

GARRYOWEN

The author of the words and music of GARRYOWEN, the official marching song of the 69th New York and of the 7th U. S. Cavalry, when that regiment was organized after the War between the States, is buried in obscurity. Next to ST. PATRICK'S DAY, it was the greatest favorite as a national air in Ireland.* Moscheles, famous Bohemian composer of Jewish ancestry and friend of Mendelssohn, made a canon of GARRYOWEN, ** the Indians of the West called it 'the Devil's music' and President Theodore Roosevelt declared it "the finest marching tune in the world."*** Wherever an Irishman went, GARRYOWEN went with him and Moscheles undoubtedly heard it through the many Irish officers in the Austrian army of that day.

Charles Lever, in his novels of Irish Fox-hunting set and military life, HARRY LORREQUER and CHARLES O'MALLEY, which were tremendously popular throughout Ireland and which induced many young Irishmen to seek military adventure abroad, had Irish regiments playing GARRYOWEN on the continent as early as 1809.

It was the regimental air of the Royal Irish Regiment since disbanded; was used by the 5th Royal Irish Lancers as a Quick March, and by the Irish Guards as a warning for Parade. The Royal Irish Rifles originally used it as their Regimental March and it was also used occasionally by the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and the Durham Light Infantry.**** The 5th Royal Irish Lancers were stationed in the suburb of Limerick called Garryowen (the Gaelic word meaning Owen's Garden) and used it as their drinking song.*****

*p. 382, Stories of Famous Songs, by S. J. Acler Fitzgerald, J. B. Lippincott Company, publishers, 1898.

**p. 127. The Song Lore of Ireland, by Redfern Mason, New York, 1911, The Baker and Taylor Company, copyright 1910, Wessels & Bissell Co.

***p. 302, Ibid.

****p. 120, Keogh, Comanche and Custer, by Edw. S. Luce. Copyright 1939 by the author.

*****p. 120. Ibid.

and enlisted as a private in Co. K, 69th New York State Militia, (Meagher's Zouaves) and served in the battle of Bull Run. Afterwards, he raised a company for the Irish Brigade and was commissioned Captain in the 88th New York Volunteers October 2, 1861. Captain Clooney was killed in the battle of Antietam, September 17th, 1862, having been previously ^{wounded} the same day. In camp and battle he was distinguishable for his green plume, worn in honor of his native country. The wooden cross that marked his grave bore the simple inscription "He like a soldier fell."

Another such officer who likewise served at Bull Run with the 69th was Colonel John H. Gleason, a native of Tipperary, who also enlisted as a private on his arrival in New York in 1861, and later, also organized a ^{unit} company for the ^A brigade. He was mustered in as 1st Lieutenant, promoted to Captain and subsequently commissioned Major, Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel of the 63rd New York Volunteers.

Another distinguished officer of the old 69th was Captain John Dillon Mulhall, a native of Roscommon, who served with the regiment from Chancellorsville to the fall of Richmond? Captain Mulhall was wounded at Cold Harbor and again at Skinner's Farm and was brevetted Lieutenant-Colonel by the State of New York for distinguished service during the war. Prior to his Civil War service, he was commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Papal Brigade of St. Patrick on its organization, distinguished himself in Lamoriciere's campaign against the French and for which he received the Medal of St. Peter Spoleto and other decorations. He served in the battle of ~~Spawitz~~, in the province of Perugia, about 88 miles northeast of Rome, in 1860, where

he was captured, later being decorated with the Order of St. Sebastian

Another member of the 69th who had seen previous service with the 7th Papal Brigade was Private Patrick Dargan, of Company E. who was killed in action at Savage Station, June 29th 1862, in the Peninsula Campaign.

Included among other Papal officers was Lieutenant Michael O'Connell, a native of Kerry, who served in the 155th New York, Corcoran's Legion, and who fell bravely leading his company at Spotsylvania.

Another officer of the 69th who saw previous active service in Europe was Captain John J. Gosson, who prior to the formation of the Irish Brigade, had been a Captain in the 69th New York State Militia. Through the influence of Daniel O'Connell, the great Irish leader, he secured a commission in the Austrian Army and served under O'Connell's friend General Count Nugent, as a lieutenant in Syria and afterwards joined the 7th Austrian Hussars, an Hungarian regiment commanded by Prince Frederick of Liechtenstein. It was through Captain Gosson, who was General Meagher's favorite aide, that the Irish Brigade enjoyed the closest personal relations, amounting almost to affection, that the commanding officers of the First Division, Second Army Corps, had for them. Captain Jack might have been a prototype for Charles Leaver's famous military character, Fred Power in CHARLES O'MALLEY. His personal motto and one which he lived up to, was "What Any man dares, I dare." It is of record that he had two horses shot from under him in action and a heavy fall from one of them resulted in a broken collar bone. He was full of fun, jokes and witticisms, but nevertheless a thorough soldier. Many stories are told about

