



The Richmond Claddagh

<http://www.rvairish.com/>

APRIL 2014

The Richmond Irish American Society

April 26th - 2:00

IAS IRISH PROGRAM/MEETING “BEING IRISH IN NEW YORK”

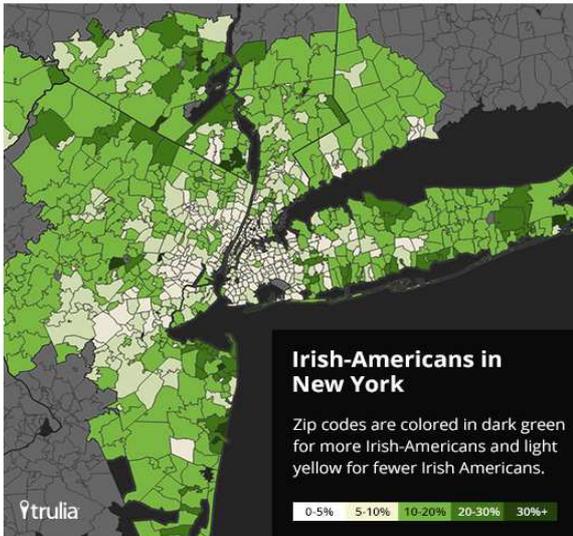
Presenter – IAS member – Ed Kast

At O’Toole’s Restaurant

4800 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond, VA 23225

Join your fellow IAS members on April 26th -at O’Toole’s Restaurant, as our own Ed Kast will present a program on growing up in “Irish New York”. Promises to be a fun and educational outing. Bring your own stories of Irish experiences in New York or your own backyard!

Today, Irish Americans make up approximately 5.3% of New York City's population and first came to America in colonial years, pre-1776. But the largest wave of Irish immigration came after the Great Famine in 1845. In fact, New York once had more Irishmen than Dublin itself!



IAS TO VISIT THE IRISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DC***

On May 10th – from 10am until 4pm,

PLEASE DON'T BE LATE! If you are one of the Attendees - meet at 7:30 am at the Parham Park & Ride at the 64 & Parham interchange. We plan to be back in Richmond by around 4pm

Dan has inquired about a 14-passenger van – so with a full van including the rental & fuel fees – the estimated final cost should be approx. \$20

If you haven't you might want to check with Dan to see if a spot is still open. You can call Dan at 804-410-5631 or <mailto:dbeglev55@hotmail.com>



Welcome To the IAS! We are delighted to welcome our new and also returning members – Sue Brady-Whitehurst, Anthony & Joy Caporale, Nancy Cunningham, Alison Fisher, Stormy Hamlin, Presh Henry, Helen Shine-Lamberta.

Please note the list of Board Members at the end of the newsletter and please contact any of them if you have questions or need any assistance.

For our members that are interested in Irish history – you may find this link helpful. Loads of links!

<http://www.irishhistorylinks.net/pages/index.html>

Looking for a neat Get-Away & can't quite swing Ireland... you might be interested in this

<http://www.vairish.com/>

Killahevlin B&B Inn located in Front Royal, VA.

From Karon Bell – So many thanks to all our volunteers for the St. Patrick's Festival. Helping us set up on Friday night and all the volunteers who helped in the tent on Saturday and Sunday – we just can't do it without you! Thanks!!!!

**St. Pádraig –
Apostle & Enlightener of Ireland -**
Well March 2014 is over and done. Yet I still have a
bad feeling recalling all those “
St. Patty’s Day” advertisements!
- And I am Not Alone!



Irish Ladies!!!! -- We are working to set up Irish Ladies Luncheons! Would you be interested? We think it would be a great opportunity for the ladies to get acquainted. Would love to hear back from you. Please email me at bearfan46@verizon.net and let me know your thoughts. We hope to have our 1st Luncheon planned soon. Watch the newsletter and your emails!

Do You Feel like you've been to Ireland before ... but you haven't? Feel like you belong in Ireland ... even if you've never been?

