



Division Newsletter

Dutchess County Msgr. Sheahan Division # 1

Division Website: www.dutchessaoh.com

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June
2018

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Presidents Message

Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

It has been an exciting first half of 2018. We have accomplished quite a bit in 2018 but still have a long way to go. Just because the division will not formally meet in July and August, doesn't mean we are taking a break from AOH business. The fall season kicks off quickly and we don't have much time before our largest fundraisers of the year commence. The Charity Dinner Dance and the football raffle are the financial backbone which keep this division moving forward. McCana will be back to perform at the Elks Club in Wappingers Falls on Saturday October 20th. Please spread the word and invite friends and family as soon as possible. Also, I ask that each brother bring **at least** one charitable item for our raffle prize table to the September meeting. An AOH letterhead detailing who we are and what we do, will be provided for use when soliciting donations from stores and restaurants.

In the short term we still have some events before summer break. On Sunday June 3rd at 10:30AM, the division will be presenting a sizable donation to the St. Mary's Wappingers Falls Food Pantry in honor of "An gorta mor" fulfilling our Hibernian Hunger Project for the year. I ask all who are able to attend to try and participate in this activity. The Dutchess County AOH tent will be showcased and it will be an excellent opportunity to meet and greet with potential new members. Please wear your AOH apparel including our new Irish caps. I will be out of town so please reach out to Jack Fedigan or Ken Brown if you have any questions.

The division has received a Special Recognition Award from the Dutchess Outreach for our continued support at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie. The invitation was given to brother Jim Englishby, who has chaired multiple events with the Lunch Box since 2017. Four brothers will be in attendance to represent the Msgr. Sheahan Division on Friday, June 8th at FDR Presidential Library and Home. Thank you all for your tremendous support in helping this wonderful organization and share in the recognition we will be receiving. Due to the overwhelming success thus far we have agreed to participate in two events a year at the Lunch Box, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the brothers who volunteered at St. Mary's in Fishkill on May 19th and May 20th to collect money for Birthright, especially those who stayed for more than one Mass to make sure we had sufficient coverage. It is nice to know we have brothers who will go the extra mile for this division.

Once again, the monthly meeting will be held on June 21st. It is the last meeting until September. Please try to attend. We have much to discuss before the summer break. Thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication to this division. It has been my pleasure being your president for the past year and a half. I look forward to finishing my term on a strong note. God bless.

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



*MAY THE ROAD RISE TO MEET YOU.
MAY THE WIND BE ALWAYS AT YOUR BACK.
MAY THE SUN SHINE WARM UPON YOUR FACE.
AND RAINS FALL SOFT UPON YOUR FIELDS.
AND UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN,
MAY GOD HOLD YOU IN THE HOLLOW OF HIS HAND*





Historian's Corner

As I got ready to finalize this piece, I remembered that one of the topics I had previously scheduled for around this time was Thomas Meagher. You may recall that a previous article relative to the Irish Tricolor included a reference to him; this article will deal a bit more extensively with his life and career. And since it is Octave of Memorial Day as I put the finishing touches on it, I will also deal with another Irish immigrant of 19th Century U.S. military fame, Captain Myles W. Keogh. He is not as well-known as Meagher, unless you call a person's name being mentioned in a John Ford – John Wayne movie as endowing fame on a person. More will be said about him as the article progresses. To begin... Thomas Francis Meagher was born in County Waterford; his life included his involvement as an Irish Rebel, a United States Union Army General, and Acting Governor of the Territory of Montana after his Civil War stint. Meagher was an Irish Nationalist and a leader of the Young Irelanders. With his fierce Irish nationalism, Thomas F. Meagher managed to get himself into difficulties on both sides of the Atlantic. Born in County Waterford, Ireland in 1823, he opposed British rule and was exiled to Tasmania in 1849. He fled to the United States in 1852, eventually settling in New York, where he was active in the Irish independence movement. Raising an Irish Zouave company in 1861, he joined the Union army, where his assignments included: Major in the 69th New York Militia (circa. April 1861); Brigadier General, USV [US Volunteers] (February 1862); Commanding 2nd ("Irish") Brigade, Sumner's Division (November 1861- 1862); and Commanding 2nd ("Irish") Brigade, 1st Division; 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac (various times in 1862, and February - May 1863).

