

built rail fences. The family owned cows, but hardly anyone had horses at that time. Oxen was the main source of power, but it is not known if the family owned any.

The adjoining neighbors included Thomas Turner, Thomas Kennedy, Edward Smith, and Mr. Manning. The children remembered that potatoes piled in their jackets, and salt and milk was sometimes all they had to eat. The early settlers-colonists were very neighborly. Whenever anyone of them needed help of any kind, other others pitched in to help without being asked or expecting pay for it.

Dennis O'Loughlin joined the Union forces into Nashville. In a letter home, Dennis said "I am in the highest courage and good health, but I feel very much homesick and lonesome after the children." A few days later, he was hit, with a bullet hole between the left thigh and groin. He got gangrene which ate through an artery, and he bled to death. Dennis was buried in Nashville, Tennessee on December 29, 1864.

Margaret was left a widow with nine small children. She got only six dollars a month pension at first, but twelve dollars by the time she died. She absolutely never considered marrying again. Margaret was a midwife and would also lay out the dead. At the wakes she would sing a death chant, but the children hated it, and asked her to stop.

A squatter built a cabin on her land. If she allowed it, she would have lost the creek and the lake. When the squatter went to get his family, Margaret burned his cabin down. He did not try to build another. Margaret strength and fortitude were great. She was also a singer and dancer. It was said that she could play tunes on the floor with her feet and bring them out as well as if she had been played on some musical instrument.

Margaret was one of the hardest workers in

getting donations to build the Church of the Immaculate Conception in 1864. She would go ask donations from people nom one else would think of and got it, too. The church was dedicated in March of 1866. It was snowing raining thundering and lightning all day, but Margaret and her daughter, Nellie, walked to the dedication.

Margareth Bridget Haley O'Loughlin died on October 7, 1886 in Eagle Creek, Shakopee, Minnesota, and was buried at Calvary Cemetery on the top of the hill.



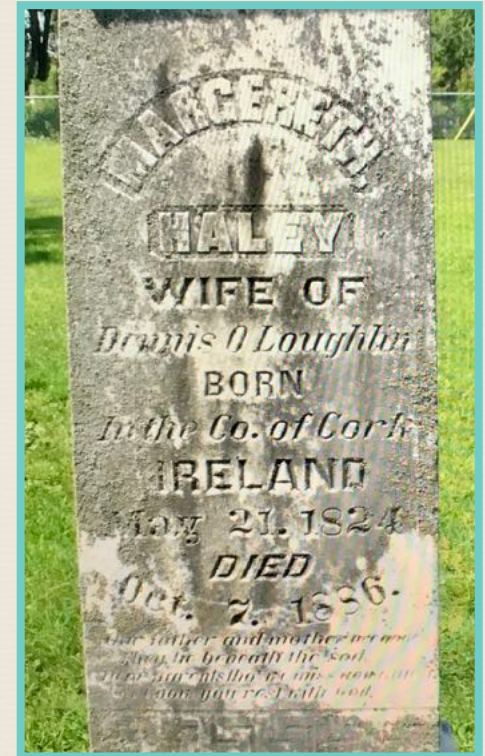
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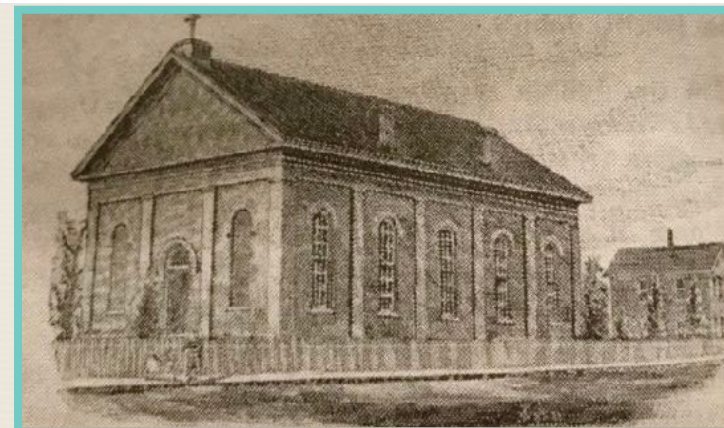


## Margareth Bridget Haley O'Loughlin 1824-1886



Margareth Bridget Heley O'Loughlin helped get donations to build the Church of the Immaculate Conception in 1864. This later became St. Mary's, or the Irish church.

Margareth would walk to the church regularly, which was five miles each way.



Margaret Bridget Haley was born on May 24, 1824 in County Cork in Ireland. Her parents were Daniel James Haley (1803-1876) and Johannah Barrett (1802-1882).

In the 1840s, Margaret moved to New Orleans. She was there to join her brother in Pennsylvania. According to the **Life Story of the O'Loughlin Family** by Dennis O'Loughlin III in 1959, Margaret was on a sailing ship to New Orleans, she met a well-to-do woman who talked her into going to work for her in New Orleans. The woman said that if Margaret didn't like it, the woman would pay for her way to her brother's place in Pennsylvania.

According to Margaret, she never saw her brother or any of her relatives again!

In New Orleans, Margaret met Dennis O'Loughlin, who had been born on May 24, 1824 in County Clare, Ireland. Dennis was a medium-sized man with light complexion, though he turned darker after contracting yellow fever. Margaret was a good-sized woman, very outspoken, and could express herself in no uncertain terms.

Margaret and Dennis married in New Orleans. In around 1850, they took a steamboat to St. Paul, Minnesota Territory. Dennis worked on the Mississippi River on the levee, and owned

lots where the State Capital now stands. The first of 9 children were born in Minnesota, starting with Mary Ann, who was born in St. Paul in 1851, and the rest in Eagle Creek Township.

When visiting some relatives in Le Sueur county, Dennis stopped in Shakopee. He met another old country Irishman who persuaded him to locate in Eagle Creek Township, where they bought 160 acres of unsurveyed land from Minnesota Territory for \$1.25 an acre. The land, according to Dennis O'Loughlin III, was mostly covered with hardwood timber, some natural wild hay meadows....There was a creek across one corner and a small part of a lake on the property. Most of the land had to be cleared. The first buildings were upon a rise of ground near the center of the land, but a log house and others were built near the creek.

Margaret knew that her husband, Dennis was a hard-working man, but he often would go to Shakopee and met with his old cronies. He wouldn't come home until someone went after him. Then he wouldn't go again for a couple of months. He was well-liked and never quarrelsome.

Dennis and Margaret sold their lots in St. Paul

in order to get money to bring Dennis's parents over from Ireland. Michael O'Loughlin (1803-1865) who swear in Gaelic, and Bridge Moran O'Loughlin (1803-1862) both were buried at the Catholic cemetery, but no markers were located.

The Civil War had been going on for three years in 1864 when someone from Shakopee came out and told Dennis that his name was on the list soon to be called up. If a man enlisted, he could go to whatever regiment he wanted to, and his family would get \$300 bounty. So Dennis went to Fort Snelling and enlisted in the 9th Minnesota Volunteers because there were other men from County Clare.

Margaret walked to church regularly, five miles and back. Someone from Shakopee came to tell Margaret that Dennis had enlisted at 7 in the morning. She walked to Fort Snelling, arriving at 1 pm. Dennis was allowed to come back home for her for the last time. The children remembered the stick candy he brought to them, and the youngest ones got to wear Dennis's soldier cap.

Meanwhile, Margaret Bridget Haley O'Loughlin took care of the nine children. The oldest was 13, and the youngest was six months old. Margaret had 12 acres cleared, dug ditches, and