



ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA

MAY 2011

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DIVISION NEWS DUTCHESS COUNTY MSGR. SHEAHAN DIVISION # 1

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Division Website: www.dutchessaoh.com

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Brothers,

It is with great sadness that I start this newsletter with the passing of our Past President, Mike Kelly's wife, and our Past President, Glen Kelly's Mother, Jane Kelly. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Mike, & Glen and their family. The Irish Community in Dutchess County will truly miss a remarkable Irish American Lady. Jane was always there, working silently behind the scenes, for many of the Irish Organizations and helping to make the Irish Community, one we are very proud of. We thank you Jane for all you have done for us and we will always keep you in our hearts and prayers.

May God Bless and Hold You In His Arms.

Gentlemen, we will have a membership drive at Saint Mary's, in Wappinger Falls, on Saturday, May 14th at the 5:30 PM Mass and on Sunday May 15th at all the masses (7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM & 12:00 noon). Please do your best to attend one of the masses and help spread the word about our division. We will have the Irish Cottage there and will be handing out brand new applications and history flyers, compliments of Vice President Jack Fedigan.

Our first DOT Route 9D "adopt a highway clean up" was rescheduled and is now Saturday May 21, from 8:30 to 11:00 am. Please join Brother Bill Leo and team. They will meet at Lily Logan's, on Route 9D.

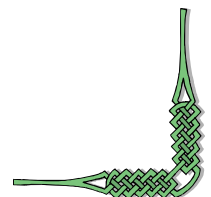
God Bless, In Brotherhood & Motto, Gearoid McVicker, President

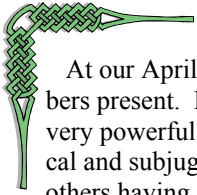


Please remember the current members of our military services and our veteran's everyday, but especially this Memorial Day



May you always have work for your hands to do. May your pockets hold always a coin or two. May you always have sun shine on your window pane. May your rainbows 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.





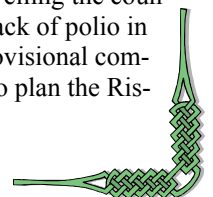
At our April meeting held on Thursday, April 14, copies of the 1916 Easter Rising Proclamation were distributed to the members present. By motion and unanimous vote the document was read by several members in rotation. The Proclamation is a very powerful and moving declaration every much as powerful as our own Declaration of Independence from the same tyrannical and subjugating power some 140 years before. In fact, three of the signers of that Declaration were Irish born, with five others having strong Irish roots. James Smith, a lawyer from Pennsylvania was born in Dublin in 1719. Five years before that, in 1714, Matthew Thornton, a member of the Continental Congress from Londonderry, NH was born in Ulster. Another Pennsylvanian, George Taylor, was also born in Ulster in 1716. [Please keep in mind, that, although these names sound "typically" English, these men were born on Irish soil much before the time when we had a divided Ireland.] Others of Irish Ancestry who signed the Declaration were: Charles Carroll, Thomas Lynch, Thomas McKean, George Read and Edward Rutledge.

Very often we gloss over the names of the men who signed the Proclamation that announced the formation of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic. Unfortunately, Ireland had to wait another 33 years before the Irish Republic came into actual being, replacing the Irish Free State. At four minutes past noon on Easter Monday, April 24th, 1916, from the steps of the General Post Office, Padraig Pearse read the Proclamation of the Republic, which was signed by the following on behalf of that Provisional Government. At this time of the 95th year since its signing and as we anticipate the Centennial of that "Declaration", let us identify those brave champions of Irish Freedom: Padraig Pearse, James Connolly, Thomas Clarke, Thomas MacDonagh, Sean MacDermott, Joseph Plunkett and Eamonn Ceannt.

