



**Major Dooley Division
Richmond, Virginia**

The Dooley Dispatch

May 2014

Celebrating 34 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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Next Meeting - Tuesday May 13th 7:00 p.m. St. Paul's Church



It's already May, and the flowers are all around us. I believe spring is here, finally, and the division can take a breath of fresh air after the very busy month of March. You might ask, what happened to April? On April 8th, our meeting night, we began with an Irish Wake for Past President, Joe O'Brien's father, Joseph Peter O'Brien at Bliley's on Staples Mill. We also raised a parting glass in his honor at the end of our rather full meeting.

The State Quarterly meeting was held on April 12th in Triangle, VA. Reports were made and planning continues for the AOH National Convention in St. Louis, July 30th through August 3rd. The Major Degrees of the Order were exemplified after the meeting concluded. Two of our members, Conor Shiel and August Lee Nowlan, Jr. received their Tower Pins. Congratulations gentlemen. The next available Exemplification of the Major Degrees will be at the National Convention in St. Louis, MO. Beyond that date, I do not have a current schedule.

A breakfast was sponsored by our division on April 27th for the parish of St. Elizabeth's. As I was required in Roanoke for the weekend, I am among a few brothers who missed a very gala affair. VP Chad Costello chaired this event and had lots of help in the kitchen, small as it was. Fr. Jim and all who attended were very pleased with the turnout. Kudos to Chad and the whole crew who helped with setup, cooking, serving, and cleanup. I understand the LAOH was on hand to assist as well... Thank you Ladies.

Up-Coming events include our annual fishing trip and the Dooley Division outing to the Flying Squirrels Baseball game. Past President, Dan Caffrey has a good group of Irish fisherman all lined up for the May 17th fishing trip. Get your payment to Dan at your earliest convenience as he has guaranteed these reservations. Make your reservation for the Flying Squirrels Baseball game with Past President, Pat Naughton at the May meeting or online with Sign-up Genius. See your e-mail from Executive Secretary, Dan Caffrey on April 26th for those details.

We had to cancel the plans for a bus trip to Annapolis, MD for the Barry Memorial Dedication. There have been several changes to the dedication plans at the Naval Academy. Tickets to this event on May 10th proved unavailable. We may make future plans for a Division visit to the Commodore John Barry Memorial which is the culmination of a project inspired by the AOH to honor the father of the United States Navy.

Brother Hugh Naughton is inviting you to play in the Atlee Lacrosse Tournament on May 17th. His grandson, Vincent, plays lacrosse for Atlee and this is a fundraiser since the team doesn't receive funding from the school or county. You can submit a team or call Hugh about playing with some AOH guys as an individual. Call Hugh Naughton at 804-550-1148, the registration date is May 9th.

Mise le meas, (mish-e leh mass) Yours Respectfully,

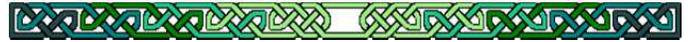
Vince.

Prayer List – Please pray for the repose of the soul for **Joseph Peter O'Brien**, the father of Past President Joe O'Brien.

Jim Cremins is recovering from surgery, **Jack Griffin's son, Neil Griffin** will be begin treatment shortly for cancer, **Jack's daughter, Carleen**, has also been diagnosed with cancer, **Wanda Walsh**, wife of **Tom**, receiving treatments for cancer, **Michael Maynes**, son of member **Ed Maynes**, continues to be challenged with cancer, **Bill McKay** who continues to struggle with back pain, and Walt Fergusson's sister is battling a long illness, **Jessie Naughton, Thomas Zahn**, brother of Father Zahn, **Jeannie Barrett** wife of **Tom Barrett**, and **Don Reilly**. Please pray for the members of our Division who are serving in the Military. **Father David McGuire**, has returned from Afghanistan. He is serving as Chaplin with the 1st Special Operations Wing of the Air Force. **CW2 David Bulger**, US Army has been deployed to Iraq with "B" Co. of the 5/159th Aviation Regiment, **Dennis Flanagan, son of Jack**, is a helicopter mechanic in Afghanistan.

