



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

*April 2021*

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



I hope this update finds you and your family all well. It is hard to believe that we are already past Easter and speeding headlong into May. If possible, I hope you were able to take some time away from work during the Easter break.

Our next division meeting will be held **virtually this Thursday, April 22 at 7:30pm**. See email for a link to the meeting and instructions.

Another sign of Spring – the Division 3 Golf outing. As detailed in Sean Walsh's letter earlier this month, we will once again conduct the AOH Division 3 golf outing, albeit in a more subdued manner. It will be held at Blue Hill Golf Course on Thursday, May 13 with a shotgun start at 8am (check-in starting at 7am). This will be a Division member only event (Brothers and Boosters only), as we are still limited by space constraints due to the pandemic, particularly for the barbeque at the Hibernian House afterward. ***We need to have a minimum number of golfers to hold this, so if you plan to attend, sign up soon (we don't want to have to cancel due to lack of participation!).***

This is an opportunity to spend time with your fellow Hibernians, and everything is being done at cost. We will be creating opportunities to recognize the local businesses who have supported us throughout the years. Thanks to Sean and the Golf Committee for putting all the thought and effort into getting this up and running.

Also, note that, pandemic or no, the AOH Division 3 scholarship successfully continued again this year. See the following article about it and our ten scholars. A hearty "Well done!" to all.

**Good & Welfare** – Please pray for the repose of the souls of our Brothers Billy (Mac) McAndrews and Jack O'Connor. And please continue to keep our first responders – law enforcement professionals, EMS, and healthcare workers – and members of the armed services in your prayers.

As always, we pray that you and your family are healthy and safe.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

**Chuck Parnow**

## Charities



If you have a charitable event or know of a charitable event that Division 3 should support financially, please get in touch with Kieran Cummings, our Charities Committee Chairman, at [Kmanshc@gmail.com](mailto:Kmanshc@gmail.com) and provide information, including any fliers, etc., about the charity and the event.

## Scholarships



Congratulations to our ten scholars who have earned an AOH Division 3 scholarship.

Once again, we had a great group of high school seniors, all with very impressive resumes detailing their community involvement, scholarship and sports success, as well as involvement in Irish culture. They also had to perform well on our Irish history test. Our ten scholars are:

Reagan Boera	Kaitlyn Heffernan
Kyle Butler	Grace Hodges
Grayson Catherwood	Patrick Lenihan
Terence Frize	Aidan Mulcahy
Margaret Glynn	Mary Windram

Once again, a big 'thank you' to our scholarship committee, led by Kevin McNulty and Neil Cosgrove. We are working with the committee to find the best way to present the awards to the recipients while being COVID-friendly.

## Ladies' AOH



The LAOH Division 3 hosted a Fish Fry during Lent at the Hibernian House. We would like to thank you all for your support. We are all looking forward to the Spring! May God continue to Bless everyone and please stay safe!

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Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
**Teresa Hartey-Adametz, President**

## Hibernian House



Whatever they might say about April showers and May flowers is off. It seems sunny April days brings out people to the pub. We've seen an influx of post-golfing visitors on the weekends and a regular gathering of dart players on Friday evenings. A false rumor was started about free shots, and several members showed up thinking they could get vaccinated. I doubt Moderna or Pfizer were in the equation.

As always, we keep doing things on a COVID appropriate basis. We hope to see you down there soon...

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# Irish History: A Century of Partition

May 3rd, 2021 marks an ignominious anniversary in Northern Ireland, the implementation of the Government of Ireland Act 1920. Far from being distant history, the consequences of which echo down to us today in the scenes of members of the Unionist and Loyalist community violently rioting on the streets of Belfast and Derry, scenes which many had hoped were themselves consigned to history with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement over two decades ago.

The evolution of this decision trace their origin back to the Third Home Rule Act of 1912. By entirely peaceful and constitutional means, members of the Irish Parliamentary Party had secured the constitutional establishment of an Irish parliament with an implementation date of 1914. It was weak and less than what genuine self-determination demanded; yet, there would be an Irish government accountable to the Irish people whose chief focus was on Irish matters for the first time in over a century. The act offered an opportunity to settle the centuries-old "Irish Question." While certainly one of history's great "what ifs," if supported and enacted, the Third Home Rule Act may have prevented or reduced the violence that gripped Ireland in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Unfortunately, the act was not supported. Protestant Unionists saw home rule as a direct threat to the privileged position they had enjoyed in Ireland since the first plantations. Playing of prejudice, firebrands such as Edward Carson declared that "Home Rule Is Rome Rule" and began openly arming and forming Ireland's first paramilitaries, the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF). It was the sort of action and rhetoric that earned previous generations of Irish Nationalist (Catholic and Protestant) prison sentences and transportation. However, England did nothing.

