



Division Newsletter

Dutchess County Msgr. Sheahan Division # 1

Division Website: www.dutchessaoh.com

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

January
2018

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Presidents Message

Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

I hope you all had a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. As usual Mahoney's gave us an opportunity to mix AOH business and some holiday cheer on December 21st. I am thankful for all the positive momentum we have built during the latter part of 2017 and I'm very excited for what year two of this executive board has to bring. We have recently added a few highly motivated brothers and hopefully will have some joining in the near future.

Some of our recent highlights include purchasing our own Dutchess County Division AOH tent to be used a membership drives and Irish functions in the future. We have also started getting quotes from retailers for AOH merchandise including tee shirts and knit caps. More discussion to follow. We have also decided to do some fundraisers centered around the NFL Super Bowl and the NCAA Men's Basketball tournament in March with the hopes of raising over \$2,000. Please each out to friends and family. As of this newsletter submission we have about 40 boxes left in the SB pool. Boxes are \$50.00 each.

On the agenda for the next meeting on Thursday January 18th is the Shamrock Degree Ceremony. We would like to start promptly at 7:30PM so please try and be on time. Lastly, I was informed that the Albany AOH is performing the Major Degree ceremony on January 28th at their lodge. If you are interested it is a wonderful event which is necessary to continuing the process of becoming a full fledged Hibernian. Details will be provided at the meeting. Looking forward to continuing the growth in the division in the coming year. God bless you all.

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



*"MAY YOU HAVE THE HINDSIGHT TO KNOW WHERE YOU'VE BEEN
THE FORESIGHT TO KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING
AND THE INSIGHT TO KNOW WHEN YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR."*





Historian's Corner

The Vikings Growing up, most of us did not have any inkling as to the history of the Vikings in Ireland or the British Isles. Sure, as we studied our history, especially the exploration and founding of America, we remember the arguments as to who really discovered America...St. Brendan, The Navigator, Christopher Columbus, or Leif Ericson. We pretty much know the explorations of Columbus, and we previously did an article on St. Brendan. Leif Ericson was a Norse explorer regarded as the first European to land in North America, nearly 500 years before Christopher Columbus. According to the Sagas of Icelanders, he established a Norse settlement at Vinland, tentatively identified with The Meadows on the northern tip of Newfoundland in modern-day Canada. It is believed that Leif, was born in Iceland around the 970s; the son of mother Thjóðhildr and father Erik the Red, an explorer and outlaw from Western Norway. Erik founded the first Norse colonies in Greenland, and was based at the family estate, Brattahlíð, in the so-called Eastern Settlement, where Leif had his upbringing. Leif had two known sons: Thorgils and Thorkell, who succeeded him as chieftain of the Greenland settlement. But, then, as we became interested in Irish History, that group known as the Northmen, Norsemen, or Vikings came into the picture. With all the time that has passed since this period of history, we are learning that the Vikings were fiercer than we previously thought; and that more people of Irish heritage have Scandinavian "blood".

In 793, the monks on the island of Lindisfame, which is off the coast of England, were surprised by the arrival of violet raiders from the sea. Their misfortune is the first clearly dated event in the saga of the Vikings---the last and most dramatic exodus in the long history of migration from Scandinavia, the original home of the Goths and Vandals. The name Viking is thought to derive from the word for "pirate" in the early Scandinavian languages. The word accurately describes the Norsemen who for two centuries raided the coasts of Britain and of northwest France. They also settled in the islands of the North Atlantic, in the British Isles, Normandy, Sicily and the interior of Russia. Broadly speaking, these marauders from Norway and Denmark raided the North of England, continued round the Scottish coast to Ireland. Subsequent raids by these groups resulted in them settling in these ravished lands.

