



## GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

August 2021

Volume 9/No. 08

**President:** Dave McLaughlin; **Chaplain:** Vacant; **Vice President:** Dennis O'Leary; **Financial Secretary** Edwin Hanson; **Treasurer:** Jeff Everett; **Recording Secretary:** Bill Halpin; **Standing Committee:** Vacant; **Marshal:** Chuck Gleason; **Sentinel:** James Lenahan; **Webmaster:** John McGrogan; **Organizer:** Vacant; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin ([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net))

**Pray to Mary Immaculate Patroness of the United States** for the strength of mind and heart to defend our religious freedoms, for national moral guidance, and that our country will always be "one nation under God". This is critically important in this time of contrary moral agendas and the threats from patently evil elements.



### President's Corner:

My Brothers,

I pray that this finds each of you, your families and friends healthy and feeling blessed.

Because there is little organized AOH activity late in the summer, you should be able to concentrate on *your* individual efforts to support our ongoing and essential fundraising events:

The sale of Trip for Two to Ireland raffle tickets. Our parish liaisons have scheduled ticket sales after Masses again this month at *your* parish church. They need your help. You go to Mass anyway on Saturday evening or Sunday. Is there any reason you can't agree to stand outside for a mere twenty minutes after Mass with a couple of your Hibernian brothers and help with the raffle

ticket sales? Additionally, Brother Shawn has sent you tickets to buy for your family or sell to friends, neighbors and acquaintances.

When you read this it will be less than six weeks to our eighth annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Golfer or not, you have a role in getting people to play in the event and/or be a contributing sponsor. It really just takes *you brothers* to ask the people you and your family already know -- like the businesses that you use (where you get your car serviced, restaurants you frequent, your doctors, etc.) to convince them to support our worthy charitable efforts. Don't forget friends and neighbors.

Also, if you know any golfers, tell them about the golf outing and ask them to sign up to play. Again, you don't have to be a golfer to help get players.

If these two efforts are not successful, we will not have the funds to support our annual charitable organizations and activities. Each of you should commit to them.

Slainte, and In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Dave



## **The Great Wagon Road**

Writing on this topic resulted from email exchanges between Bob Fitzgerald and me. Bob's family dates from this period and region. In February 2021 the Free Lance Star published my article on Irish influences in U.S. history as a prelude to Irish American Heritage Month. I wrote about the origins of "Ulster Irish" and their reasons for immigration and how they founded a settlement named Donegal near Philadelphia. In furthering the "Ulster Irish" saga, Bob introduced me to the Great Wagon Road. I've knitted this piece together from several articles on the subject found on the Internet.

The Great Wagon Road became a primary route for the early settlers in the Southern United States, especially the Appalachian backcountry. Although a wide variety of settlers traveled southward on the road, two dominant cultures emerged: German and Irish. The Germans from the Rhine River valley found rich farmland in Pennsylvania and worked it to become stable and prosperous. They became known as the Pennsylvania Deutsch (corrupted to “Dutch”).

The Ulster Irish were more restless. These clannish immigrants moved further away from Philly and formed what became known as the Appalachian Culture. These Ulster Irish became the dominant culture of the Appalachians from Pennsylvania to Georgia, not only because of their numbers, but because of their independent spirit, adventurous personalities and restless nature. They became the frontiersmen.

The Great Wagon Road passed through southeastern Pennsylvania turning southwest across the Potomac River and into the Shenandoah Valley. From there they traveled along what became known as the Indian Road, an ancient Indian trail not well suited from wagon traffic. In 1744 these colonists were granted the right to settle along the Indian Road. In time the Great Wagon Road was improved and the Ulster Irish continued south through the Appalachian Valley from Pennsylvania to North Carolina, Tennessee and to Georgia.

As the Ulster Irish moved southward they brought their culture, art, and music with them. They brought the fiddle needed to play the music for Irish jigs and reels. (and today American bluegrass). Same thing with the smallest version of the accordion, the concertina also known as the "squeezebox". It too is used for traditional Irish dance tunes. And then there's clogging which developed from Irish step dancing called Sean-nós dance, an older style of traditional solo Irish dance.

Another bit of trivia is the origin of the term “Hill Billy”. As noted, Ulster Irish who settled in Appalachia brought traditional music with them and many of their songs referred to William of Orange. In the north of Ireland supporters of King William were often referred to as “Billy Boys” and in the North American Appalachian piedmont the nickname soon morphed into “hillbilly”.

Attached at this link is a short video of interest

[The Heartland Series - Of Orange and Green \(The Scots-Irish\)](#)





*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. There can be neither truce nor compromise.*

**As Hibernians we're encouraged to write our Senators and Representatives urging law makers to push for appointment of a Special Envoy to the north of Ireland.**

The attached article was found in Irish America Magazine. It illustrates the importance of having a strong U.S. voice in the north of Ireland.

I have found that Senator Tim Kaine's office responds to Hibernian petitions to urge the president to appoint a special envoy. Writing Senator Kaine and your Congressional Representative in the House is not a "once and done" deal. We all need to continuously write to reinforce our believe that this appointment received high priority .

## **New Files Reveal Secret British Battle to Defeat Irish America**

*Irish America* 17 July 2021, by Niall O'Dowd, Publisher (edited for space considerations)

*Newly released files in Northern Ireland show the underground war the British waged to stop the Gerry Adams U.S. visa in 1994 and prevent appointment of a special U.S. envoy to the North. The documents make clear how hard they tried to prevent one from being appointed.*

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland released documents revealing the British thinking and actions in 1993 and 1994, the critical years when the IRA ceasefire, the Adams visa, the MacBride Principles and appointment of Mitchell as special envoy were all being hotly contested.

