The Monthly Newsletter of the Father John Murphy Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America

THE CROPPY BOY

APRIL 2024



HAPPY EASTER FROM THE FATHER JOHN MURPHY DIVISION

See inside for all the events and goings ons from the Plymouth division of The Ancient Order of Hibernians

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Our full schedule of appearances by the division and events to support our brother Hibernians

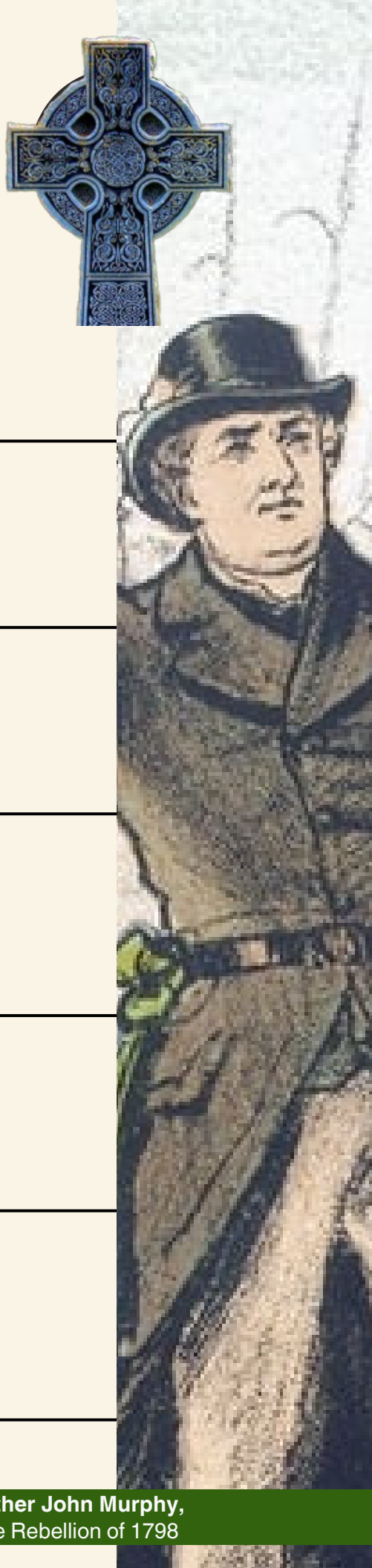
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Father John Murphy,
The Rebellion of 1798

Father John Murphy Division #9
Cordage Commerce Center
36 Cordage Park Circle, Suite 220A
Plymouth, MA 02360

2024 DIVISION 9 OFFICERS

Michael Schilling
President

Michael Faut
Vice President

Thomas McTigue
Financial Secretary

Brendan Burke
Treasurer

John Sullivan
Recording Secretary

James O'Sullivan
Marshall

John Travers
Sentinel

Stephen Cohan
Standing Committee Chairman

NEW MEMBERSHIP

If any current members are aware of fellow Irish Catholics interested in joining the cause of the Ancient Order of Hibernians please invite them to a monthly meeting. New Membership Applications are readily available.

There is strength in numbers and increasing membership is the first step in maximizing our charitable efforts and performing our call to action!

FROM THE OFFICERS' DESK

DUES

Dear Brothers, it is that time of year again. Dues help support the division by paying for per capita to both National and State. As well as help pay for our space that we hold our meetings.

Which have you heard we have moved to Cordage Park?! Come see the new space……and bring your dues along.



RAFFLE

Dear Brothers, with great pride I announce that the 2024 raffle was an absolute success! Our profits from this year were greater than 2023. As usual, thanks to John Travers for coordinating ticket distribution and returns. A big shout out to Steve Cohan, Mike Faut and Ken Cook for working the table at East Bay. And finally, thanks to all who sold those tickets!!!!!!!

calendar of events



4 **General Meeting**
7:00pm, Cordage Commerce Center
Monthly meeting of the Father John Murphy Division

7 **Hibernian Birthday**
Wish a Happy Birthday to Brother Steve Kerr!

21 **2024 Easter Rising Commemoration**
1:00pm, Parish Hall
St. Mary of the Nativity
Scituate, MA

musical calendar

Dates, locations and times where you can find Hibernians or Friends of the Division playing in the Plymouth County area.

