



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



Patrick Pearse Division #1 Franklin County



Tara Hall

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Columbus, OH 43207

www.patrickpearse.com

(614) 444-5949

Tara Hall on Facebook

The Preamble to the AOH National Constitution

**It is hereby declared that the purpose of this Organization,
The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. is**

1. To promote Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity
2. To foster and sustain loyalty to country and community
3. To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, promoting peace (with justice) and unity for all Ireland
4. To foster the ideals and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people
5. To promote Irish culture
6. To encourage civic participation
7. To encourage an equitable U.S. Immigration law for Ireland, and to cooperate with all groups for a fair American Immigration Policy
8. To accept and support, without prejudice, the concept of free expression of religious practices for the people of the world
9. To protect and defend all life born and unborn

Membership is confined exclusively to males residing in the United States who can prove their Irish ancestry or who have been legally adopted by those of Irish Ancestry, or be a member of the Roman Catholic clergy, or be enrolled as a Seminarian regardless of ancestry if they meet all other requirements and be a practicing Roman Catholic.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians

A National Order

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is the oldest Irish Catholic organization in the United States. The fraternal Order traces its roots back to a parent organization that has existed in Ireland for over 400 years. The Order evolved from a need in the late 1500s to protect the lives of Catholic priests. These priests faced immediate death for keeping the Catholic faith and sacraments alive in British occupied Ireland during the reign of English Kings and Queens.

The early Hibernians served as guards, protecting priests who were forced to celebrate Mass in secret in the Irish glens and mountains in violation of the English law. Through the efforts of the Hibernians, the Catholic faith was preserved and Ireland remained a Catholic nation.

As the Irish sought freedom in America in the 1800s, the Order was again called upon to defend the Catholic Church from attack. The nativist Know-Nothing Party was attacking Catholic priests and burning Catholic Churches. The Irish in America recognized a familiar enemy and they resorted to a familiar tactic. They banded together in unity in their adopted land to protect the Catholic Church and their fellow Irish Immigrants.

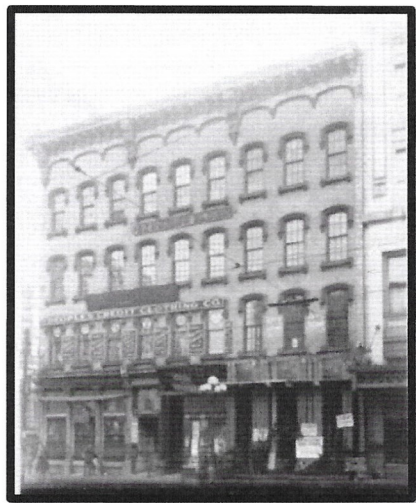
On May 4, 1836 at St. James Church in New York City, they founded a new American organization. This organization was known as the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, and true to their Irish heritage, they stood together to defend the Church, often at the risk of their own lives. The organization soon spread westward across the United States. Today, there is at least one AOH division in every state in the union.

The AOH in Ohio

It is difficult to identify precisely when the AOH arrived in Ohio. *Cincinnati Illustrated: A Pictorial Guide to Cincinnati and its Suburbs*, written by Daniel J. Kenny in 1879 notes the following, "The Society was instituted twelve years ago [1867] and the Hamilton County Division was the first in Ohio to organize." In addition, several newspaper accounts in Mahoning County report that the AOH Division in Youngstown, Ohio was organized by James Gallagher in 1865. Youngstown may also have a claim to having been the first division formed in Ohio. We do know that by 1900 the State of Ohio had 78 divisions located in 36 counties in Ohio.

The earliest mention of the AOH Ohio State Board is in 1875 with the election of Patrick Dunphey of Cincinnati as State Delegate (prior to 1894 State Presidents carried the title of State Delegate). It was in the autumn of 1875 when a small but determined group of Irishmen moved to Columbus, Ohio from Sharon and Wheatland, Pennsylvania. They settled in the part of Columbus known as "Flytown," which was located in the northwest section of Ohio's capital city.

