



Ancient Order of Hibernians

St Brendan the Navigator Division

Mecklenburg County Division # 2

ISSUE #9

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME#2

September 2010

Our next business meeting is on Thursday, September 9th at 7:30 PM

Rooms 200 & 201

2009-2010 Officers

Chaplain	Fr Brad Jones
President	Joe Dougherty
Vice President	Shane Lis
Secretary	Kevin Buechler
Treasurer	Chris O'Keefe
Financial Secretary	Ron Haley
Standing Committee	Brian Bourque
Marshall	Scott Stephan
Sentinel	Deacon Bob Murphy
Chaplain Emeritus	Fr. Pat Hoare

www.aohmeck2.org

Tis a blessing to be Irish

To the Irish, prayer is as natural and familiar as chatting with a neighbor over the stile. They pray about everything--their mortal soul (and that of their gossipy neighbor), rain for the crops, sunshine for the

parade.

Do likewise--have a good gab with God today.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brothers,

Well, the time has come to pick the winner of the Mecklenburg County Board "Ireland of Your Dreams" raffle.

The drawing will take place at Connolly's on 5th on Saturday evening, September 18th. The time of the drawing will be 9:00 PM. It would be grand if the St. Brendan division had a good showing of brothers, even if you only showed up for the drawing and had to leave. Thanks have to go to all the brothers that supported this fundraiser, but especially to Scott Stephan who chaired the raffle for the division and to Ray FitzGerald who had the task of collecting the money and putting it into the bank.

We welcome our newest brother, Charlie Swengros, a member of Holy Spirit parish in Denver. Charlie was given the pledge at the August meeting. It's great to have Charlie as a member of the St Brendan division.

At the August meeting, one of the things discussed was, the division purchasing a set of the 32 county flags of Ireland for use in parades and other AOH functions. It was asked that each brother purchase the county flag of their ancestors. The cost will be \$35.00. This will buy the flag, pole and carrier. So far, brother Dave Foley has pledged for the County Waterford flag, brother Ron Haley has pledged for the County Sligo flag and I have pledged for the County Donegal flag. If you would like to purchase a flag, send me an email letting me know what County you would like.

Joe Dougherty

BIRTHDAYS IN THE MONTH OF

Naomi Bourque

Stephane Lys 9-24

9-27 Doreen Lys wife

9-27 Leah Lys

SEPTEMBER

9-6

9-13

9-17

Scott

Eileen Hayes

Ted

Irish Saints



St. Fiachra

Feast Day September 1st

Saint Fiachre (Irish: *Fiachra* was born in Ireland in the seventh century. *Fiachra* is an ancient pre-Christian name from Ireland. The meaning is uncertain, but the name may mean "battle king",^[3] or it may be a derivative of the word *fiach* "raven".^[4] The name can be found in ancient Irish folklore and stories such as the *Children of Lir*. He was better known in France, where he built a hospice for travelers in what is now Saint-Fiacre, Seine-et-Marne. Fiacre lived in a hermitage in County Kilkenny. His unwanted fame as one skilled with herbs, a healer and holy man, caused disciples to flock to him. Seeking greater solitude, he left his native land and sought refuge in France, at Meaux. He approached St Faro, the Bishop of Meaux, to whom he made known his desire to live a life of solitude in the forest. St Faro assigned him a spot called Prodilus (Brodoluim), the modern Breuil, in the province of Brie. Here Fiacre built an oratory in honor of the Virgin Mary, a hospice in which he received strangers, and a cell in which he himself lived apart. He lived a life of great mortification, in prayer, fast, vigil, and the manual labor of the garden. The legend of Fiacre goes that St Faro allowed him as much land as he might entrench in one day with a furrow; Fiacre turned up the earth with the point of his staff, toppling trees and uprooting briars and weeds. A suspicious woman hastened to tell Faro that he was being beguiled and that this was witchcraft. Faro, however, recognized that this was the work of God. From this point on it is said St Fiacre barred women, on pain of severe bodily infirmity, from the precincts of his monastery. His relics are installed in Meaux Cathedral. His feast day is under debate; in Ireland it is 1 September; elsewhere it is variously 18 August, August 1, or August 30, with August 11 growing in acceptance as an official compromise. St Fiacre is most renowned as the patron saint of growing food and medicinal plants, sometimes more broadly referred to as simply gardening. His reputed aversion to women is believed to be the reason he is known as the patron saint of venereal disease sufferers. Saint Fiacre is also sometimes invoked to help heal people of ills. This is not his patronage (as bestowed by the Vatican), but rather a common invocation based on his reputed skill with medicinal plants. To celebrate the Millennium, St. Fiachra's Garden was opened in 1999 at the Irish National Stud, Tully, County Kildare, Ireland. Saint Fiacre is also the patron saint of taxi drivers. The connection arose from the fact that the Hotel de Saint Fiacre in Paris, France, rented carriages. People who had no idea who Fiacre was referred to the small hackney coaches as "Fiacre cabs", and eventually as "fiacres".^[2] Similarly, Viennese horse-drawn buggies are referred to as Fiaker.

