



The Cunningham Chronicle

Ancient Order of Hibernians

Colonel Thos. J. Cunningham Jr. Division
Friendship * Unity * Christian Charity

Volume VI, No. 6 June 2003



James Patrick Burke
Charter President, Cunningham Division
January 13, 1932 – May 23, 2003



Seven fills of Patrick's Island,
Seven fills of the tomb of Christ,

Of the blessings of the good God on your souls,
And on the souls of the seven generations before you.

The blessings of God on the souls of the dead,
May their souls and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace.

Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Amen

IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ... | P. 6 |
| UPCOMING EVENTS | P. 2 |
| SAINTS AND SCHOLARS ... | P. 3 |
| IRISH HISTORY | P. 4, 7 |
| IRISH MUSIC, DANCE | P. 5 |
| IRISHFILM , BOOKS | P. 5 |
| IRISH HUMOR/STORIES | P. 5 |
| ----- | |
| TJC DIVISION NEWS | P. 6, 7 |
| OUR SPONSORS | P. 8 |



Col. Thomas J. Cunningham, Jr.
Division of the Ancient Order of
Hibernians ---

" Friendship ...

Unity ...

Christian Charity "



Next Meeting June 17, 2003 7:30 pm Sterling Raritan



Potomac Celtic Festival Offers Weekend Fun



Please join the Division on Saturday and Sunday, June 14th-15th, from 10am-7pm for the Potomac Celtic Festival at Morven Park in Leesburg, Virginia! We will set up our tent display, and welcome members to come out and help, or just join us with your family and friends at the Festival.



- Continuous live Celtic and traditional music and dance on eight stages
- 50 exhibitors of the highest quality Celtic art and crafts
- Reenactment of Celtic history from the 1st Century B.C. through the 20th Century
- Pipe Bands from several Celtic lands and Drama, Poetry & Storytellers
- Authentic Celtic foods
- Celtic clans and societies to help trace family roots
- Experts teach workshops on Celtic languages, storytelling styles, knotwork and more!
- Pub Tent and Night Festival

Tickets can be purchased in advance, or at the Festival. For directions and more info check out the official web-site at:

<http://www.potomaccelticfest.org/>

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Deaths

For our Dear Departed Brother, Jim Burke, Founding Member of the Division, Charter President, and friend to all.

For the repose of John Allen's Soul, Close Friend of Patrick Korten.

Illnesses

Bill Halpin's Wife, Lisa

Ned Woisard's Son, Brian

~Notice~
 Happy News, Sad News...
 Should be reported immediately
 to
 Jack Devins 729-3256



Happy Birthday Wishes

May you live to be a hundred years old,
With one extra year to repent!

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| June 1 | Tom Dillon Michael Leddy |
| June 5 June 12 | Jim Sinnott Pat Costanza |

If we've missed your birthday--- please call Jack Devins so we can update our records

Special Intentions

For God's Grace upon Our Fathers
 For the Peaceful Unification of Ireland
 For the Safety for Our Families
 For Conversion to Catholicism of the Peoples of the Middle East
 For the Well-Being of Our Troops
 For Guidance and Wisdom to Our Spiritual, Elected and Appointed Leaders

TJC Division Calendar

JUNE

10th Tues 7:30 pm Officer's Meeting
 14th-15th Sat/Sun Potomac Celtic Festival
 17th Tues 7:30 pm Member Meeting Sterling Ruritan
 21st Sat Virginia AOH State Meeting
 28th Sat 10:00 am Interfaith Relief Food Distribution

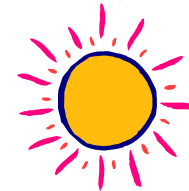
JULY

1st Tues 7:30 pm Officer's Meeting
 8th Tues 7:30 pm Member Meeting Sterling Ruritan
 26th Sat 10:00 am Interfaith Relief Food Distribution

Oia Ohaui! --- An Irish Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Dan Litts, Purcellville
Bill Maguire, Reston
Neil McDonnel, Ashburn

Coming This Summer!



