

THE MANASSAS JOURNAL

Friday July 22 1910

A GREAT WOMAN GONE

Mrs. Lucinda Dogan, over Whose Head two historic Battles Raged, is at Rest.

Mrs. Lucinda Dogan was a remarkable personality. This was patent to any one who came into her presence even for a brief period. Her dark, handsome features, her erect carriage, her directness of speech and her general pose and manner indicated vigor, independence and courage. At the same time, she was personally attractive and made friends easily and held them fast.

She was born Sept. 26, 1817, when Monroe was president in the same house where she died Sunday last, July 17th. This was on the estate known originally as "Mount Pone" but more recently as "Paradise". She was 18 years old when her father, William Lewis, called her to see Halley's comet, which she spoke of when on exhibition recently as "so large and brilliant."

She was married April 6, 1842, to William Henry Dogan and made her home on Groveton farm. She frequently recalled the fact that on her wedding day the apple blossoms were so far along that they were useless for decorative purposes, showing springtime remarkable early.

She lived under 22 presidents, but it was during the four years, when two persons tried to be president at the same time, that she became known so well North, South, East and West to the tens of thousands who marched and counter-marched past the old house, which still stands on the corner of the Warrenton pike and the Groveton and Sudley road.

How she impressed the Union veterans from New York on the occasion of the dedication of the three New York monuments Oct. 1906 is shown from the following quotation:

"Old Mrs. Lucinda Dogan, who was in the house during the battles of both first and second Bull Run, now 89 years of age, white haired and wrinkled, was cheerful and communicative, her mental faculties apparently all unimpaired. Displaying a wonderful memory of incidents of those terrible times, this strong-faced, good faced, lovely old lady chatted familiarly with General McLeer, with Commissioner Rankin and with the writer of this narrative, who had been pleasantly presented to her by Mrs. DeMaine, one of the "Daughters" comparing recollections with them. Mrs. Dogan's presence added greatly to the interest of the occasion."

The above is from a Memorial Book published by the 14th Brooklyn on their return,

which gave a history of their part in fighting around Groveton, and of the reception and dedication of the monuments. Hence in her old house which had been pierced by their bullets, the New Yorkers were served with luncheon by the Daughters of the Confederacy and in this striking function, no one was more interesting than Mrs. Dogan herself.

On her return home she declared to her children that it had been one of the happiest days of her life. The Northern veterans did not consider their book complete without the picture of Mrs. Dogan and her home.

Lucinda Dogan heard on the 18 of July, 1861, the opening gun at Blackburn's Ford, when under McDowell and Beauregard, the two main armies for the first time came into conflict. She saw from her home Burnside's advance out of the Sudley woods on that fateful Sunday of July 21st. She watched the fighting on Henry Hill and heard the first "rebel yell," as the Federal line gave way.

About that time three tired stragglers came to her home for food. She told them they must surrender their arms, which they did. She kept them to the next day and turned them over as prisoners. So that it is probable she captured the first prisoner of war in the first battle.

On the 28th of August, 1862, when Jackson located his corps along the unfinished railway in Groveton woods, the officers insisted that she should remove her children and herself. During the three terrible days of the second battle they occupied the cellar at the Leachman house.

It would be impossible in the limits of this article to recite all her stories of those troublous times. I will name but one.

Later in the war, when a crowd of Union troops were around her house and her meat house was broken into and she saw her last supply for her children going, she rushed in and ejected by force one who was not moved by her appeals. His comrades laughed at his discomfiture and the meat was saved.

But the calamities which came upon Mrs. Dogan were not all of this nature. In 1854, her husband died leaving her with eight small children. In 1860, her house burned and she had just moved into the old house referred to, when the war came on. Before the second battle, her two older girls died of typhoid fever. During the second battle her kitchen was consumed. Such a series of misfortunes inside and outside her household must have tried her beyond measure yet in all her life she was an optimist. One who was in the best situation to judge said "I never in my life heard Mrs. Dogan utter a despondent word. Somehow she never seemed to me to feel poor. She always had something to give those who were worse off than herself. She was always trying to

REC'D 3105 FR.
ROGER TOMLINSON-01
RELICVWPPLS

help others. She seemed to make it a point to "keep a stiff upper lip."

