

## IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY



# GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

<http://www.aohfredericksburg.org/>

June 2016

Volume 4/Number 6

**President:** Andy Link **Chaplain:** Father Kevin Fimian **Vice President:** Dan Mulhern  
**Financial Secretary:** Jeff Banks **Treasurer:** Dick Dowd **Recording Secretary:** Jack Grey  
**Standing Committee:** Vacant **Marshal:** Shawn Lenahan **Sentinel:** Paul O'Brien, **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin ([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net))

**Reminder: If you haven't paid your 2016 dues – please do so!**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Brothers,

During the month of June, we continue to support to our local parishes and raise money selling raffle tickets for our 9th Annual Trip for Two to Ireland raffle. Without the support of our parish representatives, namely

Brothers Jack Grey, Hugh O'Brien, Bill Phillips and John Harris, all of this charity would not be possible without their efforts, thank you.

Also this month, Past Virginia State President Hugh O'Brien presented a \$750 check to St. Jude work camp team and Brother Jack Grey presented another check to St. Mary's work camp. Brother Bill Vanderveer and I also presented a check to St. Matthew's Deacon Mike Strain and work camp students (shown left).





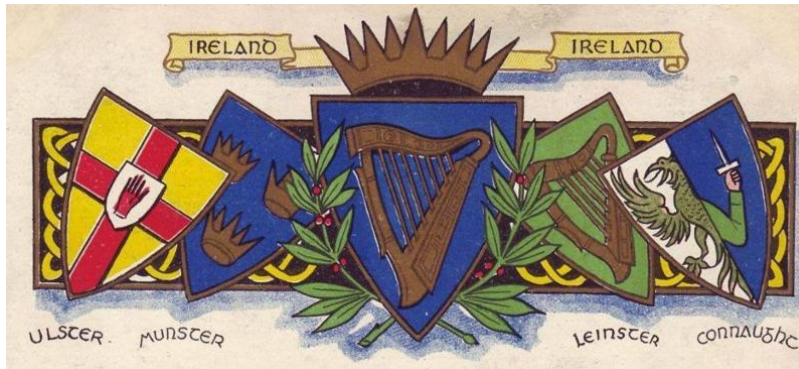
Also this month, I have had the pleasure awarding one of two \$1500 Hibernian Scholastic Grants to Mr. David Ivory. He graduated from St. Patrick School eighth grade and David will be attending 'The Summit Academy'<sup>1</sup>, in Fredericksburg (photo shown right). Also this month, Vice President Dan Mulhern will deliver a second \$1500 Grant to a graduating student at Holy Cross Academy. In July, we will have our Second Annual Hibernian Family Picnic at Clubhouse Point, Lake of the Woods on Sunday, July 10, 2016 which will start at 2 PM. Please respond to e-mails to gather together and make this a great opportunity for us be together with our families. Please send RSVP to Brother Shane Quinlan [shanemquinlan@gmail.com](mailto:shanemquinlan@gmail.com) or call 540-220-5608 by Friday, July 1, 2016. Also next month, we will send five Meagher Division Brothers to vote at the 2016 National Convention in Atlantic City on July 14, 2016.

Please continue to pray for our sick and convalescing Brothers, our friends and families.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Richard Andrew Link, II  
President

1. A new traditional Catholic school located in Fredericksburg started by two St. Patrick Church parishioners, Julian Malcolm and Patrick Looby. It is recognized by both Holy Cross Academy and St. Patrick School for their students going on to high school.



*“The Celt would forfeit his title to the respect of the civilized world, did he not fight with all his heart and all his soul and all his cunning against the empire which has despoiled him and murdered his kin, now with arms, now with artificial famine. There can be no peace between the two people until either Ireland is a desert or is free. It is war to the knife, and the knife to the hilt. There can be neither truce nor compromise.”*

### IMPORTANT IRISH PHRASES

Ireland forever	<i>Éirinn go Brách</i> (Air-ran guh brow)
Cheers	<i>Sláinte</i> (Slon-chuh)
Hello	<i>Dia Duit</i> (Dee-uh ditch)
Bye	<i>Slan</i> (slan)
A hundred-thousand welcomes.....	<i>Céad Mile Fáilte</i> (Ky-ed meel-ay fall-chay)

### IRISH HERITAGE



At our April 2015 meeting genealogist Shannon Bennett visited the division to inform our brothers about tracing Irish roots and breaking through the `brick wall` with DNA searches. Well, she inspired me to have my DNA checked - twice! Here's some feedback that might inspire others to do the same.

Using Ancestry.com DNA I was able to connect with DNA matches from around the USA. One contact (great grandson of my grandmother's sister) helped me map my maternal ancestors (McGinn and Hanna) back through Ireland to Inverness, Scotland circa 1725 (They're Celtic, not Anglo!). I await feedback from other matches.

