



# Division Newsletter

Dutchess County Msgr. Sheahan Division # 1

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

Gene Noone - Editor

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## Presidents Message



Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

Happy October! This is a huge month for us. Our Annual Charity Dinner Dance will be here before you know it. It is less than three weeks away. The contracts have been signed, band confirmed, and the dancers are scheduled to return from the Broesler School of Irish Dance. The dance is October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Club in Wappingers Falls. The cocktail hour will begin at 6 PM and dinner and dancing will begin at 7 PM. RSVP's should be provided to our new email address which is used strictly for dinner dance correspondence. The email address is: [aohdinnerdance@gmail.com](mailto:aohdinnerdance@gmail.com). CJ Tomaskovic or I can also be contacted if you have any questions pertaining to the dance. The cost is \$45 a person and the food choices are roast beef or chicken francese. Please provide food choices when notifying us if you are attending. We have one more monthly AOH meeting prior to the dance. As usual it is at the Knights of Columbus on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. I have previously requested each member bring at least one gift to be used for our raffle prizes. I am also requesting that each member bring one bottle of liquor for a large auction. We will be doing a wheelbarrow full of Irish cheer that we hope will be a big money maker for us.

The NY Giants football raffle from Jack Fedigan will be announced the night of the dance. Please bring your sold tickets to the meeting or contact someone from the division to make sure the tickets make their way to Jack. Jack's donation is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year so please do your best to sell the tickets that were mailed to you. The last thing about the dance is that we need people to come. Please ask your friends, family members and neighbors. The more people that show up, the more raffles we sell.

I also want to remind the division about our commitment to Rebuilding Together Dutchess County. We agreed to volunteer in their fire safety projects and they are fast approaching. CJ has been in contact with them and there are two sets of days, one in October and one in November. The dates are as follows: Friday October 12<sup>th</sup> & Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup>; Friday November 9<sup>th</sup> & Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>. A volunteer registration form was previously sent in an email from CJ. The commitment is about 4-5 hours and would involve replacement of smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, installation of energy efficient light bulbs, solar powered outdoor lights and fire extinguishers. We are trying to get a team of 3 people for each of the 4 scheduled days. Please let CJ know your availability and/or email [dutchessaoh@gmail.com](mailto:dutchessaoh@gmail.com).

Looking forward to seeing you all later in the month. If you have any questions about any of our activities in October please call me or send me an email. Hope everyone is doing well. Slainte.

Yours in friendship,  
Michael Shephard  
AOH President  
D. C. Msgr. Sheahan Division 1



*MAY THE LUCK OF THE IRISH POSSESS YOU.  
MAY THE DEVIL FLY OFF WITH YOUR WORRIES.  
MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOREVER AND EVER.*





## Historian's Corner

One of the songs I remember from that time period when the Clancy Brothers singing group was on the ascent in this country was "Brennan On The Moor". As we know, a moor is defined as a tract of open, peaty wasteland, often overgrown with heath which is common in high latitudes and altitudes where drainage is poor. Sometimes the above word "heath" is used to describe a moor, with heath being described as an area of open uncultivated land with characteristic vegetation of heather, gorse, and coarse grasses. A moor is also often defined as a tract of land which is preserved for game. [The purposes of this article would not be served by further elaborating on the verb form of the word, "to moor".] Actually, this piece deals with the Moors, the Moorish people, or inhabitants of Morocco; history also refers to them as Berbers, and/or Barbary Pirates.

Previous articles in this newsletter series and other historical readings have dealt with outright invasions or limited incursions into Ireland. As you may recall, sometime ago I wrote an article about the mythological Milesians [of Gaelic-Celtic origin] leaving northern Spain and forcefully settling themselves in Ireland, despite the trickery of the Tuatha Dé Danaan and the Ninth Wave. We are more than familiar with the invasion of Ireland by the Norsemen, and later by England. We are less familiar with the Scottish invasion of Ireland led by Edward de Bruce; this should not be confused with the later Scots involvement in the "Plantation Movement". [More will be presented on the former in a later edition.]

