

**THE TOLEDO HIBERNIAN
NEWSLETTER
C/O MAURY COLLINS
2847 NASH ROAD**



BORDERLINE GENIUS, LLC

IN GOD WE TRUST



**APRIL 1 ~ APRIL FOOLS DAY
APRIL 6 ~ TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC @ THE BLARNEY
APRIL 8 ~ TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE
APRIL 18 ~ SHAMROCK DINNER & DEGREE PROGRAM**

Just a reminder that there is a traditional Irish music session at the Blarney on the first Saturday of each month, 5 ~8 PM Mark it down!!! You will enjoy it.



Mother McAuley Division

HIBERNIANS OF TOLEDO NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2024



John P. Kelly Division



Tip of the Hat!!!!

To Ann Dollman, who organized the whole day, all the volunteers, who helped make baskets, worked at one of the tables, sold raffle tickets, who decorated the hall, who baked goods. To Gordon Andrews, who stepped up at being the chef and did a great job, to all the people, who worked in the kitchen, to the bands and the dancers, to Happy, the Clown, To Sherri McNeill, who worked the whole day and I'm sure into the night managing the money!!! Be proud!! We put on a true Family Friendly St Patrick's day event. The only public celebration of it's kind in Toledo!!!! Looking forward to next year!!!!

A Hearty Thank You to the Green Apron Crew!

Another St. Patrick's Day has come and gone, and we can all look forward to next year's celebration and antics! For some it was a day of relaxation to spend with friends and family enjoying the Hibernian Festival. For others, it was a day of work, work, work! For those that were involved in the work aspect of the festival, in particular the kitchen crew, I want to reach out and thank each and every one of you. Though I will not call each out by name, in case I miss one or two, you know who you are. To the prep workers in the kitchen and prior to the day, thank you! To the counter help and servers also, thank you! To the magnificent help of the preparers and cooks in the back scullery, thank you! Lastly, but certainly not least of all, the clean-up crew, which is a huge part of the success in the kitchen operation and comes at a time when most are ready to throw in the towel, a huge thank you!

Lessons were learned, notes were made and hopefully next year will be even more of a success! Again,
Thank You and God Bless!




