



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County
MSGR. SHEAHAN
DIVISION # 1



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Brothers,

Now that we all have our lights back on, let me start by wishing everyone, on behalf of my entire family, heartfelt thanks for the condolences, on the death of my mother, Mary. It is the comfort of friends and family that helps makes these difficult events somewhat easier to endure. I also want to thank the parade committee for co-dedicating the parade in her honor.

I want to congratulate all of our brothers and sisters Hibernians, and all those terrific people, on the parade committee, who work so hard to make the Dutchess County Saint Patrick's Parade a premier event for all of Dutchess County. It was truly a Grand Day and could not have had better marching weather. The parade's success is measured, each year, by the growing numbers of participants and spectators. I truly enjoyed, my role as Grand Marshall, and was proud to be another Hibernian to lead the parade. Since its inception we have had nine Hibernians out of fifteen grand marshals. They are chronologically, Fr, Charlie Cohen (1996), Cornelius Flaherty (1998), Rev. Msgr. Francis P Bellew (2000), Michael J Kelly (2002), Jack Fedigan (2006), Tim Doyle (2007), Noel Morris (2008), Ken Brown (2009), and me self.

Now to business, we will have our Castle Point Celebration, on Saturday, March 13, at the Castle Point Veteran's hospital. Please, please come, make this celebration a Hibernian success, and let the vets know how much we appreciate them. This is a great opportunity to bring along family members and enjoy great food, music, and traditional Irish dancing. Our committee chair, John Kelly, will appreciate as much help as possible. Thanks to Brendan and George, at the "Dubliner" for making this happen.

Our next meeting is on, March 18, so come and bring lots of energy to hammer out strategies to increase or fund base so we can fulfill our charitable mission. Brother Jim Sweeny has asked for our help to support the House of Faith/House of Hope, which is a support network for battered women. Jim has

Gene Noone - Editor
jdrcks@optonline.net
(914) 469-6661

MARCH
2010

DIVISION NEWSLETTER

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brothers,

Gentlemen, just a little reminder that your yearly dues are now due. 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 your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks.
May your heart be as light as a song.
May each day bring you bright happy hours,
That stay with you all year long.
For each petal on the shamrock
This brings a wish your way
Good health, good luck, and happiness
For today and every day.



asked for brothers to make a small donation, or purchase some items of need and bring them to the March 18, meeting. Additional information can be found on our website; <http://www.dutchessaoh.com/>. Also, we still have membership dues that are outstanding. Please bring your dues up to date, but more importantly please let us know that you still stand shoulder to shoulder with us in Motto. Every brother is needed to build or strength and the community needs us more than ever in these trying times.

Please read your Irish history bits in the newsletter. We will have a little fun, filled contest between the Bards and the Seanachai. In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, & Blessed Saint Patrick's Day.

In Brotherhood & Motto,

Gearoid McVicker

A WEE BIT OF IRISH HISTORY

March – the month of St. Patrick

At the end of last month's article I signed off indicating that more would be coming concerning The Great Hunger. Among other items next month's article will deal with the so-called Famine Ships. Did you know that some five thousand ships sailed across the Atlantic Ocean with Irish emigrants in the six years of the Famine Emigration? We have learned that, in many cases, these passengers were treated no better than slaves who preceded them across that same ocean during the period of the African Slave trade. There are several other events that occurred prior to this disastrous "famine" period, which deserve consideration. Two, among many, include The Act of Union and The Catholic Emancipation Act. Again, we will return to these at a later time.

For now, however, and since it is March, let us concentrate on Ireland's Patron Saint; although we should not diminish the status of Sts. Brigid and Columba. Nevertheless, of all the saints throughout the centuries, St. Patrick stands out as one of the most universally beloved--and the symbol of all that is Irish. Although much of his life is shrouded in myth and legend, we do have two of his most important writings which have come down to us: The Confession of St. Patrick and The Letter to The Soldiers of Coroticus.

We are all familiar with the oft told stories of how St. Patrick explained the mystery of the Blessed Trinity by the simple use of a shamrock. And who can deny the phenomenon of the absence of snakes in Ireland. Legend has it that St. Patrick drove from Ireland all of its snakes, which were symbolic of paganism and evil. Sometime back in the fifth century he stood on a hill, the story goes, Patrick used a staff to herd the slithering creatures into the sea, banishing them for eternity. It's true, aside from zoos and pets, there are no snakes on the Emerald Isle. This account certainly has romantic and spiritual [even miraculous] qualities to it. However, as in all such matters, the skeptics [realists, perhaps] have alternative explanations. Herpetologists have their evolution theories; climatologists posit the recession of Ice Age and the slowness of snakes to slither back to the island of Ireland before the land bridges "receded". We also have the claim of Irish Historian Seamus Mac Manus who explains that it was an ancient promise [prediction] by none other than Moses who said that snakes would not inhabit the future land of the Irish Celts.

