



# Shillelagh Sentinel



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

**Volume 3, Issue 173**

**www.hibernian.org**

**September (Meán Fómhair) 2023**

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## Message from the President

Just a short one this time, we have a lot going on:

Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 12, at 6:30 hope to see you there.

State Convention in Anaconda, September 15-17, it is important that we show up and show support for the order.

Degree Exemplification during the Convention in Anaconda.

National Veterans Affairs Committee meeting, September 19 at 5:30, let me know if you are interested in attending through Zoom.

Regular meeting on Tuesday October 10 at 6:30, hope to see you at the KC Hall.

National President's Testimonial, October 12-15 in Youngstown, Ohio, I will be attending and will bring back a report.

Charter Dinner, October 26 at the KC Hall, details to follow.

Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, Flag Raising at Resurrection Cemetery at 8:00 and Parade in East Helena at 10:45.

Regular Meeting November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the KC Hall.

Hope to see everyone at all of these event.

Slan'  
Patrick♣

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## HIBERNIAN DATES TO REMEMBER

### AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

6:30 PM, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

### AOH STATE CONVENTION

ANACONDA, MONTANA

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 2023

### AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023

6:30 PM, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

## This Month in Irish History

September 1, 1864 - Roger Casement, British consular official and Irish nationalist, is born in Sandycove, Co. Dublin

September 2, 1752 - The Gregorian calendar is adopted in Ireland and Britain, 170 years after mainland Europe: 2 September is followed by 14 September

September 3, 1658 – Oliver Cromwell, the most hated man in Irish history died this day. He died after complications following contracting malaria in Cork.

September 4, 1844 - Conspiracy judgment against Daniel O'Connell is reversed by House of Lords

September 4th In the liturgical calendar, it is the feast day of St. MacNisse, baptized by St. Patrick, and considered the founder of Kells Monastery.

September 5, 1771 - Benjamin Franklin's visit to Ireland begins

September 7, 1695 - Penal Laws are passed which restrict the rights of Catholics to have an education, to bear arms, or to possess a horse worth more than five pounds

September 8, 1908 - Poet, educator and eventual Easter Rising rebel Patrick Pearse opens St. Edna's school for boys (Scoil Eanna), combining new European theories of education with a focus on the glory of the Gaelic past



The General Meagher Division President Bob Fitzgerald of the Ancient Order of Hibernians submitted “Shamrocks are clovers, but not all clovers are shamrocks”

The word "shamrock" comes from the Gaelic word *Seamrog*, meaning “little clover”<sup>1</sup>. As you all know, one of the traditional Irish symbols is a shamrock, and a shamrock appears on the flag of Erin Go Bragh, meaning “Ireland Forever”, and Saint Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity with the three leaves representing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. A shamrock can be found on the uniforms of Irish sports teams and on the tail of the national airline, Aer Lingus.

The use of the shamrock as Ireland's national symbol dates back thousands of years, but there appears to be confusion in today's world about what constitutes a traditional shamrock. By definition, a shamrock is a clover that specifically has three leaves, no more and no less. Do not confuse a shamrock with a four-leafed clover, which is NOT a shamrock. Some researchers note that the Druids (priests of the ancient Celts) claimed that a four-leafed clover was a good luck charm against evil spirits. These days, most people have forgotten about the “evil spirits” part and just remember that they are supposed to be good luck, and perhaps somehow confused that with the "luck of the Irish". You may find four-leaf, five-leaf, or even six-leaf clovers as a result of a genetic abnormality...but none of these abnormal clovers are shamrocks.

## STATE AOH CONVENTION

Montana's State AOH/LAOH Convention this year will be September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in Anaconda, Montana. I hope as many brothers as possible will be able to make the convention.

The Copper Kings Major Degree Team will exemplify the major degrees on Saturday.

## The Irish in Montana

### Granite, Montana

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The history of Montana is filled with Irish and Irish Americans who made a difference in the development of this state. Have you ever heard of the town of Granite, Montana. It is a ghost town today but in the late 1800's it was a bustling town. It is a few miles from Philipsburg. As you may have imagined Granite, Montana was a mining town. It had a population in 1890 of 3,000. The mine was a silver mine, and it was called Granite Mountain Mine. Granite, Montana was 7,500 feet above sea level.

You guessed it. There was an Ancient Order of Hibernians Division in Granite, Montana in 1890. You can take the Irish out of Ireland, but you can't take Ireland out of the Irish. Many came to Montana for a job. Mining employed many of the Irish. At the time and current today is the purpose of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. That is to promote Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. Also, to promote Irish culture, to foster the ideas and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people. The Ancient Order of Hibernians was a perfect organization to belong to for the Irish and Irish Americans. They wanted to remember the history of Ireland and keep the Irish culture that they had to leave behind when they came to America.