THE CAMPAIGN OF MAJOR GENERAL MATHEW A. TINLEY
FOR THE DEMOCRATIC VICE-PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION
IN 1932

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THE CAMPAIGN OF MAJOR GENERAL MATHEW A. TINLEY FOR THE DEMOCRATIC VICE-PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION IN 1932

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM AND PRELIMINARY BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Mathew A. Tinley of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was a figure of considerable significance in Iowa history as a physician and military hero. Little has been written, however, concerning the role of Major General Tinley as an active candidate of the Democratic party for the Vice-Presidential nomination in 1932. There is no evidence of a study available concerning General Tinley's involvement in this political movement.

I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. It was the purpose of this study to assess the available evidence and evaluate the historical importance of Major General Mathew A. Tinley with a view of determining the seriousness and significance of his appeal for the Democratic Vice-Presidential nomination in 1932.

Importance of the study. Vice-Presidential candidates are often not well remembered in the annals of American history. Active candidates for nomination to the Vice-Presidency are many times altogether forgotten. It is tragic that a man be remembered for the obvious while many of the significant
roles which he played have been forgotten. This may be said of Major General Mathew A. Tinley.

The candidacy of Mathew A. Tinley is unusual and important for these reasons. (1) Seldom in American history has one actively sought the Vice-Presidency without any thought of seeking the Presidency. (2) Mathew A. Tinley was a staunch Roman Catholic in a Protestant state and suffered no significant political ill effects. (3) General Tinley was a devoted Democrat seeking support in a traditionally Republican state. (4) The movement for General Tinley seemingly had a bipartisan flavor and arose out of an unusual grass-roots support outside of the political hierarchy.

Limitations of the study. It is only fair to note that a study centering on a period thirty years ago will have some omissions. General Tinley's death in 1956 eclipsed a part of his story. Some of the other persons vital to the story have also died, and others have not responded to all the questions asked them. A concerted effort, however, has been made to reveal all of the evidence which is available for study.

Organization of the study. The organization of the study is basically chronological in design. It was necessary
to piece together the background of Mathew A. Tinley in order to determine some of the vital factors which influenced his political thoughts and actions in later years. The effect of his medical background, military endeavors, and the economic depression in the United States were significant to his later political pursuits. Mathew A. Tinley's devotion to mankind and his love of country were studied to show the relationship with later political involvement. This devotion and patriotism were two of his qualities which aroused later political grass-roots support for him. The nature of the campaign and the party and bipartisan organizations were studied to show the relative degree of support given the Tinley Movement. The key question was then attacked concerning the chance General Tinley had for receiving the Democratic nomination for the Vice-Presidency. The preceding included an assessment of newspapers and the events of the Democratic National Convention in 1932. The final evaluation of the significance of the Tinley Movement served to show the conclusions which could be drawn from the evidence available.

Present status of the problem. There are perhaps numerous examples in American history of "favorite son" candidates seeking the Vice-Presidency. The MacNider
Movement in Iowa Republican circles in 1932 represented this kind of phenomenon. The Tinley effort has been written off by many as such a movement. Research has shown, however, that such a conclusion may not be justified. Widespread press reports from twelve states, outside of Iowa, have indicated that the early "favorite son" move may have spontaneously broken into national significance through a concerted, grass-roots, common bidding of midwestern farmers, World War I veterans, and a number of bipartisans, who reacted very favorably to the warmth and sincerity of General Tinley as a candidate. The reasons for many ascribing little importance to the Tinley Movement may lie in the omission of any previous study of the Tinley campaign and in the readiness of many to describe as inconsequential any political move which ended unsuccessfully. Major General Tinley's military prominence probably tended to push his political career into the background. Democratic movements in traditionally Republican Iowa may often be overlooked as insignificant. The tremendous popularity of the chosen Democratic ticket in 1932 and the distressing economic picture of the nation, and particularly of the farm belt, may have further pushed the Tinley Movement into oblivion after the Democratic Convention of 1932.
II. Background

Family. Mathew A. Tinley was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on March 5, 1876. His family was of humble Irish origin. Mathew Hugh Tinley, his father, had come to the United States from County Cavan, Ireland, at the age of twelve. His mother, Rose Dolan Tinley, had come to the United States from County Roscommon, Ireland, in 1843. The Tinley family arrived in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1869 to make their home.

In spite of their poverty, the family of Mathew A. Tinley proceeded to settle a small piece of land, to open a small store, and to found one of the most remarkable families in the history of Council Bluffs. Eight children were born into the Mathew Hugh Tinley family, and each of the brothers and sisters of Mathew grew prominent in his own right. Brother Hubert became a bank president; Emmett became an able Iowa lawyer and served as president of the Iowa State Bar Association; Mary became a physician of some merit; John became a lawyer and judge; Beatrice became a nurse and married A. V. de Goiciuria, a Spaniard who was a member of the New York Stock Exchange; Mathew A. was the

1Louis Cook, "Mat Tinley--Citizen-Soldier and Doctor," Des Moines Register, December 3, 1933.
next born and served with sister Mary as a prominent physician; Aurelia became a teacher; and George, the youngest, became a public official.

**Education.** In the early years of his life, Mathew A. Tinley seriously considered the priesthood, but changed his mind in order to follow his sister Mary in medicine. For three years he worked with his father and brother Hubert in a coal and ice company to save the necessary funds for medical school. Finally, with the help of his sister Mary, he entered the Omaha Medical School. His schooling was interrupted for a time, however, by the Spanish-American War, and Mathew A. Tinley put down his books to become First Sergeant of L Company, Forty-first Iowa Volunteers.

Mathew Tinley's medical studies were completed in April of 1902. After an internship he started practice with his sister Mary in Council Bluffs. Soon after he had started his medical career, Mathew A. Tinley married his childhood sweetheart, of nine years, Lucy Shaw Williams of Norfolk, Nebraska.

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2Cook, *loc. cit.*
3Ibid.
Basic Areas of Interest

Medicine. Medicine was the chosen career of Mathew A. Tinley. The course of study was three years in that day and allowed Mathew Tinley to enroll with only a high school diploma. Financial troubles were very real to him then, as he delivered papers in the early mornings and worked as an usher at Dohany's Theater in the evenings to help meet expenses. In his medical practice, Dr. Tinley preferred to devote his efforts to the ministration of family ills. He seemed to have a real concern for his patients, regardless of their financial status. Newspapers carried some interesting portrayals of Dr. Tinley presenting the poor with paid up accounts as Christmas gifts. Although Dr. Tinley did not always appreciate using large blocks of his time for charity work, his diary indicated several instances in which he noted the care of such patients, especially old soldiers. In speaking of the old soldiers Tinley once stated: "... three or four a day using hours of my time so necessary in my work ... I should rest--no thanks and of course no pay." But the indications of the study are that

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1Ibid.


3Mathew A. Tinley Papers (diary account of January 21, 1932, in the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, Des Moines, Iowa).
Dr. Tinley did not rest; there is no account indicating that he refused medical assistance in such cases.

Mathew A. Tinley continued in his chosen career throughout the major portion of his life. He believed the practice of medicine to be his greatest contribution to society. His essential concern was with the welfare of those around him and the care of their ills led directly to his concern for the individual and to his later political thoughts toward reform and improvement of the economic ills of the nation.

The military. The government call to arms in the Spanish-American War and the First World War placed Mathew A. Tinley in another area of service, the military. The military career of Tinley began with his participation in his high school's voluntary cadet company. Soon after graduation he joined the Dodge Light Guards, 3rd Iowa Infantry, on June 4, 1894, as a Private. By the time of the Spanish-American War, he had become First Sergeant of his company. Louis Cook reconstructs this story of Tinley's part in the Spanish-American War on the basis of an interview with Mr. Tinley himself:

Mat thought he was going to Cuba and fight the Spaniard but instead he wound up with the rest of his regiment, boarding the transport Pennsylvania in San Francisco Bay.
For three and one-half months, he was to swelter on that old transport under equatorial suns before his feet felt solid land again. By then the Philippine Insurrection had begun and Mat's regiment was assigned, under General Funston, to make the campaign. Their terms of enlistment were up, they hadn't started out to fight the Filipinos but it was the only fight in sight and Mat stayed for it.

He went to the Philippines as a Second Lieutenant and ended that service as a First Lieutenant.

Mathew Tinley was appointed a Captain on June 18, 1900, reorganized his company, and was promoted to Major, commanding the 3rd Battalion of his regiment. It was redesignated as the 55th Iowa Infantry, the 3rd Iowa Infantry, and the 168th Infantry Regiment. In 1916 he was sent as a Lieutenant Colonel to the Mexican border. Here he worked to build his Iowa regiment into a fighting machine to be later used in France as the 168th Infantry under his command.

On October 5, 1917, Mathew Tinley was sent to France with a selected group of American officers in advance of American troops. Promoted to Colonel on October 17, 1918, he assumed command of his regiment which was one of the first American fighting units in France, under the direction of General Douglas MacArthur.

1Cook, loc. cit.
2There is no evidence that Tinley's military service on the Mexican border had any political results at a later time as far as Texas was concerned.
3Cook, loc. cit.
From The Story of the 168th Infantry the following descriptions illustrate Colonel Tinley as a military man:

In an atmosphere as taut as a violin string, Colonel Tinley, suppressing whatever emotions that may have been battling for precedence, calmly made the arrangements for countering the assault. It was for him to shoulder the responsibility of disposing his forces to meet the numerous eventualities that might develop... But when anxious inquiries came over the wire from Regimental Headquarters he answered, with only an unbounded confidence to support his belief, that the G.C.'s were holding out, that every man of the 168th was at his post and would remain there. He knew what kind of men he commanded.  

This statement of Tinley shows his performance in a tense military situation under fire. It also points up his confidence in his own men to stand firm. A second description from The Story of the 168th Infantry stated:

Upon his departure he relinquished command to Lieutenant Colonel Tinley, a soldier of equally long service, who was remarkably well qualified by reason of experience and thorough knowledge of things military to accept the responsibility thrust upon him. There was no question but that he would have the loyal support of every man under him, and that with him as leader the regiment would go on to greater glory.

Perhaps this statement points up again the essential idea that Mathew Tinley was trusted and revered by those who served under him who recognized his ability and feeling for people. This is further illustrated by yet another state-

1John H. Taber, The Story of the 168th Infantry (Iowa City, Iowa: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1925), I, 96.

2Ibid., II, 66.
ment concerning Tinley's actions during the St. Mihiel attack:

He Colonel Tinley had every right to expect the utmost cooperation of his troops, and they in turn had good reason to believe that they would be protected by an intelligent and considerate regimental direction. The Colonel had been called to endless conferences, yet he found time to give to his men, visiting down to the platoons. It was a constantly changing family in those days, but he contrived to keep acquainted with it, having something personal to say to each officer—a bit of advice here and there, a word of encouragement to those about to go under fire for the first time, and expressions of confidence to the old men.1

Colonel Tinley's own words spoken at the end of the war describe his feelings toward his men:

"Down in our hearts there is a pang of regret that we are assembled for the last time," the Colonel commenced, "and you who are not accompanying us back to Iowa, you will always have a kindly feeling toward the State you have represented so well. I only wish that we could take you all back with us to share the great welcome that awaits us there. The friendships that have sprung up among us will always bind us closely together. We have slept in the same shell hole, drunk from the same canteen, have suffered common dangers, discomforts, discouragements. Those of us who lie sleeping beneath the sod of France will be with us in the great homecoming to which we have looked forward for so many months. We must keep up the traditions for which they died. And now, on this our last gathering, I wish you Godspeed."2

On July 7, 1921, Tinley was advanced to Brigadier General, commanding the 67th Infantry Brigade. On July 14, 1924, Mathew Tinley was named the unanimous choice of the

1 Ibid., II, 82-83.
2 Ibid., II, 279.
governors of Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota as Major General, commanding the 34th Infantry Division, a position which he held until his retirement on March 5, 1940. From this date Mathew Tinley was named Lieutenant General Retired.

General Tinley held a number of honors related to his acts of bravery and service in the military such as noted above. Among these honors are the Distinguished Service Medal of the United States Army, the French Legion d'Honneur, Officer with Rosette, the Croix de Guerre, the Medal of the Order of Soldiers of Verdun, the National Flag Society Medal, a Special Medal of the State of Iowa, the Distinguished Service Medal of the National Guard Association of the United States, the Vice-Presidency of the National Guard Association in 1932, and the Presidency of that association in 1933. In 1920 Mathew A. Tinley was named the first Commander of the Iowa Department of the American Legion.

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1Citation for Distinguished Service Medal, National Guard Association of the United States (published in the official program of the 42nd Division's Annual Rainbow Reunion at Omaha, Nebraska, July 1955).

2Ibid.

