

Commodore John Barry Division # 1

Ancient Order of Hibernians of Saratoga

Notes From Your Chieftain

Every so often, a hallmark event occurs in an organization that should cause its membership to recognize from whence it has come and where it should be going.

For those of you who were not able to attend, it was NOT the March Family Feis or stroll down Albany's St. Patrick's day events ; NOR was it the summer parades or the picnics; NOR was it the Half way to St. Paddy's annual Golf Tourney; NOR was it the annual rededication of the Murphy Monument. The event was something far greater that each of us can still, and should, partake and enjoy.

Brother Mark Phillips has kept guard over documents belonging to our Division from the 1890's and early 1900's. They have been stored in the dark recesses of the William J. Burke Funeral Home. In painstaking and precise penmanship, to satisfy even the most particular Mother Superior, the ledgers, documents and articles reveal much of this Division's early history. They portray a fun-loving group of Irishmen who basked in their reverie and hosted a national convention. They show diligence to keep our Catholic responsibility in the fore. The journal entries reflect the sad times of some members who received small

sums of AOH brotherly charity when out of work or attempting to best manage illness. (I found a disbursement to one Susan Cummings for a few dollars...how scary is that in my ex's name and on the same date as my birth, 40 years earlier ?). They reflect the ancestral names of many of our current Brethren. They show the pursuit of the Division in the dream to acquire land and money for the dedication of the original Murphy monument.

They are a treasure....our treasure. Come to the November and December meetings to share in their revela-

tions of where we have been and consideration of where we should continue to go.

Remember to cast your vote on November 3rd for our proposed Slate of Officers, and just as important get out to VOTE in your communities on November 8th!



2005 Elections

Elections are upon us! We have an annual obligation to vest officers with the responsibility of managing our Division. All of us have the opportunity to nominate brothers in good standing, right up to the election at the November 3rd Monthly meeting. The fol-

lowing candidates accepted nominations at the October meeting:
President: Dave Cummings;
Vice President: Steve Curran;
Recording Secretary: Rob Przedwiecki;
Treasurer: Chris Millis;
Financial Secretary: Chris

Bergman;
Marshall: Brian Murphy;
Sentinel: Jeff Carney and Dick Nelson;
Standing Committee Chair, Bob O'Rourke.
You must be in attendance and have paid current dues to vote on November 3rd. Nominations

always remain open until the actual election occurs if you wish to participate. Installation of officers will be at the K of C at our December 1st monthly Division meeting

Timothy Murphy Monument Rededication

Saratoga Battlefield

On October 9th, 2005 a collection of Hibernians and guests gathered at the Saratoga National Battlefield to recognize the Irish efforts in the Battle of Saratoga. Lead by Chris Templin and Dave Cummings we heard of the great efforts that the combatants went through to ensure that the British would never make it to Albany nor New York City from the North.



The AOH was responsible for erecting and dedicating a monument to Murphy almost 100 years ago. We are proud to go back each year around the time of the battle and recognize the efforts put forth by the Irish that helped develop what we have today.

With questionable weather,

Chris and Dave put together an impressive presentation inside the Visitor's Center. We were regaled in tales from the Battle and the histories of the individuals involved. Everyone should be proud to be involved in these festivities.

Later as the weather cleared we made our way to the monument to Timothy Murphy which is near stop 5 on the battlefield path. There, a wreath of flowers was laid in front of the monument as it was flanked by members and guests dressed in authentic period garb.

We've been honored to have the full co-operation of the staff of The Saratoga Battlefield and National Parks in

our trips to the monument.

There are links to the story of Timothy Murphy on our website for those who would like to learn more about his importance in our struggle for freedom from England.

We all have our landmarks and this is one for our division.

This is an annual event and everyone is encouraged to attend to make this part of their October schedules.

The particular Irishman we recognize on an annual basis is Timothy Murphy who is said to have inflicted the fatal shot that downed General Frazer and set the battle into the hands of the colonials.



Canonization in the Roman Catholic Church

Some things to think about during the month that starts with the Feast of All Saints Day

Canonization is the process of declaring someone a saint and involves proving that a candidate has lived in such a way that he or she is worthy of sainthood. It is currently practiced by the Roman Catholic Church and its appendages, by the Eastern Orthodox Church, and by the Oriental Orthodox Churches.

The veneration of saints has been a common practice since the early church, but it was only gradually that the identification of who is a saint came to be regulated by bishops and pope. Beginning in the 10th century, the Roman Church asserted that no one could be venerated as a saint without its approval. The first recorded canonization of a saint is Ulrich of Augsburg by Pope John XV in 993.

