



Shillelagh Sentinel



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

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Presidents Message

Brothers,

It is an honor and a privilege to again serve as your president. Thank you for your trust and commitment to our work in the coming year.

This year, Advent begins on November 29. It is a time of preparation in anticipation of Christ's birth. It is typically a frenzied time of parties and shopping. This year it will be different. It will be a time to gather kindred souls together. It may be a time to ask, who am I as a Hibernian? Who do I serve? I would suggest we are called to serve others through Him, the greatest servant leader of all time. He, who came to serve us, and whose coming we celebrate.

To that point, I found this relevant. Servant leaders share a common set of core characteristics. There are ten principles, of which five stand out for me.

- ✓ Healing-Help others feel and know they are valued member of the Division.
- ✓ Self-awareness-Take inventory of my own strengths and weaknesses (spiritual gifts) and figure out how I fit into the T.F. Meagher Division. Then use me in ways that benefit the Division.
- ✓ Foresight-Retrospectives are a great tool. Take my life experience, what have I learned in the past and apply it to the future so I and the Division can grow.
- ✓ Commitment to the growth of people
- ✓ Build community-Teams who trust each other work together to get more done. That is why it is important to cultivate relationships.

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I am thankful for Patrick Flaherty and Mike O'Connor who stepped up to lead two T.F. Meagher Division committees. They were appointed by our State and National Presidents to serve. I also want to thank Tom Cherry for his unsolicited offer to reach out to the Old-Timers. He also asked to serve in a liaison role to get the 2021 Hurling event information into circulation. He will need a partner to lighten the load.

In closing, let us pray the prayer of Saint Francis, who's Feast Day we celebrated on October 4.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

For it is in a spirit of leadership that we grow in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Síocháin (Peace)

Jim



Veterans Affairs Committee

Brothers,

Don't forget Veterans Day on Wednesday, November 11. Please thank a Veteran! Also, in Helena, we will be doing a Flag Raising at Resurrection Cemetery at 0800 (8:00 am). There will be a gathering in East Helena at the Park, perhaps with a small parade, but there will be no luncheon after, as in the past, because of current COVID restrictions. So, if you are able to join us for these events, we would love to see you there.

Well, here I go with a new position(s) and new info for all of you. I am now the Chair of the Thomas Francis Meagher Division's Veterans Affairs Committee, the Chair of the Montana State AOH Veterans Affairs Committee and a member of the National AOH Veterans Affairs Committee.

At this point we are still trying to get fully organized and I could use help with both the TFM and the State Committees. If you would like to help out on either one or both, please let me know at the contact info at the end of this article. As I hear from people, we will set a meeting schedule and organize how and what we will do for our fellow Veterans. The National Committee meets once per month via Zoom and that is how I am hoping to do most of the meetings for both State and TFM Division. Any thoughts would be helpful as we get moving.

One of the first things that we as Veterans need to do is ensure that all Veterans have registered with the AOH to ensure that you get any information that we, at National, State and Local, will be passing out as it becomes available. To ensure that you are being carried on the proper registry, check with your Division's Financial Secretary and they can help you make sure you're properly represented. If that does not work, get with me and I will help you with the necessary steps.

Don't worry, this list will only be used by the AOH Veterans Affairs Committees to help us make sure that you get the information and help that you are entitled to as a Veteran.

My contact info is: (406) 459-3958 or p.e.flaherty44@gmail.com.

Sláinte

HIBERNIAN DATES TO REMEMBER

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

6:30 PM

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020

6:30 PM

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

VETERANS' DAY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020

FLAG RAISING – RESURRECTION CEMETERY

8:00 AM

EAST HELENA CELEBRATION

10:45 AM ANNUAL VETERANS' DAY CELEBRATION IN EAST HELENA.

This Month in Irish History

November 2, 1950 - Death of George Bernard Shaw

November 5, 1688 - William of Orange arrives in England with 15,000 men.

November 6, 1649 - Owen Roe O'Neill - Catholic military leader against Cromwell – dies.

November 10, 1798 - Theobald Wolfe Tone tried and convicted of treason

November 10, 1879 - Pádraig Pearse Irish revolutionary, born

November 11, 1918 - World War I ends

November 12, 1954 - Ellis Island closes. From 1892 - 1954, over two million Irish immigrants entered the U.S. through Ellis Island. The first recorded immigrant was 14 year old Annie Moor from Co. Cork.

November 14, 1669 - St. Oliver Plunkett becomes Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland

November 15, 1900 -Funeral of Marcus Daily held at St Patrick's Cathedral, New York, Right Rev Bishop Brondel of Helena was the celebrant. Interment was in Greenwood Cemetery.

VETERANS DAY Wednesday

JOIN US TO HONOR OUR VETERANS

This Wednesday, November 11th is of course Veterans Day and as usual our Hibernians **will raise the flag at our flagpole at Resurrection Cemetery at 8:00 AM, then we will join the East Helena observance at 10:45 AM.**

Let's remember, we've done this ever since we formed in 1984, and the East Helena people respect and appreciate us for it.

Please make the effort to join us and honor those you have served our county. ♣

This Month in Irish History

November 22, 1869 - Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, Fenian, contests and wins a Tipperary by-election in abstentia, but is declared ineligible as a convicted felon.

