



Division Newsletter

Dutchess County Msgr. Sheahan Division # 1

Division Website: www.dutchessaoh.com

Gene Noone - Editor genenoone13@optimum.net (914) 469-6661

April
2017

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Shepherd

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James Englishby

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Matt Fitzgerald

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Presidents Message

Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

Blink and it's gone! Our busiest and most enjoyable month as an Irish Catholic organization has almost ended. We survived a brisk afternoon on Saturday, March 4th at the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade in the Village of Wappingers. Hopefully next year God will shine down on us with more favor, and more sun. I appreciate everyone who participated in marching with our organization but also the other brothers who help volunteer on the parade committee. Your hard work enables us to proudly represent the AOH in our own backyard. On March 17th, the Fedigan and Sweeney express shuttled several of our brothers to the parade to walk on 5th avenue with the Police Emerald Society. We enjoyed the great weather, some adult beverages and terrific music from the Band of Rogues. St Patrick's Day lands on a Saturday next year, so hopefully we can have a larger contingent representing our division. I want to personally thank Vice-President McVicker on such a wonderfully run event at the Lunch Box on March 22nd. We had terrific representation from brothers and family members, and the feedback I have received has been amazing. (pictures are in the newsletter) There are too many names to include, but thank you to all the brothers for setting up, serving, cleaning up or slicing pounds and pounds of corned beef (Deacon Bob). I am hopeful we can make volunteering at the Lunch Box a regular occurrence in the future. Lastly I would like to commend brother Englishby on his efforts with the Paddy on the River event on March 25th. The brothers in attendance made the best of the cold and rainy weather, especially by hawking our AOH scarves to under-dressed visitors. I have secured another 30 AOH scarves from our supplier due to the overwhelming demand at our tent. They are \$20 a piece, and any proceeds end up back in our account. At the next meeting we can discuss other merchandise options, such as new shirts, caps or jackets. Our next scheduled meeting is on April 20th at 7:30 at the Knights of Columbus. Please bring new members to receive the Shamrock Degree. Hope to see you then!

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



*MAY YOUR THOUGHTS BE AS GLAD AS THE SHAMROCKS.
MAY YOUR HEART BE AS LIGHT AS A SONG.
MAY EACH DAY BRING YOU BRIGHT HAPPY HOURS,
THAT STAY WITH YOU ALL YEAR LONG.*





Historian's Corner

Just as I sat down at the computer to get this month's article ready, an interesting article in the current Irish Central Online popped up. It was ironic, since a similar topic, which will unfold, was to receive primary treatment. The news story dealt with a theme that has been presented previously by that newspaper, specifically: "Why do people in Ireland not consider an Irish American to be Irish?" You can go online and read the full article if you so desire; but the long and short of one thread of it deals with the issues of your place of birth, and using your parents' country of birth as your national identification. So, just what is a natural born American of Irish parentage [or even of Irish lineage through grandparents], or a naturalized citizen who immigrated from Ireland saying. In whatever way, it is said, whether a person says I'm Irish or Irish-American, there can be no doubt that the person pledges his allegiance to America, while at the same time identifying culturally with his Irish heritage. Just listen again to the lyrics of what I would call the "American-Irish National Anthem", "When New York Was Irish". There can be no doubt of a primary love and allegiance to "America"; assimilating into the greater culture; a thankfulness for the bounty offered by this new land; yet, maintaining a love of their cultural heritage and religion... the music, the dancing, the storytelling, The literature and poetry, the love of learning, sad love songs and the happy war songs, and the Blarney, just to list a few of the things so cherished.

