

**BROCKTON, 1868  
BOOK 353, PAGE 52**

## **BILLY “GUNNER” McGUNNIGLE**

**Inventor of the Catcher’s Mitt, Famous Baseball Manager**

**William H. McGunnigle the son of Irish immigrants, was a pioneer in the development of professional baseball. A former Brockton shoe worker, he became a minor and professional league player. He is best known for his role in the development of the catcher’s mitt and as a manager. In 1875, playing for a minor league team against Harvard, he used bricklayers gloves while playing catcher making him one of the early inventors of a catcher’s mitt.**

**When his playing days ended after his skull was fractured by a pitch in 1885, he went into managing. He became the manager for the Brooklyn Bridegrooms who later became the Brooklyn Dodgers and are now the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Brooklyn Bridegrooms won the American Association Pennant in 1889 and the National League Pennant in 1890. This makes him the only baseball manager to win back to back pennants in two different major leagues.**

**McGunnigle lived with his wife Mary and their seven children in her family homestead at 35 Arch Street in Brockton. He also owned a bar and billiards parlor in downtown Brockton next to Brockton City Hall.**

**Members of the McGunnigle family were honored by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1990, on the One Hundredth Anniversary of their first National League Pennant.**

**Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.  
and John McGunnigle**

**Great-Grandson of William McGunnigle**

**From the “Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Notable Land Records Collection”**