



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

January, 2017



Brother Hibernians, _____



Welcome aboard to new members Tom McKenna and Tom Zippili. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, January 27th. Our final Pot O'Gold Drawing party on December 18th was a great success. Many thanks to Chairman Bill Lee and his bride Trish as well as all the many volunteers, our chefs really hit it out of the ball park this time. Congrats to all of the winners and thanks to all our supporters for enabling us to continue to fulfill our mission of Christian Charity. A great time was had by all on St. Stephen's night, December 26th at our traditional Wren Night. Many thanks to Fergal Hayes, Mike O'Sullivan, and all our local talent. We look forward to keeping the tradition alive with several more Rambling Houses. Ed O' Dea is to be congratulated for running a bus trip to the new AOH Hall in Roxbury on January 21st. We all had a great time as our Division 21brothers treated us with a real Irish welcome. Division 3 looks forward to hosting a Grand Marshal reception on February 3rd and to our ski trip to Bellayre Mountain on February 4th. Congratulations to John Kelly on his election as Treasurer and many thanks to Marty Davin for all his years of service. Congratulations to Marty and to Chuck Parnow on their respective selections as Aide to Grand Marshal and Battalion Commander for Division 3 in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Pearl River.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News...Please say a prayer for the repose of the souls of Mike Halpin's bride Bridget and past NYS LAOH President Bernadette Hartnett. Your recent prayers seem to be working in regards to Jim Walsh who seems to be doing quite well. A couple of more prayers are in order for Ray Gallagher's son Brian who is scheduled for open heart surgery shortly, for Mike Fallon who is battling either Lyme or West Nile Disease, and for John Kennedy who is still struggling after all this time.

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

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

ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION _____

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CALENDAR _____

1/27 Division Meeting

1/28 Metro Conference

2/3 GM Reception

2/4 Ski Trip



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LAOH

Best wishes to all members and their families for a healthy and Happy New Year! At our first meeting of the year we welcomed Liz O'Donnell to our division. At the joint county AOH/LAOH meeting 2 of our members received nominations: Carmel Reilly - Grand Marshal and Helen Kilgallen Murphy - aide to the Grand Marshal, NYC. Moira Reilly will be our aide to the Grand Marshal. Mary O'Sullivan and Katie Basler did a terrific job organizing our Christmas party. Colleen Fitzpatrick, our Catholic Action chairperson and committee members organized our St. Zita's Christmas party which was very well received by the residents. Mary Mulcahy chaired the Dancing Like the Stars fundraiser and hosted a thank you party for the dancers, commentators and committee members on 1/12/17. Please keep the family of Bernadette Hartnett in your prayers. She passed away January 2, 2017. Bernadette was a longtime member of our division and was a former NYS County President and the first female aide to the Grand marshal in the Rockland County parade. Our next meeting will be held on 2/14/17 at 7:30 PM.

Yours in friendship, unity and Christian charity,

Terry McGeever, President

HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Christmas season is upon us. In the spirit of giving On 1/1/17 the thundering herd invaded the Pub for the annual fat off. Twenty three members weighed in as the floor creaked and moaned. Good luck to one and all as I am almost ready to concede as I have put on several pounds. Anorexic reverse. Knock out pool is over, congrats to the 5 winners. Remember you can't pick the same team twice (Ok Mike O Sullivan). From the Captain's corner, an investigation is on the find out who

is drinking the Captain's beer from his house. We have one suspect, guess who?. Almost called 911 last week as Warren Hennessy actually took off his coat. False alarm, nature was calling. Don't ever go to the Chiropractor's office and flip out of the exercise chair and land on your back. it hurts and you look ridiculous. I know.

Thanks to all who contributed to the family fund we were able to help 19 families. Thanks to the DeGennaro family for all their help with the shopping. We are going on a bus trip top the AOH in Breezy Point run by Ed "all" Day. Opening up a special lost and found for all the items Pete Engel leaves behind at the club. Please return the elevator Tuesday morning keys.