Back by popular demand--- Our Next Social Meeting will be August 12th!



Come Join Us! for an evening of good fun, food & drink, lively conversation, Irish music & culture. Stay tuned for details!

Irish saints



St. Kevin June 3

Known in Ireland as Coemgen as well as Kevin, according to tradition he was born of royal descent at the Fort of the White Fountain in Leinster, Ireland. Once ordained, he became a hermit at the Valley of the Two Lakes in Glendalough.

After seven years of solitary life, he founded a monastery for the disciples he attracted and moved to Glendalough. He was a friend of St. Kiernan of Clonmacnoise. Many incredible miracles are attributed to him, and he was reputed to be 120 years old at his death.

St. Jarlath June 6

Jarlath was the founder and principle patron of the Archdiocese of Tuam in Galway, Ireland. He belonged to the Conmaicne family, one of the most important and powerful in Galway during his time. After being trained and ordained as a priest, Jarlath founded a monastery at Cluain Enis, just outside Tuam, and later founded a well-known school. St. Brendan and St. Colman of Cloyne were among the pupils at his school. Jarlath died around 550 A.D.

St. Columba also known as St. Columcille June 9

Saint Colum Cille, also known from the Latin form of his name as Columba, was probably born in the year 521 and died on 9 June 597. There are several accounts of Columba's life, all attesting to the miraculous signs which preceded his birth

at Gartan, Co. Donegal, in 521. An angel assured his mother that she would bear a son of great beauty who would be remembered among the Lord's prophets.

Columba was of royal blood. His father Phelim was of the Uí Néill clan and descended from the famous Niall of the Nine Hostages, while his mother Eithne was descended from a king of Leinster. He studied at Moville under St. Finnian then in Leinster at the monastery of Clonard under another St. Finnian.

He was gentle to the weak and hospitable to the stranger. Although he was of noble birth, he became a wanderer for Christ, and continually involved himself in the politics of Scotland and Ireland.

He left Ireland at 42 and landed on the island of Iona off the coast of Scotland. There he built the monastery which was to become world famous. With Saints Canice and Comgall he spread the gospel to the Picts; he also developed a monastic rule which many followed until the introduction of St. Benedicts. He died on Iona and is also known as Colm, Colum and Columcille.



Gaelic Phrases

PHRASE: Ta cupla focail Gaeilge agam

PRONOUNCED: taw koo-pluh fuk-ill gale-geh ah/gum

MEANING: I have a couple of words of Irish

PHRASE: Tuigim/Ni thuigim

PRONOUNCED: tigg-im/knee higg-im

MEANING: I understand/I don't understand

PHRASE: Cad is ainm duit, le do thoil?

PRONOUNCED: Cod is ann/um dwit, leh duh hull?

MEANING: What is your name please?

PHRASE: Michael is ainm dom

PRONOUNCED: Michael is ann/um dum

MEANING: My name is Michael



Would you like to learn Irish Gaelic? It's easy and fun, and there are many good resources to make a self-study.

Check out these web-sites, some with .wav files which can be played while you practice the pronunciation.

Irish must be learned by hearing it!

<http://www.daltai.com/grammar.htm>

<http://www.standingstones.com/gaelpron.html#Vow>

http://erinsweb.com/gae_index.html

<http://www.leyline.org/cra/language/IrishPeople/>

<http://www.solaseireann.com/temp/SolasLang.html>

<http://www.bluediamond.subnet.dk/102989.html>

<http://www.inac.org/> (registration req'd)

<http://www.myfamilysoftware.com/talnowlearir.html>

Jeanie Johnston Arrives in Washington, D.C.

Feature story by Bill Halpin, Division Historian



This month we focus on the sailing ship *Jeanie Johnston*. Many of us contributed to the fund established to defray the expenses of re-creating this Irish Emigrant ship - we have the commemorative pins to prove it!

