

pp. 344-47

John Bonfield is the son of a County Clare Irishman. His father was a staunch supporter and warm admirer of Daniel O'Connell, and participated in many an election that returned, and many a demonstration that honored, the great Irish Parliamentary leader. Much as was expected from the efforts and final success of the great Kerry statesman, the elder Bonfield, like many another honest Irishman who had preceded, and many who have followed him, felt that for his own good and the good of his little family he must leave his native country. He emigrated to New Brunswick, leaving a part of his family, to be sent for later, behind him. At Batlmrst in that province of her gracious Majesty, in the month of April, 1836, his sou, John, first saw the light of day. The family moved from New Brunswick to Buffalo, N. Y., in 1842; and in the summer of 1844 settled in Chicago. John attended the best common school the place afforded in those days, and received a thorough elementary education. Leaving school ten years later, in 1853 or 1854, he became apprenticed to the machinist's trade, and after mastering this art, took charge of stationary engines, first in the packing house of O. S. Hough and afterwards in the glue works of Wall Brothers.

In 1858 he determined to become a locomotive engineer and in order to fulfill the requirements of that trade, served six months as a fireman on the Chicago & Alton, when he was placed in charge of an engine. Although in narrating the events of his career, he passes hastily over this period, those who knew him at the time say that he was one of the best locomotive engineers that ever pulled a throttle open or blew a whistle. He remained on the road for ten years, making his daily runs with regularity, and to the entire satisfaction of the corporation, and in 1868, having saved some money and being tired of the hardships of an engineer's life, had determined to try his hand at a commercial pursuit. He opened a grocery store on Archer avenue, expecting to retire as a millionaire merchant in a few years; but like his friend Ebersold, he gave too much credit and failed after two years' experience. The Bonfield family at that time consisted of his father, Thomas and Catherine, born in Ireland; John, Susan, Michael and Joseph, born in New Brunswick; James H., born in Buffalo, and Martin L. and youngest sister, Maria, born in Chicago. Of these, Joe was, perhaps, the best known, and, while he lived, the most popular. He studied and practiced law in this city, and was considered a young lawyer of remarkable ability. He was appointed corporation counsel by Mayor Heath, which position he held with credit to himself and with entire satisfaction to the city, until a change of administration turned the position over to Frank Adams. He died shortly afterward of a long standing disease of the stomach, and his death was very generally regretted by the community. Susan Bonfield is now

Mother Agatha of St. Xavier's Academy in this city. Michael W. is an undertaker on Archer avenue. James H. is on the city detective force. For several years he was deputy jailer. Martin L. is connected with the Union Iron & Steel Works. His youngest sister, now deceased, was the wife of John O'Malley, one of Chicago's heaviest pork packers. The father of this family died in 1885.

After failing in the grocery business John, who had been a Douglas man till Lincoln's first election, when he became a republican, was appointed Inspector of Customs by President Grant. This position he held till 1875, when in partnership with his brother Joe and Mr. James T. Healy, he went into the manufacture of fertilizing material. He put all the money he had into this enterprise and before it was able to pay dividends, a fire swept all the tangible property possessed by the company out of existence, and left him almost penniless once more. It was after this misfortune that he turned his eyes toward the police department. In the spring of '77 he was sworn in as a patrolman and assigned to the Twenty-second street station for duty. There he served about two years. He was then transferred to the Central station, and placed upon the detective force where from the very first he did excellent work. After the resignation of Supt. Hickey and the appointment of Supt. Seavey he was promoted to a Lieutenancy and placed in command of the Twenty-second street district. Shortly after the first election of Mayor Harrison, he was transferred to the old Union street station (now Desplaines) and after a year was

ordered to the West Twelfth street, then known as the "terror" district. It was while serving in this district that the organization of the patrol service was placed in his hands. Six months after this latest transfer, he was made a captain, with headquarters at Central station. Here he served until Captain Ebersold was promoted to the Inspectorship, when he was placed in command of the third precinct, with headquarters at the Desplaines street station, and once more, on Inspector Ebersold's promotion to the Superintendentcy, he was selected to succeed him. The duties of the Inspectorship embrace also those of the Secretaryship of the Police Department. The Inspector has entire control of the purchase of supplies, the equipment of the men, the management of the patrol service, etc. He is at once the auditor, quarter-master, commissary commander, of the force, and aid-de-camp to the Superintendent, with the supervision of the detective force under his special charge.

