



The Richmond Claddagh

<http://richmondias.org/>

The Richmond Irish American Society [Click for the Calendar of Events](#)

MAY 2012

It's May and in Gaelic – that's Bealtaine

From the President - Both in January and in March, there were items in the newsletter about our upcoming election. To date, there has been no contact from any member showing interest in running; therefore, there will be NO election this year. We are still trying to find someone to fill the vacant position we have on the IAS Board of Directors and that will be filled by appointment when we find someone to take it. The current Board will remain as it stands until the election of 2013. There will have to be an election of some kind then, as I do not plan on continuing as president when my term is up. Sonya S. Moore.



Date: Saturday, May 12, 2012

Time: 10:00 AM **Location:** Ft Lee, VA (Petersburg area)

Fort Lee presents their 2nd Annual Celtic Festival at the Hide Away located at Ft. Lee on 5th Street, Bldg. 15013. **The festival is free and open to the public.**

The festival has authentic Celtic food, music, vendors, Kid Zone with inflatable rides and games for kids.

The main stage will feature performances by the 392nd Fort Lee Army Rock Band, Uisce Beatha and Poisoned Dwarf. The St. Andrews Legion Pipes & Drums and the Greater Richmond Pipes and Drums will be performing on the parade grounds.

There will be free 8- person team tug of war competitions – winners receiving trophies and medals. And the ever-popular “Best Legs and Kilt” competition – so wear that kilt! .

Parking and admission is free. Kid Zone is free between 10 am and noon. \$1.00 each after noon.

PLEASE NOTE - Outside food, beverages, personal pyrotechnics, glass bottles and pets are not permitted. **NO EXCEPTIONS** - Additional information at these website

<http://www.leemwr.com/celticfestival.htm>

Click here for driving directions to Fort Lee.

C'mon out & support our troops at Ft. Lee

MAY IAS MEETING – MAY – May 24th

SEANACHIE NIGHT

GLEN ALLEN LIBRARY, 10501 Staples Mill Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

6:30 Hospitality – 7:00 Meeting Start

[Click for Directions to Library](#)

In ancient Ireland, the Seanachie (Shawn-a-key) was the historian. When the English invaded Ireland in 1172, like everywhere else they invaded, they tried to anglicize the Gaels and Celts. In doing so they outlawed the Irish language, schools, reading and writing, their entire Irish culture etc. That is when the Seanachie took to the road to tell the story of Ireland and a good Seanachie would have 400 stories in his repertoire. They would travel from village to village telling their stories and keeping the Irish history alive - one story at a time.

The May IAS meeting came about due to an offer from one of our members – Mildred (Pat) Kladde. After reading last month's newsletter and the piece about Hal Roach, she thought the group could get together and share fun stories. To that end, she has provided a tape made by Hal Roach – a wonderful Irish Comedian – you'll love his stories.

Then, we'll move on to our members! So bring an Irish Poem, an Irish joke, a funny or touching story from your Irish family (don't we all have those), a story from a trip to Ireland – anything that you want to share.

We've had a couple of these Irish storytelling nights and those meetings have been our most fun. An Irish proverb says, "Time is a great storyteller". You are your own modern day Seanachie – **so bring your stories to share with others.** Cherish your heritage and share it to.

It is often said that the Irish have the "gift of gab" but you don't have to kiss the Blarney stone to be a storyteller. – Join Us Won't you?



Andy Jennings – Rest In Peace
May 2, 2012 – Gone Too Soon



“Say not in grief - he is no more - but live in thankfulness that he was” (Hebrew proverb)



**MARY SMITH –
IAS PUBMASTER
& BOARD MEMBER**

My interest in Irish culture began through music. Back in the 1970's I came across the songs of the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, who had become popular a decade or so earlier following their appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show. I had been playing folk songs ever since I learned to play the guitar at the age of 14, and decided I'd add some of those wonderful Irish songs to my repertoire. As I really began to pay attention to the words, I found myself wanting to know more. Who was “Roddy McCorley”? Where was “Boulavogue”? What did they mean when they referred to the “Wild Geese”?

As I researched the music I learned much more about the tragic but fascinating and inspiring history of Ireland and her people. I also expanded my musical horizons as I “discovered” more of the traditional music of Ireland, and began listening to groups like “Planxty”, “DeDanaan”, “The Bothy Band”, “Boys of the Lough”, “Altan” and singers such as Niamh Parsons, Len Graham, Mary Black, Margaret Barry, and many others. I could see that in order to really learn and understand the songs, I needed to understand Ireland's history as well.

