



The Richmond Claddagh <http://richmondias.org/>

Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

August 2008

August General Meeting: August 14th 7:00 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church– 6000 Grove Avenue at the intersection of Grove and Three Chopt – right next door to St. Bridget's Catholic Church.

IAS member, Carol Rasnic will introduce and provide some background to our evening of video entertainment featuring "**Father Ted**" which was a popular 1990s BBC television situation comedy. The setting revolves around the lives of three Irish Catholic priests on the remote (and fictional) Craggy Island off the west coast of Ireland. *Father Ted* was written by two Irish writers, Arthur Mathews and Graham Lineman, who also co-created *Big Train*. All of the interior scenes were shot at The London Studios, while all of the location footage was shot in Ireland. The show follows the exploits of three Roman Catholic priests who preside over a parish on Craggy Island, located off the west coast of Ireland. Father Ted Crilly, Father Dougal McGuire and the retired Father Jack Hackett live together in Craggy Island's parochial house, along with their housekeeper Mrs. Doyle, who "keeps Craggy Island Parochial House floating on a sea of tea" according to official synopses

To make this evening even more special – two tickets to an upcoming show at the University of Richmond will be awarded to a lucky IAS member in attendance at the meeting. You Must be present to register for the drawing – and the free tickets will give you entrance to:

"An Irish Homecoming" Saturday September 6th 7:30 pm - In a stellar collaboration, Irish chanteuse Maura O'Connell appears with the all-female Celtic ensemble **Cherish the Ladies** led by Grammy Award-winner Joanie Madden and featuring Mary Coogan, Roisin Dillon, Michelle Burke, Mirella Murray and Kathleen Boyle. They are joined by singer-songwriter Dermot Henry and the traditional Irish music duo **Bohola**- Jimmy Keane & Pat Broaders. There is even more Irish fun with an ensemble of Irish dancers from The Chieftans and the cast of Riverdance. **Tickets:** \$38 adults, \$36 seniors, \$19 children, \$30 UR employees, \$8 UR students Tickets go on sale August 25, 2008. So mark your calendars to attend! You don't want to miss this one!

IAS PUB SUPPER August 22nd – 6:30 –Pub Master Ed Mayers has another fun night planned at Rare Olde Times 10602 Patterson Ave Richmond, VA 23238 (804) 750-1346 **PLEASE CALL ED AT 804-379-5577 or send <mailto:EHM1537@msn.com>** to confirm the number attending – so we can all be seated together. C'mon, the food is great, but the company is even better.. . ☺

PICNIC INVITATION from Tim Batton and the St. Andrew's Legion Pipe & Drums – On Saturday August 23rd The IAS membership is invited to celebrate the St. Andrew's Legion's 7th Anniversary and William Wallace Day. We will have hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill, and who knows, maybe some piping and drumming too. We will also have outdoor mist fans blowing away in case of heat too. The event is BYO-Beverage of choice. Side dishes are welcomed and please ask that all that wish to attend - **RSVP** - so that we make sure enough food is thrown on the grill. Send an email response to: Pipesofargyll@aol.com or Phone: (804) 559-7046. Parking can be done along the street. Mapquest.com does a pretty good job at giving accurate directions to the address, which is, 3809 North Light Drive Chester VA 23831

IAS Membership A huge IAS welcome to our newest member, Tom Pendergast. Tom joined at the beginning of July and we are all looking forward to getting acquainted with you Tom! The August meeting and the St. Andrew's picnic look like good times and we hope you can make **one OR Both!** Also, thanks to all our IAS members that have sent in your membership renewals. For late renewals, I'll send along one of my "Oh So Gentle Reminders"... 'cuz I know you don't want to miss out on all the upcoming Irish fun!

JUST TO LET YOU KNOW:

Irish Tenor Anthony Kearns will return to **St. Bridget's Catholic Church** 6006 Three Chopt Road for two wonderful evenings of musical entertainment on October 22 and 24, 2008. Tickets are now available to purchase online! Questions? Call 282 9511 ext. 334. To purchase your tickets through the mail, **download an order form** here

CAR POOLING – Many of our IAS members would like to attend some of our functions, but are unable to or are uncomfortable driving alone at night. If you are interested in car-pooling – either giving a ride or being a passenger - please contact Karon Bell at 804-517-3249. Karen will work to put members in contact with willing drivers or passengers in their particular zip code area.

