



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

October 2025

Brother Hibernians



Not sure how we got to the fourth week of October this quickly – but here we are! We hope the Fall or school-year routines have fallen into place for you.

Our next division meeting will be at the Hibernian House this **Friday, October 24th at 8:00pm**. Key agenda items include accepting nominations for divisional representatives for Rockland Parade Battalion Commander and Aide to the Grand Marshal. We'll also organize around a number of upcoming events including the Thanksgiving Senior Luncheon and the Pot of Gold ticket sales and parties.

Still looking for a number of volunteers! Aside from a Charity Committee Chair (mentioned last month), we also need someone to Chair 'Good and Welfare'. This is a position that monitors local news and makes sure we're aware when someone is sick or has passed to ensure that we support our members. We're also a month away from Division Officer nominations and an ideal time for 'new blood' to step up and assume some roles. I would identify our primary organizational risk to be a lack of any depth in succession planning. We need to start to develop the next slate of leaders – not only for the Division but for the County AOH and for the Parade Committee.

On that topic, congratulations to the Hibernian House Officers elected last month with Mike Mulcahy taking on another term as Vice President and Quinton Van Wynen, Jr. assuming the Secretary role for another term.

Our big fall events are coming up – see the following articles on both the Pot Of Gold fundraiser and our Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Good & Welfare – Please pray for the repose of the souls of our brother James Coen, Sr., and for Rita Hughes, mother of member Tommy Hughes – may they rest in peace. Also continue to keep Kevin Haugh (and give him a ring / shout!) and John Crilley in your prayers as they battle health challenges.

We hope you and your family are well (don't forget to set your clocks back and vote!).

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Chuck Parnow

Upcoming Events



Event	Time / Location	Details
Rockland AOH Div. 1 Dinner Dance	Sat., 10/25 7- 11pm at Haverstraw Elks	Honoring Pat Dwyer, music by The Mike Kehoe Band; \$100 donation for dinner and open bar. Contact Michael Lydon for details: (845) 304-7192
Fall AOH State Board Meeting	Sat., 11/8 at 10am in Troy, NY	Meeting starts with a 10am Mass, followed by a wreath laying and the meeting at Noon. See details at: https://www.nyaoh.com/
Joint RCAOH Meeting	Tues., 11/18 at 8pm	At Hibernian House, joint Men's and Women's AOH meeting to elect RC parade Grand Marshal, Aide to NYC.
NYS AOH FFAI Event	Fri., 11/21	At Albany AOH, honoree is NYS LAOH FFAI Chair Joan Moore. More info at: (4) Facebook
Thanksgiving Seniors' Luncheon	Sat., 11/22, 12-2pm	We'll need volunteers starting at 9am for set up, some shuttle drivers and cleanup help at 1:30.
1 st Pot of Gold Drawing Party	Sun., 11/23, 2-6pm	Upstairs at the Hibernian House. And we need those of you who like to cook to step up and bring your best dish. See article.
Murder Mystery, "Slay Bells"	Fri., 12/5, doors open at 7pm	At the Hibernian House; the LAOH presents one of their very popular Murder mystery events. \$40 pp buys entry and 1 free drink. Questions, call Christine at christinedmadigan@gmail.com or 914 263-3486
2 nd Pot of Gold Drawing Party	Sun., 12/21, 2-6pm	Upstairs at the Hibernian House. Some great pre-Christmas cheer (and still need those cooks!). See article.
Wren Night	Fri., 12/26, 6 to ??	A favorite Irish tradition the day after Christmas (St. Stephen's Day), with Irish music, dancing, storytelling and great craic!

Stay connected! At our website: www.praoh.org and on Facebook: PearlRiverAOH.

Pot Of Gold



The first Pot of Gold drawing party is right around the corner on Sunday, November 23rd 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 21st starting at 2pm.

As noted, this is one of two major fundraisers we have each year, so we need our members to support it – not only by making sure to buy your own ticket but, more importantly, by helping sell tickets to our friends and the community. Our charitable giving does a lot of good work throughout the year, but we need the money to do it, so our fundraisers have to be successful.

We continue to need to get newer members involved in efforts like this. If you would like to get more involved in supporting this effort and join the committee or you need a ticket, please contact Sean Walsh at aohpotofgold@gmail.com.

