



Division Newsletter

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

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**November
2018**

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James Englishby

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Matt Fitzgerald

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Presidents Message

Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

Let me first say how thankful I am for all the brothers who stepped up and made the dinner dance a success. We raised over \$4,000 from the dinner dance alone, and this does not include our annual football raffle from Jack Fedigan. We are in a strong position financially and I hope to continue that momentum into next year. I especially want to thank a few people that were instrumental in making Saturday night a success. CJ Tomaskovic for handling the difficult task of collecting the money for dinner from everyone who attended and giving them their seating arrangement. Jim Brady for purchasing the raffle tickets for us, obtaining the green cart that we used for our live auction, and for him and his family selling 50/50 tickets throughout the evening. The AOH made over \$1,000 from the live auction and the 50/50 combined as a result. As always thank you to Ken Brown and Steve O'Hare for their generous donations for our silent auction. Lastly to everyone who attended, brought friends and family members, donated raffle prizes, bottles of wine and liquor, sold football tickets and spent their hard earned money to support this event.....THANK YOU!

It has been an extremely rewarding experience the past 4 or 5 years doing this event and I feel blessed to have such supportive friends, family members and AOH brothers in my life. Moving forward I would like to create a dinner dance committee in January to get a head start on planning. Our first meeting after summer break is in late September and that only gives us one month to get things organized. If you are interested please let me know.

We have some more volunteer events coming up in the next few weeks. On November 9th and 10th we will once again be working with Rebuilding Together Dutchess County in their fire safety and prevention event. Four brothers volunteered a few weeks ago and were able to update 5 homes in the Dutchess County area. If you have any questions and want to volunteer for the upcoming event, please contact CJ for more information. We also will be volunteering at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie on November 14th serving a meat loaf dinner to about 150 local residents in need. This is always a great event to showcase who we are as an organization. Please try and wear your AOH t-shirts so we can send a photo to National and the NY State Board. You are welcome to bring family members or children in need of volunteer hours. If you have committed to purchasing food for this event please coordinate with Jim Englishby to make sure your contribution is received on time.

Our next scheduled meeting is on Thursday, November 15th at 7:30PM at the Knights of Columbus in Wappingers Falls. Please try and do your best to attend. It is our last formal meeting of the year before the Christmas celebration at Mahoney's in December and we have a lot to discuss. Thanks again for all your support over the past two years.



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



*MAY THE ROOF ABOVE US NEVER FALL IN, AND MAY THE FRIENDS
GATHERED BELOW IT NEVER FALL OUT. MAY YOUR HEARTH BE
WARM, YOUR HOLIDAYS GRAND AND YOUR HEART HELD GENTLY
IN THE GOOD LORD'S HAND.*





Historia-Seanchai's Corner:

You may have already noticed the change in the title designation for this article. Culturally, it is not too far off the mark. The Seanchaí, or Storyteller, historically has been the purveyor of news, history of a culture, and very importantly, entertainment for “children of all ages”. Although the name is unique to the Irish culture, the concept of the storyteller is not.

Last month I wrote about the then about to be released movie “Black 47”. I found out that I could see it right away but renting it through my Amazon Prime account. Within the 48-hour rental period I was able to watch it twice. Sometime in the near future I will probably rent it again or buy a copy if the price is right. Since I don't want to hold myself out as a film critic, my remarks on the movie itself will be limited. One exception is the role played by Belfast-born Stephen Rea. His character, Conneely, is that of a seeming wastrel. In our vernacular we would probably say that he is very “street wise”. Without him, the trio assigned to find the central character, Feeney, the Ranger who leaves his regiment abroad to join [or find out what may be happening to] his family in Ireland, would have had a more difficult task, bringing them in contact with him much sooner...to their detriment.

This is a must-see movie. It brings to life many of the things that we knew or thought we knew about period of The Great Hunger. The burial and evictions scenes are enlightening and tragic. The re-usable coffin and the multi-person graves, as well as the removal of the roofs and other atrocities committed during the evictions reinforces the evidence of the despicable treatment of the Irish during this period. This, of course was not unique to the period, it was just more brutal under the circumstances. There are a few items I will address to fill in or direct you to any background or details that might make some matters clearer. They are not presented in any order of importance.

