

THE CROPPY BOY

JANUARY 2025



**THE FATHER JOHN MURPHY DIVISION
WISHES ALL ITS MEMBERS A HAPPY
NEW YEAR!!!!**

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



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2025 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

The January meeting is our first of our quarterly Saturday meetings. It is a great opportunity to bring along prospective members to either join the division or bring them after the meeting to see the hall and meet some of the brother Hibernians.

We look forward to meet any of those a brother deems worthy of the order.

FROM THE OFFICERS' DESK

DUES

Dear Brothers, it is that time of year again. Starting in the January meeting Brother Tom McTigue will be accepting dues payments for the 2025 Calendar year.

Payment can be made via cash or check or via Venmo with a \$2 processing fee.



NEW YEAR

At the January meeting will we cover the year we have had and look forward to 2025. Expanding our events and our exposure to the public and what we offer.

We look forward to see what the new year brings!

calendar of events & important dates

JANUARY

2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 	31	

4

General Meeting

11:00am, Cordage Commerce Center
Monthly meeting of the Father John
Murphy Division

18

David Tereshchuk Book Tour Event

2pm - 4pm
From Bloody Sunday to Other Global Upheavals
Hosted by the Father John Murphy Division

30

53rd Anniversary of Bloody Sunday

The Father John Murphy Division wishes it's
members and their families a blessed
Christmas!

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

WEEKLY TRADITIONAL SESSIONS

THE SNUG PUB

116 North St., Hingham, MA

Mondays, Starting at 5:30pm

DILLON'S LOCAL (FEATURING STEVE LINDSEY)

21 S. Park Ave., Plymouth, MA

Third Monday of the Month, 5pm - 8pm

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

THE AULD TRIANGLE - WEEKLY IRISH MUSIC

42 Main St., Hyannis, MA

Saturdays, 7pm - 10m

CJ'S BAR & GRILL @ JOHN CARVER INN

225 Summer St., Plymouth, MA

Saturdays, 6pm - 9pm



2024 FATHER JOHN MURPHY DIVISION CHRISTMAS DINNER

This year's Christmas Celebration Dinner was well attended, and everyone had a great time. The food and setting were great as usual courtesy of the East Bay Grille. We were honored to have in attendance Professor Catherine Shannon as a guest of the division as well as Miss Erin Quinn, the 2024 Dr. Bill & Rita O'Connell Scholarship winner. She was accompanied by her Mother and Sister for the dinner celebration.

Scholarship Committee Chair Brother Tom McTigue and Division President Brother Mike Schilling presented Erin with a certificate of award for her scholarship. Tom McTigue read the winning essay that Erin submitted about John Hume.

Erin is currently a Freshman at Auburn University studying Marketing. We wish her the best and continued success into her collegiate career.



january aoh state board meeting

The Father John Murphy Division is going to have the privilege to host this quarters State Board Meeting. It has been quite a few years since we have done this and we extended the offer to host a State Board Meeting. With our new space at Cordage Park it has shown to be a great space to host events.

We have scheduled to host the State Board Meeting at 10am on Saturday, January 18th. This is the same day as we are holding our David Tereshchuk Book Tour event. That event will be starting at 2pm, so that will give time between the State Board Meeting and the afternoon event to coordinate and mobilize for what we hope will be a well attended event. This will also give some other divisions the opportunity to attend as well.

Anyone who is able to help with the State Board Meeting and to help with the Book Tour event please reach out to President Mike Schilling at his email address at:

Michael.K.Schilling@gmail.com

ffaí christmas appeal

At the December meeting the division voted to make a donation of \$250 to the National Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal. These donations collected by the National AOH are then put together and in turn donated to very well deserving entities in Northern Ireland. They are a very eclectic group of organizations and groups whose goal is to unite across the border and educate. Several of the groups that have benefited through the AOH's works are:

Bloody Sunday Trust: Operates the Museum of Free Derry and aids Bloody Sunday campaign

Bogside Artists: do political murals in Derry's Bogside

Ballymurphy Massacre Campaign: campaigns for justice for the victims of the Ballymurphy Massacre

Duchas Oriall: Armagh/Dundalk-Promoting cross-border and heritage projects in South Armagh-North Louth.

