

Shorenanigans



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

September 2023

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Brother Shillelagh's,

It's one of the best times of year for our club as fall and football season kick in. It also means several Shillelagh events taking place as we enter our busiest months of the year. Please be sure to help when you can in the next few months. We certainly appreciate any help provided. I also wanted to thank our new class of members for jumping in and volunteering at recent events.

Congratulations to Shillelagh Brother John Carr on recently being named the Annie Moore Award recipient by the Irish American Cultural Institute. John will be recognized for this prestigious honor at the Spring Lake Manor on October 1st. John was a tremendous choice by the IACI for all he does for the Irish community, including incredible work for our club.

On Thursday, August 17th, club members and guests got to enjoy the very talented Joe "Taylor Swift" Kelly and another successful Bingo extravaganza. Joe was ably assisted by Ryan and Mary Lavender and several others as we raised money for Brother John Antman and his wife Kelly in her battle with breast Cancer.

Our Dart League, led by Czar Anthony Aldorasi, is off to a fantastic start with 16 teams playing on eight boards at the club and with the Dart League encompassing two floors. Congrats to Tyler Pringle on the first Brandy of the season! Our softball team is off to a sluggish start to their season, but it is great that Managers Brian O'Halloran and Dan Reilly have entered the Shillelaghs in the Wall Softball League. We look forward to celebrating some wins at the club post game. In addition, our Shillelagh Running Club, led by Jeff Hadzima and Rob Fogarty, have been involved in several races at the Jersey Shore. Member Terry Davidson recently took a 1st place prize in 50 years + at the Belmar Five running the course in 29:16, less than 6 minutes per mile. Terry finished 29th overall of 2,700 runners. Twenty Shillelagh volunteers also helped the race committee as course marshals.

On Saturday, September 16th, we had our annual ½ way to St Patricks Day event at the club. Some 300 members and guest enjoyed The Innisfree Band, The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore and some Irish Step dancers. We also celebrated the 25th Anniversary of The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore. The Irish fare was outstanding. Thanks to Wayne Berning and his kitchen crew for all they did preparing, cooking, and serving our families. And thanks to Mark Chadwick and the bartending crew for their outstanding service as well. It was great to see so many young members and their families present for the event. Our young members are critical to the future success of our club and carrying forward our strong Irish heritage and traditions.

A Shillelagh shout out to Dave Matteo who has raffled off a pair of Giants season tickets for several years raising money for the club and others in need. This year he was able to raise over \$1,000 once again. Thanks for your generosity, Dave.

Prayers go out to the families of Shillelagh Brother's Ron Lloyd, Mark Sharin and Hank Coakley on their recent passing.

May you and your families be blessed with good health! Hope to see you soon at the club.

Slainte'

Craig Coyle

President, FSOS Jersey Shore



Events Calendar



Friday September 22nd • Shillelagh Quad Golf Outing

Monday October 2nd • Pipeband Golf Outing

Saturday October 7th • Shillelagh 5K

Sunday October 8th • Annual NFL Tailgate

Sunday October 15th • Blooddrive

Sunday October 1st • IACI John Carr Dinner

Wednesday October 4th • FSOS Monthly Meeting

Saturday October 21st • Strictly 60's Band

Saturday October 28th • Halloween Scaryoke

Saturday November 18th • Pipes & Drums 25th Anniversary

Sunday November 19th • Shillelagh Thanksgiving Celebration

Monday November 20th • Thanksgiving Food Drive Basket Deliveries

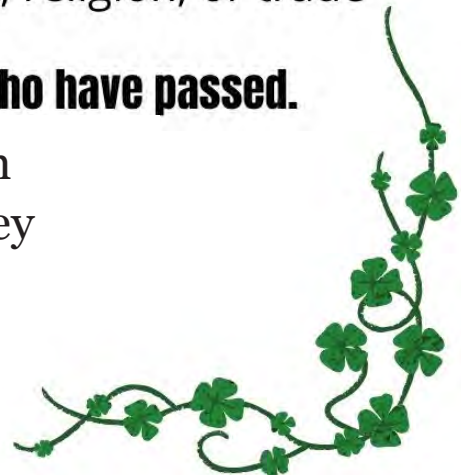


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In memory of our brothers who have passed.

Mark Sharin
Henry Coakley





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Irish History #107

Why Are They Called the Fighting Irish?

