



**ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS**
IN AMERICA

**Dutchess County
Msgr. Sheahan
Division # 1**

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**October
2008**

Division Newsletter



Presidents Message:

Brothers,

My thanks to the many members who were able to attend our, September 18th regular business meeting. Since we had not met in a while, members were given ample time to express themselves on a number of issues, including those most currently on our minds, our Annual Baby Shower (October 5th, 2PM-4PM @ K of C Hall) (please be there at 1:30PM to help out), in support of Good Counsel Home in Poughkeepsie, and our Annual Charity Dinner Dance (October 18th, 7PM @ Elk's Lodge). Please remember that both of these events, are part of our charitable programs. I take this opportunity to congratulate those members who are actively involved in their continued successes.

I also want to thank our membership, who financially supported the 1st Annual Barking Frog Memorial Golf Tournament, a charitable event, to assist the Redmond family, as well as the Dutchess County Meals On Wheels program. Brother Jim Whalen advised us of a wonderful upcoming CYFM project called Agape Weekend (Nov 13th). Even if you cannot attend, please keep them in your prayers (flyer was e-mailed). Also, Brother Mike Kelly mentioned an upcoming tribute on October 11th, at the Calvary Cemetery, Queens graveside of Annie Moore, first immigrant to come through Ellis Island.

Brother Brendan Daly, is doing a great job of taking over the WVKR radio program, "A Little Bit of Ireland", formerly hosted by our own Connie Flaherty, a long time great program host, and promoter of Irish causes.

I am waiting for a confirmed date for the Major Degree, which is being worked on by AOH Rockland County members, and will advise everyone, as soon as I know of it. Please make every effort to attend our next meeting, Thursday, October 16th, at 7PM, at the K of C Hall in Wappingers Falls. May God continue to Bless you and yours abundantly.

In Unity, Friendship, and Christian Charity,

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

Financial Secretary's Corner

Brothers,

Yesterday was the baby shower for the unwed Mother's at the Good Counsel Home. Kudos to Gerry McVicker for organizing the event and for providing those young women with much appreciated assistance. A special thanks to Michael Shephard and his Mother for lending their help to this worthy event. In speaking with our president, Bill Schimpf, I opined that as an organization, we have too many members who believe that they only need to pay their annual dues to be in good standing. Whereas paying one's annual dues is commendable, we need the participation of all our brothers to do not only the work we do, but to add to it. Take as an example, how a brother might help our division. If that brother is unable to join us for our annual dinner/dance, our only fund raiser for the year, he could purchase a ticket as his way of demonstrating his support. I ask all of you to think for a moment, what acts of charity do you personally do? If your answer is unknown, why not assist our division by making a monetary pledge to our division of the AOH with the knowledge that we put that money to good use by means of charity, to the disabled veteran's and to the unwed Mothers. Thanks to all who listen and God bless the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, Slainte,

Jerry Clarke,
Financial Secretary



**REMEMBER TO VOTE
NOVEMBER 4, 2008**



**Always keep our Servicemen &
Veterans in your daily prayers**

A Wee Bit of Irish History

Askeaton Castle, County Limerick

The splendid castle of the Munster Geraldines at Askeaton, the principal seat of the last Earls of Desmond, rises majestically above the River Deel on a small rocky island. Most of the ruins belong to the 15th century, though they incorporate parts of a much older fortress that was founded here by William de Burgo in 1199. The Earls of Desmond had many changes in fortune after they acquired the place in the 1340s, but the heyday of their great wealth and power undoubtedly came when the King, otherwise engaged in French wars, surrendered his royal rights in Munster to the seventh Earl of Desmond. It was during this time from 1420 to 1457 that most of the castle and nearby Franciscan friary were built.

The castle extends over two courtyards - an upper ward crowning the rock and a lower ward surrounding it. The upper ward still retains fragments of its 13th-century polygonal wall with footings of a gateway on the east side. At the northern end stands a large 15th-century hall and chamber block, probably on 13th-century foundations. In the outer ward, built against the ramparts on the west side, stands the celebrated banqueting hall - perhaps the finest secular building of its period in Ireland. Its foundations are early medieval, but the ground floor vaulted chambers, cellars and kitchens all belong to the 1430s, when the seventh Earl built the hall above - a magnificent room 72 feet long and 30 feet wide. A striking feature are the large windows with decorated carvings, while the south end is decorated with a blind arcade, behind which stands the remains of a chapel block.

During the Desmond rebellion in 1580, the castle fell to Pelham after two days' bombardment, and shortly afterwards was handed over to the Berkleys. In 1599 the Earl of Essex came to its relief after it had withstood a 147-day siege by the "Sugan" Earl of Desmond. It was captured by the Confederates in 1642 and ten years later dismantled by Cromwellian troops.

It is 25.5 km (16 miles) W/SW of Limerick city on the T68. NGR: R 341501.

Athlone Castle, County Westmeath

Athlone used to be one of the most formidable medieval fortresses in Ireland, but warfare and substantial rebuilding have left little of the old castle above internal ground level. The construction of both a bridge and castle at this key river crossing began in 1210, following King John's visit to Ireland, when Bishop Henry de Grey was ordered to begin settling the middle Shannon region between Meath and Connaught. De Grey's stone tower, probably built on an earlier motte of 1199, had to be rebuilt the following year after it collapsed, killing nine of the garrison. It was again repaired in 1251 and in 1273-9 the curtain walls were probably added, flanked by massive D-shaped towers. Most of this structure was still present when drawn by Thomas Phillips in 1685, together with a fine suite of apartments, used by the Lord President of Connaught, overlooking the river.

The castle's strategic position meant that it saw a good deal of military action. In 1691 it suffered the heaviest bombardment in Irish history: Williamite General Ginkel attacked with over 600 bombs, 12,000 cannon balls and huge quantities of stones. The whole castle was rebuilt from 1793 to 1815, reduced in height and strengthened for the mounting of heavy cannon in efforts to fortify the Shannon against French invasion. The lower storey of de Grey's polygonal tower is the only part of the medieval fabric to survive. Athlone town. NGR: N 038413

EDITORS NOTE

Dear Brothers,

The next issue of this newsletter will be in November. Could anyone who would like to see something published in that issue please have it to me by October 25th. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Gene

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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

AOH Division 1 Events

Charity Dinner Dance

Saturday October 18th is the date for our annual Charity Dinner Dance to be held at the Elks Lodge in Wappingers Falls. A Complete Roast Beef Dinner with Dessert & Coffee will be served and there will be Irish Step Dancers, Raffles and Prizes. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. For more information or tickets please call: Jim (845) 849-1045 / cell (914) 456-7508. Time is running out so call right away for your tickets.

2008 DIVISION OFFICERS

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



Important Dates

- ◆ October 16th - Regular meeting at K of C
- ◆ October 18th - Charity Dinner / Dance at the Elks
- ◆ November 20th - Regular meeting at K of C

Prayers for the Sick

Mike Connelly
Bill Schimpf
Noel Morris

On the Radio 91.3 FM:
"A Little Bit of Ireland"
Hosted by our own Brendan Daly and
broadcast from Vassar College.
Tuesday's from 1 PM to 3 PM.

* In Memoriam *

Irish Community

Upcoming Event Dates:

- ◆ McBride Christmas Party, December 13, 2008, 6 - 11PM, Elks Club in Poughkeepsie, Buffet Dinner, Cash Bar, Music by Johnny Dell and Jimmy Heslin, Comedy and Songs by Seamus Kennedy. \$35 per person, adults only. For tickets or info contact John McBride at (845)454-2801 or email: Johnmcbride60@aol.com.



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