

St. Brendan Division #1 - AOH, Berks County, PA



Serving the Irish-American Community for 100 yrs.
INCORPORATED NOVEMBER 7, 1860 ----- RE-ORGANIZED FEBRUARY 16, 1979
Visit our Website www.berkscoaoh.com

Volume XXVIII - Tóirt Fiche a naoi déag/Issue #4/Eagrán a Ceathair-Aibreán/Bealtine/Meitheamh-April/May/June 2019

FORTY YEARS AND GROWING

On February 19, 2019 St. Brendan's Division #1 celebrated the fortieth anniversary of our re-organization. Much has been written in recent newsletters about our past-history, which included information about St. Brendan's Division #1 and our forerunner here in Berks County "The Benevolent Beneficial Society of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of the City of Reading and State of Pennsylvania." The date of the filing was November 7, 1860, and the charter of incorporation was granted January 21, 1861.

On St. Patrick's Day, some thirty members and guests attended Mass at St. Ignatius Parish and enjoyed a breakfast sponsored by the KofC. Afterward, the AOH and their guests attended a social where awards were presented, including to our "Hibernian of the Year" Henry J. Mullen. A fitting way to spend St. Patrick's Day. Below are a few photos of the celebration.

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James Scott

PAST PRESIDENT
Leonard J. Weckel

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Joseph G. McCarthy





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Beannachtaí Ná Cásca
oraibh"



"May the blessing of Easter
be with you"

I hope everyone had a celebratory St. Patrick's Day and celebrated the day for its true meaning of honoring St. Patrick and his good deeds for the Irish and sharing and remembering with family and friends the Irish traditions and cultural aspects past down from our ancestors. Also, as Lent progresses, I hope everyone is in preparation for the Easter holiday, and participating in some soul-searching church activities, and volunteering or donating to a charitable cause. I want to wish everyone a Happy Easter holiday.

On March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, we celebrated our 40th anniversary as an organized division. The day started with a Mass at St. Ignatius of Loyola Church. Mass was followed by a fabulous breakfast in the school hall catered by the KofC Council #8726. After breakfast, we gathered for a social and presented several awards to members. The event was attended by thirty (30) AOH, LAOH and family members.



A 40th anniversary commemorative pin was designed and is currently being distribute to all members.

Also, many thanks to Hank Mullen for scheduling the Mass at St. Ignatius of Loyola Church in honor of St. Patrick and AOH membership. Hank always schedules this Mass on the weekend closes to St. Patrick's Day. In addition, many thanks to William Carroll who was instrumental in getting the anniversary pin designed and purchased. It is a very beautiful commemorative pin. Lastly, Joseph McCarthy presented an exceptional summary of the St. Brenden Division #1 history, which highlighted the divisions past accomplishments and milestones.

On March 10th, we had the honor to recognize and present Henry (Hank) Mullen, Sr, the 2018 AOH Hibernian of the

Year Award at the Berks Catholic Layman's Communion Breakfast. The Mass and breakfast were held at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Reading. The event had approximately fifteen (15) AOH members and family members attend the Breakfast.

I want to thank Joseph McCarthy and Len Weckel for their attendance at preparatory meetings for this event.

Due to our low membership and few able walkers, we decided to forgo marching in the Girardville parade this year. The parade date has been changed to March 30th this year. Anyone interested in seeing the parade can travel to Girardville and watch it along the parade route.

Recently, two of our long-term members -Lee Garrigan and Joseph McGee passed away. These gentlemen were very active and supportive members of our division. They will be sadly missed, and our thoughts and prayers go out to their families. Both funerals had AOH members present for the Irish wake ceremony and Honor Guard.

The Daniel Flannery Scholarship 2019 Award applications were due on March 17th. The applications and essays will be reviewed at the April meeting to determine the recipient of this year's scholarship award. This award is given to a deserving student who has the best essay on "What It Means to be an Irish Catholic in Today's Society."

Len Weckel is planning and coordinating the June soup kitchen at the Kennedy House. Needless to say, this is a tremendous week-end event feeding hundreds of needy people. Please consider volunteering to help make this a worthy and meaningful charitable event. Lots of labor goes into this soup kitchen to provide a nutritious meal to those in need!

