



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

*April 2023*

## Brother Hibernians



I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter. Our most recent meeting was yesterday, Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> Next meeting will be Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

We have a number of events coming up in the next month – see the list of upcoming events following for details. Two quick plugs: First, note that our Hibernian Mass and Communion Breakfast will be on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> with Mass being at 9am at St. Margaret's. As an Irish Catholic organization, we should have a strong showing at the Mass and the breakfast, where we will be awarding our scholarships. Second, our annual Golf outing will be Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. We need golfers, donations and volunteers – see the full article that follows.

During last night's meeting we had an active discussion about just that – having more active membership. Having 750+ brothers does not get us very far if we see only the same fifty or so faces at every event. We will be looking at ways to encourage much stronger participation in many of the events of which we are a part, including activities such as the St. Patrick's Parade (where we had a meager 16 brothers show up – by the way – a big shout out to them for making the time!).

Recognizing that everyone is at different life stages, we're also going to look at re-invigorating some of our past events that were more focused on our younger families. Plus, we are always looking for new ideas and efforts to get involved. If you've got ideas, let us know! .

**Good & Welfare** –Please keep the following people in your prayers: Jack Pendergast and his wife who were in a terrible car accident this week; Mike Lynch who underwent surgery and continue to pray for Craig Basler, working on his recovery

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

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

**Chuck Parnow**

## Upcoming Events



- **Golf Committee Meetings** – Next meeting is this coming Tuesday at 7pm at the Hibernian House. Meetings are otherwise on Thursdays at 7pm and they are tightly run and quick! (see the full article for more article)
- **Comedy Night at the Hibernian:** Friday, April 28th, 8pm – doors open at 7:30. SOLD OUT – need we say more! There may be a few stray tickets available during the week, but no tickets sold the night of the event. Any questions, talk to Dennis Madigan at (914) 714-8287.
- **Hibernian Mass and Communion Breakfast:** Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – 9am Mass at St. Margaret's followed by a Communion Breakfast at the Hibernian House.
- **Division 3 Golf Outing** - Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, at Blue Hill golf course. See the article and links for all the details.

## Annual Golf Outing



Our annual golf outing this year is in memory of our brother, Ciaran Green, whom we lost far too young in December. We want to make this a great event, both as a memorial and as a fundraiser.

The golf committee has been meeting since the end of March and working hard to make this successful event – not only a great day at Blue Hill but a financial success. It takes a lot of work to pull off such an all-day event – we need volunteers to:

- Supply or collect donations to be included in the tricky tray raffles to be held after golf. Also – consider corporate sponsorship if you've got the connection.
- Help with setup the day before.
- And the many tasks the day of the event – from working the registration table at the beginning to helping with the raffles and making sure everything runs smoothly in the after-golf cocktail hour and dinner.

Involvement doesn't have to mean dedication of a full day – lots of people providing 2-3 hours will get us where we need to be – and it's a great way to meet other division members. Want to get involved? Please contact Joan Moore at [Moore.Joan523@gmail.com](mailto:Moore.Joan523@gmail.com).

If you're a golfer, this is a day not to be missed. Your \$175 buys an 18-hole scramble, refreshments on the course and dinner afterward. See the following links for details and sign-up (and sign-up soon – spots are going fast!) –

<https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-AOH-Golf-Outing-Poster-2023.jpeg>  
<https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Sponsor-Letter-20232.jpeg>

## Ladies AOH



The Ladies AOH Division 3 is having their spring event on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Their, "Cinco de Mayo & Country Night" will be held at the Hibernian House from 7pm to 11pm with a \$20 entry fee. The evening will feature Keriann Marshall providing line dancing instruction and music by DJ Gio. Cash bar. Any questions, contact Ann McGovern at [anniejabber@optonline.net](mailto:anniejabber@optonline.net).

## Hibernian House



Make sure to drop by the pub – if you can't check out Facebook for the Hibernian House page to see what events are coming up! Have you been in and seen the new jukebox? Then you haven't been in recently. There have been lively crowds for the various televised sporting events – especially the hockey playoffs. Stop by!

