



The Richmond Claddagh- <http://richmondias.org> membership@richmondias.org

Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

May 2009

From the Editor: Latha math dhuibh! -Good day to you! There are some good IAS/Irish/Celtic events coming up – including our IAS May meeting, the May Pub supper and the IAS picnic in June. Be sure to also check the calendar at the end of the newsletter and also the Events listing and the calendar on our website (see link above). Mark your calendars now so you don't miss a thing! Everyone is busy, but each time you are able to attend an event – it makes our organization stronger.

MAY MEETING – Thursday, May 28th – We'll be set up in the basement room at Boulevard United Methodist Church 321 N. Blvd. Richmond. We will welcome first time speaker for the IAS - Darryl Starns, a well-known local Civil War expert, historian and re-enactor. Darryl will present a program full of local and state history surrounding the Irish presence in and around Richmond and in the Civil War. Social starts at 6:30 with the program to start around 7:00. Let's have a good turnout for our 1st time guest speaker! Many thanks go to our IAS Member Don Smith who suggested this program after talking with Darryl at a local event See You There!

MAY PUB NIGHT - Saturday May 30th and it will start at 5:30-at "3 Monkeys Bar and Grill at 2525 West Main Street. It's a little bit earlier – but at their request and they are reserving the deck for us and are going to try and set up a Guinness special for the IAS! To view the menu and more info about the place visit their web site www.3monkeysfan.com. The owners are very excited to have the IAS plan a "supper" there. The food looks great, they have reasonable prices, and we can have a whole lot of fun outdoors! Let's hope we have the luck of the Irish and have great weather. Please call Joan Finnegan 840-0080 or email her at j.finn@hotmail.com so she can have the seating reserved. It'll be something different and like always, the IAS will have a great evening. Pub night confirmations must be made with **Joan by May 28th**-the Wednesday before the supper to give the restaurant a little advance notice.

The June IAS Picnic – A day of fun for all IAS members – all ages! The fun and feasting begin on **Sunday, June 7, at 1 pm** at Pat and Helen Warriner Burke's farm in Amelia. Burgers, hot dogs and condiments are provided, **but you are asked to please bring a side dish or dessert to share, beverages for**

you and yours, and lawn chairs. If you are a new member, this is a wonderful way to get to know the other members, and it's a beautiful country setting and always one of our big turnout events. Last year, Our Special Events Chairman, Karon Bell even had some great "yard games" ready for anyone interested in some friendly competition – but the weather didn't cooperate very much. Maybe she'll have them ready again this year. The IAS picnic is truly one of our best get together(s) and it's the most fun that you'll have with your IAS friends -Trust me you'll be glad you came!

Picnic Driving Directions: From Helen Warriner Burke - 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, a McDonald's billboard. (Only billboard in the county) 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.

The Election Slate to be presented at the Picnic: From Joan Finnegan (Nominating Committee) for the 2009 Election for Officers and Board members the open positions and the slate of officers ready for the approval vote at the picnic are Gloria Cahen: President, Dan Begley: Vice- President and accepting the open slot on the IAS Board of Directors, Kathryn O'Meara.

IAS Board Meetings: All of our Board meetings are open to all members and the dates and times are listed on the calendar at the end of the newsletter and also on our [IAS webpage](#) . If you would like to participate in some of the planning, or if you have an idea for a certain program, special event or have anything pertaining to the IAS that you would like to discuss please come to a meeting or, call or email any Board member and we will be happy to pass the message on! For the continued success of the IAS – the Board needs the involvement of all of our IAS members through suggestions, ideas and participation - All of which are most welcome and strongly encouraged.



Some Sad News – Today, we are saddened to learn that our IAS member, Bill Donovan passed away on May 6th after a long illness. God speed Bill – we will miss that wonderful smile and your constant good nature whenever you were able to join in our IAS events. Members may send Ruby and the family condolence messages by clicking [Here](#)

“I See More IAS Movie Nights in our Future!”

A Big IAS **Thank You** to IAS member Sonya Moore for her recent gift to the Society of several Irish themed movies. We’ll be looking forward to seeing, “Waking Ned Devine”, “The Boxer”, “In The Name of the Father”, “Evelyn”, “The Secret of Roan Inish”, “Bloom”, “The Devil’s Own”, “The Irish Tenors Live From Belfast”, “Ireland – Land of Majesty – Parts I & II”, and from the History Channel, “A Celtic Journey Through Time, Parts I & II. This gift will help in the stated mission of our Irish American Society - which is to promote our Irish culture and heritage through education and public forums. Movie nights are popular with our members and it is great to have so many movies that provide both entertainment and cultural enrichment at the same time. Should any of our members have other Irish themed movies or CDs that you would like to share, we can promise that they will be gently used for our members viewing pleasure and then returned safely to you afterwards. Please contact Dan Begley at 840-740-5631 to let him know.

