



# Division Newsletter

Dutchess County Msgr. Sheahan Division # 1

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

Gene Noone - Editor      [genenoone13@optimum.net](mailto:genenoone13@optimum.net)      (914) 469-6661

September  
2017

## DIVISION OFFICERS

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Michael  
Shepherd

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James Englishby

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Matt Fitzgerald

Standing Committee:

John Kelly

## Presidents Message

Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

Greetings brothers. I hope you have all had a blessed summer spent with friends and family. Our division is back to business beginning on September 21st at 7:30PM at the Knights of Columbus. This is one of the most important meetings of the year so please do your best to attend. We have much to discuss including our Annual Charity Dinner Dance and the New York Giants football ticket raffle. They are our biggest fundraisers of the year, and enable us to function and thrive on a yearly basis. The dinner dance will be held on Saturday, October 21 at the Wappingers Elks Lodge on Route 376. Cocktail hour begins at 6PM, with a 7PM dinner to follow. Music will be performed by "MacCana featuring the T. McCann Band." Tickets are \$45 this year. All proceeds will benefit all of the AOH's many charitable causes. I implore you to attend and bring as many friends and family members as possible. I have received updates from a few brothers who will be out of town this year. Our other brothers need to feel these gaps. I also request that each brother provide at least one raffle prize or silent auction item to the meeting in September. If you are unable to attend, please contact myself, Jim Englishby or Jim Brady and we can arrange a pickup. It would also be helpful if you could provide any table requests, names of guests and choice of food. Roast beef or chicken francese are the main courses this year. Vegetarian can be provided upon request. AOH dinner dance tickets and NY Giants football raffle tickets will be available at our meeting. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me by email or phone. Looking forward to seeing you all in a few weeks.

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



*MAY THERE ALWAYS BE WORK FOR YOUR HANDS TO DO,  
MAY YOUR PURSE ALWAYS HOLD A COIN OR TWO,  
MAY THE SUN ALWAYS SHINE WARM ON YOUR WINDOWPANE,  
MAY A RAINBOW BE CERTAIN TO FOLLOW EACH RAIN,  
MAY THE HAND OF A FRIEND ALWAYS BE NEAR YOU,  
AND MAY GOD FILL YOUR HEART WITH GLADNESS TO CHEER YOU.*





## Historian's Corner

So, here we are again at the start of a new program year, and, of course, my having to scavenge around for topics to write about for our monthly newsletters. As you all know by now, many of my ideas come from my reading, songs, and movies. This month I am going to write about one of the most iconic and tragic battles involving the United States Cavalry, the Seventh [7<sup>th</sup>], which as you know, was commanded by General George Armstrong Custer. One of more famous movies about Custer's career and exploits is "The Died With Their Boots On." The film starred Errol Flynn, Olivia De Havilland, and a host of other actors you would readily recognize. Directed by Raoul Walsh, the movie was released in 1941. Aside from the action scenes involving the American Civil War, and Custer's "Stand at the Little Big Horn", one of the memorable scenes is the one in which "The Garryowen" becomes the official song [Anthem] of the 7th Cavalry. If you have seen the movie, you will remember the meeting up with the "Queen's Own Butler" as Custer refers to him. The Battle of the Little Bighorn, known to the Lakota and other Plains Indians as the Battle of the Greasy Grass and commonly referred to as Custer's Last Stand, was an armed engagement between combined forces of the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes and the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army. The battle, which occurred June 25–26, 1876, along the Little Bighorn River in the Crow Indian Reservation in eastern Montana Territory, was the most significant action of the Great Sioux War of 1876. The fight was an overwhelming victory for the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho, who were led by several major war leaders including Crazy Horse and Chief Gall and had been inspired by the visions of Sitting Bull. The U.S. 7th Cavalry, including the Custer Battalion, a force of 700 men led by Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer, suffered a major defeat. Five of the 7th Cavalry's twelve companies were annihilated; Custer was killed, as were two of his brothers, a nephew, and a brother-in-law. The total U.S. casualty count included 268 dead and 55 severely wounded (six died later from their injuries including four Crow Indian scouts and two Pawnee Indian scouts).