Lastly, there is an upcoming calendar fundraiser. The monies raised from this activity will go towards funding for our Easter and Christmas Food Baskets. Please help in this cause by buying a few calendars and selling many calendars to family and friends. Also, we need more members in our division to continue our organizational efforts and deeds in the community. If you know of someone interested in becoming an AOH member, please refer them to me.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity
Kerry Williard, President

MEMBERSHIP

All members are reminded that membership fees for 2019 are now being accepted. Dues remain at \$25.00 per year. You can forward dues to:

St. Brendan's Division #1
P.O. Box 14961
Reading, Pa. 19612-4961

Please make all checks payable to Berks Div. 1, AOH. For information on dues payments call Joe McCarthy at 610-927-5224. All inquiries will be held in strictest confidence.

We ask all members to keep us informed of any changes in mailing addresses or phone numbers. The National Secretary is initiating a new record keeping format in that the Financial Secretary must maintain a spreadsheet of all members and each year when we submit annual report outlining division activities, an accurate record of division membership will be submitted. From this report the new membership cards will be generated and names and addresses will be submitted to the National Hibernian Digest to maintain their accurate mailing list. In addition, where possible they request regular updates on email addresses and cell phone numbers. By now some of you may have already received a message from the National President. In plain words the AOH is joining the Cyber World to speed up processing and dispensing information.

As usual we need a few new recruits to join our diminishing ranks. In the last year we lost six members through death and new membership will spread new life among our ranks. If you need assistance in recruiting contact our organizer John Mackey or any officer. Applications are available on our website www.berkscoaoh.com

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Prayers are requested for following person who have requested to be listed in our prayer list. Included in the list are members, family of members and members of the LAOH. They are: Craig Wolfe, James Caherly, Deacon John Murphy, Henry and Eleanor Trexler, Michael & Joseph Riley, Henry & Rita Mullen, Patricia Garrigan, Kathleen Fink, Julie Miller, Mary Walsh, Mary Collins, John Mackey, Mary DeMarco, Michael Riley, Charles Fritz, Kathleen Creed, Clare Flannery Dorothy Katzenmoyer and all family members and members in need of prayers.

Special prayers are asked for the following deceased members and their families: Kathleen Creed, John Walsh, Trish Dore, William Beam, Edward Collins, James Doyle, John Walsh, Edmucd Ettinger, Lee Garrigan, Joseph M. McGee and all the deceased members of the AOH-LAOH of Berks County.

COMING EVENTS

- 04/12/19 General Membership Meeting - Slovak Catholic Sokol's 7:30pm
- 04/14/19 Palm Sunday
- 04/21/19 Easter Sunday
- 05/10/19 General Membership Meeting - Slovak Catholic Sokol's 7:30pm
- 05/12/19 Mother's Day
- 05/27/19 Memorial Day

- 06/14/19 General Membership Meeting - Slovak Catholic Sokol's 7:30pm
- 06/14/19 Flag Day
- 06/16/19 Father's Day
- 06/29-30/19 Kennedy House Soup Kitchen
- 07/04/19 Independence Day
- 07/12/19 General Membership Meeting - Slovak Catholic Sokol's 7:30pm
- 08/09/19 General Membership Meeting - Slovak Catholic Sokol's 7:30pm
- 08/15/19 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 08/17/19 "Our Lady of Knock Mass"
- 09/02/19 Labor Day
- 09/13/19 General Membership Meeting - Slovak Catholic Sokol's 7:30pm

ST. BRENDAN FUNDRAISER

Plans are underway for our June fundraiser which will be used to fund our bi-annual Hibernian Hunger program in November and April.

To fund our annual charitable donations, we run calendars for the months of January, June and September.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

The names of members who are celebrating birthdays during the next two months are listed below. We have acquired the information from our membership applications, so if there are any corrections or errors please advise.

<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
15 th Thomas P. Healey	5 th James Scott	9 th Gerard O'Neil
18 th James J. Lowe	5 th Dennis McDonough	10 th Rory J. Caherly
25 th Joseph McCarthy	12 th Patrick J. McCauley	11 th Robert J. Devlin
26 th Dec John Murphy	17 th Shay S. Caherly	19 th Ryan Katzenmoyer
	23 rd John F. Gainey	21 st Henry Mullen, Sr.
	29 th Timothy P. Dore	
	29 th Paul L. Sommers	23 rd Michael J. Leonard
		29 th Sean P. O'Brien

AOH ANNIVERSARY PIN

By now all should be aware that the division has issued a new Division 40th Anniversary Pin to commemorate our milestone. During the coming months anyone interested in obtaining a new Veteran's pin should contact me. The pins are free to members and I have ordered a supply based on the number of members on file. If you are a member and have not yet notified me, please do so a.s.a.p. Please submit requests for pins to the same address as listed above for submittal of dues.

