

GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

November 2022

Volume 10/No.11

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[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.



Deacon Aaron suggests we visit <https://www.catholicireland.net/readings/> for inspiration!



President's Corner

Brothers,

I hope you are enjoying the great weather we have been having lately as it will not last much longer as the holiday season approaches. 2022 has been a busy and productive year, and we only have two more monthly business meetings and two annual events remaining on the Division calendar this year. In the week following the 15 Nov business meeting, I encourage all of you to plan to attend our annual Memorial Mass to be held on Tuesday, 22 Nov, at 7:30pm at St. Jude Catholic

Church to remember all of our brothers who have passed on. We also have our annual wreath laying at the Irish Brigade Monument at the City Dock in December. More details on this event will follow as it gets closer.

I have modified our website (aohfredericksburg.org) a little bit to make it easier to direct candidates to the application page where it can be filled out online instead of having to do it with the paper application. I am also updating the site to make it more timely with new posts of upcoming events. We also have Bobby Murphy maintaining our social media sites so be sure to check them out as well.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming events before we get into the New Year. Sláinte!

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Bob Fitzgerald



New Brother!

We welcome our new Brother Chris Green. Brother Chris was administered the Hibernian pledge during his virtual attendance at our October meeting. . He is a Culpeper resident, a Precious Blood Parishioner and works in Warrenton. He also serves on a working committee to charter a new Hibernian Division in Culpeper County. Chris is proud of his Irish heritage and will be a valued Hibernian brother.



Donations To Our Four Parishes

Division Charities include annual donations to support miscellaneous parish needs. This year these donations totaled more than \$2,000. Below are St. Matthew Parish Liaison Frank Connors with St Matthew Pastor Fr. Paul Eversole and Recording Secretary Bill Halpin with St. Patrick Pastor, Fr. John Zeigler. Fr. Ziegler said the donation will be applied to the St. Michael the Archangel stained glass window.



Other checks were/will be presented to St. Jude Pastor Fr. O'Keefe and St. Mary Pastor Fr. Mosimann.

Sláinte! All Hail the Humble Spud

(Adapted from a 2017 essay by Edythe Preet)

Potatoes are boiled, broiled, baked, roasted, fried, mashed, and hashed. Hot and cold, crisp and fluffy, plain and embellished, jackets on and jackets off. Ask anyone where potatoes were first grown and odds are you'll be told, "Ireland." Nothing could be further from the truth. Potatoes were unknown in Europe until the Conquistadors marched through South America. That is how potatoes found their way to farms and gardens in Europe.

There are Irish folk tales of potatoes washing ashore from wrecks of the Spanish armada. Another myth has Sir Francis Drake bringing

potatoes back from an expedition and giving seedlings Sir Walter Raleigh who planted them at his estate in Youghall, County Cork.

The new vegetable quickly became a staple crop of Ireland's agricultural economy. They were easy to grow, abundant, and easy to cook, needing only a pot and a fire. Supplemented with fresh milk, greens, and some meat, fish or eggs, a good potato harvest meant the average farm family had a nutritious diet.

Then *An Gorta Mor* struck. In the summer of 1845 a fungus attacked the potato crop and

as winds carried spores from county to county, green fields turned black in days and the tubers rotted. More than two-thirds of the harvest rotted and in some western areas the crop was lost completely. Blight struck again in 1846, 1849 and 1851. Blights had troubled local areas before, notably Mayo (1831) and Donegal(1836), but this time it was national.

With the main food source for people and livestock destroyed five times in seven years, Ireland was devastated. One and a half million people died of starvation, cholera, and famine fever. Another million emigrated. In the following decades, the tide of emigration swelled to a flood as millions more fled the specter of starvation. (*Sadly, this article neglects to mention the tons of meat and food exported from Ireland by the English landlords*).

More than one million Irish immigrants came to the United States, bringing with them their love for spuds. At the time, Americans were

suspicious of potatoes as they belong to the nightshade family of poisonous plants. While potato plant leaves are toxic, the tubers are perfectly safe and the Irish immigrants turned the tide of American anti-potato-ism. Today, potatoes are planted in 35 states, yielding half a billion bushels annually. Potatoes are a perfect food: fat and cholesterol free, the average serving (5½ oz.) provides 45 % of the daily value for vitamin C, 21% of the daily value for potassium, three grams of fiber, and only 100 calories. Demand for potatoes has increased in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, where output rose from less than 30 million tons in the early 1960s to more than 165 million tons in 2007. China is now the biggest potato producer.

People have discovered the wisdom of the time-honored Irish proverb: “*Be eating one potato, peeling a second, have a third in your fist, and your eye on a fourth.*” In the coming weeks/months we’ll see freezing temperatures, high winds, and snow.

