

Commodore John Barry Division # 1

Ancient Order of Hibernians of Saratoga

Everyone's Invited

July 22 Division Picnic. As in the past Rob is hosting the Division picnic at his home on Saturday July 22. This is a family event and everyone should try to make this annual party. Rob is supplying the beverages and the members are asked to bring a covered dish to share. Horseshoes, volleyball, and bonfire are always on the schedule.

July 28 & 29 Dick Nelson strongly suggest you attend The Great American Irish Festival at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds. The day and a half festival provides some fine music including Cathie Ryan, the Glengarry Bhoys, Natalie MacMaster and our own The McKrells. For more information check the web site at

www.greatamericanirishfestival.com.

Aug. 3 Monthly meeting. 7pm at the K of C. Please try to bring an application for a new member so we can have a

big group to enter at the Sept. meeting.

Aug. 6 Turning Point Parade. again we will march in this parade in Schuylerville, sign up and more at the Aug. meeting.

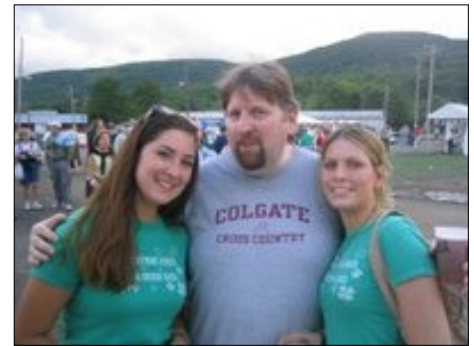
Sept. 1 Day at the Track. According to NYRA on Sept.1 they are going to try twilight racing so the first race will go off at 3pm. This might be a fun way to start off your Labor Day weekend.

Join your brothers as they throw away their money on the ponies.

Sept. 7 Monthly meeting.

Sept. 16 Irish 2000 This annual festival bills itself as the largest one day festival in the country. It's a great time every year. See their web page at

www.irishfest.com



Steve Enjoys Irish 2000

Sept. 24 Golf Outing. Brother Paul Maguire is putting together another golf outing for the division. A day of fun as always.



Order of the Shamrock

The Order of the Shamrock is a very important step in the progression of Hibernian membership. It is necessary to receive the Order prior to attending Major Degrees.

Since Major Degrees will be conferred on October 1st at the Schenectady Hall the division will be conducting the Order of the Shamrock at the September 7 meeting in Saratoga. Please respect the importance of this ceremony and wear

coat and tie or kilts to the September meeting.

More details on the Major Degree will be relayed as they become available and all of those eligible will be contacted.

AOH Opposes U.S.—U.K. Extradition Treaty

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America has come out strongly in opposition of the US-UK Extradition Treaty which will come before a Senate committee in July of 2006.

I have read over and studied the proposed new extradition treaty between the United Kingdom and the United States. As a voter, I am very concerned about its contents and its impact on American civil rights and civil liberties.

One of the many flaws in this new British – American extradition treaty is that it weakens, if not eliminates, the time honored extradition safeguards that the current American -- British extradition treaty includes. This proposed treaty is an unprecedented departure from two centuries of American extradition practice as far as the “political offense exception” is concerned.

The current extradition treaty, still in force, provides this very important safeguard that

“...extradition shall not occur if the person sought establishes to the satisfaction of the competent judicial authority by a preponderance of the evidence that the request for extradition has in fact been made with a view to try or punish him on account of his race, religion, nationality, or political opinions...”
This language is missing from the new proposed treaty now before the Senate.

The proposed treaty could subject American citizens to extradition based solely on unproven allegation by the British government. Depending on how the proposed treaty will be applied and interpreted in the future, any American active in Irish af-

fairs faces potential detention and deportation to Britain without any proof of guilt and without his or her day in court. Never before in our nation’s history has the United States government subjected the liberty of American citizens to the whims of a foreign government.

This treaty must be ratified by the entire Senate if it makes it out of committee. Therefore it is important that we continue to contact our Senators and request that they oppose this treaty as it is written. Right now the British would be allowed to extradite Irish in the U.S. who are here under political asylum or in an effort to protect their religious freedoms.

Please contact:
Senator Charles Schumer
Phone: (202) 224-6542
Fax: (202) 228 – 3027

Senator Hillary Clinton
Phone: (202) 224-4451
Fax: (202) 228 – 0282

It is important that our views as Irish-Americans are known.

National AOH Convention

A delegation of four represented the Saratoga division at the Biennial National convention in Boston in early July. Led by President Dave Cummings there were four days of meetings, votes and good natured Hibernian hospitality.

