



*General Thomas F. Meagher Division's 30th ANNIVERSARY
1987-2017*



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

June 2017

Volume 5/Number 6

President: Shawn Lenahan **Chaplain:** Father Jerry Wooton **Vice President:** John Tracy
Financial Secretary: Bob Fitzgerald **Treasurer:** Jeff Everett **Recording Secretary:** Bill Vanderveer
Standing Committee: Dave McLaughlin **Marshal:** Paul O'Brien **Sentinel:** Jack Grey; **Webmaster:** John Hogan **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin (sisconsulting@comcast.net)

****Important/Important/Important****

Proposed changes to our division by-laws are posted in the brothers only area of our division website. Among the proposed changes are term lengths for elected officers, procedures for associate memberships, and more. Please review the proposed changes and be prepared to vote on the changes in September.

President's Corner

Brothers:

I would like to thank those Brothers who have turned out to support the Trip for Two Raffle Ticket sales at our parishes. Sales of these tickets are integral to our mission of Christian Charity in support of our community. We've already provided funding to our four parishes for work camp and we're looking forward to providing the two scholastic awards and support for Mary's Shelter and the Paul Stefan Foundation. Please continue your support there are ample opportunities to help out with ticket sales, please see the upcoming events section. Individual sales are also encouraged; please reach out to our Raffle Chair, Bill Vanderveer, if you need some tickets to sell.

Thank you also for the work of the Special Committees. I am confident your work around Memorial Masses, associate membership and the updates to the by-laws will make our Division stronger and help us grow now and in the future. Speaking of the By-Laws please be sure to review the proposed changes in the Monthly Minutes section of the website at

aohvirginia.org/FredericksburgDiv1/monthly-minutes/. We will discuss them again at our August business meeting.

At our last business meeting, Brother John Hogan handed out applications for membership in a pre-addressed and stamped envelope making it very easy for a prospective member to submit apply. Please utilize this great idea. To date, *we have not inducted a single new member*. While we have approved applications and a few more to read at the June business meeting, this should be concerning to everyone. 2017 marks 30 years for the Division, if we are to remain relevant, we need to be inducting at least one new member at every meeting. I am appointing a Membership Committee whose focus will be recruitment. If you would like to serve on this committee, please let me know, otherwise I will be reaching out to some of you.

We will have special guests at our June Business meeting to speak to us regarding the Irish Brigade Statue planned for the City Dock, please make every effort to join us on June 20. We will also meet at Capital Ale House on Caroline St. for the monthly Lad's Lunch. Please join us Sunday, June 18 at 1pm for food and fellowship.

As a reminder, we do not meet in July. Please have a safe and restful summer. Remember those on our prayer list and please remember me in your prayers as I pray for each of you!

Slainte mhor agus a h-uile beannachd duibh
Good health and every good blessing to you!

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Shawn M Lenahan

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***“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.”***

## symbols of Ireland. The Irish Wolfhound



Through ancient woodcuts and writings, historians have determined that the breed existed as early as 273BC - and probably much earlier.

Early Irish Literature abounds in references to these large dogs which are called, interchangeably, "Irish dogs," "Big Dogs of Ireland," "Wolfdogs of Ireland," and "Great Hounds of Ireland." "*Gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked*" appears on the coat of arms of early Irish kings along with a shamrock and a harp. A fully mature male might stand 32 to 34 inches at the shoulder and weigh 120 pounds.

The Wolfhound is a spectacular animal that protected kings and inspired bards before the days of Saint Patrick. Ownership of these great hounds was highly restricted. They were sent as much-coveted gifts to emperors, kings, nobility and poets and their chains and collars were often of precious metals and stones. For example, In 391 AD, Roman Consul Quintus Aurelius wrote that he'd received seven of them as a gift which "all Rome viewed with wonder."

The Irish Wolfhound symbol appears in literature and art; his beauty and quintessential Irish characteristics of courage, humor, affection, and hospitality closely resemble the people of Ireland. Forever friendly, the Irish Wolfhound delights in human companionship, remembering family and strangers alike, even after a prolonged absence. In addition, he is clever and strong, and when necessary, fierce. Therefore, the Irish proudly regard the breed an appropriate emblem, considering their traits an asset to the national character.

It was not unusual that Irish Wolfhounds were so highly prized for their hunting prowess, particularly in pursuit of the wolf and the now extinct gigantic Irish elk. They were so popular that many of them were exported and by the 17th century, the breed was almost extinct. In fact, a directive was issued in 1652, banning export of Irish Wolfhounds from Ireland.

