

Ancient Order of Hibernians



**Major Dooley Division
Richmond, Virginia**

The Dooley Dispatch

December 2015

Celebrating 36 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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Next Meeting – Tuesday December 8th 7:00 p.m. St. Paul's Church

President's Message:



Hello my Hibernian Brothers. Has this year passed as quickly for you as it has for me? I cannot believe that this is my last letter as President of the Dooley Division, the best AOH Division in the Commonwealth. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support over this past year. Your kind words of encouragement and advice have meant so much to me. The Dooley Division is truly a brotherhood of great guys. After our last meeting we had a special tour of the Cirrus Distillery. A big thank you goes to Brother Paul McCann for hosting us and teaching us so much about the process of making excellent vodka. What better way to thank Paul then to visit your local ABC store and pick up a few bottles of Cirrus. I understand they make great stocking stuffers for the adults in you life. On December 8th we will hold the installation of the 2016 Officers at St Paul's beginning at 7:00 PM. I hope we have a large turnout to install these deserving brothers. And then just a few days later on December 13th we will have our Family Christmas party at St Mary's beginning at 1:00 PM. This is one of my favorite events of the Christmas Season. If you know of anyone interested in joining the Dooley Division, please invite them as a guest to the party. I cannot think of a better way to introduce them to the brothers. If they decide to join the division we will be having a Shamrock Degree at the January business meeting. One last favor I would like to make as the outgoing president. Please help keep Christ in Christmas, as Jesus is the reason for the season. Try the following: If you were to say Happy Christmas to just one other person, say: "Nollaig Shona Duit" (NO-Lihg HO-nuh ghwich). However, if you are addressing the same greeting to two or more persons, you would say: "Nollaig Shona Daoibh" (NO-Lihg HO-nuh JEEV). This literally means "You have a Happy Christmas." The most common response to this would be: "Nollaig Mhaith Chugat" (NO-lihg Wy HU-gut) Literally-"A good Christmas to you."

In árMana

Chad Costello.

Upcoming AOH Dooley Events

- Business meetings second Tuesday of the month except July, August, and December
- December 8, 2015 at 7 pm. Officer Installation for 2016 by State AOH President at St. Paul's Church. Not regular business Meeting; food and refreshments; Family invited.
- December 13, 2015, Sunday at 1 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church – Family Christmas Party (Family); bring a dish, Division to provide main course food and beverages.
- December 17, 2015, Thursday at 7 pm at Rare Olde Times– Uisce Beatha - Christmas Event- table reserved for 20; let Dan Caffrey (804-512-6288 kkcaffrey@hotmail.com) know if you're going.
- January 16, 2016, Saturday at 12 pm - Major Degree offered at St. Michael's; please plan to attend if you don't have your degree already (everyone pledged to get this when they joined); if you have your degree, you're welcome to attend and watch; Brian Kiernan and Vince Eikmeier are part of the Brian Boru Major Degree team; lunch will be provided; \$25 registration - register at event but please reply to Dan Caffrey if you plan on attending; plan on staying until 2 to 3 pm that day; follows the AOH State Quarterly Meeting at 10 am.

Joseph Jowaisas in need of a ride to meetings and events. He lives at 6161 River Rd #15. Please call him at 288-2428, if you can assist him.

Prayer List –

- **Bill McKay** who continues to struggle with back pain
- **Jack Griffin's son Neil and wife Mary** are still receiving Chemo treatments. Jack had knee surgery. Mary at Beth Shalom now, not doing well.
- **Patrick McGowan's uncle, Jerry Meranda**, is having dementia problems
- **Hugh Naughton's sister Marguerite Anderson** has been diagnosed with Stage One Uterine Cancer, had hysterectomy. his **wife Jessie** is in pain again, **brother John** is recovering from stroke.
- **Don Reaves**, severe back pain,
- **Tom Forbes brother-in-law, Gene Pilardi**, facing bone-marrow transplant (cancer gone), **wife Lori** was experiencing some pain.
- **Sean Costello's friend, Jan Jackson** suffering from back pain after car accident (Okay now).

- **Coby Robertson** (Hugh Naughton's great grandson -3 years old) serious condition. (Okay now)
- **Fr. Zahn's brother Thomas for spinal bifida.**
- **Fr. Zahn for spinal stenosis.**
- **Elaine Peters (Bruce) serious sickness.**
- **Mike Smith's sister Kari ovarian cancer – 4 more chemo treatments.**
- **PJ George's father in car accident (okay now). Mom blood pressure – out of hospital.**

Ireland's Holy Wells

by That's How It Was, thewildgeese.irish.com



Holy wells can be found all over Ireland -- and evoked in our minds, as well. As children, we would pick the daisies and buttercups, and place them by a well. Or, if we happened to be playing in someone's garden, we would dig a well, and pour water into it, placing the daisy and buttercups by the stones we would place around it -- not even knowing why, just following an instinct to do just that. Was it an inner voice that prompted us, as children, to pay homage to the water in the well, or maybe our subconscious minds had absorbed a conversation we had heard at home, in school, or at church. Whatever the rationale, we just did it.

Later in life, when I learned that water was, in fact, the source of life, I often wondered why children of 6 or 7 years of age would contemplate making a well and placing flowers around it. My conclusion is that some things are just so fundamental to life that children have an innate understanding of all things around them, about danger, risk, water, et cetera.

Some sources claim that there are as many as 3,000 holy wells across Ireland, and these are said to predate Christianity. The water that lies in the wells is said to be so pure that it can be drunk straight from its source.

