



Irish Brigade Camp No.4

2013 Pass and Review

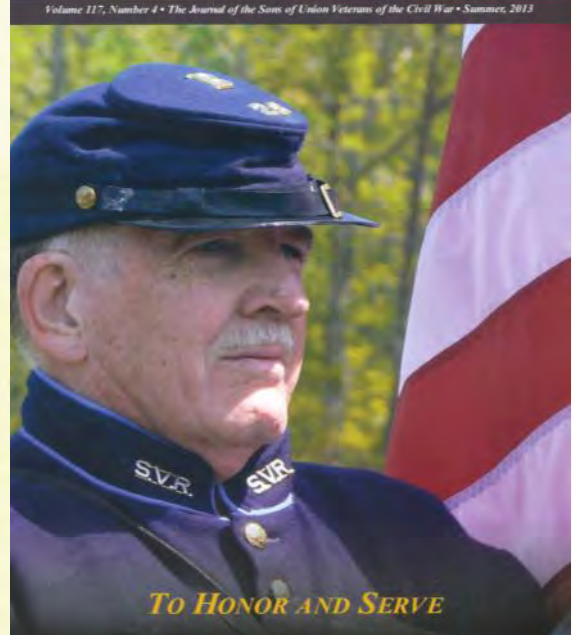
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)

Fredericksburg, Virginia



2013
A "Banner" Year!

Department of the Chesapeake



Brother Bob Heath on the cover of *The Banner*

Irish Brigade Camp No.4 accomplished another event filled and memorable year in honor of the service and sacrifices made by our ancestors. The year was not only noteworthy for the usual annual remembrances, but also for the continuance of the Civil War sesquicentennial which this year commemorated the events of 1863.

This publication is a month-by-month review of the significant events that occurred during year, presented for the posterity of the Order. The information contained

herein is from Camp Brothers, friends and associates, and a variety of media sources.

Faithfully Submitted, In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,
Brian Withrow, Historian of Irish Brigade Camp No.4

• FEBRUARY

Camp Tour of Redoubt in Stafford County - 10 February. Brothers Mike Paquette, Andy Johnson, John Griffiths, and Mike Virts attended an open-house tour of a circa 1863 Union Army redoubt now located on private property in Stafford County. The tour was sponsored by Stafford County Tourism as part of the Civil War's Sesquicentennial commemoration.



Brothers get briefed on 1863 Union Army Redoubt.

But those who come before us will teach you. They will teach you from the wisdom of former generations. – Job 8:10



Lincoln Dinner, Fredericksburg VA - 16 February. Camp members gathered at Brocks Riverside Grill for the annual dinner held in honor of the nation's 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. The dinner hosted guest speaker Mr. Ross Hetrick, President of the Thaddeus Stevens Society. Mr. Hetrick discussed Thaddeus Stevens as "the most powerful congressman during the Civil War and a champion of freedom and equality", the TS Society's education/preservation efforts, and the tremendous interest about Thaddeus Stevens and the Society resulting from the



Guest speaker Ross Hetrick.

Lincoln movie. The Camp presented Mr. Hetrick with a special Irish Brigade certificate of appreciation for his presentation. Overall, attendees enjoyed a fun filled evening of reverent consideration on the life and times of President Lincoln and his distinguished associate, Congressman Thaddeus Stevens.

• **MARCH**

USS Monitor Crewmen Burial at Arlington National Cemetery - 8 March. Brothers Michael Paquette, Michael Beard, Michael Virts, Logan Metesh, and Jay Rarick were honored to attend a unique ceremony. 150 year after their deaths, two sailors from the USS Monitor were laid to rest at sunset on a hillside in Arlington National Cemetery. The sailors were two of the 16 men who perished when the Monitor sank in a storm off Cape Hatteras in 1862. The two ship-



Horse-drawn caissons take the two USS Monitor sailors to their final resting place.

mates were buried with full military honors, their flag-covered caskets carried on horse-drawn caissons as dignitaries, crew descendants and bystanders looked on. Brother Paquette brought the camp flag which was most visible to all those in attendance. The SUVCW Department of the Chesapeake was well represented by Brothers from our camp as well as from several other camps in the Department.



