

# DIVISION NEWSLETTER

DUTCHESS COUNTY MSGR. SHEAHAN DIVISION # 1

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

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ANCIENT ORDER  
OF  
HIBERNIANS  
IN AMERICA

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dear Brothers

As I write this letter the promise of spring is just outside the window and a new awakening of the season. In the month of March our Division was asked to participate in the distribution of a very positive book on glorious Saint Patrick, the book was distributed to all of the elementary schools in the Archdiocesan of New York. Would like to single out and Thank Brother Jim Whalen for his own personal financial contribution in this endeavor, also would like to Thank our intrepid Treasurer Brother Bob Shephard for all his hard work for the Division, especially at this very busy time of year for him and finally Brother Jack Fedigan for once again hosting a few of the brothers on his annual pilgrimage to the New York City St Patrick Parade.

As some of you have expressed an interest in purchasing apparel with the AOH emblem and our division, at this time we are happy to be putting together an order. There are three items being offered, Bay Side Hat, made in USA, \$13.75, Sport Tek Wind Shirt - \$35.25 (s-xl), \$37.25 (2xl), \$38.50 (3xl), \$40.00(4xl), and a 50/50 Blend Staff Shirt \$24.00 (s - xl), \$26.00 (2xl), \$27.00(3xl), \$28.00(4xl). For the Sport Tek shirts it is suggested that you order one size up from your normal size. We would like the order to be ready to go by May 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have the order form at the April 24, meeting or you can mail your check and order to the Division Post Box, PO Box 1530, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

The Division is getting ready for the Annual Hibernian Hunger Project with a Mass and collection; a letter will be coming from the Chairman Gerry McVicker with all the particulars. Please note that April meeting will be on the 24<sup>th</sup>, this is the fourth Thursday, and Easter Monday is a day of obligation of the Order. In conclusion I would like to wish you and all of your families a very Happy and Blessed Easter, and may God Bless you all.

In Brotherhood and Motto,  
Michael P Quinn



APRIL  
2014

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*MAY BROOKS AND TREES AND SINGING HILLS  
JOIN IN THE CHORUS TOO,  
AND EVERY GENTLE WIND THAT BLOWS  
SEND HAPPINESS TO YOU.*





### Historian's Corner

It is a little passed noon on Sunday, March 30, 2014. The song playing on YouTube is "Down In The Valley" by Burl Ives. I started writing this piece a few minutes ago, but the content has been rattling around in my head for at least an hour or so. I had responded to Gene's mid-week request for this month's submission by Friday so that he could work on the newsletter this weekend. Well, I did respond on a timely basis with the best of intentions of sending it to him by Friday evening. Then, I got hit by a bug; I sent Gene a "Mea Culpa" email, and in his gracious style, he granted me absolution and a temporary "stay". I then approached the task with so much "reeling in the noggin" I feel like a rat on "crack".

I don't know how many of my brothers "believe in" the zodiac signs, but a cursory investigation will find the topic interesting. For instance, if you have been following an important thread weaving through my articles over the past several months, that is, in the absence of any direction from you all, I had intimated that I would stick to a self-imposed strict schedule of subjects. Those of you who were at the February meeting may remember that I said I would prepare reading lists and synopses of various historical novels of quality regarding Irish history, as well as deal with song and film as a source of historical items. Well, as I was winning my battle with that bug, I watched a DVR'ed 1952 movie entitled "Kangaroo" starring, among others, that famous Irish beauty, Maureen O'Hara, Richard Boone, and that "gypsy-like" Brit, Peter Lawford. The story takes place in Australia, as you probably had guessed. I have not finished watching it yet due to my "dis-tractiveness" [not to be confused with "attractiveness"]. I was taken by one of the film's background songs. In all probability it was "Master McGrath", a song about the famous Irish 19<sup>th</sup> Century greyhound racer who won the Waterloo Cup three times. Among those who have recorded the song based on the poem of the same name are The Clancy Brothers and The Dubliners. The tune to Master McGrath is the same as a "Westward Ho" song about 19<sup>th</sup> Century American pioneers, "Sweet Betsy From Pike", which has been performed by Burl Ives, Johnny Cash and Yodeling Slim Clark, among others.