He led the Irish Brigade in the fighting at Seven Pines during most of the Seven Days. At Antietam he was injured in the fall of his wounded horse but was able to return to duty the following day. At Fredericksburg his command was slaughtered by Confederate troops in the assaults on Marye's Heights. Meanwhile he had become embroiled in army politics.

Himself a Democrat, he was highly critical of politics [read "Republican"] generals. This may have contributed to the later refusal by the authorities to grant him permission to recruit for his own ranks. After the battle of Chancellorsville, he resigned on May 14, 1863, in protest over this refusal and the proposal that the regiments of his brigade be distributed among other commands. His resignation was rejected on December 23, 1863, and he returned to duty, holding minor commands in the Western theater. He finally resigned on May 15, 1865. After serving almost two years as acting governor of the Montana Territory, he fell off a boat on the Missouri River and drowned. The factors surrounding his death are somewhat mysterious or even controversial; although it was reported that he had been drinking.

The second topic-person of this article is County Limerick-born Captain Walter Myles Keogh. He was a captain, commanding company I in the U. S. Seventh Cavalry under Lieutenant-Colonel George Armstrong Custer. He's now buried in Auburn's Fort Hill Cemetery, which is a long way from the Little Bighorn where he died along with Custer and over 200 men of the Seventh Cavalry in June of 1876. Keogh was born on March 25, 1840. As the "wild geese" fly, however, it probably wasn't so far after all. The Wild Geese were Irish soldiers of fortune, men who made war their business, but who refused to fight under an English flag. Keogh made his way first to Italy where he fought in the papal army and was awarded a medal for heroism in the face of overwhelming Piedmontese forces. From Italy Keogh headed to America, lured by the opportunity the Civil War offered to a man in his profession. During that war Keogh gained a reputation for gallantry and was brevetted a Lieutenant Colonel. George Custer was well acquainted with Keogh's prowess as a fighter. So, when Custer was asked to reform the Seventh Cavalry after the war, he wanted a fighting man such as Keogh in his outfit. And that's just where Keogh wanted to be - in a fighting regiment. Keogh's long journey from home ended on Sunday, June 25, 1876, when he, and Custer, and others of the Seventh were overrun by several thousand Indians, mainly Sioux and Cheyenne warriors. Keogh's gallantry, at this battle and generally noted during his career by the Pope, the U. S. Department of War, and later by Custer, was ultimately recognized by the Indian victors at the Little Bighorn, for he was the only member of the Seventh whose body was not mutilated by the Indians. We may never know why Keogh's body remained untouched. It may have been the Papal medal that he always wore around his neck, or it may have been that he died like a true warrior: his pistol blazing to the last round. It has reportedly been stated by one Indian survivor of the battle who later said of Keogh: "...like the flame of a coal blazed his eyes. His teeth glistened like a fighting grizzly."

Writer's Note: The reason that I became interested in Keogh arises out of a reference in an old issue of The Wild Geese newsletter that I re-read recently, and my penchant to test my memory about movies: story lines and characters. When I read that TWG news item and saw the Myles Keogh reference, a light went on and my memory focused in on the 1949 movie, "She Wore A Yellow Ribbon". This John Ford film features a great cast which you can see on IMDB. However, five of the actors were featured in other John Ford films, in particular "The Quiet Man": John Wayne, Victor McLaglen, Mildred Natwick, Arthur Shields and Francis Ford [John Ford's elder brother]. In one scene, after receiving the list of the dead of Custer's Seventh Cavalry, John Wayne is shown reading the list of the dead. He focuses on the name of Myles Keogh. In a following scene, as he visits his wife's grave, he "tells" her that Keogh has been killed with a reference to "that big Irishman who waltzed so well with her".

Finally: I was going to write something about the recent abortion controversy in Ireland, but, since there have been some interesting public pronouncements, I will wait and make a presentation at our June meeting.