Regards,

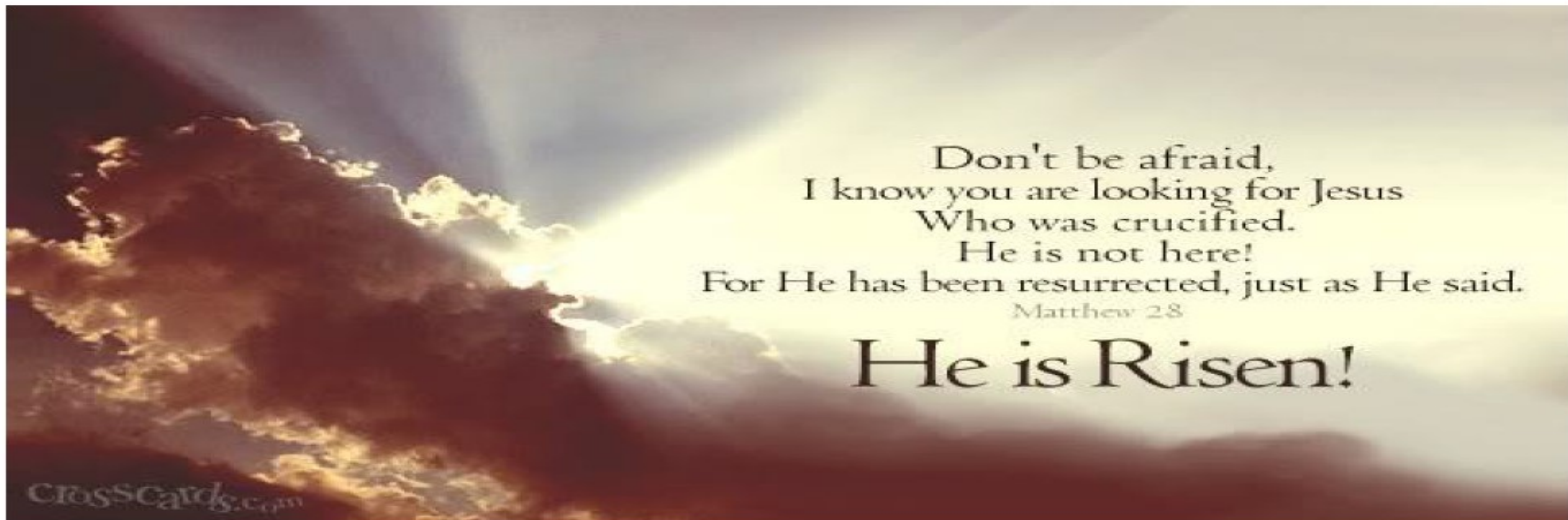
Gordon Andrews

festival wrap up joint meeting will be held soon. You will be advised of the day, the time and the location when that information is available.

Shamrock dinner and 3rd degree ceremony for AOH men only will be held April 18th at the Pinnacle 1772 Indian Wood Cir Maumee, Ohio

APRIL, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Traditional Irish @ The Blarney</i>
7	8 	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



Happy Easter!

HIBERNIAN OF THE YEAR 2024

CHARLENE BLANKENSHIP



Previous winners: Bob O'Connell R.I.P, Sister Ann McManus, Dan McCarthy, Mary Ann Buckley R.I.P., Maurice Buckley R.I.P, Matt Cassidy, Tricia Cassidy, Maury Collins, Eileen Durham, Ann Dollman, Tom McCabe, Sherri McNeill, Mike Cassidy, Madonna Pauken R.I.P, Clarise Burkhard R.I.P, Maureen Gale, Tom King, Sr R.I.P, Greg Cassidy, George Murnen, Mick Murnen, Mary Pat Riker , Robert McMahon, Kathy Moeller, Mike Moeller, Jimmy Dreps
Monsignor Chris Vasko



A MESSAGE FROM LAOH PRESIDENT, ANN DOLLMAN

Spring Greetings to all!

What a GREAT Festival! It is amazing when all of the planning and work prior to the festival comes together for such an incredible event! I heard many kind words and compliments about our festival. Thank you to ALL who helped with the festival prep and planning. Baskets to Baked Goods, Program, Music and Food! I started to write thanks to all of the individuals who helped chair and volunteer, but feared I would not be able to stop or that I would miss someone. So instead, to all who helped, played, or volunteered, you have my deepest heartfelt thanks. We cannot share our Irish heritage with the community and each other without willing volunteers to help produce such a magnificent event! We will send out a note after the Easter season for a festival wrap up meeting. (more information to come)

May your Easter be filled with the blessings of the Lord, and may He shower you with His grace and love. May the resurrection of Jesus fill your heart with hope and may the joy of Easter be with you throughout the year. This is a time of renewal. I shall sign off with an Old Irish Blessing

"The Light of God Surround You"
The love of God enfold you.
The power of God protect you,
the presence of God watch over you.

(Happy Total Eclipse Day April 8th!

Yours in friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Ann Dollman LAOH Lucas County President

A letter from Marilyn Madigan, National President of LAOH

"Nuns of the battlefield"

The Centennial of The Nuns of the Battlefield Monument will be held on Saturday September 21, 2024. The Centennial Commemoration will include a Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral, Dedication of the Wayside Marker at the Monument and a dinner at the Army Navy Club.

The complete letter is available on page 14.



A MESSAGE FROM AOH PRESIDENT , ROBERT MCMAHON

Beannachtaí na Cásca! May the Blessings of Easter be with you all. Thank you to everyone who made the St. Patrick's Day Celebration a success. It takes many hands to make it all work and they were all doing a fine job. To the Kitchen Crew, the Musicians, Basket Makers, Bakers, ticket takers, Shirt Sellers, Cleaners, Advertisers, Program Makers, and everyone who came out to support us. Thank you.

