



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

September 2021

Volume 9/No. 09

President: Dave McLaughlin; **Chaplain:** Deacon Aaron Zaccagnino; **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:** John McGrogan; **Organizer:** Vacant; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin
(sisconsulting@comcast.net)

Pray to Mary Immaculate Patroness of the United States for the strength of mind and heart to defend our religious freedoms, for national moral guidance, and that our country will always be “one nation under God”. This is critically important in this time of contrary moral agendas and the threats from patently evil elements.



President's Corner:

My Brothers,

Good news: on Saturday, August 21st at the Hibernian state-level convention our Financial Secretary, Brother Edwin Hanson, was elected and installed to be the Virginia state-level AOH Treasurer. Congratulations to him!

We are in the 11th hour to successfully to support this year's essential fundraising events:

The sale of Trip for Two to Ireland raffle tickets. Our parish liaisons have scheduled the final ticket sales after Masses this month at our parish churches. The raffle ticket drawing is on Saturday, September 18th, in conjunction with our annual Halfway to Saint Patrick's Day Celebration at the Colonial Tavern, Home to the Irish Brigade. Thus, there are only about two weeks left for you to buy tickets for your family or sell them to friends, neighbors and acquaintances.

Also urgent but even more imminent, is the Shamrock Charity Golf Classic on Monday, September 13th. Golfer or not, *you* have a role in getting people to support our fundraiser. Please tell the people you know about this event – ask them to contribute and ask them to sign up to play.

If these two efforts are not successful, we will not have the funds to support our annual charitable organizations and activities. Each of you should commit to them.

I ask you to think and pray about being part of the next slate of our division leaders. There are varying levels of commitment but all positions are important. The Nominating Committee wants to hear from you.

Slainte, and In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Dave



Is the Future of Meagher Division at Risk?

The Nominating Committee needs your help identifying brothers ready, willing and able to step up to leadership positions in our Division. If you're willing, or if you know of a brother you'd like to see nominated for one (or more) of our elected positions, contact me at billhalpin@irihcultureva.org

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The 23d Biennial AOH/LAOH State Convention:

The Major James Dooley and the Mary Ryan Divisions did a magnificent job planning and hosting the state convention this year. In a tribute to the growing influence Virginia Hibernians are having on the National AOH/LAOH agenda, National AOH President Danny O'Connell, National LAOH President Karen Keane, and National Director Ed Halligan attended.

The convention keynote speaker was Emer Rocke, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Ireland. She provided viewpoints based on her experience as director for bilateral relations -- political, economic and cultural -- with the UK, Scottish,

and Welsh governments. Other guest speakers included James Dooley's biographer, Dr. Mary Lynn Bayless, and Virginia State Senator Siobhan Dunnivant.

The urgent need for all Virginia Hibernians to write letters urging our Senators and Representatives regarding appointment of a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland was reemphasized. (Ironically the UK has appointed their first Special Envoy to the United States on Northern Ireland, Trevor Ringland MBE.) We still await a nomination from our side. (*BTW*, Claire Cronin, and Irish-American politician from Boston is nominated to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Ireland. She is a graduate of Stonehill College and Suffolk University Law School and the current Massachusetts House Majority Leader. Her Senate confirmation is pending as of 28 August.)

However, the real highlight of the convention was the election of our own

Edwin Hanson as the Virginia AOH State Treasurer

for the 2021-23 term. He joins our new President Brian Kiernan, Vice President Bob Fay, and Secretary Vince Eikmeier on the State Board. We sincerely wish the new board every success!

Our convention delegates were Neil Buttimer, Jeff Everitt, Dave McLaughlin, and Bill Temple. Bill Halpin attended as a voting member of the state board.



Irish Heritage:

We need to be proactive in continuing what had become an annual Irish tradition in the Fredericksburg area – the St Patrick Day Parade and Irish Festival.

As a Hibernian organization and with assistance from the Irish Cultural Center of Virginia, we must reach out to other Irish and/or Celtic organizations and solicit support from the City of Fredericksburg for an Irish/Celtic parade down Caroline Street each March. We should seek sponsorship from local automobile dealerships, major corporations, local businesses. et al.





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.

