



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

January, 2012



Brother Hibernians, _____



Happy New Year. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, January 27 at 8pm. Welcome aboard to new members Bernard Sweeney, Noel Charles, and Kevin Gildea. Congratulations to Pete Dunne and John Gannon who were re-elected Hibernian House Vice-President and Recording Secretary respectively and to our 2012 Aide to Grand Marshal John McElligott and Battalion Commander Bill Ford for the parade in Pearl River. Many thanks to all of you for supporting our Pot O'Gold fund raiser this year as well as to all our volunteers who worked to make it a success, especially Bill and Trish Lee, Phil and Linda Sheridan, and of course our quintessential volunteer Jim Gallagher. Also a great job was done by Pete Dunne, John Gannon, Larry and Denise DeGennaro, Mike Lynch, and all of you supporters of our Christmas Families drive. Thanks again to Bill and Trish Lee and volunteers for collecting, cooking, and distributing the Christmas dinners.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare news: Please say a prayer for

the peaceful repose of Pete Dunne's brother Robert and John and Ray Lowry's dad Patrick in Carlow. More prayers are welcome for Ray Gallagher's daughter Christine who is running into some difficulties with her chemo treatments in Connecticut, Brendan Malley faces at least another month of rehab in West Palm Beach before he can return to his hometown of Jupiter as he continues his recovery from his auto accident injuries, and Larry McKeever has started his recovery at Helen Hayes which is expected to be a very long journey.

Please say one more for our troops.

Yours in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity,
Dermot O'Connor Moore, *President*

SAVE THE DATE!!!

The Philip Murphy Memorial Golf Outing will be back this year at Blue Hill Golf Course. This year's Golf Outing will be bigger and better than ever, so please save the date - Thursday May 17th. Tee off at noon. Details to follow.



ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION _____

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PHIL SHERIDAN

Vice President
PETER DUNNE

Treasurer
LARRY MCKEEVER

Recording Secretary
JOHN GANNON

CALENDAR _____

Jan. 7 Division Meeting

Jan. 17 County Meeting

Feb. 4 Ski Trip

Feb. 25 Emerald Ball

Feb. 26 Antun's Reception

Mar. 17 NYC Parade

Mar. 18 Pearl River Parade



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NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Convention will be held at the Turning Stone Resort and Casino in scenic upstate New York from Monday July 9th through Thursday, July 12th. Our own Division 3 member Brendan Moore is running for president and it would be nice to have a big division turn out. Rooms can be reserved now by calling 1-800-771-7711 and mentioning "Hibernians" for the convention rate of \$115 a night. Hotel accommodations can only be made by telephone. Please note that hotel rooms are available in many areas of Turning Stone Resort. Specifically, we have secured rooms at "The Hotel," "The Tower" and "The Inn" (near main resort site). Descriptions and location of each of these areas is available online at www.turningstone.com. There has been a spike in AOH/LAOH room reservations and there are only so many rooms guaranteed at the AOH rate. Complete convention details will be provided in the next edition of the Hibernian Digest, which is due out in late January.

HIBERNIAN HOUSE

We wish to thank everyone who came out to vote on Dec. 23rd. As you probably know the smoking ban in the pub was passed by a 2\3 vote of over 100 members in attendance. This decision went into effect on Jan. 1, 2012. Pete Dunne was reelected as Vice President and John Gannon as Secretary for 2 year terms. *(They said serving a term was some thing normal for them.)*

Hold the date of Sunday, February 19th open. We are planning a dedication of the improvements to access of the Hibernian House and this date also correlates closely to the 30 year Anniversary of the Hibernian House and the 50 Anniversary of the Div. 3 AOH Charter. We can celebrate all at once. Anyone who might have some time on their hands, as unlikely as that may be, it would be greatly appreciated if you could help out with some light repairs around the building. Please give Phil a call at 845-406-7228 for more details. Thanks to everyone for donating to the Christmas fund and making it possible for some families who are down on their luck to enjoy a better holiday season. The Fat Off is underway, you can hear the pounds dropping, only about 45 days to go. P.S. there is a prize for gaining pounds also *(Nah!)*.

In closing, would you please keep in your prayers Larry McKeever who in convalescing after a bad fall, and Pete Dunne's brother Robert who passed right after the new year.