Help the IAS Proclaim the Irish Contributions in Richmond with a Historical Marker -

We’ve all seen the roadside markers with their brief historical note describing an event, battle or location. The history of Richmond is rife with a myriad of stories of and about Irish connections and contributions to our local area. However, with the exception of Maymont, I have not been able to identify sites that recognize the contributions of the Irish to Richmond's past. As an outgrowth of our IAS Society Mission Statement and Charter “to promote our Irish culture and heritage”, the IAS is considering the initiation of a campaign to secure the first of a possible series of historical markers to highlight the contributions of the Richmond Irish to historical events or sites.

There are many local areas with a history of Irish contributions or influence. The canal, the railroad, and Tredegar easily come to mind. There are surely more

wonderful stories of the Irish in Richmond – just waiting to be told.

If there is a historical place where you would like to see a marker erected and dedicated - please send your recommendation to me. The Richmond IAS **CAN** do this project. Hopefully we can make the public aware of all that the Irish contributed and sacrificed for the growth of Richmond. This is the start, and once the location is identified - the work begins to have the marker accepted for placement. All members that would like to join in this endeavor please let me know and you will be included. The long-range goal is for additional future placements that will showcase our history for all to see and learn. I’m very excited about this opportunity to showcase the Irish and I look forward to hearing from you. **Joan Finnegan 804-840-0080 or j.finn@hotmail.com**

The April Pub Supper at Rosie’s – It was another great pub supper set up by Joan Finnegan. Gathering in the Irish atmosphere of Rosie Connolly’s, were Dave & Mary Geary, Karen Ide and daughter Alexis, Jim Mahone, Nancy Emig, Sonya Moore, Karon Bell, Carroll Graham, Gloria Cahen, Tom & Sara Rupnik, Dan Begley, Joe & Mary O’Brien, Joan Finnegan, Jim Bandeleian and Denis and Josie Maguire. So good to see everyone having a good time and nice to get acquainted with our newest member Karen Ide! Lots of talk of Ireland and we found out that the O’Brien’s are taking a “Bicycle Tour” in Ireland and the Rupnik’s will be visiting later this year. Can’t wait to hear about those trips! We hope to see more and more members join us next time. Our pub suppers are a great way to meet your fellow IAS members in a nice relaxed atmosphere!

Welcome New Members: Some of the new member names appeared in the April issue, but unfortunately due to circumstances which were under my control - not all were published! (Sorry – my fault) But - 🎵TA-DA 🎵! Here is a list of all the newest members that we have recently welcomed and a list of former members that we are delighted to welcome back!

New Members

Stan Balducci	Neil & Janet Brussard
James & Amy Comer	Bernard Farrell
Jenny McIntyre & Jason Hawes	Karen Ide
William Murphy	Tim & Danielle Murphy
William J. Riddell	Helen Rogers
Mark & Judy Yoder	Julie Kittel
Gerald & Guinevere Cassidy	Tom & Pat Moloney

Returning Members!!! (YEAH!)

Beverly Lane & Dede Harper	Dan Quinlan
Mike & Barbara Muldowney	Sissy McEntee

While doing some research on Kilmainham Gaol, I came across an Irish blog with information about the leaders of the Easter Uprising and their time in the Gaol. It is but a sliver of a glimpse about the men whose passion for Ireland led to their tragic ends and each man's place in Irish history as a "Hero of the Uprising".

In May 1916, the executions of the leaders of the Easter Rising took place. The firing squad consisted of twelve members of the Sherwood Foresters who took up formation 10 paces from their target. 6 knelt, and 6 stood, and when given the order by the commanding officer, fired 11 bullets at the heart of the man before them. The second part of the process was, if necessary, the coup de grace: a single gun shot with a revolver, made by the commanding officer to the back of the skull.

