

GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

February 2023

Volume 11No 2

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(billhalpin@irshcultureva.org)

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.



Irish Proverb: Ní bhíonn rath ach mar a mbíonn smacht

(There is success only with discipline)

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**45th ANNUAL GAELIC MASS IN HONOR OF ST. PATRICK**

MONDAY, MARCH 13 @ 7:00PM, St. James Catholic Church 905 Park Ave., Falls Church, VA 22046 (Reception/refreshments to follow in Heller Hall) For more information, contact Alex Wilson (703) 969-7703 or [ajwilzn@gmail.com](mailto:ajwilzn@gmail.com)

Check Coming Events for IAHM celebrations



***President's Corner:***

Brothers - congratulations are in order for Brothers Chris Green and Neil Hornung for receiving their Major Degrees at the State Quarterly meeting on 28 Jan. I encourage all of you who have not yet received your Major Degrees to plan to participate in the

ceremony at the next opportunity as it will add an enhanced understanding of what it means to be a Hibernian. In addition, we will also have a Shamrock Degree a month or so prior to the State Quarterly meeting.

We are preparing to kick off our two main fundraisers for the year. The Shamrock Classic Golf Tournament is set for Monday, 08 May, at Lake of the Woods golf course, and we are planning to have at least 100 golfers at the event along with many more sponsors. Sign up rosters and sponsor letters will be coming out soon, and we ask that you pass this info on to all golfers and local businesses as soon as you can. Ticket sales for the Trip for Two to Ireland raffle will be starting soon as well. Parish ticket sales weekends are being coordinated at each of the local churches in addition to your individual raffle ticket sales so please be sure to stop by the table and lend a hand on those dates as they are announced. Your assistance is critical in making both of these fundraising events a success for the Division.

To those of you who attended the January meeting where we discussed and approved the annual budget, I thank you for sticking with us through the sausage-making to get that major task completed. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming business meeting on Tuesday, 21 Feb. Until then, Sláinte!

In our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Bob Fitzgerald



### **SS Thomas Francis Meagher**

Did you know the U. S. Navy named a ship after Thomas Francis Meagher?

It's true: The S.S. Thomas F. Meagher, hull number 3077, was launched December 3, 1944 in Portland, Maine. It was a Liberty Ship one of 2710 ships built between 1941 and 1945 under the Emergency Shipbuilding Program. The design was simple, low-

cost, and they were mass-produced on an unprecedented scale. The Liberty ship came to symbolize U.S. wartime industrial output. The class was developed to replace ships that had been lost. Eighteen American shipyards averaged three ships every two days easily the largest number of ships ever produced to a single design.

The immensity of the effort, the number of ships built, the role of female workers in their construction, and the survival of some far longer than their original five-year design life combine to make them the subject of continued interest.

S.S. Thomas F. Meagher was scrapped in 1969.

(inspired by an article in *Shillelagh Sentinel*, newsletter of the TFM Division in Helena, MT



**Things to consider -- an afternoon with four highly rated Irish movies:**

"**The Banshees of Inisherin.**" Colin Farrell, Barry Keoghan, Brendan Gleeson, Kerry Condon are all nominated in actor categories for their roles in "Banshees."

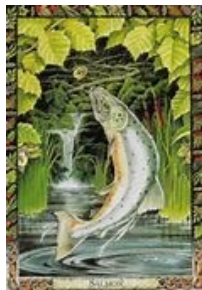
"**Aftersun**" Paul Mescal nominated as best actor

"**An Irish Goodbye**" nominated the best live-action short category.

**An Cailín Ciúin (The Quiet Girl):** the first *Irish-language* film nominated as best international film. (*Might be a language challenge here??*)



**January Trivia Question:** In Irish mythology, what does the salmon provide?



In Irish myth the **Salmon of Wisdom** was found the Well of Segais -- thought to be the head waters of the River Boyne. There were nine hazelnut trees growing around this sacred pool of water. Nine is a magic number and hazel wood is the ninth tree of the ogham. These were the trees of wisdom. The salmon ate the magical hazel nuts that fell into the water and **salmon is wisdom**. In Celtic legend the salmon is the oldest of all living creatures.

