



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

February 2019

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On February 3, 1943, four United States Army chaplains gave their lives to save others as the troop ship *U.S. Army Transport Dorchester* sank after being torpedoed by a German submarine. They gave up their life jackets, joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship. They were Father John P. Washington (Catholic), Reverend George L. Fox (Methodist), Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, and Reverend Clark V. Poling (Reformed Church in America).



Saint Brigid – Mary of the Gaels

Brigid of Ireland also spelled Brigit or Bridget. Her feast day is February 1st

President's Corner

Brothers, I hope your new year is starting off right. The New England Patriots are back where they belong as Super Bowl Champions so this should tell you that it will be a good year! Who knows, maybe the Celtics and Bruins will join the Red Sox and Patriots and Boston will truly be the City of Champions!

On a more somber note, I, like you, was sickened to hear of the abortion bill put forth in the House of Delegates and the comments of our governor. I am thankful the bill was defeated and pray that there is a change of heart and such legislation is never again proposed in the Commonwealth. I ask that you please do the same.

I also wanted to share with you a self-reflection exercise Fr. Hudgins suggested. Re-read the 13th Chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians verses 4-8 and 13 and replace your name where ever you see the word "love" and ask yourself if the statement is true. Shawn is Patient, Shawn is kind, etc. I've got a lot of work to do!

Please, please please mark your calendars for 16, 17 March. Our annual St. Patrick's Day parade in honor of Jeff Fitzpatrick will take place on the 16th and will step off at noon at the Bowman Center. I hope we will have maximum participation from the brotherhood. Remember, if you can't march in the parade we can still use your help at the festival selling tickets and answering questions.

The following day we will celebrate mass together in honor of St. Patrick at the 9 am mass at St. Patrick's Church. We will have reserved seating, so again, maximum participation, please! And bring your family, we will have brunch at the Clearwater Grill after mass.

I've sent an email asking for those interested in participating in one or both of the events. I've gotten very few responses so far. I will send out another email very shortly and hope for more respondents.

As always, pray for those on our pray list and all your Hibernian Brothers (especially me). I hope to see you all at our next business meeting on the 19th. God bless you and keep you.

Shawn Lenahan



TIPS: How to Recruit New Brothers

1. Educate yourself on the AOH mission and priorities
2. Be expert on the past & present division support to local charities, our scholastic awards, our community, and our nation
3. Recruit at Irish pubs, Catholic Churches, AOH events
4. Ensure the website is current, vibrant, relevant and easy to navigate. Use social media (Facebook, etc.)
5. Keep the division in the public domain with news articles, etc.
6. Wear your green jacket or at a minimum your AOH name badge to Mass every Sunday

How to Retain Brothers

1. Honor the Shamrock Degree ceremony decorum to emphasize and reflect its importance
2. Strongly encourage the Major Degrees
3. Recognize the importance of energized/informative meetings
4. Send a welcoming letter to the new brother's home address
5. Learn about a new brother's areas of interest and expertise; get him engaged in committee work
6. Mentor new brothers on AOH, Irish history, culture, traditions, etc.



Two years ago, Lisa and I visited Cape Breton. We were amazed at the Irish/Gaelic culture and history there. Street names in Gaelic, even a Gaelic University. If you're looking to visit Ireland but don't want to fly... visit

The Celtic Heart of North America

Irish America, by John Kernaghan, Contributor (edited for *Dispatches*) 11 Jan 2019

Cape Breton Island is home to a unique Gaelic celebration of music and culture, with the finest of storytellers, musicians, and dancers from around the globe taking part in the festivities. The nine-day Celtic Colors International Festival each October stirs musical memories born in trips to Ireland. It's fiddles, harps, and spoons,

fiddle-dee-dee when a mass of musicians jams in the Festival Club at The Gaelic College, the only institution of its kind in North America.

The island bills itself as the Celtic Heart of North America. Last fall more than 20,000 tickets were snapped up at

this festival, about 15 percent by American visitors.

Most of the performers are local, playing at a half dozen spots around the island daily. And if you are so lucky to get blue skies and the peak of autumn colors, drives along the Cabot Trail and other rugged routes provide a magical backdrop.

