



# Hibernian News



Volume 7 Issue 1

Days of Tradition ~ New Year's Day to Epiphany

January 2006

## Division 2 Officers

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*Chaplain*  
**Kevin Cummings,**  
*President*  
**Michael Shannon,**  
*Vice President*  
**David Sutton,**  
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**Dennis Malone,**  
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*Standing Com Chair*

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**845-534-2528**

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In Ireland long ago, on New Year's night they'd remember those in the family who'd passed on the year before by setting a place at the table and leaving the door unlatched. In many houses, from morning to evening, all who came through the door were welcomed, the only spirits among them were usually the ones that came in a bottle!

As opposed to the day before, when it was considered unlucky for anyone to take food from the house, on New Year's Day friends and neighbors were sent on their way with little packages of whatever could be spared. Well into the evening, there'd always be gatherings around the fireplace, laughing and joking. Stories about traditions were told like how young girls would put mistletoe under their pillows on New Year's Eve, in hopes of dreaming about their future husband; or about a specially baked bread called a Christmas loaf which would be pounded against the bolted door in the name of the Trinity. At the same time, the head of the house said a prayer that starvation would be banished from Ireland and go to the King of the Turks.

Handsel Monday was celebrated on the first Monday of the New Year and it was a day

on which children would visit neighbors, friends and relatives to ask for a 'handsel' - a small gift of money. It was considered to be very unlucky to refuse a child this gift and thought by many to be even more fortunate if one were to give the gift before being asked for it. In some parts of Ireland, children were given cakes instead of coins and the day itself was often observed on New Year's Day instead of the Monday after. More than likely, this tradition, as with so many others, has already died out. Not so with the customs of Epiphany.

The Feast of the Three Kings was called Little Christmas. It was also known as Nollaig na mBan or Women's Christmas. This was a very special occasion when the women would gather for what we'd call a high tea - with wine! There are some who say that water turns into wine on this day in honor of the Magi, others who maintain the miracle occurs because it's the Anniversary of the Wedding Feast at Cana. To whomever or whatever you attribute the miracle, it's thought to be very unlucky to try and watch it take place.

So here it was, the 12th day of Christmas. On this day the more superstitious Irish would bake a special cake. A candle

would be placed in the cake to represent each member of the family. In the evening, the candles would be lit and then watched. As each candle went out, either extinguished by a stray draft or burnt itself down, that would be the order of death. Definitely a real "down ending" after such a joyous season.

At the very end of the 12th day and since this was the last day of Christmas, the decorative candles welcoming the Holy Family were extinguished. The next day, the decorations came down and the holly, now withered, was carefully burned in the fireplace since it was thought to be unlucky to just throw it in the trash. All were sent off to bed after the recitation of a popular seasonal prayer:

*"God bless the corners of our house and all the lintels blessed. And bless the hearth and bless the board and bless each place of rest, And bless each door that opens wide to strangers as to kin, And bless each crystal window pane that lets the starlight in, And bless the rooftop overhead and every sturdy wall. The peace of man. The peace of God. With peace and love for all."*



## *"Let Us Do the Cooking"* **Authentic Irish Breakfast**

**January 8, 2006**

An authentic, delicious Irish breakfast is now being served every second Sunday of the month at an unbelievable price of only \$7.00 p/p!

**9:30 AM-12:30 pm**

**Something for the whole family!!!**



The traditional breakfast consists of Eggs, Irish Bacon, Irish Sausages, Home-fried Potatoes, Black & White Puddings and the Grilled Tomato...a must! Children's Breakfasts of Pancakes & Sausage are only \$3.00 each. Juice, coffee and tea included.  
(Next month's breakfast will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup>)

## A Message from the AOH Division 2 President

Dear Brothers and Friends,

January 2006

It is time to say farewell. My two year term as Division President has come to an end. I am bound by oath to hand over the reigns of the division to its new officers. That I willingly do, knowing that a finer group of men serving as your new officers would be hard to find in this or any division. We are entering an exciting time for our organization and I leave office with the knowledge that it is sound. To paraphrase another Irish American, President John F. Kennedy, *"I can report to you that the state of this old but youthful Division, in the 23rd year of its life, is good. There may now be a temptation to relax...For the road has been long, the burden heavy, and the pace consistently urgent. But we cannot be satisfied to rest here. This is the side of the hill, not the top. The mere absence of failure is not success. We have made a beginning -- but we have only begun. Now the time has come to make the most of our gains."*

I invite all of our members and friends to support the new division officers in helping them make the most of our gains. I know that all of you will show them the same support you have shown me over the last two years. I truly believe the best is yet to come.

Bliain Úr faoi mhaise duit daoibh! - Happy New Year to All!

All the best always!