The University of Notre Dame was established by a French priest. Its name reminds one of the famous Cathedral in Paris. The school's immortal football coach - Knute Rockne - was Norwegian. In the beginning of his tenure, the football team was known as the Notre Dame Ramblers, because they had to travel to play good teams. So, how did Notre Dame athletics become synonymous with the term "Fighting Irish"? We will explore some of that history in this chapter.

Indiana became a state in 1816. With the Catholic population growing, a new diocese in Vincennes, Indiana was established two decades later. The diocesan bishop, a Frenchman, "returned to France to seek priests and brothers to help staff his new diocese." Five years later, Father Edward Sorin boarded a ship in Le Havre, France and came to South Bend, Indiana. A member of the Congregation of Holy Cross, one purpose of Father Sorin's mission was to establish a school. He decided to start a college.

South Bend's name derives from its location at the right angle turn northward the Saint Joseph River makes at its southern-most point. Father Sorin set-up his mission there on a lake. He built a chapel and founded what became the University of Notre Dame in 1842. He called it Notre Dame du Lac (Our Lady of the Lake). The school had 25 students and eight faculty members when it was awarded its full university charter by the State two years later. From this humble start, Notre Dame has grown to nearly 13,000 students and 1500 faculty.

Seven Holy Cross priests served as chaplains during the U.S. Civil War. Father William Corby, the son of an Irish immigrant, was the most famous of them. He attended Notre Dame, was ordained in 1860, and began teaching there. During the war, he served as a chaplain for Thomas Francis Meagher's Irish Brigade. He was with the Union Army during "the battles of Fair Oaks, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania."

Father Corby is most remembered for the role he played at Gettysburg. On the battle's second day, just before Confederate forces assaulted Cemetery Hill in an attempt to outflank Union forces, he stood on a large rock and addressed the brigade. He urged them

to do their duty and reminded them of the "noble object for which they fought." He then told them they "could receive the benefit of absolution by making a sincere Act of Contrition" and being truly repentant for their sins. He extended his right hand upward toward the soldiers and absolved them, saying in Latin: "Dominus noster Jesus Christus vos absolvat." Less than half an hour later, many were dead, and the brigade was forced to withdraw from the Wheatfield back toward Cemetery Hill. By slowing down the Confederate advance, however, they had contributed to the ultimate Union victory.

Father Corby was called the "Fighting Chaplain" for his war-time heroics. His statue with hand raised in absolution stands in front of the dormitory that bears his name on the Notre Dame campus. After the war, he served two terms as the university's President.

The Notre Dame student body grew as the children of Irish immigrants, like Father Corby, and Catholics attended the school. For 15 years, during the early part of the 20th century, Father John Cavanagh, was the school's President. He was the son of Irish immigrants, and a gifted orator. He held a deep love for all things Irish, and he "stressed the contributions the Irish made to America" in his talks. He gave St. Patrick's Day addresses "in the nation's major cities," and he was sought after as a speaker at conventions and conferences. This brought Notre Dame "national fame and publicity."

In 1919, as part of his cross-country tour to raise funds and support for Irish freedom and independence, Eamon de Valera addressed the Notre Dame student body. A leader and survivor of the 1916 Easter Rising, he laid a wreath in tribute to Father Corby at the foot of his statue, and he also planted a "tree of liberty." The student newspaper reported that de Valera received "one of the greatest ovations that Notre Dame ever accorded a visitor." It was a sign of solidarity with the Irish people. The tree of liberty, however, did not survive. About a week after de Valera's speech, a student - described as being of the "unionist persuasion" - dug it up and threw it into the lake near the campus "grotto."

Knute Rockne enrolled at Notre Dame in 1910. He was a star receiver on the 1913 team that went

undefeated. They were the first team to perfect the use of the overhand forward-pass, and they beat national powers Army, Penn State, and Texas. Rockne became an assistant coach when he graduated.

Rockne took over as head coach in 1918. His teams had consecutive undefeated seasons in 1919 and 1920. George "Gipper" Gipp was the star of those teams. Notre Dame won its first national championship in 1920. But the year is sadly remembered for what happened after the season ended. Gipp died from pneumonia and a throat infection. County courthouse flags flew at half-staff on the day of his funeral.

