



# Shillelagh Sentinel



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

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**December(Mí na Nollaig) 2016**



*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year to you and yours*

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## **AN IRISH BLESSING**

**MAY YOU BE BLESSED  
WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE  
SEASON,  
WHICH IS PEACE,  
THE GLADNESS OF THE  
SEASON,  
WHICH IS HOPE,  
AND THE HEART OF THE  
SEASON,  
WHICH IS LOVE.**

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- 1** President's Message
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## A Great Christmas Gift

Prints of Bob Morgan's

### "Happy Leprechaun"

Offered by the Helena Hibernians  
9 1/2"X 13' IN FULL COLOR

Limited edition of 250,

Only \$ 25, Artist Proofs \$35

Call Mike O'Connor 461-2209

Proceeds go Carroll College  
scholarships or local needy and  
worthy families on holidays



## Slainte Augus Paidreach

(Health and Prayers)

Keep our Brother John Curry in  
your prayers as he is going  
through some medical issues.



## **HIBERNIAN DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **AOH MEETING**

KC HALL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

6:30 PM

Regular monthly meeting

### **AOH MEETING**

KC HALL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017

6:30 PM

Regular monthly meeting

## **This Month in Irish History**

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 6, 1921 – Signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty creating the Free State.

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

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 22, 1989 -Death of Samuel Beckett.

## **This Month in Irish History**

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 26<sup>th</sup> - In the liturgical calendar, today is the feast of St. Stephen.

December 27, 1904 – Abbey Theatre founded in Dublin.

December 29, 1829 - Fr. John B. Bannon, Confederate Army Chaplain, is born in Co. Leitrim.

December 31, 1602. The O'Sullivan Beara's are driven out of West Cork by the English who had defeated the combined Spanish and Irish forces at the Battle of Kinsale. Dónal Cam O'Sullivan, chieftain of the clan, begins the long march to Leitrim on this date, where he hopes to gain sanctuary with the O'Rourke's of Breffni. Accompanying him are 1,000 men, women and children representing the first large-scale exodus of people from the Castletownbere region. From West Cork to Leitrim is 260 miles.

## **With your Help**

### **Montana Friends of Irish Studies - To Create Three Documentaries**

Our hope is that these films will not only record and share a history of the Irish in Montana but will focus nationwide attention on the rich Irish culture of this state, the unique Irish Studies program we have, and, in some small way, help to attract out-of-state students from the greater Irish American community.

A little bit about the poster, especially about one of the people featured.

If you look at the pictures, you'll immediately recognize Marcus Daly and Thomas Francis Meagher. The guy in the middle is one of the unsung heroes of Irish America. His name was Sean O Sullivan and he is probably best known as the father of Fr. Eamon, Fr. Sarsfield and Veronica O Sullivan. Many others who have seen the picture have recognized him as the man who was the janitor in Butte Central High School.

*(Continued on page 4)*



What people don't know about him is that he was a scholar, a poet, a writer, a life-long member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a champion of the Irish language, and one of the leading cultural nationalists in the United States of America. He was a close personal friend of Eamon de Valera and welcomed to his home such leading

Irish nationalists Markievicz, Mrs. Patrick and Willie Swiney (sister of Swiney), Mrs. Tom executed leader of Frank Aiken, and Sullivan's literary contribution to political life of the now the subject of Stories and songs, were taken down in the Library of National Library in Butte Silver Bow of those great history seems to we plan to change and the help of recognize the those who came

I know that it's a year to ask for since the world seems to be

down, but I do believe that the Irish community nationwide will support a project that focuses on the achievements of the Irish of America. The 150th anniversary of the death of Thomas Meagher takes place next year so it's appropriate to feature his life with a special emphasis on his time in Montana; a film on Marcus Daly, nationalist and industrialist, is long overdue; and O Sullivan represents a cultural movement that originated in America and began the revolution, as Padraig Pearse said, that would achieve independence. It's also worth noting that he was a member of the AOH all his life, so brothers may be interested in supporting a film that recognizes one of their own.

Once these documentaries are made, they will be broadcast on PBS and on Irish national television. We will also place a copy of each in every high school in Montana, and will offer scholarships to students to study Irish culture at UM for essays, poems and short stories inspired by the films. It's an ambitious plan, but we need to be creative and ambitious if we are going to educate and encourage the next generation to study the history and culture of the Irish.

**Her Exiled Children  
A Clann D'ibeartha**

Marcus Daly (1841-1900)

Sean O Sullivan (1882-1957)

Thomas Francis Meagher (1823-1867)

**Three documentaries  
about the Irish of America.**

**This is your story and we need your help to tell it.**

**FriendsOfIrishStudies.com  
Click on Documentary Films**

as Countess Pearse (mother of Pearse), Mary Mac Terence Mac Clarke (wife of the the Easter Rising), many more. O output and the cultural and Irish in America is a PhD thesis. he wrote himself or from him are held Congress, the Dublin, and in the Archives. He is one figures whose life have ignored, but that with your help others who need to honor before us.

difficult time of money, especially and his mother shaking people