

## IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY



### GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

<http://www.aohfredericksburg.org/>

July 2016

Volume 4/Number 7

**President:** Andy Link **Chaplain:** Vacant **Vice President:** Dan Mulhern  
**Financial Secretary:** Jeff Banks **Treasurer:** Dick Dowd **Recording Secretary:** Jack Grey  
**Standing Committee:** Vacant **Marshal:** Shawn Lenahan **Sentinel:** Paul O'Brien, **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin ([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net))

**Reminder: If you haven't paid your 2016 dues – please do so!**

**Next meeting is 16 August -- *We DO NOT meet in July* –**

#### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Division Brothers,

I want to thank you to all of our Hibernian brothers who attended Brother Edward Cranshaw's wake and funeral. Mrs. Joyce Cranshaw expressed a special thanks to us all for making this time easier in the loss of her beloved husband. During the wake, Brother Hugh O'Brien read the 'Ritual at Wake' in accordance to our tradition for a departed Brother. Also Brother Hugh's wife Corita and a member of St. Jude Legion of Mary led all present in saying the Holy Rosary. Mrs. Cranshaw also told me that Ed was very proud to be a Hibernian and he had only wished he had joined much earlier in life and thankful to all of us for being a part of his life.



Meagher Division Membership continues to steadily grow this year adding a total of 7 members conducting two Shamrock Degrees this year. I am also thankful for the support of the Division Officers to make these degrees possible. I am proud to see existing Division Brothers who had not received the Shamrock Degree join our new candidates in becoming members. We will plan to hold a third Shamrock Degree this year during our August 16th meeting for three more prospective Brothers. It is my intent to maximize every opportunity for our Division Brothers to make the Major Degree exemplification on Saturday, September 17th during our Division sponsoring of the Virginia State Board Quarterly meeting at Holy Cross Academy, Fredericksburg. This degree will be exemplified by Virginia's very own Brian Boru Major Degree Team.

Our charity work continues and the Hibernian education outward to our community grows with each opportunity. The Trip for Two to Ireland raffle has seen 800 tickets sold since March. Thanks to Brother John Harris, we had

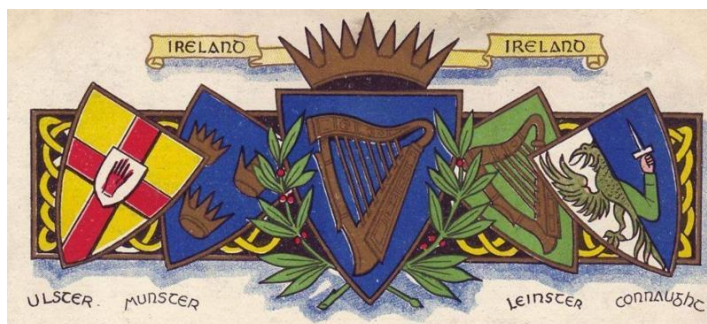
the opportunity to be at St. Matthew's Church the weekend of 25 and 26 June with the support of Brothers Bill Halpin, Dan Mulhern, John Hogan, Bill Vanderveer and of course John Harris. It was also my privilege to speak at each mass on your behalf to share our heritage, works of charity and share the work we have done this year. Brother Gene McKenna and his wife Kate, Brothers John Hogan, Dan Mulhern and Bill Halpin shared in their camaraderie while selling the Trip for Two to Ireland raffle tickets at the Lake of the Woods Independence Day Celebration. Paraphrasing Brother Dan Mulhern, 'we had a great time and told a lot of stories.' Thank you Brother Bill Halpin for arranging this event for our Division.

We will have three Trip for Two to Ireland raffle tickets sales and AOH recruitment opportunities during the month of July. The first will be at St. Mary's the weekend of 9 and 10 July. Our 2nd Annual Meagher Division Family Picnic will be on Sunday, July 10 at 2pm and response for participation was very good. We have permission to sell raffle tickets at St. Jude and at St. Patrick the weekend of 30 and 31 July. Please respond to Brother Dan Mulhern request for assistance supporting ticket sales and sign up to support.