Despite his intimidating size, the nature and temperament of the Wolfhound make him totally unsuitable as guard dog or watch dog. Though alert he is not suspicious; though courageous, he is not aggressive.



One of the most touching uses of the Wolfhound as an Irish symbol is the statue in the Gettysburg National Battlefield in Pennsylvania. Sculpted by W. R. O'Donovan in memory of the fallen soldiers of the 63rd, 69th and 88th New York infantry - the Irish Brigade - it features an Irish Wolfhound in mournful respect, laying at the base of a Celtic cross.



## **Celtic Warriors Didn't Give Up Spain to the Romans Without a Fight**

by ROBERT BECKHUSEN (Article submitted to *Dispatches* by John Hogan)

Before the rise of the Roman Empire, the Celts were the preeminent warriors of a stretch of Europe from present-day Portugal to the Balkans. They didn't accept defeat and subjugation easily—or slowly. Of course, the ancient Celts were not a unified military power. Tribes varied in social organization, technology and military tactics. But they were highly skilled guerrilla fighters and adept horsemen who rode into battle to fight and impress. One characteristic Celtic display was riding to meet an enemy army in chariots, pelt their foes with javelins and then hop out to fight on foot. This opening tactic might not have caused much direct damage, but the sight and noise of the chariots' wheels were intimidating.

The Celtiberians, a hybrid people in ancient Spain, also proved resistant to Roman colonization for decades following the Second Punic War, when Rome defeated Carthage in 201 B.C. Prior to the war, Carthage ruled over half of Iberia and included Celtiberian fighters among its ranks—but the tribes were far from united in backing the North African regime. Rome's alliance with independent Celtic tribes helped expel Carthage from the peninsula.

However, this alliance of opportunity would not last, and Rome would again find itself at conflict. The Celtiberians made the Romans pay dearly for it in a war of attrition at a time when other wars ended after a handful of great battles, according to Tim Newark's *Celtic Warriors: 400 B.C.—A.D. 1600*. His descriptions of the Celtiberian Wars make for brutal reading. “The war in Spain was a succession of indecisive campaigns enduring through most of the second century B.C.,” Newark wrote. “Roman military incompetence and cruelty was particularly marked and provoked controversy among the politicians in Rome.”

During one Roman siege of a Celtiberian hill fort in 136 B.C., the Romans ran out of supplies and—having not planned for that, apparently—ran away without evacuating their sick and wounded. The Celts chased after the fleeing army and routed it.

The peninsula's dispossessed poor turned to banditry as the war devastated farmlands and trade, and the Roman general Titus Didius deceived and then slaughtered a tribe that had resorted to feeding itself in such a manner. It was terrible, and militarily stupid, as the massacre provoked a bigger rebellion. Celts with iron, sickle-shaped swords called falcatas lobbed off Roman heads.

*“Masters of their own hilly, forested landscape, they exhausted their enemies with relentless skirmishing and raids. Never hanging around long enough for a major confrontation, they humbled the reputation of many Roman generals ... When [Publius Cornelius Scipio] arrived in Spain as overall commander [in 134 B.C.], he found a Roman army profoundly demoralized. Discipline was non-existent. Prostitutes and traders, along with fortune-tellers, had to be expelled from the army camps. The soldiers had been reduced to astrology for any signs of victory.”*

Scipio, the grandson of famed Roman general Scipio Africanus, rebuilt the Roman armies in Spain and set out to besiege the key city of Numantia (about 125 miles NE of Madrid), which held 8,000 Celtic warriors. A previous siege had failed—the Celts wounded a Roman war elephant which then turned and gored its masters, causing the army's other elephants to panic and break. This time, Publius Cornelius Scipio aimed to starve Numantia into submission by building a nine-kilometer-long wooden fence around it complete with guard towers and moats.

Starvation was not his only tactic. Publius also reached out to smaller Celtic tribes that saw an opportunity to take down the relatively more powerful Numantines. His combined force reached 60,000—only 20,000 of them legionaries. Thirteen months later in 133 B.C., the siege ended, with the surviving Numantines close to death and having resorted to cannibalism.

Newark bluntly described what happened next. “Scipio was untouched by the spectacle. Having chosen fifty warriors for his triumph, he sold the rest of the Numantines into slavery and set fire to their town.” It was the last major battle of the Celtiberian wars. The term “*Numantian defense*” is an expression for a suicidal and determined last stand.

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## Irish Surnames

From Ancestry.com

The earliest known Irish surname is O'Clery (O Cleirigh); it's the earliest known because it was written that the lord of Aidhne, Tigherneach **Ua Cleirigh**, died in County Galway back in the year 916 A.D. In fact, that Irish name may actually be the earliest surname recorded in all of Europe.

