



# Hibernian News



Volume 14 Issue 9

October 2013

## Division 2 Officers

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## Halloween and All Things Spooky

(by Dave Sutton)

Halloween originated in the Celtic world of the British Isles as part of the pagan Celtic celebration of Samhain (pronounced sow-een) recorded as far back as 5 B.C. On that day, the Celts believed that spirits rose from the dead and mingled with the living. In order to prevent these spirits from harming them, the Celts would leave food on their door steps for the good spirits and wear masks to scare off the bad spirits.

The Celtic calendar is an agricultural calendar with 4 quarters:

Imbolc; February 1, start of Spring; Beltane; May 1st, start of Summer

Lughnasa; August 1, start of Harvest; Samhain; November 1, end of Summer, end of Celtic calendar year.

The night from October 31 to November 1 was seen as a "time between years", when the borders between this world and mythical world were open. It was a time when the dead could walk the earth. They could communicate with the living, have a drink with you, or settle past debts. It was a time when the *puca* (pronounced pooka), was out and roaming the countryside, when fairies and banshees were visible to humans and when humans had to be clever to the "little people" or bad things would happen. Some spirits had the power to kidnap, particularly children, who would then be taken back to the nether world.

Samhain also has two other significant themes to it besides being a night for spirits. First, it is a time when the old fires in the homesteads are extinguished and new fires are ceremoniously lit during Druid rituals. The idea that Halloween is the darkest and eeriest night of the year is a result of the people dousing their fires for a few short hours. The images of huge bonfires on hill tops, of "wicker men" burning, of witches dancing around flames are attributed to these celebrations as the people proceed into that time of the year with the least amount of sun light. The second theme is that Samhain is also celebrated as a New Year's Eve celebration. All of the grains and fruit should have been harvested by October 31. The livestock should have been collected and any old or sickly livestock that would not last the winter were slaughtered and added to the larder. It is this annual butchering that connotes a gruesome aspect to the holiday.

There are several types of spirits that roamed the earth besides our deceased relatives and neighbors such as fairies and banshees. Scholars attribute these beings as the remnants of the early pagan gods who were diminished as a result of the rise of Christianity. The "little people" served as an explanation for a person's good or bad luck, (the Leprechaun blessed or cursed you), or as an attribution to a person's great gifts or unfortunate personality (possession). Our tradition of carving pumpkins, creating "Jack-O-Lanterns" stems from the legend of "Stingy Jack". On a Samhain night, Jack invites the devil for a drink and tricks the

devil into turning himself into a coin to pay for the drinks in return for Jack's soul. The devil agrees but instead of paying the barkeep with the coin Jack slips the coin into his pocket next to a silver crucifix thus trapping the devil. Jack releases the devil in return for a promise that the devil will not bother him for 1 year. The following year Jack tricks the devil into climbing up a tree in order to get Jack some fruit and while the devil is up the tree Jack carves crosses on the tree stump, thus trapping the devil again. Jack releases the devil in return for a promise that the devil will not bother Jack for 10 years. Soon after Jack dies, but God, remembering Jack's unsavory habits, refuses to let Jack into heaven. The devil, still smarting from Jack's tricks refuses Jack into hell, but gives him an ember, a lighted coal, which Jack can use to light his way as he wanders forever in the darkness of eternity. Being too hot to handle, Jack carves out a turnip to use as a lamp for the ember. If you have ever carved out a turnip, you now know why we use a pumpkin.

So where does the term Halloween come from? In 601 A.D., Pope Gregory I issued a famous edict instructing his missionaries to the Celtic isles to adapt native peoples' traditions and customs into Christian practices and beliefs wherever practicable. We see this at Christmas where a tree, formerly a Druid object of worship, is incorporated into our celebration of our Lord's birth, even though fir trees did not grow in Bethlehem. In 835 A.D. another pope, Gregory III moved the All Saints feast day from May 13 to November 1 in order to Christianize the Samhain celebration, since it involved ancestor worship. By the end of the 10th Century, the Church had added All Souls Day on November 2 thus extending the rite of ancestor worship to all of the deceased, echoing the respect for our dead relatives and acquaintances in line with the Celtic version of Samhain. The term Halloween is a combination of Hallow, an old English term for Holy Man and eve referring to the eve of All Saints Day.

Halloween became a Catholic holiday and as the Irish emigrated to the United States, this tradition was brought with them. Since the United States was initially Protestant, Halloween was not an accepted and a person living in Massachusetts in the 1700's could be sentenced to death or banishment for celebrating it. As more and more Irish emigrated to the United States and with its adoption by the Episcopal church after the Civil War, Halloween was transformed from a religious celebration to a community event by the late 1800's. Soon society melded other themes such as harvesting and the changes of autumn with the religious theme. The first official Halloween parade occurred at Anoka, Minnesota in 1921, and since then from Dublin to New York Halloween parades have become ghastly, but entertaining events. Today, Halloween generates over \$2 billion in candy sales alone making it the 2nd largest commercial holiday.

So as you stroll with your little goblins, or spring to the door in response to some evil spirit remember to be kind, and if you are going to be stingy you better be clever or the devil may bring mayhem upon your house.

