

**RAWLINS**  
**1879-1886**  
**Father Cassidy**

Notes on History of Rawlins Parish

Rev. M.T. Cassidy, born June, 1854 in Co. Cavan, Ireland, came to America at the age of fourteen, studied at Grand Seminary, Montreal, and was ordained in 1878. He was stationed for w a few months at Columbus, Nebr., as assistant to Fr. Ryan, and was appointed the first resident pastor of Rawlins in the spring of 1879, where he remained until July, 1886, when he was sent to O'Neil, Nebr. His jurisdiction while at Rawlins embraced Rock Springs, Green River, Evanston, Lander, Buffalo, Forts Steele, Fetterman, Bridger, McKinney & Washakie; and, during the Ute uprising, their section of Colo.

He said Mass in section houses along the railroad. Tim Kinney was agent at Rawlins in his day, but later moved to Rock Springs and engaged in the cattle, sheep, and then in the banking business. Fr. Cassidy often said Mass in his house at this latter place.

The Church at Rawlins was built by Fr. Cusson, who also bought an old Baptist church at Evanston, to which Fr. Cusson added rooms. The latter built churches at Rock Springs and Green River and bought first parochial residence at Rawlins from an engineer who was leaving, for which he paid \$1700.00.

When he went to Rawlins there were but three priests in Wyoming: the brothers, Rev. John Hayes at Cheyenne and Rev. James Hayes at Evanston (later pastor at O'Connor, Nebr.), and Revs. Cusson and Flood at Laramie, soon to be replaced by Fr. Cumiskey. In 1886, when he left Wyo., there was a Jesuit at Lander and one at Indian Mission.

There was a church at Lander before Rev. D.W. Moriarty went there.

The above data was secured from Fr. Cassidy at O'Neil, Nebr., Oct. 9, 1922, by Bishop McGovern.