Several movies and teleplays have depicted the happenings in these latter 19<sup>th</sup> Century Wars. In fact, in one Custer film collection are some 30 movies which either deal directly or reference The Battle of the Little Big Horn. The 30 motion pictures represented in the collection are (in alphabetical order):

<i>Badlands of Dakota</i> (1941)	<i>Buffalo Bill and the Indians</i> (1976)
<i>Bugles in the Afternoon</i> (1952)	<i>Chief Crazy Horse</i> (1955)
<i>Custer of the West</i> (1968)	<i>Custer's Last Stand</i> (1936)
<i>The Flaming Frontier</i> (1926)	<i>Fort Apache</i> (1948)
<i>The Glory Guys</i> (1965)	<i>Gold, Glory and Custer Requiem</i> (ca. 1960)
<i>The Great Sioux Massacre</i> (1965)	<i>The Legend of Custer</i> (1967)
<i>Little Big Horn</i> (1951)	<i>Little Big Man</i> (1970)
<i>The Oregon Trail</i> (1939)	<i>The Plainsman</i> (1937)
<i>The Plainsman</i> (1966)	<i>Red Tomahawk</i> (1966)
<i>Santa Fe Trail</i> (1940)	<i>The Savage</i> (1952)
<i>The Scarlet West</i> (1925)	<i>Seventh Cavalry</i> (1956)
<i>She Wore a Yellow Ribbon</i> (1949)	<i>Sitting Bull</i> (1954)
<i>They Died With Their Boots On</i> (1941)	<i>Tonka</i> (1958)
<i>Touche Pas La Femme Blanche</i> (1974)	<i>Warpath</i> (1951)
<i>Wild Bill Hickok</i> (1923)	<i>Wyoming</i> (1940)

There also was book written in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in the "What If" category. It was called "The Court Martial of General Custer". Obviously, it is a fictional account of what would have happened to Custer had he, himself, survived the battle. The Court Martial takes place at First Army HQ on Governor's Island in NY. There also was a report of an interview by a NY reporter with two Chiefs who were on a hill top observing the battle. One of the things they said was that Custer's strategy was all wrong, and that they could not understand his troop movements. Among other things, they reported that Custer actually maneuvered himself into a trap. The reporter never took them serious noting the sophistication of professional soldiers and indigenous know-nothings. [I tried to find that reference, but it probably is among the stuff I left at the College when I retired].

(continued on next page)



Riding with Custer were 103 Irishmen, ranging in rank from newly recruited troopers who could barely stay mounted to a Carlow native who was one of Custer's most redoubtable officers. A long way from the western Irish seaboard they once called home, County Clare men Pvt. Edward Connor and Sgt. Martin Considine would be among the 200 or so troopers who were butchered on that bleak Montana landscape. In contrast, Pvt. Thomas O'Neill from Dublin would make a daring escape after he found himself alone during Major Marcus Reno's retreat. At a later stage in the battle, County Louth native Thomas Callan also bravely ran the gauntlet of bullets and arrows to fill canteens at the Little Bighorn River, an act for which he and many others, including Monaghan-born Sgt. Thomas Murray, would receive the U.S. Medal of Honor. On that sweltering June day in 1876, the Irish experience at "Custer's Last Stand" varied from one of unflinching courage to that of terror. The Irish have always played an important role in the American armed forces, starting with the Revolutionary War. While Custer respected, and was respected by, those of Irish and Irish-American ancestry, he came from German stock. Custer's ancestors, Paulus and Gertrude Küster, emigrated to North America around 1693 from the Rhineland in Germany, probably among thousands of Palatine refugees whose passage was arranged by the English government to gain settlers. According to family letters, Custer was named after George Armstrong, a minister, in his devout mother's hope that her son might join the clergy.

**NOTE:** What was the name of Victor McLaglen's character in "She Wore A Yellow Ribbon", which name was used by Dick Foran in a previous movie, "Fort Apache". Who played Trooper Tyree in "Rio Grande" and Sgt. Tyree in "She Wore A Yellow Ribbon". Finally, did you know that 4 of the actors from "The Quiet Man" were in "She Wore A Yellow Ribbon" and 3 were in "Fort Apache".

Matt Fitzgerald  
[irishrm@juno.com](mailto:irishrm@juno.com)  
845-454-5308

### From the desk of the AOH National President

Brothers,

The Gulf Coast has been hit hard by Hurricane Harvey, with some areas suffering with as much as 51 inches of rain in just four horrible days.

Even as the storm passes, they still haven't completed assessing the destruction it left in its wake. However, just as our noble order came to the assistance of our brothers after Katrina in New Orleans and after Sandy in the north east, we will again answer the call in east Texas and southwest Louisiana. Individual donations will be directed to Hibernian Charity catastrophe fund who will then assist members who were devastated by the storm and or financial help toward Catholic Charities in those areas. There will be a national call to all our divisions to help, in the meantime, all individuals who wish to send help immediately please forward your contribution to Hibernian Charities.

Make checks payable to Hibernian Charities.

Memo: Hurricane Harvey Relief

PO Box 19325

New Orleans, LA 70179

The AOH was honored to be invited to meet with Ireland's new Ambassador to the United States, his excellency, Daniel Mulhall during his first week in the US. Many topics were discussed that are close to the heart of Hibernians with a great deal of interest. We look forward to working with him during his years of tenure.

