



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

May 2019

Volume 7/No. 5

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Let's start this edition with **CELTIC THUNDER!**

https://biggeekdad.com/2012/02/a-place-in-the-choir/#.XI0o_nFNVN8.email

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Brothers:

Thank you to all brothers who took part in the golf tournament! I am especially grateful to Brother Dave McLaughlin and his team who planned and ran the successful event! Please remember to support and thank our sponsors.

Please keep an eye out for opportunities to sell Trip for Two raffle tickets. Our parish liaisons are scheduling weekend sales and need your support. Don't forget to give your family and friends the opportunity to take the trip (or the cash). If you need tickets for personal sales, let me know and we can plan to get you some.

As always, keep an eye out for Irish Catholic gentlemen to join the Division. We need new members to help ensure the continued success of the division and our activities.

Please continue to pray for those on the prayer list and each other.

In Our Motto,
Shawn Lenahan



Father Felix Varela, a Cuban immigrant, was Vicar General, Archdiocese of New York, and played a major role in how the American Catholic Church dealt with the tremendous influx of Irish refugees.

In 1827 Father Varela founded the Church of the Immigrant in the Five Points neighborhood of Manhattan. Father Varela mastered the Irish language and he protected the Irish who were being brutally abused and murdered by Know Nothing/Nativists. (See: "Gangs of New York").

In 1835 Father Varela purchased Christ Episcopal Church and renamed it St. James Roman Catholic Church. It was natural for Irish immigrants to follow Father Varela to St James especially after arson destroyed St. Mary Church and other acts of violence were perpetrated against the Irish and Catholic clergy and property.

The Irish routinely met inside St James. Some were Hibernians who wanted to organize a branch of the Order in New York City. They communicated this to their brothers in Ireland and received the following instructions from the Hibernians in Ireland (today's Board of Erin):

“Brothers, greetings – be it known to you and all it may concern, that we send to our brothers in New York full instructions with our authority to establish branches of our society in America. Also be it known unto you that our wish and prayer is that when you form your society, in many cities or towns ...”

St James Roman Catholic Church in New York City is where the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America was founded on May 6, 1836. Today, St. James Church is the second oldest Roman Catholic Church in Manhattan.



You'll need a visa for European travel beginning in January 2021 (**BUT not for Ireland!**)



Wine: Another Irish Triumph!

Irish America , by Edythe Preet,(downloaded on 27 April 2019 and edited for *Dispatches*)

I'll bet you don't know the Celts played a key role in the development of humanity's fascination with wine. Not that the Celts "invented" wine. That is credited to an accidental spoilage of grapes somewhere in ancient Persia as early as 6000 BC.

So where do the Celts come into the picture? The original Celts lived on the banks of the Danube River. Their descendants become the first inhabitants of Ireland — the Tuatha de Danaan (People of the Danube) in legend and lore.

The Celts were master metallurgists who perfected the process of extracting ore from rock via smelting. By melting tin and copper they ushered in the Bronze Age, and later excelled in working with iron, they invented sturdier weapons and the first iron plough and scythe. The Celts were also responsible for a major advancement in transportation. By affixing an exterior iron sheath to the wooden wheel, they made the device much sturdier, able to carry heavier loads and less susceptible to breakage.

It was at this point in history that the Celts contributed their expertise to wine making. For more than a thousand years, wine had been transported in clay jugs prone to cracking, seepage, and breakage. Circa 900 BC the Celts combined their woodworking and metallurgic skills to invent the barrel an invention that forever changed wine production. Not only did the wooden barrel contain the liquid more efficiently and safely, it was discovered that the wine's flavor changed depending on what wood was used.

In Ireland the Celts realized the climate did not support grape growing. They made a wine-like beverage from honey. When honey is dissolved in water and exposed to air, wild yeast spores feed on its sugar content, causing the liquid to ferment, and transforming it into an alcoholic drink.

The golden liquor was believed to enhance virility and fertility, and for a bonus it also served as an aphrodisiac. In fact, the term 'honeymoon' probably stems from the Irish tradition of newlyweds drinking honey wine every day for a month after their wedding. Even now some Irish nuptial celebrations still include a traditional mead toast to wish the wedded couple well in their new life together.

During the bleak days of the 18th and 19th centuries hundreds of thousands of Celts emigrated, this time to France, America, and Australia where those indefatigable Celts began making grape wine again. "*Winegeese*" is the name given to the

emigrant Irish families and their descendants who, from the 18th century onwards, engaged in the various endeavors of the wine making and trading industry in their adopted countries.

To find a listing of Irish heritage winemakers and wineries in France, the United States and Australia visit *The Ireland Funds Winegeese Society* or read Ted Murphy's encyclopedic book *The Story of the Winegeese*.