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# The Wreck of the *Hannah*



In April, it is customary to see articles on what is arguably history's most famous shipwreck, the sinking of *RMS Titanic* after colliding with an iceberg, and the tragedy of the loss of 1500 souls, many of them Irish immigrants. However, some sixty years prior, also in April, there was another tragic shipwreck resulting from a collision with an iceberg that also tragically claimed the lives of people fleeing the inhumanity of the Great Hunger to seek a better life, the *Hannah*.

The *Hannah* was a brig of approximately 200 tons that set sail from Newry, Ireland, on Tuesday, 3 April 1849. She had a crew of 12 under the command of its 23-year-old master, Curry Shaw, transporting approximately 180 Irish immigrants, many of them families with children.

The young Captain Shaw had one distinguishing quality that enabled him to hold such a senior position at such a young age; he was the owner's son. Shaw had already gained infamous notoriety when on an earlier voyage of the *Hannah* in 1847, he had crammed 390 passengers from Sligo aboard the ship only to have many of them die and be buried at sea. At one point during that crossing, Shaw had ordered the passengers confined below decks during a storm. During this voyage, the ship's Doctor, William Graham, later accused Shaw of several times slipping into the bunks of unmarried young women and raping them.

At 4 am on 29 April, the *Hannah* struck a "reef of ice," which punctured the ship's hull. Realizing the ship was beyond saving and going down, Captain Shaw ordered the ship's carpenter to nail shut the ship's hatch trapping the passengers below. Shaw and two of his officers then fled in the ship's only lifeboat.

Fortunately, some members of the *Hannah*'s crew had more bravery and compassion than their cowardly captain. They wrenched open the hatch and hurriedly convinced the terror-stricken passengers that their only hope was to escape to the same ice floe that had doomed the ship.

The ship sank in 40 minutes. Some were unable to make it out before the ship went under, others slipped and perished in the cold water as they attempted to cross onto the ice. However, the most heart rendering tragedies were those who escaped the ship only to die in the cold and the gale that was now blowing. Ann McGinn escaped with her six children, only to have them all perish. John Murphy left his twin boys on the ice to rescue his infant daughter; he found her, and she survived being immersed in the frigid water, but the ice holding his boys had drifted away.

The seamen who had stood by their duty and aided the passengers gave up what protective clothing they had to the women passengers, many of who had escaped in only their nightwear. The survivors spent the next twelve hours on the ice floe in a strong gale as the cold and the sea continued to claim some of them and seemed likely to claim them all.

(continued next page)

By a miracle, at around 5:00 pm, a mast was sighted on the horizon. It was the ship *Nicaragua*, another ship carrying famine immigrants to Canada. Seeing something on the ice and then discerning it to be a distress flag, Nicaragua's Captain Marshall immediately changed course and began the dangerous mission of working his way through the ice to rescue the *Hannah*'s survivors. By 7:00 pm, he was close enough that he and his crew succeeded in saving about fifty of the desperate survivors. Seeing additional victims on an ice floe that had drifted off and not accessible to his ship, Captain Marshall pushed off with his men in the ship's long boat and saved them after navigating the treacherous ice.

Later Captain Marshall would write of the rescue "*No pen can describe the pitiable situation of the poor creatures, they were all but naked, cut and bruised, and frost-bitten. There were parents who had lost their children, children with loss of parents. Many, in fact, were perfectly insensible. The number got on board the Nicaragua [sic] were 129 passengers and seamen; the greater part of these were frost-bitten.*"

At least 49 people perished in the wreck of the *Hannah*; the rest carried the scars, both physical and emotional, of the ordeal for the rest of their lives.

As to Captain Curry Shaw, he and his two cowardly officers were rescued by another ship. The *Ballina Chronicle* reported that a charge was laid against the three "*of their being guilty of one of the most revolting acts of inhumanity that can be conceived.*" Despite a disposition by the ship's Doctor and a crewman citing Captain Shaw's cowardice and inhumanity, he escaped punishment. It is a testament to how cheaply Irish life was valued at that time.

Those lost on the *Hannah* were twice over the victims of man's inhumanity to man; first driven from their homes in starvation by a callous foreign government and secondly abandoned by a coward responsible for their safe passage. We should not forget them.