

Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
Irish Catholic American



## **GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES**

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

March 2018

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**President:** Shawn Lenahan **Chaplain:** Father Jerry A. Wooton **Vice President:** Dave McLaughlin **Financial Secretary:** Bob Fitzgerald **Treasurer:** Jeff Everett **Recording Secretary:** Bill Vanderveer **Standing Committee:** Jake Ruppert **Marshal:** Dennis O'Leary **Sentinel:** Jack Grey; **Webmaster:** John Hogan **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin ([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net))

### **President's Corner**

On March 1, President Trump declared March Irish-American Heritage Month acknowledging "the tremendous role Irish immigrants and their descendants have played in the development of our great Nation." According to the President:

Irish Americans have distinguished themselves in every sector of American life. Many have been among the key architects of our country's greatness. Nine of the men who signed our Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin. Presidents Andrew Jackson, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and many others have traced their roots to the Emerald Isle. Businessman Henry Ford, founder of one of America's most iconic companies, was the son of an Irish immigrant.

The proclamation ties perfectly with the theme of our library displays, "*Evolution of Irish in American Society.*" As in years past, brothers of the division will act as docents at the area library promoting Irish culture and perpetuating the history and traditions of the Irish people. We should all make the effort to go see the display.

Of course March is a very busy month for the Division. Along with the library displays, we have our annual St. Patrick's Mass. This year, the service will be held on March 15th, 6pm at (where else?) St Patrick parish. *Father Wooten will celebrate the mass and he has asked for maximum Hibernian family participation.* Please join me and my family for mass!

On St. Patrick Day, we will be marching in the Jeff Fitzpatrick Memorial St. Patrick's Day Parade. Again, we need maximum Hibernian participation! Along with marchers for the short parade, we will need brothers to man a table, which will be inside this year, to sell Trip for 2 raffle tickets, as this is our official kick-off for the sales! If this year's parade is half as fun as last year's, we are all in for a good time, so grab the family and come on out!

Looking forward, we need your support for the Shamrock Golf Tournament. We need golfers, golfers and more golfers! Form a team and come on out. Even if you do not play, ask your golfing buddies to support this worthy cause. Remember this is our main funding source for all the

charitable donations we make throughout the year! Let's make this year's tournament a resounding success!

As always, please remember to keep each other in your prayers. Have a happy and safe Irish-American Heritage Month and I am looking forward to seeing each of you on the 15th and 17th!

*Gum beannaicheadh Dia thu,*

Shawn M Lenahan



## **IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

**It is a great month for the Irish.**

- Parades and Irish festivals in many Virginia cities and towns.
- The Library of Congress ([www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)) and the Smithsonian Institute ([www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu)) are moving toward official recognition of Irish American Heritage Month. We should thank Senator Tim Kaine and Congressman Dave Brat's staff personnel for their substantial support.
- The Secretary of the Navy has responded to our petition and will name a future destroyer the **USS Patrick Gallagher** in honor of an Irish national awarded the Navy Cross while serving with the USMC in Vietnam.
- Our area libraries supported us once again with excellent graphics (see below) and space for our displays. In the three week cycle, your Hibernian volunteers will be putting in 50-60 hours at the three area libraries.
- Last weekend our **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Trip for Two to Ireland raffle** kicked-off with ticket sales at the Red Dragon and Bowman Distillery. Everyone needs to get involved with this whether helping with after Mass sales or "touching" friends and relatives.

And ... don't forget March 30<sup>th</sup> is **Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Day** in the Commonwealth of Virginia!



On March 13<sup>th</sup>, the 40th Annual Gaelic Mass was celebrated by Father Devaney at Saint Thomas More Cathedral in Arlington. Organized by the Col. John Fitzgerald Division (AR01), this annual Mass offering the music of Sean O'Riada Music will be provided by a choral Group directed by John F. Thieman in its original Gaelic with organ and harp accompaniment. Mass was well attended by VAAOH and LAOH. Mass was followed by Irish music, dance, and ample supply of Irish soda bread and lemonade.



The Annual General Meagher Division St Patrick/IAHM Mass was held on March 15<sup>th</sup> at St Patrick Church. Our celebrant and State and Division Chaplain, Father Jerry Wooton's homily highlighted the life of St Patrick and how his humility and perseverance brought Christianity to then pagan Ireland.