IRISH IISTORY BY Michael McCormick AOH Historian

THE MOST DEFINING MOMENT IN IRISH HISTORY

As 2018 ends, we recall that a century ago was a time of great change in Ireland. The Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP) goal of Home Rule, an Irish parliament under the Crown, was

supported by many before 1916, but Britain's reaction to the Rising struck them like an Irish Pearl Harbor. The British secretly court-martialed and murdered the leaders who should have been treated as prisoners of war; they unleashed nation-wide Martial Law treating every Irishman as a rebel and Loyalists convinced Lloyd George to break off a piece of Ireland and give it to them. The reaction was predictable - no longer would Home Rule under the Crown do, for now, like the heroes of Easter Week, they wanted total independence.

Sinn Fein, an insignificant party, gained strength by defending the Easter Week patriots and by 1918, had four local election victories and became a new political force. Further, many Volunteer units re-formed as the Army of the Irish Republic (IRA) and young women joined a reinvigorated Cumann na mBan. The Hibernian Rifles of the American Alliance folded their organization into the new IRA as the First Battalion, Dublin Brigade.



Michael Collins

In 1918, Michael Collins, adjutant general of the Volunteers, became Director of Intelligence establishing a network of spies among the police, the British army and even in Dublin Castle - Britain's control center. His spies intercepted messages and Collins often had them before the intended recipient. In April, a British Report confirmed partition and concurrently, conscription was ordered in Ireland. Reaction saw an unlikely alliance of Church and Sinn Fein rally opposition. As America entered the war, reducing the need for more recruits, and Irish opposition growing, conscription was never enforced.

In May, the British blundered again, claiming an attempt by Sinn Fein to import German arms for another rising and arresting 150 of the leaders. The so-called German Plot was found to be black propaganda by Dublin Castle to destabilize growing nationalist sentiment. Collins had warned of the coming arrests and some escaped capture while others chose to be taken to secure a propaganda victory. The internment

was significant since it took the accommodating leaders away while militant leaders, heeding Collins' warning, remained allowing Collins to consolidate control and put the organization on a more military footing.

On 4 July, the frustrated British finally banned Sinn Fein, the Gaelic League and Cumann na mBan and forbade public gatherings including GAA games. The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), one of the largest organizations in Ireland, had always been nationalist and responded by arranging a program of 1,600 matches at 3PM on 4 August calling it Gaelic Sunday. As many as 4,000 teams with nearly 100,000 players; took the field! The British ended their attempt to dictate to the GAA!

By the end of 1918, nationalism had grown considerably and the final nail in Britain's political coffin was hammered themselves when, at War's end, Lloyd George called for a December election to insure his continued power. However, an act, passed in 1916 to defuse Republican ire after the botched handling of the Rising, extended the vote to men over 21 and women over 30. This put nationalists in a position to take the country by storm and they did making 1918 a year of profound political change. When the votes were counted on 28 December, Sinn Fein won 73 seats as opposed to IPP's 6 and Unionist's 22. The 1918 Election was the last all-Ireland election ever held; it was also the first to allow women to vote; and the first to elect a woman (Countess Markievicz) to the British Parliament.

Then, on 7 January 1919, Sinn Fein's elected members decided not to take their seats at Westminster; instead, they formed their own independent Parliament called Dail Eireann. On 21 January, 24 members of Dail Eireann first met at Dublin's Mansion House; in a roll call 35 names were in British prisons. They declared Ireland an independent Republic based on the principles of 1916, which led to the War of Independence that fought the Brits to the treaty table, resulted in the 26-county Free State and ultimately to a partial Republic of Ireland! That meeting, 100 years ago, was the most defining moment in Irish history!

