



Hibernian News



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Hibernian Hall
845-534-2528



Fair weather has returned so see Dennis Malone for a Friday night stint as the Hibernian Chef. We'd love to see you and your family at the Hall on an upcoming Friday night.

The Downing of the Lusitania - May 1915

(reprinted from a prior AOH newsletter)

In February, 1915, the German government announced an unrestricted warfare campaign. This meant that any ship taking goods to Allied countries was in danger of being attacked. This broke international agreements that stated commanders who suspected that a non-military vessel was carrying war materials, had to stop and search it, rather than do anything that would endanger the lives of the occupants.

The Lusitania, at 32,000 tons the largest passenger vessel on transatlantic service, left New York Harbor for Liverpool on 1st May, 1915. It was 750ft long. On this journey the ship carried 1,257 passengers and 650 crew. There was some concern on board as a few days previously the German Embassy had published a statement that warned: "Travelers intending to embark for an Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain or any of her allies are liable to destruction in those waters; and that travelers sailing in the war zone in ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk."

At 1:20pm on 7th May 1915, the U-20, only ten miles off the coast of Old Head, Kinsale, Ireland, surfaced to recharge her batteries. Soon afterwards Capt. Schwieger, the commander of the U-Boat, observed the Lusitania in the distance. Schwieger gave the order to advance on the liner. The U20 had been at sea for seven days and had already sunk two liners and only had two torpedoes left. He fired the first one from a distance of 700 meters. Watching through his periscope it soon became clear that the Lusitania was going down and so he decided against using his second torpedo.

After a second, larger explosion, the Lusitania rolled over and sank in eighteen minutes. A total of 1,198 people died (785 passengers and 413 crew). Those killed included 128 US citizens.

The sinking of the Lusitania had a profound impact on public opinion in the United States. The German government apologized for the incident, but claimed its U-boat only fired one torpedo and the second explosion was a result of a secret cargo of heavy munitions on the ship. If this true, Britain was guilty of breaking the rules of warfare by using a civilian ship to carry ammunition. British authorities rejected this charge and claimed that the second explosion was caused by coal dust igniting in the ship's almost empty bunkers.

Of the nearly 2,000 passengers less than 800 survived and most of these were brought by rescue craft to Cobh, Ireland. The victims were also landed here and many are interred in the Old Church graveyard near Cobh town. A monument commemorates those who died in the tragedy. It depicts two fishermen who went to the rescue of the ill fated liner.


IRISH BREAKFAST!

A special Mother's Day Irish Breakfast will be held on May 12th. Treat your mom, grandmother or great-grandmother to a delicious meal with good company. **Scrambled eggs, Irish bacon, Irish sausage, black and white pudding, home-fried potatoes, the fried tomato, pancakes, soda bread, toast, juice, coffee & tea.** A flower for all moms in attendance.

Sunday May 12th

Serving from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

\$7 per adult, \$3 children

A Message From the Division President	Upcoming Events (subject to change)	
<p>Dear Brothers and Friends,</p> <p>Now that the weather is warming up, its time to fire up the "Old Barbie" on Friday nights at the Hall. Volunteers are welcome. Sign up list at the Hall. Any members who have unsold tickets for the building fund raffle should contact John Greehy or Bill Kirnan as there is still demand.</p> <p>In our Motto, Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity</p> <p>Raymond J. Fitzgerald bosspi@hvc.rr.com</p>	May 12	Mother's Day Irish Breakfast - Hall: 9 am to 12:30 pm. Flowers for every mom!
	MAY 12	Early Bird Building Fund Raffle - Hall: 1:30 pm
	May 15	Division Meeting - Hall: 7 pm. All members encouraged to attend.
	Jun 8	Orange County Board AOH Biennial Convention - Division 1 Hall: 10 am
	Jun 15	Building Fund Raffle - Hall and grounds: 2 pm-5 pm.
	Jul 10-13	NYS AOH Convention - Saratoga Springs.
	Irish News	
Congratulations		
...to Jack Green and Joe Stankiewicz who made their Shamrock Degree at the April AOH County Board meeting held at our hall. The Seamus Comisky Degree Team was present and lead a wonderful, meaningful ceremony. Members of Division 1 & 4 also made their Shamrock. Are you wondering if you made your Shamrock, or when you should? Any member who has not made their Shamrock Degree should contact Ray Fitzgerald at the email address in president's message section. A major degree ceremony is planned for July 13th during the NYS AOH Convention in Saratoga Springs. Let Ray know if you'd like to participate.		
Hall Rental		
Looking for a nice, clean, comfortable location to host a special event for a family member or friend? Look no further than the Irish Cultural Center...our Hall! You enjoy the Hall yourself so why not consider hosting an event there. This year's building coordinator is Bill Moore. Contact Bill at the Hall at 845-534-2528.		
Building Fund Raffle		
Tickets for the 2013 Building Fund Raffle are now available. Donation is \$100 for a chance to win one of 33 great cash prizes with the proceeds supporting the maintenance of Hibernian Hall. The early bird drawing will be held after the Mother's Day Irish Breakfast on May 12. Turn in your paid ticket by then and you're eligible for one of three \$500 early-bird prizes.		
		
East Durham Irish Arts Festival		
The 39th annual East Durham Irish Arts Festival will take place on Saturday May 25th and Sunday May 26th at the East Durham Irish Festival Grounds on Rt. 145. There will be two music tents and 21 bands performing during the weekend. In addition, you will find dance lessons, Irish story tellers, poetry and Irish language sessions, cottage tours and the first annual Irish Festival Idol Contest. Age groups for aspiring idols are 8-15 years old and 16-25 years old. The rest of us should sit and listen to the talent. Tickets are available on line, in advance, for \$13 per day, or \$16 for a single day ticket at the gate. For more information visit their website at http://eastdurhamirishfestival.com/		
D.J.W. Business		
Sunday June 30, 2013 - 2:00 PM - Annual business meeting of the DJW Corporation at the Hall. All Division members are encouraged to attend. Important information will be discussed about the building and grounds.		