



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

January 2023

Brother Hibernians_____



Welcome to 2023!

I hope you were all able to enjoy the holiday season – both a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy start to the new year. As we get things underway, we anticipate a great amount of activity in the upcoming year, and we'd like to see everyone stepping in and helping where they can. I look forward to seeing you at our next division meeting at the Hibernian House **this Friday, January 20th at 8:00pm**. Aside from discussing the upcoming events of 2023, we'll induct this year's slate of Division Officers.

Welcome to our newest member sworn in at the December meeting: Peter Curran of Nanuet.

Thank you and congratulations to Michael O'Sullivan, Dermot Moore and those others who pulled together a very lively Wren Night (St. Stephen's Day – December 26th). Note that we're restarting our Rambling House nights – see the following section on upcoming events for January & February.

Special congratulations to our Division 3 honorees at the Rockland Parade – Kevin Haugh as our Aide to the Grand Marshal and Dennis Madigan as our Battalion Commander. I'll point you to the article on the Emerald Ball, and the fact that we've got two of the main honorees from Division 3 (Congratulations Larry and Dennis). Let's make sure to support the overall effort and take out a journal ad and attend the Ball if possible.

Good & Welfare –Please say a prayer for our brother, Connie Smith, as well as Chris Power's father, James Power – may they rest in peace. Also, continue to pray for those suffering in the Ukraine as well as our law enforcement professionals, healthcare workers and members of the armed services, especially those who can't be home this Christmas.

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

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Chuck Parnow

Upcoming Events



Lots to do in January / February:

- **Division 3 Ski Trip** – (sign-up due by January 22nd) Last call for sign-up. If interested, sign up by Sunday, January 22nd at the pub or drop an email to praoh3@gmail.com!
- **Rambling House** – Friday, February 3rd, 7-10pm (doors open at 6:30) – A great night of Irish traditional music and craic! Plenty of musicians and if you play, bring your instrument. Cash bar.
- **Dueling Pianos** – Friday, February 10th, Dueling Pianos – live at the Hibernian House! We will be hosting an event at the Hibernian House, featuring two great pianists. This promises to be a great night of entertainment and sold-out last Fall so get your tickets! Doors opening at 7:30 - great music, small cover (\$10/person; \$100/table) and cash bar. Tables are going fast, so act now! If you have any questions, call Dennis Madigan at (914) 714-8287.
- **Day of Ski Trip** – Saturday, February 11th (tentative based on sign-up)
- **Emerald Ball** – Saturday, February 25th (see more info below)

AOH Scholarships



The state scholarship competition is now open, and applications are due by February 24th. See recently sent emails or for details email Dermot Moore at 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:** Laurence DeGennaro
- **Businesspersons of the Year:** Breda Lyons & Catherine Levins, River Court on Main
- **Parade Commander:** Sheriff Louis Falco
- **Rockland County Grand Marshal:** Thomas Leavey
- **Aide To the Grand Marshal, NYC:** Dennis Toal

Once again, we have Division members being honored at this event, with the Hibernian of the Year being our own Larry DeGennaro. We should be there in numbers to support him, and take the opportunity to congratulate him through a journal ad. See the following link for journal ads and see the Rockland County AOH website for information on tickets:

<https://www.rocklandcountyaoh.com/product/2023-emerald-ball-journal-ads/>

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 19th. As we get closer to the date, we'll organize our marching contingent. We want our turnout to be even better than last year as the largest AOH Division. More to come!

Hibernian House



We had another great day upstairs in the hall, with wall-to-wall football on tap, highlighted by a great Giant's victory last Sunday. We've got more events planned upstairs for 2023. Note, downstairs we're getting a lot of mileage out of our new smart TVs and our new sound system. And as Eddie O'Dea always notes, the coldest beer in town! Drop by...

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The Victims of Duffy's Cut



On April 24, 1832, 57 Irish immigrants from the counties of Derry, Donegal and Tyrone boarded the barque *John Stamp* at the port of Derry to begin the eight-week sail to Philadelphia. They had all taken different roads to arrive at this literal and emotional departure. John Ruddy was just 18 when he hugged his parents goodbye, knowing it was unlikely that he would see them again in this life. Catherine Burns was 29 and had already experienced a lifetime of sadness; she was already a widow and traveling with her Father-in-Law, hoping for a better life in America. What united them all was their desperation to leave a homeland that provided no opportunity but poverty for Irish Catholics.

After a three-month voyage, the ship sailed up the Delaware River and stopped at the first quarantine hospital in the United States, the Lazaretto. The deadly disease cholera was raging around the world. At the quarantine station, a doctor would board the ship and examine every passenger and crew member to confirm they were not ill before being cleared to enter Philadelphia; if anyone were sick, they would be quarantined. Despite these precautions, prejudice trumped science in the minds of

nativist Americans, and Irish Catholics were frequently blamed for the disease when the origins were closer to home, the disease traveling from Canada down the Hudson to New York and then to Philadelphia. America gave cholera to the Irish, not the other way around.

The 57 Irish immigrants finally landed at Philadelphia's Washington Avenue Immigration Station, where they were met by a labor contractor Phillip Duffy. To the newly arrived immigrants, Duffy, who himself had emigrated from Donegal, must have seemed the personification of the American dream they had come for. He offered them immediate employment as railroad laborers and Catherine a position as a cook and laundress to the work crew.

The work was the hard, backbreaking work of helping to build one of America's first railroads. Duffy held the contract for Mile 59 of the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad near Malvern, Pennsylvania. It was one of the most challenging stretches of the route and offered Duffy one of the most lucrative contracts if completed. It was the backbreaking work of filling a natural valley by excavating and transporting rock and soil from an adjacent site, "the cut"; it was the work of moving a valley. It was the brutal work that only Irish Catholics, the lowest on the socioeconomic totem pole at the time, were willing to do out of financial desperation.

This arduous work was taking place in the heat of July and August. It was natural and inevitable that some of the workers would attempt to alleviate their thirst from the local streams. Soon some of the workers contracted cholera and began to die.

Panic soon gripped the area. Four nuns who were nurses from the Sisters of Charity in Philadelphia were sent to help. The locals turned on the Sisters driven by anti-Catholic sentiment and for fear they too were cholera carriers, forcing the nuns to walk back to Philadelphia. Local vigilantes descended on the camp and killed what remained of the 57 immigrants, the sick and the healthy alike, using clubs, axes, and guns. The bodies were then dumped in unmarked graves as part of the fill that trains would eventually pass over.

The American dream of the *John Stamp* immigrants had ended after six weeks. The railroad began an immediate coverup of the incident, and families in Ireland were left to wonder what happened to wonder what happened to the family members in America.

In 2002, two brothers, Bill and Frank Watson were going through their late grandfather's papers. Their grandfather had been an archivist of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the successor to the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad. Thanks to their persistence and detective work, the location of the graves of the 57 immigrants was located, and their fate properly recorded. Sadly, many of the bodies still cannot be safely recovered as they are buried near active railroad tracks.

The remains of five men were reburied in West Laurel Hill Cemetery under a memorial that records the name of all 57 immigrants and the Irish County of their birth. Young John Duddy and the widow Catherine Burns' remains were buried with a dignified ceremony in Donegal and Tyrone, respectively; they had returned home after 180 years.

It can be said that in the case of the *John Stamp* immigrants, America was built on their sacrifices. Their story should be told and better recognized, and their sacrifice recognized appropriately, elevating them from their current position of anonymous collateral damage to the industrial revolution.