



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

September 2018

Volume 6/No. 9

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)

Know the Past and Shape the Future

President's Corner

Brothers:

I would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to everyone who helped out in putting on another fun and successful Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party! Thank you to Brother Bill Halpin for working with the Lake of the Woods club, securing DragonFyre and the Muggivan Dancers, obtaining door prizes and inviting so many of his friends and neighbors. Thank you to Brother Dennis O'Leary for saving us a TON of money by personalizing the Irish Coffee Mugs with our logo and commemoration of the event! Thank you to Dave McLaughlin and Jake Ruppert for providing door prizes. Thank you to Neil Buttimer, Jake Ruppert, Andy Link and Jack Kelly for being table captains. And thank you to the fifteen brothers that attended the party!

This Saturday is the 3rd Quarter State Meeting and the Major Degrees will be exemplified. If you have not received your Major Degrees, this is an excellent opportunity to do so. The ceremony begins at 1pm at St. Mary of Sorrows, 5222 Sideburn Rd in Fairfax.

Please mark your calendars for our 2nd annual Memorial Mass Tuesday, November 6 at St. Mary, time to be determined. This is a Mass in remembrance of our fallen Brothers. I would be very grateful for maximum participation this year. We are planning a small reception after mass as well. I hope to see each of you there.

Finally, remember those on our prayer list and especially Nolan Banks.

In Our Motto,

Shawn Lenahan



Our Tenth Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle another success.

Although one can never be certain, it appears that all 1200 really tickets were sold this year. The winning ticket was drawn by five year old Emma the youngest Muggivan School of Irish Dance student. This year’s winner was Lake of the Woods resident and St Patrick Church parishioner, Jim (and Val) Protiva. They are leaning heavily toward taking the trip to Ireland.

← Meagher Division Leprechauns hawking tickets at St Mary



The Divisions Eighth Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration Another Success!

The Lake of the Woods clubhouse provided a superb, decorated venue for this year’s Halfway Celebration. We hosted 113 registered guests and provided them with an entrée of corned beef or salmon, great Irish music by David Rich’s band, DragonFyre, and exquisite Irish dance performances by the Muggivan School of Irish Dance.



Liam, seen at left, competed in the 2017 Irish dance world competition in Ireland and is rated the sixth best in the world. He will be joining the River Dance troupe later this year. The Muggivan dancers traveled from Richmond to dance from us and ranged in age from five year old Emma to young adults. Our thanks go to Caitlin Fahey for organizing a terrific show appreciated by everyone in the hall. Thanks also to our door prize donors who made the evening special: The General’s Quarters Restaurant, It’s About Thyme Restaurant, The Piedmont Steakhouse, The Old House Vineyards, Harry’s Ale

House, J. Brian’s Tap Room, The Colonial Tavern, Home of the Irish Brigade, and Brother Jake Ruppert’s donated a bottle of Irish whiskey. And, the McKenna’s went home happy the 50/50 winnings! A special thanks to Brother Dennis O’Leary for providing personally etched commemorative Irish coffee mugs to every guest and to the Table Captains, Jake Ruppert, Neil Buttimer, Sean Lenahan, Andy Link, Jack Kelly and Bill Halpin for assuring a full house.



2018 Tax Tip: This link to a tax calculator may be helpful as you prepare for filing tax returns in 2019. <http://taxplancalculator.com/>



Wexford's James Power and the Trail of Tears to Texas

Edited for space from [The WildGeese](#), post by [Joe Gannon](#) on December 24, 2017

James Power was born in County Wexford circa 1788 where there were few economic opportunities for Irish Catholics after the 1798 Rising. In 1809 Power left for Amerikay. He settled in New Orleans and became a successful merchant. In 1822 he met Stephen Austin. Austin told Power of *empresario*ⁱ contracts offered by the Mexican government as a means to settle sparsely inhabited Texas. *Empresario* were given large tracks of land based on a pledge to colonize Texas.

Based on Austin's suggestion, Power moved to Saltillo, Mexico in 1823 and became a Mexican citizen. In Saltillo he made two important friends. One was Don Felipe Rogue de la Portilla an influential Mexican family. The other was Dr. James Hewetson from Co. Kilkenny. Power and Hewetson entered into a business partnership selling mining equipment and eventually applied for an *empresario* contract. The Mexican government did not want Texas occupied by Americans as they feared Americans would not be loyal to Mexico. So Power and Hewetson received contracts based on a promise to fill their colonies with two hundred families, half Mexican and half Irish. Mexicans favored the Irish because most were Catholic and would easily assimilate.

In July 1832 Power married his friend's daughter, Dolores de la Portilla, but time was running out on their contract to bring in Irish immigrants. In early 1833 Power returned to Wexford to inspire friends and neighbors to travel to a place most had never heard of. He mixed his passion for Texas with a bit of Blarney and offered each family 1,000 acres of free land. It was an incomprehensibly huge amount of land to people who were surviving on just a few acres. Quickly about 350 prospective colonists signed up. They were told to bring their farm implements. The first group departed Ireland in January 1834.