The long hot summer is almost over for many of you, but for us in the Deep South we still have two more months of it. As the temperature starts to drop, maybe some of the hot issues in D.C. will start to cool off as well. There seems to be some movement on immigration and whether or not it is something we can put our weight behind remains to be seen, but at least it is on the front burner again.

I have just finished many of the State conventions, and I can tell you that our Ancient Order is alive and well in our 38 states. For those states that I did not get to this year, I will try and get there two years from now if I am still your President. Preparations are continuing on our President's Dinner in New Orleans in October as well as our National Convention in Louisville next summer.

God Bless All  
James F. McKay III  
National President

## Financial Secretary Corner



Brothers,

I wish to thank the individuals who have responded and sent in their dues for 2017. There are still some of you who have not responded yet, if this is you, dues are now past due! Please make every effort to send in your dues as soon as possible. They are only \$30 and can be sent to me at the address listed below. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Please consider a worthy applicant that you know who would benefit from joining our brotherhood. In doing so, sharing in our motto of "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity".

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!*

## Charity Dinner Dance

*Annual Charity Dinner Dance*

**Saturday, October 21, 2017 6:00 PM**

**Wappingers Elks Lodge**

**Route 376**

**Cocktails 6-7PM Dinner & Dancing 7-11PM**

**Roast Beef Dinner or Chicken Francese**

**With Dessert & Coffee**

**Irish Step Dancers, Raffles and Prizes**

**Music by:**

*"MacCana" featuring T. McCann Band*

**TO BENEFIT THE AOH'S MANY CHARITABLE  
CAUSES**

*Donation: \$45.00 per person*

## Giants Ticket Raffle

**Sunday, November 19, 2017**

**1:00 PM Game Time @ MetLife Stadium**

**4 Tickets to**

**KC Chiefs vs NY Giants**



**Drawing Date:**

**October 21, 2017**

**Donation:**

**\$5.00 each**

***PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE AOH'S  
MANY CHARITABLE CAUSES***

## Division Activities

### AOH Activities

The committee for the Annual Charity Dinner Dance at the Wappingers Elks Club is Jim Brady, Brian Brady, Steve O'Hare and Mike Shephard we will work collaboratively to ensure another successful event. The Dinner / Dance is October 21<sup>st</sup>. Tickets are available. Start spreading the word!

The Annual Charity Fund Raiser NY Giants vs KC Chiefs Football tickets are available.

- ◆ September 21st; Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ October 19th; Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ October 21st; Charity Dinner/ Dance

*Just some of the activities your*

*Dutchess County,*

*Division 1, AOH is involved in.*

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

# Sponsors Page

  
**INDEPENDENT BENEFIT PLANS**  
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107 PROSPECT AVENUE (845) 427-2957  
MAYBROOK, NEW YORK 845-427-0820  
12543-1019

Robert G Shephard Jr CPA PC  
**Robert G Shephard Jr**  
Certified Public Accountant  
488 Freedom Plains Road  
Suite 139 Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 PHONE 845-485-3000  
FAX 845-485-3257  
bshephard@optimum.net 

 Custom Machine Embroidery  
Vicki Dunning  
7 Jordan Court  
Poughquag, NY 12570-5038  
(845) 724-3986

**Stephen P. O'Hare**  
Attorney at Law  
488 Freedom Plains Road Suite 103  
Tel: (845)452-4090  
Fax: (845)452-4615



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

- September 21st, Regular Business Meeting
- October 18th., Regular Business Meeting
- October 21st, Charity Dinner / Dance

## Prayers for the Sick

Paul Becker  
Nathan Redmond  
Jim Sweeney

Noel Morris  
Bill Schimpf

\* In Memoriam \*



*"HAVING PLACED IN MY MOUTH SUFFICIENT BREAD FOR THREE MINUTES' CHEWING, I WITHDREW MY POWERS OF SENSUAL PERCEPTION AND RETIRED INTO THE PRIVACY OF MY MIND, MY EYES AND FACE ASSUMING A VACANT AND PREOCCUPIED EXPRESSION. I REFLECTED ON THE SUBJECT OF MY SPARE-TIME LITERARY ACTIVITIES. ONE BEGINNING AND ONE ENDING FOR A BOOK WAS A THING I DID NOT AGREE WITH. A GOOD BOOK MAY HAVE THREE OPENINGS ENTIRELY DISSIMILAR AND INTER-RELATED ONLY IN THE PRESCIENCE OF THE AUTHOR, OR FOR THAT MATTER ONE HUNDRED TIMES AS MANY ENDINGS."*

*~FLANN O'BRIEN~*



ANCIENT ORDER  
OF  
HIBERNIANS  
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County  
Msgr. Sheahan  
Division #1

PO Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

