



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
 Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

December 2018

Volume 6/No. 12

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)

Nollaig shona agus sona bhliain nua

President's Corner:

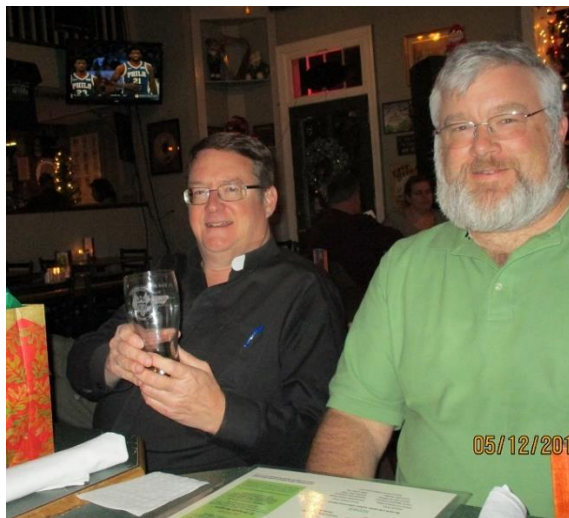
Brothers:

Thank you for another fun year of Hibernian Brotherhood! May the peace and joy of the Christmas season find you in the warm embrace of kith and kin.

In Our Motto,
 Shawn Lenahan



Saying "Thank You" to our Clergy: Father Eversole



On 5 December, eight Hibernians attended a dinner in honor of the Reverend Paul M. Eversole, pastor at St Matthew Catholic Church. The dinner hosted by Division President Shawn Lenahan was a tribute to Father Eversole's commitment to his vocation. In attendance were Jake Ruppert, Jack Kelly, Pete Newsome, John Hogan, Dave McLaughlin, James Lenahan, and Bill Halpin. Father Eversole was presented with an engraved pint glass and copies of AOH and division history pamphlets.



Ground Breaking at St Patrick Catholic Church



At 11AM on December 7th, Father John Ziegler, pastor at St Patrick Church, along with Father de Rosa, representing Bishop Burbidge, broke ground for the cornerstone of the new parish church. The parish's "For the Glory of God" campaign raised about \$6M. (photo by John Hogan)



On 15 November 1862, President Lincoln approved General Ambrose Burnside's plan to capture the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia, leading to the Battle of Fredericksburg.

On that same date one hundred and fifty-six years later (that's 2018), **John Hogan** and his cousin visited the Fredericksburg National Park visitors center on Lafayette Blvd. They watched the **22 minute film about the battle**. John recommends every Hibernian should see this film. Produced in 2007, it is narrated by James Earl Jones. It shows Ambrose Burnside's leadership and the slaughter in Fredericksburg disaster.

2018 in Review



2018 Irish-American Heritage Month Mass at St Patrick Church celebrated by Division Chaplain Father Jerry Wooton (far left)



New Brothers received our Order's Shamrock Degree on 20 November 2018: John Starr, President Shawn Lenahan, Charles O'Connor, and Shamus Lawlor.

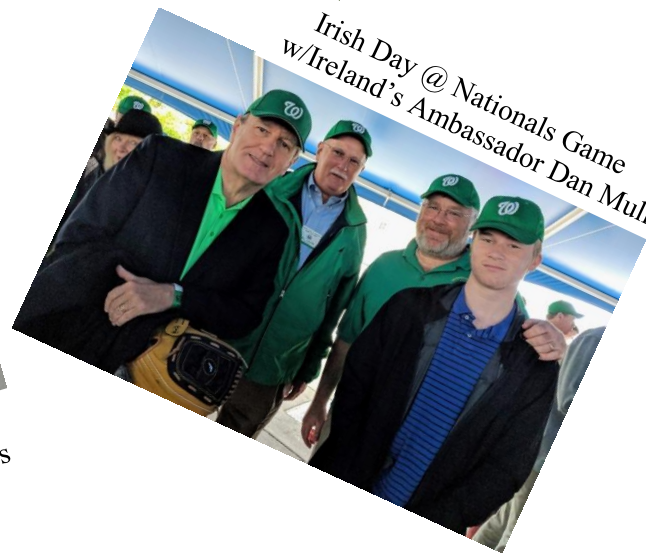
The outstanding degree team led by Shawn Lenahan, Jake Ruppert (Friendship), Dave McLaughlin (Unity), Jeff Everett (Christian Charity), Dennis O'Leary (Marshal), and Jack Grey (Sentinel)



