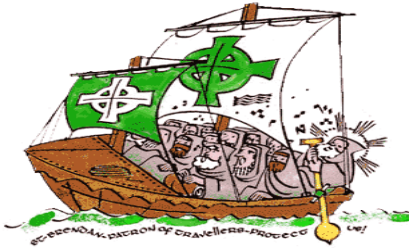


St. Brendan Division #1 - AOH, Berks County, PA



Serving the Irish American Community for more than a century

Incorporated in the City of Reading & State of Pennsylvania NOVEMBER 7, 1860

RE-ORGANIZED FEBRUARY 16, 1979

Visit our Website www.berkscoaoh.com

Volume XXIX/Tóirt Fiche a naoi déag - Issue #2/Eagrán a Dó/Deireadh Fómhair/Sámhain/Mí naNollaig-October/November/December 2019

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Joseph G. McCarthy



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Fellow Hibernians, The slate for the new officers will occur at the next meeting - October 11th, which will be followed with election of officers at the November 8th meeting.

At the October 11th meeting, a slate of officers must be presented for the election to occur. At the moment, all officer positions are open! Many of the officers in place currently have held the same position for many years, and they are growing weary of the multi-year responsibility. We are looking for "new blood" to assume ownership and responsibility for their membership in this division. New minds, new creativity, new ideas, and willingness to serve in a position will benefit our Division, and enable us to carry on our mission of preserving our history, culture and traditions, as well as charity, and goodwill in the community. New ideas and a different outlook always tend to move an organization forward and helps the new officers learn more about the Ancient Order of Hibernians as an organization, its principles and History.

Anyone who would like to volunteer for any specific office should contact me before the October meeting. President, Vice-president, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee Chairmen are open for anyone to assume the duties of the specific office. My contacts are shamokin71@aol.com and 484-663-3992. Contact me before October 9th, and I thank you for your consideration to assume an officer position for next year.

The 40th year of our Division is coming to a close, and we have one event to stage, which is a dinner. Some members wanted to have an additional dinner to celebrate our 40th year. Anyone who has a preference for a special date and location should contact me immediately. This dinner is for the membership enjoyment, so please advise me where and when you would like to do this event. Time is drawing near and the holidays are approaching soon, so it is well-thought that an October or early November date be selected for the dinner. Also, I still have many 40th anniversary pins for members who have not received one. Also, if you would like additional pins, they can be acquired for a \$4.00 charge per pin. The first pin is free to a member.

Over the summer we staged a Soup Kitchen at the Kennedy House, which was well

Attended for both Saturday/Sunday meals. Many thanks to Len & Bryn Weckel for coordinating the soup kitchen activities, and the members volunteering for food preparation and serving meals. Also, we attended Alvernia University Chapel for our Annual Lady of Knock Mass on August 24th, many thanks to Rather Bowman for performing the Mass. Afterward we traveled to Chef Alan's for dinner. Both events were well attended.

Also, I cannot stress the need for new members, and the participation and increased attendance from current members. Our division is in great need of new members for continuance of our great charitable deeds within the community, and the operations of business functions within the organization. Obviously, the success of our future activities is dependent on membership turnout, and willingness to volunteer time and effort when the events occur. Elsewhere in this newsletter please find an Application for membership for your use.

At the last meeting, we discussed the possibilities of changing the day of meetings from a Friday and staging the meetings at another meeting place. If someone would have an opinion on how to improve our meetings for attendance, and a suitable meeting location as well as what day of the week to meet, please advise either myself or a fellow officer what change would better our meeting attendance.

The holidays are fast approaching and the annual Christmas party was brought up in the last meeting. We are going to plan for a Christmas Party and picked a date of Sunday, December 15th. As mentioned earlier, perhaps we could combine our 40th Anniversary party with our Christmas Party? If anyone has a specific restaurant in mind to stage this party and would like to do a gift exchange, please advise us before the next meeting. In closing, please remember and pray for the souls and family members of our most recent deceased division members.

Also, I want to thank all members of our Division for all they do to contribute their time and effort to represent our Division and share our Irish culture.

