

# 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,

Wishing everyone had a happy and healthy New Year! As of the writing of this newsletter, we are one step closer to the St. Patrick's marching season and the Dutchess County Emerald Ball.

On this past Saturday night, an enjoyable time was had while our own Glen Kelly was installed as the Grand Marshall for this year's parade. It was great to see the support of so many brothers and I hope to see as many of you join us on March 1 for the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Dutchess County St. Patrick's parade.

Many upcoming events, so please try and make our monthly meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

In Brotherhood and Motto,  
Michael P. Quinn



FEBRUARY  
2014

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GLEN KELLY



*MAY THE WINGS OF THE BUTTERFLY KISS THE SUN.  
AND FIND YOUR SHOULDER TO LIGHT ON.  
TO BRING YOU LUCK, HAPPINESS AND RICHES.  
TODAY, TOMORROW AND BEYOND.*





## Historian's Corner

Ah, amn't the amadán [not to be confused with óinseach]. (Amn't is very common in Irish-English and can therefore be said to be correct in spoken language, at least regionally.) And for what follows don't be slugging me for it. Last month I wrote a piece about the story and movie of the Lone Survivor, specifically highlighting the heroism of Navy Seal Lt. Michael Murphy and his being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for that heroism. During my Internet roaming and surfing for that article and also preparing a piece for the January KBIC newsletter, I came across a singing duo [or duet] from Newfoundland. Newfoundlanders are somewhat affectionately or derisively referred to as "Newfies". Most of us will remember that the very brave monk from County Kerry, St. Brendan, The Navigator, visited Newfoundland in his journey to North America in the Sixth Century. [Now there's a topic which will put on one of my "front" burners for a future newsletter.] Another reason some of us older brothers will remember Newfoundland is that a re-fueling stopover there was always on the airplane trip to and from Ireland [and all such trips] in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. At any rate, the singers I came across are called "Simani". I am not going to describe their music to you in this piece except to say that it is well worth the trip to Youtube.com to hear them. You will be pleasantly surprised by what you hear. One time, when I was listening to one of their more "folksy" pieces, I inadvertently hit a selection that brought me to one of my favorite Irish balladeers, Paddy Reilly. [Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.] Listening to a few of his selections made me realize how much I missed listening to this talented singer. By the way I discovered that if you peruse the selections on You-tube some of them allow you listen to multiple selections. I have been able to listen to Simani and Paddy Reilly for 20 minutes or more at a time without having to go back on the lineup page to keep listening. Okay, what has this got to do with Irish history and/or culture?

Well, Paddy Reilly brought back an idea that has been rumbling around under my pate for some time. This idea has been on a hand-in-hand mental stroll with another idea of mine – Irish history through movies [or as they would say over, "fillums".] My attention began to wander as I listened to Paddy Reilly sing "The Fields of Athenry", "Spencil Hill", "Flight of Earls", just to name a few. Being presented here is a brief list of songs of Emigration, Rebellion, An Gorta Mór, The Rising, The Troubles, etc. The baker's dozen that follows is designed to whet your appetite or pique your curiosity. To present a more complete list would take up an inordinate amount of space in our newsletter, not to mention possible editorial logistical problems. At our February meeting, I will have a more complete and annotated list for attendees, which will also be available through email request. So, here is an initial list for you to listen to though You tube or your own music library.

The Patriot Game, Only Our Rivers Run Free, The Broad Black Brimmer, The Boys of The Old Brigade, Four Green Fields, God Save Ireland, Skibbereen, A Nation Once Again, The Bold Fenian Men, The Rising of the Moon, Kevin Barry, The Minstrel Boy, The Wind That Shakes The Barley. By the way, instead of a trivia quiz at the February meeting, perhaps we could discuss these or any other songs that are meaningful to you. There is a possibility I might lead off with one of the songs of Emigration, "A Mother's Love Is A Blessing". No, I don't intend to sing it, but to tell a story about it from my South Bronx growing up days. On the other hand, perhaps we could call upon our own balladeer, John Kelly, to sing it.

So, rather than wrestle with some of those dusty tomes in the library or on our own bookshelves, let's absorb a cursory treatment of our history and culture through song.

# Don't Forget the Lady in your Life!





Brothers, thank you again for your continued support of our Division by sending your Dues in on time. I have two items to share today. The first item results from an upcoming calendar event that happens every year on February 14th. (I am not talking about my wedding anniversary, although that is indeed the date!) The 2nd event is for a very popular local St. Patrick's Day Party on the evening of Saturday, March 8th right here in Poughkeepsie at the Germania Club. A corned beef dinner, very reasonable cash bar, step dancers, and super Irish band (MacCana) are included with lots of dancing, clapping, singing, and good craic all guaranteed. Please see the attached flyer. Several Brothers will be in attendance.

#### St. Valentine: Martyr and Romantic

Starry-eyed romantics and red-rose haters alike can look to one source for their respective love or cynicism every February 14: St. Valentine. Though everyone knows the name, much less is known about the man – he may not even have been just one figure. Historical details are murky, and the prevailing theory is that one or multiple Valentines existed and may have been conflated over the years.

