



St Brendan's Feast Day May 16th

Ancient Order of Hibernians

St Brendan the Navigator Division
Mecklenburg County Division # 2

ISSUE #9

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME#3

September 2011

Our next business meeting is on Thursday, September 8th
at 7:30 PM

St. Mark's Hall Room 200 & 201

2011 Officers

Chaplain	Father David Miller
President	Joe Dougherty
Vice President	Brian Bourque
Secretary	Ray FitzGerald
Treasurer	Chris O'Keefe
Financial Secretary	Ron Haley
Standing Committee	Scott Stephan
Marshall	Ted Leahy
Sentinel	Deacon Bob Murphy
Chaplain Emeritus	Father Pat Hoare

www.aohmeck2.org

Tis a blessing to be Irish

Giving someone an Irish blessing is like invoking God's
"blanket protection" for life...and even beyond:

"May your neighbors respect you, trouble neglect you,
the angels protect you, and heaven accept you"
Practice random acts of blessing.



THE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

Brothers,

By the time you read this newsletter, we will have participated in the St Mark Ministry Fair and hopefully recruited a few new members for the division. You will notice a few changes in this month's newsletter. I will be deleting some items and replacing with different kinds of articles.

On Saturday, August 20th, I attended a NC State Board meeting at the home of the State President, John Ryan. I gave a report on the St Brendan division and also on the Mecklenburg County Board. Also, as the State Organizer, I tendered a report on a new division that will be coming on board in Pitt County. This will be the seventh division here in NC. I was contacted by a gentleman from Greenville, NC by the name of James Wils, that found the NC AOH website and contacted me a few months ago about forming a division. Last month, Nancy and I drove up to Greenville and I met with nine gentlemen that were interested in the AOH. Just last week, Jim called me and said he had 16 names that wanted to join, including a US Congressman. I will be going back to Greenville sometime in September, along with the Shamrock degree team from the Raleigh division to confer the degree and to install the new officers.

God Bless

Joe Dougherty

We are on the last few weeks of the Raffle sales. If you have sold ticket stubs and have money for same, please get them to Brother Ron Haley. The drawing is to be held on September 17th and the division thanks all of you for your help and support of our division.

BIRTHDAYS IN THE MONTH OF September

Naomi Bourque	Wife of Brother Brian	September 1 st
Shane Lis	Division Brother	September 6 th
Susan Phelan	Wife of Brother Patrick	September 6 th
Mary Margaret Lis	Wife of Brother Shane	September 13 th
Richard Murphy	Son of Brother Robert	September 13 th
Brian Fay	Division Brother	September 14 th
Kristi-Ann Gilmore	Wife of Brother Shawn	September 15 th
Laura Fisher	Wife of Brother Martin	September 16 th
Ron Haley	Division Brother	September 17 th
Nancy Dougherty	Wife of Brother Joe	September 17 th
Amy Fay	Daughter of Brother Frank	September 18 th
Scott Stephan	Division Brother	September 24 th
Ted Leahy	Division Brother	September 27 th
Eileen Haley	Daughter of Brother Ron	September 27 th

ANNIVERSARIES IN THE MONTH OF September

Scott & Michelle Fisher September 8th Twenty-Two Years

Brothers, Keep the date of December 1st, 2011 open for an upcoming announcement. It will be discussed at the September 8th meeting

Irish Myths



The Banshee

The bean-sidhe (woman of the fairy) may be an ancestral spirit appointed to forewarn members of certain ancient Irish families of their time of death. According to tradition, the banshee can only cry for five major Irish families: the O'Neills, the O'Briens, the O'Connors, the O'Gradys and the Kavanaghs. Inter-marriage has since extended this select list.

Whatever her origins, the banshee chiefly appears in one of three guises: a young woman, a stately matron or a raddled old hag. These represent the triple aspects of the Celtic goddess of war and death, namely Badhbh, Macha and Mor-Rioghain. She usually wears either a grey, hooded cloak or the winding sheet or grave robe of the unshriven dead. She may also appear as a washer-woman, and is seen apparently washing the blood stained clothes of those who are about to die. In this guise she is known as the bean-nighe (washing woman).

