

Shillelagh Sentinel

AOH, Thomas Francis Meagher Division, PO Box 1916, Helena, Montana 59624

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December(Mí na Nollaig) 2021



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to you and yours

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Presidents Message

Brothers,

Well, it is the Christmas Season once again. This is the time of year that we concentrate on family and friends, but we also need to remember to pay some attention to ourselves. This can be a stressful time of year, especially with a "new" variant of COVID along with supply chain issues and shipping issues. So, please make sure that you take some time out for yourselves and get proper rest. Things are not always as bad as they can sometimes seem, even when they seem to pile up. Take a few deep breaths, talk to someone, have a cup of cheer and then take another look at the issue and see if it hasn't receded a bit and become less of a problem.

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Hibernian Dates to Remember

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021

6:30 PM

Regular monthly meeting

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022

6:30 PM

Regular monthly meeting

AOH MONTANA STATE BOARD MEETING

KC HALL, HELENA, MT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022

NOON

ST PATRICK'S DAY

THURSDAY

MARCH 17, 2021

This Month in Irish History

December 1, 1848 - The paddle steamer The Londonderry, with immigrants fleeing the famine, takes shelter in Derry harbour. When the covers are removed from the hold it is discovered that 72 men, women and children had suffocated.

December 1, 1946 - Singer Gilbert (Richard) O'Sullivan is born in Waterford.

December 3, 1792 - Beginning on this date and continuing through December 8, a Catholic Convention is held in Tailors' Hall, Dublin to demand abolition of the remaining penal laws; a petition is presented to the king in London.

December 4, 2009 - Liam Clancy of the Clancy Brothers passes away

This Month in Irish History

December 9, 1995 - Seamus Heaney Wins Nobel Prize for Literature.

December 6th - In the liturgical calendar, today is the feast of St. Nicholas.

December 7, 521 –Birth of Saint Columcille, Irish bard and monk, honored in all the Celtic lands.

December 8, 1831 - Death of James Hoban, the Kilkenny architect who designed the White House. He also designed the state capital in Columbia, South Carolina

December 13, 1862 - the Irish Brigade of the Army of the Potomac suffered horrendous casualties during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

December 1653 - Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of Ireland.

December 20, 1891 – Annie Moore left Queenstown, Cork, Ireland today for Ellis Island.

December 21, 1919 - Dáil Éireann meets for the first time and elects Eamon de Valera as President of Ireland.

December 23, 1688- English King James II flees to France and William of Orange seizes the throne of England.

December 24, 1601 - The Battle of Kinsale. . Hugh O'Neill and Red Hugh O'Donnell are heavily defeated by Mountjoy.

December 27, 1886 – Margaret Cruse wife of Thomas Cruse passes away after childbirth. Thomas Cruse was a major contributor to the building of the Cathedral of St. Helena.

December 28, 1880 - The trial of Parnell and others for conspiracy begins on this date

December 31, 1759 – Arthur Guinness signs a 9,000-year lease on four acres of ground at St James's Gate, Dublin, for an annual rent of 45£, including water rights.



Veterans Notes

Greetings Brother and Sisters,

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Please remember that even with the exit of our troops from Afghanistan, that did not bring all of our troops home. We still have troops all over the world who will be separated from their families and friends during this most holy time of the year. Please pray for them and for their families that they may be reunited safely and soon.

This year, the Wreaths Across America event will be held at 1000 am at the State Veteran's Cemetery at Ft. Harrison. If you can make it, your attendance would be appreciated. For further information: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/150700/Overview/?relatedId=16592>

For all of us, Veteran or not, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline number is 1-800-273-8255, and for Veteran specific help, press 1 at the main menu. This number can save lives.

Online you can go to: www.veteranscrisisline.net or www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention to name just a couple of sites, there are many more out there.

If you are struggling, please reach out to someone, anyone, it can be that easy!

Depression and suicidal thoughts can affect anyone, so be prepared to help, not just a Veteran or an AOH/LAOH member, but anyone who needs help. Remember the part of our Motto that says "Christian Charity", I can think of no greater Charitable gift than that of Life.

One last thing: Happy 385th Birthday to the National Guard on December 13!

Again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Patrick Flaherty

Thomas Francis Meagher Division, Helena Montana

Veterans Affairs Chair (Division and State), Member

National Cmte

We must also remember the Reason for the Season. This is the time of the year that we celebrate the Birth of Christ and the Miracles that preceded that wondrous event. It has always been a remarkable and magical time of year as we try to live the tenets of our faith rather more than we may do at other times of the year. While this is not a bad thing, it is the example that we should try to carry throughout the entire year, not just at Christmas.

We recently held a Rosary and Mass at Our Lady of the Valley to pray for the deceased of the order, including Murphy Fox, Joe Chamberlain, and Vi Walchuck. It was attended by several members of the families including Susan Fox and Mike Murphy. The Rosary was ably led by our own Temporary Emergency Acting Assistant Chaplain Dennis O'Reilly. The Mass following by Father Shea was wonderful and inspirational. I encourage all members to attend any of these that we have in the future.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and that you and your families continue to be safe and happy in the coming year.

Yours in our Motto,

Patrick ♣

History of the AOH in Montana

By Mike O'Connor

Have you ever wondered how the AOH came to be in Montana? Many people have asked that question, but few know why and when the AOH came to Montana. The growth of the AOH in Montana parallels the timeline of the development of the Montana Territory and the west.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians was formed in New York on May 1, 1836. As the AOH was developing on the east coast, the west was beginning to attract the Irish with new opportunities. The development of the railroads, growth of mining and the search for farming country, all brought the Irish west in great numbers. As my relatives would say, "We are two-boat Irish." They were the Irish that left Ireland and landed in the United States mainly on the East Coast. Their second vessel being wagons, horseback, or railroads that brought them west. They traveled to such places as Michigan, Nebraska, Colorado, Nevada, Montana, and California. And wherever they gathered, AOH divisions were set up.

Hibernianism was an integral part of the Montana Territory. Its birthplace, as you might expect began in a log cabin in the mountains of the Continental Divide. It was near the mining camp of Vestal. The Irish miners formed Division #1, Deer Lodge County on July 10, 1879. The membership consisted of the miners working the mines around Vestal. The biggest mine being the Penobscott Mine owned by Nate Vestal. Not much information is known on the town of Vestal. The town's post office was established on September 9, 1878, and discontinued on April 5, 1881.

The Division in Vestal lasted as long as the mine lasted. The Penobscott was sold by Nate Vestal in the summer of 1878. As with many of gold mine claims when the gold ran out the miners moved on to the next claim. That is true of the Penobscott. Within months the gold was gone and the mine and the town were deserted and found the fate as many another gold claim.

J.D. Murphy, the first president and prominent in the organization of the division, abandoned Vestal and Division #1, Deer Lodge County ceased. He moved to the town of Butte, then only being incorporated for six years by a special act passed by the Montana Territorial Legislature. He located in Walkerville and was a true Hibernian and helped start the first AOH Division in Butte. He was also its first division President there, Division #2 Deer Lodge County was organized in March 1880. This Division became Silver Bow County Division #1 when Silver Bow County was created in 1881.

The summer of 1880 saw additional divisions organized in Townsend and Philipsburg. In 1882 the first AOH State Convention was held in Walkerville. As the AOH was expanding in the 1880's, so was the Montana Territory. You saw the first trains entering the territory and the Utah & Northern Railroad arrives in Butte in 1881.