



The Charleston Celtic Crier



The Monthly Newsletter of the Charleston Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians
Volume 4 February 2006 Number 7

The President's Message

Welcome Brothers.

I want to say thanks to all of you for the great things that we accomplished last year. We had a good, if rather small, meeting in January, in which our officers were sworn in by Bob Mott, our National AOH Organizer. We have much to do this year as usual. Shortly after our February meeting [Wed. 8 Feb] we will put on our first annual formal banquet [on Saturday 18 Feb.] which our hard working committee has dubbed the AOH Gaelic Gala. It is very important that we have broad participation and a large attendance at this wonderful affair that the Committee has organized for us. They have arranged a sumptuous meal, lively entertainment, a great guest speaker, and some very appropriate toasts. We have invited representatives from several of our sister organizations throughout the Lowcountry & the state to join us in our celebration. . In this effort we are attempting to revive an old Ancient Order of Hibernians tradition. I have the newspaper advertisements and accounts of the 1st Annual Ball of the Ancient Order of Hibernians [Division 1] from March 17 1893. This was a very successful venture by our ancestors. I hope that we can come close to matching their commitment & success. We are also making preparations for our activities in March surrounding the feast of our Patron, Saint Patrick. Our Parade Committee has been hard at work. We have plans to make this the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade the city of Charleston has seen in decades. We need a great deal of support, so please make sure that you are in attendance on Wednesday.



In this issue

President's Message	1
Gaelic Gala	1
Where are We?	1
History Lesson	2
Annual Banquet	2
Project St. Patrick	2
AOH Supper Club	2
Schedule	3
Officers	3
This and That	3

The **Charleston Celtic Crier** is published monthly by the Mgrs. John L. Manning Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. It published solely for the enjoyment and enlightenment of the members. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the officers and members of the Division. It is not to be used for any other purpose than noted above. If you have any information or news that you would like printed in the newsletter, please contact the editor, Al Stiles at 795-4806.

The Hibernian Hunger Project needs your help

Annual Gaelic Gala Scores Rousing Success

Saturday, February 18th saw the rebirth a grand old AOH tradition as over 100 Hibernians and guests gathered for the Annual Gaelic Gala held at the Francis Marion Hotel. In keeping with the tradition, representatives from a number of other organizations were in attendance. The audience was regaled with Riley family stories offered by our speaker, the Honorable Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Mayor of the Charleston! The banquet portion of the evening ended with toasts being offered by members and guests. Pictures of the Gala can be viewed at <http://albums.photo.epson.com/j/AlbumIndex?u=4062710&a=32094542&pw=bedazzle> or from a link on the Division Website. Below is the toast offered by Dr. John Corless, President of the South Carolina Irish Historical Society:

**A Toast to Ireland & the AOH Hibernians from ancient days
Might frown upon our modern ways,
Yet in this hall these stalwart few
Still give the past its honor due.**

**Throughout the history of our race,
Though many trials have taken place,
With friendship and with unity,
In service to community,
Combined with Christian charity,
The AOH still carries on
The struggles that have come and gone.**

Where in Ireland Are We?



One of the loveliest of the Irish midland counties, this month's County lies in the Shannon basin and the upper catchment area of the River Erne. The County is famous for its excellent fishing. Head for the lovely town of Lanesborough and the area around Lough Ree to enjoy some great angling. Attractions in the County include the heritage village of Ardagh, built in the 1860s to a Swiss design, and the recently discovered Old Bog Road, an Iron Age trackway of large oak planks in a bog at Corlea. The true beauty of of the County lies in its pleasant views - it is a quiet countryside of farmlands, bog and the occasional low hill. An ideal spot for a get-away-from-it-all relaxing break.

Last month's Where Are We?

County Clare is renowned for it's landscape with the wild Atlantic on it's west side and the magnificent river Shannon on it's east side. The Burren and the Cliffs of Moher are located in this county and receive many visitors throughout the year. The town of Ennis is known as the music capital of the world and musicians throng from around the world in order to partake in the song and dance. Through the efforts of the South Carolina Irish Historical Society, Ennis and Charleston are Sister Cities



Ireland Unfree Shall Never Be At Peace

History Lesson St. Brigid - The Giveaway by Brigidet Haggerty

Known variously throughout Ireland as St. Brigid, Brighid, Brigit, Bridget or Bride, it was believed that she travelled around the countryside on the eve of her festival, blessing both the people and their livestock.



To show that her visit was welcome, families would place a cake or pieces of bread and butter on the windowsill. In some parts of Ireland, the bread would be an oatmeal loaf in the shape of a cross which was specially baked for the occasion. A sheaf of corn was often placed beside it as refreshment for the saint's favorite white cow which accompanied her. In some places, the offering was left to be taken by a hungry,

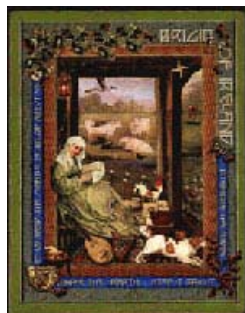
homeless person.

This feast day heralded the first day of Spring (Imbolc). Similar to the United States groundhog tradition, if a hedgehog came out of his burrow on St. Brigid's Day, it was a sign that mild weather was coming. If he went back into his burrow, it was a sign that bad weather would continue.

No matter how poor the household, the mother would always try to prepare a festive supper or at least some tasty dish. Boxty pancakes, apple cake, dumplings and colcannon were favorites, and in some parts of Ireland a fruit bread called barmbrack was served.