I finally had a chance to go to Ireland in 2001 where I attended a song school in Armagh. Since then I have been back to Northern Ireland several times. Regrettably, I have not seen much of the Republic of Ireland. Although I did spend a day and a night in

Dublin where I explored the city all day, went to a pub in the evening and was treated to numerous beers by a group of middle-aged Irish ladies who heard my American accent and invited me to sit at their table. We ended up singing a number of songs, and I felt I had really absorbed a lot of culture as I staggered up to my hotel room and fumbled with the keys while humming “Kevin Barry”!

I still play a lot of Irish music with the ensemble “Turf Fire” and while we enjoy playing the pub favorites that everyone wants to hear, we also like to present culturally and historically oriented programs where we tie the music in with Irish history.

I joined the IAS in 2001 shortly after I returned from my first trip to Ireland. I was a board member for several years and I also edited the Newsletter, until Nancy Emig took over this duty. I am now back on the Board and am official Pubmaster – always looking for a nice place for the group to get together and have a pint.

AND SPEAKING OF IRISH MUSICIANS!

Please note the particulars below for an Irish session at the Ashland Coffee & Tea establishment - right in Ashland – (The Center of the Universe) - I just found this item on the website and I **KNOW there are Irish musicians in our IAS group that might be interested. I know because one of our most fun Pub Nights included our Irish musicians and guests putting on a great session of Irish tunes for us. So dust off your musical instruments and get thee to Ashland for some Irish music fun with your fellow musicians. For all of us non-musicians, this wouldn't be a bad way to sit and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while you listen to some Irish music.**



The Ashland Old Time Jam & Irish Session will meet from 10 AM to 1 PM on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. Celebrate the music of Appalachia, Ireland, and beyond... beginners and listeners are most welcome! Ashland Coffee & Tea, 100 N. Railroad Avenue Ashland, VA 23005, Phone: (804) 798-1702

Here is an Irish blessing to start you on the path of storyteller: “May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you're going and the insight to know when you're going too far.”

See you at Seanachie Night! May 24th

**JUNE 3RD – IAS ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC
BRING THE FAMILY OUT FOR FUN!**



Starting at 1 pm at Pat and Helen Burke's farm in Amelia. Pat is one of the original founders of the IAS and has the stories to prove it! The IAS provides burgers, hot dogs and condiments - **but you are asked to please bring**

- A side dish or dessert to share.
- Beverages for you and yours.
- Lawn chairs for you and yours.

This is a wonderful way to get to know your fellow IAS members – this is one of bigger turnout events. Karon Bell has some lawn games out and you can enjoy some great Irish company! And even better, it's a beautiful country setting at the lovely home of Pat & Helen Burke (who are always happy to give tours of Helen's family ancestral home. It is a short drive out for such a good time!!

Picnic Driving Directions:

- . Take 360 West out of Richmond.
- . After crossing the Appomattox River into Amelia, go about 3-4 miles and you will see a billboard on your side of the road. Karon Bell generally has balloons or a sign up to warn you to turn.
- . Slide over into the left lane and about a half mile further turn left onto 627, which is Cheatham's Road. (DON'T turn onto 628 which comes first - that's not Cheatham's Road) The Salvage Shed is at the corner of 627.
- . Go about 3/4 of a mile down Cheatham's (627) and the picnic is at the two-story white house on the left. The number, 9943, is on the mailbox. If you have any problems, call 804-561-5778 or 804-366-6925.

Karon Bell's cell phone is 804-982-7835 and her email is irishmom1958@gmail.com – contact her with any questions.

Would you like to see some great photos from Northern Ireland? Click on the link below. It makes me want to hurry back and it'll make you want to go to Ireland tomorrow!

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/tourism/favourite-ulster-beauty-spots-readers-pictures-15118289.html?action=Popup&ino=1>

Light Show in Northern Ireland

Here are some more beautiful shots in Ireland – this time of the “Northern Lights”. According to [Northern Lights Centre](#), the bright lights are actually the result of collisions between gaseous particles in the Earth's atmosphere with charged particles released from the sun's atmosphere. Variations in color are due to the type of gas particles that are colliding. Researchers have established that auroral activity roughly peaks every 11 years, with the next peak period expected in 2013. – (Now there's a great time to visit Ireland! – Anyone game for it?)

Click these links for some beautiful photos – especially one at The Giants Causeway.