Bead Sales at the St Patrick Day Festival for the benefit of the Freedom for All Ireland and Seminarian funds were 50\$. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

We received a wonderful thank you card signed by the students at Queen of Apostles School for our \$1,000 donation for purchase of a St. Carlo Acutis Statue at the school. It is believed that this will be the first one of its kind in Ohio. Queen of Apostles School is the grade school formerly called the Darby Immaculate Conception School.

SHAMROCK Degree and Dinner April 18th at the Pinnacle, 1772 Indian Wood Cir. Maumee. Cocktail Hr 6pm Degree to begin at 6:30 for all members who have not participated this is a very important part of our Order and I strongly encourage you to attend. Please RSVP to me as soon as possible so that we can get a good count for the dinner. Please also let me know if you are willing to help with the degree program itself. I will need at least 6 other brothers to help take part. Let me know if you are willing. It will be a cash bar. Dinner is 40\$ for Beef Filet, House Salad, Mashed Potato and Vegetable. If you have dietary needs other please let me know ASAP as well. The price of the dinner is higher this year, but it is a nice dinner and everyone is feeling the higher prices. This is also a great opportunity to bring your Dues if you have not already sent John McNulty your 2024 Dues.

Besides the Shamrock Degree itself I would like to discuss the Summer events: Golf Outing, Picnic, Boat Ride, Etc.

In Charity

Robert McMahon

Winners of the St. Patrick Coloring Contest

Grand Prize Winner 100\$ Valarie Krncevic 4th Grade Christ the King School

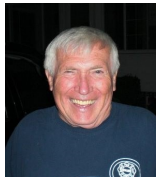
4th Grade 1st Valerie Krncevic Christ the King 2nd Jesephine Cromley Most Blessed Sacrament 3rd (tie) Mason Monroe ICS Port Clinton & Gabbi Belden ICS Port Clinton

3rd Grade 1st Kerry Enow St. Patrick of Heatherdowns 2nd Kingston Martin Most Blessed Sacrament 3rd Keaton Largent Most Blessed Sacrament

2nd Grade 1st Mylonni Brown St. Patrick of Heatherdowns 2nd Korby Schwartz Most Blessed Sacrament 3rd Leah Leneghan ICS Port Clinton

1st Grade 1st Kensley Mays St. Patrick of Heatherdowns 2nd Charles McMahon Most Blessed Sacrament 3rd (tie) Deliah Heise Bataan School & Abigail Brazeau St Patrick of Heatherdowns

Kindergarten 1st Mike Balkert ICS Port Clinton 2nd Landyn Kygalski Most Blessed Sacrament Toledo 3rd Leonard McMahon Most Blessed Sacrament Toledo



A MESSAGE FROM THE CRAZY EDITOR, MAURY COLLINS

Ní bheidh mo léitheid ann arís

I am so proud of being a part of a family oriented celebration of St Patrick's Day. (The only public one in the Toledo area!!! I have said many times that I was excited when we started up a Hibernian division in Toledo because my celebrations of St Patrick's Day with my children before, was playing Irish music, eating Irish Soda Bread and drinking shamrock shakes. I had children, grandchildren and great grandchildren at my table as well as family from out of town and in town. So many people, I might only see one time a year, make this day so special to me. If you look at the pictures I posted, you know that there was other family gatherings as well. Special Thank you to all the volunteers!!!!

April is always special to me. April 12th is my Dad's birthday. April 15th is my wedding anniversary. April 27th is my son, Matt's birthday So much to celebrate and be thankful for.



Since April 15, 1967
Life, Love & Laughter



Bill Santry June 15, 1961 ~ March 10, 2024



William Gerard Santry, born in Cork, Ireland June 15 1961, left this world March 10, 2024 at the age of 62 in his home in Maumee, Ohio, surrounded by his family. He was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer in 2021, and despite his initial short prognosis, with his fighting spirit, he was able to give his family an additional 2 years of time with him.

