



Division Newsletter

Dutchess County Msgr. Sheahan Division # 1
Division Website: www.dutchessaoh.com

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**December
2018**

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Presidents Message

Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving with friends and family. Due to the most recent snowstorm, I decided to postpone the meeting in November. We have rescheduled that meeting for Tuesday, December 4th at 7:30PM at the Knights of Columbus. This will be our last formal meeting of the year as we will be discussing a lot of end of term business, new slate of officers for 2019 and any loose ends that need to be tied up before transitioning to a new administration. I want to thank those of you for participating in the two Rebuilding Together Dutchess County Fire Prevention days during November. I know it was a busy week for us because a few days later we volunteered at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie. Special thanks to Jim Englishby and the brothers/LAOH members who attended that night to help us navigate through an unexpected situation when we arrived. Our last get together will be on Thursday, December 20th at Mahoney's in Poughkeepsie for our end of the year dinner. Brothers usually arrive between 5-6PM for happy hour prior to our meeting. Dinner and drinks are done by separate checks. We have also secured new AOH scarves for sale and have t-shirts that will be brought to the meeting in case any last minute Christmas gifts are needed. If you have any questions please let me know. Look forward to seeing you all next week.



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



**To you and your families
may you have a Blessed
Christmas and a Joyous
New Year!**



*The Light of The Christmas Star to you
The Warmth of a home and hearth to you
The cheer and good will of friends to you
The hope of a childlike heart to you
The joy of a thousand angels to you
The love of the son and God's peace to you*





Historian-Seanchai's Corner:

My original plan for this December article was to present something more in line with the Spirit of Christmas...Christmas in Killarney, Bing Crosby, or the like. But, three things happened on the way to the "typewriter". The first was a carryover from last month's viewing of that new movie "Black 47". The second was purchasing and starting a new book entitled "The Immortal Irishman", an account of the life of Thomas Francis Meagher, who led the legendary Irish Brigade in America's Civil War. The third, and most deciding, factor was rediscovering an old article from Irish Central News about the most hated [or most-disliked, if you prefer] people in Irish history. At least in their view.

The first is **Diarmuid Mac Murrough**. It was he who invited the English to Ireland in 1169 after losing his throne as King of Leinster. King Henry II took him up on it and the Irish have been trying to get rid of the British ever since. I guess the saying, "Be careful of what you wish for" prevailed even then. He thought that he would regain his ultimate power. I believe there was a woman involved in the mix, probably making this the first demonstration in Ireland of that famous French sexist expression: "Cherchez la femme".

In second place is the notorious Lord Protector, **Oliver Cromwell**. It is said that he used Ireland as his own "Killing Field". He most certainly can be listed among the best, or more accurately, THE WORST: Pol Pot, Stalin, Hitler, Genghis Kahn, and Attila The Hun, to name just a few. He figuratively hung out a sign: ALL CATHOLICS BEWARE...especially, the priests. In addition to his wholesale slaughtering rampages for his own political purposes, he deported tens of thousands of Irish of all classes to the West Indies, especially Barbados, and to other colonies. In addition to his political acumen, he was a military tactician, carrying out that function in a very brutal manner. At the Siege of Drogheda in September 1649, Cromwell's troops killed nearly 3,500 people after the town's capture-comprising around 2,700 Royalist soldiers and all the men in the town carrying arms, including some civilians, prisoners and Roman Catholic priests. Cromwell wrote afterwards that: I am persuaded that this is a righteous judgment of God upon these barbarous wretches, who have imbrued their hands in so much innocent blood and that it will tend to prevent the effusion of blood for the future, which are satisfactory grounds for such actions, which otherwise cannot but work remorse and regret. At the Siege of Wexford in October, another massacre took place under confused circumstances. While Cromwell was apparently trying to negotiate surrender terms, some of his soldiers broke into the town, killed 2,000 Irish troops and up to 1,500 civilians, and burned much of the town. Three mantras or expressions of hatred survive from those times: To Hell or Connaught; To Hell or Barbados; and The Curse of Cromwell be on you.

