Catholics of Illinois in the Civil War

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CATHOLICS OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIVIL WAR

by

Mother Elvira Dorsey

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Mother Elvira Dorsey was graduated from the Convent of the Sacred Heart, (High School), Lake Forest, Illinois, in June, 1922; received her degree of Bachelor of Arts from Barat College, Lake Forest, Illinois, June, 1926, and was graduated from the Kenwood Normal Training School, Albany, New York, in February, 1932. Since that time she has been a teacher of Ancient and English History at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Chicago.
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Historians of many decades have presented all the phases of the Civil War so that there is abundant material from which to make selections but the choice is difficult. Much research has been made on the part played by Illinois and her generous response to the War. The function of this work is not a challenge to other religious sects, but it is an attempt to present the contribution made by Catholics of this State in all walks of life, whether the task was on the battlefield or at home, with a group of co-religionists, or in regiments with little or no religious helps. They fought not as a band of Catholics but as Americans, motivated by a true spirit of patriotism to do their duty to God and their country.

It is indeed a pleasure to acknowledge the aid that I have received from many individuals. I am deeply indebted to Father Joseph Roubik, S. J., for his great kindness in directing this work, and to Miss Julia Doyle, who has so generously given me the use of invaluable material in her possession.
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CHAPTER I

What is true of Illinois on the whole in its response to the call at the opening of the Civil War, may be said of the Catholics of the State particularly in their generous, prompt, and whole-hearted devotion to the cause. Illinois had the distinction at all times of furnishing troops in excess of the quota called upon from that State.

In the campaign of 1860 which resulted in the election of Lincoln, Catholics divided according to their individual convictions. In the main, however, they avoided the bitterness of opinion that was current, carefully abstaining from stirring up the passions of others or getting excited themselves. Particularly was this true of their ecclesiastical leaders.

When hostilities broke out, Catholics, like other good citizens, sprang to the defense of their cause, North or South. Catholics of Irish blood and Catholics of German blood were early in the field for the Union, while their co-religionists from the South were soon in the thick of the fight for the Confederacy.

2. Ibid., 169
Nor were supporters wanting in civil life. But it was primarily on the battlefield that notable services were rendered by members of the Catholic Church. Both the Union and Confederate Armies had their "Irish" regiments, and while there is a too common loose use of "Irish" and "Catholic" as synonymous terms, nevertheless, it is undeniable that the majority of the men who made up the so-called "Irish" regiments were Catholic. Among these regiments were many who were unusually conspicuous for gallantry and loyalty on the battlefield; for example, the Twenty-third and Ninetieth Illinois. But it must not be supposed that it was only in "Irish" regiments that Catholics fought. The rosters of many others offer abundant evidence of this, and the same is true of the officers who professed the Catholic faith.

At the extreme southern point of Illinois was the city of Cairo, small in population and commerce, but in a military point of view, the commanding centre and key to the whole western river system. The necessity of safeguarding it was comprehended by the whole country.

On April 15, 1861, after Fort Sumter had been fired upon, President Lincoln in the exercise of his constitutional powers, issued a call for seventy-five thousand troops to maintain the honor, integrity, and existence of the Union and

3. Ibid., 169
4. Ibid., 171
the perpetuity of popular government. No sooner had the border
slave State governors forwarded their disloyal refusals, than
Secretary Cameron (April 19, 1861) by telegraph, requested the
Governor of Illinois to send a brigade of four regiments to
occupy Cairo. There was not yet that total of militia in the
whole state; but within forty-eight hours, an improvised expedi-
tion, numbering five hundred ninety-five men and four six-
pounders, started from Chicago to carry out the Secretary's
orders, arriving at Cairo on the morning of April twenty-third,
where they were speedily reinforced to the required numbers.
On this same day, at the call of Governor Yates, the Legislature
of Illinois met at Springfield and authorized the raising of ten
regiments of infantry, in addition to the six regiments that had
already been sent down to, occupy and protect Cairo. The Legis-
lature also authorized the issuance of two million dollars worth
of bonds, and the establishment of military camps. Nine addition-
al regiments were to be raised, one in each congressional district
and one regiment at large.

Chicago of all the Northwest, had struck first, and the
moral and material influence of that prompt, manly, patriotic
act, reflected superlative credit on the State of Illinois before

6. Ibid., 127
7. Ibid., 128
9. Ibid., 34.
the whole country, for Cairo was known to be a salient reaching out into hostile territory, and its seizure by the enemy would, perhaps, have turned Kentucky and Missouri, and cost untold blood and treasure.

At this critical moment, after having called upon President Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas dictated a message to the people of the United States through the Associated Press, announcing that he had pledged himself, and his future, to the President of the United States in active cooperation towards putting down the Rebellion and saving the country, which message was sent from Maine to California. At the time it was said: "One blast from his (Douglas') bugle, was worth a million men." After his conference with the President, about April 14, 1861, Douglas left Washington for Springfield to address the Legislature of Illinois on April 25th. In that noble and memorable speech, he declared:

"So long as hope of peace remained, I pleaded and implored for compromise. Now that all else has failed, there is but one course left, to rally as one man to the flag of Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison and Franklin. You will be false to and unworthy of your principles if you allow political defeat to convert you to traitors to your native land. The shortest way now to peace is the most stupendous and unanimous preparation for war." 12

11. Dunne, History of Illinois, II, 29
12. Ibid., 30.
From Springfield, Senator Douglas went to Chicago, to speak in the Wigwam where Lincoln was nominated. At a monster meeting at that place he again addressed his fellow citizens. The effect of these speeches was tremendous. The citizens of Illinois, irrespective of past party allegiance, rallied to the support of the Union cause. This was the last public utterance of the great patriot, Stephen A. Douglas. From the Wigwam, he was taken to the Tremont House which he never left alive.

"Mrs. Douglas," Mr. William Onahan tells us, "was a Catholic, and when in the city, a regular attendant at old St. Mary's, where I often saw her. She induced Bishop Duggan to come to the Tremont House in the Senator's last hours, and so it was, he had the grace of dying a Catholic." As this fact has been questioned, Mr. Onahan says he has the most unequivocal testimony of the truth of his assertion, from the physician who was in attendance--Dr. Hay, afterwards for a long time, his own physician, and from another person then at the Tremont House, who later became a Sister of the Good Shepherd.

Bishop Duggan had been chief pastor of the Chicago diocese only three years when the country was plunged into the horrors of the war. Placing himself from the outset on the Union side in the tremendous conflict, he was energetic in

13. Ibid., 33
15. Ibid., 177
securing it loyalty and support from the Catholics under his 16 jurisdiction. He encouraged recruiting, being one of Colonel Mulligan's chief supporters in the latter's efforts to organize the Irish Brigade, despatched chaplains and Sisters of Mercy for the spiritual and physical relief of the soldiers and was actively interested in the various war-relief organizations of the period, notably the Sanitary Relief Commission. Nor were examples of loyal, energetic support of the union wanting in the ranks of Bishop Duggan's clergy.

Noteworthy among these was Dr. John McMullen, President of the University of St. Mary of the Lake. He strongly deprecated the war going on at the time with its terrible accompaniments, but his patriotism never flinched in the hour of danger to the Union cause. He frequently said: "If it were not that I am a priest and a man of peace, I would be down South with my old companions, who are still alive fighting under the Stars and Stripes for the preservation of the Union." Often the news of the death of some brave soldier was sent, for him to break to the widow, the orphan, the afflicted father and mother, which duty he performed with such sympathy, that the grief at the loss of the loved one was soothed, and they were comforted by the

words "that it was sweet to die for one's country, it was the death of the hero and the departed one had done his duty to his God and his country." Large sums of money were transmitted to him by the soldiers after their pay-days, for friends at home, who one and all received the amounts "faithfully from Dr. McMullen," and it was well known at the time that many families in great poverty were helped by him until remittances arrived from the army.

The story of the Irish Brigade, the Twenty-third Illinois Infantry, deserves more than passing notice. In Chicago in pre-war days, were several military bodies of Irish Catholics, the Shields, the Emmetts, the Montgomery Guards among them; and from the personnel of these, James A. Mulligan planned early in the Civil War to recruit a regiment for the defense of the Union. "Rally for the honor of the old Land, Rally for the defense of the New," was the stirring summons to a meeting held in North Market Hall, April 20, 1861. Mulligan addressed this meeting at which in the space of an hour and a half, three hundred twenty-five recruits handed in their names, this number growing to twelve hundred in a week's time. It was the first regiment offered as a body from Illinois and the first Irish

19. Ibid., 148
20. Ibid., 148
21. Ibid., 149
22. Garraghan, Catholic Church in Chicago, 185
23. Ibid., 185
organization in the Northwest. Governor Yates refused it.

Colonel Mulligan, who had been elected Mayor, went on to Washington, tendered the regiment to the President direct, and it was accepted by the Secretary of War, on May 17th and was mustered into service June 15, 1861. Among the field and staff officers, all of Chicago, were Colonel James A. Mulligan, Lieutenant Colonel James Quirk, and Chaplain Father Thaddeus J. Butler.

Many "old and reliable" citizens describe the scenes of enthusiasm that accompanied the departure of the Irish Brigade," with their gallant leader, Colonel Mulligan, at their head. No one may question the enthusiasm, for the regiment was largely made up of well-known young men about town; but their appearance is another matter; and as a picture of the times, the hurry and inadequacy with which everything had to be done, this paragraph is quoted from the Chicago Daily Tribune of the morning following the regiment's departure:

"Although in material the men are a credit to any section, they are in outfit a disgrace to Chicago as a city, Cook as a county, and Illinois as a State." 28

From what can be gathered, the one "uniform" article of apparel was a green shirt; and as this had done duty for a month or more in what was euphoniously known as "Fontenoy

24. James Grant Wilson, Biographical Sketches of Illinois Officers Engaged in the War against the Rebellion of 1861, Chicago, 1862, 25.
25. Ibid., 25
27. Garraghan, Catholic Church in Chicago, 185.
Barracks," an old brewery on Polk Street, the rest can be imagined. As likely as not they left for the field of glory -- which, in a brief month was to be also the field of death for so many, at Lexington, Missouri, --in common box cars; for that, in the crying lack of transportation, is the way many of the early regiments departed for the front.

They proceeded first to St. Louis--there to be armed and equipped at the Arsenal. A short while after, they went into action at Lexington, Missouri. Here the Brigade bore itself with distinguished gallantry, the regiment's green flag being torn on the battlefield into pieces which were divided among the men to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemy. The news of the affair at Lexington was received in Chicago with enthusiasm. I. N. Arnold, one of its most conspicuous citizens and Lincoln's friend and biographer, presented to Congress the following resolutions which were adopted by that body:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, that the thanks of Congress be presented to Colonel James A. Mulligan and the gallant officers and soldiers under his command who bravely stood by him against a greatly superior force, in his heroic defense of Lexington, Missouri.

Resolved, that the Twenty-third Regiment Illinois Volunteers-- the Irish Brigade--

29. Frederick F. Cooke, Bygone Days in Chicago, Chicago, 1910,12
30. Garraghan, Catholic Church in Chicago, 186.
in testimony of their gallantry on this occasion, be authorized to bear upon their colors the word "Lexington." 31

On the 23rd of April (1864), the "Brigade" arrived in Chicago for the purpose of re-enlisting as veterans and marched to Camp Fry. It came with the laurels of Moorefield, Greenland Gap, Gettysburg, Williamsport, Hedgeville, Petersburg Gap, etc., on its banners; and its ranks reduced from 800 to 350 men, told what havoc war had borne upon it.

