

Rev. J.P. Mackin.

On September 29, 1855, Daniel Roach, their 4th child was born and was baptised at Sacred Heart on November 11, 1855 by Rev. J.P. Mackin; John Coffey and Margaret Conway were his sponsors. Again, no place of birth was given. However, the state library in Trenton has records of his birth in Lawrence Township.

When Daniel was about a year old, his father decided to make the first moves to become a citizen. He went to the Federal District Courthouse in Trenton to file his declaration of intent. Emigrants arriving in the years 1855 and later were processed through Castle Garden; a large fortress-like building on the Battery in New York City and made their "declaration in intent" at that time. Thomas Roach, Sr. must not have done that upon his arrival so he did it in Trenton in mid-September; the 13th, to be exact, 1856. This document had quite a lot of information on it, such as the emigrant's parents names and birth information. The "letter of intent" made by Thomas Roach, Sr. has not been located at this writing but was in existence in the basement of the Federal District Courthouse in Trenton in the early 1940's; researchers remembered them all filed and stored there. A diligent search was made by a professional searcher and courthouse employees in 1977 and nothing was found. This record would've been most informative for this history, but for now its location can only be hoped for soon. Following the "declaration" Thomas Roach, Sr. may have had to study a little for his citizenship-who tutored him would have to be someone who could read and write, since he could not; possibly a neighbor, educated friend or someone in his church. This effort to prepare for naturalization eventually took him about 2½ years, but he did it.

On the 26th of June, 1857, Thomas and Bridget Scahan Roach had their 5th child, another son, whom they named John. No place of birth was given but it is likely he was born in Lawrence Township. He was baptised at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on the 19th of July, 1857, by Rev. Benjamin F. Allaire and his 2 sponsors were Thomas Leonard and Catherine Murray.

When John Roach was 2 years old, his father had become a citizen. Naturalization records at the Court of Common Pleas in Trenton, New Jersey show that on May 14, 1859, Thomas Roach, Sr. received his papers and became a citizen. A witness accompanying him was Stephen Hoch and in the presence of a judge, Thomas renounced his allegiance to Queen Victoria and Great Britain. In doing this for himself, Thomas also automatically made his wife, Bridget, a citizen. She carried a copy of this naturalization paper for years and it eventually became so worn at the folds and corners it was almost unreadable.

Two weeks after Thomas Roach, Sr. received his citizenship papers he became a father once again. On May 23, 1859, a 6th child and 6th son was born-James-in a place called Mount's Mills * in Mercer County not far from where they had lived earlier in Lawrence Township. He was taken to Sacred Heart Catholic Church

* The grist-mill now known as Lawrence Mills was built early in the industrial history of the township, as told by some members of the Mount family, and was long known as Mount's Mills, Thomas Mount having been the earliest known owner. This mill, which is located on Assanpink Creek, on the southern border of the township has changed hands from time to time.

in Trenton to be baptised on June 12th, 1859. Rev. Ray Banoy(?) performed the ceremony and Thomas Bannon and Catherine Dougherty were the two sponsors. The records of James's birthplace are in the state archives but nothing appears on the baptism record.

The family may have moved shortly after this to Hamilton Township in the southern part of the county; the major town there now is called Hamilton Square. In the 1860 census taken in June of that year, the Roach family is listed thusly:

Roach,	Thomas, Sr.	32	M	Farm Hand	Brn. Ire.	Par.Brn.Ire.
"	, Bridget	32	F	Keeps House;wife	Brn. Ire.	Par.Brn.Ire.
"	, Dennis	12	M	Son	Brn. Ire.	Par.Brn.Ire.
"	, Thomas, Jr.	6	M	Son	Brn. N.J.	Par.Brn.Ire.
"	, Daniel	5	M	Son	Brn. N.J.	Par.Brn.Ire.
"	, John	3	M	Son	Brn. N.J.	Par.Brn.Ire.
"	, James	1	M	Son	Brn. N.J.	Par.Brn.Ire.

There is no mention of William Patrick Roach here, who would have been 10 years old by now. So strange! Here, also, was the first mention of Joseph by his middle name, Dennis; ever after in the Army, etc., he went by that name. Also at this time Dennis should have been in school. And William Patrick would also have been old enough to attend. How long Dennis went is not known, but he alone of all the children, in his later years had the most legible and smooth handwriting. From the "History of Mercer County" the description of the schools in the places the family lived told that public schools, such as they were, were held in someone's home, a log cabin, or a church. The teachers were mainly men; this agrees with the stories our family tells of the Roach offspring's education, and of its briefness. My Grandfather, Daniel, was especially fond of telling of his rather short encounter with formal learning. It seems several of his brothers were attending school with him at this time; the oldest brother Joseph Dennis may have left school by this time and was out working some job boys could do in their mid-teens. Many immigrant children went to work early on to help the family earn a living.* So it was more than likely the school was in Hamilton Township or Lawrence where Thomas, Jr., William Patrick, Daniel, John, and later, James went; where they created such havoc. They did mischief all around while in school; tormenting and teasing the other students; doing things to the school building; and tricking the teacher. What learning they did then, may have shown up in their handwriting later on—they all were terrible spellers and had very poor penmanship. My Grandfather Daniel always told how he went through the "4th reader". These old books, when one looks at them today, seem very different and difficult even for these times and one wonders how back then the children were able to master them at any degree. Learning in those days was

* It is difficult for us to imagine how hard and how much children worked in those days. Many worked from dawn to bedtime, 6 or 7 days a week. They worked in stores and offices as errand boys; did all the little nitty-gritty tasks no one else wanted to do; they worked alongside their servant parents in big homes doing menial jobs and many times received no pay for what they did. They sold all kinds of articles on the streets from newspapers to matches. Many did piecework at home such as hemming handkerchiefs; stripping tobacco or making artificial flowers.

hastened, I'm sure, by fear, repetition, and more fear. In Daniel Roach's later years, he had to have someone else read to him, he was so poor at it; he loved to hear the "Argosy" read; it was a magazine full of tales of the Old West and cowboys and Indians. His handwriting was almost illegible so my Grandmother did most all the writing the family did.

Evidently, this whole business of attending school became boring and seemed to be going nowhere as far as they were concerned. They could see how others were out getting jobs, working, and earning money. They, too, wanted to be free of school and out working at a job.

This phenomenon of getting an education and going to school all day, away from their familiar family unit and neighborhood caused a strange set of problems for the immigrant family. It is discussed in "The Uprooted": "The life of school and the life of the street-for urban dwellers-completed the separation between the generations. The initial dissimilarities of experience widened with time as youngsters ventured out from the home and subjected themselves to the influences foreign to their elders."

"If it did nothing else to the child, the school introduced into his life a rival source of authority...he came to conform to rules.... silence; passivity; lining up; ways to stand, sit and dress...most come-there is little truancy when they are young. There is vaguely an understanding that the school will help them get on and so they go."

"....through the windows they could see the bustle of purposeful men. By contrast, the school seemed empty of achievements, empty of the possibility of achievement-for what reasons were they confined? What could they hope to gain from this?"¹¹

While the boys were dealing with their school years, Bridget gave birth to the family's first daughter on April 22, 1861. She was named Margaret Jane Roach; baptised at Sacred Heart in Trenton on May 19, 1861. The place of birth may have been in Hamilton Township where the family was living in 1860. Her sponsors were Daniel Brennan and Jane Daly; the priest was Rev. A. Young. According to her stories in later years, since she was the first girl in the family, she was spoiled by her father and older brothers.

