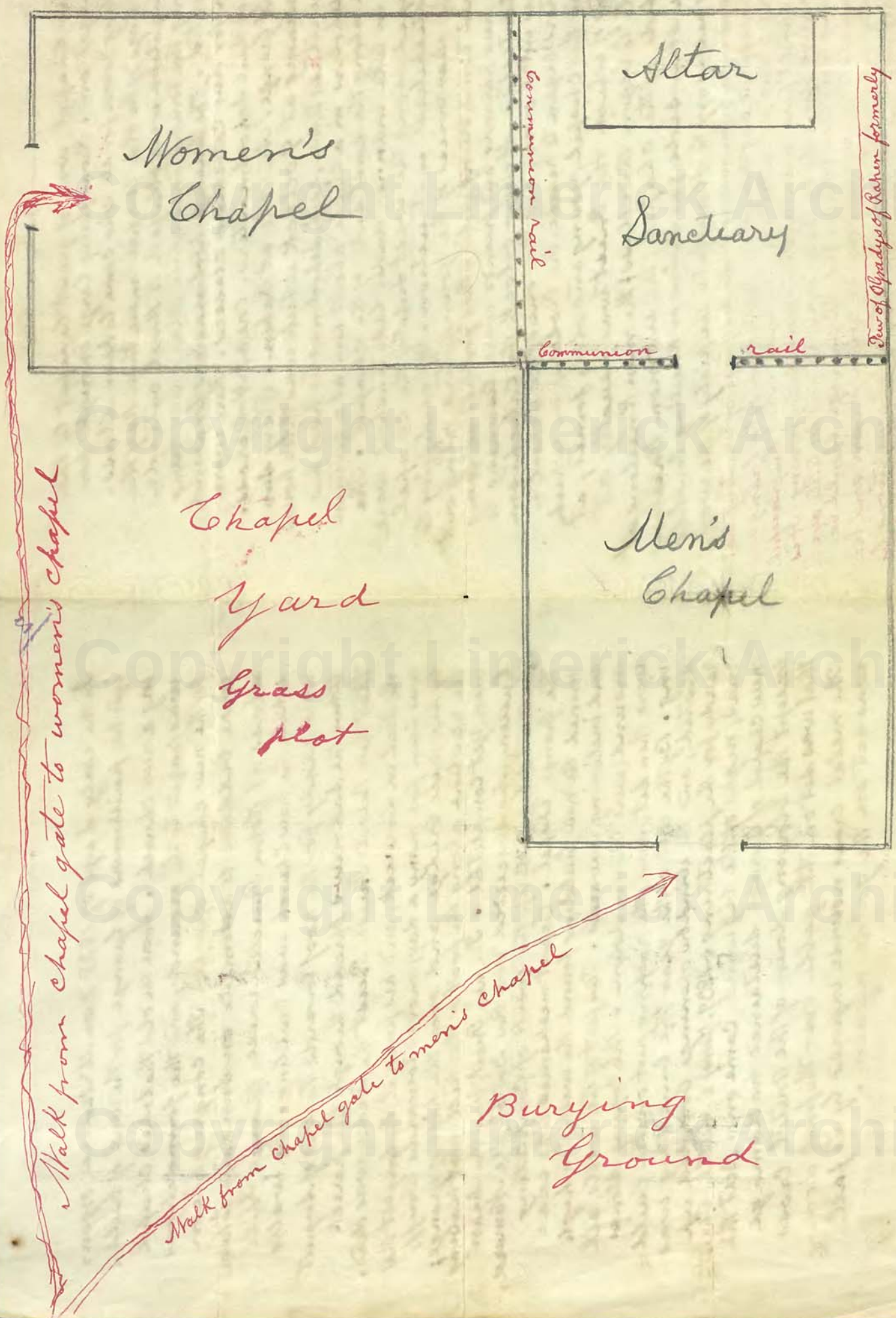


In the early days of 1838 Dean McNamara organized his parishioners of Grange for the work of building a new church. Soon the old thatched chapel was razed to the ground, and the foundations for the new chapel opened. The congregation were bidden to assemble on Sundays to hear Mass at John Russell's house Grange Hill while the new Church was building. The walls were ready for the roof towards the end of August when the sad news spread through the parish that their Beloved Parish Priest the Dean was dead.

He died in Limerick, and his funeral, the longest that was seen for many a day, moved towards Bruff, by six mile bridge and over the hill of Grange; the new line along the foot of the hill not having been yet completed. The new Priest, Very Rev Dean Cullen, who succeeded Very Rev Doctor McNamara, without delay took up the work of completing the Grange chapel. Expert mechanics who examined the new building found the walls too high and inclining inwards. Two feet of the walls, all around, were thrown down. The coping stones were then set, and the roofing put on the building. By the end of the year the building was slated, and the window openings boarded up ready for the plastering. 1839, Jan'y 6, Little Christmas, night of the big wind came on. But the new chapel of Grange sustained no damage except the blowing down of the Metal Cross that was set on the gable over the front door. The metal cross nowise injured by its fall was set on the gable again.

The old thatched Chapel of Grange.



John J. Hogan. Bp of Kansas City.
Kansas City, Missouri. Oct 25. 1911

The new Chapel was of great benefit to the Congregation. It was fairly large enough for standing room for all who come to hear Mass. In the days of the old Chapel more than half the Congregation were obliged to kneel outside among the tombstones while Mass was being celebrated. The Parish Schoolmasters too found room for their Catechism classes. There were three of these Schoolmasters. One at Holy cross. One at Grange. And one at Rahern. Every Sunday morning at 9 o'clock which was three hours before Mass time, each Schoolmaster had his boy scholars in a circle about him at a certain place along the east side of the Chapel. The girls in like manner under lady teachers were grouped along the west side of the Chapel for catechetical instruction. It was edifying to hear the clear voices of the youngsters ring out in loud tones, vying with other for distinction, while their parents and friends were listening to the contests. At eleven o'clock the Catechism classes were over, and then one of the Schoolmasters began to recite the Rosary in which all in the Chapel, young and old, joined, at the end of which the Priest was usually at hand to begin the Mass; the men kneeling at one side of the Chapel, the women kneeling at the other side; no chairs or kneeling benches being necessary to stimulate the piety of the worshippers. Now a few words on the disgrace of tolerating that deep open rocky hole dug through the south end of the Grange graveyard to make an outlet for Loughgur. That disgraceful damage should have been opposed from the beginning. It is a very offensive blemish on the graveyard and the little avenue leading to it. Those who caused the damage should be made to remedy it by arching over the water drain and leveling its surface as it was at first. If subscriptions be necessary I will begin by sending ten pounds to help in the work.