



Hibernian News



Volume 8 Issue 6

Ireland's "Wild Geese"



June 2007

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*"Twas England bade our Wild Geese go
That small nations might be free.
But their lonely graves are by Suvla's waves
Or the fringe of the gray North Sea."*

How many times have you heard these verses from "The Foggy Dew" and found yourself asking the following questions: who were the "Wild Geese" and what contributions did they render to warrant mention in one of the greatest ballads of the struggle for Irish independence ever written? The answers are simultaneously simple and complex; they also chronicle one of the most colorful and least known chapters of the Irish Diaspora.

The English War of Succession, - alternately referred to as "The Williamite War," the "The Jacobite War" or, in the Irish, "Cogadh an Dá Rí" (The War of the Two Kings) - ended with the defeat of Irish Jacobite forces at the Battle of Aughrim on 12 July 1691. While the battle determined the final fate of the British throne, effectively securing it for William III, the concluding Treaty of Limerick determined the future of those Irishmen who had fought for James II and a Catholic restoration. Negotiated between the commanders of the opposing armies - Godert de Ginkel for the Williamites and Patrick Sarsfield for the Jacobites - the

Treaty of Limerick also gave wings to the "Wild Geese."

Patrick Sarsfield was a professional soldier of considerable experience - a Roman Catholic of Norman-Irish ancestry - who, in July 1691, had been promoted by James II to Commander-In-Chief of all Jacobite forces in Ireland. After the defeat at Aughrim, Sarsfield led the remainder of the Jacobite Army to Limerick and invested the city as a means of preserving the lives of his men and negotiating a favorable peace with the enemy. The Williamite siege of Limerick ultimately failed and de Ginkel was willing to discuss terms. These terms would eventually be known as the "Treaty of Limerick."

The Treaty of Limerick, its provisions and implementation (or, more accurately, the failure to implement it) is a topic for another article. Significant is the arrangement that Sarsfield negotiated for his army. One of Sarsfield's greatest concerns was the fate of the soldiers he had led in battle, as well as the future of their families. Sarsfield was presented with two options, one which would have guaranteed his personal fortune and one which guaranteed the security of his men: he could swear allegiance to William III and the Parliament,

Cont'd next page

"Let Us Do the Cooking" Authentic Irish Breakfast

June 10, 2007

An authentic, delicious Irish breakfast is now being served every second Sunday of the month at an unbelievable price of only \$7.00 p/p!

9:30 AM-12:30 pm

Something for the whole family!!!

The traditional breakfast consists of Eggs, Irish Bacon, Irish Sausages, Home-fried Potatoes, Black & White Puddings and the Grilled Tomato...a must! Children's Breakfasts of Pancakes & Sausage are only \$3.00 each. Juice, coffee and tea included.
(The next Irish Breakfast will be held on September 9th)



A Message from the AOH Division 2 President

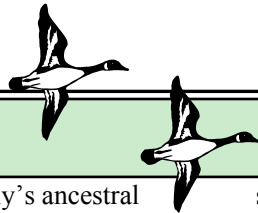
Dear Brothers and Friends

June 2007

"And my glory was I had such friends." W.B. Yeats must of had our group in mind when he said this. Sometimes I watch the friendship within our division and realize that it goes hand in hand with our growth and success. June (Meitheamh in Irish) brings some Irish history with it that definitely influenced the world. On June 5, 1968, Robert Kennedy was assassinated. His death shocked the world as well as Irish Americans. W.B. Yeats (whose quotes have helped with many of my letters) was born in Dublin on June 13, 1865. His writings have been read throughout the world. On June 21, 1877, four of the Molly Maguires were executed for their Irish and labor beliefs. A memorial Mass was celebrated in 1997 in their honor at the jail where they were held. The Mass was attended by their descendants and many AOH members.

With our building raffle (June 23) coming up, we are looking for all the help we can get (Many hands make light work.). Please get any unsold tickets back to us. They will be sold! Our Friday night barbecues have been wonderful and the chefs even better. Come on down and join us for a great evening. We could use a few more cooks too. Come and enjoy the Irish breakfast (June 10). It's our grand finale until next fall. Thanks to all who worked and attended this event! Hope to see you at the June 20th meeting. Happy Father's Day to all the DADS out there. Enjoy it.

God bless all,
Michael Shannon,
President, AOH Div 2



Upcoming Events

(subject to change)

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Jun 10 | Irish Breakfast 9:30—12:30.
\$7.00 adults—\$3.00 kids |
| Jun 10 | Biennial Orange County AOH Convention—Div 1 Hall. 1:30 pm. Members are encouraged to attend. |
| Jun 20 | Monthly Meeting - Hall: 7 pm. Members are encouraged to attend. |
| Jun 20 | Biennial AOH-DJW Meeting. Div. 2 Hall—immediately following the division meeting |
| Jun 23 | 26+6=1 Building Fund Raffle Drawing. Div. 2 Hall |
| Jul 18 | Monthly Meeting - Hall: 7 pm. Members are encouraged to attend. |

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Ireland's "Wild Geese"

(continued from page 1)

thereby retaining ownership of his family's ancestral property in Ulster or he and his army could depart Ireland forever, thereby allowing his men to retain their freedom; Sarsfield, to his immense credit, opted for the latter and thus began the "Flight of the Wild Geese."