Hopefully, everyone has a wonderful fall! Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, Kerry Williard, President

MEMBERSHIP

All members are reminded that membership fees for 2019 are now being accepted. Dues remain at \$25.00 per year. You can forward dues to:

St. Brendan's Division #1
P.O. Box 14961
Reading, Pa. 19612-4961

Please make all checks payable to Berks Div. 1, AOH. For information on dues payments call Joe McCarthy at 610-927-5224. All inquiries will be held in strictest confidence.

We ask all members to keep us informed of any changes in mailing addresses or phone numbers. The National Secretary is initiating a new record keeping format in that the Financial Secretary must maintain a spreadsheet of all members and each year when we submit annual report outlining division activities, an accurate record of division membership will be submitted. From this report the new membership cards will be printed, and names and addresses will be submitted to the National Hibernian Digest to maintain their accurate mailing list. In addition, where possible they request regular updates on email addresses and cell phone numbers. By now some of you may have already received a message from the National President. In plain words the AOH is joining the Cyber World to speed up processing and dispensing information.

NOMINATION & ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 2020

We encourage all members interested in serving as officers to our division to consider running for an office. It is good for the continued success of our Order to have new members get involved in the operation of our division and to breathe new life into our planning as we prepare for the future.

During our October meeting, Nominations for all divisional Officers will be accepted. Any member who has been a member for at least one year may be nominated for the office of Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Standing Committee Chair, Sentinel or Marshal. To qualify for the office of President, candidates must have completed their Shamrock and Round Tower degrees prior to nomination.

Elections will be held during November's meeting and newly elected officers will be installed during the January 2020 meeting.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Prayers are requested for following person who have requested to be listed in our prayer list. Included in the list are members, family of members and members of the LAOH. They are: Craig Wolfe, James Caherly, Deacon John Murphy, Henry and Eleanor Trexler, Joseph Riley, Henry & Rita Mullen, Patricia Garrigan, Kathleen Fink, Julie Miller, Mary Walsh, Mary Collins, Mary DeMarco, Michael Riley, Charles Fritz, Dennis Mulligan, Doug Carlson, Terry Morrison, and all family members and members in need of prayers.

Special prayers are asked for the following deceased members and their families: Kathleen Creed, Lee Garrigan, Joseph M. McGee, Jack McGuire, Alfred Recke, Clare Flannery and all the deceased members of the AOH-LAOH of Berks County.

COMING EVENTS

10/11/19 General Membership Meeting - Reading
Sokol's - 7:30pm

11/03/19 Daylight Saving Time Ends
 11/08/19 General Membership Meeting - Reading
 Sokol's - 7:30pm
 11/11/19 Veteran's Day - Thank a Vet today!
 11/28/19 Thanksgiving Day
 12/08/19 Immaculate Conception of Blessed Mother
 12/13/19 General Membership Meeting - Reading
 Sokols - 7:30pm
 12/25/19 MERRY CHRISTMAS
 01/01/20 HAPPY NEW YEAR
 01/10/20 General Membership Meeting TBA
 02/14/20 General Membership Meeting TBA
 /Valentine's Day
 02/26/20 Ash Wednesday
 03/13/20 General Membership Meeting TBA
 03/17/20 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

The names of members who are celebrating birthdays during the next two months are listed below. We have acquired the information from our membership applications, so if there are any corrections or errors please advise.

OCTOBER

6th Joseph P. George
 18th James C. Burns
 25th Fr. William Campion
 12th Msgr. Francis Schoenauer

NOVEMBER

5th Patrick T. Barrett
 11th Henry Trexler
 30th Leonard J. Weckel
 27th Robert J. Houlihan

DECEMBER

3RD Timothy Antosy
 6th Henry J. Mullen
 7th Joseph M.P. Marnell
 8th Michael T. McFadden
 13th Patrick H. Donahue
 19th James E. Miller, JR
 20th Kerry Willard
 28th John J. Connors

DID YOU KNOW?

