

# Granville Hotel



Thomas Francis Meagher Bar



Bianconi Restaurant



Private Dining



Parnell Room

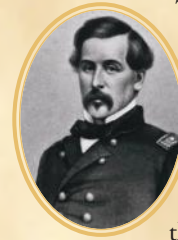


Tapestry Room Wedding Venue



Bedroom Bridal Suite

## THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER (1823 -1867)



Thomas Francis Meagher was born in what is now *The Granville Hotel* in 1823, it was then the family home of his mother Alicia Quan and father Thomas Meagher a union of two of the most prominent merchant families in Waterford. His father traded between Waterford and Newfoundland, Canada, and had made their wealth with the discovery of large shoals of cod off the coast of Newfoundland. Thomas Francis grew up in an atmosphere of wealth and privilege and becoming disillusioned by constitutional politics, followed the course of rebellion with the Young Ireland Movement.

He was sent as a delegate to French revolutionaries, but returned from Paris with no weapons and no money, but he did return with a symbol that was to prove more powerful than either - a flag modelled on the French tricolour and comprising three vertical bands - green symbolising the south, orange the north, and white for peace between these two traditionally warring factions. Flown first in 1848 from the Wolfe Tone Club in Waterford, and later from the GPO in Dublin during the Easter Rising in 1916, Meagher's tricolour became the flag of the Republic of Ireland.

After the failure of the rebellion in Ireland in 1848 he was sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered, but this was commuted to transportation to Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania, Australia). In 1852 he escaped to America, arriving in New York to a tumultuous welcome from his fellow-countrymen. In 1861 with the outbreak of the American Civil War he joined the 69th Regiment and subsequently he fused together five regiments of mainly Irish-Americans to form the famous Irish Brigade. He became Brigadier General and under his leadership the Brigade fought through some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War - Bull Run, Fair Oaks, Chancellorsville, Malvern Hill, Antietam and Fredericksburg. Following the war Meagher was appointed by Abraham Lincoln as Secretary and acting Governor of Montana, where a large statue of Thomas Francis Meagher stands before the Capitol Building in Helena.

**Revolutionary, convict, military leader - Thomas Francis Meagher was too dramatic and inspiring a figure to die of old age.....he simply disappeared.**

*To this day his old regiment the Fighting 69th and the State of Montana retain strong links with Waterford and The Granville Hotel.*

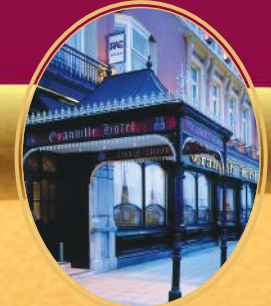
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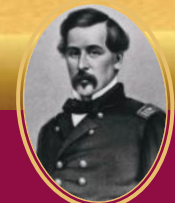
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AN HISTORICAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE GRANVILLE HOTEL



Birthplace of Thomas Francis Meagher (Irish and American Patriot) who first unveiled the Irish Tricolour in Waterford in 1848.

# Granville Hotel



- City Centre, family run, boutique manor style hotel, situated opposite the clock tower and overlooking the River Suir and Marina.
- CIE Tours International Awards of Excellence - Best Hotel Service and Hospitality 2014. Tripadvisor 2014 - No 1 in Waterford. AA Rosette 2014. Bianconi Restaurant -Knorr Great Carvery 2014 - Finalist. Georgina Campbell Hotel of the Year 2013. CIE Tours International Awards of Excellence - Best Hotel Service and Hospitality 2013.
- Birthplace of Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher originator of our Irish Tricolour.
- Free overnight car parking for Hotel Residents.
- Viking Triangle Experience (5mins) incorporating award winning Museum of Treasures - unique cluster of 3 Museums chronicling over one thousand years of history, Reginalds Tower (Viking), Choristors Hall (Medieval) and Bishop's Palace (18th to 20th Century) Audio and Guided Tours.
- Waterford Crystal Experience (5 mins.), Showrooms, Visitor Centre and Tour of Crystal making.
- Waterford Airport 20mins., Dublin 1.5 hours, Cork 1.5 hours, Shannon 2 hours.



## HISTORY OF THE GRANVILLE HOTEL

The Granville Hotel is a unique boutique manor-style family run hotel. Dating back to the early 1700s, it is also one of Ireland's oldest hotels and has played a prominent role in Waterford City's rich, social and political history.

It was built by the Newports a well known merchant and banking family of Dutch origin and subsequently bought by one of the city's most prominent merchants

Thomas Meagher who traded between Waterford and Newfoundland, Canada. His son Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher of the famous Fighting 69th and The Irish Brigade who distinguished himself in the American Civil War was born here in 1823.

