



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

May, 2018



**Brother Hibernians,** \_\_\_\_\_



Our next meeting will be held on May 18th at 8pm. Welcome aboard to new members Brian Hanson and Michael Peterson. Many thanks to Fr. Raaser, Ed O'Dea, and all of our volunteers and musicians for the beautiful division mass that we celebrated on April 22nd. Many thanks go out to chefs Brian and Pat Booth, Cathleen Moore, Jake and Brendan McLaughlin, all volunteers and speaker John McGowan for the great Communion Breakfast that followed our Mass. Congratulations once again to all of our scholarship winners. Congratulations to Bill Lee on his honors received at the Bobby Sands Mass and Social. Many thanks to all who attended and to those who travelled up to East Durham for the state board meeting. Our Joe Walsh memorial golf outing was a huge success again. Congratulations to chairman Sean Walsh and his committee as well as all of our sponsors and golfers.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News... Your recent prayers have paid nice dividends in the case of Pete Dunne who is doing quite well with his new hip and Dougie Meeks after surgery to repair some internal organs.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bill Young's mother-in-law Ann Fitzpatrick.

*Yours in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity,  
Dermot O'Connor Moore, President.*

## ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

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**DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE**

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*Financial Secretary*  
**WILLIAM YOUNG**

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**JOHN KELLY, JR.**

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**KEVIN DONOHUE**

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*Chairman Grievance*  
**JACK O'CONNOR**

*Chaplain*  
**FR. ERIC RAASER**

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**FRANK McDONAGH**

*Vice President*  
**PETER DUNNE**

*Treasurer*  
**PHIL SHERIDAN**

*Recording Secretary*  
**JOHN GANNON**

## CALENDAR \_\_\_\_\_

**5/28** Memorial Day Parade

**6/10** Irish Music Festival

**6/15** Fleadh

**6/22** Meeting

**7/11-14** National Convention

**8/4** Ceol Mor



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## LAOH

At our May meeting we initiated 2 members to our division, Caroline Murphy and Alice OBrien.

Our Ascension Thursday mass/dinner was held on 5/10/18 at which we honored May Kreider. Our HS scholarship winners were announced: 1st place: Ciaran Green, 2nd place: Kevin Dickey, 3rd place: Ryan Heffernan and honorable mention: Molly Kreider. The RCLAOH Irish history essay contest winner was also announced: Kian McGeever. Congratulations to all! Our HS scholarship and Irish History essay contest winners (Division, county and state) will be honored at a reception on 5/22/18 at the AOH hall at 7 PM. I'm hoping for a big turnout of marchers in the Memorial Day parade, 5/28/18. Dress code is white top and black pants. We will be lining up at 10:30 near Dunkin Donuts on Middletown Road. Keep Ann Pettus in your thoughts and prayers. She's in the hospital. I hope everyone has a wonderful Mother's Day!

*Yours in friendship, unity and Christian charity,*

*Terry McGeever, President*

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Summer is almost here, the Captain is heading for LBI, batten down the hatches. The golf tournament was a great success, thanks to all those who helped run it. Special thanks to the Walsh family for their contributions. Pat Moroney went home with an extra golf ball, unfortunately it went through his car window. Great job by the winner of the putting contest. It actually was not fixed. Hmm. The turtle races run on derby day were a great hit. Thanks to Richie Halpin and the Legion for a really good day. No truth to the rumor that the losing turtles wound up in the soup. Well maybe a little truth. The St. Baldrick's fund raiser is coming up on June 9, at the Legion. Anyone interested in contributing can check at the Pub or the Legion, it's for a good cause to battle childhood cancer. Come down and watch. Some of our stalwart members get their heads shaved. John Draper Sr. and Ed "all day" are starting to look like hippies. The rumor is that next year our own poor man's George Hamilton, Mr Leahy will participate.

*Pete Dunne*

## IRISH MUSIC FESTIVAL JUNE 10TH RGAA FIELDS

**The Bergen Irish Pipe Band will be travelling to Scotland this summer to compete in the World Pipe Band Championships. They are hosting a fund raising Irish Music Festival on June 10th at the RGAA fields featuring the Narrowbacks, Cousins Moran, Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, and much, much more.**

**Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Call 845-558-0925.**

**Several of the pipers are division members so please support!**

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

**Monday, May 28th**

10:15 am Lineup Key Bank Parking Lot Braunsdorf & N. Middletown Rd.