Know Your Roots: The meaning and history behind naming the 32 Irish counties (Modified/extracted from an Irish Post by Rachael O'Connor, May 7, 2021)

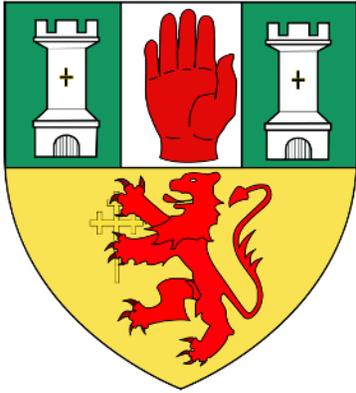
All of the counties on the island of Ireland are derived from Irish phrases or words which give the background to each area, from describing the geographical location or referencing its founder, to naming its rivers or trees, or describing its ecosystem.

Here are the 32 counties of Ireland, their original Irish names and the meaning behind them.



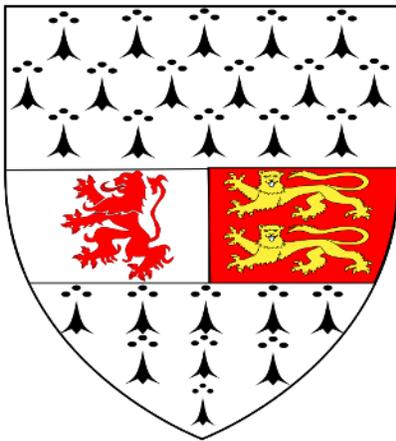
Armagh:

Ard Mhacha in Irish, the name means 'The height of Macha', referring to the ancient Irish Goddess, Macha. A Goddess of sovereignty based in the Province of Ulster, Macha is associated with the land, fertility, kingship, war and horses.



Antrim

Aontroma or *Aontroim* in Irish, the name translates as 'Lone ridge' and comes from its former County town, Antrim Town-- now, however, the capital of Antrim is Belfast.



Carlow

Ceatharlach in Irish, the name is believed to come from the translation 'four lakes' (*Ceithre locha*) or 'city on the lakes' (*Cathair na lochanna*), however it is unclear which lakes this ancient name could be referring to.



Clare

An Clár in Irish, the name was once thought to refer to the de Clare noble family who settled in the county, but instead refers to the Irish word for plank; a board was placed across the river Fergus to allow access to an area which became known as *An Clár*, or Clare.



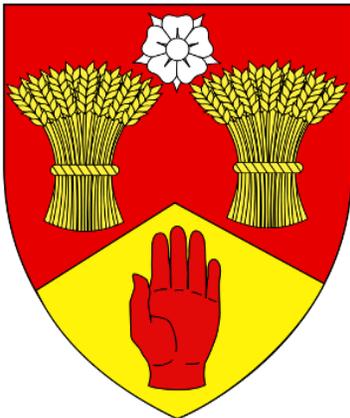
Cavan

An Cabhán in Irish, meaning 'the hollow' or 'a hollow place', however in some parts of Ulster it might be taken to mean a hard round hill.



Cork

Corcaigh in Irish, from the word *corcach* meaning 'marsh' or 'marshy place', founded in the 7th century by St Finbarr, who built an abbey there, which flourished-- until the invasion of the Vikings in 820.



Derry

From the Old Irish word *Daire*, and later the Irish *Doire*, meaning 'oak grove', or in this case, an [oak grove on an island](#) surrounded by water or bogland-- which is what Derry used to be before it was established as a city and county.



Donegal

Dún na nGall in Irish, the name comes from the phrase 'fort of the foreigners', referring to the Vikings who invaded in the 9th century. Before this, it was known as *Tír Chonaillí*, meaning 'Conall's Land', a 5th-century Irish king.



Down

From the Irish *An Dún*, meaning a fort or 'fortified place', similar to Donegal's *Dún na Gall*. County Down, like much of Ireland, witnessed many battles, and its name reflects that.



Dublin

Now *Baile Átha Cliath* in Irish, or *Contae Átha Cliath*, the phrase means 'town of the ford of the hurdles', named after [four main routeways](#) which converged at a crossing place made of hurdles of interwoven saplings. The anglicised Dublin comes from *Dubh Linn*, or 'Black pool'.



Fermanagh

From *Fir Manach* meaning 'The men of Manach', which may come from the Old Irish *Magh Eanagh*, 'Country of the lakes'. This would mean the County name means 'Men of the country of the lakes'.



Galway

From *Gaillimh*, meaning 'stony river', the city and county was named after the river itself-- once known as the *Gaillimh*, the famous river which runs through the city is now called the River Corrib.



