

# Division Newsletter

Dutchess County Msgr. Sheahan Division # 1

Division Website: [www.dutchessaoh.com](http://www.dutchessaoh.com)

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## Presidents Message

Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

The crisp weather of fall is now upon us. Which means the premier event of the Hudson Valley fall social scene will soon occur: The AOH Charity Dinner Dance and Auction on Saturday evening, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Elks Club in Wappingers Falls. We look forward to seeing you again this year as we proudly support our Irish heritage. It is one thing to talk the talk, but come on out and dance the dance with us!

We will have music by MacCana (including set dance pieces) and Irish Step Dancers, as well as a complete dinner (notify us of beef or chicken entrée choice asap please). Plan to attend and help benefit the many worthy charities supported by our Division. In addition, we need items to auction and appreciate your generous donations.

Please RSVP asap to Michael Shepheard and also encourage your friends outside of the AOH to do likewise. Here is the contact information:

Michael Shepheard      9 Helen Drive, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
[mshephea@hotmail.com](mailto:mshephea@hotmail.com)      845-489-8240

Remember that we have the following upcoming events for the rest of the year.

- ♦ October 20 Thursday      Monthly meeting. 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. 7:30pm at KofC in WF
- ♦ October 22 Saturday      Annual Charity Dinner/Dance/Auction/Irish Dancers/MacCana Band
- ♦ November 17 Thursday      Monthly meeting. 7:30pm at KofC. Officer slate for 2017 discussed
- ♦ December TBD      Yearly Members Dinner Meeting. Location is Mahoney's

The November meeting will be very important. The 2 year tenure of our current group of Officers will be expiring in December and we need to put plans in place for enabling the next set of Brothers who will lead our Division in 2017 and 2018. Please think about this. I encourage your suggestions.

Finally, please remember to spread the word and help our membership grow! Contact Gerry McVicker for an application form or use this: <http://www.aoh.com/forms/Form-41-Application-For-Membership.pdf>



Yours in Brotherhood and Motto,  
Stephen Ren – President  
AOH Dutchess County Msgr. Sheahan Division One



*MAY YOU HAVE WARM WORDS ON A COLD EVENING,  
A FULL MOON ON A DARK NIGHT,  
AND THE ROAD DOWNHILL ALL THE WAY TO YOUR DOOR.*



**October  
2016**

## **DIVISION OFFICERS**

*Chaplain:*

**Deacon  
Robert Horton**

*President:*

**Stephen Ren**

*Vice President:*

**Michael  
Shepheard**

*Financial Secretary:*

**Gerry McVicker**

*Recording Secretary:*

**William  
Schimpf**

*Treasurer:*

**Robert  
Shepheard**

*Marshal:*

**James Sweeney**

*Sentinel:*

**Jim Brady**

*Historian:*

**Matt Fitzgerald**

*Standing Committee:*

**John Kelly**





### Historian's Corner

There I was sitting down at the "typewriter", again without having pre-planned my article for this month, when three ideas presented themselves to me; all three seemed to be interesting matters to explore, which I thought would also be of interest to the membership. The first dealt with Irish "monuments" in New York, both New York City and Upstate New York. The second was a recent news item describing a capital murder case which occurred in New Brunswick, NJ some 150 years ago. An Irish immigrant, Barbara Deignan from Ulster, was convicted of the murder of Mrs. Mary Ellen Coriell, the "genteel" wife of a prominent local physician. Earlier this year, Deignan was posthumously exonerated of the crime. [May she finally rest in peace.] The third item involved the deportation of 50,000 pauper immigrants; many of whom were victims of The Great Hunger. Massachusetts law allowed the deportation of beggars and many indigent Irish were targeted. Strangely enough, and without going into detail at this time, all three items were related in one way or another to the Know Nothings, and that's the topic of this month's article.

The Know Nothing movement was an American political party that operated nationally in the mid- 1840s and 1850s. Its official and original name was the Native American Party and was renamed the American Party in 1855. The party lost its prominence, and pretty much was dissolved by 1860, but not before it sowed a significant field of bigotry, especially anti-Catholicism. Having said that, the Know-Nothings also targeted other immigrant groups, in particular other Europeans, and Chinese immigrants on the west coast, mainly in the San Francisco area. In the main, they were neutral on the issue of slavery, with the Northern Know-Nothings being firmly against the practice.

My main theme or purpose in presenting this organization for us is the fierce anti-Catholic nature of the group. The movement arose in response to an influx of immigrants and promised to "purify" American politics by limiting or ending the influence of Irish-Catholics and other immigrants, thus reflecting nativist and anti-Catholic sentiment. It was empowered by popular fears that the country was being overwhelmed by German and Irish Catholic immigrants, whom they saw as hostile to WASP values, and as being controlled by the Pope. The movement strove to curb immigration and naturalization but met with little success. Membership was limited to Protestant men.

