



**ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN-AMERICA**

OCTOBER 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,

First, on behalf of our Division and all my Brother Hibernians, I want to extend our deep condolences to our Brother & past Saint Patrick's Day Grand Marshall, Ken Brown, on the passing of his beloved wife Elizabeth. Please keep Elizabeth and Kenny in your thoughts and prayers.

OK, I have had just about enough of the rain and I imagine that you all feel the same way. So let's think of a more cheerful event, like a Great Night out with Friends and Family listening to Irish Music, watching some great young Irish Dancers and having a hearty Roast Beef Dinner. Where you ask? The ELKS Club, Route 376, Wappingers Falls at The AOH Charity Dinner Dance. Tickets are still available so don't hesitate. Help support your division by attending and helping to raise funds for our charitable work. You can contact Vice President, Jack Fedigan, or me for reservations. In addition, Bill O'Hare is still looking for raffle item donations and thanks those who have already contributed. Thanks to my brother Hibernians who have responded, so far, to our request to purchase Dinner Dance and JETS Raffle tickets. For those who are still on the fence, its time to jump in and join what will be a great night.

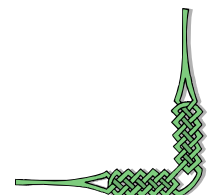
It has been requested by the National Board and FFAI Chairman that all divisions step up this year to support the "2011 Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal" It has been noted, that there has been a lack of participation, in past years. We have previously answered the call, on an individual basis of ten dollar donations, but we are being asked to contribute as a division. I ask that the CCC (Charitable Contributions Committee,) consider the request, for our next meeting. Individuals who want to contribute \$10 can mail checks to me, or bring their donation to the next meeting.

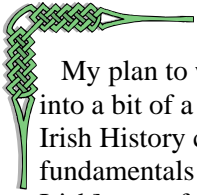
Thanks to our wonderful Historian Matt Fitzgerald, on his great article on the Penal laws, in last months newsletter. Matt puts in a tremendous effort in keeping us informed of our Irish History, no matter how painful it was. It is extremely important that we all understand what our ancestors had to endure to deliver us to where we are today. In closing, there has been some discussion on our Face Book page regarding a calendar of Irish events. If any one wants to publish a Relevant IRISH Community Event just send the information to the newsletter editor, the webmaster, and/or post it on the AOH Face book page. This is the best way; we have, of keeping each other collectively informed.

Without insulting anyone: " LETS GO YANKEES."

God Bless,
In Brotherhood & Motto,
Gearoid McVicker
President

**NOW SWEETLY LAYS OLD IRELAND
EMERALD GREEN BEYOND THE FOAM,
AWAKENING SWEET MEMORIES,
CALLING THE HEART BACK HOME.**





My plan to write this month about the development of the non-military police or security services in Ireland ran into a bit of a snag so I will delay that for next month's letter. As I am in the beginning stages of that non-credit Irish History course, it struck me that some basics could serve us well at this time. It's always good to review the fundamentals periodically. I am sure that from time to time you have asked the question "Where do we [the Irish] come from; what are our origins?" The answer we find is not so simple. Sure, if we are satisfied with the basic concept of "Creationism" as we learned in our early religious education a la the old Baltimore Catechism, we would just relate that we all are descendants of God's original creations – Adam and Eve, and that we can trace our lineage back to the Garden of Eden, wherever that actually was. Life would be so simple if there weren't all those other intervening chapters of history starting with the "Fall of Man".

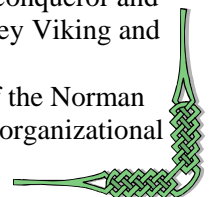
One thing we know is that the Celts are an important nucleus of our origins; that they are classified as an Indo-European race; that their exploits have taken them to many parts of what was or is now Europe, Asia Minor, the Mediterranean, and, if you believe the legends, Tir na nOg [land of the forever young], before that faction of the Celts, who became known as Gaels, made their way through Iberia to the Isle of Destiny that was promised by Moses. You will recall that the Celts displaced the Tuatha da Danaan, who themselves replaced the Fir Bliogs and the Formorians, in centuries past. We have seen this settlement by the Gaels develop into a very artful and scholarly society. And we have seen this development through its beginnings of what we called a pagan society into flourishing, but albeit warring and divided, society. Irish society developed in this intra-mural manner with the prior pagan society of the Druids and the new Christian religion accommodating each other to a "final" culmination into a Christian Ireland.

These Gaels, these Irish, contained themselves in, as well as contenting themselves with, the island of Ireland. They were not a nation or race that ventured out to conquer new lands outside their own geographical sphere as others did to them in years to come. Perhaps the only foreign adventures that these Gaelic-Irish could be accused of was the unconfirmed exploration of North American waters by Brendan the Navigator and the missionary work of conversion to the Faith, winning souls for Christ.