After several preliminary meetings, many of them "held under the shade of the trees in Goodale Park," the first division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, in Franklin County, was organized on May 5, 1876 (on the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the National AOH).



The Ohio State President, Patrick Dunphey of Cincinnati, came to Columbus to install the division and its officers. The installation meeting was held in the Sessions Building (see photo at left) located at 118-120 North High Street on the southeast corner of Long and High St in Columbus. (the building was torn down in 1923).

The new division grew and prospered thanks in large part to the first bishop of the Columbus Diocese, Bishop Sylvester H. Rosecrans, who, in April 1876, was asked for his opinion regarding the new Division. He replied, "A few weeks ago we noticed the organization in this city of a branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The

members composing the division here we found to be honest, upright, intelligent, and good practical Catholics, who regarded their faith more than their own heart's blood, and would not knowingly be guilty of a breach of the laws of the Church."

The Division made its first public appearance on July 4, 1876 when it marched as a unit in the parade commemorating the Centennial Celebration of American

Independence. Membership in the division grew as prominent Irish-American citizens of Columbus joined the group. Men such as, Michael Burns, Police Commissioner; Thomas J. Dundon, Police Commissioner, business leader, as well as, future National Treasurer of the Ancient Order of Hibernians; Jerry O'Shaughnessy, Columbus Water Commissioner and political leader; Patrick A. Egan, Columbus Coroner, **James T. Carroll**, Columbus printer and Catholic news editor, who would serve as National Secretary of the Order. The Hibernians quickly became the dominant Irish group in Columbus and each year organized the annual St. Patrick's Day parade.



So fast was the growth of the Hibernians in Columbus that soon there were a total of five divisions, each serving a geographical area of the Capital City.

In addition, in 1900 James T. Carroll founded Company A of the Hibernian Rifles, a military division of the Order. Their first appearance as a unit was St. Patrick's Day 1901. The Hibernian Rifles were recognized for their volunteer efforts by the Mayor of Columbus for their assistance in opening a bridge across the Scioto River during the tragic 1913 flood in Columbus, facilitating rescue and relief efforts on the West Side.

Times changed, however, in the late 1920s and early 1930s the Hibernians began to die out in Columbus. The many divisions began collapsing with the last division in early Columbus being known as the Amalgamated AOH Division. However, the Irish spirit of the "founding fathers" of the Hibernians in Columbus was never completely extinguished.

A New Division Comes to Columbus

Over forty years ago, on May 5, 1979 an article appeared in the Columbus Dispatch. It read: "The Ancient Order of Hibernians is out to form a Columbus chapter and will hold a meeting for Catholics who are Irish by birth or descent at 8 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus hall, 555 East Broad Street."

After years of hard work by AOH National Director Michael Coogan of Dayton, Ohio and Michael Muldowney of Bridgeport, Ohio, the AOH returned to Columbus. On Wednesday, July 11, 1979 a new division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was formally organized in Columbus. The installation program began with Mass in St. Patrick's Church offered by Father William T. O'Shaughnessy, O.P.

State President John A. Keaton, Jr. and National Director Michael Coogan installed the division. The new division was named for Patrick Pearse, poet, author, educator and commander-in-chief of the Irish Republican forces in the 1916 Irish Rebellion. The Charter Members of the Patrick Pearse Division were as follows:

Robert L. Black*	Thomas McNally*
Richard Bolton*	James T. Moore
James P. Comer	Patrick R. Moran
Rev. Msgr. John T. Ditto*	John C. O'Connor
Ronald Eaton*	William O'Reilly*
Timothy Feeney	Robert E. O'Shaughnessy, Jr.*
David Hartigan*	Kevin J. Talty
William M. Malone	George Ryan

