

DIVISION NEWSLETTER

DUTCHESS COUNTY MSGR. SHEAHAN DIVISION # 1

Division Website: www.dutchessaoh.com

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



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Brothers,

It is with pride and appreciation that I assume the role of President of this fine Division. I am very happy to have served with such a fine set of officers, and extend my appreciation to Michael Quinn as out-going President for his dedication to our organization.

I am grateful to the following individuals who will comprise the Division Officers in 2015: VP - Michael Shephard, Treasurer - Robert Shephard, Financial Secretary - Gerry McVicker, Standing Committee - Glen Kelly, Recording Secretary - Ken McCormick, Sentinel - James Brady, and Marshal - James Sweeney.

The Division is the basic unit of the Order. It is at the forefront of support for issues concerning the Irish, such as: Immigration Reform, Fair employment of Catholics in Northern Ireland, and the Right to Life. Our members serve their Church well, and never forget the ancestral homeland by lobbying, praying, and working for the total independence of a united 32-county Ireland — as the AOH constitution states: “by all means constitutional and lawful”.

While our meetings are always full of lively and spirited discussion (some say the initials AOH actually stand for "Add One Hour"), we can always take pride in the following - "To be Irish is a Blessing, To be a Hibernian is an Honor."

Sincerely,
Stephen Ren - President



Some more pictures of Ireland



**JANUARY
2015**

DIVISION OFFICERS

CHAPLAIN:

**DEACON
ROBERT
HORTON**

PRESIDENT:

**STEPHEN
REN**

VICE PRESIDENT:

**MICHAEL
SHEPHERD**

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

**GERRY
MCVICKER**

RECORDING SECRETARY:

**KEN
MCCORMICK**

TREASURER:

**ROBERT
SHEPHERD**

MARSHAL:

**JAMES
SWEENEY**

SENTINEL:

JIM BRADY

HISTORIAN:

**MATT
FITZGERALD**

STANDING COMMITTEE:
GLEN KELLY



*MAY YOU HAVE WARM WORDS ON A COLD EVENING,
A FULL MOON ON A DARK NIGHT,
AND THE ROAD DOWNHILL ALL THE WAY TO YOUR DOOR.*





Historian's Corner

I can't believe a whole year has passed since writing the January 2014 article. To save you from going through your back issues of our Division newsletter, that article dealt with the "Lone Survivor" story, and, in particular, US Navy SEAL Michael Murphy. Much has happened in this past year; some good, some bad. At the risk of dredging up some bad memories, I will leave those recollections to you. One thing I will briefly review is the state of Irish organizations in Dutchess County. The Irish Heritage Foundation has closed its doors, but has morphed into a social gathering "group" aptly named "Slainte", coordinated by John McBride. The Kevin Barry Irish Club is going through some changes, as well, although their plans have not yet been finalized. If I have it right it seems that they are planning to have only two or three general membership meetings a year, with the Board of Directors taking a more active ongoing management role. Assumedly, that great summer picnic will continue along with the annual Samuel Neilson Day Memorial Ceremony at the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, and, I assume, the monthly ceilis. Although some of us may not have joined their activities in the past, Ann Dillon and her group will continue those great traditional Irish music sessions. [I can forward the January-2015 schedule to you, if you wish.] Additionally, right on our county's southern border is the Emerald Association of Putnam County. It is not an unknown organization to many of the AOH and KBIC memberships.

At the request of Sean McCarthy, the President of another major Irish organization in the Greater Dutchess County area and serving the entire Hudson Valley, The Police Emerald Society of the Hudson Valley, I submitted an article for their December newsletter. As a result, I have committed to writing a monthly article for them as well. The "trick" will be to make sure that there is little, if any, overlap. Some of that dilemma will be alleviated by the input of the respective memberships. Having said that, I am planning to present a "joint" article for the February newsletters of both groups. It would be a writing nightmare for me [and you] if I attempted to put pen to paper to list all the ideas that are on me right now. Suffice it to say, I am looking forward to an exciting "newsletter" year. [After reading that, I hope someone doesn't say that I need to get a life.] The theme of the February submission will be the New York State "Great Irish Famine" Curriculum and related matters concerning An Gorta Mór. I will be presenting this not just as an information piece, but as somewhat of a call to action. It is significant to mention that in 2015, we will be commemorating the 170th Anniversary of the start of the Great Hunger [An Gorta Mór], so the content of the February newsletter article should be of great interest, if not tremendous concern.