November 26, 1791 - First convicts from Ireland arrive in New South Wales, Australia

November 30, 1864 - Cork-born Confederate General Patrick Cleburne is killed in command of his division at a battle in Franklin, Tennessee.

Thomas Francis Meagher Memorial Association

By
Mike O'Connor

Have you ever wondered how the monument for Thomas Francis Meagher got to be in front of the State Capitol in Helena? We all know that Thomas Francis Meagher disappeared from a boat that was docked at Fort Benton on July 1, 1867. He came to the Montana Territory when he was selected to be the Secretary of the Montana Territory. When he arrived, he became the Acting Governor of the Montana Territory.

The idea of a monument had long been contemplated. In fact, the idea of a monument first started just a couple of years after Meagher's untimely death. Major Martin Maginnis delivered a speech in Helena Montana on St Patrick's Day in 1869 and the theme was Thomas Francis Meagher. He referred to Meagher's speech 3 years earlier on St Patrick's Day in Virginia City Montana. Major Maginnis said:

Like the young orator of that lecture, Meagher achieved greatness; he obtained power; he won the esteem of the great, the applause of the noble, and the envy and malice of the mean. He triumphed in his life and in his death won that "homage of great cities and peoples; the nations mourn over him; his name is public property to the end of time; his is the sacrament of eternity." But one thing is wanting to complete the parallel; but one thing to fulfil the prophecy, Irishmen! Citizens of Montana, what answer will you return to his recorded wish? What answer to these his own words? "A monument raised by public subscription to his memory." Of all his recorded aspirations for himself, this is alone unfulfilled, Your generosity forbids the supposition that this wish shall remain-ungratified. A monument that will till his own race, in his own land, shall raise a shaft to him and other, and write their epitaphs with that of Robert Emmett.

The Montana Irish did not forget about the request by Martin Maginnis in his speech in 1869 that Montana needed to have a monument for Meagher. Years had elapsed before the request was acted on. We know at the time the center for Montana Irish was in Butte and Anaconda. In Anaconda in January 1889 there was a meeting of the Montana Irish on how to

accomplish their desire to create a monument in Montana for Meagher. Out of this meeting there was a decision to have a convention in Butte to take the preliminary steps towards organization. This convention was on March 16, 1889. The convention was Montana Irish from all over Montana. The decision was to form a committee to take the task in hand. Some of the members of the committee were: Marcus Daly from Anaconda, D J Hennessy and P J Brophy from Butte, Martin Maginnis from Helena, and William Ennis from Madison County. Other areas members were from are Missoula, Bozeman, Great Falls, Belt, Deer Lodge, Miles City, Fort Benton, Helmville, Teton County, Jefferson County, Granite County, Hamilton, and Fergus County.



The convention also decided to create the **Thomas Francis Meagher Memorial Association.**

Its first officers were:

- Marcus Daly (Anaconda)
- Martin Maginnis (Helena)
- Peter S. Harrington (Butte)
- John Caplice (Butte)
- D. F. Hallihan (Anaconda)
- P. J. Brophy (Butte)

- President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- 3rd Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Trustees:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| W. D. Clark | Butte |
| Patrick Cuddihy | Anaconda |
| John J. O'Meara | Butte |
| Captain James Drennan | Bozeman |
| William Steuve | Helena |



“The purpose of the Association was stated to fitly honor and perpetuate the memory of that brave and brilliant statesmen-soldier, General Thomas Francis Meagher, and to erect in his honor on Montana soil a suitable monument or statue, in bronze, marble or other enduring material.”

At the convention they estimated a monument for Meagher would cost approximately \$20,000. The fund raising began and it would not be an easy task. Like most fund raisers there was high excitement at the start and then it lagged. They did receive \$500 from the famous 69th Regiment of New York, the regiment led by Thomas Francis Meagher during the Civil War.

On October 6, 1904 was the laying of the granite pedestal for the monument. The ceremony consisted James H. Lynch of Butte leading the ceremony. He was the current President of the Association. Martin Maginnis of Helena delivered the oration. The pedestal was designed by Charles Lane and constructed by James Welch and Company of Butte. The sculpture of Meagher was designed by Charles James Mulligan of Chicago, Illinois. Charles was born in County Tyrone, Ireland.

The ceremony to unveil the Thomas Francis Meagher monument was on July 4, 1905. The Capitol grounds was filled with people to witness the ceremony. There were even chartered trains coming from Butte and Anaconda to witness the ceremony. The President of the Thomas Francis Meagher Memorial Association James H. Lynch presented the monument to the Montana Governor J. K. Toole.

The Thomas Francis Meagher Memorial Association had a celebration on November 25, 1906. They gathered at the Hibernian Hall in Centerville, Butte Montana. The occasion was the payoff of the indebtedness for the Thomas Francis Meagher Monument in Helena. The total cost was \$16,000.

The Thomas Francis Meagher Memorial Association was at the time a way to further the memory of Thomas Francis Meagher. That desire to continue to honor the legacy of Thomas Francis Meagher continues today. It is the objective of the **Thomas Francis Meagher Association**.

The association wants to advance the heritage of Thomas Francis Meagher by educating, entertaining, and informing the public about the sacrifices, contributions, and rich spirit of the Irish and their historical efforts and continuing passion for all of the children of Ireland across the globe.