*Member is deceased

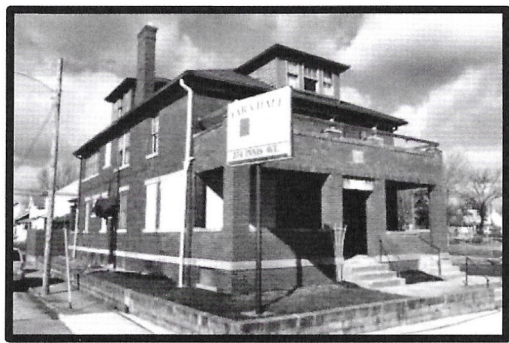
The Patrick Pearse Division grew in size and strength. Meetings were held wherever space could be found. This "noble band of tinkers" was without a permanent home. This situation soon changed in 1988 when the division took up residence at the former St. Patrick's Church Social Hall in Columbus. The hall was named "Tara Hall" after the ancient coronation site of Irish kings.

Having a home allowed the division to grow and add new members. The division became active and influential in both the state and national AOH organizations. In 1997 the division reached the level of 300 members, making it the largest division in the State of Ohio. Members of the Patrick Pearse Division have served the Order by holding national and state elected and appointed offices. The National Organization of the AOH has adopted many programs initiated by the Patrick Pearse Division.

In April 1999, faced with the loss of its adopted home, the division was forced to leave St. Patrick's Social Hall and seek other quarters. A period of homelessness and legal battles followed. Eventually, in early February 2003 the legal storm clouds were removed and the division set its sights on a return to the basic work of the Order. Much like the mythical phoenix, the Division reestablished itself as an active and vital force in the Columbus Irish Catholic Community.

The Patrick Pearse Division once again was forced to rely on the kindness of others as we returned to our roots as a "noble band on tinkers." In the spirit of ethnic cooperation, a gracious offer of assistance was received from our friends in the Germania Society of Columbus and the division shared their meeting space at their hall in German Village from 2007 until 2009.

The New Tara Hall



On October 15, 2008 the division purchased its own building, also christened "Tara Hall," at 274 East Innis Avenue in the south end of Columbus. Through the hard work of our members and friends we once again had a permanent home in Columbus. The property was formally blessed by Rev. George Schlegel of

Columbus. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians utilizes the building south of the main building for their meetings. It has been named "Pearse's Cottage." The first division meeting was held in the new Tara Hall on March 12, 2009. Members of the division donated their time and skills to gradually remodel and upgrade our new home. We have also purchased two pieces of adjacent property, expanding our footprint in the south side.

Conclusion

The membership of the Patrick Pearse Division now includes three bishops: Bishop Robert J. Brennan, the current Bishop of Columbus; Bishop James A. Griffin, the retired 10th Bishop of Columbus; and Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, the Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, Ireland. As the members of the Patrick Pearse Division work to build a strong foundation in the City of Columbus, they look forward to the future of continuing contributions to the Columbus Irish Community.

With God's help and continued blessings the Patrick Pearse Division will continue to operate under the precepts that have governed the Ancient Order of Hibernians for over 400 years. These precepts are set forth in the motto of the A.O.H. - Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.
History Updated: February 19, 2021

*J. Michael Finn, State and Division Historian
Ancient Order of Hibernians in America*

The Parting Glass

Of all the money that e'er I had
I spent it in good company
And all the harm I've ever done
Alas, it was to none but me

And all I've done for want of wit
To memory now I can't recall
So fill to me the parting glass
Good night and joy be with you all

Of all the comrades that e'er I had
They're sorry for my going away
And all the sweethearts that e'er I had
They'd wish me one more day to stay

But since it fell into my lot
That I should rise and you should not
I'll gently rise and softly call
Good night and joy be with you all

Commodore John Barry



Article XXIII of the AOH National Constitution states, in part, that **Commodore John Barry Day, September 13th is a National Holiday of the Order** and it shall be celebrated in an appropriate manner. The John Barry Medal is presented by Hibernians throughout the United States to commemorate outstanding academic, cultural and civic achievement.

John Barry was born in Tachumshain, County Wexford, Ireland in 1745 and immigrated to Philadelphia at the age of fifteen. Barry found employment with a shipping firm where he prospered and became Master of several merchant vessels.