3Martin Green, "Tinley of Iowa Is in the Race," New York Sun, June 9, 1932.
Politics. The third basic area of interest for this man of many pursuits was politics. The growth of Mat Tinley's political interest was gradual, at first quite unofficial, and based to a high degree on the troublesome events of history that surrounded him. Soon after World War I, friends of Tinley suggested that he run for governor of Iowa, but he refused to be considered. In 1924 Alabama delegates to the National Democratic Convention urged a combination of Oscar Underwood and Mathew Tinley for President and Vice-President, but Tinley again refused the honor. On two occasions before the campaign Tinley had attended local political meetings. In a diary account of October 29, 1931, he wrote: "Democratic meeting at old Legion Hall. Capt. Will Reebu--O.K. talk." In the second diary account of February 2, 1932, he wrote: "... Then attended Democratic meeting--W. Welch of Logan--good talk. . . ."

Tinley viewed with alarm the results of the depression. He was aware that the Hoover administration had not taken the steps he thought necessary to revive prosperity and promise better times for veterans and farmers.

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1News item in Council Bluffs Nonpareil, March 4, 1932; Green, loc. cit.

2Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit., January 8, April 26, September 25, December 31, 1931.

3Ibid., May 7, August 11, 1932.
Gradually he became more and more committed to a policy, within the framework of his Democratic party, to bring relief and reassurance to the people around him. Tinley believed in party loyalty, yet would not disassociate himself from the friendliness of bipartisans and, in many instances, Republican friends. His diary indicated that he was even sad that Republican Governor Dan Turner, a man he considered his friend, was not reelected Governor of Iowa in 1932, but that he was equally glad that his friend Clyde Herring, a ranking Democrat, was assuming that role.

Tinley's basic political appeal tended to stem from a kind of personal magnetism and genuine sincerity that made those who knew him trust him. Tinley's qualities are revealed by the words of some prominent Iowans. Otha Wearin, a former Democratic Representative in Congress from the Seventh District of Iowa, elected in 1932, wrote: "I was personally acquainted with General Tinley as with other members of his family for many years. His kindness, integrity and loyalty to country and friends are unsurpassed."

The honorable Henry K. Peterson, now serving

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1Ibid., November 9, 1932.

2Editorial in Red Oak Sun, March 11, 1932.

as a Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court, wrote:

You are correct in saying that I was a great friend of General Tinley for many years. The friendship runs back to the time shortly after the Spanish-American War when he returned from the Philippines. I had the opportunity, of course, to know him better after I came back from law school in 1908 and practiced law from that year until 1955. We were associated together in several civic matters.

It is my opinion that after his return from World War I he was Citizen Number One in Council Bluffs until his death in 1956.¹

The Waterloo Daily Courier stated: "The mere proposal of Tinley's name is a great honor, but it is an honor merited by his record as a citizen and a soldier and a loyal member of his party."² Another Iowa newspaper stated: "Regardless of political affiliations, Iowa will be strong for Mat Tinley, as his worth as a citizen is recognized by all parties."³ It may be said that Tinley loved people and that this was reciprocated by the people who sensed his feelings for them.

Religion. By faith, Mathew A. Tinley was Roman Catholic. This fact may or may not have been widely known; yet it did not appear to be a major issue to the press in

²Editorial in Waterloo Daily Courier, April 29, 1932.
³Editorial in Oskaloosa Daily Herald, April 29, 1932.
reporting his later political aspirations for the Vice-Presidency. In view of the issue made over Alfred E. Smith in the Presidential campaign of 1928, this is an interesting development. The difference in background and personality of the two men may have been one reason for lack of emphasis placed on General Tinley's religion by many people.

None of the press reviews studied concerning the campaign of Tinley for the Vice-Presidency noted his religious affiliation. Only one Catholic publication was found in which a reference to Tinley's religion was noted, and this article was published as late as August of 1932, some time after the Democratic National Convention in June. Mrs. M. A. Tinley has written, however, that Roosevelt may have been concerned with the religious issue. "He [Tinley] visited Franklin Roosevelt who was cordial enough but still smarting over the defeat of Al Smith and did not want another Catholic . . . ."\(^2\)

**Philosophy of Life**

After assessing the diaries and press reports, it seems fair to state that Mathew Tinley's personal philosophy

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\(^1\) News item in *Ave Maria*, August 20, 1932.

\(^2\) Mrs. M. A. Tinley, letter to Thomas J. Sandell, June 21, 1962.
of life had a great deal to do with his political concern and later political involvement. His concern was with human beings and with the relief of their suffering. His concern as a physician made itself known in political and military areas as well. When people had problems he could not solve as a doctor, he sought their relief through his military influence or through political action and reform.

Concern for people. His concern as a doctor for the dignity of all his patients and his willingness to serve them all has been noted above. Another example of his feelings for people as individuals followed the Armistice of World War I. Tinley had taken his regiment into Germany. He received instructions conceived in hatred and bred in the emotional heat of war. The order stated that in dealing with the German people, courteous treatment would only lead to contempt, that the American forces should take what they were entitled to without thanks, and the children were particularly ill behaved and should be repulsed and driven away from quarters and mess areas. Concerning this incident one writer stated:

One of his captains tells a story about how he felt about it.

"I never saw the old man quite so mad in my life," says the captain. "He read the thing, and the more of it he read the hotter he got under the collar.

\[1\]Cook, loc. cit.
"This must have been written by the guy that won the war," the Colonel said. "Now he wants the army of occupation to start spanking little children. Let him do his own spanking.""1

The concern of General Tinley for those less fortunate was basic to his thinking. A diary entry of March 7, 1932, reflected: "Appeared before City Council in interest of poor of city to retain city visiting nurses."2

On another occasion, May 18, 1932, the "Bonus Army" of three hundred men arrived in Council Bluffs. Tinley went to meet them and talked to the group. He stated that he did not agree with their methods, but that they must eat, and responded to this by digging into his own pocket to provide the men with sandwiches, coffee, and tobacco.3

General Tinley was quick to respond to what he considered an injustice concerning the welfare of a friend. Otha D. Wearin reported that after being nominated for Congress in the Seventh Iowa District, the Republican opposition began circulating a story, without evidence, that Wearin had been hostile and unfair to the medical profession. Dr. Tinley immediately dictated a terse statement to his secretary ridiculing the rumor and exclaimed

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1Ibid.
2Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit., March 7, 1932.
3Mickel, loc. cit.
to Otha Wearin, "Show it to anyone and everyone. Print it in the newspapers if you would like."

Patriotism. Responding to the call of duty in each of the major military threats to this country during his life had been a part of Tinley's patriotic service. The General's remarks to the Rainbow Division Veterans of July 14, 1921, stated his feelings on the subject of patriotism:

... the very type of organization we have forbids of partisan discussions, forbids of taking a thing up in a manner that will hurt the feelings of the least individual in the organization ... However, our responsibility is there just the same ... We were disciplined as Americans ... He who is in authority has the whole-hearted support of this body of men ... 2

The evidence of a speech of May 1932 indicated Tinley's trust in the patriotism of his countrymen even in adversity. He stated:

Americans are not revolutionists. Americans are sane, clear thinking people having confidence in the good intent of their fellow man. They are slow to distrust and even failure does not cause them to lose faith. They are long suffering and patient ... But there comes a time when a long suffering public knows when it has had enough. That time has arrived ... 3

1Wearin, loc. cit.

2Mathew A. Tinley, "Address by Mat. A. Tinley, President Rainbow Division Veterans," Rainbow Reveille, July 1921, p. 2.

3News item in Omaha World Herald, May 4, 1932.
Building of Political Thought

Effect of military career of World War I. The effect of the First World War on General Tinley is not entirely revealed. He felt that it was his duty to be of service when his country required it of him, but he longed for his family and his medical practice at home. The rapport that Tinley built up with his soldiers was a bond of lasting duration. Throughout his political endeavors, veteran friends were among his most powerful supporters. It was from among Alabama veterans who had served in a sister unit, the 167th Regiment in France, that General Tinley was first considered a Vice-Presidential candidate in 1924. The general political effect of Mathew A. Tinley's service in World War I was to make his name known nationally, within the sphere of veterans groups. This tended to put his name on the "available" list for Democrats in future campaigns.

Concern for bipartisan "common sense" to alleviate radical movements. Mathew Tinley put a good deal of faith in bipartisan patriotism to offset the fear of radical movements.

1 Other Iowa veterans were receiving recognition nationally. Ray Murphy, a Democrat and an appointee of Governor Herring as Iowa Insurance Commissioner, and Hanford MacNider, a Republican from Mason City, were both national commanders of the American Legion before 1932. Along with Tinley they were nationally known figures.
To a veterans group he said:

... Radical? No! Things that require immediate action? No. We are the stabilizing element in the soldier body of this country. We have never been of the Bolshevik nature or the radical nature ...

Ten years later, in 1931, General Tinley noted in his diary an account of a certain George Paperin, a "Red" who was ridiculed in his native Council Bluffs. Tinley was critical of the widespread newspaper coverage which tended to enhance the importance of Paperin. Tinley wrote:

George Paperin talk in park on communism ... Quite a crowd around Chieftain--Newspapers are rotten in their handling of situation--Should ignore and--They are trying to start fights... These statements from Tinley would indicate that he took a more moderate view on communism that perhaps some of the veterans groups of his day, but he did not choose to ignore radicalism. He chose not to view these issues out of proportion to their importance.

Concern for distressing times. A discussion of the Tinley campaign speeches to follow will indicate that the General based his appeal for the Vice-Presidency on the grounds of alleviating the economic distresses of the early thirties. It may be useful, however, to attempt to con-

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1 Mathew A. Tinley, loc. cit.
2 Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit., October 31, 1931.
struct a series of his growing impressions on this subject. The first comments tend to portray a disbelief, by Tinley, of the seriousness of the depression. This feeling is followed, in later months, by a realization by Tinley of the impact of the distress and its effect upon the people.

His diary of 1931 stated:

Hard to realize there can be whole communities like Egland, Arkansas, hungry . . .

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

. . . Depression of the period causes much worry.

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

No work and what is in is charity or soldiers relief . . .

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

. . . Depression ruins business and has like effect on individuals . . . 1

Commitment to the Democratic party. Tinley accepted the party as the political unit in which he chose to work. Although as a military commander he was prone to accept the bipartisan approach of supporting issues he thought best for the country, by 1924 he had attended the Democratic National Convention as a delegate. The first diary account, however, indicating an interest in local Democratic meetings was noted on October 29, 1931. He attended another meeting

1Ibid., January 8, April 26, September 25, December 31, 1931.
some months later on February 2, 1932. A very active role, however, can be noted from the last of March 1932 until just before the National Convention of June 1932. In a typical diary notation, he stated:

Busy Political day—met Mr. Brophy at Chieftain—Albert Namen, Frank Garrett, Mr. Brophy and James Carey.

Mr. Hoover after 2 years of inertia scourges the Democratic Congress . . .

Serious world panic with money very scarce . . . \(^1\)

A great many of the sources indicated that Mathew Tinley was somewhat reluctant concerning his own plunge into politics. He had become, from all evidence, however, a more committed Democrat by 1932. But even though Tinley had some qualms about seeking the Vice-Presidency, he had made a very real impression on Democratic leaders in Iowa, on farmers in the midwest, and on veterans from many states; and these groups had begun to seek that office for him and were steadily pressing him to seek it actively and seriously. The point to be made is that Tinley had lived with a forcefulness and had made such appealing contributions in so many endeavors that his name was readily under serious consideration within Democratic political circles in 1932, regardless of Tinley's feelings concerning his own desire for an active political role.

\(^1\)Ibid., May 7, 1932.
CHAPTER II

THE CAMPAIGN

The success or failure of political aspirants must be based not only on their forcefulness in other pursuits and on their previous training for political responsibility, but also is decided by the basic approach of the campaign which is waged in their behalf. The Tinley Campaign for the Vice-Presidency followed a course which was somewhat unique in that (1) General Tinley did not initially seek the office for which he later ran; (2) the support groups included large numbers of veterans and Republicans; (3) General Tinley was not altogether committed to a single Presidential candidate; (4) and the managers for the movement operated openly with an emphasis on Tinley moving the delegates rather than the managers setting the stage by a series of political understandings with members of the nominating convention.

I. GETTING INVOLVED IN PRACTICAL POLITICS

The year 1932 was not the first time that Democrats had viewed Mathew Tinley for an office. Immediately following the First World War there was talk of running Tinley

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1News item in *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, March 4, 1932.
eration of this political move was dropped due to lack of encouragement by Tinley. There is no recorded evidence available that he gave the move encouragement.

In 1924 the Underwood faction in Alabama, largely made up of veteran friends of Tinley, desired to use the General's name in reference to the Vice-Presidency if Oscar Underwood received the Democratic Presidential nomination. The attempt in 1924 was to link a Southerner and a Midwesterner by associating Underwood with Tinley. The fact that Alabama's twenty-four votes for Oscar W. Underwood did not carry the day ended this short-lived political movement. The General, however, refused the kind offer of the Alabama delegation, perhaps realizing the futility of the attempt.