Also, I used FamilyDNA in conjunction with Dr. Tyrone Bowes a geneticist from Galway. This process opened a hole in the 'brick wall'. Dr. Bowes was able to trace my DNA through four Halpin clans to the original. His analysis concluded my specific DNA marker is found in earliest settlers of Ireland ~ 10,000 years ago. These early settlers are referred to as the 'Celtic Gaels' or 'Original Irish'. Further, he noted about 1,000 years ago, when people began to use surnames, my ancestors were part of a tribal group that eventually adopted the family names of Halpin, Keane, Curtin, Quinn, Hogan and Nolan. The tribe was centered on the River Fergus, just south of what is today's city of Ennis in County Clare.

Now I know where to further my search in Ireland.

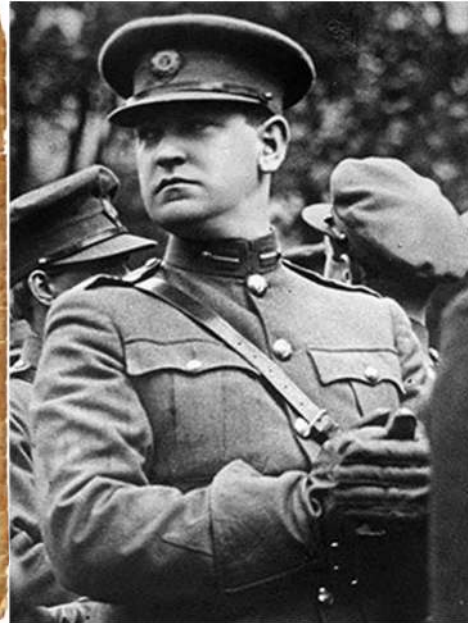
## HALFWAY TO ST PATRICK DAY CELEBRATION

The Heritage Committee is gearing up for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration which will be held on September 10<sup>th</sup> at Lake of the Woods. 130 tickets are on order and will be available prior to the June meeting. \$35/person includes choice of salmon or corned beef dinner, commemorative pint glass, live Irish Music and Irish dancers, plus ceili dance lessons (a popular form of folk dancing in Ireland).

**We're seeking volunteer table captains.** A Table Captain is responsible of filling a table of 8 people (you, your spouse and eight others). Already Andy Link, Shawn Lenahan, Dan Mulhern, and Bill Halpin immediately volunteered. Clearly we need more to help with this. Please let Bill Halpin know as soon as possible ([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net) or 540-972-5903)

## Biography: Michael Collins





Condensed and edited from Mary Thorpe's *That's Just How It Was* for Wild Geese

**One of the most iconic figures to emerge out of the Easter Rising** was **Michael Collins**. Born in 1890, he was the third son in a family of eight children. Already steeped in Irish history through his family, Collins would credit headmaster James Santry at Lisavaird National School and Dennis Lyons, a local blacksmith, as the first nationalists outside of his family to inspire his pride in his Irishness.

The origins of his nickname, 'The Big Fellow,' are said to have come from his family, because he was always willing to take on any task way beyond his years. 'The big fellow' became a term of endearment. This nickname would follow him into boarding school at Clonakilty National School, when he was only 13.

During the school week, he lived with his sister Margaret and her husband, Patrick O'Driscoll. At the weekends, he would return to the family farm and would 'muck' in and do any and all chores that needed to be done.

When O'Driscoll founded the newspaper *The West Cork People*, O'Driscoll trusted Collins to assist with general reporting jobs and preparing issues for the newspaper.

Collins left school at 15 and worked for the Royal Mail. He moved to London to live with his sister and got a job as a messenger at Home and Co., a London stockbroker. Later he decided to study law and was accepted at Kings College, London. He joined the London Gaelic Athletic Association [GAA], and was an accomplished wrestler. It was through the GAA that he met Sam Maguire. Maguire introduced 19-year-old Collins to the Irish Republican Brotherhood.

In early 1916 he moved back to Dublin, where he joined Craig Gardiner & Co. as a part-time accountant. It was through this company that he met Count George Noble Plunkett, who had been appointed a Papal Count by Pope Leo XIII. Count Plunkett offered Collins a job and introduced him to

his sons, Joseph Mary, George and John [Jack]. All Plunkett family members were involved in the IRB or Irish movements of one kind or another.

Collins was with a family understood his motives for 'war against the British'. He joined the IRB and soon became highly respected, taking part in preparing arms and drilling troops for the insurrection. He became Joseph Plunkett's aide-de-camp in the General Post Office on Easter Monday morning in 1916. Collins was active in the fighting, alongside James Connelly and other members of the Rising's leadership. Collins was taken prisoner and sent to the Frongoch internment camp in Wales. He began to plan for 'the next time' while serving his sentence!