Pete Dunne

2017 EMERALD BALL

The premier event of the Saint Patrick's Day season, other than the parade itself, is the Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians Emerald Ball. This year the ball will be held on February 25, 2017 at the Pearl River Hilton, located at 500 Veterans Memorial Drive, Pearl River, NY 10965. The telephone number for the hotel is 845-735-9000, mention the RCAOH Emerald Ball to receive a special room rate when you book your room. The special room rate expires on Saturday, February 4th, 2017. The cost of the Emerald Ball is \$125.00. Please visit www.RocklandCountyAOH.com to facilitate your giving/going to the Emerald Ball, St. Patrick's Day Breakfast. You may also mail your check and ad to PO Box 182, Pearl River, NY 10965. Should you have any questions, please send an email to RocklandCountyHibernians@gmail.com.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Over the last year or two, we've made great strides in modernizing our communication vehicles, including this newsletter and our website. As you might imagine, it takes some effort to communicate to a group of 750+ people, and we're looking for your help and expertise, as we continue to look for the best ways to keep our members up to speed.

To that end, we are starting a "Communications Committee" to manage the ongoing production of material and our mailing lists, and look for the best and most effective ways to reach out to our membership. We would expect this to take just a few hours a month. If you have any experience in online communications, websites, etc., or if you've just got good organizational skills, we can use your help! We'll discuss at the next meeting, but if you are interested or have questions, drop an email to praoh3@gmail.com.

DIVISION SKI TRIP TO BELLEAYRE MOUNTAIN

Our annual ski trip to Belleayre Mountain is right around the corner on Saturday, February 4. For those going, the bus will be in the Metro North parking lot (corner of Route 304 and Washington Ave.) at 5:45am and we'll be loading up and leaving at 6:00am. We'll be getting back by around 7:00pm.

There are still some seats left, so if you're interested, the cost is \$90 for adults and \$80 for junior skiers (19 and under). Cost covers the bus, lift ticket, food and refreshments during the trip and sandwiches for lunch. For those who need it, you can rent equipment for the day (your cost roughly \$20-30) when we get to the mountain. Any questions, contact Chuck (Charles. Parnow@towerswatson.com) or Dan (sgtp3401@yahoo.com) for further info.

History

A Story of Three Irishmen and the Earliest Medal of Honor

On a cold January morning in what was then the New Mexico Territory but today is known as Arizona, 12 year old Felix Ward was tending his father's herd of sheep and cattle. Felix was the adopted son of John Ward who had immigrated to America from Ireland during the Great Hunger and had traveled west to seek his fortune in the gold fields of California. While not finding gold in California, John Ward had prospered through hard work in the lands of the recent Gadsden Purchase, resulting in a handsome 160 acre ranch. John Ward had taken a young Mexican wife known for her beauty who, with young Felix and his sister, had been abandoned by her first husband.

John Ward was away from the ranch that day leaving his stepson to his chores not knowing that a band of Aravaipa Apaches had targeted the homestead for a raid. They captured the boy and twenty head of cattle before fleeing at the sight of approaching riders. John Ward returned home to find his wife inconsolable over the loss of her son. He immediately proceeded to Fort Buchanan demanding the Army get the boy and the stolen cattle back.

The Commanding Officer of Fort Buchanan gave the rescue mission to a 25 year old Second Lieutenant George Bascom. Lt. Bascom left the fort with a force of fifty-four mule mounted infantry men. Bascom was a young officer eager to make a name for himself; this combined with orders that gave him a great deal of latitude was a recipe for disaster. It was not long in coming.