William spent his youth playing Irish sports. He was a talented hurley and football player for his club St. Finbarr's (The Barrs) in Cork Ireland. He also completed the Cork City Marathon in 1982, which he lovingly, and regularly, flaunted to his less accomplished runner children and relatives.

William attended Morning Star Primary in Ballyphehane and Colaiste Eamann Ris Secondary School. He then completed his apprenticeship at Cork Regional Technical College before immigrating to the United States in 1983. He spent a short period living in Boston working in construction and tending bars. He then found an opportunity which led him to Toledo, Ohio, where he met the love of his life Kathy. William and Kathy had two beautiful children, Aileen and Michael, whom he loved dearly. He worked hard to provide them with every opportunity.

William was a very supportive father who rarely missed his children's baseball games or horse shows. He always gave positive words of encouragement to them and their teammates, which were often lost on them due to his thick Irish brogue.

His greatest source of pride was being a loving husband and father, and he remained as such until the end. He was a selfless, loving, and hilarious man, and an infinitely positive source of light in everyone's life. We are all blessed to have known him.

SMILE AND BE HAPPY

"Late again!" the third-grade teacher sternly said to little Robbie. "It ain't my fault this time, Miss Russell. You can blame this 'un on my Daddy. The reason I'm three hours late is my Daddy sleeps naked!" Miss Russell had taught grammar school for 30-some-odd years. Despite her mounting fears, she asked little Robbie what he meant by that. Full of grins and mischief, and in the flower of his youth, little Robbie and trouble were old friends but he always told the truth. "You see, Miss Russell, out at the farm we got this here low down fox. The last few nights, he done ate six hens. Last night, when Daddy heard a noise out in the chicken pen, he grabbed his double barreled shot gun and said to my Ma, "That fox is back again... I'm a gonna git him!" "Stay back," Daddy whispered to all us kids! "My Daddy was naked as a jaybird -- no boots, no pants, no shirt! To the hen house he crawled, just like an Injun on the snoop. Then, he stuck that double-barreled 12-gauge shotgun through the window of the coop. As he stared into the darkness, with a fox on his mind, our old hound dog, Rip, had done gone and woke up and comes sneaking up behind Daddy. Then, as we all looked on, plumb helpless, old Rip done went and stuck his cold nose in my Daddy's crack!" "Miss Russell, we all been pluckin' chickens since three o'clock this mornin!"

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken." She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed. My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal. I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much. I do, too. Especially chicken, pork and beef. Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office. I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again. The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was. I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken. She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed, and told me not to do it again. I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am. Today, my teacher asked us to tell her what famous person we admire most. I told her, "Colonel Sanders." Guess where I am now...

