



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

June, 2018



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



Our next meeting will be held on June 29th at 8pm. Welcome aboard to new members Dylan Gleeson, Michael Loughran, and Mark Duncan. Division 3 was well represented on Memorial Day as we marched and then paid homage at the memorial at Braunsdorf Park to the memory of all the men and women who sacrificed all to defend the greatest country on earth, the United States of America. Congratulations to all the division members who participated in the Nicole Draper Memorial benefit for St. Baldrick's and to all who donated so generously. The Irish Music Festival at the GAA fields on June 9th was a huge success. Congratulations to organizer Meaghan Mallon and best wishes to her and the rest of the Bergen Irish Pipe Band as they compete at the World Pipe Competition in Scotland this summer. Many thanks once again to all who attended and supported. I hope we do as well at our Ceol Mor Bagpipe Competition on August 4th. On behalf of all the Division and House officers, I wish you and your families an enjoyable and safe summer. This will be our last newsletter until September but we will continue to inform you on upcoming events and matters of importance. Please don't hesitate to contact us at praoh3@gmail.com.

Please pray for the repose of John O'Connor, Mikel Hieb's brother Jim, Tom Regan's wife Julia, and Gary and Jack Coyle's mother Eileen. Please say a prayer or two for Dan Callanan who spent a while in Hackensack Hospital battling an infection and is now headed to rehab and for Pat Hegarty who is dealing with complications from diabetes.

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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**DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE**

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*Financial Secretary*  
**WILLIAM YOUNG**

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**JOHN KELLY, JR.**

*Recording Secretary*  
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**KEVIN DONOHUE**

*Sentinel*  
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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 \_\_\_\_\_

**6-29 Meeting**

**7-6 McDermott Golf**

**7-11-14 National Convention**

**8-4 Ceol Mor**



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## LAOH

Our Ascension Thursday dinner honoring May Kreider, coordinated by Ronnie Moroney and Linda Sheridan, was very well attended and a very enjoyable night. Thank you to the members who marched in the Memorial Day parade. Colleen Fitzpatrick and her Irish history essay contest committee and Debbie Bogin and her HS scholarship committee hosted a lovely reception for our essay contest and scholarship recipients and their families on 6/10/18 which was greatly appreciated. The fundraising committee headed by Kim Glynn will be meeting over the summer and plans are underway for a fall fundraiser. Lillian Murphy, Joan Moore, Pat Schrader and I are looking forward to attending the National AOH/LAOH convention in Kentucky in July. Have an enjoyable summer.

*Yours in friendship, unity and Christian charity,*

*Terry McGeever, President*

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

There is no truth to the rumor that our Sunday bartender was pulled over doing 95 miles an hour attempting to make it into work. He was actually doing 97. The St. Baldrick's fund raiser was a great success. Thanks to everyone who helped out. Amazingly our donators looked great. And no surprise to anyone, our own poor man's George Hamilton, George Leahy, actually looked better. Thanks to our resident lunatic Pete from Kwan Thai, for keeping the bidding going. Summer is here, remember that all of us fat guys don't swim out too far to avoid getting harpooned. If you are at LBI, stop in to see the captain at Uncle Louie's.

*Pete Dunne*

## SOFTBALL

**Week 3** This weekend the boys of summer faced off against big hitting Flemings but today turned out to be more about pitching. Pat Troy took the mound and pitched 8 strong innings letting up only 3 runs going into the bottom of the 8th. Flemings scored 2 runs with 2 outs and that proved to be the difference in the game. Doug Aday's RBI triple was not enough to get it done in the 9th and this is the team's first loss dropping them to 2nd place in the standings. The team will be back in action on Father's Day vs. the Horse and Jockey at Miller School.

**Week 4:** The afternoon league (3-1) moved back into first place with a 9-4 victory over last year's runner up, Horse & Jockey. Once again it was a new face playing the catalyst, as Mike McGrath filled in at 3rd for Jimmy 'wally pipp' Spinks; playing a stellar hot corner and driving in multiple runs to lead the team to victory. Rumor on the street is Tommy Mai has done such a nice job in the offseason with free agent signings that Brian Cashman is now officially on the hot seat. Congrats boys!

Mike Troy

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 11-14th

Louisville, Kentucky

<https://aoh.com/>

Please let us know asap if you would like to attend

### MICHAEL McDERMOTT 15th ANNUAL MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Thursday, July 6, 2017

Blue Hill Golf Course

Contact Dan, Kathy or Ryan at  
845-623-6367

## CEOL MOR BAGPIPE BAND COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL AUGUST 4TH

RCAOH is sponsoring this great event at the RGAA Fields from 9am to 8pm

Anyone who attended last year can tell you that a great time was had by all.

The best pipers and drummers will be competing all day.

Individual competitions will start at 9am and bands at 1pm.

Mass bands march will be held afterwards at which we are looking to set a Guinness World Record!

5 pm concert featuring the Nine Mile House Band.

Through out the day, there will be exhibitions by local musicians and AOH Pipe Bands

In the beautiful GAA clubhouse and Pavilion.