Holy Cross Ardoyne Trust in North Belfast: Cross-community Centre on Crumlin Road. Support enables the group to continue the essential cross-community work, reconciliation and the improvement of community relations within North Belfast through the Houben Centre Development Project.

upcoming event - january 18th 2pm



Tereshchuk and Mullan return to the scene of Derry's Bloody Sunday massacre.

Join author **DAVID TERESHCHUK** and noted Irish activist and journalist **DON MULLAN** for a conversation:

FROM BLOODY SUNDAY TO OTHER GLOBAL UPHEAVALS

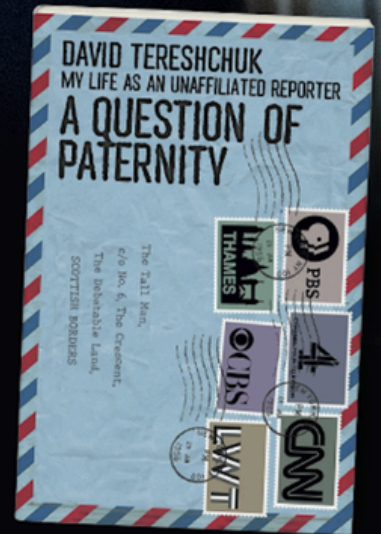
TO MARK PUBLICATION OF TERESHCHUK'S MEMOIR: *A QUESTION OF PATERNITY*

2:00 PM | SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH

**PLYMOUTH
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERIANS**

HISTORIC CORDAGE PARK
36 CORDAGE PARK CIRCLE
PLYMOUTH, MA

FREE ADMISSION | BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

REGISTRATION FOR THE EVENT CAN BE MADE THROUGH
EVENTBRITE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR EMAILING THE
PLYMOUTH ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS AT
AOHPLYMOUTH@GMAIL.COM



brig st. john commemorative pin

Dear Brothers, below are the photos of the commemorative pin that has been created in conjunction with Connemara Marble. They were delivered last week and sales have officially begun. We have sent emails out to anyone who had registered for the event to let them know they are available for purchase. We will have them available at this week's meeting for any brothers who wish to purchase one. The sale price is \$35/each and all proceeds are going to the cost of running this year's event. Please share this with anyone you know who is interested in this limited edition piece of history. If we can sell (2) orders of pins it will cover all costs.

If you are not able to attend the meeting you can contact President Mike Schilling by replying to the division email or call/text him at 781-706-6209.



national irish famine way walk 2024!

The Father John Murphy Division is putting together a fundraising event for our Hibernian Hunger project of 2025. A group of division members, friends of the division, and family members will walk the *National Famine Way* at the end of May 2025. The National Famine Way is a 100 mile walk that starts in Roscommon and ends in Dublin. The walk will be over the course of 6 days. The National Famine Way represents the walk that was undertaken by 1490 men, women and children who were evicted from their homes in Strokestown in 1849 and walked to Dublin to then be put on immigration ships to England with their eventual landing spot in Canada.

We will be raising money through donations via GoFundMe that will be disbursed to charities who deal with hunger and food insecurity. This is to remember one of the darkest times in our history of the Irish people. As a group that commemorates the shipwreck of the brig St. John annually this is very fitting.

The dates for the itinerary are to fly in the morning of Friday, May 23rd and getting transport to Strokestown. The targeted finish date for the walk is Wednesday, May 21st. We will then spend a full day in Dublin on the 29th and then be attending a conference back in Strokestown before flying back to Boston on Sunday, June 1st.





Political Education

Mixed reaction to government's Legacy Act repeal from victims

BBC.com, December 5th, 2024

Some victims' campaigners have said the government's proposals to repeal the controversial Legacy Act do not go far enough.

The act, which was brought in by the Conservative government, offers conditional amnesties and introduced a ban on inquests and civil actions related to the Troubles.

Northern Ireland Secretary Hilary Benn described the act as "completely wrong", after beginning the process to formally repeal it on Wednesday.

Brought in by the Conservative government, the act put a ban on inquests and civil actions related to incidents during the Troubles.

But some campaigners are still calling for the ICRIR - the body set up to investigate Troubles killings - to be scrapped.

It also offered a conditional amnesty to people suspected of Troubles-related crimes in exchange for co-operating with a new information recovery body.

The act was highly contentious in Northern Ireland, facing opposition from victims bodies and the main political parties.

Labour had pledged to repeal it if they won the election.