Her hospitality was of the generous, impromptu kind. She was always ready to entertain her guests but she did not believe in making them uncomfortable by a special effort to provide for them. What she had she gave gladly and everybody was welcome.

Another special characteristic was her dislike to hearing an absent person traduced. In such cases she had some gentle hint to give in favor of a suspension of remarks.

Her only brother, Hon. B.F. Lewis represented Prince William in the Legislature and was popularly known as "Black Frank." Of her three sisters Mary remained single, while Bettie married Col. John T. Leachman and Addie became Mrs. Wm. L.B. Wheeler.

Her surviving children are Mr. J. Frank Dogan and Miss Henrie Dogan. Her grandchildren are William Henry Dogan, Mrs. Dora Roland, and Misses Lucy, Esther and Neville Dogan. She had one great-grandchild, Edmund B. Roland, now 4 years of age.

Mrs. Dogan was the oldest member of the Groveton Memorial Association, organized in Sudley church, April 27, 1867, and of its successor The Bull Run Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy and was present August 30, 1904, when the monument secured by the efforts of this organization was formally dedicated. In this pious work she took a deep personal interest.

She was the oldest member of the Sudley church and Rev. Homer Welch, pastor of that church, officiated at her burial at Groveton on Monday last.

During the last two weeks of her final illness, her mind wandered and she seemed to be weary of life and sighed frequently "I'm so tired," "I want to go home."

One of her last conscious efforts was to join her daughter-in-law, Mrs. May Dogan while ministering to her, in that Hymn of the Ages: "How firm a foundation."

In this spirit of confidence and courage she looked into the future and went to her eternal home.

THE MANASSAS DEMOCRAT

MANASSAS, VA. THURSDAY JULY 21, 1910

DEATH CALLS BELLE OF BATTLEFIELD

MRS. L.M. DOGAN PASSES AWAY

She Ministers to Boys in Gray and Blue on Stricken Field

"The Belle of the Manassas Battlefield" is dead.

Upon the eve of the anniversary of the famous conflict between the gray and the blue, who together honored her with title in appreciation of her loving ministrations

upon that stricken field, Mrs. Lucinda Mitchell Dogan breathed her last on Sunday afternoon at her home in Paradise, three miles from town, ere reunion camp-fires had been kindled for the commemoration next Thursday. Until the last three years she had been a central figure at the reunions, but even when failing health detained her at home "The Belle of the Battlefield," and the veterans communed in memory. Now her death has cast a shadow over the reunions and veterans assembled on Manassas battlefield today feel deeply their loss of a friend, whom they know was true.

OLDEST WOMAN IN COUNTY

So far as can be learned, Mrs. Dogan, who had attained the age of 93 years, was the oldest woman in Prince William county. Despite her age, her mind was clear and her memory almost, and she related in detail many interesting incidents of the war. Throughout this entire community there is sorrow over the death of this noble, Christian woman.

The funeral was held Monday from the old home at Groveton where Mrs. Dogan's married life was spent, and interment was in the family burying ground there. The Rev. Homer Welch conducted the services.

CALL HER BLESSED

Wounded and dying soldiers, some wearing uniforms of gray, others clad in blue, but all alike to her as human beings in distress invoked blessings upon her, as she pressed a cup of cold water to their fevered lips and soothed their agony. Through the two battles of Manassas, she went about like a ministering angel. There are those living today, survivors of the terrible conflict, veterans in gray and veterans in blue, who call her blessed.

REC'D JUL 25 1910
ROGER TOMLINSON
RECEIVED

RELIEVES SUFFERING

During the first battle of Manassas, Mrs. Dogan had a wagon loaded with casks of water and with provisions, sent to the battlefield. The wagon was drawn by an ox team, driven by a colored man, and he had orders to distribute the food and water, to any soldier in distress, no matter what uniform he wore. This Christian act won Mrs. Dogan the proud title of "The Belle of the Battlefield", a distinction bestowed by soldiers in both armies.

The second battle was fought near the home at Groveton, and the family was compelled to move to the home of her father, William Lewis, a mile distant. During this battle, too, she ministered to the suffering soldiers.

