

IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

www.aohvirginia.org/FredericksburgDiv1

April 2015

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President: Jim O'Donnell **Chaplain:** Father Kevin Fimian **Vice President:** Bob Stevens
Financial Secretary: Bill Gilhooly **Treasurer:** Dick Dowd **Recording Secretary:** Kevin Doyle
Standing Committee: Jim McMorrow **Marshal:** Neil Mulcahy **Sentinel:** Rusty O'Brien, **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin

CÁISC SHONA DUIT

(Happy Easter)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

At four minutes past noon on 24 April 1916 - Easter Monday - The Proclamation of the Irish Republic was read from the steps of the General Post Office (G.P.O.) on Dublin's O'Connell Street by Patrick Pearse. This is the opening line:

In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

April is a special month for Hibernians as we recall the brave men and women who continued the quest of Irish freedom with Easter Rising 99 years ago. Although the rebellion initially failed, the reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic was one of its most important moments. Patrick Pearse was the newly appointed President of the Republic; the proclamation defined the nature of the Irish Republic and set the ideological blueprint for the future Republic of Ireland. Let us all pause and remember these brave souls and their many sacrifices to make Ireland free.

April is also religiously so very meaningful as we celebrate the most significant feast in our Catholic religion, the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior. My wish is that you and your families may share in the joy and peace of the Risen Christ. May St. Patrick continue to watch over you and yours and keep you close to his heart.

In our motto,
Jim

IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

We completed a very successful Irish-American Heritage Month. We had great turnouts for our vigil Mass at St Patrick Church, the St Patrick Day parade and the Irish Festival and the annual Gaelic Mass celebrated in the Irish language.

There were numerous articles in the *Free Lance Star* and creative displays of Irish-American history and Irish products at three area libraries. Working four hour shifts on March 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, and 20th Brothers donated time and knowledge -- responding to questions, passing out information papers about Irish/Irish-American contributions to the growth of the United States, discussing the Irish diaspora and the historic reasons why our race emigrated.

Brothers participating at the libraries were Peter Carroll, Harry Crisp, Des Flanagan, Bill Halpin, John Hogan, Hugh O'Brien Jim O'Donnell, and John Walsh. We learned that very few people know Irish-American Heritage Month exists -- although it has been proclaimed by successive U.S. Presidents for 24 consecutive years! Items in the display cases were contributed by Des Flanagan, Bill Halpin, Hugh O'Brien and Joe O'Connor. *Des Flanagan earned our special thanks* for coordinating with library managers for our presence and displays.

Also, during the weekend of 14-15 March, brothers were recruiting at St Patrick and St Jude Parishes.

ST PATRICK DAY PARADE



Our **2015 St Patrick Day Parade** was a grand success in spite of the raw, Dublin-like weather. In attendance but not pictured were Chaplain Father Kevin Fimian, Rich Delaney, Jeff Fitzpatrick, Jim McMorrow, and Dennis O'Leary



John Hogan, Gen Meagher Division Hibernian of the Year, leads the parade
(Photo by Neil Buttimer)

YOUR IRISH HERITAGE



PURPOSE OF THE AOH

From time to time it's okay to remind one another of the declared and decreed purpose of the Ancient Order of Hibernians:

1. Promote Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity
2. Foster and sustain loyalty to country and community

3. To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, promoting peace and **unity for all Ireland**
4. To foster the ideals and **perpetuate the history and tradition of the Irish people**
5. To **promote Irish culture**
6. To **encourage civic participation**
7. To encourage an **equitable U.S. immigration law for Ireland**, and to cooperate with all groups for a fair American Immigration Policy
8. To accept and support without prejudice the concept of **free expression of religious practice** for the people of the world
9. To protect and **defend all life** - born and unborn

DIVISION HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Please note the 3^d, 4th, 5th and 6th (and to a degree the 7th and 8th) priorities of our Order are contained in the work of our Division Heritage Committee. To handle these issues this critical committee needs growth and we're asking for your support. Three brothers recently volunteered: Harry Crisp, Dennis O'Leary and John Walsh, bringing membership to seven. Now we have four Brothers representing the `west_ (St Patrick Parish), three Brothers representing the `central area_ (St Jude); and one brother from the `east_ (St Mary). Based on locations of planned events, the division would benefit from four or five `east_ volunteers and a brother or two to represent the `south_ (St Matthew).