Now the Civil War was raging; one wonders how it affected the family-if they had planned to move further West it cancelled those plans and tied them to Mercer County. Jobs connected to war-time may have become more plentiful but certainly Thomas Roach, Sr. would feel the pressure to join the service. If he were of the same persuasion as many Irish of that time, he was not sympathetic with the cause and resented the blacks for they were seen as competition for the same jobs the Irish worked at. Some family stories tell that towards the end of the war, he was paid \$600 to go into the Union Army as a substitute, but he stalled, etc., and never went. Some thought the family used this money when they came West and bought land with it, but this seems unlikely and has never been proved.

As the war was coming to an end and entering its last years, Agnes Adelia (Dea) Roach was born; she was Thomas and Bridget's 2nd daughter and their 8th child; their baby. Her birthdate is given as Aug-

¹¹ "The Uprooted" by Oscar Handlin; Atlantic Monthly Press; Little, Brown & Co.; Boston-Toronto; 1973, 2nd ed. pp. 218-219.

gust 7, 1863 and probably was in Lawrence Township where the family is believed to have moved once again. She was baptised at Sacred Heart in Trenton as the others were, on August 30, 1863 by Rev. A. Smith; her name on the baptismal certificate is Bridget Roach, so she was named after her mother, but always went as "Dea". It is thought her mother's name was Bridget Adelia but on "Dea's" death record she is officially listed as Agnes Adelia. Her sponsors were Hugh Fox and Margaret Meagher.

As time went on these children got their birthdays confused with each other; most exchanged month and day dates; later these were again changed to no real date for anyone and the year was also wrong. It invariably led to a much younger age than what they actually were. Some were as much as 10 or more years older upon their deaths than their obituaries listed them. One wonders how this could happen, with some dates so far off, but evidently it went back to the fact that their education was so limited plus life was busy and difficult and these dates were just not held as being that important.

The assassination of President Lincoln in April, 1865, and the travels of his funeral train was another topic of a family story. The family must have been living in one of the townships or villages along the route of this train, possibly still in Lawrence Township, which was between Trenton and New Brunswick, New Jersey. Posters announcing its arrival and departure times and route found at the New Jersey Historical Society show it travelled near the town the Roaches lived on the Camden and Amboy Railroad,*passing the place they viewed it about 6:30 A.M. on the morning of April 24, 1865. My Grandfather, Daniel Roach, told of seeing this train pass by and he would have been 10 years old at the time.

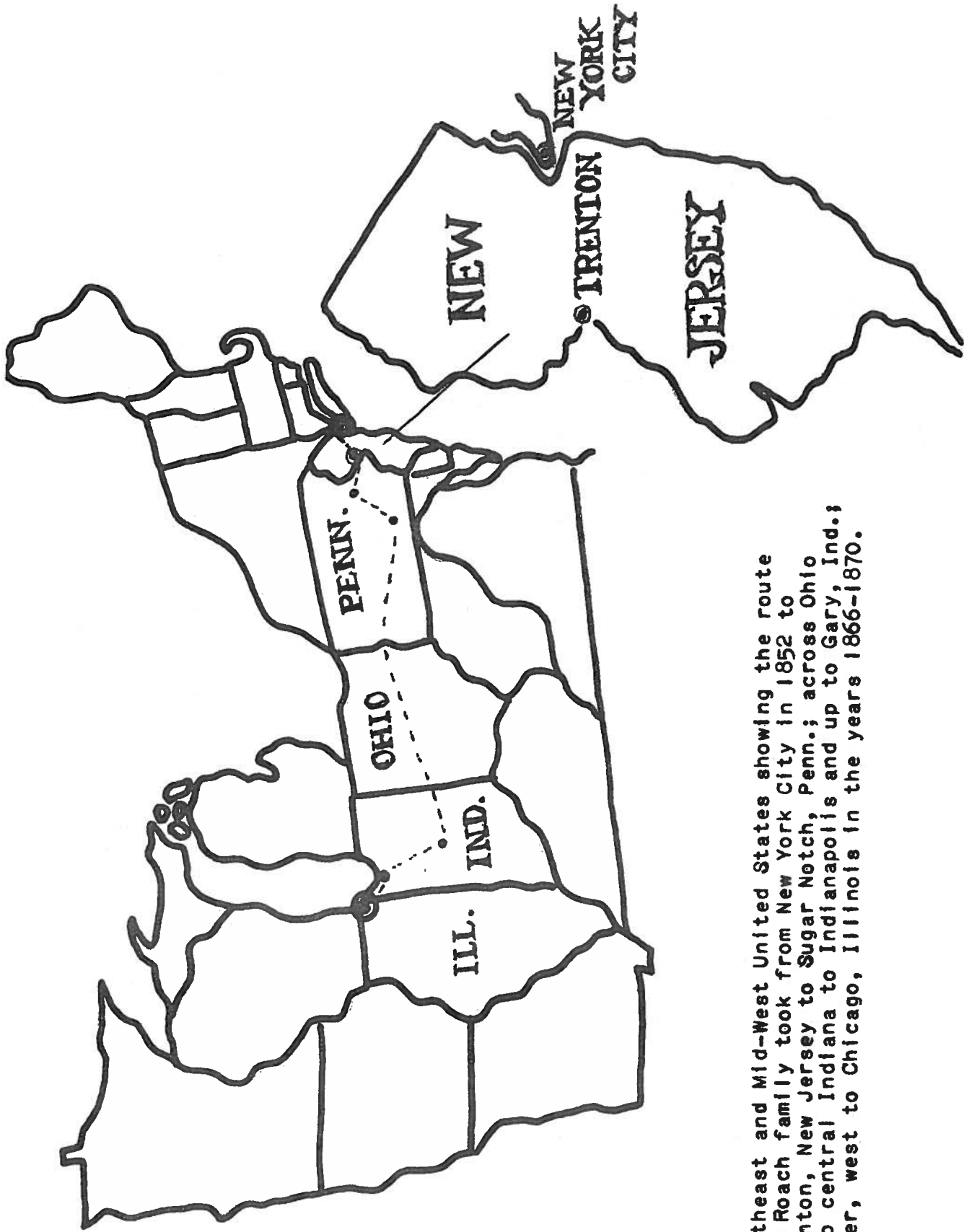
Another member of the family, Mary Kelly Roach tells that she, too, remembers seeing Lincoln's funeral train go by; she would have been 8 years old and is thought to have been living in or near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, at that time. This train went through Harrisburg.

Possibly, about this time the Roach boys' schooling again came to the fore...they were agitating to quit and go to work at jobs. Men teachers of that time many times were not held in very high regard by their students-any male teaching school must be less than "macho" and so was the butt of tricks and jokes. So many of his students were older, big second generation immigrant boys; even the women teachers intimidated these big boys to a point so that school eventually became an endurance test and boring to boot. They just did not care about it anymore so teasing and tricking the teacher became their scholarly pastimes. Other students were often included and at times school property and buildings had havoc wreaked upon them. This story was told by my father-Jess E. Roach-with some chuckling and amusement which may indicate how the Roach boys saw it. Also, the tale may have become somewhat enlarged as time and telling passed so that what really took place was a few minor pranks and the lack of interest and performance by the Roaches. They begged to quit school and so their father finally gave

* The other railroad involved here that might have been the one the family lived near was the Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad. It would have still been dark or just getting light when this train came by- a real effort to arise, get dressed and go to trackside to see the last of this President as he passed by.

in; they were free to find jobs and go to work. In those days, all the children in a family who were not married with households of their own, were obligated to turn over their earnings for the family's use. As time went on, this became a real sore point; young people felt a responsibility to their parents, but wanted to spend some of their earnings as they saw fit. And so many were leaving home to go off to work; leaving the close circle of the family, sometimes at great distances. This worried the parents, as they envisioned themselves all alone in their later years with none of these offspring to care for them when they needed them the most. The unwritten rules that governed the family in the Old Country were now being weakened and changed so; many immigrants wondered at times if their lives here would really be better or if, in fact, they had only sacrificed themselves for their children. Urban families tended to disintegrate more rapidly; rural living did slow up the speed with which children were lured away and changed. So the Thomas Roach family did stay fairly close in those earlier years until about the time the older boys reached their teens and then broke away. Joseph Dennis first went away to a job, possibly to Trenton or in eastern Pennsylvania somewhere. When he returned, he brought a gift—a 6-inch silver candlestick, which Maggie Roach's side of the family may still have.

