



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

June 2018

Volume 6/No. 6

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*****REMINDER: No Meeting in July. Next Division meeting is 21 August*****

14 JUNE IS THE U.S. ARMY'S 243D BIRTHDAY. THE NATION'S LEADERS ESTABLISHED THE CONTINENTAL ARMY ON JUNE 14, 1775, A YEAR BEFORE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS SIGNED.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Brothers:

Please join me in congratulating our Scholastic Award recipients for 2018. The Holy Cross recipient is Caroline Bayne who will attend St. John Paul the Great. Twin sisters Natalie and Cassandra Wujick split the St. Patrick School award and will attend St. Michael's in the fall. Thank you to each of you who have helped out with our fundraising efforts to make these grants possible!

Speaking of fund raising, we will be selling raffle tickets and recruiting members at St. Mary's and St. Patrick's after all masses on June 23rd and 24th. We need an all hands on deck effort to make these two events a success! Along with growing

the bank account, we need to grow our numbers. If everyone would make it a priority to recruit just one new member this year we would be on our way to a vibrant future. Please come out and support the selling and recruiting efforts.

Our summer party is again on hold this year. However, if anyone would like to take the lead in planning this year's party it may easily be put back on this year's schedule!

Looking forward, Mary Shelter's Summer Soiree is scheduled for August 4 at the Fredericksburg Expo Center. We will be making our annual contribution and will have a table for our use. If you are interested in attending, please let me know and I will secure your spot. Unfortunately, I will be in Rhode Island, Athens of the New World, on the 4th.

Believe it or not, the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party is right around the corner. I am looking for a volunteer or two to assist with the final details of the event, the hall, entertainment, food, etc. are already booked. We will also be looking for table captains to promote and sell tickets to the event.

I am sorry to say that the referendum to repeal Ireland's Eighth Amendment passed by a wide margin last month. Abortion will now be available on demand. Opponents to repealing the amendment vow that their fight to defend life has just begun. Please continue to pray to end abortion!

In Our Motto,

Shawn Lenahan

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### **2018 General Meagher Division Scholastic Awards**

Each year the General Meagher Division presents two scholastic awards of \$1500 each to students graduating from St Patrick Elementary School and Holy Cross Academy. The awardees must be accepted to attend one of the area Catholic High Schools and are selected by the schools faculty based on criteria provided by the division. This year the faculty at St Patrick decided to split the award between two deserving students.



President Shawn Lenahan presented the 2018 General Meagher Division scholastic award at the St Patrick Elementary School commencement. The awardees are twin sisters Natalie and Cassandra Wujick. Both girls will attend St Michael the Archangel in the fall (photo at left). At the Holy Cross Academy commencement, Division Vice President Dave McLaughlin presented that school's awardee, Caroline Bayne, with the second 2018 Meagher Division scholastic award. She will attend St John Paul the Great (no photo available).



### JAMES HOBAN

(Extracted from *Irish Echo*, December 8, 2016, by Ray O'Hanlon (edited and updated for Dispatches))

Donald Trump now resides in a property designed by an Irishman, James Hoban. Hoban died on December 8, 1831 at the age of 73. No mausoleum could ever match the legacy that is 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue - a legacy that he designed and created twice.

Hoban was born in Callan, County Kilkenny, in 1758. He was Catholic and from a family that was far from wealthy, so attaining a meaningful level of education was always going to be an uphill battle. But Hoban was determined, ambitious and clearly talented. He managed to secure entry to the Royal Dublin Society where he studied architecture. He proved to be an outstanding student, but sufficient work was not forthcoming after his graduation.

So he quit Ireland for America, making landfall in Charleston, South Carolina in 1785. From there the young immigrant made his way to Philadelphia, established himself as a noted architect, only to return to Charleston where he began to attract commissions. Among the many significant buildings attributed to Hogan include the South Carolina Statehouse in Charleston,

and the capitol building in Columbia. Hoban would also teach architecture, counting among his students Robert Mills – the future designer of the Washington Monument.

Talent can take you far. A little luck will always take you farther. In 1791, Hoban was lucky enough to meet President George Washington, this during the latter's trip to South Carolina. Hoban impressed the president, as did his elegant Irish Georgian building designs. A year later, when Pierre Charles L'Enfant was fired as the chief architect of Washington, D.C., the president remembered Hoban and sent for him. Hoban was invited to participate in design competitions for the Capitol and the planned presidential mansion.