More than a mere mention is also due to the Ninetieth Illinois, largely indebted for its organization to the efforts of the Very Reverend Dennis Dunne, D. D., who besides his patriotic purpose to serve the country of his adoption—which he deeply and enthusiastically loved—was no doubt greatly influenced by a desire to disprove the charge, sometimes made, that the Irish Catholic element was disloyal. And most nobly did this regiment contradict all such intimations. He was greatly assisted in his efforts by Smith McCleavey, of Chicago, (not Catholic) who became the lieutenant colonel of the regiment, and by Patrick O'Mara, of Lockport, who became the Captain of Company C. These, with others, were indefatigable in their efforts to overcome the obstacles in its completion. These obstacles were neither few nor small, but need not now be recounted.

31. Ibid., 186
32. Thomas M. Eddy, Patriotism of Illinois, I, Chicago, 1865, 572.
33. George H. Woodruff, Fifteen Years Ago, Joliet, 1876, 362.
Governor Yates offered Dr. Dunne a commission as colonel of the regiment; but this honor was of course declined as inconsistent with his holy office. Dr. Dunne retained his interest in the regiment, and all its members, to the day of his death, never ceasing to look after and pray for them.

Irish companies from Springfield and Rockford also tendered their services. The 'Cameron Guards' were recruited at the capital, while the 'Ryan Guards' from Galena and other companies were organized for a Chicago regiment. The 'Shields Guards' was the first Chicago Company that took measures to offer its services to the government; this offer was made on January 14, 1861. General Michael Kelly Lawler and his 18th Infantry were also among the very first to be mustered into the service, and soon the gallant Colonel William F. Lynch and his McClellan Brigade, the 58th Infantry, were marching in timely step.

In her writings of this period, Eliza Allen Starr, gives us a glimpse of the attitude of the people after the outbreak of the war. A letter to her Cousin George relates that:

"Thursday, I went to Mass at a farmhouse four or five miles from here. An Irish family, of course, and its head a leading Irishman in these parts. He is 'for the Union, for the Administration, though the taxes swallow his farm,' my brother says. The neighbor with whom I went,

34. Ibid., 363
36. Ibid., 111
37. Ibid., 111
made a visit, as well as attended to her duty, so I spent a day among my Celtic neighbors, and everything I heard was 'for the government, as it is, and the powers that be.'" 38

No doubt this generous spirit of submission and loyalty could be said of many other Irishmen and many citizens of other nationalities, who, regardless of their own personal views as to whether the war was inevitable or not,—gave their whole-hearted support, once authority had spoken.

Men and women in all walks of life rallied to the cause of the nation, and in all these groups, the Catholics were well represented not only in numbers but also in ability and the true spirit of patriotism which sees God in all authority.

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CHAPTER II

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Chapter II

James A. Mulligan

There is an air of romance and heroism that surrounds the name and career of Colonel Mulligan, which always appeals to the popular heart. As was said of him by the Honorable Edward D. Cooke in the Legislature, when the bill for erecting a monument was before that body, he was a man "spotless in life, distinguished in ability, a lion in courage, a hero in battle, and his memory should not die. His was no claptrap devotion, no simulated patriotism born of sordid motives or personal ambition. It had its promptings and inspiration in a more solid and generous foundation. It was based upon an earnest and intelligent love of his country, a loyal attachment to principle, and a love of liberty."

James A. Mulligan lived as a boy on his step-father's farm near the present village of Gross Point, one mile west of Wilmette, and, after a brief and eventful career, he lies buried in Calvary Cemetery within the limits of the City of Chicago. He was the son of Irish parents, born in Utica, New York, June 25th, 1830. His father having died when he was very young, his mother married Michael Lantry, and the family moved to

Gross Point, where Lantry engaged in farming business, at the same time conducting a teaming business in Chicago. In the latter business he was very prosperous. The boy, James, was provided with a good education by his step-father.

At this time, the University of St. Mary's of the Lake was the only Catholic school of its kind in the city. There was no lack of professors and the attendance of students was, all things considered, satisfactory. They numbered seventy-eight in 1849. Among the students of this early period were many who rose to eminence in after life, notably Archbishop Ireland, Bishop McMullen, James A. Mulligan, Bishop Baltez, and Archbishop Riordan. Both Bishop McMullen and General Mulligan were graduates from the institution in 1852. These two were close friends in College days and remained such in after life.

After his graduation, Mulligan studied law, and later entered upon its practice. He also engaged in editorial work, being editor for a time, of the Western Banner, our first Catholic paper, and won a high reputation as a writer and speaker.

At the breaking out of the Civil War in 1861, Mulligan was one of the earliest to respond to the call for troops. He

2. Ibid., 121
4. Ibid., 140
5. Ibid., 140
7. Ibid., 121
published in the Chicago newspapers, on April 20, 1861, a call for Irishmen to help organize a regiment, and within a week he was at the head of twelve hundred Irishmen eager to fight. This company, called the "Mulligan Guards," was joined by other companies and formed the 23rd regiment of Illinois Volunteers, of which he became colonel. This regiment, popularly known as the "Irish Brigade," was promptly sent to the front, and it got into action at once in Missouri, where General Price was making things difficult for the Union troops.

While the Irish Brigade remained in Jefferson City, a high tribute was paid to it by a correspondent who said:

"Stationed on a commanding breezy hill, with the town and the country at the will of their field guns, and surrounded by broad, smooth parade grounds, are the gleaming tents of the gallant "Irish Brigade" under Colonel Mulligan.

They present a beautiful appearance, with the stars and the green flag waving over the white encampment. It is a regiment of bold, disciplined and willing men, who, upon occasion, will make themselves rivals of the famed 69th. Their officers are gentlemen of large experience, education and courage.

The Brigade seems to be the favorite of the town, and its officers are courted by the first circles. Well they may be, for one rarely meets such gallant gentlemen as Captains Moriarity, Phillips, Quirk, Simison and Pease. Adjutant Cosgrove's breast blazes with medals for all the leading Cremeian engagements. Lieutenant Colonel Quirk is an accomplished tactician.

and Major Moore, his worthy rival in the art. The Colonel, who has gathered about him this capital display of art and arms, is a young, good, daring officer, possessing the respect and confidence of his men in an unusual degree." 9

They assisted in the defense of Lexington, which was besieged with a large force of Confederates under General Sterling Price. Here they formed a part of a Union force of four or five thousand men, but the opposing force was many times greater, and after a noble defense of some ten days, Mulligan was obliged to surrender. In this he was fully justified by the military authorities. Thomas D. McClure, officer in Colonel Mulligan's regiment, tells of heroic resistance finally ended because General Fremont sent no reinforcements and caused Colonel Mulligan's loss of Lexington. "General Fremont," he says, "had 60,000 men in camp at Sedalia, Missouri, but never made a move to help Mulligan with reinforcements at Lexington."

Another asserts:

"After fifty-two hours of gallant defense, Mulligan's position became untenable. The reinforcements he had a right to expect did not come, his water cisterns were exhausted, the stench from dead animals burdened the air about his fort. Someone at length, without authority, displayed a white flag, and Price sent a note which asked, "Colonel, what has caused the cessation of the fight?" Mulligan's Irish wit was equal to the occasion, and he wrote on the back of it,

9. Andreas, History of Chicago, II, 185
10. Currey, Chicago, II, 121
11. Chicago Record Herald, May 15, 1908.
"General, I hardly know, unless you have surrendered."

To the great chagrin of the regiment, the entire regiment were taken prisoners and the fighting days of the men were over. But Colonel Mulligan refused a parole, and presently was exchanged and came home.

This visit, Bishop McMullen beautifully described when he said:

"Returning from the toils of war, he made a short sojourn among us and took the opportunity of attending in a special manner to the sanctification of his soul. Every morning, St. Mary's, the Mother of Churches in our City, received him at the Sacrifice, this old sanctuary of his early piety, where rests all that time has left us of that object of his veneration, Bishop Quarter. And can I forget his parting words which brought to me, and I thought to him, a presentiment of what was to happen: 'Pray for me,' he said when parting, 'for I shall need your prayers soon, and so, farewell, until this cruel war is over.'"

He organized another regiment, and presently was appointed to command a brigade which was promptly christened "The Irish Brigade." It saw gallant service on many an eastern field. Mulligan, always a dashing leader, had been assigned to command a whole division in the campaign against General Early in the Shenandoah Valley.

He was desirous that the sons of what he considered

13. Gilbert and Bryson, Chicago and Its Makers, 118
14. McGovern, Life and Writings of John McMullen, 152.
15. Gilbert and Bryson, Chicago and Its Makers, 119
his nationality, should stand by the country. He wrote and spoke and urged this. Writing from New Creek, West Virginia, December 21, 1863, he said:

"I see by the Times that the war spirit is again filling Chicago with meetings, speeches and subscriptions. You must cooperate with this healthy fever, and aid in pressing forward this redeeming work.

Write me particularly of the feeling among the Irishmen at the present time on the subject of enlistment; and if there be a hesitancy among them, from what it arises.

You must educate the Irish sentiment. You must impress it upon all Irishmen that the future of the two countries, the freedom, and the glory, and the happiness of two countries are involved in this struggle. WORK HARD."

Again still more strongly and eloquently did he push this matter in a letter to a brother officer, written a little later:

"I have noticed with pain Mr. Smith O'Brien's letters regarding this struggle. I am unwilling to believe that they represent Irish sentiment at home and am confident they are working mischief to Irish interests abroad. Ingratitude does not accord with the Irish character and it would be well for Mr. O'Brien to remember that the flag he now charges with covering injustice, cruelty and oppression, a few years ago waved over splendid freight of the Jamestown and the Macedon---offerings of peace and good will from this Union to

his and our starving countrymen. It would be well for Mr. O'Brien, before denouncing the flag and the cause of the American Union-- before endeavoring to divorce the Irish heart from the hearts of this people-- to look calmly about and see where, on all this earth, he will find such another land of shelter, food, protection and appreciation, when again the scourge of God and England, lie heavily on Ireland."

In January and February, 1864, he had heavy skirmishing with the advance of the rebel columns. Early's object being clearly to retire into the valley of Virginia, Colonel Mulligan returned to New Creek. The 23rd took possession of Greenland Gap, the key of the "Northwestern Turnpike."

General Fitzhugh Lee who had seriously threatened the brigade, found it impossible to make headway amid the winter desolations about him, and retired, sending word by a private citizen saying: "Present my compliments to Colonel Mulligan and tell him the severity of the weather will not allow me to call at this time." The Colonel's answer was, "Present my compliments to General Lee and say: 'Do not allow the severity of the weather to detain him for I will be happy to furnish a hot fire on his arrival.'" The invitation was not accepted.

On July 23, 1864, Colonel Mulligan commanded a division of General Crook's army, employed in defending Washington against the attack of the Confederate General Early. General

17. Ibid., 595
18. Ibid., 572
19. Ibid., 572
20. Ibid., 572
Crook learned, when it was too late, that he had subjected Colonel Mulligan's command to almost the entire attack of the 21 Confederate army. Colonel Mulligan was shot from his horse while leading his men near Kernstown, Virginia, in one of the engagements of the Battle of Winchester. A company of the Irish Brigade rallied about his body to rescue it from the enemy. Encircling him and planting their colors near him, they determined to carry him from the field. His wife's brother, the brave young Lieutenant Nugent, was killed in the attempt. The Colonel told them not "to lose the colors of the Irish Brigade." Finding his life ebbing, and seeing the foe nearing, came his last command,—one made immortal,—"Lay me down and save the flag."