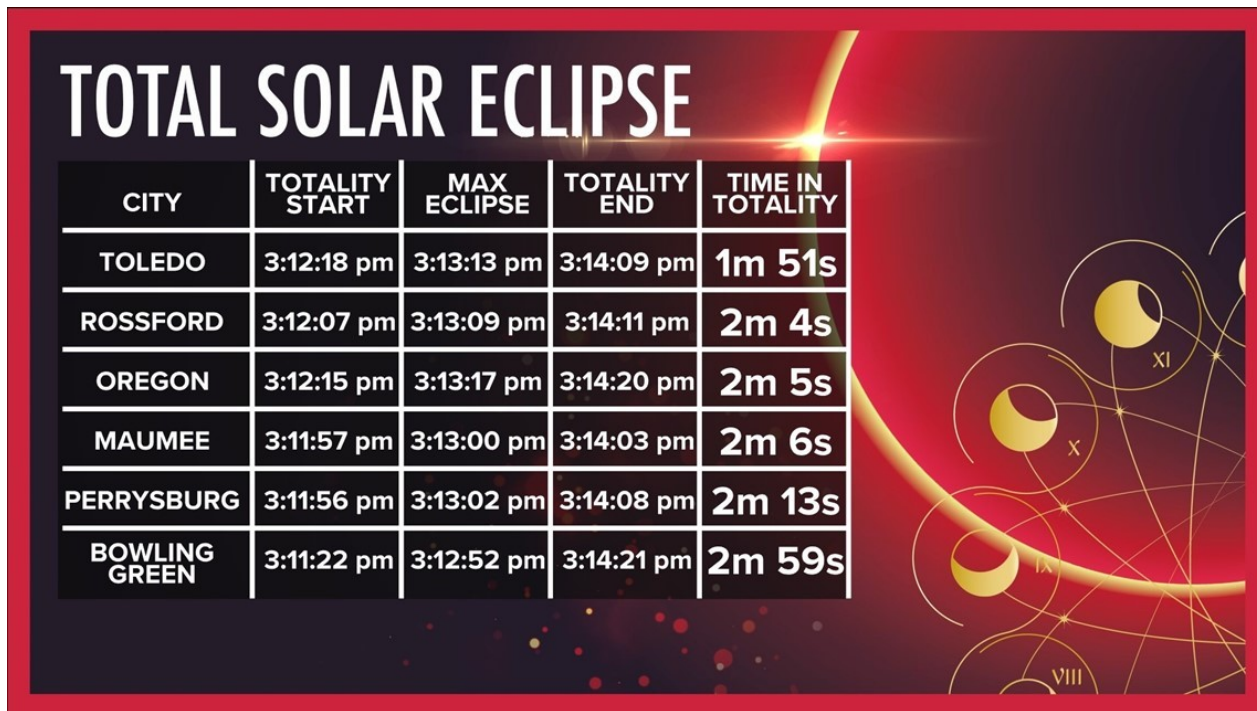
Two old men decide that they are close to their last days and decide to have a last night on the town. After a few drinks, they end up at the local brothel. The madam takes one look at the old geezers and whispers to her manager; "Go up to the first two bedrooms and put an inflated doll in each bed. Those two are so old and drunk, I'm not wasting two of my girls on them. They won't know the difference." The manager does as he was told and the two men go upstairs and take care of their business. As they are walking home the first man says; "You know, I think my girl was dead." "Dead?" says his friend, "Why do you say that?" "Well, she never moved or made a sound all the time I was loving her." His friend says "Could be worse I think mine was a witch." "A witch? Why the hell would you say that?" "Well, I was making love to her, kissing her on the neck and I gave her a little bite, then she farted and flew out the window..took my teeth with her!"

Mrs Gladys Dunn was a pillar of her church. She visited the sick, she greeted newcomers, she served on every committee, and substituted for the organist when necessary. After services one day, she noticed a stranger leaving the church. She went up to introduce herself. Extending her hand, she said, "I'm Gladys Dunn." The stranger replied; "Me too! That was the longest sermon I've ever heard!"

Pat was in his garden and the neighbor looked over the fence and said; "What are you doing?" "I'm putting all my plants in alphabetical order." She replied; "Really, I don't know how you find the time!" "Oh, that's easy" Pat said, "It's right next to the sage."



The eclipse will occur on April 8, 2024. Check out this chart for times to experience the event in your area:



A total solar eclipse will cast the shadow of the moon on a narrow path across the Earth with the direct path of totality across northern Ohio. A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the sun.

IMPORTANT APRIL DATES IN IRISH HISTORY

April 1, 1911 - The Titanic is launched in Belfast

April 10, 1998 - The Northern Ireland peace talks end with an historic agreement. The accord - dubbed the Good Friday Agreement - is reached after nearly two years of talks and 30 years of conflict.