In July, 1792, Washington and three commissioners charged with overseeing the building of the new capital city reviewed the entries. They rejected all 16 proposals for the Capitol (including Hoban's), but selected Hoban's design for the executive mansion, a design inspired by a building Washington had never set eyes upon – Leinster House in Dublin, a neoclassical structure built in 1745 and where the Irish Legislature (*Oireachtas Éireann*) currently meets. As with the White House, Leinster House has eleven rows of windows with alternating triangular and rounded pediments, along with four central columns.



Columnist Ed O'Donnell wrote in the *Irish Echo* some years ago that several factors conspired to delay construction of the White House. To begin with, Hoban had difficulty recruiting sufficiently skilled workers. Few seemed interested in leaving established cities like Boston and New York to work in the swampy, undeveloped capital. Hoban additionally had to incorporate several modifications to his design demanded by the commissioners, not the least of which was an order to reduce the building from three stories to two. Nonetheless, after eight years of construction, the White House was deemed ready for occupancy.

The first residents, President John Adams and his wife, Abigail, moved into the mansion early in November 1800. To their great annoyance they found the house cold and much of the interior unfinished. They stayed only four months as a result of Adams losing the election to Thomas Jefferson. Cold though it may have been during winter, Hoban's White House would prove to be a springboard for future commissions.

He subsequently designed many of the capital city's hotels, government buildings, and private homes. In 1802, Hoban won a seat on the city council, a position he held for the rest of his life.

He was also a leading parishioner at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, which he helped establish in 1794.

The "cold" White House would become unbearably hot during the War of 1812, a fight which continued past that year. In 1814, the British burned the house.. The following year, with the war concluded, Hoban was assigned the task of rebuilding, a near total process as the structure had been near totally destroyed. Despite President James Monroe's decision to move into the unfinished residence in 1817, work continued for two more years until halted with the onset of an economic recession in 1819.

Construction resumed under Hoban's direction in 1824, after Congress approved funds to complete the south portico. Hoban returned to complete the north portico in 1829-30, this just in time for the first Irish-American president, Andrew Jackson.

James Hoban died on December 8, 1831, at the age of 73. He rests in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Washington. Of course the White House, Hoban's lasting monument, never rests, today it is a 24/7 address.



***“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.”***

## **OLIVER PLUNKETT**

On a bleak, frigid night in January 1674, Bishop Oliver Plunkett and his close friend John Brennan, Bishop of Cashel, were forced to flee the town of Drogheda and run for their lives. Wearing long, hooded cloaks and veils, and with a price on their heads and the dreaded Priest Hunters snarling at their heels, they followed the old royal roadway, crossed the Boyne valley and fled north toward the sanctuary of

South Armagh in the province of Ulster. Their journey would take them over the hill of Slane, past the old moss covered dolmens and burial place of the nobles at *Ros na ri*, then on past the hamlet of Dundalk, through the gap of the north and into the foothills around Slieve Gullion.

In a gale driven, blinding snowstorm they passed in frigid silence through the gap and arrived exhausted below the steep slopes of the ancient mountain. After trudging through the snowdrifts that covered the wide valley of Mullaghbawn, they arrived at a prearranged hiding place known locally as the Doctor's Quarters, close to the old lime kilns at Lislea. There they met with Bishop Patrick Donnelly, aka Phelim Brady, the Bard of Armagh, himself no stranger to the same vicious head hunters. The bard provided the two men with temporary shelter, food and warm beds.

Oliver Plunkett was born on November 1, 1625 in Loughcrew, County Meath, Ireland, to well-to-do parents with Hiberno-Norman ancestors. As an aspirant to the priesthood he set out for Rome in 1647, under the care of Father Pierfrancesco Scarampi of the Roman Oratory. At this time the Irish Confederate Wars were raging in Ireland, a series of violent conflicts between native Irish Roman Catholics, English and Irish Anglicans and Protestants. Scarampi was the Papal envoy to the Roman Catholic movement known as the Confederation of Ireland. Many of Plunkett's relatives were involved in this organization.

He was admitted to the Irish College in Rome and was ordained a priest in 1654, and deputed by the Irish bishops to act as their representative in Rome. Meanwhile, the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland (1649–53) had defeated the Roman Catholic cause in Ireland and in the aftermath the public practice of Roman Catholicism was banned and Roman Catholic clergy were exiled or executed. As a result, it was impossible for Plunkett to return to Ireland for many years. He petitioned to remain in Rome and, in 1657, became a professor of theology. Throughout the period of the Commonwealth and the first years of Charles II's reign, he successfully pleaded the cause of the Irish Roman Church, and also served as theological professor at the College of Propaganda Fide. At the Congregation of Propaganda Fide on 9 July 1669 he was appointed Archbishop of Armagh, the Irish primatial see, and was consecrated on 30 November at Ghent by the Bishop of Ghent, Eugene-Albert,

count d'Allamont. He eventually set foot on Irish soil again on 7 March 1670, as the English Restoration of 1660 had begun on a basis of toleration.

