

**SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT
THE THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER HIBERNIAN SCHOLARSHIPS
DEDICATED TO
JOSEPH T. WARD & MICHAEL E. DUFFY**

Description

The Thomas Francis Meagher Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Helena offers two scholarships to Carroll College sophomores through seniors for the SPRING SEMESTER of 2010 for \$1,000.00 each.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicants must fulfill the following:

1. Be a full-time (12 semester hours) sophomore through senior at Carroll
2. Be working toward a degree at Carroll College
3. Be a Helena area resident (50 mile radius)
4. Have demonstrated financial need
5. Have at least a 2.5 GPA
6. Must be of Irish descent and a practicing Catholic

Applications

Return applications to the Financial Aid Office - O'Connell Hall, Room 252

Deadline

Application deadline is Monday, December 7, 2009. Announcement of scholarship winners will be before the end of the fall term in December 2009.

THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER HIBERNIAN SCHOLARSHIPS
DEDICATED TO JOSEPH T. WARD & MICHAEL E. DUFFY

\$1,000 EACH

ELIGIBILITY: Carroll College sophomore – senior, working toward a degree with the minimum college GPA of 2.50 and demonstrated financial need.

DATE DUE: Monday, December 7, 2009
Please return to Janet Riis in the Financial Aid Office, O'Connell Hall.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

1. Name: _____
(last) (first)

2. Home Address: _____
(Street/PO Box) City State Zip

3. Local Telephone (or Cell) Number: _____

4. Cumulative Grade Point Average : _____

5. Working toward a degree? Yes No

6. Current year in college: 1 2 3 4 (circle)

7. Plan to be enrolled at Carroll in Spring 2010? Yes No
How many credits? _____

8. I acknowledge that I am of Irish descent, currently a practicing Catholic, active in a local parish or campus ministry at Carroll.

(Signature) _____

9. Please write to the committee telling them why this scholarship would financially make a difference to your being able to continue your education at Carroll. Attach your letter to the application.

10. Signature:

The Pastor of your parish or Chaplain at Carroll.

11. Attached is a short biography of Thomas Francis Meagher, a hero in Ireland and an outstanding Montana historical figure. In a paragraph or two, please relate why you think the scholarships are worthy of his name. Please be sure to attach your response to the application.

I authorize Carroll College to provide the Hibernian Scholarship Committee with the information it requests. I also certify that the information I have included in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER 1823-1867

Irish Patriot

American Civil War General

Montana Governor

Thomas Francis Meagher, born August 3rd, 1823, in Waterford, Ireland, was to become a leading figure in the Irish independence movement of the mid-19th century, due mainly to his brilliant mind and extraordinary oratory abilities. In the Irish Uprising of 1848, this young, freedom-loving patriot took the leadership in efforts to liberate the Irish people from English tyranny. He, along with eight other Irish political heroes, was convicted for treason by an English court. All were sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. However, due to world-wide protest, Queen Victoria commuted the death sentences and banished all to Tasmania, a prison island off the coast of Australia. To a man, all nine would eventually become prominent governmental and military leaders in Australia, Canada, and the United States.

Meagher escaped in 1852 to New York where he was eagerly welcomed as a young, romantic victim of British oppression. Before long, he earned a nationwide reputation as a speaker and journalist, traveling across his new-found home to address huge audiences as he went.

When the Civil War erupted, Meagher formed a company of men of Irish descent which later became part of the "Fighting 69th" Regiment of New York. He then proposed the formation of the Irish Brigade, composed mainly of Irish immigrants and Irish-Americans, and was appointed Commanding General by President Lincoln. This hard-charging unit, with Meagher at its head, proceeded to bring much glory upon itself in such battles as Fair Oaks, Mechanicsville, Gains Mill, White Oak Swamp, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Meagher's fame and military record prompted President Andrew Johnson to appoint him Secretary of the Montana Territory in 1865. Eventually, he became Acting Territorial Governor, a post he held from September, 1865 to July, 1867.

Meagher's tenure as Territorial Governor in Montana was marked by bitter turmoil due to the antagonistic nature of the times. The Territory was a political bedlam. Lawlessness was common in those post-war years, and the vigilantes who were supposed to protect the innocent were at times little better than the unruly. In addition, legislators and state officials were relentlessly in the throes of conflict. In the meantime, refugees from the Confederate army were pouring in to disturb the Unionists, and there was a constant danger of war with Indian tribes. In spite of it all, Meagher is given credit for tenacious leadership in the progress that Montana made toward statehood. He called for the second legislative session in the future state's history, and shortly after summoned a constitutional convention to meet in Helena, though it took more years before Montana was to become a state.

In the midst of such efforts to establish a bona fide state, this colorful figure's career came to an abrupt end that still remains a mystery. On July 1st, 1867, while at Fort Benton, Meagher was to spend the night on a riverboat as the captain's guest. In the following hours he either fell overboard or was thrown from the docked vessel, though how and why still remains unknown, nor was his body ever recovered. Since Meagher was no friend of the political disturbers of the time, nor of certain other hostile factions in the State, it has been conjectured by some observers that he was murdered. Then, in the following years, his reputation was considerably and unfortunately tarnished by political and religious adversaries who controlled a good deal of the press in Montana. A recent Montana study (Montana: A History of Two Centuries by Malone et al) asserts that Meagher was "...**overwhelmed and destroyed by the bitter partisanship of Montana Territorial politics**". But Thomas Meagher remains distinguished to both the Irish across this country and in his homeland, as well as in Montana. The impressive statue that now stands before the State Capitol celebrates his memory. Furthermore, in 1867 one of 11 Montana counties was named in his honor, and Meagher County remains as one of the present 56 counties.

Thomas Francis Meagher is noted for many things as shown above, but there is one other item that is little known about him. The present day flag of the Irish Republic, known as the "Irish Tri-Color", and is composed of three distinct bands- green, white, and orange. In Meagher's early political days, the Confederation, as his movement was known, needed a banner. In the course of an address to his brotherhood, Meagher unfurled a splendid flag of three colors made of rich silk. As he explained: "The

white in the center signifies a lasting truth between the orange and the green, and I trust that beneath its folds the hands of the Irish Protestant and Irish Catholic may be clasped in generous and heroic brotherhood.” He further prophetically proclaimed: “I hope to see that flag one day waving as our National Banner.”

So the State of Montana honors this man, who was an orator, journalist, lawyer, Irish patriot, American Civil War hero, Montana statesman, and perhaps a political martyr, by a monument at the State Capitol. And the Helena Hibernians, Thomas Francis Meagher Division, honors Meagher by having commissioned a Bob Morgan painting of the memorial that stands at our State Capitol; in addition, we have recently established a bronze memorial to Meagher at Fort Benton.

The Thomas Francis Meagher Scholarships are dedicated to two Carroll College men. One is Dr. Joseph T. Ward who taught for many years at Carroll. The other is Michael Duffy, a brilliant student whose career was cut short by an auto accident. Mike went on to serve as an inspiration in a life spent incapacitated but always with a great spirit. Both were members of our Hibernian Division.

Hank Burgess
Thomas Francis Meagher Division
Ancient Order of Hibernians
Helena, MT