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, Barry was made Captain of the ship "Lexington" by the Continental Congress and on April 7, 1776, captured the British sloop "Edward", the first war prize taken by the Americans. On December 24, 1776, his ragtag fleet unable to reach open water, Barry left his ships, recruited a company of volunteers, rushed to the aid of General Washington on the banks of the Delaware River and participated in the Trenton and Princeton victories.

In the fall of 1777, with Philadelphia in the grip of the enemy and American hopes at their lowest, the British General, Lord Howe, tried to entice Barry to desert General Washington. Barry replied, "Not the value and command of the whole British fleet can lure me from the cause of my country." During the course of the American Revolution, Barry boldly and skillfully engaged and captured many British vessels and was wounded.

In 1781, the Catholic citizens of France sent to the American patriots the sum of six million dollars. The safe transport of that vital gift was entrusted to John Barry aboard his ship "Resolute". That money, clothing and munitions enabled General Washington to sustain his army and assemble his forces at Yorktown where, with the aid of the French fleet, he defeated Cornwallis.

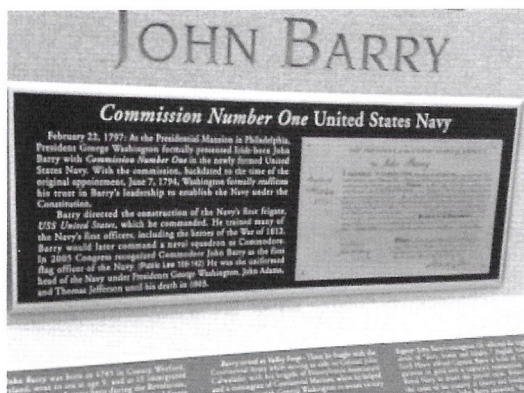
On March 10, 1783, Barry, aboard the "Alliance" won the last sea battle of the American Revolution when, while escorting a shipment of funds vital to the new nation, he engaged and avoided capture by the British ship "Sybille".

When recalcitrant members of the Pennsylvania Assembly shirked their duty to consider and vote on adoption of the Constitution, Barry led a group, called "the Compellers", who dragged the delegates to the State House and thrust them into the Chambers as the assembled citizenry cheered.

On June 14, 1794, President Washington appointed John Barry Commanding Officer of the United States Navy with Commission Number One.

On September 13, 1803, at his home on Strawberry Hill, Philadelphia, Barry died after a long illness. He is buried at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Philadelphia. By Joint Resolution, approved August 20, 1981, the U.S. Congress designated September 13, the anniversary of his death, "Commodore John Barry Day" as a tribute to the "father of the United States Navy". By Joint Resolution, approved in December 2005, Commodore John Barry has been recognized as the first flag officer of the United States Navy.

Monuments honoring John Barry have been raised in Philadelphia, Washington D.C., New York, Boston, County Wexford, Ireland. On May 10, 2014, the Barry Gate and the Barry Monument were dedicated at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.



Patrick Pearse Division Information

Meeting Schedule

Business meetings: first Thursday of every Month at 7:00 P.M.
General meetings: second Thursday of every Month at 7:00 P.M.
Holy Rosary in library before each general meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Dues Schedule

Dues are paid in February of each year.
Regular Member: \$40, Retired Member: \$30, Student Member: \$30,
U.S. Military Veteran Member: \$30 and receive Veteran Pin,
Catholic Clergy: Free

Current Officers (2021)

President	Ken Stebleton - kstebleton@live.com
Vice President	Chris Fulcher - cfulcher21@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Roger Minner - rjminner@sbcglobal.net
Financial Secretary	Bruce McPherson - hilliardmcperson@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Bryan Horn - horn19@yahoo.com
Sentinel	George Penree - gmpenree@outlook.com
Standing Committee	Rich Finn - ccocrfinn@aol.com
Marshall	Scott Robinson - robby43215@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Greg Brown - gbrownshamrock@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs (2021)