Now, what about this signs of the zodiac stuff, you ask? Well, I'll tell you. As many of you will recall, my birthday is on June 18 which falls under the sign of the Gemini twins. People born with this star sign are dual-natured, complex and inconsistent. They tend to change courses, since sticking to one thing is particularly difficult for them. So there you have it...it's hard for me to stay on topic, and the stars are to blame. Be that as it may, in future I will try to hold my own feet to the fire and be more consistent and disciplined in following some direction. I really do need to do that, since I have only some 40 years to accomplish whatever it is I was put on earth to do. Before I go to that great big Céilí Mór in the sky, I would like to be able to sing as well as our own John Kelley and play the tin whistle like Msgr. Charlie [Coen]. Now to some serious history stuff...

As we approach the Easter season and the 97<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Rising, and as we are ending Irish Heritage Month in which, among other things, we commemorate An Gorta Mór, I discovered a couple of lesser remembered occurrences. On March 9, 1922, the Irish Free State was established. Twenty-seven years later, the Irish Republic became a reality; the actual date being April 18, 1949, the same day of the year some 200 years earlier that Paul Revere made that historic ride: "On the 18th of April in '75...." We also missed the recognition of the Choctaw Indians who on, or about, March 23, 1847 donated \$170.00 [in 1847 dollars, which in today's dollars would amount to about \$4500.00 to \$5000.00] to the relief of starvation in Ireland. It is believed that the Choctaw made this donation since they also were the victims of an ethnic cleansing program arising out of America's 1830 Indian Removal Act. They were the first tribe to be removed from the southeastern part of the U.S. by order of President Andrew Jackson. Other of the Five Nations tribes were removed in subsequent years. You may remember hearing of the famous "Trail of Tears". This program of removal to the West included some Europeans and Africans. The Europeans may have been descendants of those brought to this continent under indentured servitude and/or out-and-out slavery by the British. Barbados was not the only destination of Irish slaves sent to this hemisphere. I have not been able to verify it, but have it on anecdotal authority, that runaway slaves [black and white] were taken in by tribes of the Five Nations and given all the rights and privileges of tribal membership. As further points of interest, President Jackson's parents were immigrants from County Antrim. And did you know that former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, in 1992 was made an Honorary Chief of the Choctaw Tribe? A third interesting point is that there is a plaque on the wall of Dublin's Mansion House which honors the aforementioned donation of the Choctaw. The plaque, which was placed there in the early 1990s, commemorates the generosity and sacrifice of this tribe. It reads: "Their humanity calls us to remember the millions of human beings throughout our world today who die of hunger and hunger-related illnesses in a world of plenty". A final point of interest deals again with money comparisons. The Eire Canal was completed in 1825 at a cost of \$7 million. The canal diggers were paid eighty cents per day. That above \$170.00 would equate to 221.5 days of "digger" labor. Or, another way, if we equate that to today's New York State minimum wage rate of \$8.00, it would amount to \$14,176.00.

(continued next page)



As I close this month's piece, would like to add a little levity. I guess I am still hoping tat we can get John K to sing "A Mother's Love Is A Blessing" at one o our meetings. At any rate, I came across a piece that asks the question "How Irish was your own mother?" Well, "they" say that your "Mither" or "Mam" is 100% Irish if she ever:

- told you that you'd forget your head if t wasn't screwed on;
- called you every other name in the housed before she called your own;
- told you that the biscuits and scones were for the guests;
- she had a problem with you referring to her as "she" [Mam would say that "she" is the cat's mother, right];
- told you that was a Patron Saint to pray to for any problem;
- used a saliva dampened hankie to clean a smudge from you face.

