

THROUGH THE YEARS (1870-1881)

Before 1881, the diocese of Dubuque's territory covered the entire state of Iowa. Previous divisions had taken territory from the original expansive diocese outside the boundaries of the state of Iowa, to create other new dioceses.

Eventually, Bishop John Hennessy became convinced that the Dubuque Diocese should be further divided, with the Dubuque diocese covering the northern half of the state, and the southern half covered by a new diocese.

Hennessy felt that the See of this new diocese should be located in Des Moines. Planning for this division is described in "Jesus Alive Through the Years."

"Hennessy and his ambitious vicar, the Reverend John Brazill, pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Des Moines, were making plans based on a north-south line of diocesan division. They envisioned the capital city, Des Moines, as the see of the projected new diocese, with Brazill, as its bishop. It was doubtless the view of such a future that Hennessy ventured to sign a deed which conferred on his vicar the ownership of a significant piece of St. Ambrose Parish property.

But by comparison, Davenport was the elder city, beautifully and fortunately situated on the great river and already enjoying the solid beginnings of a Catholic school system. However, the strongest argument in Davenport's favor was a large piece of property on which the St. Anthony Church was located."

Much to Hennessy and Brazill's great disappointment, the Vatican chose Davenport as the See city of this diocese. This caused many complications over the ownership of the Des Moines property.

On June 14, 1881, the entire southern half of the Dubuque Diocese was taken to form the Diocese of Davenport. Fr. John McMullen, a priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago, was chosen to be the first bishop.

Bishop Hennessy continued to receive many priests from Germany and Ireland to serve the multiple parishes he established. In 1873 he reopened the college in Dubuque with the new name of St. Joseph's College and Theological Seminary to continue training native men for the priesthood.

Even after the division of the diocese, the Catholic population of the Dubuque Diocese almost doubled and the Catholic school population greatly increased.



Archbishop John Hennessy

Parishes formed 1870-1881 in the current Archdiocese of Dubuque From "Jesus Alive through 175 years" Copyright© 2011

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact year of a parish's actual founding since in the early years priests came to say Mass in homes before parishes were formally established. In some cases, the date listed is when the first church was completed.



1870

Charles City, Immaculate Conception; Clayton, St. Mary; Cresco, St. Joseph; Dougherty, St. Patrick; Greeley, St. Joseph; Littleport, Sacred Heart; Nevada, St. Patrick; New Hampton, St. Joseph; Norway, St. Michael; Postville, St. Bridget; Roseville, St. Mary; Webster City, St. Thomas Aquinas; West Union, Holy Name

1871

Belmond, St. Francis Xavier; Lawler, Our Lady of Mount Carmel; State Center, St. Joseph; Wadena, St., Joseph

1872

Aplington, Aplington Catholic; Bluffton, St. Bridget; Cox Creek, Sacred Heart; Eldora, St. Mary; Greene, St. Mary; Key West, St. Joseph; Plymouth, St. Michael; Spencer's Grove, (Urbana), St. Mary; Van Horne, Immaculate Conception

1873

Fort Atkinson, St. John Nepomucene; Maquoketa, Sacred Heart

1874

Cedar Rapids, St. Wenceslaus; Onslow, Onslow Parish; Peosta, St. John the Baptist; Placid, St. John; Prairieburg, St. Joseph; South Buffalo, St. Joseph; Stacyville, Visitation; Vining, St. Mary

1875

Blessing, Immaculate Conception; Calmar, St. Aloysius; Fairfax, St. Patrick; Green Island, Sacred Heart; Hanover, St. Mary; Lourdes, Our Lady of Lourdes; Manchester, St. Mary (Assumption); Otter Creek Township, Holy Trinity; Williams, St. Mary

1876

Winthrop, St. Patrick

1877

Haverhill, Immaculate Conception; New Haven, St. Peter; Osage, Sacred Heart; Parkersburg, St. Patrick; Westgate, St. Patrick

1878

Jesup, St. Athanasius; Protivin, Holy Trinity; Rockwell, Sacred Heart (St. Columbkille); Sand Springs, Immaculate Conception; Stark Settlement, St. Joseph; Strawberry Point, St. Mary; Vinton, St. Mary

1879

Britt, St. Patrick; Christian Prairie, Christian Prairie Catholic Church; Dunn Settlement, St. John; Dysart, St. Joseph; Epworth, St. Patrick; Fayette, St. Francis of Assisi; Riceville, Immaculate Conception

1880

Beulah, St. Wenceslaus; Dike, St. Mary; Manly, Sacred Heart

1881

Hazleton, St. Mary; Oxford Junction, St. Mary; Preston, St. Joseph; Stone City, St. Joseph

Concurrent History - 1870-1881

1870

June 26 Christmas is declared a federal holiday in the United States.
July 18 Pontifical infallibility proclaimed at Vatican Council I

1871

Mar. 3 Congress changes Indian tribes status from independent to dependent
Oct. 8 Great Chicago Fire kills 200, destroys over 4 square miles of buildings.

1872

Mar. 1 Yellowstone becomes world's 1st national park

1873

Sept. 20 Panic sweeps NY Stock Exchange. NY shut banks for 10 days

1874

Oct. 15 Child labor law takes 12 year olds out of work force
Dec. 24 Pope Pius IX proclaims a jubilee for 1875

1875

Mar. 15 First US cardinal (John McCloskey) invested for New York
June 3 Alexander Graham Bell makes 1st voice transmission

1876

Jan. 31 The United States orders all Native Americans to move into reservations
Aug. 1 Colorado becomes 38th state

1877

Feb. 12 First news dispatch by telephone, between Boston & Salem, Mass
Mar. 5 Rutherford B Hayes inaugurated as 19th US president

1878

Feb. 16 Silver dollar became US legal tender
Oct. 15 Edison Electric Light Company incorporated

1879

Feb. 15 Congress authorizes women lawyers to practice before Supreme Ct
May 10 Meteor falls near Estherville, Iowa

1880

Jan. 1 Building of Panama Canal, begins
Oct. 1 John Philip Sousa becomes new director of US Marine Corps Band

1881

Feb. 19 Kansas becomes 1st state to prohibit all alcoholic beverages
Mar. 4 James A Garfield inaugurated as 20th president