



Hibernian News



Volume 6 Issue 3

The Fighting 69th ~ "Gentle When Stroked, Fierce When Provoked"

March 2005

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When the Great Hunger brought the Irish to the United States in great numbers they arrived during an era of anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic, anti-Irish, anti-Papist discrimination and a general pro-British stance as exemplified by the populist Know-Nothing Party terrorizing immigrant families particularly in the NY area. At the time, employment ads began to contain the phrase, "Irish need not apply." Boarding houses and other public establishment might display signs which read, "No dogs or Irish allowed." The Irish were blamed for outbreaks of disease. Anti-Irish and anti-Catholic riots broke out in New York and Boston. Churches, convents and orphanages were attacked and burned. For common defense and as a means to participate in the social and political life of their new country, the Irish in New York and elsewhere began to form volunteer militia units. These organizations were distinct from the Fenian militia units but often the ranks and officer corps were filled with Fenians.

With the intent of forming an Irish regiment, the second in New

York State, Irishmen who lived or congregated near Hibernian Hall in New York City began to form companies. Company A traced its root back to the Revolution, giving instant history to the regiment. Company I took the name the "Irish Rifles." It ranks included a Private Michael Corcoran, who would eventually rise to command the Regiment. In November of 1851 the 69th Regiment was mustered into the New York State Militia. In 1858 the Regiment would have its first call to duty.

A yellow fever epidemic had broken out in New York City. A quarantine hospital was established on Staten Island to house the sick. As in New Orleans, Boston and other cities the "Know-nothings" blamed the pestilence on the immigrants. The locals attempted to burn the hospital down.

The Governor called out the Militia to guard the hospital. The 69th spent 2 weeks in October on this duty. During that time they endured racial insults from both the local residents and from other Militia units. Company A and its commander, Captain Michael

Corcoran were singled out by state authorities for their performance.

In 1860, the 69th became the darling of the Irish in New York and in the whole country when they refused to parade before Edward, Prince of Wales, who was visiting the city. History does not record just who thought it was good idea to parade 750 armed Irishmen in front of the future King of England.

The visit of the Prince of Wales was the biggest event to hit little old New York since the inauguration of George Washington. The City Fathers did not take kindly to the 69th's refusal to parade in the future King of England's honor. Know-nothing newspapers called for the head of Col. Corcoran, now commanding.

However, many throughout the country supported the 69th stand on principles. Col. Corcoran received many gifts including a ceremonial sword and a Palmetto cane from South Carolina.

(continued on pg.2)



"Let Us Do the Cooking" **Authentic Irish Breakfast** **April 10, 2005**



An authentic, delicious Irish breakfast is now being served every second Sunday of the month at an unbelievable price of only \$7.00 p/p!

9:30 AM-12:30 pm

Something for the whole family!!!



The traditional breakfast consists of Eggs, Irish Bacon, Irish Sausages, Home-fried Potatoes, Black & White Puddings and the Grilled Tomato...a must! Children's Breakfasts of Pancakes & Sausage are only \$3.00 each. Juice, coffee and tea included.

Note: Due to parade conflicts, there will be no Irish Breakfast served during March

A Message from the AOH Division 2 President

Dear Brothers and Friends,

March 2005

As you all know, our "high, holy season" is upon us. I extend an invitation to join us for the parades in Goshen on March 13th, in NYC on March 17th and Pearl River on March 20th. All members are strongly encouraged to attend any and all of the parades and activities in which we demonstrate our Irish pride. For those members we haven't seen in awhile—March is the month to come home to the AOH—join us!

Should you accept our invitation, I hope you do so remembering that St. Patrick's Day which was first publicly celebrated not in Ireland, but in Boston in 1737 was held as an expression of pride and political consciousness. Here in our own beloved New York in the year 1762, Irish soldiers serving in the military marched through New York City for the first ever St. Patrick's Day parade in history. The music and pageantry allowed the soldiers to reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the King's army. Their Irish pride helped them overcome the anti-Irish scorn thrown at them by bigoted onlookers. Over the next four decades, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of "Irish Aid" societies such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians - and there you have it - the rest is history.

For the most part, the bigots have disappeared but not the NY Irish. Our pride remains as strong as it did in back in the mid-1700s. I dare one and all not to swell with pride when you turn the corner onto NYC's Fifth Ave looking north towards the lofty spires of St. Patrick's Cathedral past the multitude of cheering millions. Let us reconnect with our Irish roots remembering that Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated as much to remember the struggles and triumphs of Irish immigrant forefathers in early America as well as to remember the humble patron saint of our beloved Ireland. Happy St. Patrick's Day to you and your family!

Related to the article in this newsletter, this year's NYC Parade is dedicated to the *Fighting 69th*. The group has lost 15 men in Iraq and a scholarship fund has been set up for their 13 surviving children. Please contribute to this worthy cause—send your donations to: **The Fighting 69th Scholarship Fund, c/o Terrence M. Tierney, Secretary AOH Charity Fund, 110 Washington Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570.** Let us honor them by helping their children.

All the best!

