



# Division Newsletter

Dutchess County Msgr. Sheahan Division # 1

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

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May  
2017

## DIVISION OFFICERS

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Michael  
Shepherd

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James Englishby

Historian:

Matt Fitzgerald

Standing Committee:

John Kelly

## Presidents Message

Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter with your loved ones. On April 20<sup>th</sup> at our monthly meeting we held one of the more “intimate” Shamrock Degree Ceremonies that I can remember, thanks to the Knights of Columbus relegating us to the small side room. During the meeting we welcomed a new member to our organization, Brian Brady, brother of Jim Brady.

We welcome Brian to our organization and appreciate him participating in the Shamrock degree ceremony. Please continue to spread the word and bring in new applicants. Our goal is to hold another Shamrock Degree next month.

At the meeting we discussed the numerous activities during our busiest time of year and several future events on the horizon. On May 20<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>, Birthright will be doing its Annual baby shower at St. Mary’s in Fishkill. They have again asked for assistance in collecting money at each of the weekend’s six Masses. The request is for two brothers at each time slot. Brothers should arrive 15 minutes before the start of each Mass. The Masses are as follows. Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM. Sunday Masses are 7:15, 8:30, 9:45, 11:15AM and 12:45PM. Birthright requests that we adorn our AOH attire, so if you have your AOH shirt or jumper please bring it with you. Please let me know which date and time you would like to volunteer for. Your participation is greatly appreciated in helping this fantastic organization.

We also formed a committee for the Annual Charity Dinner Dance in October at the Wappingers Elks Club. Jim Brady, Brian Brady, Steve O’Hare and I will work collaboratively to ensure another successful event. The dance is October 21<sup>st</sup>. Start spreading the word!

We have also started discussions to design and purchase new AOH apparel for our own division and as a fundraising opportunity at Irish functions. Please attend next month’s meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM to discuss your ideas. We are hopeful to get shirts, jackets and caps to go along with our AOH scarves. Hope to see you all at the next meeting. God bless!

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



*The FRIENDSHIPS YOU MAKE, BE THOSE WHICH ENDURE;  
AND ALL OF YOUR GREY CLOUDS, BE SMALL ONES FOR SURE.*





## Historian's Corner

I just recently took another trip to Gettysburg, PA. This was my third visit, each time viewing the Irish Brigade Monument. The monument is a Celtic cross supported by a granite base, standing 19' 6" tall. It was sculpted by William R. O'Donovan, a former Confederate soldier who fought at Gettysburg. The front of the cross is an ornate bronze ornamented by a 2nd Corps trefoil, the numbers of the three New York regiments, the Seal of the State of New York, and a harp flanked by eagles. At the foot of the cross lies a life-sized Irish wolfhound, symbol of honor and fidelity. The monument was dedicated on July 2nd, 1888. As you know, The Irish Brigade was one of the legendary units of the Civil War.

Organizationally, it was designated the 2nd Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps. Three of its Regiments were from New York: the 63rd New York Infantry Regiment, organized on Staten Island, and the 69th and 88th New York Infantry Regiments, organized in the Bronx. [Up The Bronx] These units would form the core of what would come to be called the Irish Brigade. The other two were the 28th Massachusetts and the 116th Pennsylvania. With its numbers horribly thinned at Antietam and Fredericksburg, the three New York regiments could barely muster two weak companies each. But the Irish Brigade was still a force to be reckoned with when they were thrown in to support Sickles' NY Excelsior Brigade's collapsing line on the afternoon of July 2. They then attacked into the Wheatfield, charging across into the Rose Woods and the Stony Hill. The Confederate advance was temporarily halted just as it threatened to overwhelm the entire Union position, although the brigade was flanked by Confederate Reinforcements advancing from the Peach Orchard and forced to withdraw back across the bloody Wheatfield.

