



# The Richmond Claddagh

Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

<http://richmondias.org/>

April 2008

**THE SAINT PATRICK'S FESTIVAL** – This year's St. Pat's festival & parade fell later in the Spring calendar – but it turned out to be one very cold weekend. Crowds seemed to be down this year – but as always, the IAS tent drew many folks with questions about their Irish heritage. Several new members were added to the rolls (as you will see later in the newsletter) and many took our information and hopefully we will add more to the membership rolls. The parade on Saturday was great. Many thanks go out to those that showed up to march with the IAS. We walked behind our President, Gloria Cahen who was the Grand Marshal of the parade this year. Jim Bandleane secured green “beads” and “gold coins” that we marchers passed out to the crowd along the parade route. I always wondered how Manhattan was bought for the equivalent of \$24 and some beads - I get it now. People **LOVE** to get beads!!

The St. Pat's Parade is under the auspices of the Irish American Community Council of Richmond – but the Parade Marshal is our own IAS member Joan Finnegan. It was a great job by Joan and the Council to put together such a grand assortment of Irish folks, Pipe Bands, Color Guards and more. The parade is great reflection of the Irish in Richmond and surrounding areas. While it's not a function of the IAS – we support it and it is a fine opportunity to publicize our group. So let's have an even bigger contingent of IAS marchers next year. Many thanks go to our members who marched with us in the parade and those who volunteered their time to work in the IAS booth. Speaking of the IAS booth. HUGE thanks to those who volunteered and came to work in the booth. It was cold, rainy and even sleet on Sunday morning. But you brave souls -you came out for us. As they say in Richmond Gaelic “Tanks a lot”

**THE APRIL MEETING –A Gathering of Seanachies:** What a great meeting! Even with bad weather – the IAS storytellers and our IAS champion listeners came out for the Seanachie night. Our own IAS Seanachie, Kathy Mincz, started the evening off with two wonderful stories. The first was a lovely rendition of an Irish couple sitting in their cottage – reminiscing about their life and thinking of their children – off and away – it was a lovely and thoughtful piece and I know that suddenly there was a lump in my throat. .

Kathy's second story was about “The Fisherman and the Selkie”. For those (like me) who aren't all that familiar with the Irish legend - here's a brief primer. "Selkies" are well entrenched in Celtic legend and are also known as selkies, selchies, kelpies, roane and seal people. There are haunting and evocative legends and folktales of these creatures on how they could shift between seal and human form by removing their sealskins. Stories of the selkies come from

Cornwall, Ireland (especially from Donegal county), and Scotland (in particular the west coast and the northern islands of the Orkneys, Shetlands, and Hebrides). It is still a major belief in Ireland and parts of Britain that a child born today with a "caul" over its face, is born with the magical ability of a selkie.

After Kathy's presentation – Hutch Hutchinson gave a marvelous – almost scholarly presentation about the wonder that is Irish humor. Of course, he had great examples of that wit... and entertained with wonderful Irish jokes.

Dan Begley spoke on the Irish Bogeyman – known in every day life and lore as Ian Paisley. Dan's few brief – but thoughtful comments kick-started the stories and great interaction between our members. (I wonder – were Paisley's ears totally burned off??? Hmmm)

Many, Many, Many thanks go out to Kathy Mincz for her wonderful presentation. Her animated and thoughtful recounting of the stories was so good - that many of us asked if she would consider an annual Seanachie night for the IAS. Kathy seemed ok with that! Good! If you can check out the group – “Tell Tale Hearts”- web page for their upcoming events. [http://www.telltalehearts.org/wordpress/?page\\_id=7](http://www.telltalehearts.org/wordpress/?page_id=7)

## **THE WORLD IRISH DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP:**

You have probably all read or heard the news – a fifth grade American girl from Amherst New York finished in first place in the 10 – 11 year old group in the World Irish Dance Championship in Belfast Ireland. And now - for the rest of the story... From IAS members Denis and Jocelyn Maguire – comes word that their daughter Christina also danced in the World competitions. Per proud but totally objective dad, Denis, Christina had her best performance to-date and came in 60th out of 140 in her age group. That is a great finish in any contest of Irish dancers – but in Belfast... in the world competitions --- Wow! Congratulations to Christina for her hard work and dedication and to Mom and Dad too – for their support and encouragement. How nice it would be to schedule a performance at one of our IAS meetings. . Let's see if we can work on that too.

