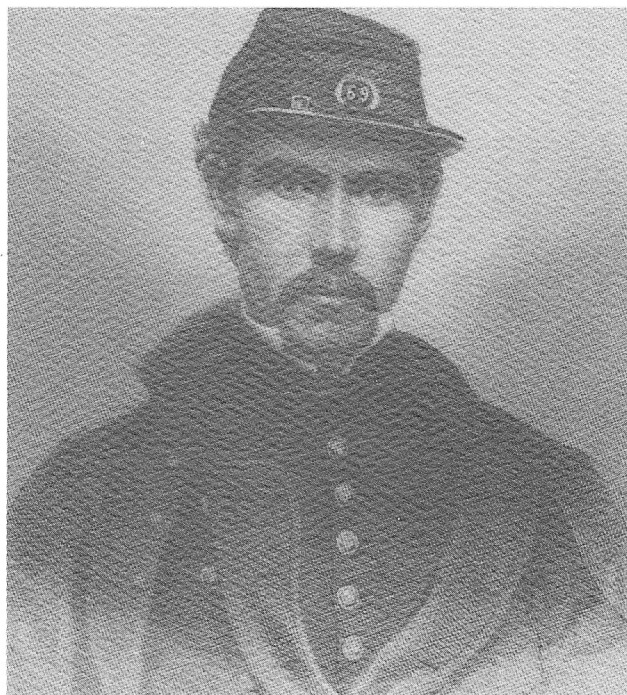


JAMES HAGGERTY OF TÍR CONAILL

IRISH PATRIOT — AMERICAN HERO



James Haggerty

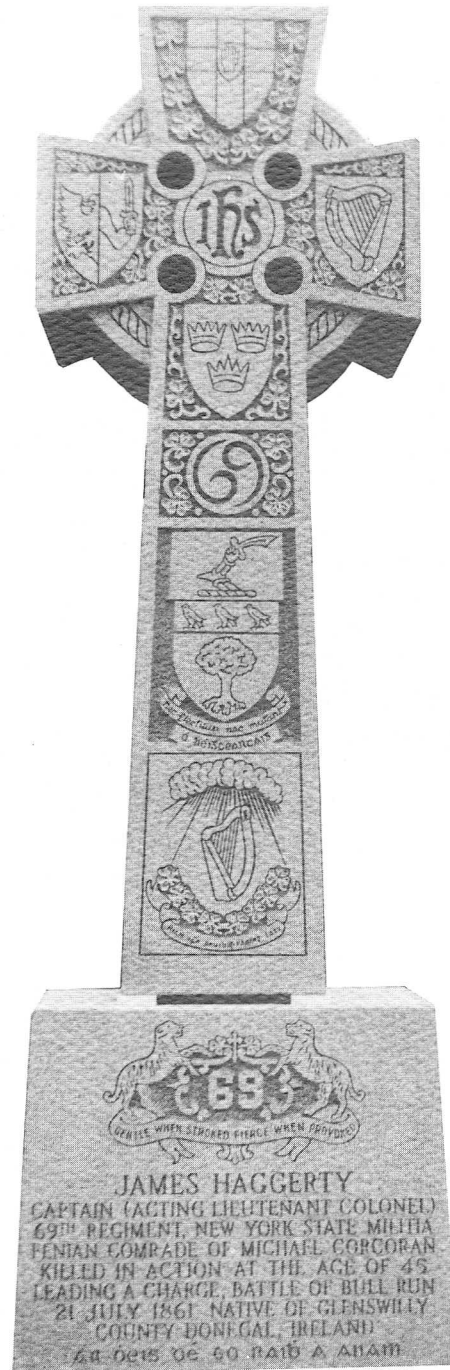
"The Foremost of a Gallant Band"

on the occasion of the Unveiling of a Memorial

FIRST CALVARY CEMETERY
WOODSIDE, NEW YORK
MAY 30, 1992

Born in Glenswilly, County Donegal
Captain (Acting Lieutenant Colonel) — 69th Regiment, New York State Militia
Killed in Action — Battle of Bull Run — July 21, 1861
American Civil War

The Haggerty Memorial



Rear View



THE BALLAD OF THE SIXTY-NINTH

1861-1917

Clouds black with thunder o'er the Southern states
North, East and West a sickening fear;
The Union on the dark laps of the Fates,
And nowhere signs the skies would clear.
Would hate haul down the flag we loved so well,
The star-flag that at Yorktown flew?
For the answer came the hurtling of a shell,
With the Union cleft in two!

Never since out of chaos came the world
Sprang such resolve as took us then —
"Thro' blood and fire, with that brave flag unfurled,
The Union shall be whole again."
At Lincoln's call men swarmed from towns and farms;
An ecstasy shook all the land.
Tramp! Tramp! the people's bravest rose in arms,
With them the Irish took their stand.

For here their slave rags had away been cast,
Freedom had them met at the door,
To share such empire lovelit, rich and vast
As never fronted man before.
Our great Republic! Shall the kings behold,
Neath slavery's thrust, its overthrow?
Loud, righteous, quick our regiment's answer rolled: —
"The Irish Sixty-ninth says, No!"

Tramp! Tramp! At Corcoran's command they've swung
Down Broadway's length a thousand strong.
Their flag of green by grand Old Glory flung.
Their steps like music to the cheering throng.
The great archbishop, blessing rank and file,
Bends o'er them — soldier, gun and blade.
On every face the bold-heart Irish smile
That looks in Death's eyes unafraid.

Mother of Irish regiments march in your pride;
No idle presage in our tread!
The way is long, the battle ground wide;
High will be the roster of your dead
Ever you'll find the battle's crest and front.
Then march to seek new fighting ground;
Ever, when shattered in the battle brunt,
Men for the gaps will be found.

You'll be baptised in fire at Blackburn's Ford.
Bull Run shall two hundred fall —
You facing south when north the rout has poured;
At Rappahannock like a wall;
You'll strike at Fair Oaks; clash at Gaine's Mill;
And ramp like tigers over Malvern Hill;
Stand and be hammered at Chancellorsville;
Antietam's corn shall redden your name.

The while you deal the blow that stuns;
At Marye's Heights your men shall feed on flame
Up to the muzzles of the guns;
At Gettysburg fire-dwindled on you'll press,
And then remanned again seek fight;
All through the tangle of the Wilderness;
You'll battle day and night;
At Petersburg you'll spring to the assault;
Only at Appomattox shall you halt!

Let Nugent, Meagher, Cavanagh be praised,
McMahon, Kelly, Haggerty, Clark;
But the thousands three that the regiment raised,
As surely bore the hero-mark.
Fame's darling child, the Sixty-Ninth shall shine;
Never in duty's hour to lag,
Forty-eight times the battle line,
Never, never to lose a flag.

Tramp! Tramp! you saw the Union split in twain,
Tramp! Tramp! you saw the nation whole.
Your red blood flowed in torrents not in vain;
It fed the great Republic's soul.
Your drums still roll; your serried ranks still form;
From manhood's service no release;
Ready at call to ride the battlestorm,
And in God's time, the guard of Peace.

JOSEPH I. C. CLARK

*As a token of the author's respect
and admiration and as a tribute
to his personal merits and contributions
to this endeavor, this historical narrative
is dedicated to Dan Kelly*

JAMES HAGGERTY OF TÍR CÓNAILL

IRISH PATRIOT — AMERICAN HERO

by James H. McLaughlin
Historian, County Donegal Association of New York, Inc.

IRISH AMERICA

"Peace with Justice and Honor," these words were spoken by John Cardinal O'Connor in his first Saint Patrick's Day homily as Archbishop of New York on March 17, 1985. All of Ireland's exiled children in America join in this prayer for Peace with Justice and Honor for all Ireland.

In each generation of the Irish, whether born in Ireland or descended from Irish exiles, faithful sons and daughters of Éireann have shared this prayer, each in his or her own way, seeking to contribute to the achievement of this bright dream. Believing the occupation or domination of any part of Ireland by a foreign power to be *ab initio* illegitimate, the faithful Irish can never accept as legitimate any condition other than the sovereign, indefeasible independence of the Irish nation in control over the entire island of Ireland, her islands and territorial seas. It is the lesson of history that the violation of this principle has led to instability, continued suffering, human rights violations and more "Troubles."

Our prayer is for Peace with Justice and Honor, embracing all of the children of the nation equally, and shared by Ireland's exiled children in America and throughout the world, especially those of Tír Cónaill.

While America may yet justify its traditional role as Ireland's (and the world's) best hope, it is important to reflect upon some of the experiences of previous generations of Irish-Americans, experiences which should have earned a consideration no less than the debt redeemed by the United States in France in 1918.

The American Revolution saw Irish immigrant heroes like Commodore John Barry and Generals Richard Montgomery and Stephen Moylan, and American Irish Generals "Mad" Anthony Wayne and John Sullivan and Rifleman Timothy Murphy. Historian R. Barry O'Brien observed that in Washington's Revolutionary Army, the Continental Line was often called "the Line of Ireland." Yet, in spite of the tremendous Irish contribution to the winning and subsequent defense of American Liberty, the United States offered no warm and ready welcome for the Famine emigrants.

While an improvement over the oppression of English-occupied Ireland, New York, as found by the victims of the Great Hunger of the 1840's and '50's, bore little resemblance to the dream of Tír na nÓg across the Western Ocean. The poverty, disease, discrimination and

exploitation which greeted the mid-nineteenth century Irish Catholic immigrant is described with devastating accuracy in Thomas Gallagher's *Paddy's Lament* and in Peter Berresford Ellis' *The Rising of the Moon*.