The *Jeanie Johnston* was originally scheduled to arrive in the United States in time for the millennium. Beset by financial delays and a long voyage from Ireland which commenced this February, she's finally here now! -- berthed at the Water Street Pier in D.C.

Lisa (my possibly Celtic wife) received an invitation to a reception on board the *Jeanie Johnston* for May 29th. It was host by IHR, Inc., a prominent hotel management group. Fortunately she was permitted to bring one guest; more fortunate, she asked me! The place was packed; Guinness and Harp were abundant as were Irish salmon, lamb, other ethnic and non-ethnic delicacies and some live Irish music to boot!

To tour this floating museum is to genuinely (as is possible) experience what our forbearers experienced during the six-to-eight week crossing

from Kerry to New York, Baltimore or Quebec. Perhaps none of us really can fully imagine the genocidal conditions in Ireland in the mid 19th century which forced a wave of Irish emigration aboard ships like the *Jeanie Johnston*. The Great Hunger -- or, *An Gorta Mor* --- as it is called in the native Irish Gaelic--- and the related outbreak of cholera and other diseases, remain today one of history's gravest human crises.

However, we Irish should always keep in mind two facts about *An Gorta Mor*. First, it wasn't a "potato famine" as Ireland was a net exporter of foodstuff during this period (1845-1859) and second, at the time, Ireland was ruled by one of the richest nations on earth.

Yet during this calculated genocide, Ireland lost nearly 1 million people to starvation -- a full 12% of the population -- another 12% emigrated. By 1851 more than 1.25 million Irish has immigrated to North America, many of our forbearers among them.

The *Jeanie Johnston* is a three masted, 480-ton bark, 123 feet stem-to-stern, and 26 feet wide. The original was built in Quebec in 1847 and sold to Nicholas Donovan & Sons of Tralee. She made her maiden voyage as a 'passenger ship' in April 1848, transporting 193 Irish from Kerry to Quebec.

Normally, she carried a crew of seventeen and between 190 and 250 passengers (the replica is licensed to carry only 40 passengers) who paid £3.10 for the one-way ticket. That was close to six months wages for the average Irish laborer.

Her last emigrant voyage was in 1855. She sank somewhere between Quebec

and Hull, England in 1858. Nine days later her crew was rescued at sea by the Dutch ship *Sophie Elizabeth*.

Transatlantic crossings were always unpredictable, so this was a dangerous venture, not to be taken lightly. This was especially true for folks already weak from months of starvation conditions in Ireland who arrived on board with only the clothes on their backs. Conditions were harsh; passengers were housed in very cramped quarters -- six to a bunk was not uncommon. Food was very basic, limited to provisions that could withstand extreme variations in weather. One such voyager recounts, "I was glad for anything to break the monotony, or break the grave-like silence of the place."¹

The *Jeanie Johnston* has become famous for what she was not--- because she was not one of the so-called "coffin ships" on which an estimated 50,000 Irish men, women and children died in 1847 alone. During her many voyages, nobody is known to have perished on board the *Jeanie Johnston*. Perhaps it is fitting to discover that her largest group of passengers was comprised of single women between the ages of 16 and 30! [Portions of this article adapted from the "*Jeanie Johnston Walk-Around-Guide*".]

For more information on the arrival this year of the *Jeanie Johnston*, and her remarkable history and return voyage to America, please check out--

<http://www.focuskerry.com/jeanie/>



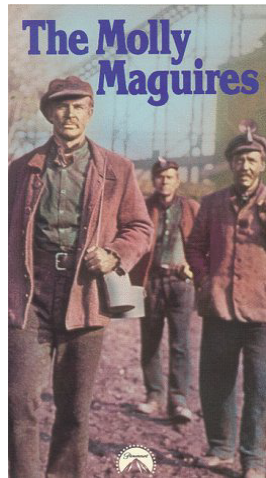
¹ Denis B. Cashman, *Fenian Diary*, 1867.