General Tinley had never sought an elective public office until 1932. The various pressures on Tinley to actively seek the Vice-Presidential nomination came from a number of groups and individuals, but it started from the area immediately in the vicinity of Council Bluffs. The movement here was, by all evidence, spontaneous in nature. At this early stage Tinley himself felt that the attempt was an honor, but did not feel that anything more

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1 Ibid.
than this would develop from the idea.

The first official political move to support General Tinley for Vice-President occurred on March 3, 1932, by the endorsement of the Pottawattamie County Democracy. A group of local Democrats were selected to attend the district Democratic convention at Atlantic, Iowa, and were to ask that the General be sent to the national convention in Chicago as a delegate-at-large with a view of gaining for him the nomination for the Vice-Presidency. Informed of the movement started by his friends in Council Bluffs, Tinley on March 4, 1932, stated his first public reaction:

> The offer of the vice presidency is one to be given serious consideration and I could not turn it down.

As a military man, however, I am more inclined to favor the position of secretary of war in event of a Democratic victory.

The second official move, in the endorsement of General Tinley, occurred at Atlantic, Iowa, March 5, 1932. Democrats from thirteen counties in the Seventh District gathered to officially launch the campaign. The Tinley forces were well represented at Atlantic. Among the

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1 Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit., March 29, 1932.
2 News item in the Omaha Bee, March 4, 1932.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid., March 5, 1932.
seventeen Tinley supporters were many of those who became the backbone of the later campaign. Present at this meeting were J. P. Carey and Charles and Emery Petty, staunch Tinley supporters; Albert Namen, later secretary of the Tinley-for-Vice-President Club of Council Bluffs and national campaign manager; Frank Garrett, later president of the Tinley-for-Vice-President Club; John Myrtue, mayor of Council Bluffs; and some prominent relatives--Hubert Tinley, John P. Tinley sr. and John P. Tinley jr. Prominent Democrats from other counties of the Seventh District at the Atlantic meeting included William Welch of Logan, candidate for Congress; Nelson G. Kraschel of Harlan, candidate for United States Senator; and Otha D. Wearin of Hastings, Iowa, candidate for Congress.

Richard F. Mitchell of Fort Dodge, national committeeman and state Democratic chairman who served on the Iowa

1Ibid.

2Kraschel was defeated in the primary election of June 6, 1932, by Louis Murphy. He was nominated for the office of Lieutenant Governor of Iowa at the Democratic State Convention July 22, 1932, to fill a vacancy and was elected at the general election in November.

3Otha D. Wearin served as a member of the Iowa State Legislature, staff contributor to Wallace's Farmer, member of the Iowa State Historical Society, and was elected a member of the Seventy-third Congress in November 1932.

4News item in the Omaha Bee, March 4, 1932.
Supreme Court as a Justice from 1932 to 1942 and was later appointed as a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission in Washington, D.C. was also present at this meeting.

Success of Democratic candidates in Iowa, until the general election of 1932, had been somewhat limited. The question to be asked, therefore, was what influence would a committed Democrat, Mathew A. Tinley, have in a traditionally Republican state? Several vital factors are to be considered. Tinley seemed to have the rather rare talent of attracting tremendous party support in Iowa without lessening Republican enthusiasm for him. Perhaps this was due to the force of his personality and the fact that he ridiculed Republican programs but seldom individuals. His political manner in dealing with opponents was mild, and the times in which he encouraged Democratic support from Iowans were crucial and ridden with the plague of an agricultural depression.

A staunch Democrat has said of the Tinley Movement that the General did not seek out political office; friends and bipartisans sought him, and General Tinley was above Republicans and Democrats.

A rather significant statement concerning Tinley's

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1 Interview with Frank Miles, Des Moines, Iowa, July 17, 1961.
effect on Iowa politics was made by a Red Oak newspaper.

The report stated:

Democrats of Iowa welcome the announcement that Gen. Matt Tinley, of Council Bluffs, may be a candidate for the nomination for vice-president of the United States at the convention in Chicago this spring. This jubilation is expressed because it is known that potent Republicans, as well as Democrats, in this vicinity will support him for any office for which he chooses to run. If Gen. Tinley is the vice-presidential nominee it seems very probable that "rock-ribbed Iowa" will go Democratic for the first time in history.

II. THE NATURE OF THE CAMPAIGN

The Tinley Movement was begun by the people of Council Bluffs. The movement to honor General Tinley preceded any formal organization to aid in this task of making him a serious candidate. The Red Oak Sun reported:

... The vice-presidential candidate is so well and favorably known in this county that it seems improbable that there would be one vote against him.

The staunchly Republican Council Bluffs Nonpareil carried numerous articles in Tinley's behalf. The Omaha Bee and the Omaha World Herald were quick to follow the footsteps of Council Bluffs.

Several reasons are somewhat apparent in understanding

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1News item in the Red Oak Sun, March 11, 1932.

2Ibid.
the sentiment for Tinley. Many people of this area knew him and held him in high regard; many others were carried along by the stories they had heard of his fairness and sincerity. Finally, however, the people of this vicinity had a candidate of whom they fully approved seeking a chance at a national office. These people wanted to become a part of that movement.

Albert Namen, national campaign manager and secretary of the Tinley-for-Vice-President Club wrote that even before a public announcement was made of the Tinley candidacy, feelers were sent out to prominent Democrats of Iowa and to bipartisans who served with Tinley in the armed forces from Texas, New York, Illinois, and several southern states to assess his strength. Mr. Namen stated that these men were leaders in industry--insurance, banking, railroading, automobile manufacturing. He stated that many of these men, high in the Democratic and Republican parties, put their names of endorsement on their stationery to be released in the final push before the convention.

On March 29, 1932, the Democratic State Convention met at Davenport, Iowa, and instructed the delegates to the National Convention in Chicago to cast the state's twenty-six votes for Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York

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1 Albert Namen, letter to Thomas J. Sandell, June 17, 1962.
and to "work for the nomination of General M. A. Tinley of Council Bluffs for Vice President . . . ." A press report indicated that the Davenport meeting included a spirited battle over the selection of delegates-at-large. The report stated:

... Mark A. Walsh of Burlington, permanent chairman, lost control of the convention and the approximately 2000 delegates got into a free-for-all argument over the delegates-at-large. During the turmoil, reminiscent of old-time political fights, a woman fainted and pandemonium reigned for several minutes . . . .

General Tinley was named at Davenport as a delegate-at-large. In his diary of March 29, 1932, the convention date, he wrote:

Democratic State Convention, Davenport, Iowa.
Received word nearly all Council Bluffs Democratic ticket elected--Huber and one alderman defeated.

Lively convention endorsed me for Vice President--nice compliment but means little . . . .

A report from the Daily Times of Davenport of March 30, 1932, stated:

A unanimous vote to present the name of Mat A. Tinley for vice president assures that Iowa will ask that the Council Bluffs man be Roosevelt's running mate.

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1 News item in the Council Bluffs Nonpareil, March 29, 1932.
2 Ibid.
3 Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit., March 29, 1932.
The Davenport convention had given the green light to begin formally the campaign at home. A bipartisan Tinley-for-Vice-President Club was organized on April 1, 1932, by a group of Dr. Tinley's friends in the office of John P. Tinley sr. The local membership goal was set at one thousand. The officers of the local club were: president, Frank Garrett; vice-president, Mrs. Donald Macrae jr.; 1 secretary, Albert Namen; and treasurer, Hubert Tinley. The board of directors of the club included both Democrats and Republicans. The Council Bluffs Nonpareil reported:

Dr. Tinley revealed at the meeting that since his candidacy became known more than two thousand letters have been received from persons prominent in politics in Alabama, North and South Carolina, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. 2

A second meeting of the club was held on April 5, 1932. More than three hundred Democrats and Republicans attended an organizational rally at the Hotel Chieftain in behalf of General Tinley. At this meeting plans were presented for a nation-wide campaign. 3

At a third meeting on April 8, 1932, the club decided to open a headquarters in the Hotel Chieftain in Council

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1 News item in the Council Bluffs Nonpareil, April 1, 1932.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid., April 6, 1932.
Bluffs and appointed B. A. Gronstal, vice president of the Council Bluffs Savings Bank, chairman of the finance committee. A publicity committee was also formed and included John M. Henry of the Nonpareil, chairman; Gerald Kirn, principal of Abraham Lincoln High School; Harry Burton; and G. P. N. Daily.

On April 11, 1932, an official headquarters for the Tinley-for-Vice-President Club was opened at the Hotel Chieftain.

In terms of the financial support at the local level, the finance committee announced plans for raising twenty-five thousand dollars for the campaign. No record has been discovered, however, determining the amount of funds actually raised. General Tinley's own records show quite small amounts used for his personal campaign expenses:

Mary, God bless her, gave me 200.00 for Chicago fund--

Is it--has it been worth it all?

H L 200.00  Aurelia 150.00  M C T 200.00

campaign fund

Tinley's national campaign manager has said:

... No man for a country wide office had so much support with so little money, and yet it took 50 to 100 persons daily for weeks to mail out literature and hand written letters.\(^3\)

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1\textsuperscript{1} Ibid., April 9, 1932.

2\textsuperscript{2} Mathew A. Tinley Papers, \textit{op. cit.}, June 22, 1932.

3\textsuperscript{3} Namen, \textit{loc. cit.}
Frank Garrett reported to the Nonpareil on April 10, 1932, that 3500 letters had been received from all over the country offering support. Garrett said that Council Bluffs high school students had offered to aid his headquarters in typing letters for the Tinley Movement.

By April 24, 1932, there was evidence that the organization was fully under way. The Omaha World Herald reported:

... Last week approximately 35 thousand letters were dispatched from headquarters here. This week the number is expected to be increased to two hundred thousand. Distribution of a half million window placards throughout the United States was also begun Saturday.

Women workers have commenced organization of a non-partisan women's club to back General Tinley. Another Tinley-for-Vice-President club was formed on May 14, 1932, at Red Oak.

The entire Tinley organization, geared at first to show honor to the General, gained momentum and influence as it stepped up its activities in April and May of 1932. At some point in this period the earnest Tinley supporters with the aid of favorable grass roots public reaction began to work in seriousness, putting all effort into seizing the Democratic nomination for General Tinley.

1News item in the Council Bluffs Nonpareil, April 10.
2News item in the Omaha World Herald, April 24, 1932.
3Ibid., May 15, 1932.
At a pep meeting for Tinley on May 16, 1932, letters and telegrams received from Alfred E. Smith, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and John Nance Garner were read. The number of political aspirants were taking no chances with the Tinley movement. If they thought it premature, they did not indicate their feelings, for there was a ready chance that Mathew Tinley had generated a good deal of support. His friendship, therefore, was sought by the first place contenders, for his influence might be indispensable at the later June convention.

The Tinley supporters, however, knew something of the difficulty of their task. Said the Nonpareil:

. . . Managers and directors of General Tinley's campaign for the democratic nomination for vice president are not unmindful of the conditions under which they labor. They know that convention delegates after a battle over first place may be stumped to a dark horse candidate for second place in an effort to heal a breach in party ranks caused by rivalry for first place. They are working with splendid effect to forestall such contingencies and there is excellent prospect that they may succeed. Their plan is simple. It is to sell their candidate to the delegates in advance of the convention. Work on this line is being carried on industriously. Every state in the Union has been reached and the responses are friendly . . . .

The nonpartisan organization began to disseminate literature in behalf of their candidate. The political

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1Ibid.

2Editorial in the Council Bluffs Nonpareil, May 18, 1932.
publications were designed essentially to appeal to the delegates at the coming convention and also to appeal to a cross-section of the public. These publications emphasized Tinley's war record, his affiliation with the American Legion, his post-war military responsibilities, his record as a physician, and his integrity and dignity as a responsible citizen.

Considerable attention was drawn in one political tract to Tinley's potential weight on the national ticket on a geographic basis.

... His name will strengthen the national ticket. It is very evident that no party can hope to win the election in November unless it has the political support of the crucial middle west. The campaigns in 1912 and 1916 demonstrated this. General Tinley's name is one with which to conjure west of the Mississippi. His acquaintance and friendships are nation wide. He represents, as no other man can, the agricultural west.

Another political tract, written by Frank Miles, put a particular emphasis on patriotism. The appeal here was that Mathew Tinley, through his service to the nation in peace and war, as a great citizen-soldier, physician and servant of mankind, was deserving of the honor of the Vice-Presidency on the grounds of the good works he had

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1 Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit. (a political tract published by the Tinley-for-Vice-President Club, no date indicated).

2 Ibid.
performed in behalf of all Americans. Miles' appeal to put patriotism above party was to be the basic campaign line to the independent voter. The Tinley record could be placed against that of any other candidate, the Tinley supporters felt, and it would appear the most favorable. The Miles tract also emphasized that Mathew A. Tinley, the physician, had committed himself to the relief of physical suffering, and now Mathew A. Tinley, the politician, could aid in alleviating the great mental anguish and the economic suffering of Americans hit by depression in 1932.