## **OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO: -**

**Steve McKnight** – on the loss of his father in February and to **Dan Begley** on the loss of his father in March. Please keep these members and their families in your thoughts.

**Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha  
May their faithful souls be at God's right hand**

## UPCOMING PUB NIGHT

Pub Master Ed Mayer sent this note in for all of you -

It's April and that means another of our Pub Suppers. This month we will be going to O'Tooles. The date is Saturday April 26, 2008. The Time to meet and greet is 6:00 pm. We have arranged for separate tickets for everyone. Remember now, O'Tooles is a non-smoking restaurant and our pub suppers there have been great fun in the past and this night should be no exception.

Since this is a Saturday night Pub supper, we have to have a count to O'Tooles so that we can be sure to have all IAS members seated in the same area. You can use the web address below to get directions, check out the menu, etc.

O'Toole's Restaurant & Pub

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

4800 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225

Please call or email me your reservation as soon as possible, Thanks – Ed 804-379-5577 or [EHM1537@msn.com](mailto:EHM1537@msn.com)

## WHAT'S COMING UP? WHY - IT'S THE FAMOUS ANNUAL IAS PICNIC!

The picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Burke's farm in Amelia. It's a short drive to their farm and this event is a wonderful way to get to know the other members in a relaxing beautiful country setting and is always one of our big turnout events. We'll have more information and directions in the May newsletter – but please mark your calendars now! Events Chairman Sonya Moore has some wonderful plans and surprises for the picnic – more hints in May ☺...

THE IAS ELECTIONS – If it's IAS picnic time... it's Officer and Board member election time. President Gloria Cahen will be organizing the Nominating Committee who in turn will seek volunteers interested in helping with the operational duties that keep the Irish American Society moving forward. Officers and Board members have only one meeting per month – so it isn't a huge drain on anyone's time – but the help is needed. New folks bring new ideas and suggestions – and they are always needed to keep an organization vital.. So please think about your schedule and see if you might be interested in volunteering some time for the IAS. There will be more in the May newsletter – including the ballot for the elections. .. Contact Gloria (804-233-2113 if you are interested in volunteering – we'd love to have YOU!

## THE IRISH TRICOLOUR FLAG

The Irish tricolour dates from 1848 and symbolizes the people of Ireland and the “radical” idea of peace and cooperation between Catholics and Protestants. The “radical” idea is represented by the tricolor arrangement based on the French national flag. Included with this radicalism was the aspiration of an Ireland ruled by the Irish, not the English. The three stripes have the same meaning as they do in France: Liberty, Fraternity and Equality.

Thomas Francis Meagher, a leader of Young Ireland, designed the flag sometime in the mid 1840's

(dates vary, with 1847 or 1848 being the most commonly cited). Meagher explained the symbolism as follows: the Protestants, represented by the orange and the Catholics, represented by the green. The green also stands for Ireland itself. The white stripe represents a truce between the two communities; this truce in turn unites the two communities as one nation. Orange was also the livery colour William III of the House of Nassau. His forces were the victors at the Battle of the Boyne (in 1689) and that solidified English rule over Ireland. The tricolor gained more popularity than the green flag with the gold harp later in the 1800's, especially among the Republicans. It was adopted as the national flag of Ireland in 1919 and officially confirmed by the Dail Eireann in 1937.