Moving on, skipping over several decades of more raiding and marauding, we move on to the 9th Century when the Norse kings of Dublin were in constant warfare with Irish kings. They suffered several reverses. However, in the early 10th century, the trend seemed to continue be going in favor of the Vikings. They captured important strongholds at the mouths of Ireland's main rivers. They had already established Dublin (see below); Waterford fell to them in 914, Limerick in 920. Cork was at various times occupied by the Vikings, and Wexford was founded as a Norse settlement. [Dublin, which became the capital of Ireland was founded by the Vikings. Vikings were first spotted off the coast of Ireland in AD 792. In the 9th century, the Vikings invaded the region around Dublin and established the Norse Kingdom of Dublin. They founded a new town on the south bank of the Liffey, which was called Dubh Linn, which means black pool. To the Vikings, the area around Dublin was in many ways an ideal place. It offered access to the deep waters and shelter from the often-stormy Northern seas. The Irish climate was relatively mild and there was access to vast forests---a valuable resource with which to repair their sturdy ships. The Kingdom of Dublin was established in 839, and Viking Chief Turgesius was its first king. The new town of Dublin was fortified with a ditch and an earthen rampart with a wooden palisade on top. [Due to the "dangers" to the Norsemen outside the new settlement, they feared for their safety and would not go beyond that wooded palisade, or, as we say today, "beyond the pale.] Dublin became the earliest, largest and most enduring Norse kingdom in all of Europe. The huge number of Viking artifacts and burials discovered in Dublin attest to this. The invaders built stone walls around Dublin, as well. The Vikings also erected an artificial hill where the men of Dublin met to make laws and discuss policy.

Despite the stone fortifications, Dublin town was sacked many times over the next two centuries, but the town always recovered. There were many wars between the Vikings and the Irish populace, and the living conditions in Dublin were poor. In time, Dublin grew to be the largest and most important town in Ireland. By the 11th Century, Dublin prospered, mainly due to close trading links with the English towns of Chester and Bristol. It may have had a population of 4,000 which, in those days, was considered a large city. The languages spoken in Dublin were Old Norse and Middle Irish. The Kingdom of Dublin came to an end in 1171 when the Normans arrived. The Normans faced these Hiberno-Norse kingdoms in Ireland and gradually society began to evolve into what is now known as Norman Ireland. The Irish consistently fought back – most notably under the leadership of Brian Boru.

Brian, known as Boru from the name of his birthplace by the River Shannon, was the son of a minor local ruler. His family gained power through their successful attacks on the Vikings. In 964, Brian's older brother asserted his dominance over the local Irish "royalty", the royal dynasty of Munster. Taking their famous stronghold, the Rock of Cashel, he became accepted as king of Munster, and as leader of resistance to the Vikings in Southern Ireland. Brian succeeded him in both roles in 976. Brian Boru successfully drove the Vikings from the Shannon River area. In 1002, he was accepted as High King of all Ireland. His final confrontation with the Norsemen followed a plot set in motion in 1013. In the latter part of that year, the Norse King of Dublin spent Christmas in the Orkneys with another Viking ruler – the local earl.

(continued on next page)



They hatched a plan in which the Earl of the Orkneys would bring a fleet and an army to Dublin before Easter to assist the Norse King in overwhelming the King of all Ireland, Brian Boru. The engagement took place around the appointed time frame. On April 23, 1014, Brian Boru confronted the Norse army at Clontarf, on the coast near Dublin. Since he was “long in the tooth”, aged seventy-three, he “just” directed the battle. His son, Murchad, lead the Irishmen in the field; he died fighting, as did the earl of the Orkneys. After 12 hours, the Vikings were defeated. Tragically, a fleeing Viking chieftain came across Brian Boru and killed him. The Irish victory at Clontarf put an end to any serious Norse threat to the whole of Ireland. But, it did not remove the Vikings from their coastal strongholds at Dublin and Waterford. With both Brian Boru and his son, Murchad, casualties of the battle, it left the Irish themselves in a disordered state. This remained the case until a stronger group of Vikings, of Norman descent, arrive on the Irish coast in 1169. The further history of the Normans in Ireland is too lengthy to pursue in this month’s article. I may pick this up again at some later time, but I leave this topic with this thought. William the Conqueror, from Normandy, successfully invaded England in 1066 AD. Later, the Normans come to Ireland. Much after the Battle of Hastings in 1066, they came with the complicity of the English Crown and an Ulster Chieftain, and also through direct invasion by other Normans of Viking heritage directly from Normandy. This latter item helps us to better understand the new findings that there is more Viking blood in Irish heritage as mentioned above.