**February Trivia Question:** What is the origin of the city name "Dublin"?





*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.*



## **Who was GRACE O'MALLEY?**

Adapted from [Irish Post](#), September 07, 2022

**GRACE O'Malley is celebrated as Ireland's 'Pirate Queen'. She was a 16<sup>th</sup> century leader respected not only by the Irish but also by her sworn enemy – the English.**

Gráinne Ní Mháille was born into the great seafaring Clan O'Malley around 1530, likely born on Clare Island, Co. Mayo. Clan O'Malley rose to power in the West of Ireland during the 1300s. They were ruthless pirates and terrorized ships trading in Galway Bay, taxing all those who fished off their coasts. They built a row of castles facing the sea to protect their territory.

She grew up in an Irish speaking with her chieftain father Eoghan Dubhdara Ó Máille. She was probably educated to a high standard – since she spoke Latin. Local folklore records young O'Malley wished to go on a trading expedition to Spain with her father. When told she could not because her long hair would catch in the ship's ropes, she cut off most of her and he relented. This earned her the nickname "Gráinne Mhaol" (from 'maol' meaning bald or having cropped hair).

Young Grace was already engaged in the business of international trade – learning from her father. Bunowen Castle, where she lived with her first husband, Dónal an-Chogaidh O'Flaherty, was likely the first base for her shipping and trade activities. When her husband died in battle in the early 1560s, Grace commanded the loyalty of many of his men and they followed her to Clare Island, where she moved her headquarters. After her husband's death, Grace allegedly took the son of a Wexford sailor as her lover. This was a brief affair - Hugh de Lacy was killed by the MacMahons of Ballyvoy. Seeking vengeance, Grace attacked the MacMahon castle of Doona in Blacksod Bay and ruthlessly killed Hugh's murderers. Her attack on Doona Castle earned her the nickname, *'Dark Lady of Doona'*.

The English Council in Dublin complained that her ships were engaged in piracy. In a compromise with the English, she offered 200 men to serve in their army. When Granuaile met Queen Elizabeth in 1593 she refused to bow because she considered herself a Queen and not a subject of the Queen of England. Not only did Grace purportedly refuse to bow to Queen Elizabeth – but it is said that she

carried a concealed dagger in her clothing. Their discussion was carried out in Latin, as O'Malley spoke no English and Elizabeth spoke no Irish.

In Dublin, O'Malley attempted to visit Howth Castle – home of Lord Howth (**Ed note:** probably Christopher St Lawrence, 8th Baron Howth). She was told the family was at dinner and they could not be disturbed. She abducted the Earl's grandson (also named Christopher St Lawrence who would be the 10<sup>th</sup> Baron Howth) and released him only after Howth promised to keep the gates open for unexpected visitors and to set an extra place at every meal. At Howth Castle today, this agreement is still honored and a street in Howth is named 'Grace O'Malley Road'. (**Ed note:** The castle dates from 1235 and is located about 10 miles NE of Dublin City Center.)

Despite her life of adventure, Grace O'Malley had four children and lived to an old age. She died in 1603 at Rockfleet Castle (Co. Mayo) and is buried in the Cistercian Abbey, Clare Island. There is a bronze statue of O'Malley on the grounds of Westport House in Co. Mayo, which contains a comprehensive exhibition on her life compiled by historian Anne Chambers – a leading authority on Clan O'Malley. (**Ed note:** Today the Westport House is a vacation destination: Current owners of this 400 year old estate trace lineage to the pirate queen and chieftain, Grace O'Malley ([Home - Westport House](#)).



## My Goodness it's Guinness

### **Guinness Original Half & Half**

- 1 12oz Cold Bottle of Harp
- 1 14.9oz Guinness Draught Can
- 1 Tablespoon (Yes a spoon!)
- 1 16oz Pint Glass

From a chilled bottle, fill a clean pint glass just over halfway with Harp.

Open a chilled Guinness Draught Can and prepare to pour. Place a spoon face down (creating an umbrella effect) and slowly pour your Guinness Draught over it. When the Guinness has risen to "just proud of the rim" you're ready to enjoy the distinct pleasures of the Original Half & Half! Courtesy Guinness Brewery (**Editor's Note:** *Do not refer to this drink as a "Black & Tan". There's an unpleasant Irish history with black and tans. Using that term in an Irish Pub would likely result in an invitation to leave the premises.*)

### **Guinness Braised Beef**

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 bay leaves
- 3 pounds round steak, cut in chunks
- 1 large onion, halved & sliced
- 2 tablespoons flour seasoned w/ salt & pepper
- 1/4 pint Guinness
- salt and pepper
- 1/2 pound carrots, sliced
- 1 tablespoon parsley, minced

In a Dutch Oven, heat the olive oil with the bay leaves. Add the beef chunks and brown quickly. Push aside the meat, add the onion and sweat until just softened.