Additional encouragement for the Tinley Movement began with invitations from Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska to address the Nebraska Democratic State Convention and from Joseph O'Mahoney of Wyoming to address the Wyoming State Convention in early May of 1932. General Tinley appeared before the Nebraska convention and won for himself considerable delegate support. The General did not appear before the Wyoming convention, but Albert Namen and a group of Tinley boosters attended this meeting in his behalf. Strong Tinley sentiment was reported at the Wyoming convention.

1Frank Miles, "A Brief Introduction to Mathew A. Tinley," Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit.

2News item in the Omaha World Herald, May 9, 1932.
The first extensive tour for General Tinley was a visit to the Texas Democratic Convention meeting in Houston. General Tinley left Council Bluffs on May 22 and was presented to the Texas Convention on May 24, 1932. No record has been discovered indicating how the exact arrangements for the Tinley visit occurred. At Houston, however, a large committee of prominent Texans numbering over fifty welcomed the General and set up a committee to work in his behalf.

Texas was supposedly Garner political territory, but press reports have indicated that General Tinley was well received. The link here was the association of General Tinley with large numbers of veterans who had fought with him in the Rainbow Division. The key individual contact in Texas was William J. Tucker, Executive Secretary of the Fish, Oyster and Game Commission of Texas. Tucker was an officer of Tinley's in World War I and a staunch supporter of his campaign in 1932.

The Houston Chronicle stated that Tinley was a Roosevelt man, giving Garner as his second choice. In Houston Tinley stated that either Roosevelt or Garner could easily carry the middle west and pointed out these two as

1Namen, loc. cit.

2News item in the Houston Chronicle, May 24, 1932.
the strongest candidates for the Democratic nomination. Said Tinley: "Garner is very popular in all of the states I have been through. He is the type of leader that the people have been looking for..."

General Tinley returned to Council Bluffs from the Houston convention on May 27, 1932. The press followed Tinley's progress closely in Texas and Kansas on the trip home. The *Omaha World Herald* reported on May 26, 1932:

Dr. Mathew A. Tinley of Council Bluffs, candidate for the democratic nomination for vice-president, was in Kansas City today to confer with James A. Reed, former senator, and others, on his candidacy...

The movement from the Democratic State Convention in Davenport of March 29, 1932, to Tinley's return from Houston on May 27, 1932, picked up momentum from veterans within and without Iowa, from bipartisan friends and from Iowa Democratic leaders, Wyoming Democratic leaders, Nebraska Democratic leaders, and Texas delegates. Tinley was committed to fulfilling the venture at this point and sought personal contacts with the leadership of the Democratic party nationally. The movement was no longer concentrated within Iowa circles.

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2 News item in the *Omaha World Herald*, May 26, 1932.
On May 28, 1932, the General wrote in his diary:

"Conference with Albert Namen - decided to go east."

By this time, the die was cast, the groundwork had been laid, and the General took to the campaign road. On June 4, 1932, General Tinley left for an extended eastern tour which covered a meeting with Owen-D. Young of West Bend, Indiana; a meeting with James A. Farley and Franklin D. Roosevelt in Albany, New York; a meeting with Alfred E. Smith in New York City; a meeting with Albert Richie of Maryland; and a meeting with John Nance Garner in Washington, D.C.

The general nature of these meetings was friendly and served as initial "get acquainted" sessions. The first place aspirants expressed an interest in maintaining contact with General Tinley. Said one authority:

"... Roosevelt spent 2 hrs. with the General. He was asked by the Governor to keep in close touch with him, and would like for the General to come back for further talks."

In the first lap of the eastern trip, on June 3, 1932, General Tinley conferred in Chicago with Mayor Cermak, Melvin A. Traylor, a banker who was mentioned as a "dark horse" Democratic candidate for President, and Judge Michael

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1Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit., May 28, 1932.

2Namen, loc. cit.
McKinley, a former Iowan. On June 4, 1932, Tinley conferred with Judge Henry Horner, the Democratic nominee for Governor of Illinois. On that same date the General met Owen D. Young of South Bend, Indiana, another possible Presidential candidate. On June 7, 1932, General Tinley proceeded to Albany, New York, in the company of Frank Garrett and Roy P. Monahan, a leading Democrat and his New York state manager. Here Tinley conferred with James A. Farley, campaign manager for Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, met with Governor Roosevelt, and was the guest of honor of Mayor John Boyd Thacher II of Albany, a delegate-at-large to the National Democratic Convention.

From New York, the Tinley group moved on to Washington, D.C. The Nonpareil stated:

John N. Garner, speaker of the house, another presidential candidate, in a letter received Saturday at the Tinley national headquarters in Council Bluffs, said he was anxious to meet the general on his arrival in Washington . . .

Claude R. Porter, of Des Moines, chairman of the interstate commerce commission in Washington, one time a candidate for the United States senate, also said in a letter received Saturday that he was anxious to meet the general. Mr. Porter added that much interest is reported by many in Washington for Tinley's arrival in the national capital.  

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1 News item in the Chicago Tribune, June 4, 1932.
2 News item in the Council Bluffs Nonpareil, June 5, 1932.
3 Ibid.
From Washington, D.C., the Tinley party left for Baltimore and went to Annapolis where General Tinley conferred with yet another Presidential hopeful, Governor Albert C. Richie of Maryland. As a result of the eastern campaign trip, S. J. Donlevy of New York City, an important American political writer, offered his services to the Tinley campaign.

An evaluation of the eastern trips tended to show that the Tinley campaign was now widespread in its influence. General Tinley had been known in Democratic circles before, as well as in Legion activities, army circles, doctors' organizations and in the Knights of Columbus, but now Tinley's name came to be made known and respected among important national Democratic Presidential hopefuls and leaders. Said his campaign manager:

... Every trip brought stronger hope and more encouragement. He was well accepted and many exchanges of letters took place and hundreds of telephone calls.²

III. AN EVALUATION OF THE TINLEY SPEECHES

Generally a candidate's feelings and impressions are reflected in his own words. The speeches of General Tinley, during his campaign, were pointed primarily at issues rather

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¹Ibid.
²Namen, loc. cit.
than at personalities. He did not attempt to evade issues and judgments, but rather sought to understand some of the national problems of depression through his own observations. He generally stayed clear of "rough and tumble" partisan debates and put his effort into healing breaches rather than creating them. There is no evidence that his spoken words were not his own. Concerning the authorship of the candidate's speeches, Mrs. M. A. Tinley has written: "He always wrote his own and seldom saved one."

1 His approach was simple, direct, and above all, an honest assessment of his feelings on what should be done to overcome the national crisis of the day.

Tinley believed that the economic problems of the day overshadowed all other problems. In a speech in Houston in May of 1932, he said: "The main question is that of bread and butter in the mouths of the people."

2 As an Iowan, General Tinley was concerned, in addition, with agricultural distress. He stated: "One of the biggest issues this year will be that of farm relief, and the central states are going to see that they get farm relief . . . ."

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1 Mrs. M. A. Tinley, letter to Thomas J. Sandell, November 29, 1962.

2 News item in the Houston Chronicle, May 24, 1932.

3 Ibid.
General Tinley was not, from all evidence, concerned with the problem of prohibition. He seemed to be annoyed that the subject should have been given considerable attention. In a statement made while in Texas, Tinley stated:

With railroad yards full of idle engines and empty box cars, wheat fields full of a bumper crop and elevators filled with last year's wheat while people go hungry; with cities on the verge of bankruptcy and men on the charity list who a year ago were contributing to the Community Chest, there seems to me to be plenty of matters to occupy our attention besides liquor.¹

Tinley was especially concerned with the basic right of Americans to earn their own support. He said: "The American public wants, not the sour dough of a dole, but bread sweetened by the sweat of the brow."² Finally, General Tinley spoke out in his speeches for the support of an adequate armed force and warned of the consequences if the army was allowed to deteriorate. The strength of the Tinley speeches was based on their simplicity and integrity. His approach was friendly; his basic assertion seemed to be: "America needs to be put together, not torn apart."³

¹ News item in the Fort Worth Star Telegram, May 26, 1932.
² News item in the Fort Worth Press, May 25, 1932.
³ Ibid.
⁴ News item in the New York Herald Tribune, June 6, 1932.
Time and again people remarked about the most unusual circumstances of a man campaigning for the Vice-Presidential nomination. Remarked Tinley: "... I'm not campaigning, you know. I'm going around seeing my old Army friends." Tinley, however, by June was more than committed to his cause. Said he of the campaign: "What commanding officer would go into battle without confidence?"

The campaign of General Tinley grew in significance to become a movement of some merit. In its initial stage, it was undoubtedly but a favorite son effort on the part of Council Bluffs and Iowa Democrats. In its second stage, however, the name of Tinley caught hold in a rather surprising grass-roots manner with veterans, farmers, and just the people. If professional politicians first winked at the Tinley Movement, they were soon to view it with some seriousness as their letters, telegrams, telephone calls, and personal visits with General Tinley indicated. The newspapers studied certainly gave the Tinley effort considerable coverage and thus the message of the movement was extended to people over the nation. The campaign, if somewhat simple and even naive, by professional political standards, possessed a quality of honesty and sincerity that was appealing to large numbers of Americans.

\textsuperscript{1}Ibid.

\textsuperscript{2}Merlin Mickel, "Party Chief's Call 'General' Their Friend," the Des Moines Register, June 26, 1932.
CHAPTER III

AN APPRAISAL OF THE MOVEMENT

On June 27, 1932, Mathew Tinley wrote in his diary:
"Chicago--Demo--National Convention. What and how far...?"

Perhaps Dr. Tinley's point is illustrative of the initial
gamble in American politics. Even in the final push of the
campaign, no candidate is sure of victory.

Is it true, by popular standards, that only the suc-
cessful candidates are ever judged seriously? Do many
people, therefore, tend to equate victory with the success-
ful political candidates as they doom the significant chal-
lengers to oblivion?

I. DID MATHEW A. TINLEY HAVE A CHANCE

AT THE VICE-PRESIDENCY?

From the Iowa newspapers consulted, it is fair to
assert that Iowa gave to General Tinley serious and very
real support. The Council Bluffs Nonpareil, a Republican
daily published by Robert O'Brien, was a leader of the early
supporting papers. Other supporting papers included the
Waterloo Daily Courier, the Red Oak Sun, the Burlington
Hawkeye, the Mason City Globe-Gazette, the Oskaloosa Daily

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1Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit., June 27, 1932.
Herald, the Ottumwa Courier, the Boone News-Republican, the Newton Daily News, the Washington [Iowa] Journal, the Des Moines Register, and the Sioux City Tribune. The general attitude of Iowa newspapers was optimistic, bipartisan, and very complimentary in terms of advocating General Tinley's nomination. No unfavorable account has been noted in any Iowa newspaper consulted.

In terms of the support Tinley received from the Iowa Democratic organization, all evidence indicated that the party stood behind General Tinley without record of any dissent. The Iowa delegation to the Chicago Democratic National Convention stood to a man for the Tinley Movement. The Nonpareil reported:

The vice presidential campaign of Gen. Mathew Tinley of Council Bluffs took on new impetus today as the Iowa delegation held an enthusiastic open caucus at the Palmer House, Iowa headquarters, with General Tinley's candidacy as the sole order of business.

Frank O'Connor of Dubuque, state chairman, sounded the keynote of the meeting when he said: "Iowa has a very distinguished citizen as a vice presidential candidate, Gen. Mathew A. Tinley, and the time has come for this delegation to give him its definite support."

O'Connor asked the Iowa delegation to personally contact every other state delegation, while nominating speeches of presidential candidates are being made from the floor.1

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1News item in the Council Bluffs Nonpareil, June 29, 1932.
A number of important Iowans shared the role of key backers of the Tinley Movement within the state. From Council Bluffs, Albert Namen and Frank Garrett stood as the leaders of a most devoted team of followers. Frank Miles of Des Moines, Legion contact, political writer, national delegate, and later Democratic candidate for Governor of Iowa in 1947, campaigned for General Tinley by making speeches and promoting the movement. National Committeeman Richard Mitchell of Fort Dodge, who made the nominating speech in Chicago, also promoted the Tinley campaign. Edward Dunn of Mason City, who had been the Democratic candidate for Governor of Iowa in 1913, made the seconding speech at Chicago and served as a prominent delegate to that convention. Several other prominent Iowa Democrats and bipartisans believed in General Tinley and lent their names in support of his candidacy. The evidence has indicated that General Tinley's candidacy found considerable support among Iowans. Both Republicans and Democrats of Iowa regarded General Tinley very highly; they sought the honor of the Vice-Presidency for him and for their state with enthusiasm.

