



ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA

INCORPORATED
Organized in New York City, May 4, 1816

JOSEPH DUELK, JR. DIVISION NO. 1

P. O. Box 337, Monroe (Orange County), New York 10950

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 8, 2017 7 PM

Paddy Naughton Hall, 10 North Main Street, Monroe • (845) 783-0205

JOSEPH DUELK, JR. – Vietnam Memorial, Washington, D.C

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am preparing my final newsletter as the President of Joseph Duell, Jr., Division 1, Monroe, NY. I joined our division in 1983 and took my major degree in 1984.

I followed in the footsteps of great men like my father, Leo O'Grady, Bill Spencer, Pat Early, Johnnie Walsh, Jim Corcoran, Chris (Mike) Keegan, Jack Collins, Tom Fleming, Jack Quinn, Patty Quinn, Jim Lynch, Jim Kelly, John Kennedy and all the others, that I looked up to as a young man.

Now some 34 years later I am thankful to have worked with brothers like George Anderson, Neil O'Riordan, Tom Keahon, Tom McCarthy, Bobbie Burns, John McCabe, Stevie Gibbons, Charlie Bohan (just to name a few) that have help me in my tenure. Our brotherhood is very unique for we allow ourselves to disagree with each other, yet remain strong to the defense of our Church, family and fellowship of the brotherhood.

There is no other group that allows Mother Church to serve as our Leader, with the vow to protect her, our Country and then each other, and to assist a brother without question or hesitation in a time of need. This organization called the Joseph Duell, Jr. Division 1 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is truly like any other family.

At times we may not see the others point of view, or we might even strongly disagree, but when day is done, we know that we have some very special bond of brotherhood and friendship, which seems to form at our Hall.

My hope is that we continue to help that brotherhood grow by attending meetings, supporting events and asking our children or grandchildren to also join as Junior members in the First Lt. Louis Allen Division.

I thank each Board member for your assistance and guidance, it was an honor to work with every one of you. I have been blessed by the people I came into contact here with, that then became friends and now are my family. I wish Brother Neil O'Riordan all the best as your new President and personally thank Past President George Anderson for all his assistance. I am happy to have help start a Jr. Division in Honor of a Local Chester Man (HERO). I was honored to begin a new tradition of combing two Hero's Memorial Masses at St. Anastasia Parish, with the help of other local Veteran Groups. I am happy, I suggested George Anderson as the Grand Marshal of the Mid-Hudson Parade, and now Keith Reynolds at the Aid to the New York City Parade. For in my perspective, I wanted society to know the special men, I am honored to call Brothers, should be looked up to by our children and society.

All the best Neil. I promised to keep this section short, with the hopes of room for the new President Brother O'Riordan to request the honor of your presence at our Christmas Party, and the announcement of the Hibernian of the Year and the Family of the Year. Margie and I would like to wish every member and their families a BLESSED CHRISTMAS and Happy and Health New Year – in Motto – Tommy Flynn

Division 1

Calendar of Events

December 3

Mid-Hudson Grand
Marshall Installation
AOH Hall 2 to 5 PM

December 8

AOH Monthly Meeting
AOH Hall 7 PM

December 17

AOH Christmas Party
and Awards Day
AOH Hall 1 PM

**2018 AOH Dues are due!
\$40 Annual Dues**

**\$100 JDJ Building Fund
(JDJ Corp will pay you
annual dues)**

**\$125 AOH Dues, Building
Fund Contribution and
Fleming Scholarship
Contribution**

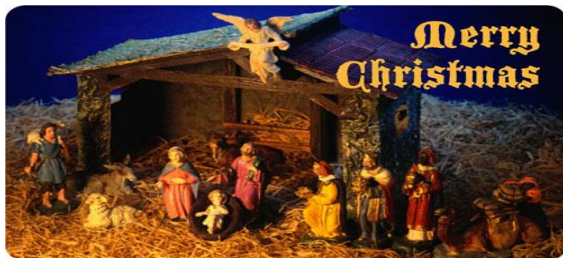


Division Events Food Pantry Donation Day



AOH Division 1, in conjunction with the AOH Division 1 Juniors, held a Monroe Food Pantry Food Drive on Saturday November 18th and Sunday November 19th. The Drive benefited Our Father's Kitchen of Sacred Heart Parish, as well as the Methodist and Presbyterian Church Food Pantries.

