

Upper Ohio Valley

# Historical Review

Fall/Winter 2013



## Hibernians Annual Picnic

Parke Division and Ladies' Auxiliary

Thursday, July 17th, '02

At Wheeling Park

Supper and Refreshments ... Amusements of All Kinds ... All Are Invited

COMMITTEE—Messrs. Jas. Howley, John J. Byrne, John Clark, J. W. Kemple, John Nary, John W. McDermott, John McNamara, Daniel O'Leary, Wm. O'Neil, Raymond Cunningham, Meedames Wm. O'Neil, Buch. M. O'Neil, Thos. Watson, Cook, and Misses M. Byrne, C. Clark, Maggie Sweeney, B. Hennihan, Julia Driscoll, Annie Tucker, Raphael Moran.



Fall/Winter • Volume 36, No. 2



# Whelan's Irish Guard

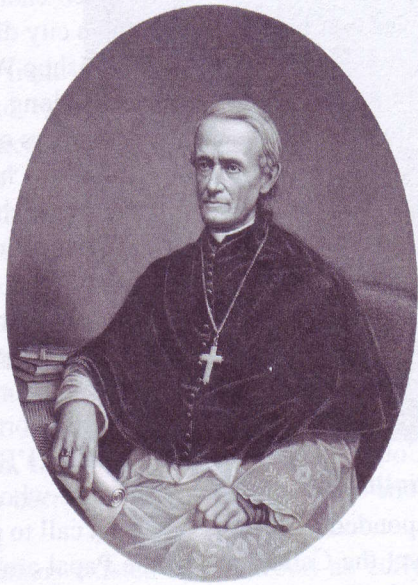
## The Ancient Order of Hibernians in Wheeling

By Seán Patrick Duffy

In 1854, an ambassador of Pope Pius IX visited Wheeling at the invitation of Bishop Richard Whelan, head of the new Diocese of Wheeling. According to some accounts, a mob of anti-Catholic "Know-Nothings" burned an effigy of the ambassador, delivered anti-Catholic speeches and approached the Cathedral carrying rocks and clubs during his visit. Anticipating trouble, Bishop Whelan assembled an armed guard of approximately 200 local Irish men. When confronted by Whelan's armed Irish guard, the frustrated mob made threats and threw stones but more serious violence was averted. Unharmd, the ambassador left Wheeling the next day by train.<sup>1</sup>

The dramatic details of this anecdote are difficult to confirm, but it reflects the prevailing national relationship between Irish Catholic immigrants and their tormentors and in turn, helps to explain the rise of Hibernians in Wheeling and the surrounding region.

First organized in New York City in 1836,<sup>2</sup> the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America provided Irish Catholics with a structure – inspired by secret defensive societies in the homeland – to protect their faith and their comrades. The unity demonstrated by Whelan's armed Irish guard epitomized the core mission of the order – to defend their church and clergy against potentially violent mobs. When the Ancient Order of Hibernians was resurrected in Wheeling a century and a half after Bishop Whelan organized the



**Rev. Richard V. Whelan**



Wheeling Irish, the new incarnation, Bishop Whelan Division Number 1, was aptly named in his honor.<sup>3</sup>

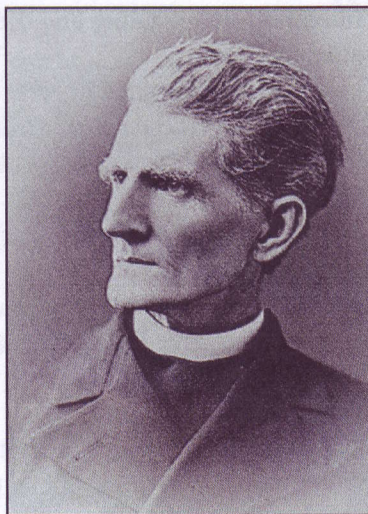
### Origins

Irish immigrants came to Wheeling, Virginia, in large numbers in the early 19th Century to work on construction of the National Road.<sup>4</sup> Rev. Richard V. Whelan, Bishop of the Diocese of Richmond, came to Wheeling in 1846, and three years later, oversaw the construction of St. James Cathedral.<sup>5</sup> By 1850, Rome recognized the significance of Wheeling's growing Catholic population by formally transferring Bishop Whelan from Richmond to Wheeling and establishing a separate Diocese of Wheeling.<sup>6</sup>

The B&O Railroad reached town in 1853 and the increase in demand for workers coincided with An Gorta Mór, (the Great Hunger 1845-52), which forced the departure of 1.2 million Irish from their homeland, drawing Irish immigrants to the region in large numbers.<sup>7</sup> By the late 19th century, Wheeling was one of West Virginia's most-Catholic and most-Irish of cities.<sup>8</sup> This change stirred up nativist political groups such as the Know-Nothings and as a result, the local Irish reacted by organizing.

