



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

July 2018

Volume 6/No. 7

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)

*****REMINDER: Next Division meeting is 21 August*****

President's Corner:

Brothers,

Summer is here and we will not have a business meeting this month. I hope each of you will have a safe, relaxing and fun summer! Please continue to pray for our brothers on the prayer list.

Please mark September 15th on your calendars, it is the date of the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day celebration at Lake of the Woods. Tickets are only \$35 per person and include a meal and lots of Irish entertainment. Please be thinking of friends that you can invite to fill tables so the event will be a smashing success! I am relying on each and every one of you to participate, if for no other reason than to see me try and dance and Irish jig!

God bless each and every one of you until we meet again in August.

In Our Motto,

Shawn Lenahan

Welcome our New Brother:

Mike Kasey joined the division at the June 6th meeting! Mike is a St Mary parishoner.

Dispatches editorial (unsolicited) comment: “Skin in the Game”

Volunteerism is at the core of our Order. Without brothers giving freely of their time, we’d have nothing of value. Without volunteers, the General Meagher Division would have no Halfway to St Patrick Day celebration, no Irish American Heritage Month, no Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle, no Shamrock Charity Golf Classic, no summer picnic, no Christmas Party, no monthly newsletter, no website, and no opportunity to learn more about the Irish heritage, traditions and customs.

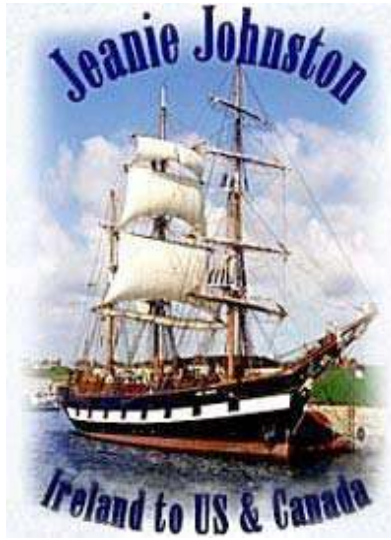
Everyone has other priorities. However, if you can find some available time, consider volunteering for one of division offices, committees or projects. Naturally, a volunteer accrues duties and responsibilities that can only add to the feeling of pride, fellowship, and common loyalty that should be shared every brother in our Division. Contact Division President Shawn Lenahan for available opportunities.



One of the books on the AOH Summer Reading list is All Standing by Kathryn Miles. I hope this short piece generates interest the book!

All Standing is the story of the Jeanie Johnston, a “passenger ship” used to transport Irish emigrants escaping *An Gorta Mor*, and the related outbreak of cholera and other diseases. Transatlantic crossings were always unpredictable, so each trip was a dangerous undertaking. However, the Jeanie Johnston did not turn into one of the so-called coffin ships; during her many voyages nobody is known to have perished on board this ship.

Built in Canada in 1847, her maiden voyage was in April 1848 when she transported 193 Irish men, women and children from Kerry to Quebec. She also sailed to New York and Baltimore. A one-way ticket cost £3.10, or about six months' wages for a typical Irish laborer. Her last voyage was in 1855; she sank while en route from Quebec back to Ireland (her crew was rescued).



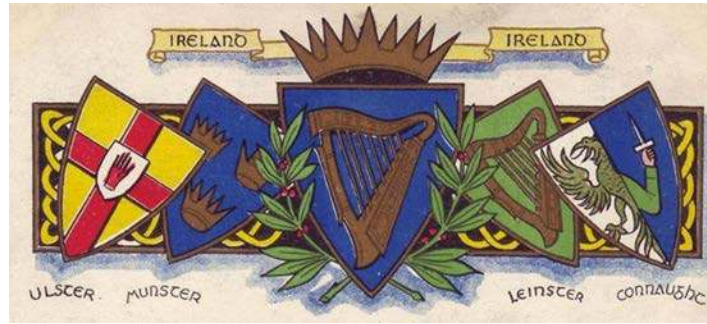
During the 1990s many Irish and Irish-Americans contributed to a fund for the reconstruction of this Irish emigrant ship. In February 2003, the replica Jeanie Johnston emigrant famine ship, a floating museum, sailed from Kerry to the USA. She arrived at the Water Street Pier in Washington, DC on May 29th. Visiting the ship helped formulate a better understanding of the ordeal our 19th century forbearers experienced in the dank, dark hold an emigrant ship. I was one of the lucky few to board the ship in my role as VAAOH historian.

Independence Day at Lake of the Woods



Although the “final numbers” aren’t in, the *Trip 4 Two* raffle ticket sales at Lake of the Woods seemed better than in past years. We sold more than 40 raffle tickets on a beautiful summer day. Pictured here are (L to R) division volunteers Dick Dowd, John Hogan and Bill Halpin. Andy Link and Bill Vanderveer were also present to help (we thank Andy for water, other refreshing beverages, and this photo).

An advertisement for our Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration also drew considerable attention.



“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.”

Because we’ll be giving away commemorative Irish Coffee glasses at the Halfway Celebration...