Catholic Action - George Penree - gmpenree@outlook.com
Missions & Charities - Chris Konic - chriskonik@mindspring.com
Veterans Affairs - Danny Eakins - dannyeakins@hotmail.com
Freedom for All Ireland - Michael Cosgrove - irish.mick213@gmail.com
Committee on the Sick - Jim Fath - jim.fath1@gmail.com
Home Committee - Ed Norris - ejnorris75@gmail.com,
- Jim Fath - jim.fath1@gmail.com
Standing Committee - Rich Finn - ccocrfinn@aol.com

Past Presidents

Year(s)	President	Year(s)	President
1979	Terrence O'Shaugnessy	2003-2004	Patrick Fahy
1980	Timothy Keefe	2005-2006	Glenn Hagan
1981	Joseph O'Neil	2007-2008	Jim Wade
1982	John C. O'Connor	2009-2010	John Coy
1983	Kevin J. Talty	2011	Michael Coleman
1984	Michael D'Arcy	2012-2013	Patrick Visel
1985	Richard Bolton	2014-2015	Greg Brown
1986	James Garvey	2016-2017	Ed Norris
1987	Tom Hamilton	2018	Chris Konik
1988 & 1993	William Leddy	2019-2020	Scott Partika
1989-1990	Gerry Curran		
1990-1992	Jerry Preest		
1994-1995	James R. Fath		
1996-1997	Thomas O'Mahoney		
1998-1999	Harold Hughes		
2000	James Hacker		
2001-2002	Ronald Hagen		

Awards

Hibernian of the Year

Year	Recipient	Year	Recipient	Year	Recipient
1979	James Comer	1993	Jeff French	2007	Robert Lane
1980	Richard Bolton	1994	Glenn Hagan	2008	James R. Fath
1981	Michael Dundon	1995	Harold Hughes Michael McGinn	2009	Ed Norris
1982	Ronald Eaton	1996	J. Michael Finn	2010	Gregg Eiden
1983	Jack Brands	1997	David Murphy	2011	Pat Fagan
1984	James Clark	1998	James Hacker	2012	William Smith
1985	Michael Dundon	1999	John Crossin	2013	Joseph Forkin
1986	William Leddy	2000	Patrick Visel	2014	James Wade
1987	Chuck Wrenn	2001	Patrick Fahy	2015	Chris Konik
1988	Mark Dempsey	2002	Francis B. Doyle	2016	Dan Fitzgerald
1989	Jerry Preest	2003	Michael T. Coleman	2017	Scott Partika
1990	Jamie Gaffney Tom Davis	2004	Ron Hagan	2018	Roger Minner
1991	Keith Dunnigan	2005	J.D. Richardson	2019	Ken Stebleton
1992	James R. Fath	2006	David Hopper	2020	Bruce McPherson

Commodore Barry Award

Year	Recipient	Year	Recipient
1990	William A. Leddy	2009	Ronald J. Hagan
1991	Rev. Fr. Robert G Harwick	2010	Michael L McGroarty
1992	John C. O'Connor	2011	J.D. Richardson
1993	William E. Powers, Jr.	2012	John H. Coy
1994	Francis Gerard Curran, Jr.	2013	Ricky L. Lovell
1995	James R. Fath	2014	Donald Schlegel
1996	Kevin J Talty	2015	John Crossin
1997	James R. Wade, Jr.	2016	Chris L. Konik
1998	J. Thomas Davis	2017	Daniel R. Eakin
2000	J. Michael Finn	2018	Chris R. Fulcher
2001	James T. Moore	2019	Ed Norris
2002	James B. Hacker, Jr.	2020	Kathy Sullivan
2003	Fr. Stephen Hayes, O.P. Glenn Hagan		
2004	Francis B. Doyle		
2005	Patrick J. Fahy		
2006	Michael T. Coleman		
2007	James B. Casey		
2008	Gregory J. Brown		

Committees

Catholic Action — Coordinates all relations between Church activities and the Division

