

## THOMAS MILLIGAN

The true measure of individual success is determined by what one has accomplished. An enumeration of those men of a past generation who were successful in their life work and at the same time left the impress of their strong personalities upon the community, men who won honor and recognition for themselves, and at the same time conferred honor on the locality in which they resided, would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of the gentleman whose name initiates this paragraph, for, although Thomas Milligan has long been sleeping the sleep of the just, his influence still pervades the lives of those who were so fortunate as to enjoy his acquaintance and his name is deeply engraved on the pages of Lawrence county's history. His life was a busy one, but he never allowed anything to interfere with his Christian obligations or the faithful performance of his church duties, so that his entire Christian life was a steady effort for the worth of Christian doctrine, the purity and grandeur of Christian principles and the beauty and elevation of Christian character. Pure, constant and noble was the spiritual flame that burned in and illumined the mortal tenement of the subject of this memoir, and to the superficial observer can come but small appreciation of his intrinsic spirituality, his faith being fortified by the deepest study, and the Christian verities were with him the matters of most concern among the changes and chances of this mortal life.

Thomas Milligan was born near Dublin, Ireland, about the year 1769. Early in life he came to America with his sister Martha and brother Gilbert, making their first settlement in Buncombe county, North Carolina. Thomas Milligan became an earnest and active Christian, joining the Methodist church, in which he was ordained to the ministry. As a preacher he became a figure of considerable prominence in the early church and exerted a tremendous influence wherever he labored. His activity and prominence are noted in the annals of early Tennessee history and in the old records of the Methodist conferences of that period, while he is also specifically mentioned in the records of the general conference of his church which was held at Chillicothe, Ohio, September 14., 1807, he having been one of the eleven delegates which composed that notable body. He went to that meeting on horseback from New River, Virginia, where he was at that time located. He had been admitted to the itinerant ministry in 1798 and during the period from then until 1809 he successively served at Holston Valley, Clinch Valley, Powell's Valley, Carter's Valley, New River district and Wautauga.

On February 18, 1809, Thomas Milligan and Margaret Christian were united in marriage and located near Long Island of the Holston river, where Kingston, Tennessee, is now located. Margaret Christian was the daughter of Colonel Gilbert Christian, who was a veteran of the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars. Subsequently Thomas Mulligan and his family moved from their, home on the Holston river to what was then known as Indiana territory, locating near Bono in 1815, where he entered a tract of land, upon part of which now stands the town of Tunnelton, Lawrence county. In some important respects his coming to Lawrence county was an event of vital import to the community, for his coming marked the first establishment here of a minister of the gospel as a permanent resident. Thus to Guthrie township belongs the distinction and honor of having entertained the first minister in Lawrence county. Thomas Milligan held religious services at his home and the homes of his friends, these being probably the first services of the kind in the county. He was a man of great strength of character, of intense

earnestness and consecration to the service of God. and with a broad-hearted sympathy for his fellow men that impelled him to devote himself to the spiritual uplifting and the aid and encouragement of all with whom he came in contact. He was widely known throughout this section of Indiana and exerted a tremendous influence on the lives, of the early settlers here.

To Thomas and Margaret Milligan were born six children, four Sons and two daughters, of whom the eldest, Caroline, became the wife of George Roberts, a nephew of Bishop Roberts, of the Methodist Episcopal church. The youngest child of the family, Elizabeth Janet became the wife of Capt. Isaac Newkirk. The latter, who was for many years an honored and respected resident of Lawrence county, was captain of Company G, Fourth Indiana Cavalry, during the Rebellion and performed valuable service for his county after his return to civic pursuits. His fellow citizens honored him by electing him twice to the office of sheriff of Lawrence county. Captain Newkirk became owner of the Thomas Milligan tract of land and when the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad was built through this county he laid out and named the town of Tunnelton, it having been located between two tunnels on that road. To Capt. Isaac and Elizabeth Jane Newkirk were born two daughters. Mary E. and Louisa C. Mary E. became the wife of Isaac H. Crim on October 25, 1866, and to this union were born two daughters, Carrie and Lulu. The first named was married to Jesse M. Winstandley on January 16. 1889, and Lulu became the wife of Charles E. Francis on December 14, 1898. Louisa C. Newkirk was married on September 23. 1873, to George R. Green, and they became the parents of a son. George R., Jr. George R. Green, Sr., died on December 6, 1875. and the son, George R., Jr., passed away on July 28. 1895.

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