

DIVISION NEWSLETTER

DUTCHESS COUNTY MSGR. SHEAHAN DIVISION # 1

Division Website: www.dutchessaoh.com

Gene Noone - Editor gene.noone@frontier.com (914) 469-6661



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Brothers,

As you read this, we are in the thick of parade season and the celebration of our Patron, St. Patrick. Celebrations that will be filled with friends and family, parties and parades and joyous exaltation of our heritage. As members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians we have the added honor of helping keep the reverence in the season. If when you're out and about shopping at your local retailer, and see something that paints the Irish or the day in a negative light, say something. We can make a real impact by keeping vigilant and continuing to promote a positive Irish image.

I would like to thank our District Director, Vince Tyer for installing the new slate of officers at our February meeting, and a very big Thank You to John Begley for his hard work getting our parade shirts and hats. The Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade will be on March 2nd, the day starts with a Mass at St. Mary's at 9:00 AM, the Dutchess County AOH is in the first division and will line-up on North Street near West Main Street, line-up is at 12:00 noon with the parade to start at 1:00 PM, this is one of the important days for our Division, a day I hope to see a lot of our brothers and their families to take a stroll through the village.

The following week, March 9th, we will meet once again for the annual St. Patrick Luncheon at Castle Point; if you are planning to attend we will be meeting at 10:30 AM in the multi-purpose room in building C.

In conclusion, I would like to wish you and your families a very safe and Happy St. Patrick's Day.

In Brotherhood & motto,
Michael P. Quinn



MARCH
2013

DIVISION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
MICHAEL
QUINN

VICE PRESIDENT:
MIKE
KELLY

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:
STEPHEN
REN

RECORDING SECRETARY:
BILL
SCHIMPF

TREASURER:
ROBERT
SHEPHERD

MARSHAL:
CHRIS
ELSINS

SENTINEL:
MICHAEL
SHEPHERD

HISTORIAN:
MATT
FITZGERALD

STANDING COMMITTEE:
GERRY
MCVICKER



*MAY THE IRISH HILLS CARESS YOU.
MAY HER LAKES AND RIVERS BLESS YOU.
MAY THE LUCK OF THE IRISH ENFOLD YOU.
MAY THE BLESSINGS OF SAINT PATRICK BEHOLD YOU.*



The Historian's Corner Most of my work and research is done at my computer desk, using the computer itself and a stack of books. Often times, regardless of the subject or nature of what I am doing, I play the music I have loaded onto the computer. My music files contain an eclectic mix, although I must admit they greatly favor the music and tunes of the land of my parents' birth. Over this past weekend I had "looped" the music of the famous Phil Coulter. [If you are not familiar with his work, you are really missing something. Most recently he has arranged music for Celtic Thunder performances.] One of the selections that appears on several of his CDs is "The Man From God Knows Where". The song chronicles the dangerous work of a "go between" during the troubled times leading up to and after the failed rebellion of 1798. [The "go between" was, in essence, a spy and a messenger bringing plans and other information to the rebel leaders and groups in the various parts of Ireland.] Although I have heard this song many times, this Sunday it must have made an impact on my brain for I decided that this would be the topic of our March newsletter.

The subject of this song is Thomas Paliser Russell. Russell was among the founders and a leading member of the United Irishmen. He hailed from "Rebel Cork", having been born in Drumahane, County Cork on November 21, 1767. Keeping with family tradition, he served in the British Army for about 3 years with a posting to India. Upon his return to Ireland in 1786, he continued his studies in science, philosophy and politics. Although he professed the Anglican faith, he was a vocal advocate of Catholic Emancipation, and a firm believer in the need for all Irish people to have fair opportunities for participation in public life. In 1790 he met Theobald Wolfe Tone in the visitor's gallery in the Irish House of Commons and they became firm friends. In that same year Russell resumed his military career as a junior officer in the 64th Regiment of Foot and was posted to Belfast. As an officer of the garrison, Russell entered socially into the circles of the emerging professionals and businessmen. Their politics were radical; being Presbyterians, they were excluded from the Ascendancy. The kinsmen and women of Belfast Presbyterians had figured prominently in the campaign for American independence, and they greatly favored the revolution in France, with its ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity. With his keen mind and radical ideas, Russell was soon drawn to the McCrackens, Simms, Templetons, Nielsons and other families who were to play a prominent role in the United Irish movement. With them he developed ideas of parliamentary reform, to include the bulk of the people, and Catholic emancipation.

