

Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American

GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

April 2022

Volume 10/No 4

President: Bob Fitzgerald; **Chaplain:** Deacon Aaron Zaccagnino; **Vice President:** Shawn Lenahan; **Recording Secretary:** Bill Halpin; **Financial Secretary:** Jeff Everett; **Treasurer:** Dave McLaughlin; **Standing Committee:** Bobby Murphy; **Marshal:** Chuck Gleason; **Sentinel:** Jack Kelly; **Webmaster:** Vacant; **Organizer:** Vacant; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin (billhalpin@irshcultureva.org)

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.

Tuesday, June 7th

Hibernian Night Out:

The Fredericksburg Nationals versus the Lynchburg Hillcats

Start time 7:05PM

Families Invited and welcome! (50 tickets available, first come first serve)

Come join us in fellowship!

\$2 Tacos and Churros!

\$5 Parking



This is a Division *family outing*. The Division has already acquired a bloc of 50 reserved seat tickets and will give them to brothers in good standing (at no cost) on a first come first served basis. This is a green display day - polos, sweatshirts, jackets, (whatever). Tickets not distributed by May 17th will be donated to a charity to be named later. (“Good Standing” means you’ve already paid your 2022 dues

President's Message

Brother Hibernians, even though the calendar says that Spring is here, Winter is not letting go without a fight. Meanwhile, the Division is quickly moving forward to execute our plans for the two primary fundraising events for the year - the Ninth Annual Shamrock Classic Charity Classic golf tournament and the Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle. If you play golf or know someone who



9th Annual
Shamrock Charity Golf

does, be sure to share this flyer . Even if you don't play golf, we will still need Brothers to help out getting the players onto the course. Please check your calendars and notify Dave McLaughlin if you can help out that morning. The golf tournament is on Monday, 09 May.

The second fundraiser is the annual trip raffle which will culminate with the winning ticket being pulled out at the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day celebration in September. All Brothers will be receiving a packet of tickets to sell (or purchase themselves) along with their membership card this year. We are also working to have at least two raffle sales opportunities at each of the four parishes this year so keep an eye on your church bulletins for upcoming sales dates. Please stop by and help out before and after whatever Mass you usually attend.

We are also going to sponsor a special family event at the FredNats Stadium so see the flyer included in this newsletter and upcoming emails to sign up for a chance for free tickets to a local baseball game for you and your family.

If you have not yet had a chance to get your Shamrock and Tower Degrees, there will be opportunities for both in May. The Tower Degree exemplification will be offered at the State Quarterly meeting on 07 May in Leesburg and the Shamrock Degree ceremony will be conducted at our business meeting on 17 May. Please add these two dates to your calendar so you can get both Degrees in a timely manner.

Lastly, we have gotten some more equipment to make our meetings more accessible via the Internet to those of you who cannot attend the monthly business meetings in person, I hope to see you in person or via the Internet at our April meeting on Tuesday, 19 April.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

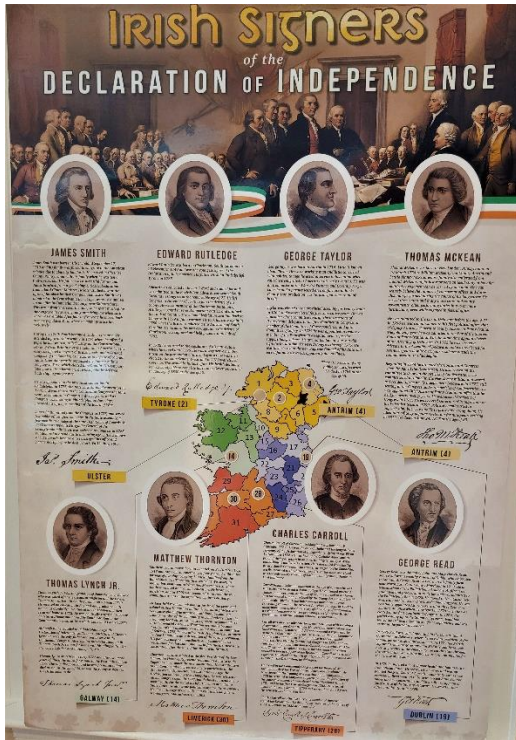
Bob Fitzgerald
Meagher Division President



March was Irish American Heritage Month!