The author of the article seems to be one age with me or slightly younger. He recounts a family visit to Ireland during which he was referred to as a "Yank". It reminded me of the first time I was referred to as a "Yank". Visiting soon-to-be in-laws in England in the mid-1950s, Eileen's, Uncle Tom, who experienced the presence of American Troops in England during WWII, used the appellation in a casual conversation over lunch one day. His wife, Noreen, embarrassedly called him to task for using the term. As it then turned out we had an interesting conversation about the term and its variants. They were surprised to find out that there was a WWII US Army magazine entitled "Yank". I reminded them of the very popular and patriotic WWI song written by George Cohan, "The Yanks Are Coming". I explained the use of the related term "Yankee", including references to the New York Baseball Yankees; New Englanders ["A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court"]; George Cohan's other song, "Yankee Doodle Dandy"; then, of course, there is the derisive use of the term to refer to the Union by the Confederation of Southern States in rebellion during the American Civil War. [If we had that same conversation today, I would be able to include a reference from the language of the Cherokee Indian.]

In the final analysis, words have meanings and consequences, it is true. What is of greater impact, perhaps, is the way in which the word is said or directed. Although we don't experience much of it today, but consider the way a Southerner uses the term toward a Northerner...I can reflect back on my military experience. I can also remember being derisively referred to as "...the Yank over there" by a merchant in my beloved County Kerry in 1999. When I refused to pay for a house key he cut for me, he threatened to call The Guards. [It's not important for me to finish the story as to what happened.]

To continue the original theme of this month's piece, I am going to take the liberty of including a good portion of the article I wrote for the June 2015 edition of our newsletter.

REPRINT: "We closed out last month's article with a reference to the term "Plastic Paddys". All of us are pretty much aware of the derogatory use of the term "Paddy". It is understandable [however unacceptable] about how the origin of this anti-Irish appellation came about. I won't bore you with the history of its use which you can Google for yourself, should you be so inclined. However, I will highlight two instances: one old and the other a relatively newer one. Obviously, the term "Paddy Wagon" came into use in the 19th century in New York City, Boston, and Philadelphia, spreading then to other similar cities. Although there are variations of the origin of the term, the general theory is that the Paddy Wagon was a prisoner transport vehicle, and was so named because of the ethnicity of the prisoners being transported or the response by the vehicle to certain crime ridden areas; to wit, those inhabited by the Irish. There are revisionists who have tried to alter the origin of "Paddy Wagon" by saying that it was sometimes called "Patty Wagon". So, we might look at this and say that is just a variation of Paddy, etc. Actually, these folks are trying to convince us that the term "Patty" comes from the term Patrol Wagon, highlighting the use of the letter "T" instead of a "D"; yeah right! It is alleged that the term Patty is short for Patrol Wagon. If that were the case, we should have seen the term Patty Car when Patrol Cars eventually came into use. It's interesting that when other ethnic or nationality groups entered into this high-crime arena, the term Paddy Wagon was not changed to reflect those groups. And isn't it further ironic that many of the "original" drivers of those wagons were themselves Irish.

The other phase of this topic deals with the term "Plastic Paddys". That term was originally used to describe the Irish who were raised in a foreign country [specifically the UK] and who identified themselves as being Irish. More recently, however, the term seems to be aimed at those Irish who immigrated here, and those of us who identify as Irish-American. The Irish Central News Online recently presented two articles on the topic. It seems that some Irish over there and here take issue with the manner in which we display our "Irishness". It also seems they have a distorted perception of Irish-Americans; and, it is no wonder that they think the way they do, if you look at the way some people here act, dress and parade around on St. Patrick's Day, But, if they took the trouble to find out the real truth, they would find out that most do not fit the mistaken stereo-type of beer-guzzling, Danny Boy singing amadáns.



The second of the two articles even goes so far as to bring in the subject of our use of team names like Redskins, Braves, Warriors, etc. The one that I found misinterpreted by that writer was our use of the term “American Indian”. He presented the premise that if we can’t get all that right, then we truly do not respect Ireland or its people. He gets into a lot of arguable issues, but seems to do it from an angry perspective. Specifically, he criticizes us for the way we responded to the proposed sit-com on the Irish Famine. I get the feeling that the writer was more ethno-centered in his quest to maintain a purity of “Irishness”, and dismisses the contributions that “American-Irish” have made to Irish dance and other forms of musical activities and culture, as well as the Irish economy. I guess he feels that it’s okay for Irish immigrants living here to have a foot in both camps. While living here and attempting to change immigration laws to suit them, these “ex-pats” still maintain the limited right [if not the duty] to return home to vote on major issues as was done this past month on the same sex marriage issue.” [See more in the original June 2015 article].

