



ár nuachtlitir



James Powers Division

December - 2014

Editor's Note...

Time flies when you're having fun. As our election of officers looms near, I feel the urge to reflect on the past 2 years. During that time, I had the honor of serving as our Division Vice President. It began awkwardly at the installation ceremony. I invited State President, Greg Seán Canning, without ensuring all elective positions were filled. But, lesson learned. I studied our Handbook. I read the Hibernian Digest. I utilized the National and State websites. Although I regret not doing more to revitalize our Division, I am thankful to those that supported the effort. Please pray to St. Patrick that our Division will flourish under its new leadership. Happy Christmas. *Nollaig shona dhuit.*

Did you know...

that a 96 acre island located in Tory Sound off the coast of County Donegal is currently for sale? Oileán Dúiche, also known by its English name, Inishdooney, is owned by Mark McClafferty. He inherited the island from his grandfather. The island has been for sale since 2011. It was originally listed for €1 million. Just recently, the price was reduced to €175,000 or \$225,000. At that price, the island could be yours for \$30 per square foot. To put that in perspective, Dublin flats cost \$375 per square foot and Manhattan apartments cost \$1,500 per square foot. Since the island is barren, the new owner will have to build a home. County Donegal contractors estimate a modest home will cost €200,000 or \$250,000. So, for \$475,000, you could live on your own Irish island. *Compiled from www.irishamerica.com*

Member Spotlight...



Dr. Michael Whitley is our Division's immediate Past President and its current Historian. Michael was born in Baltimore, MD. His favorite childhood memory is traveling to Gettysburg (PA), site of our Civil War's most epic battle. Michael's service to our nation is vast. First, he served in the Army's Special Operations. Next, he served as a psychologist for the Navy's SEAL Team Six. Later, he spent 22 years in the CIA and most recently retired from the Navy Reserves. Michael met his lovely wife, Julia, while stationed in Fort Dix (NJ). They were married on St. Stephen's Day (December 26), a popular holiday in Ireland called *Lá Fhéile Stiofán*. Michael and Julia, who will soon celebrate their 43rd anniversary, have 2 sons (both of whom served our nation) and 3 beautiful grandchildren, ages 3–14. Michael is a collector of Irish Military Insignia. Michael's favorite travel destination is Ireland. Earlier this year, Michael obtained his AOH Major Degrees in Savannah, GA. During the visit, Michael, Julia (and your Editor) went searching for Irish spirits on one of Savannah's famous ghost tours. (see photo).

The Craic (news, gossip, fun, entertainment, and enjoyable conversation)...

Christmas in Ireland. Long before it became a tradition in the United States, the Irish have placed a lighted candle in the window of their homes on Christmas eve. The practice is a symbol of welcome to Mary and Joseph as they travel looking for shelter. During Penal Times, the practice also indicated the home was safe for priests to perform Mass which was forbidden. Another element of the tradition is that the candle should only be lit by the youngest member of the home and only be extinguished by a girl with the name 'Mary'. After evening meal on Christmas eve, a loaf of bread filled with caraway seeds and raisins, a pitcher of milk and a large lit candle are placed on the kitchen table. The home is left unlocked so that Mary and Joseph, or any wandering traveler, can avail themselves of the welcome. On Christmas day, the traditional meal begins with smoked salmon followed by roast turkey (or goose), ham, bread stuffing, roasted potatoes and brussel sprouts. Dessert is a rich cake that cannot be duplicated in the US. *Compiled from www.irishabroad.com and www.dochara.com*



Our Lady of the Rosary
Catholic Church
Christmas Decorating Contest
December 25, 2014

Sponsored by...

Ancient Order of Hibernians

Congratulations to the winner...

Trever, Pari, McKenzie, Tyler and Grace Miller

24155 Hideout Trail ~ Land O' Lakes

"Christmas lights you can see from space"