While this battle was on, Mrs. Mulligan was at Cumberland, Maryland. When the news reached there that Colonel Mulligan had been seriously wounded, his wife purchased a conveyance and, accompanied by Martin J. Russell, a nephew, drove at all speed through the war-stricken country toward Harper's Ferry, near which, on Pritchard's farm, her husband lay dying. Mile after mile through the Virginia woods all night they sped. When Mrs. Mulligan arrived near the place where her husband had been carried he had already breathed his last. Lieutenant General

21. Chicago Record Herald, May 12, 1908.
22. Eddy, Patriotism of Illinois, I, 578.
23. Ibid., 578.
24. Ibid., 578.
25. Chicago Record Herald, May 12, 1908.
Early had given permission to her and her escort, Lieutenant Russell, to enter the field, and ordered that "all officers render Mrs. Mulligan such assistance as may be in their power, in reaching General Mulligan and ministering to his comfort or in obtaining his body and effect." Procuring a coffin, she brought the remains in the ambulance which had been her conveyance, to Hancock, and there by rail to Cumberland, and thence to Chicago. The sad news of his death and the fate of those who fell on the battlefield with their general, flashed over the wires and brought tears of bereavement to many homes in the West. The remains of the hero were conveyed to a sorrow-stricken people in Chicago.

The funeral was one of the most imposing ever seen on the shores of the lake whose voice he so dearly loved. In the cathedral of St. Mary's, the Solemn Requiem High Mass was sung, and the prayers intoned by Dr. Butler, his friend and former chaplain, after which there was an eloquent funeral discourse by Reverend Doctor McMullen, the General's old classmate at St. Mary's of the Lake. By a singular coincidence, Dr. McMullen, later Bishop McMullen, was in 1864, President of the University, and now to him was accorded the privilege of

27. Ibid., 579
28. McGovern, Life of John McMullen, 149
29. Eddy, Patriotism of Illinois, I, 578
30. Ibid., 149
preaching the funeral sermon of his fellow student who in that year, died so gloriously on the field of battle for the preservation of the Union, a martyr indeed the one, the other—a true martyr in spirit. Both were passionately devoted to their country.

Speaking of the Colonel, he said in part: "Reared amongst the growing prosperity of our late happy country, he grew up her child, reflecting in miniature the perfections of the mother."

Mulligan had always declined promotion, preferring to remain with his regiment as its colonel; but a commission creating him a Brigadier-General was signed by President Lincoln a few days before he fell in battle, though he was not aware of it.

After his death his widow received from President Lincoln, Colonel Mulligan's commission of Brevet Brigadier-General, U.S.V., dated July 24th, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Winchester.

32. Ibid., 140
33. McGovern, Life of John McMullen, 150
35. George Holderith, Col. James A. Mulligan and the Chicago Irish Brigade in the Civil War, Notre Dame, 1932, 68
Major General James Shields... (1810-1879)

Major General James Shields achieved great distinctions during his lifetime both in war and in peace. Born in Dungannon, Ireland, in 1810, he came to the United States in 1829. Without influential friends, aided only by his native ability, his great energy and resolution, he rose to heights reached only by few, and in some instances, by no one else.

As a General of volunteers in the Mexican War, he made a most enviable record, and his name is inseparably connected with the victories at Cerro Gordo, Cherebusco, and Chepultepec. For bravery in these battles he was brevetted Major General. He was United States Senator from Illinois in 1849 and from Minnesota in 1857.

When the Civil War broke out, he came from California and at once tendered his services and received a General's commission from President Lincoln in August, 1861.

36. Encyclopedia Americana, XXIV, Chicago, 1919, 709
37. Illinois Catholic Historical Review, I, Jan., 1919, 301
38. Ibid., 301
39. Encyclopedia Americana, XXIV, 709
40. Ibid., 709
42. Publication No. 9 of the Historical Library of Illinois, Springfield, 1904, 40
The Valley operations in 1862 began by a retrograde movement on the part of the Confederates, for Jackson, on March 12th, retired from Winchester. It is said that William H. Seward, Secretary of State, visited Shields at Winchester, was driven over the field, and after expressing satisfaction with the results of the battle, Seward said: "Now, Shields, you have shown in this war what you are capable of. Burn far and wide around you, Strike terror in the rebels' hearts and you will be the hero of this war as well as of Mexico." To this Shields replied:

"No, I'll not resort to any uncivilized warfare and send my name down to posterity by such crimes as disgraced Cromwell. The curse of Cromwell was the worst curse you could utter in Ireland, and I'll not place my name on a level with his by atrocities which disgrace civilization. When I captured Santa Anna's private carriage, I returned it to him, and other private property. I will not stoop to acts beneath the dignity of a soldier, for promotion, however high." 45

It seems that Seward had no use for General Shields thenceforward and allied himself with Stanton to ruin his military career."

Suddenly on March 23, 1862, a fight at Kernstown in the Shenandoah Valley, gave a serious shock to the victorious Federals, not only there but all over the semicircle of invasion, from

43. Encyclopedia Britannica, XX, New York, 1929, 490
44. William Condon, Life of General Shields, Chicago, 1900, 369
45. Ibid., 369
46. Ibid., 369
West Virginia round by the Potomac and down to Fortress Monroe. The fighting on both sides was magnificent but Jackson was badly beaten. Yet Kernstown itself was a very small affair. Little more than 10,000 men had been in action, 7000 Federals under Shields against half as many Confederates under Stonewall Jackson. The point is that Jackson's attack, though unsuccessful, was very disconcerting elsewhere. From Kernstown the area of disturbance spread like wildfire till the tactical victory of 7000 Federals had spoilt the strategy of thirty times as many. Shields reported:

"I set to work during the night to bring together all the troops within my reach. I sent an express after William's division, requesting the rear brigade, about twenty miles distant, to march all night and join me in the morning. I swept the posts in rear of almost all their guards, hurrying them forward by forced marches, to be with me at daylight." 49

Banks now on his way to Washington, halted in alarm at Harper's Ferry. McClellan, perceiving that Jackson's little force was more than a mere corps of observation, approved Banks and added: "As soon as you are strong enough, push Jackson hard and drive him well beyond Strasburg," that is, west of the Massanuttons, where Fremont could close in and finish him.

On May 24th, the Confederates overtook and struck the

47. William Wood, Captains of the Civil War, New Haven, 1921, 198
48. Ibid., 198
49. Ibid., 198
50. Ibid., 199
receding Union flank near Newtown, inflicting heavy loss and taking many prisoners. Altogether, 3000 of Banks' men fell into Jackson's hands.

This exploit was most opportune for the Southerners. It caused the final ruin of McClellan's hopes. Banks received one more attack from Ewell's division the next day as he passed through Winchester on his way to the shelter of the Potomac. He crossed at Williamsport late the same evening and wrote the President that his losses, though serious enough, might have been far worse "considering the very great disparity of forces engaged, and the long-matured plans of the enemy, which aimed at nothing less than entire capture of our force." Lincoln now rescinded his resolution to send McDowell to McClellan. Instead, he transferred 20,000 of the former's men to Fremont and informed McClellan that he was not, after all, to have the aid of McDowell's 40,000 men.

Fremont was coming from the West; Shields lay in the other direction, but Jackson was not the man to be trapped. He managed to hold Fremont while he marched his main force quickly up the Valley. At Port Republic, he drove Carroll's brigade of Shields' division away and took possession of a bridge which Colonel Carroll had neglected to burn. Fremont in pursuit was

51. Francis T. Miller, ed., History of the Civil War, I, New York, 1911, 310
52. Ibid., 310
53. Ibid., 310
54. Ibid., 310
defeated by Ewell at Cross Keys. Jackson immediately put his force of 12,000 over the Shenandoah at Port Republic and burned the bridge. Safe from the immediate attack by Fremont, he fell upon Tyler and Carroll, who had not more than 3000 men between them. The Federals made a brave stand, but after many hours' fighting were compelled to retreat. Jackson emerged through Swift Run Gap on the 17th of June, to assist in turning the Union right on the Peninsula, and Banks and Shields, baffled and checkmated at every move, finally withdrew from the Valley.

George B. Haycock who bore the orders from General Shields to Colonel Carroll concerning the Battle of Port Republic says in a letter dated February 22, 1894, that:

"These orders were for Colonel Carroll to load up by daybreak his wagons with commissary stores, borrowing from General (Tyler? I am not sure), and then to push forward as a flying column straight to Port Republic, 'burn the bridge,' and hold Jackson in check, and that he, Shields, would be behind him and come to his support and the victory would be won....Concluding with these words, 'Do this and you will win your stars.'" 56

He further affirms:

"These orders were delivered by me to Colonel Carroll, and he moved early the next morning. I accompanied Colonel Carroll one day's march.....If Carroll had burned the bridge, the chances of defeating Jackson would have been greatly in Shield's favor....It may be urged in Carroll's behalf that his subsequent brilliant career proved him at Port Republic
that which sometimes befalls all men in all walks of life—a victim of unhappy circumstances." 57

If Colonel Carroll had burned the bridge, as Colonel Haycock's evidence proves he was ordered to do, the effect on Stonewall Jackson and his army would have been disastrous in the extreme. More proof of this cannot be required than the admission of General Oates, of the Confederate forces, who, on December 6, 1893, as a member of Congress, said:

"Shields had made a circuit of the valley up the river so as to get before us, and he had a long march to make to reach Port Republic. But he had pressed on until he had approached that village, and had he crossed his force into the forks of the two rivers and captured the bridge, there was no escape for Jackson. He would have had an army in his rear and one in his front, and near the crossing of the river, with no road or bridge to escape, and it would probably have proved his destruction." 58

If Shields, in addition to having defeated Stonewall Jackson at Winchester in March, had destroyed or captured his entire army in June, would he not have been one of the Shermans, Sheridans or Meades of that war? Alas, that the blunder of a subordinate should deprive his chief of merited renown, curb the career of a "born soldier" in his prime, and cause his removal from command, while the cause of his downfall (Carroll) is rewarded with increased honors!

One of General Shields' most intimate friends says:

57. Ibid., 264
58. Ibid., 266
59. Ibid., 266
"Lincoln he looked upon as one of his best friends in America, Stanton and Seward as his greatest enemies. Lincoln tried his best to have him made commander-in-chief of the army at the time." The general had private letters from Lincoln to that effect. He was brought to Washington for that purpose. Lee had made a bold advance upon Washington and there was panic in the White House. Lincoln recommended Shields to be sent for as the man most likely to save the cause. He was ordered to go by special train, and though it was one o'clock in the morning when he arrived, he found the Cabinet still sitting. Lincoln met him first and told him he had recommended his appointment as commander-in-chief and the Cabinet was about to sanction it. He was asked into the room where the Cabinet was sitting and asked his views as to the probability of Lee's taking Washington. He told them it was absurd—"It was Lee's first mistake during the war." He pointed out a plan by which he could be cut off and the war could be brought to an end. They saw he was right but as soon as they found there was no danger, they asked him to retire. In less than half an hour, Lincoln came to him and said that the Cabinet had refused to sanction his appointment on the grounds that he would be unpopular with the officers of the regular army and likely to create trouble for the administration.

