



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

December, 2012



Brother Hibernians, _____



We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, December 28 at 8 pm. Welcome aboard to new member John Murray. Our Christmas parties will be held on Sunday, December 16. The party for children with special needs goes from 10 am till noon and the family party goes from 1 pm to 3 pm. We need volunteers before, during, and after.

Don't miss out. Get your Pot of Gold ticket now. It would make a pretty nice Christmas present to win 10 grand on the 23rd!

Many thanks go out to all who joined us doing hurricane relief volunteer work on Nov. 28 and Dec. 1 in Breezy Point. The area is devastated and the work was long, hard, and cold but we have the satisfaction of living up to our motto of Christian Charity. Special thanks also goes out to all who couldn't make it but donated tools, supplies, and food, especially to Cy Hughes and John Corr for donating the buses.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare news... Please say a prayer for the repose of the souls of Vince Tyer's dad Vince

Sr., Ed Costello, Pete Maher's mother Pat, and Patrick "Joe" McKiernan. Joe's family was most appreciative of the great turnout for Joe's wake and funeral mass. It's obvious that your prayers worked extremely well for Jim Doyle as he looks and feels better than ever with his new liver. Keep the prayers and good wishes coming for: Bob Farrelly who made an appearance at the "Freeze Your Arse Off" Golf Outing and did a job on Bill Ford's well renowned chili and Russ Pogewit's deep fried turkey in an effort to recover the 60 pounds he recently lost, Tim Finn's mom Peggy as she recovers from a bout with pneumonia, Larry Kaine as he recovers from his staff infection (*he's recovering so well that the staff at Davey's Locker can't bring his chow fast enough and he plans to resume his gym workouts*), and finally for squire McKeever as he continues his long recovery at home.

Please remember our wounded warriors in your prayers.

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



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CALENDAR _____

Dec. 16
Christmas Parties

Jan. 26
Valentine's
Mid-Winter Dance

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28 Railroad Avenue



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HIBERNIAN HOUSE

A Hibernian Christmas

(in the style of Larry McKeever)

Twas some days before Christmas, as I rode in my sled,
When to the Hibernian House I decided to head.
I went in the entrance, frozen to the core,
Wouldn't you know my card wouldn't work in the door?
A quick rap at the entrance and the portal swung open,
They were surprised to see me, not a word it was spoken.
"Santa you're Irish?" finally said a man named O'Rourke,
"Why do you think I wear red and white? My Da was from Cork".
As I went to the bar, I had a quick look,
No, by jingle, I still hadn't hit the book.
I asked for a Guinness, yes make it a pint,
I'm taking a breather, it's been a long night.
I stopped in to say how proud I be,
To say that I am a member of Division 3.
There's not a good cause you guys don't embrace,
I had to come and tell you straight to your face.
The young, the old, and our veterans you aid,
There's a lot more to you guys than just a parade.
Sandy tried to destroy your brothers, your efforts show she will fail,
She may have been a big wind, but you are the Gael.
The hard work you guys do puts my elves to shame,
Sons of Patrick you are, and worthy of name.
We wouldn't be Irish, if looking back on the year,
We didn't think of those we had lost and not shed a tear.
Be not sad I said, they are not lost, just gone before us,
As St. Nick I tell you Joe McKiernan is now leading the Heavenly Chorus.
I shook each hand and I jumped into my sled,
Meaning every word that I had just said.
A shout to Rudolph and the sled took flight,
Nollaig Shona dhaoibh! And to all a good night.

LAOH

Well I can't believe it, tis the end of the year already. We have been very busy this year and I want to thank all the members for your continued support. The only way we can continue is through your generosity, involvement and support. Just a reminder that the End of the Year reports are due, so officers please review your forms (*found on the LAOH website: www.laohnys.com*) so you have the data you need.

I am looking forward to an exciting year next year and am looking for new and innovative ideas for fundraising or events for the organization.

Thank you to Mary O'Sullivan and her committee for their work on the Christmas Dinner at O'Malley's.

Please keep all our members that are ill in your prayers during this Holiday season. Wishing you all a very Merry and Healthy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our next Division Meeting will be on Tuesday Jan. 8 at 7:30. Dues for the 2013 year will be collected. See you all then.

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

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

CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Don't forget the Christmas Drive at the pub to make a Merry Christmas a reality for several local needy families. Stop by the pub and drop off whatever donation you can in the envelopes provided. It's amazing how good it will make you feel!



VALENTINE'S DANCE

Early Valentine's Day/
Mid-Winter Dance
Saturday, January 26th
from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am

Music by Better Days

Sing-along sheets, sandwiches, open bar

\$30 per person

Contact John McElligott at 845-638-9374



Our Pot O' Gold raffle is one of our main fundraisers and it is our hope that you will once again be generous in supporting us by purchasing one of our \$100.00 tickets.

The bearer of each ticket, along with a guest are entitled to attend both of our drawing parties.

We had our first drawing party on Nov.12 and awarded \$2,000.00. We'll give out \$12,000 at our final drawing party on Dec.23 including our grand prize of 10,000.00.

You have the opportunity to win the grand prize of \$10,000.00.

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Bill Lee at:
(845) 558-4148, (845) 735-4390
or via email at:
mr.williamlee@gmail.com

History

Faugh a Ballagh!