Let us look at some of those strangers who came and tried to teach us their way, who instead wound up learning and adopting some of the ways of the Irish. Although the Romans conquered England and exploratory bands may have reached Irish shores, there is no credible evidence showing they were invaders and/or conquerors of the land of 40 shades of green. After the Celts spread across central and western Europe, they were followed by another invading group, a Germanic people. The people who settled in the southern part of this region spoke the Germanic languages, which eventually evolved into German. The other group ventured into the Baltic region, through northern Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, and farther north into Norway and Sweden. These "new" Scandinavian groups spoke Norse tongues and were the ancestors of the Norwegians, Danish, and Swedish peoples. Shortly after St. Patrick, then bishop, came back to Ireland, the Romans left Britain. Great numbers of the above German speaking people started get an itch for that fertile western island. They got into their boats and sailed across the North Sea to Britain. The Old English Chronicles referred to these people as Angles, Saxons, and Jutes. They were a fearsome, violent, and war-like people and drove the Britons [Celts] to other parts of that island – Wales, Cornwall, and Scotland. This ushered in the period in English history known as the Anglo-Saxon period. Once these Anglo-Saxons settled in England, they calmed down to a degree, building towns, converting to Christianity, stopped raiding, and began to behave like regular civilized people. Around the latter part of the 8th century, the northern counterpart of these Germanic people, the Vikings, began their assault and conquest of England. These Vikings were the Scandinavians referred to above – those from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. The Vikings called themselves "Ostmen" or men from the east. They were excellent sailors with a fearsome reputation for raiding, stealing, and burning whatever they found in their way.

The Vikings came to Ireland in about 795 with their first major settlement in what we now know as Dublin, using that as a launching site for their subsequent raids attacking up and down the coast, first concentrating their raids on the northern and western seaboard, then later venturing down rivers and into the interior attacking churches and monasteries looting them and taking captives. The Vikings saw the need and the wisdom of settling down and assimilated to a degree into the Irish culture, as well as adding its own uniqueness to the Irish experience. Sometime around the first half of the 11th century the Viking stranglehold was broken and a period of relative calm and assimilation came over Ireland and remained so until about 1170 when Strongbow and the Normans turned their attention westward. [As a point of reference, in 1066 William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, successfully invaded England and was subsequently crowned King of England. Historically, there was an existing type of relationship between the conqueror and the conquered. The Duchy of Normandy stems from various Danish, Norwegian, Hiberno-Norse, Orkney Viking and Anglo-Danish (*from the Danelaw*) invasions of France in the 9th century.]

Since next month's article will deal with policing in Ireland, it is better to leave some of the details of the Norman period and its subsequent structural organization to be developed in that piece because of historical and organizational development.





Aoh Division 1 Events



JETS TICKET RAFFLE

We need your help. It is getting down to crunch time. The drawing is coming very soon. Chairman, Jason Dugan has mailed out a few tickets to each member to sell. If you have done so, please return them to Jason as soon as possible. If you are interested in getting more tickets or information you can contact Jason at 845-831-0970 or e-mail him at duggie57@msn.com. The game this year will be the NY Jets vs NY Giants, December 24, 2011, 1:00PM. The winner will receive 4 game tickets and 1 parking pass for the Meadowlands. Each raffle will be \$5.00 and the drawing will be held at our Charity Dinner / Dance, October 22, 2011. We need everyone's help as this is a major fund raiser for our chapter.



Charity Dinner / Dance

The Dutchess County AOH will be holding their annual Charity Dinner / Dance October 22, 2011, 7:00PM at the Wappingers Elks Lodge, Route 376, Wappingers Falls. Each member was mailed a couple of tickets for this event. You can either buy them or try to sell them. This event is our major charity fund raiser and the monies we make from it guides how we can spend in charitable ways for the coming year. A complete Roast Beef Dinner with Dessert and Coffee will be served. Music will be provided by Billy Keenan & Prime Time Show Band. There will be Irish Step Dancers, Raffles and Prizes also. All this is just \$40.00 per person. For more tickets or information please contact: Jack Fedigan, Matt Fitzgerald, Bill O'Hare, or Gerry McVicker.



NATIONAL NEWS

On the 10th Anniversary of the September 11th Attacks

By David A. Ring

It is hard to fathom that ten years have passed since those horrific moments on the morning of September 11, 2001. In the space of a few hours, it seemed that our whole world had changed and that the United States of America would never be the same. Our nation and the world were shocked and stunned; our pain and grief was beyond expression.

Suddenly thousands had perished. More would follow due to the events in the aftermath. Time has passed, but the pain of our losses and the memory of that day has not dulled. The historic relevance of that terrorist act will never fade.

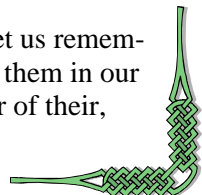
The perpetrators of these attacks took joy in their perceived victory. They watched for us to fall apart. They anticipated our capitulation to the demands of their cause. They assumed oncoming social and economic turmoil. They proceeded to plan more attacks on our nation.