BROTHER STEVE KERR

Traditional Sessions

The Snug Pub - Hingham, MA, Mondays 5:30pm
The ICC Pub - Canton, MA , Fridays 7:00pm
Malachy's Saloon - Quincy, MA. Wednesdays 6:00pm

BROTHER DENIS O'GORMAN

Tuesday, April 2nd
Mr. Dooley's - Boston, MA

Friday, April 5th
Donovan's Pub - Holyoke, MA

Saturday, April 6th
Sons of Erin - Westfield, MA

Wednesday, April 17th
Mr. Dooley's - Boston, MA

Sunday, April 21st
Red Rose Pub - Weymouth, MA

Sunday, April 28th
Paddy Barry's - Quincy, MA

WEEKLY TRADITIONAL SESSIONS

THE SNUG PUB

116 North St., Hingham, MA
Mondays, Starting at 5:30pm

MARTINI'S BAR & GRILL (FEATURING STEVE LINDSEY)

50 Court St., Plymouth, MA
First Monday of the Month, 5pm - 8pm

THE TINKER'S SON

707 Main St., Norwell, MA
Wednesdays, 6pm - 9pm

THE COTTAGE BAR

26 Union St., Weymouth, MA
Thursdays, Starting at 6:30pm & Sunday afternoons

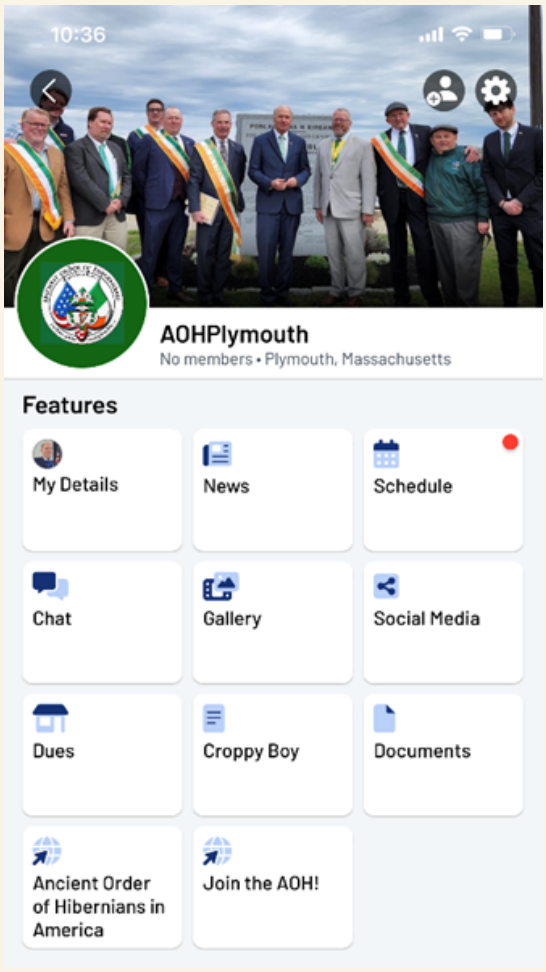
CJ'S BAR & GRILL @ JOHN CARVER INN

225 Summer St., Plymouth, MA
Saturdays, 6pm - 9pm



New Membership App

The Father John Murphy Division is jumping into a new age with an app through the Stack Team App. This App will give you schedules, news and information on all our activities and meetings. In addition the monthly Croppy Boy newsletter will be available on there as well, both current and back issues. The ability to get direct notifications on anything new and chat directly with members and officers. This is also a division promotional tool as in the public will have access to certain items and the rest will only be available to members.



So as you sign in and get yourself up and running you can invite potential members to take a look at what we have going on as well.

If any brothers need help downloading and setting up the new app we will set aside some time at the beginning of the next several monthly meetings to help them get up and running. I hope everyone gets on board as in it will be a great way to constant contact and communication for the division.

Below is the information, as a simpler way I can also text you a direct link to download the app. If any brother wishes to do it that way please text me at 781-706-6209 and I can send it along.

To get the full features of this app please go to the App Store or Google Play and download Stack Team App onto your mobile device, then follow these simple steps:

1. Sign-up to Stack Team App. You'll be sent an e-mail to activate your account.
2. Log-in and search for AOHPlymouth, then request to become a member.

St. Patrick's Day Activities

Another St. Patrick's Day season has come and gone and as usual the Father John Murphy Division was abuzz with activity. Our month started out with the Cape Cod Irish Festival at the Irish Village in Hyannis. We helped recruit and bring awareness of group with State Organizer Dick Wall. From there division members attended the St. Patrick's Day event of Brother Greg Hanley. There we offered our Brother Hibernian support while making connections with local officials and educating them on what we do and events we forthcoming.