From an article by National Historian Mike McCormack

History is written by the victors and is not always as portrayed; one example of that is Thanksgiving. According to the story that surrounds it, heroic Christian pilgrims arrived in America and shared what little they had with their poor Indian neighbors in thanksgiving for their successful arrival. The truth of the matter is that the Indians weren't poor, and if they hadn't shared their bounty with the pilgrims, the pilgrims might not have survived. After all, yams, corn, and the rest were all Indian dietary staples and the turkey was an American bird. It was Chief Massasoit and the Wampanoag tribe of Native Americans who taught the newcomers how to plant, grow, and harvest the strange foods they hadn't seen before. As for the feast, it was nothing new; it was in thanks for a bountiful harvest and harvest festivals had been celebrated in many lands for centuries before the pilgrims ever buttered their first corn

on the cob. But who were these Pilgrims, and why do they get the credit for the "first" Thanksgiving?

The American Heritage Dictionary defines pilgrim as one who makes a journey for a religious purpose. The religious purpose of these Pilgrims' was to escape persecution, for they were English Protestants who advocated a strict discipline according to their own interpretation of the bible. Their aim was to reconstruct and purify the church. They were tolerated for their anti-Catholic bias, but when they demanded reforms to purify the Church of England as well, they were hunted out of the country!

We use the term Pilgrims (with a capital "P") to identify the group who arrived at Plymouth in 1620 on the Mayflower, and Puritans to define the larger group, led by John Winthrop, who arrived ten years later and started the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Both were related by the same convictions to purify the church, yet they differed among themselves about the degree of changes. Some who stayed in England became Presbyterian, already strong in Scotland. Those who came to Plymouth considered the congregation the ultimate authority while those who came to Massachusetts considered the hierarchy elected by the congregation, as the ultimate authority. Despite these minor differences they all had one thing in common: they were among the most unreasonable and bigoted groups in history. In 1649 - less than 30 years later - the Puritans who remained in England successfully fomented a civil-war under Oliver Cromwell, beheaded King Charles, and then turned their army of zealots toward Ireland and the suppression of Irish Catholics.

In Ireland, the Puritan Army began its campaign at Drogheda where they cut down its 3000 defenders to a man. What followed was to become the trademark of Cromwell's victories across Ireland. These God-fearing Christians indiscriminately slaughtered the defenseless civilian population - for five days men, women, and children were hunted down and butchered. He recorded that "The enemy were about 3,000 strong in the town. I believe we have put to the sword the whole number . . . In this very place (Saint Peter's Church) a thousand of them were put to the sword, fleeing thither for safety". On October 2nd, 1649, Cromwell declared a national day of thanksgiving in celebration of the deed at Drogheda - a depraved application of the term.

In America in 1675, the sons of the Pilgrims who dined with the Wampanoag tribe that harvest day in 1621, defeated them in a war over land. Meanwhile, Ann Glover who had fled the turmoil in Ireland to reside in the Puritan colony in Massachusetts was overheard saying her evening prayers in her native Gaelic. Accused by Cotton Mather of conversing with the devil, she confessed to being an Irish Catholic. She was told to denounce her religion, refused and was hanged as a witch. The year was 1688 - 39 years after the thanksgiving at Drogheda, and 68 years after the Puritan's thanksgiving in America. The idea of giving thanks to God remains a

fundamental duty, be it for a bountiful harvest or a blessing bestowed, but the cruel, un-compromising, witch-burning Puritans of the 1600s are hardly the example to hold up to our children as role models.

Let us instead look to America's first official national day of thanksgiving proclaimed by the Continental Congress on December 18, 1777, "as a day of solemn thanksgiving and praise" for the "signal success" of our forces at the Battle of Saratoga - a turning point in the struggle for independence. And the turning point in that battle, by the way, was the killing of General Frazier by Irish marksman, Timothy Murphy of General Charles (Co. Meath) Thompson's Pennsylvania Rifle Battalion.

In 1846 annual days of thanksgiving were being celebrated in at least 14 states when author Sarah Hale began a campaign to make the last Thursday in November a national day of thanksgiving. In the 1860s, she wrote to every state and territorial governor urging the idea as one of national unity in a country torn by civil war. On October 3, 1863, President Lincoln finally declared the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day bringing together all the past elements of the harvest festival, national patriotism, and religious observance.

This is the real story behind Thanksgiving Day and the message it should convey is one of thanks for all our blessings, both civil and religious. This year, instead of just food and football, let us remember to give thanks to the Almighty for the blessings bestowed on our families and on this great nation . . . and forget the guys in the funny hats with buckles on their shoes!

