



Division 65 Newsletter

September 2009

Joseph E. Montgomery Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 65

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Message from the President

Brothers,
I hope everyone had a great summer. Our August meeting at Dukes Tavern was very well attended and Joe Montgomery elaborated on a report of the State Convention.

An announcement was made that Joe has been chosen to be elected into the Delaware Valley Irish Hall of Fame, an honor previously bestowed on five other members of our Division. The event will take place on Sunday, November 15th at the Irish Center and I'm sure that many of you will want to pay tribute to Joe by attending.

Additionally, we had our new Division T-Shirts available at the meeting and sold quite a few. Shirts will be available at subsequent meetings. This months meeting returns to the Trinity Counsel K of C, Wednesday September 9th at 8PM. The selections for this year's Fleadh will be announced and a change in the program will be discussed. A possible alternative event as our major fundraiser may be discussed.

We look forward to resuming our monthly meetings with a focus on an agenda that includes family involvement and more specific charitable goals.

Yours in our Motto,
Pat



The division meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Trinity Knights of Columbus in Upper Darby at 8:00 PM.

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Visit us on the web at
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Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

2009 Pennsylvania AOH State Convention

The 2009 Pennsylvania, Allegheny County AOH State Convention was in Pittsburgh this year. I was joined by our President Pat Mulhern, President Emeritus Joe Montgomery and fellow officers Jim and Art Hunter.

Our new state president is Dennis Donnelly from Allegheny County and Tom O'Donnell from Division 39 in Philadelphia County. Congratulations to both brothers.

Joe Montgomery was celebrating his 90th birthday during the convention and both Pat Mulhern and Seamus Boyle spoke in his honor. We celebrated his day with a cake from our division in the hospitality suite.

We had a great time and our division was once again well represented. We certainly enjoyed the libations available to us in the hospitality suite. We made good use of the division's contribution to the suite. We saw a lot of familiar faces.

A social was held at Allegheny Counties' Division 17 house. They had a great turnout from the attending divisions at the convention. Division 17 provided food and live entertainment.

Finally, I had the great pleasure of visiting Saint Francis University, "The Harvard of the Alleghenies" with Pat, Jim and Art who are alumni of the university. I can finally put places with the stories I have been hearing from the lads.

Jack McNamee

As many of you know we lost our brother Jack McNamee. I only knew Jack for a short time. It is always a sad day when we lose a brother and we have lost one of the truly good ones. I do not need to list the many organizations that he belonged to, you know them better than I do and the contributions he made to them.

Art Hunter told me on Saturday that when you asked Jack where he was from he would always tell you the parish name, not what town or block he lived on. That tells a lot about a person and the respect he had for the church.

When talking with Jack, especially when I first joined Division 65, he treated me with respect, I was a fellow brother and not one of the new guys.

I remember two years ago at the Masters of the Green dinner, they called my number and I won a door prize. I asked him what I had won and he told me it was an outdoor bar and he pointed to a big brown box. Assembly would be required. I said to Jack what the hell am I going to do with this, I live in an apartment. As I was returning to my table I could hear him laughing, a good laugh mind you. I still have that bar in the big brown box, still sitting in my living room. I have grown kind of use to it now. Assembly is still required.

I consider myself fortunate that I met Jack McNamee. He will be forever missed.



May your blessings
outnumber the
Shamrocks that grow
and may trouble
avoid you wherever
you go.



Irish History Bill Brennan

Thomas Moran, Painter

Thomas Moran was born in Bolton, England on January 12, 1837 to Thomas Moran, a textile worker born in Dublin and Mary Higson, an English girl, a convert to Catholicism. Many Irish had immigrated to the textile areas around Manchester, and in fact, the town of Bury, where the Morans were married, had a large Irish population, mostly from Mayo.

Five years after Thomas' birth, the entire textile industry in Lancashire became the scene of much labor unrest, and the family immigrated to Philadelphia in 1844. That the crossing was delayed for two days before embarkation, and took longer than regular crossing due to rough seas, was providential, as the family missed the Know Nothing riots that occurred at one of the flashpoints, the Germantown Road in Kensington, where they settled.