A Message From the Division President	Upcoming Events (subject to change)	
<p>Dear Brothers and Friends,</p> <p>The Division will be active in the next few weeks with our Irish Night celebration, children's halloween party, and participation in the state fall meeting. Since it's so close for many of us I hope you will consider participating in the events on November 2nd in some way (attend mass, attend the meeting, round up a dart team) and show the rest of the state that we are the best Division in Orange County.</p> <p>Yours in our motto Friendship, Unity &amp; Christian Charity</p> <p>Michael Shannon</p>	Oct 13	<b>Irish Breakfast</b> - Hall: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.
	Oct 16	<b>Division Meeting</b> - Hall: 7 pm. All members encouraged to attend.
	Oct 19	<b>Irish Night</b> - Hall: 7 PM. To help with Christmas dinners for the needy. \$20 p/p food and music by The Parting Glass. Cash bar.
	Oct 26	<b>Children's Halloween Party</b> - Hall: 1pm to 4 pm.
	Nov 2	<b>Fall Meeting of the NYS AOH Board</b> -Division 1 Monroe. More information to follow.
	Nov 20	<b>Division Meeting</b> - Hall: 7 pm. All members encouraged to attend.

<b>Thank You To...</b>	<b>In Our Prayers</b>
<p>...All the Division members who assisted and participated in the AOH County picnic at the hall. We had a big crowd and our friends from Pennsylvania came again.</p>	<p>Keep brother John Halpin in your prayers as he undergoes cancer treatment. May God watch over him.</p>
<b>NYS AOH Fall Meeting in Orange County</b>	<b>News from Ireland</b>
<p>The Fall NYS AOH Board Meeting will take place in Monroe on Saturday November 2, 2013. There will be a mass at St. Anastasia (21 North Main Street Harriman) at 9 am with the meeting at Division 1 hall at 10:30 am. Dart tournament registration begins at 1 pm and the tournament starts at 1:30 pm (Division 1 hall, 10 North Main St. Monroe, \$10 per player). Buffet dinner and awards starting at 5:30 pm. It would be great if Division 2 members would attend the meeting and show that the AOH is alive and thriving in Orange County.</p>	<p>➡Doctors in Ireland are calling for a 20 percent tax on sugary drinks to help fight obesity. Michael Bloomberg would be proud!</p> <p>➡Intel Corporation unveiled the first chipset designed and developed at its County Kildare facility. The Quark SoC x1000 chip will carry a “designed in Ireland” trademark and will be used in “wearable computing” like smart watches.</p> <p>➡What’s in a name? 31% of Irish women have a nickname for their car vs just 19% of men. The winning name, Betsy, was five time more popular than any other.</p>



## Irish Night

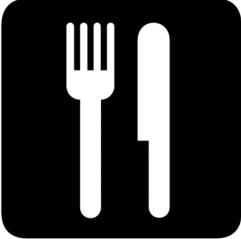

### Saturday October 19th, 7 pm to 11 pm

Please join us for a wonderful evening of music, food, and friendship at the Hall on Saturday October 19th. Music will be performed by the Parting Glass Band ([www.partingglassband.com](http://www.partingglassband.com)).

**\$20 p/p with a cash bar**

A great opportunity to introduce a friend to an Irish celebration



<b>Irish Breakfast</b>	<b>Children's Halloween Party</b>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> <p>Come enjoy an authentic Irish Breakfast on Sunday October 13th from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Hall. Menu includes eggs, pancakes, grilled tomato, bangers, rashers, home fried potatoes, black &amp; white pudding, juice, coffee, &amp; tea. \$7 adults, \$3 children. If we're lucky the special bread pudding and whisky sauce might make an appearance!</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Bring your children and grandchildren to the Hall on Saturday October 26th from 1 pm to 4 pm for the annual children's halloween party. A donation of canned food will be collected and delivered to the needy. Ghouls, goblins, witches and other ghostly characters are welcome.</p> </div>  </div>

**Ancient Order of Hibernians**  
**Fall Interim Meeting of the New York State Board**  
**Saturday, November 2, 2013**



**Hosted by AOH Orange County Board**

**Location:** Monroe, New York

**Special rates for Hotel - \$119.00 per night**

**Cutoff - October 8, 2013 - use code "AOH"**

**(After Oct. 8 - \$159.00 per night)**

**Courtyard Middletown**

24 Crystal Run Crossing - Middletown, New York 10941 USA

Phone: 1-845-695-0606 - Fax: 1-845-695-0607

**EVENTS**

**Mass: 9:00 am**

**St. Anastasia Catholic Church**

21 North Main Street

Harriman, NY 10926

(845) 238-3844

[saintanastasiachurch.org](http://saintanastasiachurch.org)

**Interim Meeting: 10:30 am**

**Hibernian Hall**

10 North Main St

Monroe, NY 10950

845-783-0205

***Lunch provided with a Cash Bar available after the meeting***

**Dart Tournament Registration 1:00 - 1:30pm**

**Dart Tournament: 1:30 - 5:00 pm**

Cost \$10.00 per Player

Bring your own darts if you have them!

**Contact:** Bill O'Donnell (917) 453-3554 or

Keith Reynolds (845) 783-0205

**Dinner (Buffet) & Awards: 5-30 - 8:00 pm**

**Hibernian Hall**

10 North Main St - Monroe, NY 10950

[aohdiv1.org](http://aohdiv1.org) 845-783-0205