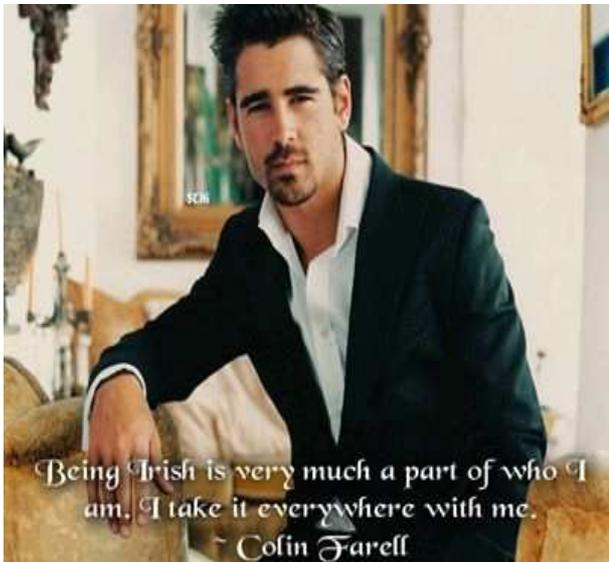
**If you're of Irish descent, this explains it ...
GENETIC MEMORY!**

In psychology, genetic memory is a memory present at birth that exists in the absence of sensory experience, and is incorporated into the genome over long spans of time.

Genetic memory is said to explain racial memory as put forward by Carl Jung. Racial memories are memories, feelings and ideas inherited from our ancestors as part of a "collective unconscious".

So if you've ever set foot on Irish soil for the 'first time' and had the warm feeling that you're 'Home' or if you've walked down an Irish country lane for the 'first time' and heard the trees whisper 'Welcome Back' ... there ye have the reason ...

(From Irish Cottage Dreams)



Oh I'm Sorry.-. Did he say something???

Did you have a good St. Patrick's Day? Were you able to get out and hear some of the Irish music around the city? I hope so, we all need to try and support these Irish efforts when we can. If we want our Irish culture to be understood and appreciated – we have to make the effort to support those who spread the word in a Positive Manner.



SHANDON BELLS - The clock on St Anne's of Shandon in Cork City is affectionately known as “The Four Faced Liar”, as it is claimed that the four faces on each side of the tower tell different times. Looking out north, south, east and west across the city, each clock face measures 15 feet, 8 inches in diameter. The church is noted for its 8 bells due to the song "The Bells of Shandon", and the bells first rang out across the city for the wedding of Mr. Henry Harding and Miss Catherine Dorgan on the 7th December 1752.

Tom Crean – Noteworthy Irish – you might not have heard about.

Tom Crean was born in Gortacurraun, Annascaul Co. Kerry on the 20th of July 1877. In 1893 shortly before his 16th birthday he enlisted in the Royal Navy, leaving Minard aboard a cargo ship bound for England.



Portrait of Tom Crean (c) 2005 Tom Crean Business Centre

In 1901 while serving as an able seaman on board HMS *Ringarooma* in New Zealand, Crean encountered Commander Robert Scott who had called on port to refit his ship *Discovery* while on route to the Antarctic. Crean volunteered to join the *Discovery* and was accepted for the expedition. It would be the first of three major expeditions to be undertaken by the young Kerryman.

Though his name appears only rarely in the records of the first expedition, Crean made his mark with Scott and the rest of the crew. He was a strong sledger, a hard worker and a cheerful companion. Upon completion of the expedition and on the recommendation of Scott, Crean was promoted to Petty Officer 1st Class and served with Scott between 1906 and 1909.

In May 1910 Crean joined the Terra Nova under Commander Scott on another Antarctic adventure and this time achieved greater prominence. Having trekked with Scott to within 150 miles of the Pole, Lt Teddy Evans, William Lashly and Tom Crean were instructed to return to base camp. Their 800-mile return trip across the Polar plateau in extreme conditions proved a daunting task. Having found their way to the Beardmore Glacier by sliding down hundreds of feet of icefalls they found their way blocked by huge crevasses. They were left with no option but to venture along “the crossbar of the H of Hell” by crossing the precarious snow bridges between each crevasse. As they reached the barrier Lt. Evans developed scurvy and 100 miles from base camp was no longer able to stand unaided. Lashly and Crean pulled him on a sledge to within 35 miles of safety whereupon, weakened by fatigue and hunger, Crean left a dying Evans in the care of Lashly while attempting to cross the final 35 mile journey alone in an attempt to reach help. Following an 18-hour non stop march Evans was saved and he never forgot the courage of the two men who had as he later wrote “Hearts of Lions”. Crean and Lashly were awarded the Albert Medal for their courage.