Missions & Charities — Coordinates and handles all charitable causes and donations

Veterans Affairs — Serves as a resource to promote Veteran causes both internal and external to the Division

Freedom for All Ireland — Serves as a resource to promote Irish Unity and to update the Division on all developments in that regard

Committee on the Sick — Manages and coordinates Hibernian Prayer List for the Division

Home Committee — Serves as a communication mechanism between Tara Hall and the Division

Standing Committee — Handles all filed grievances between members and serves as the arbiter in such cases

Charitable Activities

St. Ladislav Food Pantry, Freedom for All Ireland, Project St. Patrick, Dead Theologian's Society, Other Local, State and National Charities

Important Events

First Saturday Mass — Rotationally with Breakfast & Fellowship to follow

Traditional Music Nights at Tara Hall — Weekly on Fridays

Monthly Birthday Night Celebration — Monthly at Tara Hall

Tara Hall Cleanup — Saturday before Green Season in Early March

Proclamation Day Celebration — Annually in Early March

St. Patricks Day Celebration — Annually on March 17th

Freedom for All Ireland Road Bowling — Annually in Late April

Division Golf Outing — Annually in Early June

National Convention — Biannually in rotating location

State Convention — Biannually in rotating location

Dublin Irish Festival Parade and Beer Truck — Annually in Early August

Commodore Barry Day — Annually in Early September

Celtic New Year — Annually in November

The Irish National Anthem

“A Soldier’s Song”

We’ll sing a song, a soldier’s song,
With cheering rousing chorus,
As round our blazing fires we throng,
The starry heavens o’er us;
Impatient for the coming fight,
And as we wait the morning light,
Here in the silence of the night,
We’ll chant a Soldier’s Song.

Chorus

**Soldiers are we, whose lives are pledged to Ireland
Some have come from a land beyond the wave.
Sworn to be free, no more our ancient sire land
Shall shelter the despot or the slave
Tonight we man the Bhearna Bhaoil
In Erin’s cause come woe or weal
Mid cannons’ roar and rifles peal
We’ll chant a soldier’s song**

In the valley green, on towering crag,
Our fathers fought before us,
And conquered ‘neath the same old flag
That’s proudly floating o’er us.
We’re children of a fighting race,
That never yet has known disgrace,
And as we march, the foe to face,
We’ll chant a Soldier’s Song.

Chorus

“O’Donnell Abú”

Proudly the note of the trumpet is sounding
Loudly the war cries arise on the gale,
Swiftly the steed by Lough Swilly is bounding
To join the thick squadrons on Samier’s Green Vale.
On, every Mountaineer, strangers to flight and fear;
Rush to the standard of dauntless Red Hugh.
Bonnaught and Gallowglass, throng from each mountain pass;
On for old Erin, O’Donnell Abú!

Princely O’Neill to our aid is advancing
With many a chieftain and warrior clan.
A thousand proud steeds in his vanguard are prancing,
‘Neath the Borderers brave from the banks of the Bann.
Many a heart shall quail under its coat of mail;
Deeply the merciless foeman will rue,
When on his ear shall ring, borne on the breeze’s wing,
Tyrconnell’s dread war cry, O’Donnell Abú!

Wildly o’re Desmond, the war-wolf is howling,
Fearless the eagle sweeps over the plain,
The fox in the streets of the city are prowling,
All who would scare them are banished or slain.
Grasp, every stalwart hand, hackbut and battlebrand,
Pay them all back the deep debt long due.
Norreys and Clifford well, can of Tyrconnell tell,
Onward to glory, O’Donnell Abú!

Sacred the cause that clan Connell’s defending,
The altars we kneel at, the homes of our sires,
Ruthless the ruin the foe is extending
Midnight is red with the plunderer’s fires.
On, with O’Donnell then, fight the old fight again,
Sons of Tyrconnell, all valiant and true.
Make the false Saxon feel Erin’s avenging steel,
Strike for your country, O’Donnell Abú!