Ceremony at Braunsdorf Park followed by reception at American Legion

Guest Speaker  
Kevin Whalen

## CEOL MOR FESTIVAL & PIPE BAND COMPETITION

Saturday, August 4th  
Rockland GAA Fields

9am solos

Noon Expo

1pm Band Competitions,

4 pm Massed Bands,

5pm concert

More to come

volunteers will be needed and greatly appreciated

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 11-14th Louisville,  
Kentucky

<https://aoh.com/>

Please let us know asap if you would like to attend

# History

## Sergeant Thomas Plunkett

### "Don't let (the Flag) Fall Boys"



Thomas Plunkett was born in County Mayo in 1840. His parents emigrated to the United States in 1844 and settled in West Boylston, Massachusetts. When the American Civil War broke out, young Plunkett was working in a local shoe factory. Immediately answering the call of his adopted country, Plunkett enlisted in Company E of the 21st Massachusetts as a private. As a member of the 21st, Plunkett took part in

some of the fiercest fighting of the war: Second Bull Run, Chantilly, and Antietam. However the 21st and now Sergeant Plunkett would face its greatest test at the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862,

The misjudgments and mismanagement that led to the disaster which was the Battle of Fredericksburg are too numerous to detail in the space of this article. Suffice it to say that after taking over command of the Army of the Potomac from Major General McClellan who had been sacked for lack of aggressiveness, newly appointed commander Major General Ambrose Burnside went to the opposite extreme and devised a bold but complicated plan that soon came apart at the seams. The result was that the men of the 21st Mass found themselves on December 13, 1862 at the base of a hill overlooking the town of Fredericksburg known as Marye's Heights. Though it was well known that the Confederates had days to fortify the position, Burnside fearing the political consequences to his career if he should withdraw, ordered wave after wave of Union troops forward only to break on the strong Confederate positions. It soon became the 21st Massachusetts turn.

The men of the 21st marched out onto the open plain below the heights where they formed their line, shivering in the cold as they had discarded the grey overcoats they had been issued lest they be confused for Confederates. Before they even moved off, artillery fire from Marye's Heights rained down upon them; solid shot actually claiming the head of an unfortunate private. It was a sign of what was to come as the 21st now began its grim advance toward the Confederate position.

Sergeant Plunkett had taken the position as a file closer behind the ranks to help maintain the unit formation and prevent straggling. Despite the unit moving at double time up the hill, the well sited

enemy artillery was taking a gruesome toll. The 21st Color Sergeant carrying the National Colors was shot and fell dead; the regiment's Stars and Stripes falling to the ground. Plunkett immediately threw away his rifle and rushed forward to grab the flag. He began to carry it forward as bullets tore into its silk and nearly shattered the flagstaff in his hand; another ball tore through Plunkett's cap, yet still he went on.

The fire was too heavy for Plunkett's luck to last. As he neared the stone wall which defined the Confederate position, an artillery shell exploded directly in front of him. Three men surrounding him were killed instantly. Fragments of the shell nearly severed Plunkett's right arm at the shoulder. Another fragment struck him in the chest, but glanced off a book that he was carrying in his waistcoat pocket saving his life but leaving an imprint on his chest that would be visible for the rest of his life. Another piece of shrapnel removed his left hand.

Amazingly, Sergeant Plunkett still stood standing. Planting his foot at the flag staffs base and cradling the staff in the remnants of his arms he screamed "Don't let it fall boys! Don't let it fall!" Only when another member of the 21st took the colors from him did Plunkett permit himself to collapse to the ground. He would later remarkably stagger back to the Federal lines where both of his arms were amputated. He was tended to during his recovery by another resident of Massachusetts, Clara Barton, who would go on to found the American Red Cross. Barton later recorded that when shown the flag that Plunkett had been carrying, his blood "literally obliterated the stripes". The 21st Mass. would lose a third of its strength that day at Fredericksburg.

After a lengthy convalescence, Thomas Plunkett was discharged from the Army on 9th March, 1864. He was awarded a full pension and the Medal of Honor on 30th March, 1866. He went on to marry and have two children, and would spend 15 years as a messenger in the State House at Boston where the bloodstained flag that he carried so nobly that December day still survives.

Sergeant Thomas Plunkett is one of 257 recipients of the Medal of Honor who list "Ireland" as their place of birth, more than the rest of the foreign born recipients combined. He lived at a time when many claimed that the Irish could never be true Americans or loyal to her flag. Thomas Plunkett proved those bigots wrong on both counts. In his memory we should be as steadfast in protecting and preserving our heritage as he was in protecting our flag.

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