You must call Karen – to let her know if you would be a driver or a passenger and to give the OK to release your information to other members. With the increasing cost of gas, maybe we could all pitch in together to curb usage and share the fuel expense with a willing driver. You don't always have to be available – once you meet folks in your area – you can work out the logistics. We want to try and help if we can. Call Karen today if you are interested.

This is one of those “Get Close to your Irish Roots” moments that we like to add to the newsletter. To many - It’s all well known, but to others, it’s a “new read”. No matter your level of knowledge of Irish history – the oration is beautifully worded and a thought provoking read.

“IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE:” were the climactic closing words of the graveside oration of Patrick Pearse at the funeral of Jeremiah O’Donovan Rossa on 1 August 1915. Jeremiah O’Donovan Rossa (September 11, 1831–June 29, 1915) was an Irish Fenian leader. Born at Rosscarbery, County Cork, Rossa established the Phoenix Society, which would later evolve into the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). He was jailed numerous times for connections with the Fenian movement, and was finally exiled in 1871, sailing to the United States on board the *Cuba* with his friend John Devoy and three other exiles. Together they were dubbed the “Cuba Five”.

The Oration:

“It has been thought right, before we turn away from this place in which we have laid the mortal remains of O’Donovan Rossa that one among us should, in the name of all, speak the praise of that valiant man, and endeavor to formulate the thought and the hope that are in us as we stand around his grave. And if there is anything that makes it fitting that I rather than another, I rather than one of the gray-haired men who were young with him and shared in his labor and in his suffering, should speak here, it is perhaps that I may be taken as speaking on behalf of a new generation that has been re-baptized in the Fenian faith and that has accepted the responsibility of carrying out the Fenian program.

I propose to you then that, here by the grave of this unrepentant Fenian, we renew our baptismal vows; that, here by the grave of this unconquered and unconquerable man, we ask of God, each one for himself, such unshakable purpose, such high and gallant courage, such unbreakable strength of soul as belonged to O’Donovan Rossa. Deliberately here we avow ourselves, as he avowed himself in the dock, Irishmen of one allegiance only. We of the Irish volunteers and you others who are associated with us in today’s task and duty are bound together and must stand together henceforth in brotherly union for the achievement of the freedom of Ireland. And we know only one definition of freedom: it is Tone’s definition, it is Mitchel’s definition, and it is Rossa’s definition. Let no man blaspheme the cause that the dead generations of Ireland served by giving it any other name or definition than their name and their definition.

We stand at Rossa’s grave not in sadness but rather in exaltation of spirit that it has been given to us to come thus into so close a communion with that brave and splendid Gael. Splendid and holy causes are served by

men who are themselves splendid and holy. O’Donovan Rossa was splendid in the proud manhood of him, splendid in the heroic grace of him, splendid in the Gaelic strength and clarity and truth of him. All that splendor and pride and strength was compatible with a humility and a simplicity of devotion to Ireland, to all that was olden and beautiful and Gaelic in Ireland, the holiness and simplicity of patriotism of a Michael O’ Cleary or of an Eoghan O’Growney. The clear true eyes of this man almost alone in his day visioned Ireland as we of today would surely have her: not free merely, but Gaelic as well; not Gaelic merely, but free and noble as well.

In a closer spiritual communion with him now than ever before or perhaps ever again, in spiritual communion with those of his day, living and dead, who suffered with him in English prisons, in communion of spirit too with our own dear comrades who suffer in English prisons today, and speaking on their behalf as well as on our own. We pledge to Ireland our love, and we pledge to English rule in Ireland our hate. This is a place of peace, sacred to the dead, where men should speak with all charity and with all restraint but I hold it a Christian thing, as O’Donovan Rossa held it, to hate evil, to hate untruth, to hate oppression; and, hating them, to strive to overthrow them. Our foes are strong and wise and wary; but, strong and wise and wary as they are, they cannot undo the miracles of God who ripens in the hearts of young men the seeds sown by the young men of a former generation. And the seed sown by the young men of 1865 and 1867 are coming to their miraculous ripening today.

Rulers and Defenders of Realms had need to be wary if they would guard against such processes. Life springs from death: and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations. The Defenders of this Realm have worked well in secret and in the open. They think that they have purchased half of us and intimidated the other half. They think that they have foreseen everything, think that they have provided against everything; but the fools, the fools, the fools! — they have left us our Fenian dead, and, while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.”

(Rossa's funeral, and Pearse's oration, had the desired effect of mobilizing Republicans and creating the conditions for a rising. Eight months later, on 24 April 1916, Pearse stood in the portico of the General Post Office in Dublin and read the Proclamation of the Republic. Although the Easter Rising was short-lived, it set in motion the events that led to the formation of the Irish Free State in 1922. Today, Pearse's funeral oration is considered one of the most important speeches in 20th century Irish history.)

