

Shorenanigans



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE JERSEY SHORE ORDER OF
THE FRIENDLY SONS OF THE SHILLELAGH

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November 2022

Your President's Message

Shillelagh Brothers,

The holiday season is upon us and is a great time of the year for our club. It is a time of year when our club really steps up to help those in need who are less fortunate. Our generosity in helping others is one of the things so special about our club. We all look forward to our Thanksgiving Food Drive and Christmas Toy Drive events, as well as events at the club where we celebrate together. Please check emails and the newsletter on key dates for our Thanksgiving and Christmas activities.

The Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Jersey Shore, has been named the Humanitarian of the Year Honoree by the Ladacin Network. Congrats to all on this achievement! We share the honor with the best band in the land, The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore. We will be honored in April at the Rosebud Gala at the Sheraton Eatontown.

Congratulations to our new members who were installed at the October meeting! Please look to get involved with a few of our upcoming club events. Participating in volunteer activities for events at the club is the best way to meet your new brothers. We look forward to recognizing and honoring our Shillelagh Veterans on Veterans Day, Friday, November 11th at the club. Please join us for this event at 3PM as we celebrate the service of our Shillelagh Veterans.

On Sunday, November 20th we will have a photoshoot fundraiser in the parking lot at the club from 10AM-12PM. Photos in a holiday setting for families and children will be available with a \$20 donation to Baby Kai Paulus. Kai continues to fight and improve as he awaits a heart transplant.

Dave Jaffe is leading our Thanksgiving Food Drive with key dates for the food drive being turkey deliveries to the club on 11/20 and baskets delivered to those in need on 11/21. John Carr, once again, leads our Christmas Toy Drive with key dates of 12/16 for the Walmart toy purchases and delivery of toys on 12/19. John has partnered with Dream Factory this year and we will be helping an autistic child with cancer take her dream vacation to Hawaii. Thanks to Dave and John for leading these very special events for the club.

Prayers to the family of Rich Carroll, Sr on his passing. Rich was a great man and at 98 our oldest living member. RIP Rich.

Slainte'