SUVCW Brothers gather at Arlington National Cemetery for the internment of USS Monitor Sailors.

Union Monument Dedication, Bentonville Battlefield North Carolina - 16 March . Brothers Johnson and Beard attended the dedication of a Union monument in Bentonville, NC. This is the first monument to Union Troops ever erected on North Carolina State property. Dedication of a 4 foot high monument to the 14th, 15th, 17th, and 20th Corps of the Un-



Brothers Johnson and Beard join a group photo at the new monument to Union Soldiers at Bentonville.

ion Army, with the units listed on one side, and an Eagle & Flag on the opposite side. Brother Johnson, whose ancestors, Private Wardrop Owens and Sergeant Menzo Chapman served in the 22nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Co. D at Bentonville, authored an article that was subsequently published in his Wisconsin hometown newspaper that was covering the dedication event. Brother Withrow was unable to attend, but his ancestor, Private George Dugan of the 10th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was killed during the climatic charge on the final day of the battle.

• APRIL

Stafford Civil War Park (SCWP) Grand Opening - 27 April. The Stafford County Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites (FSCWS) hosted the grand opening of the new



Poster for the grand opening of the new Civil War Park.

Stafford Civil War Park. The 41-acre park is the site of the 1863 winter encampments and fortifications of the Union Army's 11th Corps, 1st and 3rd divisions following the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg.

Brother Brian Withrow, as an FSCWS Director who was deeply involved in the



Brother Withrow with Lincoln impressionist Don Mullen.

creation of the park organized the living history encampment activities for the grand opening event and portrayed the Colonel of the 55th Ohio In-

fantry. Camp Commander Michael Virts along with Jay Rarick and Tom Dempsey set up the Camp's information/recruitment displays across from the ceremony area. Bob Heath, Michael Beard, Jim Standard, and Eric Sprengle served as the color guard for the official dedication ceremony. Logan Metesh and his wife performed as mounted cavalry while Jim and Wendy Standard provided a U.S. Cavalry camp display. Attendees were interested in talking with John Griffiths when they learned that he is a descend-



Brothers Heath, Beard, Standard, and Sprengle serve as the color guard for the dedication ceremony.

ent of General U.S. Grant. Brother Virts and the others manned the displays throughout the day, successfully engaged the public, and were interviewed by press reporters from Stafford County Sun and Civil War News. The Camp sold many Sesquicentennial Medals, stamped a few Passports, and gave out information to those interested in joining our Order.

The Stafford County Department of Economic Development and Tourism graciously thanked our Camp for the contributions during the Grand Opening of the Stafford Civil War Park.

"We commend your group for triple duty that day: (1.) providing the Color Guard for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, (2.) educating guests through displays and living history impressions and (3.) informing visitors interested in membership in your organization. We all experienced and heard nothing but grand reviews of the SUCVW's multiple roles during the event. Your presence contributed much to the success of the Park's opening day, and for that, Stafford County is very grateful." -- James "Jay" G. Harrison III, Stafford County Tourism Consultant

Approximately 1300 visitors visited the site during the grand opening event. The summer 2013 edition of The Banner featured an article about the opening of the Stafford Civil War Park and Brother Bob Heath was prominently pictured on the front cover. (See Page 1)

• MAY

126th Department Encampment, Solomon's Island

Maryland - 4 May. The Irish Brigade Camp was well represented at the Department Encampment by Brothers Michael Paquette, Michael Beard, Bob Roser, Neil Hanlon, Jay Rarick, and Commander Mike Virts.

Mark Day of Lynchburg, VA was elected the new Department Commander, Rob Pollock of Fairfax, VA the Senior

Vice Commander, and Kevin Martin of Frederick, MD, the



Brother Paquette listens to Department Commander.

Junior Vice Commander. Ben Hawley of Silver Spring, MD, remained the Patriotic Instructor. Special congratulations were extended to Brother Mike Paquette, who was elected the new Department Secretary/

Treasurer. Brother Mi-

chael Beard ably performed the duty of the Department Guard at the Encampment. Brother Neil Hanlon was once again bestowed an award from the Department.

