



# Hibernian News



Volume 8 Issue 9

**For the Price of Ireland: The Fenian Invasions of Canada** (Part 2 of 3)

September 2007

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By the time O'Neill took command of the Fenian Field Army, Major General Sweeny's original plan for a three-pronged attack had been considerably diluted. Logistical issues had rendered the Chicago advance unfeasible. The Fenians in Cleveland (O'Neill's regiment among them) had not been provided boats to cross Lake Erie into Ontario. As a result, the Cleveland force was transported by train to Buffalo and consolidated with the units there (who had sufficient boats to cross the Niagara River). Sweeny's 16,800-man force that was to attack Lower Canada from Vermont, commanded by Brigadier General Samuel P. Spear, numbered only around 2,000 and had significant communication issues with the Buffalo unit. They would not play a decisive role in the events that unfolded. Sweeny had planned to overwhelm the British with three forces converging on them at once, forcing them to fight in multiple directions simultaneously and preventing them from massing on any one portion of the Fenian Army at a given time. Though absolutely sound in concept, as illustrated above, the plan fell apart in execution; O'Neill and his men would face the bulk of the Crown forces alone.

At this point, it is useful to stop for a moment and look at what role the US government had in the unfolding drama. As illustrated earlier, the government was well aware of the Fenian Brotherhood – recruiting had occurred openly

during the Civil War and Fenians had fought in the ranks of both Union and Confederate armies. The US government had condoned the movement (if not encouraged it), largely out of resentment at England's support of the Confederacy. There is historical speculation that, prior to the invasion, Roberts had even met with US President Andrew Johnson and informed him of the Fenian's plan for Canada – receiving Johnson's assurances for official US recognition of their accomplishments if they were successful. Though this exchange is largely unconfirmed, Roberts exuded supreme confidence in "official" US support for the planned invasion and subsequent negotiations for a free Ireland. Something served as the rationale for this confidence; the US government made no serious attempt to disarm or arrest the Fenians prior to the invasion, although little effort had been made by the Fenians to be discreet in their activities. The participants in the failed Campo Bellow expedition were let off by US authorities with mere slaps on the wrists. This would lend credence to Roberts' allusion to official support. On the other hand, a US Navy gunboat, the USS Michigan, appeared in Buffalo harbor on the night of 30 May and began to patrol the Niagara River, prepared

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

**September 9, 2007**

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.  
(The next Irish Breakfast will be held on October 14th)



Continued on pg. 3

## A Message from the AOH Division 2 President

Dear brothers and friends,

September 2007

September is here and some say that summer is gone. But what a summer it was! We had a successful raffle and let's not forget the great Friday nights. The arrival of autumn brings the prettiest season in our area and there is no more beautiful view than from our back deck.

September is also filled with Irish history. In 1823, Daniel O'Connor established the Catholic Association to obtain liberty for Catholics. This resulted in the Catholic Emancipation Act in 1829, which removed virtually all disabilities against Catholics.

The Great Famine was declared on Sept.9, 1845. During the next five years, 1 million Irish died or immigrated to America. Due to this, Irish and American history was changed forever.

With the talent, direction, and labor of our members, the new addition stands tall in front of our clubhouse. There is still more to be done, so come on down.

September also marks the 6th anniversary 9/11. Our membership and community were never so affected by any action in history. Please keep the victims and their families in your hearts and in your prayers "Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal" (Thomas Moore). See you at our next meeting, September 19th.

God bless all,  
Michael Shannon,  
President, Division 2

## Upcoming Events

(subject to change)

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Sept 9</b>     | Irish Breakfast 9:30—12:30. \$7.00 adults - \$3.00 children.                                     |
| <b>Sept 11</b>    | Adult Irish Set Dancing Begins—Hall: Tuesdays at 7 pm.   |
| <b>Sept 15-16</b> | Irish Heritage Festival—Orange County Park, Montgomery, NY                                       |
| <b>Sept 19</b>    | Monthly Meeting - Hall: 7 pm. Members are encouraged to attend.                                  |
| <b>Sept 23</b>    | Major Degree—Burke H.S.—Goshen. Members are encouraged to attend.                                |
| <b>Sept 28</b>    | An Evening with Friends—Music by Dave McElroy. \$5 donation. Hall: 7:00 pm. More info to follow. |
| <b>Sept 30</b>    | AOH-DJW Corp Meeting—all members in good standing invited Hall: 2:00pm.                          |
| <b>Oct 14</b>     | Irish Breakfast 9:30—12:30. \$7.00 adults - \$3.00 children.                                     |
| <b>Oct 17</b>     | Monthly Meeting - Hall: 7 pm. Members are encouraged to attend.                                  |

## Major Degree Ceremony Planned

### A county-wide Ancient Order of Hibernians Degree Ceremony

will be held on

**Sunday, September 23, 2007**  
11:45 pm

The Major Degree ceremony will be conducted by the Tara Court Degree Team. The Shamrock Degree will be conducted by the Seamus Comiskey Memorial Degree Team.

