



Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
Irish • Catholic • American



## GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

December 2020

Volume 8/No12

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

### **NOLLAIG SHONA AGUS ATHBHLIAIN FAOI MHAISE DA OIBH!**

*A note from your editor:* The November *Shillelagh Sentinel*, Montana's Meagher Division newsletter, contained a message I believe worth sharing (with significant editorial license):

Advent is a time for Hibernians to prepare for birth of Jesus Christ. However it is also a time for many secular activities. This year will be different will be different. There'll be few parties and gift shopping will likely be on-line. We'll miss the ubiquitous mall Santa Claus, Christmas caroling, Christmas tree lighting, and Jack Frost nipping at our noses.

Without these activities, there'll be quiet time – a good time for introspection. Please use this time to ask yourself:

- Who am I as a Hibernian?
- What are my strengths and weaknesses?
- How can I benefit the General Thomas F. Meagher Division?

The Division needs your active participation in meetings, in planning our future, and in volunteering for vacant division board positions, e.g. Standing Committee, Organizer, Veterans Affairs, Catholic Action, Buy Irish, and others. These positions enhance individual growth as Hibernians and provide direct access to AOH State and National jurisdictions.

## *President's Corner:*

My Brothers,

First, let me explain why I abruptly cancelled last month's division meeting. Just days before *our* meeting the state, unexpectedly, announced that this quarter's Virginia-wide meeting was being held at the same time. Both Brother Bill Halpin and I were required to participate in the state meeting.

To keep us on track, the officers met and were able to approve the release of funds to several of the activities that we support from year-to-year (pay the bills). They were already in this year's budget and thus had been voted on and approved by our membership earlier. In addition, we discussed and reconciled amongst ourselves any differences about the proposed coming year's charity budget. It very similar to our recent budgets and includes all of the usual charities plus a new one, St. Matthew's Food Bank and Baby Closet.

The next meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> will be very important! We will ask you vote on and approve the proposed charity budget as well as next year's overarching budget. On a lighter but far more important note and even if we can't gather in person, it will also be an opportunity for all of us to say Merry Christmas and wish each other a Blessed New Year. Sadly, our opportunities for friendship and unity have been way too rare this year.

Slainte, and In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Brother Dave McLaughlin

PS:

I call on our division brothers to continue our tradition and present a boxwood wreath at the Irish Brigade monument. The ceremony will be short, is outdoors (well ventilated) and ably supports social distancing to mitigate Covid concerns.

Afterwards, those who are interested can gather at the Colonial Tavern -- Home to the Irish Brigade just a couple blocks away. They have outside and inside seating, as well as a large well ventilated festival tent.

Who: Brothers, family, and friends  
Time: Noon  
Date: Sunday, Dec 13th  
Where: Fredericksburg City Dock, 201 Sophia Street  
Wear: Green! Ideally, green blazers & sashes, mask



## Remembering the 158<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle of Fredericksburg

**General Thomas F. Meagher Division will present a boxwood wreath at the Irish Brigade memorial (City Dock) on December 13<sup>th</sup>.** The time: **NOON** followed by fellowship at the Colonial Tavern, Home to the Irish Brigade.

There'll be no live National Park Service commemoration this year. It will be online in several segments - probably videos of past years walks taken at the various stops along the way from the City Dock to Marye's Heights. Virtual program will be released in video form and will be accessible at:

<https://www.nps.gov/frsp/planyourvisit/remembering-the-battle-of-fredericksburg.htm>



*“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. There can be neither truce nor compromise.*”

### An Anniversary of Sorts

The partition of Ireland was finalized with the Government of Ireland Act on December 23, 1920. This imperially enacted “Partition Act” divided the island into two political entities based on religious affiliation. Ulster consisting of nine counties was separated from the rest of Ireland. However, Unionists fearing Catholics would eventually become the majority in Ulster, decided to eliminate the three mostly Catholic counties of Cavan, Donegal, and Monaghan. They remained in the Irish Free State.

Why did this happen? In 1650 England confiscated Irish properties owned by Catholics and transferred ownership to loyal Englishmen and Scottish Presbyterians. This policy of *transplanted*

thousands Protestant, loyalist families into Ulster. 250 years later, their descendants refused to accept Home Rule and an Irish parliament and government in Dublin.

Keep in mind, throughout this time, the Protestant Ascendancy remained in charge. They were still the landlords, employers, and leaders in the criminal justice system. They believed Catholics were unable to govern and therefore depended on English Protestant overlords for good governance. "Even the poorest Protestant was convinced that he had a higher status than his richest Catholic neighbor".

Now that a BREXIT "deal" appears unlikely this border is the focus of UK/EU trade negotiations. In the event of a no deal BREXIT, it will be difficult to remain in the single market and keep the border open.

What does the future hold? Will the UK repeal the Government Act of Ireland?

- ❖ DUP leader Arlene Foster "the United Kingdom must leave the EU as one nation and in so doing that no barriers to trade are erected within the UK". This statement implies a requirement for a hard border on the island.
- ❖ In one report from UK/EU discussions on Friday (26 Nov) the UK may have agreed in principle to a customs border down the Irish Sea.
- ❖ Irish Taoiseach: "Our objectives ... avoid a hard border north and south, it's to allow the all-island economy to thrive."
- ❖ President-elect Biden: "We can't allow the Good Friday Agreement ... to become a casualty of Brexit. Any trade deal between the US and UK must be contingent upon respect for the Agreement and preventing the return of a hard border. Period."

Will this unappreciated date in Irish history be celebrated in 2020?

**26+6 = ONE**

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### **Upcoming Division 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!

***13 December:*** Division boxwood wreath presentation at the Irish Brigade monument at the City Dock. Show up time is 1150 for a Noon presentation. Maximum participation is to be expected.

***15 December:*** Division virtual meeting will begin at 7:30PM

**25 December: Christmas Day!**



**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@yahoo.com](mailto:RHGrey@yahoo.com)//540-373-4496). Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased Hibernian Brothers. Keep in your prayers our family members and friends:

- **Peter Carroll:** Undergoing chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer
- **John Hogan,** pulmonary fibrosis and likely B-Cell Lymphoma
- **Rusty O’Brien,** complete radiation for prostate cancer, remains under observation
- **Joe Daley,** COPD
- **Brian Kiernan,** VAAOH Vice President, lymphedemic edema
- **Gene McKenna** recovering from double by-pass surgery
- **Loretta Larzelere,** Bob Fitzgerald’s sister-in-law suffering seizures and Alzheimer’s
- **Norma Cristiano,** Dan Mulhern’s 91 year old mother-in-law, fractured back and hip injury suffered in a fall
- **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. On 26 Nov 2020, I received the following from Jeff Banks: **“We are convinced that he (Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton) fully interceded on Nolan's behalf. Nolan is doing well. His last set of scans in September were clear. As of now, he is two years in remission (praise God). Thanks again for your continued prayers and please thank the Hibernians for their prayers on my behalf for his continued remission.”**

*Pray for the intercession of Fr. Augustus Tolton, a candidate for sainthood:*

<http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>



**General Meagher Division Attire**

**Every brother should 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](mailto:s_lenahan@verizon.net))

**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets. One source:

[http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens\\_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html](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](mailto: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.