Russell left the Army in 1791, and in his early "public" career, he went so far as to promote separation from England and co-operation with the increasingly radical Catholic Committee, in Dublin, in the pursuit of political and social reforms. Wolfe Tone and Russell were invited by Belfast radicals to assist in the task of establishing a proposed brotherhood between Catholics and Presbyterians. On October 18, 1791 the inaugural meeting of the Society of United Irishmen took place, with twenty-eight people present. The society's three main aims were constitutional reform, union among the Irish people, and the removal of all religious disqualifications. Dublin quickly followed suit, and on November 9, in the Eagle Tavern, Eustace Street the Dublin Society of United Irishmen was formed. The movement quickly developed a strategy of spreading its ideals by means of leaflets, newspapers, ballads, "catechisms," and travelling emissaries. The Northern Star of Belfast was especially successful, both commercially and politically. It was founded in 1792 and suppressed by the Government in 1797, with its offices destroyed by a mob of Monaghan militiamen who were anxious to prove their loyalty to the Crown by attacking the offices of the newspaper and destroying not only the printing presses but the building itself. The attack resulted in the demise of the Northern Star to the undoubted satisfaction of the authorities as no action was taken against those involved in the destruction.

An impressive feature of Russell's stance on freedom was its universal scope. He made clear his anti-slavery views on more than one occasion. While at Dungannon [serving as a Magistrate] he drew impassioned attention to this abuse in the Northern Star on March 17, 1792. An editorial comment took the less generous view -- agreeing with Russell but pointing out the immediate necessity to liberate three million slaves in Ireland. Russell did not make that distinction. As a veteran anti-slavery campaigner, Mary Ann McCracken remembered that as a young officer in Belfast Russell 'abstained from the use of slave labor produce until slavery in the West Indies was abolished, and at the dinner parties to which he was so often invited and when confectionery was so much used he would not take anything with sugar in it...'. [Note: For further research, I am looking into Russell's stance on slavery vis-à-vis the West Indies issue and the Irish who were sent there as slaves. Secondly, I am tracing a connection between the recently deceased Maisry McCracken and Henry Joy McCracken. I was associated with her when she was Director of Library Services at DCC. Her father, Henry Noble McCracken, was President of Vassar College from 1915 to 1946. The late Bill Madison of the KBIC pointed me in this direction as a future project whose time has come.]

Russell took an active part in organizing the United Irishmen and by 1796 he was their commander in County Down.

(continued on next page)

He was arrested in that year and lodged in Dublin's Newgate prison; due to this imprisonment he took no part in the Rising of 1798 when the United Irishmen were defeated in military engagements in Counties Wexford and Antrim, as well as County Down. In March 1799 he and other state prisoners were transferred to Fort George in Scotland, which was an extensive fortress several miles north of Inverness. During his imprisonment he was never charged with any crime, and, in effect, was a political prisoner. He was released in June 1802 and transported to Hamburg [a fully sovereign state of its own at the time]. In his travels, which took him to Paris, he met ["Bold"] Robert Emmet who was planning another insurrection. Russell returned to Ireland in March 1803 to organize the North. He soon realized the hopelessness of the cause when he failed to raise forces in the subdued County Down. When Emmet was arrested in Dublin, Russell went to his rescue but was captured and arrested.

Russell became the best known inhabitant of Downpatrick Gaol. After his capture during the aborted attempt to rescue Emmet, Russell was bought to Downpatrick and tried for high treason with three local men. He was found guilty on the evidence of many local witnesses. Russell was hanged and then beheaded at the gate of the gaol on October 21, 1803, one month short of his 37th birthday. [One month earlier, on September 20, 1803, Robert Emmet was hanged and beheaded in Thomas Street, Dublin.] In one of his final letters, written to Frank and Mary Ann McCracken in the week before his trial, Russell said: "As to me I can only say that in the last moment of my Liberty I was not thinking of myself or acting for myself but for my Country. Politically I have done nothing but what I glory in, morally I acknowledge myself a grievous sinner. I trust for pardon and mercy thro' my saviour as I do most sincerely pardon all those who are about to take my life."