In December 1913 Sir Ernest Shackleton announced his intention to sledge across the Antarctic. Crean was selected by Shackleton to be one of six who would make the journey across the continent. Sadly, the plan went awry when the pack ice quickly closed in around their ship the *Endurance* in the Weddell Sea. In October

1915 the crew was forced to abandon. After two failed attempts to march over the ice to land, the crew resigned to surviving on the ice floe while they waited for the pack ice to break up so they could launch the ships rescue boats. The drifting ice remained their home until April 1916. On April 9th Shackleton decided to launch the three lifeboats in an effort to reach either Clarence or Elephant Island about 100 miles to the North. Suffering from exposure, exhaustion and seasickness they reached Elephant Island on April 15th. It was their first time on land in nearly 16 months. Elephant Island was a desolate rock and offered no chance of rescue to the stranded crew. Their only hope of survival would be to attempt an 800-mile journey in an open boat across treacherous waters to the whaling station in South Georgia. Shackleton chose five others to accompany him including Tom Crean. The others would remain behind awaiting rescue should the journey prove successful. On April 24th Shackleton launched the largest boat the *James Caird* in an attempt to reach South Georgia. On their seventeen-day journey the men endured constant gales, freezing temperatures and enormous swells. Water ran short and dehydration nearly crippled their efforts.

They managed to make land on the south side of the island but were faced with a trek over mountains and across an uncharted interior in order to reach the whaling station to the north. Shackleton was reluctant to risk a further boat journey given the conditions they had experienced, so leaving three on the shore where they landed, Shackleton, Crean and Worsley set out to navigate their way across the island. They took three days provisions and no sleeping bags as they intended to march straight through. Weak, poorly equipped and inadequately clothed they traveled for 36 hours without rest and arrived at the whaling station at 4pm on May 20th.

In the next four months Shackleton, Crean and Worsley made three unsuccessful attempts to rescue the men on Elephant Island. Finally at the end of August the ice opened long enough to allow the Chilean *Yelcho* in and all twenty-two men were rescued.

Crean retired from the Navy in 1920 and returned to Annascaul where he married and settled. He and his wife Ellen bought and rebuilt a public house by the river and named it “The South Pole Inn”. He spent the remainder of his days enjoying family life and eschewed the many attempts by visitors to engage him in tales of his exploits in the Antarctic.

Tom Crean died in 1938 from a ruptured appendix. His funeral was the largest ever witnessed in Annascaul. This seemingly indestructible man was finally laid to rest in the tiny cemetery in Ballynacourty, in a tomb he built himself, overlooking the hills of Kerry.

The AOH remembers - As they have done on St. Patrick's Day for over 30 years, the John F. Kennedy Ancient Order of Hibernians Division in Maryland again laid a wreath at President Kennedy's grave. Kennedy was an AOH member from the time he joined in 1947 until his death. Shamrocks were also placed at the grave of President George Washington's adopted grandson, George Washington Parke Custis, who was also the father-in-law of Robert E. Lee. Custis was a leading advocate of Irish freedom in the early part of the 19th century and once asked that shamrock be placed on his grave every St Patrick's Day with the words "God bless him." For over 50 years, the AOH in the Nation's Capital has fulfilled his wish.

WORDS TO REMEMBER.... & HEED



You'll be glad you did.

Just how Good ARE Irish Sheepdogs??



Just click the link below to see an unusual herding event in Ireland, which is brought to you by Guinness - (that should be a hint! ☺)

<http://twentytwowords.com/sheepdog-herds-men-to-the-pub-in-a-funny-guinness-commercial/>

(Thanks to Joe McMenamin)

MO GHILE MEAR

"Mo Ghile Mear" or "My Gallant Darling" is an old song, written in the Irish language by Seán Clárach Mac Domhnaill in the 18th century

The Battle of Culloden on April 16, 1746 pitted the Jacobite forces of Charles Edward Stuart, known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie", against an army loyal to the British government. Fought in the Scottish Highlands, Irish units fought with the Jacobite army as Irish Catholics expected the Stuarts (Jacobites) to end the discriminatory penal laws in Ireland. The battle of Culloden was both quick and bloody, lasting less than an hour before the Jacobites were routed. Shortly after Culloden, the Irish lament "**Mo Ghile Mear**" (My Gallant Boy) was written in Irish Gaelic portraying Ireland as a woman who is a widow.

You can listen to this tune by clicking the links below- 1st with The Chieftans and Sting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auSa0YfKxFE>
2nd with Mary Black in Gaelic here –

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDICM_Mwtys

(English for you, while you listen to the Gaelic)

He's my champion my Gallant Darling,
 He's my Caesar, a Gallant Darling,
 I've found neither rest nor fortune
 Since my Gallant Darling went far away.
 Once I was gentle maiden,
 But now I'm a spent, worn-out widow,
 My consort strongly plowing the waves,
 Over the hills and far away.
 Every day I'm constantly enduring grief,
 Weeping bitterly and shedding tears,
 Because my lively lad has left me
 And no news is told of him - alas.
 The cuckoo doesn't sing cheerfully after noon,
 The sound of hounds isn't heard in the nut tree woods,
 Nor a summer morning in a misty glen
 Since my lively boy went away from me.
 Gallant young horseman
 An appearance without worry or care
 A grip that's sure and quick in battle
 Leading the crowd and making us strong
 Play a tune on music harps
 Fill the quart measures on the table
 With high intention, straight and unclouded
 That life and health will be left to my lion
 Gallant Darling for a while under sorrow,
 And Ireland completely under black cloaks;
 I have found neither rest nor fortune
 Since my Gallant Darling went far away.