Aftermath of the Easter Rising the Irish Republican Brotherhood was without leadership. However, Kathleen Clarke [wife of Thomas Clarke] held important IRB documents. In June 1916 she sent began a dialogue with IRB members and declared the Rising to be only the beginning and directing all Irish nationalists to prepare for "the next blow."

While imprisoned at Frongoch, Collins learned about Clarke's initiative. When he was released in late 1916, he visited Clarke and was appointed as secretary to the 'National Aid Volunteers Dependents Fund'. She gave him the secret organizational information and the contacts she had held in trust.

Arthur Griffith, founder of *Sinn Fein* and editor and publisher of the *United Irishman*, and Collins spearheaded the post-rising independence movement. Under Griffith the mainstream Irish movements unified under the umbrella group of the non-violent Sinn Féin.

By October 1917, Collins had risen to the executive of Sinn Féin and director of organization for the Irish Volunteers. de

Valera, another 1916 Easter Rising veteran, stood for the Presidency. During 1917, Collins traveled around Ireland promoting his ideas, his politics, and recruiting. By 1918, Sinn Féin had an overwhelming parliamentary majority in Ireland, with many seats uncontested. Collins was elected an MP for Cork South. None of the Sinn Féin MPs took their seat in Westminster -- instead, they chose to set up their own Irish parliament in Dublin.

Most would suggest Collins and de Valera (left) were the architects of the fight with British authorities that ended Britain's long strangulation of Irish nationalism. "The Big Fellow," of course, was a good-looking, legendary athlete, while de Valera was perceived as a nerdish, bookish, bespectacled intellectual, and earned him the name of 'The Long Fellow'. They could not have differed more in their methods of achieving independent Ireland. Collins favored a guerrilla war fought in the dark back streets of Dublin and rural Ireland. de Valera favored a more conventional out-in-the-open fight in the Dail, refusing any services or advice from a British-run government.

To gain intelligence, Collins' encouraged Sinn Féin followers to gain employment in Dublin Castle, particularly in the Intelligence Department. This tactic paid off as his informants supplied information on British army movements. British units and police barracks were ambushed on a regular basis by well-trained Irish 'flying squads'. Collins encouraged de Valera to go to the United States to raise funds. When de Valera set sail, the leadership of the Dail and other Irish movements fell increasingly to Collins. With de Valera in the United States, Collins masterminded one of history's most successful guerrilla campaigns.

Dublin Castle and London knew Collins was behind all of these casualties. Churchill sent spies and the notorious *Black and Tans* to

control the Irish, to infiltrate Collins' organization, and to capture or kill Collins. Within days of these spies arriving in Dublin, Collins had their names and addresses. He passed this information to the Irish Flying Squad, who killed 12 of them.

By the time de Valera returned to Ireland in 1921, the country was fully engaged in the conflict. de Valera tried and failed to get Collins to desist from ambushing the police and British barracks; however, the guerrilla tactics were pressuring Prime Minister Lloyd George to reach an accommodation.

By July 1921 Lloyd George offered a truce and de Valera went to London to meet with him. When no agreement was reached, Lloyd George threatened to send overwhelming force to Ireland to end the war. In August, the Dáil changed de Valera's position from Prime Minister to the President of the Republic of Ireland. He declared himself the equivalent of King George V and argued that he should not be a delegate sent to negotiate a treaty. Collins argued that he was not a negotiator, insisting that de Valera was the best person for this role. In the end Collins went to Westminster for the negotiations.

What the Irish contingent took back to Ireland was the independence of the 26 counties to be called the Irish Free State, with the British retaining six counties comprising the Northern Ireland statelet. The proposed agreement included what would become known as the "treaty ports" on the southern coast of Ireland, for use by the Royal Navy. Whatever de Valera's rationale for not traveling to Westminster for these vital negotiations, historians generally now agree that it was a grievous mistake on his part not to have participated.

Collins is on record as saying at this time, 'I have signed my own political death warrant, and indeed, maybe my actual death warrant,' while acknowledging that 'we have the freedom to achieve freedom.' De

Valera did not see it that way, and opposed the Treaty, because it did create an Independent republic. When the Treaty was passed by a narrow margin in the Dáil de Valera resigned as president. In the aftermath of de Valera's resignation, he led the anti-Treaty side in a bitter civil war against the Free State.

The anti-Treaty and the pro-Treaty sides waged an all-out civil war on the streets of Dublin. The war continued to rage around the country for more than two three years.

