



Hibernian News



Volume 6 Issue 9

The Irish of New Orleans

September 2005

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They built the roads and the canals, and died in their thousands from yellow fever. They competed with slaves to load cotton on the ships bound for Liverpool. Ships that would return crowded with famine Irish used simply as ballast. Thus the rates were cheaper. After 1834, these cotton ships were responsible for over 80% of the Irish emigrants. Census returns in 1850 revealed that one in five of the city's population had been born in Ireland and during the 19th century New Orleans maintained its standing as the second largest port of entry for Irish immigrants after New York. New Orleans is, indeed, one of the most Irish in the United States.

Irish peasants fleeing the potato famine in the 1840s and 1850s debarked at Adele Street and were channeled from there to the rest of the country, hence the name, The "Irish Channel." There are also several other versions of how the Irish Channel got its name. One story is that Irish seamen coming up the river would see the light outside Noud's Ocean Home Saloon on Adele Street

and cry out "There's the Irish Channel!" Another story is that Adele Street was often flooded after a rain and it seemed like a channel. The truth is that it was probably called the Irish Channel because so many Irish immigrants lived there. The "Irish Channel" in the city's "second municipality" was where many of the new arrivals initially concentrated and was the location for the construction of St. Patrick's Church on Camp Street. The church dates to 1833 and is a national historical landmark. Similar to other church parishes across the country, St. Patrick's Church helped establish an Irish-American ethnic identity that separated the Irish from the Anglo-Protestant majority. However, in New Orleans, St. Patrick's Church helped Irish immigrants to also distinguish their Catholicism from the predominant French Creole Catholicism historically practiced in New Orleans.

With the importance of the port of New Orleans in the world trade of cotton ships unloaded their cargo in Liverpool, then brought Irish

passengers back to New Orleans to assuage the costs of an empty hull back to the port. As New Orleans exported cotton and imported the "paddy", it provided strength and cultural unity for the growing number of Irish to the city.

Along the river there were slaughterhouses, tallow factories, steam driven cotton presses and even a sugar refinery. Work could easily be found in the area for butchers, blacksmiths, bricklayers, saddlers and draymen. As was true elsewhere in the country, the Irish of New Orleans were often considered "expendable" labor. Many were killed while employed at dangerous construction work and other manual labor.

The Irish lived simply in small cottages. Shotgun houses – single, double and camelback – predominated the neighborhood. While there were wealthy, prominent Irish people, the Irish who came after the 1840s were largely penniless and had to work as laborers. With no money to explore

Continued on Pg 2



"Let Us Do the Cooking" **Authentic Irish Breakfast**

October 9, 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.

A Message from the AOH Division 2 President

Dear Brothers and Friends,

September 2005

Politics and blame aside, who among us can say they have not been deeply touched by events in the Gulf coast wrought by Hurricane Katrina. Over the past two weeks, stories coming out of New Orleans and other areas have simultaneously awed and horrified us. Stories of looters, murderers and those who add to the unimaginable chaos abound. It is easy to cast a cold eye and paint all those affected with the same paint brush of indifference. The law-abiding, decent citizens of the gulf states deserve better than that. Like young Anne Frank said, "we must believe that in spite of everything, people are truly good at heart."

It is to that good in all of us that I appeal to you to give generously to the Hibernian Disaster Relief Fund (see gray box below). Your donations will help, first and foremost, Brother and Sister Hibernians in the affected areas. New Orleans has a huge Irish presence (see lead story: *Irish in New Orleans*). With one of the largest AOH divisions in the South located in New Orleans, the money will go to our Irish family. They need our help and our prayers now, as we needed them in September 2001. Please give.

All the best!

Kevin Cummings,
Division President

Upcoming Events

(subject to change)

- Sept 13 (Tues)** Irish Set Dancing Lessons begin. Hall—7 PM. Open to all. Call 562-8651 for more info.
- Sept 17-18** Irish Heritage Festival—12 Noon till 7:00 each day. OC Park, Montgomery
- Sept 21** Monthly Meeting - Hall: 7 pm
- Sept 24** Half-Way to St Patrick's Day Party-- 7-11 PM ~ Div 2 Hall
- Oct 9** Irish Breakfast - 9:30 AM-12:30 PM ~ Div 2 Hall
- Oct 19** Monthly Meeting - Hall 7 pm
- Oct 22** Children's Haunted House—Hall 1- 4 pm.
- Oct 19** Adult Halloween Costume Party—Hall 7:00-Midnight
- Nov 11** Great Irish American Pub Quiz – Hall 7:30-9:00 PM
- Nov 13** Irish Breakfast - 9:30 AM-12:30 PM ~ Div 2 Hall

Hibernian Hall Rental for 2006



The Division 2 Hibernian Hall is available for rental to members and those they wish to sponsor. The hall is a great location for family events such as Christenings, First Holy Communion, Birthday parties (young and old), Confirmations and graduations. The hall has also been used for pre-wedding dinners and receptions. The kitchen is well equipped for the self-caterer or you can have the food catered in-house. Call Jim Ryan (534-2528) to reserve the hall for your 2006 event now.