In addition to the military, law enforcement was also the responsibility of the Irish Constabulary, later in 1857 deemed as the Royal Irish Constabulary. [It's interesting that those who teach about the history of traditional policing erroneously mark the beginning time as September 29, 1829 with the establishment of the London Metropolitan Police and laud it as a great new experiment in peacekeeping and public safety.] One phase of the so-called experiment was the recruitment of a force of this kind from the general population. The other prong of the experiment was whether or not such a uniformed force would, be acceptable to the general population. At that time [1829] Sir Robert Peel was Home Secretary and, since this function was within his jurisdiction, he was the Prime Mover in establishing what came to be referred to as the New Police. I am sure you can figure out why British police officers are referred to as “Bobbies”. But our interest in Robert Peel does not end there; nor does it start there. In the early part of the 19th Century, Peel was Britain's Secretary to Ireland. During his tenure he established a uniformed Police Constabulary. The Constabulary of Ireland [later called the Royal Irish Constabulary – 1857] carried out a full range of policing tasks, but its most important task was that of serving as a security force against the ever-present threat of nationalist insurrection. Because of these threats, the Constabulary was organized as a colonial constabulary and as an armed, quasi-military force, rather than along the lines of other conventional police forces in the British Isles. This force was less community oriented than the later London Metropolitan Police Force. It is no wonder that the Irish referred to them as “Peelers”, as much of the English Underworld did and still does.

Bailiffs were also important players on the Irish scene of the times, especially in the confiscation of property and evictions. Originally the bailiff was a subordinate of a sheriff, but by this time he morphed into another role which was a government sanctioned steward acting on behalf of a landowner or landlord.

Before seeing the film, you might want to research the Young Islanders. Lastly for this piece I would like to deal with the soup kitchens because of the role they play in the movie, although I won't be a spoiler regarding the specifics of the story. The interesting phrase used in the movie is “taking the soup” similar to those who joined the British military who “...took the King's shilling”. Soup kitchens were pretty much administered by religious groups including the Society of Friends. In order to get the soup, Catholic had to agree to convert to Protestantism. Some took the soup; others did not for fear of losing their soul.

The Humor of it all... verging on blasphemy. In Joyce's Ulysses, a quote from the Bible commands: “Come forth, Lazarus! And he came fifth and lost the job.” And then we have the two culchies who stumble upon an IRA weapons cache... Tony and Mick find three grenades, so they proceed to bring them to the local Garda station. Mick asks: “What if one explodes before we get there?” Tony replies: “Then we'll lie and say we found just the two.”

I am going to jump over the coming Thanksgiving holiday...Bridget says to Tom: “Christmas is on a Friday this year.” Tom replies: “Let's hope it's not the 13th.”

From the “Did You Know Department: Ireland's smallest church is at Portbraden in Co. Antrim? The Church is dedicated to St. Gobhnan - the patron saint of builders. [I wonder what the Sunday collection is like.] I did some additional research on this and it is inconclusive. However, for you anglers, Portbraddan comes from the Irish Port Bradán, meaning “port of the salmon.”

Did you know that the Irish alphabet has only 18 letters? J, K, Q, V, W, X, Y and Z are not used.

This instant article will appear in the post-Halloween newsletter, but I could not let it go to press without a reference to the season of ghosts and goblins. A far cry from the grinning pumpkins of Halloween that we are used to here, the original Irish folklore version of Jack-o-Lanterns, named for Jack O'Lantern of Irish mythology, were actually quite terrifying. They were carved from turnips or beets rather than festive orange pumpkins and were intended to ward off unwanted visitors and spirits. This is in keeping with the celebration of the festival of Samhain.

(Continued on the next page)



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



And, finally, did you know that St. Patrick was the first person in history to speak out against slavery and he is the Patron Saint of the Excluded? By the time of his death, or shortly thereafter, the Irish stopped slave trading and they never took it up again.

