

# THE CROPPY BOY

JANUARY 2026



## DUBLIN HERITAGE MARKER UNVEILING DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2025

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



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**Father John Murphy,**  
The Rebellion of 1798

## 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

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

### ELECTIONS

It is time for election nominations.....

If any brother Hibernian is interested in taking on officers roles within our division now is the time to make it Known and throw your hat in the ring.

Nominations will be taken in the November meeting with elections taking place in the December meeting.

Thank you



### FFAI DONATIONS

Dear Brothers,

At the January meeting we will be doing final Christmas Appeal collections for the annual FFAI. We are looking to hit the goal of an overall \$1000 donation to the cause. Cash, check or venmo are excepted.

Thank you!

# calendar of events

| 2026 |     | JANUARY |     |     |     |     |                                                                                     |
|------|-----|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SUN  | MON | TUE     | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |                                                                                     |
|      |     |         |     | 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  |                                                                                     |

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## Monthly Meeting

7:00 pm, Hibernian Hall  
136 Cordage Park Circle  
Plymouth, MA

Looking Ahead:  
February.....

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## February Meeting

7:00pm, Hibernian Hall  
36 Cordage Park Circle  
Plymouth, 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

## WEEKLY TRADITIONAL SESSIONS

### THE SNUG PUB

116 North St., Hingham, MA

Mondays, Starting at 5:30pm

### THE TINKER'S SON

707 Main St., Norwell, MA

Wednesdays, 6pm - 9pm

### THE COTTAGE BAR

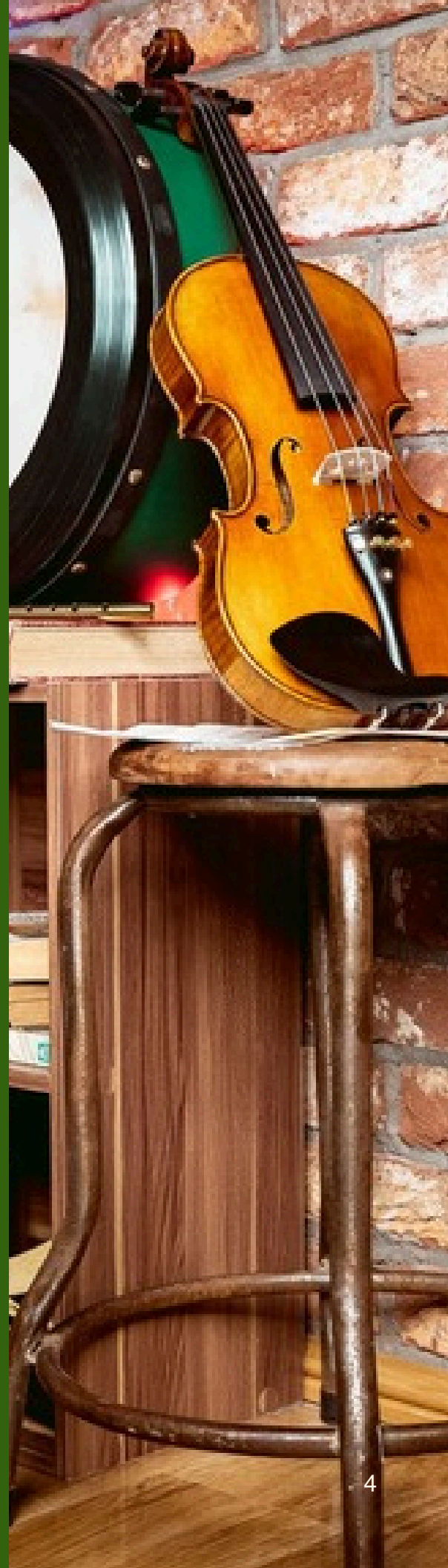
26 Union St., Weymouth, MA

Thursdays, Starting at 6:30pm & Sunday afternoons

### THE AULD TRIANGLE - WEEKLY IRISH MUSIC

42 Main St., Hyannis, MA

Saturdays, 7pm - 10m



# 2025 AOH Food Drive

The Father John Murphy Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians once again demonstrated the true meaning of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity through our 2025 Food Drive. Thanks to the generosity of our members, families, neighbors, and community partners, this year's effort was another resounding success in supporting local families facing food insecurity.