In December 1862, the American Civil War, which at its start both sides believed would only last a few weeks and one major battle, was now in its twentieth month and had seen numerous battles and already tens of thousands of lives lost. Despite its numerical superiority in manpower and its overwhelming advantage in supply, the smaller and ill-supplied Confederate Army of Northern Virginia had fought a succession of Union Commanders to a standstill. Even the northern victory at Antietam which led to the Emancipation Proclamation was incomplete. Antietam, the bloodiest day in American history, should have been the last battle of the Civil War and Lincoln knew it. He knew the overcautious commanding general George McClellan had failed. Unfortunately Lincoln replaced him with Ambrose Burnside.

Burnside was a likeable thirty eight year old whose extravagant side whiskers gave rise to the fashion of "sideburns." He was a good subordinate, but had already shown himself to be an unimaginative General. He had been offered the command of the Union Army of the Potomac twice and had refused, as he felt he was unqualified. Burnside was right and Lincoln should have listened.

Against all this drama and incompetence in the command of the Union Army, the Irish Brigade of the Union Army under Thomas Francis Meagher had won an unequalled reputation for courage and valor. Since three of its NY regiments, the 63rd, 69th, and 88th left New York City in March 1862 to later be joined by the 116 Pennsylvania and 28th Massachusetts, they had fought in most of the major engagements of 1862 in the east: Fair Oaks, Gaines' Mill, Savage's Station, Malvern Hill and Antietam. On numerous occasions they had acted as the rear guard, being all that stood between the Union

Army and destruction. They had earned the respect of their enemy. In frustrated admiration a confederate commander had noted "Here come those damned green flags again". Now four out of five regiments had no green flags, they had been shot to pieces, only the newly arrived 28th Mass had the green flag inscribed with the brigade motto 'Riamh Nar dhruid O sbairn lan (*They shall never retreat from the charge of lances*)'. At Fredericksburg they would live up to that motto to the last full measure.

Burnside's plan for Fredericksburg was audacious, he would not be accused as had his predecessor George McClellan of being cautious. Burnside planned to make a rapid dash to the town of Fredericksburg where waiting pontoon bridges would be thrown across the Rappahannock river and the Union Army would make a lightning strike at the Confederate capital.

It was a bold plan, but needed speed and perfect coordination to pull it off. Neither happened. Numerous delays hampered the plan. When the Union Army arrived at Fredericksburg there were no pontoon bridges, but Lee and his army was encamped on a hill overlooking the town known as Maryes' (pronounced "Marie's") Heights. Near the crest of the hill was a stone wall and a sunken road, a natural firing position that the Confederates quickly improved. When asked if he could hold the heights when attacked a Confederate colonel responded "*not even a chicken could live on that field when we open up on it.*"

On December 13, 1862, his elaborate plan having fallen to pieces, and lacking the courage to admit his plan's failure, Burnside ordered a frontal charge against a position that the enemy had three weeks to fortify. Two earlier assaults on the well entrenched Confederates had already failed when the Irish Brigade was ordered forward, the 28th Mass with the only green "*Irish Flag*" forming the center. Officers handed out sprigs of green boxwood, the closest available equivalent to shamrocks, to place in their hats so that every man would go into battle with green marking them as member of the Irish Brigade. As they moved into position, Robert E. Lee asked one of his staff who were the soldiers forming to his front? When he was told that they were the Irish 69th, Lee remarked "*Ah yes, the fighting 69th.*" The name stuck, cemented by the unit's courage on that day.

The Irish Brigade advanced giving voice to their Gaelic battle cry "*Faugh a Ballagh*" ("*Clear the Way*"). They passed by the fallen bodies of the men from the previous two charges. Blasts of artillery tore gaps

in their ranks, but other men stepped forward to fill the gaps. The fire was so thick men bent forward as if in a heavy rain storm. They came within yards of the Confederates position behind the stone wall, but were unable to penetrate the wall of lead the Confederates were firing. The color Sergeant of the 116th continued to wave the American flag attempting to inspire his men till he fell, riddled with five balls.

The Irish Brigade ran out of men before they ran out of courage, and they began to fall back. No other unit would advance further than the Irish did that day. As they fell back Confederate General George Pickett, whose men some seven months later would make their own fateful charge, noted "*...we forgot they were fighting us, and cheer after cheer at their fearlessness went up all along our lines.*" Robert E. Lee noted "*Never were men so brave. They ennobled their race by their gallantry on that desperate occasion. Though totally routed, they reaped harvests of glory. Their brilliant though hopeless assaults on our lines excited the hearty applause of our officers and men.*" A Union Officer remarked "*Their devotion transcended anything I ever saw or even dreamed of.*" That devotion to duty was exemplified when, after the battle, the color-sergeant of the 69th was found dead, sitting up against a tree with his hands clasped upon his chest. On examining the body it was found that he had wrapped the Stars and Stripes around his body, to hide them from capture by the enemy. The Irish Brigade would never lose a flag throughout the war.

Fredericksburg was one of the North's greatest defeats and it was the bloodiest day in the history of the Irish Brigade. Not one officer of the NY 69th was able to report for duty the next day, they had either been killed or wounded. When Thomas Francis Meagher marched out of New York nine months before he had 2,250 men, now 600 were left. These Irish Americans, who had faced and would continue to face prejudice before and after the war, had won admiration on both sides of the battle field on that cold, bloody December day. Yet their exploits are not recorded in our children's history books, there is but fleeting reference to them on the Fredericksburg National Park web site and most egregiously the contribution of the Irish has largely been overlooked in the current 150th Civil War commemorations.

A memorial at the Fredericksburg battlefield states "*To the Sons of Erin who put God, Country and Duty before Self. We must never forget the sacrifices they made for Freedom.*" Let us as Hibernians never forget and work to assure that our country and future generations never do.

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