**IRISH REPUBLICAN BROTHERHOOD:** (IRB) was a secret Oath bound fraternal organization dedicated to the establishment of an “independent democratic Republic” in the mid nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its counterpart in the United States of America was organized by John O'Mahony and became known as the Fenian Brotherhood (later Clan na Gael). The members of both wings of the movement are often referred to as "Fenians". The IRB played an important role in the history of Ireland, as the chief advocate of republicanism during the campaign for Ireland's independence from the United Kingdom. Following on from movements such as the United Irishmen of the 1790s and the Young Irelanders of the 1840s. As part of the New Departure, in the 1870s and 1880s, IRB members would attempt to democratize the Home Rule League and its successor, the Irish Parliamentary Party, as well as taking part in the Land War. The IRB would go on to stage the Easter Rising in 1916, which would lead to the establishment of Dáil Eireann in 1919. The suppression of the Dáil Éireann would precipitate the Irish War of Independence and the signing of the Anglo Irish Treaty in 1921, ultimately leading to almost complete Irish independence.

WELCOME NEW IAS MEMBERS: Joining the IAS at the St. Pat's Festival – we are delighted to welcome:

Jeff & Patty Beatman, Aaron Hill , and Peggy McDermott Kosco

Aaron is in the process of learning the bagpipes-Jeff sings with PressGang and he's also into story-telling The Seanachie kind of stories and Peggy is an old friend of mine that can match Irish stories/jokes with the best of them.. We are delighted to have you all join us in the IAS and we bok forward to introducing you to your fellow members at an upcoming Social - how about the Pub Supper on April 26??? Sounds like a winner!

**Note – April membership renewals have been mailed – it makes my life easier if you can get them back as soon as possible. Thanks**

## **Historic Irish Prison Houses Spirit of Independence By Jacki Lyden – NPR All Things Considered, March 23, 2008**

Dublin's Kilmainham Jail is a repository of Ireland's rebellions and inspirations, and like the Bastille in France or the Tower of London, it exposes Ireland's historical conflicts and passion. Built in 1796, the gray stone fortress — bare, cold and full of echoes — is one of Ireland's most visited national heritage sites.

Kilmainham was modeled on the British prison Pentonville and has the classic three stories, three galleries and open skylight associated with progressive prisons of its day. The cells were for individuals and had high ceilings. Almost immediately after it was erected, rebels began to be housed there, beginning with Henry Joy McCracken, leader of a rebellion in 1798. During the Irish famine of the 1840s, almost 9,000 people were incarcerated there — many because they knew they would be fed and not starve.

Today tourists can pass below the jail's massive doorway, walk its windy galleries and peer into its high, empty cells. Above one stone doorway is an inscription scratched by a former prisoner, "***Beware of the Risen People -They have harried and held ye that have bullied and bribed***". Those words were penned by Padraig Pearse, who was one of the authors of the Irish Proclamation of Freedom announced on April 24, 1916. Their armed resistance in Dublin ultimately led to the creation of the modern Irish state.

Pearse, commandant-general of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and military strategist James Connolly, along with others, helped lead a band of roughly 2,000 rebels that Easter Monday. The two men were the ideological descendants of many nationalistic forebears who had sought to overturn British rule and domination in Ireland for more than 200 years. When they took over the imposing General Post Office on Sackville Street (later O'Connell Street) and other key buildings, Pearse read from the proclamation, which declared formation of the "Provisional Government of Ireland."

"Irish men and Irish women: In the name of God and the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her flag and strikes for her freedom," Pearse read. Only weeks later, England would execute Pearse, Connolly and 12 other men at Kilmainham. Though at first the plotters were barely tolerated, the executions galvanized the Irish public against the British government.

Former Executive Director Pat Cooke, who ran Kilmainham for more than 20 years, says the prison reflects key moments of crisis in Irish history and Irish political history through the 19th century.

"I think one of the dimensions of history that most historians miss out on is the emotionality of it. They're uncomfortable with it. But you can't manage a building like this without being aware of the sensory and emotional dimensions of

history. If you stand on the landing outside the door of that cell where Padraig Pearse was kept for the hours before he was executed, you're almost existentially re-enacting the last footsteps of a man at the very point of execution," Cooke says.