The Irish in New Orleans (cont'd)

beyond their debarkation point, many lower-income Irish settled right on that spot. Wave after wave of yellow fever epidemics wiped out many immigrants who were forced to work in a market economy where slave labor was too risky an investment to loose in the digging of canals. According to the book "The Irish in New Orleans 1800-1860" by Earl F. Niehaus, New Orleans was a major port of entry for Irish emigrants. Cotton was King and New Orleans was the leading port to export it and it was the Irish who made it all work!

The story of the Irish in New Orleans cannot be told without considering the role of the church and Catholicism in shaping identity for the Crescent City's largest wave of antebellum immigrants. Part of the myth of the Irish Channel in

New Orleans grew from the influence of Catholic life similarly seen with other Irish immigrants in America during the nascent period of the American Catholic church.

These immigrants were a part of a growing number of Catholic immigrants to the United States who typically settled in the port cities. The American Catholic church was centered in Baltimore during the 1830s and found itself unable to provide guidance to its flock due to a lack of funds and clergy. In addition, its distance from the geographic concentrations of immigrants in the country left little chance for daily interaction and support. Most Irish immigrants tried to fit in as best they could, eking out a livelihood in neighborhoods that were suspicious of their culture and their Catholicism. Irish immigrants were different from the Protestant majority in that they were

fiercely loyal and devoted to their church, and to Rome. With intense suspicion, and Anglo America's classification of them as Irish, an ethnic Irish American Catholic identity began to form at this time. Irish immigrants began to sense amongst themselves a collective national Irish identity not considered before amongst their individual county identities of Cork, Donegal, or County Down.

Today, New Orleans along with the Irish Channel are true melting pots of cultures and peoples. Many consider it one of New Orleans most interesting neighborhoods.

Please consider making a donation to help all those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Send your tax-deductible donations to:

**Hibernian Charity (HDRF)
Box 818
Langhorne, PA 19047**

Your donations will be directed first to the Irish community and then wherever needed.



**Richard C. Villa
"Poncho"**

+

May he rest in peace

“Halfway to St. Patrick’s Day”



with
Chris Turpin



**Saturday,
September 24, 2005**

**Hibernian Hall
7:00—11:00 pm**

**Tickets are
\$25 prepaid or \$30 at the door
Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
Domestic Beer, Wine, Soda**

**Good music, good food and good times
guaranteed!**

Tickets available at the hall

The 12th Annual Irish Heritage Festival



The 12th Annual Irish Heritage Festival will be held this year **September 17th & 18th** at the Orange County Park in Montgomery. The two day event draws large crowds and big name performers including Black 47, Celtic Cross and West o' Clare.

Additional music is provided by The Hudson Valley Regional Police Pipes and Drums and The AOH Division 1 Pipe Band. Irish dancing demonstrations are also planned. In the cultural tent, genealogy exhibitions and Irish language lessons will be available. The food tent offers authentic foods and libations.

All in all, the festival is a whole lot of fun for the entire family. So come out with the whole family and bring your friends too. Do your part to:

"Coiméad an traidisiún beo--Keep the tradition alive!"

For more information visit the festival's website at: <http://www.irishheritagefestival.org/>

Thanks and More Thanks! Thanks to Billy Wall and his son, Liam for cutting the grass around the hall...great job! **Thanks** to Ken Martin for providing the snacks and munchies for the bar. **More Thanks** to Jim Ryan for painting the kitchen and staircase. **Special Thanks** to Pat Healey & John Greehy for the back-breaking work around the new BBQ.

Calling all Friday Nite Cooks - Summer is winding down but we are always looking for a few good cooks to show off their special talents. You don't have to be trained at the Culinary Institute of America to do it...just be able to flip a few burgers on the BBQ grill. Sign-up and leave a list of what extras you need and we will do the rest.

Friendly Reminder - Dues in the amount of \$50 for calendar year 2005 are now **very** past due. Final letters will be mailed out shortly. Avoid being dropped from the membership roster. Please make your check payable to AOH Div. 2 and get it to Dennis Malone, Division 2 Financial Secretary either by mail or drop it off at the hall. The 2006 dues are due in January.

We are trying it again—Giant Basket of Cheer

We had success with the popular Basket of Cheer so we decided to try it again. A \$5 ticket (3 for \$10) gives you a chance at winning a basket filled with top-shelf liquors including Grand Marnier, Jameson, Bailey Irish Cream, Celtic Crossing, Irish Mist, Boru Vodka, Chivas Regal Scotch, Tanageray Gin, Cutty Sark Scotch, Wild Turkey and more. Hurry don't miss your chance to win. Tickets available by calling or stopping at the bar.



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