



# Hibernian News



Volume 15 Issue 1

January 2014

## Division 2 Officers

Michael Shannon  
*President*  
William Kirnan  
*Vice President*  
John Greehy  
*Recording Sec.*  
Michael J. O'Keefe  
*Financial Sec.*  
Patrick Finn  
*Treasurer*  
James Kiernan  
*Marshal*  
Donald McClellan  
*Sentinel*  
John Encke  
*Standing Comm.*



Hibernian Hall  
845-534-2528

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## Membership Dues

With the new year comes a reminder that it's time to pay your 2014 dues. The Division appreciates your cooperation in returning the dues (\$50.00) as soon as possible as we need to pay our assessments to the county, state and national boards by the end of January. Please send your dues to the Hall in a sealed envelope to the attention of:

Attn: Financial Secretary  
AOH Division 2  
PO Box 206  
Cornwall, NY 12518

Checks are the preferred method of payment. Thanks for your prompt attention.

## Division Elections

Elections were held at the December meeting with the current board being elected to serve another one-year term. Our thanks to the Board for the time and effort they take to help keep the Division running.

## San Patricio Battalion

(by Kieran O'Keefe)

One of the most tragic occurrences in Irish-American history was the ordeal of the "San Patricio Battalion" (In English, Saint Patrick's Battalion) during the Mexican-American War. In the 1840's many newly arrived Irish immigrants enlisted in the American Army, and soon became involved in the growing struggle between Mexico and the United States. These tensions began when the United States annexed the independent Republic of Texas in 1845. The annexation resulted in a large area of disputed territory between the two nations; Mexico claimed the Nueces River to be the boundary while the United States claimed it to be the Rio Grande which was 150 miles to the south of the Nueces. No compromise was reached, and American President James K. Polk sent an army under General Zachary Taylor into the disputed territory. Fighting soon broke out and war was declared, igniting the Mexican-American War.

The Irish immigrants in Taylor's army faced a difficult position. They were serving in an army which was largely Protestant, and being sent to fight a Catholic nation. To add to this, Irish Catholics faced a great deal of discrimination in the American Army. They were often forced to attend Protestant services, punished more severely than their fellow Protestants, and rarely became officers. These men also had little attachment to their new nation, as they had only recently arrived. Taking advantage of this, the Mexican army sent leaflets into the American ranks, encouraging Catholics to desert to their Catholic brethren. These factors did result in desertion, the most notable being by native Irishman John Riley, who was among fifty deserters in April of 1846, shortly before war was declared. Riley received a commission as a Captain in the Mexican army where he was better treated and paid.

The desertions increased, numbering between 200 and 800, and eventually Mexican general, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, divided the San Patricio Battalion into two companies. The troops initially served as artillery soldiers, only to be later switched to (continued page 2)

## 1ST IRISH BREAKFAST OF 2014



You are invited to the first Irish Breakfast of 2014 on Sunday, January 12th from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Hall. A great way to start the new year with like-minded friends. Remember, the breakfasts are open to members and guests so feel free to bring friends and introduce them to our Hall. The delicious breakfast includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, Irish pudding, Irish sausage, rashers, home-fried potatoes, grilled tomato, toast, coffee and tea, and Irish soda bread.