<http://www.irishcentral.com/news/Northern-Lights-return-to-Ireland-displaying-brilliant-colors-in-night-sky-148848555.html#ixzz1tziiJCaW>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-17817085>

**IRISH NAMES - KANE, KAIN,
KEAN, KEANE, KEENE**

Kane and O'Kane are the most common anglicized version of the Irish Ó Catháin, from a diminutive of cath, meaning 'battle'. Kane and O'Kane are most frequent in Ulster, where Ó Catháin arose as a surname in the Laggan district of east Donegal, as part of the Cinéal Eoghain, the large group of families descended from Eoghan, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, the fifth-century monarch who founded the Uí Néill dynasty and was supposedly responsible for the kidnapping of St. Patrick to Ireland. In the twelfth century these Ulster Ó Catháin conquered a large territory to the east of their original homeland around Coleraine and Keenaght in what is now Co. Derry, and remained powerful and important in that area down to the wars in the seventeenth century. Their last chief died in the Tower of London in 1628. Two other common surnames McClosky and McAvinney are offshoots of Ó Catháin. Kane remains particularly common in the Coleraine district of Co. Derry, and in the adjoining county of Antrim. (Clans and Families of Ireland; John Grenham)

EMIGRATION – FROM IRELAND



(An undated postcard from Cobh, Co. Cork)

The number of people living in Ireland in 1966 was less than half that of 1841, despite the fact that Ireland had the highest rate of marital fertility in Western Europe. The decrease in population was mostly due to emigration, not only to the United States, but also to England, Canada, and Australia.

- Between 1825 and 1844 at least 672,000 people left Ireland.
- Between 1845 and 1870 at least 3 million people left Ireland.
- Between 1871 and 1891 at least 1.1 million people left Ireland.

Most of these immigrants came from the rural west of Ireland. Census statistics show that the population of Co. Mayo was 293,112 in 1821. There was an increase to 388,887 in 1841 (a few years before the famine). In 1851 the population was 274,449, which dropped to 254,796 in 1861. It continued to drop, and by 1891 it was 219,034. The all time low was 109,525 in 1971. Since then there has been a slight increase with the population in 1981 increasing to 114,548. Despite the fact that the town of Ballinrobe was a magnet for people moving in from the countryside, it too saw dramatic decreases in population. In 1841 the population of Ballinrobe stood at 1,722, by 1891 it was at 1,060, in 1979 it was 637.

Between 1876 and 1921, 84% of the Irish emigrants went to the United States. In order to understand who emigrated and who didn't, it is important to understand the system of inheritance in Ireland.

Families in Ireland in the 1700s and 1800s inherited by a method called the "stem family system" in which only one child inherited control of the families holding.

Since most Irish Catholic families were large and most of the plots of land were too small to be divided among all of the male offspring or the businesses too small to support many people, one son or daughter inherited the right to the land or the business and the other children were forced to live a celibate life at home helping on the family property, take a menial job with very little hope of ever getting a piece of land, or emigrate.

When there were too many adult mouths to feed and not enough land to feed them, the immediate family and relatives paid to send the younger family members abroad, most frequently to America. Because of this system, the Irish were emigrating to England, America, and Australia long before and long after the famine.

Because the Irish Catholic could not "own" the land the stem system in Ireland involved one son or daughter inheriting the right to rent a certain parcel of land from an English overlord. It was, however, not necessarily the oldest son who inherited "the farm". The parents needed to maintain control, for their own livelihood and the support of younger children, so frequently it was the youngest son or daughter who was around long enough. The inheritance fell pretty much to whomever was still at home at the time the head of the household (father or mother) died or grew too old to work the land his/herself. It was not infrequent for widows to remain the heads of household ever after their children had reached adulthood.

Most histories of Ireland say that generally one or two children in a large family married with the remaining siblings being forced to stay on the property as unmarried adult workers, to immigrant, or to go to the workhouse.

By 1960 the town of Ballinrobe had a population of 1,160 but the surrounding countryside had lost half the population they had had in 1890.



St. Pat's Day 2012 Our "Damp" IAS Workers!



Carroll Graham, Sonya Moore, Frank Hardy, Karon Bell (back row) Jack Cassell/St. Patrick, Sharon O'Brien, Ann McGehee, Dan Begley, Finn McCool/Jim Bandeleon & Despa (O')Matzanas.



Jim/Finn and the IAS Cart/Float that he made for the parade – in front of the IAS Tent & displays that he also designed and made for us.



Carmel Miney & the IAS Cheer Basket she put together for the raffle. Carmel is one of our Hospitality Ladies who bring all those great snacks to our meetings



Joan Finnegan -former IAS Pub Mistress & Parade Lady & Kathryn O'Meara IAS Treasurer



The IAS Cart in front of the IAS tent – note the Irish Scenes displayed on the tent & the Irish Info Charts.