When Power arrived in New Orleans that April, a cholera epidemic was running rampant. Dozens of his colonists were sick and many had died. He chartered two schooners and loaded his survivors for the final leg of their journey to Texas. As they approached the Texas coastline they were hit with a violent storm and both ships ran aground. They finally reached shore on May 5th, but most of the farm

implements in the wrecked ships. By August the colonists were issued titles to their land.

In return for fulfilling their contract, Power and Hewetson were granted 42,000 acres of land, “ten littoral leagues” along the coast from today’s Corpus Christi Bay to San Antonio Bay, including the abandoned Refugio mission. Part of the contract was that each colony should form a militia. Power was chosen as commander of the Refugio militia and was known as Colonel Power for the rest of his life.

In summer 1835 the winds of war began to blow. Power and most of the Refugio Irish joined the American Texans against Santa Anna. Power represented Refugio at the 1836 convention where he helped draft and later signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. He used his influence to get his friend, Sam Houston, elected commander-in-chief of the Texan’s army. While Power was at the convention Refugio was attacked by Mexican forces. After the “Battle of Refugio” more than 400 Army of the Republic of Texas prisoners of war were executed by the Mexican Army at what became known as the Goliad massacre on March 27, 1836.

During the war, 15 Irish-born soldiers died at the Alamo. Another 14 died in the Goliad massacre. No group in Texas would suffer more in the war than the Irish in San Patricio and Refugio. At least 100 men who served under General Sam Houston at the final victory at San Jacinto were born in Ireland. That included Power’s 17 year old nephew, Tom O’Connor, the youngest soldier in Houston’s army that day.

Many believe the fighting between Mexico and the Republic of Texas ended after San Jacinto, but there were clashes for many years. Power was captured twice and spent time in Mexican jails in 1838 and 1841. In 1842, he and the other colonists, including his nephews, Morgan O’Brien and Tom O’Connor, fought the Mexicans in the Battle of Nueces.

Power and his wife, Dolores had a son and a daughter, but she died in 1836. Later he married her sister, Tomasita. They would have five children. He was a delegate to the Convention of 1845 that approved the annexation of the Republic of Texas to the United States, making it the 28th state.

James Power died on August 15, 1852 in Live Oak Point, overlooking Copano Bay, where he had landed his despondent band of Irish colonists 18 years earlier. He is buried at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Refugio.

Though both war and pestilence conspired against him, Power brought hundreds of Irish to Texas. Many became very successful, but none more so than his nephew, Tom O'Connor. After surviving the Battle of San Jacinto, he would one day own the largest ranch in Texas, valued at \$4.5 million. Known as the "Texas Cattle King" he co-founded a bank in San Antonio. Then oil was discovered on their land making the family multi-millionaires.

James Power is remembered as a Founding Father of the Republic and the State of Texas and he was not forgotten in Ballygarrett, Co Wexford. In 1996 the towns of Ballygarrett and Refugio were "twinned" for cultural economic and tourism purposes in honor of their connection through James Power. In May 1996, U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith unveiled a monument to Power at St. Mary's Church in Ballygarrett. In a reverse of their trip to Texas in 1834, 140 Texan descendants of the original emigrants travelled to Ballygarrett to witness the tribute.



“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.”

The IRISH POST, by Ryan Price, July 18, 2018

IRISH revolutionary nationalist, suffragette and socialist, Constance Markievicz, honored in British Parliament for being the first woman MP.



Her portrait, donated by the Irish parliament will be received this afternoon by Speaker John Bercow on behalf of the House of Commons, 100 years after winning a seat in Westminster. It was a seat the Sinn Fein politician never took, in line with her party policy of abstention. Along with 72 other Sinn Fein MP's, she refused to acknowledge the authority of the British government.

Constance Markievicz fought the 1918 election for the constituency of Dublin St Patrick's from a cell in Holloway prison in London. Out of 18 women candidates, she was the only one to win a seat. Madame de Markievicz, as she was sometimes known, was also the first woman elected to the First Dail.

She took part in the Easter Rising of 1916 and fought against British crown forces under socialist rebel Michael Mallin at St Stephen's Green in Dublin, after which she was sentenced to death. At her court martial, Markievicz said she was "ready to die for Ireland one way or another". Her death sentence was commuted to life in prison on account of being a woman.

Markievicz died in 1927 aged 59. Her portrait will form part of the UK Parliament's Voice and Vote exhibition until 6 October, when it will be transferred to nearby Portcullis House to go on public display.



Watch an interesting video (about 60 minutes) on the beginning of the Troubles in the north of Ireland. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJv8QVRT09s>



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>)
- **John Tracy**, COPD
- **Jim O'Donnell**, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- **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!

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

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](#).



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.

ⁱ An empresario was a person who had been granted the right to settle on land in exchange for recruiting and taking responsibility for new settlers. The word is Spanish for entrepreneur.