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

All members are reminded that applications for college scholarship awards will be accepted for our annual Daniel J. Flannery Scholarship award for 2020. Applications can be requested in writing from our Division President. Please mail requests to:

Ancient Order of Hibernians
P.O. Box 14961 Reading, PA 19612-4961

The Scholarship is open to all children and/or grandchildren of members in good standing for students who will enter their freshmen year of college in August/September 2020. To be eligible, candidates must be enrolled in a College or University whose curriculum is not in conflict with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and the A.O.H. in America. Applications will be accepted through St. Patrick's Day 3/17/20 and must include a brief essay on "What it means to be an Irish Catholic in today's society!"

IRISH HISTORY

By Mike McCormack AOH National Historian

On October 2, 1600 a major confrontation took place in Ireland that revealed to the English that the Irish were no

longer to be taken for granted as military opponents. Though Anglo Normans controlled the south of Ireland, the major clans of the north remained unconquered and Elizabeth was determined to resolve that issue. The English captured Enniskillen, Hugh Maguire's fort at the Gap of the North - one of two main entries to Ulster. Hugh O'Donnell, Chieftain of Tyrconnell, answered his call for aid, and the two Hugh's swept across Ulster driving the English before them; they broke through the Gap of the North, and recaptured Enniskillen, then routed the English at the Ford of the Biscuits. They next moved on Fort Monaghan, and the English sent reinforcements. They met at the Battle of Clontibert, where the English saw, for the first time, the Red Hand of O'Neill among the clan standards. Clan O'Neill had taken the field, and at their head was Hugh O'Neill, England's trusted Earl of Tyrone. He had announced at last, destroying an English company in the bargain. The last remaining Irish War Chieftains, the three Hugh's of Ulster were now a national force with O'Neill commanding; he had 1,000 horse-soldiers and 7,000 foot-soldiers at a time when the entire English force in Ireland was less than 2,000. In 1596, O'Neill swept through the north and each blow was echoed by O'Donnell and Maguire in the west. The Nine Years War had begun.

In September of 1600, Charles Blount, Lord Mountjoy, was marching on Tyrone with 3,000 foot and 300 horse, a sizable army for those times in Ireland. There were a number of Scottish allies in the army of Hugh O'Donnell; known as 'Redshanks' for their practice of going barelegged. Hugh O'Neill had been brought up in England in their hope of grooming a loyal Irish leader, but the plan backfired. Now, he knew English battle tactics as well as having modern firearms in his army. He could fight the English on more even terms than earlier Irish armies. Englishmen of the time reported the Irish were good shots and Sir Walter Raleigh said the Irish had muskets, '*good as England hath.*'

Forty miles south of Dungannon, O'Neill headquarters in Tyrone, lay Moyry Pass - the second Gap of the North. It had impassable bogs on either side and here O'Neill would try to stop the advance of Mountjoy's army. Mountjoy was a formidable opponent, but this fight would be on ground of O'Neill's choosing. On Sept. 20th Mountjoy's army reached the hill of Faughart, half a mile south of Moyry pass. A small advance was sent out by the English and discovered that O'Neill's army was not only in the pass, but that they had built fortifications across it. They obviously meant to stand and fight, rather than depend on the usual Irish hit and run tactics. Bad weather slowed English preparations and only light skirmishing was done.

Finally, on the 2nd of October, the two armies came to serious blows. Mountjoy was at first successful, driving O'Neill's men from their first two lines of barricades. But Mountjoy could see that they would never breach the third one that day and rather than divide his force to hold his gains, he retreated to where he had started. The English

suffered 160 casualties during the battle. Mountjoy had failed in frontal assaults on the strong Irish defenses so he tried a flank attack. On the 5th he sent 3 regiments of foot and 100 horse to try the right flank of the Irish defenses. They had to scale some high ground to get at the Irish line but did so and drove them back some distance before the Irish counterattacked and stopped their advance. All the English troops on the heights were soon driven back down join the retreating forces from a simultaneous frontal attack near the bottom of the heights which had also failed.