The files reveal a hardline colonial mindset to keep America out of the Irish issue at all costs. The battle against the Adams visa was presented in almost apocalyptic terms as similar to the split between the US and Britain on the Suez Canal issue in 1956. The British seemed completely unaware of how shaky their “special relationship” with the US had become under President Bill Clinton.

Adams was described as “Goebbels” by a clearly overwrought ambassador who had been outfoxed by the Irish lobby. The British realized too late that the special relationship would not stop a determined President Bill Clinton. The fact that Nancy Soderberg was deputy national security advisor on his staff was highly significant. She had handled the Irish issue for Senator Ted Kennedy and knew it inside out. She kept Clinton involved. Other players were former Congressman Bruce Morrison (D-CT), business leaders Bill Flynn, Tom Moran, Irish American Labor Coalition leader Joe Jamison and philanthropist Chuck Feeney.

The British argued that allowing Adams into America would be seen as talking to terrorists. The reality was that the British were secretly talking to the IRA at the time, a fact that never seems to bother them in their duplicity.

The documents show they depended on then U.S. Ambassador to the U.K. Raymond Seitz, who carried no weight in the Clinton White House where he was considered to have gone native. Seitz swore that Adams would never make it to the U.S. Similar to Seitz, U.S. Consul General in Belfast Val Martinez was in lockstep with the British. The groupthink between the British Embassy and the U.S. State Department is striking.

The British sought to block the appointment of a U.S. envoy on the

grounds that doing so would allow an outside country to have influence in the North and would upset the delicate balance in the meandering talks that were taking place. They came up with two strategies, one more ridiculous than the other.

House Speaker Tom Foley, the biggest Anglophile in Congress, put forward a scheme where he would be the envoy. He would visit Ireland north and south and report back that all looked well. The Irish government politely declined that notion. The Irish diplomatic corps in Washington, men like Brendan Scannell and Ambassador Sean O Huiginn, were a step ahead of their British counterparts.

The second British plan included Frank Costello, a well-known Irish activist, press secretary to Boston Mayor Ray Flynn and later a senior staffer with Congressman Joe Kennedy. He kept the British apprised about what was going on, especially in relation to the MacBride Principles and a special envoy.

Costello also proposed to himself to be the envoy, attached to the U.S. Consulate in Belfast where he would work on economic development. Costello was a disruptive character in Irish America at the time and a frequent visitor at the British Consulate in Boston. The memos show he was sending Joe Kennedy's planned

statements and resolutions on a special envoy to the British ahead of time.

Irish-born Leonard Doyle, the New York correspondent for the London Independent, was supplying information from New York and was keeping an eye on engaged Irish-Americans for his British friends.

In the end, despite the spying and lying Adams got his visa, Mitchell became the envoy and the IRA ceasefire happened followed by the Good Friday Agreement. The British had badly underestimated the Irish American lobby and they paid the price. ♦

*Niall O'Dowd is the co-founder of Irish America magazine as well as the founder of the Irish Voice Newspaper and Irishcentral.com. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by University College Dublin for his work on the Irish peace process which was a subject of a book "Daring Diplomacy" and a PBS Special "An Irish Voice." He is also an adjunct professor at Columbia University journalism school.*

*Niall's most recent book "A New Ireland: How Europe's Most Conservative Country Became its Most Liberal" was published in March 2020 and is available from [Skyhorse Publishing](#).*



*Upcoming Division Events* 

**Government restrictions are being revisited – stay tuned!**

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

***August 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>: T4T ticket sales*** at St Patrick Parish – contact Bob Fitzgerald

***August 15<sup>th</sup>: T4T ticket sales*** at St Mary Parish – contact Chuck Gleason

***August 17<sup>th</sup>: Division meeting Live and in Person!***

***August 20-22: Virginia AOH State Convention in Richmond. Major Degree exemplification on 22d.***

***September 12<sup>th</sup>: T4T ticket sales*** at both St. Patrick Parish (contact Bob Fitzgerald) ***and*** St. Mary Parish (contact Chuck Gleason)

***September 13<sup>th</sup>: Shamrock Charity Golf Classic @ Lake of the Woods Country Club***

***September 18<sup>th</sup>: Halfway to St Patrick Day/T4T drawing @ Colonel Tavern 11:30AM-5PM***



*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@yahoo.com](mailto:RHGrey@yahoo.com)//540-373-4496).***

***Keep in your prayers our brothers, family members and friends:***

- **John Hogan:** pulmonary fibrosis and treatment for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma completed
- **Peter Carroll:** pancreatic cancer, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Jack Grey:** diagnosed with a protein related blood disorder

- **Joe Daley:** COPD
- **Lois Hanson:** FS Edwin Hanson's 91 year old mother - terminal cancer.
- **Jack Grey, Jr.:** Jack Grey's son – cancer
- **Russell McLaughlin:** Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia (FTD)
- **Loretta Larzelere:** Bob Fitzgerald's sister-in-law suffering seizures and Alzheimer's
- **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 (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)
- **Brian Kiernan:** VAAOH Vice President, lymphedemic edema
- **Nolan Banks:** Former FS Jeff Banks' son (chemo-compromised immune system) *Pray for the intercession of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton:* <http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>)

*Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased Hibernian Brothers and family members*

- **Chris Link:** recently deceased brother of PDP Andy Link



## **General Meagher Division Attire**

*Every brother should 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 Masses, funerals, dinners, parades, State and National conventions, 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](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.

A second source recommended by Major Dooley Division:

<https://www.uniformsinstock.com/collections/blazers/products/executive-apparel-winston-mens-kelly-green-blazer>

*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; 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 "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.**

