



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

January, 2015



Brother Hibernians, _____



I hope you and your families had a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, January 23rd. A great time was had by all at our special needs and family Christmas parties, kudos to all the volunteers who made the day possible. You should all be proud of your support of the Adopt-a-Family fund which once again took care of so many families this year.

Thank you to all of the members and their friends and families for their incredible support for the Annual Pot of Gold. Your incredible support this year is greatly appreciated. It affords us the opportunity to continue to support numerous charities as well as fund our scholarships. We could not have done this without the support of so many, you know who you are and you are to be commended for all of your hard work. Lastly

we want to congratulate the winners of our prizes.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare news... Please say a prayer for the repose of Joe Sheehan. Please say a few extra prayers for Frank Farrell and Bobby Farrelly and continue your prayers for the recovery of Mary McDonagh, John Kennedy, Sean King, Mike Smith, Mary Hennessey and Terry Greenan. Best wishes go out to Charlotte Madigan and John Seymour on their knee replacements.

As always, please remember to say an extra prayer for our wounded warriors and their families.

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

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Recording Secretary
JOHN GANNON

CALENDAR _____

- Jan. 20** County Meeting
- Jan. 23** Division Meeting
- Jan. 30** Duffany Fundraiser
- Jan. 31** Ski Trip
- Feb. 28** Emerald Ball

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28 Railroad Avenue

Ancient Order of Hibernians



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HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Christmas has come and gone, thanks to all who helped out with the family fund, it was a great success. It's time once again for New Years resolutions. Guess who needs to make these resolutions:

- Next time some offer to buy me a drink I will decline.
- I am going to count all my strokes in golf (big list).
- I am going to stop stealing peoples seats and changing the TV channel.
- No more screaming at the TV over politics (I doubt it)
- I will continue to never let the truth get in the way of a good story.

Good luck to John Leddy on his cross country trip. Well deserved. A lot of golf trips coming up, keep bail money available. Belfast Richie back from three weeks in Florida, no tan? Have you seen the former John Crilley, looks terrific. Fat off is under way, doing great this year I only have put on four pounds. May need a new scale next year, it was starting to moan with some of the people weighing in. Two ladies entered this year , no names or other information as I value my life. Good luck to both. Golf season is over, Doug getting a job as an announcer in the Home for the Deaf. Best of luck in the Super Bowl- remember anything kicked back goes into the Family Fund.

Pete Dunne

EXPIRED PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP OFF

The Pearl River Elks are hosting an Expired Prescription Drug drop off to help keep these sometimes dangerous narcotics out of the reach of young people's hands.

Date Jan. 24th Time 1-5 PM at the Pearl River Elks Hall.

BASEBALL TRIP

Nationals Park

Leaving AOH on Saturday, April 18th – 9am and returning to AOH Sunday, April 19th - 8pm

Trip Includes: Leprechaun Lines bus with bathroom, food and beverage on bus for ride down, Hotel Room – double occupancy, ticket to baseball game vs. Phillies, sightseeing of Washington DC, Happy Hour Drinks and Music (O'Sullivan's Pub)

\$250 per person

Contact: Dennis Madigan 914-714-8287 or
dmadigan@ercsd.k12.ny.us

Sign up in the AOH bar

Over 21 please

LAOH

Happy New Year to all and I hope that you all had a Merry Christmas. I would like to start by thanking everyone for their prayers and amazing generosity when our little girl Grace was in the pediatric ICU earlier in December. Our family was so touched by the outpouring of support from the Hibernians. Grace came home just in time to celebrate her 1st Christmas and is doing great!

The Ladies of Div.3 would like to thank all who came and celebrated with us at our annual Christmas party - it was a festive and fun night! We also had a lovely Christmas party for the women in Saint Zita's Home and are looking forward to continuing visiting and helping them through out the new year!

Katie Anne Basler

President, LAOH Div.3

THE EMERALD BALL

February 28, 2015, 7pm

Pearl River Hilton, Pearl River, NY

Tickets-\$100 pp

2015 Honorees

Hibernian of the Year Linda Sheridan

Business Person of the Year Jenny Kirby,

Characters Bar & Restaurant

Grand Marshal Vincent Tyer

Aide to the Grand Marshall, NYC Brendan McNamara

Parade Commander Det. Teresa Hartey Adametz,

Ret., NYPD

Call Dan or Pat Barry for tickets at 845-627-5720 or

For tickets and journal ad info, please visit

www.rocklandcountyaoh.com

DUFFANY CANCER ASSASSIN FUND RAISER

Aaron is a 17 year old who was recently diagnosed with lymphoma

Night at the Races Friday, January 30

Doors open at 7pm,
1st Race starts at 8pm

Hibernian House

\$15.00 Admission, Cash Bar, 50/50 Drawing

Contact Pat Tully at 845-709-5624



The Great Hunger, There was Nothing Funny About It

We live in an age where what was once unimaginable is daily becoming reality. Unfortunately, this is not always a positive development. A case in point is the announcement on New Year's day that British Channel 4 has among its plans for the year to develop a new "comedy series" called "*Hungry*" based in the time and around the event of Ireland's Great Hunger (*An Gorta Mor*) often (including Channel 4's press release and subsequent news coverage) inaccurately call the Irish Famine. As Irish American, many of whom can trace our heritage to the displaced refugees of one of the greatest acts of tragedy and cruelty in the history of man should be outraged. Sadly, in reading some of the defenses made by Channel 4 and its proponents it becomes glaringly obvious how little is known of Ireland's holocaust.