Despite the weather – it looks like all who volunteered to work in the IAS tent had a good time! These events always provide a great opportunity to meet your fellow members and at the same time – get the word out about the IAS. You can see from some of the photos that the tent provides a lot of information on Ireland, Irish family names, Irish history and more. So many people are interested in connecting with their Irish heritage – and our great IAS volunteers provide that outreach. Hope you'll think about coming out and working with us at the next event! We need your smile and your Irish attitude!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Click on links in calendar and you can hear song selections from the artists And ALWAYS click the links below to get the latest updates on upcoming events. <http://richmondias.org/events.php>
For a full month calendar of current events click here. [IAS Calendar](#)

May 12th Saturday Ft. Lee. VA Celtic Festival.	Ft Lee Celtic Festival 2012 Ft Lee, VA (Petersburg area) - Fort Lee Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) presents the Celtic Festival on Saturday, May 12 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Hide Away. The Hide Away is located on 5th Street, Bldg. 15013. The festival is free and open to the public. The festival opens at 10 a.m. with authentic Celtic food, music, vendors and more. FMWR's Kid Zone, inflatable rides and games for kids will also be there. For Additional information - See http://www.leemwr.com/celticfestival.htm
May 24th Seanachie Night!	Thursday – See Info in Newsletter. The Glen Allen Library 10501 Staples Mill Road, 23060 – 804-290-9500 Click for Library Directions
May 26, 2012 Saturday– Irish Singer – Tom Martin Richmond Folk Music Concert	Tom Martin -"Acoustic Roots/Celtic Soul" presented by Richmond Folk Music at Congregation Or Ami , 9400 West Huguenot Road, Richmond, Virginia 23235. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance/\$15.00 at the door. Widely regarded as one of the best guitarists to come out of Ireland, Belfast native Tom Martin draws his inspiration from Traditional Folk, Country Blues, Rock n Roll. Click here for directions from your house Google Map , http://www.richmondfolkmusic.com/page44.htm
May 30 – WED Charlottesville RIVERDANCE	John Paul Jones Arena in Charlottesville VA on May 30, 2012 7:30 pm - for one night only! Few shows have touched audiences like RIVERDANCE, the Original International Phenomenon, now on its FAREWELL TOUR. Groups of 15+ - \$5.00 Off All Tickets!
June 3rd Sunday 1:00 Burke's Farm	IAS Summer Picnic. Burgers & Hot Dogs supplied by IAS – Bring a dish or dessert to share, your own beverage(s) and Lawn Chairs. More info and Directions in this newsletter.
August 11 – Sat BASEBALL AT THE DIAMOND!	IAS at the Diamond. Sat, Aug 11 2012 at 6:35 PM Home Team: Richmond Flying Squirrels Opponent: Bowie Baysox at The Diamond Richmond Fireworks after the game. Dan Begley working on the tickets and More info coming.
Sun Sept 9th Gaelic Storm The Birchmere Alexandria VA	GAELIC STORM – the band from the movie “Titanic” will be at The Birchmere Music Hall located at 3701 Mount Vernon Avenue Alexandria, VA 22305 (Click to get directions) Call 703-549-7500 The concert starts at 7:30 pm and tickets are \$35 Websites to visit - http://www.birchmere.com/ http://www.gaelicstorm.com/

IAS OFFICERS & BOARD

President	Sonya Moore	804-272-4138	sonyasmoore@comcast.net
Vice-President/ Programs	Dan Begley	804-740-5631	begley55@hotmail.com
Secretary & Sunshine	Ann McGehee	540-894-7284	Anniev67@juno.com
Treasurer	Kathryn O'Meara	804-745-1903	Mungojerrie23@aol.com
Board Member, Membership	Denis Maguire	804-739-0429	maguired@comcast.net
Board Member, Special Events	Karon Bell	804-982-7835	irishmom1958@gmail.com
Board, Email & Newsletter	Nancy Emig	804-323-6415	bearfan46@verizon.net
Board Member -Pub Master	Mary Smith	804-746-8173	maryrrf@yahoo.com
Board Member	Frank Hardy	804-883-6230	fenway7@msn.com
Board Member/Webmaster	Jim Bandeleian	804-347-0924	jbandeleian@gmail.com
Board Member	Open		
Webmaster	Doug Elder	804-365-7948	elderclann@yahoo.com

** Wouldn't your name look just grand in that open slot on the Board of Directors listing? Please call Sonya if you've a mind to volunteer. We are a friendly lot and would love to have you join us! ☺