

Ancient Order of Hibernians



# The Dooley Dispatch

## April 2020

**Celebrating 41 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity**

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**Major Dooley Division  
Richmond, Virginia**

Webpage <http://aohrichmond.org> Check out the web page for better pictures, events, green pages, various reports

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*All phone numbers are area  
code (804) unless otherwise  
indicated*

Next Meeting – Tuesday April 14, 2020 7:00 p.m. Virtual Zoom Meeting



### President's Message:

One month ago I was preparing this message for the Dooley Dispatch looking ahead eagerly to a calendar full of activities and events in our busiest time of year. I gathered with the Officers on March 10<sup>th</sup> prior to our regular Business meeting and a comment was made, "I heard the Church Hill Irish Festival could be cancelled." I was floored, to that point the thought of that happening had not even crossed my mind! By late the following evening, what had not even been part of my consciousness had indeed become reality. I was not unaware or naïve to the seriousness of the COVID-19 Virus, I had spent much of that week and the week prior arranging and rearranging several work-related events with numerous customers scheduled to attend. I simply had not prepared myself for the thought that the event which has been the highlight of the year most of the 10 years that I have been a member of the Dooley Division and which is the consistent platform for the expression of our Irish Catholic heritage would, out of necessity of the circumstances be cancelled in its entirety.

As we all experienced, what a difference a few days makes as our world collectively, personal, work and certainly AOH-related came to a screeching halt and the guidelines of social distancing and stay at-home orders became our existence. This of course, resulted in the cancelling or rescheduling of all our events in March including the St. Patrick's Day Mass and Breakfast in addition to the Irish Festival. Nevertheless, with this new reality we have already taken steps to carry on as much as we can within the limits of of safe social gathering by planning to conduct our next Business meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> virtually via the Zoom platform. Our media expert Pat Shea has sent the invitation for the meeting out to everyone on the email list so if it was not received or anyone has technical challenges please reach out to Pat ([pshea1128@gmail.com](mailto:pshea1128@gmail.com)) for assistance so that you can join the meeting on Tuesday evening at 7 pm. Conducting our meeting through a streaming service while we are all at home will be an interesting and likely a learning experience. I have participated in many Webex's and in some cases run them for work but an interactive, engaging event such as our monthly Business meeting goes to an entirely new level. Nevertheless, I am looking forward to it and hope to have as many of you join as possible.

In Preparation for the virtual meeting, I do have a few requests. First if there are any prayer requests, particularly related to COVID-19 but any of importance to each of you, please forward them to Scott Nugent ([swnugent44@yahoo.com](mailto:swnugent44@yahoo.com)) prior to them meeting to be added to the prayer list.

Second, I explained in my email update of March 19<sup>th</sup> that the drawing date for our raffle was postponed indefinitely until when or if the Irish Festival could be rescheduled or another event planned that would be suitable for holding the drawing. While we are hopeful that the Irish Festival will be rescheduled, at the moment, that has not happened and there is still not great clarity as to when that will happen. As such, many members in past years have paid annual dues by turning in 10 sold or purchased tickets in lieu of annual dues at the Irish Festival. I ask that you not delay further in doing so if that is your intent but contact either Jim Woods ([Jwoods0701@gmail.com](mailto:Jwoods0701@gmail.com)) or John Costello ([owenson357@comcast.net](mailto:owenson357@comcast.net)) to make arrangements to do so through the mail or otherwise. With the uncertainty and outstanding questions regarding potential loss of revenue from reduced or no sales at all that we typically project from the Irish Festival, it is important to take steps that we can control such as paying annual dues and at least getting that money "on the books". Having a solid understanding of where we are financially at any point in time over the next few months is necessary to making the best decisions for living our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity as we move forward together in these unprecedented times.

Third, be wise and vigilant in following the guidelines of social distancing despite our social natures and inclination, with the hope and intent that by collectively taking these steps we best serve each other and our larger community.

Finally, pray for the health, safety and well-being of all Hibernians, our immediate and distant families, all those around the world affected by the COVID-19 virus, particularly for the repose of the souls those who have lost their lives. Pray for all health care providers in our hospitals caring for COVID-19 patients and other patients who have fallen ill or to injury during this challenging period. Pray that a solution for slowing and preventing further spread of the COVID-19 virus be identified swiftly.