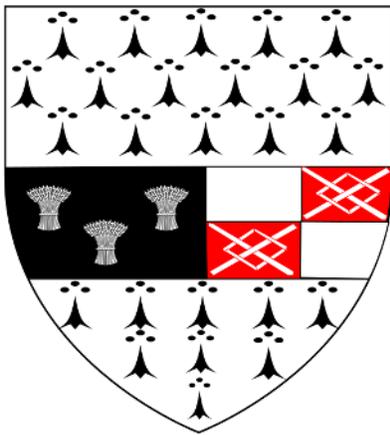
Kerry

Ciarraí in Irish, the county was named after the Ciarraige family, itself a phrase meaning 'people of the Ciar'. Ciar was the 'illegitimate' son of the King of Ulster, who was banished from Ulster and arrived as a refugee in the south of the country in an area which would become known as *Ciarraí*.



Kildare

From the Irish *Cill Daire*, from the Old Irish 'Church of the Oak', just as Derry/*Doire* means 'Oak grove'. It comes from the myth of St Brigid, who established Kildare under an oak tree when she placed her cloak on the ground and it spread for miles on end.



Kilkenny

Cill Chainnigh in Irish, the phrase translates in English to 'church of Cainnech', referring to the Irish abbot and Saint, one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland who helped establish Christianity in Ireland.



Laois

Named from the Old Irish *Loígis*, an ancient Irish tribe named after the first Chieftain, Loígseach, who himself may have been named after the Irish word *lóeg* meaning 'favorite' and *secha* meaning "above and beyond".



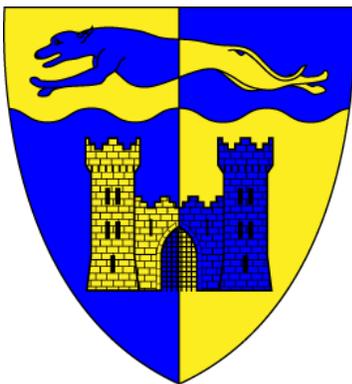
Leitrim

Liatroma in Irish, from the phrase *Liath Druim*, meaning 'grey ridge'. The county was named after the village of *Liath Druim*, a stronghold of the Ó Ruairc noble family.



Limerick

From *Luimneach* in Irish, which may mean 'bare spot', possibly from the word *loimneach* meaning 'bar marsh'-- when invaded by Vikings, it gained the name Hlymekr, which may come from the original name or could be the Old Norse for 'mighty noise'.



Longford

Longfort in Irish from *An Longphort* meaning 'ship' and 'port', an important market town in old Ireland.



Louth

An Lú in Irish, meaning 'less' or 'smaller'-- County Louth is the smallest county in Ireland.



Mayo

From the Irish *Maigh Eó*, meaning 'Plain of the yew trees'. The county was named after the town of Mayo which was covered in the trees-- that town is now known as Mayo Abbey.



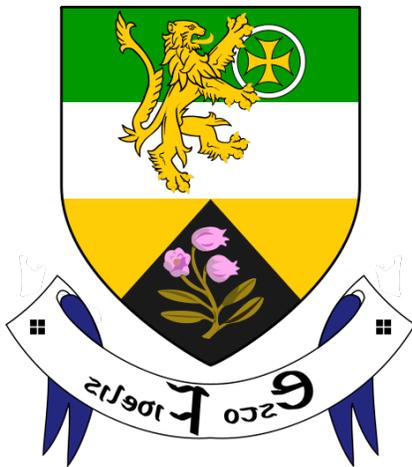
Meath

An Mhí in Irish, County Meath was once the historic Kingdom of Meath from the 1st to the 12th Century, and the name comes from the old Irish *Midhe* meaning 'center'; the Kingdom was in the center of Ireland.



Monaghan

Mhuineacháin in Irish, from the phrase meaning 'a thickly overgrown area' or 'a place abounding in little hills', according to Patrick Weston Joyce, a historian who studied the place names of Ireland.



Offaly

Contae Uíbh Fhailí in Irish, named after the ancient Irish Kingdom of Uí Failghe which existed until the 15th century, named after the legendary king Failge Berraide.



Roscommon

Ros Comáin in Irish, the name comes from a phrase meaning 'Saint Coman's wood', referring to Coman mac Faelchon, an Irish saint and the founder of Roscommon who established a monastery in the area around 550.



Sligo

Sligeach in Irish, a phrase which meaning 'abounding in shells'-- this name comes from the coastal town and county's many beaches, as well as the huge amount of shellfish found in the river of the town.