Sarsfield sailed from Ireland with approximately 20,000 of his soldiers and their families. Their destination was France, where their former sovereign, James II, held court in exile as a guest of French King Louis XIV. Initially, Sarsfield and his men were assigned to this court in exile, but they were eventually incorporated into the French Army as part of the preexisting "Irish Brigade." While the "Irish Brigade" would be the official name of the unit, they would be forever known to their countrymen and the generations that followed as the "Wild Geese."

The Wild Geese saw their exile as temporary – a means of securing Irish freedom by service in the army of any nation at odds with England. To that end, they sought employment with numerous countries, among them France, Spain, Austria and even Russia. A few years after the Treaty of Limerick and the initial departure of Sarsfield and his followers, the British government enforced a series of measures known as the Penal Laws. These laws served to emasculate any further attempts at a resurgent attempt for a Stuart restoration by seizing the property of Irish Catholics and systematically persecuting them for their religion. Among the multitude of rights and opportunities denied Irish Catholics under the Penal Laws, was the ability to

serve in the British army or navy. As a consequence, Ireland became a recruiting ground for the armies of foreign nations and an immense amount of soldierly talent would find its way overseas; these individuals too, would be added to ever-increasing flocks of Wild Geese. In 1745, the British government finally made the recruiting for foreign armies in Ireland illegal. Roughly 50 years later, the Penal Laws were modified to allow Irish Catholic enlistment in the British armed forces. This effectively ended the nearly 100-year "Flight of the Wild Geese."

Whether out of economic considerations, a thirst for adventure or the desire to bear arms against England in "by proxy fight" for Ireland, there had been a long history of Irish service in foreign armies prior to Patrick Sarsfield and his men. This precedent, however, did not mirror the Wild Geese movement in either scope, or grasp on the Irish imagination; Sarsfield and those who would follow him over the next century were unique. Patrick Sarsfield died in August, 1693 of wounds suffered at the Battle of Landen in Belgian Flanders. At the time of his death, he led a French division against forces commanded by William III. His dying words were reported to have been: "Oh, that this were only for Ireland."

This article was written by **Ronald J. Bashista**, a member of Division 2 with material gathered from various internet sources associated with: Patrick Sarsfield, the Wild Geese, the Treaty of Limerick and the Penal Laws.

Thanks and More Thanks!

A Very Special Thanks to all the helpers who made the Mother's Day Irish Breakfast a huge success: Jim Kane and his son, Devin Kane, Bill Kirnan and his daughter, Sinéad Kirnan, Kevin Cummings and his son, Logan Cummings, Pat Healey, Mike Shannon, and Dave Murphy. What a great day it was for all the deserving Moms!

Special Thanks to Jim and Margaret Kiernan for their donation of delicious bread pudding and Don and Ann McClellan for their great Irish soda bread—you're the best! **More Thanks** to all our Friday night cooks: Pat Healey, Dennis Malone, Jim Kane, John Greehy and Kevin Cummings (more cooks are needed!) **Additional Thanks** to Cathleen Walsh, Ann McClellan, Maryellen Malone, Ann Greehy and Mike Shannon for their delicious salads and Friday night specialties.

Special Thanks to Pat Healey, Dennis Malone, Bill Kirnan, Mike Shannon and John Greehy for all the work they do around the hall. We are **Truly Thankful** to our building raffle supporters and Friday night families. It is people like you that keep the hall going through your support and donations. Finally, a **Big Thanks** to all those who work behind the scenes (so many of you)—your hard work does not go unnoticed. Go raibh maith agaibh—*An Irish Thanks!*

Biennial AOH Orange County Convention

The Biennial AOH County Convention will be held on **Sunday, June 10, 2007** at Division 1 hall in Monroe—1:30 pm. Please call the hall and let President Mike Shannon know if you can attend and act as a delegate representing Division 2.

2007 Building Fund Raffle

The tickets are in the **2007 Building Fund Raffle!** Don't hesitate—contact Pat Healey, Ticket Chairman to get your tickets. This year something new...the drawing and celebration will be held at the Division 2 Hall and surrounding grounds on **Saturday, June 23, 2007**. Donation is \$100 for a chance to win one of 33 great cash prizes. Call Pat for tickets and details at 845-220-7186. **Update!!!** "All 550 tickets for our 26 + 6 = 1 raffle have been dispersed. If you have tickets that are not sold, please return them ASAP. If any one is in need of additional tickets, please contact either John Greehy or Pat Healey. The early-bird drawing was held on May 13th for any tickets that are sold by that date—there were three happy winners and ticket sellers! The fun and prizes continue on June 23rd.

Major Degree Ceremony...Save the Date

A county-wide Major Degree Ceremony conducted by the Tara Court Degree Team is scheduled for **Sunday, September 23, 2007** at Burke Catholic High in Goshen. Any member planning on seeking division or county high office must have their Major degree. Watch your newsletter for additional information.

AOH-DJW Corporation Meeting & Elections

The Biennial AOH—DJW General Membership Meeting & Election of Officers will be held on **Wednesday, June 20, 2007** immediately following the AOH Division 2 monthly meeting. Members in good standing are invited to attend the meeting and to vote for the building corporation officers for 2007—2008. Members interested in running for a building corporation office can be nominated from the floor the night of the meeting. Please make plans to attend.



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