Thomas attended Harrison Elementary School, where he impressed his teachers and classmates with his cartography and drawing, and it was at this early stage, that he realized his vocation. Inspired by the paintings of another Philadelphia Irishman, James Hamilton, he wished to study at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts. It was not to be as he couldn't afford the entrance fee, but he was admitted to the Art Union of Philadelphia to continue his studies. This was not a long duration, however, even though he was able to pick up a few techniques. He also learned from looking in store windows at various paintings.

At the age of 18, he was apprenticed to a Philadelphia wood engraver. This experience became the basis for his technical training. In his spare time, he worked in watercolors at the studio of his brother Edward, arguably America's greatest marine painter. On many occasions, during this period, Thomas would often paint woodland scenes along the major rivers of eastern Pennsylvania. A favorite subject was Fairmount Park, of which "Autumn on the Wissahickon" was representative.

He finally realized his life's ambition when, at the age of 21, he exhibited his watercolors at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Shortly afterward, his family moved to Crescentville, where he met his wife, Mary Nimm, who was of Scottish descent. They were married at BVM Church, now Assumption, 1133 Spring Garden Street.

In 1860, Moran intermittently traveled to the capitols of Europe to study the works of Turner, Constable, Lorrain, DeWent, and Varley, and the American expatriates who were painting over there. Returning to Philadelphia, he taught at the Philadelphia School of Design for Women. At the same time, he worked as an illustrator for many of the classics, such as Longfellow's Hiawatha. His sensitivity toward the spirituality of the Native American, can be seen in his later work, "The Spirit of the Indian".

As an illustrator, he traveled with two important exploring expeditions in the Rockies, one to Yellowstone in 1871, and the other down the Colorado River in 1873, with the great explorer, John Wesley Powell. From his sketches, he painted "The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone" and "The Chasm of the Colorado" both subsequently purchased by Congress for \$10,000 apiece. These paintings were instrumental for the Congressional designation of Yellowstone Park, as the first national park.



May you have:
A world of
wishes at your
command.
God and angels
close at hand.
Friends and
family their love
impart and Irish
blessings in your
heart!

Continued on page 4

September 2009

Schedule of Events

9/3 Philadelphia
County Board
Meeting

9/9 Division 65
Meeting

9/17 Phillies game
Halfway to St.
Patrick's Day

9/25 to 9/27

Irish Weekend in
North Wildwood

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Irish History continued from page 3

“The Mountain of the Holy Cross”, he exhibited for the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. It was afterwards purchased by a private collector for \$5000, but can be seen today at the Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage in Los Angeles.

In the 1880’s, Moran moved to the Hamptons in Long Island, where he became enamored by the sea, producing many marine paintings. He later went to Cuba and Mexico, and then to Europe, where his Venetians scenes were favorably compared to his idol, J.M.W Turner. In 1884, he was honored as a National Academician.

A Decade later, he painted the Tetons, the Grand Canyons, and the Indian pueblos of the Southwest. The proliferation of western areas being designated national parks, was due in large part, to Moran’s paintings, and his title, “Father of the National Parks”.

Moran, as a member of the “Hudson River School” recognized it’s purely American dimension, and for years, he lobbied for the establishment of a National Art Gallery, but did not live to see it’s completion in 1937. He died on August 25, 1926, aged 90 years, at his home in the Hamptons.

We are deeply indebted to the following for these notes:

“Thomas Moran, Artist of the Mountains” - Thurman Wilkins with the help of Caroline Lawson - University of Oklahoma Press—1998

“The Art of the Old West” - Gilcrease Institution Collection– Edited by Paul A. Rossi and David C Hunt– Promontory Press -1981

“Artist of the Old West”- John C. Ewers– Doubleday and Co. 1973

Sotheby Catalogs

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Joseph Tobin— Pipe Major, Emerald Pipe Band