From there, on Tuesday March 12th, several division members were invited by Consul General Sighle FitzGerald to attend a community reception for the Taoiseach of Ireland Leo Varadkar. It was a packed evening with many representatives from all of the Irish Organizations in New England. Not only were we given extended the invitation but were seated for the event that a chat with Taoiseach was guaranteed. This gave us the ability to thank the Taoiseach for Ireland's support for the victims of the Troubles and being steadfast in their pursuit of justice.

This all lead to Sunday, March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. Where are division was not only present in the Annual Scituate St. Patrick's Day Parade but also our usual table location at East Bay Grille. With some Brothers doing double duty and attending both events. Both the parade and the raffle were successful events that could not have been done without the support of our members.

Finally, on Tuesday, March 19th, we were able to secure the final approvals for the "Dublin" project with Plymouth Selectboard. I believe they were impressed with our presentation and research to backup our memorial sign project. The final step is to garner the funding for the fabrication of the sign and then to plan the ceremony for its unveiling and commemoration.

This truly was an amazing St. Patrick's Day Season for the Father John Murphy Division! Photos of all our activities are within the following pages.




CELTICS
0




IRELAND
IRISH CATHOLIC FRATERNITY
ARE YOU of IRISH ANCESTRY ?
Celebrate Your Irish Catholic Heritage






DIVISION #9 - PLYMOUTH, MA






Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Bostún
Consulate General of Ireland | Boston












RIVIERA NA HÉIREANN

2024 Easter Rising Commemoration

Sunday, April 21st @ 1:00pm

The Father John Murphy Division will be hosting the 2024 Easter Rising Comemmoration, in conjunction with the South Shore Irish Heritage Trail, at St. Mary of the Nativity Parush Hall on Sunday, April 21st at 1:00pm.

The theme of this year's commemoration is "Women of the War of Independence". We will have a panel of speakers in a fireside chat that will present information and artifacts from this time period and take questions. The fireside chat will be moderated by Catherin Shannon. Artifacts from the *Burns Library* at Boston College will be on display.

After the event we will process to the Easter Rising Monument to place flowers and say a few words before heading to The Hibernian Tavern for a short reception. We hope that as many of our division brothers will be able to attend.

Summer Cape Cod Canal Cruise

The Annual Cape Cod Canal Cruise has been scheduled for Sunday, August 25th. More details will be shared as we get into the summer. As the same as last year, any brothers who would like to donate items for the raffle prizes the division would thoroughly appreciate it. This was a major part of the success of the cruise this past summer.



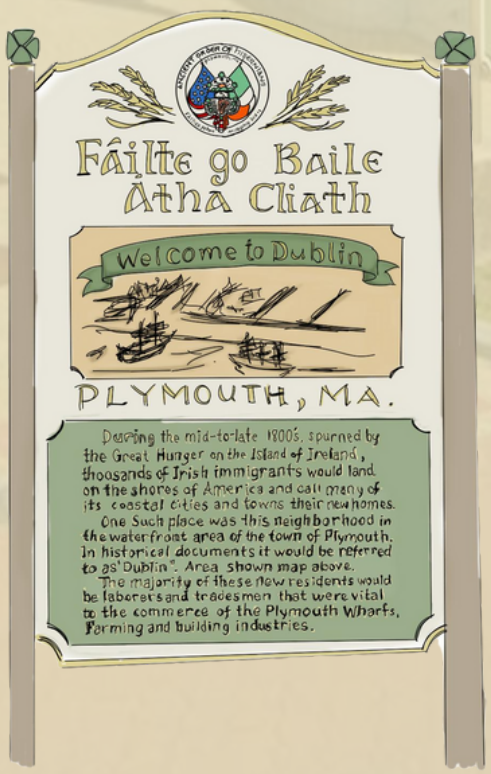
Division 9 Open House
Saturday, June 22nd, 2024