April 14, 1848 - In Dublin, the tricolor national flag of Ireland is presented to the public for the first time by Thomas Francis Meagher and the Young Ireland Party

April 15, 1912 - The Titanic sinks on her maiden voyage with the loss of 1,513 souls, many of them Irish; 732 survive

April 23, 1014 - The Dublin Norse and the king of Leinster, with Viking allies from overseas, are defeated by Brian Boru's army at Clontarf. Brian, now an old man, is killed. This thwarts the potential domination of Ireland by the Norse, but they are well established in the coastal towns, and will continue to have a major influence. Máel Sechnaill succeeds Brian as high king

April 24, 1916 - On Easter Monday, the Irish Volunteers and Citizen Army seize the General Post Office (GPO) in Dublin and demand Irish sovereignty

April 29, 1916 - Pearse orders surrender of the Easter Rising rebels on this date. Approximately 64 rebels have been killed, 132 crown forces, and 230 civilians. 2,500 people have been wounded; the centre of Dublin has been devastated by the shelling

The Potato - The Perfect Crop for Ireland in the 1700s.

In 1532, Spain invaded the Andean region of what is now South America to search for gold. While there, they noticed the locals digging, cooking and eating some sort of tuber plant. They also observed how strong and healthy the locals appeared while having what they called the "Patata" as centerpiece of their diet. As a result, these "Patatas" were brought back to Spain and promoted as a food for humans - but ended up mainly used as animal feed until the 1750s. However, sometime along the way, European landowners noticed that what became known as the "potato" in English was not only a wonderful source of nutrition for workers - but it was also a hardy crop that tolerated poor soils. So, the potato became a staple of many diets across Europe from the mid 1700s.



The availability of the potato also coincided with a large population shift in Ireland. This co-incidence resulted in a population explosion in many of the western counties of Ireland - places with some of the poorest soil on the island. Let's have a closer look at what happened.

When Oliver Cromwell arrived in Ireland headquartering in the Youghal town, his goal was to rid the countryside of the last of the Gaelic aristocracy and pass their "vacated" lands on to "decent" English protestant families. He was largely successful and one of the sayings attributed to him during this time was "to Hell or to Connacht" - a choice he offered to the various Gaelic lords and their families. In effect, this statement recognized that land west of the River Shannon in Connacht was too poor for agriculture and seen fit as a suitable destination for the Gaelic lords who surrendered their good lands in the east of Ireland. So, the poor lands of Counties Galway, Mayo and other western counties greeted these new arrivals from other parts of Ireland from the early 1700s. But, then something unexpected happened. The potato arrived. The potato crop was quickly adapted in many parts of Ireland from the mid 1700s - and it thrived equally in the poor soil to the west of Ireland.

The population of Ireland started to grow very quickly across the island of Ireland (and much of Europe) - all due to the adaptation of this nutritious wonder-food. Records show that by 1844, the average adult male farmer ate about 13 pounds of potatoes (about 60 potatoes each day) during winter. The average for women and children was about half of that. An acre of relatively poor land surrounding a cottage could feed a large family - supplemented by other foods during the summer and autumn.

From about 1700, the population on the island of Ireland grew from about 3 million to almost 8.5 million in 1841. Much of this population growth was not in the cities - but in the fields, islands and mountains of rural Ireland. This population growth came to an end when the potato crop failed in 1845 - and it went on to fail over the next four subsequent years. It did not fully recover until 1851. This period became known as the Great Famine (or "An Gorta Mór") in Irish.

Throughout the time of the potato failure of the 1840s, over 1 million people died of starvation and sickness across the island of Ireland. By 1851, the population of County Mayo had dropped from 388,000 to 274,000 in keeping with that decline. However, it did not stop there. You see, as people emigrated from Mayo to a better life in other parts of the world. When there they sent word back to family and neighbors to encourage them to follow them, often sending on the price of the fare. This kicked a system of "chain migration" into action. By 1901, the population of County Mayo had declined further to 199,000.

But still the population decline did not stop there. The hard life offered by a rural landscape led to many more leaving for what was considered an easier life and more opportunity amongst the growing Irish diaspora around the world. The population of County Mayo continued to decline all the way until 1971 when it hit a low of 66,000 (from a high of 388,000 in 1841). It then grew slowly to the present population of 137,000 today. Much of that recent growth was driven by the increase in tourism jobs across the county. I recently estimated that about 13% of all the Irish diaspora in north America have substantial roots in County Mayo.

