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Irish • Catholic • American

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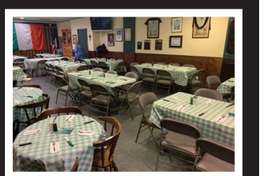


HISTORY CORNER: THE "REAL" FIRST THANKSGIVING

This month's article was submitted by guest historian Tracy Wagaman

In the winter of 1620, the pilgrims were suffering in their new world. Winter arrived with starvation, death, and the idea that maybe it was time to give up and go back to Europe.



The real story of what happened next is all but lost.

On February 20 of 1621, the ship *The Lyon* arrived with much needed provisions. The ship was sent over by a Dublin merchant whose daughter was married to one of the pilgrims.

Grateful for their salvation, the pilgrims proclaimed the following day, February 21, a Day of Thanksgiving.

Over 200 years later, President Lincoln declared the day a national holiday and moved it to the fourth Thursday of November. The pilgrims' amiable relationship with the Native Americans became the focus of the holiday, and the story of this first Thanksgiving took a step back.

In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving back a few weeks because of its proximity to Christmas. The move proved very unpopular with the general public and one year later the date was again changed back to the fourth Thursday in November.

During this time, the origin of Thanksgiving was studied to validate the original date.

An article appeared in The Boston Post mentioned The Lyon as the ship responsible for the first Thanksgiving, but the writer claimed that the ship had come from England or Holland. Irish organizations in Boston were outraged and cited anti-Irish bias as the reason for the paper's failure to mention Dublin as the true port of origin.

The writer of the article later acknowledged that he had made a mistake and promised to make a correction in the paper the following Thanksgiving. The correction was never made.

CORPORATION NEWS

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for making this year as Corporation President such a wonderful and rewarding experience. Your continued support, dedication, and involvement are what make our organization so special.

"Luck of the Irish" Fundraiser Our annual Luck of the Irish fundraiser will kick off in December. Tickets will be available at the hall or through any board member. You can also find a flyer in the Chieftain. If you would like to receive a ticket by mail, simply send a check for $50.00, along with the bottom portion of the flyer completed with your contact information, to me at the hall: 148 Main Street, Binghamton, NY 13905. I will be happy to mail your ticket to you.

This is our largest fundraiser of the year, and with only 200 tickets available, your chances of winning are certainly worth taking! The drawing will be held in March, with five cash prizes: 1st Prize: $2,500 | 2nd Prize: $1,000 | 3rd Prize: $500 | 4th Prize: $500 | 5th Prize: $500. So take a chance and put a little extra green in your pocket just in time for our St. Patrick's Day celebration season!

2027 NYS AOH/LAOH Convention Looking ahead, this summer we will have the honor of hosting the 2027 New York State AOH/LAOH Convention at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Binghamton. Please be sure to register and join us for what promises to be an outstanding convention filled with wonderful events, fellowship, and opportunities to reconnect with friends from across New York State. We are currently in the planning stages, and there are many exciting things in the works. I encourage everyone to keep an eye out for opportunities to lend a hand to our convention planning committee. Remember, many hands make light work, and every bit of help is appreciated.

Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to stop by the hall, spend some time with us, and catch up with old friends while making new ones. Our organization is only as strong as the members who support it, and there is always room for one more brother or sister. Thank you again for making this year such a memorable experience. I look forward to seeing everyone at the hall and celebrating another great year together.

In Our Motto, Patrick Walsh, Corporation President

THE CHIEFTAIN
Friendship • Unity • Christian Charity

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ian Haines
AOH President

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Christmas time is here and we have a lot to look back at and be proud of this past year. We have truly lived up to our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity this year. We have helped our local community through volunteering and donations to local charities. We have stood shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters from across the country and across the world at our national convention to support causes and individuals advocating for people in need and we have spent time with each other in friendship at the hall, at local events or in support of each other when someone needed it. It has been a remarkable year here at the AOH and I am proud to have been a part of it with all of you.

Coming up soon is our Annual All Divisions Christmas Party. The party will be on December 5th at the hall. Sign-ups are available at the hall so please make sure you sign up if you want to attend. We will have lots of food and friendship as usual and of course we will sing some Christmas carols together.

We have a lot to look forward to in the new year as well. Preparations will soon be underway for St. Patrick's Day season. If you have any desire to help with anything this coming holy season, feel free to reach out, there is always something to do!

We hope you have a peaceful, blessed and joyous Christmas season and a Happy New Year!

Our next Men's Meeting will be Tuesday, December 8th at 7PM.

In our motto,

Ian Haines, AOH President

Next AOH meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8th, 2026

LAOH COUNTY BOARD

As our year is coming to an end, I would like to express my gratitude to all members of the AOH, LAOH Division 1 and 2 and Juniors. for allowing me to serve you all. Let us be thankful for all the memories and events that were shared.

Please join us for the AOH and LAOH Christmas Party on December 5, 2026 @6:00pm at the hall. Hope to see you all there.

