



July 2009

CONTENTS:

[Irish Paid High Price at Battle of Antietam](#)

[Dane County Chapter News](#)

[Milwaukee President's Message](#)

[50th Anniversary News](#)

[Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Annual Family Best Ball Golf and Dinner Outing](#)

[Color Guard News and Notes](#)

[Milwaukee Shamrock Club Picnic](#)

[Milwaukee Irish Fest](#)

[50th Anniversary Raffle](#)

[Scholarships 2009](#)

[INDEX](#)

Irish Paid High Price At Battle of Antietam

Fellow Irish-Americans:

I am a native of Hagerstown Maryland, and as a child I was infused with a love of American and specifically Civil War history. Brian Witt shares my enthusiasm, and thought a little historical primer on our very own Irish-American Union Brigade at the bloody battle of Antietam, (quite near my boyhood home) might find interest here-in. It fascinates me.

I must credit Mr. Thomas McGrath with authorship of the piece that follows.

The following occurred at Antietam, Maryland in September of 1862, at the bloodiest battle of the entire Civil War. Our Irish brothers paid a high price in blood and valor.

– **Mike O'Leary**

[The Battle of Antietam (also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg, particularly in the South), was fought on September 17, 1862, near Sharpsburg, Maryland and Antietam Creek as part of the Maryland Campaign. It was the first major battle in the American Civil War to take place on Northern soil. It was the bloodiest single-day battle in American history, with about 23,000 casualties.

[The Irish Brigade was an instrumental force in the battle. The formation of an Irish Brigade was authorized by the United States Secretary of War in September 1861, and had originally consisted of the 63rd, the 69th, and the 88th New York Brigade. They were joined by the 116th Pennsylvania Infantry and 28th Massachusetts Infantry joined the Irish brigade, giving it its desired complement of five regiments.

[The significance of an Irish Brigade was a signal to the British that the Irish would be trained as soldiers, many who might return to fight. The most famous leader of the Irish Brigade was Thomas

[SHAMROCK CLUB HOME](#)

[EMERALD REFLECTIONS ONLINE NEWSLETTER](#)

[PHOTO OF THE MONTH](#)

[MILWAUKEE CALENDAR](#)

[WISCONSIN CALENDAR](#)

[MIDWEST CALENDAR](#)

[JOIN CLUB](#)

[MILWAUKEE MARCH ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENTS](#)

[MILWAUKEE CHAPTER](#)

[STATE CHAPTERS](#)

[COLOR GUARD](#)

[GIFT CENTER](#)

[LINKS OF IRISH INTEREST](#)

[VENUES](#)

[Sign My Guestbook](#)



[View My Guestbook](#)



Email:
[Shamrock Club](#)

[Milwaukee
Hurling Club](#)

[Shamrock Club
Upcoming
Milwaukee
Meetings](#)

[Shamrock Club
Retail at Feisiana](#)

[Members'
Doings](#)

[Sunshine Club](#)

[Milwaukee
Calendar of
Events](#)

[Wisconsin
Calendar of
Events](#)

Francis Meagher, an Irish revolutionary who was living in exile in New York City at the outbreak of the Civil War. Meagher was exiled to Australia after revolutionary activity in Ireland, and the British government convicted him of treason and sentenced him to death. His sentence was commuted, and Meagher escaped and made his way to New York, where he practiced law and was a well-known advocate for Irish freedom. This report is one of a series to Meagher from his field commanders.]

Report of Major James Cavanagh, Sixty-ninth New York Infantry, of the battle of Antietam.

GENERAL: Agreeably to request, I herewith transmit to you the following report of our participation in the late battle of the 17th instant:

As you are aware, Lieut. Col. James Kelly had command of our regiment up to the time he was wounded and borne from the field, which I deeply regret happened to so brave an officer, the fight being yet, so far as our regiment was concerned, only a short time in progress. The command thus devolving upon your humble servant, the control of the regiment was in the hands of myself, ably assisted by the adjutant, Lieut. James J. Smith. I may here mention the sorrow I felt, which extended to the whole of my command, when I heard that our acting major, Capt. Felix Duffy, had been mortally wounded in the early part of the engagement. Ably assisted by such of my line officers as had been spared me, we used our best endeavors to maintain our reputation and uphold the prestige of our flag. We remained upon the field in the front line until we had expended the last round of cartridges, and only left it when the fire of the enemy had ceased and the brigade was relieved by that of General Caldwell.

