



Thompson Rifles



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Gen. William Thompson, Cumberland County Division II

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Photo by Ann Irwin

Members of the Division gather at the annual Celtic Christmas Celebration in December. Division Families gathered for an evening of fellowship and was suprised by the return of Brother LTC Larry Dugan, what a great Christmas gift.



Courtesy photo

Feburary had the Division teaming with members of the Saint Patrick Heritage Club to offer traditional Irish fare at the first annual Saint Patrick parish International Festival.

The ladies from the Heritage Club were all of Irish decent and Division members suggested they join the LAOH. The festival also provided a great opportunity to engage men of our heritage and tell our Hibernian story. This engagement was one of the reasons that persuaded Father Olusola Adewole to seek enrollement into our order. In the photo to the right Father 'Sola embraces Division Recording Secretary Bill Irwin. Some of the fare offered included colecannon, soda bread, and potato leek soup. The was also a shrine to Our Lady of Knock at the booth and somehow the statue of Saint Patrick found it's way across the hall to our booth.



Prayer Intentions

Prayer works.

We ask that you keep the following in your prayers;

Tom Vanner's family

Blaine Havice

Bill Rue

Cyndi Painley

Ann Irwin

Molly Finnerty

Henry McGinnis

George Pollin and all of our friends and family serving in the armed forces

Our student members as they continue their studies

Brendan Kane as he continues officer training

Joe McGinnis as he continues his studies



All the clergy served by the Division

Honor role of Departed Members, Family and Friends



Marilyn Kane

Tom Vanner

John Rush



VIEWPOINT

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Thank you for all you have done to make this past year one of our most successful years yet. The amazing thing is that I do not think we are even firing on all cylinders yet; we have yet to reach our true potential as a Catholic organization. We have a very full year; in the making from the Lenten fishdinner program, St. Patrick's Day Parades, an AOH of the year Dinner, the kids Fishing Derby in June also in June, the enthronement of the Sacred Heart, the Veteran's recognition program, church welcomes and socials, Children's coloring contest, gifts to the Confirmation and Communion Classes, Order of St. Patrick Award . We have seen members deploy and return (Welcome home to Larry Dugan and George Pollin.)

Also welcome to our new members . I am proud of this Division and all that we have done and also am aware of our great potential for future good.

We have some large challenges lying ahead of us. Religion and cultural intolerance still exists as does a culture of death, despair and hopelessness. In bringing communion to the sick and elderly, I have seen their despair and loneliness and have witnessed the indifference of society toward these individuals who have contributed so much. The threat to the unborn is greater than ever and in my opinion is at a national crisis point. Extending compassion to those in need, contributing to society, the defense of our nation and way of life, strong moral values and work ethic have all but disappeared.

Our heritage has made us fighters. I ask that you not give up on the pivotal issues facing society today. That you continue to fight and stand against all that is wrong in this world. You have done so much, renew for a new year and continue the good fight and live the prayers of St. Francis, St. Michael and St. Patrick: "Where there is hatred, let me sow love..." "...defend us in the battle and in the terrible warfare that we are waging against the principalities and powers, against the rulers of this world of darkness, against the evil spirits..." "Christ before me, Christ behind me ...Christ on my right, Christ on my left, ... Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me..."



**HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED
SAINT PATRICKS DAY**




President's Podium

By Tom Kane

*New Members
"Cead Mile Failte"*

*Andrew McGinnis
Mike Allamon
Brian McCartin
Father Olusola Adewole, OP*





BIRTHS

**Moira Lynn Rolfes,
Kane's granddaughter.
Born May 2, 2008,
19 1/2" 6lbs. 15.4 ozs.
Irwin's great nephew,
Daniel Patrick. Born Dec
11, 2008 to
Melissa Chambers
12" 4lbs.**

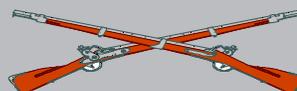


The Thompson Rifles

President: Tom Kane
Editor: Bill Irwin



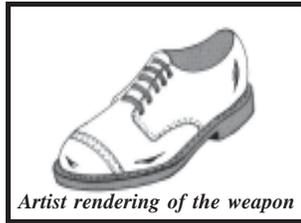
This newsletter is an authorized publication for members of The AOH Gen. William Thompson Division.



Photos by Bill Irwin unless otherwise bylined.

Division President attacked

It seems that the President of the United States is not the only one journalists target with their footwear. At the recent Celtic Christmas gathering, our own Division President, Tom Kane was attacked in a similar manner.

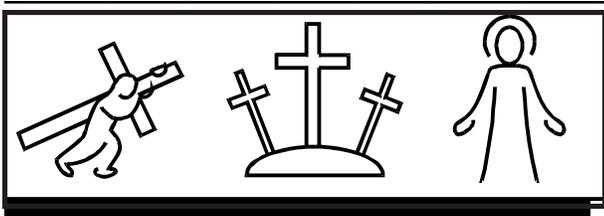


“I was in a group of Division members conversing with LTC. Larry Dugan our brother who recently returned from Iraq. When all of a sudden a projectile was hurled at me,” stated Kane.