Even before election results were announced on 28 December, allowing for absentee ballots, Sinn Fein learned of the upset and met on 19 December. They decided to abstain from taking their seats at Westminster when it convened; instead they would create an independent parliament of their own to be called Dail Eireann (Assembly of Ireland). While Sinn Fein was central to the establishment of the Dail, it was recognized that the Dail would need a distinct Republican character. Members were called 'elected Republican Members' and they met in private on 2 January to decide the format of their new body. At meetings held over the following weeks, the principles to guide the new Dail were agreed. On 7 January 1919, a republican pledge was signed by those present:

I hereby pledge myself to work for the establishment of an independent Irish republic; that I will accept nothing less

than complete separation from England in settlement of Ireland's claims; and that I will abstain from attending the English Parliament.



The Sinn Féin members elected in the December 1918 election at the first Dail Eireann meeting, called by Sinn Féin on January 21, 1919. On 21 January, 24 members of Dail Eireann held their first official meeting in the Round Room of Dublin's Mansion House, the Lord Mayor's residence, and declared Ireland an independent Republic based on the principles of 1916. For the most part, the proceedings were conducted in Irish, beginning with a prayer delivered by Fr Michael O'Flanagan. After a role call, the business was conducted: a new Constitution restated the goal of 1916 and established a 5-man executive with *Priomh Aire* (Prime Minister or President of Dáil Éireann) and 4 Secretaries. Cathal Brugha presided temporarily as Sinn Féin President Eamon deValera was still in prison. Eoin MacNeill was chosen as Secretary of Finance, Michael Collins as Minister of Home affairs, Count Plunkett as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Dick Mulcahy as Minister of Defense; 29 names were recorded as present including Michael Collins and Harry Boland to conceal their absence as they were on a mission to rescue de Valera from Lincoln jail. The Dail made good its promise to invite all elected Irish representatives to attend, but Unionist and Irish Party MPs declined and were listed in the roll call as *as láthair* (absent) while 34 Republican Members were listed as *fé ghlais ag Gallaibh* (locked up by foreigners) as they were imprisoned following the bogus 'German Plot'. Then the main agenda was formulated: the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, an address to the free nations of the world and the democratic program. The first was read in Irish and the other three in Irish, French and English.

The address to the free nations was in accordance with the promised self-determination of small nations as a goal of the recent World War. The Declaration of Independence defined the aim of Dail Eireann, noting that *the elected Representatives of the Irish people alone have power to make laws binding on the people of Ireland, and that the Irish Parliament is the only Parliament to which that people*

will give its allegiance. The Dail not only gave expression to the will of the people, but also (after April) commanded the allegiance of the army. This defining of principle was matched by practical affairs: the Dail did actually govern. Michael Collins, at the Department of Finance, effectively raised loans for the Republic; the Republican Courts operated with the support of the people who sought adjudication through them rather than from Crown officials and envoys and trade consuls were sent to America and the major countries of Europe. These activities, and more, were maintained even after Dail Eireann was banned by the Crown on 10 September 1919, along with Sinn Féin, the Gaelic League, the Irish Volunteers and Cumann na mBan. These activities ultimately strengthened Ireland's claim to recognition as a self-governing state.

Then, as if to put an exclamation point on the new Dail, on the same day an unauthorized ambush of a gelignite transport was made by nine men of the Third Tipperary Brigade under Sean Tracey and Dan Breen in which two RIC were killed. It was the start of the War of Independence! Those men had decided on their own that it was time to bring the quest for independence to another level. They hoped that force would compel the British to grant Independence and they took the title by which they had been popularly referred to all along: the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and signaled the start of a new phase of Irish history. And it all happened just 100 years ago



REMEMBER FLAG DAY JUNE 14, 2019

Each year on June 14, we celebrate the birthday of the Stars and Stripes, which came into being on June 14, 1777. At that time, the Second Continental Congress authorized a new flag to symbolize the new Nation, the United States of America.

Although Flag Day is not celebrated as a Federal holiday, Americans everywhere continue to honor the history and heritage it represents.

The "Stars and Stripes", the official National symbol of the United States of America was authorized by congress on

Saturday of June 14, 1777 it was the fifth item of the days agenda for the Second Continental congress is session in Philadelphia. The entry in the journal of the Continental Congress 1774-1789 Vol. VIII, 1777 reads "Resolved that the flag of the thirteen United States Be Thirteen stripes alternate red and white: that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

There is no official assignment of meaning or symbolism to the colors of the flag. However, Charles Thomson, secretary of the Continental Congress, in describing the Great Seal, related its colors to those of the flag. According to Thomson, "White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness & valor, and Blue . . . vigilance, perseverance & justice."