Much controversy surrounds Patrick's vital records: dates of birth and death, as well as his actual place of birth. The earliest posited year of birth was 389AD, with the latter set at 415AD. His year of death ranges from 463AD to 493AD. Patrick's life span is believed to range from 72 years to 78 years, obviously depending on which chronicler you accept as having the most accurate information. Most historians agree that he was born in what was then known as Roman Britain on its northern frontier. Again, there is not full agreement as to exactly where, but it is generally accepted that the northern frontier referred to included Scotland and Wales.

When Patrick was about sixteen, he was captured and carried off as a slave to Ireland. One chronicler puts the place of Patrick's Irish captivity in the west country, most probably in the present day County Mayo, on the western shore of Killala Bay. Patrick worked as a herdsman and remained in captivity for about six years. He writes that his faith grew in captivity, and that he prayed daily. We have learned that: "St. Patrick's spirituality is simple, direct, practical, as earthy as it is mystical, not so much Roman Catholic as baseline Christian, not so much Irish as truly universal [catholic with a small "c"]". Yet he operated within the framework of the ancient Church of Britain, with strong ties to Rome. [The Wisdom of St. Patrick-Greg Tobin]

During the latter period of his captivity he heard a voice telling him that he would soon go home, and another telling him that his ship was ready. Fleeing his master, he travelled to a port [not identified], two hundred miles away he says, where he found a ship and, after various adventures, returned home to his family, now in his late twenties. It is reported that this journey home took him through Gaul, following which he was left in Italy, where he became exposed and embraced the monastic life.

As a captive, Patrick was filled with a great love for the Irish people, and maintained a desire to return and minister to the spiritual needs of the Irish people. In his post-captivity period after returning home he recounts that he had a vision: "I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victoricus [a Christ believer who befriended Patrick in his captivity], and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: "The Voice of the Irish". As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea [on Mayo's border with Sligo in Killala], and they cried out, as with one voice: "We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us." Patrick now had his second "calling". This one would be his mission for the rest of his life--to propagate the faith to the Irish people.

In closing, this piece is presented in this way to remind us of the deep spirituality and devotion to the Irish people that were hallmarks of this great Saint. In accepting that, and what we traditionally know of Saint Patrick, we should all spurn any and all attempts to diminish the greatness of St. Patrick which is running rampant in our own

culture. We should remind people that his name is Patrick, not Patty or Paddy; that greeting cards should express the sentiment of the day, not the excesses of drinking and other debauchery, etc.

Perhaps we can guide ourselves and others by reading the prayer called "The Breastplate of St. Patrick". This powerful prayer was composed by Saint Patrick in the year 433. He was aware that there was to be an ambush to try to kill him and his group en route to the King's court. It was during the march that they chanted the sacred Loric or Deer's Cry - later known as St. Patrick's Breastplate. As the druids lay in hiding, ready to kill, they saw not Patrick and his men, but a gentle doe followed by twenty fawns. St. Patrick and his men were saved.

Because of the length of the prayer, which you can get on your computer, I will only present a very key and meaningful verse of the prayer:

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in
hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Political Happenings in Northern Ireland

Important things are happening in the northern six counties of Ireland; matters that, hopefully, will result in a true de jure United Ireland if not a de facto one. As you will remember, a petition concerning the families of the victims of Bloody Sunday [1972] was referenced in an email by President McVicker a short time ago. In that email he also referenced the delayed release of the Saville Report, which, as was reported in our January newsletter, is scheduled for release on March 22 of this year. [An RTE news item dated March 4, 2010, however indicates that there may be a further delay in the report's release. "A report into the Bloody Sunday killings could languish in a warehouse for weeks if a general election is called, the Northern Ireland Secretary has warned. Shaun Woodward promised he would only take about two weeks to consider the mammoth Saville Report but said nobody knew when the British Prime Minister would call an election. It is expected in May or June." The call for an election would complicate the release of the report it is believed.

Other things have been occurring in the North that should be of interest to us, as well. One of those is the continuing process of Devolution, in general, and the more instant likelihood of devolution as it pertains to police and justice powers in particular. Briefly, Devolution is the statutory granting of powers from a central government of a sovereign state to government at a subnational level, such as a regional, local, or state level. It differs from our own concept of federalism in that the powers devolved may be temporary and ultimately reside in central government, thus the state remains, de jure, unitary. Any devolved parliaments or assemblies can be repealed by central government in the same way an ordinary statute can be. Federal systems differ in that state or provincial government is guaranteed in a constitution. As we know, the United States has a federal system, and has a constitution. The devolution can be mainly financial, e.g. giving areas a budget which was formerly administered by central government. However, the power to make legislation relevant to the area may also be granted.