As affecting as the corridors and execution yard are, there is a tender and poignant side to Kilmainham. It is home to a pair of glasses belonging to Joseph Plunkett, who married his sweetheart, Grace Gifford, in the chapel the night before his execution. There is also a Christmas card made by Pearse's mother, showing his likeness and that of his brother, Willie, who was executed as well. A little girl sent another prisoner a box of chocolates, which he promised to eat with her if he were freed. They remain untouched.

The 1916 Easter Rising was followed by years of instability and violence throughout Ireland. It led to Ireland's War of Independence in 1919, which lasted for two years and which was partially settled by the Anglo-Irish treaty, which partitioned Ireland and created the Irish Free State. Opposition to the treaty led to civil war from 1921 to 1923. After 77 more prisoners were executed in the Civil War, four of them at Kilmainham, the jail was abandoned for almost 40 years and never reopened as a working prison. The jail was restored beginning in the 1960s and is now a national heritage site.

Cooke hopes that everyone interested in the history of Ireland — which was declared a republic at the end of 1948 — visits Kilmainham Jail and Pearse Museum.

"Of course, there's always a danger that by going to one place you're going to oversimplify," Cooke says. "But it is an uncanny fact that Kilmainham Jail can authentically reflect key moments in Irish history by simple virtue of the fact that so many of those people were actually in here and stories can be told about them and articulated through a sense of place."

### **GENEALOGICAL RECORDS**

A total of 10,974,679 Parish records from all over Ireland are now searchable online on the [Irish Family History Foundation](#) website. The Foundation is the coordinating body for a network of government approved genealogical research centers and they claim to have computerized almost 40 million Irish Ancestral records, primarily Church births (baptisms), marriages and deaths. Browsing the index is free, but access to a detailed individual record costs about \$8(This item from the Irish Heritage Club of Seattle, WA)

**The Begley family would like to thank all those who called, sent cards, attended the funeral Mass, or just spoke a kind word during the recent passing of our Father ,James J. Begley. The response by IAS members was greatly appreciated. The Begley Family.**

## **THE POET WHO PLANNED THE EASTER RISING: Joseph Mary Plunkett (1887 – 1916)**

Often viewed as the tragic young poet of the 1916 Easter Rising, the sensitive-looking Joseph Mary Plunkett was in fact a key figure who with his friend Thomas MacDonagh shaped the strategy and drew up the operational plans for the insurrection.

Plunkett came from a family already prominent in Irish history. He was related to the Blessed Oliver Plunkett who was executed by the English in 1681, and his living relatives included Horace Plunkett, founder of the Irish agricultural cooperatives movement, and the fantasy short-story writer Lord Dunsany. His father was George Noble, Count Plunkett, who had been made a Papal count for his efforts on behalf of the Catholic Church.

A noted poet and, among other things, an expert in Arabic literature, Joseph Plunkett was also a member of the secret Irish Republican Brotherhood. When in 1913 the Irish Volunteers were formed to defend the movement for Irish home rule from the obstructionism threatened by the unionists in Ulster, the IRB infiltrated the Volunteers and by early in 1915 were planning to launch an armed insurrection in a bid for a full Irish republic.

As a highly educated gentleman of leisure, Joseph Plunkett could offer the movement a lot in the way of time and resources, despite an incurable case of tuberculosis of the neck glands that threatened to eventually kill him. He soon became one of the men tasked with drawing up the actual plans for the insurrection. Apart from his wide-ranging studies of military affairs, his only hands-on military experience was from his days in an English Jesuit boarding school, when he took part in the Officers Training Corp maneuvers on Salisbury Plain.

Plunkett met Thomas MacDonagh in 1910 when he set out to learn the Irish language in order to pass the matriculation requirements for the new National University of Ireland. MacDonagh, who was then teaching at Patrick Pearse's school at St. Enda's, was suggested as a suitable tutor. The two soon became close friends and fellow Republicans. In 1911 Plunkett's first book of poetry, *The Circle and the Sword*, was published.

