

Preface

Our purpose in compiling this book has been to record and perpetuate the personages and important events, the memorials and generous benefactions in the 90-year Catholic history of western Monona County. Because few of the early parish records are in existence today, we know that many interesting additions could be made to this history had they been available, and they were omitted only because the passage of time has erased them from man's memory.

Some of the historical background found herein may at first sight appear extraneous, but since it gives us interesting facts about the early history of our land, and because it mentions the names of many persons who certainly must have been an inspiration to our pioneering Catholics in Monona county, we feel we are afforded sufficient justification for its inclusion.

This history is entitled "The Catholic Church in Western Monona County, 1870-1960." There are at present two parishes in this area—St. John's at Onawa and St. Bernard's at Blencoe, a mission parish. From 1887 until 1909 there was also a mission parish at Whiting. Historical and pictorial information of all these is contained in this book.