Past State & Division President Hugh O'Brien: AOH Life Member



Third Generation of Hibernian Lenahans: James stood for our Order's Major Degrees in September 2018 (James is third from right)



Irish Day @ Nationals Game w/Ireland's Ambassador Dan Mulhall



Donation to St Jude Catholic Church



IAHM --Social Evolution of Irish in America



Brothers Luncheon Colonial Tavern



Selling T4T Raffle Tickets @ Red Dragon



Everybody is selling T4T Raffle Tickets

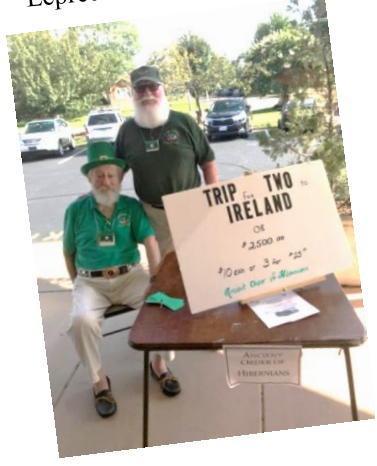
...and at St Patrick Church



Alexandria Parade 2018



Leprechauns at St Mary



Presenting Wreath @ City Dock Dec 2017



2018 Halfway Celebration



2018 St Patrick School Scholastic Awards



Ceili dance lessons Halfway 2018



T4T Sales at LOW



January 2018 Religious Freedom March



Brothers Luncheon at J. Brian's Tap Room



... and a luncheon at BJ's



Christmas Party 2017



“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.”

FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND



The Freedom For All Ireland chairmen at National AOH and the State Boards of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia arranged for a reception IHO Ms. Carmel Quinn of the Ballymurphy Families.

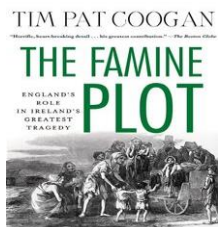
The reception was hosted by Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Lonergran at the Irish Embassy. Ms. Quinn is a founding member of the [Ballymurphy Massacre Campaign](#) and a member of [Relatives for Justice](#). She is visiting the USA asking for American support at public events and Congressional meetings organized by the AOH. Until this year, Democratic Unionist Party, currently led by Arlene Foster, had blocked efforts to fund an official inquiry into the Ballymurphy massacre.

Ms. Quinn gave a compelling talk about the British atrocities that took place in her village between 9 and 11 August 1971. In the course of three days, the British Army killed eleven innocent civilians in Ballymurphy a Catholic enclave in Belfast. Ms. Quinn's brother was killed while running to aid a wounded man. Father Hugh Mullan, a Catholic priest, was shot while waving a white cloth and rushing to the aid a wounded man. The same British unit, 1st Battalion, Parachute Regiment, was responsible for the better-known Bloody Sunday massacre on January 30, 1972. *Watch the video* about the tragedy at Ballymurphy and the beginning of the Troubles. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idPHsKbC2Ds&feature=youtu.be>

At our November meeting, the Division voted to donate \$1,000 to the 2018 Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI) campaign.

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A Book Review



"The Famine Plot," reviewed by Eamon Loingsigh (June 1, 2013, *Wildgeese.com*)
Edited for Dispatches

Outside of Ennis, in County Clare in the west of Ireland, the wind kicks upon the hills under the same gray sky where once starved children, women and old men were buried callously, if not left by the ditches. Where the weakest of the agrarian poor were communally laid in what are now mere humps of turf. Paupers' graves that for over 160 years have not been fully honored by truth nor been properly acknowledged. Even if two million of them perished of starvation and common disease, over a million more died jumping desperately into coffin ships. The facts had never made a difference as to the truth of their demise, such as numbers as stiflingly affecting as up to twenty-five

percent of a country's population dead or dispersed.

