



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

*June 2022*

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



We are officially in summer; school final exams are happening and graduations are happening or soon to come.

Our next division meeting (last one before the summer hiatus) will be at the Hibernian House **this Friday, June 24th at 8:00pm.**

Thank you to our five members who made the time to be present and represent us at the Pearl River Memorial Day parade. It is our duty to "never forget".

Congratulations to Dennis Madigan for a successful beginning of summer social featuring the Rummies. The band was great as always, and a good time was had by all.

On the charity front, recall that we became jersey sponsors for the Rockland GAA under-20 squad. Their shirts are in and they look fantastic. We're going to get a schedule from the team so that you can come out and support 'our team'. With the GAA in mind, there are two events worth mentioning over the summer. First, on July 2<sup>nd</sup> the annual Bobby Sands Commemoration will be held at the GAA Fieldhouse (see the flier later in the newsletter). Also, they will be holding their annual field day on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Good & Welfare** – Please say a prayer for Bill Lee's brother, Glenn Lee, may he rest in peace. Also, continue to pray for the Ukrainians – while they have faded from the daily news coverage their suffering continues. Please also 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**

## Upcoming Events



### Put these on your calendar!

- July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bobby Sands Hunger Strike Commemoration and Social – GAA Fieldhouse  
<https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2022-bobby-sands-Flyer.pdf>
- Saturday, September 17 – Party at the Hibernian House – half-way to St. Patrick's
- Friday, September 23 – Dueling Pianos – live at the Hibernian House!

## Name that Hibernian



This month, we're starting a new feature – see the picture below and see if you can guess which Division 3 member it is. HINTS:

- If you visited the pub in the last week, chances are that you ran into him.
- Prior to retirement, he “kept law and order in the streets of New York”
- He received a lifetime achievement award from the USGA for creative scoring.



## Hibernian House



The pub should be your destination this summer. First, we had the upgrades last summer – including the hygienic glass washer and the new air conditioning/ventilation units for a safe environment. While the A/C keeps you cool on a summer day, recently, the House installed two new TVs with the crispest picture. These are also web-enabled so expect to see a wide array of sports whenever you show up. So, on a hot day after some outside chores, considering coming by and cooling off!

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

***support our advertisers ; they support our organization***



MLS

### Mary Fitzgerald

NYS Licensed Real Estate Associate Broker

Better Homes & Gardens Rand Realty

19 E. Central Ave., Pearl River, NY

c. 845.536.9418

marymfitz@aol.com

*Our greatest compliments are your referrals. Thank you!*



### ROCKLAND MATTRESS

*Family owned for over 40 years*

DAN MILLER

160 East Route 59  
Nanuet, NY 10954  
[RocklandMattress.com](http://RocklandMattress.com)

Phone: 845-623-3030  
Fax: 845-623-3160  
[rmattress@optimum.net](mailto:rmattress@optimum.net)

### RAYMOND SHERIDAN

INSURANCE &  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

19 E. WASHINGTON Ave., PEARL RIVER, NY 10965

PHONE (845) 735-8080

[WWW.RSHERIDAN.COM](http://WWW.RSHERIDAN.COM)

PERSONAL AUTO • HOMEOWNERS • LIFE • COMMERCIAL  
RESTAURANTS • CONTRACTORS • STRIP MALLS • RETAIL  
BUSINESS





# HIBERNIAN HOUSE RENTALS CALL 845-731-9697



## Pearl River Florist

45 EAST CENTRAL AVE. • PEARL RIVER, N. Y. 10965  
(845) 735-3366 • FAX (845) 735-8725  
www.pearlriverflorist.com

Maryann Walker  
Stephanie Walker



*"Committed to Service Excellence"*  
*Affordable Funerals & Cremations*  
*Independently Owned & Operated*

## Assumma-Shankey Funeral Home

*Our Family Serving Yours*

34 North Summit Street 845-735-4849  
Pearl River, NY 10965 Fax 845-735-1377  
Assummashankey@gmail.com



## Volumetric Fund

Pearl River, New York

*Your Neighborly Mutual Fund*

- ❖ IRA Accounts
- ❖ Saving Accounts
- ❖ Monthly Investing Plans
- ❖ Business Accounts