Irish music/dance



Returning for their annual Summer Spectacular at Wolf Trap, The Chicago Tribune calls Riverdance "Better than ever!" This is the Irish dance and music production which has mesmerized audiences worldwide. Enjoyed by over 15 million fans, Riverdance remains a true international phenomenon. Showing June 24th-29th. For tickets call (703) 218-6500.

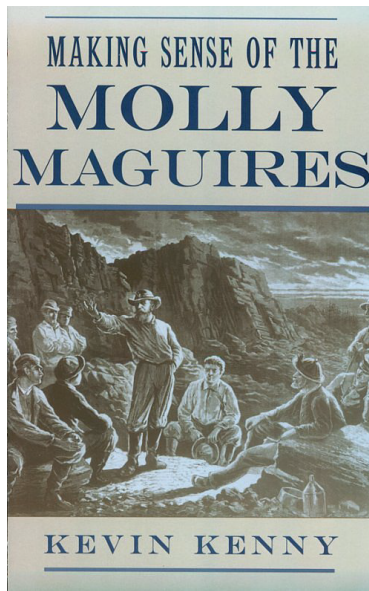
films/books



From Reviews at Amazon.com

Released in 1970, *The Molly Maguires* is a compelling film and a gritty real-life portrait of the life and times of the Irish immigrant coal miner in eastern Pennsylvania in the 1870's. Sean Connery plays a convincing role as "Black Jack" Kehoe, the leader of the Molly Maguire movement. Richard Harris is equally compelling in his portrayal of James McParlan, Pinkerton Agency Detective. Director Martin Ritt and screenwriter Walter Bernstein were at the height of their Hollywood powers, offering viewers a visceral and authentic

drama about the exploitation of Irish immigrant miners in the centennial America of 1876. Connery's secret gang, the Molly Maguires, retaliates by destroying mines and equipment; Harris infiltrates the group as an informer hired by the coal-company owners, leading to his inevitable crisis of conscience. Pub brawls and manly action give the film its meat-and-potatoes appeal, and discerning viewers will appreciate the story's careful pacing and moral ambiguity; ironically, the qualities that were blamed for the film's commercial failure. --*Jeff Shannon*



From Reviews at Amazon.com

Twenty Irish immigrants, suspected of comprising a secret terrorist organization called the Molly Maguires, were hanged in Pennsylvania in the 1870s for the murder of sixteen men. Ever since, there has been enormous disagreement over who the Molly Maguires were, what they did, and why, as virtually everything we now know about them is based on hostile descriptions from their contemporaries.

Combining social and cultural history, *Making Sense of the Molly Maguires* goes beyond the typical view of the Mollys as a band of drunken criminals of Irish origin. Kenny tells of the political and corporate corruption that existed in the 1850s to 1880s, and the horrendous conditions that existed for coal workers during this era.


While not displaying total sympathy for the Mollys - Kenny's accounts will change one's perspective of this group.

"Kevin Kenny's *Making Sense of the Molly Maguires* is easily the best book ever written about the subject ... it is a story of the hardships of the mines, of the power of the owners and their paid police forces ... and of the power of the media to portray events in a way that can inflame persons around the nation ...

The controversy over the Molly Maguires will not end with this book. Some will see them as brutal terrorists and others as martyred heroes of the labor movement. But no one will ever again be able to think or write seriously about the 1870's violence in the anthracite coal region of Eastern Pennsylvania without reading this stunning volume." ---Kenneth T. Jackson, Columbia University

Irish wit & stories



 Two men were scuffling outside a pub when along came a huge Irishman--- fists like hams--- who started taking his coat off.

'You're fighting about Ireland, aren't you?' he demanded.

'No, no,' said both men in unison. 'Honestly, it's a personal matter, nothing to do with Ireland at all.'

'Huh,' muttered the Paddy, and shuffled off. Two seconds later he was back, tearing off his coat saying:

'So, Ireland's not worth fighting about, eh?'