Anti-Catholicism had been a factor in colonial America but played little role in American politics until the arrival of large numbers of Irish and German Catholics in the 1840s. It then reemerged in nativist attacks on Catholic immigration. It appeared in New York politics as early as 1843, under the banner of the American Republican Party. The movement quickly spread to nearby states, using that name or Native American Party or variants of it. They succeeded in a number of local and Congressional elections. In the early 1850s, numerous secret orders grew up, of which the "Order of United Americans" and the "Order of the Star Spangled Banner" came to be the most important. They merged in New York in the early 1850s as a secret order that quickly spread across the North, reaching non-Catholics, particularly those who were lower middle class or skilled workmen. The Order of the Star Spangled Banner was an oath-bound secret society in New York City. It was created in 1849 by Charles B. Allen to protest the rise of Irish, Roman Catholic, and German immigration into the United States. To join the Order, a man had to be at least 21 years old, a Protestant, and willing to obey the Order's dictates without question. Members were Nativists, citizens opposed to immigration, especially by Catholics. They saw Catholics as dangerous, illegal voters under the control of the Pope in Rome. Members invariably responded to questions about the OSSB by claiming that they "knew nothing." This practice caused newspaper editor Horace Greeley to label them "Know Nothings." The OSSB would eventually form the nucleus of the nativist Know Nothing movement.

Aside from everything else, there also was the violence. Fearful that Catholics were flooding the polls with non-citizens, local activists threatened to stop them. Tensions came to a head on August 6, 1855, in Louisville, Kentucky, where, in a hotly contested race for the office of governor, 22 were killed and many more were injured. The Louisville riot was only the most spectacular of violent riots between Know Nothing activists and Catholics in 1855. In Baltimore the mayoral elections of 1856, 1857 and 1858 were all marred by violence and well-founded accusations of ballot-rigging. In Maine, Know Nothings were associated with the tarring and feathering of a Catholic priest, Father Johannes Bapst, in the coastal town of Ellsworth in 1851 and the burning of a Catholic church in Bath in 1854. About 10 years prior to these violent outbreaks, similar trouble was brewing, in New York City. The difference in outcomes was "Dagger John" formally known as Bishop John Hughes, later becoming Archbishop when Pope Pius IX created the Archdiocese of New York in 1854.

Born in Ireland, Hughes was different from previous spokesmen for American Catholicism. He did not try to ingratiate himself with American Protestant leaders. Instead, he actively sought to push a political agenda. Hughes gained a reputation as a man willing to aggressively counter anything he deemed a threat to the survival of Catholicism in America. In the words of one contemporary newspaper, "he belongs to the Church militant, and has no faith in the merit of an unresisting martyrdom." His aggressiveness, but mainly the habit of signing his name with a cross earned him the nickname

“Dagger John”. Nativists attacked Hughes portraying him as both a dangerous man and a false shepherd responsible for creating the nativist party. That’s almost like saying that to resist evil is to cause the evil in the first place. I would call that not only a false doctrine, but circular thinking, as well.

You should be somewhat familiar with the exploits of Archbishop Hughes in his Defense of the Faith in New York City. In the spring and summer of 1844, Nativist “Know-Nothings” in Philadelphia ransacked at least three churches and a seminary and pretty much leveled nearly the entire Catholic neighborhood of Kensington. Hughes got word that a similar pogrom was planned for New York, with an attack on St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral designed to be the flashpoint. The fiery prelate called upon New York’s Catholic manhood to come to the defense of their churches and armed them for the task. A mob that stoned the stain glass of the Cathedral found the building filled with armed riflemen; the violence went no further. Hughes later wrote that there was not a Catholic church in the city “that was not protected by a force of one to two thousand men...calm, cool, collected, armed to the teeth...”. Later, Bishop Hughes warned the then Mayor Harper that should any Catholic church, person, or business be molested in any way, we shall turn the city into a second Moscow, referring to what the Russians did to prevent Napoleon from using that city for his winter headquarters. [At the time, New York City was mainly a city of wooden structures, which had already experienced two destructive fires in the previous century.] There was no rioting against, nor further attacks, on Catholics. Like the Roman Emperor Constantine, Archbishop Hughes must have had a vision or premonition that in this sign [of the Cross] he would be victorious.

Matt Fitzgerald  
[irishrm@juno.com](mailto:irishrm@juno.com)  
 845-454-5308



*Please watch out for  
 the children  
 Trick or Treating!*



Financial Secretary Corner 

Brothers,

Gentlemen, there are still members who have not paid their dues for 2016, please do so immediately, thank you. Also if you are interested in becoming an officer in our division, November is the time to declare yourself. Nominations will be considered at our November meeting and voting takes place at our December meeting. Please consider this opportunity.