In bringing this treatise to a close, the other day I received a letter with my 2017 membership card which is always a good thing since it shows that our AOH Division is still alive and breathing; ready to carry on its work regarding our Catholic Faith and Irish Heritage. The letter also spoke of plans of some members to attend the coming weekend’s “Paddy on the [Hudson] River” festivities, which activity was also announced on our AOH Facebook page. So, I take this to mean that we have “officially” dropped our opposition to the term “Paddy”, and/or any of its variations.

Next year, if Amazon again markets that tee-shirt with Drunken Paddy on it, we will ask them to drop the word “Drunken”, and God forbid, if someone should call me a “Feckin Paddy”, I should object just to the “Feckin” part.

Matt Fitzgerald
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 845-454-5308



Happy Easter



Division Activities

AOH Activities

There will be a Shamrock Degree at our next meeting April 20th. If you have not received this honor please plan on attending, the meeting starts at 7:30PM at the Knights of Columbus building, 2660 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls. Our President Mike Shephard has secured another 30 AOH scarves from our supplier due to the overwhelming demand. They are \$20 a piece, and any proceeds end up back in our account. At the next meeting we can discuss other merchandise options, such as new shirts, caps or jackets.

- ◆ April 14th; GOOD FRIDAY
- ◆ April 16th; EASTER
- ◆ April 20th, Regular Business Meeting Shamrock Degree
- ◆ May 14th; MOTHERS DAY
- ◆ May 18th; Regular Business Meeting

Just some of the activities your

Dutchess County,

Division 1, AOH is involved in.

Brothers,

Finally, we received the new membership cards for 2017. You should have already received them in the mail along with my letter and a stamped self-addressed return envelope for mailing your payment back. However, I failed to mention the amount of your 2017 dues. There has been no change from last year and it stayed the same at \$30.00. Please, if you can get them back to me as soon as you can, the better.

Also, please note the next meeting on April 20th should have a Shamrock Degree which means food & beverages. So, please plan on attending.



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.

Saint Patrick's Day "Feed the Needy" Event

Brothers,

I am delighted to report that the "Feed the Needy" program at the Dutchess Outreach's Lunch Box was extremely successful. My sincere thanks goes out to all the brothers and family who donated their time and talents to come out on Wednesday Evening, March 22, to serve those less fortunate. I also want to express, on behalf of our Division, our gratitude to the generosity of Brother Emmett Woods, owner of Mahoney's, for donating the Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner. Thanks to Brother Jack Fedigan for providing the delicious Soda Bread, to Brother Jim Brady for the drinks, and to Brothers Deacon Bob Horton and Pat Herlihy for the butter and ice cream. About 160 meals were served. It amazes me the quality of our Brothers and the many skills and talents they have, that when combined, makes things run so smoothly. A group of us met afterwards for our own dinner and banter at Mahoney's. Brothers please express your thanks to Emmett if you are in and around Mahoney's, in Poughkeepsie. If you are interested, there will be discussion at our April meeting to provide another meal at some future date. Pictures below and next page..

In Brotherhood and Motto,
Gerry McVicker



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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

- April 14th, Good Friday
- April 16th, Easter Sunday
- April 20th; Regular Business Meeting / Shamrock Degree
- May 14th, Mothers Day
- May 18th, Regular Business Meeting

Prayers for the Sick

Paul Becker
Nathan Redmond
Jim Sweeney

Noel Morris
Bill Schimpf

* In Memoriam *

"FOR YOU CAN'T HEAR IRISH TUNES WITHOUT KNOWING YOU'RE IRISH, AND WANTING TO POUND THAT FACT INTO THE FLOOR."

~JENNIFER ARMSTRONG, BECOMING MARY MEHAN~



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County
Msgr. Sheahan
Division #1

PO Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