Craig



Events Calendar

Friday, November 11th • Veteran's Day

Saturday November 12th • Emilio Jeanette & Son

Saturday November 19th • Acousticrats Band

Monday November 21st • Thanksgiving Card & Basket Deliveries

Monday November 21st • World Cup USA vs Wales

\$1 Miller Nip Night

Wednesday December 7th • Membership Meeting

Saturday December 10th • Vinyl Band

Friday December 16th • Toy Shopping

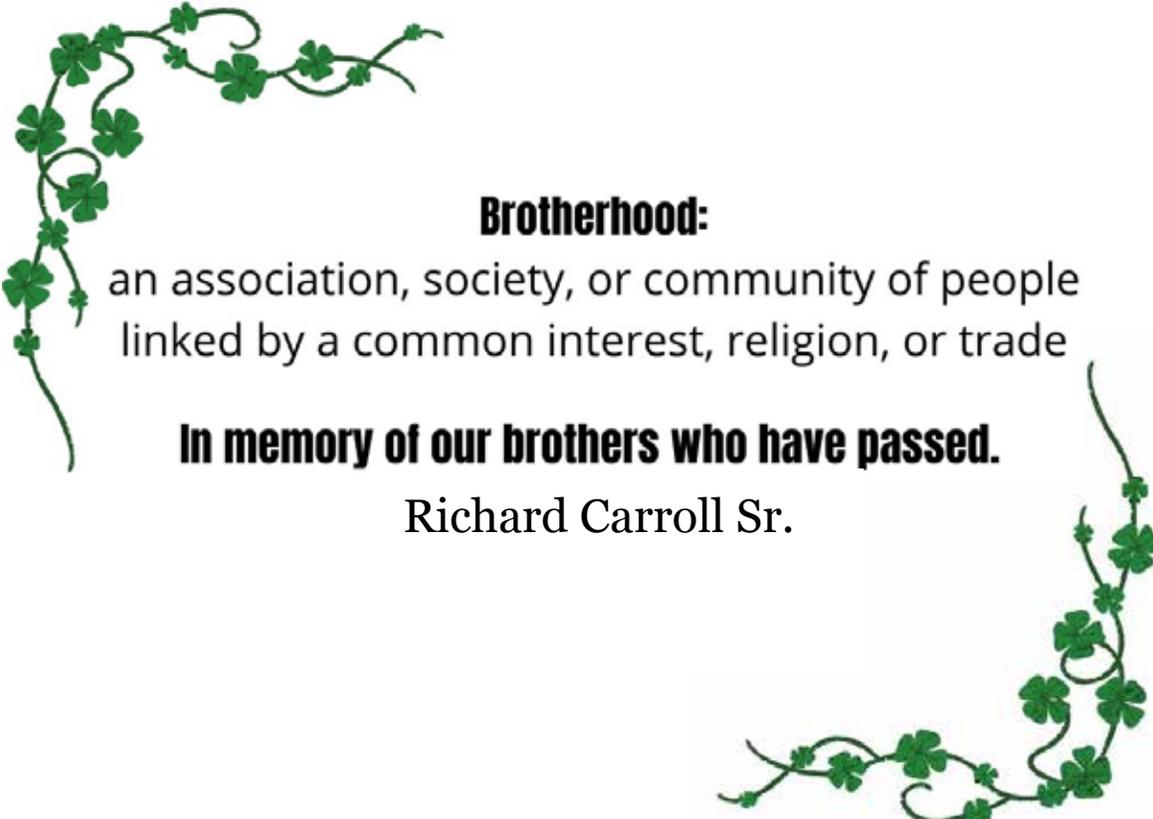
and Bar A Toy Drop w/Holme Band

Saturday December 17th • Kids Christmas Day

and Adult Christmas Party w/Bob Smith

Monday December 19th • Toy Deliveries

Saturday December 31st • Irish New Year's



Brotherhood:

an association, society, or community of people
linked by a common interest, religion, or trade

In memory of our brothers who have passed.

Richard Carroll Sr.

Irish History #98

Brother against Brother, the Hales Family

We met the Hales brothers, Tom and Sean, in a previous chapter. They formed the Ballinadee Irish Volunteer company in 1915. The company became “the best organized, the best equipped, the best armed Company of Volunteers in West Cork.” Although he was 12 years younger than Sean, Tom was the company O/C (commander). The company was prepared to march to Macroom, Co. Cork, and fight for Irish freedom in the Easter Rising. But they stood down after Eoin MacNeil countermanded the Order of the Irish Republican Brotherhood’s (IRB) Military Council, thereby cancelling the scheduled Easter Sunday start of the Rising.

The British conducted mass arrests of Volunteers after the Rising, and the Hales brothers were forced to go on the run. While Tom evaded capture, Sean was arrested 5 weeks later. Sean ended-up in Frongach Internment Camp in Wales, where he became close friends with Michael Collins. He was released along with the other internees at the end of 1916.

Over the next two years, the IRB reorganized the Volunteers. Collins divided Co. Cork into three Brigades. Tom became the West Cork Brigade O/C, until his arrest in 1920 by the British military. Authorities took Tom to Bandon, where he was interrogated by the Essex Regiment’s “torture squad.” The torture squad used “pincers and pliers” to pull out Tom’s hairs and crush his nails. They also beat him. But these coercive techniques were unsuccessful in getting any information from him. Tom was court-martialed and sentenced to prison, where he remained until December 1921 when the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed and a general amnesty was granted to all prisoners. (See Chapter 87).

Sean was O/C of the Bandon Battalion, part of the West Cork Brigade. He and his two younger brothers - William and Robert - served in the Flying Column. They were with Tom Barry in the 1921 Crossbarry ambush that killed 39 British soldiers and collected arms, including a “Lewis gun, rifles and ammunition.” For the Irish Volunteers, who only lost three men, it was a big victory. Among the British troops caught in the ambush were members of the Essex Regiment. The same Regiment whose members had tortured Tom.

Under Barry’s command, Sean led battalion engagements

in Timoleague, Skibbereen, and Castle Bernard. The castle was burned down in response to the burning-down of the Hales family home by crown forces. At the castle, Lord Bandon was taken hostage. He was held as a check on the British use of court-martials to sentence Volunteers to death. Lord Bandon was released about a month later, when a truce was called in the War of Independence. He thanked Sean for the treatment he received while in captivity.