Heritage Committee projects for 2015 include two family events that directly result from the August 2014 Heritage Committee poll that asked how we can make division membership more inclusive. All three of these events are planned for the division's "east area_ (St Mary Parish) and none will require an excessive amount of time *if we have the volunteers.*

- **June Family Pot Luck Picnic:** Planning the family picnic should begin now. Some knowledge of how to schedule a Fredericksburg facility (a pavilion at Old Mill Park was suggested) and the start of summer vacation period are key. Other requirements include assigning the pot luck dishes, tending the beverage stand (beverages supplied by the division), acquiring materials (paper plates, plastic utensils, charcoal, ice), soliciting entertainment for the children, etc.

- **September Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration:** Most of the work is already accomplished - the venue is firm (September 12th at Seacobeck Hall, UMW), a band is committed, and the Irish dancers are scheduled. On the night of the celebration, we'll need volunteer ticket takers at the door, brothers run the 50/50 and other raffles, etc. Should we want to decorate (beyond green & gold tablecloths/napkins) we'll need to do that. We do not have to tend bar or check ID cards, that's part of the contract.
- **December Family Pot Luck Christmas Party:** We've arranged with St Michael the Archangel High School for use of their gymnasium for the Christmas Party. Details to follow. Now we'll need your organizing the party: assigning pot luck dishes, ordering beverages, tending the beverage stand (beverages supplied by the division), decorating and arranging tables inside the gym, and cleaning-up after the party. And most important, identifying an **Irish Santa Claus!**

SIGNIFICANT APRIL DATES IN IRISH HISTORY

1 April

1839: St. Clair Mulholland, Union Civil War General and Medal of Honor winner, is born in Lisburn, Co. Antrim

2 April

1914: *Cumann na mBan*, Irish Women's Republican movement, is founded

6 April

1830: James Augustine Healy, the first black Roman Catholic bishop in America, was born to an Irish planter and a slave on a plantation near Macon, Georgia

1954: *The Flags & Emblems Act prohibits display of the Irish tricolor in the North of Ireland*

9 April

1981: IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands wins a seat in the British parliament in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election

10 April

1998: The Northern Ireland peace talks end with an historic agreement. The accord - dubbed the *Good Friday Agreement* - is reached after nearly two years of talks and 30 years of conflict.

12 April

1654: The Ordinance of Union comes into effect, uniting Ireland and Scotland with England

1847: The American relief ship, Jamestown, lands supplies in Cork for famine victims

14 April

1922: Led by Rory O'Connor, forces against the Anglo-Irish Treaty seize the Four Courts in Dublin. The Irish Free State provisional government later attacks the garrison, which starts the Irish Civil War

22 April

1834: Daniel O'Connell introduces debate on Repeal of Union bill in the House of Commons

23 April

1014: **Battle of Clontarf** -- Brian Boru defeats Máel Mórda mac Murchada and Viking forces; Brian Boru is killed. This defeat begins the decline of Viking power in Ireland; however, they are well established in the coastal towns and continue to have a major influence.

24 April

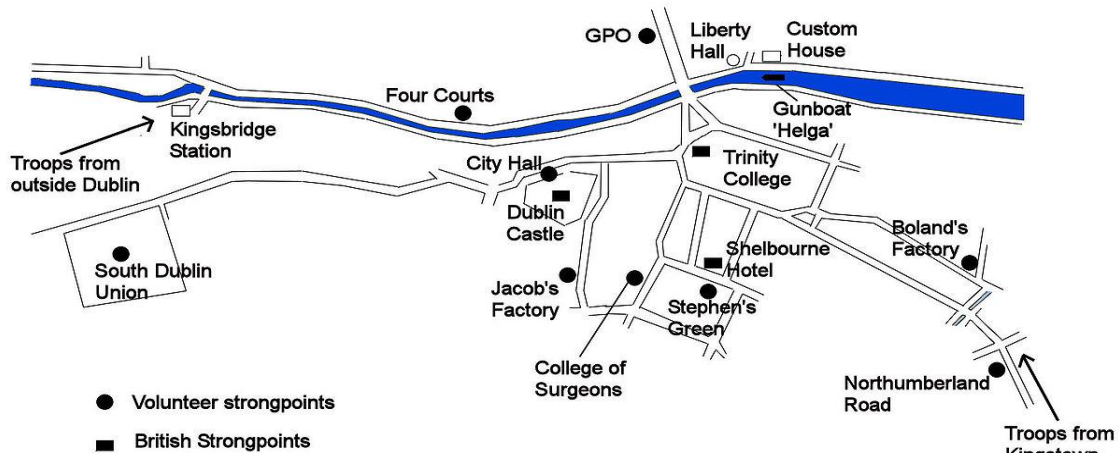
1916: **The Easter Rising lasted from Easter Monday 24 April to Easter Saturday 29 April**

Organized by seven members of the Military Council, Irish Republican Brotherhood (The Fenians), the Rising as planned for months was to commence on Easter Sunday. However, Eoin MacNeill, Chief of Staff of the Irish Volunteers, countermanded the order at the last minute. This caused confusion within the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Citizens Army and *Cumann na mBan*. Reluctant to give up on the rising, Joseph Plunkett and James Connolly modified their strategy and developed a hasty plan for Easter Monday. As a result only about 1,000 rebels appeared on Easter Monday to seize control of designated strategic sites in Dublin.