60. Ibid., 367
61. Ibid., 367
62. Ibid., 367
63. Ibid., 367
Lincoln then advised him to resign, told him Stanton was his bitter opponent and would lose no opportunity to injure him, and the General acted on his advice, and resigned his commission in March, 1863.

Being a Democrat, if he had aired his grievances in the press, he would have been classed as a copperhead or traitor, and he had little reason to expect justice from a court martial when the Senate of the United States denied him his richly earned laurels.

Before Sheridan's famous ride, he was called to Washington to consult Halleck, the "chief of staff," on October 16, in reference to his future movements; for Halleck claimed to control Sheridan and often modified Grant's instructions to his subordinate. Perhaps Halleck's advice was the plan suggested by Shields to the Cabinet the night he was called to Washington!—and the counsel of Seward on the field of Winchester "to burn far and wide," was certainly carried out by Sheridan.

Shields left posterity to vindicate him when party strifes had ceased and political necessities did not demand martial victims, and in this he proved wise.

His quarrel with Lincoln will always remain a deep mystery as far as his side is concerned. When Lincoln's biographers published something in regard to it not very creditable to

64. Ibid., 367
65. Ibid., 261
66. Encyclopedia Britanica, XX, 492
the General, he was asked to reply, but said, "No," Lincoln was dead. He would write nothing that would reflect discredit on a dead man.

Missouri elected him to legislate for them in their state Assembly. He was appointed Railroad Commissioner, and in January, 1879, they elected him one of the United States Senators. When he came to Missouri, the state was disfranchised and ruled by carpet-baggers and militia men. He took up the cause of the natives, who were mostly Southern sympathizers. He made a few very able speeches in which he denounced the administration and this probably was the cause of his pension being withdrawn.

A statue of General Shields stands today in the Hall of Fame, in the capitol at Washington, as one of the two representatives of the State of Illinois.

Where can his record be excelled?

HERO OF TWO WARS.

CONQUEROR OF STONEWALL JACKSON.

UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM THREE STATES.

67. Condon, Life of General Shields, 368
68. Ibid., 368.
Michael K. Lawler... (1814-1882)

Michael K. Lawler was born in County Kildare, Ireland, November 16, 1814, and was brought to the United States in 1816. In 1819 his father began farming in Gallatin County, Illinois. The younger Lawler early evinced a military taste by organizing a military company in 1842, of which he served as Captain three or four years. In 1846 he organized a company for the Mexican War which was attached to the Third Regiment Illinois Volunteers (Colonel Forman's) and, at the end of its term of enlistment, raised a company of cavalry, with which he served to the end of the war—in all, seeing two and one half years service. He then resumed the peaceful life of a farmer; but, on the breaking out of the rebellion, again gave proof of his patriotism by recruiting the Eighteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, the first regiment organized in the 18th Congressional District—of which he was commissioned Colonel, entering into the three years service in May, 1861. His regiment took part in most of the engagements in Western Kentucky and Tennessee, including the capture of Fort Donelson, where it lost heavily, Colonel Lawler himself being severely wounded. Later he was in command for some time at Jackson, Tennessee, and in November, 1862, was commissioned 69 Brigadier-General "for gallant and meritorious service."

He was also an active participant in the operations against Vicksburg, and was thanked on the field by General Grant for his service at the battle of Big Black, pronounced by Charles A. Dana (then Assistant Secretary of War), "one of the most splendid exploits of the war." "When it comes to just plain fighting," said General Grant, "I would rather trust old Mike Lawler than any of them" 

After the fall of Vicksburg, he took part in the siege of Jackson, Mississippi, and in the campaigns on the Teche and Red Rivers, and in Texas; also being in command, for six months, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In March, 1865, he was brevetted Major-General, and mustered out, January 1866, after a service of four years and seven months. He then returned to his Gallatin County farm where he died July 26, 1882.

COLONEL TIMOTHY O'MEARA

The original colonel of the 90th, was Timothy O'Meara, a native of the county of Tipperary, Ireland, who had led a somewhat adventurous life. He came to this country at an early age and when quite young, entered the regular United States Service. He subsequently entered the Mexican service as a Major of Cavalry. At the beginning of the war he entered the Union service as a

70. Ibid., 374
71. Illinois Catholic Historical Review, III, April 1921, 111.
captain of the first Tammany regiment, and was in the ill-starred Balls Bluff expedition under the lamented Baker, at which time his regiment was cut to pieces, and he himself wounded and made prisoner. When released, he was offered the command of the Second Tammany regiment, but he preferred to accept that of the Irish Legion, which had also been tendered him.

Colonel O'Meara was enthusiastically attached to his chosen profession—a most accomplished officer—a man of splendid physique tall and straight as an Inidan, and one of the best horsemen and handsomest officers in the Union army. Add to this the fact that he was brave, patriotic and courteous, and it will seem no wonder that the men of the 90th—officers and privates—loved him, believed in and trusted him implicitly; nor, that they deeply mourned when he fell at Mission Ridge, mortally wounded upon the field.

For its gallantry in its engagements, the 90th received the following acknowledgement from the general in command of the division:

"Col. O'Meara of 90th Regiment:

Dear Sir: -- I desire to commend you and the gallant regiment you command, for your patience and good conduct, and heroism exhibited in the advance upon Jackson. Men that will march in their bare feet and fight as bravely as the officers and men of the 90th have done, cannot

73. Woodruff, *Fifteen Years Ago*, 363.
be too highly praised. Accept my warmest thanks, and tender them to your command.

Yours truly,

W. S. Smith
Brig. Gen., Commander of 1st Division.

74. Ibid., 364
CHAPTER III.............MEN OF ACTION
CHAPTER III

MEN OF ACTION

William Erwin...Martin J. Russell...
David F. Bremner...James M. Doyle...
John H. Lannigan...James Hartnett...
Captain Patrick C. Freeney...John F. Scanlan...Patrick V. Fitzpatrick....
John H. Donlin...Michael J. Dunne...
John McConnell...Thomas Brenan.....
James Quirk...Chaplains: Dr. Louis A. Lambert, Father Thomas F. Kelly....
Dr. Thaddeus J. Butler............. 38 - 65
Lieutenant Colonel William Erwin, was of Irish parentage and came to Illinois when a mere lad with his parents, who settled somewhere in the vicinity of Chicago. When the Mexican war broke out, he enlisted in the First Regiment of Illinois volunteers under Colonel Hardin, and was made Second Lieutenant of his company, and soon after promoted to First Lieutenant. He also held for some time the position of Quartermaster of the regiment. At the battle of Buena Vista, he was in command of his company, and behaved with great bravery, and won distinction. After the close of the war he settled in Ottawa, and went into business in that place, where he also married.

In 1858 he removed with his family to Joliet, and was in the employ of the Alton and St. Louis Railroad at the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion. Colonel Erwin was a Douglas democrat in his political preferences, and during the then recent campaign, had commanded a company of the "Invincibles." But no sooner had it become evident that war was meant by the South, than he commenced to enlist a company under the first call. Having had previous experience in military matters, he knew what to do, and how, and when to do it, which rendered him an invaluable officer at a time when most others were entirely inexperienced.

1. Woodruff, Fifteen Years Ago, 493
2. Ibid., 493
enced. When General Grant visited Cape Girardeau, while the 20th Regiment was stationed there, he had occasion to make a requisition on the Quartermaster of the regiment, which was so methodically and quickly filled, that General Grant expressed his surprise and commendation to Quarter Master Shields. To this Shields replied, that if there was any credit due, it belonged to Colonel Erwin, who had instructed him in his duties. This led to the formation of an acquaintance between General Grant and Colonel Erwin, and their families, and General Grant always regarded Erwin as one of his most reliable officers. He offered to give Erwin the permanent command of the post at Girardeau, but he (Erwin) preferred to follow the fortunes of the regiment.

Colonel Erwin was a man of great refinement and kindness of heart, and did not think it necessary that an officer should be a rough or a tyrant to command obedience. He was in the habit of visiting the hospitals daily, looking after the welfare of the men and always treated them with great kindness and respect, giving furloughs to those who were sick, believing that a short furlough was better than medicine. While at Bird's Point, in the winter of 1861—too many were sick in the hospital, and Erwin being in command of the regiment (during the temporary absence of Colonel Marsh), gave out furloughs so free-

3. Ibid., 493
4. Ibid., 494
ly, as to subject himself to the criticism of his colonel on his return. But when the men all came back well, in time for the advance on Fort Henry, he (Marsh) confessed that Erwin's prescription was the best.

Colonel Erwin was also a fine example to those in his command in the matter of his personal habits. He has left behind him a record as a citizen, a soldier and a man, of which his children and friends may well be proud. As to his tenderness and fidelity as a husband, father and friend, there is no need to speak. His last interview with his family was at Fort Henry the 11th of February, when he saw them for a few moments and for the last time just before the advance to Donaldson. On the field of Donaldson, the day before he was killed, he hastily wrote his last letter to his wife and children.

Next day he was struck by a solid shot while leading his men and was instantly killed. The body was brought home in charge of Captain Bartleson and was received with all due and fitting respect and honor at Joliet, and also at Ottawa, where it was buried.

Colonel Erwin was a splendid horseman, and at a grand review which Grant held of the troops at Bird's Point before the advance on Fort Henry, he was pronounced by many, the finest looking officer on the ground.

5. Ibid., 494
6. Ibid., 494
Martin J. Russell was born in Chicago, December 20th, 1845, of Irish parents. His father was a lake captain, and was lost with a vessel in a storm on Lake Michigan a few weeks before the birth of his son.

Martin received his early education in the public schools, but on the breaking out of the Civil War, went with the regiment of his uncle on his mother's side, Colonel James A. Mulligan, to Missouri, and was with it at the time of the surrender at Lexington. However, not being a member of the regiment, he was not held as a prisoner of war, but was permitted to return home. On the exchange of the regiment and its reorganization at Chicago as the Twenty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the winter of 1861-2, Mr. Russell became second lieutenant, his commission bearing the date November 1st, 1861, although he had not yet reached his sixteenth birthday. The following June the regiment was ordered to Virginia, and in December of that year, on Colonel Mulligan's being assigned to the command of a brigade, Lieutenant Russell received an appointment on his staff as assistant adjutant general, serving with him through the various campaigns in Virginia. Colonel Mulligan was killed at

8. Ibid., 757.
the battle of Winchester, and the regiment was so greatly reduced that it was ordered consolidated into five companies, and, consequently, on September 14th, 1864, Lieutenant Russell was mustered out of the service, and returned home.

His later years were spent in newspaper work with the "Chicago Evening Post," the "Chicago Times," the "Telegram," the "Chicago Herald," and the "Chicago Chronicle." And aside from his journalistic career, he held successively, several responsible positions for the city.

David F. Bremner was born at Ottawa, Canada, in 1839, and came to Chicago with his parents in 1850. He received his education at St. Mary's of the Lake in Chicago. At the outbreak of the war, he entered the military service as First Lieutenant of Company E, 19th Illinois Infantry.

The 19th Illinois did excellent duty in many battles but it was at Missionary Ridge that it distinguished itself. It approached the battle field of Chickamauga where, on the 19th and 20th of September, 1863, it was in the thickest of the fight, suffering terribly and writing its record, as at Stone River, in blood. The regiment retired with the army to Chattanooga, where

9. Ibid., 757
10. Ibid., 757
11. Ibid., 758
12. Eddy, Patriotism of Illinois, II, 597
it shared short rations and severe duty until November 24th, when it bore an active part in the battle of Missionary Ridge.

