

**CREIGHTON. BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCHES OF EDWARD
CREIGHTON, JOHN A. CREIGHTON,
MARY LUCRETIA CREIGHTON,
SARAH EMILY CREIGHTON**

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Creighton. Biographical Sketches of Edward Creighton, John A. Creighton, Mary Lucretia Creighton, Sarah Emily Creighton by P. A. Mullens

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P. A. MULLENS

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CREIGHTON.

Biographical Sketches

OF

EDWARD CREIGHTON,
JOHN A. CREIGHTON,
MARY LUCRETIA CREIGHTON,
SARAH EMILY CREIGHTON.



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PREFACE.

The members of the Creighton family have written their names conspicuously in the annals of benevolence in Nebraska. Many who have seen the work of their beneficence have asked for some information about them, the atmosphere in which they grew up, the influences which fostered their charitable spirit. This sketch is a partial answer to these inquiries, an effort to do some tardy justice to men and women whose example is worthy of imitation.

In gathering and putting together the material for this sketch the Professor of History in Creighton University has found his greatest obstacle in the unaffected modesty and reserve of some of the surviving actors in the scenes which he wished to describe. They were anxious to avoid publicity. They regard themselves as plain, every-day people, with no special claims to distinction; for fortune happily did not rob them of their charming simplicity of manners. As of old, they readily grasp in friendship the hand of the lowly, and still remain exemplars of the old-fashioned Western democracy, which gauges men by their character and worth rather than by the extent of their possessions.

Though the writer of this sketch has no other aim than to furnish a faithful chronicle of events concerning the Creighton family, he feels sure that he will be pardoned if occasionally he allow a feeling of gratitude on behalf of the institution he represents to color his pages with a glow of eulogy somewhat foreign to sober history.

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY,
Omaha, Neb.,
Sept. 1, 1901.



EDWARD CREIGHTON.

EDWARD CREIGHTON.

James Creighton, a native of County Monaghan, Ireland, came to America in 1805. Six years later, in Philadelphia, in St. Mary's Church, he was married to Bridget Hughes, a native of County Armagh, Ireland. After a year spent in Pittsburg, Mr. Creighton moved to Belmont County, Ohio, in 1813, where he engaged in farming. Subsequently, in 1830, he moved to Licking County, in the same state, where he died on March 5th, 1842. The little known about this hardy pioneer warrants the assertion, that he was a man of robust physique and strong character, which left its impress upon his children. A poor immigrant, he toiled arduously for the support of his large family—in season and out of season. For, the produce of the farm being insufficient to maintain him, he was obliged to work on the construction of the pike-roads, when he should have been taking much-needed rest. He had not the means to give his children an education in the sense in which the word is now received, for education in those days was at a premium; but he early imbued them with solid principles of justice and taught them lessons of practical value—the necessity of caring for themselves—the necessity of earnestness in life's battle, and the worth of self-reliance and determination. Living in the midst of people who despised his

race and hated his religion, while he asked no favors, he would suffer no insults; and when injustice was done to him or his, he demanded and usually obtained ample satisfaction. The lives of his children are the best testimony to the example and teachings of this strong-minded pioneer; but they also reflect the character of his estimable spouse.

Mrs. Creighton was a worthy companion and a genuine helpmeet to her husband through the long years of struggle in those olden days of back-woods life in Ohio. The mother of nine children, and mistress of a household whose industry was never blessed with affluence, she had few hours for rest and leisure. Still this good lady found time to look after the instruction of her children in the essential points of Catholic belief, and she early trained them to practices of piety, which remained with them through life. It was mainly at her solicitation that Mr. Creighton moved from Belmont County to Licking County; and her motive in suggesting the change of residence was chiefly religious.

She wished to be near the mission church which the Dominican Fathers had established at Somerset—some twelve miles distant from the place in which Mr. Creighton finally settled. She had known instances of perversion among her neighbors, she had seen how the sons and daughters of good Catholics had forgotten the value of the Faith, transmitted through long lines of ancestors, who had even suffered persecution for conscience' sake,

and she was solicitous that the precious boon which she had received from far distant kindred in her dear native Ireland, should be honored and preserved by her sons and daughters as their most valued inheritance. Patient in adversity, industrious in poverty, pains-taking in the religious up-bringing of her children, gentle always and kind, she was a type of the good, Irish-Catholic wife and mother, whose life, simple and retired, but full of virtuous deeds is too little known and, alas! too little appreciated. Mrs. Creighton died in November, 1854, at Springfield, Ohio, where she had taken up her residence after the death of her husband. Her remains lie buried in Somerset, Perry County, Ohio, beside those of her husband.

Of two of the nine children, with which God blessed the union of this happy pair, we shall speak at length hereafter; but a few words, here, about the other less generally known members of the family will, no doubt, prove of interest.

Catherine, the youngest child but one, died at an early age and was buried in Somerset, Perry County, Ohio, in the year 1847. Four years later in Licking County, Ohio, Henry, the eldest son, passed away, after having left an ineffaceable impression on the minds of the other members of the family. He had learned the trade of a carpenter, and while working at his trade in Louisville, Kentucky, met with an accident, which disabled him for life. We may well believe that his affliction, however painful to himself, and however much of a sorrow to the

rest of the family, was in reality a source of great blessing. For to him in a large measure is due the sterling Catholicity of his younger and better known brothers. Could they ever forget the sweet patience of their brother, an invalid for fourteen years, his winning piety, and the lessons of the catechism, which he explained from his bed of pain? In after years, when memory would picture the old homestead, they would see once again the rude log-house, the puncheon floor, and the sweet, sad face of the saintly brother, whose presence was a benediction, whose life was a prayer, and whose beautiful soul, chastened and made holy by much suffering went at last to receive its well-merited reward. "Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord: for their works follow them."

Alice, the eldest child, married Thomas McShane and lived near Somerset, Perry County, Ohio, where she became the mother of Edward, Felix, James, John and Thomas McShane, and of Mrs. John B. Furay and Mrs. Martin Cannon, well known residents of Omaha. Francis, the third child, lived for some years in Springfield, Ohio; but, afterwards, at the invitation of his brother Edward, took up his residence in Omaha, where his widow resides, as also his son, John D. Creighton, and two daughters, Mrs. H. Itner and Mrs. Mathew Maginn. Francis died in 1873. James was the first to settle in the West. In company with his brother Joseph, he reached Omaha in 1856. James was of delicate health, and did not long