



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

June, 2014



Brother Hibernians, _____



Brother Hibernians,

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, June 20th at 8pm. We cancelled our May 31st meeting because our golf outing had to be rescheduled to that date due to the weather. What a gorgeous day it was and congratulations to Tom Lynch, Hugh O'Brien, Sean Walsh and the entire golf committee for running a fantastic golf outing. Many thanks go out to all the volunteers and lady Hibernians who made this such a special day.

We wish the best of wishes to Brendan Moore for his re-election at the National AOH convention this July in St. Louis. Many thanks to all the division members who will be accompanying us to the convention to vote in the elections and also to participate in the discussion on the proposed changes to the constitution, several

of which may have significant impact on New York boards.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News... Please say a prayer for the repose of the souls of John Leddy's bride Laura, Dan McKenna's brother James, Franny Corbett's brother John, and gentleman Bill Kenney. Another prayer is in order for John Kennedy who is receiving therapy at Helen Hayes as he recovers from his second major brain surgery.

Have a great summer and –

Please remember to say an extra prayer for our wounded warriors and their families.

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

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DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE

Vice President
VINCE TYER

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WILLIAM LEE

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REV. MSGR. JOHN O'KEEFE

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President
FRANK McDONAGH

Vice President
PETER DUNNE

Treasurer
PHIL SHERIDAN

Recording Secretary
JOHN GANNON

CALENDAR _____

- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| June 20 | Division Meeting |
| July 10 | McDermott Golf Outing |
| July 12 | McKiernan Field Day |
| Aug. 16 | Northwest Golf Outing |
| Sept. 18 | O'Malley's Golf Outing |

Ancient Order of Hibernians

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HIBERNIAN HOUSE

The golf outing was a great day for all who attended.

No truth to the rumor that the farmers in the Midwest want to fly Tom Lynch out there to run a tourney. It has not rained in months. Wonder if Tom is related to John Gannon. If we put them together to run a tourney, someone would have to build an ark!

Dan McKenna is going on a cruise with his partner Jim Walsh. He was surprised to find out they had a queen size bed in their room. Claims he changed that.

One of our local leaders, known for being late, has changed that perception. At a recent funeral he showed up a day early. No names but he is tall.

Jack O'Connor is up for an Oscar for his ability to make believe he is deciding if he should have a drink when someone is buying. Guess the answer.

Word is John Draper has already packed for the July golf trip.

The Mook and Don McCallum are very upset the Giants did not draft Johnny Football in the recent draft.

In closing, Sean Walsh winning the TV at the golf outing was legit. And the moon is made of cheese.

LAOH

The Ladies of LAOH Div. 3 had a wonderful evening at our Ascension Thursday Mass and Dinner. We honored Alice Fogarty for all of her hard work and dedication to the organization and we all enjoyed a lovely dinner at Slattery's.

We were also very proud to recognize some outstanding young people in our community during our annual Communion Breakfast.

Our Irish History Writing Contest winners were:

On the Jr. High level

1st: **Kevin Dickey** 2nd: **Andrew Dickey** 3rd: **Kian McGeever**

On the High School level

1st: **Jules Madigan**

We also honored our scholarship winners:

Ronan Curry and **Christopher Joyce**

We are very proud of all the young men and women who are committed to Irish culture.

Kate Anne Basler, *President*

MICHAEL McDERMOTT

12th ANNUAL MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2013

BLUE HILL GOLF COURSE

New format. Shot gun start at 12:30pm.

Bar-b-que lunch and Dinner will be held at

Emmett's Castle at the course!!

Contact Dan McDermott at (845) 623-6367

O'MALLEY'S GOLF OUTING

New York Country Club

September 18th to benefit Gary Baisley

\$175 includes lunch, beer on course and dinner party
at O'Malley's.

Tee off 11:00 AM

Contact: Kieran O'Gorman 845 548-8499

NORTHWEST HOSPICE

21ST ANNUAL

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, August 16, 2014

Thunderhart Golf Course at Sunny Hill

County Rd. 67, Freehold, NY

www.northwestcharity.org

McKEIRNAN FIELD DAY-GAA RAFFLE

Robert McKiernan / Dennis McHugh Field Day

Saturday, July 12

Rockland GAA Fields

\$100 Raffle

Prizes:

1st-\$8000, 2nd-\$3500, 3rd-\$2000, 4th-\$1000, 5th-\$500

Contact Dermot Moore for raffles - praoh3@gmail.com
or 845-735-8793



Fr. Nicholas Sheehy - a Case of Judicial Murder

Nicholas Sheehy was born in 1728 at the height of the Penal Laws. Barred by British law an education in his native Ireland because of his Catholicism, he was sent abroad to France and eventually entered the priesthood before returning to his native Ireland to minister to his countrymen in the parish of Clogheen. Here he began to see at first hand the privations and degradations that the Penal Laws that assured the position of the Protestant Ascendancy had inflicted on the common Irish people. Fr. Nicholas began to speak out against the injustice of these repressive statutes, particularly the forced evictions of tenant farmers to the benefit of wealthy landlords, the elimination through enclosure of what had been common pasture land in the community and forcing of local Irish farmers to now pay for access to what had been formerly free grazing land. He also condemned the levying of tithes, a tax equivalent to ten percent of a person's earnings on Catholics, to support the Protestant Church; money that invariably went directly into the pockets of the local vicars and ministers. The situation in Clogheen was particularly outrageous, as the local ministers also hired a "tithing collector", who they empowered to collect for his own use an extra tax of five shillings on all couples who were married by a Catholic priest.

