



# Shillelagh Sentinel



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

Volume 3, Issue 152

www.hibernian.org

May (Bealtaine) 2021

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<b>Publisher/Editor</b>		
Mike O'Connor		461-2209

## Message from the President

Brothers,

In druidic Ireland, May 1 was the beginning of the Irish summer. It was a time of new beginnings as the Celtic Irish shed the dank, dark days of winter to feel the sun upon their faces. It, like new crops and the blooming of the heather was new life, as the day of new horizons dawned.

Now, in the darkness of our covid winter of separation we are reminded of more than five hundred years of Irish Catholic separation and struggle. The struggle to escape the dark abyss of tyranny. In song, story, and poetry we remember those who struggled.

We know them as Padraig Pearse. The poet, William Butler Yeats in his poignant poem wrote of a Terrible Beauty to lament the sacrifice of the 1916 Easter Uprising. It is an ode to Pearce and the lives of fifteen others who died in their quest for Irish liberty. It speaks to the countless names who pledged their Irish souls to Ireland. They are Bobby Sands and nine others whose sacrificial hunger strike changed the Irish narrative forever. They carried the torch and passed it to us. Not in vain but with faith that others will carry on. *Most certainly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit (Jn 12:24)*

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## HIBERNIAN DATES TO REMEMBER

### AOH MEETING

KC HALL

**TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021**

**6:30 PM**

Regular monthly meeting.

### Virginia City Irish Weekend

June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

## This Month in Irish History

- May 1, 1170 - Arrival of Normans in Co. Wexford. Arrival of Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, subsequently known as 'Strongbow'.
- May 1, 1697 - The Bishops' Banishment Act passed on 25 September 1696, requires most Catholic clergy to leave the kingdom by this date, and bans Catholic clergy from entering it - the Act will never be efficiently enforced.
- May 1, 1794 - Catholics are enabled by law to attend Trinity College.
- May 3, 1916 – at 6:00 pm Grace Gifford entered Kilmainham Gaol. At 11:30pm she walked into the prison chapel where Joseph Plunkett waited for her at the altar with a priest and two witnesses from the Third Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment. During the ceremony the couple was not allowed to talk to each other except to recite the words of the ceremony. Immediately after the ceremony, Joseph was brought back to his cell and Grace left.
- May 3, 1916 – Pádraig Pearse, Thomas Clarke, and Thomas MacDonagh executed at Kilmainhan Gaol
- May 12, 1916- Seán Mac Diarmada and James Connolly executed at Kilmainhan Gaol
- May 15, 1847 - The first coffin ship "The Syria" arrives at Grosse Isle.
- May 15, 1847 - Daniel O'Connell, "The Liberator," dies in Genoa.
- May 17, 1650 - Cromwell's army is defeated in the second assault on Clonmel, suffering its heaviest losses.

*Message from the President Continued from page 1*

Our Hibernian work is never done. It is about paying it forward. It is about standing on the shoulders of our ancestors whose sacrifice gave to us our precious liberty, that left unguarded can erode and be taken away. It is on our watch to never forget those left behind and to keep the faith.

Our Irish and Catholic heritage is in our DNA. We are resilient, faithful, and forever walking in the light of friendship **UNITY** and true Christian Charity.

Síocháin (Peace)

Jim ♣

## Thomas Francis Meagher Tricolor Celebration June 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>

- This year's celebration in Waterford Ireland will be virtual this year. That is good for us in Montana. You will be able to see the program from your own house.
- Sounds like a great program the committee is putting together. From various speakers including overseas friends covering some of the countries that Meagher lived in and drama sketches, poetry, and walking tour of Waterford associated with the Meagher family. Stay tuned for details.

"I am standing on the threshold of another trembling world. May God have mercy on my soul. My heart is very sore because I know that I have broken my poor mother's heart, and my home is struck with unbearable anxiety. But I have considered all the arguments and tried every means to avoid what has become the unavoidable: it has been forced upon me and my comrades by four-and-a-half years of stark inhumanity. I am a political prisoner, I am a political prisoner because I am a casualty of a perennial war that is being fought between the oppressed Irish people and an alien, oppressive, unwanted regime that refuses to withdraw from our land. I believe and stand by the God-given right of the Irish nation to sovereign independence, and the right of any Irishman or woman to assert this right in armed revolution. That is why I am incarcerated, naked and tortured."