In total, 87 boxes of food were collected and distributed to food pantries and organizations serving those most in need across Plymouth. Donations were delivered to St. Kateri Parish, St. Bonaventure Parish, St. Joseph's Parish, St. Peter's Parish, Christ Church Plymouth, the Plymouth Coalition for the Homeless, and Plymouth County Family Support. These contributions will directly assist individuals and families during a time when the need for support continues to grow.

This annual initiative reflects a proud Hibernian tradition of service, rooted in our mission to care for the most vulnerable among us. At a time when rising costs affect so many households, the willingness of our community to step forward speaks volumes about the compassion and solidarity that define our Division. The Father John Murphy Division extends heartfelt thanks to all who participated—our members who volunteered their time, the parishes and organizations who partnered with us, and every individual who donated. Your generosity ensures that the spirit of the Hibernians lives on not only in words, but in meaningful action.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to answering the call to serve and to building a stronger, more caring community together.



# 2025 AOH Food Drive



# Dublin Heritage Marker Unveiling

On a crisp December morning, members of the Father John Murphy Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, community leaders, historians, and residents gathered at 25 Water Street for the unveiling of the Dublin Heritage Marker, a permanent tribute honoring Plymouth's historic Irish immigrant neighborhood once known as "Dublin."

The marker commemorates the Irish men and women who settled in the area during the mid-19th century, many arriving in the wake of the Great Hunger in Ireland. These families helped shape the social, cultural, and religious life of Plymouth, contributing to its growth while enduring hardship, discrimination, and the challenges of immigrant life in a new land. Their legacy lives on in the streets, parishes, and institutions they built—and now in a marker that ensures their story will not be forgotten.

The unveiling ceremony featured reflections on the historical significance of the Dublin neighborhood, as well as music that honored the immigrant experience. The event was marked by a deep sense of remembrance and pride, acknowledging not only the struggles of those early Irish settlers but also their resilience, faith, and commitment to community.

A deliberate and meaningful element of the marker is its bilingual greeting, "Fáilte go Baile Átha Cliath – Welcome to Dublin." The use of the Irish language recognizes that many of Plymouth's earliest Irish residents were native Irish speakers and underscores the importance of honoring not just a people, but the culture and language they carried with them.

The Dublin Heritage Marker is part of a broader effort by the Father John Murphy Division to preserve and share Irish-American history along the South Shore. It serves as both an educational resource and a place of reflection—inviting residents and visitors alike to engage with an often-overlooked chapter of Plymouth's past.

The Division extends sincere thanks to the Town of Plymouth, our community partners, musicians, historians, and all who attended and supported the project. Most importantly, we honor the memory of the Irish immigrant families whose lives and labor helped lay the foundation of the Plymouth we know today.

Through projects like the Dublin Heritage Marker, the Father John Murphy Division continues its mission to ensure that Irish-American history, heritage, and faith remain visible, respected, and remembered.





# South Shore Irish Road Bowling League

We are excited to share that discussions are underway to establish a South Shore Irish Road Bowling Team, bringing one of Ireland's most unique and spirited sporting traditions to our community. In cooperation with the South Shore Irish Heritage Trail, we have begun the early stages of planning, including the development of bylaws and the framework needed to form both a Plymouth team and additional town teams across the region. Irish road bowling blends skill, fellowship, and heritage, and this initiative represents another meaningful opportunity to celebrate our culture while building camaraderie among members, families, and friends. Anyone interested in joining the Plymouth team—or in helping to organize a team in another South Shore community—is encouraged to reach out. Whether you hope to compete, volunteer, or simply be part of this exciting new endeavor, we look forward to sharing more as the project develops and welcoming all who wish to be involved.



# St. Patrick's Day 2026

The Father John Murphy Division is gearing up for one of our busiest and most exciting times of the year — St. Patrick's Day season! This annual celebration is a cornerstone of our calendar and a wonderful opportunity to proudly share our Irish heritage within the community.