#### **Fast Facts:**

- One Valentine was a Roman priest and doctor who was persecuted by the emperor Claudius II for marrying Christian couples. Claudius took a liking to Valentine, but Valentine overstepped his bounds when he tried to convert the emperor, and Claudius sentenced him to death. Lore suggests that he was beaten, stoned, and finally beheaded.
- Some accounts state that this priest had fallen in love with the blind daughter of his jailer, and signed a letter that he wrote to her "from your Valentine." Another tale says that after his brutal death, he performed the miracle of restoring the sight of his jailer's daughter.
- There is another Valentine who appears in early martyrologies: a bishop of Terni, Italy, who was also allegedly persecuted in Rome. It's been proposed that this man was one and the same as the Valentine executed by Claudius.
- St. Valentine was said to be interred north of Rome on February 14, though this date may mark his death, instead of his burial.
- The feast of St. Valentine was established by Pope Gelasius I in 496. Some say that Valentine's feast day is celebrated in February because the church wanted to Christianize an ancient Roman pagan festival called Lupercalia, which centered around fertility and purification, and also took place in February.
- Valentine's feast day has been celebrated as a lovers' holiday and a day of romance since the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when the date was thought to be the beginning of the mating season for birds.

Whatever the true origin of St. Valentine's Day, enough history exists to remind us of the countless martyrs for our faith and how secularization can often cloud its true respect for those sainted individuals.

Thanks, Stephen



# St Patrick's Day Party !!!

At Germania

Saturday, March 8th, 2014

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner / Cash Bar

Doors Open 5pm, Dinner 6pm

\$30 member / \$35 non-member

RSVP by 2/22

Info: Stephen Ren @ 845-214-5664 or sren82@gmail.com

*Dance to Music by MacCana !!!*



**Emerald Ball**

The Annual Emerald Ball honoring the Grand Marshals of the St. Patrick's Parade will be held on February 1, 2014. This year the parade committee is honoring Glen P. Kelly as its 2014 Grand Marshal. The event will take place at the Villa Borghese, Widmer Road, Wappingers Falls, NY. There is a cash bar at 6:00PM, with dinner being served at 7:00PM, a roast beef or vegetarian dinner are your options. Music will be provided by the Winslow III. Tickets are available through Trish Costello, Kathy Beale, or committee members, the cost is just \$40.00 per person.



**St. Patrick's Parade**



The Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Committee has begun the process to plan the 2014 parade. They had a couple of meeting's to plan the 19th Annual Parade, they meet on the first Monday of each month at the VFW Hall. As in the past there will be marching bands, floats, and organizations participating. This parade is held on the first Saturday in March each year, there is a Grand Marshal chosen and honored at the Emerald Ball, held on the first Saturday in February. The committee also sponsors a home and business decorating contest, judging is held on the Friday before the parade. The committee also provides two one thousand dollar scholarships awarded to local students attending college. Details on all of these items will be published in future newsletters as they become available. If you are looking for something to do or are interested in volunteering to help at the parade you can contact any member of the committee, several of which are members of our own AOH Division.

The committee does all this without asking for any governmental assistance or financing, it is privately funded through several avenues. An annual journal in which ads are solicited, corporate sponsors, boosters, and the profits from the Emerald Ball, raffles, and sticker sales, and of course private donations. The marching bands, liability insurance, flags, banners, advertising and facilities along the parade route are all paid for by these efforts.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for January 6th at 7:15PM at the VFW in Wappingers Falls. Ideas are always welcome.



**CONGRATULATIONS**



Speaking of the St. Patrick's Parade, the committee nominated and elected AOH Past President Glen Kelly as the 2014 Grand Marshal. Glen is the 7th Dutchess County AOH member to be Grand Marshal in its 19 year history.

Glen is also a PGK & PFN of the Wappingers Council & Assembly of the Knights of Columbus. He also belongs to several Irish organizations in Dutchess County. He works for Greystone Programs, Inc. of Poughkeepsie.

Congratulations Glen, an honor well deserved.

**Brothers:**

As we begin the new year, let us all strive to work together towards successful means, in all that we say and do, remembering our motto, Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, at all times. We are first and foremost, a charitable organization. Whatever events or promotions that are undertaken, such as Annual dances, fundraisers, family picnics, and parades, all are meant to provide sources for charity, while showcasing the ever present, positive contributions that the Irish have made in walks of our lives. Moreover, Divisions and Hibernian Halls, throughout our country have provided respites for new immigrants; a home away from home, as it were. And at the same time, support for issues of concern to the Irish such as Immigration Reform, MacBride Legislation, and the Right To Life, need be at the forefront of the minds of every member. We are in service to the less fortunate of our society, and to our Church. We never forget, our ancestral homeland, and can and should be praying, lobbying and working for the total independence of a united 32-county Ireland, as avowed in our constitution. Our initials AOH may speak for us. It has been said that they mean, Add One Hour, describing the easygoing no rush attitude of many of the members. On the other hand, America's Only Hope, has been used to define the loyalty of the Irish to the principals of their adopted land. Whatever the case may be, our members would probably be best described by this: To be Irish is a Blessing. To be a Hibernian is an Honor. So, let us go forth in this new year, proud of our heritage, and completing the tasks set before us, ever minded of who we are, and what we represent. I wish a very Happy New Year 2014 to all our Brothers, and their loved ones. May God remain with us, our families and our Nation, always. God Save Ireland, and God Bless America.



William J. "Bill" Schimpf  
Past President & Recording Secretary

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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

- February 1st: Emerald Ball
- February 20th: Regular Business Meeting
- March 1st: DC St. Patrick's Parade
- March 9th: Castle Point Veterans Luncheon
- March 20th: 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.