Kevin Cummings,  
Division 2 President

## Upcoming Events

(subject to change)

- Jan 8 Irish Breakfast—Division 2 Hall - 9:30-12:30 PM**
- Jan 18 Monthly Meeting - 7 PM—All members encouraged to attend ~ Div 2 Hall. Installation of 2006 Officers**
- Jan 18 AOH-DJW Corp. Quarterly Meeting - following the Division mtg.—All members encouraged to attend ~ Div 2 Hall.**
- Feb 12 Irish Breakfast—Division 2 Hall - 9:30-12:30 PM**
- Feb 12 County AOH Meeting —2 pm. All division members encouraged to attend ~ Div 2 Hall.**
- Feb 15 Monthly Meeting - 7 PM—All members encouraged to attend ~ Div 2 Hall.**



Please pray for our  
departed Brother  
+  
Joseph F. Sculley  
1925—2005

Welcome to our New Members  
**James Kane  
and  
William Hightower**

Please pray for our  
Brothers who are ill  
and for those serving in  
our country's military



## Division 2 ~ Ancient Order of Hibernian

Invites You To Attend Our

### St. Patrick's Dance

Meadow Brook Lodge

Route 94, New Windsor, NY

**Saturday, March 4, 2006**

**8:00 PM. – Midnight**

**Traditional Dinner, Open Top-Shelf Bar**

Music by the Chris Turpin Band  
Bagpipers, Irish Step & Set Dancers

**Donation \$50.00 Per Person**

No Tickets Sold At Door - For information and tickets call:

**John Greehy: 534-9315 - Mike Shannon: 389-3148 - Kevin Cummings: 562-8651**



**Division 2 Embroidered Clothing** is available for purchase. Each item proudly displays the A.O.H emblem and the words "Division 2". The parade season will be here before you know it. If you plan on marching in any of the St. Patrick Day parades this season, you will need a division jacket and hat. Hurry and contact John Greehy (534-9315) for pricing and to place your order. Time is running out!



#### Save—the—Dates

**Sunday, March 12, 2006**—Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade—Goshen

**Friday, March 17, 2006**—245th St. Patrick's Parade—NYC



#### Irish Set Dancing for Couples and Singles

Learn how to "dance at the cross roads"—impress your friends at the next division dinner dance or family wedding! Just a few of the Set and Ceili dances you will learn include the: Clare Lancers; Connemara; Corofin Plain; Fermanagh; West Kerry and Williamstown sets. Learn to dance Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes. Do the Stack of Barley, Siege of Ennis, Walls of Limerick. Lessons are on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. For more information call Kevin 562-8651 or John at 534-9315. Lessons are \$10.00 per person. Come out—it's fun!!!

#### ~ NOTICE ~

The Installation of Division Officers for 2006 will be held during the January monthly meeting. Please make an effort to attend this meeting to show your support for your division board.

- **President** - Michael Shannon
- **Vice President** - Raymond Fitzgerald
- **Recording Sec.** - Patrick Finn
- **Financial Sec.** - Dennis Malone
- **Treasurer** - Patrick Healey
- **Marshall** - James Kiernan
- **Sentinel** - Donald McClellan
- **Standing Committee** - James Kane

**Giant Basket of Cheer**—A \$1 ticket (6 for \$5) gives you a chance at winning a basket filled with top-shelf liquors including Grand Marnier, Jameson, Bailey Irish Cream, Celtic Crossing, Irish Mist, Boru Vodka, Bunratty Meade, Paddy Whiskey, Tullamore Dew, and Dewars Scotch. Hurry don't miss your chance to win this great assortment. Drawing to be held at the Division Dance on March 4th. Tickets at the hall.

**Thanks and More Thanks**—to Colleen Morris, Tina Malone and Sioban Wynne for all their hard work in making the Children's Christmas Party such a success. The children were thrilled. **More Thanks** to Alex and the Mountainville Fire Department for delivering Santa to the hall and to our cooks and Santa's Helpers" John Greehy, Jim Ryan and our cake baker extraordinaire, Ann Simoni! **Special Thanks** to Bob Morgan for the delicious food he prepared for the Division's December meeting. The hot ham sandwiches were out of this world! **A Very Special Thanks** to all the new Division Officers for 2006 for "stepping up" - President Michael Shannon; Vice President Raymond Fitzgerald; Recording Sec. Patrick Finn; Financial Sec. Dennis Malone; Treasurer Patrick Healey; Marshall James Kiernan; Sentinel - Donald McClellan and Standing Committee Chair- James Kane.

**Friendly Reminder** - Dues in the amount of \$50 for calendar year 2006 are now due. Please remit your payment to Dennis Malone, Division Financial Secretary.

#### Super Bowl Sunday

Join us at the hall on February 5, 2006  
for a *super* Super Bowl Party!

Starting at 12 noon with social card games ending with the final seconds...a great time is guaranteed. Food, beer, drink specials.

See Mike Shannon or Jim Ryan to get in on the Super Bowl Pool—50 points per box.

Watch for more information in the next newsletter.



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Thanks to All the Members and Friends who do so much around the hall. Your work does not go unnoticed!!

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