



The Charleston Celtic Crier



The Monthly Newsletter of the Charleston Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians
Volume 4 March 2006 Number 8

The President's Message

Welcome to Irish Heritage Month and I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our various St. Patrick's day Activities. But first want to congratulate the AOH Annual Banquet Committee for the splendid job that was done to help us rejuvenate one of our most celebrated traditions. It was a grand success with over 100 people in attendance at the Gold Room in the Francis Marion Hotel. Nine Brother & Sister Organizations represented in addition to our many Brothers who shared a sumptuous meal. We revived toasts with the exact words from toasts retrieved from 1890 News & Courier Accounts of banquets of our ancestors in Charleston. Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. gave a very moving talk on growing up Irish in Charleston. He was very impressed with what our Division was able to put together for our First Annual banquet. Thanks to all. We want to show our support to our other State AOH Divisions in some of their activities as they reciprocate in supporting us. The 7th annual St. Patrick's Ceili will take place at the State Museum in Columbia. We definitely want to send a Charleston delegation up there. And as usual we will send a significant number of Brothers up to Myrtle Beach for their grand parade on Saturday 18 March. Now on to the Feast of our Patron, St. Patrick. As usual we begin our day at St. Patrick's Church where Bishop Robert J. Baker, this year's Parade Grand Marshal, will Concelebrate Mass at 8 AM. Our groups will gather together on Radcliffe Street for a 10 AM march-off down King Street toward the finish at the Cathedral. we want as many of you can make it to join us in what will prove to be the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in modern history. Flag raising at city hall follows and then on to KofC Hall for a traditional Irish-American lunch. Again, I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Your Humble President



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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 other AOH Divisions, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and other sister 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.**

Continued on Page 2

Ireland Unfree Shall Never Be At Peace

Where in Ireland Are We?

This month's County, sometimes known as the "Royal County", is rich in archaeological sites. The Hill of Tara, once the seat of the High Kings of Ireland, and the ancient burial chamber at Newgrange are world famous. The pretty town of Kells is world renowned through its connection with the Book of Kells. The famous Battle of the Boyne, in which King William of Orange defeated his father-in-law King James II, was fought in This County. The Duke of Wellington, who defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, was a Meath man as was the famous writer Dean Jonathan Swift, and Saint Oliver Plunkett.



Last month's Where Are We?



One of the loveliest of the Irish midland counties, County Longford 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 County Longford 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 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.

The Hibernian Hunger Project needs your help

History Lesson

Saint Patrick



Along with St. Nicholas and St. Valentine, the secular world shares our love of these saints. This is also a day when everyone's Irish. There are many legends and stories of St. Patrick, but this is his story.

Patrick was born around 385 in Scotland, probably Kilpatrick. His parents were Calpurnius and Conchessa, who were Romans living in Britain in charge of the colonies. As a boy of fourteen or so, he was captured during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. Ire-

land at this time was a land of Druids and pagans. He learned the language and practices of the people who held him.

During his captivity, he turned to God in prayer. He wrote "The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was raised, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same." "I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain." Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he reunited with his family. He had another dream in which the people of Ireland were calling out to him "We beg you, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more."

He began his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years. Later, Patrick was ordained a bishop, and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. He arrived in Ireland March 25, 433, at Slane. One legend says that he met a chieftain of one of the tribes, who tried to kill Patrick. Patrick converted Dichu (the chieftain) after he was unable to move his arm until he became friendly to Patrick.

Patrick began preaching the Gospel throughout Ireland, converting many. He and his disciples preached and converted thousands and began building churches all over the country. Kings, their families, and entire kingdoms converted to Christianity when hearing Patrick's message. Patrick by now had many disciples, among them Benignus, Auxilius, Iserninus, and Fiacac, (all later canonized as well).

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

He died at Saul, where he had built the first church.

For more information visit:

http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=89

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 See Photos on Page 3

7th Annual Ceili

This from State Secretary, Neil Diamond:

So many good things are going on State wide that it is difficult to attend them all but there is one coming up on March the 4th that we should all consider making an effort to get to Columbia to attend the 7th annual St. Patrick's Ceili, an all-divisions' celebration of South Carolina Irish Heritage Month, and the month-long Irish Heritage Exhibition at the SC State Museum, housed in a former cotton mill, the first one powered by electricity, and the generators were powered by water channeled through a canal dug by Irish laborers.

Attached is information on the Ceili but if you plan to go please let me know and we can make arrangements to drive up together. I'll meet anyone who is planning to go at the Staple's Store just off highway 26 and we can drive up together but please call me my phone number is 843-553-5732 and my cell phone is 843-813-5208. I will be leaving the Staple's Store at 3:20 at the latest. It would be great if two car loads of us could go up together!!!

AOH Supper Club

There will be no meeting of the supper club in March because of St. Patrick's Day. April'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 a 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



Glimpses of the Gaelic Gala



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

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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