



The Richmond Claddagh

<http://richmondias.org/>

The Richmond Irish American Society

[Click for the Calendar of Events](#)

MARCH 2013



28th St. Pat's Festival – March 23rd & 24th IAS Volunteers Needed

Hey, can you give us a hand? We need your help at our IAS Tent at the festival Please contact our Special Events Chair- Karon Bell at **804-982-7835** or email her at irishmom1958@gmail.com.

These festivals are our chance to engage the public and let them know about our IAS organization. Support from our current members and the addition of new members to our roster will ensure that the IAS continues to grow and prosper.

We will gladly show you the ropes and you will have a great time meeting new folks, and spreading the joy of being Irish! (The added bonus – we members get better acquainted!)

Our volunteers answer questions about the IAS – they meet and greet visitors to the tent – and act as our Goodwill Ambassadors as they become the face of the IAS to people who are just hearing about us. If you can donate an hour or a couple of hours or a full day – or both (!) please let Karon know so that she can set up a schedule of volunteers.

The Festival opens at 10 each day.

Karon has lined up help on Friday night setting up the tent. She does need volunteers after the Festival on Sunday to take it down. So can you give us hand any time over the weekend? Thanks much!!

St. Pat's IRISH FESTIVAL GRAND MARSHALL Tom McGranahan



Long time Promoter of Ireland and all things Irish – Tom is also an early Irish American Society member and supporter. AND he is also Dad to IAS member Marie McGranahan-Turner. I understand that some, (including Tom) say, “He is the best-looking, bald-headed Irishman in the room - -wearing a bow tie”



ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL – SUPPER with FRIENDS

There is no organized March Pub Supper (as if we are ever organized ☺) Instead – some of the IAS Festival works plan to meet at Rosie Connolly's on Saturday after the close of the St. Patrick's Festival. If you are in the area – you are most welcome to join in with us. Nothing formal, don't have to call in a reservation with Jim, its just friends having fun together. All are welcome! Rosie's is at 1548 E. Main Street at Farmer's Market (804-343-1063. We ALWAYS have a great time at Rosie's. Hope you can make it!!



THANKS TO YOUR REQUESTS A REPEAT PERFORMANCE IAS MEETING – APRIL 20TH – 1:00



THE TITANIC IRISH PASSENGERS TUCKAHOE LIBRARY.

2012 was the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. The ship was built in Belfast and its last port of call was Cobh. But, most stories about the Titanic barely mention Belfast or Queenstown (Cobh) or the profound effect that the disaster had on Ulster. Social conditions changed in Belfast after the sinking. Most of the Irish were 3rd class passengers - that's steerage. They were separated from 1st and 2nd class passengers and that impacted how they lived or died on that fateful night. We will not be talking about the 300 social elite aboard the Titanic. Please join us a bit early for some hospitality time prior to the start of the program. Thanks to Dan Begley for the repeat!.

(The library is located 1901 Starling Drive Henrico, VA 23229 (804) 290-9100 Off Parham Rd. Click for directions - [Click for directions to library](#))

From The President: There are 2 separate March events related to the Civil War era tragedy at Browns Island. On March 9th – there is a program on the tragedy. Later, on the 13th there is the presentation of the VA Historical plaque commemorating the event. Speakers on the 13th will include Mike Gorman, Richmond National Battlefield Park Ranger, a consultant on the movie “Lincoln”, who will discuss the events of 03/13/1863. Anyone with questions - please call Dan Begley at 740-5631.

THE 1863 - TRAGEDY AT BROWN’S ISLAND
MARCH 9th Program

On March 9, the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar and the Richmond National Battlefield Park will present *Tragedy at Brown’s Island*.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will explore the tragic home front story of the Friday the 13th explosion that took place at the C.S. Laboratory on Brown’s Island. There, young women and girls produced the material of war.