This year we were “in-person” at the three area libraries for three days each on three consecutive weeks. Week one (2,3,4 March) found Bill Temple, Dan Mulhern and Bill Halpin at the Main (CRRL) Branch; during week two (8,9,10 March) Dave McLaughlin and Bill Halpin manned the

display at the Howell Branch; and during week three (15,16,17 March) Jim O'Donnell, Dick Dowd, Jack Kelly and Bill Halpin were on duty at the Salem Church Branch.



At each location we featured our 2022 theme "Irish Signers of the Declaration of Independence" and displayed Governor Youngkin's Proclamation on IAHM, a poster featuring Col John Fitzgerald, and numerous informational hand-outs. On March 3d and again on March 17th the Muggivan School of Irish Dance performed to an appreciative audience. A conservative estimate of the number of people who visited our display during the nine days would be 110, with Salem Church by far the most active. Also, three applications for AOH membership were provided upon request.



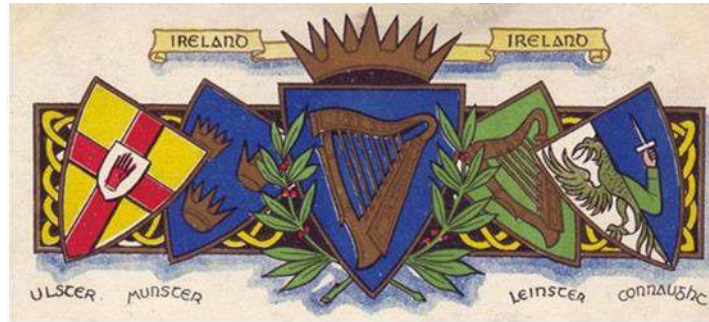
The 2022 IAHM display



Muggivan at CRRL



and at Salem Church



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.

IRISH NATIONAL ARCHIVES limited edition commemorative book and exhibition of records from the 1921 Treaty

The book is titled *The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives*
The exhibition is available online at www.nationalarchives.ie

The exhibition marks the centenary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty on 6 December 1921. The book will contribute further understanding and appreciation of the difficult decisions made at that historic time. Further, the book explores the negotiation and signing of the Treaty by the Irish delegation and their day-to-day experiences as the negotiations moved to conclusion.



If you've watched Peaky Blinders ... (or heard about traveler swindles)

Study reveals origins of Ireland's Travellers

Adapted from an *Irish Post* article by Aiden Lonergan, 13 Feb 2017

A study of Irish Traveller genetics shows the group has no connection to Roma gypsies. It confirmed that Travellers are of Irish ancestral origin and do not have a significant connection to the Roma population. It also confirmed that Travellers split from the settled Irish population far earlier than previously thought. Researchers estimate a point of separation during the mid-1600s. DNA analysis tracks the beginnings of the Traveller community to between eight and 14 generations ago – to the period when Oliver Cromwell was committing acts of genocidal violence against the Irish. Traveller origins might date to the late 1500s when the Plantation of Ulster began a nomadic population of refugees.

The findings support calls for Irish Travellers to be granted ethnic status as genetically they are different from settled Irish populations. Travellers are very definitely distinct from the Irish. An estimated 30,000 people living in Ireland are members of the Travelling community.

By The Way:

More than 10,000 (some estimate up to 40,000) people in the U.S.A. are Traveller descendants. Because the U.S. census does not recognise them (or the Irish in general) as an ethnic group there are no precise numbers.

Research shows U.S. Irish Travellers are divided into groups based on historical residence:

- Georgia Travellers - about 800 families
- Texas Travellers - about 50 families
- Mississippi Travellers - about 300 families
- South Carolina - about 2500 families – by far the most affluent

Other communities exist in Ohio, Texas, and Alabama

U.S. Irish Travellers speak English and *Shelta* (“a secret jargon of the tinkers”) a form of Cant (“the secret language of thieves”). Their Cant is similar to that spoken in Ireland but differs as the language has transformed into a type of pidgin English. They typically work in asphaltting, spray-painting, laying linoleum, or as itinerant workers to earn their living.