It is from our saintly Irish mothers that we can appreciate the following poem:

"When Irish eyes are smiling and Irish smiles are wide,  
 When Irish hearts are happy and the piper plays a slide,  
 When Irish stew is bubbling and the soda bread is hot and  
 the Irish tea is steeping in a little Irish pot,  
 When the room is warm with laughter and the songs are bright and bold and  
 there's poetry and magic in the stories that are told,  
 Isn't it a blessing, isn't it just grand to know the heart and soul of you belongs to Ireland?"

**AOH DIVISION 1 EVENTS**



The Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon for the Veteran's of Castle Point was held March 8th. We met in the multi-purpose room in building C.

A traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage Lunch with all the trimmings was served. Many members and their families came to support the Veteran's.



We had entertainment by way of bagpipers, step dancers, & Irish Folk Music. The Veteran's certainly appreciated it. Chairman John Kelly did an excellent job.

Some of the members & their families who were there.



**IRISH COMMUNITY**



**AN EVENING WITH ANDY COONEY**

and a performance by the Solas An Lae School of American Irish Dance

**Saturday, May 17th at 6pm**  
*at the Hillside Manor*

240 Boulevard, Kingston, NY

Donations of \$50 per person, included delicious buffet.



**For tickets and information,**  
contact Kieran Devlin at 845-340-9384,  
or [kieran332@gmail.com](mailto:kieran332@gmail.com).



A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Irish Cultural Center Hudson Valley.





Brothers,

We continue on our path to completing all Dues payment receipts for 2014. I will reach out to the remaining few in person. Thanks again to everyone who has paid on time.

Stephen Ren, Financial Secretary

It was a fine time had by all AOH Brothers who were able to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Special thanks to Brother Jack Fedigan for being the organizer, tour guide, emcee, and chaperone. The NYPD Emerald Society Party afterwards was spectacular and is the genesis for my inclusion of the following information which comes from the History section of their website.

The NYPD Emerald Society was started on March 16, 1953. The idea to establish an organization of Irish-American police began with a small group of policewomen. Doris Burke, Lillian Reilly, Mary Paterson and Eileen Romancheck were the women who set things in motion. Their grassroots efforts would eventually lead the NYPD to have the first Emerald Society in America. The women sought out and recruited potential members from various police gatherings across the city. They received the solid support and assistance from men like Jerry Sullivan, Charlie Crowley, Bob Bowden, Bill McGowan and Tom Meaney. All of these men would later serve as presidents in the early years of the organization. Many others would also join in the campaign. As interest gained momentum, early meetings grew in attendance and goals were set. Eventually a charter was established, and by-laws enacted, thus creating a formal structure. Forty charter members were present when the voting took place officially forming the organization. The first president was a detective named Henry Fitzgerald. He would later be appointed "Life President," honoring his distinctive service. There were to be some bumps in the road early on. In the NYPD during the 1950's, as in the decades before, a substantial amount of the force was of Irish descent. There were worries in some quarters that the newly formed Emeralds would have too much influence within the police force. There actually were some efforts to undermine the Society and seek its early demise. But with the strong leadership of Henry Fitzgerald, who was aided from the beginning by Patrolman Barney Devine and others the opposition was eventually overcome. As time went on, the Emerald Society became firmly entrenched as an important part of the NYPD.

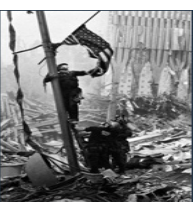
Social events became a large part of the Emerald calendar. Members looked forward to dinner dances, vacation trips, boat rides and of course marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Each one was proud to be associated with the prestige that came with the title of "the New York Irish Cop."

In the 1960's the NYPD Emerald Society Pipe & Drum Band was formed. Over time the Band established themselves by their dedicated work ethic and professionalism. Their leader, the late Finbar Devine, became legendary as he proudly set the cadence amidst the pomp and circumstance of each parade. In his role as the Drum Major, on those days when all New Yorkers were said to be Irish, he was indeed the heart and soul of the "NYPD Irish Brigade". At one point in time he was probably the most famous cop in New York. The Pipes and Drums have also appeared through the years on television, from the old Ed Sullivan Show to The Today Show. They have entertained audiences across America, as well as in Ireland and Germany. The Pipe Band has inspired other societies to start their own bagpipe contingents.

