



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

July 2020

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President: Dave McLaughlin **Chaplain** Vacant; **Vice President:** Dennis O'Leary; **Financial Secretary** Edwin Hanson; **Treasurer:** Jeff Everett; **Recording Secretary:** Bill Halpin; **Standing Committee:** Ed Hennessy; **Marshal:** Chuck Gleason; **Sentinel:** James Lenahan; **Webmaster:** John Hogan; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin (sisconsulting@comcast.net)

**Volunteers needed to sell Raffle Tickets after Masses at St Patrick Church:
July 18-29, August 15-16, and September 5-6**

President's Corner:

My Brothers,

This month, I had two opportunities to represent you and they were personally rewarding and inspiring.

First, a cadre of brothers presented Father Jerry Wooton with a gift thanking him for being the "Religious Compass and Spiritual Advisor to the Brothers of the Division." He was very genuinely pleased to see us there acknowledging his impact on us. Thank you to Brother Dennis (see pictures, below).

Second, I had the honor of representing each of you at the Saint Patrick Elementary School's Graduation Ceremony. My purpose was to present the General Meagher Division's Scholastic Award to a most deserving eighth-grader. Each year, our division presents selected Catholic elementary school graduates with scholastic awards to help defray the expense of attending Catholic High Schools. In the past eight years, you, the brothers of this division have raised and provided more than \$24,000 in scholastic awards.

Personally seeing our efforts result in a very tangible impact on a young person's life is incredibly humbling and inspirational. Reflect on that thought for a moment. Where do these funds for Cristian Charity come from? Primarily, from two fundraising events:

- The sale of Trip for Two to Ireland raffle tickets is one. Brother Shawn has sent you tickets to sell to friends, family, neighbors, acquaintances and strangers. "Have you ever been to Ireland?" or "Wouldn't you like to visit Ireland" are two good icebreakers.

- The seventh annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic has been rescheduled for the last Monday in September, the 28th. Golfer or not, you have a role asking people to play in the event and/or be a contributing sponsor.

Finally, one of the brothers from Saint Patrick needs to step up and replace Brother John Hogan as the parish liaison. He has served you well in this role.

Slainte, and In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Dave McLaughlin



Father Jerry Wooton: Leaving the Division

On Father's Day several brothers took time to visit with Father Wooton at St. Patrick Church to bid him fair skies and trailing winds as he transfers to Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Annandale. Father Wooton has served Virginia Hibernians for the better part of two decades. He was the charter chaplain for the Colonel Cunningham Division (1998-2004) and served the General Meagher Division as chaplain (2016-2020). Further, Father Wooton served as the Virginia AOH State Chaplain (2015-2019). In every position he provided Hibernians spiritual guidance and served as our religious compass. Father Wooton mixed his unique sense of humor with outstanding, meaningful homilies at Hibernian meetings and celebrated our annual Irish American Heritage Month and annual Memorial Masses to remember and honor our deceased brothers.



(L2R) Brother Al Sauter, PDP Shawn Lenahan, Division President Dave McLaughlin, PSP, PDP and current Recording Secretary Bill Halpin and Past Division Treasurer Dick Dowd were on hand to present Father Wooton with a hand crafted gift box created by Division Vice President Dennis O'Leary. The box contained two personalized glasses and a premium Irish beverage.

2020 Scholastic Award



On Tuesday, 23 June Division President Dave McLaughlin presented St Patrick Elementary School graduate, Emily Warnick the Gen. Meagher Division's 2020 Scholastic Award. Emily will attend the Summit Academy, an independent classical liberal arts school rooted in the teachings and tradition of the Catholic Faith.

Emily was selected for the 2020 award by the St Patrick school faculty based on scholastic achievement, community service, and acceptance at a Catholic High School. A check for \$1500 will be sent to Summit Academy in her name.

On the lighter side of politics:

[Attorney General William Barr Busts Out Bagpipes Alongside NYPD, Wows Crowd | NBC New York - YouTube](#)



“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”

Regarding contemporary discussions ...

Thomas Francis Meagher on Slavery

“Slavery ... it would be well if we could get rid of it, but we can't ... (we) should therefore continue our own efforts to alleviating the evils that accompany it.” (*The Irish News*, October 18, 1856;, pp. 55-56)



How Irish an Irishman paved the way for Juneteenth,

Extracted and modified from an article by Niall O’Dowd in Irish Central 29 June 2020

Irish-born General Phil Sheridan is credited with a leading role in forcing General Robert E. Lee to surrender at Appomattox. He was also the man who ordered General Gordon Granger to proclaim the slaves free in Texas on June 19, 1865, what is now regarded as the unofficial '*Juneteenth*' holiday in the US.

As military governor of the [Fifth Military District](#) (Texas and Louisiana) after the civil war, Sheridan was determined that former slaves would never be exploited again, that white supremacists would be removed from powerful positions, and that the black man had the right to vote. He was so determined to push equality through that President Andrew Johnson, a Democrat and rebel supporter, had him removed.

But Sheridan’s legacy in helping create Juneteenth should live on.

In part, the Juneteenth proclamation read by General Granger in Galveston reads, “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor.”

