



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

March 2020

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IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxQCaqJ20as>

This year we're celebrating the eight Irish signers of the Declaration of Independence. We can use some help at Howell Branch (10, 11,12) and Salem Church Branch (17, 18, 19). The usual suspects Peter Carroll, Bill Halpin, John Hogan and Dan Mulhern volunteered at the main library (CRRL) on 3,4,5 March



Pete, Dan and Bill



John Hogan discussing the Carrolls

President's Corner

My Brothers,

March – first day of spring (the 19th), middle of Lent and the feast day of our patron saint. Indeed, **Irish Heritage Month** is a very important and busy time for the Irish and, especially, the Hibernians! This month there are parades, festivities, masses and other

events. I welcome and strongly encourage each of you to participate in one or more of these activities:

On 7 March is the annual Alexandria Parade and on 9 March is the annual Gaelic Mass at St Thomas More Cathedral, Arlington at 7:30PM.

Join your brothers to display our Hibernian pride as we celebrate Saint Patrick:

14 March Celebration at the Red Dragon Brewery

17 March Division Mass at St Patrick Church at 6:30PM

17 March Festival at the Maltese Brewing Company

21 March Downtown Block Party at Spencer Devon Brewing

You've probably already blown your Lenten sacrifice or resolution, so make up for it by doing something *positive* – **commit to at least one of these activities**. This is the time for you to embrace our motto of *Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity!*

Dave



A new book to consider

<https://www.irishcentral.com/culture/lincoln-irish-untold-story-niall-odowd>

Lincoln and the Irish

The untold story of how the Irish helped Lincoln save the Union



Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show

June 18th - June 21st

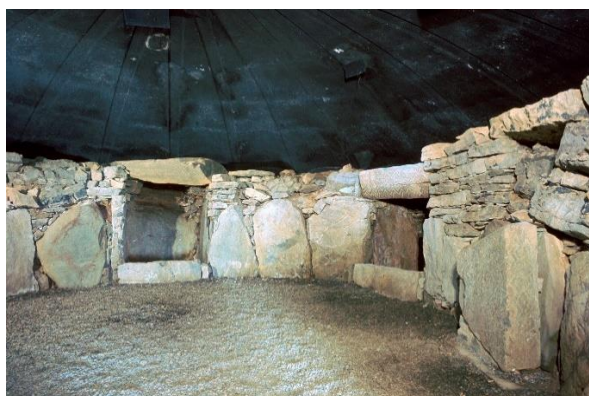
Filene Center in Vienna, VA

Riverdance as you've never seen it before! A powerful and stirring reinvention of this beloved favorite, celebrated globally for its Grammy Award-winning score and the thrilling energy and passion of its Irish and international dance. Featuring a mesmerizing soundtrack and completely reimagined and spectacular lighting, projection, stage, and costume designs! Immerse yourself in the extraordinary power and grace of its music and dance—beloved by fans of all ages. For tickets and more information, please click [here](#).



“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

Irish prehistory



Fourknocks older than Stonehenge © Getty Images

Older than Stonehenge and the Pyramids, Fourknocks in Co. Meath is home to some of the most important prehistoric monuments in the world. In addition to Newgrange, Fourknocks is worth visiting. Built around 3000 BC, it has a larger chamber than Newgrange, a shorter passage, features engraved stones, and what is thought to be one of the first depictions of the human face found in prehistoric Irish art. To this see this Neolithic burial mound visitors must obtain a key from the White family, who live a mile away -- before 6pm.



St. Patrick Day On Montserrat

By Bridget English, Contributor, Irish America [April / May 2006](#) (critically edited for [Dispatches](#))

An island in the Caribbean is probably the last thing people think of at mention of the words “Ireland” or “St. Patrick Day.” The small island of Montserrat is one of two place in the world that recognizes **St. Patrick Day as a national holiday**. The lush tropical island celebrates the day with a festival from March 11-18 with food, costumes, arts and crafts, an outdoor theater production and even a calypso competition.

Montserrat, known as the “**Emerald Isle of the Caribbean**” has a significant population claiming Irish heritage. The reason for the large concentration of Irish immigrants can be traced to the 17th century when the island was a haven for Irish Catholics *who had served out their time as indentured servants in the British West Indies and were fleeing anti-Catholic sentiment on St. Kitts and Nevis Islands*. Most inhabitants of Montserrat are descendants of marriages between these Irish and African slaves.