The location of the ceremony will be at:

**John S. Burke Catholic High**  
80 Fletcher Street  
Goshen, NY 10924

Any member planning on seeking division or county high office must have their Shamrock and their Major degree.

Cost:

\$30 for members needing their degree  
\$20 for members wishing to observe  
Call 845-562-8651 to RSVP



## Irish Heritage Festival

The 14th Annual  
**Irish Heritage Festival**  
Orange County Park  
Montgomery, NY

**Saturday and Sunday,**  
**September 15—16, 2007**

There will be continuous music, dancing, Irish crafts, Irish and American food, bagpipes and children's activities.

The festival opens on Saturday at 11:30 am. Sunday there is a Celebration of the Eucharist at 10:30 am. The festival program begins at 12:00 Noon.

**Adult tickets \$10.00, Seniors \$8.00,**  
**2-day pass \$15.00, Children under 14 free**

This festival is sponsored by the Irish Heritage Festival Committee, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to service to the community and to preserving the many aspects of Irish culture.

**For more information please call**  
**845-343-5736**

## Thanks and More Thanks!

**A Very Special Thanks** to all our Friday Night Cooks, Kevin and Rose Cummings, John and Ann Greehy, Cathleen Walsh, Kevin Moore Sr and Jr., Joe and Alice Ryan, Dennis and Maryellen Malone and Don and Ann McClellan. 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!**

## For the Price of Ireland (cont'd from Pg. 1)

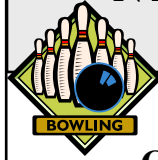
prepared to intercept the invasion force as they tried to cross into Canada. The seemingly contrary behavior of the government would become clear a few days after O'Neill advanced into Canada.

O'Neill, now an acting Brigadier of what was being called the "Irish Republican Army," moved his men from various assembly points located in warehouses around Buffalo to the docks on the Niagara River. At 0315 hrs on the morning of 01 June, the invasion began as the Fenians loaded barges and, evading the USS Michigan, were towed across the river by steam tugs. The first to reach the Canadian shore were Fenian units from Kentucky and Indiana, under the command of Colonel Owen Starr. Starr moved his force to capture the remnants of an old Crown outpost known as Fort Erie. Resistance was light – only 6 soldiers from the Royal Canadian Rifles had been left to defend the fort – and Starr's men soon raised an orange, white and green tricolor over the outpost. (Continued in the October newsletter).

## AOH—DJW Corporation Meeting Notice

AOH—DJW Corporation Notice of Meeting to be held on **Sunday, September 30, 2007—2:00 pm** at the Division Hall. All members in good standing are encouraged to attend. Upcoming plans and projects for the hall and the bar area will be discussed. Come to the meeting and let your voice be heard.

## NYS A.O.H. Mixed Doubles Bowling Tournament



**October 20th 2007**  
**Colonial Lanes, Chester, NY**  
**12:30 pm Registration...1:00 pm start**

\$30.00 p/p includes a buffet dinner and awards at Division 1 Hibernian House in Monroe NY  
 (Join us for dinner only—\$15.00 p/p)

### Dinner, Awards and Live Music

*Penne ala Vodka w/Shrimp*  
*Sausage and Peppers*  
*Chicken Parmesan*  
*Meatballs*  
*Roast Pork Marsala*  
*Roasted Reds*  
*Vegetables of the Season*  
*Bread, Salad, Coffee, Tea, Wine and Beer*

**Trophies will be given for Highest Team, Lowest Team, Highest Individual**

Lane Sponsors are \$25.00 per organization/person

For more information please contact—

Patrick Burns, Chairman Sports Committee  
 (315) 406-8226

-or-

Dennis Browne, Chairman Charities and Missions  
 (845) 774-9436

Bowling Reservations by 10/13/07  
 Lane sponsors by 10/10/07



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