Only \$7 for adults and \$3 for children

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<b>A Message From the Division President</b>		<b>Upcoming Events</b> (subject to change)										
Dear Brothers and Friends,  Happy New Year to everyone. My hope is that 2014 is a healthy, happy and prosperous year for you and your family. St. Patrick's Day is a little over two months away so please plan on attending the dinner-dance. If you'd like to travel with the Division to the NYC parade please sign up at the Hall. I hope to see you at the Hall on an upcoming Friday night  Yours in our motto Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity  Michael Shannon		<table><tr><td>Jan 12</td><td><b>Irish Breakfast</b> - Hall: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.</td></tr><tr><td>Jan 12</td><td><b>Orange County AOH Board Meeting</b> - Division 1: 1:00 pm. Meeting begins with a Shamrock Degree.</td></tr><tr><td>Jan 15</td><td><b>Division Meeting</b> - Hall: 7 pm. All members encouraged to attend.</td></tr><tr><td>Feb 2</td><td><b>Super Bowl Party</b> - Hall: 1 pm.</td></tr><tr><td>Mar 1</td><td><b>St. Patrick's Day Dinner-Dance</b> - Anthony's Pier 9: 7 PM to Midnight.</td></tr></table>	Jan 12	<b>Irish Breakfast</b> - Hall: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.	Jan 12	<b>Orange County AOH Board Meeting</b> - Division 1: 1:00 pm. Meeting begins with a Shamrock Degree.	Jan 15	<b>Division Meeting</b> - Hall: 7 pm. All members encouraged to attend.	Feb 2	<b>Super Bowl Party</b> - Hall: 1 pm.	Mar 1	<b>St. Patrick's Day Dinner-Dance</b> - Anthony's Pier 9: 7 PM to Midnight.
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<b>Great News</b>		<b>Thank You To...</b>										
Just after the December newsletter was mailed we received great news from the N.Y.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. Orange County AOH was voted the best AOH marching unit in the parade...again. This is an honor Orange County has had for many years and as County President Kevin Moore said "...It is with your hard work and Irish pride that we keep winning this award". Thanks to everyone who participated and made us all very proud.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Kim Malone and Lisa Diamond for their hard work coordinating a great children's Christmas party, and the Mountainville Fire Department for getting Santa (aka Chris Sherwood) to the Hall in style on a fire truck.</li><li>• John Greehy, John Encke and everyone else who helped with the organization and delivery of the 25 Christmas dinners to the needy.</li></ul>										
<b>Member News</b>		<b>Mark Your Calendar</b>										
Welcome to Tim Allen the newest member of Division 2. Tim is a parishioner of St. Mary's in Washingtonville, and the proud son of member Kevin Allen.		The annual Saint Patrick's Day Dinner-Dance will be held on Saturday March 1st from 7 PM to Midnight at Anthony's Pier 9. Cost is \$65 p/p with cocktail hour from 7 to 8. This year dinner will be a sit-down affair; no buffet. Tickets will be available soon.										
<b>San Patricio Battalion</b> <span style="float:right">(continued from page1)</span>												
<p>infantry where the two companies were commanded by John Riley and Captain Santiago O'Leary. The flag of the battalion was green with a harp and a shamrock. While there were more Irishmen than any other nationality in the battalion, it consisted of other nationalities as well. Irishmen made up approximately 40 percent of the battalion; among the remaining 60 percent were men from places such as Germany, Italy, France, Canada and even Poland.</p> <p>The battalion served bravely during the war, most notably at the Battle of Buena Vista in February of 1847, in which the San Patricio battalion tore apart several American charges. Prior to Buena Vista the battalion also served at the Battles of Monterrey and Matamoros. Later on they served at the Battle of Cerro Gordo and ultimately met their downfall at the Battle of Churubusco in August of 1847. By this point in the war a major American Army, under the command of Winfield Scott, was advancing on Mexico City. Santa Anna, attempting to block Scott's advance on the city, established a defensive line which included a convent. The San Patricio Battalion was stationed in the convent when the battle began. Although the Mexican Army resisted stubbornly, the tide turned in favor of the Americans. Mexican soldiers inside the convent attempted several times to raise a white flag and surrender, but members of the San Patricio Battalion, knowing they were likely to be hanged as deserters if captured, tore down the flag each time. Eventually, the bloodshed ended and the San Patricio Battalion was captured.</p> <p>The captured men were put on trial as deserters, and punishment was harsh. Fifty men were to be executed when Scott intervened and spared twenty men their lives, thus reducing to 30 the number to be executed. John Riley was spared death as he deserted before war was declared and instead was given 50 lashes and branded with the letter "D" on his cheeks, a scar that stayed with him for life. The condemned men were treated in exceedingly cruel fashion; they were forced to stand on the gallows and watch from a distance an American attack on the Chapultepec Castle, the last major defense outside of Mexico City, and they were to be hanged the moment the American flag flew over the castle. For three hours they stood in the sun and when the American flag was raised over the castle, the nooses were knotted and the men hanged.</p> <p>This tragic event sheds light on the struggle for Irish immigrants to peacefully coexist with their fellow Americans. The story of these men is one that is not well enough known, and is one that should be remembered when reflecting on Irish-American history.</p> <p>(The following sources were used to write this article: Bielakowski, Alexander M. <i>Ethnic and Racial Minorities in the U.S Military: An Encyclopedia</i>. ABC-CLIO, 2013. Fantina, Robert. <i>Desertion and the American Soldier: 1776-2006</i>. Algora Publishing, 2006. Johnson, Timothy D. <i>A Gallant Little Army: The Mexico City Campaign</i>. University Press of Kansas, 2007. Lavender, David. <i>Climax at Buena Vista: The Decisive Battle of the Mexican-American War</i>. 1966. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003.)</p>												



# Super Bowl XLVII Sunday Party

February 2, 2014



Doors and bar opens at **1:00 PM** for friendly card games and dart throwing.

Starting at **4:00 PM** and if you are staying for the food and the game there will be a \$10 p/p cover charge.

Price of admission includes bar snacks, and all food. Food will be served starting at **4:30 PM** and includes the following pre-game menu:

**Chili with all the fixing  
Hot Dogs, buns and all the fixings  
Mixed Deli Sandwiches  
Home Made Potato Salad  
& Creamy Cole Slaw  
Chips & Dip**

Food will again be served at **7:30 PM** and includes the following half-time menu:

**Extra Cheesy Baked Ziti  
Jack Daniels BBQ Chicken  
Oriental Beef and Broccoli in a Brown Garlic Sauce  
Shrimp with Pasta and Mixed Vegetables in Garlic Sauce  
Sausage, Peppers & Onions  
Roasted Potatoes  
Green beans & Carrots  
Bread & Salad**

Tickets are on sale at the bar and buying one to this popular event is highly suggested and appreciated.

## **Ice Cold "Beer by the Bucket" Specials**

**6—12 oz. bottles of Bud, or Bud Lite, or Coors Lite — \$10.00**

**6—12 oz. bottles of Heineken or Heineken Lite — \$15.00**

A fine selection of Irish beer and a full assortment of liquor will be available  
(at our everyday low prices)