Soon after the war ended, Joseph Dennis may have gone west to work in eastern Pennsylvania near Wilkes Barre or Sugar Notch. His letters may have urged the rest of the family to leave New Jersey and come to live and work in the area of Sugar Notch—Harrisburg, south of Wilkes-Barre. What sort of work Thomas, Sr. and the older boys did there is not known. Whether or not they hired themselves out to farmers or did manual labor in the factories, or on construction projects is just a guess. Dea would have been a child of 3 or 4 when living there; Maggie would be of school age—5 or 6. According to her family's stories, she had developed cataracts on her eyes even at this early age, so her entering first grade was delayed. It is believed the Thomas Roach family did not stay in this area for long, but moved on to the area near Gary, Indiana. Thomas Roach, Sr. and possibly William Patrick and Thomas, Jr., may have worked in iron works or foundries in this area in the years about 1867—1869; Tom, Jr. stayed on here near Gary or returned there in the mid-1870's. Joseph Dennis may have been with them, too, but it is known that in 1868 he was living and working in Chicago as a laborer. The Chicago City Directory for 1868 lists a Dennis Roach living at 184 W. Randolph and working as a laborer; there are 3 Patricks listed at various addresses all working as laborers and possibly one of them is ours. He would have been 18 and long old enough to work out on his own in those times. In 1869 a Thomas Roach shows up and is listed as a laborer, too, and living at 116 DeKoven Street; in 1870 he is still there but now living at 178 DeKoven. This Tom Roach could also be ours. Joseph Dennis Roach's name disappeared from the City Directory in 1869 and from other records on him, he claimed to be living in or out of Mason City, Illinois, and working as a drummer. This was another name for a "travelling salesman". He may have been a representative of some company selling out of a mail order catalog, etc.. This was becoming a whole new way of merchandising; Chicago was coming in to its own as an industrial and manufacturing outlet for many new goods, especially for farmers. The "drummer" was coming on the scene, too; the well-dressed man, traveling on trains from cities to the outlying areas and becoming the hotel's popular and steady customer. A family tin-type may show Joseph Dennis Roach as a dapper, well-dressed young man, even wearing a pinkie ring.



Northeast and Mid-West United States showing the route the Roach family took from New York City in 1852 to Trenton, New Jersey to Sugar Notch, Penn.; across Ohio into central Indiana to Indianapolis and up to Gary, Ind.; later, west to Chicago, Illinois in the years 1866-1870.

In June, 1870, Joseph Dennis Roach enlisted in the Army at the Army of the Missouri's recruiting headquarters in Chicago. The enlistment record notes he signed up on June 20; he told his name as Dennis Roach; born Tipperary, Ireland; occupation—a drummer; dark brown hair; 5' 8 3/4" tall; hazel eyes; and dark complexion. He was assigned to the "5th Army, Co. D" and was put on a train for Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas in the next few days. He was the 58th soldier listed in a group of over 70 that arrived there in late July. One wonders here what made him do this; none of the rest of the family joined or had fought in any war—possibly the economic depression of 1873 was already being felt in 1869 and 1870 and Joseph Dennis's sales were not what he had hoped for; it could be adventure beckoned or that being the eldest child of the family he was kind of a loner and the Army life looked exciting. It certainly didn't pay much; \$12.00 a month for grueling lonely duty in the southwest and central plains as a private. Only \$13.00 as a corporal. But he was 22 and young and was probably looking for something exciting. So he joined the service!

During this period of time, the family was still living in the northwestern part of Indiana; sometime in 1869 or 1870 they moved for a short time from near Gary, Indiana down to either Newton or Benton County where they did farm-labor work. Here they met and became acquainted with a McEwen family who may have owned a large farm for those days (400 acres) in Newton County. It is more than likely they worked for the McEwens and lived in a house provided for "hired hands".

This area of Indiana and Illinois was flat and mostly prairie with small areas here and there of trees; wooded places that drew the settlers to build their farms there close to timber for construction and fuel. Many townships and villages were named after these places; Oak Grove; Parish Grove; Union Grove, etc..

This area was surprisingly still fairly unsettled; towns were so small that they were not named or incorporated; many only had a few businesses, a church, and perhaps a school in someone's home which was still only a log cabin. From reading the "History of Benton County, Indiana" one learns that in the early 1870's many of the churches and towns we connect with our family such as Earl Park, St. Anthony-Dehner, Kentland, Fowler, were people's homes, a single store, or not in existence yet.

Just why our Roach family came to this area when they did is a real puzzler, but they were not there long until a decision to move west into Illinois was made. At this time, they left Dea Roach, the youngest child in the family then—she was about 6—with the McEwen family where she had come to be almost like a member of their family.

Thomas Roach, Sr. and his family then left Indiana and made a short foray over into what was Kankakee, Will, or Grundy County. Maybe it was what Joseph Dennis had told them of the country in central Illinois, when he travelled there, selling. They couldn't have planned to be gone long or they would not have left Dea. But they were not gone long; I'm guessing only a few months at best and then they returned to the place near Kentland, where they had been before. This may have been Jefferson Township. When they returned, Dea didn't really come back to live at home as before, but stayed with the McEwens for years almost as one of their own children. In later years she told her own children of these McEwen children with whom she lived, played, and loved as her own family. This family friendship lasted until Dea died.

While in Illinois the Thomas Roach family may have lived close to to another Roach family-E. Lawrence and Maggie Riley Roach-who were not related but became allied later through marriage. The John Kelly family may also have been there. Stories told by Maggie Roach's family relate that she played with Edward Roach* when they were small; his older brother Larry would tease Edward, push him down and run off with his cap, etc.. Edward had contracted spinal meningitis from an older brother, John, when he was about 4 or 5. The brother John died from this disease at about age 10, but Edward recovered but had to be on crutches for some time. Maggie would protect him from the other children, run Larry off and get Edward's cap back.

The Kelly family may have been close by at this time or had lived near our Roaches earlier in Pennsylvania near Sugar Notch or Harrisburg. Their family tells that they came west to Indiana in about 1872 to the Indianapolis area. They have never been located in these places in any census records, nor have the E. Lawrence or Thomas Roaches. It is possible that John Roach and Mary Kelly may have first become acquainted with one another as children in Pennsylvania - they would have been 11 years old in 1870.

Now either when they lived in northwestern Indiana in about 1869 or later when they returned from Illinois to Newton County south of Kentland, Maggie Roach's cataracts were bothering her so and keeping her from school that they had them removed. How they were able to take them off in those days when medicine was not as advanced as it is today, is amazing; what doctor did this is not known, but from the history of Benton County, a Dr. Boice practiced in Earl Park where he and a son also ran a drugstore. It is known that he treated other members of our family in the mid-1870's. Maggie was successfully operated on and had to lie still in a darkened room for 3 weeks. She remembered this as being a very long and boring time.