They got an early start, with bright weather to encourage them, and advanced rapidly to the main ridge, gaining a position at length that meant victory. When the troops reached the rebel line, captured it and then found themselves under the heavy fire from the enemy's lines on the heights above, without orders and even against orders, "the soldiers of the Army of the Cumberland pressed up the face of the ridge under the deadly musketry fire that greeted them, with cannon in front, to the right and the left, raging with converging fire."

Company E (the Highland Guard) was the Color Company of the 19th Illinois, and David F. Bremner was in command of it, being the Captain at Missionary Ridge. In this advance three Color bearers were cut down by the bullets of the enemy. The Regiment had not proceeded far on that memorable advance when Corporal William Patterson, the Color bearer was killed. Patrick McDonald of Company K then took the Flag, until he was severely wounded. Sergeant George Steel, carrying the State Flag was also wounded badly, when John Brosnahan, taking it from the wounded Sergeant, carried it to the crest.

13. Ibid., 597
15. Henry M. Cist, The Army in the Civil War, VII, N.Y., 1885, 261
16. Ibid., 261
17. Haynie, 19th Illinois, 279
When McDonald fell, Captain Bremner grasped the colors and brought it up to and over the enemy's works amid a shower of bullets, fourteen of which went through his overcoat, while another shot the staff in twain in his hands and he also received a slight wound in the face. Captain Bremner, in his description of the incident, says:

"We could not spare a rifle in that battle. If I ordered a man from the ranks to take up the Flag it would silence his musket; and as I carried only a sword, I took it up and bore it on. As my head was over the last entrenchment at the top of the ridge, the rebel officer in command pointed at me with his sword and shouted, 'Shoot that man!' But the guns of my own company were close at hand and the rebels had no time to aim!"  

Just as the summit was attained, a cloud settled down on the mountain, and a heavy bank of fog obscured its whole face.

The claim of being the first to mount the ridge has been made by other brigades, but as these are based on letters from subordinate officers written from fifteen to twenty years after the occurrence, they do not bear as much weight as the following reports which were written not many days after the event, by officers in command:


18. Ibid., 279
19. Ibid., 302
20. Ibid., 279
21. Ibid., 278
...After resting a moment or two, we advanced up the hill, dislodging the enemy after a most desperate resistance, and took position on the crest at about 4:30 P.M., our regimental color being the first on the top of the ridge in this part of the line...

...I would make special mention of Major James V. Guthrie, who was conspicuous in cheering the men in the charge up the hill; Captain David F. Bremner, of Company E, who planted our colors with his own hands in the rebel works on the crest of the hill.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

Alexander W. Raffen
Lieutenant Col. Commanding Regiment

M. F. Moore, Col., Commanding Left Wing,
2d Brig., 1st Div., 14th A. C."

(2) "Report of Col. Marshall F. Moore,
69th Ohio Infantry, commanding Demi-Brigade
69th Regt. Ohio Vol. Infantry,
Headquarters Chattanooga, Tenn.,
Dec. 5, 1863

Without wishing to disparage any other troops where all behaved so nobly, it is due to the regiments of my command to say that they were, if not the first, at least among the first to plant their colors on the crest, though the color bearers of both the 69th Ohio and the 19th Illinois fell mortally wounded before they had enjoyed what they so richly deserved--the satisfaction of seeing the standards they had so honorably borne waving over Mission Ridge. The colors of the 69th Ohio were taken up and borne forward after the fall of the color sergeant, by Lieutenant Frederick E. Wilson, of Company H, and those of the 19th Illinois, by Captain David F. Bremner, of Company E, of the re-

spective regiments. Taking into consideration the fact that when they went into this action, both officers and men were worn out by want of rest, and fatigue and exposure, their conduct in this memorable charge is beyond all praise.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. F. Moore
Col. 69th Ohio Vol. Infantry, Commanding Demi-Brigade

Capt. James W. Forwyth
Asst. Adj. General

For his brave conduct in this great battle alone, Captain Bremner deserves the honorable distinction to which these reports certify, but there were other days and months of hard duty, for he gave three years in active service. At the end of this period he resigned his commission and returned to Chicago.

CAPTAIN JAMES M. DOYLE (1839-1909)

In Clonegal, Ireland, during the rebellion of 1798, James Byrne, a young man of twenty-one, died for his country and his religion, while his courageous mother was present at his execution by the English. The sister of this young man, Eliza Byrne, married Austin McDonnell. Austin was the name-sake of his uncle, the Reverend Austin McDonnell, who had been educated at a seminary in France for service in Ireland, where he died in 1788, the parish priest of Hackettstown and Clonmore, "a good

24. Ibid., 483
exemplary coadjutor and pastor," as his tombstone records it. These two far-off uncles in their lives characterized the two outstanding qualities of their grand-nephew, James M. Doyle, the love of country and the love of God.

James, born in 1839, was the oldest son of Ellen McDonnell and Peter Doyle, who in 1848 came to Chicago from their home in Clonegal, a spot not far from the famed meeting of the waters in the Vale of Avoca. James' oldest sister was one of Chicago's early school teachers, losing her position, however, because of her use of the Douay version of the Bible in the compulsory Bible reading in the public schools of those days. His uncle, Charles McDonnell, was the first Catholic bookseller of Chicago.

James Doyle, with family traditions of learning and piety, was educated first in Ireland, then at the Scammon School in Chicago, and later he attended the high school department of the University of St. Mary's of the Lake. At the time of the death of his father, Peter Doyle, James was only thirteen, so the lad went to work very young. At first he worked in a grocery store, and later he went into the grocery business for himself.

When the war broke out, James closed his business. On August 31, 1862, he enlisted for a period of three years in the

26. Ibid., 1
27. Ibid., 1
28. Ibid., 2
29. Ibid., 2
23rd Regiment of Illinois Volunteers--known as Mulligan's Brigade--where he served as a private in Company B, afterwards described as Company A. By order of Colonel James A. Mulligan, James Doyle was appointed clerk in the Quartermaster's Department on June 9th, 1864, at New Creek, Virginia.

January 22, 1865, at Deep Bottom, Virginia, he was made Second Lieutenant of Company A, and March 25, 1865, he was again promoted, at Parkersville, Virginia--this time to the captaincy. On July 2nd of the same year, he received his discharge, after seeing service in many engagements in Virginia and Maryland, and finally being present at the surrender of Lee.

Among the incidents of his war days, two are of special interest. As he was serving close to Colonel Mulligan during the battle of Kernstown, Virginia, in which the latter fell, he was one of those who helped to carry the wounded Colonel off the field, and to whom were addressed the brave words which have passed into history: "lay me down, boys, and save the flag!"

Likewise, while guarding a train, he saw Sheridan pass on his famous ride!

In his journal which was kept faithfully these days, he writes under date of October 18, 1864:

31. Ibid., 2
32. Ibid., 2
33. Ibid., 2
34. Ibid., 2
35. Ibid., 3
"Tuesday, Oct. 18th, 1864

Awaked this A.M. at 4 o' clock by reveille and found all of the Batt present were ordered to escort train to the front at 6 A.M. and moved out accordingly. Genl. Sheridan & escort passed us two miles out from Martinsburg on his way to the front. Got to Winchester at 7 P.M. and camped for the night.

Wednesday, Oct. 19th, 1864

Awaked this A.M. before daylight by heavy firing in the direction of Cedar Creek. At 7 A.M. train started out escorted by 2nd Brigade. Shortly after Genl. Sheridan and escort passed to the front and ordered train back to camp. There is evidently a heavy battle in progress. Stragglers are beginning to arrive now at 10 A.M. and report a surprise to our Division before daybreak & capture of our Artillery and the Arms stacked in rear of breastworks and a great number of prisoners. All the trains in this vicinity in readiness to move. Later reports show that after Crooks Corps were driven the 6th and 19th corps extended their lines and after a hard fought battle regained in the P.M. all the ground lost in the A.M. recapturing our Artillery & capturing many prisoners. Some reports setting the number as high as 7000.

Later & fuller reports show that Sheridan captured today over 3000 prisoners and 57 pieces of Arty. 297 wagons & a large train of ambulances in this days engagement.

Bully for Sheridan
Hurrah for Sheridan
God bless Sheridan

And may it be ever thus with him"

His bravery during the years of his service was given signal notice when James Doyle was made a Major by Brevet. This honor was given "for gallant and meritorious services during the campaign of 1864 in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, and in the battles before Petersburg, Virginia, in 1865."

Returning home after the war, James Doyle was for a time in the produce business and later held various city positions successively, until he retired shortly before his death in 1909.

His deep concern for Catholic affairs made the Church of Chicago his debtor at the time of the Chicago fire. He and his life-long friend, Thomas F. Judge, foreseeing that the church records of St. Mary's Cathedral were in danger of being lost, took possession of the records and put them in safe-keeping, probably at St. Patrick's Church, where both young men were at that time parishoners. In this way the records from the early days of Father St. Cyr and his first baptisms and marriages are preserved through the prudent foresight of these two.

Likewise, because of their self-effacement, their part in the rescue was known only to their families and intimates. It was some years after the death of both men that Joseph F. Thompson wrote:

37. The document which raised him to this rank was signed in September, 1865, by President Andrew Johnson and the Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, the office to rank from the 13th of March, 1865. (Document in possession of Julia Doyle and also recorded in Vol. 5, p. 73, Adj. Gen. Office, Sept. 20, 1865)

38. Julia Doyle, Biography of James Doyle, 4
"Strange as it may seem, Father St. Cyr's parish record is still accessible, in spite of the fact that every vestige of church property connected with the parish which Father St. Cyr established (St. Mary's) was destroyed in the great Chicago Fire of 1871."

An intensely affectionate man, he cared little for amusements outside of his family, and he was never happier than when providing happiness at home. This same intensity of devotion was evidenced in two other ways—in his passionate love for his country, for which he had been willing to lay down his life, and in his devotion to his religion. In one letter written to his sister during the war, he speaks of going into battle the next day. But he assured her he was not afraid, for he knew that since it would be the feast of St. Vincent de Paul his good comrades at home would be praying for him.