him. One of these concerned General Richardson, who was in command of the division at the time. It seems that one night, Captain Gosson found a convenient haystack to sleep in. Unknown to him, General Richardson also discovered the haystack and slept at its base. Capt. Jack, when he awoke in the morning, slid down from the top of the stack where he had ensconced himself and into the recumbent form below. He was mortified when he discovered who it was, but rising quickly to the occasion, unmasked a handy flask and a 'vee dhrep of the eraythar' quickly restored the entente cordiale and made the division commander unconscious of the bruises he had received.

Another story came out of one of Capt. Jack's leaves of absence. Attired in full dress uniform, with lace decorating his tunic as was the custom in the Austrian Army, he engaged a box at one of the theatres in Washington. While the performance was on, a prominent singer of the period seeing him in his solitary magnificence, sang 'The Bowld Hojer Bey' especially for him. During the song, Capt. Jack noticed that in the box beneath him was a gentleman holding a bouquet of roses, evidently destined for one of the performers. In order, therefore, to show the songstress his appreciation for her song he drew his sword from its scabbard, leaned over the edge of his box, deftly inserted the point of the sword in the bouquet and dexterously flipped the bouquet onto the stage. Needless to say, the feelings ~~unwarranted~~ of the gentleman were outraged, to say the least, and not greatly allayed when Capt. Jack quickly told him he was staying at the Willard Hotel and would be very happy to give

him any satisfaction required under the circumstances. The story ends here and whether the 'Bowld Sojer Bhoj' made the acquaintance of the singer or had a later meeting with the gentlemen in question is not told.

The band of Hawkins' Zouaves played Garryowen in honor of the Irish Brigade as the latter marched by to take position in the bitterly contested and forever glorious field in front of Marye's Heights, where the 69th would write an immortal page in the annals of the regiment and in the history of the Civil War, and from which field few of the members of the regiment would return unwounded.

Generally credited with being instrumental in having Garryowen adopted by the 7th U.S. Cavalry, was Captain Myles W. Keogh, destined to perish with his chief, General Custer, at the battle of Little Big Horn. Capt. Keogh's father was an officer in the Fifth Royal Irish Lancers, and his birth place was in Orchard, Co. Carlow, Ireland,

While Captain Keogh chose the cavalry instead of the infantry and consequently did not serve in the Sixty-Ninth nor the Irish Brigade, no account of Garryowen can be complete that does not include the remarkable war services of this capable officer both in Italy and America. A record of this has been made by Edward Luce, a former captain in the 7th U.S. Cavalry, in his book Keogh, Comanche and Custer, dedicated to all Garryowners' and for which all Garryowners should be truly grateful. His account of the Papal service of Captain Keogh was secured through the friendly interest of Francis Cardinal Spellman,

which Captain Luce acknowledged in the following words:

"To His Excellency, Most Rev. Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, D. D. of New York, for his assistance in securing data from the Holy See in Rome relative to Captain Keogh's service in the Papal Army."

From this data, the following excerpts are selected:

- p. 13. "We find that young Keogh had followed his superior to Italy, and was commissioned a second lieutenant on August 7, 1860, and assigned to the 'Battalion of St. Patrick'."
- p. 14. "To this battalion, de Lauriciera assigned officers of the same nationality, five of them being soldiers who were later to make their mark of distinction known in the Union Army during the Civil War, as well as in the regular army after the close of hostilities between the North and the South. These men were Keogh, Bowen, De Rudie, O'Keaffe and Goppinger. The first three of these men were later serving with distinction in the Seventh Cavalry."
- p. 15-16. "It was on the seventeenth (September) that the Irish battalion of about 500 men were attacked at Spolito by a powerful force supplemented by considerable artillery. The battalion had but two pieces of artillery and these mounted on half-wheeled carriages. For twelve hours, this brave little band of Irishmen, half-wounded as they were, kept at bay a whole corps of the Piedmontese Army, and only capitulated when resistance was hopeless."
- p. 16-17. "For this gallant fight and for the gallantry displayed, the three officers who were in later years to become officers in the Seventh Cavalry, were decorated by Pope Pius IX with the much coveted 'Medaglia di Pro Petri Sede' (For the Chair of Peter). It was probably this medal that the Sioux Indians found around the neck of Keogh after he had been slain at the Little Big Horn River battle, and which the Indians believed to be a charm or 'medicine' against death or misfortune. Whatever the Indians believed this medal to be, it nevertheless served its purpose, as the body of Keogh was not looted or desecrated."
- p. 18. "On February 20, 1862, they were permitted to resign their commissions in the Pontifical Armies, and soon embarked on another ship sailing for America, to offer their services to the Union Army."