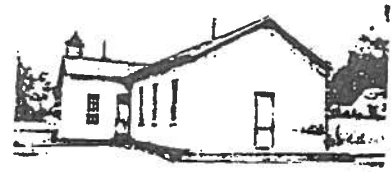
In late 1870 or early 1871 after the Roach family returned from Illinois, they settled on a farm near Kentland, Indiana, in Newton County. They may have rented, but it is my guess they were hired by a farmer to work on his farm. Thomas and all his sons could work together for a man with a big farm-so much had to be done by hand. They were probably furnished a house to live in on the property and paid rent in the form of labor done or parts of the crops raised. Joseph Dennis Roach was away in the army in Kansas or Colorado and so the boys at home helped their father work the farm; there was Patrick, 19 or 20; Thomas, Jr., 17, who may have still been away in Gary working in the foundries; Daniel, 15; John, 13; and James, 11. Maggie was 10 and Dea 6 or 7 at this time and they were both in school-James may have also attended school with them. At that time, as it almost always had been in the rural areas, the school year was short-only held in the winter months when the farming season was at a standstill; usually the months of November, December, January, and February-sometimes possibly, March.

The church the family went to is thought to have been a little simple frame Catholic church south of the farm where they lived; possibly 4 or 5 miles. St. Josephs was located in Kentland, but St. Anthony-Dehner Catholic Church was about 4 miles north or northeast of Earl Park. It had a barn or stable near-by and a cemetery. The priest serving it, served a number of near-by parishes; in 1874 he was there and married William Patrick Roach and Mary Quinn and later in 1877 he married Daniel Roach and Catherine Quinn-he was named Fr. Anthony Mess-

* Edward and Larry Roach were children of E. Lawrence and Maggie Riley Roach. They lived for a time in the late 1860's-early 1870's in Grundy County, Illinois.

man and served that area for about 5 or 6 years. He lived in Kentland.

Sometime in the winter of 1871 or perhaps the spring of 1872, a tragedy struck the family. Maggie had been ill with "Lung Fever" and was finally feeling better. It was a Sunday and the day was a warm one with sunshine. Thomas Roach, Sr. decided to take Maggie outside for some fresh air; he carried her down to the barn. She was small for her age so she was easy to lift. While he went in the barn to check things, he set her down near the door. He discovered the horse they usually kept in the barn to use to go out and get the others in from the pasture with on Monday morning, was gone. He looked around, saw it grazing a short distance away and went to get it. He told Maggie to stay put while he got this horse.



St. Anthony-Dehner Catholic Church
3½ miles N.E. of Earl Park
Indiana

This horse had been a gentle animal; the children played around it and it was a trusted favorite. At times, Maggie would try to climb on it to ride and when it drank from the watering trough, Dea would hang from its tail.

But this time it was not to be so gentle. As Thomas Roach, Sr. came up behind it, he put his hand on its flank, running it along to reach the bridle, when all of a sudden it kicked out with both its feet and caught Thomas right in the abdomen with all its force. He slumped to the ground and called out to Maggie to go and get help. She watched horrorstricken and then ran as fast as she could for the house to get help.

The boys managed to get him to the house and then went to town, I suppose, to get the doctor. This may have been Dr. Boice of Earl Park; in any case when he arrived he could see how seriously Thomas Roach was injured and was unable to do much for him. The doctor stayed there by his bedside all through Sunday night and Thomas, in his last hours, asked for God's forgiveness for beating the farmer he had lived with in County Cork so many years before. Evidently this had bothered him all that time. By morning he was dead. My guess is that this had to be in the spring of 1871 or 1872; according to a number of family stories, he is buried in the little cemetery, now closed, at St. Anthony-Dehner, about 3 or 4 miles northeast of Earl Park.

The cemetery records there have been checked and show no lot owned or purchased by the Roach family; there may have been some at one time but many of the early records were stored in a barn or old stable back of the church and it burned a number of years ago so all those files went up in smoke. The records there are now, are at the catholic church Sts. Peter and Paul in Goodland, Indiana. The church is also long gone, since about 1921-closed due to dwindling membership in the congregation and that building either torn down or burned, too. The little cemetery is closed, but is cared for by local people in the area. There is no other information concerning Thomas Roach's death and burial at this time.

.....And some there be which have no memorial-

Who are perished as though they had never been-
And are become as though they had never been born.....

-Ecclesiastes XLIV

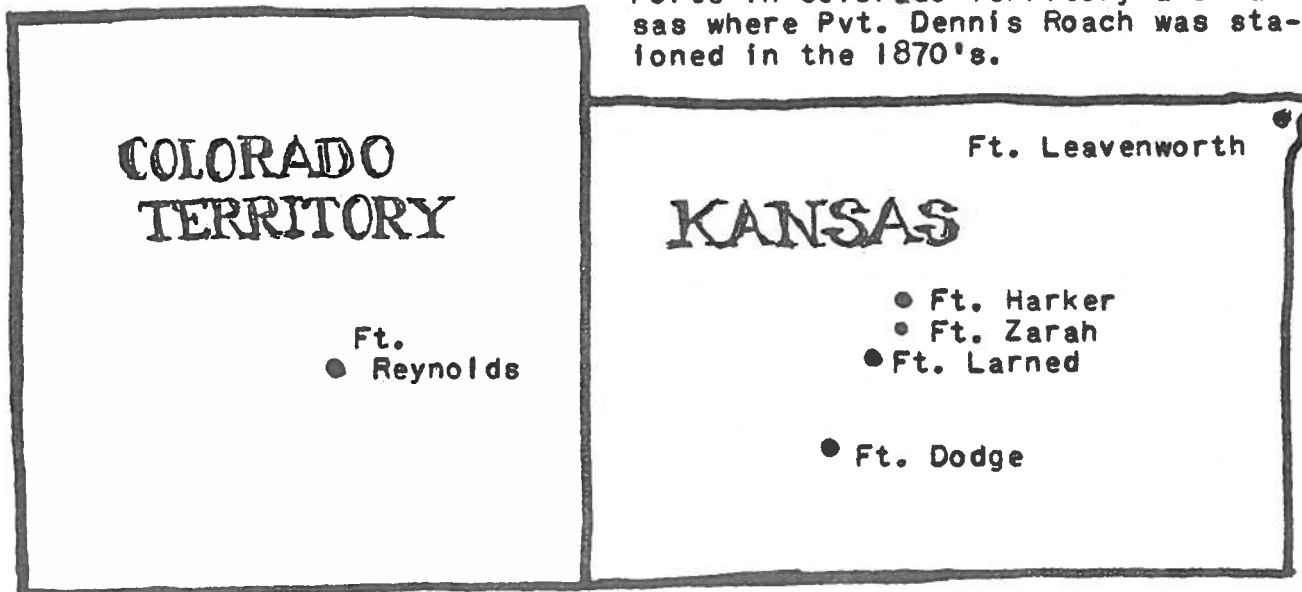
At the time his father died, Joseph Dennis Roach had been in the Army in the southwest a year or so. He was first taken to Ft. Leavenworth, arriving there over a month from the date he enlisted, on July 27, 1870; he was then sent across Kansas to Ft. Reynolds, Colorado Territory in the south-central part of the state near what is now Pueblo. He was with the 5th Infantry, Co. "D" under Capt. H.B. Bristol; 1st Lt. Robert McDonald and 2nd Lt. John J. Lambert. Records of that post show monthly duty rosters, discharges, ill soldiers, infractions of duty, and desertions; they are on microfilm at the National Archives and also at Ft. Larned National Park in Larned, Kansas. They show Dennis Roach's extra duty by the month for each year-in his first year he was assigned most of the time to teamster duty and had in these duty groups Irish boys like himself. Nothing I found in these records state he was sick in the fall of 1870, but from his records filing for a pension years later the roster shows that when muster was taken on October 31, 1870, he was "absent, sick in the hospital" at Ft. Reynolds, Colorado Territory. Whether or not this was the beginning of his later troubles, he, through sense of duty and with the aid of patent medicines purchased from the post's sutler, managed to carry on in the army and made corporal. This finished out his 5-year hitch. Many of the men who signed up when he did, had deserted before the train even got them to their first duty station; gone within a week or 2 of their enlistment. Most left within the year, but Joseph Dennis Roach stayed.