Sprinkle with the flour and let it brown, then add the Guinness and an equal amount of water, or a little more if needed, to barely cover. Season with salt and pepper to taste and add the carrots. Bring to a boil, then cover and braise in a slow oven at 325 F for approximately 1 1/2 hours. Check occasionally to see if the liquid is evaporating and add more equally proportioned Guinness and water if needed. Check also for tenderness, and if necessary continue cooking a little longer. Before serving, sprinkle with the chopped parsley. Makes 4 or 5 servings. Accompany baked or mashed potatoes. From traditional Irish Food – Theodora Fitzgibbon



### *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!*

- **1 Feb: Virginia Pro-Life Day** in Richmond. Learn more at [VaProLifeDay.org](http://VaProLifeDay.org)
- **1 Feb: St Brigid Feast Day**
- **4 Feb: *St. Brigid Gala, Lady of Angels Parish Center, 13257 Mary's Way, Woodbridge.***  
**More info/tickets: [alice.alexander31@gmail.com](mailto:alice.alexander31@gmail.com)**
- **21 Feb: Division Meeting:** 7:30PM @ K of C Hall Harrison Road
- **1-31 Mar: Irish American Heritage Month** info on docent needs and locations coming soon.
- **4 Mar: *St. Patrick's Day Parade, Alexandria, VA***  
**(<https://www.ballyshaners.org/parade.html>)**
- **11 Mar: *St. Patrick's Day Parade, Manassas, VA*** (<https://www.stpatparade.net>)
- **11 Mar - *Shamrock the Block Festival, Richmond***  
**(<https://www.shamrocktheblock.com>)**
- **11 Mar: *Freedom First St. Patrick's Day Parade and Shamrock Festival, Roanoke*** (<https://www.downtownroanoke.org/events/signature-events/st-patricks-day-parade-and-festival>)
- **12 Mar: *Hooley, Basilica of St. Mary/Herbert-Cady Division, Alexandria, VA***  
**(<https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=aa807e08-92db-4e3a-9b6e-ad5d2890f61f>)**
- **13 March: 45th ANNUAL GAELIC MASS IN HONOR OF ST. PATRICK** 7:30 PM @ St. James Catholic Church, 905 Park Ave., Falls Church. Reception/ refreshments follow. **More info: Alex Wilson (703) 969-7703 or [ajwilzn@gmail.com](mailto:ajwilzn@gmail.com)**
- **18 Mar: *St. Patrick's Day Parade, Norfolk*** (<https://norfolkparade.com>)

- **18 Mar: St. Patrick's Parade, Onancock, VA** (City founded 1680 about 20 mile s. of Chincoteague (<https://visitesva.com/events/listings/8th-annual-onancock-st-patricks-parade>))



*Our Division Prayers*

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

- **Joe Daly**, COPD
- **John Needham**: back surgery
- **Frank Connors**: abdominal surgery
- **Neil Hornung**: knee surgery
- **Gene McKenna**: Covid 19
- **Russell McLaughlin**: Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- **Jerry O'Brien**: Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- **John O'Brien**: Hugh O'Brien's brother-- recovering from stroke.
- **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
- **Mary Lou and Keith Bowers**: St Jude parishioners/friends of Deacon Aaron
- **Alice Wilkowski** (stroke) associate of PDP Shawn Lenahan
- Division applicant **Adam Wiederman's** wife and infant child.

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

- **Shelagh Hornung**: Neil Hornung's sister-in-law died on January 14, 2023.
- **Loretta Larzelere**: Bob Fitzgerald's sister-in-law died on January 19, 2023
- **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, died 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](mailto:smurphy823@gmail.com))*

*Send requests for inclusion in our newsletter to [billhalpin@irishcultureva.org](mailto: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](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](mailto: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 otherwise, he is responsible for content.**