Did You Know This About Ireland?

- Members of the Garda (Irish Police) now include people from Belarus, Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, India, Poland, Romania, Russia, the UK and US.
- The Irish government plans to lower drunk-driving limits to .05 from .08 will be postponed because the breathalyzers used by Garda cannot detect the lower alcohol level.
- An Irish grocery chain says an "error in the system" recently permitted several hundred online customers to buy cans of Harp lager for 1 cent each.
- The cost of gas in Ireland averages €1.34 per liter or \$8.02 per US gallon, while diesel averages €1.438 per liter or \$8.61 per US gallon.
- There are an estimated 60,000 Chinese people in Ireland, mostly working or studying in Dublin.
- The 50,000 Irish soldiers who died in the First World War were recently commemorated at an ecumenical service in Dublin -The war ended 90 years ago this year.
- Guinness is brewed in nearly 50 countries using a top-secret component transported from Dublin where it is kept under lock and key.
- To pour the perfect pint of Guinness is supposed to take 119.5 seconds, no more, no less.
- Ireland is still the second-biggest beer-drinking market in the world, after the Czech Republic.
- Guinness is still Ireland's best-selling beer, even at \$7.20 a pint.
- A third of all Guinness sales occur in Africa and more Guinness is sold in Nigeria than in Ireland.
- 69% of Irish homes have both a landline and a cell phone, 20% have a cell only and 9% have a landline only.
- The levy on plastic bags in Ireland raised \$35 million in 2007.
- Since 1998, the economy of Belfast has grown fastest among the 30 largest cities in the UK.
- Punctuality at Dublin airport is the second worst in Europe, second only to London Heathrow
- Irish companies make an average profit of \$73,000 per employee, according to Ireland's second largest trade union.
- Ireland's 2006 census registered people from 188 different countries
- About 2,000 Irish-born Christian missionaries work overseas, and their average age is 70.
- There are an estimated 8 million people from non-EU countries living in the EU illegally, i.e. without a proper permit.
- In the last ten years, 402,658 people from Northern Ireland have applied for Irish passports. People born in Northern Ireland can get an Irish or British passport.

"Did you ever hear the one about Pat and Mike? Pat said to Mike, 'when I die, would you be sure to come to the cemetery every St. Patrick's Day to pour a bottle of Irish whiskey on me grave?' Mike answered Pat, 'I don't mind, but do you mind if I put it through me kidneys first?'"

One of Ireland's Treasures

William Butler Yeats was an Irish poet and dramatist, and one of the foremost figures of 20th-century literature. A pillar of both the Irish and English literary establishments and he was a driving force behind the Irish Literary Revival, and together with Lady Gregory and Edward Martyn founded the Abbey Theatre. In 1923, he was awarded a Nobel Prize in Literature for what the Nobel Committee described as "inspired poetry, which in a highly artistic form gives expression to the spirit of a whole nation;" and he was the first Irishman so honored. "Easter 1916" is a Yeats is generally considered one of the few writers whose greatest works were completed after being awarded the Nobel Prize; such works include *The Tower* (1928) and *The Winding Stair and Other Poems* (1929).

Yeats was born and educated in Dublin, but spent his childhood in Sligo. He studied poetry in his youth, and from an early age was fascinated by both Irish legends and the occult. His earliest volume of verse was published in 1889. Later in life, while living in England, Yeats was often homesick for Ireland, and one of the end results of that loneliness was this lovely poetic tribute.

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honeybee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there,
For peace comes dropping slow
Dropping from the veils of the morning
To where the cricket sings
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore,
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements gray
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

DID YOU KNOW:

The Phrase "by hook or by crook" allegedly comes from a military campaign by English bad guy Oliver Cromwell, who in 1649 planned to attack Waterford by taking ships around Hook Head or marching through the village of Crooke. Some say Richard DeClare, Earl of Pembroke first used the expression to describe his invasion way back in 1170. Cromwell failed, while DeClare succeeded in capturing Waterford.

The Irish in the Civil War: Civil War regiments were often recruited and organized along ethnic lines, and one of the most famous fighting units in the Union Army was the Irish Brigade. At its peak, the brigade was composed of four regiments, New York's 63rd, 69th, and 88th and the Massachusetts 29th Regiment. Many of the brigade soldiers were Irish immigrants from New York City, particularly the Lower East Side. Part of the recruiting appeal for Irish immigrants in America was the concept that military training received in the Union Army could eventually be used fighting the British to liberate Ireland.