As the Irish always have we will persevere through these challenging times and come out stronger for it. God bless. See you virtually Tuesday evening.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Mike Canning  
President Major James Dooley Division  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Richmond, Virginia

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### Upcoming Events:

**Dooley Division Business Meetings in 2019 at 7 pm every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each Month**, except for July and August, at St. Michael Catholic Church. 2019 Meeting Dates - 1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 5/14, 6/11, 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, **12/10 (Officer Installation)**  
**All events are tentative based on China Coronavirus Scare**

**May 18 & 19, 2019 Sat/Sun - Fishing Trip to Chesapeake Bay**, Spend Saturday afternoon/night in Sloop Creek Lodge, fish early Sunday morning; Captain Crabbe fish charter. Contact Daniel Caffrey at 804-512-6288 or [kkcaffrey@hotmail.com](mailto:kkcaffrey@hotmail.com)

**(TBC) 4th of July Picnic** at Columbian Center (Family Event) with the KOC 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly. Ashland Parade.

**(TBD) June/July, 2019, at 6:35 pm (Irish Night?)– Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Game Outing (Family)**, The Diamond, 3001 N. Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23230 - (Tim McDonnell - Chair) (ph 804-678-9764).

**August 16-18, 2019 - AOH State Convention in NOVA.** Registration information to be sent out as soon as available.

**(TBC) August 25, 2019, Sunday - Our Lady of Knock (8/21/1879) Mass** at 11 am at St. Michael's

Church? with Party at the McGann's afterward (late afternoon).

**September 17, 2019, Tuesday at 5 pm – Happy Hour  
- Halfway to St. Patrick's Day at Rare Olde Times.**

**Celebrate 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

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**AOH Dooley Division Prayer List  
For April 14, 2020 Meeting**

Please contact Fr. Jim Arsenault if you need him to visit and pray for and with someone in the hospital. Contact him at M 804-221-1508 and/or [jarsenault@stelizcc.org](mailto:jarsenault@stelizcc.org)

From Previous meeting and since then:

- **Kin Headly** – Friend of Scott Nugent – Brain cancer
- **Jeffrey Gargulo** – Friend of Brian Kiernan and others – Various ailments prior to having gallbladder surgery
- **Rita Hastings** – Tom Hastings' mother – Hip operation, gallbladder removed
- **Juanita Collins** – Wife of Mark Collins – Released from hospital. COPD. Virus infection
- **Phyllis Collins** – Mother of Mark Collins – Had seizure. Has brain tumor. Age 87.
- **Joanne Kennedy** – Aunt of John Kennedy – Breast cancer. Operable. Good success for recovery.
- **Tom Edwards** – Brother-in-law of Jim Donahue – Esophageal cancer. New chemo regimen started.

From Prior Meetings:

- **Barbara Laroza** – Aunt of Tom Nolan
- **Siobhan Mooney** – Relative of Jack Griffin - Diagnosed with lung cancer
- **Brian Kiernan** – Having hip replacement in April. Leg is good. Hand is good.
- **Stokes McCune** – Had triple bypass heart surgery and is recovering. Doing much better.
- **Tom Forbes** – Diagnosed with Stage 4 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Having sixth chemo. Then six week break.

- **Dover Harper** (Social Member, Good friend of Jack Cassells) – Recovering from Triple Bypass Surgery
- Mark Atchinson – Brother **Daniel Atchinson** – Quadruple bypass in August, spot on lung discovered, biopsy indicated cancer, determining treatment.
- **Fr. George Zahn** - Keep our Chaplain in your prayers. Weak. Is now at Our Lady of Hope.
- Chad Costello's brother-in-law (**Doug Dakins**, Alisha's brother). 48 years old, colonoscopy found cancerous mass in his colon. Doc removed a large stage 3 tumor and is confident he got the margins and will be fine after chemo
- **Paulie McFadden** skin condition and his wife, **Mary Ellen**, back pains
- Jim Whelen, wife Alesia's Mom, **Norma Oakley**, had cancerous kidney removed a couple weeks ago, cancer in spleen/lungs, in hospice care
- Hugh Naughton's wife, **Jessie Naughton**, has lower back, migraine issues and other ailments
- Tim McDonnell's friend, **Rob Northern** – recurrence of cancer
- Billy Spicer's brother-in-law, **William McCracken**, had an infection on the brain and had brain surgery to remove it. Also his heart is very weak. And he has emphysema as well. He's been doing better recently.
- **Pat Saizan**, sister of Larry Keefe, reoccurrence of breast cancer. It is now in remission
- **Don Lattanzi**, AOH Brother, had 2 back surgeries, pneumonia and breathing problems

