

Ancient Order of Hibernians



The Dooley Dispatch

October 2021

Celebrating 42 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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**Major Dooley Division
Richmond, Virginia**

Webpage <http://aohrichmond.org> Check out the web page for better pictures, events, green pages, various reports

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Raffle Chairman
[Jim Woods](#) 747-9286

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[Scott Nugent](#) 503-9888

*All phone numbers are area
code (804) unless otherwise
indicated*

Next Meeting – Tuesday October 12, 2021 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church



President's Message:

Brothers All:

Fall has arrived! In years past we would be planning our presence at the Highland Games in late October but alas, the Games have been cancelled.

With no Games, what do we do to recruit new Brothers? Answer "Ask One, Bring One". I am issuing a challenge to each Brother to ask someone you know to be a guest at our Christmas Party in December.

Again, in this edition of the "Dispatch", I ask all Brothers to read and respond to the request to write a letter to your congressman. The issue is the United Kingdom proposal to create a special statute of limitations for criminal acts committed during "the Troubles", including murder.

The proposal, made by British Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis, contravenes Britain's pledged commitments under international treaty under the *1998 Good Friday, 2014 Stormont House Agreement* and the *2020 New Decade, New Approach* agreement. At the core the UK wants it's military and police organizations held unaccountable for the atrocities they committed against the Irish People.

See "all-you-all" on Tuesday.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Larry

Upcoming Events:

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For October 12, 2021 Meeting

Please contact Fr. Jim Arsenault if you need him to visit and pray for and with someone in the hospital. Contact him at M 804-221-1508 and/or jarzenault@stelizcc.org

From Previous Meeting and since then:

- **Dick Canning** – Father of *Mike Canning* – Passed away on October 2
- **Anne Gilligan** – Wife of *Ed Gilligan* – Suffering from an undiagnosed ailment. Also include Ed.
- **Jack Griffin** – Been in hospital off and on for dehydration. Also having trouble walking.
- **Hugh Naughton** – Suffering memory issues
- **Eileen Schwagerl** – Sister of *Mike Canning* – Recovering from surgery from removing tumor in her breast
- **Kyra Canning** – Daughter of *Mike Canning* – Recovering from donating a kidney. Also prayers for other donors
- **Persons Family** of Baltimore – Friends of Mike Smith – Son committed suicide
- **Mrs. George** – Mother of *PJ George* – Having a pacemaker installed. Also pray for George family.
- **Melissa Stelman** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Has Stage 3 colon cancer. Finished chemo in early Sept.
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From Prior Meetings:

- **Cecilia Gerloff** – Aunt of *Fred Gerloff* – Passed away
- **Paul McFadden** - Memory loss has caused him to be admitted to an assisted living facility
- **Phyllis Collins** - Mother of *Mark Collins* – She is currently in the hospital
- **Fr. George Zahn** – Keep our Chaplain in your prayers.
- **Mary Kelly** (96) – Mother of *Frank Kelly* – Mary is diagnosed with Covid-19

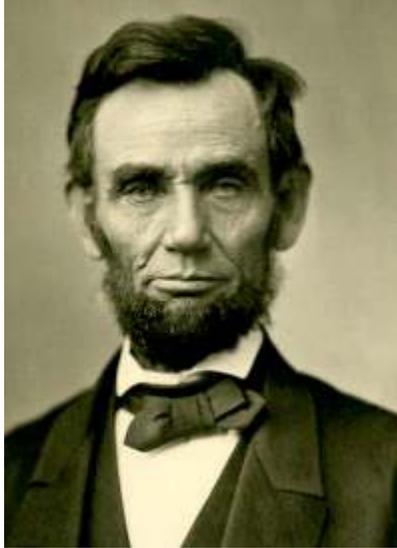
- **Siobhan Nolan** (53) – Sister of *Tom Nolan* – Having open heart surgery
- **Betty McAuliffe** – Wife of *Gary McAuliffe* – Recovering from eye surgery to repair a macular hole
- **Gary McAuliffe** – Dealing with tremors in his hand
- **Jim Calpin** – Recovering from stroke
- **Edward Maynes** – is having an upcoming heart procedure (date is not yet known)
- **Rita Hastings** – *Tom Hastings*' mother – Hip operation, gallbladder removed
- **Joanne Kennedy** – Aunt of *John Kennedy* – Breast cancer. Operable. Good success for recovery.
- **Siobhan Mooney** – Sister-in-law of *Jack Griffin* - Had lung removed. Also cancer of the spleen.
- **Dover Harper** (Social Member, Good friend of *Jack Cassells*) – Recovering from Triple Bypass Surgery
- **Mark Atchison** – Brother **Daniel Atchison** – Quadruple bypass in August, spot on lung discovered, biopsy indicated cancer, determining treatment.
- *Hugh Naughton*'s wife, **Jessie Naughton**, has lower back, migraine issues and other ailments
- *Billy Spicer*'s brother-in-law, **William McCracken**, had an infection on the brain and had brain surgery to remove it.
- **Pat Saizan**, sister of *Larry Keefe*, suffering from Lymphoedema
- **Don Lattanzi**, AOH Brother, had two back surgeries, pneumonia and breathing problems *Billy Spicer*'s brother-in-law, **William McCracken**, had an infection on the brain and had brain surgery to remove it.
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Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at swnugent44@yahoo.com

