



# The Dooley Dispatch

## September 2023

**Celebrating 44 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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[Scott Nugent](#) 503-9888

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

Next Meeting – Tuesday September 12, 2023 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

#### President's Message: President's Message:

The Dooley Division was active throughout the summer despite taking a break from our monthly business meetings. The state AOH convention was held in late July in Old Town Alexandria. Our very own Brian Kiernan finished up a successful two-year term as State President and handed off the gavel to the new State President Bob Fay. Brian and his degree team also conducted the Major Degree ceremony that weekend. Our division will still be well represented at the state level as Vince Eikmeier has stepped up to be the State Vice President. Some of the highlights from the weekend include the National Freedom For All Ireland Chairman, Martin Galvin, recognizing all the Virginia divisions who donated over a \$1K to FFAI. I'm proud of our division for stepping up this year with a \$1,500 check to FFAI. Big thanks to our convention delegates Mike Valacer, Matt Costello, Joe McGowen, and Dan Caffrey. Congrats to Pat Shea. The State Board awarded him the St. Colmcille Life Achievement award. Well deserved Pat!

At the St. Elizabeth's Jazzfest last month we volunteered to run the beer and wine tent. Jazzfest is the major fundraiser for Fr. Jim's home parish.

I love when the division gets together to celebrate Mass. On August 30<sup>th</sup> we gathered at St. Michael's for the Our Lady of Knock Mass. We had a big group get together for brunch afterwards.

Please give some thought to how you would like to be involved in the division next year. Whether it's in the role of an officer or serving as a chair. Most positions do not require a large time commitment.

Our next business meetings will be held at St. Michael's Lake House on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

In Unity, Friendship, and Christian Charity,  
Mike Smith

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## Upcoming Events:

**(TBD) September 17, 2023, Sunday at Time TBD – Halfway to St. Patrick's Day, location TBD.**

**October 1, 2023, Sunday– Commemorate Commodore Barry Day (9/13/1803- date of death) at 1 pm** at St. Michael Catholic Church. Family Picnic (Chair Mike Muldowney).

**November 4-5, 2023 – Richmond Highland Games at Dorey Park, 2999 Darbytown Rd Henrico, VA 23231 ;**  
<https://www.richmondhighlandgames.com/> ; Sell 2024 Dooley Raffle Tickets and Recruiting at Double Booth (FAMILY Event).

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### AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For September 12, 2023 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 [jarсенault@stelizcc.org](mailto:jarсенault@stelizcc.org)

From Previous Meeting and since then:

- **Andrew Cox** – Passed away July 15
- **Greg Hill** – Cousin of *Tim McDonnell* - Being treated for esophageal cancer (48 with young family)

From Prior Meetings:

- **PJ George's Father** – Fell from vertigo. Hard to stand.
- **Mary Margaret McGowan** – Mother of *Patrick McGowan* – Spent a few nights in hospital. Is out and adjusting to assisted living.
- **Betty McGowan** – Wife of *Joe McGowan* – Recovery from head surgery
- **Theresa** – Sister of *Mike Canning* – Diagnosed with cancerous lesion on her face. Undergoing surgery.
- **Molly Nugent** – Daughter of *Scott Nugent* – Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Beginning treatment.
- **Caitlyn Woychik** – Daughter of *Dave Woychik* – was hospitalized for kidney issues. Is home now recovering.
- **Andy Cox** – Diagnosed with metastatic adenocarcinoma of the right lung. Having further tests and putting together a treatment plan.
- **Dick Kemper** – Undergone medical procedure in late September

- **Melissa Atchison** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Stage 3 cancer
- **Jack Griffin** – Moved to extended care in Northern VA. Being looked after by his son
- **Helene Zaepeel** – Mother-in-law to *Steve McGann* – Covid recovery/rheumatoid arthritis pain
- **Mercedes McGann** – Mother to *Steve McGann* – Recovering from a fall
- **Bill Shelton** – *Chad Costello's* sister's father-in-law – Covid
- **Barbara Muldowney** – Wife of *Mike Muldowney* – Having knee replacement surgery in December
- **Anne Gillikin** – Wife of *Ed Gillikin* – Recovering from an operation on October 25.
- **Bob Boyle** – Had bypass surgery and is recovering well
- **Kelli Smith** – Wife of *Mike Smith* – Kelli had Gamma Knife surgery and she is at home and feeling good. The doctor said it went really well. They will do scans every six months or so to monitor her progress.
- **Melissa Stelman** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Has Stage 3 colon cancer. Finished chemo in early Sept.
- **Phyllis Collins** - Mother of *Mark Collins* – She is currently in the hospital
- **Siobhan Nolan** (53) – Sister of *Tom Nolan* – Having open heart surgery
- **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.
- **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.
- *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