(Editor’s Note: Terms like “indentured servants” is a lie used to make the English feel better. The truth is by the mid-1600s, the Irish were the main slaves sold to Antigua, Montserrat, and Brazil. At that time, 70% of the total population of Montserrat were Irish slaves.)

The holiday commemorates a slave uprising that took place on St. Patrick Day in 1768. The day was chosen because landowners would be distracted by the celebrations. Though the uprising was unsuccessful – slavery wasn’t abolished on the island until 1834 – it struck a blow for freedom and is celebrated with great pride.



The flag of Montserrat features a woman in a green dress carrying a harp and cross, symbols of the Irish influence on the island.

(Photo: Ronnie K / Pixabay)

St Patrick Day became a national holiday in 1985. The town of Little Bay is building a slave village as part of their festivities. The village will feature slave huts and a slave

feast of goat water, stewed yard fowl and brush tea. The inhabitants also follow more mainstream ways of celebrating, such as church services and local bars decorated in green and shamrocks serving creamy pints of Guinness.

Aside from their extravagant St. Patrick Day celebration, other touches of Irish can be seen in Montserrat inhabitants. Local speech is softly laced with Irish brogue, and many families boast Irish surnames. Irish folklore is prevalent, and the flag and official seal feature a harp and female figure derived from Irish heraldry. The island's passport stamp is a shamrock, and Irish place names such as Galway Bay abound. Even the national dish, Goat Water, a stew made of mutton spiced with cloves and rum, has Irish origin. ♦

On the next page are some Genealogical Resources

Websites

Ancestry.com: Irish Records

<www.ancestry.com/irish>

AskAboutIreland: Griffith's Valuation

<www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml>

Belfast Newsletter Index, 1737–1800

<www.ucl.ac.uk/bnl/>

Cyndi's List: Ireland and Northern Ireland

<www.cyndislist.com/ireland.htm>

Emerald Ancestors

<www.emeraldancestors.com>

Eneclann

<www.eneclann.ie>

FamilySearch Wiki: Ireland

<www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_Genealogy>

Fianna Guide to Irish Genealogy

<rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fianna>

Findmypast Ireland

<www.findmypast.ie>

GENUKI: Ireland

<www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl>

Griffith's Valuation, 1848–1864

<www.failteromhat.com/griffiths.php>

Immigrants at Grosse Île Quarantine Station, 1832–1937

<www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/immigrants-grosse-ile-1832-1937/Pages/immigrants-grosse-ile.aspx>

Information Wanted: A Database of Advertisements for Irish Immigrants Published in the Boston Pilot

<dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/UNJU3N>

Ireland Old News

<www.irelandoldnews.com>

The Ireland Story

<www.wesleyjohnston.com/users/ireland>

Ireland's History in Maps

<rootsweb.ancestry.com/~irlkik/ihm>

Irish Genealogy

<www.irishgenealogy.ie>

Irish Genealogy News

<www.irishgenealogynews.com>

Irish History Links

<www.irishhistorylinks.net>

Irish Times Digital Archive

<www.irishtimes.com/archive>

National Archives and Records Administration: Irish Famine Immigrants Search

<aad.archives.gov/aad/fielded-search.jsp?dt=180&>

National Archives of Ireland: 1901 and 1911 censuses

<www.census.nationalarchives.ie>

RootsIreland.ie

<www.rootsireland.ie>

Ulster Historical Foundation

<www.ancestryireland.com>

What's What in Irish Genealogy

<indigo.ie/~gorry>

Books

Army Records for Family Historians

by Simon Fowler and William Spencer (Public Records Office)

Directory of Irish Archives, 3rd edition,

edited by S. Helferty and R. Refaüssé (Irish Academic Press)

The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide

by Claire Santry (Family Tree Books)

Finding Your Irish Ancestors:

A Beginner's Guide by David S. Ouimette (Ancestry)

Genealogy at a Glance: Irish Genealogy

Research by Brian Mitchell (Genealogical Publishing Co.)

The Great Famine and the Irish Diaspora

in America edited by Arthur Gribben and Ruth-Ann Harris (University of Massachusetts Press)

A Guide to Irish Parish Registers

by Brian Mitchell (Genealogical Publishing Co.)