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at [swnugent44@yahoo.com](mailto:swnugent44@yahoo.com)

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## Cork's Lord Mayor

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



Tomás MacCurtain was born on the March 20, 1884 in a family of twelve – 6 boys and 6 girls – from a family conscious of the Fenian tradition and of Gaelic Ireland. The strange thing about his life is that March 20 was his birthday and, on that day, one hundred years ago this month, he would die. When he was seventeen years old Tomás MacCurtain joined the Gaelic League in Cork City. He began to move deeper into the understanding of the nation's history, language and its dreams of an independent Ireland. The love he had for the Irish language was a steady feature of his makeup. And, for him, this was to identify with the ideal Ireland which justified his vision for the people of Ireland. He played the violin for the Gaelic League as Irish music was a strong love of his. And he collected many Irish songs which he copied as the monks of old would do with care and clear script.

Tomás MacCurtain spent his time as organizer and teacher with the Gaelic League and it was here, he met Elizabeth Walsh, his future wife. He was a member of the

Irish Republican Brotherhood in Cork (which is the predecessor to the Irish Republican Army), so he was in and

out of jail much of the time. Fortunately, he married a woman who felt about Ireland as he did where there was that definable bond that he didn't have to explain his nationalism to her. In the letters he wrote to his wife, while he was in jail, he explained the one thing that was a great consolation and comfort to him spending all this time in and out of jail was that he always knew he could depend on her loyalty. (When he was Officer in Command (OC) of prisoners in jail, he had a lot of trouble with men getting abusive letters from their wives saying they should be home instead of jail, that your family is your first allegiance, not Ireland. Tomás MacCurtain and his wife were on the same page when it concerned Ireland's future.)

*Lord Mayor of Cork, Tomás MacCurtain and family pictured in early 1920.*



Just two years after Sinn Féin was formed in Cork, Tomás MacCurtain joined in 1907. Within little time he was in an area of influence in Sinn Féin supporting the theory of Irish economic and industrial independence. He believed that you could combine a country with Irish as the national language coupled with an economic structure that would give social justice for all without any English interference. That the people of Ireland could live in their own country, develop their own trade, their own character without being absorbed. Throughout all of this he ran a small clothing and rainwear business and was still busy teaching Irish while Cork was the center of a nationalist movement.

In 1913 brought the birth of the volunteers in Cork and he was on the first committee as organizer and leader of men. The year after there was WW1 he advocated for outright independence and separation from England. Then in 1916, a failure to rise against British occupation in Cork during the Easter Rising was due to the lack of communication from Dublin. MacCurtain and his men awaited orders from the volunteer leadership in Dublin, but conflicting instructions and confusion prevailed and as a result the Cork volunteers never entered the fray. Nonetheless he was still imprisoned due to his leadership position in the IRB soon to become the IRA. The volunteers continued after 1916 with MacCurtain in command of the #1 Cork brigade. His duties in the brigade increased leading up to 1920 and dedication was his energy. The local elections of 1920 brought forty members of Sinn Féin onto the city Cork council and when the time came to elect a Lord Mayor, Tomás MacCurtain was their man. He quickly moved a resolution which said "that this council of the county borough of Cork, at its first meeting after election of 1920, hereby record its recognition of the Dáil Éireann, the lawful, legal and constitutional parliament of the Irish nation and recognizes the executive of the Dáil as the lawful government of this country."

If we gather different phases of a man's life and character, from those who met him as an administrator, as an Irish language enthusiast, as a musician, and those who met him as a soldier, it was his character as a soldier, that his friends and comrades in the field reflect upon. That the shadow of death was over him as soon as he was elected Lord Mayor and the man speaking, to many, was a walking dead man. The MacCurtain in real life was a small lively merry man with a fierce drive and determination and clearly visible to the men who soldiered with him.