One of our most important traditions, the Annual St. Patrick's Day Raffle, will be returning once again. Raffle tickets will be available very soon, and we encourage all brothers to participate in selling tickets. This fundraiser plays a vital role in supporting our charitable efforts throughout the year, and your involvement is key to its success. We are especially proud to share that this year we are returning to the Cape Cod St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 7th in support of friend of the Division, Desmond Keough. Desmond not only runs this incredible parade but is also the owner of The Auld Triangle Pub in Hyannis, a longtime supporter of Irish culture on the Cape. We look forward to marching once again in solidarity and gratitude for all he does to keep Irish traditions alive in our community.

In addition, we are excited to announce that we will also be returning to the Scituate St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 15th. This parade has become a favorite among our members and is always a fantastic community celebration.

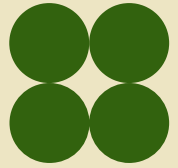
More details regarding parade logistics, raffle information, and any additional St. Patrick's Day season events will be shared at our February meeting, including plans for any activities that are still being finalized.

We look forward to another memorable season filled with camaraderie, tradition, and pride in our Irish heritage. We hope to see all brothers actively involved as we celebrate together!

# POLITICAL EDUCATION

## ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS SLAMS THE SUDDEN SHUTDOWN OF A CRUCIAL IRISH VISA PATH

By Dan Dennehy  
irishcentral.com



The Ancient Order of Hibernians warns that suspending the Diversity Visa Program will effectively end the last legal route for ordinary Irish citizens to move to America.

National Immigration Chair Dan Dennehy issued a stern statement today after the Department of Homeland Security announced an indefinite pause on the lottery system that has served Irish families for decades. He argued that using a recent tragedy to eliminate a program rooted in historic bipartisan support for Ireland is nothing more than political opportunism.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians views the announcement of the indefinite suspension of the Diversity Visa Lottery Program with grave concern. While we mourn the tragic loss of life at Brown University and MIT, we cannot allow tragedy to be exploited to

close one of the last remaining legal pathways for Irish immigration to America.

It should not be lost that the suspect in these murders came to America as a student 25 years ago and was vetted before receiving a Diversity Visa green card in September 2017. Laying the fault of his horrific acts on the Diversity Visa program makes about as much sense as laying it on the maternity hospital where he was born; this is nothing but political opportunism.

AOH National Immigration Chair Dan Dennehy states: “The Diversity Visa Program has its roots in bipartisan Congressional legislation passed in 1990, specifically to address Irish immigration needs caused by historic inequities towards the Irish in US immigration law. It brought together our previous efforts, the Donnelly, Morrison, and Berman visa programs—all

created with Irish immigrants in mind. This program represents more than policy; it embodies the historic bond between Ireland and America.”

The suspension announced by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem effectively eliminates the only remaining avenue for ordinary Irish citizens seeking legal immigration to the United States. We sadly note that, as we approach the 250th anniversary of America's founding document, the Declaration of Independence, its three Irish-born signers would be ineligible to immigrate under current immigration rules.

We respect the need for thorough security vetting (though, again, we ask how effective vetting can be for acts committed nearly a decade later). Indeed, diversity visa applicants already undergo extensive background checks

# POLITICAL EDUCATION

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and must meet education and work experience requirements. The program's security protocols should be strengthened if needed, rather than eliminated.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians urges Congress to pass immigration reform that creates meaningful opportunities for Irish immigration. And we call on all Irish Americans to contact their elected representatives to demand action.

America was built by immigrants, including millions of Irish who came seeking opportunity and freedom. It is time to remove the 19th-century "No Irish Need Apply" sign from 21st-century American Immigration policy.

We will not stand silent while America's door closes to the Irish once again.



# Freedom For All Ireland

## UK Supreme Court delivers major setback to Troubles victims' families

By Ed Neafsey

irishcentral.com, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

A recent Irish Echo article, "Rights Groups Concerned Over Thompson Ruling," highlighted the negative ramifications of the United Kingdom (UK) Supreme Court's decision in the Paul 'Topper' Thompson case. The ruling deals a major setback to families seeking justice for loved ones killed during the Troubles.