After arriving back in Ireland, he set about reorganizing the ravaged Roman Church and built schools both for the young and for clergy. As the Penal Laws had been relaxed in line with the Declaration of Breda in 1660, Plunkett was able to establish a Jesuit College in Drogheda in 1670. A year later 150 students attended the college, no fewer than 40 of whom were Protestant, making this college the first integrated school in Ireland.

On the enactment of the Test Act in 1673, to which Plunkett would not agree for doctrinal reasons, the college was closed and demolished. Plunkett went into hiding, travelling only in disguise, and refused a government edict to register at a seaport to await passage into exile. For the next few years he was largely left in peace since the Dublin government, except when put under pressure from the English government in London, preferred to leave the Catholic bishops alone.

The so-called Popish Plot, concocted in England by clergyman Titus Oates, led to further anti-Roman Catholic action. Archbishop Peter Talbot of Dublin was arrested, and Plunkett again went into hiding. Despite being on the run and with a price on his head, Plunkett refused to leave his flock. At some point before his final incarceration, he took refuge in a church that once stood in the townland of Killartry, in the parish of Clogherhead in County Louth, seven miles outside Drogheda.

The protestant parliament in England, still in a very strong position, finally forced its will on the restoration king, Charles II, and issued a decree dissolving all Church property. Oliver Plunkett's schools in Drogheda were razed to the ground and a short time later, on the January 18 1674, Oliver Plunkett and his close friend John Brennan, Bishop of Cashel, were forced to flee and seek shelter in the South Armagh hills, coming first to the area around the foothills of Slieve Gullion.

This flight is well documented by Oliver Plunkett himself, in a letter written by him to the Internuncio in Rome on January 27 1674 from his first hideout, the house of a 'reduced gentleman who had nothing to lose' and who gave them shelter as they fled, fearing for their lives, through the valleys around Mullaghbawn in County Armagh during a violent snowstorm in the winter of 1673-74.

Oliver Plunkett was arrested in Dublin in December 1679 and imprisoned in Dublin Castle, where he gave absolution to the dying Talbot. Plunkett was tried at Dundalk for conspiring against the state by allegedly plotting to bring 20,000 French soldiers into the country, and for levying a tax on his clergy to support 70,000 men for rebellion. Fearing he would not be found guilty in Ireland he was moved to Newgate Prison in London in order to face trial at Westminster Hall.

Oliver Plunkett was found guilty of high treason in June 1681 "for promoting the Roman faith", and was condemned to death. He was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 1 July 1681, aged 55, the last Roman Catholic martyr to die in England.

His body was initially buried in two tin boxes, next to five Jesuits who had died previously, in the courtyard of St Giles in the Fields church. The remains were exhumed in 1683 and moved to the Benedictine monastery at Lamspringe, near Hildesheim in Germany. The head was brought to Rome, and from there to Armagh, and eventually to Drogheda where since 29 June 1921 it has rested in Saint Peter's Church. Most of the body was brought to Downside Abbey, England, where the major part is located today, with some parts remaining at Lamspringe. Some relics were brought to Ireland in May 1975, while others are in England, France, Germany, the United States, and Australia.

On July 1st 1981 South Armagh native Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, together with twenty bishops and a number of abbots stood on a stage beneath scaffolding on Clapham Common, London. The Cardinal had flown there in a helicopter with the remains of Oliver Plunkett's body, for the 300th anniversary of his death. A spectacular rally and Mass was held in his honor.



### 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:



- **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
- **John Tracy**
- **Hugh O'Brien**
- **Eileen Christina Anderson Link**, Andy Link's mother who passed away May 2, 2018
- **Lynne Hogan**, John Hogan's wife (hip injury)
- **Donna Maffeo**, Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law, 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);
- **Patricia Stephen**, mother of Rusty O'Brien's friend Ann-Marie Sharratt, diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia
- **Amy Whittaker** (cancer)

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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!

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

***June 19:*** Division meeting

***July 11-14:*** AOH/LAOH National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky

***September 22: VAAOH Quarterly State Meeting*** hosted by Father Corby Division - St. Mary of Sorrows (Farrell Hall), 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax VA. Major Degrees will follow the meeting.

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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 \(s\\_lenahan@verizon.net\)](#)**

**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets. One source: blazer depot (Goggle it). 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.

**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.**