Here’s the perfect recipe to warm the cockles and keep the wolves from the door: a traditional **Irish potato soup**.

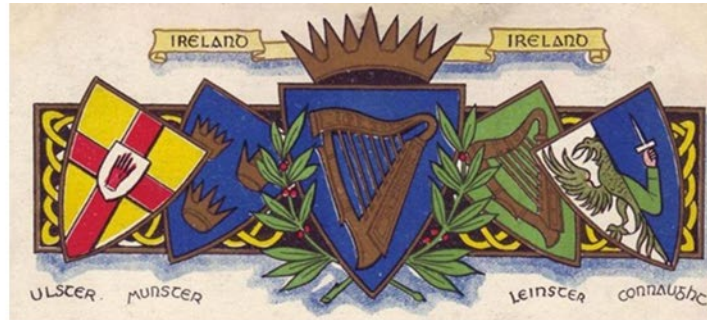
What you will need:

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced
- 3 leeks, sliced
- 3 large baking potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices
- 3 (14 1/2-ounce) cans chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- A topping of shredded cheddar cheese
- A handful of crumbled cooked bacon
- A handful of chopped fresh chives

How to make it:

- Melt the butter in a large saucepan over a low heat.
- Stir in the onion and leek. Cover and cook for 20 minutes.
- Stir in the potato. Cover again and cook for another 15 minutes.
- Add the broth, salt, and pepper. Bring the mix to the boil.
- Reduce the heat and simmer the mixture for 30 minutes.
- Remove once the potato has become tender. Leave to cool.

Using a blender, process batches of the soup until smooth.
Return the mixture to the saucepan and cook until warm.
Add a combination of the cheddar, bacon, and chives.



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.

About Halloween -- It started in Ireland

In Ireland, Halloween is known as *Samhain* ('sow-an'). The next day is All Saints Day, a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation.

The Celtic Year

The Ancient Celtic year was divided into two: the Bright-half which is called *Beltane* and the Dark-half which is called *Samhain*. New Year started at nightfall on 31 October.

Samhain translates to, “summers end” and marks the end of the Bright-half. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the living and the dead became blurred

and the barrows and mounds where the *Sidhe* (Fairies) live would open and the dead could walk the Earth. People lit bonfires and wore costumes to scare away ghosts.

Beltane (in Irish *Bealtaine*) begins at moonrise on 30th April, which is the moment when the Earth’s generative and reproductive energies are at their peak. Pagan rituals were held to increase the fertility of the land, people and the animals. Of course this is the day that the Fairies and Leprechauns are out in force.

Why do people wear costumes on Halloween?

The custom of dressing up in costume comes from an old Celtic tradition when people dressed in costumes that resembled evil spirits in order to placate them. At Halloween when the veil between the living and the dead is at it thinnest, men would have dressed in white and blackened their faces to resemble the dead to acknowledge them and so appease them that they might not visit the homes of the living or if you were to meet a spirit on your travels they would accept you as one of their own and not be tempted to carry you away in the morning.

Where did “Trick or Treat” come from?

The custom of ‘trick or treat’ was began in Ireland when children and the poor went from door to door at Halloween and sang songs or offered prayers for the souls of the dead in return for food usually a “soul cake” which was a flattened bread that contained fruit. This tradition was known as ‘Souling’.

Where did Jack-O-Lantern originate?

In days long ago the Irish would have carved turnip or swede (rutabaga) as these were widely available. The origin of carving Jack-O-Lanterns is unclear but an old Irish folk tale tells of Stingy Jack a lazy Irish Blacksmith who tricks the Devil and traps him using a cross and refuses to free him until the Devil agrees not to take his soul when he dies.

Many years later Jack dies and because he was lazy and no good during his life he is refused entry to Heaven so he turns to the Devil who will not back down on his promise and refuses to take his soul distraught Jack cries out that he has no light to see his way through the darkness of eternity and laughing the Devil throws him a flame that has come directly from Hell and will never extinguish so Jack is forced to carve a lantern out of a turnip that he may find his way as he wanders the Earth for all Eternity. He became known as Jack of the Lantern or Jack-O-Lantern.

These traditions were brought to America by Irish immigrants.