I hardly know in what terms to express my appreciation of our regiment, both officers and men, and in making any particular mention of bravery on the field, I speak of those who actually came under my own observation. Capt. James E. McGee, of Company F, most particularly distinguished himself by his coolness and bravery during the whole engagement, and while in the heat of battle, after his command had been almost entirely decimated, picking up the green flag, the bearer of which had been carried from the field wounded, and bearing its folds aloft throughout the battle. Capt. James Saunders, of Company A, and Capt. Richard Moroney, Company I, I am proud to say, acted most bravely, cheering on their men, and encouraging them throughout the battle. Lieut. Terrance Duffey, of Company G, and First Lieut. John T. Toal, of Company H, I am also happy to say, throughout that trying hour did all that could be expected in rallying their commands, which had become so greatly reduced in numbers. Of the many officers who entered the field, the above whom I have mentioned are all that were left me, the remainder having been either killed or wounded during the engagement.

I cannot forbear mentioning the deep sorrow that has been cast

over our regiment by our great loss in officers and men. Those that were of us, and who are now numbered among the gallant dead, I can speak of as having been good soldiers, and an honor to our race - Capt. Felix Duffy, Lieut. Patrick J. Kelly, Lieut. Charles Williams, and Lieut. John Conway. I feel that our regiment has sustained a great loss, and one the recollection of which will be ever green in my memory. Good soldiers, brave men, I cheerfully recommend for your consideration all of them, who in this fight stood nobly up for their country, and only left the field when borne away wounded. Among them I will mention the brave Captains Shanley and Whitty, both disabled for the second time, and Lieutenants Nagle and Patrick Kearney, who, until wounded, did the regiment good service by their gallant conduct.

Among the non-commissioned officers who particularly distinguished themselves on the field, I take occasion to mention the following as being most worthy of your consideration for promotion to a commission, viz: First Sergts. Murtha Murphy, Company C; Michael Brennan, Company B; Bernard O'Neil, Company C, and Soucoth Mansergh, Company H. Among the privates who also distinguished themselves during the action, I also recommend Patrick O'Neil, of Company C, and John Kelly, of Company -; and of the noncommissioned staff, Sergt. Major Patrick Callahan, who on the field behaved with great gallantry.

In conclusion, I beg to call your attention to the fact that we had with us in the battle some forty-odd new recruits, who, considering all things, behaved well, and were of great assistance to us.

Congratulating you on your many narrow escapes from time to time during that memorable day, I have the honor to be, respectfully, yours,

JAMES CAVANAGH,

Major, Commanding Sixty-ninth Regt. New York State Vols.

INDEX

Dane County Chapter

Thank you to those club members who volunteered for Fitchburg Days and the Madison Feis. One of the Shamrock Club's mottos is service to the community and members try hard to do this. Other opportunities to volunteer will be at Summer Fest for the State Shamrock Club and at Madceltfest in September.

We appreciated having Tess Mulrooney speak on family history research at the April Lunch Bunch. She has volunteered to lead a group of interested members on a tour through the Wisconsin Historical Library. Those members interested will find more

information in the Dane County newsletter. The next Lunch Bunch gathering will be at the Claddagh Irish Pub at Greenway Station, Middleton at 1 p.m. on July 11. We hope to see you there.

The Annual Shamrock Club Picnic was held on June 9th at the shelter at McKee Park at 2930 Chapel Valley Road, Fitchburg. Thanks to all our volunteers and to all who came out for the day.

The election of officers has taken place. A ballot was included in the May newsletter. At this writing results are not known. The committee has done a great job recruiting members who are willing to serve on the board for the next year.

My best wishes are for the future success of the Shamrock Club. I want to encourage members to become involved in their club. I have enjoyed serving as club president for the past year but my priorities are some place else now. I want to thank the officers, board of directors and members for their support.

– Sue Morrison

INDEX

Milwaukee President's Message

This month begins 31 days in the year when we're pretty sure there won't be snow, but know where the shovel is, just in case. I hope you all have great plans for the Fourth of July celebration, and be sure you fly our flag. The parks will be filled with picnics, parades and family activities. Get out and enjoy the day and be proud to be an American citizen. Look for our SCCGPD in parades, and check the schedules to catch a game by our Shamrock Club Hurling Team or the Celtic Soccer Team. This is great family entertainment we are proud to sponsor.

We have our installation dinner set for July 9 at the Knights of Columbus hall. Judge Daniel Konkol has graciously agreed to preside at the swearing-in ceremony. We welcome our new Membership Chair Heather Mujusiak, and new Parliamentarian Tom Mc Aleese to the Board of Directors. Sandy Quinlan continues as our Vice President, Malkin Wallace begins her new duties as our Secretary, John Fisher continues as our Treasurer, Kathy Donovan becomes our Senior Trustee, Mary Culver becomes the Junior Trustee, and Josh Walton begins as a Trustee. Yes, I know I'm the President, and want to be through our 50th anniversary. After next year, I want a new President to be elected to begin the next 50 years. There are some fine candidates to lead us forward, and if you're interested, please do so. I'm still waiting for a Sergeant-of-Arms to be approved by the Board, and want this position to be filled shortly. If you're interested, we can make it

work. Kathy Donovan has offered to do the raffles at the meetings, so put your hand up to be called on. Do start the month out right by attending our installation dinner please. For those new members, there is no general meeting in July, but we resume in August.