Finally, I am putting the finishing touches on this article shortly before noon on January 1, 2018 [mea culpa for my tardiness]. I mention this because it is the anniversary of the opening of Ellis Island in 1892, and the arrival of young Annie Moore, who became the first of many Irish and others who came through those portals.

Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhuit.....Happy New Year

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

Financial Secretary Corner

Brothers,

First I would like to thank all the Brothers who contributed to the FFAI Christmas Appeal and \$10.00 + Club.

At our dinner meeting at Mahoney’s we collected \$195.00 which means we, as an organization, sent in a total of \$445.00. Congrats!

Also, our dues for 2018 is still \$30.00. I should have the new cards for 2018 and will bring them to the January meeting. If you are not going to attend the meeting just send in your \$30.00 to P.O. Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 and I will send out your card.

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

Thursday January 18th is the Shamrock Degree Ceremony. We would like to start promptly at 7:30PM so please try and be on time. The Albany AOH is performing the Major Degree ceremony on January 28th at their lodge.

We have also decided to do some fundraisers centered around the NFL Super Bowl and the NCAA Men's Basketball tournament in March with the hopes of raising over \$2,000. Please each out to friends and family.

The DCSPPC is holding their Emerald Ball on February 3rd. It is being held at the Elks Lodge in Poughkeepsie and the cost is \$45.00 per person.

Also on the DCSPPC calendar is the Annual St. Patrick’s Parade, it is scheduled for March 3rd. Our Division always marches in this 23 year tradition, we have also had many AOH members who were Grand Marshal’s so get your Irish on to support this parade.

- ◆ January 1st; HAPPY NEW YEAR
- ◆ January 18th; Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ January 18th; Shamrock Degree
- ◆ January 28th; Major Degree - Albany
- ◆ February 3rd; DCSPPC Emerald Ball

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

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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.


Annual Emerald Ball
 Sponsored By:
 The Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Committee
2018 Grand Marshal Presentation
William O'Hare 
 Saturday, February 3, 2018
 Elks Lodge #275
 Overocker Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
 Cash Bar - 6:00PM
 Dinner - 7:00PM
 Roast Beef or Vegetarian
 Entertainment
 Tickets: \$45.00 per person
 For Information or Tickets:
 Trish Costello 845-297-0800
 Kathy Beale 845-298-8822
 www.desppc.org
 desppc13@gmail.com



23rd Annual Dutchess County
ST. PATRICK'S PARADE


SATURDAY
MARCH 3, 2018
STEP OFF: 1:00PM
2018 Grand Marshal
William O'Hare 
 For Information:
 www.desppc.org
 -or- Visit us on facebook
 (845) 297-0800

 HAPPINGERS FALLS, NEW YORK

Important Dates

- January 1st, Happy New Year
- January 18th, Regular Business Meeting, Shamrock Degree
- January 28th, Major Degree - Albany
- February 3rd, DCSPPC Emerald Ball
- February 15th, Regular Business Meeting
- March 3rd, DC St. Patrick's Parade

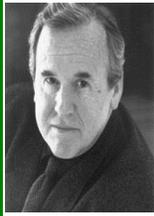
Prayers for the Sick

Paul Becker
Nathan Redmond
Jim Sweeney

Noel Morris
Bill Schimpf

* In Memoriam *

Michael Murphy



"Wherever they went the Irish brought with them their books, many unseen in Europe for centuries and tied to their waists as signs of triumph, just as Irish heroes had once tied to their waists their enemies' heads. Where they went they brought their love of learning and their skills in bookmaking. In the bays and valleys of their exile, they reestablished literacy and breathed new life into the exhausted literary culture of Europe. And that is how the Irish saved civilization."

-- Thomas Cahill --



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County
Msgr. Sheahan
Division #1

PO Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