Butter always formed a part of the meal and fresh butter was sure to be churned that morning. To honor the saint's renowned generosity and ensure prosperity in the coming year, the wealthier farmers gave gifts of butter and buttermilk to less fortunate neighbors; some killed a sheep and sent portions to friends and to the needy. Special crosses made from reeds and rushes were made and put up over the doorways and the ones from last year were taken down and put up elsewhere in the house. Since any kind of effort that required the turning of a wheel was also to be avoided on this day, it's probable that even in modern Ireland, children won't be permitted to ride their bicycles! You're also likely to see handkerchiefs hanging from washing lines all over the country. Nowadays, it's done to ensure the health of the household for the coming year, but it evolved from the old custom of putting up a strip of cloth or ribbon called Brigid's Mantle. It was said that if the saint touched it, it would have curative powers.

But, oh to be in Ireland on St. Brigid's Eve in the old days. That's when groups of young people dressed up in costume and went from house to house carrying a straw doll called the Brideog. These groups were known as The Biddies or Biddie Boys and, in return for entertaining those they called on with songs and dancing, they'd be rewarded with candy, cookies and possibly enough cash to finance a caeli or party



Gaelic Gala (Cont. from Pg.1)

Your members take the roles again
Of Defenders and of Ribbonmen,
With no more need for pike and drum;
A newer way of life has come:
To make a home away from home
For sons of Erin forced to roam,
And serve the Church's mission, too,
In all the work that she must do.

And looking back across the sea,
Maintain their ancient loyalty,
And work for peace and unity
Until the day all Ireland's free.

"To Ireland and the AOH!"

JK Corless, 2/06

AOH Supper Club

There will be no meeting of the supper club in March because of St. Patrick's Day. March's outing is scheduled for April 20 at the Blue Rose Cafe in West Ashley. Brian is investigating O'Malley's, the new Irish Pub on upper King Street. Preliminary reports from Brithers who have been there are encouraging.



Questions and suggestions are always welcomed by Brian Davis @ 579-6503

Project Saint Patrick

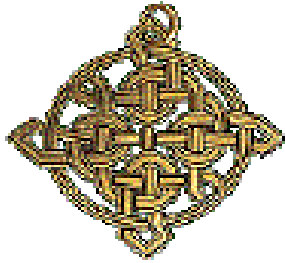


Support for this worthy project is ongoing. You can be an active sponsor by obtaining and using the Project St. Patrick Memorial Cards. A new supply of cards have arrived. You can get them from Brother Al Stiles.

Ireland Unfree Shall Never Be At Peace

Division Officers

President	Stephen White
Vice President	Brian Davis
Recording Secretary	James Nettles
Finance Secretary	Joseph Marrah
Historian	David Gleeson



This and That

Barry Resolution Passes.



Commodore Barry resolutions recognizing Commodore John "Saucy Jack" Barry, long heralded as the Father of the U.S. Navy, as our Navy's first Flag Officer, H.J.RES.38, was passed in the US House of Representatives on December 14, 2005, and S.J.RES.21 was passed in the US Senate on December

16, 2005. We thank the sponsors and co-sponsors for their leadership.

7th Annual Ceili

Fellow AOH Presidents,

Just a reminder that the St. Columba division is sponsoring a Ceili at the State Museum in Columbia. This year's event again kicks off Irish Heritage Month (as declared by Gov. Sanford) in the Palmetto State. This has always been declared a statewide event that the Columbia division gladly hosts. The date is Saturday March 4th. Event begins at 6PM, doors open at 5PM. We invite all AOH brothers to join us in the opening procession. A grand night of Irish music, fun & dance is planned. Tickets to this wonderful event are only \$10, children under 12 are free. We are also soliciting support for our program. Full page ads are \$100, half page only \$50. Ad copy is needed by 1/31/06. For program ad details and vendor table information, please contact Joe Cronin at 803-776-6666 or jomarcro@aol.com. Thank you.

Slainte,

Joe Kennedy, President
St. Columba Division



Schedule of Events

March			
4	7th Annual Ceili	5:00 PM	State Museum Columbia
8	Monthly Meeting	7:30 PM	K of C Hall Calhoun St
17	St Patrick's Day		

No Supper Club meeting in March

April			
12	Monthly Meeting	7:30 PM	K of C Hall Calhoun St
20	Bluerose Cafe		West Ashley

Hurricane Relief Tax Deduction

From National President Ned McGinley:

Any funds that were donated to the Hibernian Charity 501(c)3 are tax deductible. If you sent for example \$1,000.00 to the HC 501(c)3 please send us a list of names for individuals or donors who donated up to that amount, i.e. \$200.00 Thomas O'Leary, and make sure that you have a record of Tom's donation and he has a check or receipt. This is like when donations are given to a golf tournament and then turned over to a charity. Please forward us this list when you are done.

The direct donations to a parish should be eligible in the same way and with the same record keeping but they can not be placed under HC 501(c)3 they must be credited to another 501(c)3 because we did not receive the money. If you had sent the money to HC 501(c)3 and directed that it be forwarded to the parish we could certify the deduction.

The IRS will watch this very closely and we have a 5 year probation period as do all new 501(c)3's and will err on the side of caution.

Your thank you letter should be your receipt.

Raphe, If there are any other questions contact me or Bob Costello.

Ned McGinley

Ireland Unfree Shall Never Be At Peace

Monthly Meeting
March 8, 2006
7:30 PM
Knights of Columbus Hall
143 Calhoun Street

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