



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County
Msgr. Sheahan
Division # 1

Gene Noone - Editor
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(914) 469-6661

June
2009

Division Newsletter



Presidents Message:

Brothers:

My thanks to all who attended our May 21st meeting. To those who could not make it, for various reasons; you were certainly missed. Our meetings have been filled with plans, activities, and lots of great input. Congratulations, and welcome to Michael Moran, our newest member. Again, I urge you, and all of our members to become involved with some aspect of your organization. Congratulations to Marshal Jim Whalen, on accepting the position of Financial Secretary, and to Mike Quinn on accepting the position of Marshal.

Our 2009 Football Raffle fundraiser is off to a great start. For \$5.00 per raffle ticket, some lucky winner, will receive four (4) tickets and parking to the NY Jets vs Carolina Panthers game on Sunday, November 29, 2009 @ 1:00PM @ Giants Stadium in the Meadowlands. The drawing is scheduled for October 15th, so don't miss out on this one. Please keep in mind our Annual Veteran's Picnic, scheduled for Saturday, October 20th, @ 9:30AM @ Castle Point VA Hospital. Your help is needed and appreciated greatly (Mike Kelly, Chairman). Our Annual Charity Dinner Dance is scheduled for October 17th @ the Wappingers Falls Elk's Club. This has always been a great evening out for everyone. A final reminder to any member, who has not paid his Annual Dues, to do so at once, or be removed from our rolls.

Thanks, to all who attended the wake and Funeral Mass, for our departed Brother John Lee. Thanks to all, and especially to Mike Kelly, who has made arrangements to have our deceased Past Chaplain Rev. Robert Brennan's tombstone engraving completed; with our organization funding this worthy effort. Our Shamrock Degree exemplification is scheduled for June 18th. Members must be present at the K of C Hall @ 6:30PM to properly arrange the room for the degree, which will take place @ 7:00PM sharp, with our regular meeting to follow. See you there. Wishing all Dads a very Happy Father's Day. God Bless.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
William J. "Bill" Schimpf
President

Financial Secretary's Corner



Brothers,

As stand-in Financial Secretary, after Brother Jerry Clarke stepped down, I'll update you on our Fund Raiser Raffle for 4 tickets to the NY Jets vs. Carolina Panthers Football Game, Nov 29th, 1:00pm @ Giants Stadium. Brother Jack Fedigan blessed us by donating these tickets and 1 parking pass for the event. Thank You Jack. I have distributed via mail, drop off and in person raffle tickets for each member to sell. Many received 10 raffle tickets in the mail and we ask that all give us your all in selling these tickets. This could be a great fund raiser for us. Raffle Tickets are \$5.00 each. Drawing to be held at our October 15th meeting. Several members have requested additional tickets already and I ask you that if you feel you'll need more raffle tickets, call my cell 914-456-7508 or e-mail me @ Jhw09@optonline.net. We'd like this raffle moving as soon as possible, to not offset efforts for the Dinner Dance, so don't delay.

Our Annual Dinner Dance will be held on October 17th, 2009 @ the Wappingers Elks Club on Route 376. We'll update you as we get further information together.

A special Thanks to Dave Berk who assisted me in bringing our Irish Cottage back to life recently. We went down to Jack Fedigan's Storage Facility in Wappingers Falls and brought out the Cottage. She's 30 minutes or from being fully ready to use. If any member has an event you'd like it at, in which we could use her for fund raising, such as the Foot Ticket Raffle, or a membership drive, please contact me and we'll try and accommodate you.