Division News

SOCIAL MEETING AND FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION A BIG SUCCESS

At its May meeting the Division abandoned all form of motions and business-as-usual and hosted a memorable evening for its members.

The night began with a solemn memorial and toast to our deceased brother, Steve Tatusko. Then, with pomp and ceremony, the President, Officers, and Ex-Officios marked the evening with a cake-cutting.



Anniversary Cake was served with snacks and beverages. Irish music livened the evening, along with stories, jokes, remembrances of times past, and a fine display of Irish dancing by John O'Hara.



Our Division Namesake:



Col. Thomas J. Cunningham, Jr.

As the Division marks its Fifth Year, this is a fitting time to recall our namesake---

THOMAS J. CUNNINGHAM, JR.

Tom Cunningham was born in Pittsburgh in 1919. He graduated from Indiana University and earned a Master of Arts in Public Relations from American University.

Private Cunningham entered the U.S. Army in 1941, beginning a 26-year Army career that included assignments a chief of media relations for General Westmoreland in Vietnam, editor of *Army Digest*, editor of the European edition of *Stars and Stripes*, and editor of the *Armor Magazine*. He was also the Secretary-Treasurer of the U.S. Armor Association. At the time of retirement in 1967 he was chief of the Army's Command Information Division in the Pentagon. His military awards include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star.

After retirement from Military Service, Col. Cunningham continued to be active in the communications industry and held positions with the National Defense Transportation Association, the American Wood Preservers Institute, and The Retired Officers Association.

At the time of his death, he was a communications and marketing consultant for the American Road & Transportation Builders Association and the American Society of Naval Engineers. An

accomplished writer, he co-authored *Clark of St. Vith*, a biography of General Bruce C. Clark.

Colonel Cunningham was a past vice-president of the Colonel John F. Fitzgerald Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians, and a parishioner at Queen of Apostles Catholic Church in Alexandria. He was a man of outstanding character and dedicated to Irish-Catholic culture, traditions and ideals. In his honor, the Colonel Thomas J. Cunningham, Jr. Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians was formed on June 1, 1998.

Submitted by Bill Halpin, Division Historian and Immediate Past President

presidents message

DEDICATION

"Dedication" is defined as being committed to something so that it succeeds. That spirit was evident on May 17, 2003 and demonstrated by one of our newest members, Dan Litts, at the Purcellville Heritage Day Festival. This was Dan's first event as a Hibernian and he offered to come out and help man the booth.

The INOVA blood drive Chair was looking for sponsors and swung by the Hibernian table. Dan made an offer.... "a pint for a ticket". When the Chair bought THREE tickets, Dan went and donated blood.

After awhile we were wondering where Dan was. We found him...in the blood mobile...happily munching on cookies and juice. It seems that Dan had a wee bit of a reaction to giving blood but as he said--- "A deal's a deal...and we got three ticket sales."

Now THAT'S dedication!

Faugh A Ballagh!

Steve

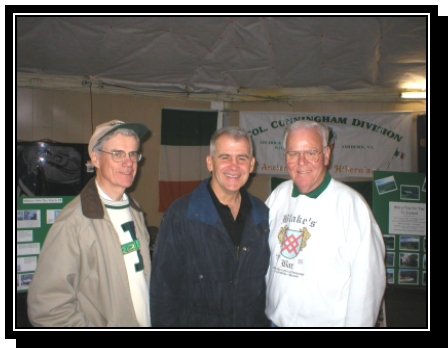


Division news cont'd

HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL

The AOH/TJC participated in the 17th Annual Purcellville Heritage Day Festival on May 17, 2003. While the cold and rainy weather kept the crowds away, we made the best of it, selling 14 "Trip for Two to Ireland" raffle tickets and speaking with 4 men who expressed an interest in joining the AOH/TJC.