Needless to say, such outspoken criticism soon drew the attention and wrath of the community's elite who saw in Fr. Sheehy an agitator that had to be silenced. Their opportunity was not long in coming; independently, but in response to the same injustice, an agrarian resistance group known as the "Whiteboys" (*for their wearing of white shirts*), staged a protest that resulted in a small riot that saw the wall erected to deny access to what had been common community land was destroyed. The local members of the ascendancy saw their opportunity to remove the meddlesome priest. Not only was Fr. Sheehy falsely accused as being involved in this incident, but what had been a bit of agrarian vandalism was now elevated into an armed insurrection with Fr. Sheehy as the ringleader who "*Did traitorously prepare, ordain and levy war against the King.*"

Fr. Sheehy was brought to trial by the local Protestant Rector and several major landowners in the areas. The principle witness was a man called John Bridge and a woman named Moll Dunlea. Bridge had been a former member of the Whiteboys who had turned informer after being tortured in prison and forced to give evidence against the Priest. Moll Dunlea was described as "*an abandoned character*" (*i.e. a prostitute*)

who had been bribed to testify against Fr. Sheehy. However, there was one problem with the plan: the judge and jury, (*all of whom were Protestant*) were men of conscience who quickly saw through the absurdity of the case and Fr. Sheehy was quickly found not guilty and released.

However, the wrath of the gentry of Tipperary were not so easily thwarted. Within months of his acquittal, the main witness against Fr. Sheehy in the sham trial, John Bridge, was reported to have disappeared. With no other evidence other than the lack of knowledge of his whereabouts, charges were brought against the priest accusing him of murdering Bridge and offering fifty pounds (*more than a year's salary for a skilled craftsman of the time*) for his apprehension. Realizing that his innocence was immaterial, Fr. Sheehy went into hiding, eventually finding sanctuary in a vault in the church graveyard where he remained for months; hiding by day and emerging by night to carry on his priestly duties. Enraged by being further thwarted by the priest, the elites of Tipperary successfully petitioned the Dublin administration to raise the stakes, issuing a proclamation accusing the priest of inciting treason and rebellion and now offering the unheard of reward of 300 pounds. Realizing that such a sum would bring out every bounty hunter in the land and his capture (*likely by death*) was inevitable, Fr. Sheehy wrote to the Under Secretary of Ireland offering his surrender on condition that his trial would be held in Dublin. His request was readily agreed to. Fr. Sheehy was fortunate that the arresting magistrate was a just man who wasn't prepared to risk the priest's life to the local yeomanry knowing their bias, so he entrusted the priest's transport to a troop from another area of the country. Apparently disgusted by the mockery of justice being perpetuated, the magistrate went so far as to offer the priest a hundred guineas and a chance to escape, but Fr. Sheehy refused as he felt that would be seen as the act of a guilty man.

Fr. Sheehy's second trial was also brief, and as in the first the judge and jury were wholly unconvinced of the fantastic charge that this simple parish priest was a ring leader of an armed rebellion and again he was acquitted. However, no sooner had the priest set foot outside the courtroom then he was arrested again, this time for conspiring to murder the still missing John Bridge. The priest was brought back to Clonmel and the third time would prove the charm for his enemies.

This time they left nothing to chance. The jury was stacked with wealthy landowners

and Protestant clergy. The first charge brought was that the Priest was again accused to be plotting an invasion of Ireland by the French. The evidence? Simply the fact that he studied for the priesthood in France. The second charge was that he killed Bridge to prevent him talking about this imaginary plot. The Crown then produced its witnesses: a convicted horse thief who was conducted from his prison cell to testify (*he would subsequently be set free without trial*), a young boy who was known in the area to be mentally challenged, and his former accuser Moll Dunlea of the "*abandoned character.*" Their stories were ludicrous. The defense provided as witnesses Dunlea's own mother who swore that she was home with her that night and could not have seen the priest carrying a body. The trial reached the climax of mockery when a respected citizen of the community who started to swear that Fr. Sheehy was with him on the night of the alleged murder, was arrested from the witness box for a fictitious crime and spirited from the courtroom (*he was later found not guilty*).

The result was a foregone conclusion, Fr. Sheehy was found guilty and sentence to be hung, drawn and quartered. In his final remarks Fr. Sheehy decried the trial as the farce it was, but forgave his accusers placing his trust in the justice of God rather than men. After his execution, the priest's sister arranged for the pieces of his headless body to be transported to the graveyard, the same that had given the priest sanctuary while pursued by his enemies. His head was mounted on a spike outside the Clonmel Courthouse. It would stay there for ten years, a grisly warning to others who would stir up trouble against the landlords and ascendancy, despite the fact that two years after the murder trial the victim, John Bridge, was found alive and well and living in Newfoundland.

Upon hearing of the judicial persecution of Fr. Sheehy, the great political theorist and philosopher Edmund Burke aptly denounced it as little more than "*judicial murder.*" However, Fr. Sheehy would see some measure of justice: because of Fr. Sheehy's martyrdom and the role of Clogheen's symbolic role in the struggle against religious intolerance, Daniel O'Connell, the Liberator, would chose it as the site for his monster rally in 1828. One year later Catholic Emancipation would pass, ending centuries of state sponsored religious persecution in Ireland.

It is hoped that this made Fr. Sheehy's rest a bit easier.

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