Bobby Sands (March 1st, 1981)

Issued by R.V.H. Workers Against H. Eibick/Armagh.

**In Memoriam**

BOBBY SANDS FRANCIS HUGHES RAYMOND MCCREESH PATEY O'HARA JOE McDONNELL MARTIN HURSON KEVIN O'LEARY KIERAN O'NEILL THOMAS MCCARTHY MICKY COVINE

"We remain what we are - Political Prisoners of War." - Bobby Sands.

# VIRGINIA CITY'S "IRISH WEEKEND"

Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>

*All are Welcome*



## FRIDAY—June 11th

♣6:15pm—7:00pm     Painting of the “Irish green stripe” down the center of Wallace Street – Everyone can participate.

♣7:30—10:30pm     Comradery at the *Bale of Hay*

## SATURDAY—June 12th

♣10:00am             Welcome Speeches & Irish Flag Raising at the Historical Madison County Courthouse.

♣11:00am             Historical presentation about Mass Rocks at the Meagher Cabin on west Idaho St.

♣12:00pm-1:00pm     Lunch (Baked Montana/Irish Potato Bar) & Camaraderie at the Bale of Hay Saloon-A small free will donation.

♣1:00pm—1:30pm     Annual AOH Parade following the path of Irish green stripe on Wallace St—everyone is welcome to Participate in this.

♣2:00pm—3:00pm     Tiernan Irish Dancers outdoor stage at the Bale of Hay Saloon

Or

Silent Movies at the Opera House –  
(if you are wearing green you can get in for \$3)

♣6:30pm—9:00pm     Panel Discussion and Live Podcast – Centennial of Civil War in Ireland and Montana’s connection – Elling House

*Presented by the Thomas Francis Meagher Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Virginia City Chamber of Commerce and Businesses and People of Virginia City*

## Destination Butte City – part two

By

**Mike O'Connor**

After ten days traveling by jaunting cart, steam ship, train, ocean liner, and another train, Julia O'Neill was happy to be at her destination, Butte City. Her new home. We think we have it bad today traveling. Seeing her brother, Jerry, on the platform was a great joy. She loved catching up with Jerry after sixteen years of absence.



Michael and Julia O'Neill O'Connor  
& baby Agnes O'Connor

Jerry had Immigrated from Beara, County Cork, Ireland in 1882. He was only 18 when he left his home in Beara. His sister, Julia, was only 10 years old when her brother left home. Jerry also headed straight to Butte City for a mining job.

Julia, after her trip from Ireland and arriving in Butte City, her work had just begun. She needed to figure out how to support herself and figure out where to live. As for work, there were not many options in 1898 for women to support themselves. But Julia did find work. She started working as a waitress.

As for living quarters, many of the families took in boarders to help them out. If you look at the 1900 US Census for Butte City, you will see many boarders. That is why Julia could not stay with her brother Jerry, because he was a boarder himself and there was no room where he was living. So, Julia found a place to live. Frank O'Connor's family took in boarders and they did have a place for Julia to stay. Now Frank O'Connor lived on North Wyoming Street in Butte City. Anyone knowing Butte City knows that this area was called Cork Town. It was an area of town that many of the people living there were from Cork County, Ireland. So, it was natural for Julia to look around Cork Town to find a place to stay.

If the O'Connor name looks familiar it is. Because Frank O'Connor is my grandfather's brother. Low and behold who was also staying as a boarder at Frank O'Connor's place, none other than my grandfather, Michael O'Connor. Based on these records, I think I know where my grandmother and grandfather met. You might call this the luck of the Irish.

After a short courtship, my grandparents decided to get married. Of course, they got married in St Mary's Church in Butte City on June 15, 1901. Where did they settle down? You guessed it, Cork Town on North Wyoming Street. There were 5 children from this marriage one being my father, Michael O'Connor. Unfortunately, the marriage only lasted ten years and ended with the death of my grandfather. My grandfather was a miner and he died of pulmonary tuberculosis at the young age of 33.

Julia lived another 34 years in Butte City. She did get married again in 1914. She must have liked the name Michael O'Connor because she married another Michael O'Connor. He was a cousin to my grandfather. Being the family historian it sure is hard work to keep the Michael O'Connor's straight.

These family members are now together in the family plot in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Butte, Montana.