



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

March 2021

Brother Hibernians _____



As Spring arrives, we hope the slow warming of the weather and lengthening of the days is making things brighter. The general news on the pandemic front is getting better day by day as vaccine availability has improved in our area, though, with a meaningful number of deaths per day still, we're not out of the woods. We hope all are staying healthy.

Our next division meeting will be held **virtually this Thursday, March 25 at 7:30pm**. See email for a link to the meeting and instructions.

Things continue to be quieter than normal, especially for the month of March for us. We hope you've been able to take advantage of the various virtual offerings that the national AOH board has made available. There have been some tremendous events focused both on our history and our faith.

On Sunday, March 21st, the Rockland County AOH and the Rockland County Pipe & Drums Band put together a brief but touching performance in front of the Hibernian House, as a remembrance of the second year of missing our Rockland County parade. All Rockland AOH members lost in the last year were remembered at this time. I've talked to a number of members who wished they had been able to come and had more (or any notice). Unfortunately, arrangement of the entire event came together in roughly 48 hours prior to it, leaving little time for formal notices.

For those who weren't able to be there, or for those who want to see it again, it was broadcast live on Facebook and can be viewed here:

<https://fb.watch/4oXFv3mSGf/>

Reiterating, too, what I've spoken to a few of you about – this was a brief remembrance and was not intended to be THE memorial for those we've lost in Division 3. There will be a time and place for that later this year when the public health crisis has truly abated.

As an avowed nerd, albeit a mediocre mathematician, I do want to throw in a plug in my monthly letter for Neil's history article in this newsletter this month on the Irish-American version of "Hidden Figures" – make sure to read it.

Good & Welfare – Please pray for repose of the souls of Scott Wheatley's father, Walter Wheatley, for Fergal Hayes' mother, Maureen Hayes and for Firefighter Jared Lloyd of the Spring Valley VFD who passed tragically in the assisted living home fire earlier this week. It just reinforces how important it is to keep our first responders – law enforcement professionals, EMS, and healthcare workers – in our 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 and provide information, including any fliers, etc., about the charity and the event.

A congratulations to the Ladies' AOH for their continued success with their Friday Fish Fry nights throughout Lent. There are two more nights (this week and next) to take the night off from cooking. Confirming, even though the pub is closed on Good Friday, the kitchen will be open.

C'mon down!

Ladies' AOH



The LAOH Division 3 continues hosting a Fish Fry during Lent every Friday including Good Friday, at the Hibernian House. You can dine in or take out. The cost is \$15.00. For further information you can contact Linda Sheridan (914) 772-6626. May God continue to Bless everyone and please stay safe!

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

Hibernian House



Life continues upstairs at the Hibernian House. We will continue to run things in the upstairs bar until the Town is fully 'open' and then we'll re-evaluate.

As in the past, we will be closed for both Good Friday and for Easter. We wish everyone a happy and healthy Easter and hope to see you all soon!

Don't forget our Advertisers and make sure to read through to the end for our Irish history article!

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Irish American Heritage Month: Kathleen McNulty, an Irish American “Hidden Figure”



Kathleen Rita McNulty was born in the village of Creeslough on February 12, 1921, the third of six children of Anne Nelis and James McNulty. Her father was Commandant of the Doe Battalion of the Irish Volunteers. On the night of her birth, he was arrested and imprisoned in Derry Gaol for two years for his republican activities. On his release, the family emigrated to the United States and settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where James worked as a stonemason and went on to establish a successful construction business, frequently working with Irish American John B Kelly, the father of the future Oscar-Winning actress Grace,