The music nurtured from roots imported from Ireland and Scotland endured through the generations simply because of the island's isolation.

Connected to the Nova Scotia mainland by causeway, Cape Breton's music remained pristine and the principal entertainment during harsh winters. Even today young people are drawn to "trad music," as it is called, and the dance steps that accompany it.

The Keltic Lodge is a dramatic resort perched on a rock promontory in Cape Breton Highlands National Park. It was built by an Alexander Graham Bell business associate and offers good food, fine views of the ocean and golf.



“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.”

*******News Flash! *******

26+6 = 1

The number of Catholics and Protestants of working age is almost the same for the first time as Northern Ireland's population changes continue. The number of Protestants has declined to 42 percent, while the number of Catholics is up to 41 percent. People who define themselves as 'other/non-determined' (is) 17 percent.

Estimates suggest *Catholics will outnumber Protestants* in the total population by 2021. (*Irish News Belfast*, Feb 1, 2019, by Suzanne McGonagle)

Why is this Important? The Good Friday Agreement reads in part: The participants endorse the commitment made by the British and Irish Governments that, in a new British-Irish Agreement replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement, they will recognise the legitimacy of whatever choice is freely exercised by a majority of the people of Northern Ireland with regard to its status, whether they prefer to continue to support the Union with Great Britain or a sovereign united Ireland.



The First Dáil, 21st of January 1919

From *Ambassador Daniel Mulhall's blog 18 January 2019*

The results of the General Election of December 1918, which were declared on the 28th of the month, two weeks after polling day, produced a landslide for Sinn Féin, which won 73 seats and virtually wiped out the Irish Parliamentary Party, a party that had dominated Irish politics for decades.

Sinn Féin's election manifesto had contained a commitment to refusing to take up seats at Westminster and to setting up a constituent assembly in Dublin. This stance was in line with the party's policy going back to its establishment by Arthur Griffith in the early years of the century when it aspired for Ireland to emulate Hungary which had prized a form of independence from Austria under the dual monarchy set up in 1867. Of course, by 1918 Sinn Féin was a much

larger and more ambitious Party, having inherited the precious mantle of the 1916 Easter Rising.

Thus, those elected in December were invited to attend a meeting of the First Dáil on the 21st of January in Dublin's Mansion House, the official residence of the city's Lord Mayor. Just 27 of the party's 73 Dáil Deputies, as those elected were to be called, were in a position to attend. The remainder were either in prison or otherwise unavailable. Unionists and Irish Party members were invited to participate but declined to do so.

On the day, there was great excitement among participants and the spectators who numbered around 2,000. About 50 journalists turned up to cover the event, some of them from overseas.

The British authorities kept a close watch on proceedings, but wisely decided not to try to prevent the gathering from taking place. It would be September before the Dáil was proscribed after which it was forced to meet in secret.

The proceedings, which were described by The Times correspondent as prosaic, orderly and dignified, were conducted almost exclusively in the Irish language with Cathal Brugha as Speaker. Four documents were adopted: a constitution for the new Dáil (rather than one for the fledgling state); a Declaration of Independence; a Democratic Programme; and a Message to the Free Nations of the World.

An Executive was established with a President (Brugha assumed this role on a temporary basis; Eamon de Valera replaced him some months later having escaped from Lincoln Jail) and four Ministers, responsible for Finance, Defence, Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs.

Ireland's Declaration of Independence does not have anything like the profile or renown of its American equivalent. This is because the Proclamation of the Irish Republic issued by the leaders of the Easter Rising of 1916 occupies the premier place in the historical imagination of modern Ireland. The Proclamation has stood the test of time and was a centrepiece of the Rising's

centenary commemoration in 2016 when a copy was delivered to every school in Ireland.

By contrast, Ireland's Declaration of Independence has always had a low profile. Like the other documents adopted by the First Dáil, the Declaration was drafted by a committee under the chairmanship of Seán T. O'Kelly, who later became a leading Government Minister and Ireland's second President (1945-1959).