Please continue to pray for our sick and convalescing Brothers, friends and families.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Richard Andrew Link, II  
President



***“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.”***

### IMPORTANT IRISH PHRASES

Ireland forever	<b><i>Éirinn go Brách</i></b> (Air-ran guh braw)
Cheers	<b><i>Sláinte</i></b> (Slon-chuh)
Hello	<b><i>Dia Duit</i></b> (Dee-uh ditch)
Bye	<b><i>Slan</i></b> (slan)
A hundred-thousand welcomes.....	<b><i>Céad Mile Fáilte</i></b> (Ky-ed meel-ay fall-chay)

## ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

From Mike McCormick, National AOH Historian

### America's Birthday and the Irish

From Wild Geese, Posted by Mike McCormack on July 4, 2014



**At the dawn of what was to become an age of rebellion,** Thomas Jefferson said, Rebellion is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government. The American revolution of 1775 to 1781 was the inspiration for rebellions across the world from France in 1789 to Ireland in 1798, again in Ireland in 1803, to Canada in 1837, to India in 1857. While Irish support existed, in a major or minor role, in each of these actions, it was a significant factor in the American Revolution.

The Irish, both Protestant and Catholic, were a major part of Washington's volunteers from foot soldiers to high ranking officers, and those who were unable to suffer the hardship of a colonial soldier,

contributed in other ways. The military won the war, but it was the settlers, merchants, and community leaders who led the march toward the battlefield. They were the real shapers of our destiny, for they were the ones who dreamt the dream, organized its creation, and supported its success. In the late 1700s, when Crown exploitation drove the colonists to protest, among the loudest were the Irish who had no great love for the Crown to begin with. But how many Irish were there in the American colonies?

Well, they had been coming since the 1650s. The first noticeable influx into New England occurred in 1652 with the arrival of 400 Irish children sent by Cromwell to be sold as slaves.

From that time, the shipment of men, women and children as slaves and indentured servants was common practice. Among the first to come of their own volition were those who fought the English theft of their lands and ended up hunted men. They were followed by those Catholics and Presbyterians who fled the Penal Laws and persecution by the Church of England. Some were businessmen who had to escape the economic oppression fostered on them by the Crown in order to benefit their British competitors. The destruction of the Irish wool trade is estimated to have ruined 40,000 families all over Ireland, while destruction of the Irish linen trade reduced the population of Ulster by half-a-million. And they came to America with their looms and spinning wheels bringing an industry that would be of great importance to the nation awaiting birth.

In the beginning, they came in such large numbers that one Massachusetts Court prohibited the Irish from its jurisdiction and fined anyone who bought an Irishman and brought him in, fearing the malignant spirit that has from time to time been manifest by the Irish against the English. But they came anyway. Some altered their names, most settled in outlying areas like the ancestor of John Hancock who came from Co Down, and like Capt. Daniel Patrick and Robert Feake - first white settlers in Greenwich, CT. They also settled in

New Hampshire, where they founded the town of Concord; in Vermont, where their sons would lend strength to the Green Mountain Boys led by Irish-American John Stark and Limerick-born Matt Lyons; in New Hampshire where Capt. Maginnis commanded the militia; and other areas from Maine, home of the O'Briens who would capture the 1st British ship in the war yet to come, to Pennsylvania, founded by William Penn who had grown up in County Cork. They came in considerable numbers. In 1728, for example, it was reported that most of the 4,500 who landed at New Castle, Delaware were Irish. Philadelphia likewise reported that 3,500 people from Ireland had arrived in the first two weeks of August, 1772. They had obviously been arriving for a while since the city had a Hibernian Club as early as 1729; it later became the Friendly Sons of St Patrick, whose first President was none other than Stephen Moylan of Co Cork - soon to be one of Washington's top Generals. In 1772 and 73, more than 18,500 had arrived in the American colonies, and they were no friends of the British.

There was no shortage of leaders either and men like Matthew Lyons, Patrick Henry, and other Irish and Irish-American orators used their eloquence to urge separation from England. When confrontations became frequent, it seemed that the Irish were always in the middle of it.

Among those killed in the Boston Massacre in 1770 was Irish-born Patrick Carr; Boston Tea Party participants met at an inn owned by man named Duggan; and the tea was dumped at Griffin's Wharf by a group dressed as Indians, some of whom had a notably Irish accent. While young Irishmen rushed to arms in support of Washington, Irish civilians, businessmen, and merchants participated in the deliberations of Councils and in Congress, raised money to feed and clothe the army, and advance the credit of the new government. Irish-born Oliver Pollack personally raised more than \$300,000, which would be more than \$8 million today.

