



Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
Irish • Catholic • American



## GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

June 2023

Volume 11, No 6

**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:** Bob Fitzgerald; **Organizer:** Vacant; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin ([billhalpin@irishcultureva.org](mailto:billhalpin@irishcultureva.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.



**June is an important month:** D-Day (6<sup>th</sup>), Feast of St. Columbkille (9<sup>th</sup>), U.S. Army 248<sup>th</sup> Birthday (14<sup>th</sup>), Flag Day (14<sup>th</sup>), Fathers' Day (18<sup>th</sup>), and Juneteenth (19<sup>th</sup>). Can you imagine attacking across Utah Beach or climbing Point du Hoc? “First to fight ... fighting ‘til the battle’s won ...”. Do you know of the Irishman’s role in Juneteenth?



### *President's Corner*

Brothers - Summer is upon us and that means that it is time for us to have a few raffle sales at our local parishes. We have several weekends already on the schedule at St. Patrick, St. Jude, and St. Matthew parishes in June, July, and August so please sign up to help when you can. As you may have read in the Call to Convention email, the AOH State Convention will be on the weekend of 28-30 July in Alexandria. The main events will be on Saturday, 29 Jul, with the business portion in the morning followed by the conduct of the Major Degrees in the afternoon

starting at 1:00. I encourage all of you who have not yet received the Major Degrees to plan to attend as it will help you better appreciate what it means to be a Hibernian brother. Lastly, I want to bring to your attention that we will be conducting Division officer elections in a few short months. I encourage you to seriously consider making the decision to seek a leadership role in the Division so it can continue to grow. We especially need the newer generations of Hibernians to step up now and take over to keep our Division moving forward.

Slainte! Bob Fitzgerald



***The Twenty-Fourth Virginia AOH Biennial Convention***, hosted by the Herbert-Cady Division, is scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at the Old Town Alexandria Hilton.

Registration and the Irish Night/Ice Breaker are on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

The business meeting, Major Degrees exemplification, installation of 2023-2025 officers, Celebration of Mass, and banquet are on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

An optional golf outing and “cigar night” are planned for the 27<sup>th</sup>.

The hotel fee is \$169/night (plus tax). Hotel reservations should be made: 1-800-HILTONS. (1-800-445-8667) **CUT OFF DATE** for AOH rate is June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Convention Registration can be made through the Virginia AOH website:

([www.aohvirginia.org](http://www.aohvirginia.org))



### **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic**

Fifty-two golfers played under a sunny sky at Lake of the Woods Golf Course on 8 May. Although fewer than in previous years, everyone had great fun. President Bob Fitzgerald



recognized this year’s winning foursome. Pictured with Bob are (l to r) Rick McInnis, Jim Corsone, Alan Lofdahl and Terry Sindt. McInnis, Corsone, and Sindt were in the 2022 winning foursome. Golf was followed by a luncheon of steamship round with all the fixings, delicious chocolate cake, and the many raffle prize winners. Local donors and hole sponsors included It’s About Thyme, Clearwater Grill, Old House Vineyard, The Colonial Tavern – Home to the Irish Brigade, LOWA Clubhouse and Golf Operations, Lee’s Hill Golf

Fredericksburg Country Club, Firebirds, and many others are too numerous to mention.



### Division Support to Parish Workcamp Projects



The Division’s annual budget includes support for diocesan workcamp projects conducted by St. Jude, St. Matthew, St. Patrick, and St. Mary Parishes. Typically our donations support one participant for each parish. Here Division VP Shawn Lenahan, accompanied by Dennis O’Leary, presents a check to St. Jude Parish work camp coordinator Jack Downing. Our other three parish liaisons will follow suite, but too late for this edition.



**Answering the May Trivia Question:** What are the symbols of Ireland? This should have been easy: No, not Jameson or Tullamore Dew. They are the Shamrock, the Harp, the Tri-color flag, the Irish Wolfhound, and the Round Towers



**The June Trivia Question:** Juneteenth is now a holiday. Who was the U.S. Irish American officer who ordered news of the proclamation be announced in Texas?





*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.*

### **2023 Marks the 225th Anniversary of the 1798 Rebellion**

According to Justin McCarthy's *Ireland Since the Union*<sup>1</sup>, published in 1887, the outcome of the Rising in 1798 was a foregone conclusion. Thomas Flanagan's *Year of the French*<sup>2</sup> aptly chronicles the Rising; however, McCarthy tells the backstory. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Irishmen were tired of the "system of savage repression" described as worse than the atrocities of Cromwell's occupation -- including house burnings, torture of captives, and pitchcapping. Inspired by the successful revolutions in America and France, the idea of Irish nationalism influenced Catholics and Presbyterians to rise above sectarian issues and join together in an effort to free Ireland.



An underground republican group founded by Theobald Wolfe Tone and known as the Society of United Irishmen instigated a major uprising against British. The majority of the leadership was Protestant until they formed an alliance with a militant underground Catholic group called the Defenders. The United Irishmen's three inspirational leaders were Theobald Wolfe Tone, Edward Fitzgerald the Commander-in-Chief of the United Irishman, and Wexford's Father John Murphy.

Fearing arrest, Tone travelled to America in 1796 where he gained financial and moral support. Then he visited France and convinced the French to support the rebellion. They attempted to land 15,000 troops near Cork during the winter of 1796–97 but the fleet was driven off course by a hurricane and could not land on the Irish coast. The French lost 12 ships and countless troops in the storm.