Even so, America was a free country, that is to say that, under the Constitution of the United States, Irish immigrants were able to improve their lot through their own efforts, in spite of non-acceptance by a "nativist" ascendancy class.

On October 12, 1851, the 69th Regiment was formally accepted as part of the New York State militia. Originally organized as the 2nd Regiment of Irish Volunteers, many of its members may have been drawn from companies previously formed independently by the Irish Republican Union subsequent to the 1848 Rising in Ireland. It was intended as a means of training Irish exiles for the future liberation of Ireland. (The late Very Reverend Patrick D. O'Flaherty, former Regimental Historian of the 69th New York, documented the early exile involvement in the cause of Irish freedom, in his dissertation on the early years of the regiment for his doctoral degree at Columbia University.)

THE FENIAN FAITH

In 1857, a group of thirteen Irish exiles met in New York to set in motion the events which would lead to the founding of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in Ireland on Saint Patrick's Day 1858, and of its American counterpart the Fenian Brotherhood (and ultimately to the 1916 Easter Rising). Among those Irish revolutionaries were officers of the 69th, including its former Lieutenant Colonel, the Fenian organizer Michael Doheny of Tipperary, and Michael Corcoran of Sligo, who as future Colonel of the 69th would lead the Regiment into its first actions in the American Civil War and later form and lead Corcoran's Irish Legion in that terrible conflict.¹

Professor Lawrence Kohl points out in *Irish Green & Union Blue* that the American Civil War held a special meaning for the exiled sons and daughters of Erin. For them a Union victory not only would preserve the great asylum of Ireland's oppressed, it would indirectly strike a blow to Ireland's oppressor, England, which sought to aid and abet the partitioning of the great American republic. (President Andrew Jackson — who was conceived in Ireland and born in America, and who secured the Independence of the United States through his great victory over the British at New Orleans in 1815 — had previously stated that the European monarchies, England included, hated and feared the experiment in freedom which was the United States, and wished that we would fail before such republicanism might spread to take root in Europe.)

“... war-battered dogs,
gnawing the naked bone,
fighting in every land and clime,
for every cause — but their own.”

Before Peace with Justice and Honor could be achieved for Ireland, it was necessary to restore Peace with Justice and Honor to the United States. Throughout the North, Irish America entered into the war to preserve the Union, adopting Lincoln's cause as their own. James Haggerty of Glenswilly, Donegal, was among the leadership of those who rallied 'round the flag.

James Haggerty was a close personal, political, military and Fenian friend of Michael Corcoran, and, as such, played an important role in organizing for the defense of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, as well as for the future restoration of liberty in Ireland.



EARLY YEARS IN DONEGAL

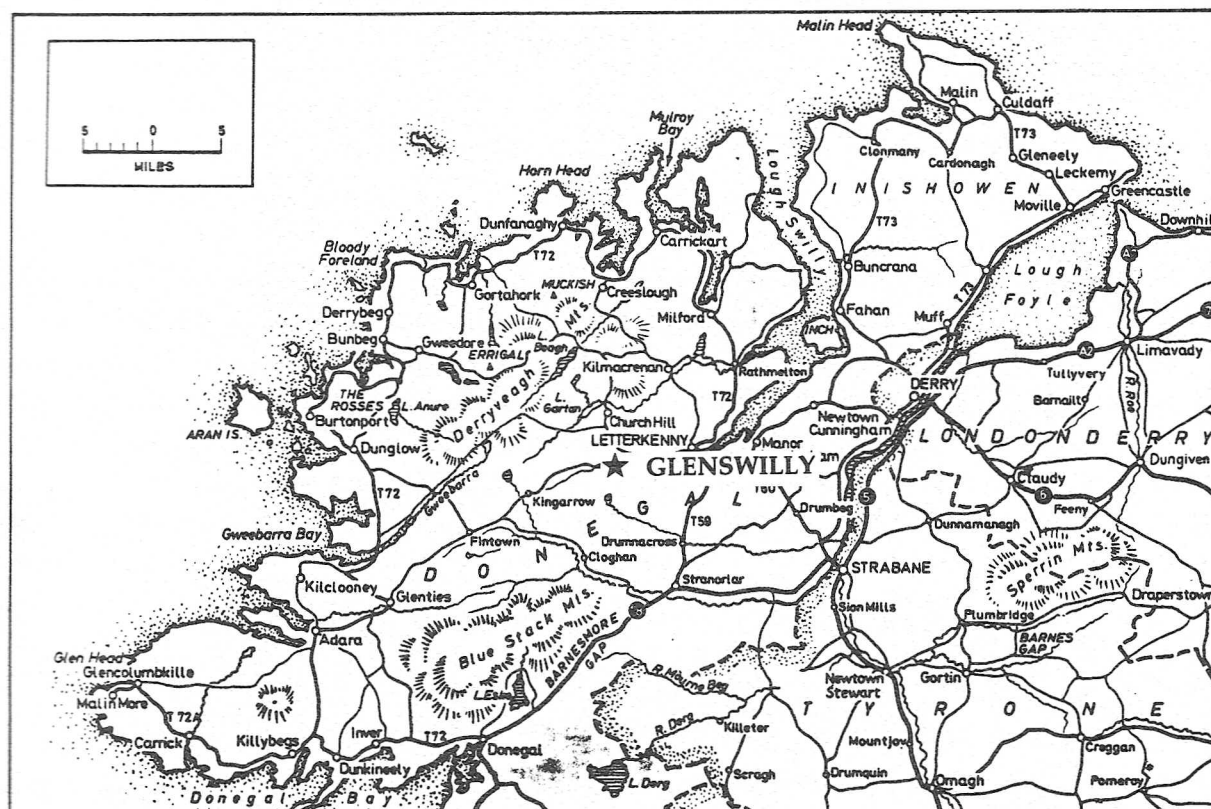
In the year 1800, the Act of Union was put into effect. As a result Ireland, as part of the United Kingdom, came under the direct rule of London. All business relating to Irish government passed through Dublin Castle, where the Lord Lieutenant, the King's representative in Ireland, had his headquarters. Things were not too bad in the first years after the Union, as the French war was raging and prices for agricultural products were high, but after the Battle of Waterloo, in 1815, there was a dreadful slump. The year 1816 in Ireland was known as the 'dear summer' and from that time on, with a rapidly rising population, distress and poverty and crime were steadily increasing. Thus, secret societies (Ribbonmen, etc., . . . not unlike the Ancient Order of Hibernians) sprang up from time to time to fight for the rights of tenants in various localities.² It was during this 'dear summer' that James Haggerty was born in Glenswilly, County Donegal.

Land trouble, or 'agrarian outrages,' as they were called, were a feature of the whole of Ireland during the Nineteenth century. It was said that it was open season for shooting landlords the year round. There was little or no employment, apart from the land, in the greater part of the country. Farms which had been quite big at the end of the Eighteenth century by law were divided up among the children of a family, and in a couple of generations the holdings had become smaller and smaller. The people lived on potatoes and used other crops and produce and dairy products to pay the rent and whatever demands were made on them by landlords and by central and local government. The government passed a law against subdivision of holdings in 1826, but little or no attention was paid to it, and subdivision went on until it reached a frightful pitch just before the Famine.³

Thus, the Gaelic Irish found themselves as disfranchised tenants on their own land, forced to pay rent to a landlord class, largely Protestant planters, many of whom were absentee landlords living in London. In County Donegal, with an overwhelming majority of its population Catholic, over 95 percent of the land was held by Protestant landlords.

In 1844, the farms in Glenswilly were very small, in general running from £2 - £10 in valuation. From Griffith's valuation books for the glen, it was clear that very few were over £5, and there were large numbers of houses and gardens valued at less than £2.⁴

Father John Campbell, Glenswilly's resident curate from 1840 to 1850, in his testimony before the Devon Commission which was appointed in 1843, just before the Famine, to investigate the problems associated with land ownership in Ireland, provided an interesting picture of Glenswilly in 1844. He described the extreme poverty of the people noting, that the majority sold their butter and eggs and everything else salable, and lived on potatoes. The people did not get fresh meat three times a year, and indeed many did not get butter or eggs three times a year.⁵



Glenswilly, County Donegal, birthplace of James Haggerty

James Haggerty was not a typical Glenswilly youth in that, at an early age, he was apprenticed to the business of a house carpenter, at which he continued to work in his native land until 1844, when he went to Scotland. He remained there for several years, attaining considerable skill in the art of building, to which, later on, he devoted his attention with much success.⁶

The situation in Ireland was going from bad to worse and it was constantly being pointed out that if the potato crop failed there was bound to be widespread famine. Indeed, there had been several famines in the years between 1800 and 1845, but they had only lasted for one year. The Famine of the Forties differed from the others in that there was a succession of three or four years of failure of the potato crop. Thus, in 1849, James Haggerty and his brother, Bryan, emigrated to the United States.

LIFE IN NEW YORK

The Passing of the Gael

They are going, going, going from the valleys and the hills
They are leaving far behind them heathery moor and mountain rills,
All the wealth of hawthorn hedges where the brown thrush sways and trills
They are going, shy-eyed colleens, and lads so straight and tall,
From the purple peaks of Kerry, from the crags of wild Imaal,
From the greening plains of Mayo, and the glens of Donegal.

They are leaving pleasant places, shores with snowy sands outspread
Blue and lonely lakes a-stirring when the wind stirs overhead:
Tender loving hearts that love them, and the graves of kindred dead.

Oh, the cabins, long deserted! — Olden memories awake —
Oh, the pleasant, pleasant places! — Hush! the blackbird in the brake!
Oh, the dear and kindly voices! — Now their hearts are fain to ache.