Moving on to another heart-wrenching period of Irish history and degradation, The Great Hunger, brings us in contact with **Sir Charles Trevelyan**, Britain's overseer of Ireland during that period. Among other things, he decided that economic policy and 'not coddling the poor' was more important than millions of starving Irish men, women, and children. Notably among other things that we know of this man is a statement he made in a letter he wrote to an Irish peer, Lord Monteagle of Brandon, a former Chancellor of the Exchequer. He described the famine as an "effective mechanism for reducing surplus population" as well as "the judgement of God" and wrote that "The real evil with which we have to contend is not the physical evil of the Famine, but the moral evil of the selfish, perverse and turbulent character of the [Irish] people". His legacy includes the debacle of Trevelyan's corn...the importation from America of that inedible Indian corn; soup kitchens and tragedy wrought by forcing Catholic to "take the soup" in exchange for their denouncing their Catholic Faith, and more atrocious policies which only resulted in more deaths.

By now, you might be saying, could there be more? Well there are. In fourth place we have **Sir George Charles Bingham**, 3rd Earl of Lucan, who is noted for being the worst landlord in Ireland during the Great Hunger. He turned 10,000 people out of their homes in Ballinrobe in Mayo alone. Thousands starved to death as he ruthlessly cleared the land for his own purposes at that time of great starvation and destitution. Evictions became wholesale on the Earl of Lucan's estates. Ten thousand people were ejected from the neighborhood of Ballinrobe, and 15,000 acres cleared and put in charge of Scotsmen. An English observer was told that the destitution caused by Lord Lucan was 'immense'. Pointing to a prominent tract of land enclosed by a foreboding wall and in a good state of cultivation, he said, 'That was a densely populated hill called Staball. All the houses were thrown down'. Several populous villages in the neighborhood of Castlebar completely disappeared, farms being established on the sites. Behind Castlebar House, the Earl of Lucan established a large dairy farm; the yard and buildings of this farm, which covered three acres, were cleared in the town of Castlebar itself - whole streets were demolished and the stones from the walls used to build barns and boundary walls. He opined that the land could not support the people, nor could it could ever support the people; so, the people must go. He did not consider it was his responsibility any more than the English Government considered it was their responsibility to arrange how the people should go and where. He was getting nothing from his estates, all his rents and a great deal more were being put back into the land, and on one farm alone he spent £8,000; he was doing his share, and more than his share. To bolster up a hopelessly false economy, to pour out money, badly needed to improve the land, on paupers who could never be anything but paupers, was criminal sentimentality. A large part of the population of Ireland must disappear. Lord Lucan was also part of the British military fighting in the Crimean War, subsequently being promoted to Field Marshall. Ironically, he was one of three men, along with Captain Nolan and Lord Raglan, responsible for the fateful order during the Battle of Balaclava in October 1854 that led to the Light Brigade commander, The Earl of Cardigan, leading the infamous Charge of the Light Brigade.

Captain William O'Shea takes fifth place honors. You might better remember his place in Irish history if you saw that 1937 movie, entitled "Parnell" which starred Clark Gable and Myrna Loy, and many other fine old thespians. The movie was moderately accurate in portraying the life of Irish politician Charles Stewart Parnell, following from 1880 onward his struggle to secure Home Rule, which he pursued in prison, Parliament, and elsewhere. Emphasis was on the relationship with married Katie O'Shea which threatened to bring all Parnell's plans to ruin. The relationship between Parnell and O'Shea's wife created a scandal of seeming great magnitude. Captain O'Shea decided to divorce Kitty O'Shea despite knowing it would bring down Charles Stewart Parnell, who was on the verge of achieving Home Rule. O'Shea was egged on by British interests to do so. Despite the fact that O'Shea and Kitty were separated when she met Parnell, the resulting Victorian era scandal took down Ireland's "Uncrowned King." You might remember that Katharine O'Shea was the subject of our trivia in the May newsletter. In that piece it was noted that she was known as Katie to her friends, but Kitty to her enemies.

In sixth slot was a young **Winston Churchill**. He invented the Black and Tans and was responsible for sending them to Ireland to force the Irish rebellion into surrender. He was responsible for the Reign of Terror inflicted on the Irish by this newly created force of Black and Tans, "bad cess to them".