after being commissioned in the Federal Cavalry,
General George B. McClellan had Keogh transferred to his staff.*

and It was this young Irish officer who was selected to enter the Confederate lines under a flag of truce to receive and escort the body of General Phil Keagy back to the Federal lines,* and with five other officers to remain with President Lincoln on his visit to McClellan's headquarters and to return with him to the Capital.*

He was frequently mentioned by Brigadier-General John Buford, commanding the 1st Cavalry Division. In Buford's report of operations from June 27th, 1863 to the crossing of the Rappahannock on August 1st, 1863, he included Keogh's name among staff officers who "for coolness and gallantry cannot be excelled in this army." On Stoneman's famous raid near Mason, Georgia, he surrendered with his chief, disdaining an opportunity to escape. Later exchanged, he served with Major-General George Stoneman in the Department of the Ohio and his superior again commended him in his report of Jan. 6th, 1865, to Major-General

* p. 20, Keogh, Comanche and Guster, by Edward S. Luce. Copyright 1959 by the author.

J. M. Schofield, commanding the Army of the Ohio, and covering operations of the forces under Gen. Stoneman's command during the months of November and December, 1864, in Eastern Tennessee and Southwest Virginia:

"I wish to call your special attention to Major

W. V. Keogh, aide-de-camp, (and others) as being young officers of unusual merit, and to each of whom I am under many obligations."

General Stoneman directed the attention of Major-General George Thomas to Keogh and Gen. Thomas wrote Major-General Halleck at Washington; under date of April 18th, 1865:

"The officers specially mentioned by Gen'l Stoneman, Major Keogh (and three other officers) have heretofore on many occasions distinguished themselves by gallantry and good conduct in battle."

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Other mention is included in the reports of Brigadier-General A. C. Gillem, U.S.A., commanding Cavalry Division, District of East Tennessee, in operations from March 21-April 25th, 1865:

"About 10:00 A.M. on the 28th (March) when approaching the town of Boone, it was learned that there was a meeting of the home guard in that town to take place that day. Major Keogh, aide-de-camp to Major-General Stoneman, went forward with a detachment of the 12th Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry, surprised and routed the rebels, killing nine and capturing sixty-eight. Much credit is due Major Keogh and the gallant officers and men of the 12th Ky. Cav. engaged in this affair."

He was again mentioned by Gen. Gillem in the same report for leading the 11th Kentucky Cavalry in another charge, and also in the same report:

"Keogh, who had been joined by Major Sawyer's Bn, 8th Tenn. Cav. joined Miller, having charged and captured all the artillery the enemy had used against our right flank."

Captain Luce mentions that "To enumerate the battles and engagements in which Keogh participated would take several chapters, and from the different Civil War records, they can be numbered at over one hundred."*

was near enough to reach it when he saw his
form and rifle were all that was left of the
soldier that he had been so bravely fighting
and the Captain's eye was turned towards it.

The man was that Patrick Kegan, who, and destined to receive
more popularly known than the ubiquitous soldier, was the famous
COMMANDER, which he had bought from the government for \$10,000
for ninety dollars and while he developed into one of the best
serving forces in the regiment. Temporarily wounded and the
only survivor of the massacre of Captain's is account, he was
found in the battlefield by Kegan's comrades-in-arms in the
7th and 10th, and the 7th and 10th, and the 7th and 10th,
and he tried to intended killing the three out of his reach, but
knowing the great "Savior" Captain Kegan had for his work,
decided to save him if possible. He was tenderly cared for
by the members of the 7th and 10th, when he finally recuperated,
was requested to take his place, and he, as a soldier of the
of the 7th, and was the word of his request and of the government
will be found.

General Nelson A. Miles, who will be mentioned often in the
narrative of the 60th New York Volunteers, visited the scene of
the Battle of Little Big Horn shortly afterwards and reported

"The bodies of the men were found, some on the
elopes toward the Indian camp, near by the river
and some back a short distance in rear of the
creek. The grizzly bear's body was found near the
extreme left; Captain Kegan, with a number of
the troops, in rear of the capture. General
Kegan's body, mutilated, was on the right.
A bullet hole showed the head."

