

GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION
SPOTSYLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1

October 2013 Highlights

***In Our Third Decade of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity in
the greater Fredericksburg area!***

This has been a busy time for the division: Conclusion of the 2013 raffle, successful Halfway Party, nomination of 2014 division officers, and acceptance of five brothers into the division and the return of Brother Des Flanagan. **New brothers** include: Bob Buckman, St Jude Parish; Bob Fitzgerald, Mike Walsh, Pat Looby, and Randy James (all St Patrick Parish); and Paul O'Brien (St Mary Parish).

2014 Officer Nominations: The Nomination Committee comprised of Chairman Chuck Payne, working with Bill McCarthy, and Hugh O'Brien, performed their duties in an exceptional manner, finding qualified and willing brothers to fill every elected position. Having receiving the committee nominations, additional nominations for each position were solicited from the floor. There being none, nominations were closed.

The nominees for 2014 are:

- * President: Bill McCarthy
- * Vice President: Patrick Fogarty
- * Recording Secretary: Dennis Ryan
- * Financial Secretary: Bill Gilhooly
- * Treasurer: Bud Logan
- * Chairman, Standing Committee: Jim McMorrow
- * Marshal: Bill Phillips
- * Sentinel: John Hogan

The division could not ask for a better group of men to lead the division into 2014 and beyond. I am grateful these men stepped up to assume division leadership and thank the nomination committee for their excellent work.

Halfway to St Patrick Day: Jim McMorrow did a tremendous job managing the 2013 halfway party. The food and venue were great, the Mugginvan dance school dancers (aged 3-13) were off the the `cute meter, and the band was excellent. Here are a few of Rusty O'Brien's photos from the evening.



Moch Pryderi in action



Brave souls taking ceili Irish dance lessons



Young Dancers of Muggivan Dance School

Trip for Two to Ireland: Our hats are off to Jim O'Donnell for managing the most successful raffle in division history. He has set the bar *very high* for next year! Brother John Hogan held the winning ticket this year ! The first time an AOH brother has been so LUCKY!



John Hogan (L) shown receiving the winner's check from Treasurer Shane Quinlan

AOH Help & Hope for Meaningful Employment: Nine of our participants have landed meaningful employment since program inception in March 2013. Since program inception 43 men and women have attended at least one of our twice monthly sessions held alternately at St Parick and St Mary.

St Patrick Fall Festival: On October 5th, Hibernian brothers set up tent on the `parish green_ to further promote Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. With a name map of Ireland, some visitors discovered their family place of origin - an we recruited five new brothers.



(L to R) Des Flanagan, Father Kevin Fimian, Bill Halpin, Jim McMorrow, Neil Buttimer, Bud Logan, Bill Phillips and John Hogan. Not pictured is Bill McCarthy



Meagher Division Display under Neil's tent

Up Coming Events:

- October 27: St Matthew Parish Fair, 9AM-3PM. We have permission to set up a stand for recruiting and display similar to the St Patrick festival. Volunteers needed!
- November 4: Election Day
- November 11: Veterans Day
- November 19: Important division meeting: Election of 2014 officers and performing the Shamrock Degree for our newest brothers.
- **December 7: Our annual Christmas Dinner Party**
- Date TBD: Battle of Fredericksburg Commemoration - wreath laying at City Dock and Sunken Road
- December 17: Installation of 2014 officers

Prayer List: Please keep our brothers and family members in your prayers: John Walsh's mother-in-law died on October 12, Father Fimian (knee replacement surgery), Pat Phillips (cancer treatments), Dennis Ryan (rotator cuff surgery), Joe

Daley (elbow surgery), Mike Lenihan (possible mesothelioma), charter members Bill Callahan & Ron Cullen (multiple age related issues), and charter member Joe O'Connor. Joe says the swelling (right arm/hand) has gone down, but now there is constant itching and application of lotions, so he remains very uncomfortable.

Did you know: Ireland would fit neatly within the state boundaries of Indiana; both are home to about six million people.

And ... The Garryowen

Captain Myles W. Keogh commanded Company I, Seventh U. S. Cavalry under Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer. Custer was acquainted with Keogh's prowess as a fighter. During the U.S. Civil War Keogh gained a reputation for gallantry. So when Custer was asked to reform the Seventh Cavalry, he wanted Keogh in his outfit. Keogh's long journey from Ireland ended on Sunday, June 25, 1876, when he, Custer, and over 200 other officers and men of the Seventh were overrun by Sioux and Cheyenne warriors.

Keogh's gallantry was at the Little Bighorn. He was not mutilated by the Indians. We body remained untouched. It that he always wore around his died like a true warrior: his



recognized by the Indian victors the only member of the Seventh may never know why Keogh's may have been the papal medal neck, or it may have been that he pistol blazing to the last round.

One Indian survivor of the battle later said of Keogh: "Like the flame of a coal blazed his eyes. His teeth glistened like a fighting grizzly." Capt. Myles Keogh's wounded horse, Comanche, was nursed back to health, to become a revered regimental mascot. He's buried in the Fort Hill Cemetery, a long way from where he was born just outside Limerick on March 25, 1840. Keogh introduced "Garryowen," to Custer and it became, and remains today, the 7th Cavalry marching song.

Listen to Garryowen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IMFX6rEp7k> (You can skip the ad)

Sad day: Waterford Crystal plant demolished

Once every Irish home had or wanted some Waterford Crystal, no matter where in the world an Irish family found themselves. It was a link to the traditions of the old country that was proudly put on display, and sometimes even actually used, and it's value to the Irish took cannot be counted in mere cash.

Artisan crystal was made in Waterford for hundreds of years. The Waterford Crystal went into receivership in 2009 and the plant closed with the loss of 600 skilled jobs. This week demolition work finally began on the former Waterford Crystal plant, ending an era of the legendary Irish glass making company.

Just four and a half years ago the Waterford Crystal plant was one of the most popular tourist destinations in Ireland, at the time it's larger than life sized chandeliers could be seen by passing cars on the Cork Road, but they have been taken away.