Wheeling's first division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was inaugurated on November 8, 1873,<sup>9</sup> and was associated with St. Joseph's Cathedral (the name had been changed from St. James').<sup>10</sup> The division was first listed in Wheeling's city directories in 1874.<sup>11</sup> On July 10, 1874, Division No. 1 marched in Bishop Whelan's funeral procession and along with other Catholic societies, members of the A.O.H. also formed part of the honor guard, standing watch as the Bishop's body lay in state for many hours into the evening.<sup>12</sup>

Division No. 1 later became known as the "Parke Division," apparently in honor of Bishop Whelan's close friend, Rev. Henry F. Parke, born in County Sligo, Ireland. Thomas O'Brien (one of the armed Irish men who responded to Bishop Whelan's call to protect the Cathedral and the Papal ambassador forty years prior, and a well known Wheelingite in his own right) served as a



Rev. Henry F. Parke

pallbearer at Parke's funeral.<sup>13</sup> The tensions between Catholics and Protestants remained evident as fraternal societies including the A.O.H. [Ancient Order of Hibernians] were formed. [The societies] will not take into the procession anything that may be offensive to either Protestants or Catholics. The "Orange Lodges" were placed through the parade formation, just ahead of the Blue and Gray. No trouble was reported.

By the turn of the century – the time of the Irish assimilation – the A.O.H. evolved into ubiquitous social clubs.<sup>15</sup> In 1913, the Division which met in the basement of [St. Joseph's Cathedral] as membership in the adult version reached 300. That year, a mass meeting to initiate 300 members was held. By 1921, the Parke Division was headquartered in the Carroll Club building (formerly the James W. Paxton residence and now a business office), also the home of the Knights of Columbus.<sup>19</sup>

### Other Divisions

By 1873, the predominantly Irish population of the Eighth Ward in South Wheeling had its own Church of the Immaculate Conception, commonly known as "St. Mary's" or "Irish Church."<sup>20</sup> In 1875, a second Wheeling division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was organized by members of St. Mary's Parish. First known as Emmet Division No. 2 in honor of the Irish nationalist and rebel leader, Robert Emmet, the name was changed to Mullen Division No. 2 in 1906 in honor of Rev. Joseph Mullen, second pastor of St. Mary's who was born in County Louth, Ireland.<sup>21</sup>

The Ancient Order of Hibernians was organized in 1875 and was associated with St. Joseph's Church as it was being built, members stood

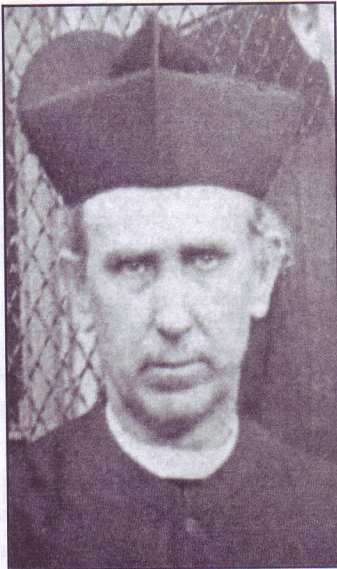


pallbearer at Parke's funeral.<sup>13</sup> The tense relationship between local Catholics and Protestants remained evident as late as July of 1876 as various fraternal societies including the A.O.H. and local "Orangemen" prepared to march in a parade in honor of the national centennial celebration. "To avoid possible trouble," The Wheeling *Daily Intelligencer* reported, "[the societies] will not take into the procession any banners or other paraphernalia that may be offensive to either Protestant or Catholic associations." The "Orange Lodges" were placed three groups behind the Hibernians in the parade formation, just ahead of the governor and the soldiers of the Blue and Gray. No trouble was reported.<sup>14</sup>