Upcoming AOH Dooley Events

- Business meetings second Tuesday of the month except July, August, and December
- May 16-17, Annual Division Fishing Trip to Chesapeake Bay. Overnight May 16th, Contact Past President, Dan Caffrey, kkcaffrey@hotmail.com, 804-512-6288. Fish all day Saturday, May 17 and Saturday night is Optional as well.
- June 14, Saturday at 6:05 pm – Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Game Outing (Family), The Diamond, 3001 N. Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23230 - (Pat Naughton, Chair)(pnaughton09@gmail.com 360-2969)
- 4th of July Picnic (TBA) at Columbian Center (Tentative Family Event Plan) with the KOC 4th Assembly.
- August 17, Sunday – Our Lady of Knock (8/21/1879) Mass at 11 am at St. Paul's Church with Annual Pool Party (Family) to follow at Tom Murphy's House, 11908 Dalkeith Ln, Henrico, VA 23233.
- September 14, Sunday – Commemorate Commodore Barry Day (9/13/1803- date of death) at 1 pm at St. Michael Catholic Church, 4491 Springfield Rd, Glen Allen, VA 23060 – Family Picnic.
- September 17, Wednesday, – Halfway to St. Pat's Day at Sine Irish Pub...Happy Hour.
- October 25th and 26th, 2014, Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games, at Richmond Raceway; www.vacelticfestival.com Kickoff the selling of 2015 Dooley Raffle Tickets and the Recruiting of New Members at Double Booth (FAMILY Event).
- November 9, Memorial Mass for our deceased military veterans and Dooley Division members at 11:00 am at St. Paul's Church.



Food Drive for St. Paul's Food Pantry

The Division, in conjunction the Knights of Columbus, Council 395, is collecting food for the St. Paul's Food Pantry. Bags will be passed out at the next

meeting with a list of needed food items. Food can be brought to Irish Night at the Columbian Center, the April meeting, dropped off at the Columbian Center, or call Pat Naughton for pick up 360-2969. Monetary donations are also accepted. Checks should be made out to K of C Council 395. The following are needed.

cans of tuna *
peanut butter *
jelly
cans of soup
can of pork and beans
package of pasta
cans spaghetti sauce *
cans vegetables
box of cereal *
box of crackers
box of pancake mix
can of fruit (apple sauce, mixed fruit, peaches etc.)

* - Urgently needed

The Soldiers of St. Patrick

By Michael Hogan

St. Patrick's Day is very special in Mexico because it is a time when Mexicans remember the San Patricios, or the Battalion of St. Patrick. One of the least-known stories of the Irish who came to America in the 1840s is that of this Irish battalion that fought on the Mexican side in the U.S.-Mexico War of 1846-1848. They came to Mexico and died, some gloriously in combat, others ignominiously on the gallows. United under a green banner, they participated in all the major battles of the war and were cited for bravery by General López de Santa Anna, Mexico's commander-in-chief and president.

At the penultimate battle of the war, these Irishmen fought until their ammunition was exhausted and even then tore down the white flag that was raised by their Mexican comrades in arms, preferring to struggle on with bayonets until finally being overwhelmed. Despite their brave resistance, however, 85 of the Irish battalion were captured and sentenced to bizarre tortures and deaths at the hands of

the Americans, resulting in what is considered even today as the “largest hanging affair in North America.”

In the spring of 1846, the United States was poised to invade Mexico, its neighbor to the south. The ostensible reason was to collect on past-due loans and indemnities. The real reason was to provide the United States with control of the ports of San Francisco and San Diego, the trade route through the New Mexico Territory, and the rich mineral resources of the Nevada Territory—all of which at that time belonged to the Republic of Mexico. The United States had previously offered \$5 million to purchase the New Mexico Territory and \$25 million for California, but Mexico had refused.

Before the declaration of war by the United States, a group of Irish Catholics headed by a crack artilleryman named John Riley deserted from the American forces and joined the Mexicans. Born in Clifden, County Galway, Riley was an expert on artillery, and it was widely believed that he had served in the British army as an officer or a non-com in Canada before enlisting in the American army. Riley’s turned this new unit into a crack artillery arm of the Mexican defense. He is credited with changing the name of the group from the Legion of Foreigners and designing their distinctive flag. Within a year, the ranks of Riley’s men would be swelled by Catholic foreign residents in Mexico City, and Irish and German Catholics who deserted once the war broke out, into a battalion known as Los San Patricios, or “Those of Saint Patrick.”