After two weeks in front of the pass, Mountjoy was no closer to getting through it than he was on Sept. 20th. On October 9th, Mountjoy retreated south to Dundalk for reinforcements. He sent Sir Samuel Bagenal's regiment toward Carlingford, a position from which he might move around to O'Neill's rear. But, on October 11th, O'Neill abandoned the pass and moved north to avoid being caught in a trap, satisfied that he had beaten a powerful foe.

Mountjoy's men soon moved through the pass and after seeing the Irish defensive works, one said, *'they could not have been won without the great hazard of the whole army.'* in spite of getting through the pass, Mountjoy found it was too late to mount an attack on O'Neill's stronghold in Tyrone, so he built a fort at Mount Norris, between Newry and Armagh, and withdrew to Dundalk with the bulk of his army to send for reinforcements. O'Neill did not let him do so unscathed, however; attacking him with a small force near Carlingford Lough in the usual hit and run manner of Irish armies and inflicting serious casualties on Mountjoy once again.

By holding of Moyry pass in a stand-up fight and attacking Mountjoy again on his retreat, O'Neill had shown that the men of Ulster were able to resist all that England had to bring against them, and he retained full control of the north for another year. But the end was on the horizon for The Three Hugh's. Little more than a year later, the disastrous battle of Kinsale broke the Irish resistance and led to the 'Flight of the Earls'.

December is a memorable month for the Irish for it marks the celebration of the birth of Christ. Yet, there are other dates in December that are also significant. For example, it was on December 24, 1601, that the most significant battle in Irish history was joined. It was the Battle of Kinsale. It put an end to Ireland's hopes for independence at the time and destroyed Gaelic aristocracy forever. And it was all due to a tactical blunder.

The conflict known as the Nine Years War was waged for a variety of reasons. The Irish wanted independence from English rule, the English wished to further increase their lands in Ireland and the Crown had been attempting the suppression of Roman Catholicism since Henry VIII broke with Rome in December 1538. In 1587, Spain threatened to invade England and Elizabeth knew she could not muster her

full forces against the Spanish while the threat of rebellion existed in Ireland. She controlled much of the south, but the major clans of the north remained uncertain. The largest of those clans were the O'Neill's whom it was hoped were loyal since their leader, Hugh, had been raised by the Crown, schooled in English values, and returned as Earl of Tyrone. The next largest were the O'Donnell's of Donegal and to ensure their behavior, 15-year old Red Hugh - heir to its Chieftaincy, was kidnapped and held hostage in Dublin Castle. The third largest clan were The Maguires and a force would be sent against their clan seat at Enniskillen. What the English didn't realize was that O'Neill's English training had taught him English duplicity and treachery and he had been building alliances throughout the land to ensure his security.

On December 25, 1591, Red Hugh O'Donnell escaped from Dublin Castle and early in the new year he was brought to O'Neill who escorted him to Hugh Maguire, and safe passage home to Donegal and a clan now anxious for revenge. In May 1593, standing on the Rock of Doonee, the inaugural stone of the Clan O'Donnell, he received a title higher than any foreigner could give - the ancient title of The O'Donnell, Chief of Donegal. The Maguire, Chief of Fermanagh was the first of the northern chieftains to take up arms when the English captured Enniskillen, his fort at the Gap of the North - the main access to Ulster.

O'Donnell answered Maguire's call for aid, and the two Hugh's swept across Ulster driving the English before them; they broke through the Gap of the North and recaptured Enniskillen. They next moved on Fort Monaghan, and the English sent reinforcements. They met at the Battle of Clontibert, where the English saw, for the first time, the Red Hand of O'Neill among the clan standards. Hugh O'Neill had cast off the title, Earl of Tyrone, and took the ancient title of The O'Neill, Chief of Tir Owen; the northern alliance of the three Hugh's was complete with England's trusted Earl of Tyrone at their head. The last remaining Irish War Chieftains were now a national force with O'Neill commanding 1,000 horse-soldiers and 7,000 foot-soldiers at a time when the entire English force in Ireland was less than 2,000. In 1596, O'Neill swept through the north and each blow was echoed by O'Donnell and Maguire in the west.

