



Hibernian News



Volume 10 Issue 7

Here lies Col. Dennis O'Kane of the 69th Pennsylvania Volunteers

July 2009

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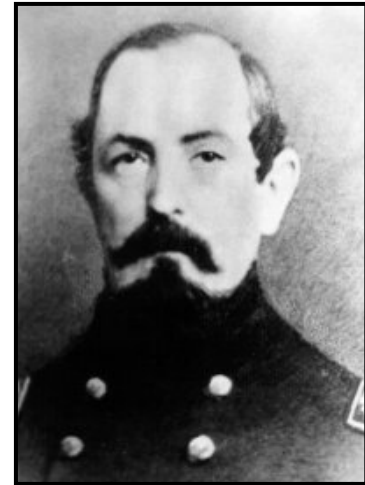
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On July 3, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, as the sun rose behind the men the Colonel Dennis O'Kane's Irish 69th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry on Cemetery Ridge, the most famous assault of the American Civil War was being prepared across the mile of open field in front of them. The 69th PA would be at the very vortex of that assault, now known to posterity as "Pickett's Charge".

At 1 p.m. a tremendous cannonade by the Confederate guns would sail mostly over the heads of the 69th. About 3 p.m. the barrage slackened, and the rebel infantrymen began their assault. "And let your work this day be for victory or to the death," Col. Dennis O'Kane told his men as the furious rebel onslaught approached. Soon they were forced to refuse both flanks as the Confederate tide rolled up to them and lapped around both sides. While many around them ran, the 69th stood fast. The regiment's tenacious stand in front of the famous copse of trees was a pivotal part of the crucial Union victory achieved at Gettysburg. At the same time, General George Pickett's division, on the right of the Rebel line, executed a half left wheel to face the clump of trees, in front of which O'Kane had taken up his position. On Pickett's left came the division of General James Pettigrew, moving with parade ground precision despite the ongoing shelling. After being mortally wounded, O'Kane was dimly aware that the firing had begun to diminish. "The line held," he thought. "The line held." Good to his word, Col. O'Kane was killed, and lying dead near the 69th's position; wearing gray lay Pvt. Willie Mitchel of the 1st Virginia Infantry, son of Irish patriot John Mitchel. At the most crucial battle of America's Civil War, Irish were killing Irish on a foreign field once again. O'Kane died on July 4th. His funeral procession on July 9 wound its way from his home on Florida Street to St. James Church in West Philadelphia, led by a brass band. His pallbearers were 16 Union Army officers—



Colonel Dennis O'Kane

among them, three from the 69th who had been wounded at Gettysburg.

A Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated and a eulogy delivered by the pastor. Then his casket was taken to Cathedral Cemetery and, after full military honors, lowered into an unmarked grave. Without a headstone, however, there was no place for the epitaph he would have wanted: "Here lies Col. Dennis O'Kane of the 69th Pennsylvania Volunteers. His regiment took the brunt of Pickett's Charge—held the line and stood its ground."

Irish Breakfast

The monthly Irish Breakfast is postponed for the remainder of the summer. We will start serving again on **September 13, 2009**. As a reminder, our full Irish breakfasts are served the second Sunday of the month at an unbelievable price of only \$7.00 p/p! Children (< 10 y.o.) are \$3.00 p/p. Serving from: 9:00 AM-12:30 pm with something for the whole family!!!

A Message from the AOH Division 2 President

Dear Brothers and friends,

July 2009

I hope everyone is still keeping their heads above the water. Think positive (as thunder cracks outside) dryer days are coming. Thanks to all for your efforts in making the raffle a success.

Dennis Malone is the new President of the AOH—DJW Corp. Congratulations and good luck. A result of the above election is that the Div. is without a Financial Secretary. The position has to be filled. I would hope that a member will volunteer to take the spot. If interested give me a call. I am sure that Dennis will help in the transition.

Cooks are still needed for Friday nights. Try to give one evening and help the club and local food pantries.

We are starting a NOVICE "SEISIUN" (an Irish jam session) on Tuesday nights (starting July 7th) 7:30. All are invited. There will be great CRAIC.

Finally, don't forget about the NYS AOH Convention in Albany on July 8-11th. We could use a few more members willing to go to Albany on Saturday, July 11th to vote. Our own Kevin Cummings is running for District 8 Director. There will be carpooling from the Harp & Whistle leaving at 7 am. The cars will return to the Harp & Whistle by 3 pm.

Have a great summer and be safe. Stop in for a pint.

God bless and stay well.