Here, from his pension records and the rosters at Ft. Larned is his schedule after he joined the services:

June 20, 1870-enlisted, Chicago, Illinois.

July 27, 1870-listed as a recruit, rank of Private and now stationed at Ft. Reynolds, C.T.; 5th Infantry, Co. "D".

Forts in Colorado Territory and Kansas where Pvt. Dennis Roach was stationed in the 1870's.



- Sept. , 1870-Pvt. Roach listed on extra duty in Quartermaster Dept. as teamster.
- Oct. , 1870-Muster roll reported him "absent, sick in the hospital" at Ft. Reynolds, C.T.
- Nov. , 1870-Pvt. Roach listed on extra duty in Quartermaster Dept. as teamster.
- Jan. , 1870-Pvt. Roach listed on extra duty in Quartermaster Dept. as teamster.
- Feb.-July, 1871-Pvt. Roach is listed as teamster and laborer on extra duty.
- Oct. 26, 1871-The company left Camp Reynolds and arrived at Ft. Harker, Kansas, Oct. 31st.
- Nov.-March, 1872-Pvt. Roach is working as a Hospital Attendant and nurse at Ft. Harker Post Hospital.
- Apr. 23, 1872-The company transferred to Ft. Larned arriving on May 1. Pvt. Roach is left at Ft. Harker until the end of May guarding government stores at Ft. Harker.
- June , 1872-Pvt. Roach is detailed to detached service at Ft. Zarah, Kansas.
- July, 1872-March 1873-Company duty at Ft. Larned; Pvt. Roach had music lessons on daily duty in late 1872. Sick in the hospital in late February, 1873 at Larned.
- Apr. 1873-July 29, 1874- Corporal Roach is listed as guarding construction crews on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad out of Ft. Dodge, Kansas.

Now, in late July or early August, 1874, plans were being made to include the 5th Infantry, Co. "D" at Ft. Dodge, to be part of a huge expedition into the areas of southwestern Kansas, northwestern Oklahoma, the Texas Panhandle, and northeastern New Mexico to put down the remaining groups of Indians still at large. These tribes were the Comanche, Kiowa, and Cheyenne. The Army headquarters now in St. Louis under Gen. Philip Sheridan decided on a 5-pronged attack from all directions to converge on an area called the "Staked Plains" and either kill or capture all remaining tribes and put those that survived on reservations. The settlement of the West was going on apace and the Indians were in the way and causing all kinds of problems. So the decision was made for a late summer campaign; Gen. Nelson A. Miles was to command a group southwesterly out of Ft. Dodge; scouts, cavalry, infantry, and 2 or 3 pieces of artillery. He chose, amongst others, "Co. D" which included Joseph Dennis Roach. It began in mid-August, 1874; the hottest part of an especially plagued season; grasshoppers and a severe drought.

A newspaper reporter, J.T. Marshall from the "Kansas Daily Commonwealth" out of Topeka, accompanied this expedition and gave a running account of this event. He writes, "Dodge City, Kan., Aug. 5, 1874- An expedition is now being fitted out at Fort Dodge to assume offensive operations against the Indians who have been waging war on the frontier settlements. It will start from the post about the 15th of the present month. The expedition will be composed of 8 companies of the Sixth Cavalry and four of the Fifth Infantry, numbering in all about 1,000 effective fighting men.....Four companies of the infantry are here and the other companies will arrive in a day or two. About 100 wagons accompany the expedition from here. Fifteen scouts(white)and about the same number(20)Indians will go along. (These Indians were Delawares). These will be under the charge of Lt. Frank D. Baldwin. These troops will not be encumbered with any useless baggage, as they go along under

light marching orders. Col. Charles E. Compton will command the cavalry, Capt. Henry B. Bristol the infantry and Gen. Nelson Miles will command the expedition.....Jake Callahan, an old frontiersman, and who has been in as close quarters as anybody, accompanies the outfit as wagon master. There will be about 150 citizen employees."

".....Companies "C" and "D" of the Fifth U.S. Infantry, which have been doing guard duty along the A.T.&S.F. road, have been relieved by the Nineteenth Infantry, lately arrived from the state of Louisiana. These two companies left a very favorable impression where they became known for their general quiet and civil deportment."

"Dodge City-August 11, 1874; A part of Gen. Miles' expedition, consisting of four companies of the Sixth Cavalry, and one of the Fifth Infantry, accompanied by scouts and a train of 20 wagons, left here this afternoon to take the field against the hostile Indians. They will reconnoitre the country between here and Camp Supply.....instructions to proceed south as far as the Beaver, and scout the country from there to Camp Supply. Lt. F.D. Baldwin, chief of scouts, accompanied Major Compton's command to Beaver Creek, and from there started for the adobe walls on the Canadian, where he is to communicate with Major Price from Texas. Lt. Baldwin's command consists of 30 scouts-10(in reality, 15)whites and 20 Delawares-reinforced from Compton's command by 18 soldiers, making in all, about 50 men."12

Information taken from Dennis Roach's pension records and the records found at Ft. Larned tell this:

- Aug. 7, 1874-Left Ft. Dodge; transferred to Camp Supply Indian Territory.
- Aug.20, 1874-Left Camp Supply on Red River Campaign.
- Aug.30, 1874-Engaged in fight with Indians on Red River. Marched 117 miles during month.

He always told the family the story he was an "Indian Scout". This seemed somewhat far-fetched and in the context of other stories he was supposedly to have told, just appeared to be another of his yarns. Now, from reading several books of this expedition and other articles, it could very well be that he did do some scouting on this campaign.

J.T. Marshall's account of this expedition does not begin to describe the intense heat, lack of water, and the other miserable conditions these soldiers and scouts, plus the animals that accompanied this foray, endured that first month. It was high drama, and the terrible surroundings and conditions everyone endured certainly made this event more memorable for anyone who took part. The men were marched incredible distances each day as they searched for hostiles and water to slake their thirsts.* Only once in the first month, did they come upon a creek that had any drinkable water in it. At one rest stop a number of soldiers cut open their wrists in order to wet their swollen lips in their own blood. In later years on an affidavit, Joseph Dennis Roach claimed a "scar across his left wrist" as an identifying mark!

12 "The Miles Expedition of 1874-1875: An Eyewitness Account of The Red River War", by Scout J.T. Marshall; Edited by Lonnie J. White; The Encino Press, Austin, Tex.; 1971. pp 3,4,7,9,&10.


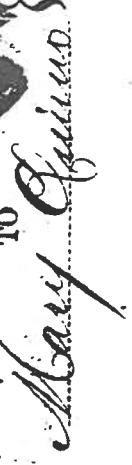
* In September, 1874, Co. "D" and Joseph Dennis Roach marched 196 miles.

