



Hibernian News



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Hibernian Hall
845-534-2528



Fair weather has returned so see Dennis Malone for a Friday night stint as the Hibernian Chef. We'd love to see you and your family at the Hall on an upcoming Friday night.

Matthew Lyon: Wicklow Native and One of the Men Who Built Our Nation (by Dave Sutton)

Several groups of people contributed to the creation of the new republic of the United States. One significant group was the Irish who came from a land of economic adversity and political oppression, but used these experiences to create a new nation based on equal opportunity and liberty for all.

Matthew Lyon was born on July 14, 1750 in County Wicklow. He was sent to Dublin to be educated but had to be withdrawn from school because his father had been arrested and executed by the British for participating in the "White Boys" uprising. This revolt occurred because the British began the whole scale eviction of tenant farmers from the Irish lands they had worked for generation. Due to an epidemic of cow disease that had spread through England, Irish families were evicted from their cottages so that the farmland could be used for cattle which would then be sold in England. There was no economic consideration for the Irish families or provisions made for their support. Matthew Lyon was then apprenticed to a Dublin printer where he learned about printing and binding. In 1765 he left Dublin as a "redemptioner"; agreed to be sold into indentured servitude when he arrived in America because he could not pay for the Atlantic passage. It is ironic that when Matthew Lyon left Ireland, the Irish were in revolt against the British only to find the Sons of Liberty in revolt against the British governor and troops over the Stamp Act when he landed in New York City. Matthew Lyon was sold to Jabez Bacon a businessman from Woodbury, Connecticut and worked for him as an assistant until he moved to Vermont in 1774. Matthew Lyon, as with most Irish, was very clever and gained much knowledge in the printing and merchandise businesses from these early experiences that would help him become a successful business person.

By 1774 Matthew Lyon had moved to Wallingford, Vermont where he actively participated in the Revolutionary War. He raised a company of militia, fought with Colonels Seth Warner and Ethan Allen of the Green Mountain Boys fame, and would marry the niece of Ethan Allen. Matthew Lyon was assigned with his Vermont Company to serve under Gen. Horatio Gates but Lyon withdrew his troops claiming that Gates misused his men and would only fight with Col. Warner. General Gates accused Lyon of cowardice, (Gates also accused Benedict Arnold of cowardice who many historians consider the real victor at the Battle of Saratoga, the turning point of the war), but the charges were found to be not true. Lyon participated with distinction at the Battles of Bennington and Saratoga, and would rise to the rank of Colonel within the Vermont militia and serve as its paymaster general. He would later become assistant to the Governor of Vermont and be elected to the Vermont legislature from 1779-1793.

In 1779, Matthew Lyon founded the town of Fair Haven, Vermont. He immediately began to apply the business knowledge that he acquired while an indentured servant and established a paper mill, a general store and a newspaper, the *Farmers' Library*, which later became the *Fair Haven Gazette*. He would serve in the Vermont state legislature from 1779 to 1793. He would be later elected to the U.S Congress from 1797 to 1801.

The growth of our two party political system emerged at this time as the United States became divided between the Federalist Party, led by Alexander Hamilton and John Adams, against the Democratic-Republican Party, led by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. While the Federalists were in power during President Adam's administration, 1797-1801, they passed the notorious **Alien and Sedition Acts** which made it a criminal offense to print any negative articles about a government official; meant to protect the Federalists in power even though these laws violated the First Amendment. In January 1798, while in session Congressman Roger Griswold, a Federalist Party member representing a district in Connecticut, (cont. pg. 2)

IRISH BREAKFAST!

Due to the February snowstorm and St. Patrick's Day in March we have not hosted an Irish breakfast since January. Mark your calendar now and plan on coming to the Hall on Sunday April 14th for a taste that's hard to find anywhere else. We'll have our traditional men: **Scrambled eggs, Irish bacon, Irish sausage, black and white pudding, home-fried potatoes, the fried tomato, pancakes, soda bread, toast, juice, coffee & tea.**

Serving from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
\$7 per adult, \$3 children

A Message From the Division President

Dear Brothers and Friends,

I hope all had a nice Easter. Warm weather is coming and we hope to see more members at the Hall on Friday and at the meetings. The division raffle tickets are available. Also any member that hasn't taken the Shamrock degree please contact me, so we can make arrangements. The Shamrock degree will be given on Sunday April 21, 2013 at the Hall. All members are required to receive this degree. Any questions please contact me or an officer.

