



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

*January 2022*

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



We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year and all are healthy (or at least getting there).

Our next division meeting will be held **in person this Friday, January 28th at 8:00pm**. At the meeting, we will install our Division Officers for 2022. We will also talk about a number of upcoming events – from the Emerald Ball to the Rockland St. Patrick's Day parade to our spring golf outing.

We held our second Pot 'o Gold drawing party on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Once again, the food was delicious and plentiful – thanks to the many behind the scenes cooks and to Bill Boera for coordinating the food. Congratulations to all the winners announced that day, and especially to the Pot of Gold committee, as our charity fund benefited from the 260+ tickets sold.

Once again, the Hibernian Christmas Family Fund was an area of great effort and success. Through our fundraising and the generosity of so many, we were able to make Christmas brighter for 26 families (and 50+ children!). As always, our donations and the recipients were kept completely confidential. Many thanks to all the “elves” who made this possible!

**Good & Welfare** – Please pray for the repose of the souls of long-time members Jim O'Brien (son Jim Jr. is also a member) and Tom Murray – may they rest in peace. Also keep in your prayers Dennis Toal who is recovering from some surgery. And continue to keep our law enforcement professionals, 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**

## AOH Scholarships



The state scholarship competition is now open, and applications are due by February 25th. See recently sent emails or for details email Dermot Moore at [dermotmoore@gmail.com](mailto:dermotmoore@gmail.com) or call him at (646) 302-5111. Applications for the Division scholarship process use the same application with the same deadline. So, if you're interested in the Division scholarship, you should be filling out the state application (you only have to fill it out once for both). The link to the application as well as the study material and all instructions can be found on the NY state AOH website here: <https://www.nyaoh.com/aoh-scholarship-contest>

Note, the Division 3 scholarship is limited to Division 3 members who are, themselves, high school seniors and to children of Division 3 members who have been members for at least three years. The state scholarship has broader eligibility, allowing grandchildren of members also and has no limit on length of membership. Please encourage your high school seniors to apply.

## Emerald Ball



On Saturday, February 26nd, 2022 the Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians will hold our annual Emerald Ball at the Pearl River Hilton. At this event, we honor those for their contributions to promoting our organization and for their accomplishments in their personal lives. This year's honorees are as follows:

- **Hibernian Of The Year:** Nadine Faughnan-Green
- **Businesspersons Of the Year:** Peter And Kwan Bellhouse, Kwan Thai Restaurant
- **Parade Commander:** Deirdre Smith-Withers
- **Rockland County Grand Marshal:** Frank McDonagh
- **Aide To The Grand Marshal:** NYC, Lillian Murphy

## Rockland Parade



The Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick's Parade will once again take place in Pearl River along the traditional route on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. As we get closer to the date, we'll organize our marching contingent. With the parade back, we want to make sure we present a good showing, as the largest AOH Division. More to come!

## Events



**Reverse Parade** – Division 3 once again demonstrated its commitment to our Special Needs community by hosting a Reverse Christmas Parade on December 18th at the OMM Soccer Field Parking lot along with our partners from Buddy Ball. The looks of joy on our guests' faces made all the work in the cold and rain worthwhile. Several local groups also participated including Lourdes Kids of Rockland, Forage and the Lions Club. Special thanks to the Orangetown Fire and Police Departments and all the volunteers who inflated the decorations, dressed up in costumes, made the hot chocolate, gave out goodies, etc. There were too many volunteers to name individually but you know who you are and should be proud of yourselves.



*The parade would not be complete with some weather challenges, warded off by some helping hands to share some hot chocolate and good cheer.*

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**Wren Night** – We held our Wren Night celebration on St. Stephen's Day, December 26th. While the crowd might have been smaller than usual due to the Covid surge, it was great to be able to hold it again and keep the tradition alive with Irish language, music, skits and storytelling. Special thanks go out to musicians Mike O'Sullivan, Margie Mulvihill, John Reynolds, Mairead Holt, and the Kerry Pipers as well as all of our local performers and bartender Dennis Toal.



*The musicians strike up a tune with a great beat, and the ceili dancing is under way.*

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## Ladies' AOH



A Happy New Year to all!

We wish to congratulate our own Nadine Faughnan-Green who will be honored as the Rockland County Hibernian of the Year – well done, Nadine! We will be at the Emerald Ball to celebrate one of our own. As we move into the new year, there is much to consider and more to plan – we are looking forward to 2022. As always, may God continue to Bless you and your families.

