

Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish Catholic American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

March 2018

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President's Corner

On March 1, President Trump declared March Irish-American Heritage Month acknowledging "the tremendous role Irish immigrants and their descendants have played in the development of our great Nation." According to the President:

Irish Americans have distinguished themselves in every sector of American life. Many have been among the key architects of our country's greatness. Nine of the men who signed our Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin. Presidents Andrew Jackson, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and many others have traced their roots to the Emerald Isle. Businessman Henry Ford, founder of one of America's most iconic companies, was the son of an Irish immigrant.

The proclamation ties perfectly with the theme of our library displays, "*Evolution of Irish in American Society.*" As in years past, brothers of the division will act as docents at the area library promoting Irish culture and perpetuating the history and traditions of the Irish people. We should all make the effort to go see the display.

Of course March is a very busy month for the Division. Along with the library displays, we have our annual St. Patrick's Mass. This year, the service will be held on March 15th, 6pm at (where else?) St Patrick parish. *Father Wooten will celebrate the mass and he has asked for maximum Hibernian family participation.* Please join me and my family for mass!

On St. Patrick Day, we will be marching in the Jeff Fitzpatrick Memorial St. Patrick's Day Parade. Again, we need maximum Hibernian participation! Along with marchers for the short parade, we will need brothers to man a table, which will be inside this year, to sell Trip for 2 raffle tickets, as this is our official kick-off for the sales! If this year's parade is half as fun as last year's, we are all in for a good time, so grab the family and come on out!

Looking forward, we need your support for the Shamrock Golf Tournament. We need golfers, golfers and more golfers! Form a team and come on out. Even if you do not play, ask your golfing

buddies to support this worthy cause. Remember this is our main funding source for all the charitable donations we make throughout the year! Let's make this years' tournament a resounding success!

As always, please remember to keep each other in your prayers. Have a happy and safe Irish-American Heritage Month and I am looking forward to seeing each of you on the 15th and 17th!

Gum beannaicheadh Dia thu,

Shawn M Lenahan



Irish American Heritage Month

On March 13th, the 40th Annual Gaelic Mass was celebrated at Saint Thomas More Cathedral in Arlington. Organized by the Col. John Fitzgerald Division (AR01), this annual Mass offering the music of Sean O'Riada Music will be provided by a choral Group directed by John F. Thieman in its original Gaelic with organ and harp accompaniment. Mass was well attended by VAAOH and LAOH. Mass was followed by music, dance, and ample supply of Irish soda bread and lemonade.



The Annual Meagher Division St Patrick/IAHM Mass was held on March 15th at St Patrick Church. About 25% of our brothers attended. Our celebrant and State and Division Chaplain, Father Jerry Wooton's homily highlighted the life of St Patrick and how his humility and perseverance brought Christianity to then pagan Ireland.





Again this year, the division continued its celebration of IAHM at three area libraries. For three days at each library, our brothers greeted library patrons, distributed information handouts and discussed Irish history. The CRRL Graphics Department did a wonderful job in creating a colorful and informative story board reflecting the evolution of Irish immigrants in American Society thought 1900. Of course this could not be accomplished without the gracious support of the CRRL administration and the librarians at the Main CRRL, the Howell Branch, and the Salem Church Branch. Thanks for our brothers who donated time and knowledge supporting IAHM: Brothers Neal Buttimer, Peter Carroll, Kenneth Fowler, Bill Halpin, John Hogan, C.J. Johnson, Dave McLaughlin, Dan Mulhern, Pete Needham, Hugh O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, and Jim O'Donnell.

march is irish american heritage month

Social Evolution of the Irish in America

Networks
The Irish Catholic immigrants, seeking to provide created a distinct subculture. Catholics established a network of churches, schools, and immigrant aid associations (e.g. The Ancient Order of Hibernians). Church-associated services (e.g. St John's College now known as Fordham University, Boston College and the College of the Holy Cross) were established.

Employment
The Irish Catholic immigrants were often employed in menial jobs, such as construction and manufacturing. They often worked in dangerous conditions and for long hours.

up the ladder
Irish immigrant women became domestic workers, cleaning homes, and doing laundry. Exposed to the finer aspects of life, their expectations soared. They shared their aspirations with husbands. Over time, the Irish climbed occupational and social ladders.
1880 the Irish-born population in the US was 1.6 million; the American born Irish second generation totaled 3.2 million! These American born Irish occupied skilled positions: machinists, carpenters, bricklayers, etc. An Irish middle class emerged in major US cities.
For centuries the Irish lived as a conquered people. Subjugation gave rise to a sense of cohesion, an ability to organize to meet economic, educational, religious and social needs. Organizational skills made the Irish into a powerful political force. They were instrumental in labor unions, organizations were tough and tenable and the Irish immigrants were not above pursuing their purposes through violence.

politics
The Irish organized based on locality, building powerful political machines and creating social services. Long before they Americanized, politically appointed positions - politicians, firemen, and teachers - secured Ireland and Irish generation Irish would be better educated, wealthier, and more successful than were their forefathers.
Irish political machines dominated by city politics from New York to San Francisco. Irish-American political clout led to increased opportunities and made it possible for the Irish to get jobs. It dealt with immigration issues, even to get food or housing, fuel in emergencies.