Do You Know Your Irish County of Origin?

Which county did your Irish ancestors come from? When we think of Ireland, we often think of places like County Kerry, County Galway, County Louth and so on – all the way through the 32 historical counties on the island of Ireland. In fact, if your ancestor was asked where they came from – they would probably include the county name as well as "Ireland" in their answer.

So, what was the first county in Ireland? Up to the time the Normans arrived in the late 1100s, Ireland did not really have the "counties" that we know today. They were an administrative invention of the Normans who needed a system to allocate lands to adventurers, planters and to enforce taxes and the other aspects of their feudal society in a more efficient manner. In fact, the word "county" comes from the Norman-French "conté" meaning "the jurisdiction of a Count/Earl".

We are going to have a look at the evolution of the 32 counties that would have been familiar to most of our ancestors. They are:

In the southern province of Munster: Counties Cork, Kerry, Clare, Tipperary, Waterford and Limerick.

In the eastern province of Leinster: Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Louth, Westmeath, Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Longford, Offaly (formerly King's County) and Laois (formerly Queen's County).

In the western province of Connacht: Counties Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim.

In the northern province of Ulster: Londonderry (also referred to as Derry), Antrim, Down, Armagh, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Monaghan, Cavan and Donegal.

Right! That's all 32 counties. Although I grouped these counties into provinces, it's worthwhile noting that a province was an ancient Irish land division and in place well before the arrival of the Normans. Today we generally only refer to provinces when organize sporting teams and events.

Let's have a look at a timeline for the formation of those counties. This timeline quite accurately reflects the colonial ambition of the Normans and England as they widened their administration across the island of Ireland. The "shiring" (forming of counties) of Ireland started in the late 12th century as the newly-arrived Normans imposed a similar system to the one they had in England and Wales.

The Normans were clever enough to take advantage of the system already in place in a newly-conquered land. They divided their Irish lands by amalgamating the smaller Gaelic Kingdoms (or "Tuatha" - pronounced "too-ha") of the time. These "Tuatha" were already made up of smaller family lands similar to the "Townland" system we have today.

1170-1200 AD: Counties of Dublin, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Louth, Tipperary, Waterford, Kilkenny and Wexford are formed. These counties contained the best available land or surrounded the existing Viking port cities of Ireland (Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Wexford and Limerick). The lands were lucrative and worth defending from the native Irish.

1292-1306 AD: Counties Roscommon, Kildare, Meath and Carlow formed. Kildare, Meath and Carlow represent an expansion of the Norman lands. This time also marked a pause to the Anglo-Norman "shiring" of the island – as an Irish Gaelic resurgence won back a lot of this land over the next 230 years.

1543 AD: County Westmeath formed by breaking Meath into two parts. When the Tudors came to power in England, it marked a renewed interest in "reclaiming" the lands in Ireland from the native Irish. This marked the start of movements of the native Irish out of their historic homes – and the start of a sequence of "plantations" from England (and later from Scotland) to replace the native Irish land-holders with English speaking farmers and adventurers of the Protestant faith.

1556 AD: King's County (modern Offaly) and Queen's County (modern Laois) formed. The western province of Connacht is broken into the Counties of Galway, Mayo and Sligo.

1565-1584 AD: Counties Clare, Leitrim, Longford and Cavan formed.

1585-1613 AD: Counties Armagh, Donegal, Fermanagh, Monaghan, Coleraine, Tyrone, Antrim, Down, Wicklow formed.

1613 AD: County Coleraine renamed to County Londonderry.

By the time Cromwell arrived in Ireland in 1649 AD, the historic counties that we know today were fully in place. They were further subdivided into a system of "Civil Parishes" as well as cities, towns and townlands.