p. 502

SIMON O'DONNELL, captain commanding the second precinct; born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1834; came to Chicago in 1841; entered the force April 7, 1862; acted as patrolman for seven years; was promoted by Superintendent Rehm to second sergeancy and later to first sergeancy and placed in charge of West Twelfth street substation in 1869; was promoted to a captaincy in 1877 and took charge of the first precinct, with headquarters at the Armory; was promoted to be deputy superintendent of police, vice Dixon resigned, and acted as superintendent until the death of Superintendent Seavey; was appointed superintendent of police in 1879 by Mayor Harrison; had charge of the entire department for twenty-one months: insisted upon resigning the responsibility, and was assigned to his old station (West Twelfth street) and made captain of the second precinct; served gallantly in the riots of 1867, 1877, and 1886; swept the thug element out of the "Terror District," and has arrested and convicted criminals by the score; bears the distinction of having been the last deputy superintendent appointed, and the only man who has ever held a commanding position in the department after leaving the superintendent's chair.

p. 356-59

Simon O'Donnell, captain of the second precinct, was born November 23, 1836, in County Clare, Ireland, and came to this country when thirteen years of age. April 7, 1862, was the date of his advent on the scene as a Chicago policeman. He served first attached to the old Armory, corner of Franklin and Adams streets. He was in the Lake street squad in 1863, when Lake and Clark streets were the only paved thoroughfares in the city. He was stationed for six years on the corner of Lake and Clark streets, and was accounted the most popular man on the force. He was young and handsome, and several pounds lighter than now. He was made a sergeant in 1869, a rank about equal then to a lieutenantcy now, and was stationed in the Twelfth street district, which was covered by only seventeen men, and no patrol wagons. The men had to carry helpless "drunks" on their shoulders to the station then. The same district is now occupied by four stations, and patrolled by 212 men, who have wagons at call. Then it was infested by thieves of the worst class, and many a time has O'Donnell been for twenty-four hours on his feet. He was transferred to Harrison street April 24, 1877, when Mayor Heath was in office, and was promoted to be deputy superintendent of police August 4, 1879, and was made general superintendent December 15, 1879, vice V. A. Seavey. He resigned this position, of his own accord, the following November, and took the captaincy of the Twelfth street district. While in this position, he broke up more gangs of thieves than any three men on the force. He was indefatigable in the performance of his duties; of strong constitution, herculean strength, and undaunted courage, he soon became a terror to evil-doers.

One of his notable exploits was the capture of Con. Brown, the notorious desperado, who, between 1865 and 1868, had escaped six times from Joliet. He had nearly killed Officer Stimpson, when O'Donnell came up, and knocked him down with a blow that would have rattled an ox, put his foot on the ruffian's neck, and made him plead for mercy. After that, O'Donnell was always called upon

when Brown was to be captured, until the latter was shot, down near Lemont. The Patterson murder, some fifteen years ago, also added a leaf to the gallant captain's laurel wreath. Jack Patterson and Thomas Hurley were rivals for the affections of the same girl, and Patterson was shot at 3 o'clock one morning, in a low resort, corner of Canal and Twelfth street, and the murderer escaped. The wounded man was taken to an adjoining drug store, and, though dying, refused to tell who had shot him, saying: "It would do no good now. I'm dying, anyhow." The proprietor of the place could only say that the murderer had three fingers off one hand. "I'm going after that man," said Simon O'Donnell, and started for the saloon kept at Seward and Eighteenth streets by old Hurley. "The night is cold," said he, in Irish, as he knocked at the door; "let me have a drop of that which is warm." "Musha, failthe," replied Hurley, senior, as he opened the door. "How's all here?" "Well." "And Tommy?" "Just gone to his bed this half hour." Tommy was found asleep, with the fatal pistol under his pillow, but denied knowing Patterson or having a pistol, until O'Donnell showed it to him, and took him into the dying man's presence. "You've got the man," said Patterson. "Yes, I did it, and you deserved to be killed long ago," blurted out Hurley, suddenly. Patterson died in three hours, and Hurley went to Joliet for eighteen years.