19th century irish immigrants

nativism: the know-nothings
New York: Large "no-poverty riots" included an attack on the Roman Catholic Cathedral. Charles Dickens wrote "The Sign of the Cross" like in London, Irish and rotten homes not fit or safe.
Boston: Mobbs burned the Ursuline Convent School. Massachusetts passed legislation restricting a naturalized citizen's right to vote, mandating school children read the King James Bible. The Irish lived in squalor with an infant mortality rate over 30%.
Philadelphia: May and July 1844 - Rioting mobs gutted several Irish-American homes, a Catholic Seminary, and two Catholic churches.
Washington, D.C.: The Vatican donated a white marble stone inscribed with "HOME TO AMERICA" for the Washington Monument. On the night of March 5-6, 1854, Maryland stole the stone and dumped it into the Potomac River.

mary jones
was born in Cork, Ireland. When her husband and four children succumbed to yellow fever, she became an advocate for working immigrants. Unlike James Joyce, she was the "Milkmaid" who was an organizer for the United Irish League.

William E. Glavin, of County Cork, became New York City's first Irish Catholic mayor in 1880.

Alfred E. Smith, Democratic Party presidential nominee in 1928.

John L. Sullivan, boxing champion of the world.

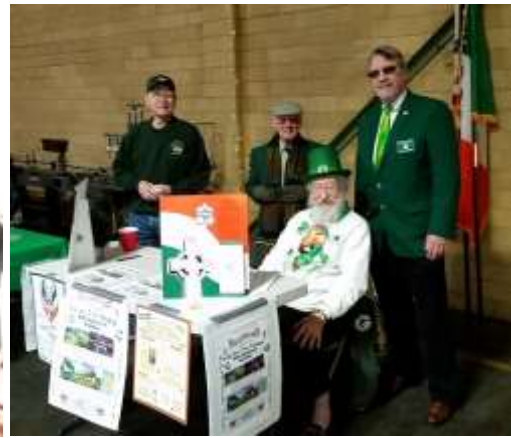
George Meany, President of the American Federation of Labor.

John P. Mullooly designed the submarine and commanded the U.S. Navy's first Diesel.

the ancient order of hibernians
"Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity"
The General House of Hibernians - West 3rd Street, 7-14 P.M., Hibernian Shrine of Columbus Council Home at 2724 Hampton Road 100 Main Avenue Erie, www.aoh.org/erie, www.aoh.org/erie



And then there's the Annual Jeff Fitzpatrick St Patrick Day parade and Irish Festival and Trip for Two to Ireland raffle ticket sales. On the 16th several of us sold at Brother Tom Evans' the Red Dragon. And then ... on the 17th many of us were selling at the Irish Festival.



“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.”



I encourage all to view this film: <https://www.netflix.com/title/80126507>. It charts the IRA hunger striker's life and imprisonment and is based on extracts from his prison diaries. “Sands' heroism—and that of his nine colleagues who also died on hunger strike— exposed the inherent illegitimacy of England’s position in any part of Ireland.”—Fr. Sean McManus



Our DIVISION Prayers



Jack Grey, Committee of the Sick Chairman. Prayer requests should be sent to Jack not later than the Wednesday prior to the business meeting (RHGrey@cox.net//540-373-4496).

Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased Hibernian Brothers.

Keep in your prayers our family members and friends:

- **Marie Larzelere**, FS Bob Fitzgerald's mother-in-law who died on Feb 7, 2018
- **Nolan Banks**, 3 year old son of our former FS Jeff Banks. Nolan has soft tissue sarcoma (RMS). Essentially, Nolan needs a miracle. **Pray for the intercession of Father Augustus Tolton**, a candidate for future canonization (for the actual prayer visit: <http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>)
- **Patricia Stephen**, mother of Rusty O'Brien's friend Ann-Marie Sharratt, diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia
- Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law, **Donna Maffeo** and his father Joseph Sr. care giver for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer);
- **John O'Brien** Hugh O'Brien's brother (recovering from stroke);
- **Amy Whittaker** (cancer)
- **Eileen and Dick Link** (Dick is Eileen's care giver),

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**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Bingo!** Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at St Michael the Archangel High School, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg. Bring the family!

**March 1-31: Irish-American Heritage Month** This year's theme is *Irish Societal Evolution 1840-1900*.

**March 20:** Division Meeting!

**March 30:** **Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Day** in the Commonwealth of Virginia

**April/May:** Date is TBD for the FFAI field trip to the new Guinness Brewery and Irish Railroad Museum in Baltimore

**June 2:** **VAAOH State Meeting** hosted by Father Edwin Kelley Division in Manassas

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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)

Green Jacket: Brothers procure their own green jackets. One source: 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. 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>

This newsletter is an unofficial publication providing information to members of the Gen Thomas F Meagher Division and others who may have interest in division activities. It is published by Bill Halpin and unless shown otherwise, he is the author of the contents.