By the turn of the century – the need for a defensive posture waned with Irish assimilation – the A.O.H. evolved into another of Wheeling's ubiquitous social clubs.<sup>15</sup> In 1913, the Parke Division formed a juvenile division which met in the basement of Cathedral High School,<sup>16</sup> even as membership in the adult version reached its peak.<sup>17</sup> In November of that year, a mass meeting to initiate 300 new members was held<sup>18</sup> and by 1921, the Parke Division was headquartered at 1300 Chapline Street in the Carroll Club building (formerly the James W. Paxton residence and now a business office), also the home of the Knights of Columbus.<sup>19</sup>

#### Other Divisions

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**Rev. Joseph Mullen**

The Ancient Order of Hibernians existed in Benwood as early as 1875 and was associated with St. John's Catholic Church.<sup>22</sup> When the Church was being built, members stood guard so that the Ku Klux Klan



could not sabotage the construction.<sup>23</sup> A ladies auxiliary for the Benwood Order, St. Bridget's Division, was established in 1895.<sup>24</sup> A second Marshall County Division formed around St. James Church in McMechen, Benwood's neighbor to the south. The new Harris Division of the A.O.H. was named in honor of the parish's second pastor, Rev. Father Richard F. Harris, an immigrant from County Cork.<sup>25</sup> The local A.O.H. presence in Ohio included Toronto, Steubenville, Martins Ferry, Bridgeport, and Bellaire divisions.

Eventually, all of the local A.O.H. divisions, including those in Ohio, established baseball clubs and the interdivision play was quite competitive.<sup>26</sup>

### Irish Days

By the late 19th century, the four northern panhandle A.O.H. divisions began hosting large summer picnics called "Irish Days," usually celebrated at Wheeling Park or Mozart Park.<sup>27</sup> Both parks were essentially beer gardens operated by Wheeling's two largest German brewery owners: archrivals Anton Reymann (Wheeling Park) and Henry Schmulbach (Mozart).<sup>28</sup>

Typical "Irish Days" featured activities like balloon ascensions, tug-o-war, quoit pitching, horseshoes, bowling, running races, putting the stone, and throwing the hammer, "fat man" and "fat woman" races, potato races, bicycle races, and sack races. Prizes included things like "a gold watch chain and a fine shirt." Cake walks (dances) were held at the Wheeling Park Casino with Irish music provided by orchestras, brass bands and pipers, and accompanied by dancing of jigs and reels.<sup>29</sup>

Interestingly, the 1906 picnic was held during the same weekend as Wheeling's last Saengerfest, a large gathering of regional German Singing Societies including Wheeling's own Mozart, Arion, and Beethoven, among others. Wheeling Park was a popular hangout for visiting Germans. "Irish and Germans," The Wheeling *Daily Intelligencer's* subhead pro-



This Benwood A.O.H. badge is typical of those worn for parades and other functions. -S. Duffy

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claimed, "Thronged Wheeling Park and Entertainment. Yesterday was an exceptionally big and jolly day for all."<sup>30</sup> A jolly day indeed — undoubtedly enjoyed a record sales day for

In addition to the annual picnics, ten offered banquets, recitations, music, and Irish-themed plays, featuring performances by members in honor of St. Patrick's feast day at such gatherings, as were other parlor bunks.

### State Conventions

Numerous A.O.H. state conventions according to the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* were held in 12 Hibernian divisions at its peak in the late 19th century. Local divisions beginning around the turn of the century sent representatives of A.O.H. divisions traveling to the following West Virginia conventions: the following West Virginia conventions (the four Ohio and Marshall County divisions known as McGrath Div.), Berkley County, Harrison County (Clarksburg, known as



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Ad for an Irish Day Picnic (*Church Calendar*, July 1902)

claimed, "Thronged Wheeling Park and Enjoyed the Programme Presented. Yesterday was an exceptionally big day at Wheeling Park...It was a jolly day for all."<sup>30</sup> A jolly day indeed – especially for Mr. Reymann, who undoubtedly enjoyed a record sales day for his popular brew.

In addition to the annual picnics, the local A.O.H. divisions often offered banquets, recitations, music, dancing, card playing, and even Irish-themed plays, featuring performances by A.O.H. and L.A.A.O.H. members in honor of St. Patrick's feast day.<sup>31</sup> Euchre was highly popular at such gatherings, as were other parlor games such as bridge, 500 and bunko.