In our Motto,
Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

Raymond J. Fitzgerald
bosspi@hvc.rr.com

In Memoriam

Jeremiah (Jerry) Quill, a founding member of Division 2 passed away on March 19. Jerry was very active in the greater AOH and served as County President and District Executive. Please keep Jerry, his wife, and the rest of the Quill family in your prayers. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Building Fund Raffle

Tickets for the 2013 Building Fund Raffle are now available. Donation is \$100 for a chance to win one of 33 great cash prizes with the proceeds supporting the maintenance of Hibernian Hall. The early bird drawing will be held after the Mother's Day Irish Breakfast on May 12. Turn in your paid ticket by then and you're eligible for one of three \$500 early-bird prizes. The remaining 30 prizes will be awarded at the June 15 celebration at the Hall and on the grounds.

Thank You To:

- ★ Kevin Cummings, Kevin Moore, Pat Finn, Jim Kiernan and Sean Cummings for taking orders, preparing and serving a delicious fish dinner at the Lenten Fish Fry.
- ★ All members who have promptly paid their dues. It truly helps the Division operate effectively and meet its obligations to the county, state and national AOH.
- ★ Mike Shannon for organizing the NYC trip, and to all who helped prepare the food and drink.

violation charges against Lyon for spitting (he became known as the spitting Lyon). He holds the distinction of being the first Congressional member brought up on ethics violation charges. The charges would later be dropped, but not forgotten. In October of 1798 Lyon would be charged, arrested and placed in prison for sedition under the Alien and Sedition Acts for insulting President Adams in one of his newspaper articles. Lyon became the first person to be put on trial for sedition. This treatment of Lyon did not go unnoticed by Vermonters. The Green Mountain Boys threatened to attack the jail and liberate Lyon but he asked them to withhold any violence. While in jail, his constituents reelected him to Congress by a 2 to 1 majority (Lyon also holds the distinction to be the only person elected to Congress while serving time in prison). Lyon served his time and then went to Philadelphia to take his seat in Congress where he would have his revenge. The election of 1800 was a test of the endurance of the new republic. John Adams of the Federalist Party ran against Thomas Jefferson of the Democratic-Republican Party. Neither man won a majority of the electoral votes. The election then went to the House of Representatives to decide. It was on the 36th vote that the House broke the tie and Thomas Jefferson was elected by Matthew Lyon who cast the deciding vote. Matthew Lyon took advantage of new land being developed and moved to Kentucky in 1801. He settled in Caldwell County whose name was changed and still remains as Lyon County. He became a member of the Kentucky state legislature and would later serve another four terms in the U.S. Congress from 1803-1811 as a representative from Kentucky. Matthew Lyon, an orphan boy from County Wicklow, an indentured servant in Connecticut, would rise to become part of the political elite of this country and a defender of free-speech and the press.

Upcoming Events

(subject to change)

Apr 14	Irish Breakfast - Hall: 9 am to 12:30 pm.
Apr 14	West Point Pipes & Drums Tattoo 2013 - Trophy Point, West Point: 10 am to 6:30 pm.
Apr 17	Division Meeting - Hall: 7 pm. All members encouraged to attend.
Apr 21	County AOH Meeting - Division 2 Hall: 2 pm.
Jul 10-13	NYS AOH Convention - Saratoga Springs.

Membership Dues

Thank you to all members who have paid their dues in a timely manner. For those that have not paid yet you will find a reminder notice included with this month's mailing. Please remit your dues so you can retain your good standing. Mail dues to:

A.O.H. Division 2
Attn: Michael O'Keefe, Financial Secretary
PO Box 206
Cornwall, NY 12518

D.J.W. Business

- Saturday April 13, 2013 - A "work day" to help keep **our** Hall in great shape. We'll start at 8:00 am and finish "around" noon. We're a volunteer organization and we all need to roll up our sleeves once in a while, so please come and lend a hand. DJW will hold a "work day" every other month on a Saturday.
- Sunday June 30, 2013 - 2:00 PM - Annual business meeting of the DJW Corporation at the Hall. All Division members are encouraged to attend.

Matthew Lyon-continued

began to insult Matthew Lyon, calling him a coward based on the trumped-up charges of General Gates. Lyon ignored him. This infuriated Griswold who then grabbed Lyon by the arm and repeated the false charges into his face. Lyon spit in Griswold's face. Two weeks later on February 15, Griswold attacked Lyon with a wooden club. Lyon went to the fireplace and took the tongs which he then used to beat Griswold. The Congress, controlled by the Federalist Party, brought ethics