



Hibernian News



Volume 14 Issue 7

Summer 2013

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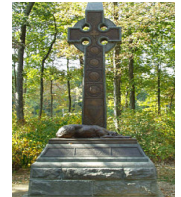
Hibernian Hall
845-534-2528

PLEASE NOTE:

The next Irish Breakfast at the Hall will be on September 8th. Save the date for a nice fall day at the Hall.

The Irish-Americans at the Battle of Gettysburg - 150 Years Ago (by Dave Sutton)

150,000 Irish immigrants enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War. Of all the ethnic groups they became known as the **"Fearless Sons of Erin"** because within the Army of the Potomac, (the Union Army created to protect Washington, D.C. and the surrounding area), it was chosen to lead the major charges in several key battles. No other unit besides the 1st Vermont and the Iron Brigade would suffer as many casualties as the Irish Brigade.



The Irish Brigade was assembled in 1861 and originally consisted of the 63rd Regiment organized in Staten Island, and the 69th and 88th Regiments organized in the Bronx. Later the 28th Massachusetts and 116th Pennsylvania Regiments would be added. The 29th Massachusetts was originally assigned to the brigade, but did not like serving with the Irish, so it was replaced with the 28th Massachusetts which was predominantly Irish. In February of 1862, Thomas Meagher, an Irish Republican sent to the penal camps of Australia by Great Britain due to his participation in the Young Ireland Revolt, was appointed its commanding officer. The Irish Brigade led the way at the Battle of Antietam in September 1862 where 60% of the men in the 63rd and 69th Regiments were killed (approximately 600 men). At the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 1862, 545 of 1200 men would be killed or wounded. At Gettysburg, July 1863, 320 of the remaining 530 were killed or wounded. Captain Patrick Kelly of the 88th New York was appointed its commanding officer in May of 1863. He was born in Castlehacket, County Galway in 1821. His horses name was "Faugh a Ballagh", Gaelic for "Clear the Way", which has become the motto for the 69th New York National Guard. The commanding officer of the 116th Pennsylvania was Major St. Clair Mulholland, born in Lisburn, County Antrim in 1839. He would be wounded four different times during the Civil War and receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. He later retired to become Police Commissioner for the City of Philadelphia. "After a long and fatiguing march, we arrived on the evening of the 1st instant within about 3 miles of Gettysburg," wrote Major St. Clair Mulholland in his July 2, 1863 battlefield report. There, the 116th Pennsylvania Infantry, along with others of its Brigade, awaited orders to the sound of the surrounding battle. In the late afternoon the Brigade finally marched toward the battle, eager to succeed once more in its military endeavors.

What truly set this Brigade apart was its title as the Irish Brigade. Composed of the 63rd, 69th, and 88th New York Infantries, the 28th Massachusetts Infantry, and Mulholland's 116th Pennsylvania Infantry, the Irish Brigade was unique in that almost the entirety of its men were Irish Catholic immigrants or descendants thereof. By the time Mulholland marched his regiment across the fields of Gettysburg, the Brigade had already come to fame as a heroic one.

While Irish Catholics remained one of the most underrepresented populations in the Union Army, the Irish Brigade fought valiantly to earn the respect of its fellow soldiers. Many had

Our Lady of Knock Mass

Sunday August 18, 2013
Holy Mass at 9:00 AM

Main Chapel, The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
70 Carmelite Drive, Middletown, NY 10940

Irish Breakfast in Pilgrim Hall to follow
Adults-\$15, children 6 to 12-\$7, under 6-free

If you'd like to help in the kitchen please contact Mike Shannon

Sponsored by:

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AOH &
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A Message From the Division President		Upcoming Events (subject to change)	
<p>Dear Brothers and Friends,</p> <p>In my first message as President of Division 2 my thanks go to Brother Ray Fitzgerald for his time as our President. Be assured that your brothers will be there for friendship and support, Ray. I feel that stepping up to this office is more an honor than a duty as Vice President. In my short time in office, my brothers have already shown their support and devotion to the Division with their participation in at least two events. Thank you. Summer is a quiet time for us. Keep in mind; we are preparing for the Orange County AOH Picnic on September 14th at the Hall. Keep it on your calendar! We also will have a family barbecue every Friday night. Come enjoy the cookouts and feel free to cook when you can.</p> <p>Yours in our motto Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity</p> <p>Michael Shannon</p>		Aug 17-18	Hunter Mountain International Celtic Festival - Hunter Mountain http://www.huntermtn.com/huntermtn/festivals/summer-festivals-celtic.aspx
		Aug 18	Our Lady of Knock Mass - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Chapel: 9 am. This is a family event so bring the whole clan.
		Aug 21	Division Meeting - Hall: 7 pm. All members encouraged to attend.
		Sep 8	Orange County AOH meeting - Hall: 2 pm.
		Sep 14	Orange County AOH Annual Hibernian Picnic - Hall: 1 pm. Bring the family, we'll have babysitters.
		Oct 6	Right To Life Mass - St. Patrick's Cathedral, NYC.
		Nov 2	Fall Meeting of the NYS AOH Board -Division 1 Monroe. More information to follow. Save the date.
2nd Annual Hibernian Picnic		Thank You To...	
<p>Last year's inaugural Hibernian picnic was so successful we've decided to do it again this year. The 2nd annual Hibernian picnic will be held at Division 2 on Saturday September 14th from 1 to 6 pm. Cost is \$15 p/p or \$25 p/ family household (spouse and children living at home). Please RSVP to Mike Shannon before September 7th. See the flyer for more information: http://www.div2aoh.org/documents/HalfwayPicnicFlyer.pdf</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anne Keegan for all your help with the Irish Breakfasts. You were somehow left out of the last newsletter. We really saved the best for last!• Bill Kirnan for accepting the interim Vice President's position until the next election.• Everyone who has served as a Friday night chef.• The DJW work crew that waxed and polished the Hall floor: Dennis Malone, Bob Morgan, Jim McDonnell, Neil Halpin, Mike Shannon, and especially Chris Miller for his technical expertise.• The members who came to the County Convention in June where Kevin Moore was elected President. Division 2 had the best attendance of all the Divisions.	
Hall Rental		New Member	
<p>Looking for a nice, clean, comfortable location to host a special event for a family member or friend? Look no further than the Irish Cultural Center...our Hall! You enjoy the Hall yourself so why not consider hosting an event there. This year's building coordinator is Bill Moore. Contact Bill at the Hall at 845-534-2528. You must be current with your dues to rent the Hall.</p>		<p>Please extend a warm welcome to the newest member of Division 2, Wilfred J. Roy. He was sworn in at the June monthly meeting. Welcome aboard!</p>	
The Irish Brigade (continued)			
<p>been wary at the idea of a purely Irish Brigade of the Union Army, as such ethnic divisions might run contrary to the term "Union". However, others saw the value of the Brigade in its ability to threaten the British out of allying themselves with the South. A successful Irish Brigade hinted to the British that any action in favor of the Confederacy could cause trouble in its already troubled territory of Ireland. Luckily for the Union, the Irish Brigade was most often successful. At Gettysburg in particular, the Irish Brigade famously pushed back Longstreet's Corps in the wheat field near Little Round Top and Devil's Den on July 2nd. According to Mulholland, "The order was given to advance, which the brigade did in excellent style, driving the enemy from their position, which we at once occupied." While the end of the second day of battle brought heavy loss for the Brigade, the following day found them witnessing the failure of Pickett's Charge, which they saw as revenge for their massive losses at the Battle of Fredericksburg. By the end of the third day the Confederate troops at the wheat field had surrendered. The Brigade had suffered severe losses—of the 530 soldiers it brought to Gettysburg, about 320 were killed—something they had become used to as a consequence of its unending bravery. Mulholland reported, "Everyone did his duty in a manner that excited my warmest admiration and gratitude. Were I to mention any one in particular it would be but showing injustice to the rest, as each one tried to excel the other in deeds of gallantry and daring."</p> <p>Today the Irish Brigade is honored at Gettysburg with the statue of a Celtic cross and a greyhound. The greyhound is the Irish symbol of loyalty and the statue itself a memorial to the Irish Brigade's heroism. It stands as a reminder that despite the prejudices that may have been held against the Irish, when the battle began those who fought did not hesitate to act with valor.</p>			