



**Major Dooley Division  
Richmond, Virginia**

# The Dooley Dispatch

## December 2014

**Celebrating 35 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity**

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Next Meeting – Installation of Officers Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. St. Paul's Church



### President's Message:

As we are now on the December edition of The Dooley Dispatch, I note that this has been the fastest year of my life. Thanksgiving weekend is gone and the Holiday Party Season is in full swing. I find that there are many things for which I am thankful. Number 1 is that Linda, my wife, is still speaking to me and we have survived my extra duties as president. I am also very thankful for many of my brother Hibernians who have made this past year a great pleasure and one to be remembered. There were so many events to celebrate our Irish heritage and to remind us to live our Motto... Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

Please bear with me while I extend my specific thanks to a few brothers who have made this year possible. Thank you to our VP, Chad Costello who handled the logistics of the social part of every meeting this year and also to Jim Donahue, our "Lord of the Bar", and to Mike Muldowney, our Social Chairman. Many thanks to all of the Past Presidents and Officers serving the James H. Dooley Division and especially our Historian, Brian Hegarty, who picked up the baton from Jack Cassells and entertained us with many presentations on our Irish History, some personal and some national, but interesting to all. We have enjoyed the great assistance of Past President, Dan Caffrey, as my Executive Secretary, for keeping me on track and for the timely e-mails to ensure all are informed. Thank you Big Dan.

To our co-chairmen of the Raffle Committee, Chad Costello and Tim McDonnell who make all things possible with their commitment to our financial stability, Thank You.

Thank you also to Paulie McFadden, our Organizer and salesman extraordinaire, keep on recruiting. Thanks to Past President of the Virginia State Board as well as our division, Pat Naughton, for the many hours of devotion to our monthly newsletter, The Dooley Dispatch.

I would be remiss in my duty if I did not extend a hand of appreciation to a true "Son of the Gael", who continues to be my brother in many ways. He joined the order with me, and has been my sounding board for many decisions throughout the year. Accompanying me to the AOH National Convention last summer and putting up with my constant questions, Past President, Brian Kiernan is the epitome of Hibernian brotherhood. Thank you, BK.

Tuesday, December 9th, we are holding a special meeting to install the 2015 Dooley Division Officers, 7:00 pm at St. Paul's. Our State Vice President and State Secretary will be on hand. All Members and our wives are invited for this ceremony and reception.

The Major James Henry Dooley Division Family Christmas Party is scheduled for December 14th at 1:00 pm at the Columbian Center (KofC 395) 2324 Pump Road, Henrico, VA. There will be no business meeting at our Christmas Party this year.

On January 24th, the Brian Boru Major Degree team will exemplify the major degrees of the order as part of our State Quarterly Meeting at Edward Douglas White KofC, 5115 Little Falls Rd. in Arlington, VA 22207. All members in good standing, who have taken the Shamrock Degree are invited. The Major Degrees are required for all members of the AOH.

I extend my best wishes for a successful fraternal year 2015 to our new slate of officers and that all the members of the Dooley Division have a safe and blessed New Year.

Pray for peace in Ireland and peace in our world.

Mise le meas, Yours Respectfully,

*Vince.*

**Prayer List – Jim Cremins** is convalescing, **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 Chaplain with the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Wing of the Air Force. **Dennis Flanagan, son of Jack**, is a helicopter mechanic in Afghanistan.

### Upcoming AOH Dooley Events

- December 9, 2014, St. Paul's Church at 7 pm- Officer Installation for 2015 by State AOH President
- December 14, 2014, Sunday at 1 pm – Family Christmas Party (Family) at the Columbian Center (KofC 395) 2324 Pump Rd, Henrico, VA.

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### 2015 AOH Dooley Division Officers

President – Chad Costello

VP – Tim McDonnell

Rec Sec - Scott Nugent

Fin Sec- Mike Sweeney

Treasurer – Patrick Knightly

Standing Comm - Bill Casey

Marshall – Mike Canning

Sentinel – Peter "PJ" George



Some of you were asking about the AOH Soccer Jersey some of us have. See link below for current version of this jersey and for AOH Sweatshirt.

[http://irelandontheroad.com/advanced\\_search\\_result.php?keywords=hibernians&x=9&y=6](http://irelandontheroad.com/advanced_search_result.php?keywords=hibernians&x=9&y=6)

### St. Stephen's Day, December 26<sup>th</sup> Hunting the Wren

Celtic myth had it that the robin that was supposed to represent the New Year killed the wren which represented the Old Year during this time. Wren Boys blacken their faces and go from house to house asking for money to bury the wren. The money they collect is used to buy food and drink for the "wren dance" held on this night.

St. Stephen's Day honors the first Christian martyr, stoned to death shortly after the Crucifixion.

St. Stephen's Day is a national holiday in Ireland, but, the celebrations have little connection to the Saint.