“However the real shocker was that after the man’s shoe was tossed the assailant then tossed a ladies shoe. It’s almost enough to question what the assailant has under his kilt.”

Members of the Division stated that while they would take a bullet for Tom, when it comes to shoes he’s on his own.

NOTE: The editor of this paper regrets the actions of the journalist accused of this incident. His shoes have been confiscated and he insists the ladies shoes were not his. However he looks precious in his pumps. If you havn’t already guessed it the incident occured, but it was all in fun. Thanks to Tom Kane for being a great sport.



As practicing Catholics and brothers in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, during this Easter celebration, live your faith, perform your Easter duty. Greet everyone in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

In the Clover

Remember Project St. Patrick, which is the donations for the seminarians and new priests

The Division has mass cards available for those interested Extend the hand of fellowship to any Irish-Catholic men you know, our Division would like to make them part of our family

Did you see the write ups in the Hibernian Digest the Catholic Witness

Live your Faith all year not just on Sundays and Holy days Your support is requested at the Youth and Special Needs Fishing Derby scheduled for June 6.

Do you have photos or news items you’d like to share? Just drop a line to the editor.



Hibernians of the year

This year the Division is proud to announce two winners for Hibernian of the Year. The award this year is not a shared award, instead two separate awards were presented to these Hibernians who have distinguished themselves through their deeds, selfless service and outward reflections of our Faith.

To read the full citation visit our web page at www.aohcumberland2.org



Sean Kane
Cumberland County
Hibernian of the Year



Brendan Kane
Gen. Wm. Thompson
Cumberland County2
Hibernian of the Year



Getting their education



Joe McGinnis- Indiana Univ.

“Look Ed, I paid my dues, don’t make me make my “point.”

Others away at school;
Brendan Kane
Jacob Kirsh

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NOTE: This following item was submitted by an author who was surfing the web and found our site.

“Liberty to the Downtrodden”:

Thomas L. Kane, Romantic Reformer

By Matthew Grow

Thomas L. Kane, the founder of Kane and the leader of the Pennsylvania Bucktails, is the subject of a new biography published by Yale University Press and written by Matthew J. Grow, an assistant professor of history at the University of Southern Indiana. Born to a prominent and politically powerful Philadelphia family, Kane (1822-1883) thrust himself into social reform at a young age, agitating for antislavery, women’s rights, and the religious liberty of the Mormons. A descendant of the Irish, Kane defended Irish Catholics during riots in Philadelphia in 1844. From this experience, Kane became sympathetic to religious minorities and he became best-known in his lifetime as the defender of the Mormons.

After the attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861, Kane immediately began raising the Pennsylvania Bucktails, which became one of the most storied regiments of the Union Army. As lieutenant colonel of the Bucktails, Kane was seriously wounded in two battles and taken prison of war. While recovering from his wounds in the Alleghenies in June 1863, he received word of the impending attack on Gettysburg. Kane, by then a brigadier general, raced to the battlefield, where he played a critical role in the fighting. Following the war, Kane spent the final twenty years of his life developing the Alleghenies, particularly McKean and Elk Counties, through the establishment of the town of Kane, the recruitment of settlers, and the promotion of railroads (including the construction of the Kinzua Viaduct).

Liberty to the Downtrodden tells the full story of Kane’s fascinating life, including “his powerful Philadelphia family, his personal life and eccentricities, his reform achievements, his place in Mormon history, and his career as a Civil War general.” It has a list price of \$40 and sells for around \$29 from Amazon and other online book sellers.

Honor Guard at numerous events



Photo by Dave Thomas
L-R Baron the Irish Pincer, Sue Thomas, Ann Irwin, Dylan Thomas, Bill Irwin, Tom Kane, Ed Gallagher and Jason Thomas (front) stop for a moment after the York Saint Patrick’s Day Parade.

This season has been quite busy for members of the Honor Guard. Their outings have included the Hibernian of the Year luncheon in Harrisburg, The York Saint Patrick’s Day Parade as well as the Harrisburg Saint Patrick’s Parade.



And while the Honor Guard was not involved, once again our heritage was displayed on March 17 at Carlisle Barracks. The colors were raised in accordance with all requirements presented by the command structure and flew proudly alongside the Stars and Stripes.



Irish Armor

A pair of Gallowglasses, both from sketches by G. A. Hayes McCoy. The armor on the right has a somewhat Scandinavian look and not surprisingly comes from a charter granted to Dublin in 1583. He has a typical sword and scabbard, tall helmet with small crest (?), and long-handled axe. The soldier on the left comes from a map of 1567. Note baggy sleeves, mail cape, typically 15th Century bascinet, and seven-foot Lochaber axe. Both are barelegged, and could have been barefooted too.