Kevin Cummings,
Division President

Upcoming AOH Events

(subject to change—check the website)

- Mar 13 Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade Grand Marshall Breakfast—Goshen -10 AM**
- Mar 13 Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade —Goshen—line-up at 1 PM. Step-off at 2 PM**
- Mar 15 Irish Set Dancing Lessons - 7 PM ~ Div 2 Hall**
- Mar 16 Monthly Meeting - 7 PM—All members encouraged to attend ~ Div 2 Hall.**
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day Parade – NYC –Line-up at 10:45 AM**
- Mar 19 Children's Easter Egg Hunt—Hall—12 Noon—3 PM**
- Mar 20 Pearl River St. Patrick's Parade—Pearl River -12 noon**
- Apr 10 Irish Breakfast - 9:30 AM-12:30 PM ~ Div 2 Hall**
- Apr 20 Monthly Meeting - 7 PM—All members encouraged to attend ~ Div 2 Hall.**



Please pray for those
who are sick

Please pray for our Brothers who are
ill ~ Jim Ryan and his son, David
Ryan who is recovering.

Happy and Blessed Easter to All!

Irish Set Dancing Lessons for Couples and Singles

Learn how to "dance at the cross roads"—impress your friends at the next division dinner dance or family wedding! Just a few of the Set and Ceili dances you will learn include Clare Lancers; Connemara Reel; Corofin Plain; Fermanagh; West Kerry; Williamstown, and Claddagh.

Lessons are on Wednesdays 7:00 PM—9:00 PM

For information call Kevin (845-562-8651) or John (845-534-9315)

Fighting 69th...continued from pg. 1

The regiment was given its first regimental colors, a golden sunburst on a field of green with the words, "PRESENTED TO THE 69th REGIMENT IN COMMEMORATION OF 11 OCTOBER, 1860."

On election day of that year, Corcoran was held for court martial on a charge of refusing to obey orders. He was still under indictment when on April 12, 1861 Fort Sumter was fired upon. Col. Corcoran urged his Regiment not to consider his problems and to answer President Lincoln's call for volunteers to defend the capital. Almost to a man the Regiment volunteered. All charges against Corcoran were dropped. On April

23, 1861, with much fan fare and ceremony, he led his troops out of NY. The 69th was not yet complete, though. Thomas Francis Meagher had decided that war could not be fought without him. Meagher received permission to raise a company, Company K. With his Celtic gift for flair and dash he outfitted his company with Zouave uniforms. Company K, with Captain Meagher commanding, formed and joined the rest of the regiment in time for the First Battle of Bull Run.

History notes that the group distinguished themselves again and again in France and in the battles of the Pacific at Saipan and Okinawa during WWII. Again in Korea, in Vietnam and now again in Iraq. Can't you just hear their anthem ~ *The Garryowen* ~ being played on the bagpipes?

Division 2 ~ Ancient Order of Hibernians



Ireland's Raffle

32 Prizes Given Away

$$26 + 6 =$$

1st Prize = \$15,000

32

2nd – 7th Prize = \$1,000

8th – 32nd Prize = \$500

Drawing: Saturday, June 18, 2005

2-5 PM

Laborer's Hall—Rt. 207

Early Bird Drawing

Sunday, April 24, 2005

~ in addition to the regular prizes ~

3 prizes of \$500

3 prizes of \$100 for the seller of each ticket

Early Bird Drawing applies to tickets paid for and submitted prior to April 24th

Donation: \$100 per ticket

Total of 550 tickets—chance of winning a prize is 1 in 15

Proceeds to support the Hibernian Hall Building Fund

Call John (845-534-9315) or Hibernian Hall (845-534-2528) for tickets

Thanks and More Thanks -

Thanks to Jim Noble, Ryan Noble, Bob Morgan, Mike Shannon, Pat Healey, Christine O'Keefe & Kevin Cummings for their help with February's Irish Breakfast.

Very Special thanks to Mike Shannon, Kevin Moore, Kevin Cummings and John Greehy for their dedication in making the Division Dinner Dance such a success this year. Thanks to John Marlow, Andy Ryan, Dennis Malone, Greg Kopf, Clem Villa, John Masterson and Tim Hogan for all their help during the dance. Great job guys! **Congratulations** to our recognized appreciation award winners at this year's dance: John O'Sullivan, John Greehy, Kevin Moore, Clem Villa, Mike Shannon and the Hudson Valley Regional Police Pipes and Drums. A job well done to all the deserving recipients!

Save the Date!

NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade

Thursday, March 17, 2005

The bus trip into NYC is planned for March 17th. The bus is **now full** that leaves from Destinta Theaters at 8:00 am. If you didn't pay your \$25 yet you risk losing your seat...prepaid is a must! Call Kevin at 562-8651 to get your money in. Complete division uniform is a must for all marchers...green jacket, black pants and tie, white shirt and green beret.

Save the Date!

Annual Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade

Sunday, March 13, 2005
Goshen, NY

We march as a division in this parade so turn-out is important. Please be sure to have your parade uniform in order. Line-up is in the government center parking lot at 1 pm. Step-off at 2:00 pm. Complete division uniform is a must for all marchers. Congratulations to Mike Shannon for being named Aide to the Grand Marshall.

Save the Date!

Pearl River St. Patrick's Parade

Sunday, March 20, 2005~Pearl River

Line-up at 12 Noon. A great parade (some say the 4th largest on the East Coast!) and those who attended last year had a great time. Be sure to visit the many Irish pubs and restaurants in the "ol' Irish Town of Pearl River". Make it a point to stop by the AOH Hall after the parade. Members of other Orange County divisions are invited to march with us. The parade staging area is in the old Lederle parking lot. Complete division uniform is a must for all marchers.



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