Traditional Irish Wren Boys in County Kerry

In Ireland, St. Stephen's Day is the day for "Hunting the Wren" or "Going on the Wren." Originally, groups of small boys would hunt for a wren, and then chase the bird until they either have caught it or it has died from exhaustion. The dead bird was tied to the top of a pole or holly bush, which was decorated with ribbons or colored paper.

Early in the morning of St. Stephen's Day, the wren was carried from house to house by the boys, who wore straw masks or blackened their faces with burnt cork, and dressed in old clothes. At each house, the boys sing the Wren Boys' song. Such as:

The wren, the wren, the king of all birds,  
On St. Stephen's Day was caught in the furze,  
Although he is little, his family is great,  
I pray you, good landlady, give us a treat.

My box would speak, if it had but a tongue,  
And two or three shillings, would do it not wrong,  
Sing holly, sing ivy--sing ivy, sing holly,  
A drop just to drink, it would drown melancholy.

And if you draw it of the best,  
I hope in heaven your soul will rest;  
But if you draw it of the small,  
It won't agree with these wren boys at all.

Sometimes those who gave money were given a feather from the wren for good luck. The money collected by the Wren Boys was used to hold a dance for the whole village.

There are different legends about the origin of this custom. One is that St. Stephen, hiding from his enemies in a bush, was betrayed by a chattering wren. The wren, like St. Stephen, should be hunted down and stoned to death. Another legend holds that during the Viking raids of the 700's, Irish soldiers were betrayed by a wren as they were sneaking up on a Viking camp in the dead of night. A wren began to eat breadcrumbs left on the head of a drum, and the rat-a-tat-tat of its beak woke the drummer, who sounded the alarm and woke the camp, leading to the defeat of the Irish soldiers and the continuing persecution of the wren.



**Saint Stephen the martyr**  
feast day December 26<sup>th</sup>

Stephen's name means "crown," and he was the first disciple of Jesus to receive the martyr's crown. Stephen was a deacon in the early Christian Church. The apostles had found that they needed helpers to look after the care of the widows and the poor. So they ordained seven deacons, and Stephen is the most famous of these.

God worked many miracles through St. Stephen and he spoke with such wisdom and grace that many of his hearers became followers of Jesus.

The enemies of the Church of Jesus were furious to see how successful Stephen's preaching was. At last, they laid a plot for him. They could not answer his wise argument, so they got men to lie about him, saying that he had spoken sinfully against God. St. Stephen faced that great assembly of enemies without fear. In fact, the Holy Bible says that his face looked like the face of an angel.

The saint spoke about Jesus, showing that He is the Savior, God had promised to send. He scolded his enemies for not having believed in Jesus. At that, they rose up in great anger and shouted at him. But Stephen looked up to Heaven and said that he saw the heavens opening and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

His hearers plugged their ears and refused to listen to another word. They dragged St. Stephen outside the city of Jerusalem and stoned him to death. The saint prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then he fell to his knees and begged God not to punish his enemies for killing him.

After such an expression of love, the holy martyr went to his heavenly reward. His feast day is December 26th.



**Battle of Fredericksburg 152nd Anniversary**  
December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

**The Irish Brigade** suffered its most severe casualties in December of 1862 at the Battle of Fredericksburg where its fighting force was reduced from over 1600 to 256. The brigade was involved in the northern battleground at Fredericksburg where they assaulted the sunken road in front of Marye's Heights. Coincidentally, one of the Confederate regiments manning the sunken road defenses was a predominantly Irish Regiment commanded by Brigadier General Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb. Knowing that Cobb's men manned the wall, and that both Cobb's and Meagher's units contained members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, an organization dedicated to gaining military experience in the United States, then freeing Ireland from Britain after the Civil War, Lee ordered reserves sent to the position. He need not have worried. Cobb's men helped devastate the Irish Brigade before the reinforcements could settle in place. It was at Fredericksburg that Lee allegedly referred to Meagher's regiment as the "Fighting 69th".

After the Battle of Fredericksburg, Gen. Meagher again requested to recruit the brigade back to strength. This time the request was denied. In May 1863, the brigade sustained further casualties at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Meagher repeated his request to recruit replacements, was denied, and resigned his commission in protest. Meagher was replaced by Colonel Patrick Kelly.

For more information on the events going on this weekend go to

<http://www.nps.gov/frsp/planyourvisit/event-details.htm?eventID=554822-232573>

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## Hibernian Friendship

Christmas Party December 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.

Columbian Center 2324 Pump Road

Always a GRAND time

If you can make it, please let

Dan Caffery know:

How many are attending?

What you're bringing?

If you can help bartend, set-up and/or  
clean-up.

Contact Dan at [kkcaffrey@hotmail.com](mailto:kkcaffrey@hotmail.com)

