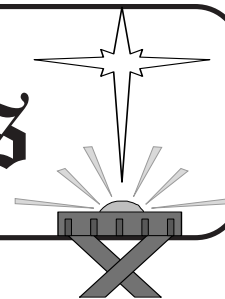




# Thompson Rifles



Published in the interest of personnel of the Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Gen. William Thompson, Cumberland County Division II

VOLUME 2 NO.1

## Farewell to our friend and brother, Thomas Vanner

By Tom Kane

Tom Vanner a friend, AOH brother, marine and all around good guy passed away August 14, 2008 in Philadelphia at the Fox Chase Cancer Treatment Center. He died in his wife's arms, with his scapular around his neck, rosary in hand and son and daughter at his side. He had received last rites and fought the good fight. I am sure St. Joseph helped to make it as happy a death as is possible and the way we probably would all want to depart this world with family close by and the Lord waiting. He will be missed greatly. He was the Division's former treasurer and past Hibernian of the Year, but most of all he was my friend. Please keep Tom and his wife, Barb, and Children, Patrick and Carrie, in your prayers. May he rest in peace and a platoon of angels accompany him into heaven.



Tom Vanner, Hibernian, Marine, Friend

### 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  
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*

*All the clergy served by the  
Division*



### Celtic Song of Farewell

*May choirs of angels leads you into paradise,  
and may martyrs come to welcome you to  
bring you home into the holy city,  
so you may dwell in new Jerusalem.*

*May holy angels be there at your welcoming,  
with all the saints who go before you there,  
that you may know the peace and joy of  
paradise;  
that you may enter into everlasting rest.*

*Saints of God, come to their aid!  
Come to meet them, angels of the Lord!  
Receive them and present them  
to God the Most High.*

*Grant them eternal rest, O Lord and may your  
light shine on them. Receive their soul and  
present them to God the Most high.*

*Honor role of Departed Members, Family and Friends*



*Marilyn Kane  
Tom Vanner  
John Rush*

# VIEWPOINT

## In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Mary Christmas\* (not a typo...My first Pastor, an Irish Priest, Father Hogan, said to never forget the Mary in Merry Christmas)



I want to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and to thank you for all you have done to make this 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. This year has had its ups and downs; dealing with the death of my mother, Marilyn, the loss of a good friend, Tom Vanner, but also celebrating the birth of my first grandchild, Moira Lynn. You are all clearly included in the high points. We had a very full year; a wonderful holiday get together, a successful Lenten fish dinner program, a St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Parade, an AOH of the year Dinner, Operation Baby Drop, the presidential Awards presentation, the General William Thompson candle light vigil, the enthronement of the Sacred Heart, the Veteran's recognition program, Honor Guard activities, support of the airborne drop at City Island, church welcomes and socials, Children's drawing contest, gifts to the Confirmation and Communion Classes, Order of St. Patrick Award, and most recently the loading of an 18 wheeler with clothing and furniture for needy Native Americans in Rosebud, South Dakota. We have lost loved ones and grieved with their families and behaved as brothers should in times of family need and crisis. We have seen members deploy and return from mission in the defense of our freedoms and seen one preparing to join in this defense. We have seen members go off to college to learn and share their gifts. We have made new friends, gained new members and acted always in friendship, unity and Christian charity. 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. We have all but admitted defeat and appear to accept abortion and the support of it as a way of life and a constant that cannot be changed. Computers, cell phones, iPods, music on demand, food on demand, sex on demand, have made us a self centered, uncaring and isolated people. 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..."

Personal comfort, wealth, ego, insensitivity, and apathy are becoming the hallmarks of today's society. We are often ashamed to put God, Family and Country first. I praise you all for doing this and encourage you to continue. My law school had the following three quotes as their motto: Know Thyself (Socrates), Control Thyself (Aristotle) and Give Thyself (Jesus). Have a Happy New Year focused on what really matters.

*President's Podium*





**By Tom Kane**



*McGaughey  
(Wiley)*

*Family Crests*



*Diocese of Harrisburg*

## The Thompson Rifles

President: Tom Kane  
Editor: Bill Irwin

Member NALPA  
Photos by Bill Irwin unless otherwise bylined.