Then Captain O'Donnell broke up a gang of bank robbers, by arresting Paddy Guerin, Jimmy Carroll and Billy Burke, who had robbed the Galesburg bank of \$12,000. The first went down for three years, but the others jumped their bail. They had all fixed up a beautiful alibi, by means of a farmer's boy, but the captain saw through the trick, and turned the countryman to good account in identifying the fellows.

While at the Armory station, O'Donnell cleaned out a gang of professional bondsmen and bribery go-betweens, in the face of an offer by George Eager, chief of the gang, of \$10,000 a year to keep his mouth shut. The same fellow, later, offered the genial captain half of the money stolen from a man named Tolquiss, to keep quiet. "Arrest this man," shouted O'Donnell to one of his own officers; "he's trying to send me to Joliet." Eager was sentenced to two years for attempted bribery, and one year for receiving stolen goods, but died before he went down the road. The captain's good nature was never again mistaken for a sign of accessibility with corrupt propositions. The Twelfth street district was infested with anarchists. One shoemaker hung out a red flag. Captain O'Donnell ordered it down, saying: "The stars and stripes are good enough for any Bohemian 'bosthoo'." On one occasion, when Charlie Reed was state's attorney — to go back a few years — three toughs set upon and beat a policeman in Captain O'Donnell's precinct. One of the fellows was captured, a month or two after, and locked up. The captain was sitting in front of the station one night, when he heard groans from the cell-room. Rushing down stairs, he caught the officer who had been beaten cruelly abusing the prisoner. Seizing the blackguard in blue, the captain hurled him out of the cell, and against the opposite wall, nearly knocking him senseless. "You coward!" he exclaimed; "I've a notion to break your neck!" The officer begged his captain not to say anything about it, or to deny it. "I'll not perjure myself for the whole police force, but I won't volunteer evidence, if not asked for." He was asked, and told the story in court. But there is no more beating prisoners in cells at Twelfth street.

pp. 426-27

PATRICK MAHONEY, patrolman; born in Clare county, Ireland, February 13, 1844; came to this country, and direct to Chicago, in 1863; joined the force ten years afterward; put in eight years at the Deering street station, and was then transferred to the station with which he is now connected; was assigned to the wagon when it was first placed in service; was stabbed in the breast by James Furlong in 1878, while trying to eject him from a dance hall at Wood street and Archer avenue; Furlong got off with a \$25 fine; was shot at by Bob Sheridan, whom he was trying to arrest for the gas house robbery; Mahoney had him but a gang rescued him, and revolvers were freely used; the bullet intended for Mahoney struck Sergeant (now lieutenant) Shepard in the shoulder; served in all the riots.

p. 431

MICHAEL KENNEY, patrolman; born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1849; when eight years of age came to the United States, and a year or two afterward came to Chicago; August 9, 1874, was appointed to the force, and assigned to the West Twelfth street station; was attached to the Hinman street station during the riots of 1877, after which returned to the West Twelfth street station, where he has since remained; was appointed to serve on the wagon in 1882.

p. 431

PATRICK SULLIVAN, patrolman and driver; born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1850, and came to Chicago with his parents in 1852; was a teamster till he joined the police force in January, 1877; served first at Deering street station, and then went to the Twelfth street, where he had served two months; when the wagon was introduced he was made driver; during the two months he traveled post he convicted two men, " Fixy " Fritz, who shot Mrs. O'Brien, ami Breckenridge the burglar; was the first driver of a patrol wagon in the city; as a patrolman he served through the riots of 1877, and since going on the wagon has taken part in the disturbances at McCormick's at Eighteenth street and Center avenue, and drove a load of twenty-five men to the Haymarket riot in remarkably short time.

p. 432

JOHN O'DONNELL, patrolman in charge; born in County Clare, Ireland, June 22, 1851, and came to Chicago in 1869; followed his trade as heater in a rolling mill till June, 1883, when he was made a member of the force; was at the Harrison street and Deering street stations till the Canalport avenue one was opened, when he was transferred and placed in charge of the wagon; was in all the riots, great and small, that happened after he had joined the force, and he has a number of toughs stopping at Joliet through his efforts.

