

# DIVISION NEWSLETTER

DUTCHESS COUNTY MSGR. SHEAHAN DIVISION # 1

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

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

What an exciting March we had! It started with the always enjoyable Dutchess County Parade in Wappingers Falls on 3/7 in which several of our contingent marched as an AOH group and our Past Grand Marshals were finely represented. Congratulations to our own Bruce Coneeny and William Schimpf who served this year as Aides to Grand Marshal Joe Daily.

We followed that up with a wonderful St. Patrick's Day Luncheon event at the Castle Point VA Hospital on 3/14. Honoring our Veterans is always a very rewarding activity to honor these men and women who have served our fine Country. The list of volunteers is too long to mention, but my appreciation for their support that day is sincere. We also had members of the Ladies AOH participate. Thanks to all! The entertainment was wonderful by the Amerscot Highland Pipe Band, Kevin Broesler School of Irish Dance, and the Dylan Foley Group. Kudos for their volunteering.

Of course we all know what a wonderful day it is on 3/17. Several Brothers participated in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in NYC. We believe all have finally returned, although the search party is still out there, just in case!

Stay tuned for our upcoming events. We have begun planning for an event in support of Birthright International (locations in Fishkill and Poughkeepsie) and activity in support of the Hunger Project, which will include a Mass at St. Peter's Parish (home of our namesake - Msgr. Joseph Sheahan) on Sunday, May 3rd at Noon. Please attend. We will march in as a group and have a presentation after Mass for our donation to the Food Pantry.

On the subject of donations for the Food Pantry, please forward yours to our Financial Secretary, Brother Gerry McVicker, Treasurer Robert Shephard, or Historian Matt Fitzgerald. Remember, we have an anonymous donor who will match our proceeds up to the level of \$250. Help us double the benefit that we can pass on to this very worthy cause.

Thanks again for your support.

Yours in Brotherhood and Motto,  
Stephen J. Ren  
President - Dutchess County - Div 1, Msgr. J. Sheahan



*Wishing Everyone  
A Blessed & Happy  
Easter*

APRIL  
2015

## DIVISION OFFICERS

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*MAY GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS TO LIVE,  
FOR SURE HE MUST BE KNOWING  
THE EARTH HAS ANGELS ALL TOO FEW  
AND HEAVEN IS OVERFLOWING.*





### Historian's Corner

In a way, kind of like self-analysis, I recently came to the conclusion that I fall into the category of being a sentimental sort. For instance, if I want to get “ginned-up” in a patriotic mood, I will watch movies like *The Patriot*, *Glory*, or recent and old World War II movies, including *Patton*, *Bataan*, *The Purple Heart*, and *Objective Burma* to name just a few American themed movies. On the other hand, if I want to get into the Celtic or Irish mood, then *Braveheart*, *Rob Roy*, *Shake Hands with the Devil*, *The Informer*, or *Michael Collins* might make their way to the VCR. When the really sentimental mood is on me, *How Green Was My Valley* gets dusted off. Did I ever tell ye that, due to its adventure, “historic”, and comedic themes, my “mostest” favorite and personally watched movie is “*Gunga Din*”. If I had made a written notation each time I viewed this film, I would be in the Guinness Book of World Records. [In the 62 or so years since I saw *Gunga Din* for the first time, I have watched it at least 200 times; twice so far this year alone. Obviously, I am a movie enthusiast, especially for the “oldies”, and what I would call the “goodies”. I have mentioned in writings and conversations at meetings that one of the tactics I use in learning history and such is to read historical novels by reliable authors. If you are interested in Irish history, and you are not familiar with Liam O’Flaherty, Walter Macken, Leon Uris, Thomas Flanagan, and Morgan Llywelyn, you are missing out on some valuable materials. A caution is in order for any of this material, whether in book form or in films; these media have an entertainment purpose, primarily so. You cannot conclude that you “know it all” by using these as your primary source. Let me give a glaring example. I am sure that you must have seen the 1996 movie, “*Michael Collins*”, starring Liam Neeson. Stephen Rea plays the part of the Dublin Castle “G-man”, Eamon Ned Broy, who supplies Collins with valuable information from Castle files. He is lifted as a result of the 11/21/20 Bloody Sunday assassination of some eight British agents, two police auxiliaries, and two civilians, who may have been informers. He is tortured and beaten by British agents in the bowels of the fortress-like Dublin Castle. His body is unceremoniously dumped on a crowded Dublin street. Collins is later seen in a hospital-morgue setting. He signs himself and ostensibly says a prayer for his dead comrade and fellow conspirator. Well! Guess what...and shame on Neil Jordan for over-stretching the bounds of poetic license. Broy was a member of the Dublin Metropolitan Police at the rank of Detective Sergeant not the British Intelligence Service. He was a clerk in G Division, which was the Intelligence Division of the DMP. The double agent that Collins dealt with in Dublin Castle was David Neligan. Instead of being a dead patriot, Broy was a supporter of the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty and joined the National Army during the Civil War attaining the rank of Colonel. Leaving the Army in 1925, he joined An Garda Síochána, in which agency he rose to the position of Commissioner. In 1934, Broy oversaw the creation of the Auxiliary Special Branch of the Garda.