Several years ago, I attended a course during Irish Arts Week in East Durham. The course, taught by renowned storyteller Bairbre McCarthy, included elements of the Irish language, Irish history and, of course, storytelling. On the first day of class, an "interloping" student challenged Bairbre on her comment that the Romans were not one of the groups that invaded Ireland. It was a tough pill for this amadán to accept the fact that Romans probably landed exploratory groups on the island, but never actually invaded Ireland. [I use the description of an interloper for this man because he had not formally registered for the class hoping to avoid paying registration and tuition fees. I won't go into detail at this time, but he did not show up for subsequent sessions.] It was during this and subsequent summers that I became familiar with various connections between these travelling Celts and Arab traders.

[As an aside, by the time the Romans got to Britannia, their supply and reinforcement lines were hyper-extended. They were already having difficulties in Gaul, and that didn't even require a sea journey. Britain was troublesome, particularly Scotland [known to Rome as Caledonia]. Apparently, Agricola, Roman governor of Britain from 77–85 BC, did consider an invasion of Ireland. However, he was kept busy subduing the Scots, and his recall to Rome shortly thereafter probably preserved the empire for a few hundred more years.]

Back to the Moors, et al. In 1630 rumors of an impending pirate attack began to circulate in and around the Baltimore area of County Cork. Piracy was nothing new to Ireland; some time ago I wrote about the story of Grace O'Malley [Grania, the Pirate Queen]. Ireland had once been described as a "nursery and storehouse of pirates". [Reminds you of the movie "Pirates of The Caribbean."] This new instant threat was coming from a new Quarter – The Barbary Coast and other areas of North Africa, notwithstanding the fact Moors, Berbers, and other Muslims had already made incursions into other areas of Europe. The Sack of Baltimore took place on June 20, 1631, when the village of Baltimore, West Cork, Ireland, was attacked by Ottoman Algeria and Republic of Salé slavers from the Barbary Coast of North Africa, Moroccans, and Ottoman Turks. The attack was the largest by Barbary pirates on either Ireland or Great Britain. These marauders, not unlike the previous raiders from the North, captured 107 villagers, mostly English settlers along with many local Irish people. There are other reports that put the number of victims at 237 people or more. The attack was focused on the area of the village known as Cove. The captors were put in irons and taken to a life of slavery in North Africa.

There are several conspiracy theories as to the collusion between local influential people and the raiders. A point of agreement, however, is that the authorities had advance intelligence of a planned raid on the Cork coast, although Kinsale was thought to be a more likely target than Baltimore. Some of the captors were destined to live out their days as galley slaves, rowing for decades without ever setting foot on shore, while others spent long years in harems or as laborers. At most, three of them ever saw Ireland; one was ransomed almost at once; two others in 1646. The women who spent their time in a harem did so as concubines and slaves to the other women. Later accounts by the captives wrote that on the ships going back to North Africa, the pirates not only fettered the male captives with iron shackles, but also placed them in wooden stocks.

In the aftermath of the raid, the remaining villagers moved to Skibbereen. A little over 100 years Skibbereen experienced further calamities. Skibbereen was devastated by the Great Hunger of the 1840s. As one of the worst affected areas in all of Ireland, Skibbereen is synonymous [poster child-like] with this tragic period in Irish history when over one million people died. Many of the buildings in the town have direct links to the period of The Great Hunger and there are numerous stories associated with each of these sites. Even today, the horror of this terrible time is palpable at these locations, including the infamous Historic Burial Pits at Abbeystrowry which hold the remains of up to 10,000 unidentified victims. The current [2016] population of Skibbereen is 2778.

I have read references to an Arab or Moorish fort in Cork, but have not been able to definitively verify it. I will keep trying.

(Continued on the next page)



\*\*\* Celebrate Halloween in Classic Irish Style with Traditional Barmbrack The Barmbrack lies at the very heart of Halloween celebrations in Ireland. On Halloween Night, family members gather round the table to cut into the Halloween Brack to discover their future! Special charms are hidden within this delicious cake which according to tradition dictate the future of whoever gets it in their slice. Typical charms found within the barmbrack include:

- A Pea: You will not marry that year
- A Stick: An unhappy marriage or continual disputes
- A Rag: Bad luck
- A Coin: Good fortune or wealth
- A Ring: You will be wed within the year!

