

Shorenanigans



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE JERSEY SHORE ORDER OF
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October 2022

Your President's Message

Shillelagh Brothers,

It's been an incredibly busy and fun time at our FSOS, Jersey Shore club. We have had some great events that were extremely successful because of all the volunteers that stepped up to help. The club is only as good as our volunteers make it. If you walk in our club at any time during these large events, you witness many people really working hard for the club. On behalf of your Executive Board, thanks to all those that have helped this past month and throughout the year.

Our Comedy Night on 9/9 was a great success with 140 members and guests attending. Thanks to John Carr for organizing these comedy nights for our club. They have been outstanding. We also enjoyed our annual ½ way to St Patrick's Day with another great celebration under our tent. The kitchen crew provided some great Irish fare as usual. Sixteen of our members also enjoyed the annual Quad Shillelagh Golf Outing at LBI National.

On Saturday, 10/8, we held the annual Pat Magovern Shillelagh 5K. This race has become one of the most successful races at the Jersey Shore. We had 40 sponsors, 50 volunteers the day of the race and more than 400 participants. Thanks to all those that contributed to this successful event as we raised money for local food pantries, Belmar Elementary and our college/trade school scholarship program. Special thanks to the 5k Race Committee led by Chairman Bill Ryan, Tom Dunne, Betty Lowery, Robyn Magovern, Margaret Mahoney and Kevin Malter. We also appreciate the partnership with Bar Anticipation and Reggie Hyde for hosting the event for another year. Thanks also to the Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore and member Wil Hercek for playing before and during the race.

On Sunday, 10/9, we had our annual Pig Roast led by our Vice President, John Padgett. John did an incredible job arriving at the club 4AM on Sunday to get the pig cooking and spending the day at the grill! He was ably assisted by several kitchen crew members. By 8AM, we had a small army of volunteers readying tables, chairs, tents and breakfast sandwiches. It was also a huge and boisterous crowd to watch the Giants beat the Packers in London, as well as seeing the Jets beat the Dolphins. Thanks also to member Tom Dolan, who donated 27 lbs of Case Pork Roll for our breakfast sandwiches. Also, thanks to Benny from Mossuto's in Wall, who provided his cooking expertise and equipment to help make the Shillelagh Annual Pig Roast a tremendous success.

Our FSOS Foundation recently awarded 20 \$1,000 scholarships for college/trade school. Congrats to all the winners! Great work by our FSOS Foundation members in overseeing this program and continuing to work to expand it.

Please check our calendar to view upcoming events. The Bill McKim Jersey Shore Whale Watch event is on Saturday, 10/15. Please see Dan Reilly for more info. Ryan Lavender has an upcoming Blood Drive on Sunday, 10/16. We are still taking signups for this event. Also, on Sunday, 10/16, it is our Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Headliner. Please see Bill Clohosey for more info. On Saturday, 10/28, we will have our annual Halloween Scaryoke with DJ Robin, costume contests and some Karaoke.

Hope you have enjoyed the Craic!

Slainte'

Craig



Saturday, October 15th • Shillelagh Whale Watch

Sunday, October 16th • Blood Drive

Sunday, October 16th • Shillelagh Volunteer Appreciation Day

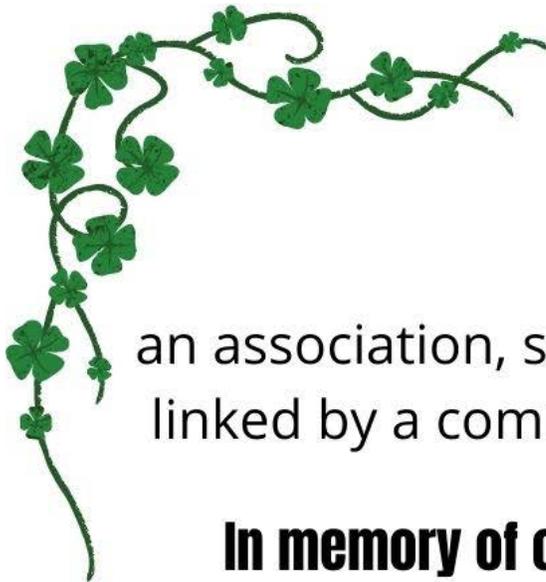
Saturday, October 22nd • The Band Vinyl

Saturday, October 29th • Scaryoke

Wednesday, November 2nd • FSOS Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 9th • Irish Whiskey Education Night