Outside of Iowa, the records have indicated some very real consideration and discussion concerning General Tinley's candidacy as noted in the press reports of a
number of states. Sixteen papers carried news articles and editorials concerning the General's campaign. These included the Omaha Bee, the Omaha World Herald, the Austin American, the National Watchman of Topeka, Kansas, the Houston Chronicle, the Chicago Tribune, the Denver Post, the Kansas City Star, the Wichita Beacon, the Fort Worth Star Telegram, the Fort Worth Press, the New York Evening Post, the New York Times, the New York Herald Tribune, the New York Sun, and the Santa Barbara Press. The general tone of the papers outside of Iowa was friendly, hopeful, and, in every article noted, quite positive in terms of General Tinley's record and ability. The press reports studied were not derogatory in the campaign coverage of Iowa's candidate.

In terms of his own contribution, General Tinley, a favored convention speaker, had built his bridges early in appearing before a number of important Democratic groups at state conventions. Nebraska Democrats under the leadership of Senator Hitchcock extended General Tinley a personal invitation to attend the state convention. On May 9, 1932, a boom for General Tinley was begun at the Wyoming Democratic Convention. The Omaha World Herald reported:

As Wyoming democrats assembled today for their state convention, friends and campaign managers began booming General Mathew A. Tinley of Council Bluffs

1Name, loc. cit.
for the democratic vice-presidential nomination worked quietly among the delegates, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Casper.

A group of Tinley boosters headed by Albert Namen, national campaign manager, arrived there yesterday from Council Bluffs and conferred with Edward Alman and Joseph O. Mahoney, Wyoming managers.

It is believed they will offer a resolution of endorsement for Tinley on the convention floor.1

The Wyoming support is viewed as an important breakthrough for the Tinley Movement. Chairman O'Mahoney, later an important United States Senator, was interested enough in General Tinley to extend an invitation to him to be a principal speaker before the Wyoming convention. Although Tinley did not attend the Wyoming State Convention, he did speak before the Nebraska State Convention, and he made another major speech before the Texas Democratic Convention at Houston on May 24, 1932.

It is difficult to assess the value of these maneuvers for General Tinley. Wyoming and Nebraska seemed to favor General Tinley because of his midwestern appeal. In the case of Texas the appeal was General Tinley's military association and friendship with countless veteran groups. The Nebraska contact proved very useful to the

1News item in the Omaha World Herald, May 9, 1932
Tinley forces. The *Nonpareil* reported:

Tom S. Allen of Lincoln, for fourteen years state chairman of the Nebraska democratic party, passing through Omaha Saturday night for Chicago, declared the Nebraska delegation in the first ballot for vice president would cast a majority of its sixteen votes for Maj. Gen. Mathew A. Tinley of Council Bluffs... The delegation is strongly behind Roosevelt for president.1

On July 1, 1932, the *Nonpareil* reported that James Pearson of Shenandoah, Iowa, who had received the preferential vote of Nebraska for vice-president, had released that delegation and asked that it throw its votes to General Tinley.

Other states reacted even earlier to favor the Tinley Movement. Frank Garrett had stated by mid-April that General Tinley would be the first man nominated for Vice-President through Alabama yielding to Iowa. Garrett proclaimed that many favorable letters and telegrams had been received from Alabama assuring General Tinley of support. The association in Alabama was primarily a military one. The interest in General Tinley by members of the Alabama National Guard was based upon a friendship

1News item in the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, June 26, 1932.

2Ibid.

3Ibid.
and admiration by these men who had known him and held him in high regard from World War I. Alabama's unit, the 167th Infantry, was a sister unit to Colonel Tinley's 168th Infantry. Reported the Omaha Bee:

General W. P. Screws, Montgomery Ala., candidate for delegate to the national Democratic convention, writes:

"I assure you that if elected as delegate I will not only vote for but work for the nomination of Tinley . . . ."

The key political backer in Alabama was Major Joseph M. Dickason, Adjutant-General of the Alabama National Guard. He was named campaign manager in that state for the Tinley forces.

Other military men who had served with Tinley had continued to offer their services. On April 22, 1932, the Omaha World Herald reported that David W. Oiler, Denver attorney and former lieutenant of the 168th Infantry, had accepted as state campaign manager in Colorado. A military contact from Minnesota, William H. Donahue, a strong Republican leader of Minneapolis, announced his support for General Tinley.

The Tinley-for-Vice-President Club reported that

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1News item in the Omaha Bee, April 21, 1932.
2News item in the Omaha World Herald, April 24, 1932.
3Ibid., April 22, 1932.
a large number of Missouri delegates had indicated by letter that they would support General Tinley at the Democratic National Convention. Considerable interest was also generated in Kansas. The *Wichita Beacon* stated:

> Surprising strength is revealed throughout the nation in behalf of the candidacy of Major General Mathew A. Tinley, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for the Democratic vice-presidential nomination.

In advancing the candidacy of General Tinley his friends in Iowa and other states are promoting the interest of a man of presidential size. His candidacy has been received with favor by hundreds of Kansas admirers.¹

On May 4, 1932, the *Omaha World Herald* reported:

> New state campaign managers of the candidacy of General M. A. Tinley, Council Bluffs, for vice-president, announced Tuesday are: Florida, J. E. Barney, Miami; Georgia, T. Frank Joerg, Columbus; Minnesota, Z. T. Begin, publicity agent.²

Tinley-for-Vice-President Clubs were organized in New York under the direction of Roy B. Monohan, and in Washington, D.C. The *Nonpareil* wrote of the Tinley organization in the nation's capital: "That city has one of the largest of the many Tinley-for-Vice-President clubs in the country . . . ."³

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¹ News item in the *Omaha Bee*, April 21, 1932.
² Editorial in the *Wichita Beacon*, May 7, 1932.
³ News item in the *Omaha World Herald*, May 4, 1932.
⁴ News item in the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, June 5, 1932.
A large organization was in operation in Illinois.

The *Nonpareil* stated on June 19, 1932:

With one Tinley for vice president headquarters already functioning in Chicago and two more to be opened this week the Chicago campaign for Maj. Gen. Mathew A. Tinley of Council Bluffs for the democratic nomination as running mate for the head of the ticket will be under full steam . . .

Illinois friends and supporters of Maj. Gen. M. A. Tinley under the direction of Illinois campaign manager, Cornelius J. Harrington, have headquarters for the general in full operation at the Sherman hotel and will open another one at the Congress hotel in a few days. The national Tinley organization will open headquarters the first of the week at the Palmer House.

The large number of contacts over the United States, the supporting veterans, farmers, and political leaders of various shades all indicated that General Tinley's movement had evolved from the move to honor the General and had become a quite serious, if not a moderately powerful and very active, political development. Traditionally in American political parties, however, the leadership of the group has a voice in choosing candidates and directing the program of the party far beyond what their physical numbers would tend to indicate. What did the party leaders believe about General Tinley? How seriously did they view him?

General Tinley was not a politician by experience. His growth in politics was a slow and tedious road to follow.

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He possessed a kind of simplicity and integrity which made him appealing, and yet he could not be viewed with the same political talents as were possessed by James Farley, Franklin Roosevelt, or William Gibbs McAdoo. Until the active campaign trips, the General had little personal knowledge of most of the first place contenders. This may have been somewhat of a disadvantage, yet his freshness on the political scene may have been an opportunity for both General Tinley and the front line runners looking for just such a running mate. Tinley came to the Democratic party leadership offering his services without the complication of previous commitments to colleagues and to political friends.

In terms of General Tinley's support among party leaders, Albert Namen has written:

The number of telephone calls and letters received was a constant flow. Nearly every big supporter and campaign managers of the different candidates kept a running contact with Dr. Tinley and his supporters. The late Mayor Kelly of Chicago had on several occasions taken the General while in Chicago and personally conducted a get-together acquainting him with all the big party leaders. This happened several times in Illinois and out of the state. ¹

The story of General Tinley's relative support among Presidential contenders is somewhat unrevealed. With the

¹Namen, loc. cit.
passing of Franklin Roosevelt and with the unanswered letters to John Nance Garner, the truth may lie. It is significant to point out, however, that evidence showed that Smith, Roosevelt, Richie, and Garner kept constant contact with the Tinley headquarters during the campaign, as if assessing his strength were important to them. The assessable evidence concerning the national prominence of the Tinley Movement, however, was centered in a study of the grass-roots groups of veterans, farmers, and a cross-section of interested Americans who believed in General Tinley.

II. A SUMMARY OF EDITORIALS AND SIGNED ARTICLES CONCERNING THE TINLEY CANDIDACY

A number of important editorials and signed articles followed the run of general news stories concerning General Tinley and appeared in Iowa and in other states. Tinley's home town newspaper, the Council Bluffs Nonpareil, supported the General's candidacy and based its appeal on the patriotism of General Tinley. The Nonpareil made an appeal by stating:

If we will divest ourselves of the inherent inclination to regard our familiar neighbors with contempt and those who live in far off places with enchantment we shall quickly discover that General Tinley has more manly and patriotic qualities to commend him for an honor of this sort than any other citizen in the democratic party in the whole country.  

1 Editorial in the Council Bluffs Nonpareil, March 6, 1932.
The Nonpareil is essentially a strongly partisan Republican newspaper, yet it recognized the qualities of the General and sought support for him by a basic appeal to patriotism above party loyalty.

The Austin American came out in favor of General Tinley by addressing itself to the soldiers of the Rainbow Division. The editorial stated that Tinley's comrades in arms from Texas should support Tinley as a Democratic nominee. The editorial stated that there were three or four million American Legionnaires who were going to make their voices heard in the convention and the general election. The support for Tinley from American Legionnaires both inside and outside of Texas was considerable.

On April 29, 1932, the Waterloo Courier voiced its sentiments in an editorial based upon the pride of Iowans in the name of General Tinley. It stated that a man is best judged by his neighbors and that General Tinley by his courage and integrity enjoys an enviable reputation. This kind of comment coming from an opposition paper is praise indeed. Iowans generally were proud of Tinley.

The Sioux City Tribune discussed the Tinley Movement in terms of Iowa being a pivotal state and Tinley carrying

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1Editorial in the Austin American, April 27, 1932.
2Editorial in the Waterloo Daily Courier, April 27, 1932.
the Democrats to victory. It stated that the Hoover forces were worried about Iowa and that Republicans had been overestimating Republican Senator L. J. Dickinson, newly chosen keynoter, and underestimating the strength of General Tinley. This Iowa newspaper recognized the political danger that Republicans faced in 1932 and suggested that Tinley's strength was on the rise.

The Burlington Hawkeye congratulated Iowa Democrats in choosing Mathew Tinley, a candidate of harmony. An editorial typical of the reaction of Iowa newspapers seemed pleased to see an Iowan who was respected gain national recognition and they wished him well. The editorial stated: "... General Tinley is one of Iowa's deservedly best known citizens and would undoubtedly lend strength to the national ticket."

The Mason City Globe-Gazette stated that the boundary lines of partisanship have meant little to men acquainted with Mathew A. Tinley when passing judgment on his character and fitness for office. It stated that Tinley's name would appeal to thousands of voters in the middle west. Again the

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1 Editorial in the Sioux City Tribune, April 19, 1932
2 Editorial in the Burlington Hawkeye, March 31, 1932.
3 Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit. (a political tract published by the Tinley-for-Vice President Club, no date indicated).
instrument of the press in Iowa emphasized the idea that in Tinley were qualities above party. His name was above partisanship to this Republican newspaper. The Iowa newspapers studied, regardless of political affiliation, gave strong support to General Tinley's candidacy.

In other parts of the middle west the feeling was equal to that in Iowa. The National Watchman of Topeka, Kansas, in an editorial, appealed to Democrats to nominate General Tinley. It stated that his name on the ballot could win the electoral vote of the entire west for the Democratic national ticket.

The consensus of the editorials studied from Iowa and from those areas outside the state which supported the Tinley Movement, would indicate that these newspapers considered General Tinley to be an asset politically to the middle west. The editorials viewed Tinley as a serious candidate because these writers believed that Tinley deserved the honor of the Vice-Presidency and that he would aid the Democratic ticket.

A score of similar articles were noted in many Iowa papers, but Tinley, in addition, received some widespread editorial coverage in a number of New York newspapers

1Editorial in the National Watchman, April 30, 1932.
which are worthy of note. One New York paper expressed
surprise at the Tinley Movement. The writer stated:

... No one had precisely realized it was a vice-
presidential year, what with all the other hurly-
burly going on, until word came that Mathew A. Tinley
was going through town last night--Major General
Mathew A. Tinley of Council Bluffs, Iowa. General
Tinley wants nothing more than to be the Democratic
nominee for vice-president next November. He is at
present practically the only man who wants to be
vice-president, the only man who ever wanted to be,
and when vice-presidency bites a man, that's news... 1

This editorial may be typical of the sentiment often expressed
by New York newspapermen concerning midwestern candidates.
Candidates from the midwest have not often in American poli-
tical history been front runners. Sophisticated Easterners
tend to look down on midwestern candidates.