So then, while I was well into the movie genre and the St. Patrick’s season was still on us, my attention shifted to another favorite of mine, “*The Quiet Man*”. I am not going to rehash the romance and the problems faced by Sean Thornton and Mary Kate Dana[g]her. [If you haven’t ever seen it, you can borrow it through the Mid-Hudson Library System.] The movie was in production during 1951 and was released in the summer of 1952. I remember getting out of school early one day and a pal of mine and I ventured down to Broadway to the Capitol Theater to see it. I remember the experience well since we “working class lads” rarely found ourselves in the land of first run movies until after we entered the work force on a full-time basis. Yes, this is another one of those classics that I watch at least once a year. [By the way, we could have an after meeting trivia session just on the cast and various classic lines in the movie. Sure, the well-known actors like John Wayne, Maureen O’Hara, Barry Fitzgerald and his brother Arthur Shields, Victor McGlagon are no-brainers. The cast also includes many relatives of actors and other staff. Specifically, do you have any recollections of the movie career of the widow Tillane?] I know that most of us are fully aware that the filming location was the village of Cong in County Mayo. [Do I hear someone singing the lilting strains of “Take Me Home to Mayo”?] Although Cong is wholly within the County Mayo, it is very close to County Galway. You might want to “Google” it for other interesting details, like Captain Boycott, and the ancestral home of Oscar Wilde. This year I finally decided to ascertain the time frame of the movie. I had my opinion, which was shared by others. That was, the time frame of the story was the same as when the movie was filmed...the early 1950s.

The movie was based on a short story written by Kerryman, Maurice Walsh. The story was published in a 1933 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*, and later in a 1935 book, *The Green Rushes*, containing this and others of Mr. Walsh’s works. The time frame of the story, however, is sometime after the establishment of the Irish Free State. Although the IRA is a well-known entity in the story, one of the film’s purported IRA men states that they are currently in a period of peace. At the wedding he also proposes a toast that the couple and their children live in freedom. He actually used the term “national freedom”, but in deference to the times, many of the versions deleted the term “national”. The Irish Republic was formally established in 1949. The film depicts Director John Ford’s views as an Irish American on how he felt about his motherland. *The Quiet Man* was a financial success, grossing \$3.8 million in its first year of release. This

(Continued on next page)



was among the top grosses of the year. It was the seventh most popular film for British audiences in 1952. There is a move underway to restore the original cottage, although there is a Quiet Man Museum there which is pretty “true to form”.

In closing, there is so much ancillary information for further study. For instance, as you know, although both Barry Fitzgerald [Shields] and his brother, Arthur Shields, have been cast as Catholic priests, they were members of the Church of Ireland. And, Arthur Shields is one of the great stories of twentieth century Ireland. He became involved early at the Abbey Theatre and worked there as actor, director and stage manager. [He was known as “Boss” Shields.] But, still unknown to many, is that he was also a patriot. In 1916 he was a member of the Irish Volunteers and was prepared to fight on Easter Sunday when the orders were countermanded. On Easter Monday the revolution was on again, and Shields went to the Abbey and retrieved his rifle from under the stage. He went around the corner to Liberty Hall and joined with James Connolly’s Irish Citizen Army. Connolly, an ardent socialist and master labor organizer, admired his (Shield’s) father and congratulated Arthur on his parentage. Shields then marched to the General Post Office in Sackville Street where he fought before evacuating on Friday. He was sent to Stafford Prison in England with another famous rebel—Michael Collins—and from there they were both sent to the Frongoch prison camp in Wales. Both returned to Dublin by the end of 1916, Collins to terrorize the British and Shields to return to the Abbey stage.