Discussed at the Encampment were protection of Civil War monuments, insurance coverage for Department and Camp events and activities, our SUCVW status under the IRS, and the possibility of holding the 2015 National Encampment in Richmond, VA. The luncheon speaker spoke about the War in Southern Maryland. At the encampment's Memorial Service all sang that great old hymn, Amazing Grace.



126th Department Encampment group photo at hotel.

Commander Virts delivered a summarization of our report to the delegates and detailed our Camp activities demonstrating that we are a quite active camp. Our Camp Report was printed in the Annual Reports of the 126th Department Encampment.

Ceremony at Grave of Colonel Crowther, Fredericksburg National Cemetery - 5 May. Brothers Michael Paquette, Bob Heath, Jay Rarick, and Mike Virts participated with Brother Rob Hileman, direct descendant of Colonel Crowther, in the ceremony decorating the grave of the Colonel at Fredericksburg National Cemetery. With Brother Jay was his wife who participated as the photographer. Brother Rob presented a floral wreath at the grave of



Brothers Heath, Virts, Hileman, Rarick, and Paquette lay a wreath at the grave of Colonel Crowther.

his ancestor. Brother Rarick read a prayer from the SUVCW Book of Rituals and Ceremonies. Brothers Mike and Jay recounted the fighting of Col. Crowther and his troops at the Battle of Chancellorsville on the 150th anniversary of Col. Crowther's death in that battle. Both Brothers Mike and Bob came in uniform from the battle re-enactment which they participated in that day. The ceremony con-

cluded with all singing the great hymn, Amazing Grace. The Colonel Crowther Foundation Board of Directors sent the Camp a special "thank you" note for the wreath-laying event along with a check for \$50.

Hogtown BBQ - Union Church Preservation Fundraiser, Falmouth Virginia - 17 May. Brother Metesh headed up a fund raising event for The Union Church Preservation Project (UCPP), a nonprofit organization formed in 2009 to preserve the remains of the historic Union Church located



Historic Union Church in Falmouth.

on Carter Street in historic Falmouth, VA. The preservation event was a festival and barbeque dinner titled the Hogtown BBQ because of the Falmouth areas historic nickname of "Hogtown". The Camp decided to sponsor the event at the \$200 level and participated with a SUVCW information/recruitment tent.



Camp information & recruitment display manned by Brothers Rarick, Virts, and Beard at Hogtown BBQ

Special Guest Lecture at Camp Meeting - May 23

At our evening camp meeting at the Salem Church Public Library, National Park Service Ranger Steward Henderson gave an informative and interesting oration about the history of the United States Colored Troops and the status of contemporary impressions such as the 23rd USCT unit.



Brother Steward Henderson, National Park Service Ranger and Re-enactor with 23rd USCT.

Ceremony at Grave of David Getz, Beaver Springs

Cemetery - 26 May. From the Lewistown Sentinel, *Community celebrates Memorial Day - Civil War veteran honored with grave marker dedication*, by correspondent Becky Lock, May 27, 2013. BEAVER SPRINGS - Under

a vividly blue Sunday sky 150 years after his death, Civil War veteran David Getz received an honor he'd long been without - a metal grave marker recognizing his duty and sacrifice.

"Memorial Day isn't just a three-day holiday or the beginning



Brother Rarick speaks about Civil War ancestor David Getz.

of summer. It's a day to honor the memory of those who have given their lives," said Jay Rarick, a descendant of the Getz family.

Rarick, whose great-great grandmother, Mary Getz, was David Getz's sister, spoke at the ceremony, which was arranged by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He is senior vice commander with the organization's Irish Brigade Camp No. 4 in Fredericksburg, Va.

David Getz and his six brothers joined the war effort, as did two of their brothers-in-law and one of David's nephews, a young man named George. Of these 10 men, four were wounded in battle and two - David, 39, and George, 19 - died of their wounds. At the Battle of Fredericksburg in Virginia, David suffered a severe leg wound. He spent the night on the battlefield, Rarick said, and may have witnessed a rare aurora borealis in the December sky.

"Eventually, David was evacuated" to a hospital in Washington, D.C., Rarick said, and later was taken by a few of his brothers back to his home near Beaver Springs. He died nine months later, on Sept. 22, 1863.

