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August 2022 *Your President's Message*

August 2022

Your President's Message

Brother Shillelagh's,

Hope everyone is enjoying the dog days of summer as we head into late August with the Yankees and Mets holding significant 1st place Division leads!

Thanks to the Fluke Committee for leading another outstanding Shillelagh Fluke Tournament. An event to that magnitude doesn't happen without many hours of preparation and hard work. Ryan Lavender, Billy Clohosey, Bryan Woodfield, Pete Sykes, Pete Yackel, Bob Yackel, Dan Carey, Bryan Horan, Moira Horan, Mary Lavender and many others worked tirelessly to make this Fluke Tournament very successful. Congrats to the winning anglers! And thanks to the stellar Kitchen Crew who provided a great food presentation for us once again.

I also wanted to thank the tent committee volunteers for the hard work accomplished in putting up the tent for the Fluke Tournament. Kevin Giblin and Paul Rockwell have done great work in leading this group.

The Cornhole League is going along well on Monday nights and has been very competitive. Playoffs will take place in mid-September.

September looks to be another busy month with Comedy Night on 9/9, the 9/11 Memorial Run, ½ way to St Patrick's Day party on 9/17 and several other entertainment and football season events.

Prayers go out to the family of Tom Griffin, an outstanding brother, friend and Shillelagh volunteer. He will be sorely missed.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Slainte'

Craig Coyle

President

FSOS Jersey Shore



Events Calendar



Wednesday, September 7th • FSOS Monthly Meeting

Friday, September 9th • Comedy Night

Saturday, September 17th • Halfway to St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, October 8th • Shillelagh 5K

Sunday, October 9th • Tailgate Pig Roast

Sunday, October 16th • Blood Drive



Brotherhood:

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

In memory of our brothers who have passed.

James Russotto



Irish History #95

The Day Michael Collins Was Killed (Part 1)

Those of us at a certain age can remember exactly where we were when we heard the gruesome and tragic news that President John F. Kennedy had been shot in Dallas, Texas. Television and radio broadcasts informed the nation of his death immediately. Similarly, one can imagine the Irish people remembering exactly where they were when they heard that Michael Collins had been shot and killed in West Cork. Although, it took a while for the country to hear about it.

Before Anti-Treaty forces retreated from Cork City (See Chapter #94), they severed the Irish Army's communication lines between Cork and Portobello Barracks in Dublin. It was reported that the Valentia Island Cable Station (Co. Kerry) received word of Collins' death over a short-wave radio and transmitted it to New York. Then it was transmitted back across the Atlantic to London, and from there across the Irish Sea to Dublin. The news was finally disseminated throughout Ireland from Dublin.

Collins had come to Co. Cork to conduct a "tour of inspection" of areas recently captured by Irish Army forces. It was intended to be "a morale-boosting exercise." Historians believe other factors may have motivated the trip, like Collins making "peace contacts with his native Corkonians?" He was warned before going that such a trip would be dangerous. But Collins replied, "my own fellow countrymen won't kill me."

The inspection tour began just after 6 AM on August 22, 1922. The scheduled route was Macroom, Bandon, Clonakilty (Collins' hometown), Rosscarbery, Skibbereen, and back to Cork City. This was fervently republican territory. Many have questioned why Collins' escort group was lightly armed, and speculate it may have been because the other side's foreknowledge that Col-

lins planned to extend peace overtures at some of the stops led to an unrealistic expectation of safe-passage? The escort consisted of a motorcycle scout, an open Crossley tender with eight riflemen and two machine gunners, an open touring car (with General Emmet Dalton, Collins and two drivers), and a Rolls Royce armored car in the rear.

The main road from Macroom to Bandon was impassable due to blown-up bridges and other obstacles. The convoy stopped at Long's Bar in Beal na mBlath (the "mouth of the flowers") to ask for directions. IRA man Denny Long was at the bar door standing sentry because IRA officers were meeting in the bar. He engaged the travelers on the street and told them which road to take. Then, he let the officers in the bar know that the Irish Army's Commander-in-Chief, Collins, was in the convoy.