In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation calling for a nationwide observance of Flag Day on June 14. It was not until August 3, 1949 that Congress made this day a permanent observance by resolving, "That the 14th day of June of each year is hereby designated as Flag Day. President Harry Truman signed the measure into law.

MOTHER'S DAY MAY 12, 2019



M is for the million things she gave me,
O means only that she's growing old,
T is for the tears she shed to save me,
H is for her heart of purest gold;
E is for her eyes, with love-light shining,
R means right, and right she'll always be,
 Put them all together, they spell "MOTHER,"
 A word that means the world to me.
 --Howard Johnson

The first known observance of Mother's Day in America occurred in Albion, Michigan on the second Sunday of May 1877. It was the actions of an Albion Pioneer woman, Juliet Calhoun Blakeley, that set Mother's Day in motion. Two days before her 59th birthday on May 11, 1877, three young men, all sons of staunch temperance advocates, were found drunk on the streets of Albion's business district. They had been

the victims of anti-temperance shenanigans. One of the young men was the son of the pastor of the local Methodist Episcopal Church. On Sunday (Mrs. Blakeley's birthday) the pastor was so distraught that he had to leave the pulpit before the services were concluded. Mrs. Blakeley, sitting near the front, stepped to the pulpit to take over the remainder of the service and called other mothers to join her.

Mrs. Blakeley's sons, Charles C. and Moses A. were travelling salesmen. They were so moved by her gesture that they vowed to return to Albion every year to mark their mother's birthday anniversary and to pay tribute to her. In addition, the two brothers made it a practice to urge business associates and those they met on the road to honor their mothers accordingly on the second Sunday of May.

In 1908 a movement to set aside a special day each year to honor mothers nationally was intensified, largely through the efforts of Miss Anna Jarvis, a Philadelphia clubwoman. It was through her campaigning that in 1914 - 37 years after the original observance in Albion - Congress passed a resolution designating the second Sunday

FATHER'S DAY JUNE 16, 2019



Father's Day has become a day to not only honor your father, but all men who act as a father figure. Stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, and adult male friends are all honored on Father's Day.

What Makes a Dad?

God took the strength of a mountain,
 The majesty of a tree,
 The warmth of a summer sun,
 The calm of a quiet sea,
 The generous soul of nature,
 The comforting arm of night,
 The wisdom of the ages,
 The power of the eagle's flight,
 The joy of a morning in spring,
 The faith of a mustard seed,
 The patience of eternity,
 The depth of a family need,
 Then God combined these qualities,
 When there was nothing more to add,
 He knew His masterpiece was complete,
 And so, He called it ... Dad

IN MEMORIUM

We mourn the loss of two more Brothers, Lee Garrigan who passed away on Sunday March 9, 2019



And Joseph M. McGee who passed away on March 20, 2019.



As is customary, St. Brendan's Honor Guard honored our fallen brothers. Members of the Honor Guard were Kerry Williard, Joseph McCarthy, Len Weckel, Tim Dillon, Jim Scott, Robert McHale, John McHale, Joseph George, John Mackey, Hank Mullen, Tim Antosy, James Caherly & Dennis Mulligan. The family were presented with the Memorial Fund gift.

Lee Garrigan was a member of St. Brendan's Division #1 since January 10, 1997 and took his major degree in 1998.

Joe McGee was a member of the Knights of Columbus & Berks County AOH #1. Joe was a Charter member of St. Brendan's Div. #1 Since 1979 and completed his major degrees of the Order in 1990.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Traditionally, the Shamrock is associated with St. Patrick and the Holy Trinity. But did you know that in ancient Ireland it was an everyday food? Based on some reports they used to add shamrocks to their ground meal to make shamrock bread. In ancient Ireland the shamrock was not cultivated. It grew wild, needing no preparation before it was eaten. Before 1680 there was no mention of the shamrock as anything but food. The Shamrock was often confused with watercress and wood sorrel.

The rich diet of milk, herbs, - including shamrocks - butter and oatmeal saved millions of Irish people dying from scurvy. The shamrock is often confused with scurvy grass, which is remarkably similar to the shamrock. The only difference being the shamrock has three leaves and scurvy grass is heart shaped, which spreads across the ground.

It was on St. Patrick's Day in 1858 that the I.R.B. movement was formally launched in a back room in Dublin, when Thomas Clarke Luby and James Stephens, two of the founding members, took the oath of allegiance. The oath read in part: "I ----- do solemnly, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will do my utmost at every risk, while life lasts, to make Ireland an independent republic...."