## State Conventions

Numerous A.O.H. state conventions for West Virginia – which according to the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*, could boast as many as 647 men in 12 Hibernian divisions at its peak in 1894<sup>32</sup> – were hosted by the local divisions beginning around the turn of the century. Over the years, representatives of A.O.H. divisions traveled to Wheeling for these conventions from the following West Virginia counties and cities (in addition to the four Ohio and Marshall County divisions): Wetzel County (Littleton, known as McGrath Div.), Berkley County (Martinsburg); Fayette County; Harrison County (Clarksburg, known as Sarsfield Division No. 1); Ca-



bell County (Huntington); Kanawha County (Charleston); Marion County (Fairmont, known as Boutlou Div. No. 1); Mineral County; Randolph County (Elkins and Coalton, a.k.a. Womelsdorf); Taylor County (Grafton, known as McElligott Div.) and Wood County (Parkersburg, known as O'Connell Division).<sup>33</sup>

The Hibernians of West Virginia hosted the state convention in Wheeling on June 19, 1892<sup>34</sup> and again on Aug 28 and 29, 1916. The Windsor Hotel served as the official convention headquarters for the latter, and a ball was held. Over 300 members of the state A.O.H. and L.A.A.O.H. divisions were expected. After Mass, the conventioners marched in a body to the Market Auditorium where the key to the city was turned over to the Hibernians by the mayor.<sup>35</sup>

### Parades and the Wearin' of the Green

Even a cursory review of Wheeling's early newspapers is enough to confirm the town's affinity for parades. Elaborate, decorative, ostentatious and often geographically extensive parades were organized to celebrate most every occasion, from Christmas to German singing festivals, patriotism, "Americanism," anniversaries, grand openings, etc. By the late 19th century, following the mid-century influx of Irish immigrants, St. Patrick's Day was no exception.

The earliest such parade occurred in 1870<sup>36</sup> and found various Irish societies in Wheeling and other nearby towns often united for these activities. In 1873 the parade had 500 marchers plus musicians with Chief Marshal John Nolan leading an array of local Catholic societies. Each group was "preceded by a band of music." "Major Shanley," the Wheeling *Daily Intelligencer* reported, "threw a Fenian flag to the breeze in front of his residence, corner of 7th and Clay Streets, East Wheeling, and the line in passing gave it a greeting...At the B&O machine shops, a small canon did effective service in waking echoes among the Ohio and West Virginia hills...The men were in full regalia...and supper was served at the dining rooms of Mr. Ziegenfelder [better known for his ice cream] at Odd Fellows Hall."<sup>37</sup>

The first mention of participation by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the Wheeling's St. Patrick's Day parade appeared in the March 18, 1874 edition of the Wheeling *Daily Intelligencer*. Dillon J. McCormick of the A.O.H. led 400 marchers and three bands of music in "neat uniforms" starting at 2 o'clock from Institute Hall and proceeding: "up 14th street to Eoff, up Eoff to 11th, down 11th to Market, up Market to Washington (7th), down Washington to Main, up Main to [Wheeling] hospital, thence

down Main to Twenty-Fourth, up Twenty-Fourth to Thirty-third, down Thirty-third to Eoff, up Thirty-sixth to Wood, up Wood to Thirty-third, up Chapline, up Chapline to Twenty-third, down Twenty-third to Market, up Market to Seventeenth, up Seventeenth to Institute Hall, down Institute Hall to Eoff, up Eoff to Twelfth, down Twelfth to Chapline to Institute Hall where the celebration of the Wheeling's parade was not the oldest nor the longest. It may well have been the longest. The parade was held in the 1874 metropolitan Wheeling for an astounding distance of six and a quarter miles! For the sake of comparison, the St. Patrick's Day parade route is less than two miles in the Manhattan version, a mere mile and a half.

While the 1876 Wheeling *Daily Intelligencer* reported on the celebration of a Wheeling parade, the A.O.H. division from Ohio, joined the Benwood division to celebrate a "grand parade and general jamboree." The parade was a Benwood procession, which crossed the Ohio River and marched to Bellaire City Hall.<sup>39</sup> In 1881, the A.O.H. divisions continued their interstate celebration with the St. Cecelia Brass Band.<sup>40</sup> In 1889, "several divisions joined the activities in Bellaire, including the Steubenville A.O.H. came down on Saturday, and the Martins Ferry and Benwood A.O.H. were here."