Happy New Year, The House Committee



SKI TRIP

Jim Doyle will once again be running our annual ski trip to Belleayre Mountain on Saturday, February 4. The bus will be leaving from the NJ Transit parking lot at 5:30 a.m. sharp. \$60.00 includes the bus, food and refreshments, and a free lesson, \$30.00 for non-skiers. Rentals are only \$15.00 extra. Jim has posted a signup sheet in the pub, 1 person per line on the sheet please. Seating is limited so it will be first come, first seated. Please pay by check, leave it at the pub by January 28th with Ski Trip as well as your name and phone number on the front of the envelope.

LAOH

Happy New Year! Hope you all had a great Christmas Season. Thank you to all who donated food, money or time to feed several families this season. It was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Loretta Reidy who found us a family to help and for doing the shopping, to all who worked on the Christmas dinner and to the "St. Zita Crew" who entertain the ladies there every Thursday. For more information call Linda Sheridan at 845-735-8612.

This year looks to be a busy one. In January we will hold our annual 70-80 dance on the 21st at the Hibernian House. Feb. 4 there is a ski trip to Belleayre Mtn. *(see above for more info)*.

Feb. 14 is the Division 3 Meeting. Feb. 25 is the Emerald Ball, and on Feb. 26 Antun's honoring the Aides to the Grand Marshall for NYC. If interested in attending any of these events please contact me.

We will have to sell raffle tickets outside of ShopRite in the end of January/beginning of February; I will have a list at the January meeting. Volunteer sheets will be available at the meeting for all events for this year, please be sure to help support them by getting involved. A lot of fun can be had!!

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Joan Moore, *President*

845-735-8793(h) 845-536-2742(Cell)
or email joan55mmoore@msn.com

Thomas Ashe

Historian - Neil Cosgrove

History



In his poem 1916, Y.B. Yates wrote describing the Easter Rebellion “All changed, changed utterly: A terrible beauty is born” to describe that watershed moment in Irish history. Yates, and most of us, attribute that pivotal moment to MacDonagh, MacBride, Connolly and Pearse. Yates, however, could not anticipate, and many of us do not remember, the change that would be brought about by another man: Thomas Ashe.

Ashe was born in 1885 in the village of Lispolé, County Kerry. Educated in the nearby town of Dingle and subsequently at the De La Salle College in Waterford, Ashe would become a National School Teacher and take a position as a Principal at Corduff National School in Lusk County Dublin. He was a popular teacher and a dedicated member of the Gaelic League and GAA. Ashe was active in the Dublin community, founding the award-winning Lusk Black Raven Pipe Band as well as Round Towers Lusk GFHC in 1906.

Lusk was also an active member in the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and his enthusiasm and determination to secure Ireland's freedom quickly gained him attention. He was selected to go to America on a fundraising trip in 1914 where he met with Irish American leaders such as John Devoy. Back home in Ireland, he recruited men from the Lusk community in preparation for Ireland's fight for freedom. As he approached everything in life, he was energetic and scrupulous in their preparation. His efforts would have dramatic effect.

During the Rising of 1916, Ashe commanded the Fingale Battalion of the Irish Volunteers. It was the only unit to be engaged outside of urban Dublin and one of the few that met with unqualified military success. Though severely outnumbered, Ashe and his men captured the RIC barracks in Swords, Garristown and Ashbourne capturing vital arms and ammunition. Ashe's command successfully demolished the Great Northern railway bridge; disrupting the movement of British troops and supplies that were attempting to reinforce crown forces engaged against volunteers in

the capital. Ashe's unconventional guerrilla tactics, dividing his command into columns that made his forces appear larger than the numerically superior British forces they were engaging, foreshadowed the tactics that would become so famous and successful in later years by Dan Breen and Sean Hogan. Never beaten in the field, Ashe and his command surrendered to British forces at the order of Padrig Pearse with the collapse of the rising.

Ashe was tried by court martial and initially sentenced to be executed. This was later commuted to imprisonment in response to the world outcry in reaction to the execution of the leaders of 1916. Ashe was imprisoned with Eamon de Valera in Lewes prison where he quickly gained attention as a leader in continuing Ireland's struggle for freedom and he was elected President of the Supreme Council of the IRB while still imprisoned. However, fate would intervene cutting short Ashe's potential.

