



[Minnesota Geographic Board.
Records.](#)

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

WABASHA COUNTY PIONEER CHURCHES

Towns

	The Log Church At Wabasha	The Norwegian Church	<i>Oakwood Twp</i>
<i>Highland</i>	Conception Church	The Millville Church	<i>Oakwood</i>
<i>West Albany</i>	St. Patricks Church (West Albany)	The West Albany Baptist	<i>West Albany</i>
<i>Greenfield</i>	Cooks Valley Church	Scotch Settlement Church	<i>West Albany</i>
<i>Pepin</i>	Reads Landing Church	The Weaver Church	<i>Greenfield</i>
<i>Chester Belvidere</i>	Belle Chester Church	Minneiska Catholic Church	<i>Minneiska</i>
<i>Chester</i>	Bear Valley Church	Plainview M. E. Church	<i>Plainview</i>
<i>Mt Pleasant</i>	St. Johns of Mt. Pleasant	Church at Hamps Mill	<i>Highland</i>
<i>Mt Pleasant</i>	Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian	Pawselim M. E. Church	<i>Greenfield</i>
<i>Mt Pleasant</i>	Mt. Pleasant Methodist	The Lincoln Church	<i>Greenfield</i>
<i>Mt Pleasant</i>	County Line Church	The Jacksonville Church	<i>Greenfield</i>
<i>Zumbro</i>	South Troy Church	Oak Center Church	<i>Greenfield</i>
<i>Zumbro</i>	Bremen Church	West Albany German Methodist	<i>West Albany</i>
	Hammond Lutheran	West Albany Lutheran	<i>West Albany</i>
<i>Glazgow</i>	Trout Brook Valley Church	Lake City's First Church	<i>Lake</i>
<i>Oakwood</i>	The Oakwood Church	Elgin Methodist Church	<i>Elgin</i>
		Mazeppa Methodist Church	<i>Mazeppa</i>

PIONEER WABASHA COUNTY CHURCHES

The Log Church at Wabasha

The first building erected for religious purposes in Wabasha County was a log chapel erected at Wabasha, then Crattes Landing, by Rev. Augustin Ravoux, a Catholic missionary, in 1843. The logs were framed at Mendota and floated down the Mississippi on a raft to Wabasha and erected at what was known as The Point at the west end of Main Street. There was then, possibly but ^{one} other church in Minnesota, that, the Chapel of St. Paul erected by Rev. Louis Galtier in 1841.

The building was used as a chapel for a number of years and then abandoned as a seat of divine worship. It became Wabasha County's first public school when the Wabasha Public School was organized in 1855. It later became a print shop and home of Wabasha's first newspaper, The Wabasha Journal. The Catholic parish of St. Felix was organized with Rev. Felix Tissot as pastor in 1858.

Conception Church

The church is in the hamlet, Conception, in Highland township. It was originally a Catholic mission served by the pastors of St. Felix Church at Wabasha. The first church, a rude affair, was erected on section 10 in 1866, earlier services having been held at the residence of Timothy Ryan. Early in the eighties, it was replaced by a neat frame church and a parochial residence erected, with Rev. P. B. Murray as first resident pastor, in 1883. In later years a fine church of brick and stone construction has been built. The site of the first church and adjacent land comprise Conception Catholic cemetery where the resting place of many of the early settlers of Highland township is commemorated by many fine monuments. The Hamlet built up about the church.

St. Patrick's Church

It had its beginning as a mission in 1857 and is known as the West Albany Catholic Church, being located at the village of West Albany on section 29 of West Albany township. Rev. Felix Tissot, first resident pastor at Wabasha, established the mission. The present church is a large stone structure. Beside the church, is a modern parish residence and the church cemetery, all that is left of the Village of West Albany.

Cooks Valley Church

A Methodist church erected in 1861 on section 30, Greenfield township. Another Methodist church was erected at Pauselim the same year. This was removed to Kellogg in 1882 and later the Cooks Valley church was united with it.