Several family stories handed down from his re-telling of his Army days were favorites. I tell them here as I heard them—now believing them in parts to be impossible or certainly colored for greater impact; once, when Joseph Dennis Roach was scouting, he came upon an Indian squaw making poison arrows and he shot her where she stood. In later years, he claimed to close family members, that she periodically came back and haunted him. Another tale was that he and a partner soldier were going along, each with a horse and loaded saddlebags—whiskey amongst the contents, and several Indians jumped them and tied them up,* Joseph and companion figuring their numbers were about up. But the Indians discovered the whiskey as they went through the saddlebags and proceeded to consume it on the spot. Well, of course, the soldiers were busy working their bonds loose the whole time and finally when the Indians became drunk, Joseph Dennis and his companion freed themselves and escaped. Others tell that he was in an Indian massacre at one point in his tour of duty—it may have been the episode occurring on Aug. 30, 1874, southwest of the Sweetwater and about 50 miles east of what is now Amarillo, Texas, when the expedition came upon a huge deserted camp that had been hastily left and had a 2 days start on the Miles' group. It is described by J.T. Marshall; ".....the command reached a point about 6 miles north of Red River, when it was attacked by from 5 to 7 hundred Indians, who had formed a line behind the hills in our front.the Indians came over the hill whooping, yelling, and firing. The scouts, numbering about 30 were at once dismounted and commenced pouring lead into the charging redskins....the scouts drove them about 2 miles....a running fight was kept up all the time. Twenty-five dead Indians were found on the field after the fight, and they were seen to carry off many more. The casualties on our side were few....How we escaped annihilation—as the Indians were shooting at them until they were near the crest—is a wonder. There were numerous instances of bravery all around." 13

About the time Joseph Dennis Roach was in the initial throes of the "Red River Campaign" in the Staked Plains of Texas that August and early September of 1874, the Roach family in Indiana were having some traumatic events of their own. It may have been in the harvest season of 1874 that Daniel Roach cut his leg so badly with a corn knife. When he was 19 he injured his right knee-cap severely and was crippled from that time on. Possibly after grabbing a stalk or bundle of cornstalks in order to cut them off or cut them up, he swung down with this knife and it slipped or bounced off, slicing into his knee-cap. What followed this accident has never been told, but the bleeding must have been severe, needing a tourniquet and a fast trip to town to the doctor in a buggy or wagon. Perhaps they brought the doctor to the farm—some time later he was taken to a local hospital and the doctors there wanted to amputate his leg. He absolutely refused to let them do it and so when it healed, it was drawn back making his right leg shorter. He walked with a deep limp always after that whenever possibly sitting down or putting his leg up on a chair, step, etc.. In photos, he always posed in this manner and one could never tell he was crippled. How long it took for him to recover and how he got around at first I don't know, but he never used crutches until his late years when his back began to bother him. It was difficult for him to climb stairs then, too. But

13 "The Miles Expedition of 1874-1875; An Eyewitness Account of the Red River War" by Scout J.T. Marshall; Edited by Lonnie J. White; The Encino Press, Austin, Tex.; 1971. pp 16 & 17.

* Neither side was capturing anyone; they killed immediately and mutilated the bodies horribly—scalps taken on both sides.

William B. 
TO
Mary Quinn. 

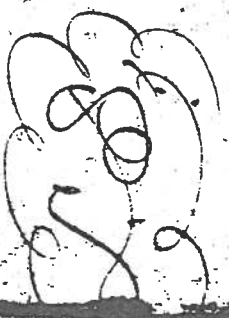
Be it remembered, That on this 14th day of
Sept. 1874, the following marriage license
was issued, to-wit:

INDIANA, TO-WIT: Newton COUNTY, SS.

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

Know ye, that any person legally authorized to solemnize matrimony is hereby licensed
to join in marriage as husband and wife William B. Roach and
Mary Quinn and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.

In testimony whereof, I Andrew Matt Clerk of
the Newton Circuit Court, hereunto subscribe my
name, and affix the seal of said court, this 14th
day of September 1874
Andrew Matt



Be it further remembered, that on this 15th day of Sept. 1874,
the following certificate was filed in my office, to-wit:

INDIANA, TO-WIT: Newton COUNTY.

This certifies that I joined in marriage as husband and wife William B.
Roach and Mary Quinn on the 15th day of Sept. 1874.
R. Meserian per

when he was younger, he could do almost anything he had done before; he worked on the farm; rode horseback and even herded cattle. But as time went on, this may have become more difficult so he took a job in Earl Park, working for a man in a hardware store and learned the harness-making and repairing trade.

Also in 1874, the Quinn family had begun to do some match-making arrangements for their oldest daughter, Mary. She was approaching 16 and they for awhile talked to Daniel Roach about his feelings for her and how he felt about marriage. He apparently wasn't ready for wedding bells at that time, but had his eye on her younger sister, Catherine, anyway. And it may be, too, that this leg injury happened to him about this time. In those days, parents were still setting up their children for marriage; especially those with eligible daughters. Catherine Quinn would not be available for some time, as she was only 12 at this time. The Quinns were looking out for Mary's best interests and in those times, a single woman or girl had a difficult time making it in the world without a husband or man to take care of her. She could become a teacher or do sewing for people; do some nursing, but that was about it-she was almost a social outcast if she didn't marry, or people thought there was something wrong with her. So parents started about the time the girl was 14; it seems incredible to us now.

Daniel's older brother, William Patrick Roach, was of prime age and evidently willing and was taken by Mary Quinn-so they were married in mid-September(the 15th), 1874, by Fr. Anthony Messman. Whether it was at the church in Kentland, or at St. Anthony-Dehner's Catholic Church, we don't know, but he served both churches and lived in Kentland. Maybe they just went to the parsonage and were married. No church records survive so we can only surmise that one of her family or friends was a witness for her and one of the Roach boys probably stood up for Patrick. There didn't seem to be big church weddings in our family in those days-they just went into town and got the job done with the minimum of fanfare and then, possibly, had their pictures taken.

While these events unfolded in Indiana, Joseph Dennis Roach continued his exploits out on the plains in Oklahoma and Texas under Gen. Nelson Miles. This campaign continued at a great pace; still the long daily marches, little quality food, low water rations, grim conditions for sleeping, and carrying on one's daily life. The places and times from his pension records show that he was-

Aug. 31, 1874-In the field; Mulberry Creek, Texas,
10 miles north of Red River, Texas.

Oct. 31, 1874-In the field; camped on the Staked
Plains, Texas.

From Ft. Larned Records-

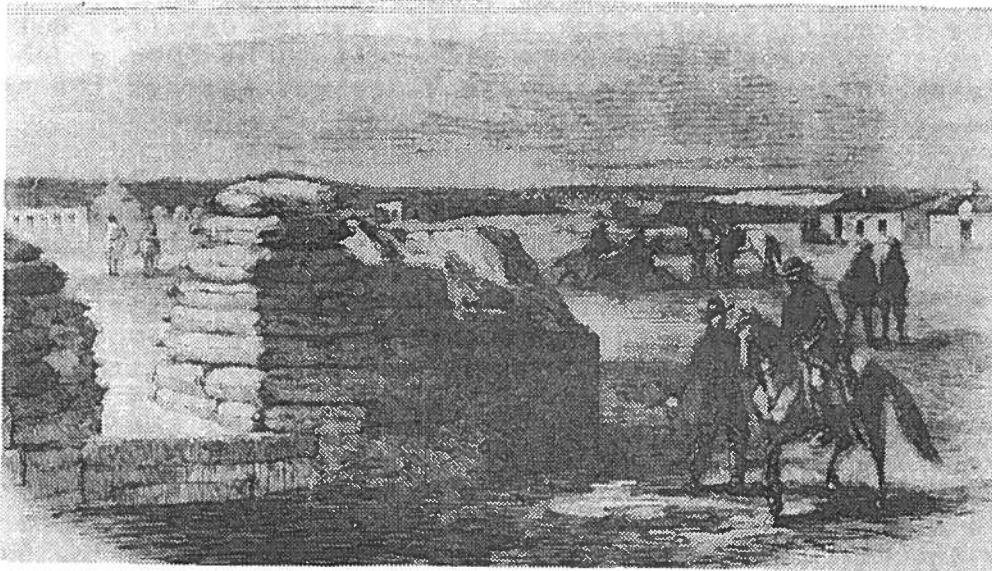
Nov. 8, 1874-Engaged with Indians from 8 A.M. until 2 P.M. on Plains of Texas(Staked Plains). Captured 2 white girls, killed 4 Indians, wounded about 4. Marched 286 miles.