Controversy Leads to Recruitment: The original commander of the Irish Brigade was Colonel Michael Corcoran, who became famous when, out of Irish pride, he refused to have the 69th Regiment of the New York State militia parade in honor of the visiting Prince of Wales. A court-martial to try Corcoran was dropped in 1861 when the US government realized his potential value in recruiting Irish soldiers into the Union Army. The original recruiting posters for what became the Irish Brigade often refer to "Corcoran's Irish Legion." At least one such poster defiantly proclaimed, "Irishmen, you are now training to meet your English enemies."

Off to the War: When war broke out, the 69th Regiment was dispatched to Virginia. The *New York Times* of April 24, 1861 contains a story detailing the festive scene as the regiment marched down Broadway. A company of firemen led the march, and thousands of people lined the sidewalks to cheer. The newspaper noted that along with a "splendid silk Stars and Stripes," the regiment also unfurled "the colors of Old Ireland." By late afternoon the procession had reached a pier on the Hudson River, and 1,200 of New York City's Irish left for what people hoped would be a short and glorious war.

Thomas Francis Meagher: The most famous leader of the Irish Brigade was Thomas Francis Meagher, an Irish revolutionary who was living in exile in New York City at the outbreak of the Civil War. In the 1840s Meagher had been involved in revolutionary activity in Ireland, and the British government convicted him of treason and sentenced him to death. His sentence was commuted to "transportation" and he was sent to the penal colony at Van Diemen's Land (now known as Tasmania). Meagher escaped and made his way to New York, where he practiced law and was a well-known advocate for Irish freedom.

Early Action in Virginia: In the summer of 1861 the 69th Regiment participated in the defense of Washington, DC, which followed the battle of Bull Run. The other regiments were assembled, and in early 1862 the fully constituted Irish Brigade joined General McClellan's Peninsula Campaign. The brigade fought at Yorktown and Fair Oaks. Morale was high. For diversion, the Irish Brigade held the "Chickahominy Steeple-Chase" at the end of May 1862. Officers raced horses over hurdles, and

to cap off the day, drummer boys raced donkeys. As the races ended, the brigade marched off to the Battle of Seven Pines.

Charging to Glory at Antietam: Perhaps the Irish Brigade's greatest glory came at Antietam, where the brigade led a ferocious charge against Confederate riflemen entrenched in a sunken farm road that became infamous as "Bloody Lane." Assembling on the morning of September 17, 1862, the entire brigade was given absolution, the late rites of the Catholic Church, by a chaplain on horseback. The men then battled toward the sunken road, finishing with a bayonet charge. Casualties were horrendous. General Meagher had his horse shot out from under him, and critics spread the rumor that had been drunk and toppled from his mount.

Slaughter at Fredericksburg: Three months after Antietam, the Irish Brigade again found itself in the vortex of a crucial battle. At Fredericksburg, on December 13, 1862, the brigade made a series of charges against Confederate riflemen assembled behind a stone wall. Out of 1,200 Irish soldiers in the attack, approximately half were killed or wounded. The scenes on the battlefield were ghastly, as the wounded were trapped under murderous rifle fire and many died before they could be helped. Following Fredericksburg, the Irish Brigade held a requiem mass for its many fallen soldiers at the Old St. Patrick's Cathedral in lower Manhattan.

Valor at Gettysburg: The Irish Brigade, with some of its wounded restored to active duty, was able to assemble approximately 600 men before the summer of 1863. At the Battle of Gettysburg the brigade again saw heavy action and sustained horrific casualties. The focal point of the Irish Brigade's action at Gettysburg was in the area known as "The Wheatfield". A green granite monument to the Irish Brigade soldiers placed at the site in 1888 features a Celtic cross and a wolfhound, a symbol of Irish loyalty.

The Brigade Nearly Destroyed: By 1864 the Irish Brigade had lost so many men that it the entire brigade had shrunk to the size of a single regiment. The US Army absorbed it into other units. The dream of a trained Irish-American unit that would liberate Ireland from British rule never came to pass, of course. The 69th New York Regiment later saw service in other wars, including World War I and World War II. Soldiers from the 69th New York have also served in Iraq. (Many thanks to Joan Finnegan for sending in this interesting article written by Robert McNamara for *About.com*.)