Thanks to volunteers who helped make the fundraiser for the County Board on November 20th a great success as well as the bake

The County Board elections will be held at the meeting on December 1st @ 5:30pm. All members in good standing are welcome to attend. Help support your LAOH sisters.

I hope you all have a Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year with family and friends. Let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas.

Please pray for peace in the world and for anyone who is suffering in any way.

In our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Michele Talcott, President 607-349-8736

BROOME COUNTY LAOH JUNIORS

Join the LAOH Junior Division – Keep Our Traditions Alive!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Election Night Fundraiser such a wonderful success! We extend our sincere appreciation to Little Venice Restaurant for their generous donation of sauce, and to all the members who baked goods and made donations in support of the event. A special shout-out goes to our Juniors, their families, and all the volunteers who cooked and worked tirelessly in the kitchen and dining room. The support of our community, members, and everyone who joined us for dinner made this event truly special. Thank you!

We also want to thank everyone who contributed to our "Warm Hearts–Warm Hands" Drive benefiting the Rescue Mission. They were thrilled to receive these much-needed items, and your generosity is greatly appreciated!

We are always pleased to adopt a family referred to us by RISE for Christmas. We look forward to shopping for gifts, wrapping presents, and delivering them to help make the holiday season a little brighter for a family in need.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, December 20th, at 1:00 PM at the Hall on Main Street. This will be a fun-filled holiday gathering with gift wrapping, games, holiday crafts, a gift exchange, and a special treat! Please remember to bring a gift for the exchange. We look forward to celebrating the season together!

Membership Information-We welcome young ladies of Irish heritage—by birth, descent, or adoption—between the ages of five and seventeen who are practicing Catholics to apply for membership. For more information or to request an application, please contact your Division President, Junior Co-Ordinator or pick up an application at the Hall.

Wishing everyone a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!

LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

LAOH DIVISION ONE



Jaqi Kenefick
LAOH1 President

There is a busy schedule this month. I decided on a time line for clarity.

DECEMBER 5- All Division Christmas party. 6 to 10pm with dinner and entertainment.

DECEMBER 7- Deadline for ordering $10 Christmas Cookie Platters. Sign up is at the hall or Contact Mary Nowak 607-222-7262

DECEMBER 11- Division Christmas Party Please note time change: 6pm we will enjoy the snacks you brought to share, 6:45 pm we will say the rosary and 7pm a short meeting.

We decided to help the children at the Children's home. The Home serves kids from 6 to 18. We are looking for sports balls, puzzles, crafts, diaries, art supplies

The other population is the men at the extended stay hotel. They need hygiene supplies, winter hats, gloves, socks, food that can be cooked in a microwave and snacks. A member has generously donated Christmas stockings which we will fill after the meeting. Please bring whatever you want to donate to the meeting.

DECEMBER 12- Drop the cookies that you volunteered to bake at the hall 3 to 7pm

DECEMBER 14- Drop Cookies off at 9 am or so. We will be assembling the platters then. Volunteer assemblers are always needed.

DECEMBER 15 & 17- Pick up the cookies that you ordered 4 to 7 pm.

If you have a problem getting the cookies to the hall or picking them up, please contact Mary Nowak

DECEMBER 19- Wreaths Across America ceremony 2pm at Savage Funeral Home 338 Conklin Ave., Binghamton. After this short but poignant ceremony we will move to the Shawsville and Conklin cemeteries to place wreaths on the grave of each veteran.

Bring a broom if it has recently snowed as we need to be able to say the Veteran's name as we place the wreath. Youth are welcome. Wreaths Across America is remembering the fallen, honoring those you serve and teaching a generation the value of freedom.

DECEMBER 25- May the magic of Christmas fill your heart with Joy and bring you God's blessings throughout the year.

DECEMBER 29- Have a safe and Happy New Year!

Dues for 2027 will be $30. Please see Eillen Zemek after a meeting or if you prefer send a self addressed envelope with the check and your dues card to Eileen at 1960 Hawleyton Rd, Binghamton, NY 13903

At the New York State board meeting the National Secretary informed the group that they want to collect the year of birth of each member. This information is used mainly to apply for grants. There was great discussion around cybersecurity and possible adverse effects if this information is leaked. I have decided to collect information on a voluntary basis. If you want to provide your year of birth just tell me at the next meeting or you can email it to me.

In our motto: Friendship, Unity and Christain Charity

Jaqi Kenefick jkenefick@stny.rr.com 607 206 6762

PARADE COMMITTEE NEWS

Grand Marshal, Maid of Erin and Starter announcement will be December 13th.

Anyone interested in a new advertisement in the parade journal contact Debbie Burke at 607-727-7183.

Parade Day is March 6, 2027.

LAOH DIVISION TWO



Susan Connors
LAOH2 President

I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving and were able to spend time with family and friends. We have a lot to be thankful for such as the friendships we've made and ability to support our charities with our Thanksgiving baskets, thank you all for your support.