Released as part of a general amnesty in 1917, Ashe returned to Ireland. He was quickly rearrested under the notorious “Defense of the Realm Act” for “seditious speech” at a gathering in County Longford; it was now illegal for Irish men and women to even speak of freedom in their own land. Ashe was again tried by court martial and imprisoned in the notorious Mountjoy jail. Though convicted of political crimes by a military court, Ashe and his fellow republican prisoners were denied political status and treated as common criminals. Ashe and his comrades immediately began a hunger strike. The response by British authorities was quick and brutal; depriving the prisoners of such basic necessities as their bedding and boots. This did nothing to weaken the resolve of Ashe and his fellow prisoners.

The British then resorted to forcible feeding. Involving the insert of a tube into the prisoner's throat and forcing food into the prisoner, it was little better than torture. Despite all appeals by those concerned for his well-being in the face of such brutality, for him to end his hunger strike, Ashe refused. Ashe responded to such well-meaning pleas by saying “They have branded me a Criminal. Even though I do die, I die in a good cause.”

On the third day of force feeding, Ashe was taken from his cell. Fionan Lynch saw Ashe being carried away to receive this treatment and called out to him: ‘Stick it Tom boy’. Ashe called back ‘I'll stick it, Fin’. They would be Ashe's last words. The procedure that day was administered by a doctor in training and in forcing the feeding tube he punctured Ashe's stomach and lung resulting in his death. Ashe was 32.

Thomas Ashe's death sparked an international outcry. It is estimated that some 30,000 people followed his funeral procession. Thousands gathered to hear the funeral oration that would be delivered at his grave in Glasnevin, expecting to hear the oratory for which such events were known for, such as Padraig

Did You Know That...

- While in Lewes Prison, Ashe wrote the poem “Let me Carry Your Cross for Ireland”, foreshadowing the sacrifice he would make for his country.
- Through his grandmother, Catherine Ashe, American Actor Gregory Peck was a relative of Thomas Ashe.
- On 21 January 1919, Sean Hogan, Dan Breen, Sean Treacy, Seamus Robinson and others would reignite the fight for Irish independence that Thomas Ashe had started when they attacked and captured a shipment of explosives at Soloheadbeg, County Tipperary. Throughout the war of independence they would use and refine the tactics employed by Ashe and his men in 1916 in the tactics of the “Flying Column”.
- In his poem Easter 1916, Yates not only commemorated the rising of April 24, 1916 in just words. The first and third stanzas have 16 lines (*the year*), the second and forth have 24 lines (*the date*) and there are four stanzas in total (*April being the fourth month*).

Pearse's stirring graveside eulogy for the Fenian O'Donovan Rossa.

Defying the British, Irish Volunteers in the full dress uniform honored their fallen comrade with the traditional salute of rifle volleys. Ashe's friend Michael Collins, himself dressed in the uniform of the volunteers, stepped forward for the eulogy. It was two sentences: “Nothing additional remains to be said. That volley which we have just heard is the only speech which is proper to make above the grave of a dead Fenian”. The age of heroic oratory had passed, replaced by an iron resolve to achieve Irish independence.

A “terrible beauty” was born that day, and Thomas Ashe had been key to that birth. His innovation in tactics would point the way in the coming struggle that would bring some measure of independence to the Irish people. His courage, when deprived of all physical weapons, to use his very life for the cause of freedom would inspire Terence MacSwiney and Bobby Sands. May we never forget him.



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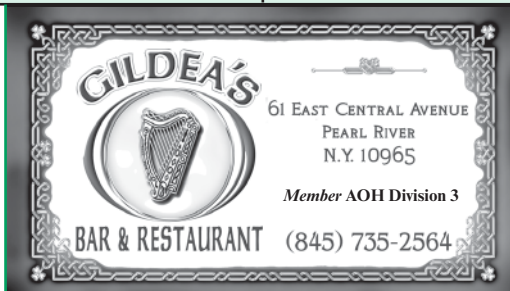
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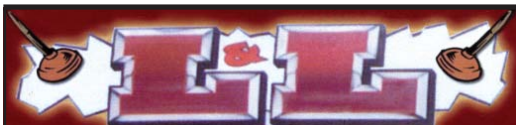
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