Abraham Lincoln and Robert Emmet

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.

When you think of Irish United States Presidents, who is the first that comes to mind? Grant, McKinley, Kennedy, Biden or perhaps another one that I have not mentioned? For me, it is John F. Kennedy. Being Catholic and addressing Ireland's Dáil Éireann may have something to do with it. However, most likely it is for the framed picture of John Kennedy in my grandparents' home that I remember seeing my entire youthful life.



Not on the list above is Abraham Lincoln. That is because he is of English descent. However, he duly belongs in the Irish President category not because of his blood line but as a president who had a thoughtful and affectionate affinity for the plight of the Irish. In 1847, Lincoln contributed \$10 for relief of the Irish during the Great Famine, not an inconsiderable amount of money at the time that private soldiers during the Mexican War were being paid \$8 per month. That would translate to more than \$500 today. (Research also shows that US President James L. Polk gave \$50).

When Lincoln visited General McClellan at Harrison's Landing, Virginia, he picked up a corner of one of the Irish colors, kissed it and said, "God Bless the Irish Flag."

When Irish Catholics faced discrimination in this country, Lincoln spoke up for them in spite of the fact that most Irish Catholics were Democrats. At the height of political success of the Know-Nothing movement in 1855 Lincoln, in a letter to his friend Joshua Speed, wrote: "I am not a Know-Nothing. That is certain. How could I be? How can any one who abhors the oppression of negroes, be in favor of degrading classes of white people? Our progress of degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a nation, we begin by declaring that "all men are created equal." We now practically read it "all men are created equal, except negroes." When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read "all men are created equal, except negroes, and foreigners, and Catholics."



As young man, Lincoln is known to have memorized Robert Emmet's speech at the dock by heart. Robert Emmet, a protestant (Church of Ireland) Irishman, just twenty-five at the time, was sentenced to be hanged, drawn, and quartered in 1803 after his capture by the English for leading an unsuccessful insurrection in Dublin. Emmet's family was sympathetic to the plight of their Catholic countrymen, as they had been sympathetic to the cause of the patriots in the American Revolution. Unbeknownst to Emmet, his chief defense counsel had been bribed by the English to help assure his conviction, although his junior defense counsel defended Emmet with all his skill. Emmett took full advantage of his opportunity to speak before sentencing. What followed was a masterful piece of oration that Lincoln learned and delivered often as a party piece for dignitaries visiting Perry County, Indiana (now Spencer County), where he lived.

The influence that Robert Emmet had on Lincoln would be with him through his life and Presidency. Emmet's speech was a passionate oration. "Let no man write my epitaph: for as no man who knows my motives dare now vindicate them, let not prejudice or ignorance asperse them. Let them rest in obscurity and peace, my memory be left in oblivion and my tomb remain uninscribed, until other times, and other men, can do justice to my character. When my country takes her place among the nations of the earth, then, and not until then, let my epitaph be written."