The purpose of this revolutionary organization was to gain complete separation of Ireland from England by force of arms. The members were called Fenians from the legendary old Irish army known as the Fianna. Although neither popular opinion nor the church supported the revolutionary ideals of the Fenians, the membership of the organization was

estimated at more than 80,000 within ten years of its founding.

The Fenian leaders were: James Stephens, John O'Mahony, John O'Leary, Thomas Clarke Luby, Michael Doheny and Charles Kickham. They were all highly intelligent, idealistic and patriotic and were living in a dark period of Irish History when memories of the great famine were still raw.

A rising was planned for February 1867, but the English knew in advance of the plans. Not for the first time, and Irish patriotic movement had been infiltrated by informers. John Corydon and Pearce Nagle, in the pay of Dublin Castle, kept English fully informed about the plans for an armed struggle....

On the rocky shoreline of Ballykeep Point, Ballymartin, Co. Down is a mysterious footprint said to be that of St. Patrick. It is believed to be made by St. Patrick throwing his sandal toward the sea out of frustration because when he reached the Mountains of Mourne the inhabitants were slow in accepting his ardent teaching that had otherwise spread rapidly throughout Ireland. It is one of the few healing rocks found in Ulster's South Down area. It is said that anyone suffering from warts should visit the stone and wash their hands on three consecutive days making the sign of the cross over the infected area....

MEETINGS

All meetings of St. Brendan's Division #1 are held on the second Friday of each month at the Reading Sokol's 411 Crestmont St. Reading at 7:30pm Sharp

FACEBOOK

All members are advised that St. Brendan's Division #1 is also listed on [Facebook@aoh.stbrendan's](https://www.facebook.com/aoh.stbrendan's). In addition, we still maintain our website www.berkscoaoh.com.

An Irish American Angel in America's West

By Mike McCormack



Nellie Cashman

There were many Irish women among the settlers of the American West, and one of the best known in her time was a lady from County Cork named Ellen Cashman. Ellen came to America, like so many others, fleeing the effects of the Great Hunger. She arrived in Boston in 1850 with her mother, Fanny, at the tender age of five where she grew up caring for a younger sister. An ambitious young lady, she

worked as a bellhop in a well-known Boston hotel when she decided to follow the call of the American West with the idea of making her fortune. She moved to San Francisco and soon found employment as a cook at various mining camps. By 1872, she'd saved enough money to open a miner's boarding house in Nevada. In this male-dominated arena, she relied on her courage, faith and a formidable pride in her Irish roots to survive. It wasn't long before she was headed for a gold-strike in British Columbia along with 200 Nevada miners. Described as *Pretty as a Victorian cameo and, when necessary, tougher than two-penny nails*, the extraordinary Nellie Cashman wandered frontier mining camps of the 1800s seeking gold, silver and a way to help others.

A devout Catholic, she set up a boarding house for miners, asking for donations to the Sisters of St. Anne in British Columbia in return for the services available at her boarding house. On a trip to Victoria to deliver \$500.00 to the nuns, she heard of 26 miners trapped by a snowstorm in the Cassiar mountains who were suffering from scurvy. Nellie immediately organized an expedition with six men and collected food and medicines and set off to rescue them. Conditions in the Mountains were so dangerous at the time that the Canadian Army considered it a foolish venture and sent troops to bring her back. They found her on the ice of the Stikine River, cooking her evening meal. She offered the troopers some tea and convinced them that she would not head back without rescuing the men. After 77 days of trekking through stormy weather, she and her team, pulling 150,000 pounds of food often through 10 feet of snow, found the sick men, but instead of the 26 reported, there were 75. She nursed them all back to health with a vitamin C diet and endeared herself to the entire mining community earning the first of her many titles, *Angel of the Cassiar*. However, when the gold strike petered out, she bid farewell and headed south for the big silver strike in Tucson, Arizona.