Thank you to Kelly Cole for bringing in Laura Lee Intscher, her talk on Ancient Art & Architecture of Ireland was wonderful and thank you to those who brought desserts.

There is still time to sign up for the All-Division Christmas party on December 5th (adults only), open to members and spouses, good fun, food and friendship with our Hibernian Sisters and Brothers.

We still have a few of the NYS AOH/LAOH daily lottery calendars left, cost is $25, please let me know if you'd like to buy one.

As we have for several years, our division voted to donate 10 wreaths for Wreaths Across America, the ceremony is Saturday, December 19 at 2pm at Savage-Demarco Funeral Home, 344 Conklin Ave., all are welcome to attend.

The Convention Committee Chairs are working hard for the 2027 AOH/LAOH Convention in Binghamton. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me.

We are collecting dues ($30) for 2027, but there are still a few members who have not paid, their dues are now $35. To ensure continued membership and receiving the Chieftain, please stop in or mail it in with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: AOH Hall, 148 Main St., Bing. 13905, Attn: Cookie Luke.

Our December Meeting/Christmas Party is Wednesday, December 16th at 6pm. Please bring an unwrapped baby gift for Birthright (Boys newborn 3 month fleece sleepers, Boys 18 month sleepers, pants, shirts, hoodies, Girls 3-6 month fleece sleepers, Diapers size 3, 4, 5, and Wipes) and if you wish to take part in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift, value of $15 and a dessert or dish to pass.

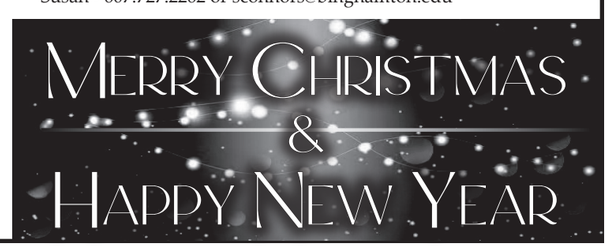
The Cole Family Christmas Charity Event at the AOH is Sunday, December 20, proceeds to benefit Arrowhead & Shepherds Camp, see flyer for details.

Sunday, January 3 is the Installation of Officers for the AOH, Broome County LAOH Board and LAOH Junior Division, time to be announced, I hope you are able to attend.

As we continue to pray for those in the military, for our members and families in need, please keep the families of Ruth Chamberlain and Maryann Houlihan who passed in November in your prayers, as well as our special intentions.

Tá súil agam go bhfuil tú go léir a Beannaithe agus Nollaig Shona…
(I hope you all have a Blessed and Happy Christmas)

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Susan - 607.727.2262 or sconnors@binghamton.edu



BARTENDER SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
29 Tom C Sunday Fun Day Football 12:00 Bring a dish to pass Free Hot dogs Formula one 10:45 Molly	30 Closed	**1** Jeff W Joanie M County Board 5:00	**2** Barb B Deb K Bar Bingo 5-7:30	**3** Barb B Tom M Catholic Charities Christmas Party 4-7	**4** Dick & Charlie Sylvia S Catholic Central Christmas Party 6:00	**5** Matt F Open 3-? December Birthdays Eileen R 5:00 All Division Christmas Party 6:00
6 Bob & Betty Sunday Fun Day Football 12:00 Bring a dish to Pass Free Hot dogs	**7** Closed Irish Dance 6:00	**8** Mike C Sylvia S Men's Meeting 7:00	**9** Tom M Craig W Trivia 6:00	**10** Kate H Molly M Morning Lark 7:30-9	**11** Deb B Pat W LAOH Div 1 6:45	**12** Hollie W 3-7
13 Kathy B Parade Commitee Christmas party 2-4	**14** Closed	**15** Susan C John T	**16** Donald B Sylvia S LAOH Div 2 7:00	**17** Eileen R Donald B	**18** Barb B & Cookie Theresa & Cookie Ben Franklin 3:00 Music by Rare Vintage 5:30-7:30	**19** Donald B Open 3-7
20 Juniors 1:00 Sunday Funday Tom M 1-4 Kelly & Steve Christmas Charity Party 4-? Yada Yada's	**21** Closed Bill's Golfers Christmas Party 4:00 Barb and Susan	**22** Pat H Jim B	23 Susan C Jaqi K	**24** Closed	**25** Merry Christmas Closed	**26** Eileen R Open 12-7
27 Tom C Sunday Fun Day Football 12:00 Bring a dish to pass Free Hot dogs Formula one 10:45 Molly	**28** Closed	**29** Cookie L Tom M	**30** Susan C Sylvia S	**31** Diane D Pre New Years Eve Party 3-7 Hors d'oeuvres & specialty drinks John Tobias 5-7	**1** Happy New Year! Closed	**2** Matt F Open 3-11 January Birthdays Eileen4:30

Bartender shifts: 3-5:30 and 5:30-8. Saturday 3-7. Please call Cookie at 607-727-8161 if unavailable for your assigned shift and can't find a substitute.

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