They are going, going, going, and we cannot bid them stay;
Their fields are now the stranger's where the stranger's cattle stray.
Oh Kathleen Ni Houlihan, your way's a thorny way!

— Ethna Carbery

James Haggerty landed in New York, from whence he proceeded to Philadelphia where he resided for some time. Returning to New York, he found employment in the establishment of Messrs. Mott & Ayres from whence he afterwards went to the Morgan Iron Works. He subsequently entered the extensive machine works of Hoe & Co., where he remained for several years, attracting the esteem and confidence of his employers by his attention to business, and the skill exhibited in the execution of all works entrusted to his charge. In July, 1856 James commenced business on his own account as a house carpenter and builder.⁷ His office was located at 70 Bleeker Street between Broadway and Crosby Street.⁸ As a result of his untiring energy and perserverance, a lucrative business developed.

James Haggerty during this period married a Miss Bentley from Limerick.⁹ The first of their two daughters, Anne, died in 1858 at the age of 3 days. Four years previously, Haggerty's younger brother Patrick died at the age of 33 years, at which time James purchased a burial plot at Calvary Cemetery, Woodside, (Queens), New York.

Clustering in the big cities, the famine-exiled Irish often struggled to adjust to their new environment. The local militia companies offered them a chance to partake in social and political activities. The militia also gave ambitious immigrants a chance to step up to positions of leadership and get a foothold in the power structure of the day.¹⁰ Some of the militia companies also served as a vehicle for military training for Irish exiles who dreamed of some day returning to liberate their homeland from English rule. This was particularly true after the arrival of the 1848 exiles in New York.

EARLY MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

It had long been a maxim of European political science that England's difficulty was Ireland's opportunity. General Orders by the Adjutant General of the State of New York confirmed the organization of the 69th Regiment, New York State Militia, on October 12, 1851. It was organized from the existing companies of Irish Republican Clubs founded in 1848. Most of the members had been involved in or sympathized with the Young Ireland Rebellion of 1848. The 69th along with three other Irish regiments (9th, 72nd and 75th) were formed with the express purpose of training Irish Americans to fight for Irish independence. When their *raison d'être* was finally appreciated by the New York State authorities, a move was made by the Know-Nothing party to disband them. The Know-Nothings had already formed their own regiment (71st Regiment, New York State Militia — The American Guard) to counteract the Irish.¹¹

James Haggerty's connection with military matters dates from the beginning of 1853. At that time England was involved against Russia in the Crimean War, and it was hoped that the long-wished-for "opportunity" for Ireland's regeneration had come. Among the companies that enrolled in the 75th Regiment was the "Wolfe Tone Volunteers," of which James Haggerty was unanimously chosen Captain.¹²

Haggerty's company was attached to the "Republican Rifles," the Colonelcy of which Thomas Francis Meagher ("Meagher of the Sword" — the exiled 1848 leader) had agreed to accept in the event of any chance arising for the liberation of Ireland. When the "Rifles" became a State Militia unit (75th Rifles), Captain Haggerty was promoted Lieutenant Colonel. Later in 1856 the 75th was disbanded, only to be revived in April 1861 (as the 37th NY "Irish Rifles"), when President Lincoln issued his call to arms.¹³ By then, Haggerty had brought the unit to a degree of military efficiency that elicited the highest praise from the commander of the Brigade to which it was attached.¹⁴

The 9th and 75th Regiments were consolidated in 1857; in 1858 two companies of the 9th ("B" and "D") were consolidated with the 69th. One of these ("B" of the 9th) became Company D of the 69th. [Since Nov. 25, 1921, it has been designated Company A, and numbers among its alumni, Westchester County Executive, Andrew P. O'Rourke, and Nassau County Comptroller, Peter King, and Veterans Corps, 69th Regiment, commander (First Sergeant) Bernard B. Kelly.] This company had fought at Quebec under Irish-born General Richard Montgomery in 1775. The other, Company D of the 9th (also with Revolutionary and War of 1812 honors), became Company I of the 69th, and remained so until the retiring of the 3rd Battalion of the 69th with the US Army's reorganization in 1959. The 69th adopted the 9th's title, "National Cadets," in 1858, and in 1859 gave up their green uniforms and wore the standard blue — subterfuges to give the appearance of a purge of Fenian (Irish revolutionaries) and Ancient Order of Hibernians members, and satisfied New York State.¹⁵

On the elevation of Colonel Michael Corcoran, a native of Carrowkeel, Co. Sligo, to the command of the 69th Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Haggerty was induced to serve as a

Captain commanding Corcoran's former Company A. Here again, his indomitable energy and superior military talents showed themselves conspicuously and his company became remarkable for proficiency in all the exercises of the soldier, and for the readiness with which their high discipline enabled them to undertake the most arduous duties in the field. Their Captain was their idol; and, indeed he was beloved by the whole Regiment; for, though a disciplinarian of the strictest character, the men knew he was in every sense of the word a soldier, ready to share with them in every danger and privation, and they appreciated him accordingly. The genuine goodness of his heart, and the unaffected kindness of his disposition attracted to him all with whom he came in contact.¹⁶ Company A earned the sobriquet, "Haggerty's Bullies."¹⁷

THE CALL TO BATTLE

Most of the rank and file in the 69th Regiment were members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Fenian Brotherhood. This was a time of great anti-Catholic and anti-Irish bigotry. It had swept the country and could be heard and felt. Catholics generally were suspected of being potentially disloyal to the United States because of their loyalty to the Church of Rome. Many also suspected that the Irish were too independent and resistant to authority and would make poor soldiers. Then, in early 1861, the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter and the Civil War began.¹⁸

The Irish citizens did not enter the army on either side as a matter of calculation and prudence, but as a matter of duty, and from an impulse of patriotism. Yet if they had acted on deliberation, they could not have done more wisely than they did. 'Foreigners and aliens' they would indeed have proven themselves to be, had they stood coldly aloof, or shown themselves insensitive to the cause which stirred the heart of the nation to its depths, and, as if in a flash, made gallant soldiers of peaceful citizens. They vindicated their citizenship, not alone by their services, but by their sympathies; and in their terrible sacrifices — on every bloody field and in every desperate assault — in every danger, toil and suffering — they made manifest their value to the State, no less by their devotion than their valor.¹⁹

From every State; from every city, town, and village; from the forest and the prairie, the hill and the plain; from the workshop, the factory, and the foundry, from the counter and the desk; from the steam-boat, the wharf, and the river bank — wherever the Irish were, or whatever their occupation, they obeyed the summons of their adopted country, and rushed to the defense of its banner. They either formed organizations of their own, or they fell into the ranks with their fellow-citizens of other nationalities. But special organizations, distinctive and national, had for them peculiar attractions; and once the green flag was unfurled, it acted with magnetic influence, drawing to it the hardy children of Erin. There were, in both armies, companies, regiments, brigades, almost exclusively Irish; but whether there was a special organization or not, there was scarcely a regiment in either service which did not contain a smaller or a greater number of Irish citizens.²⁰

President Abraham Lincoln issued a call on April 15, 1861 for 75,000 volunteers. Colonel Michael Corcoran was being court martialed for refusal to order out his regiment, in the fall of 1860, to honor the touring Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VII). His court

69TH REG'T N.Y.S.M.

Col. MATHEW MURPHY.



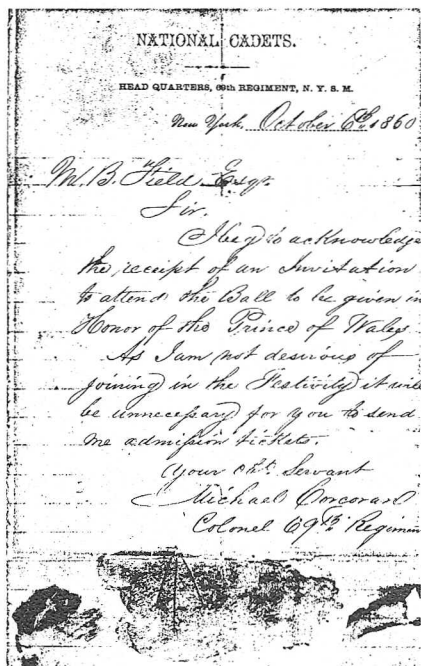
**THIS GALLANT CORPS WILL BE READY IN A FEW DAYS
TO START FOR THE SEAT OF WAR!**

200 PICKED, HEALTHY YOUNG MEN WANTED

To fill the Regiment to its maximum strength.