Padraic Pearse signed and read the Proclamation as President of the Provisional Government of Ireland and Commander-in-Chief of the Republican Forces. Pearse started out not as a revolutionary but as a promoter of Irish language and culture. His bilingual school, St. Enda's College was revolutionary in its own way. A poet, his poem "Mother", written in the hours before his execution on 3 May, captures the feeling of the Easter Rising. The orator of the proclamation of the republic and the man, who tendered the unconditional surrender of the Irish rebels, was the first to be executed at the break of dawn, May 3rd 1916, at 3.30am. His only visitor prior to his execution was a monk of the capuchin order, Father Aloysius who was denied access to the execution despite his request

Thomas Clarke was the first, and oldest, signer of the Proclamation. As a veteran revolutionary he had spent 15 years in English jails. From 1910, he had been editor of the anti-British journal Irish Freedom. At age 58, Clarke was the oldest man to be executed. His arm was in a sling as he was wounded in the elbow during the rebellion. His wife Kathleen who visited him in his cell prior to his execution recorded how he had said he was relieved that he was being executed, his one dread being the prospect of being imprisoned again. In his lifetime, he had already spent 15 years suffering some of the worst treatment available in the British penal system and looked considerably older than his years as a result. He was executed on 3 May 3rd 4am.

Sean MacDiarmada – executed on May 12th was the manager of Clarke's journal Irish Freedom, and one of the signers of the Proclamation largely responsible for the expansion of the IRB throughout Ireland in the years before the Easter Rising. He had walked with a

limp since 1911 when he had had a serious bout of Poliomyelitis. He visited by a woman named Mary Ryan who Mac Diarmada said would most likely have been his wife had he survived. When he went to his execution he probably did not have a single button on his clothing as he had taken them all off and inscribed these as well as every coin he and his visitors had in their pockets to give to his friends as souvenirs.

Thomas MacDonagh, educated at University College Dublin, was among the intellectual signers of the Proclamation. He was a renowned Gaelic scholar, editor of the Irish Review and a teacher at Pearse's St. Enda's College. First in command of the Jacob's Factory Garrison, MacDonagh was reluctant to accept the order to surrender from Connolly and Pearse because the order was given after they were taken into custody. The supreme command now devolved to him, and he thought he could hold out for a number of weeks. After consulting with his colleagues he did decide to surrender, despite the fact that it meant certain death for them personally, because he thought it would save, what he described as "many true men among our followers, good lives for Ireland. MacDonagh was executed on 3 May.

Eamonn Ceannt was the musician among the signers of the Proclamation and led the action at the South Dublin Union. He was executed on 8 May as was described in the account given by Father Augustine who attended to him before his execution and gave Ceannt his crucifix to hold during his execution to edify him, described Ceannt as "the poor, sweet, gentle soul, the dying saint, who died with forgiveness on his lips." He was executed sitting on a soap box and was reported to have still been alive after the volley of gun fire when the coup de grace was given by the commanding officer.

James Connolly was a socialist, quite active in the Labor movement in the early 1900s, and the author of several pieces of revolutionary literature. He signed the Proclamation and was the commander of the Dublin forces in the Rising and fought in the GPO. On May 12, 1916 Connolly was shot by firing squad. He had been taken by military ambulance to Kilmainham Prison, carried on a stretcher to a courtyard in the prison, tied to a chair and shot

Joseph Mary Plunkett was the editor of the *Irish Review*. Plunkett had been very ill with tuberculosis during the rebellion itself, but Father Augustine who attended him recorded how he went to his execution with composure and a distinguished tranquility. He married his fiancée Grace Gifford shortly before his execution on 4 May.

Major John MacBride was not involved in planning the Easter Rising but was executed on 5 May. A popular story is that MacBride was unaware of the plans for the rebellion and was on his way to a wedding when he came across it. MacBride requested that his hands not be bound and promised to remain perfectly still for his execution. This request was not granted. He then asked to forgo the blindfold and the soldier replied “Sorry Sir, but these are the orders.”

William (Willie) Pearse was Padraic Pearse's loyal younger brother. A sculptor, actor and stage manager, he fought with his brother at the GPO and was executed on 4 May. The younger brother of Patrick Pearse, an ordinary member of the rank and file rebel army, there appears to be little legal justification for his execution. It appears that it was his relationship to his brother Patrick that sealed his fate. The official court-martial records are still being held under the 100-year secrecy rule for sensitive military documents.

Edward (Ned) Daly was the Commandant at the Four Courts and from a family with a tradition of supporting revolution. His father had been in the Fenian Rising in 1867; his uncle had spent 12 years in English jails for his activities; and Thomas Clarke was his brother-in-law. Daly was executed on 4 May. Daly was also the brother-in-law of Thomas Clarke and his sister Kathleen had the traumatic task of visiting her only brother prior to his death only 24 hours after she bid her last farewell to her husband, executed the previous night. Under arrest at the time, she shortly afterward miscarried the child she was bearing shortly after wards.

