



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA

DUTCHESS COUNTY
MSGR. SHEAHAN
DIVISION # 1



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Brothers,

I want to thank everyone, on behalf of my entire family, heartfelt thanks for the condolences, on the death of my father, Fred. It has been a difficult time for my family but we take consolation in knowing that our parents are united together in God's eternal love.

Spring is finally with us and the weather is absolutely welcomed. I hope everyone had a Happy Easter. I know that you have met since the Saint Patrick's Day celebrations, but I personally want to extend my sincere thanks to Brother John Kelly and Brother Brendan Daly for the fine celebration that they organized for our beloved veterans. This year, as we are now accustomed, was a fine example of our charitable work and the veterans truly appreciated the celebration. I have been told that they regard the Saint Patrick's Day Celebration as one of their premier events. I also want to take the opportunity to thank Brother Jim Sweeny for his efforts to raise the funds and buy the supplies for the House of Faith/House of Hope, a safe house for domestic violence victims. Jim has invited Minister Lauder Smith to talk at our next meeting regarding the safe house.

Our next meeting is on, April 15, and I have been warned that we will again have an Irish History and Trivia contest. I have heard that it was a great success and wish to express thanks to our wonderful historian Matt Fitzgerald for all his time and devotion to enlightening the brotherhood on their Irish History. We have three important functions that will be upon us before we know it and I need to appoint committee chairmen to each. Please consider taking some of the burden in leading these functions. They are the Castle Point Summer Picnic, Baby Shower, and our Annual Charity Dinner Dance. Also please check the website (<http://www.dutchessaoh.com/>) for upcoming events such as Adopt a Highway clean up.

I am looking forward to our meeting and hope to see as many as possible there. In closing please take the time to thank our brothers behind the scenes, for

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APRIL
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DIVISION NEWSLETTER

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brothers,

Gentlemen, just a little reminder that your yearly dues are now past due. If they are not paid you are not a member in good standing. So, if you have not paid your dues as of yet please do so as soon as possible. Also if you have not replied to the AOH survey, please do so ASAP.

We have great things planned this year to keep with our motto of Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity and look forward having you involved to deliver those less fortunate than ourselves.

Slainte,
Bill

Don't forget to visit our Division website
for additional resource information at:
www.dutchessaoh.com



May you have the hindsight to know where you've been
the foresight to know where you're going
and the insight to know when you're going too far.



the wonderful jobs they are doing in keeping the brotherhood alive and healthy. I am referring to our, newsletter editor, Gene Noone, our webmaster Bill Leo, and our historian Matt Fitzgerald.

In Brotherhood & Motto,

Gearoid McVicker
President

The 1916 Rising

This article will be the first of three rounding out this program year. Starting in September, The History Corner will have a more organized and serialized topic list and a general bibliography. The next two articles of this program year will deal with the Irish War for Independence and the Civil War. These pieces have as their goal to encourage you to explore more of the details leading up to these events and the effect they had on the Republic of Ireland in the 20th Century. In the short space we allot to this and other pieces, we would be hard pressed to do proper justice to describing the years of domination suffered by the Irish at the hands of the British. Who of all the major actors on the scene would we highlight more than another: Pearce, Connolly, deValera, Collins, Boland, Clarke, Plunkett, Markievicz, or Casement? Although memorable fighting took place at the General Post Office, other scenes of activity included Trinity College, Phoenix Park, Boland's Bakery, St. Stephen's Green and the Four Courts.

The 1916 Rising is regarded as an important and impactful moment in Irish history, but it initially failed to attract popular support at the time it was occurring. While the declaration of an Irish Republic was designed to gain full freedom from British rule, the week long fighting that ensued caused a significant disruption in public services, mainly in the city of Dublin. Although, at the time of the Rising, Dublin was still a growing city with a population of some 400,000 people, it was not the city it was during its glory days of the eighteenth century. Twenty-five thousand families lived in tenements, seventy-eight percent in single room dwellings; the two Dublin workhouses contained 6,500 paupers. Accompanying the overcrowding and poverty were the deadly diseases of tuberculosis and pneumonia as well as a high infant mortality death rate.