The San Patricios fought under a green silk flag emblazoned with the Mexican coat of arms, an image of St. Patrick, and the words “Erin Go Bragh.” The battalion was made up of artillery and was observed in key positions during every major battle. Their aid was critical because the Mexicans had poor cannon with a range of 400 meters less than the Americans. In addition, Mexican cannons were inexperienced and poorly trained. The addition of veteran gunners to the Mexican side would result in at least two major battles being fought to a draw. Several Irishmen were awarded the Cross of Honor by the Mexican government for their bravery, and many received field promotions.

At the Battle of Churubusco, holed up in a Catholic monastery and surrounded by a superior force of American cavalry, artillery, and infantry, the San Patricios withstood three major assaults and inflicted heavy losses on the Yanks. Eventually, however, a shell struck their stored gunpowder, the ammunition park blew up, and the Irishmen, after a gallant counteroffensive with bayonets, were overwhelmed by sheer numbers. They were tried by a military court-martial and then scourged, branded, and hanged in a manner so brutal that it is still remembered in Mexico today.

In September 1847, the Americans put the Irish soldiers captured at the Battle of Churubusco on trial. Forty-eight were sentenced to death by hanging. Those who had deserted before the declaration of war were sentenced to whipping at the stake, branding and hard labor. Fueled by Manifest Destiny, the American government dictated terms

to the Mexicans in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848. More than two-thirds of the Mexican Territory was taken, and out of it the United States would carve California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, and parts of Kansas and Colorado. Among all the major wars fought by the United States, the Mexican War is the least discussed in the classroom, the least written about, and the least known by the general public. Yet, it added more to the national treasury and to the land mass of the United States than all other wars combined.

After the conflict, so much new area was opened up, so many things had been accomplished, that a mood of self-congregation and enthusiasm took root in the United States. The deserters from the war were soon forgotten as they homesteaded and labored in the gold fields of California or, as the 1860s approached, put on the gray uniform of the Confederacy or the blue of the Union. Prejudice against the Irish waned, as the country was provided with a “pressure valve” to release many of its new immigrants westward. The story of the San Patricios disappeared from history.

For most Mexicans, solidarity with the Irish is part of a long tradition and they remembered the help they received from the Irish and their



friendship. In the words of John Riley, written in 1847 but equally true today, “A more hospitable and friendly people than the Mexican there exists not on the face of the earth... especially to an Irishman and a Catholic.”

Riley sums up what cannot be clearly documented in any history: the basic, gut-level affinity the Irishman had then, and still has today, for Mexico and its people. The decisions of the men who joined the San Patricios were probably not well-planned or thought out. They were impulsive and emotional, like many of Ireland’s own rebellions – including the Easter Uprising of 1916. Nevertheless, the courage of the San Patricios, their loyalty to their new cause, and their unquestioned bravery forged an indelible seal of honor on their sacrifice.

Riley himself survived the war and was honorably discharged from the Mexican Army in 1850. A report that he died shortly thereafter has recently been called into question by researchers in Mexico, so his true end remains a mystery. Of the eight-five captured, forty-eight were hanged by the U.S. Army, including Thomas Cassidy who died in a Mexican uniform after being captured after the Battle of Churubusco.

The movie “One Man’s Hero” made in 1999 tells more on this story. Also visit <http://www.latinorebels.com/2014/03/16/the-soldiers-of-st-patrick/>

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Hibernian Friendship

**To All AOH, LAOH, and Friends of the Irish
Batter UP!!!**



Saturday June 14th

**The Flying Squirrels take on the Fisher Cats
Game Time 6:05 p.m.**

Tickets \$10

**Call Pat Naughton 360-2969 or email
pnaughton09@gmail.com**

You can also signup at Signup Genius www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0C45AAAF2FA46-flying