



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

October 2023

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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

Brothers,

First, please offer your congratulations to Meagher Division Brother Gene McKenna. Gene won the 2023 Trip for Two to Ireland raffle when his ticket was picked from the bucket at the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event at the Colonial Tavern.

Next, I call your attention to the fact that we are in the last quarter of the year and **the next three regular business meetings are extremely important** to the Division. The Division really needs you to participate either in person or online so we can have a quorum for each of these business meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. We will be nominating officers in October, electing officers in November, and installing officers in December. We cannot proceed with these activities without a quorum either in person or via the Internet link. Your active participation in the Division is critical to its continued existence.

Further, we have three events I encourage you to attend:

- The Quarterly AOH State Meeting on Saturday, 21 Oct at St. Mary Catholic Church, 9505 Gayton Rd., Richmond, VA. If you want to attend, please let me know so we can carpool. Because no Major Degree exemplification is planned, the meeting will probably adjourn by 1PM.
- Our annual Memorial Mass on the evening of Tuesday, 14 Nov, at St. Jude Catholic Church in Fredericksburg. Come to honor and remember your deceased brothers.
- Our annual wreath presentation at the Irish Brigade Memorial, located at the Fredericksburg City Dock at noon on Sunday Dec 10th

Hope to see you all soon. Slainte!

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Bob Fitzgerald

President, General Thomas F. Meagher Division

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### *Halfway to St. Patrick Day*

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Colonial Tavern – Home to the Irish Brigade - hosted the annual Halfway Party. David Rich and DragonFyre provided the Irish music and Irish dancers from the Muggivan School of Irish Dance performed.



Six Hibernians, Brother Tim Lynch's family, and the Irish dancers' families were the vast majority of a disappointing turnout. Nonetheless, the Muggivan dancers performed beautifully for nearly two hours. The youngest Irish dancer, Raegan Flanagan, drew the winning ticket for the 2023 Trip of Two to Ireland raffle. Gene McKenna of Lake of the Woods was the lucky winner. Gene is only the second Hibernian brother to win the raffle in 15 years.



### *Robert Emmet and America*

The Irish Cultural Society of Virginia was honored to host Dr. Ruan O'Donnell for a series of lectures on Robert Emmet and Emmet's association with the United States of America. Dr. O'Donnell is the Senior Lecturer of History at Limerick University and was the Visiting Chair for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame. On September 17<sup>th</sup> Dr. O'Donnell spoke at the Park Lane in Richmond, in afternoon on the 18<sup>th</sup> he spoke at the CRRL auditorium in Fredericksburg, and later on the 18<sup>th</sup> he spoke at Murphy's in Alexandria.



Dr. O'Donnell explained the impetus of 1798 was found in the successful American and French revolutions and how Wolf Tone formed a non-sectarian Irish coalition was formed to seek equal justice for all Irishmen and women. Tone was actually exiled to America where he gained support.

Emmet, then about 20 years old and from an "establishment family", fought with the United Irishmen and in the end was able to

cleverly escape capture. In 1802 he secretly formed a revolutionary body, stockpiled “state of the art” weaponry, and planned a coup d'état. Planning went array when one weapons stockpile accidentally detonated and rebels killed a few high ranking English officials. This alerted the English, and ultimately Emmet's' secrecy was such that at the critical time, the rebels didn't recognize him as their leader.

Dr. O'Donnell then related the extremely close relationship the Emmet family had with prominent Americans in Boston New York and Philadelphia.



(L to R) Terry Riley, VP Irish Culture Society; Pres Bob Fitzgerald, Meagher Division; Bill Halpin, President/Founder of the Society, Dr. O'Donnell, and Dave McLaughlin, Meagher Division. In all about 14 people attended this short notice event.

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Halpin's Book Reviews:

Over the course of Summer 2023, I read four books tracking recent Irish history (ca 1920-90). My daughter Jenn started me on this journey with “Wounds” by Fergal Keane, a County Kerry family's Irish Civil War recollections. In July, my sister Pat sent me a book written by “the man who sits behind me most mornings at Mass”. This book, “The Streets of Derry” is by journalist Albert J. Countryman Jr. Countryman lived for five months in Derry during 1984 and documented the struggles of six young people dealing with unemployment, frustration, British oppression and their struggles for freedom. Next was “Legion of the Rearguard”, by Conor Foley relates the history of “Republicanism” and its Marxist philosophy. For perspective Foley, is a human rights activist sometimes featured in the *International Socialist Review*.

A WSJ review prompted me to read “Belfast: The Story of a City and Its People” by Feargal Cochrane. Cochrane is a Belfast native, a Catholic who grew up in Protestant neighborhood during the 1960s. While he writes about those experiences, the book is much more than that. It's a history of the city from the 15th century onward and how religion, radicalism, industry, and power politics

shaped and continue to shape Belfast attitudes, including the current DUP instigated paralysis in the devolved NI government.

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*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.*

## The Gallowglass

According to [www.irishorigense.com](http://www.irishorigense.com), there were four ethnic groups in medieval Ireland: the native Irish, followed by hereditary influences of Vikings, Normans, and Gallowglass. Most of us are familiar with the Normans and Vikings, but what about the Gallowglass?

The Normans invaded Ireland 1169AD with modern weaponry and body armor - long swords, Welsh crossbows, iron helmets, and chain mail. The Irish still used axes and short swords and wore cloth shirts. Irish chieftains turned to Catholic, Gaelic speaking mercenaries from *hInnse Gaill*, “islands of the foreigners” (the Outer Hebrides) for help. Irish called them “*galloglaigh*” (foreign Gaels). These elite warriors descended from Viking-Gaelic stock. They used weaponry that evolved from the Viking incursions including battle axes and large two-handed swords, *claidhmór*, used to not only kill and maim its enemy but also to intimidate. Their custom was to fight to the death and never retreat from a superior force.

The Irish Chiefs, supported by Gallowglass soldiers, slaughtered the Norman force near Carrick-on-Shannon in 1270. Irish nobility inter-married with the Gael-gall and gave them lands and property throughout the island but particularly in Ulster. The Gallowglass culture died out after Cromwell sold thousands of Irish as slaves to European nations not at war with England (ca 1649-1660). The Proclamation of 1625 ordered that Irish political prisoners be transported overseas and sold as

laborers to English planters who were settling the West Indies. This policy continued for two centuries. In 1629 a large group of Irish men and women were sent to Guiana, and by 1632, Irish were the main slaves sold to Antigua and Montserrat. By 1637 69% of the total population of Montserrat were Irish slaves.



As an aside - The Montserrat Coat of Arms includes a woman dressed in green and the Irish harp. Known as the “Emerald Isle of the Caribbean” it is one of two place in the world that recognizes St. Patrick Day as a national holiday. Many families boast Irish surnames.



### *Upcoming Division Events*



**October 17<sup>th</sup>:** Division meeting: 2024-25 Officer nomination announced

**November 14<sup>th</sup>:** We honor our deceased brothers at a Memorial Mass to be celebrated at St. Jude Church



### *Our Division Prayers*



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

- Bob Fitzgerald: detached retina
- Joe Daley: 100% blocked carotid artery, COPD, and hemoptysis.
- 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) inoperable brain tumor
- Margaret Casey: Tim Lynch’s aunt has Dementia

- 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***

- Brother Jerry Timmons, died on June 3, 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 K. O'Brien: Hugh O'Brien's brother died on March 15, 2023

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 interest in division activities.**