Tom Hales, whose brother Sean was a confidante of Collins and met with him later that fateful day, decided to prepare an ambush, hoping the convoy would return along the same route. Eamon de Valera had spent the prior night nearby. Tim Pat Coogan's research suggests that, when de Valera became aware of the ambush plan, he argued against it. De Valera said: "it would be bad if anything happens to Collins, his place will be taken by weaker men." He was overruled. The ambush organizers told him we are active service members under Area Commander Liam Lynch, and we intend to carry out his general order to wage "guerilla warfare" against the enemy. In other words, we do not take orders from you Mr. de Valera. Lynch's order for guerilla war marked the beginning of the civil war's second phase.

The ambushers had not received word of Collins' peace intentions. The ambush party comman-

deered a brewery cart, took off one of its wheels, and blocked the roadway. They also laid mines on the road. One group of republicans – including Tom Hales, Sonny O’Neill and John O’Callaghan – occupied the high ground on the left side of the road. Another group - including Pete Kearney and Timmy Sullivan - hid behind a hedge on the right side of the road. “Boithrins” (boreens; i.e., dirt paths) provided “ready-made places of retreat.” The ambushers had the element of “surprise and better positioning,” even if they would be out-gunned.

The convoy stopped for lunch in Rosscarbery. Fenian Jeremiah O’Donovan Rossa was from that area. At lunch, Collins quoted part of Padraig Pearse’s famous oration at Rossa’s grave: “They have left us our Fenian dead. And while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.” (See Chapter #91). He also told those present that “the Treaty [was] the first step toward freedom.” He had a plan to unite Ireland step-by-step.

The book Cork’s Revolutionary Dead (1916-23) quotes Collins’ biographer T. Ryle Dwyer’s description of what happened that afternoon in Sam’s Cross. “The convoy stopped off at the pub of Collins’ cousin, Jeremiah. The Big Fellow bought two pints of Clonakilty Wristle for each of his crew. While there he met his brother Johnny, and two of Johnny’s daughters - Mary and Kitty - as well as his first cousin Michael O’Brien. He told them that his main goal was to end the Civil War, and then he would be re-dedicating himself to the task of securing full national freedom [i.e., uniting the northeast.]. He was not about to be content with the Treaty settlement but would get further concessions from the British government once peace was restored. . . Johnny said, ‘I hope you are travelling in the armored car, Mick, because there is still danger around. Not at all, this is my bus,’ Collins replied motioning towards the open touring car.”

The conversation continued with Johnny issuing another warning: “Be careful of yourself.” Collins

replied: “You need have no worries about me, didn’t I elude the Auxies all these years! . . . I’m going back to settle this thing. I’m going to get a Republic.” Family members could not know that this would be the last time they saw Collins alive.

On the return trip, Collins pointed out to Dalton a shell of the house where he was born - Woodfield - saying “that was my home.” After Tom Barry’s flying column burned down the Rosscarbery barracks during the Irish War of Independence, the British burned Woodfield down in reprisal. The convoy also stopped in Bandon, where Collins told Sean Hales to “[k]eep up the good work! Twill soon be over.” When they got going again, they traveled along the Beal na mBlath road.

As the afternoon turned into evening, ambushers began to return to the bar or left to eat at a nearby house. It had been a long day for them. They started thinking that the convoy was not going to return along the road, and they were hungry. Tom Hales ordered the mines that had been laid to be rendered safe, “so that farmers could go to the creamery in the morning.”

The convoy approached the ambush site around 7:30 PM. Just as the IRA’s O’Callaghan, Kearney and Sullivan completed the mission to clear the mines, they heard the sound of approaching vehicles. They informed the others who had remained in the ambush area that the convoy had returned.

