

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.

Joe Creek Immaculate Conception Grace Mission

STEPHAN, Hyde County **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Unique situation: The white parish is intimately connected with the Indian mission. The following events are taken as tracing the history of the white parish of Immaculate Conception.

1885: President Chester Arthur opened Crow Creek Reservation to settlement. (Kinsbury R. 1426)
 Attorney General Garland of the Cleveland administration rendered the opinion that President Arthur's action was inoperative because the Sioux held a title to the lands under the Treaty of 1868.
 The Indians on the Crow Creek Reservation petitioned to have a Catholic black robe (priest) on the reservation.
 1886: This reservation was handed to the Protestant Episcopal Church by President Grant's Peace Policy.
 1886: (Jan) Rev. George Willard built a shack while supervising the erection of the first mission building.
 1886: (Nov. 6, Daily Press and Dakotan): Rev. George is putting up a \$10,000 Indian boarding school, 100 X 30 feet in the north part of Crow Creek Reservation on 160 acres of land given to the government for this purpose. Funded by Katharine Dreier.
 1887: Fr. Plus Boehm, OSB, came from St. Meinrad, Indiana to complete the building. Fr. Vincent Wehrle, OSB, the future bishop of Bismarck, came with the Indian boys from Yankton as soon as the boys' building was completed. White settlers attended services in the school chapel.
 1900: Church building was begun to be ready at Christmas time.
 1924: Tornado leveled the church.
 1926: A new church was built.
 1942: The Mission priests attended to the white parishes: Cedar and Duncan, and to the Indian missions: Fort Thompson, Soldier Creek, Big Bend, Joe Creek and Grace Mission.
 1944: In the parish were 30 white and 6 Indian families. There was religious instruction for the white children at the mission, closing with First Solemn Communion.
 1946: Glenn Valley Catholics, 13 miles from Stephan, belong to the parish.
 1952: (Oct. 20) Bishop Brady confirmed over 100 white and Indian children and adults.
 1953: Church building was enlarged.
 1970: The Benedictines announced that after 75 years of operation of the mission school, they are planning to hand the school over to the Indians. Some decision will have to be made regarding the white parish of Immaculate Conception.
 1972: Ignited by a lightning bolt, fire destroyed the church built in 1926.
 1973: Bishop Hoch approved plans for new church; construction began at once.
 1974: New steel church building was dedicated by Bishop Hoch, Dec. 14.
 1975: At Crow Creek, the Abbey acquired 2,000 acres of which 1280 acres were secured by monks for homesteading.

Ree Heights

REE HEIGHTS **Hand County**

1947 There were 15 Catholic families; 9 fallen-away Catholics. Never had a church building. Ree Heights is 61 miles from Pierre. The people go to Miller to Mass.

1882 The town was laid out by Love brothers. Andreas, HIST. ATLAS, p. 179

1882 L. W. Lansing, "Hand County in the 1880's" SDHC, XLIII, 351. L. W. Lansing came in the spring of 1882 from Rochester, N. Y. to Huron and from there was led by W. T. Love to the "promised land", a townsite at Siding No. 4, now Ree Heights. He was encamped in the attic of the section house. He grabbed off some "close in squatter rights" for preemption. p. 352.

1883 On Jan. 15, 1883, a school was opened. Miss Putman was the teacher.

1887- pop. 450, Congregational church. RESOURCES, 1887, p. 108

Sessions, Early History of Hand County, p. 32 *Ree Heights* 6

"In Ree Heights during the first year of its existence in 1882, occasional preaching services were held and some Sunday school work was done. In 1883 Rev. N. T. Blackledge of Wisconsin was sent by the Congregational Home Missionary Society for several weeks. Church was held in the waiting room of the depot during April and May. The present Congregational church was organized on August 26, 1883, with eight members. Two of the charter members are still living: W.D. Leadbetter of Ree Heights and Mrs. George Moore of Avon, Montana. The church was used for 41 years without any remodeling; in 1924 repairs were made and an extension built to the original building. Interview with Mrs. Nettie Gardner

Pukwana St. Anthony



Pukwana (Brule County) **St. Anthony**

Pukwana is a Chippewa word meaning "smokers of the pipe of the Great Spirit." The townsite was platted in January of 1882. Since Catholics were among the settlers, priests came from both White Lake and Kimball to offer Mass for them in their homes. Finally, on Dec. 18, 1900, Father Joseph Gaydusek called a meeting of Catholics living in the area to make plans for the erection of a church. The building committee asked for donations to start a building fund and that each family contributed \$6 annually for the support of the priest. Patrick Rigney offered the first donation of \$100 toward the church. He chose St. Anthony.