29 April

1916: The principal Irish rebel positions at the General Post Office (GPO), the Four Courts, Jacob's Factory and Boland's Mill. James Connolly, overall military commander and four other members of the Military Council: Padraig Pearse, Tom Clarke, Seán Mac Dermott and Joseph Plunkett were in the GPO. After occupying the GPO, the Volunteers hoisted two Republican flags and Pearse read a Proclamation of the Republic. The rebel position at the South Dublin Union and Marrowbone Lane, further to the west, inflicted heavy losses on British troops. After days of shelling, the rebel headquarters garrison at the GPO was forced to abandon their position when fire caused by the shells spread to the GPO. Connolly had been incapacitated by a bullet wound and passed command to Pearse. Vastly outnumbered, Pearse agreed to an unconditional surrender.

Easter Rising 1916



A total of 3,430 men and 79 women were arrested; fifteen of those (including the seven signatories of the Proclamation) were executed by firing squad at Kilmainham Gaol
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=UQWgAd7EnCs

27 April

1923: Eamonn De Valera announces end of operations against the Irish Free State, effectively ending the Irish Civil War.

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## DARK DAYS OF THE BLACK AND TANS

**“If you want to get tossed out of a pub in Ireland order a Black and Tan.”**

The Black and Tans as a subject still arouses controversy in Ireland. The Black and Tans were not regular troops. They were mostly former soldiers brought into Ireland by the British government to assist the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) in their work.

For a number of years, the RIC had been a frequent target for the IRB and later the IRA, especially in the remote rural areas of southern Ireland. IRB/IRA attacks did a great deal to undermine morale in the RIC.

In 1919, the British government advertised for men who were willing to "face a rough and dangerous task". Many former British soldiers returned from war in Western Europe to unemployment, so there were plenty of ex-servicemen willing to respond. They received three months training before being sent to Ireland. The first unit arrived in Ireland in March 1920.

More than 8000 Black and Tans were sent to Ireland. Not enough uniforms were available for all so they wore a mixture of uniforms that gave them the appearance of being in khaki and dark police uniform. These men got the nickname "Black and Tans".

The Black and Tans lacked the self-discipline that would have been found in military. The primary task of the Black and Tans was to make Ireland "hell for the rebels to live in". They terrorized local communities and there were many examples of them shooting indiscriminately at civilians as opposed to actual IRB/IRA guerrillas. The attitude of the Black and Tans is best summed up by one of their divisional commanders:

**"If a police barracks is burned or if the barracks already occupied is not suitable, then the best house in the locality is to be commandeered, the occupants thrown into the gutter. Let them die there – the more the merrier.**

**Should the order ("Hands Up") not be immediately obeyed, shoot and shoot with effect. If the persons approaching (a patrol) carry their hands in their pockets, or are in any way suspicious-looking, shoot them down. You may make mistakes occasionally and innocent persons may be shot, but that cannot be helped, and you are bound to get the right parties some time. The more you shoot, the better I will like you, and I assure you no policeman will get into trouble for shooting any man."**

**Lt. Col. Smyth, June 1920**

The most infamous attack on the public was in November 1920. A large crowd was packed into Croke Park, Dublin, to watch a football match. The Black and Tans opened fire on the crowd, killing twelve people. In retaliation, eighteen members of the "Auxies" (a separate part of the Black and Tans) were killed in Kilmichael, County Cork. The "Auxies" took their revenge for this by burning down the centre of Cork.

What did the Black and Tans achieve? They served no purpose for the British as they simply failed to stop the IRA. However, they succeeded in getting the Republican cause major civilian support -- people may not have joined the IRA, but they supported it with financial help.

(Excerpted from the [History Learning Site](#) and [The Irish War.com](#) on March 13, 2015)



***Genealogist's Visit:*** Ms. Shannon Bennett will speak on Irish research and DNA testing at our **April 21<sup>st</sup>** meeting. To save time, **Ms. Bennett has offered to take your written questions prior** to her presentation. Send them to me ([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net)) and I'll pass them to her. More information on Ms. Bennett can be found at ([tntfamilyhistory.blogspot.com/](http://tntfamilyhistory.blogspot.com/))



**Visit to Belfast:** Looking forward to **May 19th**, Brother Jeff Banks will discuss his recent trip during which he visited Falls Road and Shankill; signed the "Peace Wall" (it is the new Berlin Wall of Europe) and will relate his impressions based on talks with locals (primarily from the Falls area) to get a sense of the good, the bad, and the ugly. He suggests it a very delicate peace right now; mid-July's bonfires and Orange Order parades are not helping to secure long term peace...