Tipperary

From the Irish *Tiobraid Árann*, the county is named after Tipperary Town and the river which flows through it. The phrase means 'The Well of Ara', a reference to the River Ara and the well in which it rises.



Tyrone

Tír Eoghain in Irish, literally 'Eoghan's land', after the area was conquered by the Cenél nEógain in Old Ireland. The kingdom once encompassed parts of Derry, Donegal, Fermanagh, Monaghan and Armagh, but their conquests were immortalized in the name *Tír Eoghain*.



Waterford

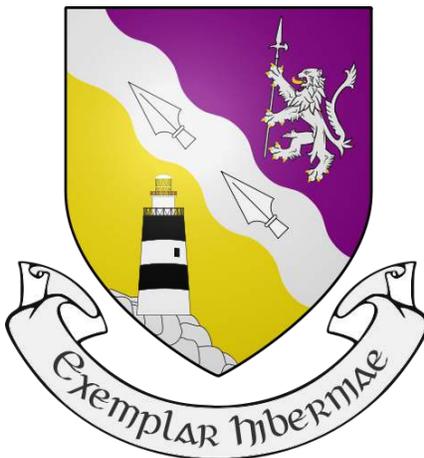
Port Láirge in Irish, which in fact comes from the Old Norse *Vedrafford* meaning 'windy ford'. The Irish translation means 'Lárag's port'.

The Vikings were driven out of Ireland by the Irish in 902 but made a successful return in 914 after establishing themselves in Waterford.



Westmeath

An Iarmhí in Irish, literally meaning 'West middle'. Once a part of the historic and wide-ranging Kingdom of Meath, which itself meant 'middle' due to its geographical location-- Westmeath was split from County Meath in 1543.



Wexford

Loch Garman in Irish, a phrase meaning 'Garman's Lake', and named after the myth of Garman Garbh, a local man who supposedly drowned after a powerful enchantress released waters from the River Slaney to create a lake. The English 'Wexford' may come from the Viking's name for the area 'Waesford', meaning 'an inlet of mud lands'.



Wicklow

Cill Mhantáin in Irish, meaning, rather ominously, 'Church of the toothless one'. The name comes from a [legend](#) which says St Patrick and his followers were attacked by locals, and one of his party had a tooth knocked out in the fight. When he returned to the area to establish a church, he was referred to as 'toothless one'-- *Mantáin*. The name 'Wicklow' may have come from the Viking word 'Vykengelo', meaning 'meadow of the Vikings'.



Upcoming Division Events



Government restrictions are being revisited – stay tuned!

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

September 12th: T4T ticket sales at both St. Patrick Parish (contact Bob Fitzgerald) ***and*** St. Mary Parish (contact Chuck Gleason)

September 13th: Shamrock Charity Golf Classic @ Lake of the Woods Country Club

September 18th: Halfway to St Patrick Day/T4T drawing @ Colonel Tavern 11:30AM-5PM

September 28th: Division meeting (in person!) NOTE: New Date



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//540-373-4496).

Keep in your prayers our brothers, family members and friends:

- **John Hogan:** pulmonary fibrosis; treatment for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma chemotherapy completed
- **Peter Carroll:** completed **most** chemotherapy; cysts no longer visible
- **Jack Grey:** diagnosed with a serious, but unspecified blood disorder and an allergy to copper
- **Joe Daley:** COPD
- **Lois Hanson:** FS Edwin Hanson's 91 year old mother - terminal cancer.
- **Jack Grey, Jr.:** Jack Grey's son – cancer
- **Russell McLaughlin:** Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia (FTD)
- **Loretta Larzelere:** Bob Fitzgerald's sister-in-law suffering from seizures and Alzheimer's
- **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)
- **Brian Kiernan:** VAAOH Vice President, lymphedemic edema
- **Nolan Banks:** Former FS Jeff Banks' son (chemo-compromised immune system) ***Pray for the intercession of Venerable Father Augustine Tolton:***
<http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>

Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased Hibernian Brothers and family members

- **Angelo Jr Zaccagnino:** father of Deacon Zaccagnino who died on 19 August 2021
- **Chris Link:** recently deceased brother of PDP Andy Link
- **Dick Link:** recently deceased father of Andy Link



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 Masses, funerals, dinners, parades, State and National conventions, 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.

A second source recommended by Major Dooley Division:

<https://www.uniformsinstock.com/collections/blazers/products/executive-apparel-winston-mens-kelly-green-blazer>

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; 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 “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.