**This Regiment is the FIRST of the IRISH LEGION,
commanded by GEN. MICHAEL CORCORAN.**

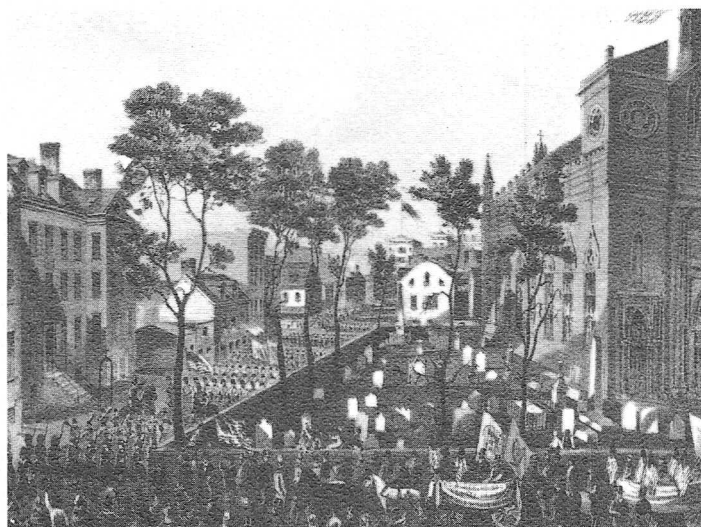
**HEADQUARTERS,
Essex Market cor. Grand & Essex Sts.**



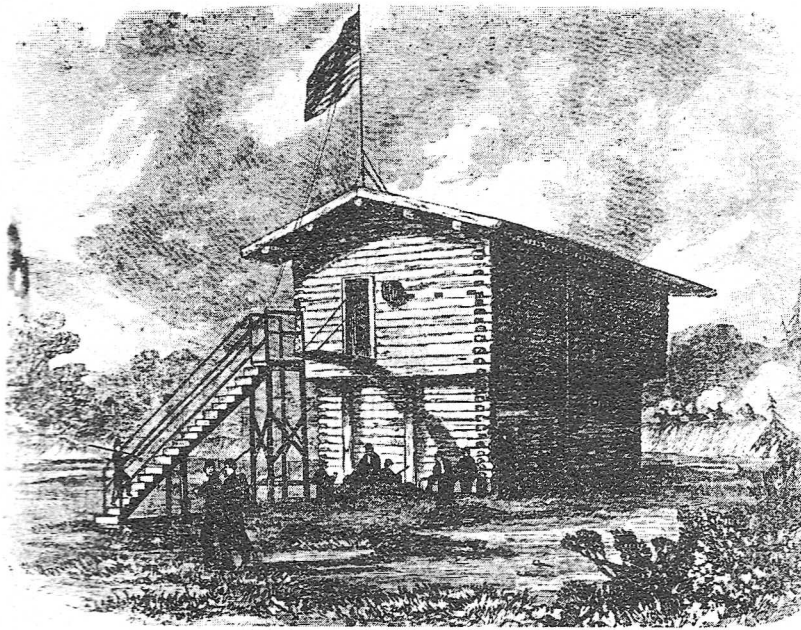
On 16 March 1861, the grateful Irish citizens of New York presented to the 69th Regiment a beautiful green color in recognition of its part in the Prince of Wales affair. It rests today in the color cases of the hallowed halls of the 69th Regiment Armory in New York City.

martial was summarily dissolved, the charges dismissed, and he was released from arrest.²¹ Corcoran started recruiting on April 19, 1861, after learning that, at its last inspection, the 69th New York State Militia numbered only 245 men. James Haggerty was mustered in as Captain of Company A (Irish Fusileers) at Hibernian Hall, 42 Prince Street. On April 20th, the 69th Regiment was detailed for immediate service at Washington, D.C., to join other Union forces guarding the nation's capital.²²

On April 23, 1861, amid "deafening cheers" the 69th, 1040 strong marched down Broadway past Hibernian Hall preceded by a four-horse wagon bedecked with the motto "Sixty Ninth Remember Fontenoy." The banner recalled the triumph of the French General Maurice de Saxe over the British in 1745, a victory due to an unstoppable bayonet charge by the French army's renowned Irish Brigade.²³ The 69th, many of them exiles in their own right, soon



DEPARTURE OF THE 69TH REGIMENT FROM IRISH HEADQUARTERS
LITHOGRAPH FOR DR. VALENTINE'S MANUAL 1861



Fort Haggerty was garrisoned by detachments from the following: 69th New York State Militia, 97th New York Infantry, 164th Ohio Infantry, 4th New York Heavy Artillery, and 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery.

constructed Forts Haggerty, Corcoran and Bennett, across the Potomac from Georgetown. (Fort Haggerty was constructed in May of 1861 and was a small enclosed work designated to protect the Aqueduct Bridge and sweep the slope south of Fort Corcoran with cannon fire).²⁴ On May 9, 1861, the 69th Regiment was mustered into the service of the United States. Upon completion of three months of monotony and drill, the 69th, along with other militia regiments, was now free to return home, since their ninety-day enlistments had expired.

Now it was that the commander of the Northern Army, General Irvin McDowell, finally yielded to political pressures urging him to seek battle "and end the war." With obvious reluctance, he marched his half-trained regiments out into the Virginia countryside, hoping to smash Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard's Confederate Army before it could be joined by that of Gen. Joseph Johnston. To the disgust of the Regular Army officers, most of the three-month levies refused to fall in. Their time was up and they were homesick. Corcoran's men, however, along with a few other units like Haggerty's old 37th New York (Irish Rifles) and the 13th Brooklyn, another Irish regiment, in response to an in-person appeal from President Abraham Lincoln, agreed to stay under arms and fight. [The 37th New York State Volunteers (Irish Rifles) was formed by former members of the 75th New York State Militia Regiment and it offered Haggerty the Lieutenant Colonelcy of the Regiment upon completion of the Battle of Bull Run.]²⁵

Up early on the morning of July 21, 1861, the 69th Regiment had to wait until noon to take their place in the line of march into the Virginia countryside. Brigaded with the 13th and 79th New York and the 2nd Wisconsin in William T. Sherman's brigade of McDowell's 1st division, the 69th was held out of the early phases of the following day's battle. At 11:00 a.m. the 69th splashed across Bull Run and moved up toward Henry House Hill, many of the men discarding their uniform coats in the intense heat. When the 69th reached the crest of the hill it closed with the 4th Alabama in a violent melee.²⁶

BATTLE OF BULL RUN, JULY 21, 1861

Ye boys of the sod, to Columbia true,
Come up, boys, and fight, for the Red, White and Blue!
Two countries we love, and two mottoes we'll share,
And we'll join them in one, on the banner we bear:
Erin, mavourneen! Columbia, agra!
E pluribus unum! Erin, go bragh!

— Song of the Irish Legion,
by James De Mille — 1861.

When the advance into Virginia was ordered, Captain James Haggerty assumed the position of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Nugent (who had been disabled by a violent fall from his horse some days before.)²⁷ The following served as staff officers of the 69th Regiment in action on July 21, 1861: Michael Corcoran, Colonel; James Haggerty, acting Lieutenant Colonel; Captain Thomas Francis Meagher, acting as Major and Special Aide to the Colonel; Major John McKeon having been ordered the day before to take command at Fort Corcoran, and Captain John Nugent, acting as Adjutant.²⁸ Armed with M 1842 muskets, the 69th was ready to fight the rebels.²⁹

The 69th Regiment after fording Bull Run at the head of Sherman's brigade, nearing the battle saw a body of men going through the woods from where murderous fire was pouring upon them. They were mistakenly thought to be Southerners in pursuit of the 12th Regiment, New York State Militia. The boys of the 69th instinctively brought their bayonets to the charge but were on the point of plunging upon the friendly faces of the gray-uniformed 13th New York.

Acting Lieutenant Colonel Haggerty dashed along the line and struck the bayonets upwards with his sword. It was the act of a cool, strong, decisive brain and in that instance it stayed the 69th with an iron hand, as it were, and held it with masterly suspense. This was followed by a hurricane of round shot, spherical ball, shell and cannister, which rent and split the sturdiest trees all around, struck deep into the earth and harrowed it far and wide, knocking over the Wisconsin men who were drawn up in a line across the road at right angles with the left wing of the 69th Regiment. While the 69th patiently submitted to this savage attack, Haggerty stood at its extreme right, contemplating with undisguised satisfaction the perfect coolness and subordination of the men.³⁰

There are several unclear versions about what happened when the 69th closed with the 4th Alabama. The Confederates, pursued by the Union flanking column, were obviously retreating. The Alabamans, their own Colonel dead and Lieutenant Colonel and Major badly wounded, were headed for the rear, pursued by volleys of musketry.³¹ In plain sight was a detachment of enemy infantry falling back to rejoin the main body of Confederates. Acting Lieutenant Colonel Haggerty, while leading a charge against the troops of Stonewall Jackson, spurred his horse and made a dash to cut off a straggler, who turned, raised his gun, and fired point blank.³² Haggerty fell to the ground. A volley cut down the man who had slain the brave Haggerty — the regiment's first officer to die in the war. In the words of The Irish American, "He rushed into the field, and foremost fighting, fell."³³

PROGRAM

Welcome!

Those attending the St. Patrick's Day remembrance service, conducted by the Irish Brigade Association at Calvary Cemetery on March 17, 1991, saw an honor guard pay homage to Capt. (Lt. Col.) James Haggerty of the 69th New York State Militia Regiment. Haggerty, a native of Glenswilly, Co. Donegal, was killed in action on July 21, 1861, leading a charge during the First Battle of Bull Run, the Civil War's first major battle. He lay in an unmarked grave unsung, unhonored, neglected and except for mention in Civil War history books — forgotten. A feeling emerged that this Donegal hero deserved his "day in the sun."

At the regular membership meeting of the Donegal Association of New York Inc., held on April 12, 1991 at the Kittredge Club, Past President Daniel F. Kelly brought the matter of Haggerty to the attention of the members and named James H. McLaughlin, the organization's historian, as chairman of the Capt. (Lt. Col.) James Haggerty Memorial Committee. The following Association members volunteered to serve on the Committee: Anne McGee Cunningham, Willie Joe Cunningham, Fr. Paul Duggan, Tom Feeney, Manus Gallagher, Daniel F. Kelly, Tom MacBride, Noreen McGovern, Sean McGovern, Michael Meehan, Joseph Rourke, Peter Toner and Thomas M. Ward.

