



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

December 2019

Volume 7/No.12

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaíse daoibh!

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

Election Results are in!. The Division officers for the 2020-2021 term are:

President: Dave McLaughlin
Vice President Dennis O'Leary
Financial Secretary: Edwin Hanson
Treasurer: Jeff Everett
Recording Secretary: Bill Halpin
Standing Committee: Ed Hennessey
Marshal: Charles Gleason
Sentinel: James Lenahan

Please support our incoming officers with *Hibernian Zeal*. This means *attending the installation ceremony on 17 Dec* and later recruiting and retaining brothers; developing and maintaining significant Irish cultural projects and programs in our community; supporting local and national charities; and enjoying good times with brothers and their families.

President's Corner:

Brothers:

A very Merry Christmas to you and your family!

Please join me in congratulating our new Officers for the 2020-2021 term. Come show your support for the new board and the division by attending this month's business meeting on December 17.

As my time as President winds down, I want to thank each of you for your support over the last three years. It was an amazing time leading this great Division. I am really excited about the future of the Hibernians here locally and what we will provide to our community!

Please join me at the Fredericksburg City Dock for the commemoration of the Irish Brigade. As you all know, our Division is named in honor of General Thomas F Meagher, the commanding general of the brigade. Look for an email from me in the next week with more information!

As always, please pray for each other.

In Our Motto,
Shawn Lenahan



The **Irish Cultural Center of Virginia** was officially incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia on 30 October 2019. We have a Board of Directors, approved By-Laws, a website ([https:// irishcultureva.org](https://irishcultureva.org) (under construction)), and we expect our application for 501c(3) recognition to be approved within days. Although technically separate from the Virginia AOH, the relationship is apparent as seven AOH/LAOH members from various divisions are on the Board. The Corporation is designed to maintain a center for the Irish and greater Celtic community of Virginia. It will promote educational, benevolent and social pursuits, establish and maintain places for social interaction and research. It will foster Irish heritage, cultural and educational endeavors in language, music, dance, visual arts and theater, and hopefully sponsor Gaelic games. Through fund-raising activities the foundation will rent and/or purchase facilities to accomplish the stated objectives while embracing the principles of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. When IRS 501c(3) recognition is received, the Corporation will be seeking donations (monetary and/or real estate) to help achieve our goals. One method of donating if you're 70½ or older, unable to itemize deductions, and want to reduce taxable

income the Tax Free IRA Rollover is the way to do it. This is the perfect charitable gift, To do this is it **extremely important that the donation is handled by the custodian/manager of your IRA prior to taking the RMD!**



“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.”

Check this out! <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-northern-ireland-50434027/autumn-unveils-irish-forester-s-celtic-cross>

The Georgia Healys by Ray Cavanaugh, Contributor to Irish America, first printed June / July 2017
Edited here for space considerations

In antebellum Georgia, the Healy children, born legal slaves to an Irish immigrant father and his black common-law wife, had to be smuggled out of the state to avoid being sold into slavery. Several would go on to become some of the first mixed-race high-ranking members of the Catholic Church.

Nineteenth century Georgia saw a remarkable phenomenon called the Healy family. The father was an Irish immigrant turned wealthy Georgia landowner. The mother had been his mixed-race slave. Their common-law union produced two nuns and three priests. Among them were: the first American priest and bishop of black descent, the first American Jesuit and Ph.D. of black descent, and the nation’s first Mother Superior of black descent.

Their father, Michael Morris Healy, was in Roscommon. He left Ireland in 1815 and, settled in rural Jones County, Georgia. Through persistence, good fortune, and the labor of slaves, he became wealthy. He entered into an unofficial marriage with one of his slaves, Eliza Clark. Likely he

genuinely loved her and enjoyed an ongoing, committed, interracial relationship. As noble as Healy's affection may have been, the 10 children of this union were legally born slaves.

So, the Irishman knew that if his biracial children were going to succeed in life, he had to get them out of the 1830s South. The older children attended a Quaker school in Flushing, New York. Several years later, four of the Healy brothers enrolled at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, and two Healy sisters were attending schools in New York City. The Healy children were good, eager students, finishing either at or near the top of their class.

In January 1849 the Healys planned to relocate the whole family to the North. But this move never took place. Eliza Clark Healy died on May 19, 1850. Barely three months later, her heartbroken widower, Michael followed her into the grave at age 53.