Father Colman O'Flaherty succeeded Father Gaydusek in Kimball in 1901, and it was he who directed construction of the small, typical frame church of the prairie. St. Anthony Parish remained a mission of Kimball until 1909 when the Victorian Fathers of Chamberlain accepted the ministry.

Pukwana was another settlement to benefit from the coming of the Victorians. After being a mission of Kimball from 1898 to 1909, the bishop entrusted the Pukwana Catholics to Father John Mulvaney, OSV, and his confreres who made the trip every Sunday from Columbus College to St. Anthony's where there was a new church. On June 26, 1908 a storm had leveled the original building but it was immediately rebuilt. Bishop O'Gorman dedicated it on Nov. 5 of the same year. A rectory was added in 1919.

Although St. Anthony Church was officially closed in 1948, priests from Chamberlain offered Mass in the church since the people refused to go to St. James in Chamberlain. For their souls' sake, Father Joseph Speyer made the trip on three Sundays of the month. After 1970 Pukwana was again a mission of St. James and had Mass every Sunday. There were 55 families in the parish. (GD)



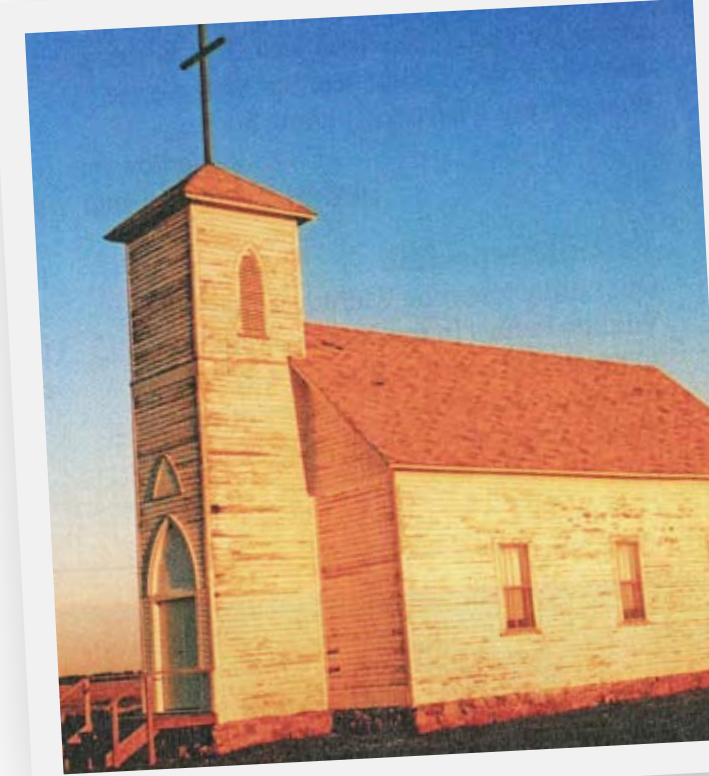
Pukwana, St. Anthony Church

Dec. 18, 1900, Rev. Gaydusek called a meeting of Catholics living in the neighborhood of Pukwana for the purpose of erecting a church. A building committee was appointed. It was decided that each family according to its means contribute \$6 or more toward the pastor's salary. Patrick Rigney offered the first donation toward the church—\$100 and he was allowed to select the name of the church. He chose St. Anthony.

Oct. 1, 1902 Fr. O'Flaherty replaced Fr. Gaydusek.

Oct. 24, 1909 The Clarics of St. Vistor took over the parish of Chamberlain and had Pukwana as a mission. The priests resided at Columbus college and covered the distance with car or horse and buggy. Sometimes the priests came up with the evening train on Saturday and stopped at the Larson House or the Strensky Hotel. Some of the good people would invite them for meals to their homes. June 16, 1915 many of the children were confirmed by Bishop O'Gorman.

Red Lake St. Procopius



RED LAKE ST. PROCOPIUS

Over 100 years ago, in late 1800s, the first Red Lake Catholic Church was built on the SW1/4 of Section 19 of Red Lake township. Because population was so slim at that time, a priest came only once every other month or so. On June 5, 1884 two couples were married (Wenceslaus Svodda to Rosalia Pakic & Frank Davish to Antonia Schon) as that was the date the priest was scheduled to come. Father Joseph Frzek performed the ceremony. This church was destroyed by a tornado, but in 1891 the second Red Lake Church was organized, given the name of St. Procopius and deeded to Bishop Marty for a church and burial purposes. The church was on a tract of land in the NE1/4 of Section 13 of Brule County. Because Fr. C. O'Flaherty was very instrumental in helping to build the Kimball Catholic Church, he was asked to help with St. Procopius.