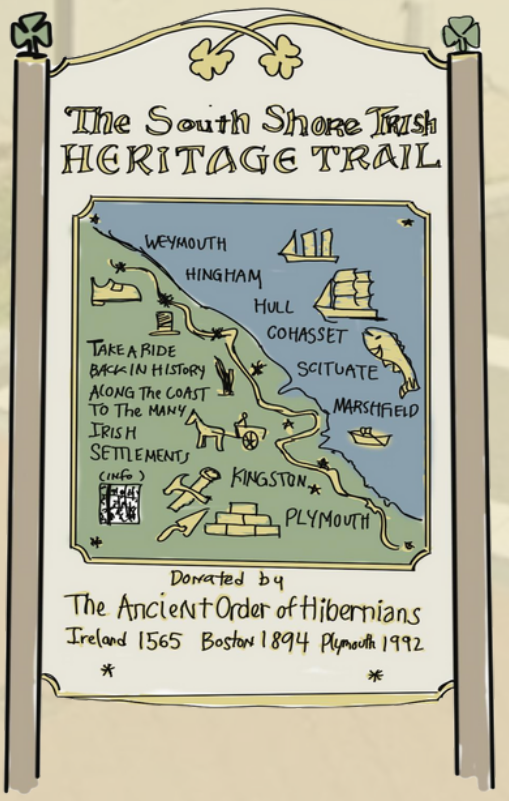
The open house for the new hall and as a membership recruitment event has been scheduled for June 22nd. The Consul General has committed to the date and will be part of the day's events. The committee has been put together and will start working on the planning for the day. Next month more details will be shared along with any requests for additional help by our fellow division members.



"Dublin" memorial project

On Tuesday, March 19th we received final approval from the Plymouth Selectboard to erect the memorial sign to the "Dublin" neighborhood. This area of the Historic Plymouth Waterfront District will be forever commemorated and educate the public about the early immigration of the Irish people to America. Discussion at this month's meeting will be about fundraising avenues and opportunities. If any brothers have any ideas as such please mention them at the April meeting or submit them to President Michael Schilling.





POLITICAL EDUCATION

SIMON HARRIS ON COURSE TO BE IRISH LEADER AFTER PARTY ELECTION

General Staff
www.bbc.com

Simon Harris has been confirmed as the new leader of Irish political party Fine Gael, paving the way for the 37-year-old to become Ireland's youngest taoiseach (prime minister).

Mr Harris, an Irish government minister, was the only candidate to seek the party leadership. He is replacing Leo Varadkar, who announced on Wednesday he was stepping down as party leader and taoiseach. Mr. Harris said becoming Fine Gael leader was "the honour of my life".

He thanked the party and those that elected him for trusting him, adding that he will "repay that trust in hard work".

Mr. Harris later told the members that "this is a moment for Fine Gael to reset, it is a moment for Fine Gael to reconnect".

Mr. Harris is not expected to making any final decisions on his cabinet until the Dáil (Irish parliament) is back on 9 April. Nominations for the Fine Gael leadership closed at 13:00 local time on Sunday.

He was the only candidate for the position at the close of nominations.

Mr. Harris, the Irish further and higher education minister, had a clear run at the top job after other ministers who were viewed as potential competitors ruled themselves out.

Ministers Helen McEntee, Paschal Donohoe and Heather Humphreys were among those to throw their support behind Mr. Harris.

What did Simon Harris say about Sinn Féin?

On Sunday, addressing a party convention after his leadership was confirmed, Mr Harris said "challenges never go away - they just change".

"But they can always be met if we cleave to those fundamental values which have served this nation well - hope, enterprise, equality of opportunity, integrity, security," he added. He said those values mean "everything" to him.

"I believe in public service and the power of politics to make a difference and to make people's lives better," he said.

With a general Irish election due by March 2025, Mr Harris also hit out at Sinn Féin - the party seen as potentially Fine Gael's biggest electoral threat.



"Sinn Féin can't bear to look back over what Fine Gael has achieved since pulling our economy back from the brink," he said. "Always seeking to denigrate our service in government by denying reality."

Possibly the biggest cheer of the speech came after Mr Harris said the party "stands for law and order" and referred to the funeral of convicted police officer killer Pearse McAuley last week.

McAuley was jailed for 14 years for the manslaughter of Det Garda Jerry McCabe in 1996, a crime he committed as a member of the Provisional IRA - during the conflict in Northern Ireland, Sinn Féin were the IRA's political wing.

Mr. Harris added: "In a week where I saw the tricolour of this republic draped over the coffin of a garda killer, I say shame - let's take our flag back."

What did Simon Harris say about Israel and Gaza?

Later, Mr. Harris **followed his predecessor**, Leo Varadkar, in calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.
"Fine Gael stands as a party unafraid to speak truth to power about the catastrophe we are witnessing in Gaza and to voice in no uncertain terms the moral outrage of the Irish people." he said.
"I repeat my calls today for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the immediate release of all hostages, an end to violence in the Middle East and a political process to bring about a two state solution."

