



**General Thomas Meagher Division
Fredericksburg, Virginia**

FredericksburgAOH.org

November-December 2009

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Instituted: November 11, 1987

Meeting Time: 3rd Tuesday, 7:30PM Membership: 30

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

Congratulations to our 2010

Officers:

President: Bill Halpin

V/President: Bob Ghormley

Treasurer: Shane Quinlan

Financial Sec'y: Jeff Fitzpatrick

Chair of Standing Committee: Hugh
O'Brien

I wish them best of luck and ask everyone to support them for a successful year!

If anyone is interested, we are still in need of a Recording Secretary.

On Sunday, December 13th at 2PM, we will lay our wreath at the monument of Sgt Kirkland. Hope to see you there. This is one event where we have 'exposure' for the Hibernians and recognition for General Meagher and the Irish Brigade.



March will be here before we know it! We need to start planning for our celebration of St. Patrick's Day at St. William of York Church now. Last year at this time we also kicked off our Raffle for Two to Ireland at the St Patrick's Day celebration at the Blue and Gray Brewery. Hopefully, this year the weather will cooperate. A great start for the raffle can only mean greater success!

Membership

Membership is the life blood of any organization. Presently, we have only 30 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!!

Any ideas for recruiting or getting our name out there for awareness and recognition will assist our recruiting efforts. Also, if anyone is interested in filling the billet as our Organizer, please let me know. Your



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assistance in recruiting will be greatly appreciated.

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.



Dues

Dues for 2010 are due. If you are 75 years old or older, all that is required is \$10 to cover your per capita to State and National headquarters. All others are required to pay the entire \$24.

Upcoming Events

Sgt Kirkland Memorial

A memorial service will be held at 2PM 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 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.

State Quarterly Meeting. The next State Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for January

23, 2010 at St. Joseph's Church, 750 Peachtree Street, Herndon, Virginia..

St. Patrick's Day:



Our St Patrick's Day celebration actually begins at 11:00 on Saturday, March 13 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.

The Irish-American Social Club, in conjunction with the Fredericksburg Jaycees, sponsors the Fredericksburg St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Fredericksburg .

As I get more details, I will pass them on.

Irish at the Battle of Fredericksburg

The Irish Brigade under General Thomas F. Meagher suffered its most severe casualties in December at the Battle of Fredericksburg where its fighting force was reduced from over 1600 to 256. The brigade was involved in the northern battleground at Fredericksburg, where they assaulted the sunken road in front of Marye's Heights. Ironically, one of the regiments manning the sunken road defenses was a predominantly Irish Regiment commanded by General Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb. Knowing that Cobb's men manned the wall, and that both Cobb's and Meagher's units contained



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members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, an organization dedicated to gaining military experience in the United States then freeing Ireland from Britain after the Civil War, Lee ordered reserves sent to the position. He need not have worried. Cobb's men helped decimate the Irish Brigade before the reinforcements could settle in place. It was at Fredericksburg that Lee allegedly referred to Meagher's regiment as the "Fighting 69th".

forward over the stone wall with canteens full and ventured out between the hostile lines. At first, Federals fired upon the young man but ceased as they soon discovered his merciful intent. Then cheers rang out from both sides as the man to become known as the "Angel of Marye's Heights" offered water to one adversary after another. After helping those that he could, he crossed back to the safety of his lines, and resumed his duties as a Confederate soldier defending those lines.

Sgt. Richard Kirkland - The Angel of



Marye's Heights

No longer able to withstand the wrenching moans of the suffering wounded and dying Union soldiers, 19-year-old Confederate Sergeant Richard Kirkland of the 2nd South Carolina approached Brigadier General Joseph Kershaw, CSA, seeking permission to go to their aid. Initially hesitant, the General acquiesced, refusing however to allow the white flag that would ensure his safety. Despite the danger, Kirkland sprang

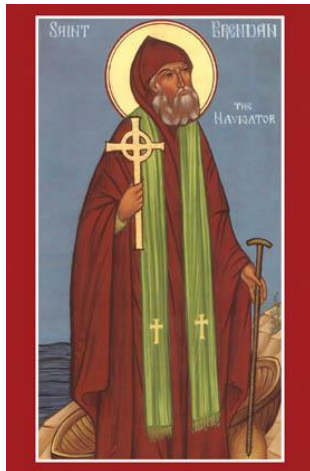


In September of 1863, Sergeant Kirkland would find himself fighting in the western theater as a detachment from Lieutenant General Longstreet's Corps moved west to support General Braxton Bragg's efforts to stop Union Major General William Starke Rosecrans and the Army of the Cumberland. They would do just that during the Battle of Chickamauga which would produce both a Southern victory and 34,600 casualties. Sadly, the valiant Sergeant ranked among those killed during this colossal battle. Mortally wounded in a failed charge, Kirkland exhorted his comrades to, "Save yourselves" adding "Tell Pa, I died right".



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Saint Brendan



***Patron of
boatmen,
sailors,
travelers, and
whales***

**St. Brendan
(486?–578?)**

Also known as *St.
Brendan the
Voyager, St.*

Brendan the Navigator, and St. Brandon
Born near Tralee in County Kerry, Brendan spent his childhood in the care of St. Ita at Killeedy, continued his studies under a number of other Irish saints, and was ordained a priest in 512. From an early age, Brendan was a great traveler, establishing a number of monasteries in Ireland, of which the most famous was Clonfert, founded about 560. Brendan also reputedly journeyed

to Scotland, Wales, and Brittany, furthering the spread of Christianity to these areas.

But Brendan's fame as a traveler really rests on *The Voyage of St. Brendan*, a tale popularized during the Middle Ages. According to this account, Brendan and a company of monks set sail on a fantastic journey in search of a fabled paradise. Along the way they visited a number of islands in the Atlantic – one of which turned out to be the back of a whale! – and possibly even reached the Americas. Although there is no historical proof of this journey, an expedition organized in the mid-1970s demonstrated that it was possible for the monks to have sailed a coracle of wood and leather that far. Whether or not the monks reached the New World centuries before Columbus will probably never be known.

***NOLLAIG SHONA AGUS ATHBHLIAIN FAOI MHAISE DAOIBH
OUR NEXT MEETING IS 7:30 PM TUESDAY DECEMBER 15th***