In 1598, a reinforced English army of 4000 foot and 300 horse met the combined Irish forces at the Yellow Ford on the Callan River in Armagh. What happened next had never happened before in Ireland. On August 14, the English were outmaneuvered, outgunned, outfought, and out-generated. It was not the undisciplined hit and run style of the Irish and the recognition of Irish supremacy caused panic among the English troops. The Battle of Yellow Ford resulted in 3,000 English casualties and the loss of all arms and supplies. More than a victory, it was a national triumph. The Queen's army had been destroyed, the north was O'Neill's, and all Ireland awaited his army of

liberation. As Berlith wrote in **The Twilight Lords**, "The defeat was the greatest military disaster of Elizabeth's reign. She was not on the brink of losing Ireland after Yellow Ford; she had lost it and would now spend a fortune to regain it." In 1599, Elizabeth sent Lord Essex with 16,000 troops to destroy O'Neil. In Louth, the armies met and O'Neill called for a parlay. The two leaders met and, though what was said will never be known, when it was over Essex and his army returned to Dublin. In defiance of Elizabeth, he had granted a truce! She accused him of cowardice, as Essex returned to England to lead a rebellion against her. Had O'Neill proposed such a plan to avoid conflict with Elizabeth, who was now an old woman? He had already negotiated with her successor, James Stuart of Scotland, and may have offered Essex a position in the new reign in return for a truce until Elizabeth's death.

By 1600, O'Neill had won Ireland back, though there was still a small English presence; the only obstacle between him and independence was an old woman who would not die. As Essex was sent the Tower, Elizabeth poured men and money into Ireland until she found the leader she sought. He was Lord Mountjoy, a commander whose campaign has never been forgotten as all things Irish - crops, homes, and cattle - were wantonly destroyed. In September 1601, the long-awaited Spanish aid O'Neill had requested arrived, but they were too few and landed at the wrong place: Kinsale in Co. Cork. Mountjoy bottled them up and O'Neill raced his tired forces south to relieve them. The Spanish Commander unwisely attacked on December 24, drawing O'Neill into the battle prematurely. The mistake cost Ireland the victory which would have left her independent. The Maguire was killed, The O'Neill had suffered his first defeat and the new Irish nation was dealt a mortal blow in its infancy. Red Hugh went to Spain to seek more aid and O'Neill kept up guerilla raids hoping to outlive the aging Elizabeth. Offers of leniency were refused by O'Neill, but when he learned that O'Donnell had been poisoned in Spain, the greatest Irish Chieftain of his age came to Mellifont Abbey on March 30, 1603 and surrendered to Lord Mountjoy. He pledged obedience on April 3 and after the ceremony of submission was told Elizabeth of England had died on March 24th. Catholic James Stuart of Scotland was now James I of England. O'Neill had won and never knew it. He had outlasted the Queen only to be tricked into submission by Lord Mountjoy before agreements with James could be ratified. Had the December Battle of Kinsale been won, Ireland would have been free. Instead, the only thing in her immediate future was the Flight of the Earls and the destruction of Ireland's Gaelic system of sovereignty.

ST. BRENDAN CHRISTMAS PARTY

Plans are underway for our Annual Christmas Party and we would hope our members will attempt to join us for this

occasion. Normally based on past experience, we have about 40 persons attending our Christmas Party each year and since we will also close out our 40th Anniversary celebration at this time, the thought arose about having a joint celebration. Given the circumstance of combining our Anniversary Celebration & Christmas Parties we would hope for an increase in attendance. What better way to end the year than with fellow Hibernians!

In order to plan for such an occasion, we will definitely need to know how many members, and their families, are willing to participate. Please let me know of your intent a.s.a.p.? The event will be held on a Sunday afternoon in mid-December.

AOH CHRISTMAS APPEAL & "10" CLUB AOH

Each year we participate in the Annual "10 Club" sponsored by the Freedom for All Ireland Committee of the AOH in America. Our chairperson, Jim Caherly asks each member to donate \$10, which is used to support the families and activities in the North of Ireland. Naturally the monies are used to make Christmas a little brighter for needy families, as well as charitable giving to various organizations in Northern Ireland who are working to maintain peace and stability in that part of Ireland. Please consider sharing with us this year when asked! Remember the third principle of our preamble in the Constitution & By Laws state the purpose of our organization is "to aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish People for complete and absolute independence, promoting peace with justice and unity for all Ireland."

