



**Major Dooley Division
Richmond, Virginia**

The Dooley Dispatch

December 2016

Celebrating 37 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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Next Meeting –Tuesday December 13th 7:00 p.m. St. Paul's Church



President's Message:

Hello Brother Hibernians-

Just the Division's installation of our 2017 President Brian Hegarty and his officers remain on our calendar before it flips to January. My wishes for you and your families to have a happy and blessed Christmas season.

It has been a pleasure and an honor serving as your president these past 12 months.

It's been a special year for the celebration of our Irish heritage with our very own Centenary Commemoration of the Easter Rising and others throughout the Irish diaspora. I look forward to further 100th year look backs of other milestones of the revolutionary period over these next several years.

Keeping in the spirit of the season, here are few Irish traditions (some still strong, others "hanging on")....

Whitewashing-white washing of farm houses to purify them for the coming savior

Holly Bushes-Christmas trees are a more recent development in Irish households...the more plentiful holly and ivy were used to decorate homes

December 8th-Feast of the Immaculate Conception-used to be a huge shopping day in Ireland because schools were closed & folks would go into the Big City...nowadays "Black Friday" & "Cyber Monday" are bigger shopping days, just like here.

Mince pie and a bottle of Guinness for Santa on Christmas Eve-we can figure the wisdom of this?

December 26th-St. Stephen's Day-equivalent to Boxing Day in British world, used to be celebrated by a dead wren festooned on a pole....now usually done with just ribbons, wreaths & flowers (minus the dead wren)

January 6th-Little Women's Christmas-another bygone celebration, where on January 6th Irish women would "abandon housework" to Irish men and "go out with the girls" (uh...you mean like, "every day" in my house?...just joking, my dear)

And in keeping with the arrival of the big day on the 25th...Nollaig Shona Duit! (null-ig hun-a dit)

In ar Mana,

Tim McDonnell

Upcoming AOH Dooley Events

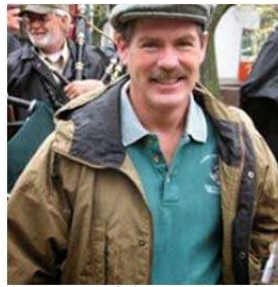
- Business meetings second Tuesday of the month except July, August, and December.
- Remaining 2016 Meetings - 12/13 - Officer Installation
- December 11, 2016, Sunday at 1 pm at St. Mary Catholic Church – Family Christmas Party.
- December 13, 2016, Tuesday - Officer Installation for 2017 Officers by State AOH President at St. Paul's Church.

Prayer List –

- **Please pray for the following:**
- **Bill McKay** who continues to struggle with back pain
- **Patrick McGowan's uncle, Jerry Meranda**, is having dementia problems
- **Hugh Naughton's wife Jessie** is in pain again, **brother John** is recovering from stroke, progress is slow. **Brother Mike** Parkinson or MSA. **Sister** knee problems
- **Ed Rossmore's father** is in hospice. He is 96.
- **Bob Strutton** battling cancer
- **Maury Costello** battling cancer
- **Fr. Zahn** for spinal stenosis.
- **Rev. Mr. Deacon Wayne Snellings** battling cancer.
- **Elaine Peters (Bruce)** serious sickness.

Contact Steve McGann, Chair of AOH Dooley Division Sick Comm., at mcgannsteve@yahoo.com

Leaving Home



I felt at home at my first Dooley Division meeting. I could see the faces of relatives. I enjoyed the bantering and joking that the Irish are known for. As Jack Cassells used to say, "The reason the Irish fight amongst themselves is because they know they are facing a formidable adversary." We shared

that same faith and enjoyed the same music. This sense of being Irish Catholic was captured in the AOH National Board video "[The Way Home: The Story of the AOH](#)".

Over the past 30 years my Irish family has grown immensely through the Dooley Division. This Division exemplifies the first tenant of our Order, "Friendship". I have come to know some truly amazing people through the AOH. I will always treasure the memories of a trip to Ireland with my AOH brothers. It has been an Irish Blessing to be in this Division. Serving as an officer of the Division and Editor has been an honor and a small token of giving back to the Division. I think of each of you every time I prepare and send out a newsletter.

In the past 30 years I've seen the Division in lean times and great times. These are glorious days for the Division. Fundraising and Charity are at all time highs. Each meeting has an engaging Irish history presentation. Most important of all, we have a great time together. The charter members would be proud of what they created. It makes leaving difficult.

Next April the Naughton Clan is moving to "Greener Fairways" on the Carolina National golf course near Southport NC. When our ancestors left home they crossed an ocean. The good news is there is no ocean between Southport and Richmond, making visits back to home enticing. Until we meet again, may God keep you in the palm of his hand, and if you are playing Egret #6 at Carolina National, play it to the left side so you won't hit me in the head and ruin my nap.

Sainte
Pat Naughton



Caitlin and Pat Naughton found there's no place like home, even in Ireland.



