



# The Dooley Dispatch

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

Next Meeting – Tuesday December 14, 2021 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church/ZOOM

### President's Message:



Brothers All:

This is my last President's Letter to you. I was and remain humble you elected me to the position of President for the 2021 Fraternal Year.

I reviewed my President's Letters I wrote for 2021. The pandemic posed significant challenges for us, yet the Dooley Division remained true to our purpose as stated in the Preamble to the AOH National Constitution.

1. *To promote Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.*
2. *To foster and sustain loyalty to country and community.*
3. *To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, promoting peace (with justice) and unity for all Ireland.*
4. *To foster the ideals and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people.*
5. *To promote Irish culture.*
6. *To encourage civic participation.*
7. *To encourage an equitable U.S. Immigration law for Ireland, and to cooperate with all groups for a fair American Immigration Policy.*
8. *To accept and support, without prejudice, the concept of free expression of religious practices for the people of the world.*
9. *To protect and defend all life born and unborn.*

We Joined the AOH National's campaign to write our Congressmen to *oppose* 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 its military and police organizations held unaccountable for the atrocities they committed against the Irish People."*

We were educated by Brian Hegarty, our Division and State Historian, on many topics of the Irish people seeking freedom and fair treatment from the British Government.

We were advocates for the local Pro-Life movement.

We were the host Division for the AOH State Convention and learned at the Convention from Dr. Bayliss, of the Maymont Foundation, how our namesake, Major Dooley contributed to our community one hundred years ago. The Dooley's gave us Maymont (their home and estate including possessions), and two important enterprises on Brook Road for the people of Richmond: Saint Joseph's Villa and the Children's Hospital of Richmond.

We were lead in song by Brother Vice Eikmeier at the opening and closing of our Business Meetings in patriotic songs.

Our annual raffle raised money for Catholic Schools, Priests, Pro-Life Programs, Freedom for all Ireland, and support of Catholic Parishes. 2021's raffle collected about a third of the money from people buying on-line tickets. To me that was an eye opener on how to sell tickets when our selling campaign was hindered by pandemic driven restrictions on "in-person" selling. My vision is we will sell on-line and in-person for all future raffles.

I am happy to report our treasury is sound and as of the end of November and our balance has grown from last year. The pandemic challenged us on how to raise funds in 2021 to make our charitable contributions and we rose to the challenge! Interesting to note is 30% of our revenue comes from the Brothers (dues, 50/50 and meals) and 70% from the raffle. Yet our "Brother Revenue" falls short of covering our "Brother Expenses": State and National per Capita; Insurance; Meals and Refreshments; and Administration Expenses. The shortfall is not terrible but begs the question can we make more Charitable Contributions in the future?

In closing I want to thank all the Officers and Chairs for their tireless effort to keep our Division a dynamic part of the AOH. Without your commitments I would be loss in leading the Division.

I ask each Brother to fully support President Elect Tom Murphy and Vice-President Elect Mike Smith as they take office and lead the Dooley Division in 2022.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Larry

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### Upcoming Events:

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#### AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For December 14, 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 [jarsenault@stelizcc.org](mailto:jarsenault@stelizcc.org)

#### From Previous Meeting and since then:

- **Bill Shelton** – *Chad Costello's* sister's father-in-law – Covid
- **Jack Griffin** – Going through physical therapy for his leg.
- **Barbara Muldowney** – Wife of *Mike Muldowney* – Having knee replacement surgery in December
- **Patty Eikmeier (63)** – Sister of *Vince Eikmeier* – Passed away in early October
- **Barbara and Brian Hutchins** – Sister and brother-in-law of Bill Casey – Tragic events led to fostering grandchildren

- **Anne Gilligan** – Wife of *Ed Gilligan* – Recovering from an operation on October 25. Want to have home by Christmas
- Pray for all of those who have enabled the crime and harbor of abortion
- **Bob Boyle** – Had bypass surgery five weeks ago and is recovering well
- **Kevin Cole** – First cousin of *John Costello* – Passed away November 17 from lung cancer

#### From Prior Meetings:

- **Hugh Naughton** – Passed away on October 31
- **Stephanie Slate** – Friend of *Tim McDonnell* – Passed away October 23 leaving her husband and two children 9 and 5
- **Kelli Smith** – Wife of *Mike Smith* – Suffered a brain aneurysm on November 4. Had angiogram and under close watch
- **Jennifer Bolt** – Covid
- **Lori Sbatos** – *Tim McDonnell's* neighbor

- **Eileen Schwagerl** – Sister of *Mike Canning* – Recovering from surgery from removing tumor in her breast
- **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.
- **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 surg
- **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

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at [swnugent44@yahoo.com](mailto:swnugent44@yahoo.com)

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## Tom Barry

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



As commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> West Cork flying column Tom Barry was one of the great architects of modern guerilla warfare in Ireland's fight for freedom. His victory at Kilmichael became the most celebrated victory of rebel arms against the English. Tom Barry, the Column Commander, became a folk hero and a revolutionary celebrity. Barry's, and Kilmichael's, fame even reached beyond the borders of Ireland. It jerked the people of India to a new appraisal of their position. Egypt stood amazed. The German army studied the ambush in the Second World War and Barry's memoirs became required reading at military academies, including Sandhurst and WestPoint. Perhaps the most impressive of all, it had been reported that when the Japanese army captured Singapore, they marched in singing 'The Boys of Kilmichael'.