"You paid your dues now rest in peace," said James Hartley, a member of the General J.P.S. Gobin Camp No. 503, an arm of the Sons of Union Veterans.



Gathering at grave of Civil War Veteran David Getz.

Also attending the grave marker dedication was Mary Anne Getz and her husband, Bob, of Newville. Bob is related to Isaac Getz, one of David's brothers who returned from the war. With them were Julie Getz Kurtz, her husband Jeff and their children, Jenna, 14, and Jared, 12.

"Every man in our life has been a veteran," Julie said. Her husband is a Marine. Memorial Day is a time to consider how much veterans gave of themselves, she said. "It's their sacrifice that was given for us to be here, for our freedom."

Rarick said "the Grand Army of the Republic formed in 1866 by the Union Army and was comprised only of veterans." "It ceased to exist in 1956 with the death of the last (Civil War) veteran," he said. In 1881, the Sons of the Union Veterans formed. The Sons of Confederate Veterans support the men who fought for the South. "One of the things that the Sons organizations want to stress is a return to Memorial Day and what it means," Rarick said. He hopes that younger generations can learn what the holiday represents from their elders. "Teach history," he said, "even the parts that aren't so nice. That's the price that our freedom cost. Go to any national cemetery and walk it," he said. "There's a story like David Getz's behind every stone."

Commemoration Ceremony at Tomb of the Unknown - 27 May, Morning. Brothers Bob Heath and Brian Withrow represented the SUVCW carrying the national



Procession of Colors at Arlington.

colors and the SUVCW commander's flag in the procession of colors at the Presidential ceremony

in the amphitheater at the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery.

National Memorial Day Parade, Washington D.C. - 27 May, Afternoon. Camp Brothers participated in the SUVCW color guard for the National Memorial Day Parade. Following the parade, Brothers passing the White House on their way to the historic Willard Hotel were besieged



SUVCW Color Guard at National Memorial Day Parade.

for a time by enthusiastic tourists wanting to take photos with us. Once at the Willard Hotel, cheerful fellowship commenced at the Round Bar.



Brother Heath observes Brothers Withrow and Standard with mint juleps at the historic Round Bar.

Dedication Day Dinner, Colonial Tavern, Fredericksburg Virginia - 30 May. Thirteen Camp Brothers participated in the traditional Memorial Day / Decoration Day Dinner at Colonial Tavern – “Home of the Irish Brigade” in Fredericksburg, VA. Many Brothers brought their



charming spouses for a night out of dinner and good times. Camp

Charter Member, Bill McCarthy,

reverently opened the gathering with prayer followed by Camp Patriotic Instructor Bob Heath reading John Logan’s General Order No. 11 to commemorate the occasion. Special thanks went out to Camp Secretary/Treasurer Tom Dempsey who handled the loft reservation, collected money, and settled the total group food and drink bill for the evening. We experienced a good time of camaraderie and fellowship in the close quarters of the tavern’s loft. Brothers were pleased and honored to later be joined by Department Commander, Mark Day of Lynchburg, VA, along with his lovely wife Barbara. Commander Day eloquently entertained all with a few remarks.

• JUNE

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Brandy Station - 8 June. Brothers Mike Paquette and Jim Standard along with Jim’s wife Wendy attended a living history event sponsored by the Brandy Station Battlefield Foundation. The event commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Brandy Station, the largest cavalry action during the civil war. Brother Standard served on the mounted color



Brother Standard (forth from right) rides with cavalry .

guard while Brother Paquette mingled and took pictures. Approximately 20 re-enactors including “Jeb Stuart” and 200 spectators attended the event. Brother Paquette reported that the commemoration ceremony was very brief due to “the sky opening up on us... it really came down hard and everyone was soaked to the skin.” Brother Paquette

went and toured the Grafiti house for the first time. He stated that



“it was very

Jeb Stewart’s signature at Grafiti House.

impressive and it’s right here nearly in our back yard. I encourage anyone who has never been to check it out. It’s small but very well done.”