(I know - this is a Union Army outfit, and we're in Richmond, but The Claddagh gratefully accepts all interesting articles pertaining to Irish history, Irish events, Irish people, etc. for reprint. Please forward them to bearfan46@verizon.net and we'll find a spot. As Martha Stewart might say, "Sharing our Irish History - It's a good thing".)

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 Irish events

<http://www.spectrumdata.com/cgi-bin/foxweb.exe/fwcalendar?dbf=rias>

August 8 th	Press Gang concert at Chester Bistro, 2612 Perdue Springs Drive Chester, VA 23831 7:30-9:30 (Fund Raiser for the Massey Cancer Center) 804-425-6956
August 8	The Blarney Stone , Pete Mealy and Laurie Rose Griffith – A mix of traditional Irish & American classics
August 9 th	<i>Poisoned Dwarf</i> in Mathews, VA at the Southwind Cafe @7 or 8 pm - 611 Church St Mathews, VA 23109 (804) 725-2766 for information
August 9 th	August 9- 7-9 pm Press Gang at Chat and Play Cafe 7-9pm 14862 Hull St Rd, Midlothian, VA 23832 (804) 818 3026
August 14th 7pm IAS Monthly Meeting & Program Movie - "Father Ted" the BBC comedy series	St. Stephens' Episcopal Church 6000 Grove Avenue at the intersection of Grove and Three Chopt – right next door to St. Bridget's Catholic Church. IAS member, Carol Rasnic will introduce and provide some background to our evening of video entertainment. "Father Ted" was a popular 1990s BBC television situation comedy set around the lives of three Irish Catholic priests on the remote (and fictional) Craggy Island off the west coast of Ireland. <i>Father Ted</i> was written by two Irish writers, Arthur Mathews and Graham Lineman, who also co-created <i>Big Train</i> . All of the interior scenes were shot at The London Studios, while all of the location footage was shot in Ireland. The show follows the exploits of three Roman Catholic priests who preside over a parish on Craggy Island, located off the west coast of Ireland. Father Ted Crilly, Father Dougal McGuire and the retired Father Jack Hackett live together in Craggy Island's parochial house, along with their housekeeper Mrs. Doyle, who "keeps Craggy Island Parochial House floating on a sea of tea" according to official synopses
August 16 th	The Blarney Stone , James West of the "Roaring Paddies" is a second generation Irish-American whose family hails from County Down, Northern Ireland." Click on the link to hear some of his good Irish music! http://jameswestmusic.com/index.html/
August 16 th 7-9 pm	August 16- Press Gang at Dublin's Irish Pub 7526 Mechanicsville Tpk. Mechanicsville 23111 Phone 804-723-5582.
Sunday, August 17 th	Count Down to St. Pat's Day - To keep the Spirit of St. Patrick's Day alive - O'Toole's Irish Restaurant & Pub holds an Irish Sing-a-long on the 17 th of every month from 7:00pm till 8:30pm – it's located at 4800 Forest Hill Ave. Richmond, VA 23225
Friday, Aug 22`	IAS Pub Supper at Rare Olde Times 10602 Patterson Ave Richmond, VA 23238 (804) 750-1346 PLEASE CALL ED MAYERS AT 804-379-5577 or mailto:EHM1537@msn.com
Saturday, August 23rd	The IAS membership is invited to celebrate the St. Andrew's Legion's 7th Anniversary and William Wallace Day. We will have hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill, and who knows, maybe some piping and drumming too. We will also have outdoor mist fans blowing away in case of heat too. The event is BYO-Beverage of choice. Side dishes are welcomed and please ask that all that wish to attend - RSVP - so that we make sure enough food is thrown on the grill. Send an email response to: Pipesofargyll@aol.com or Phone: (804) 559-7046 Parking can be done along the street. Mapquest.com does a pretty good job at giving accurate directions to the address, which is: 3809 North Light Drive, Chester VA 23831
Aug 29 & 30	The Blarney Stone , Direct from Clifton - Co. Galway, Val Little
August 31 - 7pm Gates open at 5:00	Shenandoah Valley Music Festival – Orkney Springs VA. Cherish the Ladies - Orkney Springs, Va. is a tiny town located in Shenandoah County, the heart of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley and approximately 2 1/2 hours from Richmond.... A drive, but maybe "do-able for some of our members. Tickets Reserved Pavilion - \$25, Adult Lawn - \$20 and Under 18 Lawn - \$10 http://www.musicfest.org/Default.asp
Sept 6th	The Blarney Stone , James West of the "Roaring Paddies" is a second generation Irish-American whose family hails from County Down, Northern Ireland." Click to hear some of his good Irish music! http://jameswestmusic.com/index.html/
Saturday, September 6 th Two Shows! 3:00 and 7:30	"An Irish Homecoming" In a stellar collaboration, Irish chanteuse Maura O'Connell appears with the all-female Celtic ensemble Cherish the Ladies, led by Grammy Award-winner Joanie Madden. Joined by singer-songwriter Dermot Henry and the traditional Irish music duo bohola, Jimmy Keane & Pat Broaders. Even more Irish fun with an ensemble of Irish dancers from The Chieftans and the cast of Riverdance. Tickets: \$38 adults, \$36 seniors, \$19 children, \$30 Tickets - August 25.