On July 1, 1776 after a full year of hostilities, the leaders met to discuss their options. A resolution was presented which read, Be it resolved, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. After much heated debate, the vote was indecisive. They met again on July 2 to continue the debate and finally the ayes carried the question. However, approval of the final draft of the document was made on the 4th. The Philadelphia State House was packed despite the sweltering heat as

Secretary Charles Thomson of Co. Derry read the formal document that Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, and Livingston had composed, and that he - Thomson - had drafted. It was a declaration explaining why their action was justified. After a full day of modifying copy, shouting matches and further amendments, Secretary Thomson recorded the changes, and America's Declaration of Independence was complete. Among the signers were 6 Irish-Americans and 3 native Irish including James Smith, Matthew Thornton and militia Colonel George Taylor. The formal copy would not be ready for signature until August, but many first heard that document read in an Irish accent, as Secretary Thomson read it to an anxiously awaiting public. Philadelphia printers like Charles Dunlap of Co Tyrone rolled out copies that were snatched up before the ink was dry. There would be many years of struggle and sacrifice before the last battle was fought on March 10, 1783, but America had made her stand. That last battle, by the way, saw Irish-born Commodore John Barry defeat the British ship Sybil. He had been carrying a cargo of gold with which Congress would establish the new Bank of North America with the help of Irish-born Thomas Fitzsimmons.

In 1787, when Articles of Confederation to guide the new nation of 13 states were discussed, a

convention met in Philadelphia to approve or amend them. A minority of 19 delegates dis-satisfied with some of the amendments, knowing they couldn't carry the vote, absented themselves preventing a quorum. Wexford's John Barry formed a group called the 'Compellers' and forced the reluctant delegates back to the convention to form a quorum and a vote of 46 to 23 was passed and the Constitution of the United States of America resulted.

Yes, the Irish were there when America was born, and the fact that they made loyal Americans is evidenced in writing of Marquis de Chastellux who wrote after the revolution, 'An Irishman, the instant he sets foot on American soil, becomes an American. During the whole of the war, the English and Scots were treated with distrust even with the best of attachment for the cause, but the native of Ireland stood in need of no other certificate than his accent. While the Irish emigrant was fighting for America on land and sea, Irish merchants' purses were always open and their persons devoted to the country's cause, and on more than one imminent occasion Congress itself, and the very existence of America, owed its preservation to the fidelity and firmness of the Irish.'

Even in Ireland, where funds were raised to support the American cause, the hopes of the Irish were with the

American cause to such an extent that America's success inspired a liberation movement in Ireland, and in 1798, the Irish attempted to duplicate the American example. Unfortunately it failed, and though young America was in no position to help, her hopes were with the Irish. Even President Washington wrote that the Irish need that critical moment to shake off the badges of slavery they have worn for so long.

It was perhaps best said by George Washington Parke Custis, grandson of the beloved first President and Martha Washington. At a St. Patrick's Day dinner in 1828, he said:

*Ireland's generous sons, alike in the day of our gloom, and of our glory, shared in our misfortunes and joined in our successes; With undaunted courage (they) breasted the storm which once threatened to overwhelm us; and with aspirations deep and fervent for our cause, whether in the shock of liberty's battles, or in the feeble expiring accents of famine and misery, cried from their hearts God Save America. Then honored be the service of the sons of Erin in the war of Independence. Let the shamrock be entwined with the laurels of the Revolution, and truth and justice, guiding the pen of history, inscribe on the tablets of American remembrance 'Eternal Gratitude to Irishmen.'*

GWP Custis also asked the favor that when St Patrick's Day is annually

celebrated, that some generous Irishman would place a shamrock on his grave and say, God Bless Him. To this day, the Washington DC AOH present a Friends of Ireland Award in his name and place a sprig of shamrock on his grave in Arlington National Cemetery and say, in chorus, God Bless Him! Remember his words as you hang out the stars and stripes on our Fourth of July and remember the Irish who helped to create this nation that it represents.

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## **IRISH IMMIGRATION**

### **US ruling blocks plans for illegal Irish**

Ciara Treacy, 26 June 2016, *Irish Independent*

A ruling by the US Supreme Court which has blocked plans to protect millions of immigrants from deportation has been described as "devastating" by Ireland's first emigrant senator.

Senator Billy Lawless made the comments after the court was split four-four on a decision on President Barack Obama's immigration Executive Orders, which would have benefited more than four million

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immigrants in the US. **This would include many of the 50,000 Irish undocumented.**

Plans under the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) would have allowed immigrants who are the parents of US citizens or of Green Card holders to remain in the US legally. However, Thursday's split decision has left lower court rulings, which blocked the programs, in place.

