



Hibernian News



Volume 6 Issue 2

St. Brigid "Mary of the Gaels" Feast Day ~ February 1st

February 2005

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Known throughout Ireland as St. Brigid, Brigit or Bride, it was believed that she traveled around the countryside on the eve of her festival on February 1st blessing both the people and their livestock. To show that her visit was welcome, families would place a cake or pieces of bread and butter on the windowsill. In some parts of Ireland, the bread would be an oatmeal loaf in the shape of a cross which was specially baked for the occasion. In some places, the offering was left to be taken by a hungry, homeless person.

This feast day heralded the first day of Spring. Similar to the US groundhog tradition, if a hedgehog came out of his burrow on St. Brigid's Day, it was a sign

that mild weather was coming. If he went back into his burrow, it was a sign that bad weather would continue. No matter how poor the household, the mother would always try to prepare a festive supper or at least some tasty dish. Boxty pancakes, apple cake, dumplings and colcannon were favorites, and in some parts of Ireland a fruit bread called barm brack was served.

Special crosses made from reeds and rushes were made and put up over the doorways and the ones from last year were taken down and put up elsewhere in the house. You're also likely to see handkerchiefs hanging from washing lines all over the country. Nowadays, it's done to ensure the health of the household for the

coming year, but it evolved from the old custom of putting up a strip of cloth or ribbon called Brigid's Mantle. It was said that if the saint touched it, it would have curative powers.

In Ireland on St. Brigid's Eve in the old days, groups of young people dressed up in costume and went from house to house carrying a straw doll called the Brideog. These groups were known as The Biddies or Biddie Boys and, in return for entertaining those they called on with songs and dancing, they'd be rewarded with candy, cookies and possibly enough cash to finance a ceili or party.

Today, St. Brigid is second only to St. Patrick in the hierarchy of Irish Saints.

Save the Date!

Annual Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade

Sunday, March 13, 2005
Goshen, NY

We march as a division in this parade so turn-out is important. Please be sure to have your parade uniform in order. Line-up at 1 pm. Government Center. Step-off at 2:00 pm.

Save the Date!

NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade

Thursday, March 17, 2005

The annual bus trip into NYC is planned for March 17th. The bus leaves from Destinta Theaters at 8:00 am. Cost is \$25 p/p and includes onboard food and drinks. Prepaid is a must! Sign-up list at the hall. Uniform (division jacket, white shirt, black pants, tie, and balmoral hat) is a must for all marchers.



"Let Us Do the Cooking" **Authentic Irish Breakfast** **February 13, 2005**



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.

A Message from the AOH Division 2 President

Dear Brothers and Friends,

February 2005

Parade season fast approaches and again and I urge each of you to consider marching with us in any of the three parades in which we, as a division and county participate. Nothing makes you swell with pride like waving to family, friends or acquaintances as they cheer you on along the parade routes. Whether at the Mid-Hudson Parade here in Goshen, the Pearl River Parade or the granddaddy of all parades, the 244th NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade on Fifth Ave.—a great time—filled with lifelong memories is guaranteed. On another note, our Annual Dinner Dance is scheduled for Friday, March 4, 2005 in the Meadowbrook Lodge. Last year's event drew a record crowd of almost 300 guests. This year's event is looking just as popular. Don't be disappointed...contact any of the members listed in the announcement found on page 3 for your tickets. Hope to see you all there!

All the best!

Kevin Cummings,
Division President

Upcoming AOH Events

(subject to change—check the website)

- Feb 13 Irish Breakfast—Division 2 Hall - 9:30-12:30 PM**
- Feb 13 Social Card Games and Darts—Hall ~ 2:00 p.m. till 6:00 p.m. Bar open.**
- Feb 16 Monthly Meeting - 7 PM—All members encouraged to attend ~ Div 2 Hall.**
- Mar 4 21st Anniversary Dinner Dance - 8:00 -12:00 PM**
- Mar 13 Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade—Goshen -1 PM**
- Mar 16 Monthly Meeting - 7 PM—All members encouraged to attend ~ Div 2 Hall.**
- Mar 17 244th St. Patrick's Day Parade—NYC -10:45 AM**
- Mar 19 Children's Easter Egg Hunt—Hall—12 Noon—3 PM**
- Mar 20 Pearl River St. Patrick's Parade—Pearl River -12 noon**

Irish Set Dancing Lessons 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 Clare Lancers; Connemara Reel; Corofin Plain; Fermanagh; West Kerry; Williamstown, and Claddagh.