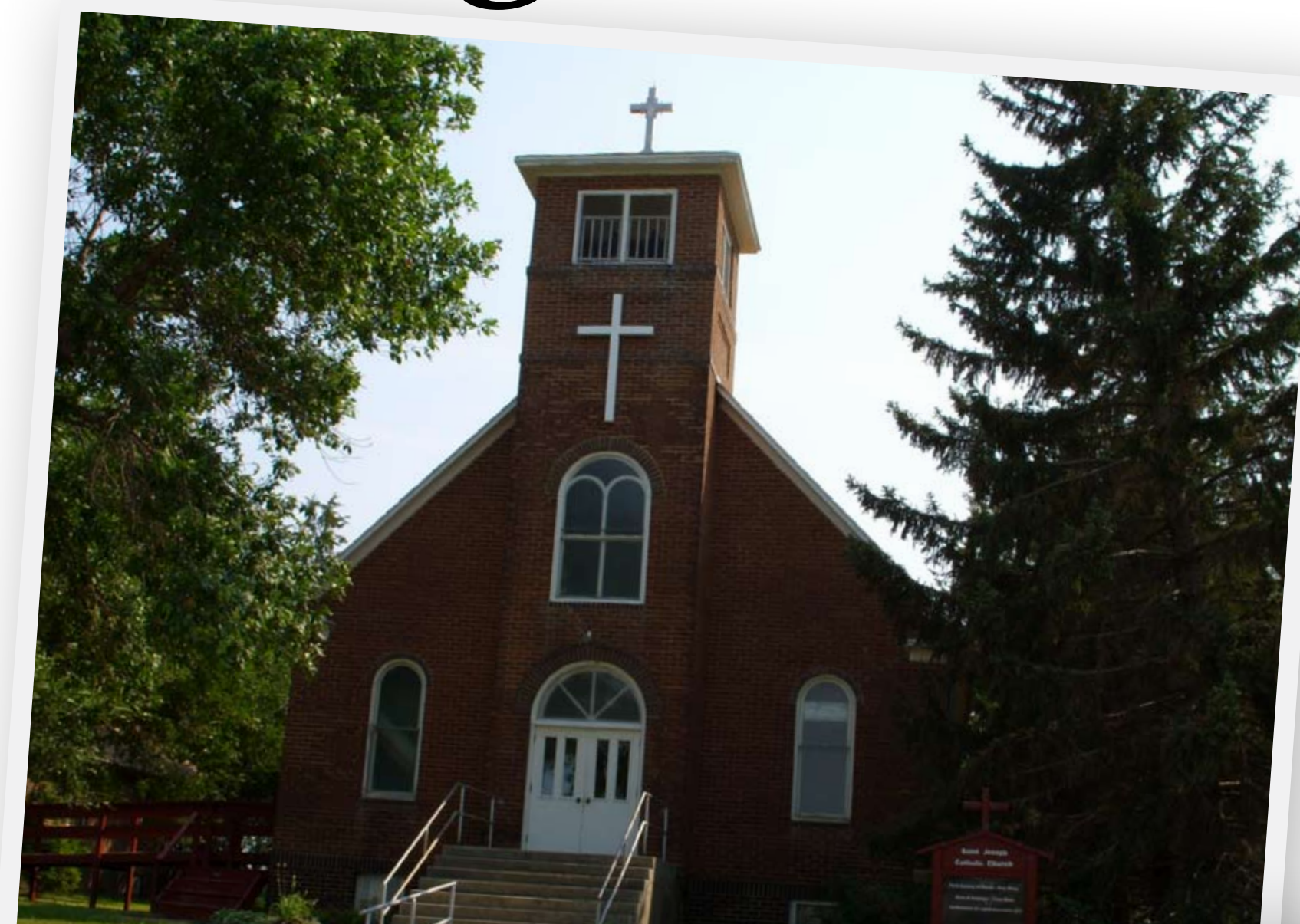
From 1892 through 1904 Father O'Flaherty served Red Lake as well as St. Anthony in Pukwana. St. James in Chamberlain was a mission church from 1905-1909.

Red Lake's beautiful altar was donated by Wm. Roethler in 1909. It took a very long time for the order of the altar to arrive, and finally on the day that Mr. Roethler passed away, it arrived. Friends and neighbors loaded the altar into a wagon and transported it to St. Procopius and worked hard putting it all into place for Wm. Roethler's first funeral Mass said from the altar.