SHADOW OVER REUNION

Survivors of the Eighth Virginia regiment in reunion today at the home of Mrs. A.H. Compton will recall her noble deeds upon the battlefield, and with profound sorrow realize their loss as they honour her memory.

Mrs. Lucinda Mitchell Dogan was the widow of William Henry Dogan, who died in 1854. The surviving children are the son, J. Frank Dogan and a daughter, Miss Henrie Esther Dogan; four granddaughters, Mary Neville, Lucy Adrian and Mary Esther Dogan and Mrs. Clifford Roland; a grandson William Henry Dogan, of Groveton, and a great grandson, Master Edmund Roland.

The following comes from an undated scrapbook, Lucinda Dogan's age is put at 90 which would make the article date from circa 1907.

The article is credited to the FAIFAX HERALD

Relics of the Battlefields of Bull Run

Two Ancient Citizens who Viewed the Slaughter and cared for the wounded-Both Still Living on the Battlefield.

"The Belle of Battles" is a title-a sort of nom de guerre-borne by a venerable woman who lives at Groveton, Prince William County, a war worn hamlet in that blood soaked region wherein the first and second battles of Bull Run and scores of less sanguinary engagements were fought. Groveton is a hamlet of tragic memories. It is on the Warrenton turnpike five miles west of Centreville, three miles east of

Gainesville, five miles north of Manassas and two miles south of Sudley. These were important names in the heroic age of the Republic.

Though the old lady was known to the men of the Federal armies of the Potomac and Virginia, and to the Confederate army of Northern Virginia, and is still known in the country round as "The Belle of Battles", (her obituary names her as "The Belle of the Battlefield") her name is Mrs. Lucinda Dogan. She is ninety years old, has an excellent memory, good teeth, does not wear eye-glasses and can walk miles at a stretch.

August 28, 29, and 30 are the battle days of the second Bull Run. August 30 was Mrs Dogan's ninetieth birthday. (She was born Sept. 26 1817) The forty-third anniversary of the defeat of Pope by Lee and Jackson was celebrated on the field of Groveton, the center of the opposing armies, by a reunion of veterans and a birthday celebration for the Belle of Battles. The two observances are so interwoven that it would be hard to separate one from the other. Another feature of the observance was that no particular prominence was given to an old time colored man whose name is Jim Redmond. Redmond is also ninety years old.

Groveton is a group of three houses at a cross road. Mrs. Dogan lives in one house,

Redmond in another and the third is occupied by a tenant farmer of the Dogans. Both Mrs. Dogan and Jim Redmond saw the battles of Bull Run and looked upon the fields in all their glory horror. When the firing had ceased Mrs. Dogan and her children and Jim Redmond walked among the dead and wounded carrying buckets of water and "gourd" dippers, giving drink to the moaning soldiers, many of whom, of course, were dying. All the old folks in the battle region of Virginia say that the most horrible sound that comes from a battlefield is the chorus of cries for water which comes from the wounded.

After his labor as a volunteer water-carrier, Redmond worked with a burial party, digging the long deep trenches in which the Confederate dead were laid. Groveton is on high ground but near the Dogan house is a hill from (where they could watch the) battle. [line missing in original text] It is interesting to let Mrs. Dogan tell the story of the fight in her own way. She said;

"The Yankees were all around Centreville and our boys were laying along Bull Run. Some of our troops kept coming through Gainesville from the Valley."

(This was Johnsons(sic) army which had slipped away from Patterson's troops in the Shenandoah Valley and was re-inforcing Beauregard).

"Early Sunday morning we heard shooting down the pike towards the StoneBridge, and my husband (he died in 1854, perhaps a son) called out that the Yankees were coming. We went up to the top of that hill yonder and one

of the neighbors also came up. We could see the smoke rising above the trees about the Stone Bridge." (This was Tyler's division of the Union army engaging Cocke and Evans' brigades posted on the extreme Confederate left.) "Of towards Sudley we could see clouds of dust rising over the woods." (This was McDowell with the divisions of Hunter and Heintzelman executing the flank movement.) "After the shooting had been going on for about an hour we could see crowds of men running back from the Stone Bridge to the Sudley road and then going north towards Sudley. Southern troops were coming up towards Manassas, marching across the Henry farm, over Buck Hill and on towards Sudley."