The book quotes Dwyer’s description of what happened during the ambush as follows: “when the first shot was fired, Dalton realized it was an ideal spot for an ambush. ‘Drive like hell!’ Dalton shouted, but Collins put a hand on the driver’s shoulder. ‘Stop!’ he ordered. ‘We’ll fight them.’ Collins got to his feet and went over behind the armored car. He used it for cover as he fired some shots. ‘Come on boys!’ Collins shouted, apparently believing the ambushers were on the run. He left the protection of the car and moved up the road. He dropped into a prone firing position and opened up on the retreating republi-

cans . . . At one point he was standing up on the road firing as if he was daring somebody to shoot him. Next moment, Dalton said later, 'I heard a faint cry: Emmet I'm hit.' Dalton and Sean O'Connell (commander of the Crossley tender) found Collins lying on the road, still clutching the rifle. He had a gaping wound at the base of the skull behind the right ear. It was quite obvious to me with the experience I had of a ricochet bullet, it could only have been a ricochet or a dum dum, Dalton recalled, O'Connell dragged Collins behind the armored car. 'I bandaged the wound and O'Connell said an 'Act of Contrition' to him,' Dalton said. 'He was dying if not already dead.'"

Estimates of the duration of the firefight varied from 20-40 minutes. One of the Irish soldiers who was present said it "is a night that will be remembered. . . The night that Michael Collins was killed." At the pub after the ambush, Sonny O'Neill told the others that he had "dropped one man," a tall man. No one else claimed to have hit anyone. When O'Neill heard it was Collins who had been shot, he said, "May the Lord have mercy on his soul." In a conversation with Kearney the next day, O'Neill acknowledged using the wrong bullet. "It was a dum dum," he said.

Collins' body was first placed in the armored car, then transferred to the touring car for the trip to Cork City. On the way, Dalton had the convoy stop in Victoria Cross so a priest could administer Last Rites to a deceased Collins. In Cork, a doctor examined Collins' body and declared him dead. Later, the doctor expressed an opinion that the kill shot was a "flat-nosed dum dum."

Perilous roads made travel difficult. So, it was decided that Collins' body would be transported to Dublin on the steamship SS Classic. Soldiers carried his flag-draped coffin down to the quay. Hundreds wept and knelt in prayer as they passed. Leaving port, the Classic sailed past British vessels moored in the Cork channel. "British sailors mustered" on the decks of their ships. As the Classic passed by them, they "saluted and the Last Post was played" in tribute to Collins.

Sources: Joe Connell, "The Ambush and Death of Michael Collins at Beal na mBlath in 1922," Irish Central News (August 22, 2019); Tim Pat Coogan, Michael Collins – the Man Who Made Ireland, Roberts Rinehart Publishers (1996); Barry Keane, Cork's Revolutionary Dead (1916-23), Mercier Press (2017); Meda Ryan, The Day Michael Collins Was Shot, Poolbeg Press Ltd. (1979).

Part 2 will examine how the grief-stricken nation reacted to Collins' death, and what his death meant for the Civil War.

Slainte Mhor, EMN



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The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore - August 2022

Did anyone notice I missed last months deadline for the newsletter? I had one written and did not email it. No excuses, my apologies to the loyal readers that scroll past this to see the Irish History part of the newsletter.

Every summer I find it interesting when people say, it must be nice to have time off from the band before next parade season. Some may not know that we perform at events such as parades, fundraisers and parties along with funerals, weddings and other shindigs throughout the year. The majority of the events are a donation of our time and talents when we perform.

Some of us give back to the band by helping to teach people that want to learn.....all of which is done without compensation of any kind. The dedication from our band mates that help teach is second to none! This is a huge part of why we continue to grow with our membership!

We are adding new music to our repertoire to keep things interesting. It is fun playing music with our band family every week at rehearsals and events.

It's time..... yes for you it's Tim...e... you know you want to learn to play and bagpipes or maybe the drums....

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.

Want to celebrate a promotion? How about a backyard bbq or birthday party? We perform for all kinds of events: weddings, funerals, parties, grand openings, ceremonies, graduations and more!

Want more info? Please contact the Band Manager, Mark Mastowski (732-233-6136) if you would like the band, a small group or a single bagpiper to perform. We always try to accommodate all requests.

Remember that we, just like you, have family, job and other commitments/obligations (some beyond our control). We appreciate the continued support from all of you!

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

Thank you!

Slainte,

Ray Spengler

The Foundation of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Inc.