Friday, November 11th • Veteran's Day

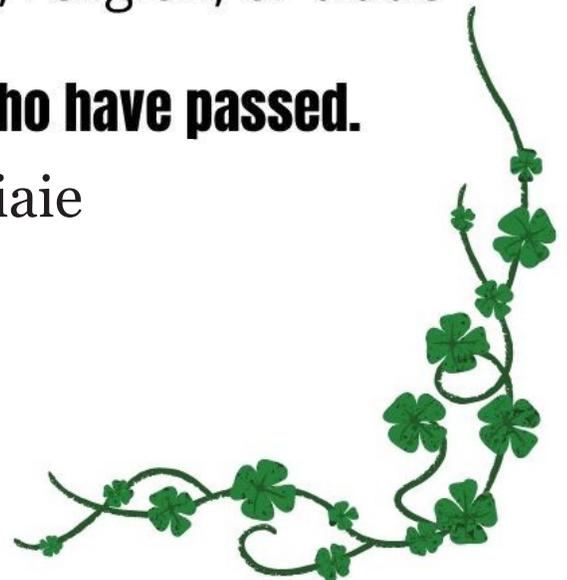


Brotherhood:

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

In memory of our brothers who have passed.

Earl Delie Chiaie



Irish History #97

John Devoy, "the Greatest" of the Fenians

The name John Devoy has been mentioned in previous history chapters. Padraig Pearse called him "the greatest" Fenian, because he devoted a lifetime of service to the cause of Irish independence. We will explore his service in this chapter.

Devoy's early years were spent on a small cottage in Co. Kildare. Since the family's plot of land was not large enough for them to be self-supportive, Devoy's father - William - worked as a laborer. He was also a warden for Daniel O'Connell's movement to repeal the Act of the Union, the 1801 law that linked Ireland with Great Britain. As a repeal warden, William helped keep order at O'Connell's "monster meetings" against the Union. Irish nationalism was an important part of the family lineage. John Devoy's grandfathers had fought the British in the 1798 Rebellion. During the famine years, the family lost their small acreage and moved to Dublin. At age 17, Devoy left school to work in a brewery with his father, but he continued to study the Irish language.

In 1858, James Stephens formed a group aimed at establishing an Irish republic. It was called the "Irish Republican Brotherhood" (IRB). Soon thereafter, John O'Mahony formed a group of Irish immigrants in New York City (NYC) called the "Fenian Brotherhood." The Fenian Brotherhood allied themselves with the IRB. Devoy joined the IRB in 1861. That same year, he also joined the French Foreign Legion to learn military skills. Stephens unsuccessfully tried to persuade Devoy to go to the United States to learn how to fight in the U.S. Civil War. After serving a year in Algeria, Devoy returned home to Ireland and his old job at the brewery. Stephens put him to work recruiting Irishmen serving in the British Army, especially those posted in Dublin, to join the IRB.

When Stephens was jailed for treasonous activities in 1865, Devoy and others helped him escape. Devoy too was a wanted man. A year later, he was arrested by British policemen in the back room of a Dublin pub at what was supposed to be a clandestine IRB meeting. He was convicted of treason and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. He was in jail when the failed Fenian Rising of 1867 took place.

British authorities granted a general amnesty to Fenian prisoners in 1871, and released them from prison provided they left England and Ireland. Devoy chose exile in the U.S. and travelled on the SS Cuba from Liverpool to NYC along with 4 other Fenian prisoners including Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa. There, they received a hero's welcome, and shortly thereafter they met Presi-

dent Ulysses S. Grant in the White House.

Devoy spent the rest of his life organizing and leading Clan na Gael's (formerly the Fenian Brotherhood) quest for Irish independence through armed insurrection or other means. Throughout his tenure, the Clan maintained close formal ties with the IRB in Ireland.

The British had sent some Fenian prisoners to the penal colony in Fremantle, Western Australia. Most, but not all, received pardons and were released. James Wilson was one of 8 prisoners who were not released. He sent Devoy a letter ("a voice from the tomb") asking for help. Devoy hatched a rescue plan. Working with John Boyle O'Reilly, who had himself escaped from the Fremantle penal colony years before, Devoy convinced Clan na Gael to purchase a ship and finance a crew for a rescue mission. In 1875, the "Catalpa" sailed from New Bedford, Massachusetts as a whaling ship. Eleven months later, the ship picked up 6 prisoners in Australia and took them to New Bedford.

A public reception was held the day after they arrived, and O'Reilly gave a stirring keynote address. He said: "if these men were criminal, the rescue would be criminal. But they were political offenders against England, not against law, or order, or religion. They had lain in prison for ten years, with millions of their countrymen asking their release, imploring England, against their will to beg, to set these men at liberty . . . But she was blind, as of old; blind and arrogant and cruel. She would not release these men, she scorned to give Ireland an answer." In the Boston paper he edited - the Pilot - O'Reilly wrote of Devoy's role in the Catalpa rescue: "To one devoted man, more than any other, the whole affair is creditable."