p. 433

PATRICK MCCARTHY, patrolman; born in County Clare, Ireland, August 15, 1853; came to Chicago, 1871, and February 2, 1880, was appointed to the police force; served first at the West Twelfth street station, but after three months was sent to Hinman street; has been on the wagon, with the exception of one year, since 1883; was at the McCormick and street-car riots, and has sent two men to the penitentiary for long terms.

p. 434

JAMES MERNEN, is a native of County Clare, Ireland, where he was: born April 5, 1850; when fourteen years old, came to New York, and finally to Chicago in 1868; in September, 1880, was appointed to the force, and sent to Hinman street after a month at West Twelfth street; was assigned to the wagon when it was put in service in 1883, and was in all the riots that occurred after he joined the force.

p. 434 no mention of Clare but many Clare-born were in Burlington in 1850

JOHN J. MEANY, patrolman in charge; born in Burlington, Vermont, June 15, 1850; came to Chicago in 1868, and August 25, 1875, was appointed to the police force, and sent to the Deering street station; was through the riots of 1877, and the street car troubles of late years, as well as at McMormick's and the Haymarket; as a patrolman on beat, did a great deal of creditable work in connection with the other offices of the station; helped work up the evidence which sent Burk, Kennfick and Steve Rogers to the penitentiary for burglary in 1881, and Sam Gaskin was another desperado whom he helped place within the walls of Joliet. Other Irish-born officers in his unit have Clare-type surnames.

Also note:

p. 531

THOMAS MEANY, patrolman; born in Burlington, Vt., 1850; came to Chicago 1866; entered the force January, 1885...

p. 473

SIMON McMAHON patrolman, was born in the County Clare, Ireland, on August 15, 1850; came to the United States with his parents in 1853; lived in the state of New York till 1857, when the family moved to Palos, Cook county, Illinois; educated in a district school; came to Chicago at the age of 16, and worked in the North Chicago rolling mills for 15 years; went into the grocery business on North Ashland avenue, and sold out in 1884; entered the force in December of that year, being assigned to the North avenue station; served under Lieut. Quinn at the Haymarket riot, receiving wounds which disabled him for three months; carries three pieces of lead in his limbs yet, as a result of the fusilade on that night; was transferred to the Central detail, and is assigned to duty at the intersection of Lake and Canal streets and Milwaukee avenue; has made many important arrests and is looked upon as a most efficient officer.

p. 480

DANIEL HOGAN, desk sergeant, was born in the County Clare, Ireland, in 1843; came to Chicago in 1866, and entered the force September 15, 1873. Sergeant Hogan received the advantages of a splendid English education in the cities of Dublin and Waterford, and taught "the young idea how to shoot" in his native country, and afterward in this. He taught school in Lamont and Palos in this county. After joining the force, he was raised to the position of station keeper and assigned to the Cottage Grove avenue station, but was soon transferred to the Armory, where his remarkable qualifications fit him for the arduous duties which he is called upon to perform there. He is one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the Policemen's Benevolent Association, and the fact that he is the secretary of this commendable organization shows that he is held in the highest esteem by his associates.

p. 539

PATRICK DONOVAN, patrolman; born in Clare, Ireland, 1835; came to Chicago 1865; entered the force December, 1874; joined the Ninth Mass. Volunteers June 11, 1861, and served three years in the Army of the Potomac; also a member of Col. Mulligan's Post G. A. R.

p. 562

MARTIN QUINN, lieutenant of police, was born in the County Clare, Ireland, 1847; came to Chicago 1851, and entered the force in 1870; commanded a company of twenty-five men from the commencement of the McCormick strike until the bloody ending at the Haymarket, May 4, 1886. His company lost two men in killed and thirteen wounded in the massacre. He proved throughout that most exciting and exacting period in the history of the Chicago police force, to be a brave, skillful and faithful commanding officer, and won well-merited praise on all sides. Lieut. Quinn had served in the United States army during the war, and his military education has always served him well as an officer of police. He was honorably discharged from the army after serving at Nashville and other points, in 1864; received employment with the United States Express Company in 1865, and remained until 1868 as collector and delivery man; went into the teaming business and contracting. After entering the force was for seven years a patrolman, and for eight years a patrol sergeant. In this time he distinguished himself by making many important arrests, and no man on the force has the confidence of the department and the public to a greater extent than he.