Thomas Francis Meagher went on to become Secretary to the territory and Governor of Montana. He was a Pall Bearer at Abraham Lincoln's Funeral and was the originator and designer of our National Irish Tricolour, which was first flown in Waterford in 1848.

The Hotel was also the headquarters for the first public transport system in Ireland established by Charles Bianconi and has been host to many other famous historical and political figures, including Charles Stewart Parnell, Daniel O'Connell and Lord Frederick Roberts.

The hotel was purchased in 1979 by Liam and Ann Cusack and restored to its former gracious grandeur, combining modern comfort with olde worlde charm and elegance.

The Cusack family second generation now continue to uphold the Granville traditions of comfort, service and hospitality.

Ann Cusack travelled to the capital of Montana (Helena) in the 1980's and was made Honorary Secretary of State and given the Seal of Montana in recognition of her connection with Thomas Francis Meagher and his place of birth. In 2013 she received the distinction of becoming an Honorary Private of the Fighting 69th NY., in the Special Interest of the Regiment's Continuity, Traditions and Esprit de corps. In 2014 she became an Honorary Member of the Fighting 69th.



## DANIEL O'CONNELL

(1775-1847)

Daniel O'Connell was born in Carhen near Cahirciveen, County Kerry on the 6th of August 1775. Often referred to as "The Liberator" or "The Emancipator", O'Connell was an Irish political leader in the first half of the 19th century and campaigned vigorously for Catholic Emancipation - (the right for Catholics to sit in the Westminster Parliament). He was a great friend and a regular visitor to the Meagher family home (*now The Granville Hotel*). Daniel O'Connell died in Genoa, Italy on the 15th May 1847, and is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.



## CHARLES BIANCONI

(1786-1875)

Born Carlo Bianconi in Lombardy (Italy), Bianconi moved to Ireland in 1802. In 1815 he established regular horse-drawn carriage services on many routes throughout Ireland. He set up a stagecoach service in 1831 from the Commins's Family & Commercial Hotel (*now The Granville Hotel*) which he leased from the Meagher Family. By 1832 he had established himself as the founder of public transportation in Ireland and was known as "The King of the Irish Roads". He died in 1875 at Longfield House, Boherlahan, Co. Tipperary.



## THOMAS MEAGHER

(1796 -1874)

Thomas Meagher was born in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada, where his father, also Thomas (1763-1837), had emigrated from County Tipperary just before the turn of the 18th century and became a trader and advanced to merchant, and shipowner. Thomas Meagher returned to Waterford to conduct his father's business and was twice elected Mayor of Waterford City. He was a Member of Parliament for Waterford from 1847-1857. A constitutionalist he supported Daniel O'Connell for the struggle for Catholic Emancipation, which was achieved in 1829. His son Thomas Francis Meagher was born in their townhouse, now the Granville Hotel and went on to become the Governor of Montana, USA.



## LETITIA BONAPARTE WYSE (1804 -1871)

The Wyses of Waterford have been intimately linked with the Reformation and Counter Reformation movements in Ireland and the struggle of the Catholic community for religious equality. Thomas Wyse is however better remembered today for his marriage to Letitia Bonaparte born in Viterlo Italy, and niece of the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. It is said that Letitia (a very flamboyant lady) had regularly thrown sovereigns from the upstairs windows of *The Granville Hotel* to the crowds below. She returned to Italy after the failure of her marriage to Thomas Wyse and died in 1871.



## LORD FREDERICK ROBERTS (1832-1914)

Frederick Sleigh Roberts was born at Cawnpore in India in 1832, the son of General Sir Abraham Roberts of Newtown Park Waterford. He is one of an elite group of only three fathers and sons to receive the Victoria Cross. Now titled Field Marshal Earl Roberts of Kandahar, Pretoria and Waterford he was promoted to Commander-in-Chief of all British Forces. In 1892 he re-visited Waterford and was made an honorary Freeman. His Waterford admirers chose to honour him with the gift of a fine cased clock. The clock still stands today in *The Granville Hotel*. He died in St. Omer, France in 1914 and is buried in St. Pauls Cathedral, close to Nelson and Wellington.



## CHARLES STEWART PARNELL (1846-1891)

Charles Stewart Parnell was born in 1846 in County Wicklow. An Irish Anglican landowner, nationalist political leader, land reform agitator, and the founder and leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party. He was one of the most important figures in 19th century Ireland and Great Britain, described by Prime Minister William Gladstone as the most remarkable person he had ever met. Waterford City supported his cause for Irish Home Rule and in 1880 on his visit here he received the Freedom of the City. While in Waterford he resided at *The Granville Hotel*. He died on the 6th October 1891 in Brighton, England. Parnell was known as the "Uncrowned King of Ireland".