



Shillelagh Sentinel



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Message from the President

Brothers,

In probing the depths of my pandemic weary mind for an inspirational theme for this message it was obvious that a weary mind may not be a fertile bed of creativity. So, I asked myself, what is it in my life that has quashed my joy. Why did I agree to attend to the seemingly interminable burden of being responsible for another person's estate? Why isn't my faith simply bailing me out of this malaise?

John Patrick Corkran would have passed away alone, if not for the nurse who held his hand during his final moments. Nobody knew his plight because he didn't tell anyone that he was in hospital. Not surprising, because he was a private man. He was my cousin.

After receiving the news of his passing and beginning the process of attending to the care of his mortal remains, I began to resent being the one who was chosen to attend to his estate. Why would this befall me when I have so many other responsibilities that are more important? In asking my wife Shelley that question she suggested that I consider the twilight of John's life and who he was. So I did, and realized that she could see beyond my selfishness, to realize the value of John's soul, who he was and to the people he touched.

John was a quiet man who was a whole lot more than his resume. To his cousins and people who knew him he was his own man. He often seemed distant, yet from a distance was a deliberate benefactor to and for many.

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Attempting to grasp the essence of this man I sat at his desk and pondered the story that the photos on the walls in his office and hallways told. There was a common theme in them and in his letters, notes and jottings. He was a man whose connection to family and the many who never met him, was wide and deep. His quiet faith led him to help people lighten their burdens and to sooth their wounds. He allowed his Irish soul and Catholic faith lead him to others.

So, what is my point? How does this sermonette tie into being a Hibernian? As so adroitly stated by Helena Romano, about Sts. Cosmas and Damian, *“Generosity is a virtue that can easily be motivated by pride—we do good things for others, secretly hoping to get accolades or some kind of reward for being so self-giving. But I think generosity is really about giving to others — material, spiritual, or emotional—because you know the other will benefit, even if there is no compensation for you in return, or if (like Cosmas and Damian) you refuse to take any. We can also learn to support and foster the generosity of others by thinking about how we respond when we are offered someone’s generosity, whether we asked for it or whether it was volunteered to us....I try to remind myself that by serving each other, we are ultimately serving Christ.”* **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:30)**

So, Brothers remember that our work has purpose. Ask ourselves, have we aligned our spiritual gifts with opportunities to serve? As Saints Cosmos and Damian gave of their gifts, wealth and skills, so too our work is a gift to those who receive it in ways we may never know.

I pray for our peace and purpose in Friendship, **Unity** and Christian Charity.
Síocháin (Peace)
Jim



Regular AOH Meetings to Resume In Person (With Social Distancing)

The year 2020 has not been anything normal. So, why should the AOH be any different. We know that next Tuesday, September 15th is the third Tuesday of the month. But we are having our regular meeting next Tuesday.

Yes, that is correct. Our regular meetings will resume after an absence from meeting. Come out and see what is going on with the AOH and visit with your brothers. For those that are asking, our regular meeting is Tuesday, 6:30 pm, at the KC Hall

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations of officers will be at our September and October meetings. If you have a desire to serve by leading, or know of a Brother who has, please keep the nominations in mind.

HIBERNIAN DATES TO REMEMBER

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

6:30 PM, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020

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, 1842 - In Kill, Co. Kildare, birth of John Devoy, journalist, and leading member of the Fenians

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

September 9, 872 - Earliest verifiable date of a Viking invasion of Ireland in Dunrally

September 13, 1885 - Montana - Anaconda Division No 1 forms with Thomas Daly as its first President.

September 17, 1862 - Meagher's Irish Brigade fights in the Battle of Antietam; the bloodiest single day in U.S. history

September 20, 1803 - Robert Emmet hung drawn and quartered in Dublin. Robert Emmet, Irish patriot, is executed in Dublin. Emmet becomes a hero of Irish nationalists, largely on the basis of his stirring speech from the dock: "Let no man write my epitaph...When my country takes her place among the nations of the earth, then, and not till then let my epitaph be written"

Mehrens National Director

If you have not heard yet, our own Bob Mehrens is a National Director of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The National Convention was virtual this summer due to the pandemic. The good thing for Montana was that many more were able to take in the National Convention. There was AOH members in Anaconda, Great Falls and Helena that hooked up see the National Convention.

Join me in congratulating Bob Mehrens in winning the election as National Director of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Great Job Brother Bob!!!!



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.

(Martin Maginnis Continued)

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.