The Irish in America: A Guide to the Literature and the Manuscript Collections

by Patrick J. Blessing (Catholic University of America Press)

Irish Christian Names: An A-Z of

First Names by Ronan Coghlan (Johnston and Bacon)

Irish Church Records edited by James G. Ryan (Irish Books & Medi)

The Irish Diaspora: A Primer by Donald Harman Akenson (P.D. Meany Publishers)

In Search of Your British & Irish Roots by Angus Baxter (Genealogical Publishing Co.)

Varieties and Synonyms of Surnames and Christian Names in Ireland by Robert E. Matheson (Genealogical Publishing Co.)

Sources for Irish Genealogy in the Library of the Society of Genealogists, 2nd edition, by Anthony J. Camp (Society of Genealogists)

A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland by Brian Mitchell (Genealogical Publishing Co.)

The Surnames of Ireland, 6th edition by Edward MacLysaght (Irish Academic Press)

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors,

5th edition by John Grenham (Genealogical Publishing Co.)

Organization and Archives

The Irish Ancestral Research Association <www.tiara.ie>

Irish Genealogical Society International <www.irishgenealogical.org>

General Register Office (Republic of Ireland) <www.groireland.ie>

General Register Office of Northern Ireland <www.nidirect.gov.uk/general-register-office-for-northern-ireland>

National Archives of Ireland <www.nationalarchives.ie>

National Library of Ireland <www.nli.ie>

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland <www.proni.gov.uk>

Registry of Deeds <www.prai.ie>

Representative Church Body Library <www.ireland.anglican.org/about/about-us>



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!

1-31 March: Irish American Heritage Month

Libraries: The 2020 theme is Irish signers of the Declaration of Independence (*Need volunteers!*)

- ✓ **10- 12 March:** (2-6PM) Howell Branch Library (off Rt 17 near Geico)
- ✓ **17-19 March:** (12-6PM Salem Church Branch Library (Note: Muggivan School is put on an Irish Dance exhibition on 18 or 19 March)

7 March: Alexandria Parade A great event; all Meagher Division brothers are encouraged to march behind our division banner. Carpool info 202-213-5625

9 March: The **42d Annual Gaelic Mass** (42d annual?) will be celebrated at St Thomas More Cathedral, Arlington at 7:30PM. This Mass is celebrated in the Irish language. Entertainment in the parish hall follows Mass (we generally carpool to this for info 202-213-5625)

14 March: CANCELLED 18th Annual Jeff Fitzpatrick Memorial St. Patrick's Day Parade – unilaterally and without consultation cancelled by the Adventure Brewery. The Bowman Distillery followed suit and the Irish Festival was cancelled as well.

Possible— waiting for details: Trip for Two to Ireland raffle kick-off sites:

- ✓ 14 March: Red Dragon Brewery, (Princess Anne Street)
- ✓ 17 March: Maltese Brewing Company (Rt 17, near F-Burg Country Club)
- ✓ 21 March: Spencer Devon Brewing, (George Street)

17 March: The **Division Mass** at St Patrick Church 6:30PM. Fellowship will follow at a nearby establishment.

24 March: Division meeting rescheduled; we'll all be at Mass on the 17th

28 March: First quarterly Virginia [AOH State Meeting](#) hosted by Col Fitzgerald Division. Meeting starts at 9:30AM at the Knights of Columbus house, 5115 Little Falls Road, Arlington.

30 March: “[Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Day](#)” in Virginia

4 May: [Seventh Shamrock Charity Golf Classic](#) at Meadows Farms Golf Course. (AM shotgun start)



Our DIVISION Prayers



Jack Grey chairs the Division Committee of the Sick: 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:

- **John Tracy**, COPD
- **John Hogan**, Pulmonary Fibrosis
- **Joe Daley**, COPD
- **Bill Phillips**, severe arthritis
- **Gene McKenna** recovering from double 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
- **Grafton Simpson** Bob Fitzgerald’s 92 year old uncle - suffered a broken hip.
- **Ruth Pettinger**, Shawn Lenahan’s aunt (Vietnam Vet) 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
- **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>)
- **Amy Whittaker** – cancer



General Meagher Division Attire

In a *perfect world* every brother would have these articles of clothing:

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.

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:

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 waistline).

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

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.