



# Division Newsletter

Dutchess County Msgr. Sheahan Division # 1

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

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April  
2018

## DIVISION OFFICERS

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## Presidents Message

Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

Maybe by next month's newsletter it will actually feel like spring! I hope all of you enjoyed your St. Patrick's season as much as I did. It was a strong month for the organization. We had a nice presence at the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade, and extremely successful sales and networking experience at the Paddy on the River and from what I have heard another effective volunteer event at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie. Thank you all for your hard work during our busiest season of the year. You should all be commended. Now that parade season is over we need to look towards the future. Our recent success with our multiple fundraisers, including the Super Bowl pool, NCAA pool and merchandise sales should enable our organization to do wonderful things this year. We are in the best financial situation since I joined the AOH ten years ago. Now is the time to use this to our advantage and expand and grow together. Let's brainstorm at the upcoming meeting on ways to get out there and network and continue the momentum that has been built for the last year. We cannot become stagnant. We have much left to accomplish.

Our next scheduled division meeting will be held on Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Knights of Columbus in Wappingers Falls. We will begin promptly at 7:30PM so please try and be there on time. We will have executive director Christina Boryk from "Rebuilding Together Dutchess County" in attendance to discuss her organization and how we can be a partner in serving the county residents. Also we will be assisting Birthright at St. Mary's in Fishkill on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>. A signup sheet will be brought to the meeting. We are in need of at least two volunteers at each Mass. One Mass is on Saturday evening, and there are five Masses on Sunday. They are always appreciative of our help.

Now that we have made it through March, we need to finalize our plans for the AOH dinner dance in October. The charity dinner dance and Jack's football raffle are paramount for our success and survival. I would like more collaboration this year with detailed responsibilities for the dance. I will continue to be the main point of contact for the Elks club and would like to share my knowledge from chairing/co-chairing the dinner dance for the past 4 years with some new members who are looking forward to being more involved. It is a challenging event but one that gives a sense of accomplishment when it's successful. Please let me know if you would like to participate.

Lastly we have almost sold out of our AOH caps. It was an overwhelming success and showed great visibility for who we are in the community. CJ and I have been in contact with other divisions and will continue spreading the word. This fundraiser has massive potential. I will bring a cap to the NY State AOH golf tournament in May and will hand out flyers as well. I am looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday evening. Please try and attend. Thank you and god bless.

Yours in friendship,  
Michael Shepherd  
AOH President



*MAY LOVE AND LAUGHTER LIGHT YOUR DAYS,  
AND WARM YOUR HEART AND HOME.  
MAY GOOD AND FAITHFUL FRIENDS BE YOURS,  
WHEREVER YOU MAY ROAM.  
MAY PEACE AND PLENTY BLESS YOUR WORLD  
WITH JOY THAT LONG ENDURES.  
MAY ALL LIFE'S PASSING SEASONS  
BRING THE BEST TO YOU AND YOURS!*





## Historian's Corner

If you recall, I ended last month's article with a topic plan for the April, May and June newsletter articles. This month I had planned to revisit the Rising of 1916. [Can you believe that it is almost two years since we gather on the steps of the Poughkeepsie Post Office to commemorate the Centennial of that historic event.] As I began to pull together the necessary information, some interesting items have popped up. They are matters that we all "know" about but have not remained at the forefront of our minds. For instance, what do we know about the origins of the Irish Tricolor? Do you remember the Clancy Brothers song about Daniel O'Connell's and Nelson's statues? The name of that song is called "Lord Nelson", and we'll begin with that.

As I began this writing [March 7], it turned out that day was the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the blowing up of Nelson's pillar and statue by the IRA. The statue of Lord Horatio Nelson was at the top of a large granite column. The Pillar was situated in the center of what was then Sackville Street in Dublin [later renamed O'Connell Street]. The statue was completed in 1809 when Ireland was part of the United Kingdom. The decision to build the monument was made by Dublin Corporation in the euphoria following Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The original design by William Wilkins was greatly modified by Francis Johnston, on the grounds of the cost. The statue was sculpted by Thomas Kirk. From its unveiling on 29 October 1809 the Pillar was a popular tourist attraction, but provoked aesthetic and political controversy from the outset. A prominent city center monument honoring an Englishman rankled the Irish people as Irish nationalist sentiment grew; throughout the 19th century there were calls for it to be removed, or replaced with a memorial to an Irish hero. During the Easter Rising an attempt was made to blow up the pillar but the explosives failed to ignite due to dampness. The statue remained in the city as most of Ireland became the Irish Free State in 1922, and the Republic of Ireland in 1949. The chief legal barrier to its removal was the trust created at the Pillar's inception, the terms of which gave the trustees a duty in perpetuity to preserve the monument. Successive Irish governments failed to deliver legislation overriding the trust. Although influential literary figures such as James Joyce, W. B. Yeats and Oliver St. John Gogarty defended the Pillar on historical and cultural grounds, pressure for its removal intensified in the years preceding the 50th anniversary of the Rising, and its sudden demise was, on the whole, well received by the public. Although it was widely believed that the action was the work of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the police were unable to identify any of those responsible.