Bram Stoker's Dracula

The story's universal appeal makes it one of fiction's most imitated works by an Irishman. (Adapted from an article by Carstens Smith, in Irish America October 26, 2017)

Bram Stoker was born in Dublin on November 8, 1847. He was a bookish child but later became a successful athlete at Trinity College. After graduation, Stoker was an Irish civil servant before moving to London. He completed a law degree and wrote a tome to standardize Irish civil service procedures,

He wrote *Dracula* along with 16 other novels (*The Lair of the White Worm* was the only one to come near the success of *Dracula*). His Gothic imagination had its roots in Ireland and in the stories told to him by his mother Charlotte. Charlotte entertained him with traditional Irish tales of banshees, ghouls and hauntings, as well as vivid accounts of her own experiences as a young woman during the 1832 cholera outbreak in Ireland. Stoker's mother wrote down her experiences and her stories reflect a gift for imagery, suspense, and building terror.

His father Abraham Stoker had a love for the arts, especially theater. During Bram's college years, the elder Stoker and his son would often sit in the Theater Royal's cheap seats to catch a matinee performance. It was during this time that Stoker first saw Henry Irving and was impressed with the depth that Irving gave the stock role.

Several years later saw Irving again and was overwhelmed by the actor's performance in *The Two Roses*. When Irving and Stoker actually met, Irving persuaded Stoker to become his business manager. For the next 27 years, Stoker devoted himself to promoting Irving's career and making Irving's theater, the Lyceum, a viable business. Stoker was poorly compensated, motivating him to write *Dracula* to raise the money needed to support his wife and child and pay off his father's debts.

Victorian fascination with the occult was popular and Stoker retained his childhood interest in horrific and supernatural folk tales. The stage was set for the creation of *Dracula*. In 1890, he met Hungarian Arminius Vambrey as they discussed Vlad The Impaler, the brutal Wallachian ruler of the 15th century, who fought for the Christian church, battling against the infidels who were invading Europe. Vambrey helped give *Dracula* form.

Bram Stoker's *Dracula*: The Movie

Screenwriter James V. Hart spent 13 years trying to get the project he called the "real" *Dracula* to the screen. "Bram Stoker's book is a great literary achievement," says Hart, "and I think Hollywood has truly diluted the story

over the years. People don't realize what a beautifully written piece of work it is."



October Test Question: *Who were the Milesians?*

Answer: The Milesians, or *Mil Espáine*, were ancient Gaelic kings reportedly descended from Míl, the fictional Celtic king of Spain who invaded Ireland. Ireland's original legal code, the Brehon Laws, restricted the right to rule to families or clans of high social status descended from the Milesian kings.

November Test Question: What is the origin of the term "boycott"?



Upcoming Division Events 

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

- **11 Nov:** Veterans Day
- **15 Nov:** Division meeting
- **22 Nov:** Annual **TFM Division Memorial Mass**, 7:30PM at St Jude
- **11 Dec:** Wreath presentation at Irish Bde memorial/City Dock
- **12 Dec:** **35th Anniversary of the Division Charter**
- **18 Dec:** Adoration at St Jude 3-4 PM



Our Division Prayers



Keep our brothers, family members and friends in your prayers

- Chuck Lyons, a New Jersey Hibernian and friend of Tim Lynch
- Division applicant Adam Wiederman's wife and infant child.
- Joe Daly, COPD
- Russell McLaughlin: Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- Loretta Larzelere: Bob Fitzgerald's sister-in-law suffering from seizures and Alzheimer's
- 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 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>)
- Mary Lou and Keith Bowers: St Jude parishioners/friends of Deacon Aaron
- Alice Wilkowski (stroke) associate of PDP Shawn Lenahan

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

- John Hogan: Gen. Meagher Division 2015 Hibernian of the Year, died 14 Feb 2022
- Christopher Grey: son of Brother Jack Grey, died 15 February 2022
- Dawn Forest: Wife of Brother Dean Forest, suddenly on 13 January 2022.
- Bob Phillips: Brother of Bill Phillips died on 30 January 2022

Send notifications to Committee of the Sick Chair Bobby Murphy (smurphy823@gmail.com)

Send requests for inclusion in our newsletter to billhalpin@irishcultureva.org



Hibernian Attire

Every brother should have these articles of clothing

Green Jacket: Brothers procure their own green jackets -- Kelly green is the color.

- 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.
- Second source used by Major James 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 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, a raincoat/overcoat (and a growing waistline). Sashes are available from:

- **D. & E. Morrissey (954-426-3514/ <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com>.** The National Hibernian usually has an ad for D & E Morrissey.
- **Gettysburg Flag** offers tri-color sashes and “special prices” for larger orders. <https://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash>

Division Logo Items: Contact for division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps is Shawn Lenahan (s_lenahan@verizon.net)

The AOH “uniform”

- ***Semi-formal/formal occasions*** are 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.
- ***For Informal events*** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo/sweatshirts and optional ball cap are appropriate.

This newsletter is an unofficial publication providing information to members of the Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division and others who may have an interest in division activities. It is published by Bill Halpin and unless shown