Although not always seen, her mourning call is heard, usually at night when someone is about to die. In 1437, King James I of Scotland was approached by an Irish seeress or banshee who foretold his murder at the instigation of the Earl of Atholl. This is an example of the banshee in human form. There are records of several human banshees or prophetesses attending the great houses of Ireland and the courts of local Irish kings. In some parts of Leinster, she is referred to as the bean chaointe (keening woman) whose wail can be so piercing that it shatters glass. In Kerry, the keen is experienced as a "low, pleasant singing"; in Tyrone as "the sound of two boards being struck together"; and on Rathlin Island as "a thin, screeching sound somewhere between the wail of a woman and the moan of an owl".

The banshee may also appear in a variety of other forms, such as that of a hooded crow, stoat, hare and weasel - animals associated in Ireland with witchcraft.

A Bit of Irish History



Sir Roger Casement

In [Washington, D.C.](#), on September 13, 1914, the former British diplomat Sir Roger Casement secretly meets with Franz von Papen, the German military attaché, to seek Germany's support in the effort to win independence from British rule for Ireland.

Born in Dublin in 1864, Casement earned international acclaim for his work as a British consul in Mozambique, Angola, the Congo and Brazil. He was rewarded with a knighthood in 1911. That same year, he retired from diplomatic service, citing ill health. Returning to Dublin, Casement helped found the Irish National Volunteers in 1913 and his trip to the [United States](#) in the summer of 1914 was aimed at garnering support for the nascent organization.

In his meeting with Papen—who in 1932 would briefly serve as chancellor of Germany before becoming vice chancellor under [Adolf Hitler](#) the following year—Casement suggested that an [Irish Brigade](#) be formed to fight alongside the Germans against Britain and the other Allies in [World War I](#). Casement continued his campaign for German support with a trip to Germany soon after; by the time he left, he had persuaded the German government to issue a declaration stating that "Should the fortunes of this great war, that was not of Germany's seeking, ever bring in its course German troops to the shores of Ireland, they would land there, not as an army of invaders to pillage and destroy, but as the forces of a government that is inspired by good-will towards a country and a people for whom Germany desires only national prosperity and national freedom."

Casement failed to secure Germany's direct support, however, in the form of sending troops to Ireland. He also failed to recruit any German military officers to assist in the planned [Easter](#) Rising, scheduled to take place on April 24, 1916. He consequently aimed to discourage his fellow organizers from going ahead with the uprising, on the grounds that they were not sufficiently prepared. On his return to Ireland from Berlin, however, Casement was arrested by the British and tried in London for treason. The Easter Rising went ahead without him, and was easily crushed by police and government forces. Casement was executed by hanging on August 3, 1916; his body was returned to Ireland years later, where he was given a state funeral and remembered as a hero of Irish nationalism.

Division Calendar of Events for September

- September 1st County Board Meeting & Election 7:00 PM (info to follow via email)
- September 8th Regular Business Meeting 7:30 PM Room 200 St Mark's
- September 17th Division Social & Raffle drawing at Killington's Restaurant & Pub
10010 Rose Commons Dr, Huntersville 6:30 PM
(Bring your family and friends)

If you have something you would like added to the website, please send to Brother Chris O'Keefe @

www.aohmeck2.org



Irish Made Goods

Hanna Hats of Donegal

This traditional family run business has blossomed into one of the most respected producers of handcrafted caps, hats and accessories. Minimalist design and superior craftsmanship are combined to make the designs of Hanna Hats both timeless and elegant.

<http://www.hannahats.com/index.html>

Barry's Tea

Every day should have its Golden Moments, share yours with Barry's Tea.

<http://www.barrystea.ie/>

KerryGold

A True Taste of Ireland Ireland has always been known as the "Emerald" or "Green" Island. A land of one hundred thousand welcomes, where the air is fresh and clean, the grass lush, and the rain soft and unpolluted. Ireland's dairy herds graze freely outdoors on green pastures for most of the year. Irish dairy farmers continue the traditional farming practices of their ancestors and produce plenty of pure, creamy fresh milk, the raw material for Kerrygold premium dairy products.

<http://www.kerrygold.com/>

Solvar Jewellery

You will not find a more varied selection of Irish made jewelry that is so well crafted.

<http://www.solvar.ie/>

O'Maille's of Galway

Ó'Máille's is one of Ireland's oldest established clothing stores. The business was opened in March 1938 by Padraic O'Maille and was located at Dominick Street in Galway City. Padraic and his brothers Stiofain and Sean and their sister Mary, worked together in the family business, selling homespun yarns, handwoven tweeds, and made-to-measure clothing. Padraic O'Maille became the first retailer in Ireland to trade in Aran sweaters. He bought traditional sweaters from Aran Island women who sold their wares on Saturdays at the Galway City open-air market. Our business continues to thrive 63 years later under the ownership of Sean Ó'Máille's son Ger and his wife Anne.