Please start buying and selling our 50th anniversary pins and raffle tickets. The money raised will be used to offset expenses for 2010. We're attempting to have wonderful events, and don't want to use up our current resources. See Heather Majusiak for the pins, she'll give them to you on consignment. Be an advocate for the Shamrock Club, and support our going forward in the future. You may want to thank our Parade Director Mike O'Leary for obtaining the trip from Midwest Airlines and the Milwaukee Bucks tickets, and Linda Tuescher for obtaining the beautiful earrings. You may see items in our monthly raffle for the anniversary too, and they were obtained by Allen LaCosse.

I would be remiss if I didn't congratulate the Donovan brothers on their long term marriages. Joe and Catherine marked 65 years in June, and Bob and Gloria marked 60 years in May. One hundred twenty five years of marriage between them is most likely a Shamrock Club family record. Their work for the club has gone on for years, and a big thanks to all of them.

I thought I saw you at the last meeting, that's great, see you at the installation dinner and at the ICHC in August.

– Julie Smith, President

INDEX

50th Anniversary News

The 50th Anniversary Committee has some exciting news. Our dinner-dance in September 2010 will be at the Humphrey Scottish Rite, Van Buren and Wells. We are currently selling our 50th anniversary pins for \$5 each. We will also have a raffle to support the anniversary. The grand prize is two round trip tickets on Midwest Airlines. The drawing is in September.

We are also planning a trip to Ireland in October, 2010. More details will be released as we firm them up.

We will continue to scan your old photos for the 50th anniversary book. Also, we are asking our past Irish honorees, (Marshals, Irishman and Irish Roses), to have your photos taken. Allan Lacosse will be available before and during the general meetings to take your photo. If you do not have one included, we will have a gap in our book.

Our initial run of 50th anniversary pins are about half sold. Stop down to buy one, or call Heather Majusiak at (414) 837-6790 to buy one.

Our next meeting is July 6 at Josh Walton's home. If you have any suggestions, or wish to join the committee, please contact Josh Walton at (414) 443-0446 or [joshwalton1@yahoo.com].

INDEX

Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Annual Family Best Ball Golf and Dinner Outing

Sunday August 23, 2009

Edgewater Golf Club, Grafton

1762 W. Cedar Creek Road
(I-43 north to Hwy 60, west 1.7 miles to 12th Avenue, right 1.4 miles to Cedar Creek Road, left to course)

There will be Door Prizes, a Putting Contest, and other events too numerous to mention.

Golf will begin at 1 p.m. – Carts Included

Cocktail Hour: 4:30 – 5:30 Buffet Dinner: 5:30 – 7:00

AWARDS to be presented during dinner

For information contact Ken Tehan:
Home (414) 762-2723 or Cell (414) 530-4692

[Click here for sign-up sheet in Acrobat format.](#)

INDEX

Color Guard News and Notes

Noel Tylla was unable to complete this month's column. Please stop by at upcoming parades:

- Friday - July 4 - Bailey's Harbor - Bailey's Harbor, WI
- Sunday - July 5 - East Troy 4th of July - East Troy, WI
- Saturday - July 11 - South Shore Water Frolics - Bay View, WI
- Saturday - July 25 - South Milwaukee Heritage Days - South

Milwaukee, WI

- Saturday - August 1 - Sheboygan Brat Days - Sheboygan, WI
- August 13 - 16 - Milwaukee Irish Fest - Milwaukee, WI
- Sunday - September 6 - St. Francis Labor Day Parade - St. Francis, WI
- Monday - September 7 - Highland Games - Waukesha, WI
- Sunday - October - AOH Mass and Spagetti Dinner - St. Rose Church - Milw., WI
- October 16 - 18 - Sister Bay Fall Festival - Sister Bay, WI

[INDEX](#)

Milwaukee Shamrock Club Picnic

A Day of Food, Fun and Frolic

Sacred Heart Church grounds: 49th and Wells Streets

JULY 26, 2009 • noon. til 4 p.m.

- Beverages • Hamburgers • Hot Dogs
 - Veggie Burgers and Sausages
- Please bring a dessert or vegetable tray to pass
- Piping by the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums
 - Dancing by the Glencastle Irish Dancers

For more information, please call (414) 837-6790
Or e-mail Allan Lacosse at [allan66@allanlacosse.com]
Or Heather Majusiak at [heather@kilterheather.com]

[INDEX](#)

Milwaukee Irish Fest

We will need people to staff the sales booth, as well as the Cultural Tent information booth at the 2009 Milwaukee Irish Fest. If you would like to work at the festival in the retail area, please contact Linda Tuescher at [ltuescher@yahoo.com], or (262) 549-7739. If you want to work in the Cultural area, please contact Heather Majusiak at (414) 837-6790 or [heather@kilterheather.com]. We offer four hour shifts.

