



Shillelagh Sentinel



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

Volume 3, Issue 113

www.hibernian.org

Feabhra

February 2016

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AOH

Day of Celtic Spirituality



Once again our members were able to spend a day at our annual AOH Pre-Lenten retreat. What better place than out in the middle of the wilderness to take time out of our busy lives and experience the awakening of our own Celtic spirituality.

The annual trip to the mountains was at Jack Ward's lovely cabin on Mullan Pass. The spiritual day began after coffee and bakery goodies. Led by our gracious Brother Gabe Brennan. His goal for the day was for us to feel the presence of God. Gabe definitely accomplished his goal. We spent the winter day in prayer, song, scripture, and discussion of our Celtic spirituality.

We learned about the ninth century Irish theologian, philosopher, and poet John Scottus Eriugenna. His name translates to

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HIBERNIAN DATES TO REMEMBER

AOH MEETING

KC HALL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016
6:30 PM
Regular monthly meeting.

AOH MEETING

KC HALL
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016
6:30 PM
Regular monthly meeting.

This Month in Irish History

February 1st – S t Brigid's Day

February 1, 1796 - Theobald Wolf Tone, United Irish leader, arrives in France seeking assistance

February 2, 1880 - Charles S. Parnell addresses the U.S. Congress

February 2, 1882 – James Joyce, Irish author born.

February 4, 1775 –Robert Emmet, Irish patriot born.

February 6, 1685 – Coronation of King James II

February 6, 1877 – John O'Mahoney, Irish patriot, died in New York City.

February 8, 1587 – Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, executed by the English.

February 12, 1848 - John Mitchel publishes first United Irishmen.

February 12, 1989– Partick Finucane, Irish attorney, murdered by assassins.

February 13, 1689 - William and Mary - daughter of James II - are proclaimed king and queen jointly.

February 23, 1965 - Roger Casement's body is returned from England to be re-interred at Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin

February 24, 1692 - The Treaty of Limerick is ratified by William of Orange.

February 26, 1854 - William Smith O'Brien, leader of the 1848 rebellion, is pardoned.

February 28, 1884 - Seán MacDiarmada, revolutionary, is born in Kiltycolgher, Co. Leitrim

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John the Irish born Gael. About Richard Rohr's daily meditations from the Center for Action and Contemplation

(<https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/>). And Pelagius, a fourth century monk, who taught that human beings have a natural capacity to reject evil and seek God. He was famous for his piety, but declared a heretic for denying original sin.

It was a great opportunity to be with Hibernian brothers to think not only about our Christian faith, but to do it in connection with our Celtic heritage. It's the Celtic custom to see God in nature. What better way to spend the day in pray than to be surrounded by the peace and tranquility of the mountains. You could almost hear our Celtic ancestors speaking to us. ♣

TIDBITS FROM THE PRESSROOM

Dues are due. The dues for 2016 are \$40.00. You are doing a great job in getting your dues paid this year. There are still a few out there yet to pay dues. This is a minor expense to get the satisfaction of supporting your heritage, religion and community. Get involved and participate in the great projects of the Thomas Francis Meagher Division.

You can mail your dues to:

AOH
P.O. Box 1916
Helena MT 59624

St. Patrick's Day Festivities

Saturday, March 12th

♣ ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

12 noon ~ Downtown Helena

Call PJ at 431-0013 for Entry Information

♣ EIGHTH ANNUAL IRISH SODA BREAD CONTEST

2-3 pm ~ Bert & Ernies

For Rules, Recipes & Entry Info

Visit hibernian.org or

Call Mike at 461-2209 or Joe at 933-5759

Thursday, March 17th

♣ ANNUAL IRISH FLAG RAISING

8 am ~ Front of State Capitol

♣ ANNUAL CAPITOL ROTUNDA CELEBRATION

8:30 am ~ Capitol Rotunda

♣ Official Proclamations

♣ Irish Singing

♣ Tiernan Irish Dancers

♣ The Pipes and Drums of the Black Devils

♣ CATHOLIC MASS

12:00 AM ~ Cathedral of St. Helena

♣ ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Knights of Columbus Hall

(LIMITED SEATING COME EARLY)

5:30 pm ~ Doors Open

6:00 pm ~ Dinner

♣ The Pipes and Drums of the Black Devils

♣ Tiernan Irish Dancers

**All Events sponsored by the
Helena Ancient Order of Hibernians**

The Irish in Montana

Martin Maginnis

The history of Montana is filled with Irish and Irish Americans who made a difference in the development of this state. Have you ever been in a cemetery and come across a headstone and wondered about that individual? That may or may not have ever happened to you, but being an amateur genealogist, it seems to happen to me often. One such headstone that I ran across was a headstone in Resurrection Cemetery in Helena Montana with the name Maginnis.



I found out that this is the final resting place for Martin and Louise Maginnis. Martin Maginnis was born October 27, 1841 on his family's farm in Wayne County, New York. He was the son of Irish immigrant parents who immigrated to the United States in 1838. His father Patrick Maginnis was from County Clare and his mother Winnifred Devine Maginnis from Galway. The Maginnis family moved to Minnesota in 1852.

Martin, being a young man when the Civil War broke out, decides to join the Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment when President Lincoln first calls for volunteers. Martin's military career was one of marked distinction. The Minnesota Regiment was involved in many of the same battles with Thomas Francis Meagher and the Irish Brigade -- Bull Run, Fair Oaks, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. In June 1865, at the close of the war, Martin Maginnis was mustered out of the service with the rank of major.

