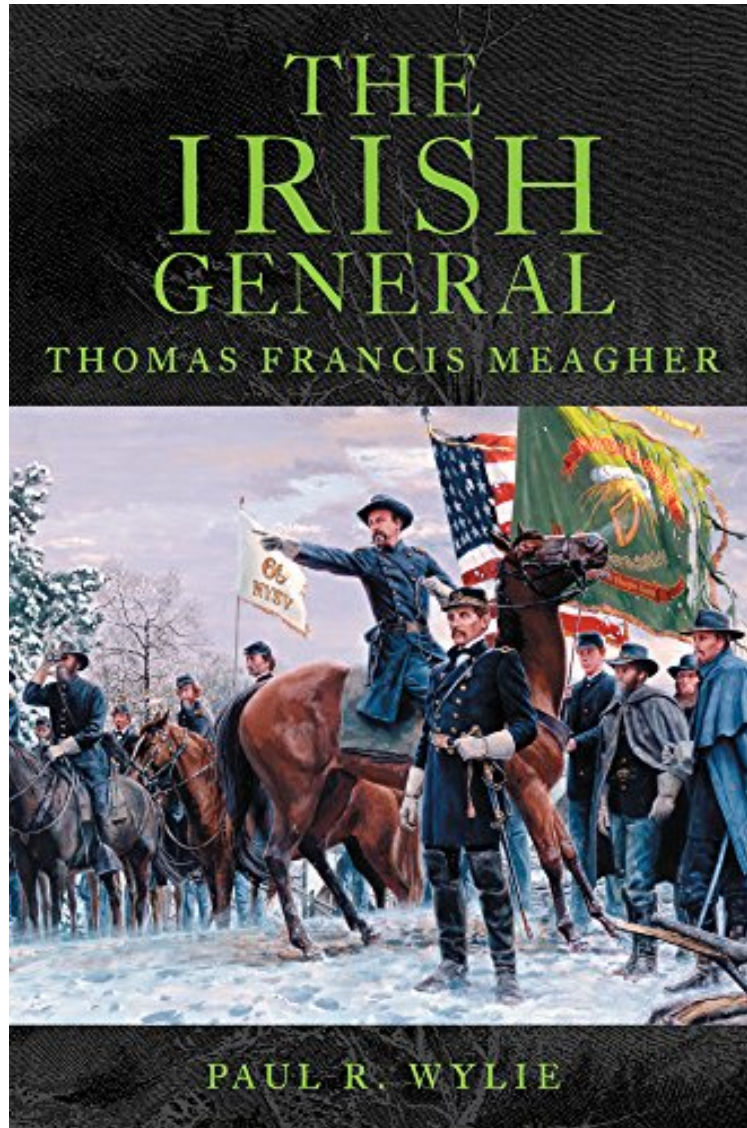


(Library ebook) The Irish General: Thomas Francis Meagher

The Irish General: Thomas Francis Meagher

Paul R. Wylie

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Paul R. Wylie : The Irish General: Thomas Francis Meagher before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Irish General: Thomas Francis Meagher:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. relevant book for today an interesting topicBy CheChristianThis is really an excellent book. If you want to understand Irish history around 1848 and then Civil War history and some of its immediate aftermath this is a good book with the general background of this error. More importantly this part if he really shows the life of a interesting and some ways great man. Most people don't realize that during the American

Civil War around 25 percent of all Union soldiers were foreign born. That's pretty significant and of course is this book show there was significant hostility and racism towards many of the recent immigrants. The Irish in particular. This is interesting in our own debate today regarding who true Americans are and other immigration issues. But at any rate this is a really interesting story about a very interesting person and a great story about a part of the civil war in mid 19th century America.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not just good info and research - but well written - flows well.

By PrivacyI read in the preface that Mr. Wylie is a kind of amateur historian, and that this is his first book. So I was hoping that the research would be good, and was prepared for writing that was perhaps not as engaging as, say, a popular historian like Ambrose or Ellis. Well, kudos to Mr. Wylie (or to his editor?)- not only is this very thoroughly researched, and presented in an easy-to-follow chronological order, but the writing flows very well. I have learned so much, about Irish history, the Civil War, Montana, and about this complex character Thomas Francis Meagher.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Peak's too early, ends too late, but still a good read.

By Alan L. EmeryThe life of Thomas Meagher starts well, gets incredible in the middle and then terrible at the end. The author has neatly matched this in *The Irish General*. Thomas Meagher was born into a well to do family in Ireland in the early 1800s and almost immediately used his family's resources to put himself into a better position to attack British rule of his beloved island nation. *The Irish General* follows his rise leading a failed grass roots effort to remove the English that ultimately leads to his expulsion, his exile and finally his escape to the United States on the eve of the Civil War. The author does a terrific job of taking us through Meagher's efforts to muster an all Irish Regiment and that Regiment's exploits in the war. The General and his Irish Brigade ended the war among the highest casualty rates of any unit of the war and the terrible price his men paid weighed heavily on Meagher's mind. But as the General begins to drink more heavily and his career turns to politics the writer delves deeper into the detail of Meagher's last year. The author is a lawyer from Montana so the detail into this part of the General's life is probably expected, but Meagher's final year is certainly not the highlight of his life, nor of this book. That year was dominated with minutia of Montana Politics and Indian / American affairs, the General's ill health and budgetary processes dominate the final paragraphs of the book to the book's detriment. Finally, the General's death was shrouded in mystery and for ages has stirred mentions of collusion, murder and even suicide. But the author saves the General's death and the after math for only the final six or eight pages. I am certainly happy that I purchased the book and read it and would still recommend it to anyone interested in the fascinating life of Thomas Francis Meagher. You will fly through the first 150 pages riveted by the passion with which Meagher fought for an Independent Ireland and the drama of his unit's actions in this country's bloodiest war. But as his life drags on to an untimely and unromantic ending the book drags as well.

Irish patriot, Civil War general, frontier governor Thomas Francis Meagher played key roles in three major historical arenas. Today he is hailed as a hero by some, condemned as a drunkard by others. Paul R. Wylie now offers a definitive biography of this nineteenth-century figure who has long remained an enigma. *The Irish General* first recalls Meagher's life from his boyhood and leadership of Young Ireland in the revolution of 1848, to his exile in Tasmania and escape to New York, where he found fame as an orator and as editor of the *Irish News*. He served in the Civil War viewing the Union Army as training for a future Irish revolutionary force and rose to the rank of brigadier general leading the famous Irish Brigade. Wylie traces Meagher's military career in detail through the Seven Days battles, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. Wylie then recounts Meagher's final years as acting governor of Montana Territory, sorting historical truth from false claims made against him regarding the militia he formed to combat attacking American Indians, and plumbing the mystery surrounding his death. Even as Meagher is lauded in most Irish histories, his statue in front of Montana's capitol is viewed by some with contempt. *The Irish General* brings this multi-talented but seriously flawed individual to life, offering a balanced picture of the man and a captivating reading experience.

#34 This engaging biography chronicles Meagher's colorful life. An Irish revolutionary exiled to Tasmania, he escaped to New York City, where he rose and fell as a leader of the Irish-American community. #34-- James M. McPherson, author of *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* --James M. McPherson #34 A story worth reading, and worth remembering." --Blue Gray Magazine

About the Author Paul R. Wylie, a retired attorney and now an independent researcher and writer, is author of *The Irish General: Thomas Francis Meagher*. He lives in Bozeman, Montana.