The Declaration is best seen perhaps as a reiteration of the 1916 Proclamation. The difference between the two documents is the context in which they were issued. When it occurred, the Easter Rising expressed the will of a relatively small minority of Irish nationalists, whereas in January 1919 the members of the First Dáil had the wind in their sails in the wake of that decisive election result a month before. The quest for some form of independence now had the undoubted support of a majority of the Irish electorate.

The Declaration lacks the literary quality of the 1916 Proclamation which had contained input from three talented writers, Pearse, MacDonagh and Connolly. It covers similar ground to its predecessor, declaring the Irish people to be "by right a free people" who had "never ceased to repudiate"

foreign rule which had been based on "force and fraud."

There was more than a nod to the contemporary international situation for the Versailles Peace Conference had begun just three days earlier. Thus, it states that "at the threshold of a new era in history" the Irish electorate had "seized the first occasion to declare by an overwhelming majority its firm allegiance to the Irish Republic." The Declaration went on to "ratify" the Republic established in 1916 and to describe "foreign government" in Ireland as "an invasion of our national right which we will never tolerate."

As elected representatives of the Irish people, the First Dáil claimed for itself the sole power "to make laws binding in the people of Ireland." They insisted that "the Irish Parliament is the only Parliament to which that people will give its allegiance."

The Democratic Programme was a strikingly radical document, echoing the kind of socio-economic concerns that had motivated 1916 leader James Connolly. It declared that the nation's sovereignty extends "to all its material possessions, the Nation's soil and all the wealth-producing processes within the Nation". It insisted that the right to private property "must be subordinated to the public right and welfare" and promised every citizen the right "to an adequate share of the produce of the Nation's labour."

It is difficult to know what to make of these commitments, whether they were anything more than rhetorical window dressing and a nod to the Irish Labour movement that had stood aside at election time thus helping to magnify Sinn Féin's electoral triumph. The gap between the radicalism of the Democratic programme and the subsequent conservatism of the independent Ireland that came into being in the 1920s has often come in for comment and criticism.

The final document endorsed on that January day in Dublin was an Address to the Free Nation's of the World which Irish diplomats have for the past 100 years regarded as the founding articulation of Ireland's independent foreign policy. It calls on every free nation to recognise "Ireland's national status and her right to its vindication at the Peace Congress."

The Declaration is infused with Wilsonian principles of self-determination, the notion that Government must be based on "the free will of a free people." The Dáil duly sent delegates to Paris but they failed to get the recognition they craved at the Versailles Conference.

There was to be no yearning after an enhanced Irish slice of the Imperial pie. The address struck a firmly anti-Imperial note: "the permanent peace of Europe can never be secured by

perpetuating military dominion for the profit of Empire."

What happened in Dublin on the 21st of January 1919 has been overshadowed in Irish history by the coincidence that on the same day in Soloheadbeg in County Tipperary two policemen were killed in an ambush that is generally seen as marking the start of what we call our war of independence which lasted until July 1921. That chequered period in Irish history is one I plan to write about in the coming months.

But back to the inaugural meeting of the First Dáil, what strikes me about it is the ambition behind the various documents that emerged that day. This

was not a gathering of careful, hesitant politicians. They were agents of change who set out bold ambitions and were buoyed by what they interpreted as a clear mandate from the Irish people. They were also conscious of the inheritance of the Easter Rising. There could be now no turning back, even if the final destination, and when and how it would be arrived at, remained uncertain.

The First Dáil ushered in what has turned out to be an unbroken century of parliamentary democracy in Ireland, which was no small feat against the backdrop of a troubled, turbulent 20th century and of the violent upheavals of Ireland's war of independence and ensuing civil war.

Daniel Mulhall is Ireland's Ambassador to the United States



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 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
- **Joe Daley**, released from hospital, recovering at home (COPD complicated by pneumonia)

Gen. Meagher Division IAHM Mass: March 17, 9 AM Mass, St Patrick Church

IAHM – “Irish in the Revolutionary War” – displays/ docents at:

- ❖ ***Central Regional Library (Fredericksburg): Mar 5, 6, 7 (12 - 6 PM)***
- ❖ ***Howell Library (English Run): Mar 12, 13, 14 (2 – 6 PM)***
- ❖ ***Salem Church Library: Mar 19, 20, 21 (12 - 6 PM)***

March 30: “Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Day”

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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: 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.