On the Discharge Paper of Captain James M. Doyle, Co.A, 23rd Regiment, from service, July 24, 1865, at Richmond, Virginia, signed by Lieutenant Colonel S. A. Simison, he himself has written the following:

"Participated in the following engagements, viz:

South Fork of Potomac Nov. 1862
Phillippi, Va. April 24, 1863
Roulesburg, Va. April 28, 1863

40. Doyle, Biography of James Doyle, 4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grafton, Va</td>
<td>April 30, 1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hedgesville, Va</td>
<td>July 1863</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherry Run, Va</td>
<td>July 1863</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petersburg Gap</td>
<td>Oct 1863</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leetown, Va</td>
<td>July 3rd 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland Heights</td>
<td>July 5th, 6th, &amp; 7th 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snickers Gap, Va</td>
<td>July 17th to 20th 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winchester, Va</td>
<td>July 23 &amp; 24th 1864</td>
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<td>Martinsburg, Va</td>
<td>July 25th 1864</td>
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<td>Williamsport, Md</td>
<td>July 26th 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar Creek, Va</td>
<td>August 12th to 16th 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winchester, Va</td>
<td>August 17th 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlestown, Va</td>
<td>August 21st 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halltown, Va</td>
<td>August 23rd &amp; 25th 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlestown, Va</td>
<td>August 31st 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Berryville, Va</td>
<td>Sept 3rd 1864</td>
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<td>Winchester, Va</td>
<td>Sept 19th 1864</td>
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<td>Fishers Hill, Va</td>
<td>Sept 23rd 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harrisonburg, Va</td>
<td>Oct 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishers Hill, Va</td>
<td>Oct 9th 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Creek, Va</td>
<td>Oct 13th 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middletown, Va</td>
<td>Oct 19th 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatcher's Run, Va</td>
<td>March 31st to April 1st 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Gregg in front of Petersburg, Va</td>
<td>Apr 2, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelia Court House, Va</td>
<td>April 5, 1865</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Farmsville Va  
April 7th 1865

Surrender of Lee  
April 9, 1865
at Appomatox
Court House

Another very interesting account Captain Doyle has left, is here given just as it was written, with all the corrections and changes which he must have made as he went over and certified his facts. On the back of it is written:

Record
"Report of the engagements etc in which the 23rd Ill. Vol. Infty was engaged from June 1, 1864 when it ret'd from Veteran furlough until the Surrender of Lee."  

" Jany-1864---------Medley
In Jany } 1864 about 300 reinlisted as Vets at Greenland Gap
& Febry }
May 1864, on Veteran furlough
July 3rd, 64 Leetown advance of Early

" 4,5,&6 & 7,  64 Maryland Heights  
" 17, to 20,  64 Snickers Gap  
" 23 & 24,  64 Kernstown, Va  
" 25,  64 Martinsburg  
" 26,  64 Wmsport

was engaged in Shenandoah Valley under Gen. Sheridan After from early in August about-Augt-12,---64- and participated in following engagements.

41. Discharge Paper in possession of Julia Doyle.
42. From the Civil War notes of James Doyle, MSS. in possession of Julia Doyle. (Words deleted show exactly how Mr. Doyle thought over and corrected these notes.)
Cedar Creek Aug. 12 to 16th
Winchester 17
At Charlestown Aug 21 to 30th
25th & 31
Hall Town " 23 to
Berryville Sept 3
Opequan Creek " 19
Fishers Hill Sept 22d, 64
Harrisonburg Oct_ 64
Fishers Hill " 9th 64
Cedar Creek Oct 13th 64
do " 19th 64

Dec. 29th
In-Jany--6 64
joined Army of James in front of Richmond January 65, to Mch 25 in defences of Bermuda 100.

In March 65, Lt. Col. Simison ae returned to Illinois to have Regt. filled leaving Capt. P.M.
& Aprl. 1st Ryan in Command. On March 29, 30, & 31st Mch at Hatcher's Run, April 2d assault & capture of
Fort Gregg in front of Petersburg April 6 or 7, High Bridge
Apl 9th surrender of Lee
About Apl. 20 at Manchester five."

43. Ibid., MSS
Evidently the first of these two lists is the corrected list of the second, as its dates are more complete. However, the second gives a few more notes of interesting places and people, and both give additional detailed information of the engagements of the famed Irish Brigade not found elsewhere.

Major John H. Lannigan

Another soldier worthy of note is John H. Lannigan, whose achievements are summed up in the following resolutions of respect to his memory adopted by the City Council of Chicago by a rising vote, September 12, 1881:

"RESOLVED: That as members of the City Council of the city of Chicago, we desire to place upon the records of this Council a tribute of respect to the memory of Major John H. Lannigan. Major Lannigan was born in 1844 at Detroit, Mich., came to Chicago in 1861, enlisted as Second Lieutenant in the Twenty-third Illinois Infantry, Col. Mulligan commanding, and served with bravery, fidelity and distinction in that regiment till it was mustered out at the close of the war, being in the meantime promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant. He was at the battle of Winchester when Col. Mulligan was killed. He returned to Chicago after the war, and in 1874 entered the employ of the city, being connected with the Treasurer's office from that time to the day of his death. For the past two years he has held the position of Assistant inspector General of the state militia, and was a member of the Second 44 Regiment, holding the position of Major..."
Lannigan is mentioned by Martin J. Russell as one of those who helped carry off the field, the wounded Colonel Mulligan.

* * *

Although many others are deserving of greater note, it will only be possible to give them mention here; and these are but few of that great number of the Catholic heroes of Illinois in the Civil War:

- James Hartnett 90th Illinois
- Captain Patrick C. Feeney 90th Illinois
- John F. Scanlan 67th Illinois
- Patrick V. Fitzpatrick 9th Illinois Cavalry
- John H. Donlin Ellsworth Zouaves 2nd Regiment, 124th Ill. 23rd Illinois
- Michael J. Dunne 69th Illinois 141st Illinois 153rd Illinois
- John McConnell 3rd Illinois Cavalry 5th Illinois Cavalry
- Thomas Brenan 23rd Illinois

One phase of military life was apparently more highly appreciated in the day of the Civil War than is commonly supposed—the religious. With men engaged in the serious business of war—when the hereafter ever looms near and human life is counted as of little value—it is but natural that thoughts will turn toward God. And in camps that offered few diversions for idle hours, the war-time chaplain claimed much of the soldier's attention. The result was a willing acceptance of the gospel not often so common in men engrossed in less hazardous pursuits.

By this it is not meant that soldiers were saints in those days, but a portrayal of army life of that time must give much space to religious. On those occasions when the fortune of war permitted leisure, the camp service made days notable.

When the Civil War began and the consequent enrollment in the Union Army of thousands of Catholic soldiers, there came a call from the War Department for chaplains. With the 18th Illinois marched the Reverend Doctor Louis A. Lambert, of Scottsville, New York, afterwards editor of the Freeman's Journal. Father Thomas F. Kelly, founder of the parish of St. James, became associated as chaplain with the 90th Illinois

47. *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, XVI, June 1929, 230.
Volunteers, better known as the "Irish Legion." The following tribute to the memory of this faithful chaplain, from a Will County Officer tells the appreciation his men had of him:

"Among those chaplains who have rendered efficient service to their country, the name of this zealous and patriotic priest will long live in the memory and affections of all who knew him. That he entered the service of the Republic from very decided impressions of Christian duty, and from a full conviction that he was specially called into this field of service, we think he has given abundant proof. The fidelity with which he discharged the various functions of an army chaplain, make it evident that he was the right man in the right place. That such a priest should be both popular and useful, is no matter of surprise. This upright and well-informed chaplain was highly esteemed by the officers and men of the 90th. His presence was hailed everywhere with warm expressions of delight. In the hospital he may be seen watching the sick, administering to their wants and writing messages of love for the loved and absent ones at home. Then watch him as he visits from tent to tent, producing by his presence a suppression of impiety, and not infrequently eliciting the willing tear that tells of a heart subdued by Christian hope. Behold him bending over the prostrate form of the dying soldier on the field of battle after the smoke has cleared away, and soothing his last moments with the consolations of religion, and preparing his soul for eternity. Such were some of the many duties often performed that endeared Father Tom Kelly to the boys of the 90th. Father Kelly was born in Ireland, and was a splendid looking man. He was of large size and handsome figure. His fine open countenance always wore the glow of health, until stricken with the disease that caused his death so soon, and in the vigor of manhood. Father Kelly rendered great service in raising the 90th, and took a deep interest in the welfare of the regiment during his lifetime. He always felt proud of his fighting boys, and

50. Garraghan, Catholic Church in Chicago, 185.
never tired of giving them good advice, as well as moral and religious instructions, that they might be fitted for life hereafter, and prepared to brave danger without fear, when the trial came that would cause the Christian soldier to do battle to save the life of our glorious Republic. He never left the legion until stricken with disease contracted in the line of his duty near Yazoo River, Mississippi, and then only, when obliged. After many days journey he reached Chicago, his former home, where he lingered a few weeks and died. He left a pleasant charge at Bridgeport, Cook County, to enter the service of his adopted country, conscientious, full of Christian chivalry, he has fallen! We are sure he died well. He died in communion with his God. He died to save his country."

Among the first also to take his place in the ranks, was Reverend Thaddeus J. Butler, Professor of dogmatic theology and ecclesiastical history at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in 1861, who became chaplain of Mulligan's famous Irish Brigade. His fields of work seem to have had no bounds, for we read of him in the battle field, in Camp Douglas, and then again in the pulpit, using all his gifts and energy to express his patriotism. Perhaps the most graphic pictures of the Bishop (McGovern) and priests of Chicago at this time, are given in the writings of Eliza Allen Starr, a distinguished convert to the Catholic Church and a resident of Chicago as early as 1856. Writing to her cousin March 3, 1862, she says:

"...On Sunday evening next, he (Bishop McGovern), will deliver a lecture for

51. Woodruff, Fifteen Years Ago, 364
the relief of our sick prisoners (in Camp Douglas) who are in need of many comforts notwithstanding the generosity of the government and individuals. Great numbers of them are seriously ill. I have not been down to see them, as I can do so little for them and Dr. Butler has expressed himself as quite opposed to visits of curiosity...The prisoners fare the same as our own soldiers. Colonel Mulligan has the camp 52 now, and everything is going on splendidly."

Another letter to the same, dated April 26, 1863, tells us of the Doctor's war spirit at home:

"Dr. Butler is at home for good; his parish (Immaculate Conception), had become clamorous, and besides, the Bishop thought he had been in the army as long as was just to himself and the diocese, and the poor Doctor too. You know he is young, and the tax was tremendous. If you have seen the Boston Pilot, you have seen how sincere was the sorrow of the regiment. Their enthusiasm for him was most touching, and the Doctor reciprocates it. If you wish to hear good patriotic talking, come to Chicago and hear the Doctor and he is not the only one--Dr. McMullen and Dr. Dunne are as sound as himself, only Dr. Butler's enthusiastic heart and demonstrative manner make a certain wonderful impression. The doctor is really a Democrat, but not a Copperhead and all the shades of copper are lashed out of his presence. His patriotism is guarded like his faith, at all points. It would refresh you to hear his grand voice on the side of government, justice and the hosts of Michael against all rebels. He is in fine spirits, and is possibly more splendid than ever. The good heart and the wise head and the, I may say, wise innocence of the holy priest is, if possible, more touching as he grows in years and grace... I think on politics, Dr. McMullen and yourself would agree better than any. Dr. Butler knows no more politics than I do; his patriotism is

from a deeper source, and therefore leads, but mere politics is an unknown science to the Doctor. Dr. McMullen, on the contrary, is an American and naturally bright in politics, and he has a grand, impassioned manner; his heart is like a still fire, you do not know its heat until you stir it. I shall always look upon him as a friend above price." 53

Dr. Butler, however, did not come home to rest for:

"The Bishop and Dr. McMullen put the red-headed Dr. Butler into the college, the best and happiest of all arrangements. He hears the classes in dogmatic and moral theology, and history, and vociferates at the top of his voice, as if charging at the head of his column; the two D. D.'s enjoy it wonderfully." 54

His power of preaching seems to have been most forceful and his Sunday sermons, something to which all looked forward.

