



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

September, 2017



Brother Hibernians, _____



Our next meeting will be held on Friday 9/22 at 8pm at which we will have nominations for House officers. I hope you and your families had a pleasant and safe summer. It sure was a busy one. Many thanks to all of you who supported the Michael McDermott golf outing and attended the NYS AOH convention in Buffalo. Many members of the AOH and LAOH served as volunteers at a three day Grand Opening Weekend that the GAA held for their beautiful new clubhouse in early July. The GAA reciprocated on July 22nd at our County AOH Ceol Mor Festival and Bagpipe Competition by not only hosting us but providing numerous volunteers for our event as well. Working side by side, the AOH, LAOH, GAA, and local musicians put on a fantastic display of our musical heritage. Approximately 50 solo bagpipers competed in individual competitions in the morning and six bands competed against each other in the afternoon. While the band competition was small this year, I am confident that it will grow rapidly after hearing remarks from both competitors and judges who were so impressed by the show and the venue. Save the date for our encore on July 21 of 2017 and many thanks to all for your hard work. It would be nice to get nice Division 3 representation at the County Meeting on the 19th to support newly elected President and VP John McGowan and Bill Young as well as at the Metro Conference meeting on September 30th at Orange County Division 2's hall. We will be hosting a Rambling House on November 3rd and the NYS AOH board meeting the following day. More details to follow.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News...Please say a prayer for the repose of Bobby McBride, John O'Connor (not Jack), John Ardizzone, Tom Anderson's father Richie, and Ray Gallagher. Another prayer or two are in order for Jim Whelan's bride Joanne who underwent rotator cuff surgery, John McElligott's bride Pat who broke her arm, Pete Blickley who suffered burns to his leg, Frank Cull who has developed melanoma, Bob Metcalfe's 3 children who were injured in a serious vehicle accident, Tom Girondel who is following doctor's orders to slow down after being diagnosed with a heart flutter, Gene Flood who is recovering at home from surgery, Brian Gallagher who has run into more complications after being released from the Mayo Clinic and is now being diagnosed at Duke University Hospital, and Jim Walsh who is now a resident at the Raso Hospice.

Now for some good news, we have two sets of new grandparents. Jim and Eileen Finn welcomed Finn as presented by their daughter Eileen and husband John while Bob and Phyliss Scully welcomed Stetson Alexander as presented by their daughter Shannon and husband Ryan.

As always, please remember to say an extra prayer or two for our wounded warriors and their families.

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

ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION _____

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Vice President
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WILLIAM YOUNG

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JACK O'CONNOR

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FR. ERIC RAASER

HIBERNIAN HOUSE

President
FRANK McDONAGH

Vice President
PETER DUNNE

Treasurer
PHIL SHERIDAN

Recording Secretary
JOHN GANNON

CALENDAR _____

- 9-19 County Meeting**
- 9-22 Division Meeting**
- 9-30 Metro Conference**
- 10-14 LKOR Golf, RGAA
Dance**
- 11-3 Rambling House**
- 11-4 NYS AOH Board
Meeting**



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LAOH

It was nice reconnecting with the LAOH members since we hadn't met since June. Joan Moore and Pat Schrader reported on the NYS LAOH convention that they attended in Buffalo in July. Nadine Green announced that the RCLAOH will be hosting the LAOH degree ceremony in St. Margaret's cafeteria on October 28th at 9 AM. Please contact her if interested in attending at Faughnan23@aol.com. Fall/spring fundraiser ideas were suggested and the committee will be meeting shortly. Please keep Kim Glynn and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Kim's father, Robert Desimone, passed away on September 4th. Hope to see many of you at our October 10th meeting.

*Yours in friendship, unity and Christian charity,
Terry McGeever, President*

HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Summer is almost over and the flock is returning to the roost. Bellcrash Richie attempted to jump a small canal at the golf course and came up a little short, our own Eveil Knievel. We are preparing for the return of the Captain from LBI. We have removed the sound on the TV for Fox News. Pot O' Gold tickets are now available at the Pub, two great parties included. Despite much