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

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## I dabbled in verse and it became my life – Patrick Kavanagh

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



Patrick Kavanagh, one of Ireland's greatest poets of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was born in Inniskeen in 1904 and lived his first 35 years on a small farm there. He was the fourth of nine children born to small farmers and in a house filled with the noise and activity of shoemaking, pig-rearing, and young children. It is in this setting Patrick Kavanagh began to write. Being the oldest son and keeping with Irish tradition he was expected to inherit and run the small family 40-acre farm, but his father realized that his son was a better writer than a farmer. His father said, "he must be a poet because he'd broken every tool on the farm except the crowbar and he bent that." He began to write poetry in his teens and was published in the local papers in his mid-20s. When his first volume *Ploughman and other Poems* was published in 1936, he was still a working farmer. His brother Peter, who was a Dublin-based teacher, urged him to move to the city to establish himself as a writer. He moved to London and wrote his semi-autobiographical novel, *The Green Fool*. In 1939, as WW2 was breaking

out, he settled in Dublin.

Kavanagh had mixed success in the Irish capital. He struggled from a professional point of view, earning a living as a journalist. However, he prospered creatively, producing his epic poem *The Great Hunger* and classic novel *Tarry Flynn*. Both books were initially banned because they showed rural Ireland in a poor light. Kavanagh took another opinion. He said of Tarry Flynn was "the only true account of rural life in Ireland."

While William Butler Yeats and Seamus Heaney won Nobel prizes and were quoted by US Presidents, acclaim for Kavanagh remains largely confined to his homeland. However, in the past several years there has been an attempt to rectify this as Bono, Hozier, Liam Neeson and other celebrities breathe new life into his legacy. Russell Crowe recited Patrick Kavanagh's poem Sanctity, when he accepted the Best Actor award from the BBC for his role in A Beautiful Mind. Crowe was inspired to read the poem after it was recited by the late Richard Harris who starred alongside Crowe in Gladiator.

It was the poem, *On Raglan Road*, written about unrequited love in 1946 that he is perhaps most remembered for. The poem became a basis for a classic recording by the Dubliners – Raglan Road. Patrick Kavanagh accidentally created the most brilliant love song of all time. The basis for the poem is a beautiful, dark-haired Hilda Moriarity who he met in 1944. Besides aspiring to become a doctor she was a fan of poetry and literature, which is how they met. Kavanagh saw Hilda coming and going from Raglan Road to University on a daily basis and as an excuse to meet her in a shop on St. Stephen's Green, he would often ask her to critique his work. Kavanagh described himself as a peasant poet, but Hilda was not that impressed and teased him - "Can you not, then, write about anything other than stony grey soil and bogs, Paddy?" Kavanagh said, "I will immortalize you in poetry, Hilda." And so, he did. Unfortunately, there was too much of an age gap, she was twenty-two and he was forty, so she ended the relationship.

Working with Kavanagh, Luke Kelly of the well-known Irish band The Dubliners immortalized *Raglan Road*, placing the poem to the music for "The Dawning of the Day."

On Raglan Road on an autumn day I met her first and knew  
That her dark hair would weave a snare that I might one day rue;  
I saw the danger, yet I walked along the enchanted way,

And I said, let grief be a fallen leaf at the dawning of the day.

Besides Luke Kelly's version with The Dubliners, the song has been performed by Van Morrison with The Chieftains, Sinéad O'Connor, Billy Joel, and Roger Daltrey, to name a few.

In 1954 two major events had devastating effects that changed Kavanagh's life: firstly, he embarked on an unsuccessful libel action. Then shortly after this ordeal, he was diagnosed with cancer and had a lung removed. While recovering from this operation by relaxing on the banks of the Grand Canal in Dublin, Kavanagh rediscovered his poetic vision and a brilliant phase of poetry followed.

Kavanagh returned frequently to Inniskeen, and the landscape continued to inspire his poetry. As a poet, he often felt isolated, on the margins of society and found comfort in nature and in his treasure-trove of Monaghan memories. He became a literary celebrity and was a much sought after lecturer. In 1967, the Abbey Theatre had a major success with their stage version of Kavanagh's *Tarry Flynn*. While attending the opening performance, Kavanagh was taken ill and taken to a Dublin nursing home, where he died on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1967.

Kavanagh is gone from us forever. All that remains of him lies in a little church, where he was baptized, in Inniskeen; and a statue of him seated on a bench by the Grand Canal in Dublin commemorates him. As he would have said himself, "the account is closed." Perhaps like Molly Malone his ghost will walk again on the crowded streets of Raglan Road.

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