By 1916, the First World War was grinding along, and the Home Rule Bill, which would have maintained a measure of independence to Ireland, had been suspended in the British Parliament. The Irish Volunteers, a paramilitary group seeking freedom for Ireland, continued to train and drill its men, as did the Ulster Volunteers, a similar organization dedicated to keeping the union with Britain. But a secret section within the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), had lost patience with the British and was planning a rebellion. They knew that, with a massive British military garrison in Ireland, they would be outnumbered. But they hoped the very act of armed resistance would spark a national uprising.

By January, 1916 the IRB hooked up with the socialist leader James Connolly and his Irish Citizens' Army, and the rebels began working towards an Easter deadline. On Easter Monday - 24 April - about 1,200 men and women ignored a countermanding order from the head of the Irish Volunteers not to rebel, and seized the General Post Office (GPO) and other buildings in and around Dublin. In a written proclamation, they stated that Ireland was now a republic, and guaranteed "religious and civil liberty, [and] equal rights and equal opportunities to all citizens". The British reacted with fury, and crushed the Dublin rebellion, along with smaller uprisings in Wexford and Galway, over the following five days. By week's end 64 volunteers, 142 British soldiers and policemen, and an estimated 254 civilians had died, with some 2,000 wounded. A large part of the center of Dublin had suffered damage, mostly from British artillery fire. Dublin's Fire Brigade Chief estimated the cost of damaged buildings at 1.1 million pounds, with stock loss amounting to about 0.75 million pounds.

The rising did not spark the hoped for national rebellion, but the vengeful manner in which the British executed its leaders - which included tying the wounded James Connolly to a chair before shooting him - sickened most people. Lt-General Sir John Maxwell was largely responsible for these atrocious actions. Not only were the executions carried out under his orders, but the presence of a priest to minister to the doomed Volunteers at this crucial time in the courtyard of Kilmainham Jail was refused. Several of the bodies were dumped into a pit and burned with quicklime rather than turn them over to relatives for burial.

It is clear that the vast majority of ordinary Irish people in 1916 did not, at the time, approve of the violence of the Rising, but had some sympathy with its aims. Within a short period of time, however, the participants in the rising were regarded as heroes motivated by the highest of ideals, and this paved the way for the emergence of the more pragmatic campaign of guerrilla warfare by the Irish Republican Army. Having set the stage for a "full court press", we will continue next month with the War of Independence when we will see the contributions of Michael Collins, Eamon deValera, and others.

Northern Ireland Devolution Follow-up

Nothing major has developed since last month's report on the vote by the Northern Ireland Assembly approving the transfer of police and court powers to the Northern Ireland Government. As reported, this process is scheduled to take place on April 12. In the coming months, Belfast will be given these additional powers with a new minister, who is expected to be David Ford of the Alliance party, gaining oversight of policing and justice matters. Chief Constable Matt Baggott will retain operational control of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, with intelligence matters continuing to be the preserve of his Special Branch and MI5.

Latest Update on Northern Ireland Issues [4-12-10]

A car bomb exploded early this morning, April 12, 2010, British Standard Time [BTS] on the outskirts of Belfast, The blast, in Holywood, County Down, was timed to coincide with the exact moment that policing and justice powers were transferred from Westminster to the Stormont parliament. It took place near an army base, Palace Barracks. MI5 also has its Northern Ireland headquarters in the area. Police said that the bomb was taken to the army barracks in a hijacked taxi, after the driver had been held hostage for several hours. The bomb exploded soon after midnight. It has been reported that one person was injured. Dissident Republicans of the Real IRA have claimed responsibility for the blast.

Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw said the police had not received a telephoned warning about the attack but apparently, since they observed the abandoned taxi in front of the barracks, evacuation procedures were instituted. The evacuation from the barracks was not complete when the bomb exploded. In addition some 60 residents in the area were evacuated from their homes.

Later in the morning Alliance Party leader, David Ford, was elected as Northern Ireland's new Justice Minister, the first local politician to take responsibility for justice and policing in 38 years.

Regarding the release of The Saville Report, nothing much is expected on that issue since it was previously reported that the report would probably be delayed until after the new Parliamentary election. That election is now scheduled to take place on May 6.