According to McCarthy "the organization was literally infested with spies" and the English could have arrested the leaders at any time. However, the English favored a plan to permit escalation, provoke a general revolt, and then crush the entire rebel organization "forever".

<sup>1</sup> McCarthy, *Ireland Since the Union*, Belford Clarke & Co, Chicago, Ill, 1887

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Flanagan, *Year of the French*, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, New York, 1979





One English spy was Thomas Reynolds, Wolfe Tone's brother-in-law. He provided the English with rebel passwords and secret meeting locations. Based on Reynold's information, in spring 1798 the English raided a clandestine meeting in Dublin and arrested 14 key United Irishmen leaders. Another traitor, Francis Higgins, compromised Fitzgerald's Dublin hideout. Soldiers, led by the infamous Major Henry Sirr were sent to arrest Fitzgerald. He fought back, killing one attacker, but suffered multiple wounds himself. He was taken to prison where he died as a result of wounds in May 1798. Fitzgerald is pictured here.



In County Wexford the rebellion gained momentum as Father Murphy led the rebels in the southeast. In early June, the United Irishmen in Counties Antrim and Down, rose in support of their southern comrades. The Irish suffered defeat at Vinegar Hill, where Father Murphy was captured after the battle of Scollagh Gap/Kilcumney Hill (Co. Carlow) in June 1798. He was hanged in Tullow on 2 July. His severed head was spiked and placed on a pole in the market square<sup>3</sup>.

Pikemen monument County Wexford.

Wolf Tone again convinced the French to send troops to Ireland and the rebellion was renewed. In August, the French succeeded in a second landing albeit with a smaller force at Killala Bay, County Mayo. With only around 1,100 men, the French commander was to rely on the Irish to rise en masse. The French/Irish fighters had a series of victories including defeating the English Army at Castlebar. This victory prompted a declaration of the "Irish Republic". Sadly, the French/Irish were defeated in July. The British massed a force of 26,000 men under Cornwallis. The French/Irish forces faced an overwhelming enemy and were crushed at the Battle of Ballinamuck on 8 Sept. The French commander surrendered. Many Irish did not lay down their arms and many were bayoneted. French troops were repatriated to France while Irish troops were summarily executed.

Tone was captured, tried and sentenced to death by hanging. At sentencing he demanded death by firing squad -- hanging was for criminals. The English refused the firing squad. On execution day Tone was found in his cell with his throat cut. The English reported he'd committed suicide, but this may not be the case. Tone held in solitary confinement and did not have access to a knife. He was not authorized to have visitors; however, for unknown reason the English made one exception. "An emigrant French surgeon" visited him the evening before he was found and some believe him to be Tone's murderer.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>McCarthy, *Ireland Since the Union*, Belford Clarke & Co, Chicago, Ill, 1887

<sup>2</sup>Thomas Flanagan, *Year of the French*, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, New York, 1979

C. Desmond Greaves, *Theobald Wolfe Tone and the Irish Nation*, Connolly Publications, Ltd., London, 1963

In the Rising of '98 an estimated 30,000 were killed. Although the revolt ended in defeat it marked a significant watershed in Irish history, the birth of Irish Nationalism. (derived from multiple sources)



### *Upcoming Division Events*



**June 18<sup>th</sup>** : Fathers' Day

**June 20<sup>th</sup>**: Division Meeting

**June 27<sup>th</sup>– 29<sup>th</sup>**: 24<sup>th</sup> Virginia State biennial convention (see above)



### *Our Division Prayers*



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

- Joe Daley: 100% blocked carotid artery, COPD, and hemoptysis.
- Lisa Halpin: Bill Halpin's wife has more tests scheduled at UVA neurology department in mid-June.
- Peggy Dowd, Dick Dowd's wife requires in-home professional assistance
- Russell McLaughlin: Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- Jerry O'Brien: Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- Ruth Pettinger: Shawn Lenahan's aunt (Vietnam Vet) is refusing treatment for an inoperable brain tumor;
- Margaret Casey: Tim Lynch's aunt has Dementia
- Ken Fishback: Bob Fitzgerald's neighbor's cancer has metastasized
- 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 deceased Brothers and family members*

- John K. O'Brien: Hugh O'Brien's brother died on March 15, 2023
- Shelagh Hornung: Neil Hornung's sister-in-law died on January 14, 2023.
- Loretta Larzelere: Bob Fitzgerald's sister-in-law died on January 19, 2023
- John Hogan: Gen. Meagher Division 2015 Hibernian of the Year, died 14 Feb 2022

*Send notifications to Committee of the Sick Chair Bobby Murphy ([smurphy823@gmail.com](mailto:smurphy823@gmail.com)) Send requests for inclusion in our newsletter to [billhalpin@irishcultureva.org](mailto:billhalpin@irishcultureva.org)*



### **Hibernian Attire**

*Every brother should have these articles of clothing*

**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets -- Kelly green is the color.

- 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.
- Second source used 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>.** 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>

**Division Logo Items:** Contact Shawn Lenahan for division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps ([s\\_lenahan@verizon.net](mailto:s_lenahan@verizon.net))

**The AOH "uniform"**

- ***Semi-formal/formal occasions*** are 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.
- ***For Informal events*** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo/sweatshirt and optional ball cap are appropriate.

**This newsletter is an unofficial publication providing information to members of the Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division (44SP01) and others who may have an interest in division activities. It is published by Bill Halpin and unless shown otherwise, he is responsible for content.**