(I found this song on the Internet and just loved it.
 I hope you will too. Nancy)

St. Patrick's Church Hill Festival - 2014



Carmel Miney, St. Patrick (Frank Hardy) Dan Begley
Fr. James Begley, Carroll Graham & Anne McGehee.



IAS Member – Glenn Crone – our Leprechaun

“Anticipation”!



Mary, Frank Hardy, Ray Gallagher, Carroll
Graham, Steve Gallagher & Ed Kast

Our Mary Ryan -



IAS Member Bill Riddell and daughter, Lainey

Waiting for the Parade “Step-Off!”



Frank Hardy, Kathryn O’Meara & Carmel Miney & More

Many thanks go out to all our members who were able to participate over the Festival weekend. We really do wish that more of our members had been able to join us for the Parade on Saturday and for the festival too! From all participants, it was a wonderful weekend. See you next year?? –

It’s a guaranteed Irish Good Time!

Please Note – The May issue will have more information & hopefully photos on the IAS Dedication of the Historical Marker at Hollywood Cemetery – commemorating Mary Ryan and the other Irish victims of the explosion at Tredegar.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS – IRISH FUN IS COMING UP!!
CHECK OUT ALL THE WAYS TO ENJOY YOUR IRISH HERITAGE!**

Click on the links for more Information.

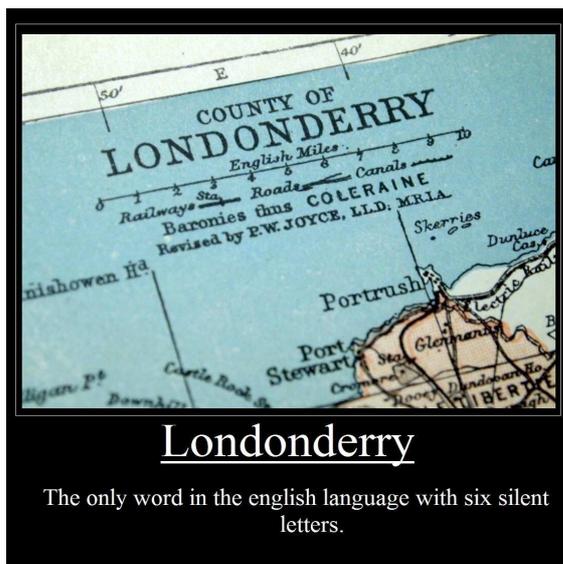
April 14th	IAS Board Meeting – 7pm O’Toole’s 4800 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, 23225
April 26 - IAS Meeting	IAS Member, Ed Kast will present a program on growing up Irish in New York City at O’Tooles at 2PM. O’Toole’s is located at 4800 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond, VA 23225
May 10th	IAS Bus trip to Irish Embassy in Washington DC.
July 11-12 Annapolis MD	Annapolis Irish Festival , - Traditional Celtic Music, Celtic Rock Bands, 3 Stages of Entertainment, Workshops and Exhibits, Massive Children’s Area More Info Coming
August 9	Ballyshanners Irish Festival Alexandria, VA
Sep 5 – 7	Pittsburgh Irish Festival – Pittsburgh PA
Sep 12-14	Indy Irish Festival - Indianapolis, IN

For more information on Irish Festivals – visit this site
http://www.angelfire.com/folk/irishcelts/festivals_by_dates.html

IAS OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

Acting President & Programs Chair	Dan Begley	804-740-5631	begley55@hotmail.com
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Board Member, Special Events	Karon Bell	804-982-7835	irishmom1958@gmail.com
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Board Member	Frank Hardy	804-883-6230	fenway7@msn.com
Board Member	OPEN		
Board Member – Pub Master	Mike Kane	804-270-2828	MikeKane@KW.com
Board Member	Bill Riddell	804-262-4226	wjriddell@verizon.net

**** Please note that “Open” place on our IAS Board. Would you be interested in filling the opening? Just takes one night a month – a one hour meeting.. Just call Dan Begley if you are tempted! ☺**



I just liked this...☺