In October 1920, Michael Collins ordered the formation of the flying column. The order stated, "these flying columns would consist of first-rate troops as the work required of them would be very exacting." The 'flying column' was a small and highly mobile group of dedicated Volunteers severely commanded and disciplined. Constantly on the move, their paramount objective was to merely exist, to strike when conditions were favorable and to avoid disaster at all costs. They could be assembled rapidly and demobilized depending on tactical requirements. The column that Barry organized, under the command of the Third West Cork Brigade, was one of the most successful in Ireland, distinguishing itself at Toureen, Kilmichael, Crossbarry, Rosscarbery and in many other actions. In November 1920, when he was only 22 years of age, Barry

selected and led a company of 36 inexperienced Irish Volunteers against a unit of highly trained British Auxiliaries at Kilmichael and wiped them out.

Born 1897, in Co Kerry, as the son of an RIC man he spent his youth in Rosscarbery and Bandon. It was a sense of adventure that inspired him to join the British army in 1915 before his eighteenth birthday. He joined not to secure home rule for Ireland, or to fight for the freedom of small nations, but just to see what war was like. "I had no National Consciousness," he recalled. While in Mesopotamia, he read about the rebellion in Dublin, the 1916 Rising, and the accounts of the shelling, arrests, and executions. For him, reading the 1916 Proclamation, was as important as the Gettysburg address is to Americans. He returned to West Cork after being away for four years in the British army.

Through his association with the Hales', founders of the Volunteers in West Cork, Barry slowly became involved in the Volunteer movement. At first, he was kept at arms-length due to his service in the British Army, his family ties with the RIC and his Irish brogue (with a touch of English accent, probably due to being away from Ireland for all those years). He simply was not one of the 'local' lads and had to earn the trust of the Volunteers. The capture and torture of Tom Hales, Brigade O/C and Pat Harte in July 1920 opened an opportunity for him. His war experience and demeanor found favor with the Brigade officers and was appointed training officer. Charley Hurley, now commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> West Cork Brigade, promoted Barry in October 1920 to Flying Column O/C 3<sup>rd</sup> West Cork Brigade which set him on an unprecedented challenge. He was motivated and had something to prove. He would now have absolute command. His decisions would be his and his alone without interference. He would take full responsibility, would be subject to no authority and would have to take the blame for any failure or disaster.

So, who were these Volunteers? Unlike the enemy, the West Cork IRA Volunteer had no experience of war. Where the British used to roads for military travel the Volunteers had an advantage of knowing the terrain. The members were untrained in the use of arms and were backward even on ordinary foot-drill. They had no tactical training, but they had a great desire to become efficient Volunteers. They were practically unarmed. Even in the middle of 1920, the whole brigade armament was only thirty-five serviceable rifles, twenty automatics or revolvers, and thirty rounds of ammunition per rifle and ten rounds for each automatic or revolver. The Volunteers had no transport, signaling equipment or engineering material, machine guns or any other weapon whatever, except a small supply of explosives and some shotguns. They had no money and were an unpaid Volunteer force. They had no barracks to which they could retire, no stores to supply them with food. They had no propaganda department to put forth their objectives or to deny enemy slanders. Each brigade stood alone; without hope of outside enforcements should disaster threaten it. Within the whole national movement, the unit made its own war, glorified in victories, and stood up to its own defeats. This was the force that was to attempt to break by armed action the British domination of seven centuries of occupation. The rebels grew from local organizations where those before them had failed because of lack of unity. The final success of the War of Independence can be attributed to the close-knit structure of the local brigades and the unquestioning cooperation of the people.

Though only 23 years old, Barry's warfare experience and innovative techniques helped Barry organize ambushes and raids with positive results. His ability to plan and make split-second decisions whether in the height of battle or during a raid, allowed his men to trust him completely. The decision to stage an ambush at Kilmichael, confronting the dreaded C Company Auxiliaries in Macroom, was brave.

Kilmichael ambush was a turning point in the War of Independence. It boosted IRA morale; it also gained Barry greater respect as a Commander. A member of the flying column, Jim Kearney said, 'Any man who would stand on the road before an on-coming enemy; men would die for him'.

The several ambushes that Barry organized were all unique. He never suggested 'a retreat' to his men. He fought to win. In open countryside like Kilmichael, or trapped at the waters edge in Burgatia, or fighting their way out of the Crossbarry encirclement, all required the mind of a military genius. Another one of his Volunteers said 'He was a tradesman and soldering was his trade. He could take men and make solders of them.'

Because of his innovative military successes, Michael Collins sought Barry's presence in Dublin in May 1921 and in London during the Treaty negotiations. Later, disagreeing with the treaty terms, he became the first prisoner of the Irish Civil War on June 28, 1922, when the Irish War broke out between Pro-and Anti-treaty factions. In the 1930's he spent a term as IRA Chief of Staff; in 1949 he addressed huge crowds in New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Boston – his voice rang out, "My one aim is to unite the Irish people – one race". His lifelong wish was to end the partition of people of Ireland.

Barry was a strict disciplinarian, ruthless when the need arose, but also kind – kind to the men who planned and fought with him, and kind also in later life to those in need; to old soldiers having difficulty making ends meet.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis (May his faithful soul be at the right hand of God).

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## MAJOR JAMES H. DOOLEY DIVISION