Plunkett joined the Irish Volunteers at their inaugural meeting in Dublin in November 1913. Not knowing that Plunkett was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Volunteers head Eoin MacNeill accepted Plunkett's services mainly because Plunkett was the editor of the *Irish Review*. MacNeill figured that Plunkett could be useful in publicity and administration, but didn't think his fragile health would permit him much service as an armed Volunteer.

Yet in spite of his advancing tuberculosis the IRB asked Joseph in mid-1915 to undertake a clandestine trip to Germany. Britain and Germany were then locked in World War One, but Plunkett made his way to Germany via a still neutral Italy and Switzerland. His mission was to arrange for German military assistance for the uprising now scheduled

for Easter, 1916, and he was also to secure the cooperation of Roger Casement, who had gone on his own to Germany the year before with a similar intention. In Germany Plunkett found Casement despondent over his failure to recruit a viable "Irish Brigade" from Irish POWs, but Plunkett managed to secure from the Germans a commitment to send a substantial shipment of arms to Ireland immediately before the Rising.

He returned to Ireland late in 1915 to complete plans for the Easter Rising and became engaged to Grace Gifford, whose sister Muriel had already married Thomas MacDonagh. As the date for the Easter Rising approached, Plunkett's tuberculosis worsened. Grace, in all innocence, had selected the very date of the Rising, Easter Sunday 1916, as their wedding day, but an emergency neck operation the week before allowed Plunkett a fortuitous postponement.

He was still recovering from his operation when the Rising, delayed by a day, began on the morning of Easter Monday, 24 April 1916. His neck still swathed in bandages, Plunkett was barely able to manage the one-kilometer walk from the mustering point at Liberty Hall to the Rising's designated headquarters at the General Post Office on Sackville Street. He spent most of Easter Week on a cot in the Post Office, assisted by his aide-de-camp Michael Collins, but he still managed to lend his voice to the final councils of war.

Following the rebel surrender on 29 April Plunkett was lodged at Kilmainham Gaol where along with the other rebel leaders he was tried by a British court-martial and sentenced to be shot. One of the last acts of his life was to marry Grace Gifford in the prison chapel shortly before he faced the firing squad.

It would have been a thin consolation at best, but the defense of central Dublin planned by Plunkett and MacDonagh won a grudging respect from the professional soldiers who overpowered the Rising.



(Article reprinted from the Celtic League-American Branch)

## MEMORABLE EVENTS IN APRIL

April 1<sup>st</sup> 1911 - The Titanic is launched in Belfast

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1843 - Birth of James McCudden, World War I ace with 57 enemy planes shot down, is born in Kent, England, of an Irish father and an English mother.

April 1, 1919 - Eamonn de Valera elected first president of Dáil Éireann

April 3, 1918 - Michael Collins is arrested by the Brits and is taken to Co. Sligo.

April 6, 1954 - The British Flags and Emblems Act legislates against interference with the Union Jack, effectively prohibiting display of the Irish tricolor in the six counties of occupied Ireland.

April 7th 1801 - The trial of United Irishman, Napper Tandy begins

April 7th 1941 - A Luftwaffe bomb kills 13 people in Belfast. Ultimately, the city is devastated by air raids; 700 people are killed and 400 seriously injured in what becomes known as Belfast's Blitz. The British government appeals to De Valera for help and he authorizes fire brigades from Dublin, Dundalk, Drogheda and Dun Laoghaire to give assistance

April 11th 1878 - Kathleen Daly Clarke, Irish patriot, is born

April 12th 1847 - The American relief ship, Jamestown, lands supplies in Cork for famine victims

April 18, 1949 - Eire leaves the British Commonwealth to become the Republic of Ireland

April 23, 1014 The Battle of Clontarf occurred on Good Friday. (Defeat of the Vikings in Ireland).