Bernard B. Kelly, Commander, Veterans Corps, 69th Regiment, Inc., and Liam Murphy, President, Irish Brigade Association turned over the research they had compiled on the life of Haggerty to the Committee. It was agreed that further research would be conducted by the Donegal Association and that Haggerty's memory would be honored in the proper manner.

The first preliminary sketches of the projected memorial to Captain (Lt. Col.) James Haggerty were received from Teresa Varnell of Riley Brothers. They were reviewed at the Association meeting held on May 10, 1991. A list of the internments in the grave was included. It was brought to the attention of the Committee that the County Sligo Men's Social and Benevolent Association erected, in recent years, a new memorial at the Calvary gravesite of the Sligo-born leader of the 69th Regiment, Brigadier General Michael Corcoran who, like Haggerty, was killed during the Civil War. The County Tipperarymen's Association also erected a memorial headstone at the Calvary gravesite of Michael Doheny, an organizer and First Colonel of the 69th Regiment. This strengthened the resolve of the Committee to promote and protect the heritage of the only officer of the 69th killed in the Battle of Bull Run — Captain (Lt. Col.) James Haggerty.

The Captain (Lt. Col.) James Haggerty Memorial Committee delayed the start of its official fund-raising drive to March 7, 1992, the date of our 96th Anniversary Dinner Dance so as not to conflict with our Journal designed to raise funds necessary to celebrate our rapidly approaching 100th Anniversary in a proper manner. We set a fund-raising goal of \$6,000, the cost of the monument. Thanks to your generosity and enthusiastic support we have exceeded our goal.

Today Captain (Lt. Col.) James Haggerty is having his well deserved "day in the sun."

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Calvary Chapel

12:00 Noon

MEMORIAL MASS FOR CAPTAIN (Lieutenant Colonel) JAMES HAGGERTY

Glenswilly, Co. Donegal

celebrated by

REV. PAUL DUGGAN, *St. Gerard's Church, Paterson, New Jersey.*

Father Duggan, a native of Moville, Co. Donegal is the Chaplain of the Donegal Association of New York Inc.

(Following the conclusion of Mass we will walk to the Haggerty Memorial)

Graveside Cermonies

Opening Remarks

JAMES H. McLAUGHLIN

Past President of the Donegal Association of New York Inc.;

Author of *James Haggerty of Tir Conaill, Irish Patriot — American Hero*;

Co-Chairperson, Irish American Heritage and Culture Week Committee.

Guest Speakers

THOMAS MAC BRIDE

President of the Donegal Association of New York, Inc.;

Vice-President, American Irish Teachers Association;

Recipient of "Educator of the Year" Award, Association of Teachers of New York

DANIEL F. KELLY

Past President of the Donegal Association of New York Inc.;

Member of the Military History Society of Ireland;

Knight of St. Gregory; Knight of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

LT. COL. ROBERT J. HUTTER

Commanding Officer, First Battalion, 69th Infantry, NYARNG "Fighting 69th"

Detective, New York City Police Department

LT. COL. KENNETH H. POWERS

Long Time Member of the 69th Regiment; Regimental Historian;

Department of the Army Registrar, U.S. Army Ordnance Museum, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

FIRST SERGEANT BERNARD B. KELLY

Commander, 69th Regiment Veterans Corps; First Sergeant, 69th Infantry;

Retired Police Lieutenant, New York City Police Department; Historian, Division 7, Suffolk County A.O.H.

SERGEANT MAJOR CHARLES LAVERTY

Editor of *IRISH VOLUNTEER*; A Founder of the Irish Brigade Association;

Former Chairman of the Irish Memorial Committee 1960-1965; Retired, United States Army Reserve

LIAM MURPHY

President, Irish Brigade Association; Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve/New York Naval Militia;

Former Editor, *NATIONAL HIBERNIAN DIGEST*

Blessing of Haggerty Memorial

FR. PAUL DUGGAN

Chaplain, Donegal Association

Salute:

COLOR GUARDS

representing the active Battalion of the 69th Regiment of New York; the Veterans Corps of the 69th Regiment of New York and the Irish Brigade Association. Colors will include reproductions of the Stars and Stripes and "Prince of Wales" flags carried at the Battle of Bull Run in 1861. Representatives from the 9th Regiment, New York Guard will be present. There will also be a firing party from the Irish Brigade Association's A Company, 69th Regiment as well as a contingent of other Civil War reenactors, under the direction of Gerald A. Regan.



On the brow of the hill, to the left, is where Lieut. Col. Haggerty of the NYSM was buried.

Photo: Prof. Jack McCormack

Captain Thomas Francis Meagher, with the assistance of four Sergeants, took Haggerty's body to a farm house nearby, placed his sword crosswise on his breast, and left him in the charge of Sergeant Bell. [At Corcoran's personal insistence (in the heat of the battle), Haggerty's body was subsequently carried on the farm house door to Cub Run, some four miles from the field of battle, during the eventual retreat that day, where he was temporarily buried.³⁴]

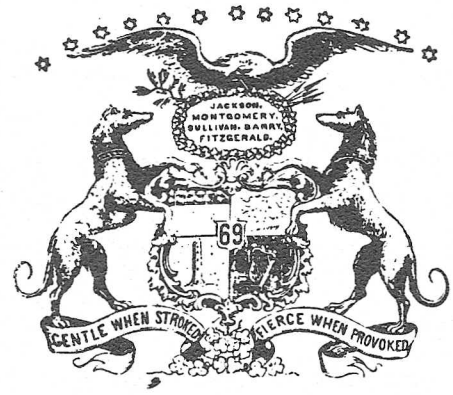
A braver soldier or braver officer than Captain James Haggerty never drew sword in a just cause. Ardent devotee to the land of his birth, he acquired a knowledge of military tactics and cultivated his talents in that line with the hope of being one day able to strike efficiently in her cause. When the land of his adoption called for the exercise of his abilities, he did not hold back an instant.³⁵ Perhaps, had he been more cautious, he might have still survived to serve his country well; but his fate, at least, was a glorious one — among the first to fall — the foremost of a gallant band — bravest where all were brave.³⁶

That hot July day brought near disaster to McDowell's army. In the midst of the debacle a few regiments brought credit to the Union. Among these was the 69th, which was one of the last formations to retreat back to Washington. Their brigade commander, Colonel William T. Sherman, said that they were one of the few units willing to fight. A Southern reporter wrote that "The Sixty-Ninth fought like Tigers." On the Union side General Porter reported that while others "broke and fled," "gave way to disorder," or "hesitatingly retired," the "gallant exceptions" were the Sixty-Ninth and Thirty-Eighth New York who nobly stood and returned the fire of the enemy for fifteen minutes.³⁷

The 69th Regiment, under Colonel Corcoran's command, formed a square to defend against the Confederate Cavalry, who were advancing. He moved to the point at which the army had crossed Bull Run. Here, because of the woods and narrowness of the path down the bluffs that formed the west bank, the 69th had to be reduced to a column. Sherman, who was in the square, told the men to get away as fast as they could since the enemy's cavalry was coming. This prevented Colonel Corcoran from reforming the men

in square on the other side of the Run, a movement which would not only have effectually repelled the enemy, but would have covered the retreat of every battery lost subsequently.

It was in his endeavors to remedy the disorder and straggling caused by this "license to run," that Colonel Corcoran (who, from the unfortunate and irreparable loss of Haggerty, and the absence of all his staff, was obliged to be somewhat in the rear,) was cut off from the main body of the regiment by the enemy's cavalry, and being able to rally only nine men, moved into a small house, to make a better defense, but was induced by some of his officers to surrender, as resistance was hopeless.³⁸



On the Confederate side, here's what the '48 patriot thought of his countrymen in Union ranks, from one of his Paris letters dated August 7, 1861: "For the sake of the island that bred them I am rejoiced that the 69th Regiment did its duty in the bloody day of Manassas (Bull Run). — They have seen some service at last, and of the sharpest; so that I imagine the men who faced Beauregard's artillery and rifles until Bull Run ran red, will not be likely to shrink on the day (when will it dawn, that white day?) that they will have the comparatively light task of whipping their weight of red-coats."³⁹

The casualties at the Battle of Bull Run for the 69th Regiment were as follows: killed, 1 officer (Acting Lieutenant Colonel James Haggerty), 36 enlisted men; wounded, 1 officer, 59 enlisted men; captured 3 officers, 92 enlisted men; aggregate 192.⁴⁰

HAGGERTY NOT FORGOTTEN

The return of the 69th New York State Militia after the Battle of Bull Run caused a change in the history of the Regiment. While some of the Bull Run veterans remained with the 69th Militia, more, however, were determined to form a Volunteer 69th regiment to serve for the duration of the war — later, the senior regiment of the Irish Brigade.