He was also a man of great business capacity, honest with a kindness of heart and determination to do good for those around him. Consequently, much his efforts went to raise the standard of living for the citizens of Cork. (This photo was taken on March 17, 1920. Tomás MacCurtain is seen smiling and surrounded by well-wishers as he tries out the Fordson tractor assembled by the Ford Motor Company in Cork.)

On March 20, 1920 on his thirty-sixth birthday the Lord Mayor of Cork was shot dead by disguised men who forced their way into his house after the door had been opened by his wife. His Lordship received two wounds in the chest and died in a short time. The report in the newspaper at the time stated Mrs. MacCurtain opened the door when she was rudely brushed aside by two men carrying revolvers, wool caps and blacked faces. These men were followed by two more men who carried rifles and had their faces similarly disguised. Another four more men entered the shop and prevented Mrs. MacCurtain from going up the stairs and leaving the shop. The two men with revolvers described as tall and young proceeded upstairs followed by the two men who carried rifles. The men with revolvers knocked on the door of Mr. MacCurtain's bedroom and inquired if he was inside. The Lord Mayor replied he was about dressing himself and would see them in a moment. They said, "come out here!" Lord Mayor MacCurtain walked out of his bedroom in pants and night shirt was confronted by his assailants and without question or warning fired two revolver shots at him. The Lord Mayor was seen to fall backwards on the landing. So, in the spring of 1920 Tomás MacCurtain was gone.

The inquest verdict found that all those engaged were members of the Royal Irish Constabulary. The circumstances of the murder were subject of a historic inquest, conducted by Coroner James McCabe, in which ninety-seven witnesses were examined, sixty-four of them being police, thirty-one civilians, and two military. The inquest was opened on March 20 and concluded on April 17 with the following unanimous verdict:

*"We find that the late Alderman MacCurtain, Lord Mayor of Cork, died from shock and hemorrhage caused by bullet wounds, and was willfully murdered under the circumstances of the most callous brutality, and that the murder was organized and carried out by the Royal Irish Constabulary, officially directed by the British Government, and we return a verdict of willful murder against David Lloyd George, Prime Minister of England; Lord French, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; Ian Mcpherson, late Chief Secretary of Ireland; Acting Inspector General Smith, of the Royal Irish Constabulary; Divisional Inspector Clayton of the Royal Irish Constabulary; District Inspector Swanzy and some unknown members of the Royal Irish Constabulary. We strongly condemn the system at present in vogue of carrying out raids at unreasonable hours. We tender to Mrs. MacCurtain and family our sincerest sympathy. We extend to the citizens of Cork our sympathy in the loss they have sustained by the death of one so eminently capable of directing their civic administration."*



(Left: Shocked citizens reading the death notice on the door of the MacCurtain home on the morning of the murder.)

The shocking murder outraged public opinion and brought near universal condemnation. Cork went into mourning for its murdered first citizen. One of the named inspectors, Oswald Swanzy, who ordered the attack on MacCurtain was shot dead while leaving church in Lisburn, County Antrim on August 22, 1920. Michael Collins gave the order for this attack.

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March 2020

### **Irish History Quiz – Saints and Such**

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr., Major James H. Dooley Division Historian

1. Who was the first Bishop of Christians in Ireland?  
a) St. Palladuis      b) St. Celestine I      c) St. Patrick      d) St. Declán
2. This saint is the patron saint of Cork.  
a) St. Colmcille      b) St. Finbar      c) St. Ita      d) St. Kevin
3. This saint is the patron saint of motorcyclists.  
a) St. Ailbhe      b) St. Colmcille      c) St. Columbanus      d) St. Declán
4. The famous quote “Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.” originates from whom?  
a) Michael Collins      b) St. Patrick      c) St. Oliver Plunkett      d) Oscar Wilde
5. This saint is one of the three patron saints of Ireland. Born in Donegal of parents of royal decent, but left Ireland by boat because of a feud that resulted in numerous deaths. He founded numerous monasteries, including Iona and Kells, the latter being famous for its illuminated manuscripts. Who is this saint?  
a) St. Finbar      b) St. Brendan      c) St. Columba      d) St. Enda
6. This 6<sup>th</sup> century monk is one of the most celebrated Irish saints. Among their many achievements, this saint is believed to have traveled to America some 900 years before Columbus. Their nickname is “the navigator.”  
a) St. Brendan      b) St. Kevin      c) St. Declán      d) St. Grace O’Malley
7. This kindly bishop was martyred during the persecutions of Irish Catholics by England in 1681.  
a) St. Ailbhe      b) St. Oliver Plunkett      c) St. Fiacre      d) St. Thomas More
8. This saint was a bishop, preacher, and a disciple of St. Patrick. It was claimed that he left the woods as an infant and suckled by a wolf, sort of Ireland’s answer to Tarzan. Also noted for charity, kindness and eloquent sermons.  
a) St. Brigid      b) St. Ailbhe      c) St. Declán      d) St. Colmcille