Our booth drew praise from everyone, and the crowd kept us busy answering questions about Irish history & genealogy. Many folks who stopped by were learning for the first time about the AOH and that such an Irish-Catholic organization exists in Northern Virginia! The Mayor of Purcellville stopped by to thank us for participating.



Ned Woisard, Col. Oliver North, and Pat Blake

A highlight for the AOH/TJC members was the unexpected appearance of USMC Colonel Oliver North! Ollie swung by and chatted with us for about 15 minutes. Colonel North regaled us with stories of the Irish side of his family (which hails from Galway Bay).

Several members donated blood to the INOVA blood drive. (Ask Dan Litts for

the rest of that happy story!) A "tip o' the hat" to the following members who made this day a success: Pat Blake, Mike Hippchen, Todd Morefield, Ned Woisard, Jack Spring & his daughters, Jenny and Amy, and new member Dan Litts,

Submitted by Mike Hippchen

COMING UP ...



HALF-WAY TO SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARTY PLANS UNDERWAY ---

The Annual Half-Way to Saint Patrick's Day Party planning is in full-swing. The party will be on **September 13, 2003** at Saint Francis Catholic Church in Purcellville. The event will include live Irish entertainment, delicious food and beverages, and the drawing for our biggest fundraiser of the year "**The Trip for Two to Ireland**". Please be sure to make a note of it now, because when it comes to throwing parties, our Division never does anything ... "half-way"!

MOLLY MAGUIRE WEEKEND

The Annual walking tour of Shenandoah, Pa. in the heart of "Molly" country will be Friday June 20th. On Saturday June 21st, a "Grand Jury Investigation" into improprieties of the Molly Maguire Trials will be conducted at the Schuylkill County Courthouse. Also, the highly acclaimed Irish Lads will be performing traditional Irish music at St. Canicus Irish-Catholic Church in nearby Mahanoy City on Saturday evening. Call 570.622.7540 for more information.

So, who were the Molly Maguires?

The "Molly Maguires" were miners in the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania who organized into a union during the 1860's and 1870's. These miners were

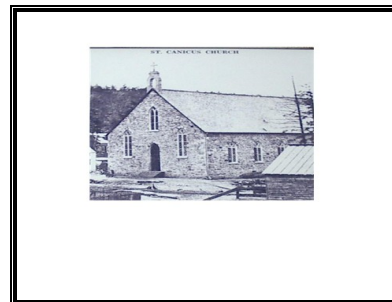
chiefly Irish and their union was called the Workingmen's Benevolent Association. In general, the members of this union were also members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (at the time, a semi-secret fraternal society).

This organization of Irish miners was dubbed the "Molly Maguires," after a group of Irish peasants in Ireland who would dress up as women to exact revenge upon English landlords. This group was infamously known as murderers and assassins.

The label was used by both the press and the owner-operators of the mining companies to their distinct advantage. They called anyone who was pro-union a "Molly," inferring that they were criminals. The Pinkerton Detective Agency infiltrated the Molly Maguire organization over the course of several years, and in the late 1870's, 20 men were prosecuted and hanged for their alleged criminal activities against the owner-operators of the mines.

[Jack Spring's G-G Grandfather, Michael Spring emigrated from Galway, Ireland in 1857 and worked as a laborer in the coal mines of Mahanoy City from 1860 to 1875. He and his family were members of St. Canicus Catholic Church-- the Irish Catholic Church founded in 1862 in Mahanoy City. (See picture below) Michael left town with his wife and five children and settled in Westchester County, New York, in 1875, just before the hangings began. It is unknown whether he was a member of the AOH.]

Jack and Steve will be organizing a trip to attend next year's Molly Maguire weekend. Watch for details in the future.



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**** **NOTE!** ****
**REGULAR MEETING
DATE IS CHANGED---
THIS MONTH ONLY!
WE MEET ON JUNE,
JUNE 17TH, 7:30 PM--
SAME PLACE!**

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Proprietor: **Greg Cahill**
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