Seniors' Luncheon



On Saturday, November 22nd from 10-2pm at the Hibernian House - We are once again hosting this great day of food and Irish culture. Seniors in the community are invited and as always, we will need volunteers, whether it be members or if you have teenagers who need community service hours! Set up starts at 9am with clean up done shortly after 2:00. For questions, please reach out to Larry DeGennaro at ldegenn931@aol.com.



Congratulations to the two Officers taking on another term. And it's time for a huge THANK YOU for the entire slate of Hibernian House Officers. Keeping the place up and running and vibrant is no small task, and so often goes unnoticed. For the upcoming year, the full slate of Officers is as follows:

President – Dennis Madigan

Vice President – Michael Mulcahy

Secretary – Quinton Van Wynen

Treasurer – Christopher Power

The results of the monthly raffle drawing for September follow:

Award	Winning Numbers (not your HH#)
\$1,000	043
\$ 250	360
\$ 150	053

There're always things going on at the Hibernian - hope to see you at there soon!

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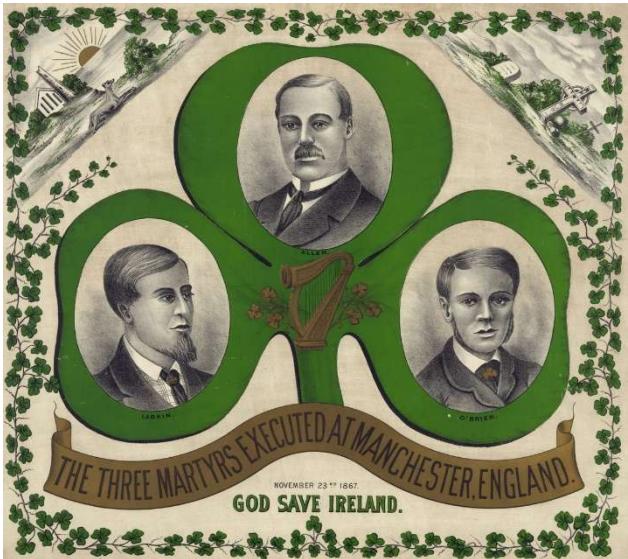
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The Manchester Martyrs: "God Save Ireland"



The morning of November 23, 1867, was cold and damp in Manchester. Three young Irishmen stood on a scaffold outside Salford Gaol before a crowd of ten thousand. William Philip Allen was nineteen, a carpenter. Michael Larkin, thirty-two, a tailor with a wife and five children waiting at home. Michael O'Brien, a shop assistant and U.S. citizen who had fought in America's Civil War. Allen and O'Brien were from County Cork; Larkin from what was then known as King's County (Offaly). Allen's father had been a Protestant constable in the Irish police force, making his son's execution for Fenianism all the more remarkable.

"I am dying for Ireland, dying for the land that gave me my birth," Allen had written hours before. As he stood on the

scaffold that Saturday morning, he could smell fresh-cut wood in the air, the material from which he made a living now fashioned into the instrument of his death. What he couldn't have known was that his execution would become a rallying cry for Irish freedom.

Two months earlier, on September 18, 1867, armed men ambushed a police van on Hyde Road in Manchester, freeing two imprisoned Fenian leaders, Colonel Thomas J. Kelly and Captain Timothy Deasy, both Irish-American Civil War veterans and AOH members.

Kelly and Deasy had come to Manchester following the failed March 1867 rising in Ireland. At a secret convention in late June, three hundred Fenian delegates confirmed Kelly's leadership as Chief Executive of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. The two men remained in Manchester to reorganize and raise morale among Fenian groups in Britain in the wake of an abortive uprising.

On September 11, after leaving a nocturnal meeting in Oak Street, they were arrested by police who suspected them of planning to rob a shop. Found with loaded revolvers, they were initially charged with loitering under the Vagrancy Act, essentially a holding charge that allowed police to detain them. Only after being identified, allegedly by an informer, were they charged with involvement in the Fenian Rising.

The rescue achieved its objective; Kelly and Deasy escaped to America, never to be recaptured despite a £300 reward, but at a terrible cost. The attackers had first called on the police guard inside to surrender and open the van. Police Sergeant Charles Brett refused, saying, "I dare not. I must do my duty", words that would later be inscribed on his gravestone. When the police officer would not surrender, the attackers attempted to force the lock with tools. Only as a final resort did someone fire a shot at the lock to force it open. At that precise moment, Brett, curious as to why the banging of tools had stopped, chose to look through the lock's keyhole. The bullet passed through his eye and killed him instantly.