For generations, wells have been associated with healing powers, and in a lot of cases, this, of course, could be true, as many of the minerals that lie in holy wells do carry curative properties [Just like the herbs and plants that my grandmother would send us to the woods to find -- to make potions to heal. Read "That's Just How it Was."] For some people, these curative properties are attributed to a saint who may have lived in the area or may have been associated with an area. At such wells, there may be rosary beads, a picture of a sick or dead relative, flowers, a garment belonging to a sick loved one in bygone eras,

jewelry, food, and all sort of elaborate gifts, left in the hope that an illness or a problem would be solved. Some people have been known to dip a cloth in a holy well, and wrap it around their sick loved one.

In pre-Christian Ireland, pagan Celtic society predominantly revolved around rural life. The close link with the natural world, that is, woods, lakes, the landscape, be it wild or cultivated, the animals that fed them, and not least 'wells' [the source of the pure water], all of this only served a simple purpose of 'prayer' -- not as we know prayer today. They perceived the presence of the supernatural, or, as some sources would suggest 'deities' [spirits], as an integral part of their religious concept of their god types, in what we would call today 'our religious systems' [Think of mediums]. For example, when Christians go into a church today, the first thing they do is dip their hand into a font of the blessed water and say 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'" Is this a reflection of all those traditions that have been either handed down by word of mouth, learned behavior, a study of the Scriptures, or is there something else at play in our psyche that is equally fundamental to our inner being, such as breathing -- water and spirit being the operative words here.

Water, as we know it, brings with it us all sorts of emotions. When we get our children baptized, water is poured over them from a font, family gathered all around, pouring love on the child and each other, then the tears flow [more water]. When we get married in church, water is used from the font to bless the married couple, and the priest will then sprinkle the holy water over the wedding party and the tears flow again [more water]. When we wash, bath, shower, swim, or walk in the rain, water is pouring over us in a manner that would suggest being made clean.

For example, many old churches contain a crypt (grotto) that opens onto a subterranean spring, deep in the earth, which could be perceived as an inner sanctuary, an inner holy well, deep beneath the Church . Many more of these old churches were built near 'pagan sacred wells,' and the early Celtic churches used these sacred wells for baptisms, to clean and make sure the baby [or person] could live a clean and pure life.



In Celtic mythology, 'the Well of Wisdom' stands at the center of the otherworld [spiritworld] -- for the Celts, it was their way of honoring their ancestors through water, and what they found as a divine way of carrying out their daily tasks and obligation to the deceased loved ones in the Otherworld. [Are we any different in our Christian beliefs -- we, too, believe that we will one day meet and see our loved ones again. I, for one , firmly believe that I will meet all of my deceased loved ones again.]

When Catholics were forbidden under the Penal Laws to gather for mass in a church, crude altars were erected beside a well, and mass was said at these wells, in secret. If a priest could not be found, as was very often the case then, the gathered people would, with the help of a lay preacher, continue with their private devotions to the saint that would have been attributed to that particular well, dipping their hands into the well to bless themselves.

More importantly, this water energy is carried within ourselves -- as we all know, all life on earth, particularly human life, is mostly composed of water.



Sir Roger David Casement



Sir Roger David Casement (1864-1916), the British traitor and Irish nationalist hero, was hanged by the British in mid-1916 for his part in working with Germany and Irish nationalists in planning the Dublin Easter Rising of 1916.

Born in Dublin on 1 September 1864 the son of a Protestant father and Catholic mother, Casement served for many years as a distinguished British Consul in Mozambique, Angola, the Congo Free State and Brazil.

He gained international renown for his Consular reports criticizing the treatment of native workers in the Congo and Amazon. As a consequence of his reports Belgium notably overhauled its administration of the Congo in 1908. Casement himself was rewarded with a knighthood in 1911, the same year he retired from the diplomatic service in ill-health and established himself in Dublin.

Casement helped to form in 1913 the Irish National Volunteers, a nationalist organization. The following year, in July 1914, Casement visited New York in an attempt to garner support for the organization. With the outbreak of war the following month Casement similarly hoped for German assistance in gaining Irish independence from Britain.

With this in mind Casement travelled to Berlin in November 1914; once there however he found the Germans reluctant to undertake the risk of sending forces to Ireland. He was also disappointed in his hopes of recruiting to his cause Irish prisoners taken to Germany.

While in Germany Casement strove in particular to effectively borrow a number of German officers to assist with a planned Easter rising in Dublin; again, he was disappointed. Believing the planned rising unlikely to succeed at that stage Casement arranged to be taken by German submarine to Ireland where he hoped to dissuade nationalist leaders from undertaking rebellion for the present.

Consequently he was landed near Tralee in County Kerry on 12 April 1916. Twelve days later he was arrested by the British, taken to London, and charged with treason. At about this time copies of a diary (the 'Black Diary') reputed to be written by Casement were circulated among government officials, detailing alleged homosexual practices with native boys.

Although clearly an attempt by the British to discredit Casement the diaries' authenticity was verified by an independent panel of scholars in 1959 and, more recently, in 2002. With an appeal dismissed Casement was taken to Pentonville Prison in London where he was hanged on 3 August 1916.

In 1965 Casement's remains were returned to Dublin and afforded a state funeral; they were then re-interred in Dublin..

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**Hibernian Friendship
Division Christmas Party
Sunday December 13th 1 p.m. St. Mary's**

