



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

September, 2015



Brother Hibernians, _____



I hope you all had a great summer. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, September 18th. Many thanks are due to all the members who travelled to the NYS convention to vote, Rockland's representation was truly impressive. Our movie series on the lives of the executed signatories of the 1916 Irish Proclamation was a huge success. We plan to keep showing films as we gear up for the centennial. Many thanks in advance to all the members who volunteered for the Papal Mass.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good & Welfare news...Please say prayers or two for the repose of the souls of two true gentlemen Terry Greenan and Don Calder, Gerry Walsh's bride Bonnie, Kevin McAndrew's mother Jacqueline who was also Mike McAndrew's grandmother, Warren Connor's dad Eugene, Harry Stern's father Harold Sr., Mike Mulderrig's mom Theresa, and Frank McDonagh's bride Mary-the turnout for her wake and funeral was magnificent and a

testament to her character. A couple more prayers are due for the following members; Jim Doherty is undergoing dialysis, John Dolan is back from Cornell after experiencing an irregular heartbeat, Frank Cull is home recovering from severe injuries after a fall, Danny O'Keefe was the recipient of spooky results from a physical but all eventually turned out okay, and Pat Tully is living with daughter Tara after losing his condo in a fire.

Congrats to Charlie and Pat Murphy on the arrival of grandson Robert Michael and twin granddaughters Camryn and Paityn. Tom and Noreen Hogan became grandparents again and John and Kathleen Tully welcomed grandson Nolan.

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.*

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CALENDAR _____

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Sept. 18 | Division Meeting |
| Sept. 24 | O'Malley's Golf Outing |
| Sept. 25 | Papal Mass |
| Sept. 25 | 1916 Commemoration Committee Night at the Races |
| Oct. 2&3 | Brendan Moore Testimonial |
| Nov. 8 | First Raffle Drawing Party |



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Ancient Order of Hibernians

We hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing summer! The ladies of LAOH Div. 3 have been busy planning our 3rd Annual Dancing Like the Stars competition. The dancers have been practicing their moves and we are looking forward to a great night at Emmett's Castle on October 16th.

Katie Anne Basler
President, LAOH Div.3



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S TESTIMONIAL DINNER

Crowne Plaza Hotel in Suffern

Friday, October 2nd

7 pm - 2-hour Welcoming Open Bar

Saturday, October 3rd

5 pm - Mass,

6 pm - Cocktail Hour,

7 pm - Open Bar, Dinner, Presentations, Dancing

\$45- Friday Function Only,

\$110- Saturday Function Only,

\$140 For Both Functions

Contact Eileen @ 845-712-5463 or

eileenmoore2@gmail.com

O'MALLEY'S GOLF OUTING

To Benefit Gary Baisley

Thursday, September 24 @ NY Country Club

103 Brick Church Rd., New Hempstead, NY

10 am Breakfast, Noon shotgun start, Dinner to follow at O'Malley's in Nyack

Registration-\$175, Dinner only-\$60, Tee

sponsor-\$100, Corporate sponsor-\$800

Contact Kieran O'Gorman @ 845-727-0514

Once again our Annual Pot of Gold raffle has begun and we are seeking your support. Each year demand for these tickets increases and yet our space remains somewhat limited. It is for this reason that we ask, if you are considering attending our parties, please secure your tickets as soon as possible. This year we are once again keeping the cost for our tickets at 100.00. Not only will you be helping us to continue to support our numerous charitable endeavors, you and a guest will be entitled to attend both of our parties and also have an opportunity at winning numerous prizes. This year our 1st party (drawing #1) will be held on Sunday November 8th at the Hibernian House. The second party (drawing #2) will be held on Sunday December 20th also at the Hibernian House. Tickets can be secured by contacting Bill Lee at mr.williamplee@gmail.com or 845-558-4148 or Dermot Moore at praoh3@gmail.com or 845-735-8793. Tickets can also be obtained at the Hibernian House, please ask the bartender on duty for the tickets.

RACE NIGHT

The Rockland County 1916 Commemoration Committee is hosting a Night at the Races to help defray costs of the Centennial Celebration to take place on the grounds of the Rockland GAA Fields on Sunday, April 24th, 2016.

EMMETT'S CASTLE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH

FIRST RACE 7:30 PM

DJ for the night

\$ 20.00 admission at the door

10 races, with 10 horses in each race

AUCTION RACE

All proceeds to help defray the costs of the 2016 Centennial Commemoration of the 1916 Easter UpRising.

*"In 1916 they reminded the World that
 Ireland was a Nation"*

"In 2016 Rockland will remember them!"

History

Con Colbert



In the aftermath of the Easter Rising, 16 men were executed for taking part in the fight for Ireland's freedom. Naturally, the majority of the attention falls upon the leader and the signatories of the Proclamation. It would, however, be a grave injustice to not remember the other gallant men who willingly made the ultimate sacrifice for Ireland; among the foremost would be Con Colbert.