Please check the division web site often to keep up with what's going on.

www.aohmeck2.org



Knock, Ireland



Columbia Irish Memorial



Memorial Plaque



Muriel on wall in Derry



**A Free and United Ireland
Derry, Ireland**



Shrine at Knock, Ireland

A Bit of Irish History

The following article was suggest by brother Dave Foley

Irish Dominate Medal of Honor List

By John J. Concannon
WGT Heritage Editor

By a stroke of good fortune, I became involved in an Irish/Irish American book writing project that is dear to my heart.

Since I was a youngster, I have been fascinated by heroes, men who have risked life and limb to save another human, or defied death to accomplish a perilous mission.

A colleague, the late Gerard F. White of Lindenhurst, N.Y., and I worked on an unfinished book that would, for the first time, tell the full story of Irishmen who have "won," that is, been awarded the Medal of Honor. The honor, bestowed in the name of Congress, is the top award that "a grateful nation can bestow" to recognize valorous acts in battle "above and beyond the call of duty." White, who labored in the Medal of Honor vineyard for more than 36 years, was a military historian and former secretary of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. In 1995, White and associates George Lang (a Medal of Honor recipient) and Raymond Collins compiled the premier book on the subject, a two-volume, 1,334-page history titled "Medal of Honor Recipients 1863-1994." The books list the 3,401 men who had received the Medal through 1994, presenting the information in several categories. A "birthplace" listing provides the state and town of birth for those medalists born in the United States and the country of birth for those born abroad. Thirty-three countries are listed as birthplaces of medal recipients. And I don't have to tell you that Ireland is the country with the largest number of medal winners — by far — with 258. Germany/Prussia is second with 128 recipients. Of the 258 immigrants who noted on their enlistment papers that they were born in Ireland, 134 also provided their county, town or townland of birth. Cork leads the honor list with 19 medalists, followed by Dublin and Tipperary with 11 each. Limerick has 10; Kerry eight; Galway seven; Antrim and Tyrone tied with six; Kilkenny and Sligo each have five. We Irish can proudly note that five of the 19 fighting men who won a second Medal of Honor were born in Ireland. They are Henry Hogan from County Clare; John Laverty from Tyrone; Dublin's John Cooper, whose name at birth was John Laver Mather; John King; and Patrick Mullen.



[Historical Art Prints](#)

"**Brothers of Ireland**" by Don Troiani depicts the 69th New York and 9th Massachusetts Infantry regiments in battle at Gaines Mill, Virginia, during America's Civil War. At nearby Malvern Hill four days later, [Pvt. Peter Rafferty](#) of the 69th and [Lt. John Tobin](#) of the 9th, both Irish-born, would win Medals of Honor.