While the parade tradition faded, it remained popular. The Parke Division held a parade on 14th and Market; "Erin's green being the color of various stars and stripes...silken harp banner followed, where toasts and speeches abounded...The parade was held at Arion Hall at 20th and Main."<sup>43</sup>

By 1898, the parade tradition was revived by the Cathedral High School, who marched the streets in a military High Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral. A drum corps played Irish melodies and songs during the day. The local A.O.H. divisions and others participated in the marching. For the 1905 parade, the parade was marshaled by Master J. Prendergast, riding a small Shetland pony, which was purchased for the purpose.<sup>45</sup> The Cathedral Cadets continued the tradition (the way to Benwood) through 1921.



down Main to Twenty-Fourth, up Twenty-Fourth to Chapline, down Chapline to Thirty-third, down Thirty-third to Eoff, down Eoff to Thirty-sixth, up Thirty-sixth to Wood, up Wood to Thirty-third, down Thirty-third to Chapline, up Chapline to Twenty-third, down Twenty-third to Market, up Market to Seventeenth, up Seventeenth to Jacob, up Jacob to Fourteenth, down Fourteenth to Eoff, up Eoff to Twelfth, down Twelfth to Chapline, down Chapline to Institute Hall where the column broke ranks."<sup>38</sup> While Wheeling's parade was not the oldest nor the best attended in the country, it may well have been the longest. The parade covered every corner of 1874 metropolitan Wheeling for an astounding total marching distance of six and a quarter miles! For the sake of comparison, the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day parade route is less than two miles and the much ballyhooed Manhattan version, a mere mile and a half.

While the 1876 Wheeling *Daily Intelligencer* contained no mention of a Wheeling parade, the A.O.H. division across the river in Bellaire, Ohio, joined the Benwood division to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a "grand parade and general jamboree." The Bellaire City Band headed the Benwood procession, which crossed the Ohio River by ferry at 10 o'clock and marched to Bellaire City Hall.<sup>39</sup> In 1884, the Bellaire and Benwood A.O.H. divisions continued their interstate celebration and parade, led by the St. Cecelia Brass Band.<sup>40</sup> In 1889, "several hundred Wheeling people" joined the activities in Bellaire, including the A.O.H.: "The Toronto and Steubenville A.O.H. came down on Saturday, and Wheeling, Bridgeport, Martins Ferry and Benwood A.O.H. were here yesterday."<sup>41</sup>

While the parade tradition faded, the St. Patrick's Day party became popular. The Parke Division held a party in 1890 at Germania Hall on 14th and Market; "Erin's green being lovingly entwined with the glorious stars and stripes...silken harp banners at each end." A banquet followed, where toasts and speeches abounded.<sup>42</sup> The 1891 celebration was held at Arion Hall at 20th and Main.<sup>43</sup>

By 1898, the parade tradition was resumed by the cadets of Cathedral High School, who marched the streets of Wheeling after a morning military High Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral.<sup>44</sup> Typically, the cadets' fife and drum corps played Irish melodies and schools were closed for the holiday. The local A.O.H. divisions and other Catholic societies sometimes participated in the marching. For the 1905 festivities, "the very small boys were marshaled by Master J. Prendergast, wearing a large green sash and riding a small Shetland pony, which was profusely decorated with emerald hue."<sup>45</sup> The Cathedral Cadets continued to march annually (often all the way to Benwood) through 1921.



In March 1915 the A.O.H. hosted a dance at the Market Auditorium with between 600 and 700 people attending.<sup>46</sup> Even as late as 1927, “hundreds of dancers” crowded the floor for an A.O.H. organized dance.<sup>47</sup>

By the early twentieth century, membership drives for Hibernian divisions in the Wheeling area and in the state as a whole became more frequent and somewhat more desperate in tone.<sup>48</sup> By 1936, the Mullen and Parke Divisions had merged into a single “Ohio County Division.”<sup>49</sup> The last entry for the A.O.H. in Wheeling’s City Directories occurred in 1938.<sup>50</sup> They were listed as “American Order of Hibernians” with meetings at 3600 Wood Street. The available evidence indicates that the A.O.H. of Wheeling and Ohio County (and probably also Benwood, McMechen and Marshall County and perhaps all of the state divisions) failed to survive the Second World War.<sup>51</sup>

