

Shillelagh Sentinel

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

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December (Mí na Nollaig) 2023



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to you and yours

2024 Division Officers

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Presidents Message

This will be a short one, I hope. The Christmas Season is on us again and I hope that all of you are prepared for it as the stores have been doing this since right after Halloween.

Please remember that the season is not about the retail or the decorations or the presents, it is about our faith. This is when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and the beginning of his mission to us to help us prepare our way to Heaven. Please remember that and take the time that you need for yourselves as well.

This part of the year can be stressful, and we need to keep an eye on each other as much as possible to ensure that we all have the necessary support to overcome these potentially

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Hibernian Dates to Remember

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023

6:30 PM

Regular monthly meeting

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

6:30 PM

Regular monthly meeting

ST PATRICK'S DAY

SUNDAY

MARCH 17, 2024

This Month in Irish History

December 1, 1848 - The paddle steamer The Londonderry, with immigrants fleeing the famine, takes shelter in Derry harbour. When the covers are removed from the hold it is discovered that 72 men, women and children had suffocated.

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 4, 2009 - Liam Clancy of the Clancy Brothers passes away

December 6, 1921 – Representatives of the Irish government appointed by President Eamon de Valera, and those negotiating for the Crown sign the Anglo-Irish Treaty, ending the Irish War of Independence against England. Michael Collins declares: "I have signed my own death warrant"

This Month in Irish History

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

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 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 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 27, 1886 – Margaret Cruse wife of Thomas Cruse passes away after childbirth. Thomas Cruse was a major contributor to the building of the Cathedral of St. Helena.

December 28, 1880 - The trial of Parnell and others for conspiracy begins on this date

December 31, 1759 – Arthur Guinness signs a 9,000-year lease on four acres of ground at St James's Gate, Dublin, for an annual rent of 45£, including water rights.



Montana State AOH Board Did You Know

The AOH has been around for a long time. You need at least two Divisions to have an AOH State Board.

Back in 1910 the Chaplin for the AOH State Board was Bishop John Carroll of the Helena Diocese. If you didn't know he was the Bishop of the Helena Diocese when the Cathedral of St Helena was built. Many don't know that in 1910 the National AOH Convention was in Portland, Oregon. Bishop Carroll gave the sermon at the opening Mass of the National Convention. They said the sermon was eloquent talking about the work of the AOH.

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stressful days. Don't be afraid to reach out if you need to talk to someone, we are brothers, and this is a part of our Motto: Friendship.

Also remember the Veterans, especially the time that they spent away from their families and those people serving today.

It is going to be a busy meeting on Tuesday, and I hope to see you all there, we have a lot of stuff coming up and we are going to need help. Remember, many hands make light work for all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sláinte

Patrick ♣

History of the AOH in Montana

By Mike O'Connor

Have you ever wondered how the AOH came to be in Montana? Many people have asked that question, but few know why and when the AOH came to Montana. The growth of the AOH in Montana parallels the timeline of the development of the Montana Territory and the west.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians was formed in New York on May 1, 1836. As the AOH was developing on the east coast, the west was beginning to attract the Irish with new opportunities. The development of the railroads, growth of mining and the search for farming country, all brought the Irish west in great numbers. As my relatives would say, "We are two-boat Irish." They were the Irish that left Ireland and landed in the United States mainly on the East Coast. Their second vessel being wagons, horseback, or railroads that brought them west. They traveled to such places as Michigan, Nebraska, Colorado, Nevada, Montana, and California. And wherever they gathered, AOH divisions were set up.

Hibernianism was an integral part of the Montana Territory. Its birthplace, as you might expect began in a log cabin in the mountains of the Continental Divide. It was near the mining camp of Vestal. The Irish miners formed Division #1, Deer Lodge County on July 10, 1879. The membership consisted of the miners working the mines around Vestal. The biggest mine being the Penobscott Mine owned by Nate Vestal. Not much information is known on the town of Vestal. The town's post office was established on September 9, 1878, and discontinued on April 5, 1881.

The Division in Vestal lasted as long as the mine lasted. The Penobscott was sold by Nate Vestal in the summer of 1878. As with many of gold mine claims when the gold ran out the miners moved on to the next claim. That is true of the Penobscott. Within months the gold was gone and the mine and the town were deserted and found the fate as many another gold claim.

J.D. Murphy, the first president and prominent in the organization of the division, abandoned Vestal and Division #1, Deer Lodge County ceased. He moved to the town of Butte, then only being incorporated for six years by a special act passed by the Montana Territorial Legislature. He located in Walkerville and was a true Hibernian and helped start the first AOH Division in Butte. He was also its first division President there, Division #2 Deer Lodge County was organized in March 1880. This Division became Silver Bow County Division #1 when Silver Bow County was created in 1881.

The summer of 1880 saw additional divisions organized in Townsend and Philipsburg. In 1882 the first AOH State Convention was held in Walkerville. As the AOH was expanding in the 1880's, so was the Montana Territory. You saw the first trains entering the territory and the Utah & Northern Railroad arrives in Butte in 1881.