

A Comprehensive History of Forest City Hibernians: Preserving Irish American Heritage



The Forest City Hibernians are a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving Irish American heritage in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Founded in

1880, the Hibernians have a long and rich history of service to their community. This article will explore the origins, growth, and contributions of the Forest City Hibernians, highlighting their role in preserving Irish American culture and identity.



The Irish of Portland, Maine: A History of Forest City Hibernians (American Heritage) by Matthew Jude Barker

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Origins and Formation

The Forest City Hibernians were founded on May 2, 1880, by a group of Irish immigrants who had settled in Scranton. The organization was originally known as the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), a society dedicated to promoting Irish nationalism and supporting Irish independence. The AOH had a presence in the United States since the 1840s, and the Forest City chapter was one of many established throughout the country.

The early members of the Forest City Hibernians were primarily working-class Irish immigrants, many of whom worked in the local coal mines. They established the organization as a way to connect with their Irish heritage,

maintain their cultural traditions, and support each other in the face of discrimination and prejudice.

Growth and Expansion

The Forest City Hibernians quickly grew in size and influence in the Scranton community. By the turn of the 20th century, the organization had become a prominent force in local politics and social life. The Hibernians established a social hall, where they hosted dances, concerts, and other events that were popular with the community. They also provided financial assistance to members in need and advocated for the rights of Irish Americans.

During the early 20th century, the Forest City Hibernians played an important role in the Irish independence movement. They supported Irish nationalist causes, organized rallies, and raised funds to aid the Irish Republican Army (IRA). The organization's involvement in the independence movement reflected the deep commitment of its members to their Irish heritage and their desire to see Ireland free from British rule.

Contributions to the Community

Throughout their history, the Forest City Hibernians have made significant contributions to the Scranton community. They have been involved in numerous charitable endeavors, providing support to local organizations that assist the needy. They have also been active in promoting Irish culture and education, organizing events such as Irish festivals and lectures.

One of the most notable contributions of the Forest City Hibernians was the establishment of the Scranton Irish Cultural Heritage Society in 1980. The society's mission is to preserve and promote Irish culture in Scranton and

the surrounding area. It operates the Scranton Irish Heritage Center, which houses a museum, library, and archives dedicated to the history of the Irish in Scranton.

Preserving Irish American Heritage

The Forest City Hibernians have played a vital role in preserving Irish American heritage in Scranton. The organization's focus on cultural preservation has helped to ensure that the Irish American experience is not forgotten. Through their events, publications, and educational programs, the Hibernians have educated generations of Scranton residents about the contributions of Irish immigrants to the community.

The Hibernians have also been instrumental in the restoration and preservation of historic Irish landmarks in Scranton. They have worked to restore St. Patrick's Cathedral, the city's oldest Catholic church, and have established a memorial to Irish miners who died in a local coal mine disaster. These efforts have helped to preserve the physical legacy of Irish Americans in Scranton and to remind the community of the sacrifices and struggles of their ancestors.

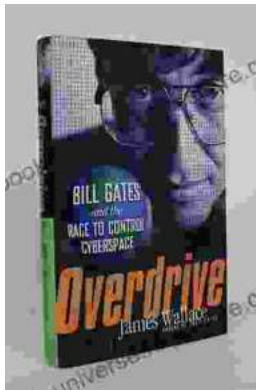
The Forest City Hibernians have been a cornerstone of the Scranton community for over a century. Founded by Irish immigrants seeking to preserve their heritage and support each other, the Hibernians have grown into a thriving organization that has made significant contributions to the community. Through their charitable work, cultural preservation efforts, and advocacy for the rights of Irish Americans, the Forest City Hibernians have left an enduring mark on the city of Scranton and the history of Irish America.



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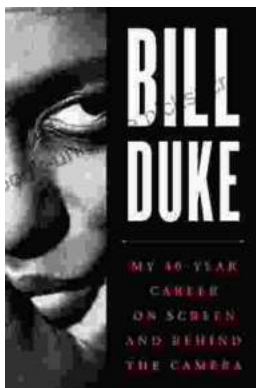
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