Following his execution Russell was buried in Down Parish Churchyard where Mary Ann McCracken, sister of Henry Joy McCracken (executed in 1798) and friend of Russell, arranged for a simple memorial. All it says is "The Grave of Russell". Today, we might also add "The Man From God Knows Where."

[Final note: This piece continues the theme of learning of Irish History through song.]

NATIONAL NEWS

One of the Best Hibernian Traditions

In the Penal Days, our ancestors stood guard to protect the Roman Catholic clergy as they celebrated the holy sacrifice of the Mass for the disenfranchised Irish. In the days of Nativist Bigotry, our immigrant forebears stood guard around Catholic churches to safeguard our clergy from the anti-Catholic Know Nothings. As they were needed then, we are needed now!

Today, violence has diminished, but the need to protect our clerical tradition is just as great, if not greater. This time the enemy is economic. The number of applicants to the religious life is decreasing each year due largely to the cost of educating and sustaining novitiates. We are being called again to the old tradition. It is our turn to emulate those courageous Irish men and women who kept the faith alive for us, and keep it alive for our children and grandchildren.

You can prove that the ancient spirit is still alive in you by supporting Project St. Patrick.

The goal of Project St. Patrick is to fund grants in perpetuity and increase support for these men and women of God. Project St. Patrick is a joint Catholic Action program of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians which was started in 1995 by AOH Nat'l Pres. Ed Wallace and LAOH Nat'l Pres. Kathy Linton. Since 1996 over \$334,250 has been given out to needy seminarians and religious who are studying to serve our Church. Half of that from the AOH (through Hibernian Charity) and half from the LAOH.

Letters of introduction with applications have been sent out in early January to major seminaries and novitiates by LAOH Catholic Action officer Lynn Burkart. The deadline for return of applications is April 1st, with letter of recommendation. The PSP Committee will read all applications over two week period and make tentative list of awardees. A teleconference call is then set up and the whole committee decides on how much money is available, how many can be helped and then by consensus agree on who the grant recipients will be.

We have averaged 85 to 100 applications annually and unfortunately have not been able to help every applicant.

In 2012 we received 102 applications and were only able to help 57 seminarians and 26 religious including \$1000 to Little Sisters of the Poor. Many of the applicants are from foreign countries, have no family support and are not able to work due to Diocesan regulations and their assigned duties.

Funding for Project St. Patrick comes from outright donations from AOH & LAOH State, County Boards and divisions as well as from individual Hibernians to the Annual PSP Easter Appeal or throughout the year. Every jurisdiction is urged to include Project St. Patrick in their annual charitable donations. For every \$500 or more donation the PSP committee will designate a Vocation Grant in memory of or In Honor of an individual's name submitted by donor. This could be a beloved chaplain, nun or lay person male or female. Just submit the name with the donation.

Project St. Patrick Memorial cards are also an additional source of funding for this program. When a Hibernian member, family or friend passes away a PSP Memorial Card is filled out and presented to the family at the wake. Division members or family members can "pool their donations" and send in one card on behalf of the division, etc. or send in individually.

AOH donations should have checks made out to "Hibernian Charity" with Project St. Patrick written in the Memo Section of check, and sent to Edward Dougherty 7236 Brouse Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19149. Additional PSP Memorial Cards may be secured by contacting Edward Wallace 315-686-3917 or email: ewallac2@twcny.rr.com. LAOH donations should be sent to: LAOH Project St. Patrick and sent to Lynn Burkart 169 South Temelec Circle, Sonoma, CA 95476. Ladies can order PSP Memorial Cards or Honor Cards from Carol at lynnburkart@comcast.com.

Hibernians have remained steadfast in their mission to protect and support priests from the penal days in Ireland to the present. As an Irish-American Catholic organization, we must continue to foster and support vocations both spiritually and financially. Please support the Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal with a donation and make PSP one of your annual charities.



Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade

It is finally here the Eighteenth Annual Dutchess County St Patrick's Parade, Saturday March 2nd, 2013 is the date.