Brothers,

June will be our last meeting before for the summer so, just a reminder for those who have not yet paid their 2018 dues, please get them in as soon as you can. Thank you to all that have paid. Also, summer socializing season (picnics, barbeques, parties, etc.) is a good time to think about someone who might be interested in joining our organization. This year's Food party drive had a lot of support and resulted in a strong turnout. Don't forget, we will be part of this Sunday's 10:30AM Mass (June 3rd) at St. Mary's in Wappingers Falls. Hopefully, we will see a lot of our brothers there.

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

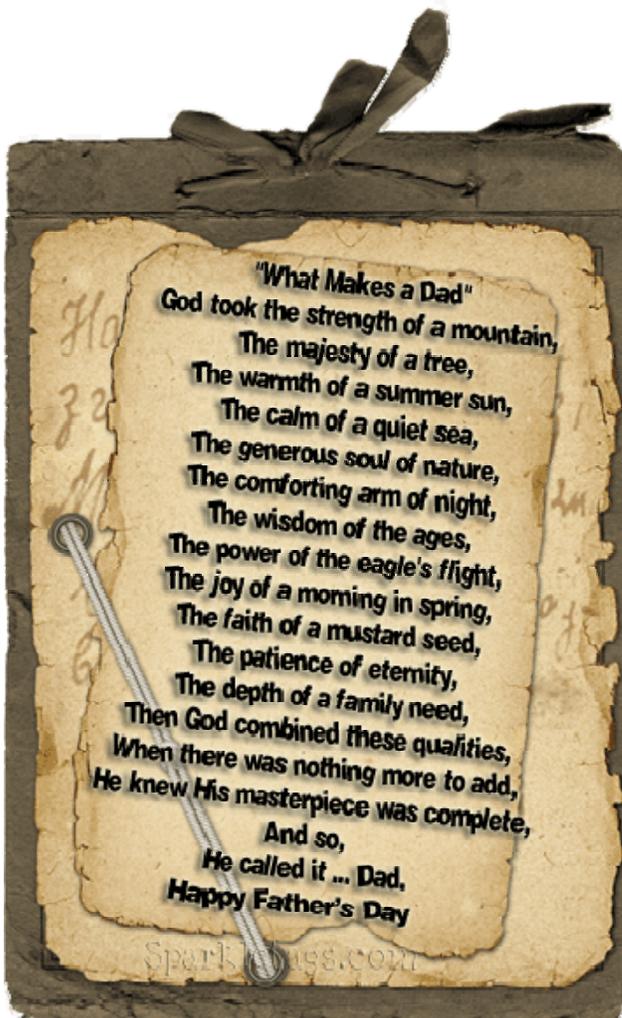
We have the Food Panty Presentation at this Sunday's 10:30AM Mass at St. Mary's in Wappingers Falls. We will be handing out the sashes before the Mass, so please try to be there early. Our hope to have as many brothers in attendance as possible. Thank you and see you then.

- ◆ June 3rd - 10:30AM Mass at St. Mary's
- ◆ June 17th - Fathers Day
- ◆ June 21st - Regular Business meeting
- ◆ July & August - Division is on Hiatus
- ◆ September 20th - Regular Business meeting

*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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IRELAND

Important Dates

- ◆ June 3rd, Hibernian Hunger Project Mass
- ◆ June 17th. Happy Fathers Day
- ◆ June 21st, Regular Business meeting
- ◆ July & August, Division is on Hiatus
- ◆ September 20th, Regular Business meeting

Prayers for the Sick

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

* In Memoriam *



"IRISH PEOPLE MARRY LATE, AS A RULE. WE HAVE THAT POTATO-FAMINE DNA FROM THE OLD COUNTRY, THAT MENTALITY WHERE YOU DON'T GIVE BIRTH TO ANYTHING UNTIL YOU HAVE THE POTATOES ALL STORED UP TO FEED IT. MY ANCESTORS WERE ALL SHEPHERDS WHO GOT MARRIED IN THEIR THIRTIES AND THEN STAYED TOGETHER FOR LIFE, WHO HAD LONG AND HAPPY MARRIAGES, NO DOUBT BECAUSE THEY WERE ALREADY DEAF. MY GRANDPARENTS COURTED FOR NINE YEARS BEFORE THEY MARRIED IN 1933."
~ROB SHEFFIELD, LOVE IS A MIX TAPE~



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County
Msgr. Sheahan
Division #1

PO Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