"This is a truly devastating day for the thousands of Irish undocumented workers across the United States, who had pinned their hopes on President Obama's executive orders on immigration," Mr. Lawless said after the split vote.

"This is not the end of the road though and I will continue to advocate fiercely for the most vulnerable members of the Irish community this side of the Atlantic." He added that although the Irish immigrant community is "resilient", the Supreme Court ruling serves as a "harsh reminder" that work needs to be done to protect the undocumented Irish living in the US.

Co-founder of the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform, Ciaran Staunton, called on the Irish Government to get involved, after what he called a "nightmare" situation. This could be done by working with the US Embassy in Ireland, Mr. Staunton said.

The normally nine-judge Supreme Court was left with a vacant position, after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia and Republican opposition to Obama's nominee to fill the seat.

## IRISH HERITAGE



## HALFWAY TO ST PATRICK DAY CELEBRATION

The Heritage Committee is gearing up for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration which will be held on September 10<sup>th</sup> at Lake of the Woods. 130 tickets are on order and will be available prior to the June meeting. \$35/person includes choice of salmon or corned beef dinner, commemorative pint glass, live Irish Music and Irish dancers, plus ceili dance lessons (a popular form of folk dancing in Ireland).

**We're seeking volunteer table captains.** A Table Captain is responsible of filling a table of 8 people (you, your spouse and eight others). Already Andy Link, Shawn Lenahan, Dan Mulhern, and Bill Halpin immediately volunteered. Clearly we need more to help with this. Please let Bill Halpin know as soon as possible ([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net) or 540-972-5903)



## (Irish)-Catholic Patriots of the American Revolution

The Catholic University of America: The Archivist's Nook: Posted on June 23, 2016 by William J. Shepherd

Americans celebrating their independence from Great Britain on the Fourth of July seldom remember Catholic contributions to the national cause. This is not surprising, as Catholics made up only an estimated one percent of the population of the nascent republic. Colonial America was generally **prejudiced against Catholics** and, with the notable exception of Pennsylvania, had enacted various civil and legal restrictions. As the American Revolution loomed, **The Quebec Act** of 1774 especially inflamed fears of an authoritarian alliance between the British Crown and the Vatican Pontiff to crush American liberties. Nevertheless, many Catholics rose to prominence in the front ranks of freedom's struggle, despite their status as a distrusted and often proscribed minority.

Among these Catholic Patriots of the Revolution were three remarkable members of the prominent Carroll family of Maryland. The preeminent Catholic patriot was Annapolis-born **Charles Carroll of Carrollton** (1737-1832), who risked both his liberty and fortune as the only Catholic to sign the **Declaration of Independence**. [*Editor's note: The Carrolls were descendants of the Ó Cearbhaill lords of County Offaly, Ireland.*] His

cousin, **John Carroll** (1735-1815), born in nearby Upper Marlboro, was an ex **Jesuit** and one of the few Catholic priests in Maryland who would become the **first American bishop in 1789**.

As patriots and Catholics, Charles and John answered the call of the Continental Congress to join Benjamin Franklin and Samuel Chase on an **unsuccessful mission** in 1776 to convince Catholic Quebec in Canada to remain neutral. John's older brother, **Daniel Carroll** (1730-1796), served in the **Continental Congress**, signing the **Articles of Confederation**, and was one of only two Catholic signers of the **U.S. Constitution**, the other being **Irish-born**, Philadelphia merchant, **Thomas Fitzsimons** (1741-1811). Other important Catholic contributors include another **Irish-born** Philadelphia merchant, **Stephen Moylan**; **Casimir Pulaski** and **Tadeusz Kosciuszko** of Poland; and, of course, George Washington's famed friend and protégé, the **Marquis de Lafayette** of France.

Perhaps the most significant Catholic military contributions to the war came from another **Irish-born** merchant from Philadelphia, **John Barry** (1745-1803). Along with his friend and compatriot, **John Paul Jones** (1747-

1792), Barry was a co-founder of American sea power. He was the first commissioned officer in the **Continental Navy**, the first to capture a British war vessel at sea, fought on land at the battles of Trenton and Princeton, authored an effective signal book for ships' communication, fought the last naval battle of the war in 1783, and was President George Washington's choice to head the **U.S. Navy** when formally created in 1794. Barry's exploits are recounted in several statues and memorials, the

most recent being at the **U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis in 2014**. [*This is the Barry Gate, an AOH initiative*]

President Washington paid tribute to American Catholics in 1790 as **'faithful subjects of our free Government.'** American Catholics have honored him and preserved the Catholic patriotic record, especially historian **John Gilmary Shea** (1822-1892), whose tireless research resulted in a multi-volume history of **Catholics in the United States**.