(The Confederates had discovered the Union turning movement and were preparing to check it.)

"Not long after this, the shooting began between the pike and Sudley. We could hear the sharp cracking of the muskets and the loud reports of the cannon, and could hear men shouting. Not long after, the men who had marched toward Sudley came running back through the woods and over the fields, stopping to shoot now and then. More Confederates were coming from Manassas and were forming on Buck Hill and the Mathews farm."

(These were the brigades of Bee and Bartow of Johnson's(sic) army fighting to stay the Federal advance.)

"After fighting there for some time our boys ran back from Buck Hill over the Henry place, and the Yankees after them. More men kept coming from towards Manassas."

(The whole of Beauregard and Johnston's armies were taking position on the Henry farm.)

"Then the Yankees followed up Henry Hill. The shooting had got so furious now that we couldn't hear any single musket, and the firing of the cannon was so fast that only once in a while could we pick out a single shot. The country down there was now so covered with dust and smoke that we couldn't see the men, and though they were shouting we could not distinguish the shouting from the shooting. Now and then we could see lines of men running across the Chinn place, this side of the Henry farm, as though they were running to get into the smoke and dust and shooting. It was an awful (sight the)field got so full of them and they made so much dust running that we couldn't see them. The shooting quieted down so we could hear single shots, and the dust in the Henry field got higher and thinner. We knew the Yankees were running about six o'clock that evening my husband(?) and I drove over to the Henry place. The old house was a heap of smoking ashes. My old friend, Mrs. Judith Henry, who was sick in bed had been killed that morning by a shell which broke through the house and burst in her bedroom. All the trees about the place had been shot down so that only

REC'D 3177
ROGER TOMLINSON
RELLICAPULS

the stumps were standing. Parties of Confederates were picking up dead men and burying them, but plenty of corpses were still lying around. We saw a great many wounded men, and many of them were begging for water. Dead horses were lying around everywhere, and the field pretty well turned by shells and artillery wheels, was just littered with muskets, bayonets, belts, caps, knap sacks and coats."

It was more than a year later, August 29, 1862 that Mrs. Dogan, after clearing up her breakfast dishes, was told by a staff officer of Stonewall Jackson to move off her farm, as there would be fighting there that day. There had been heavy(sic)fighting the day before around Gainesville, three miles down the pike, and the night before Jackson had taken up his position along the abandoned railroad bed from Gainesville to Sudley, and which passes about 800 yards back of the Dogan house, there to wait the coming of Longstreet, through Thoroughfare gap and the approach of General Pope with the Union army from the direction of Manassas. Mrs. Dogan had not reached her father's house, two miles away, when a Union battery and supports took station near the Dogan house and opened on Jackson's line. All that and the next day there was fierce and bloody fighting around Groveton. Of the conditions there she said;

"Funeral parties of both armies were burying the dead, though they had not been long at this horrible work. The Confederates dug long deep trenches and laid their men in the ground that way. The Union burial parties only shoveled mounds of dirt over the bodies where they lay, and two or three days after a heavy rain made the field hideous. When the children and I got home parties of men were collecting the wounded and putting them in rows here in the yard and wherever there was shade. Doctors were cutting off legs and arms and the moaning was awful. They hadn't brought in all the wounded. There were hundreds scattered all around the farms. The children and I took buckets of water out into the fields and we worked that day and into the night, doing what we could for the poor fellows. Most of the on our farm were Yankees but that didn't make any difference to us after they got hurt. All of our bed sheeting and table linen went for bandages."

Mrs. Dogan's house was the rendezvous of Mosby's "Rangers" many of whom are still living, scattered throughout Northern Virginia. The morning after Mosby took General Stoughton and staff, prisoners at Fairfax Court House, the whole party ate breakfast at Mrs. Dogan's. The old lady was a star witness in the Congressional inquiry into the Fitz John Porter case. She testified that Longstreet and staff took breakfast with her on the morning of August 29 and that regiments of his corps were marching down the pike from Gainesville. This did much to establish Porter's contention that when he and his division lay behind Dawkin's branch on August 29 Longstreet's whole corps was in front of him extending from Jackson's right at Groveton.

REC'D 3105 FR.
ROGER TOMLINSON-UT
REFLECTOR 219411-1