After the war Major Maginnis, joined like many, the gold rush in Montana and arrived in Helena in September 1866. Not being successful at mining he became editor of the Rocky Mountain Gazette, which eventually became the Helena Independent Record.

In 1872, Major Maginnis was elected territorial delegate to congress. By subsequent re-elections he remained in congress until 1884, serving six consecutive terms. A more distinguished honor was as a delegate to Montana's first constitutional convention in 1889.

I was surprised at some of the discoveries about Major Maginnis. One, regarding the building of the Cathedral of St Helena. Bishop Carroll in June 1907 appointed a Building Committee to help and advise the Bishop in the building of the new cathedral. Major Maginnis was appointed a member of this committee.

Another surprise that more directly affected the Ancient Order of Hibernians was the movement to erect a monument to Thomas Francis Meagher on the state capitol grounds. Major Maginnis was a big advocate of a monument to Meagher. In order to raise funds to build the monument, the Irish Societies along with the Ancient Order of Hibernians created the "The Thomas Francis Meagher Memorial Association" in 1898. Major Maginnis was one of the Vice-Presidents of this association. The Memorial Association was successful in raising the funds to create Meagher's Monument.

Thomas Francis Meagher arrived in Montana in 1865. At that time the Civil War just ending, there was still animosity between Northerners and Southerners. Meagher found both Northerners and Southerners among the settlers of Montana when he arrived.

These remarks by General Meagher were quoted by Major Maginnis at the unveiling of the Meagher statue in Helena, on July 4, 1905 the major added that, "Thus General Meagher laid the foundation of that fraternal patriotism which has of recent years an undisputed sway over all sections of our land."

Major Maginnis in his speech had describe the state of mind in Montana at the time:

On one hand the incomers from the border and southern states were bitterly denounced as being still disloyal to the government, and therefore not fitted to hold office or exercise the rights of suffrage. On the other, the officials and their supporters were denounced as mere carpet-baggers, who wanted by test oaths and other means to control the politics of the new commonwealth and reap the benefits accruing to the offices. Both of these parties naturally sought to control the new governor; but especially the representatives of the government claimed his sympathies and assistance in overthrowing the others and sought to control him in their interests. Beset as he was by these, and among them were men of great ability and rancorous partisanship, Meagher announced his disposition to be governor of the whole people, and despite the hostility and dictatorial character of the men conspicuous among

these, he succeeded in doing this to the fullest of his expectations and to the satisfaction of the large majority of the people as expressed in the elections. Then he was accused of having also become disloyal and as unduly favoring those who were claimed to be still enemies of the United States."

These criticisms Meagher answered in his own eloquent way in a speech in Helena, on Feb. 21, 1866: "On the battle-fields which they had heroically held for four tempestuous years, the soldiers of the South had lowered their colors and sheathed their swords. The spirit in which they had surrendered, as well as the spirit with which they fought, entitled them to respect, honorable consideration, and the frank confidence of their adversaries, and the generosity of the colossal power to which they had been forced to capitulate. These are no new sentiments of mine. What I was during the war I am now prepared to repeat should another rebellion be set on foot and the republic declared in danger. But the war is over, and I would not plant thorns where the olive has taken root.

Here at all events among the great mountains of the new world no echoes should be awakened save those that proclaimed true and glorious peace, the everlasting brotherhood of those who been foes upon the battlefield; the triumphant reign of industry and another pillar and crown of gold to the nation that had been restored. In the divine sacrament of love, forgiveness, and patriotism, let us dedicate with an irrevocable pledge this beautiful and superb domain to the consolidation of liberty and law, the crushing of the malevolence of faction, nationality against sectionalism, and the foundation of an enlightened civilization, where religion may flourish without bigotry and loyalty without humiliation."

Martin Maginnis died in California on March 27, 1919. His funeral was held at the Cathedral of St Helena with Bishop Carroll saying the funeral sermon and his interment at Resurrection Cemetery.

My discovery of Martin Maginnis an Irish American at Resurrection Cemetery, is just one example of the rich history that is held in our cemeteries waiting to be discovered. Irish Americans like Martin Maginnis helped develop the country and this state.

Photo detail from 100 year old AOH Ribbon – Butte Montana



MAGIC OF IRELAND TOUR

2016

JUNE 19TH-28TH

Join Traolach (Terry) Ó Ríordáin, Director of Irish Studies at the University of Montana on a nine-day tour of the west of Ireland.

VISIT

Galway City, Connemara, The Burren, The Cliffs of Moher, Dingle, Killarney, Bantry, Glengarriff, Cork City, Youghal and Bunratty

COST:

\$1699 per person sharing

\$299 single supplement

IRISH LANGUAGE IMMERSION COURSE

Cúrsaí tumoideachais sa Ghaeilge

Cá háit/where? Butte, Montana

cathain/when? July 23-30

One week credit and non-credit courses for Beginners and Advanced students

COSTAS TEAGAISC/TUITION COST

\$299 or \$279 for members of the Friends of Irish Studies

lóistíní/accommodation: \$25 per night

Breis Eolais/More Information:

www.friendsofirishstudies.com or

friendsofirishstudies@gmail.com