Charles Stewart Parnell was a constitutional nationalist, while Devoy was a committed physical force republican. Devoy nevertheless supported Parnell's call for the "New Departure" movement in Ireland by advocating for it and providing funding. The New Departure's goal was to join the Land League's efforts on agrarian revolution with political efforts on Home Rule for Ireland. Devoy felt a united approach could lead to Irish nationhood.

Michael Davitt, an IRB man from Co. Mayo, had formed the Land League, which declared that "the land of Ireland belongs to the people of Ireland and to them alone." The Land League also espoused the "abolition of landlordism." An American Land League was formed with Clan officers, including Devoy, heading branches.

But the New Departure movement sputtered out. Par-

nell was jailed in 1881. As a condition of his release the following year, Parnell agreed to halt the land war in which tenants refused to pay rents. The British instituted some land reform measures, and Parnell's main focus turned to winning a limited form of Irish self-government under Home Rule.

Home Rule was not, however, the kind of complete break with Great Britain that Devoy wanted. Devoy's next project was to spend \$60,000 of Clan money to fund Irish-born John Holland's development of a submarine that could be used to attack British warships. The world's first submarine, called the "Fenian Ram," underwent tests at the terminus of the Morris Canal in Jersey City. For various reasons including financial disagreements, the project was not completed. Ultimately, however, Holland's design served as the basis for the first U.S. Navy submarine. The ship was commissioned the USS Holland.

Over the years, Devoy consolidated his authority in Clan na Gael and became the Clan's Secretary. He also started a weekly Irish-American newspaper, the Gaelic American. He served as the editor, and he hired Tom Clarke ("the old Fenian") to be the paper's managing editor. The paper cast England as the enemy not only of Ireland but of America too. The paper portrayed the push for Home Rule as a sell-out of the "dream of a Republic," and cast "Anglomaniacs" as being "behind all sorts of un-American schemes."

World War I (WW I) pitted Great Britain (Allies) against Germany (Central Powers). For the IRB, "Britain's difficulty was Ireland's opportunity." The U.S. remained neutral during the early years of WW I. This allowed Devoy to deal with Germany - the enemy of my enemy is a friend - without being seen as a traitor. At the IRB's request, Devoy and high-ranking members of the Clan told the German Consul in NYC that they sought to purchase German arms that would be used - not as part of the war effort - but in a Rising in Ireland. Devoy also arranged meetings between the IRB and German General Staff, and he introduced Roger Casement to officials at the German Consulate.

When Rossa died in 1915, Devoy sent a telegram to Clarke, who had returned to Dublin. He asked, "What shall we do." Clarke replied immediately, "Send his body home at once." Pearse gave his famous oration at Rossa's gravesite in Glasnevin cemetery. (See Chapter 91). A special program was published for Rossa's funeral. In it, Pearse contributed an essay honoring Rossa, and he said of Devoy: "When his biography is written, it will say that he was the greatest of the Fenians."

In Chapters 43 and 44, we reviewed the problems caused by the contradictory messages about where and when a German arms shipment for the 1916 East

er Rising was to be landed and the Order - cancelled then reissued - on the Rising's start. Suffice it to say that Devoy worked closely with the IRB in the lead-up to the Rising and provided moral, financial and material support. After the Easter week fighting had concluded, American newspapers like the NY Times criticized the Rising's leaders. Praise rang out, however, in Devoy's Gaelic American newspaper. "The men of Dublin have redeemed the honor of Ireland and restored lost prestige of the Irish race," he wrote. "They have brought back the soul of Ireland and made a new epoch in Irish history." Time would prove Devoy's assessment of events was correct.

A year later, the U.S. entered the war on the side of the Allies. Devoy wrote to Clan members advising them that "we will remain loyal (to the U.S.) and will yield to none in devotion to the flag." Nevertheless, due to Devoy's earlier contact with German officials, U.S. authorities banned publication of the Gaelic American newspaper.

Devoy and NY Judge Daniel Cohalan (Clan Counsel) had a long-running feud with Eamon de Valera, stemming from de Valera's attempts to take control of Irish-American organizations in the U.S. (See Chapters 64 and 65). During the Irish War of Independence (1919-21), Devoy applauded Michael Collins on the pages of the Gaelic American for being "calm, quiet and deliberate." He called Collins "the recognized leader of the fighting men of Ireland." Devoy understood that Treaty negotiations would result in compromises, because the IRA was short of weapons. He blamed de Valera for squandering money that should have gone to military supplies.

Devoy and Cohalan also headed the Friends of Irish Freedom (FOIF) organization, which supported the pro-Treaty side. After the Dail voted in favor of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1922, the FOIF issued a statement in favor of the vote because it took "the English army out of Ireland and put the powers of Government . . . into the hands of Irishmen." Devoy viewed the new Irish government as a step toward an Irish Republic. Devoy and Cohalan blamed de Valera for the IRA split that led to the Irish Civil War. When the Irish government executed 4 anti-Treaty leaders from the Four Courts in response to the murder of TD Sean Hales in 1922, they spoke in favor of the government's action.