On Wednesday, Benn told the House of Commons he was laying a "remedial order", which would formally remove the conditional immunity clause from the act and the ban on new civil actions.

Benn said the conditional amnesty was "deeply offensive to many people in Northern Ireland" and that there was "almost universal opposition" to the act.

He told Good Morning Ulster on Thursday that it could not be justified that "there is one part

of the United Kingdom where people are denied their right to bring a civil case or to have an inquest".

However, the government's repeal does not match a pledge made by Sir Keir Starmer, a Sinn Féin MP has said.

John Finucane said it was not "repeal as people understood it when Labour first made that commitment prior to the election".

Finucane said there were concerns with the announcement and that he would be "slow to describe this as repeal in the way in which it was described by Keir Starmer when he spoke in Belfast".

The MP, whose father was shot dead by loyalists in 1989, added that while the ability to reopen civil cases has been reinstated there was a "very staged and deliberately slow process around inquests".





He said Benn's plans to consult on new laws meant that some families "who have been waiting 50 years for an inquest... are hearing that 'there needs to be further delay'."

Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) MP Gregory Campbell said while the move was a step or two forward there was still "an awful long marathon journey ahead of us".

"We want to see more meat on the bones of yesterday's statement," he said, adding there would still be former members of the security forces wondering if they would be investigated "and face the potential of a court case that will probably end up nowhere".

"We are going to have to try and tease out as much information as we can following yesterday's statement," he told Radio Foyle's North West Today programme.

"He has moved on but at a very slow pace and with a very long way to go."

Tánaiste (Irish deputy prime minister) Micheál Martin said he "fully" shares Benn's hope that conversations will continue between the governments and that a way forward will be

will be agreed on which is "underpinned by the principles set out in the Stormont House Agreement".

He noted that the key tests for the Irish government in regards to the reform of the Legacy Act include the "compliance with the European Convention of Human Rights, and the ability to command the confidence of victims and survivors".

Speaking in the Lords, former Ulster Unionist leader Lord Elliott said he had "served in the security forces in Northern Ireland for 18 years and saw some of those people murdered".

"I visited and continue to visit their families. They say to me - for example, the victims of the Enniskillen bomb - 'Where is the public inquiry? Where is the equality for me?'"

"Until the minister and her government get some equality into dealing with the legacy and the victims in Northern Ireland, there will never be agreement or support for that process," he added.

Finucane was also critical of the secretary of state's plan to retain the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR),

a new commission for investigating Troubles killings set up by the Legacy Act, saying it was "permanently tainted and damaged".

He said "cosmetic" changes would not save the ICRIR and a "completely changed" body was required.

Benn said on Wednesday that the ICRIR would be retained and reformed instead of scrapped.

He added that legislation would be brought forward by him in response to recent court judgements to ensure it complied with human rights law.

Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) MP Claire Hanna said that while she welcomed Benn's statement on Wednesday, there were still challenges including making the ICRIR complaint with human rights law.

"Failing to deal with the past properly limits our ability to have a different and shared future," she added.

Chief commissioner of the ICRIR, Sir Declan Morgan, said the focus needed to be kept on the families who have been "shamefully treated in this



in this process”.

He added that the ICIR was "committed" to achieving the "the unvarnished truth for all of the victims".

When asked about getting to all of the necessary information related to cases, he said the ICIR had been given powers from the high court and the court of appeal to retrieve such information.

"We have the power to go into these agencies and take this information ourselves," he told Radio Ulster.

"The first duty that we have is to ensure that information that the government might want to prevent, which is embarrassing, and existing from something that requires to be preserved for national security, that information is disclosed and if it is not disclosed to call it out," he added.

Sir Declan said national security issues are dealt with through court, in civil cases a closed material procedure is used and in public enquiries a ministerial direction procedure is used.

Martina Dillon, whose husband Seamus was shot and killed in 1997 in a loyalist attack in

Dungannon, County Tyrone, said the statement from Benn "is a lot of spin".

"The secretary of state is wrong not to bring back inquests at the first opportunity," she said.

"All I want is the answers I'm entitled to; I deserve the truth."

Mrs Dillon, who was among a group of families who took a legal challenge against the Legacy Act, said that her message to Benn was that "we've waited long enough, everyone entitled to an inquest should have one".