With both parents gone, one of the elder Healy sons, Hugh, returned to Georgia – at great personal risk to himself (for he was technically a fugitive slave) – to rescue his younger siblings, who were especially vulnerable as both orphans and slaves. The rescue mission was a success, and all the Healys made it out of Georgia.

After graduating first in his class at Holy Cross, James Augustine Healy, the eldest son, entered a seminary in Montreal. He then relocated to Paris, where he was ordained in 1854. Returning to Boston, he served as a priest there for two decades and tirelessly worked with the city's growing population of poor immigrants, most of them Irish. He was consecrated as the Bishop of the Diocese of Portland, Maine, in 1875. During his tenure as bishop, his diocese added more than 60 parishes and 18 schools and convents.

Upon graduating from Holy Cross, Patrick Francis Healy entered a Jesuit order. While in Europe, he earned a Ph.D. and was ordained to the priesthood in 1866. Returning to the U.S., he taught philosophy at Georgetown University, before becoming the school's 29th president. His accomplishments for Georgetown were such that, according to BlackPast.org, he is often referred to as the school's "second founder."

After she was orphaned at age four, Eliza Dunamore Healy lived with her older brother, Hugh, in New York City. On reaching adulthood, she entered a convent in Montreal. After decades teaching at several Canadian schools, she was appointed Mother Superior of a convent in St. Albans, Vermont. She ended her days at the College of Notre Dame on Staten Island, New York, where she died in 1918.



Left to Right: James, Patrick, Michael and Alexander Healy.

The only surviving Healy photographs are of four sons. Alexander, who did not enter the religious life became the first officer of black descent in the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, the predecessor to the U.S. Coast Guard.



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:

- **Nolan Banks**, son of former FS Jeff Banks. Nolan is recovering from soft tissue sarcoma (RMS). *Pray for the intercession of Father Augustus Tolton*, a candidate for canonization (the prayer: <http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>)
- **John Tracy**, COPD
- **Joe Daley**, COPD
- **John Hogan**, vascular irregularities
- **Bill Phillips**, *severe* arthritis
- **Gene McKenna** awaiting by-pass surgery
- **Brian Kiernan**, VAAOH Vice President, lymphedemic edema
- **Angelique Bolling**, Edwin Hanson's sister in law - brain tumors
- **Jake Ruppert's** mother, cancer -- recovering from surgery
- **John O'Brien** Hugh O'Brien's brother-- recovering from stroke
- **Jerry O'Brien**, Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- **Ruth Pettinger**, Shawn Lenahan's aunt (a Vietnam Vet) diagnosed with inoperable brain tumor.
- **Donna Maffeo**, Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law and his father Joseph Sr. care giver for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer)
- **Patricia Stephen**, mother of Rusty O'Brien's friend Ann-Marie Sharratt -- acute myeloid leukemia
- **Amy Whittaker** – cancer



Upcoming Events



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!

December 15: Battel of Fredericksburg ceremonies, wreath presentation at the City Dock

December 17: Division Meeting – Installation of 2020-2021 officers

December 25: The day we all wait for – the Birth of our savior, Jesus Christ

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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](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 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 waistline).

Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom produces a 7.5-foot sash; satisfaction guaranteed. Send a personal check for \$60. Turnaround time is about 10 days. The sash will be sent to you

via Fed Ex or UPS -- signature required. Her address: Patricia Ankrom, 7400 Airport Dr., Quinton, Va. 23141-2400. Email [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)

- 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.**

# The Georgia Healys

by Ray Cavanaugh, Contributor to Irish America, first printed June / July 2017 *[Edited here for space considerations](#)*

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So, the Irishman knew that if his biracial children were going to succeed in life, he had to get them out of the 1830s South. The older children attended a Quaker school in Flushing, New York. Several years later, four of the Healy brothers enrolled at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, and two Healy sisters were attending schools in New York City. The Healy children were good, eager students, finishing either at or near the top of their class.

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The only surviving Healy photographs are of four sons. Their complexions range significantly: Patrick Francis Healy, S.J., looks like an Irish Jesuit. However, Alexander Sherwood Healy – who served as a priest in Boston and well might have been consecrated as a bishop had he not died at age 39 – has visible mixed-race ancestry. And of indeterminable ethnic appearance is Michael Augustine Healy, the most successful of the children who did not enter the religious life; he became the first officer of black descent in the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, the predecessor to the U.S. Coast Guard.



Left to Right: James, Patrick, Michael and Alexander, Healy.

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