

**J**AMES BIGGINS. Among those who within the past decade have joined the "sheeted nations of the dead" leaving behind them a memory that will endure, is the gentleman whose cognomen heads this sketch. He was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, May 11, 1822, and died in DuPage Township, Will County, Ill., June 15, 1884. His life had been marked by no great events or striking experiences, but his days had been spent in such industrious labors and quiet pursuance of duty as to secure the esteem of all who knew

him and cause his demise to be regretted by a large circle.

Mr. Biggins was reared to the age of eighteen years in the land of his birth, receiving a fair education and acquiring some knowledge of the art of tilling the soil to which he devoted his life. So successful were his labors that he left a valuable estate upon which his widow now lives. His only capital was his strong hands and natural abilities, by a zealous use of which he won success. He was a Democrat, although he did not confine his vote to the party candidates but gave it to the man whom he thought best qualified to fill official station. He was a member of the Roman Catholic Church at Lockport.

For nearly half a century prior to his death Mr. Biggins had resided in Will County, to which he came direct from the East on emigrating from the Land of the Shamrock. When called hence he was not only missed by his immediate family, but by his neighbors and many acquaintances throughout the county where he was known as a public-spirited and reliable citizen. To his family he was a good provider, to his companion a kind and loving husband and to his children an affectionate and indulgent father.

The marriage of Mr. Biggins and Miss Catherine Prior was celebrated February 9, 1861. Mrs. Biggins was born in Ireland and is a communicant of the Roman Catholic Church; she is active, capable and kindly, holding a due measure of regard from neighbors and acquaintances. She owns two hundred and forty acres of land under good cultivation and the most of it well improved. Of the six children whom she bore her husband, four are now living. These are Eugene, James, Edward and William; the deceased are George and Mary. The sons belong to the church to which their parents consecrated them in infancy.

James Biggins was accompanied to America by his brother Owen, who also settled in DuPage Township, his farm adjoining that of James. He was an industrious, honest and law-abiding citizen. He departed this life April 19, 1885. It is safe to say that at no period in the history of the Emerald Isle have more diligent, law-abiding and God-fearing men emigrated from

her shores than the brothers James and Owen Biggins. For years to come their memory will be green in the hearts of those who knew and revered them, as is the isle that gave them birth, and their worthy lives may well be emulated by future generations.