



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

October, 2018



Brother Hibernians,_____



Our next meeting will be held on Friday, October 26th at 8pm. There will be nominations for Division Officers. Welcome aboard to new members Lou Eichner, John Riordan, Ken McCormick, and Mike Acheson.

Thanks to Danny Mulligan for taking over the membership committee and to Chris Power for stepping up to run our Communion Mass. Congratulations to Frank McDonagh and Phil Sheridan on their re-elections as Hibernian House President and Treasurer respectively. Thanks to all who joined us on October 5th for the very informative presentation by renowned journalist Jude Collins as he discussed his new book about Martin McGuinness and the Brexit situation. Congrats to the Hibernian senior softball team who won their championship game. They beat the Elks 14-10 after a long fun season.

Phil Sheridan reports the following Good and Welfare news...Please pray for the repose of the soul of Catherine Healy, mom of Tom and grandmother of Rory. Please say a prayer for the recovery of the following; Doug Meeks who has been battling an intestinal infection, Pete Engle who has had recurring heart problem and is now home from the hospital, Fred Thompkins who had stents inserted in his lower leg for a circulation problem, John Hennessey who is dealing with some serious health issues, and John Kennedy as he continues his battle with illness.

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.*

HALLOWEEN HOWL OCTOBER 27

Sean Walsh is hosting a Halloween Howl Party at the Hibernian House on October 27th from 8pm to 1 am. Admission is \$20. Costumes are required and there will be a DJ, food, cash bar and prizes. Please see let Sean know you are coming by signing up on the sheet in the pub. He would greatly appreciate any decoration donations and can be reached at smw573@gmail.com or 845-300-1718.

ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION _____

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DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE

Vice President
CHARLES PARNOW

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JOHN KELLY, JR.

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HIBERNIAN HOUSE

President
FRANK McDONAGH

Vice President
PETER DUNNE

Treasurer
PHIL SHERIDAN

Recording Secretary
JOHN GANNON

CALENDAR _____

- 10-19 American Legion Dance
- 10-19 AOH Division 1 Dance
- 10-26 Division meeting
- 10-27 Halloween Howl
- 11-3 State Testimonial Dinner
- 11-11 First POG Drawing Party
- 11-17 Senior Citizen Luncheon



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LAOH

Happy fall! We installed Mary Murray at our September meeting. Congratulations to Mary O'Sullivan on being honored on October 12th by the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade committee and also on October 19th at the AOH Division 1 Dinner Dance. Congratulations to Joan Moore on being nominated for Grand Marshal by our division for the 2019 Rockland County Saint Patrick's Day parade at our September meeting. The Jukebox Bingo committee worked very hard to make our 10/13/18 fundraiser a huge success. Hope to see you at our next meeting, 11/13/18.

Yours in friendship, unity and Christian charity,

Terry McGeever, President

HIBERNIAN HOUSE

It's that time of the year again, Halloween. It seems like a lot of our regulars have been in costume for quite a while. Several of our members are insisting that the Pub is haunted. This usually occurs after they have been here for a while although some people have actually had strange occurrences while sitting in the Pub. Tom Slattery thought someone had stolen his brain while he was sitting at the bar. That's very possible, it had to disappear somewhere. John Gannon said he was hypnotized one day at the Pub and he has to get up every Sunday and go there no matter where he is. Belcrash Richie said every time he tries to leave it just draws him back in. I think it's called the Bud Light curse. Rumor has it that our own Gulliver is going to be doing a travel show from the Pub. We are working on getting the Capt. his own ten minute spot on Fox, uncut, unedited and live. It will be the highest rated show on TV. Until they come and take him away. Tickets are available at the Pub for the Pot of Gold raffle. First party is in November. Freeze your arse off golf outing is on for the day after Thanksgiving, a list will be up soon at the Pub. Amazing how most of the players feel right at HOME playing at Rockland State. I can still see my old room from the clubhouse. See you at the Pub.

Pete Dunne

MAIRTIN O'CONNOR BAND AT RGAA OCTOBER 23

The Rockland GAA will host the Mairtin O'Connor Band with Cathal Hayden and Seamie Dowd for their only New York appearance at 8pm. It promises to be a great night with opening acts by the Inishfree School of Irish Dance at 6:30, the Pearl River School of Irish Music at 7:00, and John Reynolds, Mickey Coleman, and Fergal Hayes at 7:30. Tickets are \$25 for adults and children are free. For more info, contact Ann at rockland.gaa.events@gmail.com.

SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 17

We need volunteers at 10 am for set up, during the luncheon which starts at noon, and after for clean-up. Especially needed are HS students to serve the food as well as two men to work in the kitchen. Please contact Jack O'Connor at 845-731-9697.

POT O'GOLD FIRST DRAWING PARTY NOVEMBER 11

Don't miss out, get your ticket now. Our first drawing on Sunday, November 11 is fast approaching and the Grand Prize will be drawn on Sunday, December 23rd. As in years past both parties will be held at the Hibernian House and the purchase of 1 ticket gets you and a guest admission to both parties and qualifies you for both drawings. Tickets will be available at the Hibernian House Bar and can be requested from Bill Lee by sending an email to mr.williamlee@gmail.com.

In prior years demand for tickets has increased in large part this is due to our parties and the fantastic food that is prepared by our chefs. Demand this year will also be high and we expect all tickets will be distributed well in advance of the 1st party. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our Division, it is your support that allows us to help those within the community who are in need.

