



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

November 2024

Brother Hibernians _____



It's hard to believe we are less than a week away from Thanksgiving, and we have a big weekend of events coming up. I am so appreciative and thankful when I look at all that we are doing as an organization, and how much effort you all put into what we do.

Our next division meeting will be at the Hibernian House this **Friday, November 22nd at 8:00pm**. Key agenda items include accepting nominations for Division Officers and finalizing representatives for Rockland Parade Battalion Commander and Aide to the RC Grand Marshal.

Welcome to our newest members who were sworn in at our October meeting:

Eamonn Cassidy (Blauvelt)	Donny Mimnaugh, Jr. (Stony Point)
Robert Fleming (Nanuet)	James Ridge (Pearl River)
Sean Mannion (Nanuet)	Liam Ridge (Pearl River)
Brian McMahon (Pearl River)	David Sansone (Blauvelt)

Congratulations to all the Division 3 Brothers who named as honorees of the 61st annual Rockland County Parade:

Grand Marshal	John W. McGowan
Parade Commander	Patrick Casey
Aide to the NYC Grand Marshal	John B.F. Kelly
Hibernian of the Year	Chuck Parnow

Yes, that last one is me. A sincere thank you from me to all of our members – my name never appears there without all the work that you put in to make this such an impressive, successful (and fun) organization. I consider my recognition to be acknowledgement of all **you** do.

We are looking forward to the Senior Luncheon and the first Pot Of Gold Drawing Party – both occurring this weekend. We always appreciate the volunteers who help run these tremendous events. And you still have time to get into this weekend's drawing if you buy that ticket!

Good & Welfare – Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rita Downs, sister of member Billy Cosgrove and Kristin Hayes, sister of associate member Maureen “Mo” Quinn). Also keep Mrs. Christine Mulcahy, mother of members Billy and Mike Mulcahy, in your prayers for a quick recovery as she battles several health challenges.

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

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Chuck Parnow

Upcoming Events



- **Seniors’ Thanksgiving Luncheon – Saturday, November 23rd**: Our annual feast of food and Irish culture for our senior citizen community
- **Pot of Gold Party – Sunday, November 24th**: First drawing party – great food and multiple chances to win.
- **‘Freeze your Arse Off’ golf tournament – Friday, November 29th** at Broadacres with lunch at 12:30 – sign up soon as few spots left!
- **Dueling Pianos – Friday, December 6th**: Show starts at 8pm. Get your tickets early as we always sell out. Contact Dennis Madigan at (914) 714-8287.
- **Special Needs “Reverse” Christmas Parade – tentatively Saturday, December 21st**, 12-1pm at OMM Field Parking Lot; more details to follow and in below article.
- **Pot of Gold Party – Sunday, December 22nd**: Final drawing party – see following article for all the details
- **Traditional “Wren Night” at the Hibernian – Thursday, December 26th**: a great night of traditional Irish music, dance, story and craic!

Pot of Gold



The first Pot of Gold drawing party is right around the corner on Sunday, November 19th starting at 2pm (\$2,000 of prizes will be awarded), so don’t get left behind! There will be tickets behind the bar at the pub, and we’ll have tickets available at our division meeting. Tickets are available to all, so please consider grabbing a few and selling them to friends, neighbors and your friends at work.

Tickets are \$100 dollars and not only give you the chance to win a variety of cash prizes including the grand prize of \$10,000, but the ticket affords you and a guest to two Sunday afternoon parties at the end of the year. The second party featuring the grand prize drawing will be Sunday, December 22nd starting at 2pm.

Seniors' Luncheon



On Saturday, November 23rd noon to 2pm, Hibernian House - We are once again hosting this great day of food and Irish culture. Let those seniors in your family know, and as always, we will need volunteers, whether it be members or if you have teenagers who need community service hours, bring them along to help! Set up starts at 10am (or slightly earlier) with clean up done shortly after 2pm. If you have any questions, please reach out to Larry DeGennaro at ldegenn931@aol.com.

Christmas Events



Special Needs “Reverse Parade – tentatively set for Saturday, December 21st, OMM Parking Lot: Anyone who helped at the parade in past years can tell you how rewarding it was to see the joy on our visitors' faces as they wound their way through the parking lot enjoying the goodies, costume characters, fire trucks, and Santa of course.

We need volunteers once again and ask that they arrive by 11am for set up, and the parade runs from noon to 1pm. This is an excellent time for the kids to earn community service hours. We also would appreciate it if anyone can lend us decorations and/or inflatable figures to help us turn the parking lot into a winter wonderland.

If you would like to volunteer or lend us Christmas decorations, please contact Dermot Moore at dermotmoore@gmail.com or 646-302-5111.

Traditional “Wren Night” – Thursday, December 26th: Our Wren Night celebration is once again on this year. The day after Christmas, St. Stephen's Day in Ireland, we will be getting together for some traditional Irish song, music, dance, and storytelling. This is a great evening of fun for the whole family upstairs at the Hibernian House. The day after Christmas, put the hecticness of the season behind you and come out for some great craic! Look for the fliers at the pub soon.

Hibernian House



Staying with the Christmas theme, the Hibernian House is focused on our work to support the Family Fund Christmas Drive. Note that all the profits from the Freeze-Your-Arse golf outing go toward the fund which will create a better Christmas for dozens of families. We will be taking donations to the fund throughout the upcoming season, so please drop by and donate what you can. If you'd like to get involved in the effort, talk to any of the bartenders.

We've got a variety of events planned in the upcoming months – make sure to drop by and look for the fliers.