INDEX

The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin, Inc.

50th Anniversary Raffle

Grand Prize:

2 Round Trip Tickets on Midwest Airlines
(*some restrictions apply*)

Other Prizes Include:

2 Tickets to a Milwaukee Bucks Game
(*some restrictions apply*),

\$100 Cash, and Fado Silver Earrings

Drawing: September 3, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
2133 W. Wisconsin Ave. • Milwaukee, WI 53233

\$2 each, 3 for \$5, 6 for \$10

Lic. No. R0000744A-03519 • Need not be present to win

INDEX

Scholarships 2009

The Shamrock Club Scholarship committee recently met, and awarded four \$500 scholarships in Irish Studies. Recipients are: Marisa Rondinelli of Whitefish Bay; Corinne Conley of Cary, IL; Kathleen Burns of Milwaukee; and Stacy Cannon of Sheboygan. Congratulations to these women. In addition, the Shamrock Club and the AOH Milwaukee chapter awarded a \$500 scholarship to Sean Cavanaugh, of Milwaukee.

There were also four Ted Nestor Druming and Piping Scholarships awarded.

INDEX

Milwaukee Hurling Club

On Sunday, May 17, the MHC kicked off its 14th season, in this, the 125th anniversary year. The Shamrock Club Griffins opened up with a win. Although we lost week two, we rebounded. This is a good season. We have a good team this year. There are a number of rookies, but a good deal of experienced players, as well. I would like to welcome my new co-captain this year, Dave Goelz. Here is the roster for 2009: Zach Alpert; Sean Churchill; Micahel Connolly; Brian Drake; Darren Garry; Dave Goelz; Joel Guinane; Mike Hering; Anna Krajcik; Gavin Mantyh; Kevin Mantyh; Brian Marsolek; Dan McAuliffe; Tim McCaffrey; Drake Resnick; Michael Shapiro-Barr; Michael Stuh; Joel Travis; Todd Witt; and Andrew Wozniak.

Earlier this spring, we took our youth league over to Ireland, where they toured the Cusack Centre in County Clare, went to Croke Park in Dublin, where they played a match on the famed field, and then took in the GAA museum. They also went to Northern Ireland, where they had a chance to hit the sliotar over the mountain where I was the first American to compete in the Poc Fada, the long puck, in 2008. Among the Shamrock Club members who went along were Colleen and Jim McGuigan, Karen Fink, and Pat Minster.

Our July 12 and 19 games will be played at Lincoln Park, due to the US Bank Golf Open. We are then back at Brown Deer for the rest of the season, with the finals on August 23.

- July 12 – 3:30 p.m.
Shamrock Club vs. The Irish Pub
- July 19 – 12:30 p.m.
Packy's vs. Shamrock Club
- July 26 – 2 p.m.
Ale House vs. Shamrock Club
- August 2 – First round of playoffs
- August 9 – Second round of playoffs

– **Dan McAuliffe, Griffins Captain**

INDEX

Upcoming Meetings

The Shamrock Club upcoming meetings will feature the following:

- August 6 – Jane Anderson, Irish Fest director; ICHC.

– **Sandy Quinlan, VP**

INDEX

Shamrock Club Retail at Feisiana

We will have a sales booth at the upcoming Badger State Feis on July 18, and the Cream City Feis on July 19. Both events will take place at the Pettit Ice Center at State Fair Park. If you would like to work, please please contact Linda Tuescher at [ltuescher@yahoo.com], or (262) 549-7739.

INDEX

Members' Doings

Kami Murphy Amann is now doing a summer theater internship in California.

Joseph and Becky Hughes have a new son, Vincent Evans. Grandpa Joe is proud. Holly and Jason Heiden had a baby girl (Chase Franklin Heiden), Grandpa Rich Pfeiffer is equally proud. Jackie Konkol recently received her Masters degree in Ministry at Cardinal Stritch University. She is still working as a cardiac nurse at St. Francis Hospital, and as a nurse instructor at Alverno. Bob and Gloria Donovan celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Following them, Joe and Catherine Donovan celebrated their 65th, thus showing the world that the Donovans have the answer to long marriages.

Julie and Sheila Smith went to San Francisco for the confirmation of Brian, son of T.J. and Patricia. T.J. reciprocated by visiting in June, taking in the Shamrock Club meeting.

Chuck Ward was named the honorary chair of the 2009 American Cancer Society "Relay for Life."

Cynthia Nazario was in New York City and Minneapolis this spring.

INDEX

Sunshine Club

Brian Witt had rotator cuff surgery.

If you have any information about members, please contact me,
Joe Donovan, (414) 259-8040.

[INDEX](#)