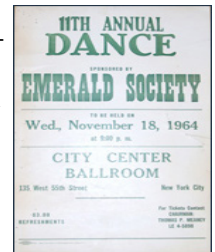
In the early 1970's, the Emerald Society Medal for Valor was re-named the Patrick J. O'Connor Medal. It is awarded annually to a member of the department who performs his duty heroically in a life-threatening situation. The medal is named after a member who was killed in the line of duty. Patrolman O'Connor of Emergency Service Squad 1 was a Board Officer as well a member of the Pipe Band when he died.

In the 1980's, an excellent location was discovered as a site for the monthly meetings. For over twenty years now, the St. Andrew R.C. Church Hall has been the venue for most of those meetings. The church is located in Cardinal Hayes Plaza and is adjacent to 1 Police Plaza, in lower Manhattan's civic center. The parish has been a good friend and the Emeralds are grateful for that. In the late 80's, the college scholarship program was created. Mr. Lawrence J. Bennett, a retired Police Officer, left a generous legacy when he passed away. As part of his wishes, Mr. Bennett willed a substantial amount of money to the Emerald Society. This gave the Society an opportunity to provide members with a first class scholarship program for higher education. This program, the "NYPD Emerald Society Margaret A. and Lawrence J. Bennett College Scholarship Fund" along with a separate high school scholarship continues today in helping many of our young students.


In the 1990's, the NYPD grew in size and so did the Emerald Society. When the long discussed merges of both the Transit and Housing Police became reality, there was a rollover of each department's respective Emerald Society body into one. New members were welcomed and all benefited from this union.




The year 2000 arrived with great fanfare and endless possibilities. September 10, 2001 was the Monday after Labor Day and that night there was a General Meeting. It was to signal the end of an era in America and especially in New York City. Along came the dreadful day of September 11th, bringing with it the evil world of terrorism, with a magnitude that our country had never before seen in its history. The site of the World Trade Center was located just a few city blocks away from St. Andrew's. Among the thousands who perished were 23 courageous NYPD officers of various ranks. The months that followed were full of sorrow. The Pipes & Drums played at each police funeral and memorial service, where thousands of mourners would gather. The Band's solemn and reverent regimen has long been a tradition as we pay our last respects to our fallen comrades. No words can ever describe what we lost, and the suffering inflicted upon so many, on that darkest of days. We will never, ever forget the gallant officers we lost.




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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

- April 13th: Palm Sunday
- April 18th: Good Friday
- April 20th: Easter Sunday
- April 24th: Regular Business Meeting
- May 15th: Regular Business Meeting

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Paul Becker	Deacon Bob Horton
Kevin Moran	Noel Morris
Nathan Redmond	David Ryan, Sr.
Bill Schimpf	

‡ 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.**

The goal of the organization, from its infancy, was to help foster Irish heritage and tradition within the department, and also to promote and preserve the accomplishments that the Irish have made to law enforcement. In 2003, the Emerald Society celebrated its 50th anniversary. It was marked with a special reception for charter members. It was a special way to recognize and thank them for the distinguished place they hold in our legacy. Our charter members, as well as those who attended the 2003 Dinner Dance, received a special commemorative 50th Anniversary Pin.

Now as this new century continues, the Emerald Society moves onward. In May 2004, a new website was introduced. The goal for the site was to provide timely and pertinent information to our members. It is a place to find "Everything Emerald." Members can keep up with past as well as future events by visiting the website at [nypdemeralds.com](http://nypdemeralds.com). There is a photo section with pictures of many different events that the Society holds throughout the year. There are also recaps of general meetings and gatherings.

Today we remain loyal, patriotic Americans and we shall always honor our Irish heritage. It has left an indelible mark of honor in the fabric that police work is made from. As time moves on, the Emerald Society remains as constant as the green fields of Ireland. From young rookie cops lining up to join for the first time to old-timers talking of the good-old days, the Emerald Society continues to play an important role in fostering and promoting Irish heritage while being a proud member of the NYPD.



**Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity**

