



**General Thomas Meagher Division
Fredericksburg, Virginia**

July-August 2009

Fredericksburg, Virginia Instituted: November 11, 1987
Meeting Time: 3rd Tuesday, 7:30PM Membership: 28
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

We have just concluded a very successful State Convention. My deepest heartfelt thank-you goes out to Bob Ghormley, Bob Sullivan and Bill Halpin without whose assistance, hard work and dedication, this could not had happened.

Friday night, we had approximately 100 Hibernians at the Ice Breaker at the Marine Corps Museum. The highlight of the event was a tribute to LtCol John Dowd USMC.

The convention continued Saturday morning with the business meeting and election of State Officers for both the AOH and LAOH. Congratulations to our new State Officers:

President:	Rich Aleksy
Vice-President	Chuck Curran
Secretary:	Bruce Denault
Treasurer:	Gene Bransfield



My personal `thank you_ to Hugh O'Brien who cast the unanimous ballot on behalf of all the delegates for my election as State Secretary.

Following Saturday evening Mass we installed the new Officers and concluded the night with a banquet and entertainment provided by Dominic Preston.

Sunday morning we conducted the Higher Degrees for 14 candidates and concluded our Convention with a lunch at the St. William of York Community Center.



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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.

If anyone has an article for the Newsletter, please, get it to me before August 18th. Your article will appear in the September edition.

Membership

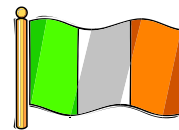
Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. Presently, we have only 25 members. **We need to actively recruit!!** We need to revitalize our Division and take advantage of every possible opportunity to make every Irish-Catholic man aware of us, what we do, and how to join!!

Tower Degree

50 percent 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 degree team is scheduled to present the Major Degrees in Myrtle Beach, South

Carolina and Raleigh, North Carolina in October 2009. Additionally, they may schedule a Major Degree in Bowie, Maryland sometime in early 2010. As I get details, I will pass it on. In the interim, the information is available on the State AOH website.



Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle

With only about a month and a half remaining for our first annual General T.F. Meagher Division *Trip for Two to Ireland* Raffle, we have a long way to go!!! Sales to date reflect less than 50% of the tickets sold. So, needless to say, our financial goal is far off as well. It's time to kick things into high gear.

For the raffle to succeed, every Brother must be a salesman. You are urged to work for the Division's best interests and sell as many tickets as possible to friends, relations, neighbors, parishioners, colleagues, strangers at the bar, et al. If every Brother sells 50 tickets (and I have sold 49) in the next six months, we'll reach our goal. That's only nine tickets per month (probably only three \$25.00 sales!) It's remarkably easy to sell these once you start. Raffle tickets are sold at \$10 each or 3 for \$25. The drawing is scheduled for September 26, 2009 at the Blue & Gray Brewery (winner need not be present to win). All proceeds will be used for division charities and projects. Since some Brothers aren't able to attend every monthly meeting, Bill Halpin



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will gladly mail 50 tickets to you. Contact him at SISConsulting@comcast.net, or telephone Bill at 202-213-5625 or 540-972-5903.

Upcoming Events

International Fall Festival

St. William of York will hold its annual International Fall Festival on Sunday, September 13th. Traditionally, our Division sponsors a booth where we serve corned beef sandwiches with a side and potato chips. We need volunteers to set up and man the booth. Details will be discussed during our August business meeting.

Fall Festival

Our Division, together with the Council of Catholic Women, will sponsor a Fall Festival either on October 2nd or the 9th at St. Mary's parish. For further details see Jeff Fitzpatrick: 898-8597/ 538-2379, Jeff@blueandgraybrewingco.com

Oktoberfest – September 25-27

In traditional Bavarian fashion, Fredericksburg comes together under the big tent to celebrate the 7th Annual Oktoberfest! Family fun, music, magic, song and dance. Free fall crafts table for the kids!

Try the newly released authentic Oktoberfest Beer and Hefeweizen from Blue & Gray Brewing. Numerous vendors will be selling delicious German foods and pastries. Try a free sample of Blue & Gray Oktoberfest beer while it lasts. Beer for sale in 12 oz or 16 oz mugs, or 33.8 oz commemorative stein.