Slainte,
Jim Whalen



Happy Fathers Day

A Wee Bit of Irish History

The Rising of 1798 And What It Means

In story, song and film we have all become quite familiar with the Easter Rising of 1916. Many may also know some of the story of the Rising of 1798. In other issues we will deal with other risings, including that of 1916 and other significant events in Irish history, but for now, thanks to a piece produced by Republican Sinn Fein, a very important piece of Irish history is examined. The Rising of 1798 was Separatist, Republican, and Democratic in its objectives. Ever since the Anglo-Norman invasion of 1169 Irish Separatists resisted England's claim to occupy and rule Ireland. The native Irish, for example the O'Neills and O'Donnells and those of Norman stock who became Irish like the FitzGerald and Patrick Sarsfield, endeavored to win back Irish independence. The century which followed the Treaty of Limerick in 1691 was one of the most wretched in Irish history. In 1727 Dean Swift commented that: "The dress and appearance of the people is miserable – the families of farmers who pay great rents are living on potatoes and buttermilk, without a shoe or stocking to their feet." The land had been seized in the various Plantations over the centuries and the peasantry paid rents to landlords (often absent) who charged what rents they pleased, and which were collected through middlemen. The Church of Ireland was established and Catholics were deprived of their rights under the Penal Laws; Presbyterians suffered disabilities but to a lesser extent. In 1740 over 40,000 people died of starvation. Societies like the Whiteboys were organized to fight back against the injustice of the system. The Irish people yearned for their ancient rights and their freedom. Most of them spoke Irish and many of their songs praised Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Scottish Stuarts, whom they regarded as allies against English tyranny.

But a new dawn was awakening. In Europe it was the Age of the Enlightenment and Reason, with talk of ending Monarchy and establishing Democracy. In the New World the American colonists fought and won their own War of Independence (1776-1781) against England. In Europe France gave the lead when the fall of the Bastille heralded the Revolution of 1789. "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" became the rallying cry of the Revolutionaries. Monarchs began to tremble on their thrones as their "Divine Right" was questioned, the Rights of Man were debated and the new Republics of France and the United States were established. Theobald Wolfe Tone, a law graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and a Protestant, along with others, mostly Presbyterians, founded the Society of United Irishmen in Belfast in October of 1791. A Dublin society was founded three weeks later and a newspaper called Northern Star* was launched. Their initial demands were for reform, "a society of equality which would include people of all religious persuasions – and of none." Tone had previously worked strenuously and effectively for the rights of Catholics, but the British government of the time opposed the moderate demands of the United Irishmen. They refused to concede Equality, Democracy and Civil Rights. Gradually the United movement became more Radical and Republican.

After 1793 England was at war with France and she chose the path of coercion in Ireland, using strong-arm tactics against reformers. They brought in an Insurrection Act in 1796 and Martial Law was imposed in many areas the following year. The United Irishmen sought the help of the new French Republic and prepared to fight for an Irish Republic. "Break the connection with England", declared Tone.

In December 1796 a French fleet of 46 ships carrying an army of 14,000 men sailed from Brest under the command of General Lazare Hoche. Wolfe Tone accompanied them and they planned to land at Bantry Bay, seize the city of Cork and then, with a general uprising, they would march on Dublin, the center of English rule. Winter storms scattered the fleet, only 16 vessels reached Bantry and even then the weather made a landing impossible. They sailed back to France. More French expeditions were planned and the United Irishmen hesitated between striking first or waiting until the French would actually arrive. Meanwhile the Government of England brought in more emergency laws and the Yeomanry (mostly Protestant) and Militias (mostly Catholic) as well as the regular English regiments were used to terrorize the populace. Pitch caps, floggings and half hangings were used to extract information from people. Informers were paid huge sums to betray their comrades.

The Rising itself was planned for May 23, 1798. In that time, the main centers of Irish resistance to English rule were in Wexford, Antrim and Down. But there was action in other areas also, including Wicklow, Carlow, Kilkenny, Kildare, Meath, Dublin, Westmeath, Longford, Cork, Tipperary and in the West later in the year. The Wexford Insurgents drove the Crown Forces out of County Wexford and attempted to spread the rising to the counties of Carlow, Kilkenny and Wicklow, with Dublin city as their major objective. Armed mostly with pikes they fought with great skill and determination. As most of the county failed to rise simultaneously, the English brought massive forces to bear on the Wexfordmen at New Ross, Arklow and eventually at Vinegar Hill near Enniscorthy where the Wexford Rising was effectively crushed on June 21, 1798. The people of Wexford are justly proud of their achievement, their bravery and example in 1798. The names of Father Murphy and Bagenal Harvey are remembered with pride and the Wexford pike and pikemen are symbols of their heroic contribution to the fight for Irish freedom.