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Sept 17 th	The Blarney Stone Countdown to St. Pat's Day with Wayne Jordan
Sept. 18 th meet at 6:30 to socialize – Program starts at 7pm	IAS Monthly Meeting – Presentation by Professor Margaret Duckworth on Celtic Saints. Margaret has done two wonderfully interesting and entertaining presentation on the Books of Kells, and this program promises to be just as great. Tuckahoe Library 1700 N Parham Road Richmond, VA 23229 (804) 270-9578
Sept. 19 th	IAS Pub Supper – O'Toole's Restaurant & Pub 4800 Forest Hill Ave. Richmond, VA 23225 804-233-1781 –CALL ED MAYERS AT 804-379-5577 or mailto:EHM1537@msn.com with the number attending so we can all be seated together.
Sept 18,19,20	The Blarney Stone Brook Yoder Traditional Irish music
September 18th 7:30 pm \$20	The Old Blind Dogs at the http://www.gravity-lounge.com in Charlottesville, VA. Old Blind Dogs have stood at the leading edge of the roots revival that has both reawakened and revolutionized Scottish folk music. Per IAS member Jim Mahone, "OBD gave the concert of a lifetime this past February at Gravity Lounge. World-class virtuosos and passionate performers! If you like Celtic, if you like traditional acoustic music, you'll love Old Blind Dogs!" http://www.oldblinddogs.co.uk/index.asp
September 23rd 7:00 pm \$20	The Tannahill Weavers at the http://www.gravity-lounge.com in Charlottesville, VA. \$20 The Tannahill Weavers diverse repertoire reflects the duality of Scotland's musical heritage. It embraces both the mystical quality of the Highlander's Celtic music, and the rollicking, sometimes even brawling qualities of the Lowlander's Anglo-Scots tunes. The Tannahill Weavers' arrangements blend the beauty of the traditional melodies with the power of modern rhythms. The penetrating sound of the Highland bagpipes is a thread of ancient memory running through it all. Gravity Lounge is located on the pedestrian mall in Charlottesville, 103 South First Street, Charlottesville Virginia 22902 (434) 977-5590 – The link below will let you hear samples of their music. http://www.tannahillweavers.com/music_samples.htm
Oct 3,4,5th	Williamsburg's 31 st Scottish Festival. Moved to a beautiful new Festival site Rockahock Campgrounds in Lenexa, Virginia. Located just west of the Williamsburg, Jamestown, & Yorktown "Historic Triangle". Ceilidh Fri. night 6-11, Festival, Sat. 9-5:30(with Ceilidh 5:30-midnight, Sunday – Kirking 10am. Website at - http://www.wsfonline.org
Oct 4 & 5th	Chesapeake Celtic Festival Where? Furnace Town Living Heritage Museum, Eastern Shore of Maryland. http://www.celticfest.net/
October 16 Dumbarton Library,	Kevin Donleavy, (author, scholar on Ireland and the Irish in Virginia - Irish musician with his own band King Golden Banshee) will give a presentation on the Irish in Virginia. Kevin has taught classes at U of R on the Irish and has written books on the links between the music of Virginia and the influence from the Irish and Scot settlers. Promises to be a wonderful evening! 6800 Staples Mill Rd. Richmond, VA 23228 (804) 262-6507
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Oct 25 th & 26th	The Annual Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival features two days of 'Music. Food. Large Men Throwing Stuff.' The IAS will be on hand with our tent full of Irish information. Competition abounds with the best athletes from around the world in the North American Highland Games Championship, along with Dance, Fiddle and Harp Competitions. Celebrate Celtic heritage with a Parade of Clans and Societies, pipe bands, living history encampments, Dogs of the British Isles Parade, and genealogical information. Enjoy traditional music and Celtic rock on two entertainment stages all weekend, shopping with over 80 authentic vendors.