John Greehy
Division 2 President



Upcoming Events

(subject to change)

- Jul 8-11 NYS AOH Biennial Convention. Albany. Elections on Sat., July 11th**
- Jul 15 Monthly Meeting - Hall: 7 pm.**
- Jul 29 Concert Series—HVR Police Pipes & Drums with MacTalla Mor—"Irish Music for the Masses" 7 pm—New Windsor Town Hall**
- Aug 12 Concert Series—Cahal Dunne "Ireland's Happy Man". 7 pm—New Windsor Town Hall**
- Aug 15-16 International Celtic Festival—Hunter Mtn. Fun for the whole family. Irish music, vendors food and fun.**
- Aug 19 Monthly Meeting - Hall: 7 pm.**
- Sept 6 Hooley on the Hudson All day Sunday fun—Kingston**
- Sept 16 Monthly Meeting - Hall: 7 pm.**

New Windsor Summer Concert Series



The **Hudson Valley Regional Police Pipes and Drums** will be appearing in the popular New Windsor Summer Concert Series on **Wednesday, July 29th at 7:00 pm** at New Windsor Town Hall on Union Avenue. Also appearing with the band will be the **MacTalla Mor**. The night promises to

be filled with "Celtic Music for the Masses" featuring the Great Highland Bagpipes, Piano, Vocals, and Bodhran. Free hotdogs, popcorn, ice cream and other treats. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Division volunteers are sought to help out in serving the food and drinks at this event. See John Greehy if you can lend a hand.

Also appearing on **Wednesday, August 12th at 7:00 pm** will be **Cahal Dunne**. Cahal Dunne is an Irish Born singer known as "Ireland's Happy Man." Sit back and enjoy as he entertains you with great music and lots of laughs. Free hotdogs, popcorn, ice cream and other treats. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.



New York State AOH Convention

The biennial New York State AOH Convention will be held July 8-11, 2009 in Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany. The county needs approximately 10 members to act as delegates to support the Division 2 candidate for state office. If you are able to attend, please contact John Greehy. Carpooling from the Harp & Whistle at 7 am on Saturday (7/11) for those going to vote.

Hibernian Membership Drive

Brothers—we are actively seeking new members to our Order. We urge all members to please recruit a family member or friend. We need the efforts of all members to increase the size of our order and our Division. For an application please call the Hibernian Hall at 534-2528.

Hibernian Hall Rental

Hibernian Hall Rental - Do not forget the great benefit of belonging to Division 2—namely our Hibernian Hall. The hall, grounds and facilities make the Hibernian Hall perfect for all your party needs—christenings, communions, confirmation graduations, birthdays parties, family reunions and retirement parties. The calendar is filling quickly for the rest of 2009 so call the hall at 534-2528—leave a message for Kevin Moore.

Thanks and More Thanks!

Many Thanks to all our Building Fund Raffle movers and shakers including John Greehy, Dennis Malone, Joe Ryan, Matt Clancy, Kevin Moore, Kevin Moore, Jr., Kevin Cummings, Matt Flanagan, Jim Kiernan, Neil and John Halpin, John Masterson, Bill Kirnan, John Marlow, Greg Kopf, Tim Hogan, Jim Kane, Cathleen Walsh, Danny Lynch, Dave Murphy, Clem Villa, Joe Luchow, Sal C., and all the other kitchen help and everyone else who worked behind the scenes. **Thanks** Margaret and Jim Kiernan for heading up the Relay for Life.

Additional Thanks to all our friends, sponsors and members who bought tickets and made the raffle such a huge success!!! **Special Thanks** to New Windsor Town Supervisor, George Green and Councilwoman Pat Mullarkey for the use of the Recreation Dept. tables and chairs. **A Very Special Thanks** to Joe McCormick and his trusty truck for helping in transporting those tables and chairs!

More Thanks to all our Friday night cooks: Dennis Malone, Jim Kane, John Greehy and Kevin Cummings. Finally, a **Thousand Thanks** to all those who work behind the scenes (so many of you)—your hard work does not go unnoticed. **Go raibh maith agaibh—An Irish Thanks!**

AOH-DJW Corp. Election Results

Congratulations to the new building corporation officers: Dennis Malone, President; Kevin Moore, Vice President; Bob Morgan, Recording Secretary; Clem Villa, Treasurer and Joe Thomson, Secretary. Please see any of the officers for suggestions or comments regarding the building and grounds. Special thanks to Pat Healey who is the outgoing corporation president. Pat put in many hours working behind the scenes. Good job Pat!!!

Summer Fun—Irish Festivals

The International Celtic Festival At Hunter Mountain August 16 & 17th, 2009

Featuring fantastic entertainment from the Emerald Isles, plus world-class Irish-American bands. Dozens of authentic Irish vendors, traditional foods, and plenty of beverages. Admission: Adults: \$12; 12 years and under are FREE. Group rates are available to groups of 15 or more. Massed Bands at 6:30—7:30 is not to be missed!!

The Hooley on the Hudson™ 2009. September 6, 2009

SUNDAY—LABOR DAY WEEKEND

“IT IS A HOOLEY DAY OF OBLIGATION”

The 8th edition of the **Hooley on the Hudson** will be held on the **Sunday of Labor Day Weekend** on the Kingston waterfront. The Tara Stage will feature the following entertainment. Act 1: Girsá (Irish for Young Women); Act 2: The Kitty Kelly Band; Act 3: The Whole Shabang; Act 4: Mac Talla Mor. and many more! Check the website for more information:

<http://www.ulsteraoh.com/>

2009 Annual Dues are Past Due!

Membership dues are past due. Please send **\$50.00** to:

AOH Division 2

Attn: Financial Secretary

PO Box 206

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Visit: www.div2aoh.org/update.htm to update your information. Every member is important to us. Please do not fall through the cracks.



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