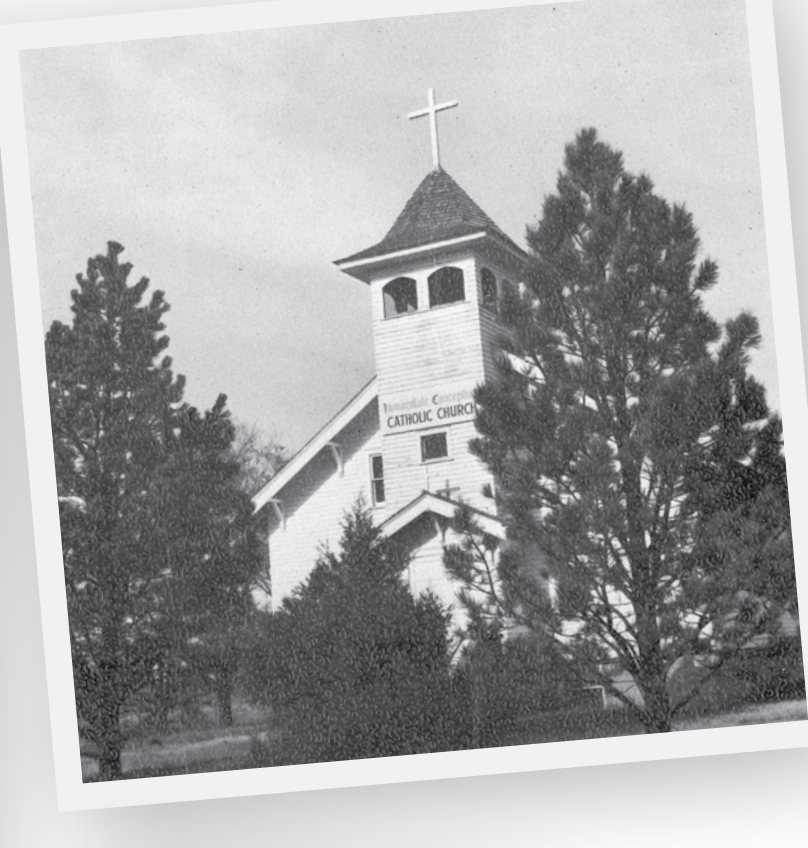
During the summer of 1905, a meeting was held at the residence of Andrew Pflaum in Logan Township by a few members of the Catholic church, at which time it was decided to build a church edifice on Section 20 in Crow Lake Township to cost about \$1,500. a great sum at that time. At the meeting \$600 was subscribed. Work on the church commenced at once, and mainly through the efforts of Anton Reindl, the money was raised and the building completed. The church was ready for dedication in the late autumn of 1905. The church was named "St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception." It stands near the south line of Section 20, and is accompanied by a beautifully kept cemetery. The

first two graves in the cemetery are an infant child of Mr. and Mrs. John Petrosky (1908), and Anton Reindl. On the Reindl monument in this inscription in German text: "Hier ruht Anton Reindl, geb. zu Reins in Osterwech den 10 Juni, 1848, gest in Crow Lake, So. Dakota den 7 Juli, 1905."

The last work of Anton Reindl was building the foundation of this church. While engaged in that work, an infection developed in a slight injury to his knee received while working. He died before the church was completed.

Father O'Flaherty of the Kimball Parish was probably the first priest to celebrate mass at Crow Lake Church.

During the tornado of June 14, 1924, the church was completely destroyed. Donations came in from the parishioners and friends toward the rebuilding of the church. Vaurin Dusek gave a donation of \$400 and because of his large donation he was given the privilege of naming the church. He chose the name Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Crow Lake. Father Felix McCabe was pastor at that time. The leading carpenters working on the new church were Mr. Frank Dusek and Mr. Martin Kolousek and many of the parishioners donated their time and labor in helping with the construction. The material for the church was hauled from White Lake, South Dakota. The present church has a seating capacity of 130 people. Father Alex Bombora of Westington Springs St. Joseph Catholic Church now serves the members of this parish.



# Corsica

## ST GEORGE, ST TERESA, ST PAUL ARMOUR 2010

- 1886 A Parish was formed from the Catholic Communities of Corsica, Armour and Delmont.
- 1887 The first Catholic church was built in Armour.
- 1890 The parish was moved to a new location in Armour and Delmont.
- 1899 A Rectory was built in Armour.
- 1902 The parishioners of St. George, St. Teresa and St. Paul.
- 1902 The parishioners of Armour and Corsica build a new Church in a new location in Armour, St George.
- 1903 The parishioners of St. George, St. Teresa and St. Paul.
- 1903 The parishioners of St. George, St. Teresa and St. Paul.
- 1903 The parishioners of St. George, St. Teresa and St. Paul.
- 1965 A new Parish was formed from the Catholic Communities of Corsica, Armour and Delmont, placed under the patronage of St Paul the Apostle and a new Church, Rectory and Hall is built in a new location.
- 1984 A new Parish was formed from the Catholic Communities of Corsica, Armour and Delmont, placed under the patronage of St Paul the Apostle and a new Church, Rectory and Hall is built in a new location.