The story about a dying Gipp's final request of Rockne is believed to be true. In his hospital bed, Gipp is reported to have whispered: "Rock, I know I'm going to die. I'm not afraid. But someday, Rock, when things on the field are going against us, tell the boys Rock, to go out and win just one for the Gipper. Now, I don't know where I'll be then Coach. But I'll know about it, and I'll be happy." (Rockne shared Gipp's comments with the 1928 team at halftime in a game against Army. It inspired them to an upset victory over the Cadets.)

Rockne fine-tuned the backfield shift, and his teams continued winning. In 1924, renown sportswriter Grantland Rice watched Notre Dame upset Army 13-7. He labelled the 4-man backfield the "Four Horsemen" of Notre Dame (a play on the four horsemen of the apocalypse). Three of them were all-Americans that year. Rice authored what is considered to be the most celebrated passage in sports journalism history.

"Outlined against a blue-gray October sky, the Four Horsemen rode again. In dramatic lore they are known as Famine, Pestilence, Destruction, and Death. These are only aliases. Their real names are Stuhldreher, Miller, Crowley, and Layden. They formed the crest of the South Bend cyclone before which another fighting Army team was swept over the precipice at the Polo Grounds yesterday afternoon as 55,000 spectators peered down on the bewildering panorama spread on the green plain below."

The team went undefeated that year, and it was invited to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California where they beat Stanford 27-10. They were unanimously voted national champions, and Rockne was named coach of the year.

Students had been calling their team the "Fighting Irish." For them, it was an endearing description of

the team's underdog status and fierce tenacity. When the team played eastern powerhouses, the games were billed as David against Goliath. Now, they were not only winning when matched against the best eastern teams, but also when matched against the best western teams. To enhance the team's image, some public relations employees also referred to the team as the "Fighting Irish." Francis Wallace, a former employee, used the term in his NY Daily News column. Soon, it was picked-up by other members of the media.

There was another key event that year. It occurred in South Bend, and it cemented the link between the "Fighting Irish" and Notre Dame.

American Catholics looked at Notre Dame "with a sense of deep pride." Others resented this. The Ku Klux Klan had been revived in Stone Mountain, Georgia in 1915. The Klan had 5 million members by the mid-1920s. They still targeted blacks with acts of intimidation and violence. Now they also targeted Catholics, Jews, and immigrants. They branched out from the South into the Midwest. With an estimated 400,000 members in Indiana, the northern Grand Dragon scheduled a Klunkave (state convention) in South Bend. It had a two-fold purpose: exhibit Klan strength in the State and intimidate Catholics, particularly those at Notre Dame. Anticipating trouble, town officials denied the Klan's request for a parade permit.

Father Matthew Walsh was Notre Dame President at the time. The son of Irish parents, a Notre Dame graduate, a mentee of Father Cavanaugh, and an army chaplain during World War I, he urged the students to ignore whatever the Klan did in town and remain on campus. Not all of them heeded his words.

Some students headed into town and let Klan rally-goers arriving by train know that they were not welcome. The students stole their white robes and roughed them up. Other students, including the team's quarterback, vandalized the local Klan headquarters by throwing potatoes, breaking windows, and knocking out lights. When false word spread that Klansmen were beating a student on the courthouse lawn, over 100 students poured into town to rescue him. Father Walsh arrived at the scene in time to avert a confrontation between the Klan, students, and police by talking the students into returning to campus.

Two things had been achieved. The event weakened the Klan in Indiana. It also gave resonance to the term



The University of Notre Dame

“Fighting Irish.” Whatever derisive connotation that may have existed was extinguished. Father Walsh gave the term his imprimatur. It was clear that it had been adopted by the university a few years later, when he said: “I sincerely hope we may always be worthy of the ideal embodied in the term ‘Fighting Irish.’”

The linkage has only grown stronger since then. The emblem of the Irish mascot (leprechaun) with fists raised has been branded by the school and monetized. It appears on shirts, ball caps, coffee cups, and beer mugs. The school uses the emblem to sell athletic event tickets and in advertisements.

Did you get to see Notre Dame’s opening game against Navy in Dublin on one of the television sets in the Shillelagh clubhouse? They beat the Midshipmen 42-3. (BTW, Commodore John Barry from Co. Wexford is called the “Father of the

American Navy.”) A part of the half-time presentation highlighted the contribution made by two Notre Dame engineering professors in combatting cystic fibrosis in children. The segment ended with the professors proudly stating, “We are - the ‘Fighting Irish!’”

