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EARLY HISTORY, ST. JOHN'S PARISH
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TOWN CO." in that same year. In 1855 it was incorporated by an act of the first territorial legislature. In 1856 there were about 50 people and one store kept by "Slaughter and Vallery," the successors of Samuel Martin. The Catholics amongst that number invited, or were visited by the Rev. Francis Cannon, O. S. B., who in those days had charge of Omaha. Thus, on Thursday, July 7, 1859, returning from a trip to Nebraska City, he stopped here and celebrated Mass in the home of Conrad Schlater and baptized his son. Among those present at this Mass were Conrad Schlater and wife, Chris. Mockenhaupt and wife, Eugene Bernardine and wife, Mrs. Alfred Townsend, Mrs. Margaret Sampson, Mrs. John Mockenhaupt, Dr. E. A. Donelan, Dr. William Donelan, Miss Mary Donelan, Miss Agnes Clement, Xavier Fickler, Godfrey Fickler, Nicholas Halmes and Thomas Smith.

Father Cannon was succeeded in Omaha in October, 1859, by the newly ordained priest, the Rev. William Kelly, who made occasional visits here until September, 1861, when the Rev. Emmanuel Hartig, O. S. B., took charge. He attended it as a mission from Nebraska City once a month and in that same year purchased Lot 7 in Block 45 for \$50 at the corner of Granite and Fifth streets. The following spring, he began the construction of a brick church 36 by 20 feet. The foundation was dug by Ben Hempie, the brick donated by Chris Mockenhaupt, the lumber by Peter Sarpy, and the limestone and lime by Conrad Schlater.

The men of the parish donated their labor, and the masons and carpenters were paid with flour, meat, potatoes, and vegetables, as money at that time was very scarce.

Services were held in the new church by Father Emmanuel in the fall of 1862, but it was dedicated only on June 14, 1863, by Bishop O'Gorman, Vicar Apostolic of Nebraska, who was in Plattsmouth that day and baptized five persons. In July, 1863, the Rev. John Daxacher, recently ordained, was sent to Plattsmouth as the first resident pastor. From this place, he attended the missions of Gretna in Sarpy county, and Salt Creek, now Lincoln, in Lancaster county. He resided with the Fickler family in the house adjoining the church on the east. That house was never a parochial property. It was bought by private parties to be used as a rectory, but, as the congregation could not pay for it, it was sold.

Father Daxacher was transferred to Council Bluffs in 1865 and Father Emmanuel Hartig again took charge of the parish, attending it about twice a month until February, 1869. From this date to February, 1870, it was attached to Lincoln and attended by the Rev. Michael Hofmayer, O. S. B., former assistant of Father Emmanuel. After that date, the Rev. John A. Hayes took charge of Platts-

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