Taking a lesson from their party's history, when Randolph Churchill saw a political opportunity in Westminster from unrest in Ireland, Britain's Tory Conservative again played the "Orange Card." Future Tory Prime Minister Bonar Law was on the dock at Larne when the UVF surreptitiously received a major arms shipment to arm "Loyalist" threatened rebellion against the Government they were "loyal" to as proof of their loyalty.

It was a dangerously perverse form of 'Alice in Wonderland logic' egged on by British political opportunists. At the same time, prominent nationalists such as Padraig Pearse, seeing the betrayal of the peaceful legislative process, began preparing to assert Irish rights in arms. The United Kingdom looked to be on the verge of civil war. As to make the farce complete, the outbreak of WW I in August 1914 was secretly welcomed by the British Government as it allowed implementation of the Home Rule Act to be suspended.

However, the end of WW I forced Britain to confront the unresolved question of the Home Rule Act and its failure to resolve it. The Third Home Rule act was still on the books, and now there was no world war to serve as a pretext for not enacting it. As Winston Churchill later observed, *"The whole map of Europe has been changed. The position of countries has been violently altered..., all have encountered violent and tremendous changes in the deluge of the world, but as the deluge subsides and the waters fall short, we see the dreary steeples of Fermanagh and Tyrone emerging once again."*

The fruits of Britain's failure to be firm in its implementation of Home Rule became clear. Instead of facing the enthusiastic amateurs of 1914, the British Government was now facing a UVF composed of the battle-hardened veterans of the Somme. During a recent British railway strike, a police report stated the rioters (many of them ex-soldiers) were better trained than the forces of the authorities.

To stop the Third Home Rule from coming into effect, the British prime minister Lloyd George established a committee to draft the Fourth Home Rule Bill or Government of Ireland Bill. The Lloyd George signaled his sentiments by appointing Walter Long a staunch unionist chairman. There was no Irish nationalist on the committee, nor were any nationalists consulted, while leading Ulster unionists were party to drafting of the bill.

The bill created two parliaments, one for "Ulster" and the other for "the southern provinces," linked by a Common Council of Ireland comprising representatives from each parliament. While stating that this was a stop-gap measure, the bill would lead to *'the peaceful evolution of a single parliament for all Ireland'*, this was marketing spin and cynical politics at its best. Even the use of the term "Ulster" was disingenuous as the "Ulster" parliament would only control six of nine counties that made up the Province of Ulster (Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Tyrone), leaving behind Cavan, Donegal, and Monaghan and their Protestant, Unionist, Loyalist populations along with all those in the south of Ireland. The reason was that Ulster Unionist believed that the six counties they chose were the maximum they could dominate, that the large Irish Catholic populations of the other counties would be a future threat to their dominance as their populations expanded. These are not the thoughts of leaders envisioning a "peaceful evolution to a single parliament." These are the Machiavellian machinations of politicians seeking to seize and maintain power for the long term at any price; including betraying their fellow unionists (including Edward Carson, who was from Dublin) in the bargain, As unionist leader Thomas Moles MP sardonically put it: *'In a sinking ship, with life-boats sufficient for only two-thirds of the ship's company, were all to condemn themselves to death because all could not be saved?'* It should be remembered that HMS Titanic was built in 'Ulster,' apparently with a similar design philosophy.

Far from a cause for celebration, the centenary of partition marks a dark chapter in the history of Ireland and for humanity in general. It marks the triumph of political expedience and appeasement of the special interest over constitutional governance and democracy.

May 3rd marks not only the partition of the isle of Ireland but the formation of a state built for the sole purpose of partitioning people, of creating a perpetual elite and a perpetual underclass. How ironic and hypocritical such a celebration is in 2021, at a time when other nations are confronting, not celebrating, divisiveness in their history. Most tragically, there is cause for concern that, one hundred years on, we have learned nothing, as we witness the placating and excusing by British and Unionist leaders of the riotous acts of loyalist mobs over the

"Northern Ireland Protocol" of the Brexit withdrawal. We should all be concerned; we should all be watching the current events in Northern Ireland to see if Britain will finally stand up and honor its commitments and not once again sacrifice peace on the altar of Westminster expediency.