**Irish Historian:** Looking further ahead to **September 15th**, Kevin Donleavy of Charlottesville is scheduled to speak. Kevin is author of *The Irish in Early Virginia 1600-1860*, a past Fellow at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, a retired Latin teacher, and he plays in an Irish band. His commitment to Irish cultural history spans forty years. He also has an Irish radio program heard on [WTJU.net](http://WTJU.net).



## OUR DIVISION PRAYER LIST



Please pray for the repose of the souls of Past Division President Phil Booty and Gail Monahan, Brother Jim McMorrow's daughter; may God's perpetual light shine upon them; may they rest in peace.

Please keep in your prayers Brothers Bill McCarthy, Joe O'Connor, Mike Lenihan, David Lee Chichester, Larry Pratt, and Mike Creegan (VAAOH webmaster). Also, Timothy Jones (Bunny McMorrow's son); Matthew Carroll, the inspiration behind the Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project; and Daniela Donovan, Muggivan Irish Dance School, who has supported our division for several years.

**Pray to Mary Immaculate Patroness of the United States** for the strength of mind and heart to defend our religious freedoms, for national moral guidance, and that this country will always be *'one nation, under God'*. This is critically important in this time of contrary moral agendas and the threats from patently evil elements. **Imagine** what might happen if every Catholic in the world would pray a Rosary on the same day! We have an example of this when the Holy League decisively defeated the main fleet of the Ottoman Empire in the Battle of Lepanto. This was a significant defeat for the Ottomans who were regarded as the "Sempiterna enemy of the Christian". The Holy League credited the victory to the Virgin Mary whose intercession with God they had implored through praying the Rosary. Pope Pius V instituted a new Catholic feast day of Our Lady of Victory to commemorate the battle, which is now celebrated as the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7th).



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Mark Your Calendars!**

**April 18: Roller Derby** at Golden Skate World (Five Mile Road) -- Family Friendly Fun. For more information contact Jill Lenahan (Brother Shawn's wife), (540-295-2464)

**April 20: Second Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic**, Meadows Farms Golf Course, Locust Grove, VA. We'll need brother volunteers to man the registration desk, sell mulligans, red tees, raffle tickets, etc. **Contact Gene McKenna** ([valololola@gmail.com](mailto:valololola@gmail.com))

**April 21: Genealogist, Ms. Shannon Bennett**, will speak at our meeting about *Irish Research and DNA Analysis*.

**May 19: Brother Jeff Banks** will relate his *Visit to Belfast*, in the north of Ireland

**June (date TBD): First Division Family Pot-Luck picnic**

**September 12:** The **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration**, 6:30-11PM at Seacobeck Hall, University of Mary Washington (College Street)

**September 15:** Kevin Dunleavy will speak on the *Irish in Virginia 1600-1860*

**December (date TBD) Family (Pot Luck) Christmas Party!**



#### GENERAL MEAGHER DIVISION ATTIRE

As in most organizations, we have AOH specific attire. In a perfect world every brother would have these articles of clothing.

- For **semi-formal/formal occasions**, the AOH `uniform\_ is green sport coat, tri-color sash, white shirt, Irish theme tie, black trousers and ball cap. These occasions include AOH State and National conventions, Masses, funerals, AOH dinners, parades, and other public events.
- At **informal events** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo or sweatshirts (optional ball cap) are appropriate. Many have already ordered the division polo and sweat shirts and the ball cap.

**Division Logo Items:** Ed Kelly ([EJPKelly@yahoo.com](mailto:EJPKelly@yahoo.com)) is ordering Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps.

- Sport Tek Long sleeve polo: \$28.95 (XXL is extra)
- Sport Tek Short sleeve polo: \$26.95 (XXL is extra)
- Cotton Long Sleeve polo: \$22.75 (XXL is extra)
- Cotton Short Sleeve polo: \$19.75 (XXL is extra)
- Sweat shirt: \$21.25 (XXL is extra)
- Ball Cap: \$14.00

**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets and sashes. One source: [http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens\\_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html](http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html). Visit the website; call the 800 number. Tell them you're with AOH and the \$5.00 small order fee can be waived. Kelly green is the color.

**AOH Sash:** The AOH tri-color sash represents the national flag of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder crossing to the left hip (see photo). Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)
- D. & E. Morrissey (954-426-3514) <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com/donations.html>



Editor: Bill Halpin