After years of debate and numerous proposals, the site was occupied in 2003 by the Spire of Dublin, a slim needle-like structure rising almost three times the height of the Pillar. In 2000 a former republican activist gave a radio interview in which he admitted planting the explosives in 1966, but after questioning him the Gardaí decided not to take action. Relics of the Pillar are found in Dublin museums and appear as decorative stonework elsewhere, and its memory is preserved in numerous works of Irish literature. One of those artistic treatments was the above-mentioned Clancy Brothers-Tommy Makem rendition of "Lord Nelson". One of the song's stanzas details the plaint of Daniel O'Connell at the statue's demise: "*And then in 1966, on March the seventh day, A bloody great explosion made Lord Nelson rock and sway, He crashed and Dan O'Connell cried in woeful misery, There are twice as many pigeons now will come and sit on me!*"

**The Irish Tricolor** The Irish flag (Bratach na hÉireann) – also known as the Irish Tricolor – was flown publicly for the first time during the Young Irelander Rebellion of 1848, on March 7, [118 years before the Nelson Pillar incident] in Waterford City, at the Wolfe Tone Confederate Club. It was flown by Thomas Francis Meagher, then a leader of the Young Irelander movement, who would go down in history as Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher of the Union Army during the American Civil War. While here in the US Meagher is best remembered for his role as a General in the Union Army and Governor of what is now Montana; his impact on Irish history and patriotic pride was also immense. When Meagher hung the tricolor in Waterford, it boldly flew for eight days and nights until it was taken down by the British. Meagher and his fellow Young Irelanders had been inspired by the 1848 revolutions across Europe. In April of 1848, a contingent of them traveled to France to congratulate the rebels there on overthrowing King Louis Philippe I. There, Meagher was presented with an Irish tricolor woven out of French silk. Upon returning to Ireland, he, in turn, presented it to the Irish people, explaining the symbolism of the flag's three colors. "The white in the center signifies a lasting truce between the orange and the green," he said, "and I trust that beneath its folds the hands of the Irish Protestant and the Irish Catholic may be clasped, in generous and heroic brotherhood." The green represents Irish nationalism; the orange, Ireland's Protestant minority, and the Orange Order; the white, lasting peace between the two. For his role in the 1848 rebellion, Meagher was tried for treason and sentenced to death, but this sentence was commuted to banishment to Van Diemen's Land in Australia. He would later escape to a new life in the United States. While the tricolor had not gained traction as a symbol for Ireland until the Easter Rising of 1916, the primary flag of Ireland was green with a harp in the center (the harp remains as Ireland's national symbol; Ireland is the only country in the world that has a musical instrument as such). That flag was used as early as 1642, by Owen Roe O'Neill, an Irish soldier, and leader of the O'Neill dynasty. During the Rising, both flags were flown above the GPO, the headquarters of the rebels, and the tricolor became more widely accepted.

(Continued on next page)



## The Rising Revisited – [a summary of oft neglected “facts”]

1. The Irish Proclamation read by Pearse on the steps of The General Post Office was the only proclamation of its era that mentions women equally, beginning “Irishmen and Irishwomen.”
2. The British authorities only had 400 troops to about 1,000 Irish rebels when the rising began and therefore couldn’t go on the offensive until reinforcements arrived. By Friday, April 28, 1916, the number of British troops rose to about 19,000 while the Irish Republic groups had only amassed 1,600 fighters due to mass confusion over the date of the Rising.
3. Among those in junior positions in the GOP was 24-year-old Michael Collins, who served by Connolly’s side. As is known, Connolly, the commander of the Dublin Brigade, was injured early on in the fighting. The position of highest in command then passed on to Pearse.
4. Connolly was so badly injured that he was carried to his execution on a stretcher and then tied to a chair to face the firing squad.
5. In Dublin, the deadliest battles took place at Mount Street Bridge.
6. The Rising's failure outside of Dublin was due to the capture of a ship loaded with Russian rifles acquired by Germany in the war.
7. The Easter Rising was considered a betrayal at first by many Irish citizens, and the 1916 leaders were spat at on their way to jail. It was only when the executions began that the national mood changed.
8. Sixteen leaders of the rising were executed while about 3,000 more were arrested in connection to the groups.
9. Women played a key role in the Rising, with over 200 members of Cumann namBan, the women’s auxiliary branch of the Irish Volunteers, fighting for Irish independence.
10. Countess Constance Markievicz, who had been second in command to Michael Mallin in St. Stephen’s Green, was initially sentenced to death along with the other leaders of the Rising. Her sentence was changed to life in prison “on account of the prisoner’s sex.”