Going through my newsletter articles file, I came across one I wrote for the December 2008 Newsletter, entitled "Reflections". If I am not mistaken that may have been during the beginning stages of my tenure as Division Historian. At any rate, I had been reflecting on things past, present, and those to come. In that connection I looked to Roman mythology and the god, Janus, from whom the month of January gets its name. In part, I wrote; "Janus is generally portrayed as having two faces; one looking backwards, the other forward. In sum, Janus is representative of contemplation on the happenings of the old year while looking forward to the new. Some sources claim that Janus was characterized in such a peculiar fashion due to the notion that doors and gates look in two directions. Following from that, we also would then be on a continuum of closing the door on the old and planning the opening for the new [year]. So, as December 31 nears, it would do us well to review what this year of 2008 has meant to us: what we did, and what we may have failed to do. Then, as we wake up on the first day of January, we can plan to accomplish new things and/or continue those actions of the old year that we would still like to accomplish." I think those sentiments are as timely today as they were when I first wrote them some six years ago.

So, as I put the final touches to this first newsletter of 2015, and close the door on 2014, I again promise that the coming year will contain better and more meaningful newsletter articles. There also are a few past articles that might benefit us by a re-presentation and an update, especially since we have gained new members over the ensuing six or so years. The article I wrote for Police Emerald Society's December newsletter has greatly whetted my appetite to revisit the experience of the Irish immigrants of the 18th as well as the 19th centuries. [Too often we forget that there was a pre-famine Irish experience in this country.] Over the past month, I have become reacquainted with the history of my own NYPD, and the development and history of New York City, including those areas outside The Five Points. You also might remember that some time ago I wrote an article about "The Other Irish Brigade", which consisted of units of the Tennessee Volunteers of the Army of the Confederate States of America. A new book has been published dealing with the significant contributions of "The New Orleans Irish". Laura D. Kelley's book, "The Irish In New Orleans", was released this past October. Amazon has only six copies left of this paperback edition. Given the seeming popularity of the book, I decided to stretch my budget to buy it now. There was a previous New Orleans Irish book published in 1997 "New Orleans Irish: Famine Exiles". That book contains pre-famine and post famine histories of Ireland and New Orleans, which was the second leading port into the United States for the Irish during the famine years. It contains famine ship lists going into the port July 22, 1847 through June 29, 1848. These were the peak months of the "Great Hunger."

(Continued on next page)



The book also contains all tombstone inscriptions in the three Saint Patrick's Cemeteries in New Orleans. This book can be purchased from Amazon used for \$92.17 upwards, AND new for \$2,432.64. Ms Kelley is presenting a lecture on her book at the Irish-American Historical Society in New York City on January 7. God willing, I plan to attend and will report on the event as part of my February piece.

Although more will be written in the very near future, 2015 is also the 99th Anniversary of The Easter Rising. Plans are, or soon will be, in the developing stages by various groups and organizations to memorialize this major milestone in Modern Irish History. In all probability, the March AOH newsletter article will deal with that matter in more detail.

It was suggested that, since we have new members, it might be a good idea to re-present some significant topics on Irish History contained in previous newsletters, and specific mention was made at about the Plantation Movement. I am including part of the material I presented a few years back, but in a slightly condensed version. The Plantation movement in 16th and 17th century Ireland was the confiscation of land by the Government of England and the colonization of this land installing settlers from England and Scotland. The Plantations were established throughout the country by the confiscation of lands occupied by Gaelic clans and Hibernian-Norman groupings, but principally in the provinces of Munster and Ulster. The lands were then granted by Crown authority to colonists ("planters") from Britain, a goodly number being Scottish. This process began during the reign of Henry VIII and continued under Mary I and Elizabeth I. It was accelerated under James I, Charles I and Oliver Cromwell. The early plantations in the 16th century tended to be based on small "exemplary" colonies. The later plantations were based on mass confiscations of land from Irish landowners and the subsequent importation of large numbers of settlers from England, Scotland and Wales. The final official plantations took place under Oliver Cromwell's English Commonwealth during the 1650s, when thousands of Parliamentary soldiers were settled in Ireland. Outside of the plantations, significant migration into Ireland continued well into the 18th century, from both Britain and continental Europe. The plantations changed the demography of Ireland by creating large communities with a British and Protestant identity. These communities effectively opposed the interests of the earlier inhabitants, who had an Irish and Roman Catholic identity. The physical and economic nature of Irish society was also changed, as new concepts of ownership, trade and credit were introduced. These changes led to the creation of a British Protestant ruling class, which secured the authority of Crown government in Ireland during the 17th century.

Until we meet up again in the New Year, may I wish you and your families...

Nollaig Shona Daoibh [Merry Christmas]

agus

Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhaoibh [Happy New Year]

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

AOH ACTIVITIES

- ◆ **January 15th, first regular business meeting of 2015, Installation of Officers.**
- ◆ **DC St. Patrick's Parade Committee's Emerald Ball, February 7th.**
- ◆ **February 19th, regular business meeting.**
- ◆ **Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade, March 7th, Wappingers Falls, NY.**
- ◆ **Castle Point Veteran's Luncheon, March 14th.**
- ◆ **St. Patrick's Day, March 17th.**
- ◆ **March 19th, 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!