The Garden of Remembrance

At the northern end of Parnell Square in Dublin is a small, peaceful park, dedicated to the men and women who have died in pursuit of Irish freedom. The Garden of Remembrance marks the spot where several leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising were held overnight before being taken to Kilmainham Gaol, and where the Irish Volunteers movement was formed in 1913. The park also commemorates those who died in other conflicts in the struggle for Irish freedom, notably: the 1798 rebellion, the 1803 rebellion, the Young Ireland rebellion, the Fenian uprising in the 1860s, the land wars, and the Irish War of Independence between 1916 and 1922.



The Garden was opened in 1966 by President de Valera on the fiftieth anniversary of the Easter Rising. The Dublin architect and conservationist Daithi Hanly RIP designed the lawns, which encircle a sunken pool. The floor of the pool displays a mosaic pattern of blue green waves interspersed with ancient weaponry. The spears are shown broken following the ancient Celtic custom of throwing weapons into rivers and lakes as offerings to the gods when hostilities ended.



At one end of the park stands a bronze statue of the Children of Lir, sculpted by Oisín Kelly RIP. The children are an important part of Irish folklore - they were turned into swans by their jealous stepmother for 900 years. They became human again after this time but, frail and weak, died soon afterwards. Today, killing a swan in Ireland is illegal.

The sculpture evokes Yeats' famous lines about the 1916 Rebellion:
"All is changed, changed utterly: A terrible beauty is born".

The Plaque Reads:

**In the darkness of despair we saw a vision.
We lit the light of hope and it was not extinguished.
In the desert of discouragement we saw a vision.
We planted the tree of valour and it blossomed.
In the winter of bondage we saw a vision.
We melted the snow of lethargy and the river of resurrection flowed from it.
We sent our vision aswim like a swan on the river. The vision became a reality.
Winter became Summer. Bondage became freedom
and this we left to you as our inheritance.
O generations of freedom remember us. The generations of the vision."**

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc



Organized in 1894

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March 28, 2024

Dear Sister Hibernians,

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in our 130th year will be celebrating a special milestone this year. We hope that you will be able to join us. The Centennial of The Nuns of the Battlefield Monument will be held on Saturday September 21, 2024. The Centennial Commemoration will include a Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral, Dedication of the Wayside Marker at the Monument and a dinner at the Army Navy Club.

The Nuns of the Battlefield memorial was erected by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) and dedicated as a U.S. national memorial in 1924. The monument is located at Rhode Island Ave. across the street from St. Matthew's Cathedral. The Monument honors Catholic nuns who served as nurses during the U.S. Civil War. These sister-nurses provided medical and spiritual care to soldiers on both sides of the conflict.

Following the Civil War, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (then known as the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians) believed that it was important that the Nation and history remember and honor the women religious who provided critical nursing and hospital administration expertise to the United States during the Civil War. In most cases, this expertise was unavailable in the military or in general society.

A majority of the nuns serving in the Civil War were Irish born or Irish American. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians was founded in the United States to provide resources and community to newly arrived Irish women. This connection, of Irish heritage and Catholic faith, between the Nuns of the Civil War and the LAOH prompted the LAOH National President, Dr. Ellen Ryan Jolly to pursue her goal of commissioning and erecting the Monument and having the U.S. Congress declare the Nuns of the Battlefield a national monument. We should also note that the Monument is one of only a very few Civil War statues or memorials that recognize the contributions of women.

The LAOH today, still proudly remember the contributions of these Sisters annually at the Monument, with a program attended by LAOH National Officers and members from the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and other states.

It is with this background that the LAOH requested the National Park Service to have a wayside marker at the monument, so that the general public may know of the great work these women religious provided to our country and role of the LAOH in making the Monument possible.

We would be honored if you would consider attending this important commemoration. More details and formal invitations will be sent at a later date. For more information please contact me at natlpresidentlach@gmail.com or my personal email at mmadigan@gmail.com or call 216-470-3773.

Sincerely
Marilyn Madigan
Marilyn Madigan

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