* See 210, General Nelson A. Miles, Personal Recollections
The Warner Co., Chicago and New York, 1896.

which the book described the battle for Remick's Regiment, famous
American rider and this was published in Western Magazine.

Vol. XI, No. 5, 1894.

"Soldiers in line drop, but one man rises up and
down the line all the time shouting. He rode
a sorrel horse with white face and white forelegs.
I don't know who he was. He was a brave man."
"Then a chief was killed. I hear it was Long
Hair (Quaver). I don't know. And then the
five hundred and two hundred men, say he
so forty, started toward the river. The man on
the sorrel horse led them shouting all the time.
He wore a buckskin shirt and had long black hair
and moccasins. He fought hard with a big knife.
The men were all covered with white dust. I
couldn't tell whether they were officers or men."

Then, after the battle, he continued:

"He came to the man with the big moccasins. He
lay down the rifle towards the river. The Indian
did not take his buckskin shirt."
"The man on the white faced horse was the bravest
man."

In his detailed study of the battle, Captain Edward A. Mear,
formerly of the 7th U.S. Cavalry, grows beyond a doubt that this
man was Captain Hyles F. Keogh. Again we quote:

"When the fighting was over, the warriors gathered
around the 'bravest man the Sioux ever fought,'
curious above all about his 'medicine'. As they
were stripping his body, they came upon a medal
in a leather case attached to a cord around his neck.
It was his 'Medaglia di Pro Patria Sede' with which
Rome King IX had decorated him."

"None of the warriors, young or old men and boys
could decorate the body. They left it unadorned
in the midst of a scene of murder, robbery,
slaughter and even dismemberment."

"There are monuments and markers on Greter Hill, in
is true. But in justice and in truth there should

be another monument on the field with the inscription:
'Here fell the bravest man the Sioux ever fought.
Captain (Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel) Miles Walter Keogh,
commanding Company I, Seventh United States Regiment of
Cavalry.'*

So died another gallant Irishman, far from his native Carlow,
far from his exploits in the Papal wars and from the battlefields
of the Civil War, dying as he would have wished, in the centre of
the line, facing innumerable odds. The 'Garryoweners' of the
Old 69th New York pay respectful and brotherly tribute to his

For his services in the War between the States, Captain Keogh
was commissioned Major of Volunteers, April 7th, 1864, brevetted
Lieutenant-Colonel March 15th, 1865, for uniform gallantry and
good conduct during the war, and honorably mustered out September
1st, 1866. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant, 4th U. S. Cavalry,
May 4th, 1866, and Captain 7th U. S. Cavalry July 26th, 1866.
Brevetted Major on March 2nd, 1867, for gallantry and meritorious
service in the battle of Gettysburg, and brevetted Lieutenant-
Colonel March 2nd, 1867, for gallantry and meritorious service
in the battle of Dallas, Ga.

* Pages 62-63, Keogh, Commoner and Soldier, by Edward S. Mace,
copyright 1939, by the author.

p. 14 (Garryowen)

(footnote)

The stirring strains of GARRYOWEN, as was to be expected, was usually popular among the Irish born who had settled in the South. Recent research* has disclosed that approximately 85,000 were in the Confederacy at the outbreak of the war and outnumbered all foreign born in the individual States with the exception of Missouri and Texas. When war came, they embraced the Southern cause with just as fervid a belief in its righteousness as did their Northern compatriots and fought for the South with as equal valor. The 69th New York had its counterparts in the 2nd Tennessees and the 10th Tennessees and Irish regiments and companies were numerous in the Confederate armies. General Robert E. Lee's personal orderly was an Irishman named Bryan who looked after his chief with the utmost devotion. One of the South's most distinguished soldiers was Major-General Patrick Ronayne rank Olsburne, born in Cork, Ireland, commissioned in that grade at the early age of thirty-six, one of the two foreign born to hold that grade in the Confederacy. He was called "the Stonewall Jackson of the West" and on his death in action at the battle of Franklin, where he commanded a Corps, was mourned as fully as that of the illustrious soldier of The Army of Northern Virginia. It is part of the history of Texas as well as that of the Confederacy how a small group of men, mostly Irish, under a youthful Irish officer, Lieut. Dowling, popularly known as the Davis Guard and officially as Company F, 1st Texas Heavy Artillery, covered themselves with glory at Sabine Pass, where they held off an United States fleet on September 8, 1863, foiling an intended raid on that date and inflicting heavy damage.**

*Ellis Lonn, Prof. of History, Goucher College, Foreigners in the Confederacy, Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 1942