Brothers,

It seems like yesterday that I became Financial Secretary. The time has surely passed quickly. As I move out of that role, my first thought is to simply say "Thank You" to the membership for the timely paying of dues which keeps our Division operating. And I will also express my appreciation to the several members who taught me the ropes (you know who you are!), and confirmed that we are indeed a group of good Catholic men with a belief in helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

I settled on a topic for this month after recollecting about the fond memories from my childhood of watching the Lawrence Welk Show with my grandmother Agnes Kehoe whenever my parents had a Saturday night dinner engagement. Who can forget "The Champagne Lady" - Norma Zimmer, "Bobby and Sissy" dancing, or Welk's son-in-law Myron Floren on the accordion. But the true highlight for the Irish viewer was of course, tenor Joe Feeney (August 15, 1931 – April 16, 2008) who could bring a tear to your eye.

Born to an Irish-American family in Grand Island, Nebraska, Feeney first started singing as a boy soprano in his hometown's church choir and after high school, he landed a guest appearance on the show Youth Opportunity Hour. His mother Mary supported him in all of his activities. While he attended to his studies at the University of Nebraska, he entered several singing contests, which included a spot on the Arlene Francis program, Talent Patrol. In 1956 while he was working at radio station WOW in Omaha, the station manager sent recordings of Feeney's voice to the Welk offices in Santa Monica, California which caused Lawrence Welk to offer Joe a job on his show. From 1957 to 1982, when the Welk show ended production, Feeney was the program's featured Irish tenor. Among his selection of musical numbers that were popular with the Welk audience were Danny Boy, Galway Bay, Sweet Leilani and the Mario Lanza classic Be My Love.

He also has the distinction of singing for five US Presidents and performed at Carnegie Hall three times. In 1975 he sang for Pope Paul VI at the canonization of Mother Seton, the first native born American saint.

Feeney was the father of ten children with his wife Georgia Lee. One of his sons, Chris, is an accomplished opera singer in his own right and often sang with his father in concerts. Feeney, a non-smoker, died of emphysema at a hospice in Carlsbad, California on April 16, 2008. Sadly, the family suspects he got the illness from years of exposure to second-hand smoke in clubs and casinos.

I will end this article with lyrics from the ending song of every Lawrence Welk Show:

"Good night, good night, until we meet again.....Adios, Au Revoir, Auf Wiedersehen....."

Stephen Ren, Financial Secretary

DECEASED MEMBER

Brothers,



There will be wake services for our departed brother Kevin Moran, Friday, January 9th, from 4 to 7 PM at McHoul's Funeral Home, Main Street in Fishkill. The AOH will gather at 6:30 PM for a prayer service. Sashes will be provided by Jim Sweeney. If you plan on attending please be prompt.

2015 Installation of Officers

Our meeting on January 15th will be action packed! First at 7:30 PM we will have a Shamrock Degree, followed by the Installation of your new officers for 2015. After that we will conduct our regular business meeting. All this action takes place at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2660 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY. This is the place we hold all our meetings on the third (3rd) Thursday of each month. Food and Beverage will be provided after the meeting.

Irish Community



Things are starting to heat up in the Irish Community, first there is the Emerald Ball on Saturday February 7th at the Villa Borghese. Radio personality Joe Daily will receive his Grand Marshal Sash at this event along with his Aides, Bruce Coneeny, Eileen Sassmann, & William Schimpf. This is a precursor to the big event, The DC St. Patrick's Parade on March 7th in the Village of Wappingers Falls. Our Division marches every year, so get your marching shoes ready! Following that we will be serving lunch to the Veteran's at Castle Point on March 14th. And of course St. Patrick's Day on March 17th.



St Patrick's Day Party !!!

At Germania

Saturday, March 21st, 2015

*Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner / Cash Bar
Doors Open 5pm, Dinner 6pm*

--- RSVP by 3/10 ---

\$30 member (paid by 3/10)

\$35 general admission

Info: Stephen Ren @ 845-214-5664 or sren82@gmail.com

Dance to Music by MacCana !!!



Mail this reservation form with check payable to Germania to:

Stephen Ren

Please P-R-I-N-T

168 Reilly Rd
Lagrangeville, NY 12540

Name: _____

Additional Guests: _____

Total # Attending: _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please seat us with: _____

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Here!**



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

- January 15th: Regular Business Meeting (Installations)
- February 7th: Emerald Ball
- February 19th: Regular Business Meeting
- March 7th: DC St. Patrick's Parade
- March 14th: Castle Point Veteran's Luncheon
- March 19th: Regular Business Meeting

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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

† IN MEMORIAM †



Kevin Moran



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.

"Ireland is rich in literature that understands
a soul's yearnings, and dancing that
understands a happy heart."
~~By Margaret Jackson.~~



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

