



**General Thomas Meagher Division
Fredericksburg, Virginia**

February 2009

Fredericksburg, Virginia Instituted: November 11, 1987
Meeting Time: 3rd Tuesday, 7:30PM Membership: 25
Meeting Location: Fredericksburg Knights of Columbus Council Home, 4724 Harrison Road,
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

PRESIDENT

Bruce A. Denault

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Jeff Fitzpatrick

RECORDING SECRETARY

Robert J. Sullivan

VICE-PRESIDENT

Robert E. Ghormley

TREASURER

William Halpin

ORGANIZER

Vacant



President's Report

Welcome aboard, Brendan Kelly! He took part in the Shamrock Degree during our last meeting. He is an active duty Commander in the Coast Guard. He and his family are members of St. Mary's parish.

I want to thank everyone who took time from their normal Saturday plans to join us at St. Mary's for our meeting and presentation from the DC Roses of Tralee. Jeff Fitzpatrick will follow up on recruiting and finding sponsors so that we may send a Rose to the next DC Rose competition. If anyone is interested in assisting, please contact Jeff at:

Jeff@blueandgraybrewingco.com

Please send me your current e-mail address. I try to keep everyone in the Division informed through e-mail and send out our Membership rosters and Newsletters through e-mail as well.

I am trying to recreate our files, if your wife's name is not listed on the membership roster, please send it to me. I also need birthdates for all members and military status. If you are on active duty, please send me your rank and branch of service. If retired/discharged, please send me the highest rank obtained and the branch of service.

Coffee and Doughnuts

We sponsor a coffee and doughnut breakfast the fourth Sunday of each month at St. William of York Parish. Thus far, it has been successful and has the potential for far more success. This function is not labor intensive, but does require 2-3 Hibernians and/or family members to set up and monitor the activity between 6:30 am until after the 12:15 pm Mass. This gives us an opportunity not only to replenish our coffers, but also a chance to recruit new members. Volunteers can contact either Bruce Denault at 540-446-9123, bdenault2002@yahoo.com, or Bob Ghormley at 540-752-9613, bobkatss@mac.com. Thank you to Bob



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Ghormley and Bob Sullivan; without their assistance, this past breakfast could not have been successful. Our next breakfast is scheduled for March 22nd.

Membership

Membership is the life blood of any organization. Presently, we have only 25 members. **We need to actively recruit!!** We need to revitalize our Division and take advantage of every possible opportunity to make every Irish-Catholic man aware of us, what we do, and how to join!!

Tower Degree

Fifty per cent of our Division has not taken the Tower Degree. I encourage any member who has not yet taken it to consider it as a part of your growth as a Hibernian.

The world famous Brian Boru Degree Team will conduct The Tower Degree after our 2009 AOH State Convention on July 19th. Those interested, please contact Bruce Denault at bdenault2002@yaoo.com or call (540) 446-9123.

Dues



Dues for 2009 are due. If you are 75 years old or older, all that is required is \$10 to cover your per capita to the State and National Board. All others are required to pay the entire \$24. Please pay at the next meeting or send your money to:

Jeff Fitzpatrick
237 Hillcrest Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Upcoming Events

St. Patrick's Day:



Our St. Patrick's Day celebration begins at 11:00 on Saturday, March 14 at the Blue and Gray Brewery. The parade kicks off at noon and the festivities will last at least until 3 PM.



That evening, enjoy Celtic music and dancing as our celebration continues with a corned beef and cabbage dinner at St. William of York Parish. Contact Bob

Ghormley for tickets.

The Irish-American Social Club, in conjunction with the Fredericksburg Jaycees, sponsors the Fredericksburg St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Fredericksburg Sunday evening, March 15th starting at 5:30 PM.



Our St. Patrick's Day festivities end with a corned beef dinner and Celtic entertainment at Holy Cross Academy from 5:30 PM until 8:30 PM on March 17th (same night as our next meeting). Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Please see Jeff Fitzpatrick for tickets and details.





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Irish Marines

The curator at the National Marine Corps Museum is scheduled to talk at 1 PM on March 28th at the museum. He will discuss the Irish Marines.

Unfinished Business

Honor/color guard.

In the past, there had been an expressed interest in our Division to start an honor/color guard for participation in parades. If that interest still exists, please contact Bruce Denault at 540-446-9123, bdenault2002@yahoo.com

Division Hats and shirts.

If there is an interest in purchasing shirts, hats, jackets or any other Division-specific clothing, please contact Bill Halpin at (540) 972-5903 or HalpinBill@aol.com.



SAINT KEVIN
Patron of blackbirds, the
Archdiocese of Dublin,
Ireland, and Glendalough,
Ireland
(498?-618)

Also known as *Coemgen* and *Kevin of the Angels*

Like St. Columba, Kevin was born of noble parents and studied for the priesthood from an early age. Unlike his saintly colleague, however, Kevin took to the hills after his ordination rather than the road, becoming a

hermit in a cave at Glendalough, or "valley of the two lakes," in County Wicklow. There he wore skins, ate nettles and berries, and prayed. As word of his holiness spread, others came to join him, and Kevin eventually founded a monastery at Glendalough, where he served as abbot until his death at the age of 120.

Not surprising for a hermit, St. Kevin had a special love for animals, which is illustrated in numerous stories about the saint. For example, once, when Kevin had stretched out his arm in prayer, a blackbird laid an egg in his hand. He remained in that position until the baby bird hatched. Another story relates how a cow, given to licking Kevin's clothes while he was praying, gave as much milk as 50 other cows.



***IRISH HISTORY IN
VIRGINIA***

Andrew Lewis

On March 1, 1776, Irish-born Andrew Lewis was appointed a brigadier general in the Continental Army. Andrew's father's reportedly fled to the colonies after killing his landlord in self-defense. The family settled in Virginia. Given their father's history in Ireland, it is not surprising that two of the Lewis brothers would fight in the revolutionary army. Andrew's brother William would rise from lieutenant to major before being captured in





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1780. Andrew's military career predated the Revolution. He served with Washington during the French and Indian War, seeing extensive action after that with Braddock. Andrew was captured by the French in 1758 and sent to Montreal. After the war, he saw action against the Indians on the Virginia frontier during Dunmore's War. Another brother, Charles, was killed under Andrew's command during that war. Lewis' military experience led to his promotion to brigadier general in 1776. In July of that year, he helped drive British Governor Dunmore from Virginia. Ironically, this was the same

man who gave his name to the war in which Lewis had earlier fought. Lewis took umbrage at his passing over for promotion in the years that followed. His old friend from the French and Indian War, George Washington, tried to console him, but Lewis resigned April 15, 1777, citing "ill health." Lewis remained in the Virginia militia, and died in 1781.

Beannachtaí na Féile Páraic oraibh!

OUR NEXT MEETING IS 7:30 PM TUESDAY MARCH 17TH