Cornelius Colbert was born in Moanleena, Castlemahon, County Limerick; the ninth of thirteen children born to Michael and Nora Colbert. His family had strong nationalist sympathies; an Uncle had participated in the failed Fenian Rising of 1867. Known as "Con", even as a boy he had a lively interest in local history and the Irish language which was still spoken by the older people of the time. When Colbert's mother died while he was still a young boy, he moved to Dublin to stay with his sister so as to take some of the financial stress off of his father. He attended the O'Connell school, where the Christian Brothers inspired in the young Colbert a great love of his country and its history. Upon graduation, he took a position as a bookkeeper at Kennedy's Bakery where he would be employed until his execution.

Colbert joined the Gaelic League and became a fluent Gaelic speaker. He was an early member of the Irish youth organization Na Fianna Éireann which had been founded in 1909 by Bulmer Hobson and Countess

Markievicz as an Irish alternative to Englishman Robert Baden-Powell's Boy Scouts which promoted British imperialism. Like other scouting organizations the Fianna learned skills such as signaling, map reading, drilling, rifle practice and camp life, but it was unique in the emphasis placed on Irish language, history folk law and culture. Na Fianna Éireann became a passion for Colbert to which he would devote all his spare time and his meager earnings. He was the Fianna's most successful organizer; on his summer holidays cycling from town to town where he would gather a few boys and organize a new *slaugh* (troop).

Colbert's energy and dedication soon drew notoriety. Hobson, who was also a key figure in the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), realized that Colbert's energy and natural charisma could be used to attract new members to the IRB's ranks. Colbert was sworn in to the IRB where he soon displayed the energy and enthusiasm as for the Fianna. Con also came to the notice of Padraig Pearse who offered Colbert the position of part-time drill instructor as Pearse's St. Enda's school. When Pearse suggested that he pay Colbert a small fee for his services, Colbert became so indignant that Pearse would think he would accept pay for what he considered a duty that Pearse had to apologize for offending him. As one of his friends noted Colbert's "soul burned for everything Gaelic and Irish". The only rival for his attention was his deep devotion to his faith; Colbert attended mass daily and was a strict teetotaler. A week before the Rising, Colbert approached Tom Clarke's wife Kathleen to protest a *céilidhe* being held during Lent, not realizing that the *céilidhe* was being used as cover for a planning meeting for the rising. Kathleen Clarke, unable to tell him the true motive for the event tried to laugh him off by saying "He should dance now, for later they may be dancing at the end of a rope"; it was a prophetic comment she would later regret.

Colbert had joined the Irish volunteers on their formation and, despite his youth, was made a Captain in the 4th Battalion led by Proclamation signer Eamonn Ceannt. On the first day of the Rising, Colbert and 15 men seized control of their objective of Watkin's Brewery, a strategic outpost to block the arrival of British reinforcements. Colbert sent a dispatch to the GPO that all was quiet in his sector prompting James

Connolly to redeploy Colbert and his men to reinforce Marrowbone lane to reinforce a force of Irish Volunteer and Cumann na mBan already there and under attack. That attack repelled, Colbert's men and the rest of the Garrison held the position for the rest of the week without casualties; drawing praise for his leadership and strategic knowledge. It was therefore with some shock that Colbert and the rest of the Garrison received the order to surrender.

Realizing the likely fate of those who commanded during the rebellion and knowing that the actual commander of the Marrowbone lane garrison was a married father; Colbert told the British authorities that he was the commanding officer of the unit. He was court-martialed on the 4th of May 1916 and his death sentence confirmed on 7 May. A woman of Cumann na mBan also imprisoned in Kilmainham saw Colbert at Mass; he waved at her as if to say good bye.

Before his execution, Colbert asked to see the wife of one of his men. He told her he was proud to die for Ireland. Colbert told her he was leaving his bible to his sister and handed her. He handed her three buttons from his uniform, telling her "They left me nothing else," and asked her that when she heard the volleys of shots in the morning for Éamonn Ceannt, Michael Mallin and himself would she say a Hail Mary for their souls. A young British soldier who was guarding Colbert began to cry.

At the time of his execution, a member of the firing party came into Colbert's cell to affix a white target on his breast. Seeing where the Guard had placed it, Colbert asked "Wouldn't it be better if it was closer to the heart?" and shifted the target accordingly. The soldier asked for Colbert's hand, and not realizing his intent he put out his left one; the soldier said "No the other one" and when Colbert put it out the soldier grasped it and shook it before binding him and leading him to the Stonebreakers yard and the Firing Party. He was 27 years old.

Na Fianna Éireann, which in life was Colbert's passion, were named for the Fianna, the mythical band of warriors of Irish legend. In his life and death, Con Colbert showed himself a worthy member of their ranks. Heroes such as Con Colbert should never be forgotten.

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