For the past seventeen years the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Committee, Inc. has been hosting a yearly St. Patrick's Parade for Dutchess County on the first Saturday in March. Over the years the parade has grown to include over 3000 participants and delighted over 10,000 spectators as it winds its way through the Village of Wappingers Falls. The Committee is proud of the growth this event has shown over the years and is committed to continue to promote the expansion of the parade.

Each year the Committee selects an outstanding community person to lead the parade who is the Grand Marshal. The Grand Marshal is a person who takes pride in their Irish Heritage and promotes its unique culture. They are strong leaders in their community and are actively involved in improving the quality of life for all. This years selection is Bill Brogan.

Come participate by volunteering, marching, or just watching. Enjoy open houses at the Knights of Columbus or the VFW where food and libations are available with free Irish music to entertain you.

Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Scholarship Program

The Dutchess County Saint Patrick's Parade Committee is offering a \$1000 scholarship each for two students. The scholarship is open to graduating High School Seniors and students currently enrolled in College. Scholarships will be awarded for Community Involvement and Academic Achievement.



Applications may be downloaded from our website but will not be accepted before **MARCH 31, 2013.**

Final Application will be accepted May 24, 2013. Winners will be notified June 7, 2013.

For more information call: Kathy Beale 845-298-8822

****Applicants MUST BE Dutchess County residents. They MAY NOT be related to past or present members of the DUTCHESS COUNTY ST. PATRICK'S PARADE COMMITTEE. They MAY NOT be related to past or present Grand Marshals.**

Received a Flyer from Msgr. Charlie Coen, writing on behalf of the New Pastor Father Patrick Buckley. Monsignor writes: "Father Pat is very excited to continue the Tradition of Irish Concerts at St Christopher's and asked me to help out with the first one".

Fund Raiser Concert to Benefit St. Christopher's Church:

The Tony Kenny "Irish Celebration" Concert will be held on Friday, March 15th at 8:00 PM at the Church of St. Christopher' gym, 7411 South Broadway in Red Hook, NY! Please Pass this on to all that you know!

Reserved Tickets are \$25.00

Unreserved Tickets are \$20.00

Call the Rectory to reserve tickets: 758-3732

AOH DIVISION 1 EVENTS



March 9th, is our Veteran's St. Patrick's Meal. We will be serving a St. Patrick's meal to our Veteran's at Castle Point VA Hospital in Fishkill. Many hands are needed to make this event run smooth. More details of this event will be forthcoming.



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brothers,

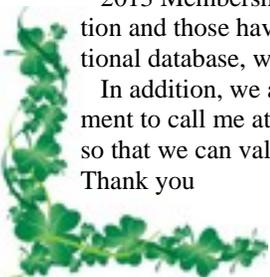
We have submitted our yearly Division membership information to the AOH National and New York State committees, along with our yearly dues payment. Let me express appreciation to Brother William Schimpf for "training the new guy" on how to do that. Also, **Thank You** very much to all of our Brothers who submitted their 2013 dues payment of \$30 on time. Please send it ASAP if you have not yet done so.

2013 Membership Cards have been distributed. Several Brothers have asked for an update of their listed address information and those have been submitted. Please send me an **email** if you would like any changes made to your record in the national database, which is the source of your Membership Card listing.

In addition, we are continually updating our local membership information kept as an Excel spreadsheet. Please take a moment to call me at 845-214-5664 or drop me an email at sren82@gmail.com with your name, address, phone number, email so that we can validate having the latest information for you.

Thank you

Slainte',
Stephen Ren, Financial Secretary



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BRIAN O'CONNOR
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Vicki Dunning
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Stephen P. O'Hare
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Imperial Barbers 
Rt 9 Wappingers Falls
Mon-Fri 9am-5:45pm Next to Home Depot
Saturday 8am-4:30pm (845) 297-8327

**Your Ad
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

- March 2nd: DC St. Patrick's Mass & Parade
- March 9th: St. Patrick's Meal at Castle Point VA
- March 16th: St. Patrick's Day Parade - NY City
- March 21st: Regular Business Meeting
- April 18th: Regular Business Meeting
- May 16th: Regular Business Meeting
- June 20th: Regular Business Meeting

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Deacon Bob Horton Kevin Moran
Noel Morris Nathan Redmond

‡ 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.



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OF
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IN AMERICA

Dutchess County
msgr. sheahan
Division #1

PO Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