Michael Mallin was a leader in the Irish Citizens Army and fought at St. Stephen's Green with the Countess Markiewicz. He was executed on 8 May. He was the father of four children and his wife gave birth to his fifth child after his death. His family visited him on the eve of his execution and it appears that the sounds of crying coming from his cell were so sorrowful that a Cardinal Browne who was in the gaol to visit Sean Heuston, left that call, and asked to enter Mallin's cell. Despite not having the required military permit, the guard who himself was in tears let him in. His youngest son Joseph, who visited him in this cell at that time at 2 years, and who became a priest as per his father's dying wish and was a missionary in China.

Cornelius (Conn) Colbert commanded the garrison at Watkin's Brewery. Given about 16 hours notice of his death sentence, Colbert did not want to put his family and himself through the ordeal of a final farewell. Instead he wrote 10 letters to his family and was visited instead by one of the women who was with him in the Marrowbone Lane Garrison and was being held in the gaol. She recorded how as

she spoke to Colbert the soldier guarding them with a fixed bayonet was crying throughout. At his execution on May 8th, Colbert asked for his target to be re-positioned as it was not quite over his heart

Sean Heuston commanded the Irish Volunteers at Mendicity Institution. He was executed on 8 May. The youngest man to face execution at 25 years of age, Father Albert who attended him recorded that Heuston was executed sitting on a soap box, it appears that this was not because Heuston could not stand, it appears that he was perfectly calm prior to his execution, and that Father Albert was so impressed by the beauty and fearlessness of his last moments that he said he “would have given anything to be in his place”.

Michael O'Hanrahan was a novelist with a long family tradition of participation in revolutionary activities. He fought at Jacob's factory and was executed on 4 May. O'Hanrahan's family had been told by the British army that he was to be deported to England; they were only made aware of the truth when they arrived in the prison. After Michael was taken from his cell for his execution, his own brother Harry was then placed in the cell to await his own sentence of death. This sentence was ultimately reprieved.

The bodies of the executed rebels were put into a mass grave with no coffin. All the executions of the rebels angered many Irish people who had shown little support for the rebels during the rebellion. However, it was the circumstances of Connolly's execution that created the most anger. In death, Connolly and the other rebels had succeeded in rousing many Irish people who had been, at best, indifferent to the rebels and their desires when they had been alive.



The sculpture of Five Entwined Snakes above the Entrance to Kilmainham

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Click on links in calendar and you can hear song selections from the artists
 And ALWAYS click the link directly below to get the latest updates on upcoming events
<http://richmondias.org/index.php?content=upcoming>