On June 6, 1932, the New York Times carried an editorial
concerning the candidacy of General Tinley. This editorial
was quite frank in make-up, but carried a voice of real hope
for the aspirant. Said the Times:

... Guarded praise has been bestowed upon hundreds
of aspirants. It falls coldly upon experienced ears;
but our neighbor the Herald Tribune, with its always
cordial interest in men and things Democratic, dis-
covered an attractive qualification in General Tinley.
To a reporter he said: "America needs to be put to-
gether, not torn apart." A delighted companion
couldn't help crying out, "How's that for an epigram?"
It is an epigram that neither dazzles nor stings but

1Howard Cushman, "Gen. Tinley of Iowa in Town with
seeks to heal and unite. The Democratic party, too, may need a healer and uniter. Of General Tinley it may be said that he is neither prohibitionist nor exhibitionist. He is a centripetalist and an epigrammatist. For all we know, he may equal, by his own method, the salient lingo of General Dawes and the pungencies, without the occasional bitterness and indiscretion, of President Pro Tempore Moses.

Others can conquer. Tinley alone can reconcile. If he continues to shine in the epigrammatic line, he may even win the reluctant sympathies of the American intelligentsia. There could be no more ironical triumph of the Middle West.¹

This editorial points up again the rather cautious attitude of the eastern newspaper. However, the fact that Tinley received editorial comment may be indicative that there was considerable interest in this midwesterner. The writer noted the essential need in the Democratic party of a healing influence and suggested that Tinley could be that influence.

On June 9, 1932, Martin Green wrote in the New York Sun that Tinley's candidacy might follow a similar course to that of Calvin Coolidge, who as a relative unknown became famous after the Boston police strike. The writer noted that General Tinley looks a good deal like Coolidge and has his gift of dry humor, but is more frank than Coolidge.²


²Martin Green, "Tinley of Iowa Is in the Race," New York Sun, June 9, 1932.
The New York papers tended to view with amazement the fact that the General was actively seeking the Vice-Presidency, but seemed to view his movement with some very real seriousness by devoting relatively wide coverage to his remarks, speeches, and political meetings with the Presidential contenders. It is possible that the novelty of seeking the Vice-Presidency stimulated this journalistic interest. However, in addition to the novelty, these papers indicated that there seemed to be a healing influence in the General's approach worth reporting.

III. TINLEY'S MIDWESTERN APPEAL

To the Tinley supporters the appeal of their candidate to the voters of the midwest was a vital factor. Here stood a candidate who saw, felt and sympathized with the agricultural depression. Tinley was one of their own who viewed the problems of a depressed farm belt with his own eyes and understood the necessity of relief. General Tinley was a candidate who was viewed by the people as one more interested in conditions than in politics.

General Tinley's national campaign manager described what the General had to offer as a midwestern candidate. Said Albert Namen:

A man who understood the problems affecting the nation, nationally and internationally. Well versed
in army problems of all kinds. A student well versed in agriculture. A man very close to family problems that covered a broad program. His high office in army life and the only doctor in one of the world wars to command front line troops. His contacts in the highest offices in foreign countries while serving the United States Army brought him in contact with many foreign problems. His wide traveling brought him in contact at all times with many people in all walks of life. He was an able and fearless statesman and orator and had things done, plus one of the finest, [most] pleasing and captivating personalities. 1

General Tinley was important to the party as a whole, for if Franklin D. Roosevelt or any other easterner were nominated, Tinley would balance the ticket by holding the west. This was the criterion upon which the Tinley supporters laid their best hopes for a victory. Perhaps southern Democrats could be placated, but the midwest was open political territory and would be a hard fought political battleground. General Tinley would pull votes from the central and western states, holding them for the Democratic camp.

IV. PROBLEMS OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

It is difficult to determine the exact number of delegate votes pledged to General Tinley by convention time. Frank Garrett, the president of the Tinley-for-Vice-President Club, asserted that the General had 400 pledged votes for the first ballot. Louis Cook of the Des Moines Register

1Names, loc. cit.
asserted, in a story on Tinley of December 1933, that the general had 230 pledged votes. Albert Namen, General Tinley's national campaign manager stated that more than fifty votes were secured by the Iowa delegation in addition to the votes pledged to the General before the convention. The fact remains, however, that the other proposed Vice-Presidential candidates did not have, before the convention, delegate support approaching this number. The difficulty in being precise is due to the fact that a roll call vote for the Vice-Presidency was never taken for the General after he was nominated.

General Tinley arrived in Chicago on June 24, 1932. The General wrote: "At Palmer House . . . Had headquarters in club drawing room 5th floor, Wis., adjoining. Busy day at Congress, Sherman, Morrison Hotels." The following day the General noted: "Up at 7 a.m. and on the go--visiting delegations. Wonderfully rec'd. Oregon, New Mexico, Wis., Michigan, Alabama, Arizona, Maine, Mass." On Sunday, June 26, 1932, the General wrote: "... very happy meetings everywhere--delightful courtesy shown me on all hands."

1Cook, loc. cit.
2Namen, loc. cit.
3Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit., June 24, 1932.
4Ibid., June 25, 1932.
5Ibid., June 26, 1932.
The Democratic National Convention opened officially on June 27, 1932. The first few days were spent in organizational sessions and in work by the resolutions committee. During this time much political talk was engaged in by both candidates and delegates. Albert Namen wrote:

At the Convention General Tinley was escorted day and night, interviewed, held meetings at the suggestion of supporters of all the Presidential candidates. The Texas manager who supported the president of the First National Bank of Chicago, was one of General Tinley's warmest supporters. Gov. Al Smith paid General Tinley two personal calls at his headquarters. General Tinley was in so much demand with so many soldier acquaintances that he couldn't find time to fill all the demands.¹

At the convention a major political battle began to be waged over the issue of the two-thirds rule. Traditionally in Democratic conventions, the Rules Committee often decides to ask that a Presidential candidate receive two-thirds of the delegate votes. Each convention sets its own rules, however, and the Roosevelt supporters, knowing that they had a majority, but not two-thirds, worked to strike the two-thirds rule from the 1932 convention. A bitter struggle ensued.

At a critical point, when the Tinley Movement seemed to be gaining strength, the difficulties over the two-thirds rule were mounting. The Nonpareil stated on June 27, 1932:

A split in the Iowa delegation to the Democratic national convention is threatened on the questions

¹Namen, loc. cit.
of abrogation of the two-thirds rule and choice of a permanent chairman for the convention in the delegation caucus Monday.

Led by Roy Baxter of Burlington and Ed McManus of Keokuk, advocates of the two-thirds rule claimed 12\(\frac{1}{2}\) of the state's 26 votes Sunday night were against any change.

The boom of Maj. Gen. M. A. Tinley of Council Bluffs for the Vice Presidential nomination gained impetus Sunday. Albin A. Owsley of Texas, Paul B. McNutt of Indiana and Ralph O'Neal of Kansas, three former national commanders of the American Legion, were reported as pledging their support to the Iowan.\(^1\)

On June 28, 1932, an editorial in the Des Moines Register stated that two of Iowa's delegates threatened to bolt the instructions of the state convention to cast the Iowa vote as a unit for Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In view of the struggle, the Roosevelt forces capitulated and the two-thirds rule was adopted. A pro-Roosevelt man, Senator Walsh of Montana, was named permanent chairman of the convention.

On Thursday, June 30, 1932, the balloting for President began. Tinley wrote in his diary: "... 4 ballots. Roosevelt 682, McAdoo (Cal. & Tex. 90) Smith 371

\(^1\)News item in the Council Bluffs Nonpareil, June 28, 1932.

\(^2\)Editorial in the Des Moines Register, June 28, 1932.
approx. Adjourned after 4th ballot to 9 p.m. Friday. 1

Considerable evidence is available which tends to show that, with the help of McAdoo of California, Roosevelt supporters entered into an agreement with the Garner forces in order to gain the ninety delegate votes of Texas and California to reach the two-thirds mark and put F.D.R. over the hump in the Presidential nomination. The Des Moines Register, on July 2, 1932, stated:

... Garner's nomination today seemed so certain as to be a mere formality. It was part of the deal which went through Friday night when Texas and California's 90 votes, pledged to Garner, were released to start the bandwagon parade for the New York governor ...

The Garner boom swept the convention as William G. McAdoo, his chief supporter, announced from the platform the decision of California to switch to Governor Roosevelt.

Disappointed opponents of Roosevelt on the convention floor set up the cry of "deal" but this was denied by the Rooseveltians.

There was no doubt, however, of support for the Texan by the Roosevelt leadership after a round of conferences.

The fact that friends of Garner in the Texas delegation went immediately into action for his vice presidential boom left no uncertainty here that the speaker would accept the nomination.

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1 Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit., June 30, 1932.

2 News item in the Council Bluffs Nonpareil, July 17, 1932.
The new party leadership which advanced Roosevelt to the nomination was passing the word for Garner although James A. Farley, official spokesman for the governor, declined to comment on the vice presidency, asserting that was a decision entirely up to the convention.

Albert Namen wrote that after Franklin Roosevelt was made the nominee, the Tinley managers were called to the office of James Farley and asked to withdraw the General's name. Farley stated that Governor Roosevelt thought at this time a popular southerner like John Nance Garner was needed.

It appears that General Mathew A. Tinley may have been written off the ballot by the political engineers of Roosevelt and Garner. This may not have been an expression of dislike or disfavor, but rather one of political reality and expediency.

The question arises, if Roosevelt had been able to secure two-thirds of the delegates or if the two-thirds rule had been suspended, would he have chosen Garner as a running mate? Since a good deal of bitterness had arisen between the front line contenders, it is doubtful that F.D.R. would have personally chosen the Texan as a running mate.

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1Name item in the Des Moines Register, July 2, 1932.

2Namen, loc. cit.
An Iowa delegate, Edward G. Dunn, suggested in a letter of July 11, 1932, to Hubert L. Tinley, a substitute plan of action, for getting the General nominated, which never materialized. Mr. Dunn stated:

... It would have been necessary for you to have been in the Convention to know how easy that nomination might have been swung if Iowa's delegation had remained loyal and all worked for the nominee we would have had a fighting chance.

For instance after the second ballot in Chicago I went to some friends on the Illinois delegation and suggested their combining with Indiana and throw their votes to Roosevelt and in return ask for the Vice-Presidency. That if they had no candidate who developed strength Iowa would appreciate the casting of the three states in a block for the Governor, which would have assured his nomination. They were kindly disposed to the plan and said they would consider it as soon as possible. However, the third ballot started and they sent word to me that they would have to delay until the third ballot was over. ... Unfortunately when the third ballot was finished the motion to adjourn came and the Chicago delegation went to their homes before they could be got together, and California on the same floor of the same hotel had beat them to the combination.

In charity, I suppose the men who were bolting on the Iowa delegation really thought that if they could break up the Roosevelt strength that they could make a trade with someone. At least that is their excuse but it was woefully poor politics and was detrimental to us in the end ... .

Albert Namen stated that even though the decision had been made for Garner, the General thought best to

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1 Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit.
present his name to the convention in behalf of the thousands of supporters who encouraged him. General Tinley would then withdraw after the presentation of his name. Mathew A. Tinley was nominated in the convention by Iowa's national committeeman Richard F. Mitchell of Fort Dodge, in a powerful speech. The seconding speech by Edward Dunn of Mason City was also a call to arms for Tinley. The decision for Garner, however, had been made. Frank Miles, a delegate from Iowa, asserted that political reality necessitated that General Tinley announce for Garner even before a roll call vote.

Mathew Tinley rose to the occasion to express his voice for unanimity. Said Tinley:

Mr. Chairman--Delegates to the Democratic National Convention--Ladies and Gentlemen:

I come from the great Commonwealth of Iowa--the state of friendly relations where the fires of affection burn deeply. The state where every one's every act and service is appreciated and full credit is given. My people have endorsed me for the high honor of nominee for Vice President of the United States. Such was the action of the delegates representing our people in convention assembled. Neighboring states and delegates of states known to me have expressed like confidence.

The National Convention has chosen Franklin D. Roosevelt as nominee for President and a majority of states have expressed their desire for John Nance Garner

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1Namen, loc. cit.

2Interview with Frank Miles, July 17, 1961.
for Vice President.

Not alone acknowledging the will of the majority but moved by a deeper feeling of personal affection for the many citizens of the state of Texas who served with me in France with loving memory of the men who died in that service and the lofty ideal of all fellow service men from the South it is my pleasure to withdraw my name.

Mr. Chairman— I present the following resolution.
That John Nance Garner be the unanimous choice of this convention as nominee for Vice President— I move the adoption of the Resolution. 1

Thus the tired convention upon directions of the new leader, Franklin D. Roosevelt, selected John Nance Garner as nominee for Vice-President. The test of strength of the Tinley votes was never assessed, for a roll call vote was never taken. To be sure, the two-thirds rule was fatal for General Tinley.

Active campaigning by a Vice-Presidential candidate is a strange political phenomenon in American history. Often the Vice-Presidency is offered as a political plum to the loser of the Presidential nomination. This very well may have been the case in nominating John Nance Garner for the Vice-Presidency in 1932. But to argue that Mathew Tinley did not have a chance at the Vice-Presidency would be to ignore the evidence of the press, of the delegates, and of the people in supporting to the last a man whom they trusted and held in high regard.

