



Sketch of medal awarded Sumter's defenders.

## Soldier of Sumter

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The Rochester "Union and Advertiser" was grateful to have this letter passed on to it for inspection. This was the first news that reached the city from the beleaguered fortress, except the telegraphic despatches from secessionist sources. The "Union" editor was proud to quote from a document which revealed so well the fighting spirit of the defenders of Sumter. He also set up on exhibition the chip from the Fort Moultrie flag-staff.

The long vigil came to an end at daybreak on April 12, 1861. Secessionist batteries from all sides, coordinated by Pierre Beauregard of Louisiana—ironically, a former artillery student of Major Anderson's at West Point—let fly at the little island fortress for thirty-four hours. The defenders fought a gallant battle. At one point the fort was set on fire, and the garrison often had to lie on the ground with wet cloths on their faces to ward off the heat and the fumes.

The flagstaff, hit eight times without giving way, was finally shattered near the peak. Lieutenant Hall was quick enough, however, to snatch the flag before it fell into the flames below. Sergeant Hart, aided by Lyman, a stonemason, succeeded in setting the standard in place once more, as shot whistled about their ears.

A gallant—yes, but, inevitably, a losing battle. At 2:30 p.m. on April 13, Major Anderson yielded. Without surrendering the fort, he evacuated it with the permission of the opposing forces; and he and his garrison were transported to New York. Oddly enough, the long artillery duel had resulted in no deaths on either side.

New York welcomed the Major and his soldiers as heroes. The U.S. Army promoted him. The City of New York bestowed upon him a special gold medal. The New York Chamber of Commerce had a series of medals struck off, in four different classes, for distribution

among the officers and soldiers of Fort Sumter. When these were handed out, Jim Gibbons received one of the bronze medals. It bore a bust of Anderson on the obverse, and on the reverse, the scene of Peter Hart replacing the flagstaff.

The outbreak of hostilities had caused great excitement in the North; and, in answer to an appeal from President Lincoln, volunteers were hastening to join the colors. We shall see later how this appeal was received in the Rochester area. Meanwhile, Gibbons, assigned temporarily to Fort Hamilton, N.Y., was given a furlough; and his first thought was to come to Rochester to see Mary and little Billy. Somebody—perhaps Jim himself—telegraphed from Albany that he would soon be home.

Much to the young Irishman's amazement, he was greeted at the station not just by his friends, but by the Rochester Light Guard and the Perkins Band. With full military honor, he was transported to the armory of the 54th Regiment, where a large crowd of citizens gave him a fine reception.

They questioned him about his experiences, and he acquitted himself well in his replies. He said it was the scarcity of provision which had particularly troubled the defenders of Fort Sumter. He was convinced, he said, that Sumter's batteries had done far more damage to life and property at Moultrie than the Carolinians had been willing to admit.

When the ceremony was over, Michael Culhane, the well-known Rochester hackman, asked the privilege of conveying a soldier of Fort Sumter to his family. The reunion of the soldier with his wife and little son was reported to be very touching.

Gibbons' leave was for a week only. But friends intervened with his superior, Captain Doubleday, to extend it to April 30. Doubleday wrote back that he was happy to grant the request. "He is a brave man and medals struck off, in four different classes, for distribution

Before he left Rochester on April 30 to resume his duties, Private Gibbons accepted the invitation of the young ladies of the Curtis Seminary in Rochester to participate in their flag-raising exercises. On that occasion he spoke of this flag under which he had so long served, and declared that he would never disgrace it.

Gibbons again appeared in the Rochester news later in the year 1861. William Carroll, the Rochester contractor and future mayor, who at one time had employed James Gibbons and become his close friend, showed to the editor of the "Union and Advertiser" a letter from the artilleryman mailed from Chambersburg, Pa.

Gibbons told Carroll that they were just beginning to march to Harper's Ferry. He spoke of his great respect and affection for Captain Doubleday, and declared his own determination to fight bravely to the last for his country. He also enclosed a souvenir in this letter: a black ostrich feather which he had worn in his hat during the siege of Fort Sumter.

Private James Gibbons continued to serve in the U.S. Artillery until a siege of sickness overtook him in the first part of 1862. Incapacitated for further military service, he was discharged for disability on May 7, 1862.

Rochester's soldier of Sumter made no further appearance in the city's annals, so far as we have been able to determine. A laborer by that name is listed in the local directories of 1863, and 1865-67. But this is quite possibly another man. In his application for a pension under the veterans' pension law of 1907, he stated that he was then residing at Erie, Pa., and that he had resided there since leaving the service.

He described himself then as five feet eight inches in height, brown haired, grey-eyed, and of fair complexion. In 1898, at the time of his original application for pension, he had said that two of his children survived: Edmond J. Gibbons, born 1868, and Theresa Murray, born 1870. William, his Rochester-born son, had apparently died young; and it seems that his wife Mary Connolly Gibbons, the former parishioner of St. Patrick's, Rochester, had also passed away by 1898.

Veteran James Gibbons died February 19, 1910. Erie must have given him a military funeral. In fact, we can well imagine that as a participant in the Civil War's first battle, he was often a featured figure on Memorial Days in Erie. Perhaps his descendants there are this year fondly recalling the stories he passed down of that momentous siege.

