



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

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President's Corner

Brothers:

I hope each of you had a joyous Easter, He is risen!

Thanks to all brothers who came out in support of the Mass for St. Patrick and the St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was a great seeing you there.

Tickets for the Trip for Two Raffle are available for sale. I am happy to report that we've already sold quite a few tickets! Thank you Brother Hugh O'Brien for coordinating sales at St. Jude parish over St. Patrick Day weekend. If anyone would like tickets to sell, please email me and I will get you some. Also, check your email for ticket sales at your parish, if you are able to help sell, it will be most appreciated!

I hope everyone has their foursome together for our golf tournament on the 23rd of this month. If you are not a golfer, we can use your help checking in golfers, selling mulligans, raffle tickets, etc. Please reach out the Brother Dave McLaughlin if you are interested in helping out. It is not too late, but time is short, to solicit sponsors for the tournament. If you have any last minute sponsors, please let Dave know no later than April 16th so that we may get the signage. See everyone there!!

Please remember to keep all Hibernian Brothers and their families in your prayers as well as those on our prayer list. Also, please remember to pray to Father Tolton for his intercession for Nolan Banks.



Cásca Shona!

In Our Motto,

Shawn Lenahan



The Virginia AOH lost a dedicated Hibernian in Pat Troy.

“You’re not a true Hibernian until you receive the Major Degrees”

Pat was from County Offaly where he worked as a butler in the Birr Castle. He emigrated in 1961 and continued working as a butler, first in Detroit for the Fisher family (Fisher Body Corp), and later in Washington for the Bobby Kennedy family. In 1974, Pat and Bernadette bought the Irish Walk Import Store and in 1980 they bought Ireland’s Own Restaurant and Pub.

Pat founded two AOH divisions, founded the Alexandria St Patrick Day Parade and the Ballyshaners, and a very active sponsor of Project Children. He was the host of The Irish Radio Show for 45 years and earned the City of Alexandria's title of *Living Legend* for his service to

the community. He was a daily communicant at the Basilica of St Mary, a member of the Brian Boru Degree Team, and was honored as an AOH Life Member. . His autobiography, *I Have a Story to Tell*, was published in 2011. Pat was laid to rest at St Mary Cemetery on April 8, 2018.

This is a video of the funeral procession <https://youtu.be/8c81aFie8Tk>



“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.”

Irish whiskey was once on the verge of collapse. Now, it’s booming.

By M. Carrie Allan, *Washington Post*



(Deb Lindsey /For the WAPO)

Legend says St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. What drove out the distillers? That’s a more complex tale. (And a truer one, since archaeological records indicate Ireland never had any snakes.) It once had more than 1,000 distillers, though, ranging from those running tiny farm stills making poitin (think Irish moonshine) to some of the largest distilleries in the world.

Despite a long history of taxation by the British, Irish whiskey survived, and by the mid-1800s, Irish distilleries were making whiskey that the world wanted to drink. Yet between that time and the 1940s, a series of trials and tribulations all but crushed Irish whiskey, dropping the number of commercial distillers in the country to three.

How the category not only survived but also staged a comeback is a story that should have whiskey lovers raising an appreciative dram. New distilleries are popping up around the country, there is talk of a boom and many young makers are preserving the best traditions while exploring new directions.

“It’s quite incredible the different corners of the world that Irish whiskey was found in,” says Carol Quinn, archivist for Irish Distillers Pernod Ricard, which produces some of the best-known brands, including Jameson, Powers and Redbreast. “In 1905, if you’re in Cairo, you can get a glass of Powers Irish whiskey, no problem whatsoever. At the same time, Jameson was selling enough in Honolulu that they actually had a specific label for Honolulu printed up. We have records from Uruguay, New Zealand, Australia, Canada — you name it, and Irish whiskey is being sold there. . . . It’s a global drink at that point.” What’s more, Quinn says, “it was a high-quality, high-status drink. If you were the type of person who enjoyed fine cognac or good champagne, you drank Irish whiskey, and you expected to pay a little more for it, because you knew you were drinking a luxury product.”



Irish whiskeys: Powers, Teeling, Redbreast, Tullamore D.E.W., Dead Rabbit and Tyrconnell.

The early 20th century brought major challenges: Prohibition in America not only closed off a major market, but it also damaged Irish whiskey’s reputation, Quinn says. Some bootleggers were falsely selling under an “Irish whiskey” label because they knew they could charge more. Americans who tried this hooch probably found it “foul, fiery and burning,” which made it more challenging for the real whiskey to come back after the 18th Amendment was repealed.

Irish whiskey hung on, but a trade war between Ireland and the United Kingdom in the 1930s was disastrous, “because that’s when you lose all the markets associated with the British Empire,” Quinn says. Other whiskey-making countries, especially Scotland, gained market share with their blended expressions, while in Ireland, distillery after distillery closed down. In 1966, the three remaining Irish companies, John Jameson, John Power and Cork, merged to form Irish Distillers and consolidated their production; in 1988, Irish Distillers became a subsidiary of Pernod Ricard. That 1966 merger and the later acquisition — which gave the company access to Pernod Ricard’s global marketing capacity — did a lot to get Irish whiskey back on a path to survival.