(Continued on the next page)



A Wee Bit of Irish History (continued) By: Matt Fitzgerald, Division Historian



There is much general information that we already know about these organized and sanctioned marauders, better described as “guns for hire”. However, the attitude of the Black and Tans is best summed up by one of their divisional commanders: “If a police barracks is burned or if the barracks already occupied is not suitable, then the best house in the locality is to be commandeered, the occupants thrown into the gutter. Let them die there – the more the merrier. Should the order “Hands Up” not be immediately obeyed, shoot and shoot with effect. If the persons approaching (a patrol) carry their hands in their pockets, or are in any way suspicious-looking, shoot them down. You may make mistakes occasionally and innocent persons may be shot, but that cannot be helped, and you are bound to get the right parties some time. The more you shoot, the better I will like you, and I assure you no policeman will get into trouble for shooting any man”. [Lt. Col. Smyth, June 1920] One of the best portrayals of the cruelty of the Black and Tans can be seen in the movie, “The Wind That Shakes The Barley”.

Moving along, we come to “lucky seven”, **David Lloyd George**. Also known as ‘The Welsh Wizard’, during the treaty negotiations in the aftermath of the War for Independence skillfully split the Irish delegation, causing get consternation and insisted on Irish partition thereby keeping his unionist backers happy at all costs.

We reach now the end of this list [for now anyway], except for one contemporary. Onto center stage comes **Margaret Thatcher**. Most of us have a fairly decent knowledge of this infamous “Iron Lady”, so dubbed by a Soviet reporter. However, I do want to mention one of her most blatant actions. She allowed ten IRA prisoners, led by Bobby Sands, to starve to death in 1981. The bloody-handed move backfired when Sands was elected as MP and kick-started the Sinn Fein political rise a month before his death. Ironically, one of her notable quotes came back to bite her. She once said: “Democratic nations must try to find ways to starve the terrorist and the hijacker of the oxygen of publicity on which they depend”. It seems that her hands-off approach to the hunger strikers resulted in their starvation deaths, while at the same time failing to starve them of publicity and notoriety.

For next month... I plan to present, in part, a reference to our “mythological” heritage, You may recall that some time ago I wrote about the coming of the Milesians to Ireland from Iberia and the Ninth Wave. Well, do you know about the Seventh Stream” and “Silkies”? Tune in next month.

FROM THE HUMOR DEPARTMENT A man and his wife are awakened at 3 o'clock in the morning by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door; when he opens it, an obviously inebriated stranger is standing there in the pouring rain. The stranger asks for a push. “Jam on your egg”, says the husband, “it's three o'clock in the morning”! He slams the door and goes back to bed. “Who was that”? asked his wife. “Just some eedjit asking for a push,” he answers. “Did you help him”? she asks. “No, I did not, it's three in the morning and it's lashing out there. “Well, there, you have a short memory”, says his wife. “Remember about three months ago when we broke down and that nice couple helped us out? I think you should help him; you should be ashamed of yourself”! The man sighs, does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pouring rain. He calls out into the dark, “Hello, are you still there”? “Yes” comes back the answer. “Do you still need a push”? calls out the husband. “Yes, please”! comes the reply from the dark. “Where are you”? asks the husband. “Over here, on the swing”!

AND THEN, THERE IS THIS OLDIE, BUT GOODIE... Sean was a mild-mannered man who was tired of being hen-pecked by his wife; so he went to a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist said he needed to build his self-esteem and gave him a book on assertiveness. Sean read the book on the bus home. By the time he reached his house, he had finished it. He stormed into the house and walked up to his wife. Pointing a finger in her face, he said, “Bridie, from now on, I want you to know that I am the man of the house, and my word is law! I want you to make my favorite boiled beef and cabbage for the meal tonight and when I'm finished with that, I expect my favorite whiskey cake for afters. Then, you're going to draw me my bath, so I can relax. And when I'm finished with that, do you know who's going to dress me and comb my hair”? “The undertaker”, says she.

AND DID YOU KNOW Until the 1920s, on St. Brigid's Day at Teltown, Co. Meath, couples could legally marry by simply walking toward each other? If the union didn't work out, they could 'divorce' by walking away from each other at the same place exactly a year and a day later. In 1922, at the height of the Irish Civil War, Free State Brigadier Patrick Paul escaped from his Republican captors in Waterford disguised as a Mother Superior.

