



# ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA

INCORPORATED  
Organized in New York City, May 4, 1836

## JOSEPH DUELK, JR. DIVISION NO. 1

P. O. Box 337, Monroe (Orange County), New York 10950

Vol. 28 No. 4 Newsletter / Ad Journal

April 2008

Editor — Joseph McMahon - 764-0772



**Next Meeting — Friday, December 12 • 7:30 p.m.**

Paddy Naughton Hall, 10 North Main Street, Monroe • (845) 783-0205

JOSEPH DUELK, JR. — Vietnam Memorial, Washington, D.C.

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### DIVISION 1 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Division Meeting .....	Second Friday of each month	7:30 pm
Kid's Movie Night .....	Third Friday of each month	7:00 pm
Irish Rebel Song Night .....	Third Friday of each month	8:00 pm
Darts.....	Every Friday night	
Irish Music Seisiún .....	Every Sunday	1:30- 4:30 pm
Quiz Night .....	Saturday January 24	8:00 pm
Super Bowl XLIII Party .....	Sunday February 1	

Deadline for Newsletter — Third Tuesday of each month  
DIVISION NO. 1 WEBSITE • <http://aohdiv1.org/>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Cairde,

2009 is a very special year for our division as we are celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Brother Keith Reynolds is chairing an exploratory committee to plan a commemorative event on Sunday, October 25, at a venue yet to be decided. At the moment he is in the process of ascertaining how many of our present members were there from day one. If you have any information to share such as stories or old photos, please contact Keith, or email me at: [knockawn@yahoo.com](mailto:knockawn@yahoo.com).

We owe a great deal of gratitude to the men who had the foresight to understand that it was important to have an organization in Orange County that would respect and promote the traditions, customs, and religious beliefs of our forefathers. Over the intervening years the

torch has been passed on repeatedly to new generations of great Hibernians.

We have inherited a vibrant division. All you have to do is look at the Calendar of Events throughout the year in our Newsletter to understand that those traditions are indeed being nurtured.

As the temporary caretakers of the division, it is incumbent on all of us to remain members in good standing of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. I would ask that in this special year we pledge to support and promote division events and fundraisers and make a concerted effort to significantly increase our membership. To that end, if you know of a worthy Catholic gentleman of Irish birth or descent, hand him an application for membership. Applications are available at the Hall, or can be downloaded from the

AOH National website. Also, please try to attend our meetings. If you can't remember the last time you attended a meeting, then it has probably been too long. We would love to see you again. There are only 12 per year, and in my humble opinion, we should all be able to make at least every second one.

God willing, we will all get a chance to say we have been loyal forty-year members of Joseph Duellk Jr. AOH Division 1. To those of you who already are, go maire tú, agus go raibh maith agat. (Congratulations and thank you.)

I wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

Go mbeannaí Diá thú,  
Brendan O'Dowd  
*Uachtarán*

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### Irish Breakfast

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Hibernian Spotlight  
with Michael Cosgrove a.k.a. "Cos"

Q. Michael you recently joined the AOH in November 2008; how did you become interested?

A. I have been socializing with AOH members and local musicians like Frank Latimer for about a decade. I used to play the guitar for The Wild Rovers and I have also played in many music seisiúns at the AOH hall going back to 1998. Over the years I realized that it was time to join the AOH because the organization suits what I believe in. I sensed that I belong with this organization more than anywhere else. I feel the AOH is home.

Q. I understand that you gave out comic books as gifts at the children's Christmas party in December; where did you get so many comics?

A. I wore a brace for 3 years when I was a boy and to help me pass the time, my Uncle Jack would give me about 20 comic books each week. It turned into a hobby and now I have several thousand comic books.

Q. It sounds like your Uncle Jack was pretty generous.

A. Yes he was. In fact when my father arrived on St. Patrick's Day, 1953 on board the USS America, he was on a lot of swing shifts at work. I had a couple of uncles that were especially good to me during those early years. Uncle Jack introduced me to comic books and my Uncle James introduced me to the guitar by giving me \$40 specifically to buy a guitar. He also played a tune on his harmonica and told me to learn it for his next visit. Next time he came I was playing the Wild Colonial Boy.

Q. What is your favorite Christmas tradition?

A. No doubt, it is having Christmas turkey with the family. We would put a 15 foot table into the living room and all the relatives would come. The greatest stories were told at that Christmas table — and some of the greatest memories were also created there.

Q. I know that you retired after 28 years in IBM and now you own and operate a liquor store in Westport, CT. Will you be able to take time off to attend our Christmas party on January 3<sup>rd</sup>?

A. Oh, I'll definitely be there primarily playing some Christmas Carols on the guitar. I'm looking forward to celebrating all 12 Days of Christmas with my Hibernian Brothers.

### Quiz Night

This event continues to be a great success. Each team has four players that compete for the prize money by answering Jeopardy-style questions. The event is open to the public so bring your friends and relations. The next Quiz Night is Saturday, January 24.