Padraig Pearse was born in 1879 in Dublin. His father, who worked as a church sculptor, was English and his mother was from County Meath. Educated first at a private school and then at the Christian Brothers School on Westland Row, he went on to the Royal University, the forerunner of UCD, where he studied arts and law. He was subsequently called to the bar. From his school days, Pearse developed a deep interest in the Irish language and he joined the Gaelic League in 1895. He became editor of its paper, *An Claidheamh Soluis*. To advance his ideal of an Ireland that would not merely be free but Gaelic as well, he founded a bilingual school, St Enda's, which eventually was located in Rathfarnham in Dublin. This place where St. Enda's ended up was one of the last places that [Bold] Robert Emmet lived. Pearse took inspiration from the fact that he could almost see Emmet and his love, Sarah Curran, walk the grounds. (St. Enda was the patron saint of the Aran Islands where Pearse got his first real grounding in Irish.) The school was intended as a model for a new education system with pupils being taught through Irish and with a strong emphasis on nationalism. He was a prolific writer, penning essays and poems in Irish and English. He became an exponent of the notion of "blood sacrifice" [It was said that it was necessary for Irish blood to flow in this struggle in order to redeem the nation's honor]. Initially a supporter of Home Rule, he joined the IRB in 1913 and was co-opted on to its supreme council and elected to the provisional committee of the Volunteers. When the body of the Fenian, O'Donovan Rossa, was brought back from the US in 1915 for burial in Glasnevin Cemetery, Pearse delivered the historic oration that ended with the ringing phrase: "Ireland unfree shall never be at peace". In 1916 he was commander-in-chief of the insurgents and regarded as president of the Provisional Republic. After a week's fighting he agreed to surrender unconditionally to prevent the further slaughter of Dublin citizens. He was executed on May 3rd.

James Connolly was born in Edinburgh in 1868 to Irish parents, Connolly started work at 11 years of age and at 14 joined the British army. He spent seven years in the army in Ireland and developed an interest in socialism and nationalism. He deserted, returned to Scotland and married a Wicklow woman he had met in Dún Laoghaire. In Edinburgh he worked as a carter, got involved in trade union affairs and became a follower of Karl Marx. He returned to Ireland in 1896 as organizer of the Dublin Socialist Club and founded the Workers' Republic newspaper and the Irish Socialist Republican Party. He made a name as a journalist and lecturer, and toured Britain and the US in 1902. He went back to the US in 1903 and spent seven years there. During that period Connolly lived in Troy N.Y. There is a memorial there to him. He helped found the Industrial Workers of the World, a radical US labor organization. Connolly returned to Ireland in 1910 and became Ulster organizer for the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union which was led by James Larkin. During the 1913 Dublin lockout, Connolly was at the helm when Larkin was sent to prison. The plight of the workers and their families convinced him of the need for action and he founded the Irish Citizen Army. When Larkin went to the US, Connolly became the driving force in the ITGWU. On the outbreak of war he opposed the Allied war effort. He was invited to join the IRB's secret military council and helped plan the Rising. He was a key figure in the GPO and was badly wounded. He was executed on May 12th and, since he was unable to stand up, was tied to a chair and shot. [His most serious and debilitating wound was a shattered ankle that towards the end of Easter week was turning gangrenous and was, by all accounts, extremely painful. He had been given in the GPO, which was barely touching the pain.]

Sean MacDermott is a native of County Leitrim, being born in 1884. When he was 16 he emigrated to Glasgow where he worked as a gardener and later as a tram conductor. In 1902 he moved to Belfast, where he worked as a barman. He joined the Celtic League and there met IRB man Bulmer Hobson who asked him to become an organizer for the Dungannon Clubs, set up to promote the IRB in Ulster. In 1906 he joined the Belfast circle of the IRB and was later appointed treasurer of the IRB's supreme council. He became a close friend of Tom Clarke and was appointed manager of the IRB publication *Irish Freedom*. In 1910 MacDermott became a full-time organizer for Arthur Griffith's Sinn Féin. He spent the next few years travelling the country setting up party branches and organizing for the IRB, which was his real mission. He was crippled by an attack of polio in 1912 but he continued his work. Probably the most popular of the senior IRB activists, he was elected to the provisional committee of the Irish Volunteers in 1913 and in 1915 became a member of the military council set up by the IRB to plan the Rising. MacDermott was part of the contingent that fought in the GPO. He was executed on May 12th, 1916.





Thomas MacDonagh hails from County Tipperary; born in 1878, both his parents were teachers. He studied at Rockwell College and followed his parents into teaching. He taught in Kilkenny and Fermoy. His interest in the Irish language prompted him to join the Gaelic League. During a trip to the Aran Islands to improve his Irish he met Pearse and the two became friends. A poet like Pearse, he became the first teacher on the staff of St Enda's. He continued his studies at UCD, reading for a Master of Arts degree and was appointed to the English department of the university. With Joseph Plunkett he edited the Irish Review and helped Edward Martyn found the Irish Theatre in 1914. He published several volumes of poetry and was a playwright. When the Irish Volunteers were formed in November 1913 by his UCD colleague Eoin MacNeill, he joined and became director of training the following year. He joined the IRB in 1915 but was only drafted on to the military council a few weeks before the Rising. He was in command of the Jacob's factory garrison on Bishop Street (now the National Archives) during the Rising. He was executed on May 3rd.