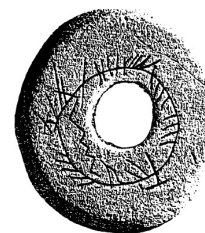
April 24, 1916 - The Easter Uprising begins Monday when 2000 rebels led by Padraig Pearse seize central Dublin buildings. Organized by the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Rising lasted from Easter Monday April 24 to April 30, 1916. Members of the Irish Volunteers, led by schoolteacher and barrister Patrick Pearse, joined by the smaller Irish Citizen Army of James Connolly, along with 200 members of Cumann na mBan, seized key locations in Dublin and proclaimed an Irish Republic independent of Britain. There were some actions in other parts of Ireland but, except at Ashbourne, County Meath, they were minor

### FOR YOUR IRISH BIRTHDAY PARTY! (YIKES!)

An odd Irish birthday tradition is to **lift the birthday child upside down and give his head a few gentle bumps on the floor** for good luck. The number of bumps should allegedly correspond to the child's age plus one.

**OGHAM** (pronounced "AHG-m" or "OH-ehm") writing is the earliest known form of written Irish and

the alphabet pre dates the 5th century. It consists of an alphabet of twenty letters used for stone and wood inscriptions in Celtic Ireland. The letters consist of one to five perpendicular or angled strokes meeting or crossing a centerline. The form of the letters allows them to be carved easily on objects of wood and stone. Ogham was carved and read from bottom to top. Ogham is sometimes referred to as the Celtic Tree Language as each letter was named after a tree the people were familiar with, and used. Ogham inscriptions consist almost exclusively of personal names and marks, possibly indicating land ownership, though some appear to be memorials to the dead. Any wood Ogham inscriptions are of course sadly lost to history. However, there are roughly 400 Ogham inscriptions in stone found to date, of which 330 are from Ireland. The other Ogham stones have been found in England, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man and Shetland. The Irish had no other written alphabet until Christian missionaries introduced Latin. Ogham ceased to be used after the first few centuries of the Christian era, as the use of inscription language was reviled as a pagan practice. Generally used only for recording important events and genealogies, Ogham was probably only understood by the intellectuals within the ancient Celtic society.



This is the [Buckquoy spindle-whorl](#), containing an [Old Irish](#) inscription written in 8th century Orkney with Ogham. It is benedictive, and reads *Benddact anim L.*, meaning "a blessing on the soul of L."

There are roughly 400 known **Ogham inscriptions** scattered around the Irish Sea, the bulk of them dating to the 5th and 6th centuries. Their language is predominantly Primitive Irish

**(Food for Thought** - Ogham has been found in North America. Could it have been taken there by St. Brendan or another Irish monk?)

### A TASTE OF IRELAND IN RICHMOND:

Hi Nancy, Sorry I missed the monthly meeting, but Ray said that you wanted to know where I purchased the Irish cheese and butter. I found the Kerry Gold butter at Ukrop's. The Dublin cheese at Wal-Mart, (and our son has also bought it at Costco.) Also, the Devonshire cream that is so wonderful on scones can be found at Ukrop's. Add raspberry preserves and the taste is marvelous. Have a good week. Linda Gallagher

## **IRISH PRIDE IN OUR HERITAGE-**

This is for you Nancy, and my fellow Celts in the IAS.

Long, long ago, beyond the misty space,  
Of twice a thousand years,  
In Erin old, there dwelt a mighty race,  
Taller than the Roman spears

Thomas D'Arcy Magee (1825-1868)

Slainte, Carmel Miney

(I love this – Thanks Carmel... Nancy)

## **AN INTERESTING IRISH LEGEND:**

The first three days of April are called the "Borrowed Days" and are traditionally associated with bad weather. This derives from an old legend where a mythical cow boasted about March being unable to kill her. The result was that March borrowed three days of terrible weather from April to try and finish the cow off.