[Muggivan School of Irish Dance](#) was the highlight and high stepping of the Christmas Party



Accompanied by a fiddler and piano the children greet Santa Claus with song.

The Story Behind the Song – Boolavogue Father Murphy – reluctant hero of 1798 rebellion



He was very much a County Wexford man, born in the tiny village of Tincurry just to the north of the town of Enniscorthy.

Father John Murphy was one of the few Irish rebel leaders to have any significant success in the 1798 Rebellion yet he was initially opposed to taking action and had tried to avoid bloodshed.

Most of the places he became associated with such as Boolavogue, The Harrow, Camolin, Shelmalier were within a few miles of where he was born and where he lived most of his life.

Main focus was his work as a priest

John Murphy was born in 1753 and decided early in life that he wanted to become a priest. When he was 19, he went to Seville in Spain to study for the priesthood.

This was a well worn path for many Irishmen at that time as the Penal Laws imposed by the British made it difficult for Catholics to receive an education in Ireland. He was ordained in 1779 and became curate at Boolavogue in 1785.

Father Murphy supported the cause of Irish nationalism but he believed reform should come through peaceful means.

He was opposed to the rebellion at first, fearing it had little chance of success and would lead to pointless loss of life. He even urged his parishioners to surrender their arms and sign an allegiance to the Crown for their own safety.

Church burning turned Father Murphy into a rebel

Father Murphy's opinion changed when some British militiamen entered the area searching for rebels and looking for ways to intimidate the local people. They burnt the parish church and several cottages belonging to local people.

Father Murphy was furious at the injustice and he was further influenced by stories of British atrocities elsewhere in Ireland as the 1798 Rebellion got underway. He began to believe that rebellion may be the only option left.

From priest to rebel leader

Local people were looking for a leader and Father Murphy reluctantly accepted the challenge. Once the decision was made, however, he took to the task wholeheartedly and turned into one of the most successful leaders of the whole 1798 Rebellion.

He had victories at The Harrow, Camolin, Oulart Hill, Ferns and Enniscorthy before he was finally defeated by the British at the Battle of Vinegar Hill.

Father Murphy – tortured, executed, decapitated

British retaliation against Father Murphy was swift and brutal. Following the defeat at Vinegar Hill he had managed to escape to a friend's house at Tullow in County Carlow.

However, he was captured by the yeomen and brought before a military tribunal which found him guilty of treason against the British Crown.

He was tortured in an attempt to make him reveal information about the rebels. He was then hanged and decapitated. His head was impaled on a spike and put on display as a warning to others.

Boolavogue and Father Murphy – symbols of rebellion

Hardly anyone outside of Wexford had heard of Boolavogue when Father Murphy started working there as a humble curate.

Due to his efforts years later as a reluctant rebel leader, this otherwise obscure village was to become an important symbol in Irish nationalism.

The spirit of Father Murphy and his rebels inspired generations of rebels, including those who took part in the 1916 Easter Rising, which finally paved the way for Irish independence.

Boolavogue lyrics

The lyrics to Boolavogue were written by one of Ireland's greatest songwriters, P J McCall. The song recounts the story of Father Murphy who won a serious of battles against British forces in Wexford during the 1798 Rebellion. However, McCall didn't write the song until 1898 – fully one hundred years afterwards. The lyrics tell the story in the first person, as if the singer had taken part in the rebellion.

At Boolavogue as the sun was setting,
O'er the bright May meadow of Shelmalier,
A rebel hand set the heather blazing,
And brought the neighbors from far and near.
Then Father Murphy from old Kilcormack
Spurred up the rock with a warlike cry,
Arm, arm he cried, for I've come to lead you,
For Ireland's freedom we will fight or die.

He led us on against the coming soldiers,
The cowardly yeomen we put to fight,
'Twas at The Harrow, the boys of Wexford
Showed Bookey's regiments how men could fight,
Look out for hirelings, King George of England,
Search every kingdom where breathes a slave,
For Fr. Murphy from County Wexford,
Sweeps or the land like a mighty wave.

We took Camolin and Enniscorthy and Wexford,
Storming, drove out our foes.
'Twas at Slieve Coilte our pikes were reeking
With the crimson stream of the beaten Yeos,
At Tubberneering and Ballyellis
Full many a Hessian lay in his gore.
Ah Father Murphy, had aid come over,
The Green Flag floated from shore to shore

At Vinegar Hill o're the pleasant Slaney
Our heroes vainly stood back to back.
And the yeos at Tullow took Fr. Murphy
And burned his body upon the rack.
God grant you glory brave Fr. Murphy,
And open heaven to all your men,
The cause that called you, may come tomorrow,
In another fight for the green again.

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Hibernian Charity Donation to St. Paul's



Jim Woods, raffle committee chairman (r) presents Fr. James Griffin with a check as Fr. George Zahn (former pastor) and Paul McFadden, originator of the raffle, look on with smiling Irish eyes.