Mr. Harris also thanked his family, and paid tribute to his parents, wife Caoimhe and children Saoirse and Cillian.

"My mother used to tell us that success is about liking what you do.

"My parents gave up so much and worked so hard for us and today I thank them for that." he said.

Before Mr. Harris was confirmed as Fine Gael's new leader, deputy leader Simon Coveney said Mr. Harris will provide "new energy, new ideas, new drive and new togetherness" and that he will have the party's full support "to give him the maximum chances of success".

Why was there a leadership contest?

On Wednesday, Leo Varadkar caused shock when he announced he would be stepping down as Fine Gael leader immediately and would resign as taoiseach as soon as his successor was selected.
He said he was resigning for "personal and political reasons" and was "not the best person for the job anymore".

He also denied any "conspiracy theories" over the decision, telling reporters in Brussels there was no ulterior motive or new job on the cards.

Mr. Varadkar's resignation paved the way for a party leadership contest, but as he heads the current coalition government alongside Fianna Fáil and the Green Party in Dublin, his successor is also expected to take over as taoiseach.

Who is Simon Harris?

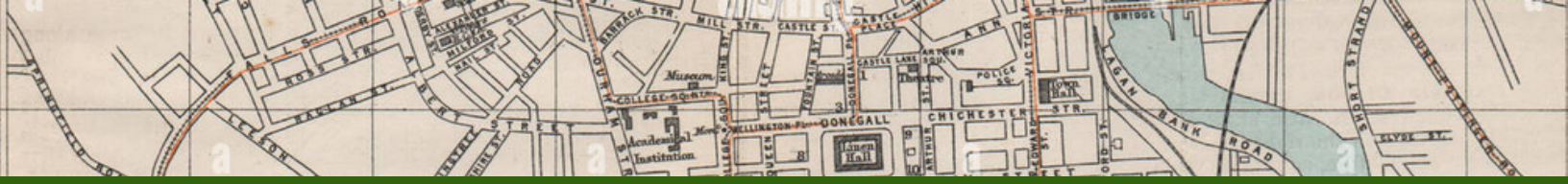
At 37, Mr. Harris is set to make history as Ireland's youngest taoiseach - taking over the top role a year younger than his predecessor did in 2017.

He first entered the Dáil (lower house of Irish parliament) over a decade ago at the age of 24 as TD (MP) for Wicklow.
Mr. Harris has had a rapid rise through the party ranks, landing his first cabinet role, as health minister, five years later in 2016. In this role, he oversaw the Republic of Ireland's vote to overturn its abortion ban and the country's cervical cancer screening scandal.

He also oversaw the initial response to the Covid-19 pandemic, before he was replaced when the new coalition government formed in 2020.

He has since been minister for further and higher education, research, innovation and science, and briefly took on the justice portfolio.





Freedom For All Ireland

Northern Ireland Legacy Act: UK Government moves to appeal Belfast High Court's decision

By Kerry O'Shea
irishcentral.com, March 7th, 2024

The UK Government is launching an appeal after portions of its Northern Ireland Legacy Act were found to be in breach of the ECHR.

"Following consideration of all aspects of the judgment, the UK Government has lodged an application for an appeal with the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal," a UK Government spokesperson told IrishCentral on Thursday.

"We remain committed to implementing the Legacy Act and delivering the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR) to provide better outcomes for victims and survivors of the Troubles by giving them more information about what happened to their loved ones."

The UK Government is launching its appeal after Justice Adrian Colton said in the Belfast High Court on February 28: "I am satisfied that immunity from prosecution provisions under Section 19 of the (Northern Ireland Troubles) Act are in breach of the lead applicant's rights pursuant to Article 2 of the ECHR.

"I am also satisfied that they are in breach of Article 3 of the ECHR.

"There is no evidence that the granting of immunity under the Act will in any way contribute to reconciliation in Northern Ireland. Indeed, the evidence is to the contrary."