Dec. , 1874-Escorted wagon trains; marched 201 miles.

Dec. 31, 1874-In the field-camp on the Rio Bonito, Texas.

Jan. , 1875-Escorted wagon trains and scouting. Marched 480 miles.

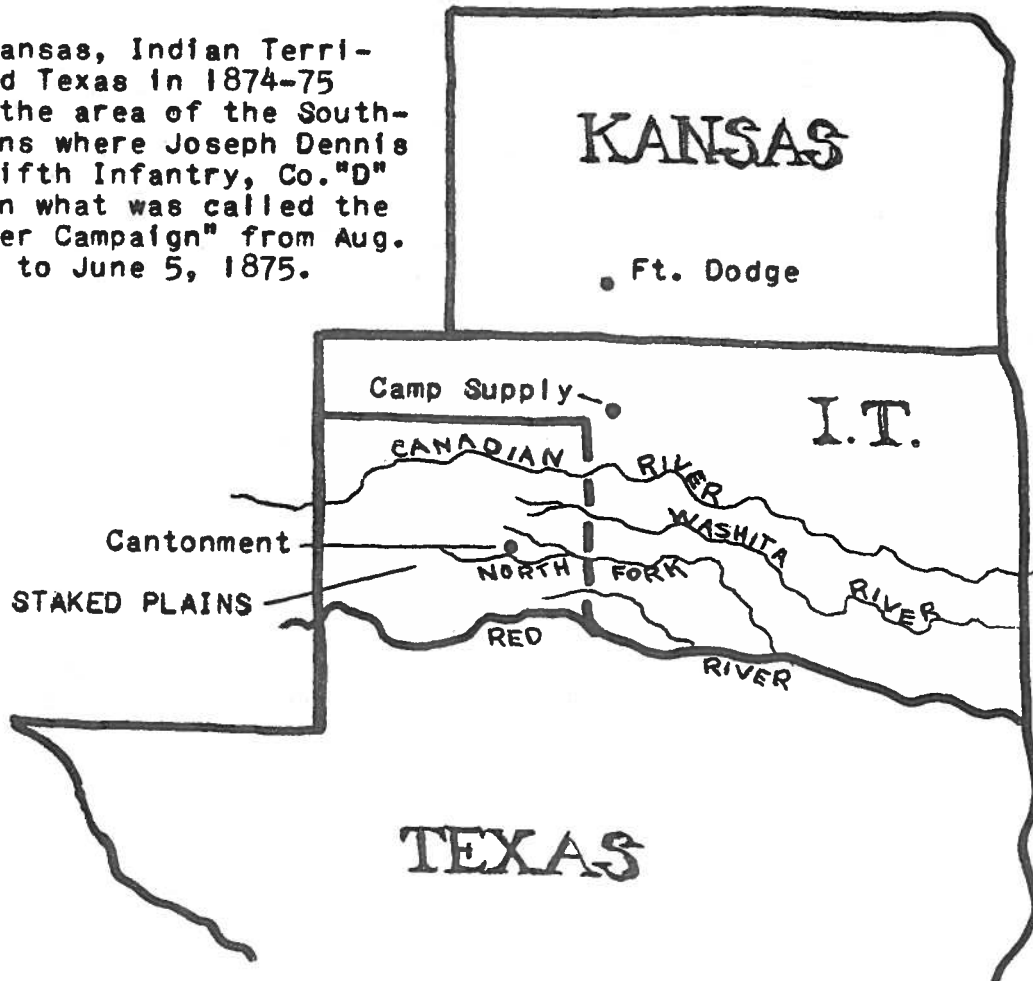
Feb. , 1875-"Co. D" was relieved from Indian Territory.



-Courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

Ft. Dodge, Kansas as it looked in the early years of the Indian Wars.

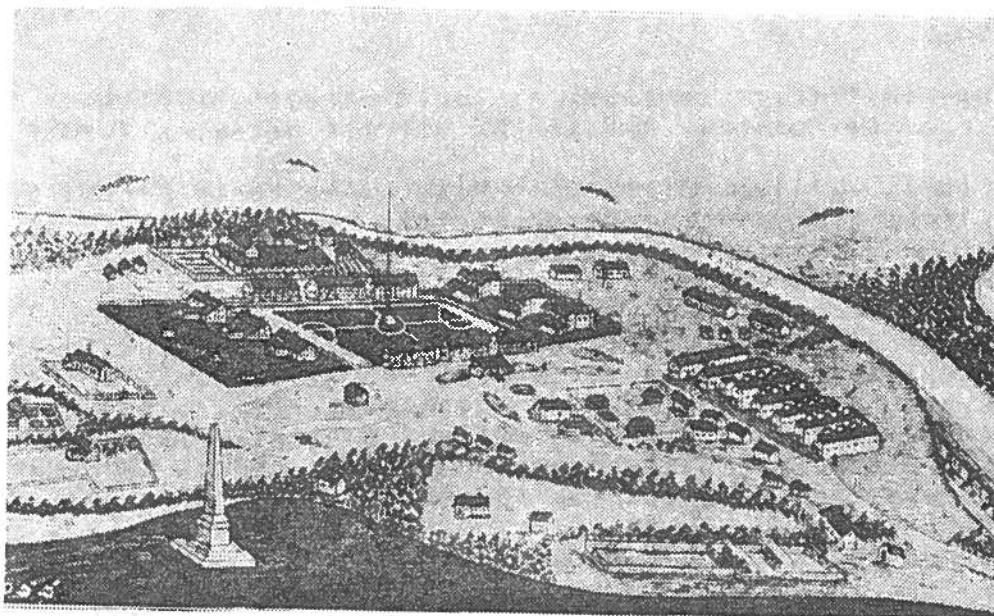
Map of Kansas, Indian Territory, and Texas in 1874-75 showing the area of the Southern Plains where Joseph Dennis Roach, Fifth Infantry, Co. "D" fought in what was called the "Red River Campaign" from Aug. 15, 1874 to June 5, 1875.



- Feb. 3, 1875-Ordered to Post Cantonment; there until February 21. Then proceeded to Camp Supply, I.T. to escort wagon train. Marched 157 miles.
- Feb. 28, 1875-In the field near Camp Supply, I.T..

This expedition was Miles' great performance; he was an ambitious soldier and longed for glory and recognition, so he went far beyond the normal limits in almost anything he did. Joseph Dennis Roach was in the infantry, so he did not get to ride much, unless he did teamster duty. These poor foot-soldiers walked wherever they fought; behind the cavalry; and caused much consternation when they would drop behind and have to be waited on. Miles was always out-running his supply wagons and then would have to camp for several days while he waited for them to catch up. All this going on while the Indians continued to either elude them or circle back and harass their flanks and cut off their supplies and/or communications.