All donations are greatly appreciated and should be mailed to Jim Caherly at 1530 Cleveland Ave. Wyomissing, PA 19610; please make all checks payable to AOH Div. #1 Berks.

MEETINGS

All meetings of St. Brendan's Division #1 are held on the second Friday of each month at the Reading Sokol's 411 Crestmont St. Reading at 7:30pm. However, as previously stated the division is taking a survey of our members to determine how we can build up attendance at meetings. One of the questions to consider would be to change our meeting night to a Wednesday or Thursday, as well as accepting suggestions on new meeting sites. All suggestions or recommendations would be greatly appreciated.

DIVISION FUNDRAISER

In order to maintain our low membership fees, your Officers have established a fundraising method that does not involve asking our members to assist in physically supporting our division. Rather we run monthly calendars three times annually; April, June and November with the proceeds used to fund our charitable and operating budgets for the year.

Presently we have a calendar for the month of November. The calendar sells for \$10 and each contains four three-digit numbers and is based on the exact three-digit drawing for that day's daily lottery draw (no boxing). Although we don't ask members to physically support this effort, we do need help in selling the calendars. Anyone interested should contact Joseph McCarthy at 610-927-5224.

OUR LADY OF KNOCK MASS

This year's Annual Mass to honor our Blessed Mother "Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland" was held at the McGlenn Chapel in Alvernia College at 4pm Mass on Saturday August 24, 2019. Members of the AOH -LAOH of Berks County were attendance for the observation of Mass to honor "our Lady of Knock" then participated in a dinner a Chef Alan's in West Reading.



VETERAN'S DAY



Please remember that Veteran's Day is just around the corner. If it wasn't for their sacrifices, we couldn't enjoy the freedoms we so

freely take for granted. Please pray for those who never returned and lie in foreign lands.

As a proud member of the American Legion much is owed to the men and women who sacrificed everything to defeat evil and should never be forgotten. Strengthened by their courage, heartened by their valor, and borne by their memory, let us stand for the ideals for which they lived and died.

What began as a proud force of 16 million American volunteer citizens who heroically defended our nation against the greatest threat to freedom the world has ever known, has now dwindled to a little more than 400,000. When we awake tomorrow, another 372 of our surviving WW11 veterans will join their brethren who have perished

on the battlefield or in our own communities. It is feared that in ten short years they will all be gone. It is the mission of the American Legion that they will not be forgotten.

What is a veteran? Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye. Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg - or perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity. Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badges or emblem. You can't tell a vet just by looking.

Who is a vet? He/she is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia, sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel. He could be the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, but whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

So, remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say, "Thank You." That's all most people need, and in most cases, it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded. Two little words that mean so much, "Thank You".

SEASON'S GREETINGS

On behalf of the officers and members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians of Berks County, we extend our heartfelt wish for a Blessed and Joyous Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

FROM ALL OF US, TO ALL OF YOU!



Beannachtaí na Nollaig agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir! Bí áthasach agus grámhar i do cheiliúradh!
(The Blessings of Christmas and A Happy New Year to all of you! Celebrate with love and joy!)

NEW MEMBERS

The Officers and members of St. Brendan's Division #1 are proud to announce the initiation of two new members during our October 11th meeting.

Céad Míle Fáilte to our newest members!