Joseph Mary Plunkett was born to a well to do Catholic family in Dublin in 1887. His father was a Papal count. He was educated at Belvedere College, Stonyhurst, in England and UCD. He suffered from poor health and after graduation from the university spent some years in Italy, Egypt and Algeria. On his return to Dublin in 1911 he renewed his friendship with Thomas MacDonagh and with him launched the Irish Review. Like MacDonagh and Pearse he was a poet. He joined the Irish Volunteers in 1913 and his family's house at Kimmage, south of Dublin, was used as a clearing station for arms imported in 1914. In 1915 Plunkett was inducted into the IRB and he travelled to Berlin to help Roger Casement secure German support for a Rising. He then travelled to New York to inform Clann na nGael leaders on the preparations for the revolt. On his return he was appointed to the IRB military council but fell ill in early 1916 and had to undergo throat surgery. Despite his illness, he took his place in the GPO and signed the Proclamation. Like the other signatories he was sentenced to death. He married the artist, Grace Gifford, in his cell in Kilmainham Gaol shortly before his execution on May 4th.

Thomas J. Clarke, born in 1857 on the Isle of Wight, was the son of a Leitrim-born soldier. His family moved to South Africa; when he was 10 they returned to Dungannon, Co Tyrone. At 21 he went to the US where he joined Clann na nGael, the American wing of the IRB. In 1883 he was sent to England on a bombing raid where he was arrested and sentenced to life. He spent 15 years in jail, much of it in solitary confinement. Clarke returned to Ireland and was made a freeman of Limerick. He married Kathleen, a niece of a prison companion, John Daly. Unable to get steady work, he returned to the US in 1899. In 1907 he came back to Ireland and opened a tobacconist's shop in what is now Parnell Street. He set about reorganizing the IRB and in 1910 published a militantly anti-British journal, Irish Freedom. His shop became the center of republican activity in Dublin and the police saw him as the most dangerous revolutionary in Ireland. By then he was president of the IRB's supreme council. In July 1911, he organized the first pilgrimage to Wolfe Tone's grave in Bodenstown, County Kildare, as a counterblast to the visit to Ireland of King George V. In 1915 he became a member of the secret military council established to plot the Rising. When it began he was in the GPO with the other leaders and was asked to be the first to sign the Proclamation. His wife later maintained his leadership of the IRB made him, and not Pearse, the President of the Republic. Clarke was executed on May 3rd. Eamonn Ceannt, a native of County Galway, was born in 1881; his family moved to Dublin 10 years later. He was educated at the local national school in Glenamaddy and at North Richmond Street CBS in Dublin before going on to UCD. He joined the clerical staff of the Dublin Corporation where he was promoted to the position of treasurer of the Corporation. Ceannt joined the Gaelic League in 1900 and became passionately involved in the language revival movement. He was also keenly interested in Irish music and played the uilleann pipes. He travelled with a group of Irish athletes to Rome for the jubilee of Pope Pius X in 1908 and played a selection of Irish airs on the pipes at the Pope's request. Ceannt joined Sinn Féin in 1908 and soon afterwards was inducted into the IRB. He was one of the founding members of the Volunteers in 1913. In 1914 he was involved in the Howth gun-running activities and a year later joined the military council planning the Rising. Many of the council meetings were held in his house in Dublin. He was placed in command of the detachment that took over the South Dublin Union. Ceannt was executed on May 8th.



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER

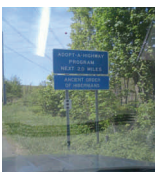
Brothers,

Thank you to all members who have paid their dues. We still have a few stragglers left to pay their dues however, all have interest to remain members.

If you have not paid your dues it's not too late, call me at 845-226-1254 or email bill.leo@live.com to make arrangements. If you have not paid you are no longer in good standing with the order.

Please check-out our website at www.dutchessaoh.com or our join our facebook page at dutchessaoh.