There was evidence that the Apache raiders had made for a trail frequently used by the Chiricahua Apaches that led to the Apache Pass where the Overland Stage maintained a station. On this circumstantial evidence, Bascom wrongly assumed that the raiding party was Chiricahua Apaches who were led by their Chief Cochise. Bascom and his men made camp at the stage station and sent a message to Cochise seeking a parlay. Cochise arrived the next day with his wife, son, brother and three warriors unaware of Bascom's suspicions. Cochise and his party were invited to join Bascom's in his tent. Bascom secretly gave orders that guards were to secure the entrance to the tent once Cochise entered. Once inside the tent, Bascom accused Cochise of abducting Felix Ward and demanded the boy and the stolen cattle back. Cochise truthfully stated that his people were innocent and he did not have the boy, but pledged to help find him. Unconvinced, Bascom ordered that Cochise and his party be seized and held hostage for the boys return. Cochise and his brother made for the tent opening only to find it blocked by the guard's bayonets. Cochise simultaneously turned and pulled his knife, cutting a hole in the tent through which he escaped. An hour later, Cochise appeared again on the ridge line overlooking the camp. Cochise appealed to Bascom that if the prisoners were released now, no vengeance would be taken and he would look for the boy. Bascom's response was to order his men to fire a volley. Cochise swore vengeance.

Lt. Bascom soon realized the folly of his arrogance. The Apache Pass station was in a valley and Cochise and his Chiricahuas had the surrounding high ground; they were soon ringed by hundreds of Apache Warriors. The Apache made an attack on the station wounding several of Bascom's men in addition to attacking two stagecoaches that had come into the station unaware of the danger. Bascom realized that he has allowed himself to be pinned and needed help. Five of his men volunteered for the dangerous mission of trying

to cross the Apaches lines and travel back to Fort Buchanan.

The volunteers reached the Fort late the next day. The commanding officer had few troops to spare from a garrison already depleted by the absence of Bascom's men. Knowing that there were gravely wounded men at the Apache Pass Station, Assistant Surgeon Bernard J. D. Irwin volunteered to lead a relief party of sixteen volunteers while a messenger was sent to Fort Breckinridge for reinforcements. Dr. Irwin was born in Roscommon and had emigrated as a child with his parents to escape the Great Hunger. The commanding officer knew the incredibly long odds of this little party being able to cross hostile territory and sent for more immediate reinforcements as an equalizer, "Paddy" Graydon. Graydon was another recent Irish immigrant who had served with the U.S. Army Dragoons before leaving the army to open a saloon. Graydon was always up for an adventure and was described as "fearless" and "indefatigable". In addition to speaking fluent Spanish, his service with the Dragoons had made him knowledgeable in the ways of fighting in the American Southwest. With the arrival of Graydon, Irwin's small party of seventeen men mounted on mules began the journey to Apache Pass in a blinding snowstorm to relieve Bascom.

Despite the fierce snowstorm, Irwin and his party covered a remarkable sixty-five mile the first day. The next day, Irwin's men sighted a raiding party of Coyotero Apaches driving stolen cattle and horses. This was tailor made for Paddy Graydon. The Irish former Dragoon led the mule mounted infantry in a wild pursuit that netted thirteen cattle, three horses and three prisoners. Pressing on, Irwin and his men reached Apache Station that night to the cheers of its defenders as

they brought both badly needed medical attention and food in the form of the captured cattle. With these reinforcements and supplies, the besieged garrison was able to hold out until more substantial relief in the form of two companies of Dragoons arrived from Fort Breckinridge.

The participants of what came to be known as the "Bascom Affair" could not have known that they had participated in an event which would result in a 25 year war between the U.S. and the Apaches. The events of Apache station would soon pale with the start of the American Civil War. Dr. Bernard Irwin would distinguish himself again in that conflict. While serving at the Battle of Shiloh, Dr. Irwin would be credited with establishing the concept of the field hospital, the forerunner to MASH units, saving countless lives by treating and stabilizing the wounded while on the battlefield. Irwin would retire a Brigadier General after a long distinguished career in the Army Medical Corps. On January 21, 1894, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at Apache Station, though they predated the creation of the Medal of Honor by a year, making it the earliest action for which the medal has been awarded. "Paddy" Graydon would go on to raise a unit of volunteers and fight in the Civil War, with his unit playing a major role in checking Confederate ambitions in the Southwest. He would die in settling an affair of honor by a duel, a swashbuckler to the end. John Ward would die a few years after the "Bascom Affair" without seeing his stepson again. Felix Ward would be assimilated by the Apaches and become an Apache Scout under the name "Mickey Free", followed by a career as a bounty hunter and tribal policeman

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