**IRISH WHISKEY ANNIVERSARY** - 2008 is being celebrated as the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the "world's oldest distillery" at Bushmills in Co. Antrim. The whiskey trade in Ireland has existed for over a thousand years. However, it was in 1608 that King James I granted a license for whiskey to be made "within the county of Colrane, otherwise called O Cahane's country", making Bushmills the first "legal" distillery. At one time there were 1,228 legal distilleries in Ireland, but today only three survive: Middleton, Bushmills, and Cooley, the only Irish-owned distillery. Middleton's Jameson is the largest selling Irish whiskey in the world. Visit Irish Whiskey sites by clicking this [http://www.whiskyguild.com/irish\\_whiskey\\_distilleries.htm](http://www.whiskyguild.com/irish_whiskey_distilleries.htm)

## **FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE:**

At the April IAS meeting – “The Seanachie Night”, Pat Burke told us all about a great book he is currently reading. It is:

**“The Famine Ships: The Irish Exodus to America**  
By Edward Laxton

Between 1846 and 1851, more than one million people—the potato famine emigrants—sailed from Ireland to America. Now, 150 years later, “The Famine Ships” tells of the courage and determination of those who crossed the Atlantic in leaky, overcrowded sailing ships and made new lives for themselves, among them the child Henry Ford and the twenty-six-year-old Patrick Kennedy, great-grandfather of John F. Kennedy. Edward Laxton conducted five years of research in Ireland and interviewed the emigrants' descendants in the U.S. Portraits of people, ships, and towns, as well as facsimile passenger lists and tickets, are among the fascinating memorabilia in "The Famine Ships."

Click on this link for a Famine Ships listing.

[http://www.geocities.com/genealogyinfo/ireland/fs\\_hips.html](http://www.geocities.com/genealogyinfo/ireland/fs_hips.html)

## **To: The Members of the Irish American Society of Greater Richmond**

My name is Paul Diana, of Dublin's Irish Pub in Mechanicsville, Virginia. Dublin's and I would like to help your community organization and/or charity raise monies to benefit your organization.

Since we opened just this past November, we have already helped raise over \$3,000 for various worthwhile causes such as, a benefit for a Hanover Sheriff's Deputy's family in financial need due to medical expenses for their child, The Knights of Columbus, and a Law Enforcement Softball League.

Because these events have been such a success, we are now proposing a “Community Pub Night.” Any community organization and/or charity will have the opportunity to raise monies for such organization through Dublin's Irish Pub. The way it will work is that your organization and/or charity will be responsible for advertising the “Pub Night.” An admission fee of \$5.00 will be charged by the organization to enter the pub. The organization will also monitor the door to collect admission fees. Monies collected from admission will be full profit for your organization and/or charity. Essentially, admission fees are donations to your organization and/or charity. “Community Pub Night” can be held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and scheduled from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to raise money for your group and spread the word that Dublin's Irish Pub cares about individuals and associations in need, throughout the community. If you are interested in more information, please give me a call.

On behalf of Dublin's, I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your time.

Cheers,

Paul R. Diana

**DUBLIN'S IRISH PUB**

7526 Mechanicsville Tpk.

Mechanicsville, VA 23111

804-723-5582

[Dublinsirishpub@yahoo.com](mailto:Dublinsirishpub@yahoo.com)

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**(From Nancy** – The articles that I find for the newsletter are pulled from various sources. I do as much back-research as time allows – but if there are historical errors in the articles, I apologize. I will gladly accept any articles of correction for the next newsletter – I'm not an expert on Irish History – just a harried newsletter editor. Thanks for reading and also thanks in advance for any input, corrections, submissions - etc., all will be happily received.)  
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And with that - dear readers – we close another issue of The Claddagh. Till May.....