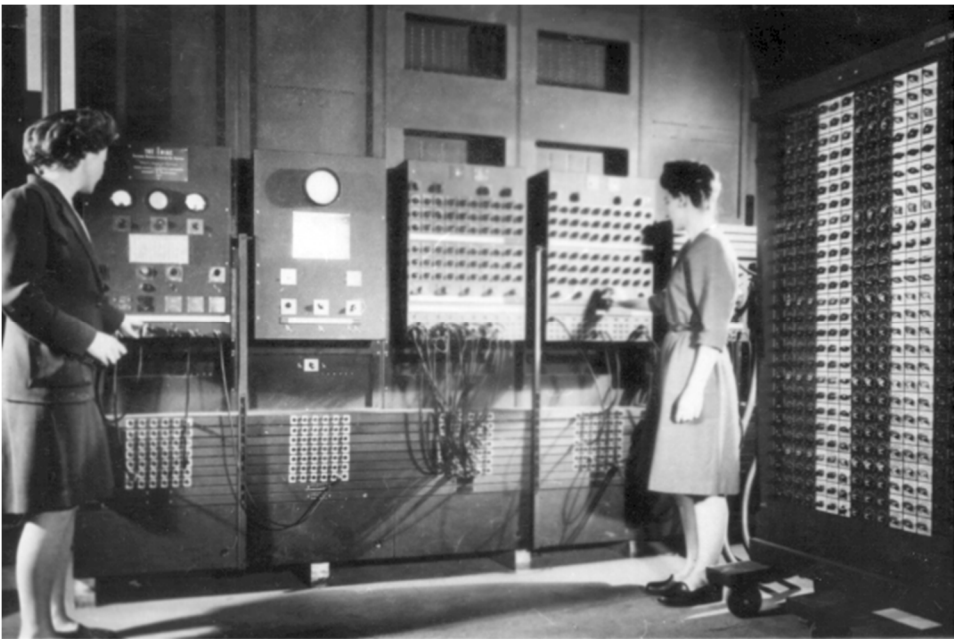
Coming from the Gaeltacht, Kathleen did not start speaking English until she began to attend school. Her mother encouraged her “to prove that Irish immigrants could be as good, if not better, than anybody.” She proved a bright student and won a scholarship to Chestnut Hill College.

Kathleen loved mathematics and took every math course available, including spherical trigonometry, differential calculus, projective geometry, partial differential equations, and statistics. McNulty graduated as one of the school’s few female math majors in 1942.

Graduating at the height of WW II, she soon saw an ad in the Philadelphia Inquirer seeking women with math backgrounds. The U.S. Army was seeking women to perform the grueling and precise calculations to compile firing tables for long-range guns; calculations that needed to be accurate out to ten decimal places. Kathleen was hired with the official job title of “Computer.”

Within a few months, McNulty was transferred to work with the “differential analyser[sic]” at the Moore School of Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. The “analyser” was the most sophisticated calculator of the time. Using the “analyser,” a single trajectory that had previously taken 50 hours to compute by hand could now be performed in less than one hour. Kathleen excelled at the detailed, meticulous work and was soon promoted to supervising calculations. She and other staff members worked six days a week, with the only holidays being Christmas and the Fourth of July.





PROGRAMMING ENIAC, THE FIRST ELECTRONIC PROGRAMMABLE, DIGITAL COMPUTER (PHOTO LOS ALAMOS LABORATORIES)

In 1945, Kathleen and five other women were selected to work at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland to develop the programs to run the top-secret 30-ton machine called the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC), the world's first programmable, electronic, general-purpose digital computer. ENIAC could perform the calculations that took the "analyser" an hour in less than ten seconds but would require developing a brand-new engineering discipline: Software Engineering. McNulty is credited with creating "the subroutine," a block of reusable computer code that can be used again and again

rather than being rewritten over and over, to work past some of the limitations of ENIAC's early logic circuits. McNulty would later recall that in making ENIAC a success as the first digital computer, she made herself "the human computer" obsolete.

With the end of WW II, the vital role that Kathleen McNulty and her fellow women "computers" was soon unceremoniously and unjustly forgotten. When the decision was made to reveal ENIAC as the first digital computer to the world, the role of Kathleen and the other women played in making ENIAC successful was relegated to the shadows. They were told to act as hostesses to the government officials and reporters covering the event and to "*stand by the computer and look good.*"

Kathleen McNulty married ENIAC's designer Mauchly and went on to have five children with him (in addition to raising two from his previous marriage). While she continued to contribute to the field of computer science, programming several of her husband's later computers, it was always behind the scenes. After Mauchly's death, she later married Severo Antonelli.

Kathleen McNulty Mauchly Antonelli died on April 20, 2006. She had come a long way from the little Irish girl who had come to America not speaking English, and in the process, shaped the digital world we now live in. She deserves to be better remembered, which is why we have and need Irish American Heritage Month.