What these people didn't truly understand was the real American spirit. They didn't realize that we do not capitulate. They didn't comprehend that our beliefs are totally ingrained in our beings, that we, as people, believe in freedom and democracy as being not just words, but the essence of our philosophy. They were foolish to challenge the resolve of the American people.

Ten years from that tragic morning, we can now reflect on ourselves as people and a nation. We have taken realistic precautions, but we have not changed our ways, our lifestyles, or our beliefs. Our system of democracy continues. Our belief in justice for all has grown stronger, not only in our homeland, but for all who need our support.

We have actively sought out those who would force their twisted beliefs on others through terrorist acts and have foiled thousands of their plots. There have not been any successful attacks on U.S. soil since 9/11 by these groups. They confused our niceness for weakness, and they have, and will, continue to pay the price. Their leader already has.

As we gather now on this solemn anniversary let us remember the innocent people lost on that day. Let us remember those who have given their all since that day to guarantee the freedom of others. Let us always keep them in our hearts and our minds. Let us vow to ourselves that we will carry on the pursuit of righteousness in honor of their, and our, defense and support of freedom, justice, and liberty for all people.





Annual Northern Ireland Christmas Appeal Fundraiser

Cortland Manor, NY – September 28, 2011 – The New York State Freedom for All Ireland Committee of the Ancient Order of Hibernians has announced its annual Northern Ireland Christmas Appeal Fundraiser to be held on October 13, 2011, at Harbour Lights Restaurant located on Pier 17 of the South Street Seaport.

“The good will and outreach for the Christmas Appeal each year brings direct results to the people of the North,” said NY State FFAI Chairman Dan Dennehy, “ and helps Americans have a better understanding of the needs of the people of Northern Ireland.”

Admission is included in a minimum donation of \$50 to the annual appeal, and includes music and food. There will also be a cash bar.

There will be a number of speakers on the agenda who will address the struggle for a United Ireland, including

- **Clara O’Reilly** (Relatives For Justice) 2011 AOH Sean McBride Humanitarian Award Winner
- **Matt Morrison** (Thar Saile)
- **Steve McCabe & General James Cullen** (Brehon Law Society)
- **Sean Pender** (AOH National FFAI Chair & NJ State President)

All monies donated that night will go to the AOH’s annual Christmas Appeal, which has raised and distributed over \$570,000 in direct aid to the people of Northern Ireland.

Last year, the AOH was able to make donations to 21 organizations throughout Northern Ireland and the United States, including:

- **Bloody Sunday Families**, Derry
- **Cairdre**, Strabane
- **Holy Cross**, Ardoyne, Belfast
- **Justice for the Forgotten**, Dublin & Monaghan
- **Mary’s Gift USA**—for Irish speaking schools in the North
- **Omagh Basketball Club & Omagh Choir**
- **Pat Finucane Center**, Derry & Newry
- **Relatives for Justice**, Belfast & Dungannon
- **Thar Saile**, USA

For more information about the event please contact NY State FFAI Chairman Dan Dennehy at (914) 588-2710 or (914) 588-2710 or by e-mail at ffai@nyaoh.com.

About the Northern Ireland Christmas Appeal: Since 2001, the AOH’s Christmas Appeal has raised and distributed over \$570K of direct aid to make positive change in the lives of many people in Ireland. Last year the Christmas Appeal was able to make donations to 21 organizations throughout the North of Ireland & USA.



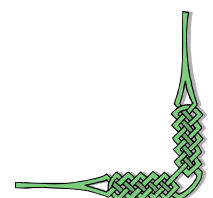
FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER

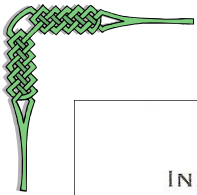
Brothers,

If you have any issues you wish to discuss about your membership, please call me at 845-226-1254 or email bill.leo@live.com .

Please check-out our website at www.dutchessaoh.com or our join our facebook page at [dutchessaoh](http://dutchessaoh.com).

In Brotherhood and Motto,
Bill Leo





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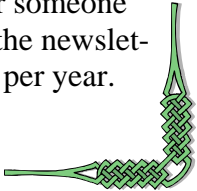
Mon-Fri 9am-5:45pm
Saturday 8am-4:30pm

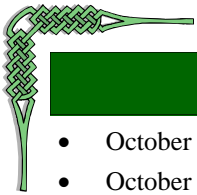
Next to Home Depot
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Attention, all AOH members, your help is needed. This newsletter needs sponsors, for a small yearly fee we will print a business card sized ad monthly. This newsletter goes out to all our membership and to several other Irish organizations.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

- October 16 - Route 9D Roadside Clean-up 8:30AM
- October 20 - Regular Business Meeting
- October 22 - Charity Dinner / Dance - Raffle Drawing
- November 17 - Regular Business Meeting

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Deacon Bob Horton	Kevin Moran
Noel Morris	Nathan Redmond
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 †



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

101 Brothers Road, Stormville, NY 12582

