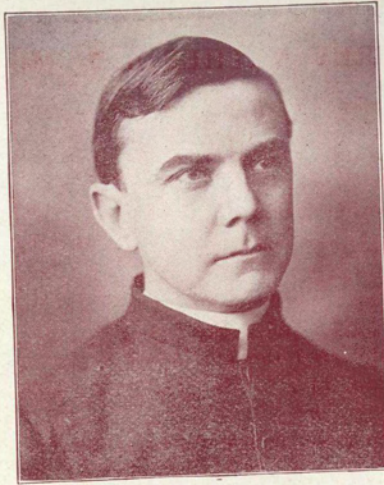




REV. FATHER L. W. MULHANE,
of Mt. Vernon.



REV. FATHER F. A. SCHREIBER,
Pastor St. Peter's Catholic Church.

ADDRESS OF REV. FATHER L. W. MULHANE.

THE SOLDIERS OF 1812.

Appropriate and interesting though the occasion be which calls us together today, there is also a pleasure we must needs feel in looking back a hundred years and considering the men and women who on this spot began a new home and planted the outposts of a new civilization.

Nearly a hundred years ago, by act of the General Assembly of Ohio, Richland was placed under the jurisdiction of Knox County, "until the legislature may think proper to organize the same." A few months later the officials of Knox County declared the entire county of Richland a separate township. I bring you greetings from all Knox County—greetings from mother to daughter.

It is fortunate that you have men and women among you who have the inclination to devote their time to picking up here and there the threads of local history and to weave them into splendid pages of Ohio history.

The hardy pioneers who came into this wilderness hardly realized its immensity, with no conception of its great future, must look down and rejoice today at the smiling abundance of the land. The wigwam has given way to the modern home and its smoke is replaced by the smoke of the mill and foundry.

These hardy pioneers, many of whom had seen service in the war of the Revolution, were animated by the old continental spirit of 1776. They believed that the torch of liberty is kindled most quickly by the fireside and so into the rude log cabin they carried these animating convictions and when they faced the rude savage, they had but to glance back over their shoulders and see the face of wife and little ones at the cabin door.

It is but meek that now and then we should stop and commemorate their deeds and recall their names. It is a happy thought to rebuild, as you have done, the old block house—to put into it timber from the log cabin of a faithful old soldier of 1812—Capt. James Cunningham—it stands there as an exemplar of those early days and crude ways of living—an exemplar to young and old of what the pioneers were compelled to undergo in planting in the forest the seeds of liberty and civilization—for as Burke says:

"Example in the school of mankind, and they will learn at no other."

It is but proper then that today we give at least a passing thought to the old hero-soldiers of 1812, who erected these early block houses. England in the early years of last century declared that no American vessels should enter her ports. France had likewise ordered. England smarting under the defeat of a quarter of a century previous was anxious to drive from the sea the growing power of America's young Republic.

Along the frontier here in Ohio the Indians were induced by English bribes and threats and promises to attack and harrass the outposts of the pioneers, and hence war was the inevitable result. For a year our country had submitted to the dictates of England and France, but now patience ceased to be a political virtue and the honor of the nation must be preserved