So did John Teeling, who in the late 1980s, after years of planning and work, ended Irish Distillers’ longtime monopoly when he launched Cooley Distillery. His sons, Stephen and Jack, went on to launch Teeling Whiskey, initially using stocks of Cooley’s whiskey, after Cooley sold to booze giant Beam Suntory in 2012. Teeling is the first new distillery in Dublin in 125 years.

Now, says Stephen Teeling, “we’re trying to revive some of the heritage and innovative ways in which Irish whiskey is made going back generations,” while also trying to make it relevant for newer whiskey consumers by innovating with different grains (the mash bill) and aging in different types of casks.

Irish whiskey, Teeling says, “went from 60 percent of the world’s whiskey market to just 1 percent in the ’80s. It was just devastating. . . . But since Pernod Ricard has come in and a few other new innovations, Irish whiskey has been the fastest-growing grain spirit in the world, really blazing a trail. . . . In the U.S., it’s been growing double digits for the last 10, 15 years.” In fact, according to the Distilled Spirits Council, since 2003, gross revenue for Irish whiskey is up more than 1,000 percent, with the biggest gains at the high end of the category.

Clearly, plenty of Americans like Irish whiskey. Do you? That depends on your tastes, of course, but if your ideas about what Irish whiskey is have been shaped by sports-bar party shots from one particularly ubiquitous bottle, you’re in for some surprises.

Pages of legalese and distillerese go into defining types of whiskey and how they’re made, but an extremely brief distillation: “Irish whiskey” must be distilled and matured in Ireland, and be aged in wood for a minimum of three years. The whiskeys fall into one of three types: pot still, malt or grain (a fourth category, blended, can be made with these three varieties). Pot still is made from a combination of malted barley, unmalted barley and other unmalted cereals; malt is

made from 100 percent malted barley (“single malts” are malt whiskeys from a single distillery); grain whiskey from malted barley and other unmalted grains. Beyond those legalities, as whiskey writer Lew Bryson points out in his book [“Tasting Whiskey,”](#) as soon as you try to define Irish whiskey, you notice exceptions. Not all Irish whiskeys are triple-distilled, not all Irish whiskey is blended. “Knock your head against it long enough and you’ll realize the glib answer is the correct one: Irish whiskey is whiskey that’s made in Ireland,” Bryson writes.

But he says Irish is a great place to start getting into the whiskey world. “Well over half of Irish whiskey is drunk straight,” he says. “I think there’s a direct reason for that: It’s the approachability of the whiskey. ‘Smooth’ is an...

That said, “If all you’ve ever had is Jameson, it will give you one impression,” says Philip Duff, a spirits educator who’s doing some consumer education for the Knappogue Castle line of Irish single malts. “Think about Tennessee whiskey. Ninety-nine percent sold is Jack Daniel’s, but most people drinking it don’t know that, and don’t know what Tennessee whiskey is, and don’t know the other brands. It’s not quite that extreme, but Irish whiskey is dominated by Jameson sales, and that defines the category to a large degree.”

“Jamo,” as it’s often referred to by dude-bros, is a lighter, blended whiskey, and it’s by far the best-selling Irish whiskey in the world. It has helped carry the category and been a massive success story. Several sources reminded me (in a way that suggested they were really trying to remind themselves) that “there’s nothing wrong with Jameson.”

But it’s a frustration to aficionados that Jameson is the only Irish whiskey many Americans have tasted. Back in the golden age, Duff says, Irish whiskey “was all single malt or pure-pot still, extensively aged, and there was no pressure on bigger producers to cut corners, because they could charge a high price.” Such whiskeys tend to be bigger, deeper and richer than the lighter Jameson blend millions think represents Irish whiskey.

For drinkers trying to branch out, Bryson says, he’d start them off on a specific bridge: Redbreast, which like Jameson is made at Irish Distillers’ facility in Midleton. “Jameson is a blended whiskey. It’s a good blended whiskey, but Redbreast is the heart of [what] makes that blend. Once they’ve had Redbreast, I’d try them on another single pot still . . . Bushmill’s 16, the three wood. Tullamore [D.E.W.] Phoenix, a blended cask-strength Irish that delivers. Almost anything Teeling puts in a bottle.”

The whiskey boom in Ireland and the wave of new players makes some whiskey lovers a little nervous. They worry that the drive to make a buck with cheap whiskey or marketing gimmicks will damage the category. But overall, there's a great deal of excitement. "It is a bit of a gold rush with distilleries in Ireland," Duff says. "We'll see some great innovation, and we'll also see tons of stupid stuff, 'Unicorn Tears Whiskey'! Already there are all these absurd 'legendary people from Irish history' brand names being invented. . . . But for every 'Unicorn Tears Whiskey' or whatever, there will be a Knappogue Castle — something really remarkable."

It's very rewarding, says Stephen Teeling, when he shares their whiskey with someone and they say, "Jeez, I never knew Irish whiskey could taste like that." With all the new expressions that will be popping up in the coming years, we'll probably be hearing that a lot.

Allan is a Hyattsville, Md., writer and editor.



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//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),



 **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!

April 17: Division Meeting!

April/May/June: *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

July 11-14: AOH/LAOH National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky Check www.louisvilleirish2018.com for details



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)**

Green Jacket: Brothers procure their own green jackets. One source: 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
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.