Now how about a Thanksgiving treat: This is something ye can make yourselves, and ye don't have to be relying on the ladies for everything on the day. It is a **No-Bake Cherry Chocolate Shortcake.**

INGREDIENTS

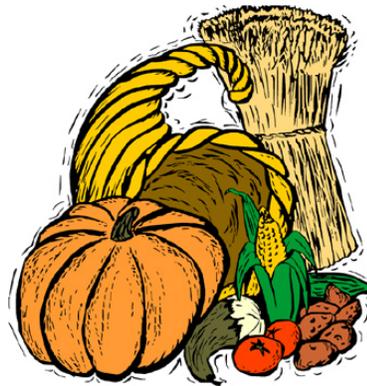
- * 1 frozen loaf pound cake [10 ¾ oz.], thawed
- * 1/3 cup of Hershey's or other brand cocoa or Special Dark Cocoa
- * 1 can of cherry pie filling, [21 oz.], chilled
- * 1 tub frozen non-dairy whipped topping [8 oz.] thawed
- * ½ cup powdered sugar

DIRECTIONS

- ◆ Slice pound cake horizontally into three layers. Place bottom layer on serving plate. Top the pie filling, using mostly cherries. Repeat with middle cake layer and remaining cherries from pie filling. Place rounded pound cake layer on top. Cover and refrigerate for several hours.
- ◆ Sift cocoa and powdered sugar onto whipped topping. Stir until mixture is blended and smooth. Immediately spread over top and sides of cake, covering completely. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Cover and refrigerate leftover cake.
- ◆ This recipe will make about 6 servings. [You can make two or three cakes depending on the size of your party. If you do so, I would suggest doing it "one at a time".
- ◆ **Note:** obviously, this is not a good choice for diabetics, but dieters can compensate for this diversion in the post-Thanksgiving days.

A Final Shout-out... I would like to give a special thanks to our friend Emmett Woods of Mahoney's Pub, my daughter, Patricia, and my friend, Tom Gannon, each one selling 40 Football Raffle Tickets this year.

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



Division Activities

AOH Activities

Rebuilding Together Dutchess County. We agreed to volunteer in their fire safety projects. The dates are as follows: Friday November 9th & Saturday November 10th. 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 also will be volunteering at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie on November 14th serving a meatloaf dinner to about 150 local residents in need. This is always a great event to showcase who we are as an organization. Please try and wear your AOH t-shirts so we can send a photo to National and the NY State Board. You are welcome to bring family members or children in need of volunteer hours. If you have committed to purchasing food for this event please coordinate with Jim Englishby to make sure your contribution is received on time.

- ◆ **November 9th & 10th - Rebuilding Together Dutchess County**
- ◆ **November 14th - Lunchbox dinner service**
- ◆ **November 16th - Regular Business Meeting**
- ◆ **November 22nd - Happy Thanksgiving**
- ◆ **December - Christmas meeting & dinner TBA**

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

Brothers,

First, I would like to thank our President and his committee for putting on our Annual Charity Dinner Dance. What a great night it was. I would also like to thank Matt Fitzgerald for his strong support of our football raffle. We generated over \$2,000 for our treasury. A big thank you to all the brothers for always supporting these endeavors.

On Wednesday, November 14th we will again be at the Lunchbox in Poughkeepsie to serve the needy dinner. Anyone who wants to volunteer can contact Jim Englishby at (845) 463-2472. We will be holding our monthly meeting at the Knights of Columbus in the Village of Wappingers Falls on November 15th at 7:30PM.

As always, if you know anyone who you feel will make a good candidate, have them fill out a new membership application and then 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!*

From our From Deacon Reverend Robert Horton:

Remember these Mass Dates:

Thursday November 1st - All Saints Day

Friday November 2nd - All Souls Day

Thursday November 22nd - Thanksgiving Day



Consider taking time to pray for all the dead, especially our friends and family and all AOH and AOH Ladies who have gone home to the Father. And for giving thanks for all those things we have been given - especially family - consider donating to your local St. Vincent de Paul organization and/or helping out at the homeless shelter we AOH members will be supporting



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Important Dates

- ◆ November 9th & 10th - Rebuilding Together Dutchess County
- ◆ November 14th - Dinner Service at Lunchbox, Poughkeepsie
- ◆ November 16th - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ November 22nd - Happy Thanksgiving

Prayers for the Sick

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

* In Memoriam *



"she knew them by their thick woven cloaks, their hanging hair and beards, and their anglisc voices: words drumming like apples spilt over wooden boards, round, rich, stirring. Like her father's words, and her mother's, and her sister's. utterly unlike onnen's otter-swift british or the dark liquid gleam of irish. hild spoke each to each. apples to apples, otter to otter, gleam to gleam, though only when her mother wasn't there."

""NICOLA GRIFFITH, HILD""



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County
Msgr. Sheahan
Division #1

PO Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