(845) 623-7637

Web: volumetric.com ~ Email: info@volumetric.com



## AMERICAN LEGION

JOHN H. SECOR POST 329



30 Railroad Avenue, P.O. Box 205  
Pearl River, New York 10965

Phones: "Dug Out": (845) 735-7868  
(includes Hall rentals)



Daniel L. Hooker, CRPC, LUTCF, FICF, MDR

Field Agent

Phone: 845-548-8350  
daniel.hooker@kofc.org  
License #LA-786102



Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance  
Retirement Annuities • Disability Income Insurance  
*Protecting Catholic families since 1882.*



## ShopRite of Pearl River

Middletown Road, Pearl River, NY

Joanne Winous, Manager

(845) 735-4871

John Ovchinnikoff

Licensed and Insured  
HIL #: H-20-007854-28-00



## J & A MASONRY CONSTRUCTION

Specializing In All Types of Masonry

Block Foundations  
Brick Fireplaces  
Stone Concrete

26 Vermont Ave.  
Congers, NY 10920  
Ph: 845-268-0553  
Fax: 845-268-0112



Open 7 Days • Kitchen Open to 1:00am • Full Bar • Lunch & Dinner  
ALL sporting events via satellite on large screen TV's & 8 monitors  
(201) 391-9356

Kinderkamack Rd. & Grand Ave. • Montvale, New Jersey  
www.daveyspub.com

## MURTY'S PUBLIC HOUSE

*Restaurant & Pub*

(845) 620-7502

29 W. Central Avenue, Pearl River, NY 10965



DAVID FISHER  
CHRISTOPHER FISHER  
Directors

## Wyman Fisher Funeral Home, Inc.

100 BANKING AVENUE  
PEARL RIVER, NY 10965 TEL (845) 735-2161  
www.wymanfisher.com FAX (845) 735-9123



Neil T. O'Sullivan, CPA / PLLC

38 South Main Street  
Pearl River, NY 10965  
T 845-735-9500

E neil@neilosullivancpa.com

## QUINTA STEAKHOUSE

BEST STEAKHOUSE IN ROCKLAND!

- Wide Selection of Prime Steak & Chops
- Fresh Seafood
- Daily Specials
- Homemade Desserts
- Specialty Coffees & Espresso
- Sidewalk Dining Now Available
- Extensive Wine Bar

Open 7 Days

\$10.00  
Prix Fix  
Lunch

24 East Central Ave, Pearl River, NY • 845-735-5565



Charlie Reedy  
Sales Associate

6 Hutton Avenue  
Nanuet, NY 10954

Phone (845) 627-0823  
Fax (845) 624-0518

www.MyBobs.com

Member AOH Division 3



FOR  
HIBERNIAN  
HOUSE  
RENTALS  
CALL 845-731-9697



MORTGAGE MASTER INC.  
THE LENDING EXPERTS

MATTHEW REID  
Senior Loan Consultant

520 White Plains Road  
Tarrytown, NY 10591

direct 914.586.1116

cell 201.953.1571

fax 914.509.5415

email mreid@mortgagemasterinc.com

NMLS # 9726/NY LIC # 9726 /NY Mortgage Banker B500773

*support our advertisers ; they support our organization*



# Ben Franklin's Irish Navy



THE ONLY KNOWN IMAGE OF CAPTAIN  
LUKE RYAN

Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the power "*To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water.*" Naturally, most attention has been focused on the first part of the sentence, the power to "*declare War,*" a topic that continues to be debated to this day, but what are "*Letters of Marque and Reprisal,*" and why are they accorded equal status with the solemn power of declaring war?

A *Letter of Marque and Reprisal* was a means for Nations to supplement their naval forces with *privateers*; individuals who owned their own ship(s) who would bear the cost of arming and crewing them and then attack and capture enemy ships for a significant share of the value of the seized goods. While significant fortunes could be made, it was a risky venture; one nation's 'privateer' was another nation's 'pirate.' Into this shadowy world entered Irishman Luke Ryan, one of America's most successful captains of the Revolution.