### **DIVISION AT WORK: TRIP FOR TWO RAFFLE AND HALFWAY TICKETS**

Brothers Halpin, Hogan, Link, McKenna and Mulhern worked the crowd at the Lake of the Woods Independence Day celebration on Saturday July 2d. We received many commitments to attend the Halfway Celebration and sold more than 50 Trip of Two raffle tickets. All-in-all a great day; the weather cooperated and we were happy to be visited by St Patrick Parish pastor Father Ziegler and Kate McKenna.



At St Matthew



and St Mary



## OUR DIVISION PRAYERS



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased General Meagher Division brothers, especially Ed Cranshaw, who died suddenly June 19<sup>th</sup> and all deceased Hibernians and family members.

Please pray for the comfort and healing of our Brothers Jeff Fitzpatrick (cancer) Dick Dowd (recovering from cancer), Jim McMorrow (recovering from cancer & knee replacement), Jack Grey, Neil Mulcahy, and Larry Pratt. Larry (convalescing at Carriage Hall and welcomes visitors).

Also keep in your prayers our family members and friends: Aiden Banks (Thanks all for prayers as he is now cured of Lyme Disease), John O'Brien (recovering from stroke), Rochelle Grey (hip surgery), two-year-old Hadley Mulhern (hernia surgery), Latisha Howard (Parkinson's Disease), Barbara McCoy and Andy Link's mother, Eileen and Andy's father Dick Link (Eileen's care giver), Matthew Carroll (Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project)

Pray to **Mary Immaculate, Patroness of the United States**, for preservation of our religious freedoms and for an unambiguous national moral compass. Pray and votes are critically important in this era of progressive secularism and threats from patently evil terror organizations.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

***Mark Your Calendars!***

***Multiple Dates: Bingo!*** Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at **St Michael the Archangel High School**, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407 (540) 548-8748). Bring the family!

***Multiple Dates: Roller Derby at Golden Skate World*** (Five Mile Road) -- Family Friendly Fun. For more information, contact Jill Lenahan (Brother Shawn's wife) at 540-295-2464. John Hogan attended a Derby and reports it is terrific family oriented fun!

**May 17-June 5:** The Kennedy Center presents ***IRELAND 100: Celebrating a Century of Irish Arts & Culture***, a major festival highlighting Irish culture and its relationship to America. This coincides with a **larger global celebration** commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, which led to creation of the Irish Free State and the road to independence. <http://www.kennedy-center.org/festivals/ireland>

**July 10: *Second Annual Division Picnic*** on Sunday, July 10 at the Lake of the Woods -- Let coordinator Shane Quinlan know you're coming [shanemquinlan@gmail.com](mailto:shanemquinlan@gmail.com)

**August 16: *Division meeting***

**September 10: *Fifth Annual Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration*** at Lake of the Woods Club House. Tickets are \$35 each and include dinner, live Irish music, Irish dance performances and lessons, plus the coveted AOH pint glass!

**September 17: VAAOH third quarter **state meeting**** hosted by General Meagher Division at Holy Cross Academy. All are welcome! Major Degree exemplification included - given sufficient number of candidates. And Trip for Two Raffle drawing!

**October 19:** Presentation of the 2017 Officers slate



## GENERAL MEAGHER DIVISION ATTIRE

As in most organizations, we have AOH specific attire. In a perfect world every brother would have these articles of clothing.

- For **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**.
- At **informal events** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo or sweatshirts (optional ball cap) are appropriate. Many have already ordered the division polo and sweat shirts and ball cap.

**Division Logo Items: The 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.

**AOH Sash:** Brothers procure their own sashes. The AOH tri-color sash represents the national flag of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to neck/collar) crossing to the left hip. Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)
- D & E Morrissey (954-426-3514) 1978 S.W. 17th Drive, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

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 waist line).

AOH Sash: Tri-color AOH sashes are available from LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. She produces 7.5ft long sashes costing \$ 40.00. Patricia guarantees satisfaction: if you're not satisfied send it back for a full refund. Mail your order and payment check (payable to Tracey's By Design or Patricia Ankrom) to: Patricia Ankrom, 7400 Airport Road, Quinton, VA 23141. For more information, email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)