Three double winners of the Medal were Irish-Americans: the indomitable Marine, Daniel Daly; the U.S. Navy's John McCloy; and the fighting Marine from Chicago, John Joseph Kelly. Over the years, the Ancient Order of Hibernians has had strong associations with the Medal. At least two AOH divisions have been named after Medal recipients, including Colonel James Quinlan Division #3 of Warwick, in Orange County, N.Y. Quinlan, a native of Clonmel, County Tipperary, was awarded the Medal for gallantry "against overwhelming numbers" while leading the Irish Brigade's 88th New York in the battle of Savage Station, Virginia, during the American Civil War. Then there's the remarkable "super survivor," Michael Dougherty, from Falcarragh, County Donegal. Dougherty, a private in the 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry in the Union Army, won the Medal for leading a group of comrades against a hidden Confederate detachment at Jefferson, Virginia, ultimately routing it. The official report noted that "Dougherty's action prevented the Confederates from flanking the Union forces and saved 2,500 lives." Later, Dougherty and 126 members of his regiment were captured and spent 23 months in various Southern prisons, finally arriving in Georgia at the notorious Andersonville death-camp. Of the 127, Dougherty alone survived the ordeal, "a mere skelton," barely able to walk. But he walked aboard the homeward-bound steamship "Sultana," crowded with more than 2,000 passengers, six times its designated capacity. The crammed steamship was slowly moving up the Mississippi River toward St. Louis, when, on the fourth night out, the boilers exploded, cracking the ship in two and tossing Dougherty and the other passengers into the Mississippi. Only 900 survived, including Dougherty, who somehow found the strength to swim to a small island, where he was rescued the next morning.

Finally, after an absence of four years, 21-year-old Union veteran reached his hometown, Bristol, Pennsylvania. That's why AOH Division #1 of Bristol, in Bucks County, is known as the Michael Dougherty Division.

Division Calendar of Events for August

- 9th Regular St Brendan Division Business Meeting – Room 200 & 201, 7:30 at St Mark's
- 18th Raffle drawing at Connolly's on 5th. 9:00 PM
- 23rd Division Social dinner, 6:30 PM at a place to be picked by Brother Jim Sheehan

Irish Recipes



Irish Champ

Champ (Irish potato casserole) is native to the North of Ireland. It's made by blending scallions or green onions with creamy mashed potatoes. It's a great dish on it's own, served steaming hot with extra butter which will melt through it and it's also the perfect side dish!

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 pounds potatoes, peeled and halved
- 1 cup milk
- 1 bunch green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 pinch freshly ground black pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS:

Place potatoes into large pot, and fill with enough water to cover. Bring to a boil, and cook until tender, about 20 minutes.

Drain well. Return to very low heat and allow the potatoes to dry out for a few minutes. (It helps if you place a clean dish towel over the potatoes to absorb any remaining moisture.)

Meanwhile, heat the milk and green onions gently in a saucepan, until warm.

Mash the potatoes, salt and butter together until smooth.

Stir in the milk and green onion until evenly mixed.

Season with freshly ground black pepper.

Serve piping hot in bowls.

Set out some extra butter for individuals to add to their servings.

Makes 4 servings.

Irish Names



Sheehan

This is an Anglicized form of the Old Gaelic "O Siodhachain". The Gaelic prefix "O" indicates "male descendant of", plus the personal byname "Siodhachain", a diminutive of "Siodhach", peaceful or "Siodach", gentle and courteous. Originally belonging to County Clare, this clan moved southwards to occupy Counties Cork, Kerry and Limerick, and it is in these counties that the name is most numerous today. It occupies seventy-fifth place in the list of Ireland's most widespread surname, together with the variant form Sheahan. It is interesting to note that a separate clan called O' Sheehan occupied territory in Ui Maine (mid Galway and South Roscommon) in medieval times, but the name is rarely found in Connacht today. An interesting namebearer was Michael Sheehan (1870 - 1945), Archbishop of Sydney, who was associated with Kings College and the revival of the Irish language. A Coat of Arms granted to the Sheehan family is a blue shield, on a green base a silver dove holding in the beak an olive branch proper, the Crest being a silver dove holding in the beak an olive branch proper. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of John Sheehan, of County Cork, which was dated 1659, in Petty's "Census' of Ireland", during the reign of Richard Cromwell, known as "The Lord Protector", 1658 - 1660. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.



News from Ireland

Kevin Myers: To venerate Collins is to exult in a bloody legacy of atrocity

Tuesday August 24 2010

It is nearly 90 years since Michael Collins was killed -- and yet only now has it been possible for a Fianna Failer to address the annual rally at Beal na mBlath.

It requires a political memory that cherishes the open wound, and reaches for the sandpaper and salt at any sign of healing, to have made such a rift so enduring. That young Fine Gael boycotted the rally because of the minister's presence suggests that they should rename themselves Ogra Fine Gael.

There's almost nothing one can consciously do about a party-political culture, and the memories it cherishes.

It exists with its own ethos with its own gods in its own timeframe; and outsiders such as myself may rant and rail at the "deficiencies" of a particular culture, but that will make no difference. Adherents adhere. That's what they do, regardless of criticism.

So, Brian Lenihan did a good job in the circumstances, with the usual knee-bend in the direction of mythic truth that lies at the heart of the Collins legend.

"Here was a man at constant risk of arrest and death running a ruthless guerrilla war and masterminding the highly efficient intelligence system which ensured its success." Well, if it was so successful, why the Civil War?

Now our history is unlike any others, and I'm just telling you this as a simple truth: if you venerate Michael Collins, you must also venerate his methods, and central to these is the killing of unarmed men in front of their wives. Moreover, for all the minister's remarks about Collins's "success", the cause for which Collins introduced this policy -- a united Irish Republic -- is as far away today as it was when Collins's boys padded through Dublin streets, to shoot sleepy men in their pyjamas.

And though his memorialists annually applaud Collins's acumen as Minister for Finance, the actual methods that he most enduringly bequeathed to Ireland were about bloodshed, not banking.

Last week, as the Beal na mBlath organisers were preparing for Lenihan's visit, a group of Protestants from south Armagh met members of the Northern Historical Enquiries Team investigating the mass murder of 10 Protestant workmen in 1976. What happened there is perhaps the worst single atrocity of the Troubles, not because of the numbers involved -- Birmingham, Bloody Sunday, La Mon and Dublin/Monaghan claimed more lives -- but because of the diabolical methodology involved.

Consider this: 10 Protestant men were lined up against their bus and then shot down in a point-blank fusillade. And then, each man was finished off, with a single headshot, with a different weapon and a different gunman for each victim. Ten men were killed, and 10 men did the shooting, in a synchronised coup de grace.

In other words, this was not merely a sectarian atrocity, it was also a choreographed blooding exercise for 10 young IRA men of south Armagh, in all, firing 136 rounds into their victims. With their final 10 headshots, in a single murderous moment, they each signed a contract in human blood that would bind them in perpetuity to the IRA.

Moreover, these 10 killings are ballistically linked with 35 other murders, and more than 100 further terrorist incidents, before the penumbra of death spreads too wide for measurement.

The White Cross massacre was the defining act of the south Armagh brigade of the Provisional IRA. Henceforth, its authority over the area was total. What foul and now forgotten deeds were subsequently done by the 10 young vampires who had been formally inducted into the brotherhood of bloodshed that terrible day?

Weeks before Collins was killed, and not far away from Beal na mBlath, a roughly comparable cull (though without the elaborate synchrony) of Protestants had been conducted by IRA men in the Bandon Valley. It is one of the massive achievements of both Irish historiography and of popular memory that these killings in May 1922 should have been so totally eradicated.

But why else was Collins in west Cork, but to attempt to curtail such atrocities? When I first wrote about these sectarian killings in the late 1980s, many people were indignant -- why, such events had never happened. Oh, but they did, and not merely in Cork, but also in south Armagh at around the same time.

The men of six Protestant families were taken out and shot by an IRA unit that was led a man who was later to have a barracks named after him in Dundalk town -- Frank Aitken.

And comparable events could only have happened again in 1976 because we had not learnt our history; and, therefore, we could not possibly learn from it.

It is not possible to control political violence in an island divided such as ours. You cannot clinically kill without consequence rolling through the communities. You cannot take life without murder sooner or later becoming a depraved norm -- either in the Bandon Valley in 1922, or White Cross in 1976, or Wherever in 2012.

To deplore the political divisions that have endured in the Republic since independence, yet to exult in the events that gave rise to those divisions is as grotesque as a still-grieving widow enthusiastically applauding the unveiling of a statue to her husband's killer.

**ST BRENDAN DIVISION SOCIAL,
THURSDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER
23TH AT 6:30 AT A LOCATION
PICKED BY BROTHER JIM
SHEEHAN. BRING THE WIFE AND
FAMILY AND INVITE A
POTENTIAL NEW MEMBER.**