September 4, 1863, Miss Starr writes again:

"...The Doctor gave an instruction to his sodality on the draft and riots. There will probably not be much rioting in 'his parish.' You have no idea how splendid the Doctor is, how much of a man, for he has by his gay disposition won for himself the name of the 'wild Irish boy,' but the war and years have made him a man, and his every Sunday sermons are wonderful for their energy, simplicity, and apostolic spirit." 55

And on the same day she writes more about his enthusiasm:

"...On the same day I heard an instruction from Dr. B(utler), whose high Mass was earlier, and a more enthusiastic sermon I

53. Ibid., 175
54. Ibid., 176
55. Ibid., 194
am certain was not preached that day. It was grand in its theology, and he brought forward as his examples, saints, popes, and bishops. He did not content himself with a negative loyalty, but it was absolute and positive, an actual support of the present administration and prayers for our chief President—ardent and persevering prayer. It was one of those grand bursts of a sanctified enthusiasm to which my good confessor is somewhat liable. From the very first year of the Rebellion the Doctor has gone in the face of national feeling and political leanings, actuated by a simple, theological, and humanly logical (would it be correct to say—homological) persuasion of the wrong of secession, and the heinousness of rebellion. He has come out of it thus far true to the training of the Propagandist, which always declares equality without distinction of race or color, and a horror of slavery. He now says, 'Call me an Abolitionist, if you please, but I hold fast to my colors.' As far as my observation goes, the practice at the Propaganda is all in favor of Northern ideas. I sometimes find even the Propagandists with an antipathy to Yankees as a race, though I have never seen it towards individuals, but the good Doctor goes in for the Yankees now."

"I shall enclose to you one of the Bishop's circulars. His council, of which Dr. Dunne, Dr. McMullen, and Dr. Butler are prominent members, were strongly in favor of a very marked attention to the wishes of the President. Dr. Butler went so far as to tell his people, 'The President had a right to command them to aid him by their devotion.'"

Dr. Butler remained pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church for seven years, from 1861 to 1868.

To Eliza Allen Starr, Dr. McMullen, pastor of Holy Name Church, wrote October 14, 1871, from St. Patrick's rectory,

56. Ibid., 191
where he had taken refuge after his own church had been laid in ashes:

"I have been very busy in procuring and distributing supplies...This evening I leave with Father P. W. Riordan for New York; we will collect through New York and New England; Dr. Butler with another takes Maryland and Pennsylvania." 58

Dr. Butler seems to have been ever at the beck and call of his superiors in times of peace or trouble and always fulfilled their requests with an untiring energy. The next record of this great life is in 1897, when he was named Bishop of the Diocese of Concordia, Kansas. He went to Rome for his consecration which was to have been performed by Cardinal Satolli but he died July 17th, the very eve of the day appointed for the ceremony.

59. *Catholic Encyclopedia*, IV, 207
CHAPTER IV..............WOMEN IN THE WAR.
CHAPTER IV

WOMEN IN THE WAR

Women at home......Sisters on the battlefield....In hospitals..In Prisons....Gratitude of Soldiers. Attitudes of Officers toward the Sisters. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 66 - 82
WOMEN IN THE WAR

Back of the serried battalions that marched forth from Illinois, there rallied legions of loyal women to minister to the physical and moral well-being of the fighters in the field. Nimble hands were set to work manufacturing the flags and uniforms with which the volunteer companies were outfitted. Who could have performed these duties more lovingly than the mothers, wives and sisters of those volunteers who are listed in these pages.

It is impossible to narrate the services of the women of Illinois during the war, for they were in great part so unostentatious and silent that they were not made matter of record. In the beginning of the war, they fostered the spirit of patriotism; their husbands, brothers and betrothed were not only given up but were encouraged to enter the service of their country. Of course such sacrifices were not made without effort and great sorrow. They kept public opinion rightly "influenced from social life." How much the life of home and the animus of what we call "society" influence great political movements, is only appreciated by the close observer.

2. Eddy, Patriotism of Illinois, II, 538
3. Ibid., 538
Our women took a religious view of the war from the outset and relied much upon religious influences. Convictions of religious duty led them to the sacrifices which they cheerfully endured. It led them to the hospitals where the wounded were in need of their care, and with a tenderness which no man can imitate, they discharged the laborious duties of hospital nurses—not as hirelings but unpaid. Kneeling beside many a cot they whispered in the ears of the dying the "words of life," sang them the holy songs of home, and committed the parting spirit to the Redeemer's tender care. Their names are unwritten in our histories but their Witness is above, their record on high.

At the time Mulligan refused parole after the battle of Lexington, we read that Mrs. Mulligan who had been an eyewitness of the siege from the town, accompanied her husband. She journeyed in General Price's carriage and Mrs. Mulligan says "received every possible courtesy from the General and his staff. They returned to St. Louis under escort of forty men and a flag of truce."

Widowed at the age of twenty-three, Mrs. Mulligan was always looked upon, through her forty-four years of widowhood, as an outstanding figure in Chicago, not only because of her

4. Ibid., 540
5. Ibid., 540
esteemed husband, but also because of her devotedness to him on
the battlefield, at the time of his death, and because of the
reverence she inculcated in her children for his memory. She
was not only a model wife and mother, but also seemed to have
the additional gift of having been an admirable wife of a
soldier, which calls for a very special strength and courage.

Because of his high office, Mrs. Mulligan's sorrow
has been noted by many --and justly so-- but we know that there
were countless other wives, whose names and deeds are not record-
ed, and who performed as great, if not even greater things for
God and their country.

There was no Red Cross work in our Civil War. Hospital
and relief work then was done by what was known as the Sanitary
Commission. However, mention of the Sanitary Commission as the
relief organization of the Civil War does not derogate from
the credit due the heroic work of the Catholic Sisterhoods during
the same era of suffering.

Mother Mary Francis Monholland, and her comrades of
Mercy Hospital, Chicago, many of whom were veterans of the
Chicago scourge (Asiatic cholera of 1854), repeated the self-
same service in the camp, field, floating hospitals of the Civil
War, the prisons and quarantined pest-hospitals. Above and below

7. Chicago Record Herald, May 11, 1908
the Mason and Dixon line, Mother Francis was one of the hundreds of heroic Sister-nurses of many religious orders, who did nobly what their hands found to do, and no matter how lowly or how revolting to women's gentle nature, one only purpose was the keynote to their work.

At the beginning of the War, Colonel Mulligan requested the Sisters to act in the capacity of nurses. Mother Mary Francis Monholland, with Mother Mary Borromeo Johnson, accompanied Sisters Alphonsus Butler, Louise Perry, Bernard Walsh, Patricia Reardon, Raymond Garrity, and Elzear McGratton, and several nurses to the South.

Lieutenant Shanley was appointed by Colonel Mulligan to escort the Sisters to their destination. At St. Louis they embarked on a troop ship named the "Sioux City" bound for Lexington. As the transport steamed around a bend, a barrage of rifle shot was laid upon it. The Confederates, ambushed on either bank, poured a rain of lead upon the reinforcements. The pilot house was riddled; the hull was badly damaged, but in justice to the Southern soldiery, it must be stated that they spoke truly when they disclaimed all knowledge of there being women on board--above all any Sister war nurses. That was war, and the

9. Ellen Ryan Jolly, Nuns of the Battlefield, Rhode Island, 1927
11. Jolly, Nuns of the Battlefield, 231
12. Ibid., 231
Sisters realized their duty, and never faltered. They moved about the ship, stopping here and there to bandage and to heal. The transport could not go on; it was forced to return to Jefferson City where the Sisters of Mercy, upon the invitation of officials of the Sanitary Commission, assumed the care of a vast government Military Hospital. At the surrender of Colonel Mulligan to General Price in September 1861, the losses on each side were very heavy with the result that the Jefferson City Hospital was soon filled with wounded men--staunch Unionists and chivalrous Southerners--who thanked God that the Sisters were there to care for them. At length a Seminary was used for the overflow, and two more Sisters and nurses were sent from Chicago to aid in the laborious work.

The Hospital was no pretty sight--dingy and unsanitary, hundreds of men desperately sick, strewn on make-shift pallets round about, many of them wrapped in blankets, were lying on the floor, seriously wounded. A sorry plight, and, for many of them beyond repair. But the Chicago nuns apprized the value of lives that were dwindling away, breathed a prayer and started in at their task, and it was with heavenly tenderness that they bandaged, they washed, they encouraged, groaning men in deadly despair, and tried to fulfill all their needs. They wrote

13. Ibid., 231
14. Ibid., 232
15. Sisters of Mercy, ed., Reminiscences of Seventy Years, Chicago, 1916, 69
letters "to the folks;" they saved lives where no other could.

General Fremont visited the Jefferson, and ordered liberal supplies for the sick. This great soldier always remembered with the kindliest feelings the Sisters of Mercy whom he first met in his Military Hospital, and they also remembered him.

The soldiers, too, treasured the memory of their Sister nurses, the effect of whose entrance into that dismal hospital was magical. It was like a long delayed breath of Spring, -- like a burst of sunlight. To the patients, the soft footfall of Mother Francis was a benediction, while the results of her charity to the sick and the neglected men, seemed a miracle. As she approached each cot, the face of the occupant brightened while every one of his neighbors in suffering, who was able, struggled to raise himself from bed or chair as in homage to an Angel in human form. Her presence in their midst brought courage-- and the soft and sweet and tender voice of this refined woman, soothed many a disconsolate soldier.

After six months, a terse order arrived to close the hospital. So in April, 1862, the Sisters quietly packed their small belongings and prepared to return to Chicago. Unexpectedly, and by order of the War Department, these devoted women had come to the Jefferson City Hospital, which they found teeming with

17. Ibid., 234
18. Ibid., 234
the ghastliest horrors known to modern warfare; their service ended, they were gone in a night.

Arriving at St. Louis, the brave Mother Mary Francis and her courageous companions were ordered by Government officials to assume charge of the "Empress," a troop boat bound for Shiloh. This ship was to pick up the wounded and bring them back to hospitals where brave lads could receive proper care. At once the Sisters acquiesced. The long noviciate made in Mercy Hospital had prepared them for extraordinary emergencies. They knew how to proceed, and soon transformed a river boat into a floating hospital.

The "Empress" ploughed southward to Cairo, Illinois, there it turned into the Ohio; it steamed through Western Kentucky and Tennessee, and finally reached the scene of blood. They were surprised to find that Pittsburgh Landing consisted only of a house -- a log cabin in which there was no prospect of hearing Mass, although it was Palm Sunday. There was no time to be lost. Going ashore at once, they visited the sick and wounded of both armies. Fortunately, Mother Mary Francis had prepared herself for any need by having a requisition covering all necessities, which was filled by the Sanitary Commission before she left for St. Louis. Huge containers filled with food and drink were in various sections of the boat. Cots had been

19. Ibid., 234
20. Ibid., 234
21. Sisters of Mercy, Reminiscences of Seventy Years, 70.
22. Ibid., 70
arranged by the Sisters on their southward voyage. The sick and mangled soldiers were brought from the field on boards, cut, shot, wounded, bleeding to death, no food for days-- everywhere delirious, blood-clotted men-- the problem was appalling. But the Nuns did not stop to assess their task. They began to give nourishment to those in a condition to receive even the very light liquid food. No duty was too repulsive, no task too arduous to the "Soldiers of Mercy" of Chicago.

It was more than Hospital work, this labor of the Nuns. Their quiet, unassuming devotion lifted the veil of bigotry and prejudice from the eyes of men who had never spoken to Catholics save in derision. The Southern soldiers were given the kindest attention. To Mother Francis, a sick Confederate soldier was one for whom her great heart went out in compassion.