The Hales family involvement in the war was not an all-male effort. The brothers’ sister Madge helped smuggle weapons and carried secret messages to Collins. But the Hales family split on the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Tom, William and Robert rejected it, while Sean and Madge supported it.

Sean was elected to the Irish Dail in the December 1921 general election. He was a pro-Treaty TD. In a speech in the Dail, he expressed his agreement with Collins’ stepping-stone strategy to achieving full Irish freedom and unification. He said: “If I thought that this Treaty which was being signed was to bar our right to freedom if it was to be the finality, I wouldn’t touch it. But I took it that it is to be a jumping off point to attain our alternative ends . . . The only thing is that at the present moment if there was anything like a split it would be more dangerous than anything else . . . I still look upon that Treaty as the best rock from which to jump off for that final accomplishment of the Irish freedom.” He advocated that unity within Sinn Fein/IRA was essential, so that a united Ireland could be achieved.

When the Dail ratified the Treaty in January 1922 by a 64-57 vote, Eamon de Valera resigned as Irish President and led a walk-out of anti-Treaty TD’s. The vote split Sinn Fein and the IRA. Soon, the nation fell into civil war. (See Chapter 88). Anti-Treaty IRA men held an Army Convention in the Mansion House in Dublin. There, they “reaffirmed their allegiance to the Republic, denounced the Treaty, and elected a [temporary] Executive of 16” who would hold “supreme control of the army.” Tom was elected to that Executive.

Tom rejected the Dail’s vote in favor of the Treaty at an anti-Treaty meeting in Bandon in April. The governmental authority he willingly recognized stemmed from the

1919 Dail and Irish War of Independence. In his Bandon address, he said: "It was the people sent them out to fight, and elected a government and gave it a mandate to govern the country. They thereby sent the men who had gone to their graves. Were they going to vote away that independence that they had sent them out to fight for and for which those men died." For him, the answer was an emphatic No. After all, those who took the "Oath of Allegiance to the Dail Eireann 1919" swore to "support and defend the Irish Republic and the Government of the Irish Republic." And the Treaty had not delivered a Republic.

That same month, a second Army Convention was held at the Mansion House to establish a permanent Executive. The Convention also adopted a "Republican Constitution." In the constitution, the army kept "the title of the Irish Republican Army." In unambiguous terms, it also expressed the IRA's goal, which was: "to protect the rights of its citizens and to serve an established Republican government that was wholly loyal to the Republic and its people." (emphasis added).

There was a general election scheduled for June, which would give the Irish people a say on the Treaty. At the Convention, a motion was offered to declare the election illegal and to authorize action "to prevent it from taking place." The motion failed, but it exposed the different positions held by the anti-Treaty group. Some wanted the Irish people to be able to freely express their opinion in a vote, and hoped army reunification was still possible. Tom was part of this group. He understood that many others strongly opposed their position. So, he resigned from the Executive along with two other members. Tom Barry was named as one of their replacements.

Before the election, some pro- and anti-Treaty IRA officers agreed to sign a compromise document that acknowledged three things. First, that the majority of the people "are willing to accept the Treaty;" second, that there should be an election with "a view to forming a government which will have the confidence of a whole nation;" and third, that Army unification would follow on that basis. Signatories of the document included Tom Hales and Michael Collins. The agreement was "denounced" by the new IRA Executive. Collins, nevertheless, remained unwilling to take action against his former comrades.

The document led to the "Collins-de Valera Pact" under which pro- and anti-Treaty Sinn Fein candidates would

be selected to run unopposed in the election. However, what was envisioned did not come to fruition. The IRA Executive rejected the pact, and called the upcoming election illegal. Additionally, Collins pulled out of the pact at the last minute. Pro-Treaty candidates attained a strong victory in the election. Pro-Treaty Sinn Fein candidates won 58 seats; pro-Treaty non-Sinn Fein candidates won 34 seats; and anti-Treaty Sinn Fein candidates won just 36 seats.