Assisting those days were George Anderson, Neil O'Riordan, Mike Lynch, Jim Schmidt, Billy Coffey, Chris DeBold, Junior Division President DeClan DeBold, William Coffey, Conor Cuniffe, Harry Sullivan, Liam Parker, Tyler and Conor Flynn, Anthony Melo and Liam Ronayne. 10 shopping cart-full loads of donated food and \$113 in cash donation were raised over the 2 days.



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A Moment in Irish History

The Saint Patrick's Battalion Part 2

The Battle of Churubusco was the St. Patrick's greatest and final battle. The San Patricios were divided and sent to defend one the approaches to Mexico City. The others were in a fortified convent. When the Americans attacked on August 20, 1847, the San Patricios fought like demons. Mexican soldiers three times tried to raise a white flag and each time the San Patricios ripped it down. The only surrendered when they ran out of ammunition. Most of the San Patricios were either killed or captured in this battle. John Riley was among those captured. Less than a month later, Mexico City was taken by the Americans and the war was over

Trials, Executions, and Aftermath

Eighty-five San Patricios were taken prisoner in all. Seventy-two were tried for desertion the others never joined the U.S. army so they could not be tried for desertion. Some of the men were pardoned by General Scott for a variety of reasons; including age (one was 15). Fifty were hanged and one was shot. Some of the men, including Riley, had defected before the official declaration of war between the two nations: this was, by definition, a much less serious offense and they could not be executed for it. These men received lashes and were branded with a D (for deserter) on their faces or hips. Riley was branded twice on the face after the first brand was accidentally applied upside-down. Sixteen were hanged in San Angel. Four more were hanged the following day at Mixcoac. Thirty were hanged on September 13th in Mixcoac, as the American flag was raised, it was meant to be the last thing they ever saw.

One of the men hanged that day was, Francis O'Connor, he had both his legs amputated the day before due to his battle wounds. When the surgeon told Colonel William Harney, the officer in charge, He said "Bring the damned son of a bitch out! My order was to hang 30 and by God, I'll do it!"

Those San Patricios who had not been hanged were freed after the war. Many of them remained in Mexico and started families; and a handful of Mexicans can trace their lineage to the San Patricios today. Those who remained were rewarded by the Mexican government with pensions and the land that had been offered to entice them to defect. Some returned to Ireland, Most, including Riley, vanished into obscurity.

Today, the San Patricios are still a bit of a hot topic between the two nations. To Americans, they were traitors, deserters, and turncoats, they were certainly loathed in their day; in his excellent book on the subject Michael Hogan points out that out of thousands of deserters during the war, only the San Patricios were ever punished for it and their punishment was quite harsh and cruel.

Mexicans, however, see them in a vastly different light. To Mexicans, the San Patricios were great heroes who defected because they could not stand to see the Americans bullying a smaller, weaker Catholic nation. They fought out of a sense of righteousness and justice. Every year, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in Mexico, particularly in the places where the soldiers were hanged. They received many honors from the Mexican government, including streets named after them, plaques, postage stamps issued in their honor, etc.

What's the truth? Thousands of Irish Catholics fought for America during the war: they fought well and were loyal to their adopted nation. Many of those men deserted but only a fraction of those deserters joined the enemy army. This lends credence to the notion that the San Patricios did so out of a sense of justice or outrage as Catholics. Some may simply have done so for recognition: they proved that they were very skilled soldiers- arguably Mexico's best unit during the war- but promotions for Irish Catholics were few and far between in America. Riley, for example, made Colonel in the Mexican army. In 1999, a major Hollywood movie called "One Man's Hero" was made about the St. Patrick's Battalion.

The information was taken from an article by Christopher Minster and www.thoughtco.com part two will be next month's history piece. Sources, Eisenhower, John S.D. "So Far From God" and Michael Hogan "The Irish soldiers of Mexico"