Visit to the National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg Pennsylvania - 8 June. Brother Paquette and SVC Rarick travelled to Pennsylvania to visit the National Civil War Museum (NCWM) and the State Museum next to the Capitol. They met up with Brothers from the Colonel Crowther Camp #89 from Tyrone, PA of which Brother Paquette is a

dual member. They toured the museum which was a first for Brother Rarick. While there Brother Paquette viewed the brick he had placed years ago for his ancestor, William Stratton a wagoner with the 19th Maine.

Brother Paquette visited William Stratton's grave outside Augusta Maine in the past. After the



Commemorative brick at NCWM.

NCWM visit they went to the State Museum as saw the Civil War display there.

Special Guest Lectures at Camp Meeting - 27 June

At our evening camp meeting at the Salem Church Public Library, Mrs. Gail Anderson, Historian of Elizabeth Van Lew Detached Tent # 1 of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) in period attire gave an entertaining talk about the life of Elizabeth Van Lew, Unionist and Spy for the Union in Richmond, Virginia, during the Civil War. Margaret Stromberg, President of the DUVCW Elizabeth Van Lew Detached Tent # 1, also in period attire gave an informative talk about the DUVCW, the Elizabeth Van Lew Detached Tent # 1 of Prince William & Stafford Counties, and about her DUVCW Tent desiring to establish a



partnering relationship with our Camp. Their DUVCW Tent is the only one in the State of Virginia.

• JULY

Battle of Bristoe Station Staff Ride - 27 July. Brother Jay Rarick conducted a staff ride about the Battle of Bristoe Station. Three Camp Brothers and one potential Brother participated.



Bristoe Station Battlefield view from Trail Stop #7.

• AUGUST

Visit to the Salem Church Battlefield, Fredericksburg Virginia - 3 August. Brothers attended a Wreath-laying event at the 23rd New Jersey Infantry Monument at Salem Church Battlefield. In attendance were ten Brothers of our



Wreath-laying at the 23rd NJ Infantry Monument.



Brother Griffiths graciously honors a photo request.



Tour of inside of Salem Church.

Camp along with nine members of the Taylor-Wilson Camp and Depart-

ment Commander Mark Day. The Irish Rifles presented the colors to honor Major Taylor a member of the 23rd New Jersey and the namesake of the Taylor-Wilson Camp. Following the wreath-laying there was a short tour of Salem Church given by Brother Steward Henderson and a picnic/cook-out hosted by Brother Paquette.

• **SEPTEMBER**

Yankees in Falmouth/Conway House - 21& 22 September. Camp members participated in the popular annual living history event in old-town Falmouth. The Camp set up a recruiting tent and display for visitors. The event interprets the Union Army’s occupation of the Rappahannock River community of Falmouth during the Civil War. The event was held on the grounds of the historic Moncure Conway House.



Commander Virts leads a cheerful Camp display crew.

Warrenton-Fauquier Heritage Day Parade, - 28 September. The Irish Rifles SVR Color guard with Brothers Bob Heath, Brian Withrow, Mike Beard, and Jim Standard participated in the ½ mile parade that formed at Fifth & Main and ended at Chestnut Street. Despite being the only “Union Army” contingent in the parade, the color guard’s participation was well received by other participants and the host community.



Brothers Withrow, Beard, Heath, and Standard serve in the Irish Rifles color guard at the Warrenton parade.

• **OCTOBER**

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Bristoe Station - 12 October. The commemorative 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Bristoe Station event included tours, musical performances, lectures, living history demonstrations and encampments to represent the soldiers and units present at the battle in 1863. The Camp set up an information/recruitment tent with Brothers Virts, McNierney, Griffiths, Paquette, and Rarick in attendance. Commander Virts reported that the Camp gave out 24 applications and sold \$50 in Camp coins. In addition, all brochures that the Camp had from the Daugh-



Brothers endure rainy weather at Bristoe Station event. Brothers of Union Veterans of the Civil War were handed out.

Dedication of General Corcoran Historic Marker, Fairfax Virginia - 19 October. Brother Beard attended this event. The marker honors Corcoran, a Union general who died December 22, 1863 at the W.P. Gunnell House on the Truro grounds. Corcoran headed all area Washington Defense Dept. Forces at the time. Corcoran, at the request of President Lincoln, organized and led the Union's "Irish Legion." Also, he commanded the "Fenian Brotherhood" of N.Y., pledged to Irish independence. The marker placement was a joint effort by the Historic



Brother Beard holds U.S. colors at the City of Fairfax historical marker in honor of General Michael Corcoran.