LEGION POST 329 DINNER OCTOBER 19TH

The John H. Secor American Legion Post 329 in Pearl River is hosting a Commander's Dinner honoring past Commanders and commemorating the 100th Anniversary of John H. Secor's ultimate sacrifice. The dinner will be held on the evening of Friday, October 19th at the Pearl River Elks Club. Many honorees for the evening are division members so please consider attending the dinner, taking an advertisement in their journal, or sponsoring the event. For tickets contact Dan Davin at DSD4999@aol.com, for journal ads contact Kat McGowan at kathleenmurhy@icloud.com, and for any other info contact Tom Lynch at tomlynch415@yahoo.com.

DIVISION 1 DANCE OCTOBER 19TH

Division 1 will be having their Annual Dinner Dance Honoring Mary O'Sullivan for her many years of effort and dedication to the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade. For more information or to purchase tickets or journal ads, please contact Dan Donohue at 914-261-7542.

History

"The Almighty Sent the Blight, but the English Created the Famine"

Between the years 1845 and 1851, Ireland lost at a minimum 25% of its population, with over one million dying and another million emigrating. The literal root cause being a mold *Phytophthora infestans* which destroyed the foundation of the Irish diet based on the potato. This period is inaccurately referred to as "the Irish Potato Famine", but this obscures the true source and accountability for the tragedy which was rooted in British policy and prejudice toward the Irish. The Irish name *An Gorta Mor*, "the great hunger" is more accurate for it was not only food which was in short supply in British governed Ireland, but humanity and justice.

Today's textbooks will often cite the over-reliance of the Irish on the potato as the reason why Ireland was so severely impacted by the potato blight which was simultaneously destroying the potato crops in mainland Britain and much of Europe. The question often not examined is why? Failure to ask this question can lead to the inaccurate conclusion that the Irish sowed the seeds of their downfall, a myth that echoes the propaganda which British bureaucrats tried to foster to escape their own responsibility. However, the dependency on the potato as the staple of the Irish diet was a matter of forced necessity, not bad farming practice. The constant division and subdivision of property as British landlords attempted to extract every penny from their holdings created a situation where only the potato could be grown on these plots in sufficient quantities for tenants to feed their families. In good times when the crop flourished, the potato, supplemented with some protein from milk, was a complete source of nutrition. Visitors to Ireland often remarked that despite the clear destitution suffered by the common Irish they were remarkably fit and healthy. This was the reason why Ireland was a prime hunting ground for British recruiting sergeants in search of cannon fodder (during the Napoleonic wars it was estimated that a third of Wellington's troops came from Ireland, a debt which England failed to remember during the famine).

The fact that in the early 19th century the vast majority of the people of Ireland were on the knife edge of a calamity waiting to happen was well known. There had been the warning signs of numerous smaller famines in earlier years. From the act of Union in 1800, wherein Ireland allegedly became an equal member in the United Kingdom under direct rule from Westminster, to the famine 150 committees and commissions had warned that Ireland was a human catastrophe in the making. In 1835, ten years before the famine, the French political scientist de Tocqueville wrote of a visit to Ireland "You cannot imagine what a complexity of miseries five centuries of oppression, civil disorders, and religious hostility have piled upon this poor people." The British Wheatley Commission on Irish poverty had suggested that fisheries be

developed, land reclaimed for development, and emigration opportunities offered. All the warning signs and guidance were ignored; for while the Crown claimed Ireland as a part of the United Kingdom, it took no responsibility for its Irish subjects; Ireland was part of "our kingdom" when it was a beneficial and "their country" when there was a problem.

Unique among areas suffering a famine, Ireland remained a food exporter. During the worst year of the famine, Black '47, Guinness exported over 300,000 gallons of stout to Britain (the Guinness Family who have always been Unionists donate a mere £160 to famine relief). In the years 1846 and 1847, Ireland exported 430,000 tons of grain. Apologists attempt to argue that holding back these exports would only have "a minimal effect" in offsetting the loss of the potato crop. The question which must be asked of these revisionists is how many lives are in that "minimal effect". It must also be noted that to protect these exports the British government maintained (and fed) 100,000 troops in Ireland.

However, it is the English attitudes toward the famine in Ireland which is the most telling in that the "Great Hunger" was no mere famine, as evidenced by their own words. Queen Victoria's economic adviser Nassau Senior expressed his fear that the Irish famine "would not kill more than one million people, and that would scarcely be enough to do any good". As Assistant Secretary to HM Treasury and chief administrator of famine "relief", Trevelyan echoed Dickenson's Scrooge in describing the famine as an "effective mechanism for reducing surplus population" and "the judgement of God" on the "moral evil of the selfish, perverse and turbulent character of the (Irish)". As over a million Irish forced from their homeland crowded onto "Coffin Ships" a London Times Editorial crowed "Thanks to a bountiful Providence, the Irishman on the banks of the Shannon will soon be as rare a sight as the Red Indian on the banks of the Hudson." Are these the sentiments associated with dealing with a famine or sentiments of inhuman opportunists perverting a natural disaster into a biological weapon?

The Irish famine was a genocide by any reasonable definition of the word, any time people try to excuse, revise or apologize for it we should as Irish Americans be offended. Those today who dismiss it today as an ecological disaster are just dressing Trevelyan's "providence" in scientific wrappings. The historian David McCullough observed "History is who we are and why we are the way we are"; certainly that is true of the history of *An Gorta Mor*. The hardship and trials of the hunger forged a new Irish people and we as its descendants must thwart any attempt to mitigate our ancestors suffering if we are not to denigrate their greatness.

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