Note: Thanks to the assistance of Gene Noone, who has cooperated again with my request and held off sending out the April Newsletter until I could get this to him since this news just began to break late last night, our time. The May newsletter will contain some additional and pertinent information as deemed important, since by then some of this will be stale news. At any rate, you can follow the unfolding news on the Internet.

The Saville Report Follow-up

Despite calls from many sides the Saville Report's availability to the general public may be somewhat delayed again. The report is completed and is still in the hands of Lord Saville. Instead lawyers for the government will review the report while it remains in the possession of Lord Saville and the Inquiry team. The government and the Inquiry have agreed the report will stay with Lord Saville while it is checked for issues of national security and safety for witnesses testifying before the Inquiry. The report will remain with Lord Saville until all the issues surrounding its publication have been resolved, which is expected to take about two weeks, which would then be about the week of April 6. It will then go to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Shaun Woodward, who will decide when it will be made public.

A more recent development involves the viewing of the report by members of the victims' families. It had previously been stated that one person representing all of the families would be allowed to read the report after its publication, but before its release. However, it has now been decided by Parliamentary authorities to allow two members from each family of those of those killed on Bloody Sunday in Derry in 1972 to read the report of the Saville inquiry before the findings are published. The relatives welcome and are relieved by this change of heart after pressure from them to increase the number of relatives allowed at the pre-read stage. Families were informed of the decision by Northern Ireland Secretary Shaun Woodward that the Speaker of the British Parliament has agreed to up to two people per family getting access to the report on the day of publication. 'It was widely felt that the pressure on one person would have been too much to bear. The general feeling of the families can be summed up by the statement of Gerry Duddy, whose 17-year-old brother Jackie was murdered on Bloody Sunday, said of the news: 'This development is obviously a lot better than one person being granted prior access to the report. How they expected one person to absorb the findings of this colossal report is beyond us, especially considering that it is taking up to two weeks for legal experts to scrutinize these same documents. The fact that the (British) government have now conceded to allow two members of each family will certainly ease the burden of seeing the final report.' However, family members are still unhappy with the constant delays, the latest of which is the so-called 'security review' currently taking place. Despite continual assurances that he would release the report under this current government, the Secretary of State has yet to deliver, sums up additional concerns of those concerned. 'Our families, the wounded and the wider population of Derry have waited over 38 years for the findings of this Inquiry. This will be an incredibly emotional event and there will be a great deal of anxiety felt by both those involved in the report pre-read and by all other family members waiting patiently for its findings. 'After many long, hard years of campaigning the time has come for the British establishment to acknowledge their wrongdoings and set the truth free', Mr. Duddy added. Prior to its release, the report will also be allowed to be reviewed by soldiers testifying before the Inquiry.

From his perspective, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in a statement before the House of Commons said that while bereaved relatives wanted an early publication of the report, which took 12 years to compile and cost £200 million, he was legally obliged to have the checks carried out. Mr Woodward added: "Once the checking process is complete, a publication date can be set and the report can be printed. It is, of course, possible that a general election might be called in the meantime. Lord Saville has informed me that if it becomes clear that it will not be possible for the report to be published in advance of the dissolution of Parliament, the tribunal will agree to retain custody of the report until after the general election."

An Postal

I have just received the latest copy of The Collector, which is the monthly publication of the Irish Postal Service. Stamps, like coins, have been collected by all classes of people for centuries. Aside from the appreciating monetary value of stamps and coins, these items often tell a history of the issuing countries. In announcing the issuance of the newest stamps, which includes a Mother Teresa stamp, the current edition highlights stamps depicting High or Celtic Crosses. As you know, when you visit Ireland you can't travel far without spotting a High Cross. Dotted across Ireland, High Crosses are free-standing Christian crosses made of stone and often richly decorated. These crosses were primarily created some time around the 8th or 9th century and used mainly as status symbols, meeting points for masses or parish boundaries, according to the postal service.

Most High Crosses have stone-carved panels illustrating Biblical narrative scenes from the Book of Genesis to the Last Judgment. The ring of a cross initially served to strengthen its head and the arms but it soon became a decorative feature as well. Like the Book of Kells, High Crosses are one of Ireland's greatest contributions to art from the Middle Ages. [The ring is also representative of the sun.] Of the many crosses that remain in Ireland, the following are the most famous and best preserved examples of High Crosses featured on the new stamps.