September 5, 1980, marked a first for the Little White Church on the Prairie when his Excellency, the Most Rev. Paul Vincent Dudley, Bishop of Sioux Falls, was guest of honor at a concelebrated Mass. For the last forty years of parish life, Mass was said on the First Fridays of each month from May to September.

The church never had any electricity and during the early days, the neighboring families would take turns getting to the church early, starting the old wood stove for Sunday Mass on those cold winter mornings.

Wessington St. Joseph



Wessington (Beadle County) **St. Joseph**

Wessington was mentioned as early as 1878. It was located on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad on the Western border of the county. The majority of the people were of German ancestry. Catholics among them had their first recorded Mass in the town in 1904, but the Catholic Directory states that priests out of Huron (1885-89) had ministered there. Prior to this time Masses may have been offered in different farm homes in the area. In 1907 the first St. Joseph's Church was built and was attended from either Miller or Huron. The parish received its first pastor in 1923 in the person of Father M. J. Burkel. He led the parish in the construction of a church and rectory at a cost of \$22,000 and \$5,000 respectively. Both buildings were completed in 1923, but the debt harassed pastors for many years. Father F. R. Macaulay was the first to occupy the parish residence. In 1946 there were 42 practicing Catholic families. After 1970 Wessington was a mission of Miller. (GD)

Yale St. William



In the early days of 1880, when Bishop Marty first arrived in South Dakota, Father Robert Hare walked or rode horseback to care for the spiritual needs of the Catholics living in the vicinity of Cavour and Yale. Mass was held in the Costello home in Cavour.

October 22, 1884: Fr. William Mahoney arrived. Mass was said in old school house in Cavour. In January, 1885 at a wake for Willy Connell, pastor and people decided to build a church and called it St. William's in honor of Saint William or Vergine. Because the new church was being planned, Willy's funeral Mass was in the Connell home and he was buried near the proposed site.

August 15, 1885: An outdoor Mass was held to commemorate the decision to build St. William's. The altar was made of posts and canvas; confessions were heard and many people received Holy Communion that day. However, 1887 still found the people journeying to Cavour for Mass. Mass was held once a month. Catechism was taught before Mass by teachers Mary Connell and Annie Lynch.

Troubled times: The Great Blizzard on January 12, 1888 hit. Mary Connell, Johnny Newcome and Katie Brodrick were lost on their way home from school Johnny froze to death. Katie's feet were so badly frozen they were amputated in the Connell home. In 1890 the diphtheria epidemic struck. Three of the Stokes' family and two of the Davis family died within a few days.

January 1, 1892: Fr. William Nolan arrived. Mass now held in Connell schoolhouse. Larry Grant donated a piece of land. Wm. Marsh made a 6 foot white cross, placed in the center of the cemetery. Father Nolan blessed the ground. In 1893, the 9 graves were moved to the new location the contract to build the church was set to Dejean of Bismarck. Because the cost of the new church was to be \$1,000, each man was assessed \$50 and boys \$5. In May of 1893, the first St. William's Mission Church was built. It was 26' by 55'. There were 3 windows in the church, one in the sacristy. Benches were used for pews. A statue of St. Joseph was donated by Patty Davis, and crucifix by Mame Marsh.

April, 1897: Fr. D.F. Desmond came once a month to say Mass. Fr. Desmond's assistant succeeded him in 1903, on foot canvassed the people of Cavour and St. William's to raise money for a parish house and became the first resident pastor at Cavour. Men had been taking turns driving to Cavour to get the priest to say Mass.

1921: First Mission at St. William's was held, and picnic was again held for the first time in 20 years. Improvements: Church struck by lightning for the 3rd time. Because of this and because church was now too small, the then Pastor, Fr. Walsh, decided to move and improve the church. Committee of five men, under direction of Mr. Lauden a carpenter, did all the work except the actual moving of the Church, including the digging of the basement, adding a steeple, making church longer, putting in a new furnace. Stained glass windows were donated by Etie Howe. After 9 months, it was completed and another Mission was held.

January 8, 1941: Fr. Dennis Donovan arrived and immediately planned paying off the long standing debt. He expected parishioners to become Catholics in every sense of the word. After a very successful Fall Festival, Father announced debt was paid and began work for rejuvenation of the material property of St. William's, for which the money was already saved. St. William's was now as active a parish as can be, including the learning by all of the Chant of the Mass, and on most Sunday a High Mass, sung by all children and some of the adults. During the war a Novena to Our Lady of Victory was held each Wednesday, and High Mass was celebrated each Saturday for the safe return of the men in Service. Catechism was held each evening for six weeks at Cavour. All St. William's children were expected to attend—and did.