<http://www.omaille.com/index.html>

Cloaks of Ireland

Handcrafted cloaks and capes made in Ireland by the Siobhan Wear label

www.cloaksofireland.com/

Irish Genealogy

Web sites for tracing your family history

www.rootsireland.ie/ The largest Family database in Ireland

www.irelandroots.com/ Great collection of Irish records

www.ancestry.com A site maintained by the Mormon church and one of the the best sites for researching your family history

www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk/ Site is based in England, but so what!

www.censusfinder.com/irish-family-history-society.htm Can be useful

www.myirishancestry.com/ Good site for general genealogy information.

Most of the above sites have forums that you can join and connect with others that may be researching your family line. A site that has been very useful to me is www.cyndislist.com/ one of the best lists of genealogy web sites in the world. If you would like to get started on tracing your family tree, I would be more then happy to help get you started.



The Irish Memorial in Columbia, SC



Irish Traditions

Lisdoonvarna

Matchmaking is one of Ireland's oldest traditions and, for the last couple of hundred years, a good deal of it has taken place in Lisdoonvarna during September and early October.

The name Lisdoonvarna comes from 'Lios Duin Bhearna', which means the lios or enclosure of the fort in the gap. The town developed into a tourist centre as early as the middle of the 18th-century when a top Limerick surgeon discovered the beneficial effects of its mineral waters. People travelled from near and far to bathe in, and drink, the mineral waters. Rich in iron, sulphur and magnesium, the waters gave relief from the symptoms of certain diseases including rheumatism and glandular fever.

The Spa Hotel was the centre around which the village developed. The opening of the West Clare Railway contributed towards that development, although the nearest railway station was seven miles away at Ennistymon. This station opened in 1887 and from that time onwards, until the advent of the motorcar, tourists travelled from the train in pony and trap to "The Spa".

It was due to the popularity of these mineral springs and the huge amount of people going there that led to the Lisdoonvarna "matchmaking tradition". September became the peak month of the holiday season and with the harvest safely in, bachelor farmers flocked to Lisdoonvarna in search of a wife.

By the 1920s, matchmaking was still in vogue and people continued to come and "take the waters", including many of Ireland's clergy. It was around this time that one of Lisdoonvarna's most famous sayings was coined, describing the town as a place "where parish priests pretend to be sober and bank clerks pretend to be drunk" .

Today, there are just two official Matchmakers left in Co. Clare: Mr. Willie Daly who runs the riding centre outside Ennistymon and Mr. James White, hotelier and proprietor of the Imperial Hotel in the village. With the exception of the pairings these two plan and negotiate, very little genuine matchmaking takes place nowadays. However, Lisdoonvarna's annual festival has evolved into Europe's largest single's event. People don't necessarily come to look for a spouse - they come by the thousands in search of a good time.

For the month of September, dances run from 12.00 noon each day and carry on into the small hours of the next morning. Set dancing exhibitions are also a feature of the event and there's live Irish music in most pubs, although getting to the bar can be quite a task, but don't worry or hurry, because the music carries on until the early hours.

If you can afford the time and the money, and you're single, head for Lisdoonvarna this September and early October. You never know - as well as enjoying all of the good-natured fun and grand "craic", you might also find the perfect mate!

W H A T ' S G O I N G O N

Since many of the brothers' travel during the year, I will list things that are going on throughout the U.S. that may be of interest to any Irish man or woman.

Louisville, KY-Louisville Irish Festival: September 10th and 11th
www.louisvilleirishfest.com/

Kansas City, MO - Kansas City Irish Fest: September 2nd to 4th
www.kcirishfest.com/

Kingston, NY – Hooley on the Hudson: September 4th
www.ulsteraoh.com/

Syracuse, NY – Syracuse Irish Festival: September 9th & 10th
www.syracuseirishfestival.com/

Pittsburgh, PA – Pittsburgh Irish Festival: September 9th, 10th & 11th
www.pghirishfest.org/

Muskegon, MI – Michigan Irish Music Festival: September 16th to the 18th
www.michiganirish.org/

Indianapolis, IN – Indy's Irish Festival: September 16th, 17th & 18th
www.indyirishfest.com/