Fairfax City, Inc., Historic Markers Committee, City of Fairfax Sesquicentennial Committee and City of Fairfax Historic Resources Office.

• **NOVEMBER**

Special Guest Lecture at Camp Meeting - 21 November. We were honored to have a special guest lecturer at our evening camp meeting at the Salem Church Public Library. Jeffry Burden from Richmond, Virginia, Past National Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) and SUCVW Brother in the Department of the Chesapeake gave an informative talk about MOLLUS and expressed his desire for the MOLLUS Commander of Virginia to establish a cooperative relationship with our Camp.



Remembrance Day, Gettysburg Pennsylvania - 23 November. Members of the Irish Rifles color guard participated in the parade commemorating the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Brothers Bob Heath, Eric Sprengle, Jim Standard and his wife Wendy attended. Also, Brother Withrow carried the national colors in the parade for the Army of the Potomac, Middle Division Staff.



SUCVW was well represented at the Gettysburg parade.

- DECEMBER

Wreath-laying at the Irish Brigade Monument at the City Dock, Fredericksburg Virginia - 15 December.

Brothers Michael Paquette, Jay Rarick, Jim Standard, Bill McCarthy, Andy Johnson, Tom Dempsey, John Griffiths, Mark McNierney (all the way from New Jersey!), and Commander Mike Virts laid a Camp wreath at the Irish



Commander Mike Virts places wreath at monument.

Brigade Monument at the Fredericksburg City Dock. A Color Guard was provided by the 28th MA of the Irish Brigade and NPS Ranger Frank O'Reilly gave a most impressive talk. Also presenting a wreath was the General



NPS Ranger Frank O'Reilly captivates the crowd.

Thomas Francis Meagher (Irish Brigade) Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of which Brother Bill McCarthy also represents.

Following the Irish Brigade Monument ceremony, Brothers John and Mark joined Commander Virts on NPS Ranger Frank O'Reilly's legendary walk of the Irish Brigade through the city streets of Fredericksburg all the way from the City Dock by the Rappahannock River up to the base of Marye's Heights at the Sunken Road. There they attended a wonderful NPS ceremony at the Sgt. Richard Rowland Kirkland Memorial. Fredericksburg City Councilor Matthew J. Kelly, who is also a member of the 28th MA, gave an inspiring address to all those assembled. Presenting wreaths there were the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter in Fredericksburg, the Children of the Confederacy Chapter in Fredericksburg, and the 47th VA "Stafford Guards." Two Color Guards were represented, the 28th MA of the Irish Brigade and the 47th VA, the "Stafford Guards."



L-R: Brothers McCarthy (also a member of the A.O.H.), Johnson, Rarick, Paquette, Standard and Dempsey.



FINAL THOUGHTS ON 2013

As the lead caption exclaimed, 2013 was indeed a “Banner Year”! As evidenced in this publication, Camp Brothers participated in a large number and variety of events that were both enriching to members and educational to the public. As Commander Mike Virts conveyed ... “As a small Camp, we were even more active in 2013 than many others much larger.” Accordingly, Irish Brigade Camp #4 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp added to membership and discharged our fraternal chartered purpose of preserving history and commemorating the service of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Brothers will resume the mission and honor our ancestors in 2014.

2013 Camp Officers

Commander - Michael Virts
Senior Vice Commander - Jay Rarick
Junior Vice Commander - Eric Sprengle
Secretary/Treasurer - Thomas Dempsey
Chaplain - John Griffiths
Patriotic Instructor - Robert Heath
Signals Officer - Michael Beard
Guard - Andrew Johnson
Guide - James Standard
Monuments/Markers Registration Officer - Richard Ehrle
Graves Registration Officer - Richard Ehrle
Historian - Brian Withrow
Camp Council: Robert Heath
Michael Paquette
Michael Beard



www.irishbrigadecamp.com



Old Irish Blessing

*May the road rise to meet you:
May the wind be always at your back,
The Sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.*



If you nurture a relationship between the past and the present, you may find that you've honored the future.