Daniel Holder, Director of the Belfast human rights group Committee on the Administration of Justice, said the Court's ruling enables the British government "to conceal the involvement of state agents in killings" during the Troubles.

I concur, and will explain why the case was wrongly decided.

Paul Thompson was shot and killed in 1994 in Belfast. Collusion involving state agents is believed to have played a role in his murder. The Thompson Inquest into his death began

hearing evidence in 2023. It was forced to close on May 1, 2024, before it concluded, due to the statutory deadline enacted in the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act, which shut down 36 Inquests. To date, the full circumstances surrounding Thompson's killing have not been investigated, and no one has been held accountable.

The Supreme Court judgment criticized the Thompson Inquest Coroner's legal analysis and critiqued the rulings of the Northern Ireland (NI) High Court and Court of Appeals, which upheld the coroner's determination to admit certain national security evidence by finding that the balance of competing interests on whether to make the information public or keep it secret came down on the side of disclosure. For added measure, the Supreme Court admonished the Police Service

Northern Ireland (PSNI) Chief Constable for supporting the coroner and transparency.

At issue in the London Court, was a "gist" - i.e., a summary of information in one national security folder - that the coroner ruled was admissible at the Inquest. Hence, the gist would be provided to the family and become public. (The coroner upheld the PII [public interest immunity] national security claim raised by the NI Secretary of State [NISOS] on six other folders. This meant information in those folders remained secret.) The NISOS objected to the





Folder 7 gist because, he said, it was contrary to the government's NCND (neither confirm nor deny) policy on the use of informers or other secret sources of information.

The test to be applied by courts in deciding whether to disclose information when PII has been asserted by the government is set forth in the UK Supreme Court's 1995 Wiley decision. Wiley held that a court must balance the competing public interests of disclosure to further the fair administration of justice with non-disclosure due to the countervailing risk of harm to national security and determine which has greater weight.

The coroner and NI courts found that the gist furthered the due administration of justice into the investigation of Thompson's killing, and its weight favored providing it to the family. The Supreme Court, however, found the coroner did not properly consider all factors required under the Wiley balancing test, and the NI courts erred by failing to recognize this flaw.

In particular, the Supreme Court said it was significant that the coroner did not consider the implication of the NI Troubles

(Legacy and Reconciliation) Act, which ended the Thompson Inquest before it could be completed. The deadline meant no Inquest verdict could be rendered.

In reversing the lower courts, the Supreme Court applied the Wiley test on its own. The Court held the statutory deadline for completing Inquests undercut the effectiveness of the Thompson Inquest to such an extent that the primary public interest surrounding the gist was national security, and this weighed against disclosure. Otherwise, the Court said, the gist would be left "hanging in the air," inviting speculation.

This statement suggests that, in the Supreme Court's view, it is better for the speculation to be about the depth of the wrongdoing. It also reflects serious misjudgment by the Court in how it performed the balancing test in a matter where an individual's murder has gone uninvestigated for more than three decades. Most fair-minded people would say the more the family and the public know about the killing, the better.

How does a court get it so wrong? The answer: by ignoring the societal damage caused by

protecting wrongdoers.

The Thompson case is representative of many other Troubles-legacy murder cases (too many to list here) that have not been properly investigated in compliance with Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). For decades, the Thompson family has hungered for answers, waged a desperate fight for the truth, and held a forlorn hope for justice. They, and others, have been denied answers about how and why a loved one was murdered, prevented from learning the truth about who was involved, and blocked from receiving any form of justice in terms of accountability and/or acknowledgment of wrongdoing.

The coroner, NI courts, and PSNI Chief Constable understood that. In the Thompson case, they appreciated the significant public interest in transparency and disclosure. The Supreme Court chose to reject this assessment of NI's Troubles-legacy reality, and to protect the UK government by ring-fencing allegations of collusion and state involvement in the commission of crimes.