“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.”



On May 5, 1981, having completed 65 days on hunger strike, republican prisoner Bobby Sands died in the H-Block prison hospital at Long Kesh. The hunger strike was a last effort by the inmates to be recognized as political prisoners. While imprisoned Sands used his poetry, prose, songs, and essays to resist colonial occupation by the British.



About the north of Ireland

Starting in 1609, Ulster was colonized by English occupiers who were mainly Scottish Presbyterians and loyal to the monarch. Descendants of these occupiers united with Catholics to form arguably the first Irish nationalist movement – the United Irishmen of the 1790s.

Since then Ireland saw several nationalist rebellions (1798, 1802, 1803, 1848, 1867). In the 1870s, the Irish began petitioning for Home Rule, a condition of limited autonomy, but still within the United Kingdom. Home Rule would essentially cancel the English Act of Union (1800) that disestablished the Irish Parliament. The English kept the Home Rule “carrot” dangling, but their policy was inconsistent and repeatedly fell short of the goal. After the Easter Rising of 1916, the Home Rule was re-energized – something adamantly opposed by Ulster Unionists. In the run-up to WWII, the English began drafting Irishmen into their Army. The *Sinn Fein* party led a popular campaign against conscription of Irishmen. There were riots and confrontations between *Sinn Fein* and Irish Volunteer activists, the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) and British Army. Hundreds were arrested and falsely charged with conspiring with Germany. In December 1918, *Sinn Fein* won in a general election, declared an Irish Republic, and convened the first Irish parliament (*Dáil*) in January 1919.

On **May 3, 1921**, the English partitioned the island into Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland by the Government of Ireland Act passed in 1920. The Irish War of Independence (1919-21) was ended with the Anglo-Irish Treaty (1922) and the Southern Ireland became the **Irish Free State**. The six predominately Protestant counties of Northern Ireland opted to remain in the United Kingdom.

26+6=1



An Gal Gréine, a traditional Gaelic symbol first mentioned in the *Fiannaíocht*, a body of prose and verse about the exploits of the mythical hero [Fionn mac Cumhail](#) and his warriors the [Fianna](#) (ca 600AD). Throughout Irish history, the sunburst flag has been associated with [Irish nationalist](#) organizations such as the United Irishmen, the Young Irelanders, the Fenians and in America by the Irish Brigade.

Gaelic (Gael-tech / Celtic) culture survives strongly in Ireland:

- Most Irish consider themselves Celtic in heritage.

- Up to 100,000 speak Gaelic as a first language. Half a million speak it as a second language.
- Gaelic language is on [street signs](#), storefronts, phone books, etc. In the west, some areas are posted in Gaelic only.

In describing the Celts, Greek-Roman historian Diodorus wrote (circa 800BC):

They look like wood-demons, their hair thick and shaggy like a horse's mane. Some shave their cheeks but leave a moustache that covers the whole mouth...they wear brightly colored embroidered shirts, with trousers called bracae and cloaks fastened at the shoulder with a brooch ... (and) wear bronze helmets with horns and cover themselves with breast-armor made from chains. But most go naked into battle... weird, discordant horns were sounded, deep and harsh voices, they beat their swords rhythmically against their shields.



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**, COPD complicated by pneumonia
- **Jake Ruppert's** mother, cancer -- recovering from surgery
- **Richie Doherty**, Jim O'Donnell's brother-in-law; died on 16 March
- **John O'Brien** Hugh O'Brien's brother-- recovering from stroke
- **Jerry O'Brien**, Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- **Brian Kiernan**, VAAOH State Secretary, lymphedemic edema
- **Andy Link**, recovering from hip surgery
- **Jim Sullivan**, past president Father Lynch Division who died on 10 February
- **Dan Rhoades**, past president Cardinal Cushing Division & Fairfax County Board died on 23 January
- **Loretta Larzelere**, Bob Fitzgerald' sister-in-law -- recovering from pneumonia

- **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 -- 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!

May 21: Division Meeting

June 8: Second Quarter AOH State Board Meeting hosted by the Major Dooley Division at St Mary Catholic Church 9505 Gayton Rd, Henrico, VA 23229

August 16-18: Biennial State Convention at the Leesburg Hotel & Conference Center 726 East Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. Register now at: <https://aohvirginia.org/2019/02/21/aoh-va-state-convention-2019/>



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 produces a 7.5-foot sash; satisfaction guaranteed. Send a personal check for \$60. Turnaround time is about 10 days. The sash will be sent to you via Fed Ex or UPS -- signature required. Her address: Patricia Ankrom, 7400 Airport Dr., Quinton, Va. 23141-2400. Email traceysbydesign@aol.com
- 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.