A Taste of Ireland: Irish Coffee, by Bridget Haggerty (edited for *Dispatches*)

Now a favorite after-dinner drink all over the world, many people are surprised to learn that it’s a relatively recent invention.

The Irish Coffee story began at Foynes Airbase in Limerick in 1937. The airbase was the main airport for Flying Boats between America and Europe. By 1940, the airport was handling a large number of passengers, including VIPs such as Humphrey Bogart, Eleanor Roosevelt, Edward G Robinson, Ernest Hemmingway and Douglas Fairbanks Sr. Passengers remained in the airport while the flying boats were prepared for flight. Sometimes the wait could be overnight due to bad weather.

In 1941 Eamon DeValera visited Foynes and saw the need for a 1st class restaurant/lounge. He hired Brendan O’Regan to create a venue that would serve the best of Irish food and drink and present a positive image of Ireland and its people. By 1942, the new restaurant was up and running with Chef Joe Sheridan at the helm.

One winter night in 1942 a flight left Foynes for New York. After five grueling hours of battling a storm, they turned back. The restaurant was informed to prepare

food and drink as the passengers would be cold and miserable. Joe decided the passengers needed something special to warm them up. He brewed dark, rich coffee, splashed in some Irish whiskey and topped each cup off with freshly whipped cream. There was a hushed silence as the brew was tasted for the first time. A passenger asked "Is this Brazilian coffee?" "No," said Mr. Sheridan, "that's Irish Coffee."

Stanton Delaplane, an international travel writer, enjoyed it so much he brought the recipe back to Jack Koepler, a bartender at the Buena Vista Hotel in San Francisco. They attempted to recreate it, but without success. The cool cream on top kept sinking. Koepler returned to Ireland to learn the correct way to make it - and that led to an interesting twist on this story.

After Shannon International Airport opened, Joe Sheridan took his famous drink to the new airport. But then, in 1952, Joe accepted a position at the Buena Vista in San Francisco where he continued to introduce his uniquely Irish creation. The rest, as they say, is more than 60 years of history.

Sheridan's original recipe:

Cream - Rich as an Irish Brogue

Coffee - Strong as a Friendly Hand

Sugar - Sweet as the tongue of a Rogue (i.e. one spoon of brown sugar)

Whiskey - Smooth as the Wit of the Land.

By The Way: The word whiskey comes from the Irish "uisce beatha" which came from the Latin words, aqua vita - water of life. According to the history books, it's said to have been created around the 12th century, but there are many historians who believe it dates back much earlier. In any event, whiskey was widely distilled in Ireland by the 15th century, and during the **16th century**, it had earned a remarkable reputation, as evidenced by the following excerpt from a pamphlet called "**The Commodities of Aqua Vita**". It contains an ancient quote describing whiskey's magical properties:

"Being moderatlie taken, saith he, it sloweth age, it strengneth youth, it helpeth digestion, it cutteth flegme, it abandoneth melancholie, it relisheth the heart, it lighteneth the mind, it quickeneth the spirit...it keepeth and preserveth the head from whirling, the eies from dazeling, the toong from lispig, the mouth from

maffling, the teeth from chattering, and the throat from rattling; ...it keepeth the stomach from wambling, and the heart from swelling, the bellie from wirtching, the guts from rumbling, the hands from shivering and the sinews from shrinking, the veines from crumpling, the bones from aking, and the marrow from soaking."



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:

- **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>)
- **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)



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!

The Division Summer Family Picnic will not be held this year.

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


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

August 21: Division meeting


September 15: Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration, Lake of the Woods 6PM to 10:30PM: Enjoy pay as you go cocktails, an Irish dinner, Irish dancers and live music by DragonFyre, plus door prizes and the Trip for Two to Ireland drawing

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 (details forthcoming).

September 23: Celebrate your **Irish Heritage** at the Halfway to St Patrick's Day **baseball game at National's Park**. The Washington Nationals will take on the New York Mets. The pre-game **Irish festival kicks off at 11:30AM; Ambassador Mulhall will throw the first pitch at 1:35pm**. Find more information and tickets [here](#).



Join **Bill Irish** for
HALFWAY TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY
WITH THE NATIONALS




Celebrate Halfway to St. Patrick's Day with the Nationals! Baseline Reserved tickets include access to the Pregame VIP Party Tent where you will be able to sample food and drink from local Irish bars and restaurants. All tickets include a donation to the John Barry Charitable Fund for use by local Irish-America cultural organizations.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
www.Nationals.com/Irish

BASELINE RESERVED: \$60*
INCLUDES PRE-GAME IRISH FESTIVAL IN THE VIP TENT

OUTFIELD RESERVED: \$29

SCOREBOARD PAVILION: \$20



SUNDAY, SEPT. 23
1:35 PM

For groups of 13 or more, please contact:
KATHERINE MITCHELL
202.640.7649 | Katherine.Mitchell@nationals.com

ONLY AVAILABLE AT
nationals.com/Irish



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.