

May 4, 2019

Good Afternoon Sisters,

Mike McCormack, the men's State Historian, just completed a project for NYS AOH President, Vic Vogel. Vic had the commendable idea of documenting all the monument, memorials and commemorative plaques relating to Irish and Irish-American history that exist in New York State. There must be thousands, so Mike began by calling the Irish-American Heritage Society, Irish museums, archives and even the New York State Historian's office and was shocked to learn that nothing on that subject had ever been collected, but they all asked for a copy, if he was ever able to complete the project.

He asked all AOH County and Division Historians to join him by photographing and documenting those icons of our heritage in their area (whether AOH erected or not) to show how the Irish built the Empire State. Only 9 responded, but between what Mike already had and those few inputs, he created a 124-page illustrated book. From the upside-down street light in Syracuse to the Great Hunger Memorial in Buffalo and from the Tom Clarke Monument in Suffolk to the Timothy Murphy memorial in Saratoga, he documented an impressive collection of photographs and stories documenting the impact that Erin's sons and daughters have had on our state.

There are 62 counties in NY State and we have Divisions in 32 of them. He knew he was not going to get them all in the first try, so he decided this would only be Volume 1. Now he is asking the LAOH for their input! If you see a monument that you know of (whether in your area or not) that isn't included in this book, get the information for Volume 2 to Mike - credit will always be given to the one who submits the story.

Thanks to State President Vogel for coming up with an idea that nobody ever thought of before and thanks to the few AOH Historians who provided information. Now let's see what the Ladies can do!

"Irish & Irish-American Monuments, Memorials and Commemorative Plaques in New York State", Volume 1 will be formally introduced at the NYS AOH/LAOH Convention, but Mike has advance copies from the publisher and President Vogel, anxious to share it, has allowed it to be offered here at the NYS Board Spring Meeting first; the price is only \$10 each. See Mike after the meeting.

Remember, it's your heritage – defend it; promote it; and keep the traditions alive! We must know the stories of those who left the traditions to us, just as tomorrow's Hibernians should know the story of those who left the traditions to them.

Remember Ladies - Volume 2 is up to you!!!!!!