



ANCIENT ORDER  
OF  
HIBERNIANS  
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County  
Msgr. Sheahan  
Division # 1

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May  
2009

## Division Newsletter



### Presidents Message:

Brothers:

My thanks to all who attended our lively April 16th meeting. Our division is a vibrant one, with a great deal of harmonious involvement from the young and old alike. Congratulations, and welcome to Dan McGrann, William J. O'Hare, Jr. and Jim Sweeney, our newest members. I urge you, and all of our members, to become involved in the many activities that we provide. Many hands are needed for Our Annual Veteran's Picnic, scheduled for June 20th at Castle Point VA facility. Mike Kelly has graciously volunteered to take over as Chair for this event, following Jerry Clarke's resignation from that post. Also, preparations for our Annual Charity Dinner Dance, our major fundraiser, scheduled for October 17th, is off to a good start. Jim Whalen and Matt Fitzgerald are busy laying the groundwork for this event. Chaplain Rev. Daniel O'Hare, requests, that we send Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, a personal letter of support, as I am on behalf of our division.

Again, I wish to remind any member who has not paid his Annual Dues, to please do so immediately. Our Financial Secretary, Jerry Clarke, who intends to resign the position in May, has been working hard to insure 100% dues payments. Please secure your membership via your dues payment. My sincere thanks to Jerry for his work and dedication to our division. My thanks, too, so many of you who attended the wake and Funeral Mass, for our departed Brother Hugh Cunningham.

As you may know, we are now linked to the websites of both the Dubliner Pub, and to "A Little Bit of Ireland" radio show. Our Shamrock Degree is scheduled for June 18th, and we are attempting to secure a date for the 2009 Major Degree. The Kevin Barry Club is hosting it's An-



### Financial Secretary's Corner

Brothers,

This will be my last submission as the financial secretary for the AOH Dutchess County, Msgr. Sheahan Division I, Wappingers Falls. I have resigned my position of financial secretary. In the three years that I have been a member of this division, I can honestly say that I have seen it grow in numbers but more importantly, in stature. The division has distinguished itself with the addition of the St. Patrick's Day celebration it hosts for the disabled veteran's at the Castle Point Veteran's facility. Additionally, the division has now reinstated its honored position in the Wappingers Falls, St. Patrick's Day Parade with the reincarnation of the "Irish Cottage Float." All indications are that the division is on the right track and I applaud its gains. I sincerely hope that we can live the reality of our motto, "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity."

Slainte, Jerry Clarke

## Remember our Vets!

nual Picnic on August 9th, from Noon to dusk. Please show your support for that event.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 21st, at 7:30PM, at the KofC Hall in Wappingers Falls, NY. Please make every effort to attend this very important meeting. A Belated Happy Easter to everyone. God Bless.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

William J. "Bill" Schimpf  
President  
AOH Div 1 Dutchess County

## A Wee Bit of Irish History

### Irish History

With the coming of the Milesians and their conquest over the Fir Bolg and the Tuatha Da Danaan, a cooperative truce of sorts developed. This resulted in the establishment of a new ruling order. The people were divided into many clans. As certain regions of the country grew, these became minor kingdoms with a fair degree of sovereignty. In time, groups of clans would join under a single representative leader, although it would be about a thousand years before a king of all Ireland would exist. Despite almost nonstop conflicts, a sophisticated society and high culture prospered over the centuries. In the first centuries A.D., the country was divided into four kingdoms – a close approximation to the provinces of today – these were Connaught, Leinster, Munster and Ulster. A fifth province, Midhe, eventually morphs into the counties of Meath and Westmeath.

Another significant turning point in Irish history took place in the middle of the fifth century. In the year 432 AD, St. Patrick landed in Ireland with several loyal followers. Over the rest of his life Patrick worked to convert the Irish to Christianity. He did not, however, seek to abolish existing customs. He proposed alterations only when they were in direct conflict with Christian Doctrine. The lore surrounding Ireland's patron Saint claims that he was brought over [kidnapped] to Ireland as a boy to herd sheep. As a man, he escapes and returns across the sea to become a servant of God.

One of the most profound introductions brought by Patrick was the Latin alphabet; the shadow of [conquest by] the Rowan empire had never extended to Ireland. In succeeding years, the craft of the written word would be used by Irish monks to record the great wealth of the country's oral traditions and history. Patrick established monasteries across the country where language and theology could be studied. During the Dark Ages in Europe these monasteries served as sanctuary to many of the continent's great scholars and theologians and their writings. It was here that the lamp of Latin learning was preserved for the ages. During this Age of Illumination, the great illuminated manuscripts of Ireland [including the famous Book of Kells] were produced.

The age of illumination was brought to an abrupt end by yet another group of invaders. The Vikings, unlike the Romans, did not spare Ireland. During the ninth and tenth centuries, waves of Norse warriors ransacked the country side. The Vikings plundered everything in sight. The monasteries were favorite targets for their treasures of golden religious ornaments. The Vikings were eventually driven out, but not before making some contributions of their own. Many coastal towns owe their establishment to the invading Norsemen. Dublin is one of the foremost examples of this "settling in".

When later the Vikings were driven out, Ireland was still not without strife. The country fractured into petty kingdoms as ambitious regional rulers vied for control. In a move aimed at unifying Ireland, the great warrior Brian Boru assumed the title of High King of Ireland in the year 1002. However, national unity was not to be. Family and clan warfare continued for another one hundred and fifty years. In the midst of one such conflict came an invitation which would open a new cycle in history, one which had a significant effect on the path of Irish History for the next 900 or so years.

In the midst of one such conflict came an invitation which would open a new cycle in history, one which is still unfolding to this very day. In 1169, Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster, lost his title in conflict. He appealed to the English King, Henry II, for assistance in regaining control. Henry agreed, providing both financial and military support, commencing the history of the Anglo-Norman involvement in Ireland.

In our next installment we will flesh out some of the broader mythical and historical references that we have glossed over to set the stage for pre-Anglo-Norman Ireland.

Matt Fitzgerald,  
Division Historian

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### **Time of Written History (cont.)**

- 1939 - Second World War.
- 1945 - End of Second World War.
- 1948 - General Election. Fianna Fail defeated.
- 1949 - Repeal of External Relations Act. Ireland leaves Commonwealth. Republic of Ireland declared (26 counties)
- 1951-62 - IRA campaign in North.
- 1955 - Ireland joins the United Nations.
- 1965 - O'Neill-Lemass Talks.

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## 2009 DIVISION OFFICERS

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Vice President	Pat Turbitt	Treasurer	Denis Conn	Sentinel	Dave Ryan
Financial Secretary	Gerard Clarke	Marshall	Jim Whalen	Standing Committee	Gerry McVicker



### Important Dates

- ◆ May 21 - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ June 18 - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ June 20 - Veteran's Picnic

### Prayers for the Sick

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Mike Connelly | Matt Fitzgerald |
| Dan Lalor     | Noel Morris     |
| 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 \*

### Irish Community

- ◆ The Kevin Barry Irish Club will hold its annual summer picnic on August 9, 2009.



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