1Mathew A. Tinley Papers, op. cit.
Mathew Tinley's opportunity to gain the Vice-Presidency lay in the popular support of the people of the midwest and in the support of many veterans over the nation reflected in the delegate support from Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Missouri, Alabama, Illinois, and Indiana. Until the political deal between the supporters of Franklin Roosevelt and John Nance Garner was made, no other candidate for the Vice-Presidency had pledged support even nearing the 230 votes which were promised to the General.
CHAPTER IV

EVALUATIONS OF TINLEY'S CONTRIBUTIONS
TO PARTY AND COUNTRY

Mathew A. Tinley has been recognized as a prominent physician and able soldier, but his political influence on the American scene in 1932 is obscure. Because of a political defeat at the Democratic National Convention in 1932, he is generally discounted as an insignificant political figure.

It was the purpose of this study to evaluate the historical importance of Major General Mathew A. Tinley in terms of the seriousness and significance of his appeal for the Democratic Vice-Presidential nomination in 1932. The design of the study is basically chronological and the background materials concerning Tinley have been used in order to present a more honest appraisal of the political movement waged in his behalf. The seriousness of Tinley's candidacy and the significance of the support for his cause are basic problems of the study. To this end the Tinley diaries, Iowa and out of state newspapers, political tracts, the candidate's speeches, and personal letters from those who knew the General have been used.

It may be said that one of the findings of this study is the fact that Mathew Tinley was a force of some significance in Democratic politics, a voice of some
merit in trying to heal the wound of depression, and a popular layman among politicians who was beaten at the game of political success by those more adept at the manipulation of men and votes.

In terms of Tinley's contribution to party and country, it is valid to say that the evidence has indicated that General Tinley was in every sense an influence for harmony and good will in his political endeavor. The Democratic position, in Iowa, was in no way weakened and very much strengthened by his impact. Iowa went Democratic in the national election, and he helped carry the governorship for the party in the replacement of Republican Dan Turner by Democrat Clyde Herring.

It is indeed interesting that a Catholic Democrat could win in 1932 the unqualified support of Protestant, Republican Iowa. This study would indicate that the qualities which endeared Tinley to Iowa superseded traditional loyalties to church and partisan politics.

The times were, of course, unusual and, in great part, unhappy for the people of Iowa and the nation. The depression had struck fear into the people and they turned with admiration to one who offered them genuine hope. General Tinley stood as a symbol of strength, healing, and integrity with large numbers of people over the nation. They viewed him not as a politically minded candidate, but
as a force of kindness, understanding, and confidence in a period of discontent, distrust, and fear. His words were not articulate nor were his solutions to depression ills necessarily definitive or scholarly. He was not generally viewed as an economist, an intellect, or a partisan leader. Rather people viewed him as a figure offering courage, resolution, and the moral fervor to see the depression through.

The evidence would indicate that Tinley's talents were most easily channeled into a cause for the relief of pain. His diaries have indicated that he deplored the human suffering and that he was tied to this particular political pursuit as a means of helping to solve the national crisis. A general assessment of his diaries would indicate that he was not an accomplished writer or scholar, but one who was concerned with the management of his daily affairs, adequate funds for his family in time of depression, the larger problem of human suffering during this troubled period, his medical practice, and his military business and associations. The diaries are not pretentious. They show a busy figure struggling to meet the problems of the day and seeking to extend his humble influence to remedy the ills of the period. Much is left unsaid in these accounts and thus this necessitates the use of other sources of information to arrive at some conclusions about the General.
It is both refreshing and stimulating to see the positive aspects of a political movement of the people in the endorsement of a figure in whom they had every confidence and respect. It may very well prove a tenable position to state that in the career of Mathew A. Tinley occurred a legitimate, grass-roots movement which worked with, and in spite of, the traditional political organization within the Democratic party in 1932.

I. CONCLUSIONS

Within the framework of the political spectrum of 1932, General Tinley served as the symbol of healing to countless midwestern farmers, to veterans over the nation, and to bipartisan friends who trusted his judgment and respected his ability. Thus a rather common movement which began as a favorite son appeal evolved slowly into a national movement by the esteem and support of the thousands of common people who wanted the midwest represented in the Vice-Presidency and who wanted one of their own in a position of authority in troubled times.

A rather good case can be made for the fact that General Tinley did not honestly want the position in the beginning. He was hesitant to leave his medical and military careers and doubtful to assume the responsibilities of public office. He did not seek the psychological boost to
self-glory, for his life had been rich in honors and recognition. The record would indicate, however, that a sense of political responsibility led to his reluctant decision to make the unprecedented attempt at a Vice-Presidential nomination. Tinley's political candidacy was not in any sense a calculated and predetermined effort by the General. His view of duty was great enough, however, to accept the mandate of Iowa Democrats, veteran friends, farmers, and bipartisans who pressured him to seek political office. To Tinley both his candidacy and the organization of the Democratic party were only instruments of change, and he hoped instruments of relief. He viewed himself as a kind of symbolic standard bearer rather than as a political stalwart or a magnetic personality. He seemed to feel the need of offering himself as a symbol of charity and healing if the people asked it of him.

The real problem of attaining the nomination seemed to rest not with the support of the people at large but with the political managers. While there is considerable evidence that the party bosses observed the Tinley Movement with interest and concern, there is little evidence that they considered him a likely candidate in terms of their private preferences. To the managers General Tinley was somewhat of an upstart with no political commitments and without political debts. Perhaps these men of political
affairs were somewhat suspicious of one who relied so heavily upon bipartisan friends. Running for the Vice-Presidency was indeed a strange political phenomenon to those used to the unwritten rules of American political affairs.

On the other hand, perhaps General Tinley and his supporters did not apply themselves directly enough to the subtleties within the rules of American politics. A study of the campaign would indicate that too little bargaining took place with the first place contenders and managers. Political understandings and agreements are often the necessary ingredients of political success, and few of these were consummated by the Tinley forces.

Can a political candidate win in a national convention without adhering first to the needs of the party and its leaders? General Tinley preferred to lend himself entirely to the needs of the nation first and to work toward those ends within and without the formal political structure. In this case, putting patriotism above party may have been the most honest approach, but it was not necessarily the most successful approach for gaining a national political office.

In 1932, as in many national elections, the selection of the Vice-Presidential nominee was taken lightly by the delegates and, in a sense, by the people at large. The
issues involved in the case of the Vice-Presidency were viewed as secondary. Should they have been?

It would appear that the historical record is incomplete without the influence of Mathew A. Tinley, potential nominee of the Democratic party for Vice-President in 1932. The point of this historical record was not that the movement failed and that General Tinley was unsuccessful in getting the Democratic nomination but rather that General Tinley was an active participant, having an influence and an impact upon one of the most significant national elections in the annals of American history.
BIBLIOGRAPHY
BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. BOOKS

   An outline of the government of Iowa and its officials including biographical accounts of key officials and specific data concerning the primary and general elections of 1932.

   A history of the organization and its key leaders in Iowa.

   An account of the significant role played by the men of this Iowa regiment in World War I.

B. PUBLICATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

"Let's Talk Politics." Tinley-for-Vice-President Club.
   (No date given.)
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National Guard Association of the United States. *Citation for Distinguished Service Medal*. Omaha, Nebraska: Official Program of the 42nd Division's Annual Rainbow Reunion, July 1955.
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C. PERIODICALS

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Iowa's Notable Dead," *Annals of Iowa*, XXXIII (July 1956), 385-386.

An account dealing with the basic contributions to Iowa by Mathew A. Tinley.


An address given by Frank Miles noting the accomplishments of Mathew A. Tinley.


An account stressing the significant medical and military careers of Mathew A. Tinley.

D. UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS


A speech geared to show Mathew Tinley's appeal in holding the middle west. A part of the Mathew A. Tinley Papers located at Des Moines, Iowa, in the Iowa Department of History and Archives.

Mathew A. Tinley Papers. Des Moines: Iowa Department of History and Archives. T. 496, Boxes 1-5.

This collection includes diaries, letters, news clippings, political tracts, and speeches of General Tinley.


A speech geared to show General Tinley's record of accomplishment in medical military, and patriotic pursuits. A part of the Mathew A. Tinley Papers located at Des Moines, Iowa, in the Iowa Department of History and Archives.

E. NEWSPAPERS

*Austin American*, April 27, 1932

*Boone News Republican*, March 8, 1932.
Burlington Hawkeye, March 31, 1932.


Chicago Tribune, June 4, 1932.

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Ottumwa Courier, March 4, 1932.
Red Oak Sun, March 11, 1932.
Sioux City Tribune, April 19, 1932.
Waterloo Daily Courier, April 29, 1932.
Wichita Beacon, May 7, 1932.

F. LETTERS

June 17, 1962

Mr. Thomas J. Sandell
Box 77
Keota, Iowa

Dear Mr. Sandell:

Please forgive me for not writing sooner. I have been out of town so much that this day I was finally able to answer your letter with the help of my wife.

I had written several times trying to trace all the Campaign letters, Telegrams, etc. I could not wait any longer, and besides I loaned out my typewriter therefore the pen letter.

I do hope the answers I have given you will help you materially in the wonderful work you are doing. I am sure that it will be worth reading and having. If there is anything else I can do for you in this matter, please advise. Wishing you success in your undertaking. If I would of had all my files here I could of given you dates and names.

Sincerely yours,

Albert Namen

No. 1. What pressures or groups sought General Tinley for Vice-President?

Prominent Democrats of Iowa and many of his associates Republicans and Democrats who served with him in the Armed Forces from Texas, New York, Illinois, and several other Southern States. These men were leaders in industry, insurance, banking, railroad, and several outstanding executives of automobiles from Detroit, Michigan. When feelers were sent out primarily before a public announcement was made the list of supporters came from all over the nation. Many persons high in the Republican party, and those in the Democratic party put their names of endorsement on their stationery, and to be released on the final push.

Hundreds of editorials started pouring in from many newspapers outside of Iowa that heard that such a movement was on foot. One of the finest off of the record during the entire time from the announcement until the Convention
time was the cordial relation between James Farley and the Roosevelt backers. Better than 95% of General Tinley's support came from non-Catholics.

No. 2. How great was the grass roots support at home?

Men and women regardless of political affiliation rallied to his support. Money and work for the Campaign came from all walks of life. There was hardly a family by the score from all the counties of the State that did not offer to write letters, make personal contacts and advance his candidacy. The late Robert O'Brien publisher of the Republican Daily Nonpareil headed a committee of non-Democrats making a country wide campaign in behalf of the General. Soldiers, volunteers, took it upon themselves to write former buddies in other parts of the United States to work in behalf of the General. No man for a country wide office had so much support with so little money, and yet it took 50 to 100 persons daily for weeks to mail out literature and hand written letters.

No. 3. What kind of acceptance did the General receive on the campaign road?

At Albany New York then Governor Franklin Roosevelt spent 2 hrs. with the General. He was asked by the Governor to keep in close touch with him, and would like for the General to come back for further talks.

At Houston Texas a large committee of prominent Texans numbering over 50 welcomed the General and set up a committee to work in his behalf. The General's acceptance was so great on the road, and so many invitations were declined on account of shortage of time. Nebraska Democrats under the late Senator Hitchcock extended him a personal invitation to attend the State Convention. In Wyoming chairman O'Mahoney later United States Senator extended an invitation to the General and his managers to address the State Convention.

It was during this time that the Hearst newspapers carried a small editorial nationally of the General's Campaign. Many newspapers in the country followed. His popularity was coupled with his personality. His wit, humor and knowledge of many problems of the day, nationally and world wide made him very popular. The General was well known in many circles in the United States before his candidacy by Adj. General Army personnel, Railroad Doctors,
Doctors or anlzasions, Knights of Columbus, and many others.

No. 6. What was the effect of the eastern campaign trip?

The General made several eastern trips and had interviews with dozens of the big wigs of the Democratic party and several of the Candidates for President. Every trip brought stronger hope and more encouragement. He was well accepted and many exchanges of letters took place and hundreds of telephone calls. It required Doctor Tinley long periods of time to put aside a lot of his medical work to answer letters, phone calls and interviews the result of many of his trips.

No. 5. What kind of support did General Tinley have with Party leaders? How seriously did they view him?

The General's support among the big top party leaders was very serious, from the number of telephone calls and letters received was a constant flow. Nearly every big supporter and Campaign Managers of the different candidates kept a running contact with Dr. Tinley and his supporters. The late Mayor Kelly of Chicago had on several occasions taken the General while in Chicago and personally conducted a get together acquaintance with all the big party leaders. This happened several times in Illinois and out of the state. The General was invited to sit in several National Political get togethers.

No. 6. What did the General have to offer as a midwestern candidate?