Friday: 5-10 pm is the keg-tapping ceremony and OOMPah band

Saturday: 12:00 LOW'n'BROWS band OOMPah! Sing-along for prizes. At 1:30 pm there will be a German Shepherd Exhibition by the Spotsylvania County K-9 Unit (Invited)

Drawing for the “Trip for Two to Ireland” Raffle will be held on Sunday. Also from 11 am-4 pm there will be a Roving accordion and a petting zoo.

Election of Officers

On November 17th as part of our regular business meeting, we will elect our Division Officers for the next calendar year. If you are interested in running for a position, please, notify the Nominations Committee. As I have been elected as State Secretary and retained my position as State Historian, I will not run for re-election as your Division President.

Christmas Parade

Fredericksburg will hold its annual Christmas Parade on the evening of December 5th. If you are interested in marching in this, please, let me know. I will not enter our Division as participants if we do not have the interest.

Sgt Kirkland Memorial

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, December 13th for the participants of the Battle of Fredericksburg at the Sgt Kirkland monument at 1013 Lafayette Blvd in Fredericksburg. Our division will present a wreath in honor of General Meagher and his Irish Brigade. An



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informal reception will follow at the Blarney Stone in Old Town Fredericksburg.

Installation of Officers

On December 15th during our regular business meeting we will install our newly elected Officers for calendar year 2010.

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.

Those interested in purchasing shirts, hats, jackets or any other Division-specific clothing, please contact Bill Halpin at 540-972-5903 or sisconsulting@comcast.net.

St. Finian

Feastday: September 10, 579

Irish abbot, a disciple of Sts. Colman and Mochae also called Winin. He was born in Strangford, Lough, Ulster, in Ireland, a member of a royal family. Studying under Sts. Colman and Mochae, he became a monk in Strathclyde and was ordained in Rome. Returning to Ulster, Finian founded several monasteries, becoming abbot of Moville, in County Down, Ireland. He became embroiled with St. Columba, a student, over a copy of St. Jerome's Psalter, and St. Columba had to surrender that copy to Finian. He also founded Holywood and

Dumfries in Scotland. Finian was known for miracles, including moving a river.

Symbols of Ireland



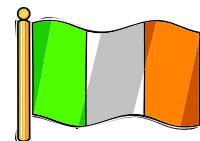
The Irish Harp

The Harp has long been a symbol of Ireland. Perhaps the legends of its magical powers come from the time when the bards would sing and tell stories of famous events to the Irish kings and chiefs.

During the early 1500's, under the rule of Henry VIII, the harp was first depicted on Irish coins. That tradition is carried on today. The harp is also used for other official duties such as the Irish State Seal, official documents and uniforms.

The Flag of Ireland

The tricolor flag of Ireland was introduced by Thomas Francis Meagher in 1848. The color of the green (nearest the flagpole) represents the Irish people, the orange (farthest from the flagpole) represents the English supporters of 'William of Orange' and the white color (center) represents peace.



Thomas Meagher, on the meaning of the Irish flag said, 'The white in the center signifies a lasting truce between the Orange and the Green; and I trust that beneath its folds the hands of the Irish Protestant and the Irish Catholic may be clasped in heroic brotherhood. _



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The Celtic Cross

The meaning of the Celtic Cross is told in legend of Ireland's St. Patrick. He was shown a sacred standing stone that was marked with a circle. St. Patrick took

this opportunity to show the union of old and new ways. He marked a cross through the circle and blessed the stone.

The Claddagh Ring

The hands are here for friendship,

The heart is here for love,

For loyalty throughout the year,

The crown is raised above.



The symbol of the Claddagh Ring dates back to a fishing village in Galway known as Claddagh village. It represents the fishing Kings of Claddagh, whose motto was, "in love and friendship let us reign." Later in the 17th century, the symbol was made into a ring that became a popular gift throughout Galway. Tradition says that the heart is worn outward to show the wearer is

heart whole and fancy free. Many Claddagh Rings have become family heirlooms and are a gift to be passed down from the mother and worn by a daughter on her wedding day.



The Shamrock

In ancient Ireland, the Shamrock was thought to have magical powers and the number

3 was considered a powerful number. Legends say the leaves will stand upright when a storm approaches and that no snake will be found among them. When St. Patrick came to Ireland, he used the Shamrock to symbolize the meaning of the Church's teaching on the Trinity.

The word shamrock comes from the old Irish word "seamrog" which means "summer plant."

OUR NEXT MEETING IS 7:30 PM TUESDAY AUGUST 18th