President Johnson believed Sheridan was tyrannical because he wouldn’t permit former Confederates vote and "unfairly" removed the white supremacist governors of Louisiana and Texas along with the mayor of New Orleans, the Louisiana attorney general, and a district judge. Over Grant's objections Johnson fired Sheridan.



Irish the Forgotten White Slaves

Ireland was the greatest victim of British slave trade says expert John Martin (extracted from *Irish Central*, 28 Jan 2013)

The history of the African slave trade into the colonial America's is well-documented and taught in American schools today. However, as John Martin of the Montreal-based Center for Research and Globalization points out in his article [*The Irish Slave Trade - The Forgotten 'White' Slaves*](#) it was not just Africans who were traded as slaves.

The Irish have a gruesome history as being traded as slaves as well and subjected to similar and sometimes worse treatment than their African contemporaries of the time. Strangely though, the history of Irish and 'white' slavery is by and large ignored in the American educational curriculum today.

John Martin writes "The Irish slave trade began when James II sold 30,000 Irish prisoners as slaves to the New World. His Proclamation of 1625 required Irish political prisoners be sent overseas and sold to English settlers in the West Indies. By the mid-1600s, the Irish were the main slaves sold to Antigua and Montserrat. At that time, 70 percent of the total population of Montserrat was Irish slaves. Ireland quickly became the biggest source of human livestock for English merchants. The majority of the early slaves to the New World were actually white."

Martin continues how at the hands of the British, the Irish population plummeted due to the slave trade of the 17th century. "During the 1650s, over 100,000 Irish children between the ages of 10 and 14 were taken from their parents and sold as slaves in the West Indies, Virginia and New England. In this decade, 52,000 Irish (mostly women and children) were sold to Barbados and Virginia. Another 30,000 Irish men and women were also transported and sold to the highest bidder. In 1656, Oliver Cromwell ordered that 2000 Irish children be taken to Jamaica and sold as slaves to English settlers."

Martin explains that for some reason, the Irish slaves are remembered as 'indentured servants.' However, in most cases during the 17th and 18th centuries, they were no more than "human cattle". "...the African slave trade was just beginning during this same period," writes Martin. "It is well recorded that African slaves, not tainted with the stain of the hated Catholic theology and more expensive to purchase, were often treated far better than their Irish counterparts."

During the late 1600s Martin writes African slaves were far more expensive than their Irish counterparts - Africans would sell for around £50 sterling while Irish were often no more than £5 sterling. Further, the treatment of Irish slaves was thought to be crueler

than that of African slaves. If an Irish slave was beaten by his owner, it wasn't considered to be a crime.

The Irish were further exploited when the British began to "breed" Irish women - or girls, sometimes as young as 12 - with African males. "These new "mulatto" slaves brought a higher price than Irish livestock and enabled settlers to save money rather than purchase new African slaves. This practice of interbreeding Irish females with African men went on for several decades and was so widespread that, in 1681, legislation was passed "forbidding the practice of mating Irish slave women to African slave men for the purpose of producing slaves for sale." In short, it was stopped only because it interfered with the profits of a large slave transport company."

Martin concludes, "In 1839, Britain finally decided to end participation in Satan's highway to hell and stopped transporting slaves. While their decision did not stop pirates from doing what they desired, the new law slowly concluded THIS chapter of nightmarish Irish misery."

[Click here to read John Martin's article 'The Irish Slave Trade – The Forgotten "White" Slaves' in its entirety.](#)



Upcoming Events



Mark Your Calendars -- But keep in mind we're in Phase II so all is tentative!

Bingo! Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at St Michael the Archangel High School, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg. Bring the family!

23-26 July: AOH National Convention in Orlando, FL is cancelled. In lieu of Orlando, there will be a virtual meeting. This will be a two day event (four hours each day). Dates, times and related information is TBA.

28 September: **The Shamrock Charity Golf Classic** will be held at Meadows Golf Course.

Date TBD: **The 2020 Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration and Raffle Drawing**



Our DIVISION Prayers



Jack Grey chairs the Division Committee of the Sick: 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:

- **Rusty O'Brien**, prostate cancer
- **John Hogan**, pulmonary fibrosis
- **Joe Daley**, COPD
- **Gene McKenna** recovering from double by-pass surgery
- **Brian Kiernan**, VAAOH Vice President, lymphedemic edema
- **Angelique Bolling**, Edwin Hanson's sister in law - brain tumors
- **John O'Brien** Hugh O'Brien's brother-- recovering from stroke
- **Jerry O'Brien**, Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- **Ruth Pettinger**, Shawn Lenahan's aunt (Vietnam Vet) inoperable brain tumor.
- **Donna Maffeo**, Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law and his father Joseph Sr. care giver for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer)
- **Amy Whittaker** – cancer
- **Nolan Banks**, son of former FS Jeff Banks. Nolan is recovering from soft tissue sarcoma (RMS). *Pray for the intercession of Fr. Augustus Tolton*, a candidate for canonization:
<http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>)



General Meagher Division Attire

Every brother would have these articles of clothing:

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.

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:

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 waistline).

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.