Situated on the grounds of a former monastery founded by St. Colmcille, Drumcliffe Cross in County Sligo stands in view of a magnificent round tower. Carndonagh Cross in County Donegal sits immediately outside the school grounds of Ireland's largest community school and features carvings depicting The Crucifixion. Ahenny Cross in County Tipperary is richly decorated with geometric spirals, knot-work and braids. Located on one of Ireland's best-known and earliest religious sites, Monasterboice Cross in County Louth stands alongside the remains of two churches.

AOH DIVISION 1 EVENTS

Brothers,

At our last meeting Brother Jim Sweeney brought up and we discussed bringing with us to each meeting, items that are needed for a Battered Women's Shelter/Home in our area. Or bring a \$5.00 or \$10.00 cash donation, which would be used by Jim to purchase supplies for these woman and their children.

This is being done in conjunction with Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce. The items will be given to the House of Faith/House of Hope. Items they are in need of are:

Coffee, regular and decaf	Tea Bags
Powdered coffee creamer	Canned soup (all varieties)
Cans of fruit (single or multiple serving cans)	Juice Boxes (individual sizes)
Sugar (5lb. bags)	Granola Bars (variety of types)
Hand soaps	Dish detergent
Clothes detergent	Kleenex
Diapers (any variety)	Baby wipes
Neosporin ointment	Benadryl cream
Children's vitamins	Jelly beans (Seasonal/Holiday)
Chocolate Easter eggs (Seasonal/Holiday)	

Let's make a difference in the lives of these ladies and their children each and every month. Jim will update us each month as necessary.

Below is a comment from Lea Bishop, Director of Small Business Development, Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce, to Jim Sweeney about our involvement:

Jim,

These are some of the items that would be most greatly appreciated to be received by the House of Faith/House of Hope. You can bring them here to the chamber and I will see that they get them.

Bless you, and Bless all those wonderful men that you know,

Lea

Brothers,

We embark on a new event in the coming months to enhance our exposure in the community and to its visitors. Our participation in the Adopt-A-Highway program comes for free and the NYS DOT in the next couple of weeks will erect a sign (this highway maintained by "The Ancient Order Of Hibernians") on route 9D just north of the Castle Point Veteran's Hospital. Well, nothing is for free! We now have responsibility to maintain this 2 mile stretch of State road four times a year. I have scheduled the following dates with the DOT from 8am-11am for Saturday April 24th, Sunday June 27th, Saturday August 21st, Sunday October 17th. The DOT will provide the garbage bags, safety gear and signs to keep us safe and pick-up the garbage bags afterwards. I'm seeking volunteers (a minimum of 10 per date) who can help us keep our part of the agreement and each work on a two tenth (North/South) stretch of the highway. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering and for what date(s). More information can be found on the events page of our web site.



Slainte, Bill Leo

Brothers,

The NYS DOT has notified me that due to the continuing storm clean-up they have had to push the start of the Adopt-A-Highway cleanup season. As a result, the clean-up scheduled for Saturday April 24th is now rescheduled for Saturday, May 8th 8am-11am. Those of you who signed up for the 4/24 date please let me know if you are available for May 8th.

Slainte, Bill

IRISH COMMUNITY

The Kevin Barry Irish Club will hold its annual picnic on Sunday, August 8, 2010.

Place: Town of Washington Park Time: 12 noon to dusk. Food and tea, coffee, and other soft drinks will be provided by the Club. As in the past the KBIC is inviting members of the AOH and the Irish Heritage Foundation as guests. There is no charge, but attendees are asked to bring a dessert or other dish to share. This will be an afternoon of lively music and great craic. There are swimming facilities available and a covered picnic area. Bring your family and, especially, the children.

Although no reservations are required, it would be helpful to let them know if you plan to attend. Please let Matt Fitzgerald know by July 31 at irishrm@juno.com or 845-454-5308.

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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.

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Financial Secretary	William Leo	Marshall	Mike Quinn	Standing Committee	William J. Schimpf



IMPORTANT DATES

- ◆ April 15 - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ May 20 - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ June 17 - Regular Business Meeting

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Deacon Bob Horton	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 †



ANCIENT ORDER
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