Reads Landing Church

The only church in the village was erected by the Methodists in 1869. It was a neat frame structure located up from the river in the vicinity of the Reads Landing school. Rev. S. G. Gale was the first to hold services in the church.

Belle Chester Church

A large per cent of the population in northern Chester township, Wabasha County and Belvidere township of Goodhue County embraced the Catholic faith and in 1865 they established the parish of Belle Chester and erected a frame church. The present church, parish house and parochial school forms a center across the county line at Belle Chester, Wabasha County. The church was the center around which Belle Chester village was built and a post office was established in 1879.

Bear Valley Church

A Methodist church established at the Hamlet of Bear Valley, Chester township in 1864. Rev. Nelson Moon was the first preacher. Services were first held in the Bear Valley School and the Grange hall previous to the building of the church and parsonage.

St. Johns of Mt. Pleasant

The St. Johns German Evangelical Lutheran church is located in section 12, Chester township. It was established in 1868 by Rev. Rupert Weisner. The services were first in the school house. The church was dedicated in September 29, 1878. St. Johns cemetery is adjacent to the church.

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian

This church is located in section 29 of the township. Rev. Silas Haslett was the first to hold religious services in Mount Pleasant. In January 1857 services were held by him in the log house of Strasston Clark. Services were afterward held at various homes and at times on the open prairie. When the school at District No. 10 was built, services were conducted there and the Presbyterian church organized. The church was built in 1867.

Mount Pleasant Methodist Church

The church services were at first held in the school house in district No. 10 of Mount Pleasant township. Rev. Henry Goodsell began holding them in 1865 and in a short time the church was built. A Union Sabbath School was established with the Mount Pleasant Presbyterian church. These churches are country places in section 29.

County Line Church

This was the first church in the northern part of the township of Mount Pleasant. It is located on the North line of section 3 on the Goodhue and Wabasha County line. The first to preach in this vicinity was Rev. Birch, then a student at Hamline university, who visited the place during 1865 and 1866. He was followed by Rev. Henry Goodsell in 1867. During his pastorate the Methodist Episcopal organization built the church. He was followed by Rev. Richardson. During his pastorate that and the church at West Florence, Goodhue united. In 1880 Thomas Hartley a Westleyan Methodist of Greenwood Prairie preached in a school house nearby and the next year he was followed by R. Balbridge. Services were transferred to the County Line Church in 1882. Later it was purchased of the Methodist Episcopal organization by them.

Philander Sanford
(ME days)

South Troy Church

It is located in the Northeast quarter of section 36 of Zumbro township. It was organized by the Wesleyan Methodists in 1856 when services were held in the South Troy schoolhouse. In 1859 a branch of this society was formed and services held at the Red schoolhouse. Later the two branches united and built the present frame structure where services have since been held.

Bremen Church

This is a German Lutheran church and is located about a mile from Bremen Corners, a hamlet of pioneer days. It is located in section 36 in Zumbro township about three miles to the south of Millville.

Hammond Lutheran Church

The church is in Hammond village and was erected by the German Lutheran organization in 1883. For a number of years it was the only church edifice in the village.

Trout Brook Valley Church

This is a German Methodist church located on section 5 in Glasgow township. The building was erected in 1869. Rev. Lamprecht was the first minister.

The Oakwood Church

Roman Catholic services had been held in this section of Oakwood by Rev. Felix Tissot since 1858 and the erection of the church was begun by him in 1866 when he was succeeded by Rev. James Trobec as pastor at Wabasha and its missions, who completed it. It was located on the site of the Oakwood cemetery in section 13 where many of the early pioneers are buried. The church has been destroyed by fire and most of the parishoners have since attended the church at Theilman.

The Norwegian Church

It was built by Norwegian Methodists on section 20, Norwegian Hill, in Oakwood township. The church was organized by Rev. A. B. Bush in 1868 and the building was erected in 1873. Many of the Methodist Norwegians emigrated to Western Minnesota and the Dakotahs and for a time church services were discontinued. In 1874, the Norwegian ^{LUTHERANS} took over the church and began services. There is a Scandinavian cemetery beside the church.