The chief executive of the Wave Trauma Centre North West, Sandra Peake, said the move was "a positive first step".

"It is positive they are going to reinstate inquests and civil actions, that is most important for families going forward, but for many families where they will rest in relation to the ICIR - that really is a fundamental issue we need to get right."

KRW Law, which represents dozens of families bereaved by the Troubles, said it had the "welcome task" of contacting more than 100 clients to inform them that their cases will now continue.

The act was introduced by the government to attempt to "draw a line" under the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

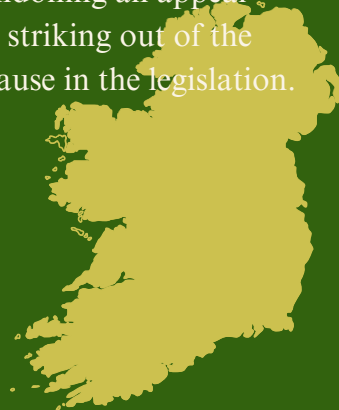
It was first proposed in 2021 by the then prime minister Boris Johnson as a solution to ending what he called "vexatious prosecutions" of former soldiers, and was passed in 2023.

It created a new legacy body known as the ICIR to take over all Troubles-era cases from 1 May 2024, including those on the desk of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

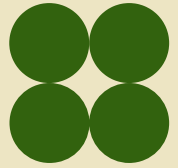
The act shut down all historical inquests and it also offered conditional amnesty to suspects.

A court ruled the conditional immunity part of the act was incompatible with human rights' legislation and the Windsor Framework.

In late July, the Labour government wrote to the Belfast courts abandoning an appeal against the striking out of the amnesty clause in the legislation.



FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND



ISOLDIER F PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO BLOODY SUNDAY MURDERS AHEAD OF TRIAL

By Kerry O'Shea

irishcentral.com, December 6th, 2024

Soldier F has pleaded not guilty to two murders and two attempted murders that occurred on January 30, 1972 - Bloody Sunday - in Derry.

Soldier F, the former British soldier accused of killing Jim Wray, 22, and William McKinney, 26, during Derry's Bloody Sunday in 1972, will face trial next year, Justice Fowler ordered in the Belfast Crown Court today, Friday, December 6.

Soldier F, who is reportedly in his mid-70s, pleaded not guilty to the January 30, 1972 murders of Wray and McKinney on Friday.

He also pleaded not guilty to the attempted murders on Bloody Sunday of five other people.

Soldier F, who cannot be identified, spoke from behind a full-length curtain in court on Friday.

In June, lawyers for Soldier F applied to have the case against their client dismissed ahead of his trial, claiming that there was insufficient evidence.

On Friday, however, Justice Fowler refused the defence application, ruling that statements from the time by two other soldiers provided "a sufficiency of evidence" to continue.

However, Justice Fowler did grant a defence application for anonymity and screening provisions applied to Soldier F to be extended.

According to the PA, Soldier F's defence team had earlier claimed he would be a "prized target" for dissident republicans if his identity were made public.

A date for trial is set to be fixed at a further review hearing on January 24.

"We'll try to get a trial as soon as possible," Justice Fowler said in court on Friday.

"We are very pleased that Soldier F's application was refused and that he will now proceed, rightly, to trial," Mickey McKinney, brother of victim William McKinney, said after the hearing on Friday in a statement issued by Belfast-based law firm Madden & Finucane.

"Soldier F is now one step closer to a sentence of life imprisonment," he continued.

"We are disappointed, however, that the trial judge has granted his application for anonymity and screening.

"It is difficult for us to reconcile the fact that anyone with an interest in the events of Bloody Sunday has been aware of Soldier F's true identity and his appearance for many years.

“We all saw him give evidence in open court for two days in 2003.

“We do not consider that Soldier F truly believes that he is under threat from anyone, and is merely using the cloak of anonymity and screening as a curtain of shame because of his murderous actions in 1972.

“The events of Bloody Sunday took place 53 years ago next month. It is imperative that the court does not tolerate any more delay and that this trial proceeds as a matter of urgency.

“This is a day when we remember all the victims of the British Army in the north of Ireland.”

Chairperson of the Bloody Sunday Trust/Museum of Free Derry Tony Doherty, whose father Patrick Doherty was murdered on Bloody Sunday, was also in court on Friday.

"Long is the road to justice," he said in a post on X afterward.

Colum Eastwood, the former head of the SDLP and MP for Foyle, welcomed Friday's news that Soldier F will face trial.

Soldier F is the only British soldier to face prosecution over the events of Bloody Sunday, January 30, 1972, when British paratroopers opened fire on a peaceful protest organized by

the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association which was protesting the poor treatment of Catholics in Northern Ireland.

13 people were killed on the day, while another person died months later after being shot in the leg.

In March 2019, Northern Ireland's Public Prosecution Service (PPS) announced that Soldier F would be prosecuted for the murders of Jim Wray and William McKinney.

In 2021, however, the PPS dropped the case against Soldier F after a separate trial collapsed against two other former British soldiers.

However, the High Court overruled the decision following a legal challenge from the relatives of Bloody Sunday victims, prompting the PPS to announce in September 2022 that it would recommence proceedings against Soldier F.

In December 2023, District Judge Ted Magill said he didn't "require any more time" and that he was returning Soldier F for trial on all charges.

Irish History

The ancient Irish tradition of hunting the wren on St. Stephen's Day



By Kate Murphy
irishcentral.com



The "hunting the wren" tradition has, to a large degree, disappeared, but the tradition of visiting from house to house on St. Stephen's Day has survived in Ireland.

The public holiday St. Stephen's Day in Ireland may be all about the sales nowadays, but it was traditionally about the wren.

It's often said that Christmas in Ireland lasts not just for Christmas Eve and Christmas, but days into January with special celebrations and observations extending the festive season.

On St. Stephen's Day, the day after Christmas, the wren bird is cheered.

Why? The story goes that during [Penal Times](#), there was once a plot against local soldiers in an Irish village. They were surrounded and were about to be ambushed when a group of wrens pecked on their drums and awakened the soldiers. The plot failed and the wren became known as "The Devil's bird."

On St. Stephens Day (December 26) in Ireland, a procession takes place where a pole with a holly bush is carried from house to house and families dress up in old clothes and with blackened

faces. In olden times, an actual wren would be killed and placed on top of the pole.

This custom has, to a large degree, disappeared, but the tradition of visiting from house to house on St. Stephen's Day has survived and is very much part of Christmas.

Memories of St. Stephen's Day in Ireland

Here are one woman's memories of celebrating the wren on St. Stephen's Day as a child:



We were never ready for them. They always arrived like an invasion from an outside world.

After the excitement of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were over we usually felt breathless and disorientated, what with being up late and getting up early so as not to miss a thing! So, when gangs of boys and young men clattered up the yard early on St Stephen's Day our whole house was caught off guard. Our parents quickly adjusted and flustered about, delighted at the spectacle. However, we children were overawed, shy and even a bit afraid.

The Christmas scene in our house of warm fires, delicious things to eat, new jumpers and caps to wear and stockings full of surprises from Santy seemed to be suddenly jolted as strangers came to our door. These visitors were, of course, the Wren Boys or, as pronounced in rural Co. Limerick, the Ran Boys. They were always male. No girls were part of that tradition.

Their loud and sudden appearance shocked us because we lived up a short road linking the two parts of the parish and, apart from our houseful of

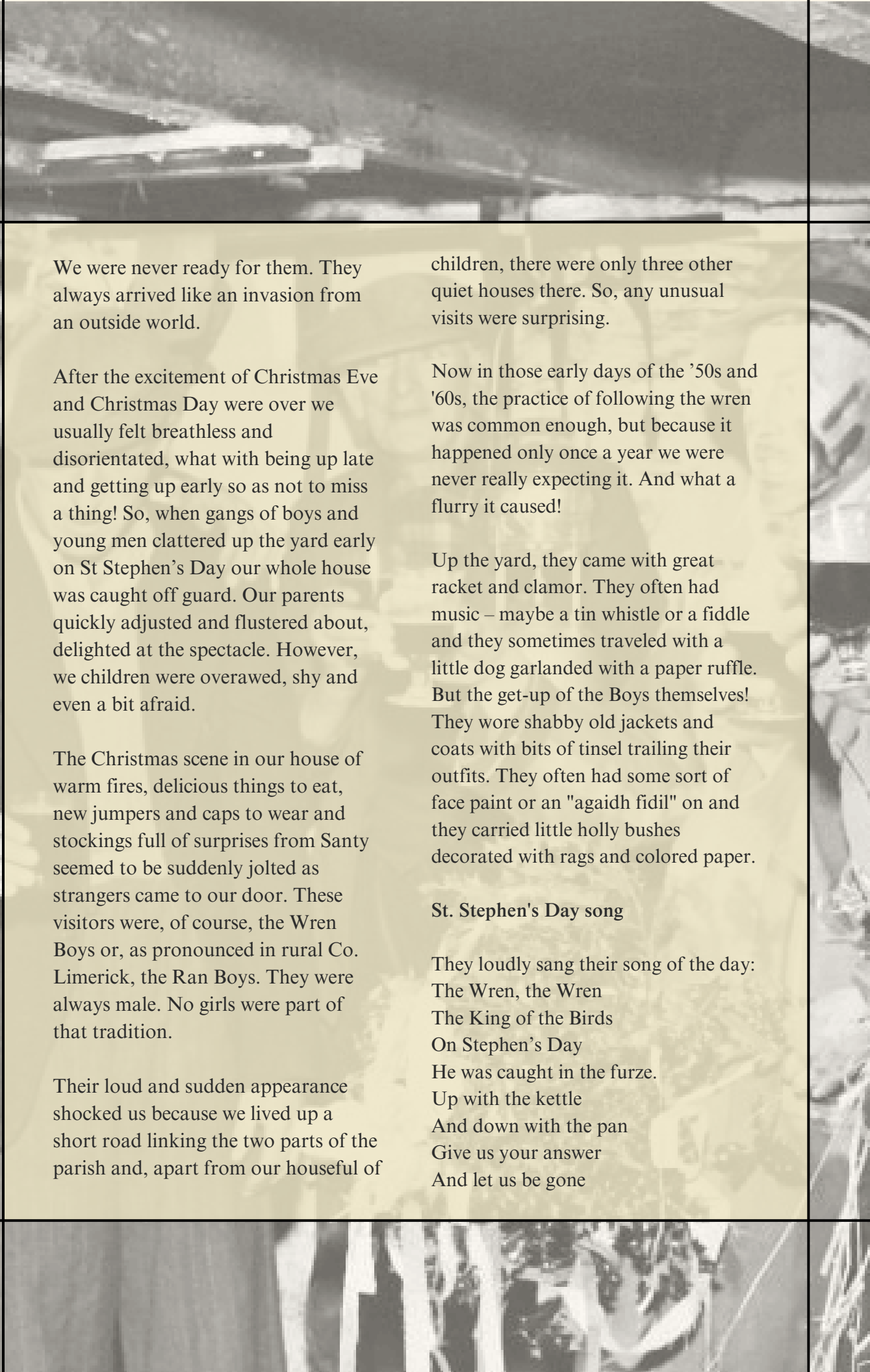
children, there were only three other quiet houses there. So, any unusual visits were surprising.

