



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

*September 2025*

**Brother Hibernians,**



As mentioned in my email a few weeks back, activities cranked up very quickly after we passed Labor Day. We hope those of you involved in the school year are able to ease into getting back on schedule.

Our next division meeting will be at the Hibernian House on **Friday, September 19th** at 8:00pm. We have a number of key agenda items to cover including: (1) nominations for Hibernian House offices that are up for election (Vice President and Secretary), (2) final vote on the motioned/ seconded \$10 increase in annual dues, and (3) taking any nominations for Grand Marshal and Aide to the NYC Parade Grand Marshal.

We'll also be looking for volunteers to step up into various roles. For instance, Kieran Cummings, who has chaired the Charity Committee for many years (much longer than a decade) has stepped down over the summer as he retires and moves to Florida. First, congratulations to him and his wife, and thanks for all he's done these many years. This is a great opportunity for someone new to step in – all you need is email, some organizations (and a good bit of patience!).

There's an extended list of upcoming events – make sure to read through them all. We also cover a variety of topics via articles. Please read through, as there are opportunities to volunteer for charitable activities (see: Meals on Wheels), meet your AOH obligations (see: Major Degree), and help our fundraising endeavors (see: Pot of Gold).

**Good & Welfare** – Please pray for the repose of the souls of our brother Dan McKenna, for our brother Bob Kreider, and for Bob's wife, May Krieder; for our brother Harold "Buddy" Bernhardt; for Barbara Fleming, wife of brother Bob Fleming – may they rest in peace. Also continue to keep Kevin Haugh in your prayers (and give him a ring / shout!) as he battles his health challenges.

We hope you're enjoying your summer and that you and your family are healthy.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

**Chuck Parnow**

## Upcoming Events



Event	Time / Location	Details
West Point JBK Ryan Barnard Memorial Golf Outing	Fri., 9/26 shotgun start at 8:30am at West Point GC	Benefits Ryan Barnard Grants Program; see the flier for details: <a href="https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/westpoint.png">https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/westpoint.png</a>
RC Police Emerald Soc. Pipe & Drums 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.	Sat., 9/27 from 4-8pm at Rockland GAA	Live music by Derek Warfield and the Young Wolftones, RCES Pipe & Drums, food and drink – see the flier for details: <a href="https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/RC_EmeraldAnniversary.jpg">https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/RC_EmeraldAnniversary.jpg</a>
Orangetown Police Dept. Annual Golf Outing	Mon., 9/29 shotgun start at noon at Blue Hill GC	Register at 11am, dinner after at KOC; see the flier for details: <a href="https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/pbaGolf-scaled.jpg">https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/pbaGolf-scaled.jpg</a>
LAOH Jukebox Bingo	Fri., 10/3 at Hibernian House	Doors open at 7pm; 50/50, prizes, DJ; tickets are \$40 see the flier for details: <a href="https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/LAOHJukeboxBingo.jpg">https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/LAOHJukeboxBingo.jpg</a>
Comedy Night supporting scholarships for Albertus Magnus HS	Fri., 10/10 at 8pm at the Hibernian House	Event presented by Bobby Sands Commemoration Committee; Doors open at 7pm, show at 8pm; tickets are \$30, cash bar; see the flier for details: <a href="https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/IrishHunger_ComedyFundraiser.jpeg">https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/IrishHunger_ComedyFundraiser.jpeg</a>
Walk to End Alzheimer's	Sun., 10/19 <sup>th</sup> at 10am at Boulder's Stadium	Larry DeGenarro and family have walked as "Team False Echoes" for 20+years. If you're interested in fundraising or contributing, see the flier for details: <a href="https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/FalseEchoesWalk2025.pdf">https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/FalseEchoesWalk2025.pdf</a>
AOH Major Degree	Sat., 10/25 at 11am in lower Manhattan	Presented by NY County AOH; at Archbishop Hughes Center, 32 Prince St. Registration at 11am, ceremony starts at noon, see the flier for details: <a href="https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Major-Degree-10-25-2025-page-001.jpg">https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Major-Degree-10-25-2025-page-001.jpg</a>
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
Thanksgiving Seniors' Luncheon	Sat., 11/22, 12-2pm	Get it on your calendar! Need volunteers starting at 9am – more to come.

Stay connected! At our website: [www.praoh.org](http://www.praoh.org) and on Facebook: PearlRiverAOH.

## Pot Of Gold



Once again, we're happy to announce that our big fall fundraiser (and one of our best social events of yearend) is kicking off once again. Tickets are \$100 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 (just before Thanksgiving and Christmas).