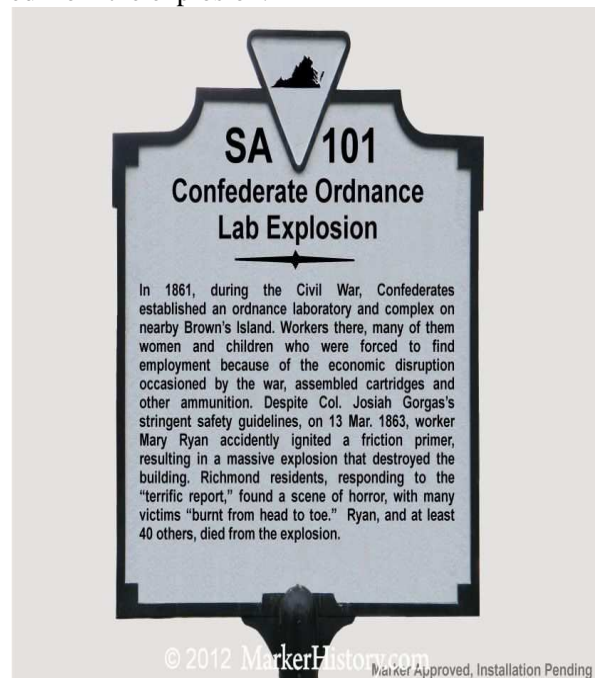
According to American Civil War Center President Christy Coleman, March 13, 1863 was a day like no other.

Eighteen-year-old Mary Ryan had the task of filling friction primers-explosive devices used to ignite gunpowder in cannon. It was delicate and dangerous work best suited for small, nimble hands,” Coleman said. “Shortly before noon that day, Mary was seen repeatedly rapping the board containing the primers against her bench seat. The primer exploded sending Mary straight into the air. With gunpowder residue in the air, this ignition triggered a massive explosion that quickly swept through and demolished the building.” About 20 young women died instantly. Another 20 died within hours from burns and other injuries. In the midst of war, this was the worst domestic tragedy Richmond had faced, Coleman said.

“This tragedy illustrates that the casualties of war are not limited to the battlefield,” said Elizabeth Paradis Stern, chief of interpretation at Richmond National Battlefield Park. Tours to Brown’s Island will discuss the explosion along with the impact it had on Tredegar Iron Works, which produced more than half of all cannons and munitions used by the Confederacy. Costumed interpreters will also demonstrate how munitions cartridges were made and younger visitors can try jobs their counterparts undertook centuries ago.

**MARCH 13TH – 11:00 am PRESENTATION OF
MEMORIAL PLAQUE AT TREDEGAR**

In 1861, during the Civil War, Confederates established an ordnance laboratory and complex on nearby Brown’s Island. Workers there, many of them women and children who were forced to find employment because of the economic disruption occasioned by the war, assembled cartridges and other ammunition. Despite Col. Josiah Gorgas’s stringent safety guidelines, on 13 Mar. 1863, worker Mary Ryan accidentally ignited a friction primer, resulting in a massive explosion that destroyed the building. Richmond residents, responding to the “terrific report,” found a scene of horror, with many victims “burnt from head to toe.” Ryan, and at least 40 others, died from the explosion.



Confederate Ordnance Lab Explosion Marker, SA-101
– to be placed at Tredegar

Click for Directions to the Site

http://www.tredegar.org/learn_more_about_civil_war_history.aspx

**Click below to see an actual newspaper account of the
event From the Richmond *Enquirer*, 3/14/1863**

http://www.mdgorman.com/Written_Accounts/Enquirer/1863/richmond_enquirer_3141863.htm

**KEEP READING – THERE’S LOTS
MORE!!! ☺**

**HANOVER TAVERN PRESENTS TURF FIRE
Mary Smith & John Robison
MARCH 13th**



Hanover Tavern will be kicking off St. Patrick's Day a couple days early with a free concert featuring the rousing, fun and traditional Irish music of Turf Fire at 7:00 PM in the Bradley Theatre. The Hanover Tavern Restaurant and Pub will have Irish food specials available for purchase. For dinner reservations please call 804-537-5050 or click [here](#).