VOLUNTEERS ARE GREATLY NEEDED, PLEASE CONTACT

JOAN AT  
[joan55mmoore@msn.com](mailto:joan55mmoore@msn.com)

# History

## Charles Byrne, The Tragic Irish Giant



Giants are a recurring theme in classical Irish mythology. Perhaps none is better known than Fionn mac Cumhail ("Finn McCool") the legendary leader of the Fianna. According to legend, Finn McCool while standing in Ulster engaged in a war of words with another giant standing in Scotland. At one-point Finn was so enraged that he grabbed a (giant sized) sod of earth and flung it at the Scots giant. Finn missed, and the "sod" landed in the ocean to become the Isle of Mann, the depression left behind filled with water to become Lough Derg, the largest lake in Ireland. Later in the story, it is claimed an enraged Finn builds the "Giants Causeway", the great natural wonder in County Antrim, to reach his rival in Scotland.

While we can smile at these "tall tales", many myths are built on a grain of truth and the stories of Irish Giants are no exception. Unfortunately, the tales of real Irish giants are far from the happy endings of fairy tales; case in point is the on-going tragedy of Charles Byrne.

Charles Byrne was born in 1761 in the small village of Littlebridge near the border of Derry and Tyrone, and perhaps not coincidentally near Finn McCool's Lough Derg. His parents were of normal stature and Charles is reported as being a normal sized baby. However, this soon changed as in early childhood Charles began to grow rapidly and while still a schoolboy was soon towering over the adults in the village. People traveled for miles to see the "giant", and it was not long before a promoter convinced the family that Charles' height could be a ticket to fame and fortune. He drew huge crowds and great success as he toured Ireland and soon was convinced to travel to Britain where bigger crowds and a fortune seemed to await.

Charles was now approximately twenty years old and stood 7' 7" tall at a time when the average man was 5' 5". He was a sensation in Edinburgh where people stood amazed as he casually lit his pipe from the street lamps. In London he was the talk of the town and paying crowds flocked to his exhibitions. He was presented to the King and Queen and even starred in a play "Harlequin Teague: or the Giant's Causeway" which played to sold out audiences.

However, fame deserted Byrne as quickly as it found him. After a year, the novelty of the "Irish Giant" had worn off and the crowds dwindled. More importantly Byrne's health began to decline, he was experiencing terrible headaches and joint pain. To relieve the pain, Byrne began to drink and during one of his drinking bouts someone stole his entire life's savings. Only 22 years of age and now impoverished, Byrne contracted tuberculosis and knew his death was imminent.

Byrne knew that the 18th century medical community was fascinated by him and feared that his body would be dissected, a fate reserved legally at the time only for criminals who committed capital crimes. This was the era of grave robbers who would disinter the dead and sell the bodies clandestinely to anatomists and medical colleges for illegal examination. Byrne made clear that his dying wish was to be buried at sea to avoid this fate.

However, Byrne had not counted on the excess of zeal and lack of scruples of Dr. John Hunter. Hunter was the King's surgeon; recognized in his day as the most distinguished physician in London. Hunter made enormous contributions



# History

## Charles Byrne, The Tragíc Irish Giant *Continued*



to the fields of anatomy and is considered by many to be the “Father of Modern Surgery”. Dr. Hunter gained his knowledge by selling his soul like Dr. Faustus to illegally gain new specimens for dissection which he then preserved in his private collection. Upon hearing of Byrne’s illness, Hunter paid agents to watch the house of the dying Byrne. When Byrne died, he bribed the undertaker £500 to replace the body with a similar weight in paving stones in a sealed lead coffin which unknowingly Byrne’s friends faithfully buried as sea (but not before exploiting the marketing

potential of showing Byrne’s coffin en route). The body was taken to Hunter who fearing apprehension quickly dismembered the corpse and then boiled the flesh off the bones which he then reassembled to display in his private collection.

It is hard to see Dr. Hunter’s activities as anything but ghoulish trophy hunting rather than “medical research”. If Dr. Hunter had taken the time to do a scientific examination of his reprehensibly obtained specimen he may have discovered that Byrne suffered from acromegaly, a tumor of the pituitary gland that causes it to release excess growth hormone, a disease that would be discovered by a proper examination a century later. It is now known that untreated the disease can cause tremendous pain and was likely the cause of Byrne’s drinking. Modern day research has shown that acromegaly is a genetic disorder and there is a concentration of the gene around Derry and Tyrone where Charles Byrne was born and of the Finn McCook legends. Even today there is an unusually high concentration of people in this area who suffer from acromegaly and are exceptionally tall. This could likely be the origin of Ireland’s Giant myths, though modern medical knowledge and treatment may signal the end of the age of the Irish Giants,

Sadly, two and a half centuries on, Charles Byrne is still being exploited

by others. When Dr. Hunter died he donated his collection, including the unethically obtained skeleton of Charles Byrne, to the Royal College of Surgeons who in turn created the Hunterian Museum. Charles Byrne unethically obtained skeleton is still on display in a museum named in honor of a man who robbed and desecrated his body. Despite repeated calls for the Royal College of Surgeons to give Charles Byrne a dignified final rest, the museum continues to justify the display citing the importance of Byrne’s remains to “future research”; the fact that Byrne’s skeleton also happens to be the most popular exhibit in this freak show pretentiously masquerading as a science exhibit is merely a coincidence. DNA has already been extracted and preserved from the skeleton, there is nothing more of scientific value to be wrung out of the corpse of “the Irish Giants” except gawking museum admissions. It is inconceivable that if the ill-gotten remains of an individual of another ancestry were so shamelessly and callously treated that there would not be greater outcry and protests. It is time to let the Irish Giant Charles Byrne, who suffered in life and continues to be exploited in death, to have the rest that legend says is accorded to Finn McCool.

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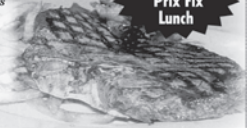
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