GAA CORNER

Many thanks to all the Division 3 members who volunteered at or attended the Grand Opening of the Rockland GAA's Grand Opening of the new Pavilion/Clubhouse facility back in July. The weekend was a tremendous success and we were honored to have Gerry Adams in attendance on the Sunday. We were also honored and pleased to host the RCAOH Bagpipe Competition on July 22nd. There have been many successes on the Field too – the big North American tournament “CYC” was held in July in Buffalo this year. Rockland GAA sent 287 young players, 42 coaches - 26 teams that contested 17 Finals across Gaelic Football, Hurling, Ladies Football and Camogie(girls hurling); Winning 10 and finishing Runners Up in 7. July also saw the Rockland Junior Ladies win the New York Championship and our first RGAA Summer Camp with 175 boys and girls in attendance. Rockland GAA

also had a number of players on the Boy's and Girl's Feile teams who traveled back to Ireland to compete back in June. The New York Boys won the Division 1 All Ireland Feile Championship – a major accomplishment – and the Girls lost a very close Division 2 Semi Final. New York also sent a U17 girls team (my team) back for a tournament in Dublin where they placed 3rd out of 16 County teams losing the semifinal by just a point. The fall season has kicked off up at the fields – you can see the schedule for upcoming games at www.rocklandgaa.com. October 14th Rockland GAA will be having its annual dance at the new Pavilion/Clubhouse – tickets are \$25 with hors d'oeuvres being served and our very own Mike O'Sullivan playing music all night. For tickets or information please contact Dennis Madigan dennis.madigan@aol.com.

Vince Tyer

LOURDES KIDS GOLF OUTING

Saturday, October 14th at Broad Acres Golf Course
12:30 Lunch and Registration, Buffet Dinner to Follow
For more info, contact lkrc602@gmail.com call Ed O'Dea at 917.974-9659

SPONSORS ARE NEEDED

opposition from the Coast Guard Scott Hanson has purchased a new boat. With him and Johnny O, we now have a pirate problem in the area. Hoping that Key West and all the people down there are okay after the storm, do not want to move Budda Con in February. Warren Hennessy has been getting his back stretched due to an injury, he has grown two inches. Frank "Gulliver" McDonagh back from

his travels. Europe will never be the same. Lourdes Kids of Rockland Golf Tournament coming up in October. If you are interested, check at the Pub. We will be increasing our events upstairs at the building stay tuned. Hope everyone had a great summer.

Pete Dunne

NOTE: There will be nominations for House officers at the meeting on 9/22.

JOHN DEVOY, A LIFE GIVEN FOR IRELAND



In a mid-19th century classroom in one of Ireland's new "National Schools", pointed to as an example of a more "progressive" British policy in Ireland as they allegedly provided nondenominational education, a teacher faced a rebellion. One of his young students, a short, dark haired son of a brewery clerk, refused to sing "God Save the Queen" as required at the start of the school day. The teacher summoned the superintendent, whose mood was not improved when confronted by the young rebel. Though seated in the front row of the class because he already suffered from extreme nearsightedness, there was no mistaking the look of defiance in those blue eyes. The superintendent bellowed to his defiant charge 'Sing Sir!' only for the boy to refuse. The superintendent then applied the standard Victorian educational method to address diversity, he smashed a chalkboard slate over the young nonconformist's head. The boy missed several days of school due to "lightheadedness" (likely a concussion). When the sadistic superintendent attempted to further chastise the boy (this time with a cane) for his absence, the young dissident charged him pushing him back and delivered a swift kick to his knees. The boy, John Devoy, was expelled for his first fight for Independence.

John Devoy was born 1 September 1842 near the village of Kill in County Kildare. nationalism was a family legacy. While Devoy's father's nationalism took a constitutional approach as a supporter of O'Connell and the Repeal Movement, John's patriotism would favor his namesake; a maternal great-uncle who fought in the Rising of '98. Though born on the eve of the "Great Hunger", John Devoy would be spared the worst of that tragedy of suffering by the family relocating to Dublin. There his industrious and literate father secured employment at Watkins Brewery, providing a secure childhood at a time when the Great Hunger was sending across the Atlantic the millions of Irish emigrants who would define John's later life.

In early 1861, at the age of eighteen years, John Devoy took the Fenian oath. The oath bound the young Devoy to work for the establishment of an Irish Republic. Devoy would dedicate himself to the Fenian cause with the same resolute determination he showed as a schoolboy while similarly bearing innumerable hardships with the same fortitude. Devoy's father became aware of his son's political activity and the family argument that ensued only made the rebellious teenager more determined. He ran away and joined the French Foreign Legion to gain military experience he could later use in the fight for Ireland's freedom. Unfortunately, the youthful dream of adventure met the hard reality of being assigned to an engineering company (likely due to his eyesight) in Algeria. He was released under his commanders signature a year later (though some sources incorrectly say he deserted) and returned to Ireland.