Slainte, EMN

References: Father Thomas Blantz, [The University of Notre Dame](#), a History, University of Notre Dame Press (2020); John Joe McGinley. “The Fighting Chaplain of Notre Dame,” Irish Central News (Aug. 24, 2023); Frank McNally, “How a University in Indiana Became the ‘Fighting Irish,’” Irish Times (Feb. 15, 2023); Professor Brian O’Conchubair, “De Valera’s ‘Tree of Liberty’ at Notre Dame,” Irish America Magazine (June/July 2007); Grantland Rice, “The Four Horsemen,” NY Herald Tribune (Oct. 18, 1924).

The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore - September 2023

We hope you all enjoyed the summer weather this year despite the Canadian smoke that seemed to linger a while. Its back to school time, start of football season, baseball playoffs are coming soon and hockey season will soon start. Pumpkin spiced everything is already out there, Halloween decorations are being sold already and soon Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here.

In the meantime we have our annual Golf Outing coming up on Monday October 2 at Pebble Creek. Email blasts are being sent out and there should be an ad in the newsletter about it as well. Golf sponsors and golfers are needed! Please let any band member know if your interested! Monies raised will go towards a donation from the band to Braedan Treharne, a sixth grader from Wall Braedan's grandfather and father are club members.

Last month I mentioned we are having our 25th

anniversary fundraiser in November! It will be at Stop Rose in the gym with club member Brian Gallagher spinning records as our DJ (records? Yes I remember records). Admission will include food by A Taste of Italy, includes beer/wine/soda. There will be a performance by our band of course and a massed band performance with us and other pipe bands in the area that attend. We will have a 50/50 and a gift auction. Monies raised will go towards replacing our 25 year old kilts and other uniform items including getting Marko a new feather bonnet (its the hat he wears). We also spend money on reeds, drum heads and other items throughout the year. Hosting our website is another example of costs that the band needs to pay out. Fundraisers like this, donations and the paid parades we participate in, all help to to keep the band going. Paying our instructors to be there twice a month is also an expense that quickly adds up.

Continued on page 8



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The band is continuing to learn new music and our instructors are really helping improve our sound!

Upcoming events:

September 9 - Union County Celtic Festival at Oak Ridge Park in Clark NJ. Other Pipe Bands and Irish rock bands will be there performing at the festival - should be fun day!

September 16 - Half Way to St Paddy's Day Party at the club!

September 24 - John Baseline Parade in Raritan NJ

September 24 - Benefit for club member Michael Killeen at the Headliner

September 28 - private event

October 2 - Our Annual Golf Outing - Pebble Creek

November 18 - Our 25h Anniversary will be celebrated at our band fundraiser at St Rose

PDJS Q&A:

1. Is the band going to Ireland or Savannah again?

The short answer is yes. We are hopeful the pricing is reasonable to go to Ireland in August 2024 to perform at the Rose of Tralee event (as we did in for the first time in 2016). Savannah again for their St. Patricks Day parade is also being discussed. We have been there 6 times and each time was a lot of fun!

2. Does the band pay for these trips to perform?

No, each member is responsible for their transportation, lodging, food and beverages no matter where we go to perform. The band does subsidize a portion of cost, based on funds available for any fees related to traveling with our instruments by plane. Ever try to fit a bass drum in an overhead bin? :)

The trips are fun and something to look forward to for our band family. We try to spread out these trips since the cost per band member is a significant factor along with taking time off from work.

3. How many people have been kilted in the band over the last 25 years?

Approximately 90 people have been officially part of the band in the the 25 years the band has existed. We have 44 active members now with a few students inching closer to their auditions.

Do you have a question to ask? Let me know and your question can be featured right here!

Do you want to learn to play bagpipes or drums? Yes YOU!! All you need to do is show up to see what it's all about and give it a try!!!

Growth is key for the band's future. It would be great to see more club members (and your families) join the band! Remember the band is not just for club members andlessons are FREE!!!

Reach out and 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 updated website www.jspipesanddrums.com or talk to any band member for information.

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

For more info, please contact our 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).

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

Thank you!

Thank you all and we appreciate the continued support from all of you!!

Slainte,

Ray Spengler

**The Order
of The
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of the
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of the
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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, October 4th, 2023

7:30pm

Not receiving email or have contact information to update?

Contact Ned Barrett at
njbarrett63@gmail.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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