**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>

April 11 <sup>th</sup> 7pm	Albafaire * – Dublin’s Irish Pub -7526 Mechanicsville Tpk. Mechanicsville, VA 23111 804-723-5582
April 12th	Strawberry Hills Races in the Sky Box – Call Gloria Cahen 233-2113 with any questions
April 12th	Lexington VA, Scots Irish Festival at Maury River Middle School. 600 Waddell Street The festival will be moved indoors in event of bad weather. For information - <a href="http://lexcelts.com/index.php">http://lexcelts.com/index.php</a> or 877.CELTIC2 (877.235.8422, Toll Free)
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic Storm at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA – Tickets \$25”, 7:30PM <a href="http://www.birchmere.com/calendar/calendar_list.cfm">http://www.birchmere.com/calendar/calendar_list.cfm</a>
April 19 7-9:30	Press Gang ** Dublin’s Irish Pub 7526 Mechanicsville Tpk. Mechanicsville 23111 804-723-5582
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>IAS Board Meeting – All members welcome Please call 233-2113 for info or directions.</b>
April 25 <sup>th</sup> 9pm	The Havers*** 9pm –Rare Olde Times -10602 Patterson Ave Richmond, 23238 (804) 750-1346–
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	The Havers*** 9pm – Dublin’s Irish Pub - Mechanicsville
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Press Gang ** – 7 – 9:30 pm – Brick House Run - PUB AND RESTAURANT 407 - 409 Cockade Alley, Old Towne Petersburg, VA. (804) 862 – 1815</b>
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	The Havers*** 9:30 – Dublin’s Irish Pub - Mechanicsville
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Albafaire 7 pm – Dublin’s Irish Pub - Mechanicsville
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Press Gang ** 7pm – 9:30 Dublin’s Irish Pub - Mechanicsville
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	The Havers*** – 9:30 pm Dublins' Irish Pub - Mechanicsville
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	World Famous - IAS Summer Picnic – fun for the whole family. Watch the May newsletter for more details.
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Potomac Celtic Festival Leesburg, VA, Morven Park <a href="http://www.potomaccelticfest.org/">http://www.potomaccelticfest.org/</a>
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Press Gang ** * 7pm – 9:30 Dublin’s Irish Pub - Mechanicsville
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Haver’s 9:30– Dublin’s Irish Pub -Mechanicsville
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Press Gang ** * 7pm – 9:30 Dublin’s Irish Pub - Mechanicsville
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Press Gang ** * 7pm – 9:30 Dublin’s Irish Pub - Mechanicsville

Meet these local and regional bands that will be appearing in our Richmond area Irish/Celtic Pubs – Patronize when you can to support these local businesses that are promoting Irish music. Please let me know of other Irish music or cultural events that can be added to our calendar (804-323-6415 or bearfan46@verizon.net)

\***Albafaire** is a traditional Celtic band based in the Richmond area – playing music primarily from Scotland and Ireland. The name is a mixture of the former or other names of those countries. Alba [ahl-buh] is the Scottish language name for Scotland and Eire [ahy-ruh] is the Irish name of Ireland (in the English language) and is a former name of the Republic of Ireland (1937 – 1949). Visit their website for more info and a sample of their music [http://albafaire.com/Home\\_Page.html](http://albafaire.com/Home_Page.html)

\*\***The Press Gang** is a three man Sea Chantey and Celtic singing group (**New IAS member**) **Jeff Beatman** sings bass, **Chris Craig** sings lead, and **Keith Southall** sings baritone. They have a lot of Irish tunes too! Visit their website for info and to hear a sample of their music. <http://www.pressgangsingers.com/index.html>

\*\*\***The Havers** – based in Williamsburg, VA - play a mix of Irish and bluegrass traditional, drinking songs and the like - songs about love, famine, weddings, wakes, rebellion, beer and whiskey (admittedly, mostly beer and whiskey). “We like to play what we can to get the crowd dancing / drinking / clapping / stomping / singing along!” Visit their website to hear a sample of their music <http://www.myspace.com/greengrassrock>

(Please let me know of any local or regional Irish events – and I’ll add them to our events listing.804-323-6415 or bearfan46@verizon.net)