Now finally comes "*The Famine Plot: England's Role in Ireland's Greatest Tragedy*". This seminal work and its stance on Ireland's most titanic event, written by its most famous historian, Tim Pat Coogan, has been bantered about for many years: A formal condemnation or blame on English policy and policymakers for the Irish Potato Famine of 1845-1852 and the "extermination" of so many poor by starvation, disease and emigration.

Coogan's work is not the first on the topic, though it is the brightest and most obviously

damning. There have been many works. Of note is Cecil Woodham-Smith's 1962 affective work, *The Great Hunger: Ireland 1845-1849*, which outlined blame particularly on the English civil servant Sir Charles Trevelyan who administered "relief" during the Famine, but fell short of condemnation, stating instead that Britain's record was simply "hard to defend." But even that was too much for most academics, who criticized Woodham-Smith's work for being biased.

Many works have followed, but not quite with the effect of Coogan's sharp pen. In the opening chapters, *The Famine Plot* outlines the brewing of a catastrophic event. However, Coogan saves his best argument for the most pertinent players during the Famine. Taking apart the philosophies of these royal English policymakers and their economic and religious treatises that

Coogan points to laissez-faire capitalism as affecting how English colonial rule could justify standing by while a famine raged next door. English economists decided that raising cattle in the Irish land would be much more fiscally productive than depending on the feckless Irish to pay rent on it. A plan was needed to exchange the Irish people for cattle.

As Coogan points out succinctly, a famine occurs when there is no food to be eaten, which was only true of the potato. But Ireland under Britain's colonial rule exported grain, corn, cattle, and many other foodstuffs on a regular basis. "Ireland had no shortage of food," Coogan writes. The London political economists of the time, however, termed these exports from Irish lands "cash crops," which effectively meant they were the lawful property of the business community and not to be allocated for relief. With evidence such as this, the debate in Coogan's book turns the

description of the Great Hunger from "famine" to "extermination" and even "genocide." Coogan outlines his thesis when he quotes the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. One of those terms of genocide in particular rings with a great clarity here: "Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."

The effect of the Famine on the world has been long lasting and is still quite alive today. The symbol of hunger has persisted in Irish politics and the "hunger strike," which has a pre-Famine Celtic history called, in Irish, the *troscadh*.

Maybe the most glaring reminder today of the Great Hunger of 1845-1852 is the cold, factual daily evidence of the Irish surname in foreign lands. Although emigration from Ireland continued in the nineteenth century after the Famine and through much of the twentieth century, what comes to mind when an Irish surname is attached to a cockney accent, or an Australian twang or the drawl of the Southern United States is the curtain of history that remains mostly veiled.

With *The Famine Plot*, we now have a platform in which to understand the intentions of the policies and the policymakers of an occupying force that helped exacerbate a blight on potato crops that had no business devastating an entire European country, sending the weakest and most vulnerable into shallow graves, onto ships bound for inhospitable countries with purpose and intention as its means. And with this book, my grandfather, who has since passed, raises his chin high in my memory now that the reasons for our family's arrival is described in terms that are grounded in reality, not politics.





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**, 4 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 prayer visit: <http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>)
- **John Tracy**, COPD
- **Rusty O'Brien**, kidney cancer -- recovering from surgery
- **Jake Ruppert's** mother, cancer recovering from surgery
- **Pat Phillips**, wife of Brother Bill Phillips, recovering from surgery
- **John O'Brien** Hugh O'Brien's brother recovering from stroke
- **Donna Maffeo**, Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law, and his father Joseph Sr. care giver for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer)
- **Patricia Stephen**, mother of Rusty O'Brien's friend Ann-Marie Sharratt, diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia
- **Amy Whittaker** (cancer)
- **Randy Brock**, Andy Link's friend



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!

December 8: FFAI fund raising field trip to the Guinness Brewery in Baltimore. Mass at Basilica of St Mary 8:30. Meet bus @ 10:30 in front of Murphy's in Alexandria. Cost is \$30/person.

December 9: Meet NLT 11:15 at City Dock for wreath presentation plus historic talk and walk about the Irish Brigade featuring NPS historian Frank O'Reilly (**Green jackets!**)

December 18: Division meeting

December Division Christmas Party cancelled





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.