Inspired by the Irish Brigades in the service of Spain and France after the "Flight of the Wild Geese" in 1691, Irish exiles here dreamed of an American Brigade that might someday fight for Irish freedom. The idea almost came to life in 1855 after the 75th New York State militia was formed to join the 9th and 69th. But with the consolidation of 75th with the 9th in 1857, and of the 9th with the 69th in 1858, the 69th emerged as the sole Irish regiment in New York. The enthusiams of the Irish in answering President Lincoln's call for volunteers after Bull Run revived the idea of an Irish Brigade.⁴¹

The militia regiment had been sufficiently reorganized by the Spring of 1862 to undertake a search for the body of Captain James Haggerty. At a meeting of the Board of Officers of the 69th Regiment New York State Militia on April 3, 1862, Captain Theodore Kelly and Lieutenants James M. Canton and John Fahy were appointed committee members who would proceed to the battlefield of Bull Run and bring back to New York City the remains of their lamented brother officer.⁴²

The committee set out on Monday morning, April 7, 1862 and reached Washington early the next day, where they were delayed by bad roads and a severe snow-storm until Thursday morning. They traveled all day and all night, fording creeks and wading swamps, reaching Centreville, Va., early Friday morning. They then started immediately for Cub Run, where a detachment of Captain Haggerty's company had taken his body for burial on the day of the battle. As the result of a flood, they were forced to swim the creek, leaving the empty coffin in the cart in care of a teamster.⁴³

The committee secured the services of a guide named Grigsby and the aid of Charles G. Murphy, quartermaster of the 38th New York. Grigsby turned out to be a Confederate sympathizer, whose disparaging remarks so angered Captain Kelly that he challenged the guide to a duel. Peace was restored and when Grigsby blundered into deep water crossing the creek and was swept away by the current, Kelly with typical Irish daring and generosity, dove in and saved his life.⁴⁴

They forthwith commenced their explorations for the grave in which Captain Haggerty and three others were buried. They shovelled off the snow, and after three or four hours, struck the mattress which had been thrown over the grave. They continued to dig, and finally hit the door on which Haggerty was carried from the field.⁴⁵ The bodies, as in the cases of all the Union soldiers discovered, were interred with the faces downward, Haggerty's being on the top. The door as well as the position in which Haggerty was found contributed to preserve his features, to an extraordinary degree, so that he was easily recognizable, his identity being further established by his shoulder straps and marks on his clothing.⁴⁶

Several envelopes, which were quite wet and unintelligible, were found in the pocket of Haggerty's blue shirt, also a piece of tobacco, all being perforated with bullets. The body was taken down to the stream (one of the arms having fallen off when lifting it from the grave) and the clay was washed away.⁴⁷ The committee then, reverently, knelt on the ground and returned thanks to God for the success that had crowned their efforts.

The committee next floated the coffin across the creek, put in the remains, and floated the coffin back again. Once more swimming the creek, the committee walked all the way back to Centreville that night. The next morning they directed their steps toward Washington, walking the entire distance over the most horrible roads.⁴⁸

Haggerty's body was returned to New York City by train on Sunday, April 13, 1862 where, after being placed in a lead-lined mahogany coffin, it lay in state at the Regimental Armory on Grand Street. Mrs. Haggerty arrived at 3:00 p.m., recognizing her husband's body in a moment, and was overcome with grief.⁴⁹

THE CITY MOURNS

I know that I shall meet my fate
Somewhere among the clouds above;
Those that I fight I do not hate,
Those that I guard I do not love;
My country is Kiltartan Cross,
My countrymen Kiltartan's poor,
No likely end could bring them loss
Or leave them happier than before.

— William Butler Yeats

A large number of friends of Haggerty also met at the 69th Regimental Armory over Essex Market that Sunday afternoon including the surgeon of the 69th Regiment, J. Pascal Smith. Lieutenant Dennis Sullivan, and several other members of Company A were present.⁵⁰ The duty of guarding the remains was undertaken by Company A of the 69th (Haggerty's favorite "Bullies").⁵¹ The coffin bore the following inscription upon a silver cross:

"James Haggerty: Died July 21st, 1861."

It was enveloped in the national flag, and upon the lid rested the cap and sword of the deceased, with wreaths of natural flowers.⁵²

On Monday, April 14, 1862 Captain Haggerty's remains were visited by thousands of people of both sexes. It was affecting to see the pious people who entered, kneeling down and offering secret prayers for the repose of the soul of the deceased. The room where the body lay in state was beautifully decorated as was the entrance thereto. On the west side was a flag presented by President Abraham Lincoln to the 69th Regiment when it was posted at Fort Corcoran; on the east side were the colors used by the Regiment at Bull Run; at the foot of the coffin were the new colors of the 69th. A portrait of Colonel Michael Corcoran was positioned at the head of the coffin — draped in mourning — as if looking down with pleasure on the remains of the comrade who, as Captain of Company A, succeeded him in command, and who was his Acting Lieutenant Colonel in the field.⁵³

The remains of James Haggerty continued to lie in state on Tuesday, April 15, 1862. Two privates, James Connor and John Lynagh of Company A, stood guard at the coffin which was visited by crowds of people. Towards evening, the leaden coffin was unsoldered and opened, to gratify the wishes of the sisters of the deceased (Mrs. Toner and Mrs. Hunter) with a view of the body.⁵⁴

Ross and Tousey, located at 121 Nassau Street, were advertising the sale of a fine steel engraving of Haggerty entitled "The Fallen Brave."⁵⁵

THE FUNERAL

The funeral for Captain James Haggerty took place from the Armory of the 69th Regiment at Essex Market (at Grand and Essex) where thousands of people had assembled. The

CALVARY CEMETERY



WOODSIDE, QUEENS, NEW YORK

following was the order of the procession: Section of the Police, Sergeant Monahan; Dodsworth's Band; The 69th Regiment (except Company A) with arms reversed and colors draped in mourning, under the command of Major John Bagley, and Captains John Breslin and Thomas Lynch; Troop 69th Regiment with swords reversed; Engineers, 69th Regiment; Company F, 4th Regiment (Artillery) under command of First Lieutenant James Dammard; Washington Band; GUARD OF HONOR: Company A, 69th Regiment (which Haggerty had commanded) under the command of Captain Theodore Kelly, who led Company A at Bull Run — in a hollow square, guarding the hearse;

THE HEARSE: Containing the coffin, on which was the full dress coat, shako and other articles of deceased's dress with the Union flag, all drawn by four black horses clad in mourning, and having eight black and white plumes, with the following pall bearers: Captains Theodore Pruer, Henry Luke and George Maurer, 5th Regiment, and Richard O'Grady, 4th Artillery, and Thomas Clarke, 69th, and Lieutenant Thomas M. Canton, 69th; Horse of the deceased in mourning with boots reversed and trappings shrouded in crepe; Officers of the 69th Regiment as mourners, with Mr. John Savage, Veteran of the Young Ireland Rising, Journalist and Historian as a special guest; Officers of the 8th Regiment; Officers of the 7th Regiment, under Colonel Marshall Lefferts; Officers of the 5th Regiment, under Colonel Louis Burger; Officers of the 3rd (Hussar) Regiment, on foot; Officers of the Washington Continentals; Brigadier-General John Ewing and staff; Mr. William Jones, nephew of the deceased, and other friends; Carriage containing Mrs. Haggerty, widow, and Mesdames Toner and Hunter, sisters of deceased; Carriage with Mr. John Hennessey and friends; Barouche, containing Hon. Michael Connolly, Mr. Patrick McArdle and friends; Carriage containing Messrs. Owen Keenan, Francis Reynolds & Company, Mr. Reynolds, one of the 69th, being unable to parade in consequence of a serious accident to his leg; Barouche, containing Messrs. E.L. Carey and John Wynne; Carriage with Reporter of The Sun, Mrs. Stephen C. Foster and a young lady with Mr. D.D. McCarthy; Carriage with Mr. William J. Kane, Captain Maurice Walsh & company; about one hundred other carriages.

The procession proceeded through Grand Street to and through the Bowery to Prince, to St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral on Mott Street where the throng was very dense. After all were seated in the Cathedral, the clergy entered, followed by the Vicar-General, Rev. William Starrs, D.D., clad in the appropriate funeral vestments, the altar etc., being hung with black and purple. Mozart's *Requiem Mass in D* was then sung, the Rev. Thomas Mooney, Pastor of St. Brigid's Church and former Chaplain of the 69th Regiment, being the celebrant, the Rev. Eugene Maguire, deacon, the Rev. John Bonitti, sub-deacon, and the Rev. Father Woods, master of the ceremonies. There were also present in the sanctuary the rev. Fathers Kelly of Jersey City, and Duranguet and McEvoy of New York. The body was deposited in the main aisle, the pall being ornamented with a white cross. A candelabra and numerous lighted tapers surrounded the coffin. The pews along the middle aisle were filled with soldiers. After Mass, a procession to the coffin was formed and the Rev. Father Starrs delivered an eloquent address upon the many good qualities, both of mind and of heart, for which Captain James Haggerty was noted.⁵⁶

The funeral cortege then reformed and proceeded up Mott Street to Houston, to Bowery, to Canal, to Broadway, to Tenth, to the Greenpoint Ferry. Here Company A of the 69th

Regiment was detailed as a firing party, and with the long line of carriages accompanied the deceased to Calvary Cemetery, the rest of the military returning home.⁵⁷

The guard of honor (Company A Captain Kelly) with Captains Lynch, Clarke, Dempsey and Kirker; Lieutenants O'Boyle and Duane, Sergeant-Major Tracy, Quartermaster Sergeant Bell & company proceeded to the grave where Haggerty's remains were deposited beside his brother Patrick and his daughter Anne. Company A then fired three volleys over the last resting place of their beloved commander, and all was finished.⁵⁸ May he rest in peace. The earth of Calvary hides no braver or truer heart than that of James Haggerty.

REMINISCENCES

"We have given too many Irish regiments
and brigades to the American service to
let their history sink into obscurity;
Their bravery and services are of such
nature as to cause a glow of pride to
tingle through every Irishman's heart."

— THE IRISH BRIGADE AND ITS CAMPAIGNS
Captain D. P. Conyngham

Hegarty, sometimes O'Hegarty but seldom Haggerty in Ireland (a form of the name found among Irish-Americans), is in Irish Ó hÉigceartaigh. Thus James Haggerty was known as James Hegarty in Glenswilly. The name Hegarty appears very frequently in the annals of the Irish Brigades in France. Among those who distinguished themselves particularly in this field of action was Lieutenant Colonel Hegarty of Lally's Regiment, who for his services was decorated in 1747 by Louis XV of France, while Peter O'Hegarty was made Governor of the Isle of Bourbon.⁵⁹ Thus the penchant for military service may have been in the Hegarty genes.