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Patrick Sarsfield: "Oh, that this were for Ireland"

Besides being the land of saints and scholars, Ireland is also a land of tragic heroes, individuals of courage, strength, and conviction who dedicate their lives to their country no matter the cost or consequences. Patrick Sarsfield—a Jacobite general, Irish patriot, and exile—embodies all these qualities. His leadership during the Williamite War, particularly at the sieges of Limerick, has etched his name into the annals of Irish history. Yet Sarsfield's story is as much about the tragedy of war as it is about bravery.

Sarsfield was born around 1655 near Lucan, County Dublin. His father, also named Patrick, was of Anglo-Norman descent, and his mother, Anne O'Moore, was the daughter of Rory O'Moore, a leader in the 1641 Irish Rebellion. This lineage connected Sarsfield to both the Old English and Gaelic Irish nobility. Patrick was born in the tumultuous years following the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland, which resulted in the confiscation of his family's lands and ostracism based on their Catholic faith.

With the restoration of the monarchy of Charles II and an initially more tolerant attitude to the Irish and Catholics, Sarsfield began his military career in the 1670s, serving in the English army during the Third Anglo-Dutch War and later in the French army under Louis XIV. His experience in European conflicts honed his military skills, which he would later apply in Ireland. He returned to serve under King James II in England and distinguished himself as a cavalry commander at the critical battle of Sedgemoor. Contemporaries described him as "a man of fine presence, possessing great personal bravery, and a natural gift of leadership." For his service, he was promoted to Colonel of Calvary.

William of Orange's arrival and James II's deposition in 1688 set off war across the British Isles and Ireland. For Irish Catholics, the stakes were not who sat on the throne of England but for survival with property, religion, and civil rights in the balance. The followers of James II were called 'Jacobites' from the Latin for James.

Sarsfield gained notoriety at the disastrous battle of the Boyne when he saved the Jacobite Army by covering their retreat with his cavalry, while James II ignominiously fled the field and the country, leaving Ireland to her fate.

The Williamite forces, led by King William III himself, swiftly advanced, capturing strategic towns and cities. By August, they arrived at Limerick, the last major stronghold of the Jacobite forces. Many Jacobite leaders favored surrender, but Sarsfield vowed to fight on.

William's forces set about besieging the city, with William calling for a train of heavy artillery to bombard the town. The situation appeared grim until Sarsfield took dramatic action. In what became known as the Raid on Ballyneety, Sarsfield led a daring nighttime attack on the convoy transporting William's heavy siege artillery. Sarsfield's force of 500 horsemen infiltrated the Williamite lines, surprised the convoy, and destroyed the precious artillery in a massive explosion.

The raid delayed the siege and significantly weakened William's ability to breach Limerick's walls. Before another artillery train could be landed, William's troops in the siege lines began succumbing to disease, and the weather was turning. When William's troops launched their final assault on the city in late September, they were repelled with heavy losses. William broke off the siege and returned his troops to winter quarters while William, like James, left his troops in Ireland under the command of General Godert de Ginkel and returned to England. Against all odds, Limerick had held thanks to Sarsfield. Sarsfield had bought the Jacobite cause another chance and a year.

However, Sarsfield's courage alone could not make up for the failures of Jacobite command and the lack of support from their allies in France. After the disastrous defeat at Aughrim, Sarsfield, and his remaining forces found themselves again besieged in Limerick. Despite a gallant defense by Sarsfield and his men, there would be no reprieve against de Ginkel's

superior forces this time. With the loss of Galway cutting off fresh supplies, the tide turned inevitably when Ginkel's forces breached the city's defenses in early October. The breach marked the breaking point—both militarily and morally. According to the customs of 17th-century warfare, a city that resisted after its defenses were breached could expect no mercy. If Sarsfield had refused to surrender, the Williamites almost certainly would have stormed the town with an order of "no quarter" to military and civilians alike.

Such was Sarsfield's reputation that he was able to secure, on paper, an honorable and favorable treaty. He and his men would be allowed to leave the city with the full honors of war, keeping their weapons and flags and being transported to France to join the French Army and continue the struggle. Sarsfield and 20,000 of his men took this honorable exile. This was the origin of "the Wild Geese" and the "Irish Brigade," which would later cover themselves in glory, albeit for a foreign country.

The treaty also promised Catholics religious freedom and property protection for those who remained. However, these promises were soon betrayed. Parliament systematically violated the treaty before the ink had dried, instead enacting harsh Penal Laws that stripped Catholics of every fundamental human right.

After the Treaty of Limerick in 1691, Patrick Sarsfield and his fellow Irish soldiers entered the service of King Louis XIV. There, Sarsfield continued to display his military prowess, and the Irish soldiers won renown for their valor in Louis's campaigns against William of Orange in Europe. However, his service was marked by the bittersweet reality of fighting for a foreign power while longing to liberate Ireland. In 1693, at the Battle of Landen, Sarsfield was mortally wounded, leading his troops with characteristic bravery. His reported final words, "Oh, that this were for Ireland."

The Duke of Berwick, a fellow Jacobite leader, observed Sarsfield was "a man of great courage, but his loyalty sometimes blinded him to necessity." General Ginkel, Sarsfield's opponent, respected him as "a worthy adversary and a man of honor." Sadly, Sarsfield's loyalty bound him to an unworthy King in James II, and his enemies did not reciprocate his honor despite their admiration.

Sadly, the failure of England to honor its treaties regarding Ireland continues to this day, and in Sarsfield's memory, we should not accept these continued betrayals. Cuimhníгі ar Luimneach agus ar fheall na Sasanach! ("Remember Limerick and Saxon perfidy").