

MONTANA SUPPLEMENT



Editor: Daniel E Koch Jr. REPGC
dkoch911@yahoo.com, 406-861-9946

The Ides of March.

What exactly is the Ides of March? I had no idea so as usual; I went looking and here is what I found.

The word *Ides* derives from a Latin word, meaning *to divide*. The Ides were originally meant to mark the full moons, but because calendar months and lunar months were different lengths, they quickly got out of step.

In ancient Rome, the Ides of March were equivalent to our March 15. In the Roman calendar, this date corresponded to several religious observances. The Romans considered the Ides of March as a deadline for settling debts.

In the ancient Roman calendar, each month had an Ides. In March, May, July, and October, the Ides fell on the 15th day. In every other month, the Ides fell on the 13th day.

The Romans also had a name for the first day of every month. It was known as the *Kalends*. It is from this word that our word *calendar* is derived.

Following the Ides of March, we have St. Patrick's Day, let's look at some trivia about that as well shall we? Yes, we shall!

Though we have come to associate Kelly green with the Irish and the holiday, the 5th-century saint's official color was "Saint Patrick's blue," a light shade of sky blue.

The color green only became associated with the big day after it was linked to the Irish independence movement in the late 18th century.

Although he made his mark by introducing Christianity to Ireland in the year 432, Patrick was not Irish himself. He was born to Roman parents in Scotland or Wales in the late 4th century.

New York City's St. Patrick's Day Parade is one of the world's largest parades. Since 1762, roughly 250,000 marchers have traipsed up 5th Avenue on foot—the parade still does not allow floats, cars, or other modern trappings.

How did the shamrock become associated with St. Patrick? According to Irish legend, the saint used the three-leafed plant (which is not to be confused with the four-leaf clover) as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity when he was first introducing Christianity to Ireland.

According to Irish legend, St. Patrick was not originally called Patrick. His birth name was Maewyn Succat, but he changed it to Patricius after becoming a priest.

You can't attend a St. Patrick's Day event without hearing a cry of "Erin go Bragh." What does the phrase mean? Erin go Bragh / erɪn ɡə 'brɑː/, sometimes Erin go Braugh, is the anglicization of an Irish language phrase, *Éirinn go Brách*, and is used to express allegiance to Ireland. It is most often translated as "Ireland Forever."

Information gathered from:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erin_go_bragh
www.mentalfloss.com/article/93246/13-lucky-facts-about-st-patricks-day
earthsky.org/human-world/beware-the-ides-of-march

Respectfully submitted by Dan Koch Jr. PM, REPGC