### Epilogue: Whelan’s Irish Guard Reborn

In the mid 1980s, Wheeling resident Jack Fahey, whose own ancestors were active members of Wheeling’s defunct A.O.H. divisions, started to attend A.O.H. meetings in Belmont County, Ohio. The attendance was low and Jack believed he could improve it by founding a division with just members of his own family and their friends, so he did.<sup>52</sup> Mr. Fahey discussed his idea with current president Mike Welsh in the winter of 2004 and by the spring of 2005, Mr. Welsh and Mr. Fahey met with Gerry Curran, the national organizer. The prospective new division held its first official meeting at Knights of Columbus Hall in the Edgwood section of Wheeling in the fall of 2005. They decided, fittingly, to name the new division in honor of Bishop Richard Whelan. The division’s charter was officially dated June 15, 2006.<sup>53</sup>

In addition to sponsoring fundraisers and food drives for local charitable organizations, representatives of the division have marched in Pittsburgh’s St. Patrick Day Parade annually since 2008. And since 2010, the division (through the leadership of members Andy Ondeck and Craig O’Leary and the sponsorship of Raymond James Financial Services) has organized, each September, what has grown to become one of the largest Irish Road Bowling tournaments in North America.<sup>54</sup>

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> This anecdote is constructed from a series of reports appearing in *The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer* from Jan. 9-23, 1854. See, Laker, J. The Anti-Bedini demonstration: Nativism at work in Wheeling in 1854. *Cardinal Perspectives*. Retrieved February 17, 2012, from <http://www.wju.edu/faculty/cardinalperspectives/Laker.pdf>. See also, Pyne, T.T.

(2000). *Faith in the mountains: A history of the D*  
2000. Strasbourg-France: Editions du Signe, pp 16-

<sup>2</sup> National web site, Ancient Order of Hibernians, ret  
[www.aoh.com/aoh-history](http://www.aoh.com/aoh-history).

<sup>3</sup> Welsh, Mike. Personal communication. February 9

<sup>4</sup> Brennan, M. (1999). Wheeling’s Irish thread: An  
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<sup>5</sup> Pyne at 9-10.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid at 12.

<sup>7</sup> See Duffy, S.P. (2012). *The Wheeling Family, Volu*  
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<sup>8</sup> Brennan, M. The Irish story, The builders of our ci

<sup>9</sup> *Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*, Sept. 9, 1874. “W  
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<sup>10</sup> Pyne at 76.

<sup>11</sup> See *Wiggin and Company Wheeling Directory* 18

<sup>12</sup> *Daily Intelligencer*, July 10, 1874.

<sup>13</sup> *Wheeling Register* April 10, 1895; Thomas O’Bri  
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defended Wheeling’s legendary crime boss Bill Lias  
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18, 1896.

<sup>14</sup> *Daily Intelligencer*, June 28, 1876.

<sup>15</sup> In addition to numerous German Singing Societ  
–1912 listed such groups as the Alsace and Lorra  
Woodmen of America (and of the World), Order o  
Daughters of the Sphinx, Wheeling Hive of the Mac  
and numerous incarnations of the Knights of Pythias

<sup>16</sup> *Church Calendar of West Virginia*. Wheeling: D  
1913.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, Dec., 1913.



(2000). *Faith in the mountains: A history of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston 1850-2000*. Strasbourg-France: Editions du Signe, pp 16-17.

<sup>2</sup> National web site, Ancient Order of Hibernians, retrieved September 27, 2013 from <http://www.aoh.com/aoh-history>.

<sup>3</sup> Welsh, Mike. Personal communication. February 9, 2012.

<sup>4</sup> Brennan, M. (1999). Wheeling's Irish thread: An O'Brien family tale. *Goldenseal*. Vol. 25, no. 1, pp 18-24; see also, Duffy, S. P. (2008) *The Wheeling Family, a celebration of immigrants and their neighborhoods*. Wheeling: Creative Impressions. Tombstones with Irish surnames can still be found at Our lady of Seven Dolours Catholic cemetery along the Old Pike in Triadelphia.

<sup>5</sup> Pyne at 9-10.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid at 12.