Once again, the Pot of Gold committee will be led by Sean Walsh. A huge thank you to him and the members of the committee who put in a tremendous amount of effort to sell tickets and plan the parties to create such a successful fundraiser.

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](mailto:aohpotofgold@gmail.com).

As always, tickets will be available at the pub. And as a final reminder, we will have tickets and can discuss further at our next meeting on Friday, September 19th.

## Meals On Wheels



Congratulations to our Meals on Wheels team who are entering their third year of coverage! ***If you're looking for an easy local volunteer opportunity*** – we've always got room for additional delivery drivers and could use the help of one or two new team members. All it requires is roughly an hour once a month, a driver's license and a smile! Please get in touch with Dennis Madigan if interested at (914) 714-8287.



It was a good summer in the pub, with lots going on throughout. We're now geared up for the Fall and the football seasons – more to come on big events upstairs in the Hall.



Throughout the summer, the monthly raffle drawings continued to be conducted. Following are the results for July and August:

Winning Numbers (not your HH#)		
Award	July	August
\$1,000	138	088
\$ 250	083	159
\$ 150	048	012

Hope to see you at the pub soon!

## Major Degree



When we all took our oath upon joining the Ancient Order of Hibernians, our entry was conditional that we “receive the lessons and take the test of the Order”, also known as taking the Major Degree. There is a great opportunity for those who still need to get their Major Degree to do so, as the New York County Division of the AOH is hosting a Major Degree ceremony on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Registration begins at 11am and the ceremony lasts from noon through 3pm.

The cost for candidates is \$60; however, our Division will pick up that cost. In addition, we'd like to bring enough candidates that we can coordinate carpooling (or even a small party bus). Conducting a Ceremony is a big undertaking for a Division, and we thank the NY County AOH for the invite – let's take advantage! If you'd like to go or want to know more, please talk to any of our Officers – Chuck Parnow, Sean Walsh, Neil Cosgrove, etc.

Again, a flier for details can be found here:

<https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Major-Degree-10-25-2025-page-001.jpg>

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# The Patriots They Erased: Ireland's Sons in Washington's Army



Even today, our school children are told the story of the American Revolution as one of New England Puritan Yankees and "Scots-Irish riflemen" on the frontier fighting for freedom. Over time, this portrayal has hardened into a historical dogma. Even in an age of revisionism that rightly seeks to recover the voices of women, African Americans, and Native peoples, the Ulster Scots narrative remains untouchable. Those who challenge it and point instead to the central role of Irish Catholics are treated as heretics. Yet the evidence is there, and it tells a very different story: Irish Catholics were not only present, they were indispensable.

For the Ancient Order of Hibernians, this isn't just an academic oversight. Our mission is to preserve Irish Catholic heritage and defend the truth of our community's history. If our forebears' sacrifices are erased from America's founding story, then the work of remembrance and advocacy falls to us.

Colonial America was no friend to Catholics. Every one of the thirteen colonies had penal laws on the books against them. Catholics were barred from holding office, priests were forbidden, and Catholic worship was restricted. Pennsylvania and Maryland were known to "turn a blind eye" and be laxer in enforcement, but the laws remained.

By the mid-1700s, Catholics are usually estimated at only 1–2% of the colonial population overall. But because Catholic priests and parishes were outlawed in much of the colonies, records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths were rarely kept. The actual number was almost certainly higher. What is clear is that Catholics were most visible in Maryland and Pennsylvania, where thousands formed recognized communities despite the odds.

That left few records for historians to consult. Later writers twisted this silence into "proof" that Catholics were absent. But absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.

Despite prejudice, some Catholics reached prominence. Charles Carroll of Carrollton was the only Catholic signer of the Declaration.

Stephen Moylan, born in Cork, served as quartermaster general and coined the phrase "United States of America." He later became the first commander of the Continental Light Dragoons, establishing America's cavalry arm and leading it with distinction.

Commodore John Barry, from Wexford, became the most successful American naval commander of the war, capturing more than twenty British ships and fighting the Revolution's final naval battle in 1783. His record eclipsed John Paul Jones—but Barry's Catholicism meant he was sidelined in memory.

These names prove that Catholics were not absent. But the real Catholic story is in the ranks.

Pennsylvania's Continental regiments were so heavily Irish that General Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee said they "might more properly be called the Line of Ireland." Muster rolls burst with Murphys, O'Neills, and Kellys.

No one can pin down the exact number of Irish-born in the Continental Army—muster rolls rarely note birthplace or religion. But the consensus is clear: the Irish were the largest group of foreign-born soldiers. Estimates range from a quarter to nearly half of Washington's army at various points. Even the lowest figure is significant.