Devoy reported back to the Fenian executive led by James Stephens. The Fenians were in the midst of planning a new rebellion with a bold new strategy composed of three parts. First was the traditional recruitment of the young men of Ireland such as Devoy to the cause. However, past rebellions had always suffered from the lack of trained men and arms no matter how enthusiastic the support of this traditional recruiting source. This was to be radically solved by the other two legs of the strategy. The second part would be the active recruitment of Fenians from within the ranks of the British army. Fully sixty percent of the 26,000-strong British garrison in Ireland were Irishmen who served not out of loyalty to the crown, but as a desperate last resort to escape hunger and poverty. Every soldier who took the Fenian oath would achieve the dual purpose of undermining Britain's ability to respond to a rebellion and providing another trained man and his weapon to the cause. The third part was the realization that there was now a third force in Ireland's struggle: Irish America. Those starving emigrants that had been driven to exile in America had prospered in their adopted land. They and their descendants were now a source of funding and battle-hardened men forged in America's Civil War.

To young Devoy fell the responsibility to recruit Fenians from the British Army. As with everything he attempted, Devoy rose to the task with total commitment and tireless zeal. He recruited soldiers who in turn recruited their messmates. Devoy even clandestinely administered the Fenian oath to soldiers as they stood guard in their sentry boxes. At one time, falling back on his Foreign Legion training, Devoy donned a British Army uniform to enter a barracks to gather intelligence on the Army's strength and morale. At its height, it is estimated that the Fenians had over 80,000 men pledged to a coming rebellion, of which over 20,000 were Devoy's converted British soldiers.

However, it was soon apparent that Stephens, while a great visionary, was not a man to lead a rebellion. While promising that with the end of the American Civil war 1865 would be "a year of action", Stephenson continually dithered. The success of the Fenians was also its vulnerability; a force of nearly one hundred thousand men could not be kept secret forever. British intelligence was soon reporting an alarming number of men in "felt hats and square toed boots"; American fashions indicating that Irish Civil War veterans were returning to Ireland with vengeance in their hearts. Suspicions were confirmed when documents inadvertently left at a train stations detailed a planned Irish uprising. The British lion had finally awoken to what was happening in its oldest colony. In September 1865, the offices of Stephens' paper The Irish People was raided and everyone on the premises arrested. Stephens was later apprehended and confined in an isolated wing of Richmond

prison to await trial. Devoy immediately turned his energies to a rescue plan. With the help of the prison hospital superintendent who was a sworn Fenian with access to the prison's keys Stephens escaped and was spirited to France.

The Stephens escape was a propaganda coup for the Fenians. Ireland was seized with sudden enthusiasm for Fenianism and the prospects of independence. However, Stephens continued to lack the nerve to instigate the rising and the British were now fully aroused. Suspect Army regiments were transferred from Ireland to the remotest parts of the empire. Suspending Habeas Corpus, British authorities made mass arrests including John Devoy and some of the soldiers he recruited. Devoy was sentenced to 15 years penal servitude, but it would be half a century before he would walk Ireland a free man again. Sadly, Devoy would also be separated from the only other passion he allowed himself, a young girl Eliza Kenny to whom he was engaged.

For the next five years Devoy would be an unwilling guest at some of Britain's most notorious prisons: Mountjoy, Millbank, Portland and Chatham. Fenian prisoners were selected for "special attention" by sadistic guards. As might be expected, the former defiant schoolboy was hardly a model prisoner and orchestrated several prison strikes and other acts of disobedience which were harshly punished. Finally, in January 1871 in response to public outcry concerning reports on how the Fenian prisoners were being mistreated, Devoy, along with four other Fenians including O'Donovan Rossa, was released on condition of accepting exile to the United States. Known as the "Cuba Five" for the name of the steamship that brought them to America, they were given a hero's welcomed by Ireland's exiled children in America. However, Devoy was appalled at what can only be described as the slapstick jockeying of various Irish American Groups and politicians as they pushed and shouted at one another to claim pride of place in welcoming the exiled Fenians and leverage their notoriety for their own purposes. Devoy saw the vast potential of Irish America, but it had to be unified to be an effective force in Ireland's fight for freedom. It would be to this cause which John Devoy would devote the rest of his life and will be continued in next month's history.

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