The process of canonization became a part of canon law in the Roman Catholic Church and developed into a long and complex process. This process was simplified by the Apostolic Constitution *Divinus Perfectionis Magister* of January 25, 1983.

The Significance of Canonization

The primary purpose of canonization is to officially authorize veneration and intercession of a particular saint. The investigation process that precedes canonization seeks primarily to ensure that the person is in heaven and God is working through him or her.

Being canonized as a saint means that:

The saint's name is added to the catalogue of saints (meaning that veneration is authorized)

The saint is invoked in public prayers

Churches may be dedicated in the saint's memory

The Mass can be offered in the saint's honor

Feast days are celebrated in the saint's memory

Images of the saint are made in which his or her head is surrounded by a halo

The saint's relics (remains) are enclosed in vessels and publicly honored.

The process begins at the diocesan level, with the bishop giving permission to open an investigation of the virtues of the person who is suspected of having been a saint. This investigation may not open until permission is given by the Vatican, and not sooner than five years after the death of the person being investigated. However, the pope has the authority to waive this waiting period, as was done for Mother Teresa by Pope John Paul II as well as John Paul II by his successor, Benedict XVI. When sufficient information has been gathered, the subject of the investigation is called a "Servant of God", and the process is transferred to the Roman Curia—the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints—where it is assigned a postulator, whose task is to gather all information about the life of the Servant of God. When enough information has been gathered, the congregation will recommend to the pope that he make a proclamation of the Servant of God's heroic virtue, which entitles him or her to receive the title "Venerable". A Venerable has as of yet no feast day, but prayer cards may be printed to encourage the faithful to pray for a miracle wrought by his or her intercession.

The next step depends on whether the Venerable is a martyr. For a martyr, the pope has only to make a declaration of martyr-

dom, which then allows beatification, yielding the title "Blessed" and a feast day in the Blessed's home diocese and perhaps some other local calendars. If the Venerable was not a martyr, it must be proven that a miracle has taken place by his or her intercession. Today, these miracles are almost always miraculous cures, as these are the easiest to establish based on the Roman Catholic Church's requirements for a "miracle." (The patient was sick, there was no known cure for the ailment, prayers were directed to the Venerable, the patient was cured, and doctors cannot explain it.)

To pass from Blessed to Saint, one (more) miracle is necessary. A saint's feast day is considered universal, and may be celebrated anywhere within the Catholic church, although it may not appear on the general calendar.

In the case of persons that common usage has called saints from "time immemorial" (in practice, since before 1500 or so), the Church may carry out a "confirmation of cultus", which is much simpler. For example, Saint Hermann Joseph had his veneration confirmed by Pope John Paul II.



P.O. Box 205
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866

Phone: 518-438-6853
Email: ckelly2@nycap.rr.com



WWW.SARATOGAAOH.COM

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is a fraternal order of men of the Catholic faith and born in Ireland or of Irish heritage who are residents of the US. The Saratoga Division meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Pine Ave in Saratoga Springs, NY. Information about the Order and our division can be found at our website at www.saratogaaoh.com. Please feel free to contact us regarding membership.

Odds and Ends

Exec Board Meeting

The Executive Board met this past week and all division business will be discussed at the upcoming meeting on Thursday.

Pagan Bonfire

Dave Cummings opens his home to all members and friends in December to commemorate a pagan bonfire. This will be on December 18th this year at 6PM until whenever the fire burns out. This is a tradition from days long ago and commemorates the Winter Solstice. Much of the Irish history which is still recognized today comes from the Pagan days. Dave tries to draw us together a recognition of the things that brought Ireland together. Please try to attend.

Division Elections

As stated before in this newsletter all division elections of officers will take place at the November meeting. Nominations remain open until the actual election.

FFAI Party in Albany

On November 12th the Albany division will be having a celebration with proceeds going to the FFAI Christmas campaign which goes to help those in Northern Ireland. It benefits families and schools that need the help due to family members improperly jailed or shut down by British military. The Freedom for All Ireland campaign has regularly given \$100,000's to the families that need the extra help.

This year the celebration will honor Brendan Moore who has been a very long FFAI chairman in NY and National AOH. He is also a National Director. He has fought long and hard for the AOH's efforts to free Northern Ireland.

The evening only costs \$20 and promises to be a good time. There are two Irish bands lined up as well as step dancers..

All proceeds go to the Christmas fund. Last year Albany alone donated over \$15,000 to the fund. This is something that we should support—not for our fellow brothers but for our fellow Irishmen. Please consider attending at the Albany Hall.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.