**Kevin Wunder
Cormick Costello**

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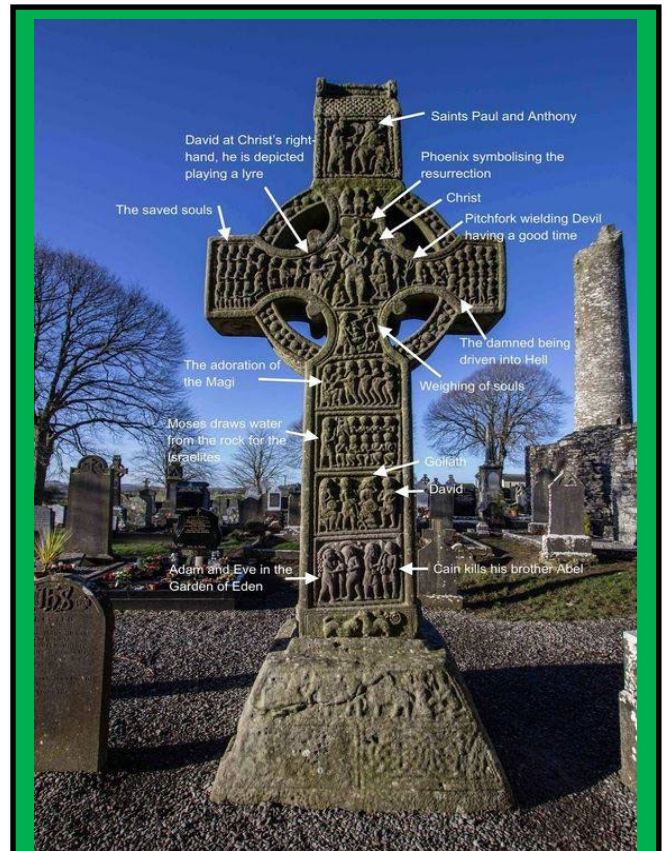
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PRAYER TO ST. BRIGID

SAINT BRIGID, YOU WERE A
WOMAN OF PEACE.
YOU BROUGHT HARMONY
WHERE THERE WAS CONFLICT.
YOU BROUGHT LIGHT
TO THE DARKNESS.
YOU BROUGHT HOPE
TO THE DOWNCAST.
MAY THE MANTLE OF
YOUR PEACE COVER THOSE WHO
ARE TROUBLED AND ANXIOUS,
AND MAY PEACE BE
FIRMLY ROOTED IN OUR HEARTS
AND IN OUR WORLD.
INSPIRE US TO ACT JUSTLY
AND TO REVERENCE
ALL GOD HAS MADE.
BRIGID YOU WERE A VOICE
FOR THE WOUNDED
AND THE WEARY.
STRENGTHEN WHAT IS WEAK
WITHIN US.
CALM US INTO A QUIETNESS
THAT HEALS AND LISTENS.
MAY WE GROW EACH DAY INTO
GREATER WHOLENESS
IN MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT.
AMEN.

The Society of Saints

If you would like to become a member of the St. Brendan's Division #1, Berks County please complete and sign this application and enclose your check in the amount of \$30.00, payable to AOH Div. #1 Berks. Present it to any officer, or forward it to:

AOH DIV.#1, P.O. BOX 14961, Reading Pa. 19612-4961. Website Address: www.berkscoaoh.com



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA, INC.

I hereby apply for admission into the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and agree that my reception and continuance in said Order shall depend upon the truthfulness of my answers to the questions which are hereto attached, which answers are made by me for the purpose of obtaining admission into the Order.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

My name is _____ Occupation _____

Age _ D.O.B: Month__ Day__ Year ___ Mother's Maiden Name? _____

Are you a Practicing Roman Catholic? YES ___ NO ___

Have you complied with your religious duties within the past twelve months? Yes _____ NO _____

Name of your parish? _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Do you belong to any Society to which the Catholic Church is opposed? Yes _____ No _____

Residence: Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Address _____

Phone No. Home (____) _____ Business (____) _____ e-mail Address _____

Military Service: Date of service _____ Branch of Service _____

Are you Irish by birth _____ or descent _____ or marriage (Check which)

Were you ever a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, In America?

If so, in what City, Town and State? _____

What was your membership number in that Division? _____

What was the cause of your withdrawal? _____

Date of your withdrawal? _____

I do solemnly pledge my sacred word and honor that the answers I have given to the above questions are true. (signature) _____ Dated this _____ day of _____ 20__

Applicant do not write below this line, this will be completed by the AOH

NAME OF SPONSOR/RECRUITER _____ DATE OF APPLICATION _____

REPORT ON APPLICATION

The Investigation Committee, to whom was referred the application of _____ respectfully reports that we have investigated the qualifications of said applicant for membership in the Ancient Order of Hibernians In America, and recommend him. _____, Do not recommend him _____

Signature _____ Investigation Committee member(s)

DIVISION PRESIDENT'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this application has been read by me at a regular meeting and that the applicant has been elected by the membership of Division on the _____ day of _____, 20__ Signed _____, President

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the initiation fee of \$ _____ has been paid on the _____ day of _____, 20__

Signed _____ Financial Secretary MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____