A man who understood the problems affecting the nation, nationally and internationally, well versed in army problems of all kinds. A student well versed in agriculture. A man very close to family problems that covered a broad program. His high office in army life and the only doctor in one of the world wars to command front line troops. His contacts in the highest offices in foreign countries while serving the United States Army brought him in contact with many foreign problems. His wide traveling brought him in contact at all times with many people in all walks of life. He was able, fearless, statesman, orator, and had things done, plus one of the finest, pleasing, captivating personalities.
No. 7. What happened at the National Convention? What was the effect of the two-thirds rule? Was the Iowa delegation split? What method was used to get John Nance Garner through as the nominee?

At the convention General Tinley was escorted day and night, interviewed, held meetings at the suggestion of supporters of all the Presidential candidates. The Texas manager who supported the president of the First National Bank of Chicago, was one of General Tinley's warmest supporters. Gov. Al Smith paid General Tinley two personal calls at his headquarters. General Tinley was in so much demand with so many soldier acquaintances that he couldn't find time to fill all the demands.

The Iowa delegation headed by Mr. Richard O'Conner of Iowa, Judge R. F. Mitchel, and every delegate worked for the General's nomination. More than 50 votes were secured by the delegation besides the ones that were pledged to the General before the convention.

When Gov. Roosevelt was made the nominee, General Tinley's managers were called to the office of James Farley asking to withdraw the General's name and that a faction in support of Gov. Roosevelt thought at this time a Southern and a popular one like John Nance Garner was needed.

John Nance Garner movement came from Wm. R. Hearst and several other Eastern and Southern politicians. Even before this movement came into the open several big Democratic leaders had asked for a full report on General Tinley.

The General thought best to present his name to the convention in behalf of the thousands of supporters who encouraged him, and that he would withdraw after the presentation of his name. This did not end here. The national committee wanted the General to conduct a nation wide speaking tour in behalf of Gov. Roosevelt. His tour was primarily in nearly all the Southern States. He was called upon during the campaign for many conferences.
Mr. Thomas J. Sandell  
Box No. 77  
Keota, Iowa

Dear Mr. Sandell:

I have been delayed a little in answering your letter of November 24th because of the pressure of my Supreme Court work.

You are correct in saying that I was a great friend of General Tinley for many years. The friendship runs back to the time shortly after the Spanish American war when he returned from the Philippines. I had the opportunity, of course, to know him better after I came back from law school in 1908 and practiced law from that year until 1955. We were associated together in several civic matters.

It is my opinion that after his return from World War I he was Citizen Number One in Council Bluffs until his death in 1956 .

With reference to his candidacy for Vice President, I would say that my knowledge of the situation was simply that of a friend and fellow citizen in Council Bluffs. I happen to be a Republican so that I was not too well acquainted with the Democratic leaders in very many states. I did have a few friends in some states and took pleasure in writing them on the General's behalf.

The best information I can give you along this line is for you to write to Al Namen. He was his headquarters office manager here in Council Bluffs and can give you detailed information.

Al has left Council Bluffs, but I got his address and would say that he now lives at Apartment No. 2, 335 South Cloverdale, Los Angeles, California. I am sure that if you will write Al he will give you whatever details you would like to have concerning the candidacy of Dr. Mat for Vice President.
I hope I have given you something which might be of a little value to you in connection with your thesis. If your thesis is to be printed or put in circulation in any way I would deeply appreciate having a copy of same.

With Kind Regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry K. Peterson
June 21st 1962

Dear Mr. Sandell:

I am naturally deeply interested in your letter and am sorry that circumstances have made it impossible for me to reply to it sooner. I am sorry too that I have no more to offer by way of help. Dr. Mat had really very little to do with his own campaign. He was a busy doctor with many responsibilities. He said, "I am in the hands of my friends," and they did the campaigning. Inclosed is one of the folders they used. You may have already seen it. At that time our daughter, Winifred M., had graduated from Trinity College in Washington and our son Robert E. was still in school at Notre Dame.

I shall certainly be glad to see your work. What do you think of having me look it over before it is published. I might be able to suggest some addition or clear up something that was obscure. I have had a little experience with book publishing and I know how important it is to clear up every point before a book goes to press. I should like very much to talk it over with you but perhaps so long a trip would not be convenient for you. If you cannot come here I should like very much to have you send me the manuscript by registered mail. I would go over it very carefully and return it to you without delay. "With best wishes,

Most sincerely,

Lucy W. Tinley

I do not wish to give the impression that Mat did not help at all. He gave local talks and went south where in several states he was received enthusiastically by many who had served with him. He visited Franklin Roosevelt who was cordial enough but still smarting over the defeat of Al Smith and did not want another Catholic. In New York Victor Moore was starring in a play called "The Vice President." Mat was invited to meet the cast and was given a box seat for the play. Reporters came to take his picture. They took one and then said, "Doctor, now put your feet on the table and with this cigar in your mouth let's have an easy, friendly picture." Mat replied, "I am not in the habit of sitting that way and do not see why I should do so now."
My dear Mr. Sandell:

I greatly appreciate the privilege of going thru your manuscript. I have read it twice very carefully, first to get a general idea of the contents and next to examine details. As there were so many opportunities for them I had expected some mistakes. I found only two, Father Tinley's name of Hugh instead of Hale and the small mistake about General MacArthur which I corrected. When I first learned your subject I wondered whether there was enough of importance in that series of events to warrant such a thesis but since you have pointed out the things that were unique in this campaign I recognize that it has at least a small historical value.

I confess surprise that one who had never known Dr. Mat could have made such a true estimate of his temperament and philosophy merely by reading about him. You recognized that his candidacy was not a thing of his own choosing. He had previously declined the offer to run for the governorship. To him this was a more important thing and once it was offered he questioned his right to refuse it. This, I know, was the spirit in which he accepted it. You recognized too that with him it was always issues and never personalities.

You asked about the candidate's speeches. He always wrote his own and seldom saved one. He reached people because he was so sincere and full of purpose. However, he lacked the Irish wit and humor that one might have expected from him and always felt that someone else could have done it better. People loved and praised him and when I was afraid that they might spoil him he said, "Don't worry. They only see appearances. I know what I am."

Tho he was in the campaign to do his best to win, when he lost and the door to the outside world was closed, I know that he felt a great relief to be free from the grave responsibilities that winning would have brought. He laughingly said that as a soldier and a doctor he led a double life. He was a natural leader and commander of men but first, last and always he was the sympathetic, understanding family doctor, tender with the ailing and especially devoted to children. He was in this world to help--never too tired to make a call, never too busy to write the letter that was to get some one of his boys out of trouble.
You say that you would like something more specific on his military accomplishments. As you have stated, he went to France in October 1917. He went with a group in advance of troops to make preparation for their coming. That winter the men dug trenches in the Lorraine sector near Badonvillers. On the fifth of March (which happened to be Mat's birthday) the Germans put on a raid. Knowing that inexperienced American troops were there Hindenberg boasted that he would take a few prisoners and get some information. Mat was in command. There was a heavy barrage for several hours with a few casualties but no prisoners were taken. In honor of this defense the French commander in that sector awarded Mat the French Croix de Guerre. In a nearby sector General MacArthur accompanied New York troops on a raid and was also decorated with the Croix de Guerre. We have a copy of the official photograph of that ceremony.

Later on the Marne our troops under the command of the French General, Gouraud, when attacked stood firm and turned back the German advance on Paris. In September and October of the same year these same troops pushed the enemy back thru the Argonne forest to the borders of Germany with which action the war ended. For his handling of troops in this engagement Mat was given the Distinguished Service Medal and the citation from General MacArthur which accompanied it. The account of these battles may be found in John Taber's History of the Rainbow Division and as you know, the medals are in the Historical Building in Des Moines.

The Decoration of the French Legion of Honor was presented to Mat by General Gouraud some time later when the General visited the United States and the men who had served with him. The Flag Association Medal was awarded for the manner in which Mat had handled troops in the Farm Holiday affair. Governor Herring had called out the Guard when rioting began at Dennison, Iowa. There had been much rowdyism, men lounging about in the courtroom sitting with their feet up and hats on spitting tobacco juice about. Members of the Guard were set to cleaning up the courtroom with brushes, soap and water. When it was in readiness and people in again the first man to show any rude conduct was arrested. Then things went on in an orderly fashion. Later when a man in the milling crowds seemed to be a troublemaker he was taken to the General's headquarters where several of the Guard Officers joined in talking to him of the value of law and order, the privilege of being a good citizen and
similar subjects. All was done in a friendly, brotherly way and in later years there were at least two instances of men who came to Mat to thank him for his part in opening their eyes and setting them on the right road. Another time troops were called to handle a strike at the Maytag factory at Newton, Iowa. All was finally settled by conference and there was no bloodshed.

Work filled Mat's life. He had no hobbies unless the military could be called a hobby. Most of his summer vacations were spent in the camp of the National Guard. At home his idea of pleasant leisure was to rest here while I read to him from some book of our choosing. In our long life together there were not so many days in which I did not read aloud for several hours. You have asked to know more of Mat's personality so I have given you these few items. I am sorry that they do not come to you from another source as your critic may feel that a wife's testimony may be biased. However, time is passing, intimate friends are slipping away and I can think of no one outside our family who could tell you these things. I hope that they may help a little... and feel that it has been a pleasure to share your effort.

Most sincerely,

Lucy W. Tinley
January 31, 1962

Mr. Thomas J. Sandell
Keota
Iowa

Dear Mr. Sandell:

I have not purposely ignored your letter concerning my association with General Mathew A. Tinley of Council Bluffs . . . .

In the first place I am delighted to know that someone is doing a biography of so distinguished an Iowan.

I was personally acquainted with General Tinley as with other members of his family for many years. His kindness, integrity and loyalty to country and friends are unsurpassed.

In verification of the above, you might be interested in a political incident in which we were both involved. During my lifetime in and out of public service, I have always fought for the little man and the under-dog. This does not mean that I have been opposed to all trends toward bigness, but I don't like to see people pushed around. During my service in the 43rd and 44th general assemblies of Iowa, I made myself heard in opposition to what I thought was an effort on the part of the American Medical Association to take unfair advantage of the Osteopaths.

After I was nominated for Congress in the 7th Iowa District in 1932, my republican opposition began circulating a story to the effect that I was hostile and unfair to the Medical profession. The story spread like wildfire and being somewhat alarmed as to the effect it might have on my candidacy, I called on my friend of long standing, General (Doctor Matt) Tinley, a practicing physician. He sat quietly behind his desk while I explained my problem. When I had finished, he said, "Otha, I'll put a stop to that rumor right now."

Calling in his secretary, he dictated a brief, terse statement in which he ridiculed the rumor. He added that he had known me and my family for years and that as a Doctor of Medicine he had every confidence in my desire to be fair and reasonable in my work as a public servant.

I asked him if I could show it to people in the Medical profession. His answer was, "Show it to anyone
and everyone. Put it in the newspapers if you would like." He gave no quarter to anyone when he thought he was right.

The campaign to nominate General Tinley for Vice President was a spontaneous movement that originated, as far as I know, in his home town of Council Bluffs. A young man by the name of Al Namen managed the publicity. Campaign posters and a considerable amount of literature were prepared. Likewise a tremendous number of letters were written. (Some of this material may have been preserved in the effects of Mathew A. Tinley now in the Department of History and Archives at Des Moines.) The campaign office was located in the Chieftain Hotel in Council Bluffs.

Prior to the National Democratic Convention, General Tinley and Mr. Frank Garrett (later postmaster at Council Bluffs) made a trip to Albany, New York for an interview with the front running candidate, Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Governor received them but made no commitments. More detailed reports of this trip can probably be obtained from the Council Bluffs Nonpareil. I would also suggest that you contact Mrs. Patricia Duckworth, 308 Wickham Bldg., Council Bluffs, Iowa, who is a niece of the General and a practicing attorney.

In a way I was very close to the Tinley campaign for the Vice Presidency, being "in and out" of the headquarters every few days. I was, however, extremely busy with my own district pre-convention campaign at which I was nominated for Congress for the first time. Do not hesitate to write me again if you have specific questions. I could probably help you with more angles of your problem if we could discuss it in person. If you should come to Council Bluffs to do some research, our farm is only about thirty-five miles east of the city on U. S. highway 34. I am enclosing a card indicating where I am located. It would be best for you to call as I am away from my farm office a lot.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of my little booklet, "A Century on an Iowa Farm." I hope I have been of some help to you in the Tinley matter as the General is a most deserving subject.

Sincerely,

Otha D. Wearin
APPENDIX B.
Campaign Money Personal

May 21, 1932--my own 100.00
Aurelia 150.00
   Houston-Ft. Worth-K City
June 3, 1932 H. L. Tinley 200.00
   Chicago, N.Y. etc. Notre Dame
   spent $187.00
   (Part Garrett--Taber--Bob 25.00)
6-22-1932 Dr. Mary Tinley 200.00

6-22-32 On Hand

Traveler Ck 160.00
Dr. M. L. T. 200.00
Garrett Ck 50.00 (Refund money adv)
Officer School pay 105.00

--of my change 17.15 Total 532.15