Turf Fire takes inspiration from groups like The Clancy Brothers, The Corries, & The Dubliners.. Their repertoire is wide and varied – lively Irish sing-alongs, sea chanties, Scottish ballads, old style Appalachian music, and everything in between. If you love Irish music, and want to start your St. Patrick's Day off right, this is the concert for you and your family. 13181 Hanover Courthouse Rd., Route 301 Hanover, VA 23069 (804) 537-5050

Turf Fire on St. Patrick's Day

Mary & John will also be at Crossroads Coffee and Ice Cream (3600 Forest Hill Avenue) Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at this neighborhood watering hole and ice cream parlor - 5:00 to 8:00 pm –

**Celtic Crossroads at Cultural Center –
Glen Allen, VA
Tuesday – March 12th – 7pm**



Experience some of the best that Irish music and dance has to offer with this group of seven highly talented singers/multi-instrumentalists and two dancers. Direct from Ireland, they take the art form to an entirely new level. Experience a wonderful fusion of musical genres, such as eastern European Gypsy, North American Bluegrass, world Classical and Jazz, and the various forms of Celtic music from around Europe and the rest of the world. Tickets \$25 - [Artist Video](#) [Artist Website](#) **Box Office:** 804-261-ARTS (2787) Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

**KELLY KENNEDY & HANDSOME MOLLY
MARCH 17TH WILLOW LAWN**



Come out to Virginia Repertory Theater at Willow Lawn Shopping Center – formerly known as The Barksdale Theater. It's located at 1601 Willow Lawn Dr., Richmond, VA 23230. (804) 282-9440

There will be an offering of Traditional Irish Music, featuring Kelly Kennedy and the group "Handsome Molly"! Our favorite Irish dancers Christina and Sharon Maguire and guest musicians will be ready to add to the evening. And of course, there will be haunting songs from Central Virginia's favorite Irish songbird – Kelly Kennedy.

Local actors will present selections from the Golden Age of Irish literature.

Doors open at 6:30, there is cash bar, tables and plenty of room to spread out and dance if you get the urge!

It all starts at 7 pm and it's just \$10 @ the door. Music begins at 7:00 and its **FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!"** Plenty of well-lit parking!

Danú



Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

[Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music](#)

Call for Ticket Information.- Modlin Center for the Arts, 28 Westhampton Way, University of Richmond, VA 23173 (804) 289-8980

Hailing from historic County Waterford, Danú is one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles today. Their concerts feature high-energy performances and a glorious mix of ancient Irish music and new repertoire. For more than a decade, Danú's virtuosi players have performed around the globe and recorded seven critically acclaimed albums. Join the Modlin Center for the Arts in celebrating St. Patrick's Day with a pre-show reception beginning at 6pm in the Booth Lobby.

**WHEW!! AND THERE'S EVEN MORE
ON THE NEXT PAGE!**

March 30 - 8:00
Blue Ridge Irish Music School



An Evening of Irish Music and Dance
Richmond Folk Music
9400 W. Huguenot Road – Richmond
Congregation Or Ami
\$12.00 in advance/\$15.00 at door

To reserve, call us at 804-647-7856 or e-mail your request to richmondfolkmusic@yahoo.com giving your name and number of tickets. You can pay at the door with cash or check (we can't take credit cards). If you would like to pay using your credit card or PayPal account, you may do so securely on line at this link – we'll hold your tickets at the door.

<http://www.richmondfolkmusic.com/page8.htm>

In beautiful Charlottesville, the Blue Ridge Irish Music School has been turning out some of the best talent this side of the pond since 1999. "BRIMS shows are known for fun, high-energy music, and spirited dancing. "Audiences at BRIMS performances are often roused to stamping, dancing, and cheering,"

Directions to the venue:

Click here for a [Google Map](#), where you can get individualized directions.