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



about us:

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Dear Friends:

The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore Shillelaghs will be hosting our annual **2022 Memorial Golf Outing** at Pebble Creek Golf Course in Colts Neck, NJ on Monday October 17, 2022. For well over 20 years, this event has allowed the band a great opportunity to raise funds for its equipment and transportation fund as well as for area charities that help sick children. Our fund raising efforts have been a big success thanks to people like you who participate in the outing or sponsor a hole on the course.

This year, we hope to have over 120 golfers and spectators enjoy a beautiful day on the “links.” We are asking for the support of the business community to sponsor our outing and help us meet our fundraising goals for this year. Hole and refreshment stop sponsors are needed and all proceeds will be used to offset the band’s equipment needs and for specific charities.

Please consider “sponsoring” a hole, a refreshment cart, or a grill pit. We will proudly display a sign on the course acknowledging your generous support of our efforts. We are an IRS 501(3) (c) charitable organization and all donations are tax-deductible. Please complete the attached form and return it to the above address with your check by October 1, 2022 so that we can have the signs prepared for the outing. You can contact John Giblin (732) 904-4480 or myself (732) 267-1233 if you need our Tax-ID number or if you have any questions. Thank you for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Scott MacDonald

Fund Drive Chairman, PDJS

The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore Shillelaghs

2022 Memorial Golf Outing



Monday October 17, 2022

Pebble Creek Golf Course – Colts Neck, N.J.

Registration Form - \$160.00 per golfer

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2. _____

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*Contact for Foursome: _____

Cell #: _____

Email address: _____

Make checks payable to: P.D.J.S. - P.O. Box 809 Spring Lake, N.J. 07762 or email your foursome to Scott MacDonald smacdonald@ctemc.org or John Giblin shuepiper@gmail.com . Tax ID# furnished upon request.

Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore Shillelaghs

2022 Golf Outing Sponsor Form

Please make all checks payable to: PDJS - P.O. Box 809 Spring Lake, NJ 07762

Hole Sponsorships:

Gold - \$200 (exclusive hole sponsor) : _____

Silver - \$150.00 (one of 3) : _____

Bronze - \$100 (one of several) : _____

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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, September 7th, 2022

7:30pm

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Contact Ned Barrett at
nbarrett@deltec-ny-com

Have information on bereavement?

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

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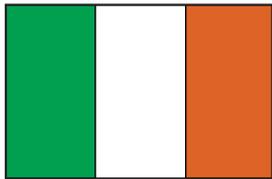
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Last Chance for First Pre-Season drawing in a couple of days. 30+ tickets still remain. Tickets can be picked up at the club or paid electronically via PayPal, Venmo, CashApp, Zelle, etc. Reply for details on electronic payments.

Details:

[The Friendly Son's of the Shillelagh](#) of the Jersey Shore in conjunction with [The FanVan Party Bus](#) and [ImmortalSeats](#), is raffling off a pair of season tickets with a parking pass to every regular season home game at Metlife Stadium.

FIRST Prize: 1 set (2 seats) of Giants Season Tickets to Every Regular Season 2022 Home Game (9 games in all) and 1 parking pass for each game. The winner will also receive a tailgate for two before EACH game at the [FanVan Party Bus](#) (all the beer, food and booze you can eat and drink) for 3.5 hours before the game.

SECOND Prize: XBOX Series X Gaming Console

THIRD Prize: Superbox S3 Pro Streaming TV Box

BONUS Prize: There are two Pre-Season games that are not included in this raffle, and to sweeten the deal and get things moving, any entries received between now and August 15, will be entered to win the two pre-season games. Winner of the Pre-Season tickets will be re-entered into the remaining drawing of the Season Tickets held on September 7.

Raffle will be held at our Wednesday meeting on September 7, 2022.

Pass this along to your friends and family.

ONLY 100 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD.

\$60 per Ticket

PayPal / Venmo / CashApp / Zelle accepted.

***Proceeds to benefit: The Passing of Tom Griffin has caused the change to the beneficiary of the raffle. The beneficiary will now be decided by Tom's family, allocating the proceeds to a charitable organization that Tom strongly believed in.

Please reply to this email for your raffle ticket, or see: Dave Matteo at 732-904-7101 at the bar at the club or Mark Chadwick 732-620-2617