Devoy returned to Ireland as the honored guest of the Irish Free State Government in 1924. He was greeted by Irish President William Cosgrave, and he visited the graves of relatives and friends at Glasnevin. In a valedictory address, he spoke of partition saying, "[t]he only true solution to the boundary question is the abolition of the boundary." Echoing Collins' stepping-stone

strategy for unification, he continued: "There are two ways of effecting that solution. One way, and by far the best, is by an agreement based on the will of the people of both sections and entirely satisfactory to both. The other way . . . securing it by force . . . is wholly undesirable. Therefore, the only sane policy to meet the present situation is . . . to bring about reunion by consent." The same thing is true today. The principle of consent in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement offers a democratic and peaceful path to a united Ireland.

Devoy died in Atlantic City on September 29, 1928. His body was returned to Ireland the next year, where he was given a state funeral. He was buried in Glasnevin not far from the graves of O'Connell, Parnell, Rossa and Collins. The Celtic Cross placed over his grave bore his name and the word "Fenian."

Throughout his life, Devoy actively participated, often as the leader or organizer, in many of the critical events that ultimately culminated in Irish independence. He experienced An Gorta Mor (the Great Hunger) as

a young boy in Ireland, and he lived long enough to witness the creation of the Irish nation. "God Save the King" had been replaced as the anthem by "A Soldier's Song." It is fair to say that Devoy was in the thick of things related to the fight for Irish freedom for six decades. Reporting on his death, the Times of London described him as "the most bitter and persistent, as well as the most dangerous enemy of this country which Ireland had produced since Wolfe Tone." I'm sure Devoy would have taken that as a compliment.

During his extraordinary lifetime, Devoy did not get to see a united Ireland. God willing, we will live long enough to see that glorious day!

Primary Source: Terry Golway, *Irish Rebel*, St. Martin's Press (1998).

Other Sources: Michael Doorley, "Why Militant Co-halan Backed Treaty," *Irish Echo* newspaper (July 12, 2022), p. 16; Ian Kenneally, *From the Earth, a Cry*, The Collins Press (2011).

Slan, EMN



Father Corby's statue outside Corby Hall on the Notre Dame campus. It is an exact replica of the Father Corby statue erected at Gettysburg Battlefield in 1910 to honor where he gave general absolution to the Irish Brigade just before they entered the famous battle at Little Round Top and the Wheatfield. Father Corby gave general absolution to the Irish Brigade there also before they entered the fray at Bloody Lane. Antietam was the deadliest day in US history until 9/11.

The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore - October 2022

October is that time of year for sports fans where we have all the major sports being televised along with college games and some decent weather for bbq's, fire pits and golf outings!!

Speaking of.... October 17 is our annual golf outing!! There should be a form for playing and sponsoring in the newsletter and at the club. Pebble Creek, Monday October 17 - come join us for a fun outing!!

In September, we performed in the Basilone Parade in Raritan honoring an American Hero John Basilone. We also performed in Belmar for the memorial on 9-11

We had a fun time performing at the Half way to St Patricks Day here at the club.

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 yo 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



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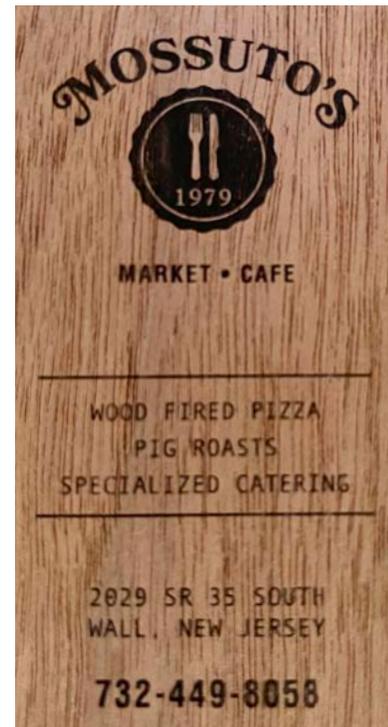
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The Foundation of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Inc., is a charitable organization established and operated to benefit the public interest and is the club's only IRS designated 501C(3) charity and donations are tax deductible. Please help us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

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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022

7:30pm

Not receiving email or have contact information to update?

Contact Ned Barrett at
nbarrett@deltec-ny-com

Have information on bereavement?

Contact Dan Reilly at
Irish0361@aol.com
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Ray Spengler at
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Have news to share in the newsletter? Contact info.fsosBelmar@gmail.com

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