Until about the 10th century in Ireland, surnames were not passed down from generation to generation. Instead, surnames were patronymic, or based on someone's father's name. A person was identified by his given name plus “mac,” meaning “son of,” followed by his father's name. For instance, Brian mac Colum was Brian, son of Colum. Brian's son might be Finnian mac Brian (Finnian, son of Brian).

The female form of “mac” is “nic,” shortened from the Irish *iníon mhic*.

Alternatively, the prefix “o” was sometimes used in place of “mac” and meant “grandson of” or “descended from.” If Colum was well known, his grandson might have gone by the name Finnian O Colum.

There were no fixed surnames, so a surname changed every generation or two. That can make tracing your family tree a bit more complicated! But even without hereditary surnames, those names still hold clues. For example, that person named O’Clery or O Cleirigh (or Ua Cleirigh) was the grandson or descendant of someone named Cleirigh. (“Ua” was an earlier form of “O.”)

It was around the 1100s, as the population was increasing, that people in the upper social classes started taking hereditary surnames (those that remain fixed over the generations); others didn’t need surnames, or even get around to them, until the 1500s.

Another strong influence on Irish names came with the Norman invasion of 1169, when a lot of Anglo-French names came marching into Ireland (this, too, is when the Latin-derived prefix “Fitz,” meaning “son of,” first came into Irish names). It’s from this influence that some of the names we now consider Irish — Costello, Power, Burke, and others — first entered the scene. And in the 1500s, the influence of the English was beginning to make itself felt in Ireland. Ireland was experiencing religious persecution and invasions, and many changes came to the island — including the changing of Irish names, steadily but surely over the ensuing years, into ones that sounded more English.

An example of this was the common Irish surname Mac Gabhann, which meant “son of a smith.” Some Mac Gabhanns, living in County Cavan, had their name translated to Smith and it remained that way. Others outside that area resisted, but the spelling became anglicized and they became Mac/McGowans. This was very common. Also, in many cases the prefixes Mac and O were done away with.

Many surnames originated as occupational or descriptive names. That earliest known name, O Cleirigh (O’Clery), was someone descended from a clerk; Mac an Bhaire (Ward) was son of a bard; and Mac Labhrain (MacCloran) was son of a spokesman.

Descriptive names were names that described the first person to take them. The first person with the name Dubh (Duff) (“black” or “dark”) was probably dark featured. Other descriptive surnames include Bane (“white”), Crone (“brown”), and Lawder (“strong”). Irish toponymic surnames, deriving from a place where the original name bearer once lived, are rare. They include Ardagh, Athy, Bray, Kelly, Sutton, and a few others.

The most common Irish surnames in Ireland haven’t changed much for a century. Here are 10 of them:

**1. Murphy** — The Anglicized version of the Irish surnames *Ó Murchadha* and *Mac Murchadha*, meaning “sea warrior.”

**2. Kelly** — The origin of this Irish name is uncertain. An Anglicized version of the Irish name *Ceallaigh*, it can describe a warrior or mean “white-headed,” “frequenting churches,” or “descendant of *Ceallach*.”

- 3. O'Sullivan** — (*Ó Súileabháin* or *Ó Súilleabháin* in Irish). In 1890, 90 percent of the O'Sullivans were estimated to be in Munster. Many people agree that the basic surname means “eye,” but they do not agree whether the rest of the name means “one-eyed,” “hawk-eyed,” “black-eyed,” or something else.
- 4. Walsh** — This name came to Ireland via British soldiers during the Norman invasion of Ireland and means “from Wales.” It's derived from *Breathnach* or *Brannagh*.
- 5. Smith** — This surname does not necessarily suggest English ancestry, as some think; often the surname was derived from *Gabhann* (which means “smith”).
- 6. O'Brien** — This name came down from Brian Boru (941-1014) who was king of Munster; his descendants took the name *Ó Briain*.
- 7. Byrne** (also Byrnes; O'Byrne) — from the Irish name *Ó Broin* (“raven”; also, descendant of Bran); this dates to the ancient Celtic chieftain *Bran mac Máelmórda*, a King of Leinster in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.
- 8. Ryan** — This name has various possible origins: from the Gaelic *Ó Riagháin* (grandson or descendant of *Rían*) or *Ó Maoilriain* (grandson/descendant of *Maoilriaghain*) or *Ó Ruaidhín* (grandson/descendant of the little red one). Or it may be a simplification of the name *Mulryan*. It means “little king.”
- 9. O'Connor** — From *Ó Conchobhair* (grandson or descendant of *Conchobhar*; “lover of hounds”).
- 10. O'Neill** — Anglicized from the Gaelic *Ua Néill* (grandson or descendant of *Niall*). The name is connected with meanings including “vehement” and “champion.” The main O'Niall family is descended from the historic “Niall of the Nine Hostages.”