In Brotherhood and Motto,
Bill Leo

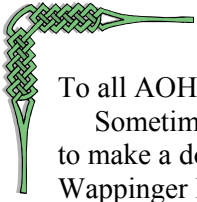


Brothers,

We are scheduled to begin our obligation to the NYSDOT to keep our free sign on Route 9D advertising our order. Highway Clean-up of Route 9D to be held on May 21st. We will meet at Lily Logan's at 8:30am.

Please contact Bill if you are interested in lending a helping hand @ 845-226-1254.





AOH DIVISION 1 EVENTS

To all AOH members:

Sometime this week I will be going to BJ's to shop for food for the House of Hope. Any member who would like to make a donation (any amount) can send me a check in my name or money to my home address. 16 Dara Lane , Wappinger Falls, NY. Any questions e-mail me and I will get back to you.

Thanks. Jim Sweeney

Brothers:

It is with much sorrow, that I recognize the passing of Jane Kelly, wife of our beloved Past President Mike Kelly, and mother of Past President Glen Kelly. Jane was an inspiration to us all, who always did her very best to support our causes, and cheer our paths. She was truly a wonderful lady; one who will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Kelly family, at this time, and always. May she Rest In Peace In Heaven.

William J. "Bill" Schimpf
Past President

IRISH COMMUNITY

We have been informed that a Major Degree is offered on Saturday July 16 2011, at the Pearl River Hilton. This is an excellent opportunity for those brothers seeking "The Lessons of The Order". We can arrange a car pool once we have a candidate count. See additional information below for time, dress code, etc.

Major Degree Information:

Date: Saturday, July 16, 2011

Location: NYS AOH Convention, Pearl River Hilton

Time: Candidates to arrive 11:00 am. Degree begins at 12:00 Noon.

Team: Tara Court MDT

Cost: \$20.00 per candidate (degreed observers are n/c)

Dress Code: Jacket and Tie

Coordinator: Walter Butler

Contact: 631-736-2171

On another note, please please let District Director Kevin Cummings know if you are planning to attend the 175th Anniversary in NYC on May 21st. They are trying to set up car pool arrangements. Brother Kevin's information is as follows:

Kevin Cummings

District 8 Director

NYS Ancient Order of Hibernians

845-857-8752

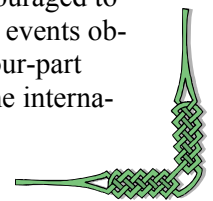
NATIONAL NEWS

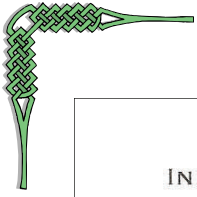
International Great Hunger Commemoration

In recognition of the considerable significance of The Great Hunger, the Irish Government established a National Famine Commemoration Committee, chaired by TD Eamon Ó Cuív, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in 2008. The first National Memorial Day was held on 25 May, 2008 in Dublin. It was so well received that the following year it was extended to an International Commemoration and it was established that the National Memorial Day in Ireland would revolve between the four provinces.



On May 17, 2009, the Irish National commemoration took place in Skibbereen, Co. Cork with parallel events held in Canada, Australia and other Irish communities around the world. International participants were encouraged to hold their own local events to commemorate the Great Hunger while, in Ireland, all public and sporting events observed a minute's silence on that day. The AOH National and NY State Boards produced a one hour, four-part DVD on the tragedy, especially for teachers, entitled 'The Reasons For Learning' as the AOH part in the international commemoration.





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Dwight Townsend, Enrolled Agent

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Fax (845) 485-3257



Imperial Barbers
Rt 9 Wappingers Falls

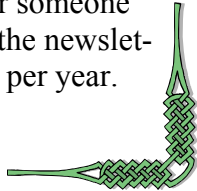
Mon-Fri 9am-5:45pm
Saturday 8am-4:30pm

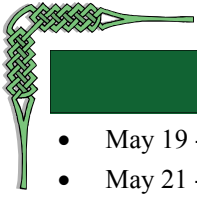
Next to Home Depot
(845) 297-8327

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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

- May 19 - Regular Business Meeting
- May 21 - Highway Clean-up
- May 30 - Memorial Day

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Deacon Bob Horton	Dan Lalor
Noel Morris	Dave Ryan
Bill Schimpf	

**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.**

† IN MEMORIAM †

Mary 'Jane' Kelly
 Wife of Mike, Mother of Glen Kelly



**ANCIENT ORDER
 OF
 HIBERNIANS
 IN AMERICA**
 dutchess county
 msgr. sheehan
 division #1

101 Brothers Road, Stormville, NY 12582