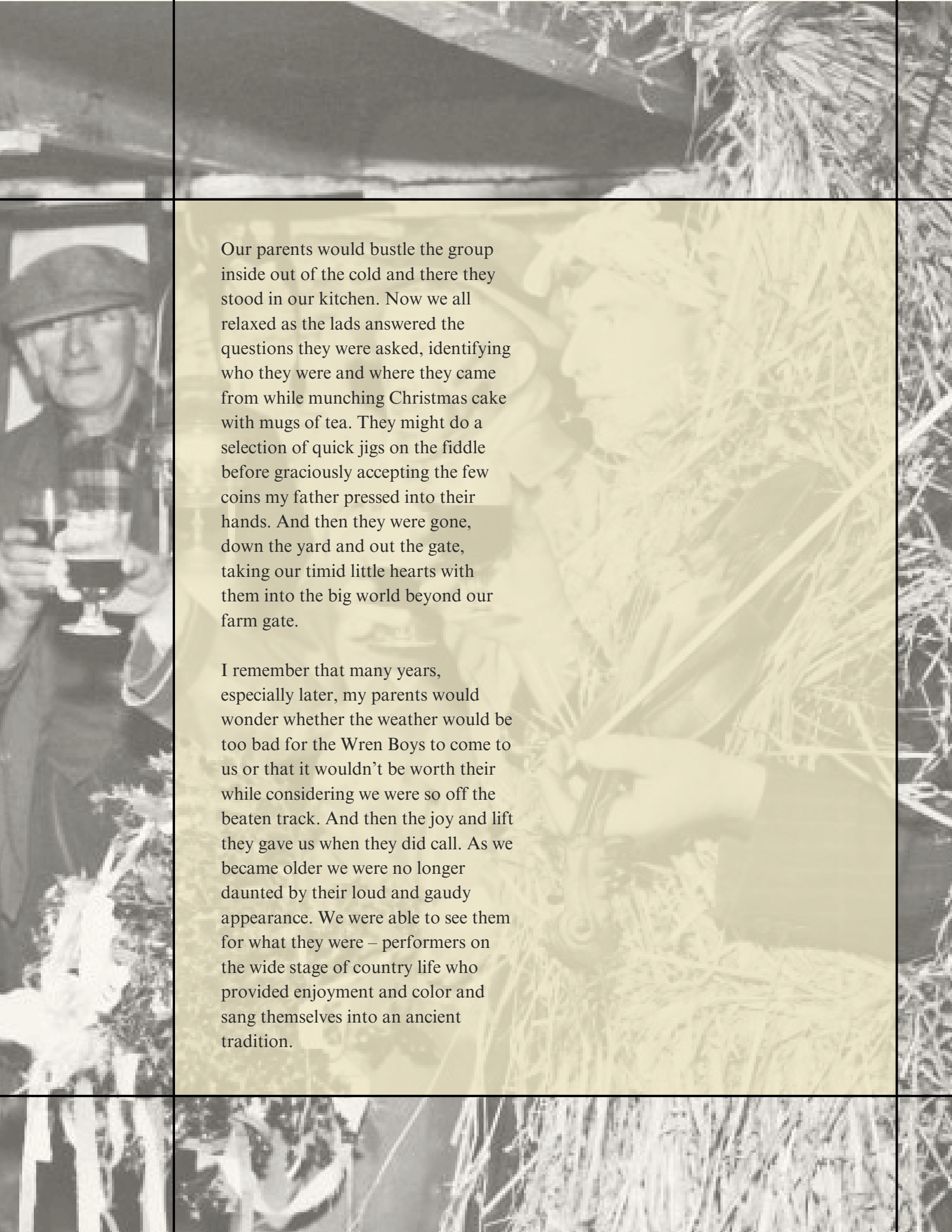
Now in those early days of the '50s and '60s, the practice of following the wren was common enough, but because it happened only once a year we were never really expecting it. And what a flurry it caused!

Up the yard, they came with great racket and clamor. They often had music – maybe a tin whistle or a fiddle and they sometimes traveled with a little dog garlanded with a paper ruffle. But the get-up of the Boys themselves! They wore shabby old jackets and coats with bits of tinsel trailing their outfits. They often had some sort of face paint or an "agaidh fídhil" on and they carried little holly bushes decorated with rags and colored paper.

St. Stephen's Day song

They loudly sang their song of the day:
The Wren, the Wren
The King of the Birds
On Stephen's Day
He was caught in the furze.
Up with the kettle
And down with the pan
Give us your answer
And let us be gone





Our parents would bustle the group inside out of the cold and there they stood in our kitchen. Now we all relaxed as the lads answered the questions they were asked, identifying who they were and where they came from while munching Christmas cake with mugs of tea. They might do a selection of quick jigs on the fiddle before graciously accepting the few coins my father pressed into their hands. And then they were gone, down the yard and out the gate, taking our timid little hearts with them into the big world beyond our farm gate.

I remember that many years, especially later, my parents would wonder whether the weather would be too bad for the Wren Boys to come to us or that it wouldn't be worth their while considering we were so off the beaten track. And then the joy and lift they gave us when they did call. As we became older we were no longer daunted by their loud and gaudy appearance. We were able to see them for what they were – performers on the wide stage of country life who provided enjoyment and color and sang themselves into an ancient tradition.

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.

PRAVERS FOR.....

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



Gaeltacht CORNER

Initial

English - Happy Christmas

Irish - Nollaig Shona duit

'Null-eg hunna gwitch!'

Reply

English - and a Happy New Year!

Irish - agus athbhliain faoi mhaise dhuit!

'ogg-us ah-vlee-on fwee vash-ah gwitch'

"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 "Eochail."