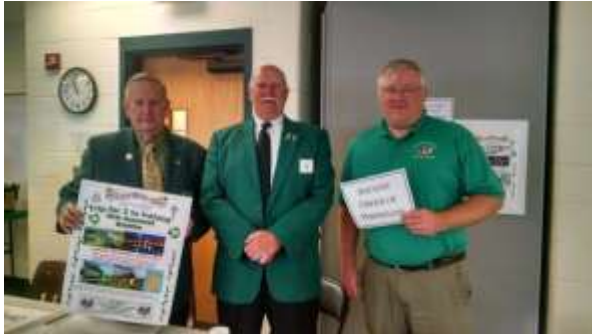
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At St Patrick

It's that season again: Sale of Trip for Two raffle tickets was brisk at St Patrick on May 28th (not pictured were Dick Dowd, Neal Buttimer and Bob Fitzgerald). We were at the St Matthew Parish Ministry Fair on 4 June (Andy Link stopped by). In addition to raffle ticket sales, several applications for membership were given to interested Irishmen.



At St Matthew

St Mary is scheduled for June 11th (more to come at our meeting on scheduling) and at the Lake of the Woods Independence Day celebration on July 1st beginning after the parade (circa 12 - 5PM)



Monthly Lad's Luncheon



Get in the Picture!

The May "Lad's Luncheon" was held at the Adventure – South Brewery, once again showing our support for our patrons who have supported the AOH. The June luncheon will be on June 18 (1PM) at Fredericksburg's Capital Ale House.



Irish language Lesson for the Month: What's your name? [Cod iss an-im ditch? What is your name?](#) (/Cod iss an-im ditch?/)

Control/click and the audio comes straight from our **Bitesize Irish Gaelic**



In July 2016 Pope Francis declared “*We are living in a moment of annihilation of man as image of God*”. He recalled Pope Emeritus Benedict’s pronouncement: “*It’s the epoch of sin against God, the Creator.*”

These observations seem to reflect the current political situation in Ireland.

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** President Lenahan appointed **Jack Grey, Chairman, Committee of the Sick.** He asks that prayer requests be sent to Jack not later than the Wednesday prior to the business meeting ([RHGrey@cox.net](mailto:RHGrey@cox.net)//540-373-4496). It might be wise to let your spouse/family member know this too, just in case you become ill or hospitalized.

Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased Hibernian Brothers. Keep in your prayers family members and friends:

- Ethel Malley (Ken’s wife) recovering from surgeries
- Bill Phillips’ brother Robert
- Paul O’Brien
- Joe Monaghan’s sister-in-law, Donna Maffeo and his father Joseph Sr. who is caring for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer);
- Hugh O’Brien’s brother, John (recovering from stroke);
- Amy Whittaker (cancer),
- Andy Link’s parents Eileen and Dick (Dick is Eileen’s care giver)



***Mark Your Calendars!***

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

***June 10: VAAOH State Meeting*** – hosted by Msgr. Charles A. Kelly, Jr. Division at St. Joseph parish, Richmond, Virginia

***June 11: Membership drive and Trip for Two sales at St Mary***

***July 1: Trip for two Raffle Ticket sales @ Lake of the Woods***

**July 11: Memorial Mass for Neil Mulcahy, 6:30PM, St Patrick Church**

**June/July: (Date TBD) 3d Annual family picnic**

**\*\*\*No division meeting in July\*\*\***

**August 2: Trip for two Raffle Ticket sales @ St Mary**

**August 15: Division meeting!**

**September 16: Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle drawing at Adventure-South Oktoberfest (Note: 2017 Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration is cancelled)**

**September 22-24: VAAOH Biennial State Convention, Virginia Beach Resort Hotel**

**October 28: Gen. Meagher Division's 30th Anniversary Dinner Party, American Legion Post 320, 8456 Brock Rd, Spotsylvania, VA 22553**



General Meagher Division 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.

**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))**

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**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 colors of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to neck/collar) crossing to the left hip. 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).

Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)  
She produces 7.5ft long sashes costing \$ 40.00 and guarantees satisfaction: if you're not satisfied send it back for a full refund.
- Gettysburg Flag offers tri-color sashes and offers "special prices" for larger orders.  
<https://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash>