



Private Barney Devine Division 1 Adams County Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

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President's Message...

Brother Hibernians,

For this month's message, I'd like to forward on a column from the newsletter of our brothers in York County. Their inaugural President, Richard Newcomb, still active in the division writes a semi-regular piece, called "Newcomb's News From Ireland". For those who don't know Richard, his parents came here from Ireland in the early 20th century (sounds like a long time ago, doesn't it) looking for a better life. Richard was born here during this time, around Scranton, Pa. Not long after, his Father decided he missed Ireland too much and back across the ocean they went. So Richard grew up in Ireland and it shows. You don't have to be around him long to realize he can sure tell a story and has a great way with words. With this in mind, I thought you might enjoy reading his news from their latest newsletter.



Arbour Hill Cemetery
Graves of the leaders of 1916.

God Bless America, and God Save Ireland,
Jim McGuigan

In the modern Ireland there are two special holidays of national importance. The first, St. Patrick's Day which we just celebrated. Second - the 1916 Rebellion of Easter week. The "Rising" as it was called is a combination of our July 4th and Memorial Day. Most of the leaders of the Rising were shot or hung for staging the rebellion.

This year marks the 88th anniversary of this landmark event. It was one more step in the struggle against British Imperial occupation of Ireland which had lasted for centuries. The Rising was just not to achieve Irish Independence; it's aims were painted on a broad canvas. It included the right of women to vote - religious freedom and many of the "rights" in the U.S. Constitution. The "Volunteers" as they were known, were, Republicans - Nationals - Poets - Soldiers and Ordinary people, just as my Father and two of his Brothers were. It spelled the beginning of the end of the British occupation in most of a Free Ireland. Over there and in many countries around the world, Mass and a brief memorial service is held during the week following Easter. I am hoping that we will be able to follow this example in the near future.

God Bless America, and God Save Ireland,
Richard Newcomb

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS - P.O. BOX 3492 - GETTYSBURG, PA 17325

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NEXT MEETING:
MAY 2ND @ 3:00PM

www.gettysburgaoh.com webmaster@gettysburgaoh.com

"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

March Meeting Notes

- S** Officers present were Jim McGuigan; Tim O'Dowd; Gary Ryan; Pat Bowling and Ed Averill.
- S** Tá fáilte romhat!: Welcome to the division, Ed Loy and Bill Elliott. Ed, from Chambersburg, has transferred from another division in Central Pennsylvania. Bill, from Bel Air, Maryland is also a transfer, but from St. Brendan Division 3 in Towson, MD. Bill visits Gettysburg regularly and has Irish ancestors who settled in Adams County (several of whom served in the Union Army during the battle).
- S** We had the 2nd reading for one candidate (who will be invited to the May meeting for initiation) and the 1st reading for four new candidates for membership.
- S** Jim McGuigan reported that Mike Strong's father was on his death bed in North Carolina. Mike asked the brothers for their prayers, which we did at the closing of the meeting. Mike has since informed us that his Dad passed away on Holy Thursday. Our condolences and prayers go out to Mike and his family. Jim also reported the Vice President, Tom Sheaffer is having a tough battle with the effects of Multiple Sclerosis and could surely use our prayers. Get well Tom!
- S** Tim O'Dowd reported that we received a thank you note from the Gettysburg Food Pantry for the donation of six pounds of Utz Potato Chips after the St. Patrick's Day party.
- S** Gary Ryan reported that we have 21 paid members and 9 delinquent members. Second notices have been sent.
- S** Gary Ryan reported that as the Irish Embassy was very non-committal about a date for an Essay Contest awards presentation (due to their being President of the EU), so it was suggested that we should shelve the contest for this year and look to do it in March 2005. This will let us promote Irish Heritage Month in the schools. Everyone agreed and that will be our new goal.
- S** It was decided that in consideration of Tom Sheaffer's health, we would set aside the efforts of forming a Junior Division at Delone Catholic High School.
- S** 2004 Adams County Irish Festival: There has been no news on our participation in the festival as we are waiting for the festival board to meet with the Moose and discuss the issue of non-alcoholic drink sales. Once we here a report from the festival board we will have to discuss if and how we will participate.

Monument Spring Cleaning, May 23rd — Ed Averill

With Memorial Day soon to come, it's time for the spring cleaning of our monument. Our initial cleanup day, held last November went well and now again we could use all the help we can get. The Fall cleanup lasted only about an hour and we expect about the same this time. Please make your best effort to come out and lend a hand. Note that you should bring a rake...while the NPS lent us some rakes and other tools in the Fall, we can't assume they will this time. It's also a good idea to have a pair of work gloves, hat (keep those ticks from falling on you) and work boots (our area is wooded, never know what you might step on). We will meet out at the monument at **1:00PM on Sunday, May 23rd**. The monument is on Sykes Avenue, on the right hand side of the road as you approach Big Round Top just before you go up the hill to the Little Round Top pull-off. The most foolproof way to the monument is to turn off the Emmitsburg Road onto South Confederate Avenue which winds around and turns into Sykes Avenue. While there are only about 3 parking spaces directly in front of the monument, we were told that we're allowed to park along the street during the time we are working.

Website news

- S** The website has finally been updated to include a photo gallery with pictures of some of our events (more to follow). Currently available are pictures of the 2003 Battlefield Tour and also the 2004 St. Patrick's Day party. Others I'll be working on will be the 2003 Adams County Irish Fest and 2003 Hibernian Hunger Project spaghetti dinner. Will also try to put something in the Miscellaneous gallery as I have time.
- S** I also put something of a memorial to Bishop Dattilo on the site. This card was handed out after Mass at St. Vincent's a week or so after the Bishop's death. I imagine it was probably distributed among the Diocese, so many of you might already be familiar with it.

2004 CALENDAR:

May:

2nd: Monthly Meeting
16th: Mother's Day
16th: Feast of St. Brendan
20th: Ascension of the Lord
31st: Memorial Day

June:

3rd: Feast of St. Kevin
6th: Monthly Meeting
9th: Feast of St. Colm Cille
20th: Father's Day

July (no meeting):

7-10th: National Convention
11th: Feast of St. Oliver Plunkett
17th: Adams Co. Irish Festival

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Irish Saint of the Month - St. Brendan	State Chaplain's Message for May
<p>Since the next few months have feast days of Irish Saints occurring, I thought I'd include a short biography of each in the newsletter. Hope you all find them informative. First up is St. Brendan, and not so coincidentally a St. Brendan Festival is being held in Washington, DC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">←————→</p> <p>Saint Brendan <i>Patron of boatmen, sailors, travelers, and whales</i> <i>Also known as St. Brendan the Voyager, St. Brendan the Navigator, and St. Brandon</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Mother's Day</p> <p>In 1914 both houses of Congress passed resolutions recommending that Mother's Day be proclaimed a national observance. The following year President Woodrow Wilson made that proclamation. Thus for the past ninety years, in our nation, the second Sunday of May has been Mother's Day.</p> <p>The question might be raised - why should we set aside a special day to honor mothers? The answer is because mothers are special people, who most of the time are taken for granted. What can be said about mothers that hasn't already been said a thousand times or more? The answer is probably, nothing. But some things need to be said, not because they are new, but because truth bears repeating.</p> <p>The first thing I want to say about your mother and mine is so obvious that it often gets overlooked. And that is that mothers are people not angels, not saints, just people, like you and me. Intellectually, we know this; but emotionally, we tend to forget it. "Mother" is probably the most sentimental word in our language. Therefore, we are inclined to idealize motherhood and paint mothers bigger than life.</p> <p>In a sense, it is understandable that we would do this. Everyone of us got to know our mother as the person who meets our needs. If we are hungry, mother is the one who feeds us. If we are hurt, mother is the one who consoles us. If we are frightened, mother is the one who holds us close and makes him feel secure. If we do something wrong, mother is the one who corrects us and also the one who forgives us.</p> <p>That is how you and I first came to know our mothers - that person who meets our needs. It is a necessary and beautiful relationship. But sometimes we are slow to learn that mothers also have needs. They get lonely and need friendship. They get hurt and need comforting. They make mistakes and need forgiving. Mothers are people, just like the rest of us.</p>
<p>St. Brendan's Voyage Festival - May 22, 2004</p> <p>A Youth and Family Oriented Irish Event</p> <p>Music, Gaelic Sports Demos, Dance, Crafts, Merchandise, Storytelling, Food, Face Painting</p> <p>Marie Reid Learning Center Columbia Road (Adams Morgan section) Washington, DC</p> <p>Adults \$5 Youth (12-18) \$3 Children under 12 Free!</p> <p>www.stbrendansvoyage.org</p>	<p>But there is another thing that needs to be said which is equally as true. And that is that mothers are special people - not angels, or saints, but special people. As a group, mothers are the world's most unselfish people. They may not want to be, but they have to be. For nine months, a mother shares her body with another person. Then, she brings that little person into the world and lovingly takes care the child. So we have set aside this day to honor our Mothers. They are not saints. They are not angels. They are people, but they are very special people. We are indebted to them. Let us be are grateful to them and pray for them.</p> <p>Father Tom O'Donnell Penna. State Chaplain AOH Allegheny County</p>