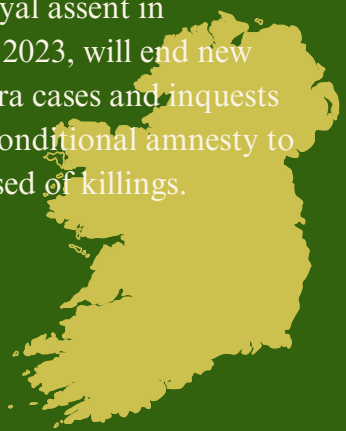
However, Justice Colton, who acknowledged he understands the opposition to the new scheme, also concluded that the ICRIR is capable of carrying out an ECHR-compliant investigation into Troubles-related deaths and offenses.

Responding to the court's ruling, Northern Ireland's Secretary of State Chris Heaton-Harris said: "This is a complex case and is likely to head to further court cases, further action in higher courts.

"I do want to consider this judgment carefully and I want to look at all 200 pages and take the legal advice that he would expect me to take in such circumstances.

"But we do remain committed the Legacy Act, including delivering the ICRIR."

The controversial Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act, which received royal assent in September 2023, will end new Troubles-era cases and inquests and offer conditional amnesty to those accused of killings.



The legislation has the rare distinction of being opposed by all of Northern Ireland's major political parties. It is also opposed by victims and victims groups, the Irish government, US politicians, Irish American groups, UN experts, and the majority of the UK public.

The day after the bill received royal assent, Amnesty International UK said victims had joined together and submitted legal challenges to the Belfast High Court with an urgent hearing requested.
The Belfast High Court received 20 applications challenging various provisions of the Act. After narrowing the number of applications, four applicants (Martina Dillon, John McEvoy, Lynda McManus, and Brigid Hughes) were condensed into one lead case, while applications from Teresa Jordan, Gemma Gilravy, and Patrick Fitzsimmons were also considered.

Meanwhile, the Irish Government announced in December that it is initiating an inter-State case against the UK under the ECHR regarding the legislation, a move which the British Government "profoundly regrets."



The UK Government has lodged an application to appeal last week's decision from the Belfast High Court which found portions of the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 "incompatible" with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

Irish History

The incredible story of the first American ship to bring Famine relief to Ireland

By Niall O'Dowd
irishcentral.com, March 22nd, 2024



An invaluable book, "Voyage of Mercy: The USS Jamestown, the Irish Famine, and the Remarkable Story of America's First Humanitarian Mission" by Stephen Puleo shines a light on the untold story of the first ship that left America and sailed to Ireland laden with food to help the starving Irish during the Famine.

The successful mission of mercy inspired thousands of other Americans to donate and pay for ships to bring food. It was also the first American humanitarian mission to send aid from one country to another.