### Right to Life March

The annual "Right to Life" march is on Thursday, January 22 in Washington DC. If you wish to go, there are a number of buses leaving from Orange County. If you do plan to go dress warmly and please wear your Green Jacket. AOH members will gather at Constitution Avenue and 6th Street facing the Supreme Court Building, on the left side of the street. The march is scheduled to start at 1pm.

### Irish Set Dancing

Set dancing has become very popular in recent years — it's great fun, good exercise and a great way to meet people. Set dancing classes are held at the Hall on Monday nights. The class caters for both experienced dancers and beginners and you can join in at any stage, simply by going along any Monday night at 7pm. It is not necessary to have a partner, but couples may, of course, dance together if they wish.

The class teacher Brian Reynolds will give instructions on the steps, figures and timing for the popular sets. You too could dance The Siege of Ennis ... The Stack of Barley ... The Walls of Limerick ... The High-Cauled Cap, etc. The main emphasis is on dancing for enjoyment.

For more information email Gail Cane at [canelog@optonline.net](mailto:canelog@optonline.net)

### St. Patrick's Day 2009

Congratulation from Division 1 to Sister Peggy Murphy on her selection as the Orange County AOH Aide to the Grand Marshal, for the 2009 New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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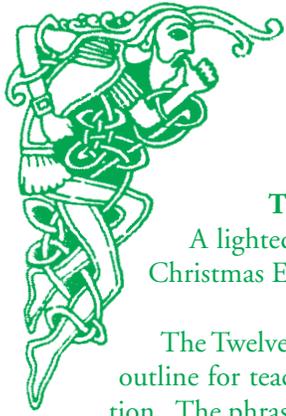
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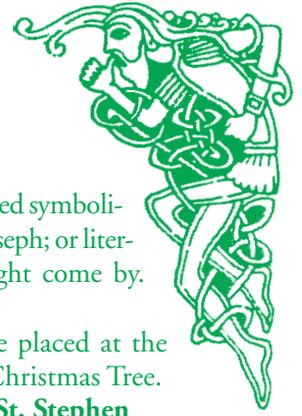


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## History

# IRISH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS: PAST, PRESENT, AND IN-BETWEEN



### The Candle in the Window

A lighted candle was placed in a window on Christmas Eve to welcome the Infant Jesus.

### The Christmas Carol

The Twelve Days of Christmas was written as an outline for teaching the catechism during persecution. The phrase “my true love gave to me” refers to God giving these gifts to those who accepted Baptism. Each verse represents dogmas of the Faith: A Partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ the Son of God on the cross. Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments. Three French hens are the theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Four calling birds are the four Gospels of Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Five golden rings are the first five books of the Old Testament known as The Pentateuch. Six geese a-laying are the six days of Creation. Seven swans a swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost and the seven Sacraments. Eight maids a milking are the eight Beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing remind us of the nine Choirs of Angels. Ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments. Eleven pipers piping are the eleven faithful Apostles. Twelve drummers drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle’s Creed.



### The Laden Table

A very old tradition before going to bed on Christmas Eve was setting the kitchen table with a loaf of bread filled with caraway seeds and raisins, a pitcher of milk and a large lit candle.

## Children’s Christmas Party

Thank you to everyone who came to the party. The children all had a great time, and Santa did a terrific job .... he even posed for photos with the kids. He reminded the kids before he left that Christmas was not about him, but rather the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Well done, Keith Reynolds. Tim Curtin made sure the presents were divvied out properly, while Dennis Browne made sure everyone was well fed.

The early bird drawing for Ireland’s 32 was made during the party, with the children drawing the winning tickets. Congratulations to all the winners, and good luck in the main drawing.

This is our main fundraiser for the year; please purchase a ticket by contacting Bill O’Donnell.

The door to the house was left unlatched symbolically for the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph; or literally for any weary traveler that might come by.

### Christmas Morning

Gifts for the children used to be placed at the foot of the bed and not under the Christmas Tree.

### December 26<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of St. Stephen

Boxing Day used to be a day for performing charity. It is referred to in the Christmas carol about Good King Wenceslaus who went out “on the Feast of Stephen” to perform acts of charity for the poor. In Irish tradition there was The Wren Boy Procession where people would go out to raise money for the poor, primarily by singing Christmas carols door to door. The charitable carolers would carry with them a Holly Bush and a Wren in a birdcage. They would darken their faces or put on masks. Any money that was given to the carolers was then donated to the Poor Box at the church. The wren, captured in a birdcage, comes from Penal times when a village plotted to overthrow British troops stationed in the village. Just before the ambush, a group of wrens began pecking at the soldiers’ drums which woke the soldiers and foiled the ambush. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, this tradition turned into a sort of Halloween for children who would dress up, go door to door singing Christmas carols and collect some money for their own pockets. It has largely disappeared, but the tradition of visiting neighbors and loved ones on St. Stephen’s Day has survived.



## 2009 Dues

To make things easy for our new Financial Secretary, simply place a stamp on the envelope provided and mail your 2009 Dues as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued membership and support of The Ancient Order of Hibernians. As a collective group we have achieved so much over the years, and will continue to do so, as we embrace and promote our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.