



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

December, 2019



Brother Hibernians



Our next meeting will be this Friday, December 20th at 8pm. Welcome aboard to new members Gary Hughes and Terence Frize.

Congratulations to all the division officers who were re-elected and to newly elected President Chuck Parnow and Vice President Phil Lane. It has been my honor and privilege to serve you these past 14 years and I know that I am leaving you in good hands!

Pete Dunne ran another successful Freeze Your Arse Off golf outing. Jack O'Connor would like to thank co-chair Larry DeGenarro and all the volunteers who worked so hard at the Senior Citizen's luncheon, especially chef Larry Connell and hall decorators Kat McGowan and Joan Moore. Many thanks to chef Bill Boera and all the volunteers who made our Special Needs Christmas Party so special.

Our Pot O'Gold final drawing party is this Sunday. If you haven't done so, get your ticket now! Don't miss out on a chance to win ten grand cash three days before Christmas. Please join us for our Wren Night celebration on December 26th, we have some lineup of entertainers.

Phil Sheridan reports the following Good and Welfare news...Please pray for the repose of the souls of Doug Catherwood's father George and Larry McKeever's daughter Kim. Many thanks go out to all who attended Pete Engle's memorial mass, it is hard to believe that it has been a year already. Please keep Dan McKenna in your prayers and say a prayer or two as well for Frank Duffy who suffered a fall.

As always, please keep our wounded warriors in your prayers.

I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity,

Dermot O'Connor Moore, President.

ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION

President
DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE

Vice President
CHARLES PARNOW

Financial Secretary
WILLIAM YOUNG

Treasurer
JOHN KELLY, JR.

Recording Secretary
NEIL COSGROVE

Marshal
KEVIN DONOHUE

Sentinel
WILLIAM LEE

Chairman Grievance
JACK O'CONNOR

Chaplain
FR. ERIC RAASER

HIBERNIAN HOUSE

President
FRANK McDONAGH

Vice President
PETER DUNNE

Treasurer
PHIL SHERIDAN

Recording Secretary
JOHN GANNON

CALENDAR

**12-22 POG Final Drawing
Party**

12-26 Wren Night

01-01 Fat-off

02-01 Ski Trip



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HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Ho Ho Ho its that time of the year again. Time to spend too much money, overindulge and forget the words to the Christmas songs. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the family fund a, lot of families will enjoy Christmas this year. We are still taking donations. One of our members claims he is being stalked by deer. On several occasions he said he was attacked by the same deer on the way home. Of course, he was on his way home from the pub at the time. No names. "Warren Hennessy". Thanks to our retiring Div. 3 President, Dermot Moore for all

the time he put in over the years. New president, Chuck Parnow, get ready for the tweets. The Freeze your Arse Golf tournament was a big hit and we did freeze. Thanks to Joe Wrafter, the resident club pro at the course. Remember the course is located at Rockland State Hospital. For a lot of our members it was like old home week. Billy's chilly was a huge hit as always. Even if it wasn't, who is going to tell Uncle Bill? Merry Christmas to one and all and have a Happy New Year.

Pete Dunne

LAOH

Our annual Christmas party was very well attended and a great time was had by all. Lisa Dowling and Mary O'Sullivan co-chaired the event with assistance from Tracey Dickey, who coordinated the games, Linda Sheridan, who created the baskets, and Helen Murphy, Terri Hartey and Amy Johnson, who helped at the party with the raffles, etc. On Saturday, December 14th, we hosted our annual Christmas party for the residents at St.

Zita's nursing home. This event was coordinated by Deirdre Heffernan. Our first meeting of 2020 will be held on 1/14/20 at 7:30 PM in the AOH hall. At this meeting our 2020- 2022 board members will be installed.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all members and their families!

Yours in friendship, unity and Christian charity,

Terry McGeever, President

POT O'GOLD FINAL DRAWING PARTY DECEMBER 22ND

Don't miss out, get your ticket now. We awarded \$2,000 at our first drawing party November 10th. We will give out another \$12,000 at our final drawing party this Sunday, December 22nd, including our grand prize of \$10,000 cash. The purchase of 1 ticket gets you and a guest admission to both parties and qualifies you for both drawings. Tickets are available at the Hibernian House Bar and can be requested from Bill Lee by sending an email to mr.williamplee@gmail.com.

WREN NIGHT

Thursday, December 26th 7 to 10pm at the Hibernian House

Join us for a traditional Irish celebration of St. Stephen's night

Music by Fergal Hayes, John McDonagh, Margie Mulvihill, John Reynolds, and Pete O'Donnell

Performances by local talent. Tea, Coffee, Soda Bread, Cash Bar

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John Mackay, the Forgotten “Bonanza King”

William Shakespeare observed, “The evil that men do lives after them; The good is oft interred with their bones.” It speaks to the ironic tendency for society to notarize, even glorify, the darkest aspects of humanity while ignoring the noble. Nowhere is this clearer than in the case of Irish American John Mackay, the “Bonanza King.”

John Mackay (pronounced Mackee) was born on November 28, 1831, on the outskirts of Dublin in the appalling poverty that was the hallmark of pre-famine Ireland. In 1840, when Mackay was nine years old, the family emigrated to New York City, settling in the notorious Five Points section of the city. At first, it seemed that the family was prospering, they were able to scrape together enough that young John was able to attend school at a time when only half of the Irish children living in New York received any formal education. However, disaster struck in 1842 when Mackay’s father died suddenly, forcing young John to quit school to support his mother and sister. Mackay often would remark in later life that his greatest regret was not having completed a formal education.