**Trivia and History Questions:** At our March meeting we did not have the proper conditions to discuss the “Quiz”. They are repeated here for review and discussion at the April Meeting.

- 1) According to new research, when and where was the first St. Patrick’s Day Parade in America?
- 2) When was the first St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Ireland?
- 3) Where is the Celtic Sea?
- 4) According to legend, the devil spat out what?
- 5) Charles Stewart Parnell’ downfall resulted from a romantic entanglement with what woman?
- 6) Which city in the Province of Ulster was the subject of a siege from December 1688 to July 1689?
- 7) Who was known as the Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland?
- 8) Who was known as the Liberator?
- 9) Recent research purports that the “first” Irishman [Celt] had what skin tone, eye color, and hair color and texture?
- 10) When was the Irish Tri-Color first flown publicly?

Matt Fitzgerald  
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**And from the humor department...** this piece deals with texting which sometime can be difficult for us older guys. The daughter spent a good deal of her time lately globetrotting to see the world and to “find herself”. The eventual happened and she contacts the father in Ireland to tell him the good news, and she does so by texting him. Daughter to Dad... "Daddy, dearest, I am coming home to get married, soon. So, get out your checkbook. LOL. I'm in love with a boy who lives far away from me. I am in Australia, and he lives in Scotland. We met on a dating website, eHarmony, became friends on Facebook, had long chats on Whats app, he proposed to me on Skype, and now we've had two months of relationship through Viber. My beloved and favorite Dad, I need your blessing, good wishes, and a really big wedding." Lots of love and thanks, Your favorite daughter, Lilly. Dad's Reply.... (also by texting) "My Dear Lilly: Like, Wow! Really? Cool! AWESOME! Whatever... I suggest you two get married on Twitter, have fun on Tango, buy your kids on Amazon, and pay for it all through Paypal. And when you get fed up with this new husband, sell him on Ebay. L.O.L. (lots of love), Daddy.

**And from the kitchen...** How about some old-fashioned Tea Brack, which is an Irish loaf made with tea-soaked fruit. It is similar in flavor and texture to Scottish, Welsh, and English fruit bread, this recipe includes a healthy portion of nuts and a hint of spice.

### Ingredients:

4 cups [1 pound] mixed dried fruit, such as sultanas, dates, apricots, cranberries, chopped; 2 cups of self-rising flour;  
 2 ounces of candied orange peel; ¼ cup of chopped walnuts; ¼ cup of chopped pecans; 1 large egg, beaten;  
 1 teaspoon of ground ginger; 1 teaspoon of pumpkin pie spice or Mixed Spice; 1 cup of packed light brown sugar;  
 1¼ cups cold Irish tea, such as Bewley’s, Barry’s, or Lyons; Kerrygold Irish butter at room temperature, for serving.

**Directions:** In a large bowl, combine the fruit, nuts, spices, and tea. Let it all soak for 3 hours, or until the tea is absorbed.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter a 9-by-5-by-3-inch loaf pan. Stir the egg, sugar, and flour into the fruit mixture and mix until well combined. Transfer the batter to the prepared pan and bake for 65 to 70 minutes, or until the top is golden and a skewer inserted into the center comes out clean. Remove from the oven and let cool in the pan on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Turn out onto the rack and let cool completely. Slice and serve with butter. Serves 10 to 12.

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## Financial Secretary Corner

Brothers,

Most of our members have their 2018 dues paid and we thank you for that. For those who are stilling outstanding, please send in the \$30.00 as soon as possible.

As always, if you know anyone who you feel will make a good candidate, have them fill out the new membership application and then we will follow up.

Please take the time out of your busy schedules to come to a meeting. As our motto states, help us make Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity our top priority.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our meetings and making our division as strong as it can be.

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!*

## Important Dates

- April 19th, Regular business meeting
- May 17th, Regular business meeting
- May 19th, Evening Mass for BirthRight
- May 20th, BirthRight Masses
- June 21st, Regular business meeting

## Prayers for the Sick

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

\* In Memoriam \*



*"WE IRISH PREFER EMBROIDERIES TO PLAIN CLOTH. TO US IRISH, MEMORY IS A CANVAS--STRETCHED, PRIMED, AND READY FOR PAINTING ON. WE LOVE THE "STORY" PART OF THE WORD "HISTORY," AND WE LOVE IT TRIMMED OUT WITH COLOR AND DRAMA, RIBBONS AND BOWS. LISTEN TO OUR TUNES, OBSERVE A CELTIC SCROLL: WE ALWAYS DECORATE OUR ESSENCE."*

*~FRANK DELANEY, TIPPERARY~*



**ANCIENT ORDER**  
OF  
**HIBERNIANS**  
IN AMERICA

*Dutchess County  
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Division #1*

*PO Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590*



**Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity**