Under heavy British pressure to move on the Four Courts, Collins sought the surrender of the anti-Treaty IRA men who were occupying it. When they refused to surrender, Irish Provisional Government forces attacked the Four Courts. "The Civil War had begun." (See Chapter 93). Tom Hales sided with the anti-Treaty forces and became O/C of the IRA's Third West Cork Brigade. Sean Hales became a Brigadier General in the Irish National Army. In a case of brother against brother, Tom and his men evacuated Skibbereen when Sean and the National Army approached. The men under their commands also confronted each other in Kinsale and Bantry. Before the year ended, Tom and Sean would be parties to two momentous events that tragically etched the Hales family name in Irish history.

Tom commanded the guerilla-war operation that resulted in the death of Collins at Beal na mBlath. (See Chapter 95). An officer's cap with blood and human tissue was found at the scene and taken to Tom the next day. He decided to bury the cap in a field. Tom felt sorrowful about Collins' death. After the cap was buried, he "blessed himself . . . with bowed head," and he recalled his last conversation with Collins. Collins said, "we're all Republicans." Hales responded, "Whatever you do, settle this thing." Tom was arrested a few months later. His brothers William and Robert were already in custody. Thus, the anti-Treaty faction of the Hales family were all in jail.

In the fall, the Irish government introduced an "Emergency Powers Bill" that was passed by the Dail. The bill established military courts with special powers "to impose the death penalty on any person who was found carrying weapons or even ammunition." Anti-Treaty republicans called it a "Murder Bill," and IRA Commander Liam Lynch announced that any member of the Dail who had voted for it was "a legitimate target for assassination."

Although Sean was a TD, he had not voted for the bill

because he was absent from the Dail on the day the bill was passed. That fact did not stop Dublin's #1 IRA Brigade from assassinating him. They gunned Sean down in Dublin as he entered a cab outside the Ormond Hotel. Afterward, the Brigade Adjutant reported that Sean had been mistaken for TD Pdraig O'Maille, and that their intention "was only to wound him."

The assassination of TD Sean Hales shocked the Provisional Government. Four anti-Treaty leaders who had been arrested in June at the Four Courts and held at Mountjoy Prison - Rory O'Connor (Leinster), Dick Barrett (Munster), Liam Mellows (Connaught) and Joe McKelvey (Ulster) - were executed without trial. The men were told: "being a person taken in arms against the government, you will be executed at 8am in reprisal for the assassination of Brigadier Sean Hales." Obviously, none of them had been involved in Sean's killing. O'Connor had been the best man at the wedding of Kevin O'Higgins, the Minister for Home Affairs in the Provisional Government. Barrett had fought under Sean in the War of Independence and was his close friend. Despite the close personal relationships, the government approved due process-less executions for the four men (one from each Irish Province) in order to send a stern message that the Treaty would be upheld no matter what it took.

The executions were rightfully condemned for being acts of revenge. Leader of the Labor Party and TD Thomas Johnson called the government action murder. A letter signed by Sean's father and mother, two brothers and two sisters (none of them were in jail) said they viewed the executions "with horror and disgust." The letter also recognized "that reprisals on either side will only increase the bitterness and delay the reconciliation that all patriotic Irishmen long and pray for."

This warning was not heeded, and "reprisal begat counter-reprisal." Bloodthirsty murders continued, as did government executions. Before the Civil War ended in the following year, 81 IRA prisoners had been officially put to death usually after appearing before a military tribunal. The number of killings increased on both sides, making the war's third phase savage and ruthless.

Tom was not permitted to pay respects to Sean after he was murdered. He was not released from custody by the Irish Free State government until two years later. In 1933, he was elected to the Dail as a member of the Fianna Fail party. He resigned in protest four years

later, because Fianna Fail Taoiseach de Valera instituted hardline policies against former IRA comrades who had continued "their efforts to achieve full independence" from the British. Throughout the rest of his life, he remained involved "with many farmers' associations."

Like many families, the Hales family made sacrifices to win freedom for Ireland. It was said of their great sacrifice that "they placed their all on the altar of their country."

Primary Source: Liz Gillis, *The Hales Brothers and the Irish Revolution*, Mercier Press (2016).

Secondary Sources: Tom Barry, *Guerilla Days in Ireland*, Anvil Books Limited, (1991); Tim Pat Coogan, *Ireland in the 20th Century*, Palgrave MacMillan (2006); Darragh Gannon and Fearghal McGarry, *Ireland 1922*, Royal Irish Academy (2022).