Nellie arrived in Tucson on October 10, 1878. It was a growing town where Nellie hoped to prosper and she bought, worked and sold mining claims, boarding houses, restaurants and mercantile shops, each one adding to her climb up the ladder to financial security. In June 1879, just after opening Delmonico's restaurant and advertising 'the best meals in town,' a silver strike in Tombstone turned her head. Here was a town growing faster than Tucson. Retaining ownership in the Delmonico, Nellie headed for Tombstone. There, she opened a shoe store, then a general store and, a year, later she was back in the food business with Tombstone's Russ House Restaurant. Among her customers were her fellow Irish-American citizens like the McLowery gang, the Clantons, and the Earps. Local legend notes that a client once complained about Nellie's cooking and Doc Holiday, sitting nearby, drew his pistol and asked the man what he'd said. Looking down the barrel of Doc's gun, the man said, *Best food I ever et*.

Nellie decided that since Tombstone was known as the most lawless town in the west, it needed a dose of religion. She befriended John Clum, editor of the Tombstone Epitaph and he helped her champion the construction of a Catholic Church and Hospital. In the meantime, she persuaded the owners of the Crystal Palace Saloon to allow Mass to be held there every Sunday. During the week, she walked the dusty streets of Tombstone soliciting donations from gamblers, miners, prostitutes, badmen, lawmen and average citizens. She added her own sizeable contribution and on November 28, 1880, a Catholic Mass was first held at the new Sacred Heart Church; construction of a hospital soon followed. Nellie's organizing ability wasn't limited to Church and Hospital either. Noting that almost 600 of Tombstone's residents were native Irish, Nellie organized that town's first St. Patrick's Day celebration. It was a grand Ball held on March 17, 1881.

Nellie is remembered today by historians as the *Angel of Tombstone*, *Angel of the Cassair*, and *Saint of the Sourdoughs*, but her contributions were far from over. Having brought civility to 'The town too mean to die,' Nellie moved on to Bisbee, Arizona where she leased the Bisbee Hotel and prospected a while. She followed the lure of precious metal to towns in Wyoming, Montana, and New Mexico. Wherever she went, her fame preceded her, and everywhere she went she provided financial assistance to Catholic Churches and hospitals.

In 1898, she pulled up stakes again and headed back to British Columbia, Alaska, and the Yukon. St. Joseph's hospital in Victoria, British Columbia; St Mary's hospital in Dawson, Alaska and St Matthews's hospital in Fairbanks, Alaska, all owe their existence in part to Nellie Cashman's fundraising activities. Beside her philanthropic fame, she was an astute businesswoman and a fair miner. There are even stories of her competing in an arctic dog-sled race while in her late sixties. Her last stop was Victoria, British Columbia, where, on January 25, 1925, she died of pneumonia. She lies in a plot with the Sisters of St Ann, overlooking Ross Bay. When asked by a reporter why she never married she said: *Why child, I haven't had time. Men are a nuisance anyhow, now aren't they? They're just boys grown up*.

Today, the Sacred Heart Church, built in 1880, still stands at the corner of Fifth and Safford Streets in Tombstone Arizona and the Nellie Cashman Restaurant stands nearby behind the adobe walls of her original Russ House. A remarkable woman, she is just one more of the many links between Ireland and the American west of which we are so proud. On March 15, 2006, Nellie Cashman was inducted into the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame.

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I Am the Flag of the Of America



I am the flag of the United States of America.
My name is Old Glory.

I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.
I stand watch in America's halls of justice.
I fly majestically over institutions of learning.
I stand guard with power in the world.
Look up and see me.
I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.
I stand for freedom.
I am confident. I am arrogant. I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners,
My head is a little higher, my colors a little truer.
I bow to no one!
I am recognized all over the world.
I am worshipped, I am saluted.
I am loved, I am revered.
I am respected, And I am feared.

I have fought in every battle of every war
For more then 200 years.
I was flown at Valley Forge,
Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appomattox.
I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France,
In the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome
And the beaches of Normandy, Guam, Okinawa, Korea
and Khe San, Saigon, Vietnam know me.
I was there. I led my troops,
I was dirty, battle worn and tired,
But my soldiers cheered me and I was proud.

I have been burned, torn and trampled
On the streets of countries I have helped set free.
It does not hurt for I am invincible.
I have been soiled upon,
burned, torn and trampled
In the streets of my country.
And, when those whom I've served in battle do it -
It hurts. But I shall overcome for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth
And stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space
From my vantage point on the moon
I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours.
But my finest hours are yet to come.
When I am torn into strips and used as bandages
For my wounded comrades on the battlefield;
When I am flown at half-mast to honor my soldier,
Or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at
the grave of their fallen son or daughter, I am proud.