<sup>7</sup> See Duffy, S.P. (2012). *The Wheeling Family, Volume 2*. Wheeling: Creative Impressions. County Roscommon immigrant John Charles Duffy was a conductor on the B. & O. between Grafton and Wheeling. His daughter Mary Duffy Garvey served as state president of the ladies auxiliary for several years after 1912 and as state chairlady of Irish History. In the latter capacity, she campaigned for a national monument for the "Nuns of the Battlefield" to honor the various orders, including the Sisters of St. Joseph (Wheeling Hospital), who nursed wounded soldiers during the Civil War. Finally dedicated in Washington D.C. in 1924, the monument is inscribed: "ERECTED BY THE LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS OF AMERICA. A.D. 1924."

<sup>8</sup> Brennan, M. The Irish story, The builders of our city. *In Wheeling*. Spring 2013, pp 22-24.

<sup>9</sup> Wheeling *Daily Intelligencer*, Sept. 9, 1874. "We were yesterday shown by Mr. Thos. Owen, two handsome banners recently purchased in New York for a society of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in this city. The first is of green silk...with heavy border and fringe. On one side...are the words 'Ancient Order of Hibernians No. 1,' and below 'Inaugurated Nov. 8, 1873, Wheeling, W.Va;'" The *Daily Intelligencer* of July 18, 1874 reported that "Division No. 1...was incorporated by County Clerk Woods yesterday..." while the *Intelligencer* for March 17, 1939 asserted that the Ohio County Division was formed just 32 years after the A.O.H. first arose in N.Y.C., indicating 1868 as the year of origin.

<sup>10</sup> Pyne at 76.

<sup>11</sup> See *Wiggin and Company Wheeling Directory 1874-75*.

<sup>12</sup> *Daily Intelligencer*, July 10, 1874.

<sup>13</sup> *Wheeling Register* April 10, 1895; Thomas O'Brien's son Frank A. O'Brien was a prominent Wheeling A.O.H. member who delivered an address at the 1916 state convention. His son Frank Jr. was a prominent Wheeling attorney who, with his father, successfully defended Wheeling's legendary crime boss Bill Lias against charges of tax evasion. Frank Jr.'s son Tim and daughter Mollie are celebrated bluegrass musicians. The first reference to Division No. 1 as the "Parke Division" appeared in the *Daily Intelligencer* for March 18, 1896.

<sup>14</sup> *Daily Intelligencer*, June 28, 1876.

<sup>15</sup> In addition to numerous German Singing Societies, Callin's City Directory for 1911-1912 listed such groups as the Alsace and Lorraine and Bavarian Societies, Modern Woodmen of America (and of the World), Order of Ben Hur, Ancient Arabic Order of Daughters of the Sphinx, Wheeling Hive of the Maccabees of the World, Shield of Honor, and numerous incarnations of the Knights of Pythias, just to name a fraction.

<sup>16</sup> *Church Calendar of West Virginia*. Wheeling: Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. April, 1913.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, Dec., 1913.