The new National Exec Board includes, President Jack Meehan, VP Seamus Boyle, Secretary Tom McNabb and Treasurer Brendan Moore. The candidates from New York who were endorsed by the division, including National Director Martin Kelly, were all elected.

Many issues highlighted by the US-UK Extradition Treaty were prominent topics of discussion.

We met several young seminarians who are being helped by Project St. Patrick through stipends for their expenses not covered by other sources.

We also got to meet Malachy McCallister to discuss his current status as the U.S. continues its efforts to deport him and his family even though they have status as political refugees.

Of course there was also time to visit the Boston Famine Memorial, other AOH Halls and the obligatory Irish pubs of Boston.



L to R: Chris Kelly, Dick Nelson, Brian Murphy and Dave Cummings at the Boston Famine Memorial

Irish Hedge Schools

The Hedge Schools emerged out of the harshness of the infamous Penal Laws, passed between 1702 and 1719. One of the first of the Penal Laws specified that "no person of the popish religion shall publicly or in private houses teach school, or instruct youth in learning within this realm..." One commentator on this Penal Law said that "It was not merely the persecution of a religion, it was an attempt to degrade and demoralize a whole nation." A law so unjust as this pleaded to be defied and the Irish of the 18th century were equal to the challenge.

It was not that there were no schools in Ireland open to Roman Catholic children that led to the Hedge Schools. The English government sponsored schools but the majority of the Catholic population refused to use them. The government schools were clearly intended to proselytize and to Anglicize Ireland. As late as 1825, the Protestant hierarchy petitioned the King, saying "amongst the ways to convert and civilise the Deluded People, the most necessary have always been thought to be that a sufficient number of English Protestant Schools be erected, wherein the Children of the Irish Natives should be instructed in the English Tongue and in the Fundamental Principles of the True Religion."

The Irish who could afford the Hedgemaster's fee sent their children to Hedge Schools where Gaelic brehons, storytellers and musicians secretly taught Irish history, tradition, and told tales of the Irish children's ancestry. Popular history places these schools under ruined walls or in dry ditches by the roadside. Some lessons, no doubt, were taught in the shadow of a hedge while others were taught in barns. Some schools even had names, such as the Moate Lane School where Edmund Rice, founder of the Irish Christian Brothers, received his education. Some were even more comfortable than the state sponsored Diocesan and Charter schools and held to a higher standard of instruction, including classical training in Ovid and Virgil.

A Commission of Inquiry reported in 1826 that of the 550,000 pupils enrolled in all schools in Ireland, 403,000 were in Hedge Schools. Sadly, too many children had no schooling. Their need motivated two of the great Irish educators. Nano Nagle defied the Penal Laws to open schools for the children of the poor in the mid-1700's and she founded the Order of the Presentation Sisters to continue her work. Inspired by Nano Nagle, Edmund Rice opened schools for the poor to counter the English use of the schools to proselytize and left the

Christian Brothers to teach "Paddy Stink and Mickey Mud."

The Penal Laws were gradually repealed, the prohibition on Irish teachers being lifted in 1782. In 1832, State elementary schools acceptable to the Irish Catholic population were instituted, resulting in the waning of the Hedge School system. The Hedge Schools had done what was needed to demonstrate that the Irish would defy laws that were aimed at destroying their culture and they demonstrated the love of the Irish for learning. They also give us many romantic visions of children and Hedgemaster studying Greek and Latin with the sky as their ceiling and the emerald green turf of Ireland as their floor.

Parade Days

Don't miss the chance to get together with your fellow Hibernians at the numerous parades we attend during the year. AT right is part of the Hibernian contingent at Saratoga's Memorial Day Parade.

Next chance to show the public our Hibernian spirit is the Turning Point Parade in Schuylerville on Aug 6th.



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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

Please make sure to attend a few of the events listed on the front page. When you can, offer to pickup a fellow Hibernian you haven't seen in awhile and bring them along. We have a very active group compared to other divisions but there is always room for improvement.

Officers

Your officers spend a lot of extra time trying to make sure that things run smoothly. This includes a monthly executive board meeting that is open to everyone. Non-critical business is taken care of in order to shorten the monthly meetings

and make more time for Irish music and educational opportunities. If you want to know the time and date for these meetings please contact Dave Cummings.

Election of Officers

It's not too soon to think about becoming an officer in the division. Nominations will come at the October meeting. In order to be an officer you only need some desire to become more involved and have taken your Major Degree. You will have that opportunity on Oct 1st if you would like to run for office this year.



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