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

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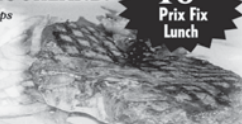
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# The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bloody Sunday

January 30, 1972 was an uncharacteristically bright and sunny day for an Irish winter in Derry, Northern Ireland. It was the day of a planned peaceful protest march against the policy of internment without trial instituted by the British Army; a policy that, while allegedly created to curtail sectarian violence, was itself hypocritically sectarian in its targeting of Catholics. One of the march's participants, Eamonn McCann, recalled: "There wasn't a cloud in the sky." Despite the grim subject of the protest, he said the atmosphere was "almost carnival-like" as family and friends walked together in a rare break from the usual winter gloom.



THE VICTIMS OF BLOODY SUNDAY

Yet, before the sun would set on that day, it would become one of the most infamous in Irish history, a day that half a century on still casts a dark shadow on the present and as come down through history as 'Bloody Sunday.'

Like many turning points in history, 'Bloody Sunday' was the product of years of prior events. Fifty years earlier, Northern Ireland had been carved out of Ireland to create a "A Protestant Parliament for a Protestant people"; an ironic reward for Unionists who had threatened ten years earlier to demonstrate their loyalty to the Crown by armed insurrection against the constitutionally passed

Home Rule Act which would have given all the people of Ireland a parliament in which their voice could be heard. From its inception, Northern Ireland was a state founded on prejudice and hypocrisy.

Nowhere was that prejudice and hypocrisy more evident nor keenly felt than in the city of Derry. Although Catholics made up 60% of Derry's population, election wards were drawn to ensure Unionists maintained an iron-handed control of the local government. Even worse, the basic human necessity of housing had been turned into a tool of political power. Despite being abolished in the rest of Great Britain in 1945, Northern Ireland still maintained a requirement that only property owners or leaseholders and their spouses were permitted to vote, and the Unionist Government controlled the housing stock. Instead of improving or adding additional housing to Derry, the Government directed resources to develop a 'new town' called Craigavon (named after a prominent Unionist) in a Unionist area. When it was decided to build a second University for Northern Ireland, the sleepy unionist seaside town of Coleraine was chosen despite Derry being the North's second-biggest city with four times the population. There was widespread discrimination in employment targeting Catholics.

Taking inspiration from America's own Civil Rights movement, Civil Rights associations and protests began to form in Northern Ireland. While the initial protests were peaceful, they were met with widespread violence with members of the Police Force, an exclusive Unionist franchise, becoming partisan combatants rather than protectors of law and order. In January 1969, a Civil Rights march was attacked by off-duty Ulster Special Constabulary (B-Specials) members and other Ulster loyalists during the Burntollet bridge incident. The RUC refused to protect the marchers and joined the attackers in many instances. That night, members of the RUC broke into homes in Derry's Catholic Bogside area and assaulted several residents. Under attack from the very forces sworn to maintain the peace, the community set up barricades and organized citizens patrols. On the gabled wall of a home at the corner of Columbus Street was painted, "You are now entering Free Derry" declaring the area an autonomous zone.



The situation continued to descend into anarchy. In August 1969, there was the "*Battle of the Bogside*" during the annual Unionist Apprentice Boys March, a conflict sparked when Loyalist participants threw pennies from the walls of the city at residents in the Bogside. Over the next two days, 1,000 people were injured in the rioting in Derry. The violence quickly spread; in Belfast, a Loyalist mob burned all the Catholic homes along Bombay street, leaving some 1,800 people homeless.

Having been derelict as the cycle of violence escalated in Northern Ireland, the British Government, now fearing the collapse of the Northern Irish Government, sent the British Army in to restore law and order. They were initially welcomed by the Catholic Nationalist population, who believed they would be impartial. However, they soon realized that restoring "law and order" also meant preserving the discriminatory status quo, and relations soon deteriorated, and violent confrontations began. The British Army implemented the policy of internment of Catholics that was the motivation for the protest march on Bloody Sunday.

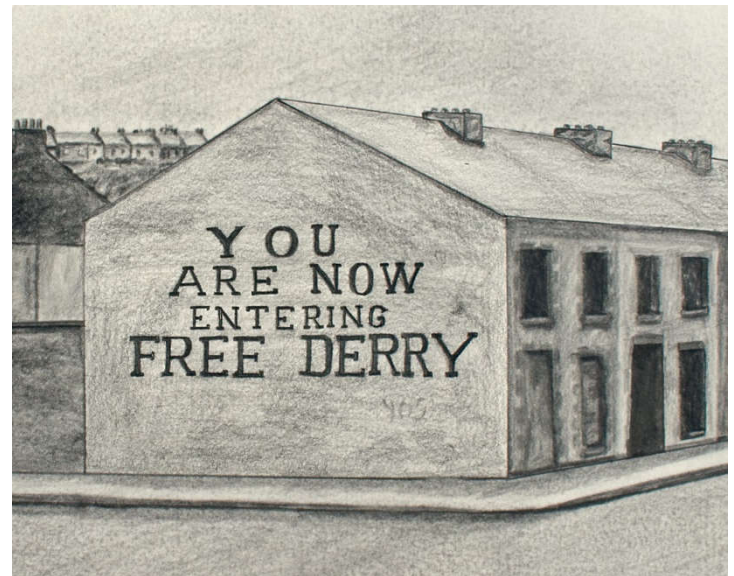
The protest march had intended to make their way to the Derry city center and Guildhall, where there would be a series of speeches. They found the route blocked by British Army Barricades as they approached the city center. The organizers decide to reroute the march to "*Free Derry*" corner. However, some youths broke away and began throwing stones at the soldiers at the barricades. The soldiers responded with water cannons, rubber bullets, and CS gas. Sadly, these clashes had become familiar, and observers reported it was not intense and was subsiding.