In a nutshell, Home Rule came into effect for Northern Ireland in 1921 with the establishment of its own Parliament. After some fifty plus years, and as a result of turmoil and strife, it was dissolved in 1973. A devolved Assembly was created as a result of the 1998 Belfast Agreement. The Assembly was intended to bring together the different communities to govern Northern Ireland together. The Assembly was not operational from October 2002 to May 2007 due to a breakdown in the peace process. However, as a result of many long and arduous negotiations, a devolved government returned to Northern Ireland.

A current issue involving the path toward "full" devolution was settled today as this article "goes to press" on March 9, 2010. By an overwhelming vote this afternoon the Northern Ireland Assembly voted in favor of the devolution of policing and justice powers from Westminster to Stormont, despite opposition from the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP). The vote underpins the Hillsborough Agreement brokered between the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and Sinn Féin to stabilize the power-sharing government. The Assembly decision followed an acrimonious three-hour debate in which the UUP resisted pressure to support the move.

The vote allows for the creation of a Department of Justice for Northern Ireland after the powers are devolved by 12 April. A Justice Minister will be appointed in the coming weeks, with Alliance Party leader David Ford the favorite for the job. Out of the 105 votes cast, a total of 88 were in support of the move, with only the UUP voting against. The populace of Northern Ireland was overwhelmingly supportive of passage of the resolution. In recent news stories, acknowledgement was made of support from United States officials, most notably former President George Bush and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

AOH DIVISION 1 EVENTS

AOH Brothers,

I'd like to thank all of our brothers who turned out to participate in the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade. All of the weather prayers were answered with a gorgeous afternoon. Our AOH President / Grand Marshall looked quite grand.

We turned out approximately half of last years marchers, yet we were still able to win a trophy. 1st Pace - Irish Theme for our Irish Cottage Float. 1st Place two years in a row. We installed a smoke / fogger in the chimney of the cottage, which gave us a fairly real looking turf fire burn coming out of the chimney.

A special thanks to Jim Sweeney who helped in setting up the cottage this year, and Jack Fedigan, who stores the float and trailer all year for us. Also, a unique and special thanks to Jack's nephew Jimmy Fedigan for lending us two miniature batter powered stage foggers. Finally, thanks to Bill Schimpf who operated the foggers from a remote wired in the cottage. A real team effort.

Thank God for those sheep in Cork...

Salainte Gentlemen for a well deserved celebration of our Irish Heritage,
Jim Whalen, AOH Parade Committee Chairman

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

SPONSORS AREA



PHONE: BUS.: (845) 427-2957
FAX: (845) 427-2426

WILLIAM J. SCHIMPF, F.I.C.
FIELD AGENT

AGENCY DEPARTMENT
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

107 PROSPECT AVENUE
MAYBROOK, NY 12543

Roofing, Siding, Windows, Decks



BRIAN O'CONNOR
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Additions - Painting
Kitchens Baths
Finished Basements

298-9864



Custom Machine Embroidery

Vicki Dunning
7 Jordan Court
Poughquag, NY 12570-5038
(845) 724-3986

email: vicki@embroideryd.com
web page: www.embroideryd.com



Imperial Barbers
Rt 9 Wappingers Falls

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

Next to Home Depot
(845) 297-8327

www.DublinerPubNY.com

Voted Best Irish Pub 2007
845.454.7322
796 Main Street Arlington, New York

Stephen P. O'Hare
Attorney at Law

488 Freedom Plains Road
Suite 103
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Tel: (845)452-4090
Fax: (845)452-4615
E-mail: oharelaw@optonline.net

Robert G. Shephard Jr., C.P.A.
Dwight Townsend, Enrolled Agent

ROBERT G. SHEPHEARD JR., C.P.A., P.C.
Certified Public Accountant

488 Freedom Plains Road, Suite 122
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(845) 485-3000
Fax (845) 485-3257



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.

2010 DIVISION OFFICERS

President	Gerard McVicker	Recording Secretary	Mike Shephard	Historian	Matt Fitzgerald
Vice President	John Fedigan	Treasurer	Bob Shephard	Sentinel	Kevin Moran
Financial Secretary	William Leo	Marshall	Mike Quinn	Standing Committee	William J. Schimpf



IMPORTANT DATES

- ◆ March 17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day
- ◆ March 18 - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ April 15 - 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 †

Pete Condon



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA
Darhess county
masq. shephard
division # 1

101 Brothers Road, Stormville, NY 12582