One of the memorable moments of the battle came as the men of the Irish Brigade knelt while the Brigade Chaplain, Father William Corby, stood atop a boulder and pronounced general absolution to the men. Some thirteen years after this War Between The States, that same Chaplain, Father William Corby attended the dedication, held a Mass for the veterans and blessed the monument. "We have unveiled this pile, and it will stand to perpetuate the fame of those heroes. To keep their memory green in the American heart, this Celtic Cross has been erected. It is an emblem of Ireland, typical of faith and devotion, and the most appropriate that could be raised to hand down to posterity the bravery of our race in the great cause of American liberty." The Irish Brigade and other succeeding units of the American military, as well as many other individual servicemen fought bravely in the tradition of the mythological Fianna Warriors of old. [We know that throughout the years many Irish men left home to fight in the armies of other counties. We covered this in previous articles.] More than 150,000 Irishmen, most of whom were recent immigrants and many of whom were not yet U.S. citizens, joined the Union Army during the Civil War. Some joined out of loyalty to their new home. Others hoped that such a conspicuous display of patriotism might put a stop to anti-Irish discrimination. Not all, of course, were part of all-Irish units like the Irish Brigade, but they were celebrated and known for their courage, ferocity and toughness in battle. The Irish Brigade suffered the third-highest number of battlefield casualties of any Union brigade. Of the 7,715 men who served in its ranks, 961 were killed or mortally wounded, and approximately 3,000 were wounded. The number of casualties was more men than ever served in its ranks at any one time. As a testament to the Irishmen's bravery, 11 of the unit's members were awarded the Medal of Honor. Many Irish soldiers went into battle chanting the phrase "Faugh-A-Ballagh" ...Clear the Way.

[I would be remiss in not mentioning the Irish units which fought for the Confederate cause. Many of these units carried variations of the Irish flag with golden harp so favored by Irish military groups everywhere, but company flags were not carried into battle. Since the Irish units were part of geographical regiments, their company flags were never as prominent as the well-known banner of the North's Irish Brigade. Some 40,000 Irish fought for the cause of the South, which was about 10 % of the Southern Army's strength.

## TRIVIA

James Cagney and Pat O'Brien starred in *The Fighting 69th*, a 1940 WWI film based on the Irish Brigade successor unit based in New York, which was merged into a newly formed Expeditionary Force --- The Rainbow Division.

In *Fort Apache*, Ward Bond plays a cavalry sergeant major who had served in The Irish Brigade as major and had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor (likely based on St. Clair Augustine Mulholland, who earned the Medal of Honor at Chancellorsville in May 1863).

(continued on next page)

County Waterford born Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher and the Irish Brigade, as well as the charge at Marye's Heights, are featured in the novel and film *Gods and Generals*.

In the film "Gettysburg", the brigade is shown receiving general absolution from Rev. William Corby before going into battle at Gettysburg.

Matt Fitzgerald  
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845-454-5308

## Financial Secretary Corner

Brothers,

Gentlemen, 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 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 co-operation in this matter.



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.*

## Division Activities

### AOH Activities

On May 20<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>, Birthright will be doing its Annual baby shower at St. Mary's in Fishkill. They have again asked for assistance in collecting money at each of the weekend's six Masses. The request is for two brothers at each time slot. Brothers should arrive 15 minutes before the start of each Mass. The Masses are as follows. Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM. Sunday Masses are 7:15, 8:30, 9:45, 11:15AM and 12:45PM. Birthright requests that we adorn our AOH attire, so if you have your AOH shirt or jumper please bring it with you.

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- ◆ May 14th; MOTHERS DAY
- ◆ May 18th; Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ May 20 & 21; Birthright Baby Shower Collections
- ◆ June 15th; Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ June 18th; FATHERS DAY