The basic facts are clear and unequivocal. On 13 September 1845, the *Gardner's Chronicle* announced "*We stop the Press with very great regret to announce that the potato Murrain (blight) has unequivocally declared itself in Ireland.*" That single sentence ushered in a period of seven years of unparalleled human tragedy where at **minimum** over one million people died, a disproportionate number being children, and another million were forced into exile. Death by starvation and the disease that accompanies it is slow and agonizing process and is suffocating in the dark, fetid holds of the "Coffin Ships" that transported the evicted. There is certainly no humor about it.

The appearance of the blight was hardly a surprise and its dire consequences for Ireland anticipated. The blight had first been seen (ironically) in England, Belgium, Holland and France. The impact that the blight taking hold in Ireland should also not have been a surprise; since the British Parliament had taken direct control of Ireland through the 1801 Act of Union, no less than 150 commissions and committees had reported on the precarious state that English rule had reduced Ireland to. The Penal Laws and the greed of absentee landlords who had no affinity with their tenants had pushed Irish families onto progressively smaller plots of land of decreasing quality; good land was reserved for the grazing of cattle and the

production of produce for export to England. The only crop that could be grown on the land available to the general Irish population that could provide sufficient sustenance was the potato, which despite its poor reputation today provides when supplemented with some protein from a source such as milk all the necessary vitamin and nutrients to sustain a healthy person. There was little to no investment in Ireland, in fact when attempts were made to develop local industry such as linen production, the British Government was quick to levy tariffs on the Irish produced goods in an attempt to undermine Irish industry in favor of English. British policy was clear: Ireland and her people, while allegedly members of a "United Kingdom", were resources to be exploited and nothing more.

While the same potato blight occurred in other countries, none of them suffered the cataclysm that befell Ireland; the reason being that their respective governments intervened and took measures to mitigate the suffering. In England the response was inept and halting. The first priority of the British Government was to ensure that the English economy was protected; that in the face of an unprecedented calamity that English business be unscathed. Prime Minister Peel stated after a year of starvation in Ireland '*There is such a tendency to exaggeration and inaccuracy in Irish reports that delay in acting on them is always desirable*'. How many lives were lost to Peel's desirable delay is incalculable and the question is if the British Government would find such a delay as "desirable" if people were starving in Devon as opposed to Galway a fair one. When the deaths and suffering became too great to ignore, British relief efforts were inadequate and halting; effective relief always taking a secondary precedent to isolating English business interest from the suffering of those whom the crown claimed were former British Citizens.

To justify a wholly inadequate response to millions starving, the equivalent of the 19th century British spin machine was initiated. Despite being part of the British Union, the problems in Ireland were an Irish problem. "Irish property must pay for Irish Poverty", despite that fact it was clear that this "Irish Property's mismanagement

has created the environment that gave rise to this humanitarian disaster. Now "Irish Property" in the form of absentee landlords, many of whom had likely never visited the estates whose rents in better days were supporting their lifestyle in England were now with, the flow of rents cutoff because their tenants were starving were expected to pay maintenance based on each tenant they had. The consequences were obvious: the landlords would evict their tenants rather than pay the rates increasing the human suffering. Through it all British Politicians showed an uncanny ability at delusion and self-justification. Numerous statements were made that "*This was after all a problem the Irish brought on themselves*", "*It was an act of Providence in response to Irish intemperate ways*", that the "*Irish are lazy*" which both justified not sending them aid as "*the Irish may become too dependent on it*" and that it would stunt the evolution of the Ireland to more productive farming methods. In its most grotesque form, a senior British advisor Nassau William Senior, the first professor of political economy at Oxford lamented "if only one million die in the Irish famine it would be too little to do much good"

These are the facts of the famine and there is not one funny one that would justify a comedic treatment of this horrific event in human, let alone Irish, history. The scars of the famine still run deep: 170 years later Ireland's population is still below pre-famine levels. Many of the negative stereotypes that denigrate our proud heritage today are the result of the British government attempts to justify allowing a minimum of one million people to starve to further their agenda; if this event occurred today, it would be regarded as ethnic cleansing. That someone would think any of this is a fit subject for comedy displays an ignorance of the facts or more abhorrently the same callous disregard of suffering in the pursuit of profit as exhibited by Nassau William Senior. Critics of Channel 4's critics claim that those who are objecting to a "famine comedy" are advocating censorship, to this I say no; censorship. Is a suppression of information. Channel 4 by this outrageous proposal is proof that we need the full story of the Great Hunger to be told, not a sanitized comedic one.

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