Captain James Haggerty was described as being as fine a specimen of an Irish Celt as the noble region of Donegal could produce. Tall, erect in stature, Haggerty's presence had all the simple dignity of the man, honest, fearless, and self-reliant. His strongly marked features, firmly set lips and piercing eyes, denoted the unshaken nerve and intellect quick to grasp at and comprehend the details of the most difficult position; while his well-knit, muscular limbs bespoke of a body prompt to carry into execution the behests of his daring mind.⁶⁰

The tendency of Irishmen like Haggerty to join front-line organizations, whether of regiment or brigade, imposed on them more of hard work, more of risk and danger, than fell to the ordinary lot of the staff soldier. It seemed as if they themselves should do more than others, to sustain the reputation which they had often, in times when civil war was undreamt of, claimed for their race — a reputation that others freely admitted to be established beyond question. Not only had an Irishman to maintain the honor of his regiment, but he had also to maintain the honor of his country; for if he fought as an American, he also fought as an Irish exile.⁶¹

Thomas Francis Meagher, as recorded by Cavanagh in the *Memoirs*, provides striking evidence of the deep religious faith of the men of the 69th Regiment, in general, and Captain James Haggerty in particular:

"Were it not for the visit of Father (Thomas) Scully, the young and devoted Chaplain of Colonel Cass's 9th (Irish) Regiment, from Boston, who, having heard of Thursday's fighting, dashed across from Washington, over five-and-thirty miles, to see and learn all about us, Saturday, despite the glaring sunshine, would have been a gloomy day indeed. His hearty words and presence lit up afresh the life and fire of the 69th; and he came in good time, and most kindly stayed long enough to relieve our own beloved Chaplain, Father (Bernard) O'Reilly, at the confessional. There were few of the 69th who failed to confess and ask forgiveness on that day. Every one, officers as well as privates, prepared for death. Sincerely and devout they made their peace with God. This is the secret of their courage, and the high, bright spirit with which they bore all the hardships, the privations, and the terrors and the chastisement of the battle.

"It was, in truth, an affecting sight — that of strong, stalwart, rugged men — all upon their knees, all with heads uncovered, all with hands clasped in prayer and eyes cast down, approaching, one by one, the good, dear priest, who, seated at the foot of an old bare tree, against which some of our boys had spread for him an awning of green branches, heard the confessions of the poor fellows, and bid them to be at ease and fearless. Long as I live, I shall never forget that scene. It was not less impressive than that of Father O'Reilly passing along our line, as we knelt within range of the enemy's batteries on one knee, with bayonets fixed, expecting every instant to be swept upon, and the final benediction was imparted.

"Father O'Reilly has told me since, that the earnestness and devotion which poor Haggerty received that benediction singularly struck him, and that the attitude and expression of this truly honest and heroic soldier, at that solemn moment could never leave his memory."⁶²

We cannot more fittingly conclude these words of tribute to the memory of a brave soldier and true Irishman, than in the touching words of Meagher in 1861 in his reference to the noble dead who sleep their last sleep in the fields of Virginia near those Blue Mountains which he so grandly described:

"On the silent fields which these noble mountains overlook and those deep groves shadow, I see many a strong and gallant soldier of the Sixty-Ninth whom I knew and loved: and they lie there in the rich sunshine discolored and cold in death. All of them were from Ireland, and as the tide of life rushed out, the last thought that left their hearts was for the liberty of Ireland. Prominent amongst them, strikingly noticeable by reason of his large iron frame, and the boldly chiselled features on which the impress of great strength of will and intellect was softened by a constant

play of humor and the goodness and grand simplicity of his heart — wrapped in his rough old overcoat, with his sword crossed upon his breast, his brow boldly uplifted as though he were still in command, and the consciousness of having done his duty sternly to the last animating the Roman face — there lies James Haggerty — a braver soldier than whom the land of Sarsfield and Shields has not produced, and whose name, worked in gold upon the colors of the Sixty-Ninth, should be henceforth guarded with all the jealousy and pride which inspires a regiment, wherever its honor is at stake and its standards are in peril.”⁶³

O hÉigceartaigh **SEMPER ET UBIQUE FIDELIS**

King Louis XVIII paid tribute to The Irish Brigade in the service of France (1692-1792), saying that they were “Semper et Ubique Fidelis” — Always and Everywhere Faithful. Semper et Ubique Fidelis could also describe James Haggerty, Michael Corcoran, and the Bold Fenian Men of the Fighting 69th.

Semper et Ubique Fidelis

AFTERMATH

Captain James Haggerty left, besides his widow, one child, a daughter, little more than two years old. He had several brothers, but all apparently predeceased him to the grave save Bryan, who serving as a Sergeant in the 69th New York Volunteer Infantry, was mortally wounded at Malvern Hill, Va., on July 1, 1862.⁶⁴ Two married sisters, Mrs. Toner and Mrs. Hunter, were in attendance at his wake and funeral. Rose Hunter died at the age of 76 years and was buried in the Haggerty plot on April 2, 1910. The last person to be buried in the plot was Edward McPhie, on January 30, 1915 at age 29.

We know that claims upon the Irish American community of the widow and daughter of Captain James Haggerty were met with prompt recognition. Several members of the “Friendly Sons of St. Patrick” donated to Mrs. Haggerty the sum of \$500 as a testimony of their proud appreciation of the bravery and other noble qualities of her deceased husband.

James Haggerty

HOUSE CARPENTER & BUILDER

NO. 70 BLEEKER ST. BETWEEN
BROADWAY AND CROSBY STREET

PARTICULAR ATTENTION PAID TO JOBBING

When the 69th Regiment was ordered to the seat of war, Captain James Haggerty was engaged in a lucrative business as a house carpenter and printer's joiner, in both of which branches he possessed great skill and experience. Mrs. Haggerty, with the assistance of the competent workmen employed by her late husband, hoped to carry on his business.⁶⁵ On December 14, 1861 the last business card advertising James Haggerty's House Carpentry and Building Business on 70 Bleeker Street appeared in "The Irish American" accompanied with the notation "The business is still being carried on for the benefit of the widow and child of Lt. Col. Haggerty."⁶⁶

James Haggerty, like "Red Hugh" O'Donnell, died in exile before he could return home to liberate Ireland. In that respect, his story is another in a long list of tragic sacrifices for the love of Caitlín Ní Houlihan. Like "Red" Hugh, Haggerty also gives us the inspiring example of a man steadfastly dedicated to the cause of her liberty.

The seminal regiments of the Irish Brigade (69th New York Volunteer Infantry) and the Irish Legion (69th New York National Guard) were cadred from the 69th New York Militia Regiment which fought with Haggerty at Bull Run (First Manassas). The 69th New York State Militia, the 69th of Meagher's Irish Brigade and the 69th of Corcoran's Irish Legion (later the 182nd New York Volunteer Infantry) were all consolidated into the 69th Regiment of New York after the Civil War — the regiment which Robert E. Lee dubbed the "Fighting 69th", and which would later be led by "Wild Bill" Donovan and Father Francis Duffy in the First World War and which would also distinguish itself in the Pacific campaigns in World War II.

It is significant to note that the military escort to the Irish societies in the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade since 1852 has traditionally been the 69th Regiment of New York. (Prior to that date the Parade was led by an Irish militia company, usually that which is now 'A' Company of the 69th — Haggerty's Company.)

In conclusion, as the 1980's saw the demise of the "Berlin Wall" and the apparent re-birth of freedom in Poland and other eastern European lands, let not the 1990's pass away without the unfinished work of patriots like James Haggerty being completed. Let Ireland be once again United, Gaelic and Free. One nation under God, indivisible with Liberty and Justice for all — please God, let there be Peace with Justice and Honor.

NOTE: The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness for research assistance so generously offered by 69th Regiment Historian Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Powers; 69th Veterans Corps Commander Barney Kelly; Irish Brigade Association President Liam Murphy; IRISH VOLUNTEER Editor Charlie Laverty; Brian Pohanka, historian; Francis P. Beirne of the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee; and Phyllis Lane, biographer of Michael Corcoran. These dedicated researchers took valuable time from their already overloaded schedules to review the contents of this narrative and offer many helpful suggestions and corrections. [Cover steel engraving of Capt. Haggerty is courtesy of Charlie Laverty, Irish Brigade Assn., whose headquarters is at Fort Schuyler, Bronx, NY, once the training site of the Irish Brigade.]