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

*Thompson facts: November 1775, Thompson was made a brigadier-general*

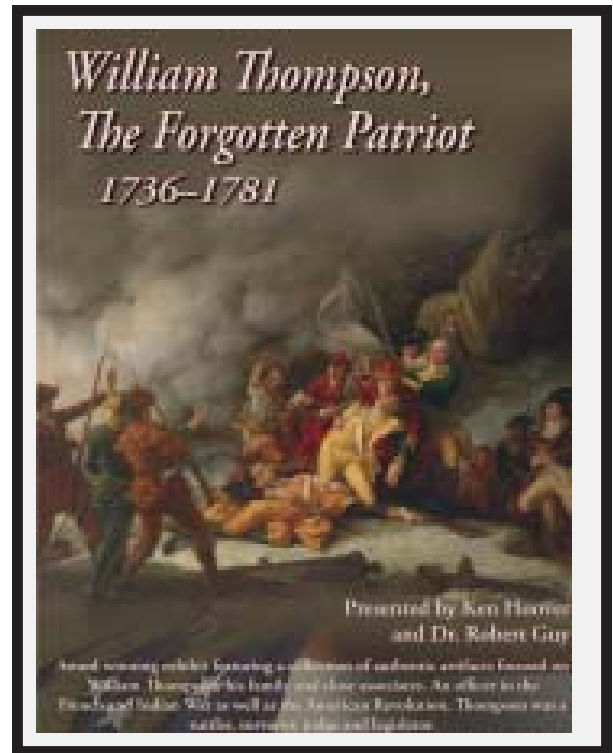
## Thompson exhibit at Cumberland County Historical Society

William Thompson: The Forgotten Patriot  
 Show dates September 12, 2008 – February 7, 2009

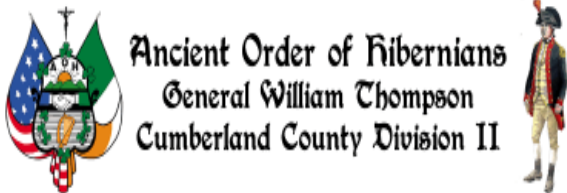
This often unremembered Carlisle resident was an officer in the French and Indian War. Later, William Thompson became the United State's first commissioned Colonel and the Brigadier General in command of New York City during the Revolutionary War. Thompson was also a surveyor, entrepreneur, judge, politician and prisoner of war. Explore these many identities as his lifetime comes alive through artifacts in this traveling exhibit at the Cumberland County Historical Society, presented by Ken Hoover and Dr. Robert Guy.

The Cumberland County Historical Society is located at 21 North Pitt Street in Carlisle. See William Thompson's connection to the "great road" the Forbes Trail. The exhibit is free to the public and will be located at CCHS in both the Miller and Kramer Galleries from Friday, September 12, 2008 through Saturday, February 7, 2009.

*Editors Note: Ken Hoover and Dr. Robert Guy are direct descendants of General Thompson*



## New Division Website is now online



The Website committee has announced that it finally has it's act together and has published the first generation of the Division's new website, the address is [www.aohcumberland2.org](http://www.aohcumberland2.org). Make sure to go online and check it out.

The site contains a lot of history, information and photos of the Division and links to local and national Irish, faith and AOH webpages.

As always the committee is open to ideas and suggestions on how to improve the site and present you with the information you want and need.

[www.aohcumberland2.org](http://www.aohcumberland2.org)

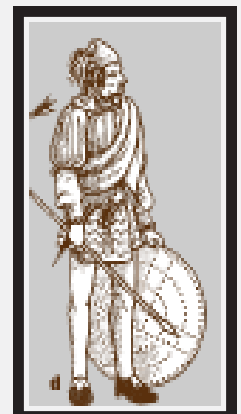
## Have you seen this?



From last issue. If you guessed Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Harrisburg, you guessed correct. This is one of the main windows and depicts Saint Patrick bringing the word of God to Tara.

## Classic Irish Armor

Irish chieftain, 17th Century. He holds a black, gold mounted javelin in his right hand, and a shield (a large oval affair, covered in red leather and decorated with studs) in his left. His conical cap is of tooled red leather. He wears a slashed doublet with halt sleeves, the traditional fringed cloak and red hose, and a decorated "Erse apron"





### Division presents Saint Patrick print

At the Division meeting on Aug 21 (which co-incided with the Feast of our Lady of Knock) President Thomas Kane presented Knights of Columbus Council 4057 with a print of Saint Patrick to thank them for their support of the Division.

Accepting on behalf of the Knights was Jim Jones.

“It was very appropriate to present the print on the Feast of Our Lady of Knock,” said Kane, “It helps reenforce the spiritual ties our organizations have.”

The print was donated by Bill Wiley, the framing by Tom Kane and the frame plate Bill Irwin.

## Live your Faith, remember your heritage

*“Nollaig Shona Duit”*

**Joy to the world!**

The placing of a ring of Holly on doors originated in Ireland as Holly was one of the main plants that flourished at Christmas time and which gave the poor ample means with which to decorate their dwellings.



### Jim Irwin on the moon

A few issues ago in the Hibernian Digest it was mentioned how Astronaut Jim Irwin planted clover on the moon during his Apollo 15 mission to the moon in 1971. Through his High Flight organization he urged Christian students to prepare for the professional world by exploring how faith can be integrated into the workplace.

Bill Irwin shared his copy of the print of Irwin on the moon, which recently resided in the halls of the state capital.

He also related how his father’s name was Jim and both men were born in the same part of Pittsburgh in 1930.

Another note Jim Irwin the astronaut was born on March 17.