- <sup>18</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>19</sup> Callin's Wheeling City Directory 1921.
- <sup>20</sup> *Wheeling Register*, Sept. 15, 1873.
- <sup>21</sup> *Daily Intelligencer*, March 18, 1875.
- <sup>22</sup> *Daily Intelligencer*, March 18, 1875. See St. John Parish. (1975). *St. John Parish: Benwood, West Virginia, 1875-1975: A time to every purpose under heaven*. Benwood: Centennial Book Committee.
- <sup>23</sup> Freeland, Larry. Personal communication, January 17, 2012. Mr. Freeland is a member of Benwood's Deegan family. Thomas Deegan served as state A.O.H. president in 1902.
- <sup>24</sup> *Church Calendar*, February 1913 and March 1913.
- <sup>25</sup> See Ibid, Feb. 1912 and St James Parish (1950). *Remembrance of the Golden Jubilee of St. James Catholic Church at McMechen West Virginia 1900-1950*.
- <sup>26</sup> See for example, *Church Calendar*, July 1912.
- <sup>27</sup> See *Daily Intelligencer*, August 23, 1894 and *Church Calendar*, August 1900.
- <sup>28</sup> Seaman, W. M., "The Germans of Wheeling: Part One," *Upper Ohio Valley Historical Review*, Volume VIII, No. 2, Spring/Summer 1979, pp 21-27. See also: Duffy, S. *The German Story*. In *Wheeling*. Spring 2013. pp 26-27. <http://wheelingheritage.org/wheeling-ethnic-groups/wheeling-ethnic-groups-the-german-story/>.
- <sup>29</sup> *Daily Intelligencer*, August 23, 1906; see also, Ibid, Aug. 23, 1894.
- <sup>30</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>31</sup> See for example, *Church Calendar*, March 1905, *The Irish Linen Peddler; Maidens All Forlorn* performed by the Mullen Division at St Mary's Hall (March 1909); *Mountain Rebel* (March 1910); *Fortunes of Pyke O'Callaghan* at the Carroll Club auditorium (March 1912); and a comedy-drama called *An Irish Eden* performed by the Mullen Division (May 1913).
- <sup>32</sup> Sullivan, K. (Ed.) (2006). *West Virginia Encyclopedia*. Charleston: WV Humanities Council. Note: The May, 1895 *Church Calendar* reported 13 divisions and 642 members in the state.
- <sup>33</sup> See *Church Calendar*, 1890-1912. The diocesan newsletter featured a monthly column titled, "A.O.H. Notes." The state divisions listed submitted reports at various times. See also, state convention reports, *Intelligencer*, May 10, 1892; August 21 and 28, 1906; and Aug. 29, 1916; and *Church Calendar*, Sept. 1916.
- <sup>34</sup> *Daily Intelligencer*, May 10, 1892. The convention was held in Ancient Order of United Workmen Hall at the corner of Market and 12th Streets.
- <sup>35</sup> Ibid, Aug. 29, 1916.
- <sup>36</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1870.
- <sup>37</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1873.
- <sup>38</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1874.
- <sup>39</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1876.
- <sup>40</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1884.
- <sup>41</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1889.
- <sup>42</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1890.
- <sup>43</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1891; To the toast "Our Division" Mr. Dennis O'Leary responded with "a short history of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in this city." Dennis was the son of David O'Leary who immigrated to Wheeling from County Cork in 1874. David was one of the founding members of "Cork Town" as south Warwood was once known. David's son and Dennis's brother Timothy was also a member of the A.O.H. His grandson Bill is a current member of Bishop Whelan Division No. 1 and Bill's son Craig is the current chair of the Whelan Division's Standing Committee.

- <sup>44</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1898.
- <sup>45</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1905.
- <sup>46</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1915.
- <sup>47</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1927.
- <sup>48</sup> *Church Calendar*, July 1913.
- <sup>49</sup> *Callin's Wheeling City Directory* 1936.
- <sup>50</sup> Ibid, 1938.
- <sup>51</sup> *Wheeling Intelligencer*, March 17, 1939. "Wearing Patrick's Day Events of Old," the headline lamented St. Patrick's Day parade was always in order, the A.O.H. in full force with their bands and uniforms resplendent. J. Burke of Elm Grove, West Virginia State President said interest in the order diminished to a greater extent than probably the last state A.O.H. president.
- <sup>52</sup> Fahey, Jack. Personal communication. January 2012. Michael Fahey arrived from County Galway in 1853.
- <sup>53</sup> Welsh, Mike. Personal communication. February 2012.
- <sup>54</sup> O'Leary, Craig. Personal communication. January 2012.



- <sup>1</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1898.
- <sup>2</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1905.
- <sup>3</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1915.
- <sup>4</sup> Ibid, March 18, 1927.
- <sup>5</sup> *Church Calendar*, July 1913.
- <sup>6</sup> *Callin's Wheeling City Directory* 1936.
- <sup>7</sup> Ibid, 1938.
- <sup>8</sup> *Wheeling Intelligencer*, March 17, 1939. "Wearin' of the Green Today is Far Cry from St Patrick's Day Events of Old," the headline lamented. "In the early days of this century, a St. Patrick's Day parade was always in order, the Ancient Order of Hibernians turning out in full force with their bands and uniforms resplendent in green decorations. ... Edmund J. Burke of Elm Grove, West Virginia State President of the A.O.H. [said]... After [WWI] interest in the order diminished to a greater extent. ... The A.O.H. membership in West Virginia today is slightly more than 200. Thirty years ago, it was nearer 2000." Mr. Burke was probably the last state A.O.H. president.
- <sup>9</sup> Fahey, Jack. Personal communication. January 30, 2012. Jack's great-grandfather Michael Fahey arrived from County Galway in 1853.
- <sup>10</sup> Welsh, Mike. Personal communication. February 9, 2012.
- <sup>11</sup> O'Leary, Craig. Personal communication. January 30, 2012.