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. The reader is referred to "The Fenian Movement in the United States, 1858-1886." — Rev. William D'Arcy O.F.M. Conv., Catholic University of America Press: Washington, D.C., 1947 and "America and the Fight for Irish Freedom." — Charles Callan Tansill, Devin-Adair: New York, 1957 for detailed information on the Fenian movement.
2. "Glenswilly" — A Lecture by the late Maureen Wall. (A Talk on her native Glen, given by Maureen Wall in Foxhall on the 17th July, 1969, for the first Glenswilly Festival.) P. 14.
3. Wall, op. cit., p. 15
4. Ibid., p. 15
5. Wall, op. cit., p. 16. The reader is also referred to "Apology for the British Government in Ireland," by John Mitchel, for more detailed information on the Devon Commission and the "Famine."
6. The Irish American, 5th October, 1861
7. Ibid.
8. The Irish American, 10th August, 1861
9. The Irish American, 5th October, 1861
10. "The Fighting Sixty-Ninth", Thomas J. Mullen Jr., *Eire-Ireland*, 1969. p. 13.
11. "The Fighting 69th", The 69th Regiment of New York — Bernard B. Kelly, Commander Veterans Corps, 69th Regiment, N.Y., Unpublished MSS, 1981
12. The Irish American, 5th October, 1861
13. "History of the 37th Regiment, New York Volunteers" — A. Milburn Petty, *Journal of the American Irish Historical Society*, Vol. XXXI, New York, 1937, pp. 101-102.
14. The Irish American, 5th October, 1861
15. Kelly, op. cit.
16. The Irish American, 5th October, 1861
17. "The History of the Sixty-Ninth Regiment of New York State Militia, 1851-1861" — Very Rev. Patrick Daniel O'Flaherty, Universal Microfilms Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan. p. 325
18. Kelly, op. cit.
19. "The Irish in America" — John Francis Maguire, M.P., London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1868. p. 550
20. Ibid. p. 550
21. Kelly, op. cit.
22. "New York in the War of the Rebellion 1861 to 1865" — Compiled by Frederick Phisterer. Third Edition. Albany: Lyon Company State Printers, 1912. p. 683
23. "Remember Fontenoy! The 69th New York and the Irish Brigade in the American Civil War" — Joseph G. Bilby. *Military Images Magazine*, March-April 1983. pp. 16-17
24. "Mr. Lincoln's Forts (A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington)" — Benjamin Franklin Cooling III and Walton H. Owen II. White Mane Publishing Company, 1988. p. 103. No visible remains of Fort Haggerty exist. An historical marker for Fort Haggerty stands at the intersection of Arlington Ridge Road and Wilson Boulevard.
25. Petty, op. cit.
26. Mullen, op. cit., pps. 14-15
27. The Irish American, 5th October, 1861
28. The Irish American, 3rd August, 1861
29. "69th Regiment, New York State Militia — "The National Cadets" — 1861" — Michael J. McAfee, *Military Images Magazine*, March-April 1990. p. 27
30. "The Last Days of the 69th in Virginia" — Captain Thomas Francis Meagher. New York: Irish American. 1861
31. Bilby, op. cit.
32. Mullen, op. cit., p. 15
33. The Irish American, 3rd August, 1861
34. The Irish American, 17th August, 1861
35. The Irish American, 3rd August, 1861
36. The Irish American, 5th October, 1861
37. Mullen, op. cit.
38. "Memoirs of Gen. Thomas Francis Meagher" — Michael Cavanagh. The Messenger Press, Worcester, Mass., 1892. p. 404. (One of nine men was Donegal-born James McKay Rorty); and Lane, Phyllis, "Michael Corcoran: Notes Toward A Life," THE RECORDER, a Journal of the American Irish Historical Society, Vol. 3, No. 3, Summer 1990, pp. 42-54
39. Cavanagh, op. cit., p. 417
40. Phisterer, op. cit., p. 674
41. Kelly, op. cit.
42. Flaherty, op. cit., p. 324
43. New York Daily Tribune, 14th April, 1862
44. Flaherty, op. cit., p. 324
45. New York Daily Tribune, 14th April, 1862
46. The Irish American, 19th April, 1862
47. The New York Sun, 14th April, 1862
48. The New York Daily Tribune, 14 April, 1862
49. The Irish American, 19th April, 1862
50. New York Daily Tribune, 14th April, 1862
51. The Irish American, 19th April, 1862
52. New York Daily Tribune, 17th April, 1862
53. The New York Sun, 15th April, 1862
54. The New York Sun, 16th April, 1862
55. The New York Sun, 15th April, 1862
56. The New York Sun, 17th April, 1862
57. The Irish American, 26th April, 1862
58. The New York Sun, 17th April, 1862
59. "Irish Families Their Names, Arms and Origins" — Edward Mac Lysaght. Hodges, Figgis & Co. Ltd., 1957. p. 178
60. The Irish American, 5th October 1861
61. Maguire, op. cit. p. 552
62. Cavanagh, op. cit., p. 396
63. The Irish American, 5th October, 1861
64. "The Irish Brigade and its Campaigns" — Capt. D.P. Conyngham. p. 218
65. The Irish American, 10th August, 1861
66. The Irish American, 14th December, 1861

A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO

President Tom Mac Bride and the officers and members of the Donegal Association of New York, Inc.; the Capt. (Lt. Col.) James Haggerty Memorial Committee; Liam Murphy, President, Irish Brigade Association; Charlie Laverty, Editor, IRISH VOLUNTEER; First Sergeant Bernard B. Kelly, Commander, 69th Regiment Veterans Corps; Lt. Col. Kenneth H. Powers, Regimental Historian, 69th Regiment of New York; Brian Pohanka, Historian, Alexandria, Va.; Hon. Secretary Kathleen Emerson, Cumann Seanchas Dhún na nGall (Co. Donegal Historical Society); Rev. John J. Silke, Parochial House, Glenswilly, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal; Fr. Paul Duggan, Chaplain, Donegal Association of New York Inc.; Jack Conway, Chairman of the National Graves Committee of the Irish Brigade Association; Michael Nicholson and Martin Brett, Sligo Mens Association; Peter Toner, Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation and his lovely mother Susan McGinley; Gerald A. Regan, Irish Brigade Association; Tom Horan, American Irish Historical Society; Professor Jack McCormack, Adjunct Professor of History at Villanova University; Dr. George and Eleanor Hoffman, Irish American Heritage and Culture Week Committee; John J. Concannon, National Historian, Ancient Order of Hibernians; Teresa A. Varnell of Riley Brothers; Frank Beirne, St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee; Gerry Allen and the Staff of Calvary Cemetery; Maire B. McLaughlin, Vice-President, Division 3, Ladies AOH; Franz Biedermann and Joe Haneman, Lorecraft Printing Co., Inc.; Mary Humphrey, Secretary to Mr. Kelly; Sean and Noreen McGovern, Donegal Association of New York Inc. and the person most responsible for this fitting tribute to the memory of Captain (Lieutenant Colonel) James Haggerty — Committee Vice-Chairman Daniel F. Kelly.

James H. McLaughlin

Chairman

Lieutenant Colonel James Haggerty

Memorial Committee

**The Captain (Lieut. Col.) James Haggerty Memorial
Has Been Erected Through the Financial Support of the Following**

SPONSORS

The Donegal Association of New York, Inc.
Daniel F. Kelly, Kelly's Furniture
Michael J. Roarty, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.

BENEFACTORS

Association of Teachers of New York
Maurice, Kitty and Gerry Boyle
Conway Funeral Home, Inc., Jackson Heights, N.Y.
Div. 3., Ladies A.O.H. New York County
Manus and Mary Gallagher
Dr. George and Eleanor Hoffman
Irish American Heritage and Culture Week Committee, Inc., Board of Education
Kathleens of Donegal — Irish Imports — Rockville Centre
Charlie Laverty, Irish Brigade Association; Moy, Co. Tyrone and Raphoe, Co. Donegal
Sean and Noreen McGovern
Annabelle McLaughlin
James and Marie McLaughlin
Fr. Bartley McPhaidin, C.S.S., President, Stonehill College
Michael and Peggy Meehan
Liam A. Murphy, President, Irish Brigade Association
Emmett O'Connell
Richie O'Shea and Frank Keegan Band, P.O. Box 846, Floral Park, N.Y.
Peter and Kathleen Toner
Veterans Corps, 69th Regiment, Inc.
Thomas Michael (Mickey) and Margaret Ward

PATRONS

American Irish Teachers Association
Frank P. Beirne
Martin Brett
Michael, Donna and Sarah Carr (Muckros, Kilear)
Peter and Alice Coll, Boca Raton, Fl.
County Armagh Association of New York, Inc.
County Sligo Mens Social and Benevolent Association
Robert and Anne Cullen, Bowie, MD
Anne McGee Cunningham
Willie Joe and Ellen Cunningham
John and Anne Curran
Mary Laine Dempsey, Snyder, N.Y.
Michael, Nora, Danny and Michael Devaney
John and Gina Fallon
Michael and Helen Feeney and Family
Owen and Margaret Flynn
Patrick and Elizabeth Gaffney, 15th NY Volunteer Engineers
Connell Gallagher
Sue Gallagher
Jim and Helen Grogan
Patricia H. Horton
Peter and Bridget Kavanagh
Thomas Mac Bride
Michael and Philomena McGovern
Mary Pat and Vincent Monaghan
Rose M. Moran
Victor J. Olney, 69th Veterans Corps
Lieut. Col. Kenneth Powers, NYG (Ret.)
Millie Pugh
Gerald Regan
Joseph F. Rourke
Patrick Sweeney
Paul and Anne Timoney
Daniel and Mary Ward

IN THE FIELD WITH THE 'FIGHTING 69TH'



Is this James Haggerty?

Of the three officers pictured here in the field — very likely in the vicinity of Washington DC, and probably in the environs of Camp Corcoran at Alexandria VA — Colonel Michael Corcoran is the only one positively identified, on the left. The officer in the center is probably Lt. Col. Robert Nugent. The otherwise unidentified officer on the right is thought by some to be Capt. James Haggerty. Author Phyllis Lane, biographer of Michael Corcoran, states that this image closely resembles the engraving of Haggerty appearing in the October 5, 1861 issue of the Irish American.

Source: The U.S. Army Military History Institute (Carlisle Barracks PA), and Michael J. MacAfee, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY.