HOW ABOUT A CHRISTMAS TREAT

Baileys Chocolate Trifle

Ingredients

Chocolate Cake Chocolate Pudding Mix (the type you have to cook; try to find the bittersweet dark chocolate if you can)
1 cup Bailey's Irish Cream 1 to 2 cans whipped cream Slivered almonds and bittersweet chocolate swirls for garnish.

Method

Either bake or buy a two-layer chocolate cake. If you can get dark or bittersweet, all the better. Break up the cake into bite size pieces and place one layer in the bottom of a glass trifle dish. Make the pudding and chill until firm. Spoon half the pudding onto the cake. Pour 1/2 cup of Baileys onto the pudding. Squirt on whipped cream to cover and sprinkle with almonds and chocolate swirls. Repeat.

Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Ireland Trip Raffle Since our December meeting is two days after the draw date, I am taking the liberty of putting this message in our newsletter, I have a few tickets left, and with my giving up the seller's prize, it's a really good deal.

The Police Emerald Society of the Hudson Valley's Ireland Trip raffle begins this first week of October. My supply of tickets went pretty quickly last year because of my special offer. The PESHV is conducting a fund-raising raffle offering a great GRAND PRIZE...A Trip For Two to Ireland from Destinations Ireland & Beyond. There is a Second Prize of a \$500.00 Visa Gift Card, with a Third Prize of a \$100.00 Visa Gift Card. The Donation is \$20.00 per raffle ticket. The drawing will be on December 18, 2018, and you have a full year from that drawing date to use the prize. **NOW FOR THE BIG NEWS I AM AGAIN MAKING AN OFFER THAT YOU REALLY CAN'T REFUSE!** The PESHV member who sells the winning ticket also gets a similar prize: A Trip For Two to Ireland from Destinations Ireland & Beyond. In order to encourage participation and funds benefitting the charitable and other programs of PESHV, the winner who buys the winning ticket **from me** will also receive that “SELLER'S” prize. So, there you have it; for that one subscription donation of \$20.00, you have a chance to win **2 Trip packages**...in essence, **A TRIP FOR FOUR**. Think of the potential of using this prize package for your family AND JUST A WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS... For tickets, please email me at irishrm@juno.com. If you have any questions or would rather order by phone, call me at **845-454-5308**. In your phone or email message please include your mailing address, along with the number of tickets you want. Please help us out by forwarding this message on to those on your email lists. Matt Fitzgerald

Nollaig shona dhaoibh!

Matt Fitzgerald
irishrm@juno.com
845-454-5308

Brothers,

As we near the end of the year we still have few brothers that owe dues for 2018. If there is any reason that you are unable to take care of this, please let me know.

Don't forget our November meeting will take place on the night of December 4th at the Knights of Columbus in Wappingers Falls.

As always, if you know of anyone who you felt would make a good candidate, have them fill out a new application and we will follow up.

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!*



Division Activities

AOH Activities

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Because of the snowstorm on our scheduled meeting night, we will be meeting on December 4th, 7:30PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Wappingers Falls. This will be a regular business meeting to get the important stuff done so our Christmas Dinner meeting at Mahoney's can be for fun and not business.

Our last get together this year will be on Thursday, December 20th at Mahoney's in Poughkeepsie for our end of the year dinner. Brothers usually arrive between 5 - 6PM for happy hour prior to our meeting. Dinner and drinks are done by separate checks.

- ◆ December 4th – November business meeting
- ◆ December 20th - Christmas Dinner Party / meeting
- ◆ December 25th - Merry Christmas!
- ◆ January 1st - Happy New Year!
- ◆ January 17th - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ February 9th - Emerald Ball

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

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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.



Important Dates

- ◆ December 4th; November Business Meeting
- ◆ December 20th; Christmas Dinner at Mahoney's
- ◆ December 25th; Merry Christmas
- ◆ January 1st; Happy New Year
- ◆ January 17th; Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ February 9th; Emerald Ball

Prayers for the Sick

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

* In Memoriam *



"WANT TO KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS? FEED THE HUNGRY, CLOTHE THE NAKED, FORGIVE THE GUILTY, WELCOME THE UNWANTED, CARE FOR THE ILL, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, AND DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE DONE UNTO YOU."

~STEVE MARABOLI, UNAPOLOGETICALLY YOU: REFLECTIONS ON LIFE AND THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE~



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County
Msgr. Sheahan
Division #1

PO Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

