



**General Thomas Meagher Division
Fredericksburg, Virginia**

January 2009

Fredericksburg, Virginia Instituted: November 11, 1987
Meeting Time: 3rd Tuesday, 7:30PM Membership: 24
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

Jeff Fitzpatrick has thrown his hat in the ring and volunteered as our Financial Secretary. Needless to say, he was voted in unanimously. Thank you, Jeff!!

Congratulations to Bob Ghormley! He has been selected by the Virginia State Board as the Hibernian of the Year. The announcement was officially made at the Quarterly State Meeting on January 24th. The award is in recognition for Bob's dynamic and inspirational leadership in addition to his organizational and managerial skills. The award also acknowledges his tireless devotion and unyielding dedication to our Division and his faith. Beyond any doubt, Bob epitomizes everything we envision when we hear the title `Hibernian`.

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.

Also, since 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.

Our next meeting has been moved to Saturday February 21st at 11:00 AM at St. Mary's Activity Center, Room 203. We voted at our last meeting to do this so we could accommodate representatives from Washington Rose of Tralee. Prior to their presentation, however, we will have a short business meeting and Shamrock Degree.



Coffee and Doughnuts

We sponsor a coffee and doughnut breakfast the fourth Sunday of each month at St. William of York Parish. Thus



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

Membership

Membership is the life blood of any organization. Presently, we have only 24 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@yahoo.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

AOH State Convention Committee

Meeting: There is a 2009 State Convention planning meeting scheduled for 7:30 PM on 3 February 2009 at St. William of York. The meeting will be held in the Knights of Columbus Council Home behind the Church. We have accomplished much, but still have a long way to go. If you are available, please, plan to attend.



St. Patrick's Day:

Our St. Patrick's Day celebration actually 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.





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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.

Irish Marines

The curator at the National Marine Corps Museum is scheduled to talk at 1 pm on March 28 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.

St. Patrick

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints.

Apostle of Ireland, born at Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton, in Scotland in the year 387; died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland on March 17, 461.

Along with St. Nicholas and St. Valentine, the secular world shares our love of these saints. This is also a day when everyone's Irish.

There are many legends and stories of St. Patrick, but this is his story.



Saint Patrick

Patrick was born around 385 in Scotland, probably Kilpatrick. His parents were Calpornius and Conchessa, who were Romans living in Britain in charge of the colonies.



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As a boy of fourteen or so, he was captured during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. Ireland at this time was a land of Druids and pagans. He learned the language and practices of the people who held him.

During his captivity, he turned to God in prayer. He wrote:

"The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was rosed, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same."

"I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he reunited with his family.

He had another dream in which the people of Ireland were calling out to him "We beg you, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more."

He began his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years.

Later, Patrick was ordained a bishop, and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. He arrived in Ireland March 25, 433, at Slane. One legend says he met a chieftain of one of the tribes, who tried to kill him. Patrick converted Dichu (the chieftain) after he was unable to move his arm until he became friendly to Patrick.

Patrick began preaching the Gospel throughout Ireland, converting many. He and his disciples preached and converted thousands and began building churches all over the country. Kings, their families, and entire kingdoms converted to Christianity when hearing Patrick's message.

Patrick by now had many disciples, among them Beningnus, Auxilius, Iserninus, and Fiac, (all later canonized as well).

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering, he died March 17, 461. He died at Saul, where he had built the first church.



Why a shamrock?

Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Trinity, and it has been associated with him and the Irish since that time.

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust



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in God should be a shining example to each of us. He feared nothing, not even death, so complete was his trust in God, and of the importance of his mission.



United States President Ronald Reagan speaking to large crowd in his ancestral home in Ballyporeen, Ireland in 1984.



Presidents of Irish and Scots-Irish Descent

At least 24 presidents of the United States have some Irish/Northern Irish (Scots-Irish American) ancestral origins, although the extent of this varies. For example, both of Andrew Jackson's parents were Irish born, while George W. Bush has a rather distant Irish ancestry. President Kennedy had far stronger Irish origins, which fell much closer in terms of date. In addition, Ronald Reagan's father was of partial Irish Catholic ancestry, while his mother had some Scots-Irish ancestors. James K. Polk also had Scots-Irish ancestry. Within this group, only Kennedy was raised as a practicing Roman Catholic.

President, Barack Obama, also has Irish ancestry, from Moneygall, Co. Offaly, prompting the release of a song titled *There's No One As Irish As Barack O'Bama*.



United States President John F. Kennedy laying a wreath at Commodore John Barry Memorial in Wexford, Ireland in 1963.

1. George Washington 1st President
2. Andrew Jackson, 7th President 1829-37
3. James Knox Polk, 11th President 1845-49
4. James Buchanan, 15th President 1857-61
5. Andrew Johnson, 17th president 1865-69
6. Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President 1869-77
7. Chester Alan Arthur, 21st President 1881-85
8. Grover Cleveland, 22nd and 24th President 1885-89, 1893-97
9. Benjamin Harrison, 23rd President 1889-93
10. William McKinley, 25th President 1897-1901
11. Theodore Roosevelt, 26th president 1901-09
12. William Howard Taft, 27th President 1909-13
13. Woodrow Wilson, 28th President 1913-21
14. Warren G. Harding, 29th President 1921-23
15. Harry S. Truman, 33rd President 1945-53



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16. John F. Kennedy, 35th President
1961-63
17. Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President
1963-69
18. Richard M. Nixon, 37th President
1969-74
19. Jimmy Carter, 39th President 1977-
81
20. Ronald Reagan, 40th President 1981-
89
21. George H. W. Bush, 41st President
1989-93
22. Bill Clinton, 42nd President 1993-
2001 (his mother's maiden name was
Cassidy)
23. George W. Bush, 43rd President
2001-2009
24. Barack Obama, 44th President 2009-
present

Other presidents of Irish descent

1. Jefferson Davis, first and only
President of the Confederate States
of America.
2. Sam Houston, President of Texas
1836-38 and 1841-44

OUR NEXT MEETING IS 7:30 PM SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21st