<p>Sycamore Rouge Petersburg, VA April 24th thru May 16th Fri. & Sat at 8 pm Sunday at 4 pm</p>	<p><i>Translations</i> is a three-act play by Irish playwright Brian Friel written in 1980 Sycamore Rouge, 21 West Old Street. For Info - 804.957.5707 Friel's play tells of the current struggle between both England and Ireland during this turbulent time. The play focuses mainly on (mis)communication and language to tell of the desperate situation between these two countries with an unsure and questionable outcome.</p>
<p>May 19th - Tuesday IAS Board Meeting 7:00 pm</p>	<p>IAS Board of Directors meeting. All IAS Board meetings are open to the general membership of the Society and members are invited to attend and bring suggestions and ideas. Meetings start at 7pm. Agenda items may be presented to the Board by notifying the President in writing not less than 7 days before a Board meeting. For directions to attend or to present an item for the agenda, contact President Gloria Cahen, 804-233-2113</p>
<p>May 23rd Paddy Keenan – Uilleann Piper Richmond Folk Music Congregation Or Ami 9400 West Huguenot Rd Richmond, VA</p>	<p>Paddy Keenan is recognized today as one of the most influential individuals in the evolution of Irish music Arguably the best of the best Uilleann pipers currently performing, Paddy's flowing, open-fingered style of playing can be traced directly from the style of such great Traveling pipers as Johnny Doran. Paddy will perform with guitarist/vocalist John Walsh. Born in The Bronx, NY, his family moved to Kilkenny, Ireland when he was 10. He took up guitar and was lucky enough to be surrounded by a rich musical heritage in Kilkenny where he learned music of all sorts and kinds. Tickets \$12.00 in advance/\$15.00 at the door- Order: 804-647-7856</p>
<p>May 25th -Memorial Day Ceremony VA. War Memorial 10 am – 11am (map)</p>	<p>Come to honor our nation's military, past and present, and remember the sacrifice of those who died in our country's service. Join with our IAS members who will lay a wreath to honor those Irish who have served this country in times of war. Our friends (and some fellow IAS Members) in the St. Andrews Pipe & Drum will be on hand to perform at the ceremony.</p>
<p>IAS Meeting – Thursday May 28 Social starts at 6:30 pm Meeting at 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Darryl Starns, well-known local and Civil War expert, historian and re-enactor will present a program full of local and state history surrounding the Irish presence and participation in the Civil War. This meeting will be our first time at the Boulevard Methodist Church, Boulevard United Methodist Church 321 N. Blvd. Richmond - Social starts at 6:30 with the program to start around 7:00. Let's have a good turnout for our 1st time guest speaker! See You There!</p>
<p>June 7th IAS Annual Summer Picnic Burke's Farm 1 pm</p>	<p>World Famous - IAS Summer Picnic – 9943 Cheatham's Road, Amelia, VA – click here for directions and a Map from Chippenham & Powhite - you can modify to your address The picnic is fun for the whole family. Members will vote on the Slate of Officers and Board members presented for the coming term at the picnic - AND THEN THE FUN BEGINS! You are asked to please <u>bring a side dish or dessert to share, beverages for you and yours, and lawn chairs.</u> Lawn games for all ages and More to come including directions in the May newsletter -</p>
<p>Saturday & Sunday, June 13th 10AM-7PM June 14th 10AM-5PM</p>	<p>16th Annual Potomac Celtic Festival in Leesburg, VA, on the picturesque historic green near the Morven Park Mansion and Museum, will include continual music and dance from many of your Celtic favorites, juried crafters and specialty import vendors, 2000 years of Living History reenactments, storytelling in the grove, workshops, children's activities and crafts, food and drink, the authentic pub tent, and all of the family-fun that has become synonymous with PCF! http://www.potomaccelticfest.org/</p>
<p>Celtic Women Landmark Theater Richmond, VA Sun, June 14th – 8PM</p>	<p>In a new program titled, "A New Journey", the show spans two hours and contains selections from the group's platinum albums, <i>Celtic Woman</i> and <i>A New Journey</i>. The Celtic Women themselves are as beautifully, quintessentially Irish as the music they perform. Tickets are – Orchestra or Grand Tier \$60.00. Balcony – 2nd level - \$45.</p>
<p>54th Grandfather Mtn, Highland Games – July 9th – 12th</p>	<p>The 54th Grandfather Mountain Highland Games will be held July 9-12, 2009 at MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain near Linville, NC. http://www.gmhg.org/</p>

Sept. 6th Irish Festival Blackthorne Inn , in Upperville, Virginia,	The Prodigals, Solas an Irish American band playing traditional tunes, The Dublin City Ramblers, Pittsburgh based Ceann Shannon Lambert-Ryan & RUNA, an Irish Dance stage, & kids activities http://www.theirishfestival.com/bands.htm
32 nd Annual Williamsburg Scottish Festival October 2nd & 3rd	Friday, Oct 2 nd , Balmoral Reception , 7 PM–9:00 PM, Ceilidh 6 P.M. – 11 P.M. Saturday, Oct 3 rd . Festival 9 AM–5:30 PM Ceilidh 5:30 PM–Midnight Sunday, October 4 th – Kirkin 10 A.M.
The Highland Games and Celtic Festival Oct 24th Oct 25th	The Meadow Event Park – 13111 Dawn Blvd., Doswell VA 23047. It's a new name and new home – the fifteenth annual Meadow Highland Games & Celtic Festival (formerly the Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival) features two days of “Music. Food. Large Men Throwing Stuff.”

For your reference – Contact Information for your Officers, Board and Webmasters

President	Gloria Cahen	804-233-2113	zebagus@comcast.net
Vice- President/Programs	Dan Begley	804-740-5631	begley55@hotmail.com
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Treasurer –	Ann McGehee	804-540-7284	anniev67@juno.com
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Webmaster	Doug Elder	804-365-7948	elderclann@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Jim Bandeleian	804-347-0924	jbandeleian@gmail.com

Directions to Sycamore Rouge for the Play “Translations”

From Richmond

Take Interstate 95 South to exit 52 (Washington/Wythe Streets,) and keep right to Washington Street (East). At the third traffic light, take a right onto Sycamore Street. Follow Sycamore until it ends, and make a left onto Old Street. Sycamore Rouge is the fifth door on your right--look for the big ironwork courtyard and the bright red doors! Ample parking is available directly behind the building.