MacKay started working as a newsboy, at the time a grueling and unsparing job. Newsboys had to buy their papers in advance and could not return any that were unsold, which could quickly erase a day’s work. Fighting for readers was often literal. It would have been particularly hard for MacKay who throughout his life fought a terrible stammer, but the boy developed a habit of letting his hard work speak for him. Mackay eventually secured a position as an apprentice ship’s carpenter; a testament to his determination as the New York shipbuilding industry of mid-19th century New York rarely employed the Irish.

The event that would change Mackay’s life occurred in 1848 with the discovery of gold in California. Despite the risks and hardships, prospecting for gold offered the chance to go from working for mere subsistence to improving one’s life. Like thousands of other young men of the time, Mackay left New York with nothing but a strong will supported by a strong back.

In the goldfields of California, Mackay developed a legendary reputation for hard work; a fellow miner would later reminisce, “Mackay worked like the devil

and made me work the same way.” Nevertheless, after eight years in California Mackay had little to show for his efforts. Word filtered through the camps of a new strike in the Utah territories (present-day Nevada) of the vast silver and gold deposit that would be known as “The Comstock Lode.” With fellow Irishman and future partner Jack O’Brien, Mackay walked over one hundred miles and climbed over twenty-three hundred feet crossing the Sierra Nevada mountains to arrive in the mining camp without a nickel to his name to start again.

MacKay started as a common miner at \$4 per day. For several years he crammed two days of backbreaking labor into a single day, working one full shift to earn the money he needed to survive and then a second shift in exchange for “feet,” a share in the mine’s ownership. Through his grueling toil and expertise in mining gained from hands-on experience and hours of study, Mackay gradually amassed some capital and acquired stakes in better and better mines. In 1865, MacKay acquired a majority share of an obscure mine called the Kentuck, which had been written off as unproductive. Mackay believed otherwise. Mackay invested his savings acquired through a life of grueling labor and every penny he could borrow in the Kentuck. After a year of mining the Kentuck with little to show, Mackay was teetering on the edge of bankruptcy, but on New Year’s Day, 1866, he hit a ten-foot-wide vein of gold and silver 250 feet below the surface. Over the next two years, the “unproductive Kentuck” would yield Mackay \$1.6 million worth of gold and silver in the day’s currency, approximately \$375 million in today’s dollars.

Despite having acquired more wealth than an impoverished newsboy from the Five Points could dream of, Mackay still had a love of work and mining. In 1873, Mackay and his three fellow Irish American partners hit “the Big Bonanza” – a strike that still holds the record as the most concentrated ore body in history. In the silver and goldfields of Nevada, Mackay had gone from earning \$4 a day to \$450,000 per month, making Mackay and his partners the richest men in the world. Mackay was nicknamed “the Bonanza King,” a title the modest McKay shunned.

However, the accumulation of wealth was not an end in itself for Mackay. His miners were the best paid in the world, and he was renowned for always dealing fairly with them. When a depression created a surplus of labor, a consortium of mine owners attempted to exploit the situation by conspiring to reduce the miner’s wages to \$3.50 an hour; McKay would have none of it. He stated, “I always received \$4.00 when I worked in the mines and when I cannot pay that I will go out of business.” He would continue to drive himself to his mines in a simple one-horse wagon rather than an elegant coach, and in winter was never in too much of a hurry to stop to allow local children to hitch on their sleds so that he could give them a ride up a hill. It the slang of the Comstock miners when something was of exceptional quality it was referred to as “the John Mackay.”

Always a believer in free enterprise, in later life MacKay took on “the most hated man in America” Jay Gould, who had a monopoly on transatlantic telegraph communications for his Western Union company. Mackay broke his monopoly by forming the Commercial Cable Company and laying his own pair of rival transatlantic telegraph cables at tremendous cost. In the process, MacKay incentivized and aided in his employees’ purchase of company stock, one of the first business leaders to do so. When he built the office of his new cable company in New York City at the intersection of Murray Street and Broadway across from City Hall, he had his desk positioned so

he could see his childhood home in the Five Points; no doubt thinking how far he had come.

Mackay’s philanthropy and generosity were legendary, but in keeping with his character done quietly and without pretense. Mackay gave generously to the Catholic Church and endowed the Catholic orphan asylum in Virginia City, Nevada. When former President Grant was nearly penniless due to losing his investments in a Wall Street scandal, Mackay quietly helped him in the same way as he quietly helped so many old miners of his acquaintance. He endowed the school of mines at the University of Nevada

When Mackay died in 1902, The Salt Lake City Tribune said of this one-time improvised Irish immigrant that “of all the millionaires of this country, no one was more thoroughly American than Mr. Mackay, and no one among them derived his fortune more legitimately.”

It is a grave injustice that the memory of John MacKay is forgotten, especially when his example is so badly needed today. Unlike the “robber barons” of his age, Rockefeller, Carnegie, Stanford, and Huntington, MacKay did not have to endow organizations and universities whose mission would be to atone after his death for the sins he had committed in life in a ruthless climb to fortune. When people asked Mackay for advice on how to succeed in business, Mackay always replied, “Son, never lose your good name.” Irish American John MacKay never did, and surely that is worth remembering.