The Millville Church

It is the only church in the village of Millville. It was built of limestone by the Swedish Lutherans in 1874. The Millville cemetery was laid out beside it.

The West Albany Baptist Church

The West Albany Baptist Church was organized in the vicinity of the school in District No. 26 by Rev. Benjamin Wharton in 1858 and flourished for many years. The church has disappeared but the cemetery is still in existence. It is in the West Albany township.

Scotch Settlement Church

The church takes its name from Scotch settlement in West Albany township and is located in section 2. The section had its first services, when Rev. James McCartney visited the settlement and preached on September 13th and 14th, 1860. The church was organized by the United Presbyterians on March 19, 1861 and services were held in the school house in District No. 21 until the church was built in 1884.

The Weaver Church and School

Following the organization of the village of Weaver in 1872, a school-house was erected. The building served the double purpose of community church as well as a public school. The Methodists holding services in it one Sunday and Norwegian Lutherans the next. The building has been replaced by the erection of a modern frame school building and other places of worship.

Minneiska Catholic Church

Religious services of the Catholic faith were held in Minneiska from its beginning in 1856. The parish organized continued as a mission until 1867 when their first church was built. The second church was destroyed by fire in October 1900 and has been replaced by a modern brick edifice known as St. Mary's Church of Minneiska. The Joseph Schurb family was the first Catholic family to settle in Minneiska. Rev. F. X. Mueller was the first resident pastor.

Plainview M. E. Church

The Plainview Methodist Episcopal church was the first church established in the village. It was organized in 1857 by Rev. O. P. Crawford. The church which was erected in 1866 was the most imposing church edifice then in Wabasha County.

Church at Hampe's Mill

This is a German Reform Lutheran church - a log structure erected near Hampe's Mill in section 5, Highland township in 1866. The building has been destroyed and the congregation has disintegrated.

Pauselim M. E. Church

Pauselim was an early village in Greenfield township and the church was erected there in 1864. It was moved to Kellogg in 1882. Kellogg having succeeded Pauselim as a village.

The Lincoln Church

The Methodists erected a church in section 16 of Gillford township in what is known at Lincoln in 1862. Mr. Stillwill was the preacher. This

organization disintegrated. The Lincoln church is now a German Evangelical Lutheran congregation. There is a large cemetery where many members of the present church and others are laid to rest.

Jacksonville Church

In 1878 a German Lutheran congregation organized here, built a neat frame church and surrounded it with one-half acre of beautiful shade trees. Rev. Mire was its first, and for many years, pastor.

Oak Center Church

This is a Methodist Church and was organized by Mr. Stillwell in 1860. He was the first preacher. It is located in the Hamlet of Oak Center, Gillford township.

West Albany German Methodist Church

The German Methodist organized a congregation in southern West Albany township in 1861. Services were held at the home of C. Fuhrman. The church was erected in 1866. It is located in section 22.

West Albany Lutheran Church

In 1864 William Vomhof organized a Lutheran congregation in central West Albany township and a church was erected in 1868. It was located on section 16.

Lake City's First Church

The congregationalists had the first church in the city of Lake City. They built a church in 1856. The Presbyterians organized a congregation on December 31, 1856 with Rev. Silas Hazlett as acting Pastor and B. C. Baldwin, A. V. Segler and Mrs Hazlett as members. Then for a year or more the Congregational church was used alternately by the Congregationalists and the Presbyterians.

Elgin's First Church: Regular church services were begun in Elgin in 1856

- - - That year Rev. Mr. Lloyd commenced a series of Methodist meetings at the home of George Bryant. However, the first church organized was in the spring of 1857 by Rev. Jonathan Cochrane, a Congregational clergyman. The organization took place at the home of Mr. Bryant.

Mazeppa Methodist Church: Though the first church built in Mazeppa was built by the Congregationalists in 1869, the Methodist held the first church services in the village at the claim shanty of John E. Hyde in 1856. Elder Jacob McManus was the minister.