In 1865, Lincoln was considering an appeal to spare a boy soldier accused of being a confederate spy when Delaware Senator Willard Saulsbury, who in January 1863 had called the

president “a weak and imbecile man, the weakest that I ever knew in a high place,” appealed for clemency. Saulsbury played the Emmet card. He wrote, “You know I am no political friend of yours. You know I neither ask or expect any personal favor from you or your administration. All I ask of you is to read the defense of this young man Samuel B. Davis, unassisted by counsel, compare it with the celebrated defense of Emmet, and act as the judgement and the heart of the President of the United States should act.” The sentence was duly commuted.

Emmet’s sympathy with the American revolution, as addressed in his speech at the dock, cemented his links with our nation. He was charged with being an emissary of France, which he was not. The English alleged that his wish was to sell the independence of Ireland to France. A change of masters. Emmet states: “I looked, indeed, for assistance of France; I wished to prove to France and the world that Irishmen deserved to be assisted—that they were indignant at slavery, and ready to assert the independence and liberty of their country; I wished to procure for my country the guarantee which Washington procured for America... These were my objects; not to receive new taskmasters, but to expel old tyrants. And it was for these ends I sought aid from France; because France, even as an enemy, could not be more implacable than the enemy already in the bosom of my country.”

It is believed that Emmet was planning to escape to America with his fiancé before his capture. His brother, Thomas, emigrated shortly thereafter, eventually becoming New York attorney general. In 1856, at the Republican National Convention in New York, Lincoln was defeated for the party’s vice-presidential nomination. Here he had direct contact with a member of the Emmet family. Thomas’ son was the convention chairman and keynote speaker, New York judge and politician, Robert Emmet. Judge Emmet made a passionate attack on the Democrats and their embrace of slavery and may have influenced Lincoln.

Emmet’s famous speech from the dock lives on inspiring countless millions in years to come, including a man who would be born in far off Kentucky six years after Emmet’s death.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August XX, 2021

Dame Karen Pierce
British Ambassador to the United States
3100 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20008

Madam Ambassador,

As Members of Congress who have continued to be involved in the effort to bring peace and reconciliation to the island of Ireland throughout our time in the House of Representatives, we believe it would be a serious mistake for the British government to renege on its commitment to the Stormont House Agreement. We represent districts with large Irish American populations, and many of our constituents have expressed grave concern over these new legacy proposals that would lead to major setbacks in the search for justice and reconciliation.

When the British and Irish governments, along with Northern Irish political parties, published the Stormont House Agreement on December 23, 2014, they pledged to create four new legacy bodies. The goal of these bodies was to deliver justice to the bereaved of the conflict by providing human rights compliant investigations under the rule of law. Of critical importance to the agreement was the formation of the Historical Investigations Unit, which was a legacy body established to investigate lingering and controversial killings that took place during the Troubles, including those committed by British state forces.

In January 2020, over five years after conditions were originally laid out, the U.K. government finally pledged to introduce Parliamentary legislation to set up the legacy bodies. Despite this, progress into these investigations has essentially remained stagnant while nearly 1,700 conflict-related cases await investigation. Had the Historical Investigations Unit been provided with the resources and attention it was promised, more substantial progress might have been achieved over the past several years.

We are disappointed to learn that instead of taking constructive steps to fulfill these promises, British Parliament plans to introduce new legislation that would modify Stormont House Agreement legacy laws and institute a ban on legacy inquests and prosecution of former soldiers who served in Northern Ireland during the conflict. To be clear, we strongly disapprove of these proposals. We believe that they would not only prevent a pathway to justice, but that they would also strip these families of their legal rights protected under European Law and the Good Friday Agreement.

The issue of legacy killings spans across generations, and any continued deprivation of justice will only further deepen the wound that this history has on Britain and Ireland. We are concerned that these proposed legacy laws would strain the British-Irish relationship and cement widespread feelings that justice is again being denied. There is no doubt that the difficult and troubling legacy of the past must be addressed, and we as Members of Congress will continue to advocate on this issue until good faith action is taken and progress is made.

These legacy proposals require genuine reconsideration. Delivering answers for these bereaved families has been a longstanding priority for the Irish American community and those interested in global peace. We will continue to listen to these families as they await long overdue answers.

We urge you to reexamine these proposals, reverse the decision, and reaffirm your commitment to the Stormont House Agreement.

Sincerely,



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

«First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Street»
«City», «State» «Zip»

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MAJOR JAMES H. DOOLEY DIVISION