Collins had mixed feelings about the Treaty and these are recorded in his private and official diaries. By August 1922, the Free State army had gained control of most of the country. Collins was making frequent inspection trips to areas most affected. Against advice he decided to visit his native Cork. Known to be a dangerous trip, he was determined to do it, saying words to the effect of "They won't shoot me in my own county". Collins was killed in an ambush in the village of *Béal na Bláth* on August 22, 1922. Among the many questions that followed his assassination, was: What became of all the documents he carried with him? (his field diary turned up several decades later).

Collins remains were transported by sea from Cork to Dublin, where he lay in state for three days in Dublin City Hall. Tens of thousands of mourners paid their respects as they filed past his remains. His funeral Mass took place at Dublin's St Mary Pro-Cathedral where as many as 500,000 attended, which was approximately one fifth of the population of this era.

Mystery still surrounds Collins' death as the witnesses gave conflicting statements. The lack of objectivity among anti-Treaty and pro-Treaty personnel presented a unique historical discussion. The entire scenario reads like a 'who done it' drama. Most shockingly of all is the fact that the

authorities did not investigate this crime properly.



## OUR DIVISION PRAYERS



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased General Meagher Division brothers and all deceased Hibernians and family members.

Please pray for the comfort and healing of our **Brothers Dick Dowd, Jim McMorrow, and Larry Pratt**. Andy Link's mother, Eileen and Andy's father and Eileen's care giver, Dick Link, Matthew Carroll (Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project) and Barbara McCoy (friend of Shawn Lenahan) also needs our prayers.

Pray to **Mary Immaculate, Patroness of the United States**, for preservation of our religious freedoms and for an unambiguous national moral compass. This is critically important in this era of progressive secularism and threats from patently evil terror organizations.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



***Mark Your Calendars!***

***Multiple Dates: Bingo!*** Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at **St Michael the Archangel High School**, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407 (540) 548-8748). Bring the family!

***Multiple Dates: Roller Derby*** at **Golden Skate World** (Five Mile Road) -- Family Friendly Fun. For more information, contact Jill Lenahan (Brother Shawn's wife) at 540-295-2464. John Hogan attended a Derby and reports it is terrific family oriented fun!

***May 17-June 5:*** The Kennedy Center presents ***IRELAND 100: Celebrating a Century of Irish Arts & Culture***, a major festival highlighting Irish culture and its relationship to America. This coincides with a **larger global celebration** commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, which led to creation of the Irish Free State and the road to independence. <http://www.kennedy-center.org/festivals/ireland>

***June 21: Division Meeting - Shamrock Degree (Lessons of the Order) will be celebrated for new brothers***

***June 23-26: Riverdance*** -- Worldwide Irish dance phenomenon *Riverdance* visits the Filene Center at Wolf Trap in Vienna, VA this June with their 20th Anniversary World Tour! Enjoy the dance, music and song that together create the energetic spectacle that first



captured the world's imagination twenty years ago. More information available from **Wolf Trap**, or, to discuss group sales, contact [groupsales@wolftrap.org](mailto:groupsales@wolftrap.org).

**July 10: *Second Annual Division Picnic*** on Sunday, July 10 at the Lake of the Woods -- Let coordinator Shane Quinlan know you're coming  
[shanemquinlan@gmail.com](mailto:shanemquinlan@gmail.com)

**September 10: *Fifth Annual Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration*** at Lake of the Woods Club House. Tickets are \$35 each and include dinner, live Irish music, Irish dance performances and lessons, plus the coveted AOH pint glass!

**September 17:** VAAOH third quarter **state meeting** hosted by General Meagher Division at Holy Cross Academy. All are welcome! Major Degrees exemplification included - given sufficient number of candidates.

**October 19:** Presentation of the 2017 Officers slate



### 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 optional 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 ball cap.

**Division Logo Items: The Point of Contact for Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps is Shawn Lenahan ([s\\_lenahan@verizon.net](mailto:s_lenahan@verizon.net))**

**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets. 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:** Brothers procure their own sashes. The AOH tri-color sash represents the national flag of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to neck/collar) crossing to the left hip. 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) 1978 S.W. 17th Drive, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442  
Measure from right shoulder to left hip in inches; keep in mind the sash will normally be worn over a jacket, possibly a raincoat/overcoat (and maybe a growing waist line).

AOH Sash: Tri-color AOH sashes are available from LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. She produces 7.5ft long sashes costing \$ 40.00. Patricia guarantees satisfaction: if you're not satisfied send it back for a full refund. Mail your order and payment check (payable to Tracey's By Design or Patricia Ankrom) to: Patricia Ankrom, 7400 Airport Road, Quinton, VA 23141. For more information, email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)