9. Around the year 475, this saint was said to embody the six virtues of Irish womanhood – wisdom, purity, beauty, musical ability, gentle speech and needle skills. Many extravagant miracles were attributed to her. In one of them she is reputed to have reunited the head and body of a man who had been beheaded; in another she lived entirely on food from heaven. (Which would save you a fortune on the food budget).

- a) St. Brigid                      b) St. Grace O'Malley                      c) St. Ita                      d) Margaret O'Carroll

10. This saint's father opposed her religious vocation, but she went to St. Patrick and made her vows to him before founding a hospice on Lough Gara. Local tradition remembers her great healing powers. Her convents were famous for hospitality and charity for the poor.

- a) St. Brigid                      b) St. Declán                      c) St. Athracht                      d) St. Ita

11. This saint was born into slavery and later freed, a founder of monasteries, along with Patrick, one of the three patron saints of Ireland.

- a) St. Brigid                      b) St. Ailbhe                      c) St. Athracht                      d) St. Ita

12. Legend says that, while this saint prayed with his arms outstretched, a blackbird built a nest in his hand, and the saint remained still while it laid eggs and raised a family.

- a) St. Patrick                      b) St. Declán                      c) St. Ailbhe                      d) St. Kevin

## **AND SUCH.....**

13. The Lord Mayor of Cork is the head of Cork City Council and the first citizen of Cork. The title was created in 1199 as Provost of Cork and changed to Mayor of Cork in 1273. It was elevated to Lord Mayor in 1900. The date of election is the beginning of June, and the term of office is one year. Who was the first Lord Mayor?

- a) Sir Daniel Hegarty                      b) Sir Edward Fitzgerald                      c) Augustine Roche                      d) Tomás MacCurtain

14. This Lord Mayor of Cork and a member of Parliament, died in 1920 after a 74-day hunger strike. He was serving a two-year sentence for sedition in Brixton Prison, South London.

- a) Tomás MacCurtain                      b) Thomas Ashe                      c) Terence MacSwiney                      d) Bobby Sands

15. The President of Ireland is Ireland's Head of State. The Office of President was established by the constitution and is elected directly by the people. Who is the current president?

- a) Mary McAleese                      b) Leo Varadkar                      c) Michael Higgins                      d) Mary Robinson

16. How long is the President of Ireland term of office?

- a) 2 years                      b) 4 years                      c) 6 years                      d) 7 years

17. The powers and function of the role of President of Ireland includes all the following except:

- a) Supreme commander of the Irish Defence force;  
b) Appointment of members of the Government, judges and other officials;  
c) Plays a major role with relationships with foreign nations and helps shape European Union policy;  
d) Signing legislation into law and/or referring Bills to the Supreme court.

## **BONUS**

Irish Soda Bread is a traditional product of Ireland dating back to the early 1800's. According to **The Society for the Preservation of Irish Soda Bread**, it was made with only the most basic ingredients. Can you name them?

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**March 2020 Saints and Such – Key**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1. a | 10. c                                   |
| 2. b | 11. a                                   |
| 3. c | 12. d                                   |
| 4. d | 13. a                                   |
| 5. c | 14. c                                   |
| 6. a | 15. c                                   |
| 7. b | 16. d                                   |
| 8. b | 17. c                                   |
| 9. c | Bonus: Flour, baking soda, soured milk, |
| salt |   |



«First\_Name» «Last\_Name»  
«Street»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

Ancient Order of Hibernians  
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## MAJOR JAMES H. DOOLEY DIVISION