Again this year, the division continued its celebration of IAHM at three area libraries. For three days at each library, our brothers greeted library patrons, distributed information handouts and discussed Irish history. The CRRL Graphics Department did a wonderful job in creating a colorful and informative story board reflecting the evolution of Irish immigrants in American Society through 1900. Of course this could not be accomplished without the gracious support of the CRRL administration and the librarians at the Main CRRL, the Howell Branch, and the Salem Church Branch. Thanks for our brothers who donated time and knowledge supporting IAHM: Brothers Neal Buttimer, Peter Carroll, Kenneth Fowler, Bill Halpin, John Hogan, C.J. Johnson, Dave McLaughlin, Dan Mulhern, Pete Needham, Hugh O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, and Jim O'Donnell.

**march is irish american heritage month**

**Social Evolution of the Irish in America**

**1812** The Library of Congress formally recognized March as Irish American Heritage Month.

**1820** The first "hobnobber" sale of Irish slaves (1822) was an English settlement on the Antigua River. 2,000 Irish children were sold as slaves to English settlers in America; another 50,000 Irish men and women were sold in Barbados and Virginia. By 1870 more than 300,000 Irish slaves had died in the West Indies.

**1786** Hundreds of Bostonish newly Ulster Protestants, descendants of transplanted Scots, immigrated to America. These Irishmen dominated the Shenandoah Valley from Pennsylvania to South Carolina. After the French and Indian War the Scots-Irish became actual colonial governors.

**1776** Eight Irish-Americans signed the Declaration of Independence.

**1800** Between 1800 and 1820 more than 3 million Irish emigrated from the poorest country in Europe to the United States. These Irish were ethnically, religiously, and politically different from the Scots-Irish. They were predominantly poor, Catholic, unskilled, and 90% spoke only Irish Gaelic. Many were sold into North America from the plantations of 1780, 1800 and 1848. By the mid 1840s, the Irish represented almost half of America's population.

**1846** In the five years after 1846 approximately 651,501 Irish immigrants arrived in New York.

**nativism: the know-nothings**

**New York** Large "no nothings riots" included an attack on the Roman Catholic Carver's Church-Clerk's office. The Irish of New York's no nothings, PBO and other names had 18 or 19%.

**Massachusetts** Anti-Irish the United Protestant School. Massachusetts voted legislation restricting a national citizen's right to vote, expanding school children read the King James Bible. The Irish level was equal with an infant mortality rate over 30%.

**Philadelphia** May and July 1844 - Rioting mobs gutted several Irish-American houses, a Catholic community and the Catholic church.

**Washington, D.C.** The Nation donated a white marble stone inscribed with "HOME TO AMERICA" for the Washington Monument. On the night of March 5, 1854, a mob of Irish-American and targeted the monument.

**Networks**

The Irish Catholic immigrants seeking to prosper created a distinct subculture. Catholics established a network of parishes, schools, and immigrant aid associations (e.g. The Ancient Order of Hibernians), which sponsored various (e.g. St John's College, New Haven; St. Paul's Working Men's College and the College of the Holy Cross) were established.

**Employment**

Irish immigrants found employment in various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, and service industries. Many worked in menial jobs, but some rose to positions of leadership within their communities.

**up the ladder**

Irish immigrant women became domestic workers, seamstresses, and shopkeepers. They shared their aspirations with husbands. Over time, the Irish achieved entrepreneurial and social status.

**1848** The Irish born population with US was 1.6 million; the American born Irish second generation totaled 3.2 million. Their American born Irish occupied white-collar positions: health care, carpenters, bricklayers, etc. An Irish middle class emerged (George Dill).

For centuries the Irish lived as a conquered people. Segregation gave rise to a sense of inferiority, an ability to organize to meet economic, educational, religious and social needs. Organizational skills made the Irish into a powerful political force. They were prominent in labor unions, organizations, some rough and tumble and the Irish immigrants were not above pursuing their purposes through violence.

**mary jones**

Mary Jones, a nurse, was one of the first Irish women to work in the United States. She was instrumental in providing medical care during the American Civil War.

**politics**

The Irish organized based on locality, banking, political, and social. Irish immigrants found success in various fields, including politics, business, and education. They were instrumental in shaping the political landscape of the United States.