Ryan was born on 14 February 1750 in Rush, Co. Dublin. At age twelve, he began working in the local boat yard at Skerries before apprenticing as a shipwright (ship's carpenter) at age fifteen. The young Ryan was quickly lured into the lucrative smuggling trade in contraband tea, spirits, and tobacco that was then flourishing around Dublin.

Still in his twenties, he had already established himself for his quick wits and courage by the time of the American Revolution.

By 1779, Ryan was the captain and half owner of a 120-ton cutter, the *Friendship*, smuggling goods from France. As cover for these activities, he had the *Friendship* commissioned a British privateer. However, the ruse did not work for long. In April 1779, the authorities, having learned that the true nature of the *Friendship* and it had landed contraband at Rush, seized the ship, arresting those onboard. Escaping capture, Ryan successfully arranged to break his crew out of the Black Dog Gaol, Dublin. They retook the *Friendship* after overpowering the guards. Now with a price on their head, they made for Dunkirk to go privateering against British shipping.

In France, U.S. Ambassador Benjamin Franklin was looking to encourage privateering to secure prisoners to exchange for American merchant seamen held by the British. Ryan had entered into a deal with a former French smuggling partner, financier Jean Torris, to convert the *Friendship* into a heavily armed sloop rechristened "*The Black Prince*"<sup>1</sup>. Provided with an American Letter of Marque from Franklin, Ryan, and his mainly Irish crew took to sea in service to the colonies.

In its first cruise, Ryan and *The Black Prince* took eight merchant ships off Land's End. Basing himself in Brittany, Ryan and his crew preyed on ships ranging from Cornwall to western Scotland. So successful was Ryan, Franklin gifted him a telescope in appreciation and commissioned another vessel, *The Black Princess*, captained by another Irish Captain, Patrick Dowling, and a predominantly Irish crew. Ryan would eventually transfer command of the *Black Prince* to his cousin Edward Macatter, while he took command of the 150-ton *Fearnot*, which was commissioned by Franklin and armed with eighteen mounted guns and again boasted an Irish crew.

Benjamin Franklin's "Irish Navy" contributed significantly to the cause of the American colonies: they tied down Royal Navy resources, crippled trade, and drove marine insurance premiums, causing a loss of support for the war amongst English traders. In 1783 the House was told that privateers had cost the British merchant navy more than an estimated £8 million in damages during the American war. They were celebrated in Ireland for striking a blow against their English

---

<sup>1</sup> Ryan's *Black Prince* is not to be confused with the identically named merchant ship that was earlier commanded by Commodore John Barry.

oppressors. Ryan became a celebrity in the British and Irish newspapers, depicting him as a romantic swashbuckler who treated his captives as a gentleman.

Unfortunately, reality rarely has fairy tale endings. As France became more active in the American Revolution, they began to resent Ryan and his fellow captains for competing with the French Navy for scarce manpower. Under diplomatic pressure, Franklin withdrew his *Letter of Marque* from Ryan and his fellow Irish Captains. By that time, Ryan as captain, was himself responsible for taking fifty ships. Unaware that his Letter of Marque had been rescinded, Ryan and his ship were captured in the Firth of Forth in Scotland.

Ryan was imprisoned and to be tried for piracy. The jury found him guilty in fifteen minutes. King George III stipulated that their corpses be hanged in chains in some conspicuous part of the English coast; the same fate as had been previously met by Captain Kidd. However, the hangman was cheated when American and French pressure was brought to bear; Ryan received a pardon as the party of the peace agreement that ended the American Revolution.

While pardoned for piracy, Ryan remained in prison for the debts he had incurred in conducting his defense. His partner in his privateering, Jean Torres, had gone bankrupt owing Ryan a large sum of money. The French government seized and sold Torres' assets and sent the money to Ryan to pay his debts and be released from debtors' prison, but the one-time romantic swashbuckler would die in poverty. He would wind up in debtors' prison again for the inability to pay a doctor for inoculating his five children against smallpox and would die at age 39.

In Ryan's obituary, a British Newspaper grudgingly noted that the Irish privateer in American service "*did more injury to the trade of these kingdoms than any other single commander ever did.*" Luke Ryan should be better remembered for that and his role in our Independence.