And in the “for what it’s worth” category (*Halpin’s Observations On World Events*)

Cromwell was “Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland” in 1649. He believed the Irish to be dangerous and morally reprehensible Catholics and invaded Ireland with 12,000 soldiers in a mix of infantry, cavalry and artillery. In Drogheda he slaughtered more than 30,000 Irish men, women and children. Cromwell wrote: “I do not think thirty ... escaped with their lives. Those that did are ... in Barbados.” Cromwell moved to Wexford site of another massacre. Next was Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. By 1651 Leinster, Munster and Ulster were in English hands. Connacht held out until mid-1652. During Cromwell’s *Reign of Terror*, cities were destroyed, more than 300,000 Irish were killed and another 150,000, including children, were sold as slaves to English plantations in the Americas. The rest is history.

Hitler believed the Sudetenland should be German territory because a majority of its population were ‘ethnically’ German. Absorbing this area of Czechoslovakia would simply be returning these people to their “home” country. European nations (less Czechoslovakia) agreed (Munich Pact) and the Sudetenland was ceded to Germany (1938). Also in 1938 the German Army marched into Austria with little to no opposition from the “ethnic German” population or any foreign powers. In 1939 Germany invaded the Czech provinces of Bohemia and Moravia. These provinces became known as the “Protectorates” under Nazi rule. The rest is tragic history.

Putin believes Ukraine is ethnically and culturally Russian and should be returned to the “home” country. Russia ignored Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances (1994) and marched into

Crimea (2014) with little to no opposition from the population or any foreign powers. Emboldened by this Putin Russian irregular forces infiltrated the Donbas (Donetsk and Luhansk) region fomenting civil war. Putin declared Donetsk and Luhansk to be “People’s Republics” independent of Ukrainian governance (2021). In early 2022 Putin invaded Ukraine demolishing Ukrainian cities, slaughtering Ukrainian women and children, and involuntarily transporting tens of thousands of Ukrainian citizens to Russia. History is yet to be written. To start -- European history proves absolute power corrupts absolutely,

Upcoming Division Events



Government tactics are evolving -- restrictions may be revisited !

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

- April 19:** **Division meeting**
May 9: **9th Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic** at Lake of the Woods Golf Club
May 1: **Shamrock Degree ceremony** at Division meeting
June 7: **Meagher Division at FredNats game**



Our Division Prayers



Keep our brothers, family members and friends in your prayers

- **Joe Daley:** COPD
- **Russell McLaughlin:** Dave McLaughlin’s brother - frontotemporal dementia (FTD)
- **Loretta Larzelere:** Bob Fitzgerald’s sister-in-law suffering from 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 President, lymphedemic edema
- **Nolan Banks:** Former FS Jeff Banks’ son (chemo-compromised immune system) **Pray for the intercession of Venerable Father Augustine Tolton:**
<http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>
- **Mary Lou and Keith Bowers:** St Jude parishioners/friends of Deacon Aaron
- **Alice Wilkowski (stroke)** Associate of PDP Shawn Lenahan

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

- **John Hogan:** Meagher Division Hibernian of the Year, died 14 Feb 2022
- **Christopher Grey:** son of Brother Jack Grey, died February 2022
- **Dawn Forest:** Wife of Brother Dean Forest, suddenly on 13 January 2022. (Dean was pledged by PDP McLaughlin Dec 12, 2021)

- **Bob Phillips:** Brother of Bill Phillips who died on 30 January 2022
- **Lois M. Hanson:** mother of Edwin Hanson who died peacefully on 18 November 2021
- **Mary O'Brien Gardner:** mother of Jill Lenahan, mother-in-law of PDP Shawn Lenahan who died on 12 November 2021

Send notifications to Standing Committee Chair Bobby Murphy (smurphy823@gmail.com)

Send requests for inclusion in our newsletter to billhalpin@irishcultureva.org



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)

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.

A second source recommended by Major James 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 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, a raincoat/overcoat (and a growing waistline). Sashes are available from:

D. & E. Morrissey (954-426-3514/ <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com/donations.html>). The National Hibernian usually has an ad for D & E Morrissey.

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.