Next day, the "Empress" with its burden of over three hundred sufferers, started for Keokuk, Iowa, and the Sisters were occupied from early morn until midnight soothing them and supplying their many needs.

Reaching their destination on Holy Saturday, April 16, 1862, the removal to the hospital began at once and occupied two days. On Easter Sunday, the Sisters had the great happiness of hearing Mass and receiving Holy Communion. The Sisters of Notre Dame, being present, awaited the Sisters of Mercy at the Church door, and knowing they were fasting, invited them to come to

23. Jolly, Nuns of the Battlefield, 236
24. Ibid., 236
their Convent for breakfast. Much as the Sisters appreciated their kindness, they were obliged to decline, as they had to return as soon as possible to their sick on the hospital boat. In the evening the Visitation Nuns sent a messenger to invite the Sisters to dine at their Convent, and this was accepted. At Mound City, the Holy Cross Sisters showed much kindness to them.

The following day, the "Empress" returned to Pittsburgh Landing for another cargo of suffering humanity, which was brought to St. Louis. Many voyages of this kind were made, the Sisters striving to procure delicacies for the sick wherever they landed. In the distribution of these there were scenes both touching and amusing. Those who were able, would gather around the Sisters like children, holding out their piece of bread and begging for "another little bit of jam."

The "Empress" also made a voyage to Louisville, where they placed under proper care, the last cargo of sick and wounded from the bloody battle of Shiloh.

Finally the time came for disbanding of troops and the Sisters returned home worn out from incessant toil, from which some of them never rallied. But it was always a consolation to recall the many poor souls whom they had helped on the journey into eternity, many of whom received Baptism before closing their eyes to the things of this world. The kindness and reverential courtesy from the soldiers and officers alike filled

25. Sisters of Mercy, Reminiscences of Seventy Years, 70
26. Ibid., 70
them with gratitude. They had feared the task imposed on them, but their anticipations were not realized. The soldiers under their care showed them child-like docility and respect, and never was there a word uttered that could offend.

The latter part of 1864 was an eventful time in Chicago. Companies of Federal troops with squads of Confederate prisoners often passed the Convent en route to Camp Douglas, situated in what was then, a southern suburb of the city (now Cottage Grove and 31st Street). This camp was in charge of Colonel Sweet of Wisconsin, and it was said the poor southern prisoners might be more humanly treated; it was also said that there was a great dearth of food in the camp. The undercurrent of feeling in the city was strong; an indignation meeting was held, and a committee of investigation was appointed. When it appeared before Colonel Sweet, he refused them admission. The committee then turned to the old friend of the soldiers, Mother Mary Francis Monholland. Remembering how kindly, even chivalrously, the Sisters were treated in the Southern Hospitals, she promptly replied: "We will do what you ask, gentlemen, and will try to succeed. But since there are hundreds of men in the camp, and suppose there is a shortage of food, how are we to help them?"

The citizens of Chicago, with princely generosity, had already furnished supplies. Promptly the next morning, Mother Mary

27. Ibid., 71
28. Ibid., 71
29. Jolly, Nuns of the Battlefield, 237
Francis and a Sister companion appeared before the prison gates. The sentry barred their way, so she turned and went back to the Mayor. Armed with a note from the city's Chief Executive, she once more presented herself before the sentry. The Commandant capitulated before the siege of Mercy. At once the Sisters of Mercy began their task. Soon the camp took on a brighter appearance. Prisoners smiled now and were heard whistling.

They found many of the prisoners sick and in a deplorable condition. Mother Mary Francis Monholland, calling his attention to it, the Colonel said, "Sisters, I frankly acknowledge that the constant additions to the numbers have reduced our commissariat to a minimum, a fact which has been injudiciously commented on by the people of Chicago. Not being a miracle-worker, I have to make the best of circumstances." He allowed the distribution of a small supply which the Sisters had brought saying, "With pleasure you have entire liberty to fulfill your mission of charity during the next two hours, at the end of that time, you will please consider the visit closed." Mother Mary Francis then requested the Colonel to allow a priest to visit the sick Catholics and he consented."

The events of the war brought out in the most conspicuous manner, the merits and usefulness of the religious orders, especially those of charity and mercy, and in spite of

30. Ibid., 72
31. Ibid., 72
32. Ibid., 72
prejudice and bigotry, made the name of "Sister" honored throughout the land. Prejudice and bigotry are powerful with individuals and communities, powerful too in proportion to the ignorance which shrouds the mind of man. Still, these are but relatively strong and must yield before a force superior to theirs--truth.

And as month followed month and year succeeded year, the priceless value of services having their motive in religion, were more thoroughly appreciated by the generous people. At their presence in a hospital, whether long established or hastily improvised, order, good management, and economy took the place of confusion, lax administration and reckless expenditure, if not worse. Obstacles, in many instances of a serious nature, were placed deliberately in their path, but with tact and temper and firmness, these were encountered by women who had no vanity to wound, no malice to inflame, and whose only object was to relieve the sufferings of the sick and wounded in the most efficacious manner.

It seems strange that such souls seeking only to do good, should be barred by those they wish to help, as the following testifies:

"Washington D.C., June 10, 1864

Commanding Military Prison, Alton, Ill.,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo in relation

33. Anon., Trials and Triumphs of the Catholic Church, Chicago, 1901, 961.
to the employment of the Sisters of Charity at the prison hospital by the orders of Colonel Sweet. As you will perceive by my letters to Col. Sweet the employment of these sisters has not been authorized by me, and as their services can be obtained only on unusual conditions viz: the renting and furnishing a house for them and the hire of a servant, their continued employment in the hospital is not approved.

I am under the impression that the Sisters of Charity take advantage of their position to carry information from and to prisoners which is contraband, and if this is so, they cannot under any circumstances, be employed at the hospital. Please furnish me a list of the articles purchased to furnish their house, with remarks to show where they are now.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

W. Hoffman
Col. 3rd Infantry and Commissary General of Prisoners.

However, there were too, high officials, whose deep interest in the womanly service given by the Sisters, is evidenced by the following letter written by President Lincoln himself when supplies were very low and a renewal had been refused the Sisters of Mercy by one in high authority in the war office:

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

On application of the Sisters of Mercy of Chicago, furnish such provisions as they

34. War of the Rebellion, Series 2, VII, 221
desire to purchase and charge the same in the War Department.

Abraham Lincoln." 35

Under General Grant's command, many hundreds of Sisters of twelve religious orders, including twenty distinct communities, had served with distinction upon the land and floating hospitals, in the prisons, and in the death-swept pest houses, from the beginning to the close of the Civil War. He was also personally familiar with the story of the fearlessness and impartiality the Nuns had displayed on the blood-soaked field, and this when the battle was at its worse.

An incident in the life of Mother Austin Carroll will serve to prove the gratitude which remained in Southern hearts, long after the meeting at Appomatox Court House ended the strife. A few years after the war, Mother Austin and other Sisters of Mercy, were en route for New Orleans. Jefferson Davis happened to be on the same train. Approaching the Nuns, he said: "Will you allow me, ladies, to speak a moment with you. I can never forget you kindness to the sick and wounded in our darkest days, and I do not know how to testify my gratitude and respect for every member of your noble order."

If the Catholic Church could do nothing to prevent the war, she could at least do much to mitigate its horrors and ac-

35. Jolly, Nuns of the Battlefield, 236
36. Ibid., 103
37. Ibid., 103
38. Ibid., 236
cordingly she commissioned her noblest representatives—her con-
secrated daughters—to minister in the public hospitals, in the
camp, and in the prisons—wherever wretchedness, and misery, and
suffering appealed most powerfully to their Christian duty and
womanly compassion. Nothing but the spirit of religion together
with their womanly compassion for the sick and the suffering and
their interest in the brave men who, like docile children in
their hands, followed them with wistful eyes as angels of light
and mercy, could have brought balm to the hearts of the wounded.
Nothing short of the sublime motives by which these women were
animated, could have sustained them throughout four long years
of ceaseless toil and never-ending anxiety.
SUMMARY

Reviewing the heroic deeds of the Catholics of Illinois in this difficult period of Civil War, there is no doubt that their heartfelt support of the cause of the nation was a most generous and unselfish one. In that inspiring procession of noble citizens who passed through this time of conflict, we can with just pride, give honorable recognition to many.

They were not only among the first to enlist but we find them the most enthusiastic and influential supporters to the nation's call. Bishop Duggan and Dr. John McMullen, president of the University of St. Mary's of the Lake, used every means possible to organize troops, give them spiritual aid, and extend comfort and help to those at home. The attitude of the people in general, was characterized by a simple and whole-hearted devotion to authority which knew no bounds.

In the list of outstanding heroes, we have the names of James A. Mulligan, whose courage overcame all obstacles to organize his famous Irish Brigade, and brought him the death of a hero. James Shields, hero of two wars, conqueror of Stonewall Jackson, and United States Senator from three states, seems to have accomplished enough for the lifetime of three men, and yet he lived on to undergo one of those inexplicable breaks in a
friendship with one of his best friends—Abraham Lincoln. Although a great soldier and statesman, and with interests in many circles, somehow, he seems to have made more enemies than friends, who brought about the ruin of his military career, and took from him, the renown which his achievements deserve.

Michael K. Lawler, and Timothy O'Meera, men also of outstanding leadership, gave generously of all they had, and fought with one purpose in view, never seeking for self-gratification, the honors which were to be their reward.

William Erwin, an excellent leader, Martin J. Russell, a daring youth of sixteen years, David F. Bremner, a hero of the Battle of Missionary Ridge, and James M. Doyle, to whom we are indebted for many interesting accounts of the Irish Brigade, are all deserving of singular merit. The number of Catholics who took their place in the rank and file of the army and fought whole-heartedly and heroically—many of them even to death—, can hardly be recorded, but their names and their deeds deserve honorable recognition, and though they are not singled out, our gratitude to them, is none-the-less profound.

The Church herself was most prompt in sacrificing her priests to the great cause, for among the chaplains who did duty on the battlefield and at home, were Dr. Louis A. Lambert, Father Thomas F. Kelly, and Dr. Thaddeus J. Butler, a most renowned promoter of the cause as well as chaplain of a famed Brigade.

The women too were not to be outdone in devotedness,
whether they remained at home to care for their families, or followed the soldiers into the field to minister to those who were disabled. They undertook the task of reminding those at the front of their religious duties and helped to the fulfillment of them. The Catholic Sisterhoods, which were not numerous in those days, received most grateful recognition from some of the finest officers in the army for their utterly unselfish devotedness in the most disagreeable work on the battlefield. But it must also be mentioned that obstacles were not wanting to these souls who sought only the good and relief of the soldier, for religious bigotry often kept them from fulfilling their charitable mission, due to the command or refusal of an officer so narrowly minded. In spite of all, and for the love of God, Whom they saw in these souls, the Sisters cheerfully worked on or obediently gave up their posts. Their manner everywhere created a lasting influence over the men for whom they cared.

In the deeds of all these men and women, we see that Illinois as a State, responded with an overwhelming generosity to the nation's need at the opening of the Civil War, and the Catholics of the State were proportionately represented in all groups of soldiers, workers, and promoters, from the beginning to the end of the conflict. These records prove that the Catholics of Illinois are good and patriotic citizens and have been loyal supporters of their native country or the country of their adoption.
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Rev. Joseph Roubik, S.J. May, 1938
Paul Kiniery, Ph.D. June, 1938