It is not enough for the Supreme Court to recognize, as they did in the final paragraph of the decision, the state's duty under Article 2 of the ECHR to investigate Thompson's death and suggest this obligation can be fulfilled by a statutory public inquiry or, alternatively, by the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR).

First, the two are not equivalent or interchangeable, despite what the NISOS is arguing in the Sean Brown case pending before the Supreme Court. Second, under the British government's proposed Troubles-Legacy replacement bill, national security claims are still grounds for withholding information from the public and the NISOS retains authority to have ICRIR final reports redacted on those grounds.

The stark difference in the approaches between the NI courts and UK Supreme Court on this important issue reminds us that forcing NI's citizens to rely on the Court in London to be the final arbiter of NI Troubles-legacy matters is another reason for people to support a democratically unified island.



# Irish History.



## Irish America 250 kick-off event to honor Cork man who coined 'United States of America'

Irishcentral.com, January 7<sup>th</sup> 2026

Irish America 250, an initiative dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the profound role Irish Americans have played in shaping the US over the past 250 years, will host a national kick-off event in Pennsylvania on Wednesday, January 14.

The kick-off event will pay tribute to Cork native Stephen Moylan, the former aide-de-camp to General George Washington who, according to historians, was the first person to use the phrase "The United States of America." He wrote it in a letter to Washington's private secretary Joseph Reed dated January 2, 1776.

Moylan held numerous roles during the Revolution, including 2nd Quartermaster General, Commander of the Fourth Continental Light Dragoons, and Commander of the Cavalry of the Continental Army.

FRIENDLY SONS & DAUGHTERS  
OF SAINT PATRICK  
ESTABLISHED 1771

IRISH  
America  
250

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES

*Irish America 250 Kick Off*

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2026

6.00 pm: Presentation, Panel Discussion & Reception

The Topper Theatre at The John and Joan Mullen Center for the Performing Arts at Villanova University

*Celebrating the contributions of General Stephen Moylan*

Cork-native, American Revolutionary War hero, the first president of the Society of Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and the first to coin the term "The United States of America"

Complimentary tickets; Advanced registration required by visiting [villanova.eventue](http://villanova.eventue)

The background of the entire page is a stylized American flag, with the stars and stripes visible. The text is overlaid on a light yellow rectangular area.

The kick-off event, co-hosted by the Friendly Sons and Daughters of Saint Patrick, will be held in the Topper Theater at the John and Joan Mullen Center for the Performing Arts at Villanova University.

The kick-off event is one of several being organized by Irish America 250 as part of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in July.

Another tribute to Moylan is set to be hosted in his native Co Cork on January 30, with Taoiseach Micheál Martin among the dignitaries invited to attend.

What is Irish America 250?  
Organizers say IrishAmerica250 is an inclusive, non-partisan, nationwide initiative dedicated to commemorating the enduring legacy of the Irish in America while celebrating the United States' Semiquincentennial in 2026.

The project is made possible through the donation of time, expertise, and resources by the group's directors, who are supporting the mission without compensation. Irish America 250 is an established LLC in

Maryland, and all donations are tax-deductible.

Irish America 250 says it is particularly keen to tell the story of the Ulster Scots, religious dissidents, who fled Northern Ireland in the early 1700s and played a significant role in writing the Declaration of Independence and fighting for the Revolution.

The group is working with Irish community and culture centers all over America to prepare for the 250th Anniversary.

"The Irish were there at the beginning of the birth of the nation," organizers say. "We hope to use this opportunity to pass on our culture and values to the next generation to sustain our democracy."

In recent months, Irish America 250 has engaged with the Irish government, the Northern Ireland Executive, and the America250 Commission to build a collaborative and inclusive commemorative effort. The group said it is consulting historians on both sides of the Atlantic to ensure our narrative is accurate and meaningful.

# 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.....

This area is to share names of the sick and deceased for which Brothers would like the division to keep in their prayers. Please submit via email or at the next meeting.



# Gaeltacht CORNER

## Greeting:

*English* - Happy Halloween

*Irish* - Oíche Shamhna shona duit

/E-hyeh How-nuh Hun-uh Dee-iv'