Unfortunately, the violence subsiding was not convenient for Major General Robert Ford, Commander of Land Forces in Northern Ireland. Appointed in August of that year, he was frustrated with the British Government's official policy of restraint that the existence of "*Free Derry*" symbolized.

In a memo dated 7 January, Ford had written to his superiors of "*coming to the conclusion that the minimum force necessary to achieve a restoration of law and order is to shoot selected ringleaders amongst the DYH (Derry Young Hooligans), after clear warnings have been issued.*" Ford had specifically come to Derry on that day to teach the Nationalists a lesson with plans for a mass arrest operation called "*Operation Forecast*," ignoring the risk that such an operation being conducted amidst a large demonstration would risk innocent lives.

Bypassing the local commanders in Derry, Ford brought with him his own hand-picked unit to execute the operation: the 1<sup>st</sup> Paratroop Regiment from Belfast. 1<sup>st</sup> Para prided themselves on being the toughest regiment in the British Army. In August, the regiment had already earned an infamous reputation for the Ballymurphy massacre; since arriving from Belfast, they had already been condemned for excessive violence at another protest march a few days earlier. Their commanding Officer Colonel Derek Wilford scorned the other regiments in Derry as "Aunt Sallies" and noted his men "weren't going to hide behind barricades." In later testimony, one of the paratroopers testified that in a briefing before the operation by an officer, "*We want some kills.*"

Fearing that the violence that would serve as a pretext for his mass arrest operation was dissipating, Ford pressured the command of the British Forces in Derry, Brigadier Pat MacLellan to send in the Paras. MacLellan, as Derry commander, had previously implemented the official government policy of restraint that originated Wilford's "Aunt Sallies" description and feared what the Para's would do. Succumbing to pressure from Ford, he gave the Paras specific instructions for a limited operation to send one patrol on foot to make arrests in front of them, specifically that they were ordered: "*not to conduct (a) running battle down Rossville Street.*"







FR. EDWARD DALY USING A BLOOD-STAINED HANDKERCHIEF AS A WHITE FLAG IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESCORT 17-YEAR-OLD JACKIE DUDDY, A WOUNDED PROTESTER, TO SAFETY.

Col. Wilford was not going to obey MacLellan's orders. Urged on by their sponsor General Ford yelling, "*Go on Paras, go on and get them and good luck!*" Wilford's paratroopers charged into the Bogside on foot and in armored vehicles and commenced the "*running battle down Rossville Street*" MacLellan had explicitly ordered against. Discipline broke down immediately, with the Partroopers opening fire on the crowd and engaging in indiscriminate beatings. Within 10 minutes, 13 people were dead; a 14<sup>th</sup> would die later from wounds he received.

Derry's coroner, Hubert O'Neill, himself a retired British Army major, stated after his inquest into the killings:

*"It strikes me that the Army ran amok that day and shot without thinking what they were doing. They were shooting innocent people. These people may have been taking part in a march that was banned, but that does not justify the troops coming in and*

*firing live rounds indiscriminately. I would say without hesitation that it was sheer, unadulterated murder. It was murder."*

Yet, fifty years on, no one has been held accountable for those murders. Col. Wilford, who disobeyed orders, was a few months later awarded the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth. General Ford would later become commandant of Sandhurst, the U.K.'s West Point, served as ADC General to the Queen and was awarded the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath. As they were getting these honors, their victims' names were slandered for over 38 years, falsely accused of being armed and terrorists. While the 2010 The Saville Report finally acknowledged the truth that the killings by the Parachute Regiment were unjustified, forcing British Prime Minister David Cameron to 'apologize' on behalf of the British Government, the British government has yet to back that apology with deeds. Instead, it continues to thwart justice, going so far as to recently propose a statute of limitation for murders committed in Northern Ireland in defiance of all civilized norms of justice.

*"The dead cannot cry out for justice. It is a duty of the living to do so for them."* —Lois McMaster Bujold