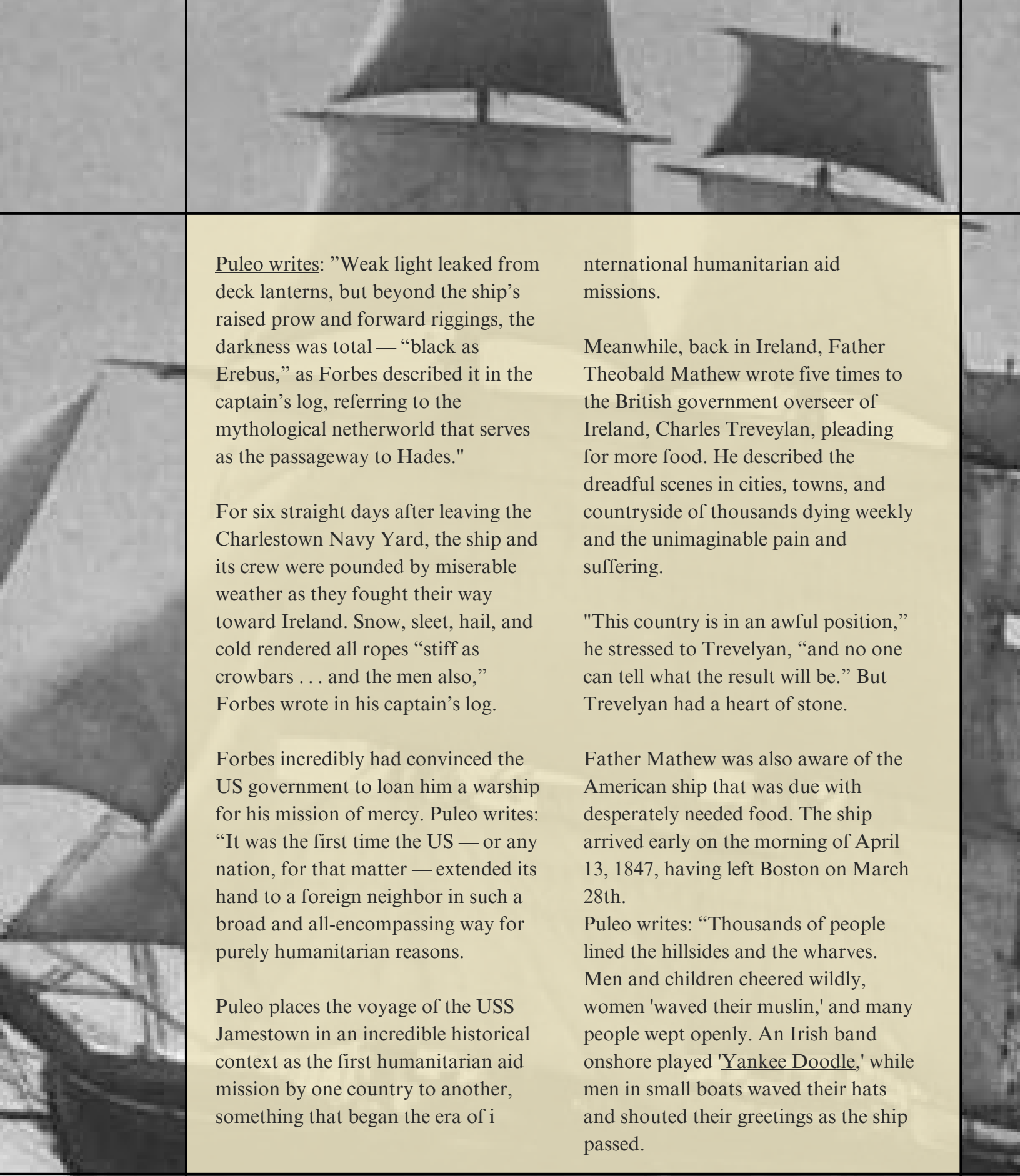
5,000 ships left Ireland during the Famine. The USS Jamestown captained by Robert Bennet Forbes was the first ship to go the other way.

Forbes, a merchant and man of intense compassion, made it his life mission to help the starving Irish after observing so many desperate Irish arrive in Boston.

The book also portrays the amazing work of a Cork-based Irish priest Father Mathew, famous for his work on stopping alcohol abuse, whose role in ministering to and saving thousands of Irish during the famine has never been properly revealed.

The voyage of the USS Jamestown through storm-tossed seas and gale-force winds which battered the sailing ship in April 1847 is vividly described in the book by Stephen Puleo.

Puleo's account of the ship almost foundering is gripping based on the accounts of those who sailed on her.



Puleo writes: ”Weak light leaked from deck lanterns, but beyond the ship’s raised prow and forward riggings, the darkness was total — “black as Erebus,” as Forbes described it in the captain’s log, referring to the mythological netherworld that serves as the passageway to Hades."

For six straight days after leaving the Charlestown Navy Yard, the ship and its crew were pounded by miserable weather as they fought their way toward Ireland. Snow, sleet, hail, and cold rendered all ropes “stiff as crowbars . . . and the men also,” Forbes wrote in his captain’s log.

Forbes incredibly had convinced the US government to loan him a warship for his mission of mercy. Puleo writes: “It was the first time the US — or any nation, for that matter — extended its hand to a foreign neighbor in such a broad and all-encompassing way for purely humanitarian reasons.

Puleo places the voyage of the USS Jamestown in an incredible historical context as the first humanitarian aid mission by one country to another, something that began the era of i nternational humanitarian aid missions.

Meanwhile, back in Ireland, Father Theobald Mathew wrote five times to the British government overseer of Ireland, Charles Treveylan, pleading for more food. He described the dreadful scenes in cities, towns, and countryside of thousands dying weekly and the unimaginable pain and suffering.

"This country is in an awful position,” he stressed to Trevelyan, “and no one can tell what the result will be.” But Trevelyan had a heart of stone.

Father Mathew was also aware of the American ship that was due with desperately needed food. The ship arrived early on the morning of April 13, 1847, having left Boston on March 28th.
Puleo writes: “Thousands of people lined the hillsides and the wharves. Men and children cheered wildly, women 'waved their muslin,' and many people wept openly. An Irish band onshore played 'Yankee Doodle,' while men in small boats waved their hats and shouted their greetings as the ship passed.