The real closing...I had intended to include in this month’s article a brief reference to the Hudson Valley Hedge School I mentioned at our last meeting. However, I will have more details to pass on to you after we wend our way through the bureaucratic maze of incorporation, “licensing” by the State Education Department, and the IRS. But the material above seemed to take on a life of its own and I could not get off that merry-go-round

Matt Fitzgerald  
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845-454-5308



## The Easter Lily

a symbol of remembrance  
for Irish combatants who  
died during or were  
executed after the  
1916 Easter Rising

[www.Irelandcalling.ie/easter-lily](http://www.Irelandcalling.ie/easter-lily)





Brothers,

I have in my possession the membership cards for 2015. Please support me in committing to the Order by submitting your dues as soon as possible. The dues are \$30/year. There are a few brothers, whom we have kept on the rolls, who have not paid their dues for 2014. I am sure that in their busy lives that this is just an oversight. Please send your checks to me at address below or better still bring them to our next meeting.

In Brotherhood & Motto,

Gerard McVicker  
Financial Secretary.  
101 Brothers Rd  
Stormville, NY, 12582

### AOH ACTIVITIES

#### International Famine Memorial Mass

Brothers,

A heads-up so that you can plan in advance of this special event.

From Matt Fitzgerald:

Father has reserved May 3rd for us to attend the Mass, with us processing in with him. He will make a brief announcement of our presence there and our purpose. After Mass, he will join us giving over the check to Ms Barbara Wansor of the Hyde Park Food Pantry. Perhaps you could get a volunteer to take pictures for the Hibernian Newsletter and the local press. I will contact the Church Bulletin editor to print an announcement the weekend of April 25-26. We will make a final review of the schedule at our April 16 meeting.

Join us on April 21, 2016 for a rare opportunity to hear Ruan O'Donnell, UL Head of History Department.

**'ONE NIGHT ONLY'**  
**LIVE AT THE HUDSON VALLEY IRISH CENTER**  
**DR. RUAN O'DONNELL**  
**AOH LECTURE SERIES 2015:**  
**IRISH AMERICAN INFLUENCE**  
**ON THE 1916 UPRISING**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 21 @7PM**



- ◆ April 16th, regular business meeting
- ◆ May 3rd, International Famine Memorial Mass
- ◆ May 10th, Mothers Day
- ◆ May 21st, regular business meeting
- ◆ June 18th, regular business meeting
- ◆ June 21st, Fathers Day

*Just some of the activities your Dutchess County, Division 1, AOH is involved in.*

*Be a good member and join in, be ACTIVE!*

A rare opportunity to hear  
**Dr. Ruan O'Donnell**  
Head of History Department, University Limerick  
CoCreator of '16 Lives' series by O'Brien Press  
on Irish America's influence on the  
1916 Easter Rising & birth of the Irish Republic

Sponsored by Westchester County  
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the Hudson Valley Irish Center

SPACE IS LIMITED  
RSVP REQUIRED!!

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## IMPORTANT DATES

- April 16th: Regular Business Meeting
- May 3rd: Famine Memorial Mass
- May 21st: Regular Business Meeting
- June 18th: Regular Business Meeting

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Paul Becker	Deacon Bob Horton
Noel Morris	Nathan Redmond
Bill Schimpf	Richard Whalen

‡ IN MEMORIAM ‡

On the Radio 91.3 FM: *“A Little Bit of Ireland”*

Hosted by our own Brendan Daly and broadcast from Vassar College.

Saturday's from 1 PM to 3:30 PM.

*Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass  
all four essential food groups:  
alcohol, caffeine, sugar, and fat.  
~ Alex Levine~*



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