Learn to dance to:

**Jigs
Reels
Hornpipes**



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Walls of Limerick**

*You will have a lot
of fun and laughs
while you learn!
Meet new friends*

*Do it for your
health! Low impact-
high aerobic
workout!*

Lessons are on Wednesdays 7:00 PM—9:00 PM

For more information call Kevin (845-562-8651) or John (845-534-9315)



**Please pray for those
who are sick**

**Please pray for our Brothers who are
ill ~ Jim Ryan and his son, David
Ryan who is critically ill.**

Division 2 ~ All Ireland Building Fund Raffle

Tickets will on hand at this month's meeting for the **Annual Building Fund Raffle** to be held on **Saturday, June 18, 2005** from 2—5 pm at the Laborer's Hall on Rt. 207. If you can't make it to the meeting, contact the hall and leave a message for Clem Villa who is again chairing this year's event. Donations are \$100 per ticket. Price includes a 3 hour raffle party for every ticket holder (guests extra). A total of 550 tickets are to be sold. A whopping 32 cash prizes will be given away—call the hall for details on our new “early bird” drawing. A chance to win even more for getting your sold tickets in early!

Calling all Parade Marchers

Once again we will be marching in the **Pearl River Parade on Sunday, March 20, 2005** with a line-up at 12 Noon. Last year's turn-out by our members was a bit disappointing but it is a great parade (some say the 4th largest on the East Coast!) and those who attended last year had a great time so we are going to try it again.

While down there be sure to visit the many Irish pubs and restaurants in the “ol’ Irish Town of Pearl River”. Make it a point to stop by the AOH Hall after the parade. Members of other Orange County divisions are invited to march with us. The parade staging area is in the old Lederle parking lot.

NOTICE

There will be a quarterly **AOH County Board** meeting held on:

February 20, 2005
2:00 pm at Division 2 Hall ~
Cornwall

All members of Division 2 are encouraged to attend this important meeting. Items on the agenda to be discussed include the upcoming parades in NYC and in Goshen. Also to be discussed is the County Convention to be held later this Spring. Please make every effort to attend since we are the hosts. Food and refreshments will be served.



Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 2 Annual St. Patrick's Dinner Dance

Friday, March 4, 2005



Meadowbrook Lodge
Dinner - Top Shelf-Open Bar ~ 8:00 PM - 12:30 AM

Music by the Chris Turpin Band

also scheduled to perform

Hudson Valley Regional Police Pipes & Drums
Cornwall Irish Dancers



Donation \$50.00 per person
Huge Basket of "Irish Cheer" Raffle
For tickets call the Hibernian Hall at 534-2528
or any of the members below:



Kevin Cummings | John Greehy | Kevin Moore | John Masterson | Mike Shannon
562-8651 | 534-9315 | 562-5226 | 895-8851 | 497-0978

Keep in Touch and Keep Updated -We are in the process of collecting emails and other information from all members and friends who wish to be notified of upcoming events. Send an email (no message necessary—unless you are updating) to: kcummings@hvc.rr.com or visit "Members' Update" at: <http://www.div2aoh.org/index3.htm> Thanks!

Friendly Reminder - Dues in the amount of \$50 for calendar year 2005 are now past due. Please make your check payable to: **AOH Div 2** and drop it off at the hall. Better yet...come to the meeting and drop it off...we would love to see many of you again.

Thanks and More Thanks - Thanks to Jim Ryan for all the hard work around the bar and in the kitchen. **Special thanks** to Mike Shannon who again headed up the Super Bowl Pool and Party this year. Great job Mike! **More Thanks** to Kevin Moore and Kevin Cummings for helping out with the Super Bowl festivities. Thanks to the many friends and guest who attended and gave a helping hand too. All agreed it was a great day. Congratulations to all the day's winners.

Hibernian Hall Rental - Do forget the great benefit of belonging to Division 2—namely our Hibernian Hall. The hall, grounds and facilities make the Hibernian Hall perfect for all your party needs. The calendar is filling quickly so call the hall at 534-2528 and reserve the date for your special event soon.



What better way to show your **IRISH—AMERICAN PRIDE** then to fly the national flags proudly!!!

High quality 3'x5' nylon flags, suitable for outdoor display, are available for \$20 each. See Jim Ryan to purchase one.



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