And Britain noticed.

In 1778, British commander-in-chief General Sir Henry Clinton wrote that Washington's army was "full of Irish." In Loyalist New York, the Royal Gazette sneered that his troops were "an Irish rabble, more fit for the shillelagh than the musket." And in 1783, in the Irish Parliament, Lord Mountjoy declared: "America was lost by the Irish... I have been assured on the best authority that the Irish language was as commonly spoken in the American ranks as English."

These were not Irish boasts—they were British laments. Mountjoy's remark describes Gaelic Catholic emigrants, not "Ulster Scots". Britain acknowledged what America conveniently forgot: Irish Catholics were not marginal; they were central to the struggle for independence.

No story shows the distortion better than that of Timothy Murphy, the legendary rifleman who turned the tide at the Battle of Saratoga. As a sniper, he killed Sir Francis Clerke and General Simon Fraser, throwing the British command of the battle into disarray at a critical moment. Murphy's parents were from Donegal, yet by the 19th century, historians confidently rebranded him as emblematic of frontier "Scots-Irish"

Why? Because there were no Catholic parish records. But Catholics weren't allowed churches in colonial New York, so of course, the records are missing. Biased historians twisted silence into Protestant identity. The simplest explanation is the strongest: Murphy's family were Donegal Irish, a County that was then and now overwhelmingly Gaelic and Catholic. Even his name "Timothy" is telling evidence. 'Tadhg'—anglicized as Timothy—was so associated with Irish Catholics that Ulster Scots Protestants used it as a slur for Catholic neighbors.

This reveals the double standard at work. When the evidence is unclear, historians automatically assume Protestant identity while demanding extraordinary proof for Catholic identity, you are "Ulster Scots till proven otherwise". Murphy is confidently labeled "Scots-Irish" based solely on his Donegal origins—yet Donegal was overwhelmingly Catholic, in fact, even more than a century later, Unionists excluded Donegal in the creation of its statelet of Northern Ireland because it was so Gaelic and Catholic. Meanwhile, the absence of Catholic records (caused by legal persecution) is treated as evidence that Catholics weren't there. Apply the same standard consistently, and Murphy would either be Irish.

The erasure wasn't limited to men. The most famous woman of the Revolution, remembered as "Molly Pitcher," has long been identified as Mary Ludwig Hays, a German-American. Yet contemporary evidence says otherwise.

Eyewitness Joseph Plumb Martin saw her serve at a cannon in 1778. Her husband, William Hays, was an artillery gunner born in Ireland. In 1822, Pennsylvania granted Mary a pension in her own right for exceptional service at Monmouth. Carlisle neighbors remembered her Irish brogue.



The German version originates from a 19th-century historian's mistake, which involved conflating the wrong Hays family and regiment. It is stuck in monuments and textbooks. The Irish heroine was recast as German.

The Irish case is the simplest and strongest: eyewitness, pension, and the contemporary testimony of the people who knew her. The German version requires assumptions. Its persistence shows bias still at work.

These cases show how historical bias works. Pitcher's German identity rests on a 19th-century historian's mistake, yet it's accepted without question. Her Irish identity has eyewitness testimony, pension records, and neighbors who remembered her brogue and clothing—yet it's dismissed as speculation. The rules only work one way: Protestant identity is assumed until proven wrong, while Catholic identity must be proven beyond doubt.

So why don't we hear about them?

During the Revolution, Catholics were accepted out of necessity. Washington needed troops; Congress needed French Catholic allies. After victory, however, America's ruling class rewrote the story. As Catholic immigration swelled in the 19th century, anti-Catholic prejudice hardened. To preserve a Protestant founding myth, Catholic contributions were recast: Timothy Murphy became "Scots-Irish," Molly Pitcher became German, and John Paul Jones eclipsed Barry.

The erasure was not accidental. It was deliberate cultural editing, turning Catholic sacrifice into Protestant memory.

The record is clear. Barry captured more prizes than John Paul Jones. Moylan coined "the United States of America" and founded the Continental Dragoons. Carroll signed the Declaration. Murphy and Molly stood at Saratoga and Monmouth. Thousands of Irish privates filled the Pennsylvania Line.

Yet in American memory, Catholics were airbrushed out—because prejudice demanded a Protestant origin story. Correcting this is not about pride; it's about truth. And it falls squarely within the mission of the Ancient Order of Hibernians: to preserve our heritage, to honor our ancestors, and to ensure that future generations know the whole story.

Britain realized that America was lost by the Irish. It is time America remembered they won it.