Please consider a worthy applicant that you know who would benefit from joining our brotherhood, and sharing in our Motto of "Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. If you have not done so already, please return your dues payment as soon as possible. Your support is the foundation of our division.

In Brotherhood & Motto,  
 Gerard McVicker  
 Financial Secretary  
 101 Brothers Rd  
 Stormville, NY, 12582

*It's always time for membership, ask your friends, neighbors, even members of your church! The only requirements are that you need to be a male, at least 16 years old, Irish and Catholic. Help make our Division grow. Bring someone to a meeting!*

# Sponsors Page

  
**INDEPENDENT BENEFIT PLANS**  
 WILLIAM J. SCHIMPF  
 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SPECIALIST  
 WILLIAM.SCHIMPF@YAHOO.COM  
 107 PROSPECT AVENUE (845) 427-2957  
 MAYBROOK, NEW YORK 845-427-0820  
 12543-1019

Robert G Shephard Jr CPA PC  
**Robert G Shephard Jr**  
 Certified Public Accountant  
 488 Freedom Plains Road  
 Suite 139 Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
 PHONE 845-485-3000  
 FAX 845-485-3257  
 bshephard@optimum.net  



**ED EMBROIDERY DESIGNS** Custom Machine Embroidery  
 Vicki Dunning  
 7 Jordan Court  
 Poughquag, NY 12570-5038  
 (845) 724-3986

**Stephen P. O'Hare**  
 Attorney at Law  
 488 Freedom Plains Road Suite 103  
 Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
 Tel: (845)452-4090  
 Fax: (845)452-4615  
 E-mail: oharelaw@optonline.net



Attention, all AOH members, your help is needed. This newsletter needs sponsors, for a small yearly fee we will print a business card sized ad monthly. This newsletter goes out to all our membership and to several other Irish organizations. If you or someone you do business with wants to advertise with us, just get a business card to the newsletter editor. And the money to our Financial Secretary the cost is just \$25.00 per year.



## Division Activities

### AOH Activities

October 22nd we will be holding our Annual Charity Dinner / Dance at the Elks Lodge, Rte. 376 Wappingers Falls. Tickets are available from Mike Shephard or Stephen Ren, \$40.00 per person gets you a complete Roast Beef dinner with dessert and coffee. Irish Step Dancers and the band MacCana will provide the entertainment. There will also be an Auction Table for your pleasure. Proceeds go to our many charitable causes that we support throughout the year. See the flyer on the next page for more details.

If you received your July / August issue of the National Hibernian, you should pay attention, especially to page 11 where our Division was written up for our reenactment of the 1916 Proclamation. Then our Division was also mentioned on page 14 for the upcoming Samuel Neilson Ceremony. We must be doing something right!

- ◆ **October 20th, Regular business meeting**
- ◆ **October 22nd, Charity Dinner / Dance**
- ◆ **November 17th, Regular business meeting / Nominations for 2017 Officers considered.**
- ◆ **December 15th, Annual Christmas Party / meeting / voting!**

*Just some of the activities your  
 Dutchess County,  
 Division 1, AOH is involved in.*

***Be a good member and join in, be ACTIVE!***



***Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Dutchess County - Msgr.  
Sheahan - Division 1***

***Annual Charity Dinner  
Dance***

**Saturday, October 22, 2016 6:00 PM  
Wappingers Elks Lodge  
Route 376**

**Complete Roast Beef Dinner  
With Dessert & Coffee  
Irish Step Dancers, Raffles and Prizes**

**Music by:  
"MacCana"**

***Donation: \$40.00 per person***

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE AOH'S MANY  
CHARITIES**

For tickets or more information contact:

Stephen Ren  
(845) 214-5664

Michael Shephard  
(845) 489-8240

## Important Dates

- October 20th; Regular business meeting
- October 22nd; Charity Dinner / Dance
- November 17th; Regular business meeting,  
2017 Officer nominations
- December 15th; Annual Christmas party meeting / VOTE

## Prayers for the Sick

Noel Morris      Nathan Redmond  
Bill Schimpf      Jim Sweeney

\* In Memoriam \*

On the Radio 91.3 FM: "A Little Bit of Ireland"

Hosted by our own Brendan Daly and broadcast from Vassar College.

Saturday's from 1 PM to 3:30 PM.

*"I SUFFER FROM IRISH-CATHOLIC GUILT.  
GUILT IS A GOOD REALITY CHECK.  
IT KEEPS THAT 'DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY'  
THING IN CHECK"*

*~ Irish American actor Edward Burns ~*