This exhausting and harrowing affair went on into the bitter winter months as can be noted in the aforementioned schedule. Miles was frustrated and furious when much of his cavalry and infantry units were called back to headquarters and out of the field during this period of time-it seems, though, that the 5th Infantry, Co."D" and Joseph Dennis Roach hung in there with him. No wonder Joseph Dennis Roach got rheumatism and sciatica and suffered with it for so long. It kept going into and through spring and only ended for Joseph when his enlistment was nearing an end and he was finally sent back to Ft. Riley, Kansas, in early or mid-June, 1875. On June 25, 1875, Joseph Dennis Roach was honorably discharged as a Corporal at Ft. Riley after 5 long years in the Army of the Missouri and fighting in the Indian Wars of the Southern Plains.



-Courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

Ft. Riley, Kansas in the years of the Indian Wars, where Corp. Joseph Dennis Roach was discharged from the Army on June 25, 1875, after a 5-year enlistment.

Here, from the records at Ft. Larned is the spring schedule of the 5th Infantry, Co. "D"-

- Mar. 15, 1875-Left Camp Supply March 15; arrived at Cantonment on March 21 on the North Fork, Red River, Texas. Total of 120 miles marched. During entire month, a total of 202 miles marched.
- Apr. , 1875-Scouting duty during the month with Co."E", 6th Cavalry. Marched 439 miles.
- May 25 , 1875-Left Cantonment and marched to Fort Dodge, Kansas. Arrived there June 5.
- June , 1875-Left Fort Dodge June 8 to Fort Riley, arriving June 19, 1875. Marched 95 miles; traveled by railroad 240 miles.

June 25, 1875-Corporal Dennis J. Roach expiration term of service; discharged at Ft. Riley, Kansas.

Officially out of the service now, from records we have come upon leads us to believe that Joseph Dennis Roach did not immediately return home to Indiana but stayed on in Kansas for about 3 months or the remainder of the summer. He may have found work in Kansas and stayed to earn some money. In the fall he returned home to Benton County, Indiana where his family welcomed him back-they were so glad to see him once again and have him with them. So much had happened since he left; he himself had come back with a debilitating disease that would be with him for the rest of his life, and he would have changed, too. There is an indication in some later records in witness affidavits for homestead claims, that he did not stay at home too long, but left to go up to Chicago to work later and did not return until December, 1875.

The family loved to hear all his stories and the exploits he took part in; surely in all of this relating there were changes in what had happened; events became larger and grander with the telling, most entertaining for those long, cold winter evenings around the fire, or at the local saloon.

Now, being his father was dead, he would become the head of the family now as was the custom. And so the soldier became a farmer.

In July, 1876, William Patrick and Mary Quinn Roach became parents for the first time; Bridget's first grandchild was born-a boy-named James William Roach. He always went by the name, "Willie" or "Billie". There are no birth nor baptism records for him.

The same year his first child was born, William Patrick Roach may have filed naturalization papers at the courthouse in Fowler, Indiana; Benton County, and became a citizen on October 7, 1876. The information on these papers tells he was born in Ireland(no county given)and left from Liverpool for New York City on or about July, 1854. He reported that in 1876 he was 26 years old, making him born in 1850. This fits our William Patrick Roach, but there is no real proof. The only name given on these papers is for "Patrick" Roach.

Thomas Roach, Jr., was still away from the family; living and working up near Gary, Indiana, in an iron works of some kind that made small household items or toys of cast iron. Maggie Roach was given a souvenir of the Centennial of 1876 by her brother-it was one of the things he made in this foundry. It was a small anvil about 3" high and 4" long. On one side it said in numbers, "1776-1876".

Some family stories tell how Thomas Roach, Jr. had a limp; not a bad one like Daniel from his corn knife injury, but one he received one St. Patrick's Day up in Detroit when he or some of the other boys worked there. There was the usual drinking and a fight or riot started between the Northern Irish and Southern Irish and in this bash Thomas got injured.

1877 brought the marriage of Daniel Roach and Catherine Quinn; on January 9, 1877 Fr. Anthony Messman united them as one in Benton County, Indiana, more than likely at St. Anthony-Dehner Catholic Church. He was 21½ and she had just turned 14 a month before. I'm only guessing at the date, but sometime in that first year and a half they were married, they had their first baby and it died. I believe it may be buried in an unmarked grave in the cemetery at St. Anthony-Dehner, where Thomas Roach, Sr., is also buried.

The year following Daniel and Catherine's marriage-1878-Patrick and Mary Quinn Roach had their 2nd child, a daughter who was named Mary Elizabeth(Lizzie)Roach. There are no birth nor baptism records for her either. Lizzie was probably born in Jefferson Township, Newton County, Indiana, and her birthdate was January 23, 1878.

John Roach and Mary Kelly were married on April 13, 1879. The witnesses for them were his brother Joseph Dennis Roach and a friend named Mary Comminsky. They were wed by a Fr. John Dempsey at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fowler, Indiana. None of Mary's family attended-it is believed they had moved to Nebraska before this. Kelly family stories tell that their family left Pennsylvania in about 1872 and came west to the area around Indianapolis-Mary went to work at a fairly early age in a boarding-house and that is where she met John Roach-somewhere in the Fowler area. Numerous searches of the censuses in that area of Indiana has never located them. In 1880 the John and Ann Quinn Kelly family were living in the Meridian Precinct of Jefferson County, Nebraska-when first arriving there, the family settled near Barnston. This town is near the Kansas-Nebraska state line. Evidently, John and Mary Kelly Roach went out there a year after they were married; by that time they had their first child, a son named Thomas, born February 22, 1880. Fr. John Dempsey is thought to have done the baptism-the 2 witnesses were Louis Roach and Delia(Dea)Roach. Who this Louis Roach was and whether he was related is not known. Off and on throughout this searching for family and working on this history, I have come upon several Roaches and who they were has never been learned. A Jacob Roach, written "Jacobus" by a priest may have also meant James-possibly our James Roach was the sponsor at one of the John and Mary Kelly Roach's baptisms and was listed in the Latin version of his name.

Later in the spring after Thomas's baptism, John and Mary Kelly Roach went by wagon or train out to Nebraska to be near her folks. On the census record found listing them, John Roach, his son Thomas, and a Kelly son are not mentioned with the family. These 2 men were out looking for work or working at a farm away from home. Why Thomas Roach, who would have been less than a year old was left out and his Mother, only mentioned under her maiden name makes one wonder how well the Kellys had adjusted to this marriage and an acceptance of their new son-in-law. Mary was mentioned as if she had never left home. Here is how it read:

1880 U.S. Census, Nebraska; Jefferson County; Meridian Precinct-
July 28, 1880

Kelly, John	M	56(?)Farmer	Born Ire.; Par. Brn. Ireland
" , Annie	F	50(?)Wife-invalid	Born Ire.; Par. Brn. Ireland
" , Mary	F	23 Dtr.Keeps House	Born Penn; Par. Brn. Ireland

Daniel Roche
 TO }
 SS: }
 Catherine Annine }
 Be it Remembered, That on this 14 day
 of January 1877, the following Marriage
 License was issued, to-wit:

INDIANA, TO-WIT: De Witt COUNTY, SS.
 TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:
 Know ye, that any person empowered by law to solemnize marriages, is hereby authorized to
 join together as Husband and Wife, Daniel Roche and
 Catherine Annine, and for so doing, this shall be his sufficient authority.

In Testimony Whereof, I, Simon Wheeler, Clerk of the
 De Witt Circuit Court, hereunto subscribe my name, and affix
 the Seal of said Court, at Fortson, this 14
 day of January, 1877.

Be it further remembered, That on this 17 day of January
 1877, the following certificate was filed in my office, to-wit:

INDIANA, TO-WIT: De Witt COUNTY.
 This certifies, that I joined in marriage as husband and wife, Daniel Roche
 and Catherine Annine, on the 14 day of January, 1877.
 A. M. Mearns