## Ingredients

- 8oz [225g] Self Raising Flour
- 12oz [350g] Mixed Dried Fruit
- ½pt [300ml] Cold Tea – We recommend Breakfast or Camomile
- 4oz [125g] Golden Caster Sugar
- 1 Egg, beaten
- A pinch of Mixed Spice
- A drop of Irish Brandy (optional)
- Charms
- Honey (for decoration)

## Method

- 1] Place the fruit and cold tea in a bowl and soak overnight.
- 2] For those who like their brack with a bit of a kick, add a drop of Irish brandy to the fruit mixture.
- 3] Add sugar, egg, flour and mixed spice and mix well.
- 4] Wrap your charms in greaseproof paper and stir into mixture.
- 5] Transfer to a greased and lined cake tin.
- 6] Bake in a preheated oven 170°C/325°F/Gas 3 for approx.. one hour or until risen and firm to the touch.
- 7] Cool on a wire tray.
- 8] When cold, wrap in greaseproof paper and keep for two days before cutting.

## Make Your Bake Even Greater!

Make your bake sumptuously sweet by brushing melted honey over the top just before cutting. Alternatively, you can serve it with lashings of rich Irish butter!

## Oíche Shamhna Shona Daoibh

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

## Division Activities

### AOH Activities

Our yearly charity dinner dance at the Elks Club on October 20th. It is requested that each brother provide AT LEAST one gift for our raffle or silent auction. We are requesting that each member bring one bottle of liquor for a large auction. We will be doing a wheelbarrow full of Irish cheer that we hope will be a big money maker for us.

Rebuilding Together Dutchess County. We agreed to volunteer in their fire safety projects. There are two sets of days, one in October and one in November. The dates are as follows: Friday October 12<sup>th</sup> & Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup>; Friday November 9<sup>th</sup> & Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>. The commitment is about 4-5 hours and would involve replacement of smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, installation of energy efficient light bulbs, solar powered outdoor lights and fire extinguishers.

- ◆ October 12th & 13th - Rebuilding Together Dutchess County
- ◆ October 18th - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ October 20th - Charity Dinner Dance & Raffle
- ◆ November 9th & 10th - Rebuilding Together Dutchess County
- ◆ November 16th - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ November 22nd - Happy Thanksgiving

*Just some of the activities your  
 Dutchess County,  
 Division 1, AOH is involved in.  
 Be a good member and join in, be ACTIVE!*

Brothers,

If anyone still owes their dues, please remit payment as soon as possible. It is important to keep your dues current not only for yourself, but also the division. Thank you for submitting them as soon as possible. You can remit them to me at the address below.

In Brotherhood & Motto,  
Jack Fedigan  
256 Osborne Hill Road  
Fishkill, NY 12524



*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!*

Brothers,

I would like to thank all of the AOH brothers and sisters who supported the East Fishkill Community Day. We had a real presence in the parade, with the cottage and marchers. Also we spread the word about our men's and ladies divisions and sold some apparel and football tickets. Some pictures are below.

Gerry McVicker  
Vice President



# Sponsors Page

  
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## Important Dates

- ◆ October 12th & 13th, Rebuilding Together Dutchess County
- ◆ October 18th, Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ October 20th, Charity Dinner Dance & Raffle
- ◆ November 9th & 10th - Rebuilding Together Dutchess County
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## Prayers for the Sick

Paul Becker	Deacon Bob & Judy Horton
Noel Morris	Nathan Redmond
Dan Reilly	Bill Schimpf
Jim Sweeney	

\* In Memoriam \*



*"HAVING PLACED IN MY MOUTH SUFFICIENT BREAD FOR THREE MINUTES' CHEWING, I WITHDREW MY POWERS OF SENSUAL PERCEPTION AND RETIRED INTO THE PRIVACY OF MY MIND, MY EYES AND FACE ASSUMING A VACANT AND PREOCCUPIED EXPRESSION. I REFLECTED ON THE SUBJECT OF MY SPARE-TIME LITERARY ACTIVITIES. ONE BEGINNING AND ONE ENDING FOR A BOOK WAS A THING I DID NOT AGREE WITH. A GOOD BOOK MAY HAVE THREE OPENINGS ENTIRELY DISSIMILAR AND INTER-RELATED ONLY IN THE PRESCIENCE OF THE AUTHOR, OR FOR THAT MATTER ONE HUNDRED TIMES AS MANY ENDINGS."*

*~ FLANN O'BRIEN ~*



ANCIENT ORDER  
OF  
HIBERNIANS  
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County  
Msgr. Sheahan  
Division #1

PO Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