Wishing a Happy Thanksgiving to all Shillelaghs and their families, Slan. EMN



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The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore - November 2022

Great news among the the band family: congratulations band and club member Chris Everett - he and his wife Samantha announced they are expecting their first child! Congratulations to the entire Mastowski family with the two upcoming weddings: Devan (November - yes this month) and for band member Aileen (February 2023)! We are so very happy and excited for you all!

We want to thank you all for your support at our Golf Outing! Thank you to the Brady family for once again being there to support the band! Donations made went to support club members families.

There is a lot happening this time of year for the band as we are getting ready for Parade Season along with other events happening now including a few Veteran's Day performances and for a fundraiser for the Women of Irish Heritage.

Our annual band elections are in November. We have a couple of people stepping down this year as others step up for 2023. Thank you to the existing e-board for their time and efforts this past year!

The band's current e-board:

Mark Mastowski - Band Manager

Ray Spengler - Pipe Major

John Giblin - Pipe Sergeant

Chris Everett - Pipe Sergeant

Lauren Kolar - Treasurer

Scott MacDonald - Quartermaster

Austin Mueller - Treasurer

Jim Conti - Drum Sergeant

Pat Giblin - Drum Sergeant

Aileen Mastowski - Corporal

Want to hire a bagpiper, small group or the band to celebrate a promotion, have a backyard bbq or birthday party? We perform for all kinds of events: weddings, funerals, parties, grand openings, ceremonies, graduations and more!

For more info, please contact the Band Manager, Mark Mastowski (732-233-6136)

We always try to accommodate all requests. Remember that we, just like you, have family, job and other commitments/obligations (some beyond our control).

This announcement is for you! Yes, I mean you! I have heard quite a few times from many of you "I always wanted to play bagpipes (or drums)"

Well..... now is your chance! What are you waiting for???

Tuesday nights - 6:30 upstairs at the club..... Give it a try!!!!

We are always looking for Bagpipers and Drummers to join the ranks performing in parades, fundraisers and other events. Growth is key for the band's future. The club is around 1400 strong..... it would be great to see more of you (and your families) join the band!

For seasoned club members, by now you know the scoop on how to join from reading this in the newsletter each month or listening to our Band Manager Mark Mastowski at club meetings every month.

For the many new club members out there or those who do not know: anyone can join the band to learn to play bagpipes and/or drums with free, yes FREE lessons! The band is not just for club members.

We encourage anyone out there that wants to learn to play to visit us on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm, upstairs at the club.

This is a great way to be involved and do something fun! ANYTIME of the year is a good time to start learning!

All you need to do is show up on Tuesday evening and/or contact me 732-685-9232 so you can get started to become a bagpiper or drummer in the band!

If you already know how to play bagpipes or drums & want to join the band, just head over to practice on a Tuesday evening and check us out. Our email is band@jspipesanddrums.com which can be accessed by visiting our website at www.jspipesanddrums.com or talk to any band member for information.

As always, we want to thank you all and we appreciate the continued support from all of you!!

Anyone with pictures or video of the band, please send them along to me pdjspiper@hotmail.com

Thank you!

Slainte,

Ray Spengler



The Order of the Friendly Sons of
the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore



VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

On Friday, November 11th, the FSOS Jersey Shore will be having a lunch to honor our FSOS Veterans in our upstairs banquet room at 130pm. FSOS members and guests will also be recognizing our Veterans in the Jack Carr Taproom at 330pm with the best band in the land, The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore, participating in the activities. For those Veterans planning on attending, please send your name, branch of service and years served to Craig Coyle at coyfive@aol.com or to 732-963-5987 or John Padgett at johnpadgett@gmail.com or 732-687-0477..

The Order of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore

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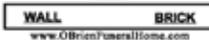
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The Foundation of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Inc., is a charitable organization established and operated to benefit the public interest and is the club's only IRS designated 501C(3) charity and donations are tax deductible. Please help us help individuals in need. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at Info.fsosbelmar@gmail.com.

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The Order of The Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore



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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, December 7th, 2022

7:30pm

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nbarrett@deltec-ny-com

Have information on bereavement?

Contact Dan Reilly at
Irish0361@aol.com
or
Ray Spengler at
PDJSpiper@hotmail.com

Have news to share in the newsletter? Contact info.fsosBelmar@gmail.com

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