Nevertheless, Rochester may well be proud, this April, 1961, that one of her former Irish citizens, "a brave man and a good soldier," should have fought to defend the Union on the very first occasion that violence rose to destroy it.

## Uganda's Kiwanuka

Entebbe — (NC) — The first Prime Minister of a self-governing Uganda will be a Catholic lawyer who has played a major role in the march of this east African nation toward independence.

He is Benedicto K. M. Kiwanuka, 38-year-old leader of the Catholic-oriented Democratic party, which won control of the new legislative council in the first nationwide elections ever held here March 24.

The elections were the first step toward self-government, which will be proclaimed along with a new constitution in the near future. Full independence will follow soon afterwards.

Uganda is a high, hilly country the size of Oregon with a pleasant climate despite the fact that it lies across the Equator. Although missionaries did not reach Uganda until the late 1800s, 40 per cent of its 6,517,000 people are now Christians, two-thirds of whom are Catholics.

In the past, the less numerous Protestants have been politically dominant in Uganda, which became a British protectorate in the late 19th century. While a majority of Uganda's Christians are Catholics, the Kabaka (King) of Buganda, its most advanced province, and most chiefs in other provinces are Protestants.

In the March 24 elections, however, the Democratic party won 43 of the legislative council's 82 seats. The party was established in 1956 by a group of Catholics headed by Matthew Muganya, grandson of one of the first chiefs converted to the Faith, to end the practical exclusion of Catholics from local government.

At present it does not claim to be a strictly Catholic party and has many Non-Catholic members. Its platform calls for full independence as soon as possible, development of national resources and more education.

It is not so strongly in favor of an East African Federation as its main opponent, the Uganda People's Congress, which won 35 seats in the legislature. The federation would include Uganda and two neighboring British territories — Kenya and Tanganyika.

It was announced in Dar-es-Salaam that Tanganyika, to become self-governing on May 1, will achieve full independence on December 28. At the same time, Tanganyika's Catholic Prime Minister, Julius Nyerere, stated that the coming of independence this year will probably delay the formation of an East African Federation.

Mr. Kiwanuka, who as head of the majority party will become Prime Minister, has been an ardent fighter for Uganda independence since he was named party leader three years ago.

In a Democratic policy statement issued here in 1958 he called for freedom by "the shortest possible routes," and the immediate reform of the legislative council to give it a majority of elected Africans. At that time whites and Asians had a large number of council seats although there are only about 5,000 whites and a little more than 50,000 Asians, mainly Indians, here. There was an African majority in the council, but it consisted of members appointed by British authorities.

At the same time Mr. Kiwanuka called for educational reform and said that as soon as the Democratic party came to power "free education for all will be introduced." During a trip to the U.S. in 1959 he criticized British moves toward independence for his country as too slow and warned: "If they don't give us a measure of independence by 1961, we're going to practice civil disobedience methods."

He again criticized British educational policy and pointed out that less than a third of Uganda's school-age children were getting any schooling.

## John Birch Society

(Continued from Page 1)

Cuba, the Congo, Laos, Berlin, Red China have frayed their nerves to the point where they dread to look at tomorrow's headlines.

Many also think the free world can't cope with the Kremlin.

We are of the opinion, however, that more than mere emotion is needed to stem the Communist penetration of the world.

We need, therefore, Americans of sound judgment and in key positions—leaders in government and industry, news analysts and educators—who can present a positive, not negative, program to combat Communism.

Catholics have a heavy burden of responsibility to aid in the shaping of that program because both our faith and our freedom are at stake.

As Catholics we also have a heritage of papal guidance that needs to be better known and more effectively applied. Pope Leo XIII and his successors have repeatedly warned that Communism festers from racial injustice, excessive nationalism, complacency in the face of widespread world poverty.

Extreme, zealot organizations seldom solve the problem they seek to solve.

We have had anticommunist groups before—including even the Nazi and Fascist governments of former days.

What we need now is a firm, intelligent, effective and coordinated program to extend the frontiers of freedom—to liberate the world's poor, and the poor in our own nation, from the tyranny of hunger, fear and want.

We must also strengthen the spiritual foundations and moral fiber which characterized our ancestors who hewed our nation from the forest to make America in less than two hundred years a symbol of hope for the people of the whole world.

Only when we are true to this heritage can we hope to face Communism squarely and overcome it.

## Marks of Roman Legion Found In Cenacle

Jerusalem — (NC) — Restoration work at the Cenacle, the upper room where the Last Supper was celebrated and where the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost, has revealed wall markings tentatively identified as symbols of the Roman legion which was stationed in Jerusalem in Christ's time.

Actually, two wall incisions have been uncovered. One is thought to be the badge of the Legio Fretensis, the Roman army garrisoned here at the beginning of the Christian era. The other is believed to be the coat of arms of a Crusader.

Further investigation is being made into an inscription under one of the armorial bearings.

## Name in the News



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## Miami Tops Million Drive

Miami — (RNS) — Bishop Coleman F. Carroll of Miami has announced that the 1961 million-dollar goal of the Diocesan Development Fund has been surpassed.

Bishop Carroll said it was the third straight year the three-year-old diocese had topped its goal in the development fund drive. More than \$500,000 was raised in 1959 and \$850,000 in 1960.

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