Political Education — National President's letter to members regarding US/UK Treaty**Ned McGinley, AOH National President**

There has been a new Extradition Treaty proposed between the United States and the United Kingdom in 2003. The treaty as written would destroy the right of Americans to have an U.S. Court approve their extradition if they were accused under British law. Irish-Americans as well as others have traditionally fought against extradition for political reasons without review by the judiciary.

Any Extradition Treaty between the United States and the United Kingdom has historically been contentious because Irish-Americans have no trust in the UK's judicial system but have an abiding trust in the Judicial System of our country. The United States has a Bill of Rights and the UK has never produced such a document, which is another reason that Irish-America feels they will be treated with respect by their justice system.

The United States State Department will be seeking to introduce a new US/UK Extradition Treaty, sometime this year that was signed by John Ashcroft for the U.S. and Jack Straw of the United Kingdom in March of 2003. It has not yet been presented to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for ratification. This treaty will cast aside the present UK Treaties including the compromise, with political exception, from 1986. All Irish-American groups with the AOH and LAOH oppose this document.

The 1986 Treaty allowed a compromise or exception for political offenses and at that time it was agreed that was all that was needed. There is no reason to scrap the 1986 Treaty in favor of one that strips the rights of American Citizens. The 1986 Treaty was the final document but now our Department of Justice has negotiated to remove the rights of our citizens and allow the UK to make a request for extradition, which would be reviewed by an anonymous member of the administration instead of our courts. There is no reason to make any more compromises beyond the 1986 Treaty.

Without question our mistrust of the United Kingdom is deeply rooted in historical fact, as is our trust in the system of justice we live under here. To allow our government to initiate a new treaty removing "Judicial Review" is an affront to Irish-Americans. In our opinion this treaty targets Irish-Americans who dispute the UK's claims over the six counties of Ireland still controlled by the London government. It curtails free speech and will allow for a veritable "witch hunt" for those who debate the UK's claim.

This 2004 (signed in 2003) US/UK Extradition Treaty should be consigned to the scrap heap of history where all bad treaties go. There is no rhyme nor reason for this treaty except to control the right of free speech for Irish-Americans disputing the UK's control of the north of Ireland. This treaty does not make the United States safer, nor does it protect our citizens from terrorism. It does not make it any easier to have terrorists extradited from the UK to the US than the 1986 Treaty. It makes it easier to remove U.S. citizens to the UK for frivolous reasons or threaten them with such action. The State Department excuse is "all other treaties do not have these provisions" does not work. Irish-Americans do not trust the UK when it comes to "free speech" issues or the six counties of Ulster. The recent Cory Report only emphasizes that nothing has changed.

Please write your Senators in Washington and asked them to oppose this treaty and return it to the State Department where it should be discarded. We ask every member possible in the AOH and LAOH to contact, in writing, those Senators and voice their opposition to this treaty.

Thank you for your cooperation on this important issue and thank you for your patience in listening to or reading this message.

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