

AOH Div. 7 Historian Report -March 2023

Thank you worthy president.

Some of you may recall that my first report last March was regarding Saint Patrick. Tonight I thought I'd share what I've learned about the tradition of the Saint Patrick's Day parade.

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated every year on March 17th the day is a religious holiday first in Ireland and is now celebrated in many parts of the world particularly in countries with significant Irish populations one of the most popular ways to celebrate the day is with the parade, which have become a hallmark of Saint Patrick's Day celebrations around the world.

Because New York is the greatest city in the world the first Saint Patrick's Day parade took place in New York City in 1762. The parade was organized by Irish soldiers who were serving in the British Army at the time the parade was away to celebrate their Irish heritage while also showing their loyalty to the British crown. The parade became an annual event in New York City and eventually spread to other cities with significant Irish populations such as Boston and Philadelphia. These early parades were often small and simple consisting of Irish soldiers and other members of the Irish community marching through the streets. As the immigrant population in the United states grew so the size of scale of the parade the parades began to include marching bands, floats and other elaborate displays. Today the Saint Patrick's Day parade in New York City is one of the largest in the world attracting millions of spectators each year. The tradition

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of Saint Patrick's Day parades has also spread to other parts of the world Saint Patrick's Day in Ireland was traditionally a religious holiday and parades did not become widespread until the 20th century. The first Saint Patrick's Day parade in Ireland took place in Dublin in 1931 and was organized by the Irish Free State government as a way to showcase Irish culture and heritage. Today the Saint Patrick's Day parade in Dublin is one of the largest in Ireland attracting thousands of participants and spectators the parade features floats marching bands dancers and as coupling by a week long festival Irish music food and culture.

There are parades in London and Paris organized by the Irish communities in each city featuring traditional Irish music dance and food we find parades in other countries such as Australia and New Zealand the Saint Patrick's Day parade in Sydney is one of the largest in Australia with elaborate floats marching bands and more dancers. There are even parades in Asia the Saint Patrick's Day parade in Tokyo for example is organized by the Irish community there with Irish music dance bands and the like.

In recent years we've seen the introduction of parades in Latin America particularly in countries like Argentina Mexico and Brazil these parades often feature a mix of traditional Irish music and dance along with Latin American music and dance.

Wherever there are Irish people, there will be a Saint Patrick's Day celebration, and most likely a parade. it's a time to celebrate Irish heritage,

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culture, religion and family. Our parades are away for people of all backgrounds to come together share the celebration, and learn more about our great race.

I'll close with the same verse I gave you last year, from the breastplate of Saint Patrick.

I arise today, through
the strength of heaven,
the light of the sun,
the radiance of the moon,
the splendor of fire,
the speed of lightning,
the swiftness of wind,
the depth of the sea
the stability of the earth,
the firmness of rock.
I arise today

I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday, as we celebrate our heritage, our division, our comraderie, and our Grand Marshall.

thank you brothers, thank you worthy president