*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

  
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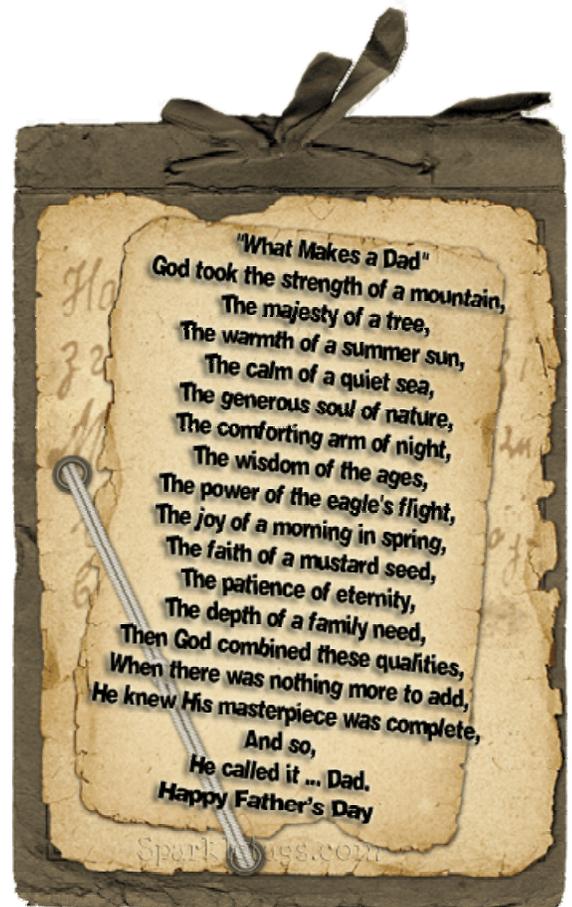
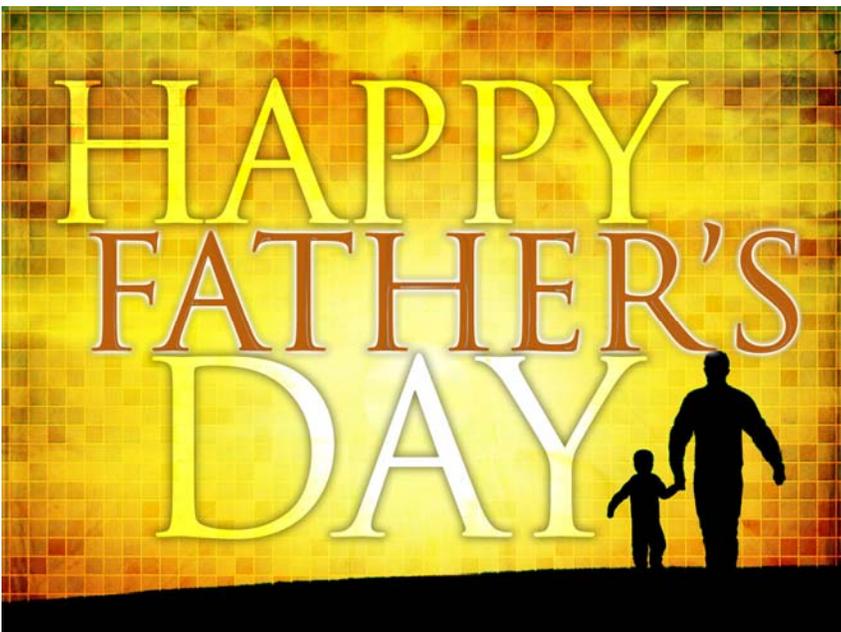
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Attention, all AOH members, your help is needed. This newsletter needs sponsors, for a small yearly fee we will print a business card sized ad monthly. This newsletter goes out to all our membership and to several other Irish organizations. If you 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

- May 14th, Mothers Day
- May 18th, Regular Business Meeting
- May 20 & 21, Birthright Baby Shower Collections
- June 15th, Regular Business Meeting
- June 18th, Fathers Day

## Prayers for the Sick

Paul Becker  
Nathan Redmond  
Jim Sweeney

Noel Morris  
Bill Schimpf

\* In Memoriam \*

*"WE IRISH PREFER EMBROIDERIES TO PLAIN CLOTH. TO US IRISH, MEMORY IS A CANVAS--STRETCHED, PRIMED, AND READY FOR PAINTING ON. WE LOVE THE "STORY" PART OF THE WORD "HISTORY," AND WE LOVE IT TRIMMED OUT WITH COLOR AND DRAMA, RIBBONS AND BOWS. LISTEN TO OUR TUNES, OBSERVE A CELTIC SCROLL: WE ALWAYS DECORATE OUR ESSENCE."*

*~FRANK DELANEY, TIPPERARY~*



ANCIENT ORDER  
OF  
HIBERNIANS  
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County  
Msgr. Sheahan  
Division #1

PO Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