The Rising of 1798 And What It Means (cont.)

In Antrim and Down the Dissenters of Presbyterians were prominent in the Rising, and the insurgents occupied several towns in both counties, showing great valor against a formidable enemy. Henry Joy McCracken led the attack on Antrim town on June 7 and was afterwards court-martialed and hanged in the Cornmarket in Belfast. In County Down Henry Munro led the insurgents to victory at Saintfield, but they were then defeated at Ballyhinch on June 13. He was hanged in front of his home in Lisburn. Historians record that 30 Presbyterian ministers were involved in the Rising, and several of them hanged by the Crown. General Lake, Commander of British Forces in Ireland, earned the name of the "Butcher of Wexford" because of the severity of the measures he used to suppress the Rising. When news of the Rising reached France, the Republican Government ordered the organization of three expeditions under Generals Humbert, Hardy and Kilmaine to sail to Ireland "...to help the United Irish who have taken up arms to throw off the yoke of English oppression". General Jean-Joseph Humbert's small army of 1,100 men landed in Killala, County Mayo in August. They were joined by the "Men of West" and together they won a spectacular victory at Castlebar on August 27. Humbert liberated County Mayo, proclaimed a Republic of Connacht and marched audaciously across five counties, penetrating as far as County Longford where he was eventually forced to surrender at Ballinamuck on September 8.

General Hardy's army of 3,000 men reached Loch Swilly, Co. Donegal on October 12. Their fleet of 10 ships was intercepted and defeated by the Royal Navy and Wolfe Tone was arrested and brought to Dublin in chains. He told his captors: "For the cause which I have embraced, I feel prouder to wear these chains, than if I were decorated with the Star and Garter of England". He was tried by court-martial and sentenced to death. He died in prison in suspicious circumstances and after the Chief Justice had issued a writ to suspend his execution. He was aged 35. The man who organized his generation to bring about an Ireland united, independent and democratic was buried in Bodinstown, Co. Kildare. ** It is estimated that 30,000 people died in the Rising of 1798. Under the United Irish leadership separatism became one of the most progressive movements in the world, seeking as well as national independence, Equality, Democracy and the Rights of Man.

*Samuel Neilsen, also a member of the United Irishmen and involved with the Northern Star newspaper, immigrated to the United States. He died in Poughkeepsie and is buried in the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery. The Kevin Barry Irish Club organizes an annual memorial service in the fall.

** Wolfe Tone's widow, Matilda, and his son, Daniel, immigrated to the United States after his death. Both mother and son are buried in Green-Wood cemetery in Brooklyn, NY.

Matt Fitzgerald,
Division Historian

AOH Division 1 Events

Dutchess County AOH Charity Dinner Dance: Saturday, October 17, 2009 at 7:00 PM



Tickets for the Annual Charity Dinner Dance are now available. The dance will be held at the Wappinger Falls Elks Club on Rt. 376. This year's dance features the Eamon Ryan Show Band, Irish Step Dancers, Raffles, Prizes and a Roast Beef Dinner. Donation is \$35.00 per person with a limited number of tickets available. Come and join us for a great time and help to support various charities in the county.

For more Information or Tickets Contact:

Jim Whalen 914-456-7508 -or- Matt Fitzgerald 845-454-5308



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Jets Ticket Raffle

Sunday, November 29, 2009
1:00 PM Game Time @ the Meadowlands
4 Tickets & 1 Parking Pass to
NY Jets vs Carolina Panthers

Drawing Date: October 15, 2009

Donation: \$5.00 each

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE AOH'S
MANY CHARITABLE CAUSES**

For more information or to purchase
tickets contact any AOH member

-or-

Call: Jim Whalen
(845)849-1045 (home)
(914) 456-7508 (cell)

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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.

2009 DIVISION OFFICERS

President	Bill Schimpf	Recording Secretary	Mike Sheppard	Historian	Matt Fitzgerald
Vice President	Pat Turbitt	Treasurer	Denis Conn	Sentinel	Dave Ryan
Financial Secretary	Jim Whalen	Marshall	Mike Quinn	Standing Committee	Gerry McVicker



Important Dates

- ◆ 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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