**19th century irish immigrants**

**William F. O'Connell**, Mayor of New York City, 1864-1867. He was the first Irish-born Mayor of New York City.

**Alfred E. Smith**, Governor of New York, 1904-1910. He was the first Irish-born Governor of New York.

**George Meany**, President of the AFL-CIO, 1951-1979. He was the first Irish-born President of the AFL-CIO.

**John F. Kennedy**, President of the United States, 1961-1963. He was the first Irish-born President of the United States.

**the ancient order of hibernians**

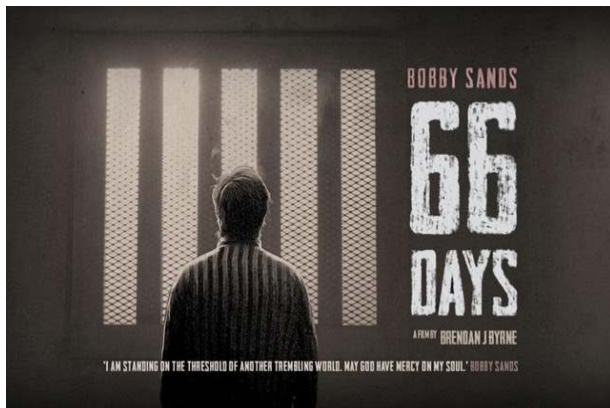
The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is a fraternal organization of Irish descent. It was founded in 1835 and has over 100,000 members worldwide. The AOH is dedicated to promoting Irish culture and heritage.

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And then there's the Jeff Fitzpatrick Memorial St Patrick Day parade, the Irish Festival and Trip for Two to Ireland raffle ticket sales. On the 16<sup>th</sup> several of us sold at Brother Tom Evans' the Red Dragon Pub. And then ... on the 17<sup>th</sup> following the parade, many of us were selling at the Irish Festival.



*“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.”*



I encourage all to view this film: <https://www.netflix.com/title/80126507>. It charts the IRA hunger striker's life and imprisonment and is based on extracts from his prison diaries. “Sands' heroism—and that of his nine colleagues who also died on hunger strike— exposed the inherent illegitimacy of England's position in any part of Ireland.”—Fr. Sean McManus

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## Our DIVISION Prayers



**Jack Grey, Committee of the Sick Chairman.** Prayer requests should be sent to Jack not later than the Wednesday prior to the business meeting ([RHGrey@cox.net](mailto:RHGrey@cox.net)//540-373-4496).

Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased Hibernian Brothers.

Keep in your prayers our family members and friends:

- **Marie Larzelere**, FS Bob Fitzgerald's mother-in-law who died on Feb 7, 2018
- **Nolan Banks**, 3 year old son of our former FS Jeff Banks. Nolan has soft tissue sarcoma (RMS). Essentially, Nolan needs a miracle. **Pray for the intercession of Father Augustus Tolton**, a candidate for future canonization (for the actual prayer visit: <http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>)
- **Patricia Stephen**, mother of Rusty O'Brien's friend Ann-Marie Sharratt, diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia
- Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law, **Donna Maffeo** and his father Joseph Sr. care giver for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer);
- **John O'Brien** Hugh O'Brien's brother (recovering from stroke);
- **Amy Whittaker** (cancer)
- **Eileen and Dick Link** (Dick is Eileen's care giver),

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Mark Your Calendars!**

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

**March 1-31: Irish-American Heritage Month** This year's theme is *Irish Societal Evolution 1840-1900*.

**March 20:** Division Meeting!

**March 30:** **Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Day** in the Commonwealth of Virginia

**April/May:** Date is TBD for the FFAI field trip to the new Guinness Brewery and Irish Railroad Museum in Baltimore

**June 2:** **VAAOH State Meeting** hosted by Father Edwin Kelley Division in Manassas

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## GENERAL MEAGHER DIVISION 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.

### **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 colors of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to neck/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, possibly a raincoat/overcoat (and maybe a growing waist line).

Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com). She produces 7.5ft long sashes costing \$ 40.00 and guarantees satisfaction: if you’re not satisfied send it back for a full refund.
- Gettysburg Flag offers tri-color sashes and offers “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.**