



**General Thomas Meagher Division
Fredericksburg, Virginia**

March 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

March has been an extremely busy month for us. We had St. Patrick's Day activities, including a parade at the Blue and Gray Brewery on March 14th. We also had the St. William of York St. Patrick's Day celebration with dinner, Celtic dancing and music that evening. (Because of inclement weather the parade in Fredericksburg on the 15th was cancelled.)



Parade participants at the Blue & Gray Brewery

Our celebration culminated with dinner and entertainment on the 17th at Holy Cross Academy.

My deepest heartfelt thanks go to all who dedicated so much time and effort to the success of each of these events.

But, we can't take our packs off just yet! Now that St. Patrick's Day is over, we need to shift into high gear and complete our planning for the State AOH Convention on 17-19 July. Plan on one last coordination meeting the first part of April. We will brief our plans to the State Board during the State Quarterly meeting on April 25th.

We have kicked off our 'Trip for Two to Ireland' raffle. My best estimate so far is that we have sold over 70 tickets. Bill Halpin at 540-972-5903 or sisconsulting@comcast.net is our point-of-contact for this endeavor. I ask each Parish representative to place an add in your respective church bulletin and try to organize at least one Sunday to sell tickets at the church entrances after each Mass. I am also asking each member to sell 50 tickets. Each of us has to be very persuasive salesmen if we expect this to succeed.



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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.

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 Ghormley and Bob Sullivan; without their assistance, this past breakfast could not have been successful. Our next breakfast is scheduled for April 26th.

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@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



Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle

We kicked-off the first annual General T.F. Meagher Division `Trip for Two to Ireland` Raffle at the Blue & Gray Brewery's St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14th. The winner gets two round-trip



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air tickets from the east coast to Dublin; a rental car, and vouchers for six nights at B&Bs of their choice (travel agent provides a booklet with a list of B&Bs throughout the country). Each B&B welcomes visitors with tea and scones in the afternoon and serves a hardy Irish breakfast each morning. Travelers select a destination for the next evening and the B&B proprietor will call ahead to assure reservations.

Should the winner elect not to take the trip, we are offering an alternative prize of \$2500. **We are selling only 1000 opportunities to win!**

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 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 26 September 2009 at the Blue & Gray (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 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

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.

State Quarterly Meeting

Our State President, Pat Naughton, has scheduled a Quarterly meeting for April 25th in Winchester. This is our last State meeting before the Convention in July.

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 sisconsulting@comcast.net.

Saint Oliver Plunket

The last Catholic martyr to die at Tyburn, he was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1975

St. Oliver Plunket (1629-1681)

Born in County Meath, Oliver Plunket went to Rome to be educated by the Jesuits at the newly established Irish College. Ordained in 1654, he remained in Rome teaching theology until he was appointed archbishop of Armagh and primate of all Ireland in 1669. He established the Jesuits in Drogheda, where they conducted a school for boys and a theological college. He also sought to extend his ministry to the Gaelic-speaking Catholics of Scotland.



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In 1678 an English conspirator, Titus Oates, implicated Plunket in what he claimed was a **Jesuit plot** to assassinate Charles II. As a result, Plunket was arrested and tried before a kangaroo court in London. Found guilty of treason, Oliver Plunket was hanged at Tyburn, mercifully dying before he could be drawn (disemboweled) and quartered. His remains are now enshrined in part at St. Peter's in Drogheda, Ireland, and in part at Downside Abbey in England.

General Thomas F. Meagher

Thomas Francis Meagher (August 3, 1823 - July 1, 1867) was an Irish nationalist, a Union Army general during the American Civil War, and American politician. In his younger years he was an Irish revolutionary, fighting for Ireland's independence from British rule. He was known as "Meagher of the Sword" due to his fiery revolutionary speeches. During this time Meagher introduced the flag that is now the national flag of Ireland. In 1848, Meagher was convicted of sedition by the United Kingdom, and sentenced to death. The sentence was later commuted to transportation to Van Diemen's Land (today the Australian state of Tasmania).

In 1852, he escaped to the United States and arrived in New York City. Once in the

United States, he studied law, pursued journalism, and traveled presenting lectures. At the commencement of the American Civil War, he joined the U.S. Army and rose to the rank of brigadier general, most notably forming and leading the Irish Brigade.

Following the Civil War, Meagher served as acting governor of the Montana Territory. In 1867, in unexplained circumstances, Meagher drowned in the Missouri River after falling from a steamboat.



OUR NEXT MEETING IS 7:30 PM TUESDAY APRIL 21