Brett's death, the first Manchester police officer killed in the line of duty, ignited anti-Irish fury. Queen Victoria herself wrote that "*The Irish are really shocking, abominable people, not like any other civilised nation.*" Police raided Irish districts, arresting twenty-nine men for the crime of being Irish. It didn't matter that no one knew who fired the fatal shot, or that Brett's death appeared to be a tragic accident rather than deliberate murder. Someone would have to pay.

The trial, beginning October 28, 1867, took place in what Reynold's Newspaper described as "a climate of anti-Irish hysteria," calling the proceedings "a deep and everlasting disgrace to the English government."

The evidence, other than the fact that the accused were Irish, was sparse and dubious. As Allen himself protested from the dock, many witnesses were "*prostitutes off the streets of Manchester, fellows out of work, convicted felons.*" Rather than proper identification parades, suspects were identified sitting in police custody, handcuffed and manacled, a practice Solicitor's Journal later called "reckless swearing."

Defense lawyer Ernest Jones, the Chartist leader who had himself spent two years in prison for seditious speeches, clashed with the court almost immediately. "*It appears to be discreditable to the administration of justice that men whom the law presumes to be innocent should be brought into Court handcuffed together like a couple of hounds,*" he objected. When the magistrate refused to remove the handcuffs, Jones "marched dramatically" out of the courtroom, declaring he could not "*disgrace the Bar by proceeding with the defence.*"

Of five men initially sentenced to death, two were spared. Thomas Maguire, a Royal Marine on leave, was so clearly innocent that journalists covering the trial petitioned for his release. Edward Condon, an American citizen and Civil War veteran, received his reprieve at the eleventh hour when American ambassador Charles Francis Adams Sr. intervened, convincing British authorities to commute his death sentence to life imprisonment on the grounds of his American citizenship. But when Condon was asked if he had anything to say before sentencing, he rose and delivered words that would echo through Irish history: "*I have nothing to regret, to retract, or take back. I can only say, 'God Save Ireland!'*"

The courtroom erupted. Supporters in the gallery took up the cry "God Save Ireland!". But O'Brien, also an American citizen who had petitioned Ambassador Adams, Larkin, and Allen, received no such mercy. Despite weak evidence and none being accused of firing the fatal shot, they would die under a "joint enterprise" conviction.

From the dock, Allen declared: "*I will die proudly and triumphantly in defence of republican principles and the liberty of an oppressed and enslaved people.*" O'Brien, asserting his American citizenship, spoke eloquently of British hypocrisy: "*How beautifully the aristocrats of England moralise on the despotism of the rulers of Italy... but why don't those persons who pretend such virtuous indignation look at home?*" He concluded: "*I positively say, in the presence of the Almighty and ever-living God, that I am innocent.*"

Irish historian F.S.L. Lyons assessed it bluntly: the men were convicted "after an unsatisfactory trial, and on evidence that, to say the least, was dubious."

The execution itself was horrific. Hangman William Calcraft's incompetence meant Larkin and O'Brien strangled slowly. The drop having failed to kill Larkin, Calcraft jumped on his back to finish the job. Only the intervention of prison chaplain Father Gadd spared O'Brien the same fate. For forty-five agonizing minutes, O'Brien hung twitching while Father Gadd knelt before him, holding a crucifix before the condemned man's face.

The brutality shocked even those who had demanded vengeance, amplifying the martyrdom that would follow.

Frederick Engels immediately grasped the significance. The British government, he wrote to Karl Marx, had "accomplished the final act of separation between England and Ireland." The Fenians had lacked martyrs. "They have been provided with these."

Within days, funeral processions drew sixty thousand in Dublin alone. Condon's courtroom cry, "God Save Ireland!", became the refrain of a song set to an American Civil War tune by T.D. "Sullivan," which served as Ireland's unofficial national anthem until 1926. The lyrics captured the moment: "High upon the gallows tree swung the noble-hearted three / By the vengeful tyrant stricken in their bloom / But they met him face to face, with the courage of their race / And they went with souls undaunted to their doom."

The three became proof that Britain's justice system, when applied to Irish patriots, was neither just nor impartial. The methods used, dubious witnesses, improper procedures, and predetermined outcomes, would become grimly familiar during Northern Ireland's Troubles.

For anyone who identifies as Irish, their memory is both a reminder of past injustice and a call to continued vigilance. The struggle for truth and accountability isn't a relic of the past. It's the living legacy of three young men who died believing history would vindicate them, and of countless others who followed, refusing to let power write the final word on justice.