""When news reached Cork City that the Jamestown had dropped anchor, bells rang out across the city to welcome it. Forbes and his crew were greeted by a jubilant reception committee 'before the anchor had fairly bitten the soil.'"

When Forbes and Mathew met, they shook hands and embraced outside of the American consul's office.

Puleo writes: "Both men had achieved nearly saint-like status among the poor Irish: Mathew, tending to his flock, sharing his bread and coin, opening his kitchen and bedrooms, praying over the fever-ravaged, risking his own health — his very life — for families he had long known and loved, a gladiator leading a relentless and courageous fight against famine and fever, from altar and alleyways, from hovels and hospitals; Forbes, the benevolent, mysterious, "illustrious" stranger — the "Merchant Prince," one publication called him — a man of accomplishment and high standing in his home country, risking his own life on the high seas for people he did not know. While the rest of the world remained silent or turned its back, while the British government harrumphed and dithered, Mathew and Forbes were doing everything in their power to save Ireland."

Mathew took Forbes through the city and Forbes never forgot the sight. "He had seen poverty and hopelessness in other parts of the world, but nothing like this," Puleo writes, "He had read about the dire situation in Ireland and perhaps imagined the suffering as the Jamestown plowed through the Atlantic waves toward Ireland - but there was simply no way to prepare for what he encountered."

Forbes later wrote: "I saw enough in five minutes to horrify me. Hovels crowded with the sick and dying — some called for water . . . and others for a dying blessing.

"Every street corner is filled with pale, careworn creatures, the weak leading the weaker; women assail you at every turn with famished babies imploring alms."

Back home in America, the Jamestown's celebrated mission opened the floodgates. "The plight of a ravaged foreign country and its desperate people pierced America's hardest hearts and opened its most obdurate minds," says Puleo.

By July 4, 1848, fifteen months after the assistance had begun, Americans had donated more than 9,900 tons of food to sustain Ireland

In 1847, 114 ships from US ports delivered food, clothing, and provisions to starving Ireland. The voyage of the Jamestown, the courage of Forbes and Father Mathew the care and concern for the desperate population will resonate in history and this book has done an incredible job reminding us of a rare bright star that shone in the deep darkness of the time of the Irish famine.

Good & Welfare

Division 9 Scrapbook

From all the items that have turned up in the moving of the hall we have decided to create a division scrapbook. We are looking for a volunteer to put this together. Anyone interested please let Mike Schilling know at the next meeting.

PRAYERS FOR.....

Brother Dan Reidy
Brother Francis O'Brien
Marian from Manchester

Please email any other requests for prayers to AOHPlymouth@gmail.com or at the next General Meeting



Gaeltacht Corner

Initial

English - Goodbye

Irish - slán

literal translation is "safe"

Reply

English - Goodbye

Irish - slán abhaile

literal translation is "safe home"

"boolavogue"

At Boolavogue as the sun was setting o'er the bright May meadows of Shelmalier
A rebel band set the heather blazing and brought the neighbors from far and near
Then Father Murphy from old Kilcormac spurred up the rock with a warning cry
"Arm, arm," he cried, "For I've come to lead you, for Ireland's freedom we'll fight or die."

He led us on against the coming soldiers and the cowardly yeomen we put to flight
'Twas at the Harrow the boys of Wexford showed Bookey's regiment how men could fight
Look out for hirelings, King George of England, search every kingdom where breathes a slave
For Father Murphy of County Wexford sweeps o'er the land like a mighty wave.

We took Camolin and Enniscorthy and Wexford storming drove out our foes
'Twas at Slieve Coilte our pikes were reeking with the crimson blood of the beaten yeos
At Tubberneery and Ballyellis full many a Hessian lay in his gore
Oh, Father Murphy, had aid come over, the Green Flag floated from shore to shore.

At Vinegar Hill o'er the River Slaney our heroes vainly stood back to back
And the yeos of Tullow took Father Murphy and burned his body upon the rack
God grant you glory brave Father Murphy and open heaven to all your men
The cause that called you may call tomorrow in another fight for the Green again.

Father John Murphy was the parish priest in Boolavogue, a small town in County Wexford in Ireland, who led his parishioners in battle during the 1798 uprising. For his participation, Father Murphy was tortured, flogged, decapitated, burned, and ultimately, had his head put on a stake to warn his countrymen against further rebellion. The song "Boolavogue" was written in his honor in 1898 by Patrick Joseph McCall, who set the lyrics to an ancient Irish air called "Eochaill."