Frozen Yogurt Shamrock Shake



1-2 servings

Ingredients

3 cups vanilla frozen yogurt
1/2-cup low fat or skim milk
1/2-teaspoon mint extract
1-2 drops green food coloring
1/4-cup heavy whipping cream (optional)

Directions

In a blender combine vanilla yogurt, milk, mint extract, and food coloring. Blend on highest speed until creamy. Pour into serving glasses.
(Optional) Using an electric mixer add heavy whipping cream and a drop of food coloring in a bowl and using a whisk attachment blend on the highest speed until still peaks form. Add a dollop of cream on top of shake and enjoy! (From: www.mootherhyme.com)

From The Gathering Ireland 2013 Website:

"From a rock in the middle of the ocean, we Irish have populated the globe with approximately 70 million O'Sullivans, Murphys and Walshes".
(For more Irish stories – visit the website –

<http://www.thegatheringireland.com/I-Love-Ireland.aspx>

**Why... YES –It IS True – In March...
Everyone and Everything Wants to Be Irish.**



I Love this shirt.-. Found it at
<http://www.allposters.com/>

ABANDONED IRELAND

You can find interesting and beautiful photos of Ireland's haunting and abandoned structures and their history. It's an Interesting site with great photos and historical references.

<http://www.abandonedireland.com/start.html>

Famous American Irish –



Did you know that Henry Ford was from Irish Stock? Henry's father was born in County Cork. Here are some of his famous quotes.. Good ideas even today.

- Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.
- Don't find fault - find a remedy.
- You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do.
- Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger, even though sometimes it is hard to realize this. For the world was built to develop character, and we must learn that the setbacks and grieves which we endure help us in our marching onward.
- Enthusiasm is the yeast that makes your hopes shine to the stars. Enthusiasm is the sparkle in your eyes, the swing in your gait. It is the grip of your hand, the irresistible surge of will and energy to execute your ideas.
- When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.

More Irish Quotations –

"I suffer from Irish-Catholic guilt. -Guilt is a good reality check. It keeps that " *Do what makes you happy*" thing in check." Edward Burns. (Irish-American Actor/"The Brothers McMullen)



Oh my - I think I believe everything he might ever say— EVER!



The Barry Gate – Annapolis



Few Americans are well acquainted with the gallantry and heroic exploits of Irish-born naval commander, Commodore John Barry. Obscured by his contemporary, naval commander Scotland-born John Paul Jones, Barry remains to this day an unsung hero of the young American Republic. As most naval historians note, Barry can be classed on a par with Jones for nautical skill and daring, but he exceeds him in the length of service (17 years) to his adopted country and his fidelity to the nurturing of a permanent American Navy. Indeed, Barry deserves the proud epithet, "Father of the American Navy," a title bestowed on him not by current generations of admirers, but by his contemporaries, who were in the best position to judge.

As of early 2012 - The pedestrian gate at the US Naval Academy's visitor center in Annapolis, MD, has a new archway honoring Commodore John Barry. Born in Wexford March 25, 1745 - Barry served his adopted country in the Continental Navy during the Revolutionary War. He captured 20 British ships, was seriously wounded, and fought in the last naval battle of the Revolutionary War in 1783. 14 years later in 1797, President George Washington presented Barry with Commission Number One in the newly formed United States Navy. At his death in September 1803, Barry had served as head of the US Navy under Presidents George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson.

More background on Cmdr Perry at this link - <http://www.ushistory.org/people/commodorebarry.htm>

Did You Know?

There are seven places in the US with **the word Shamrock in their names**, towns in West Virginia, Texas, Indiana, Oklahoma, and Townships in Nebraska, Missouri and Minnesota.

There are 16 places in the US **named Dublin**. The most populous of them is Dublin, California, with a population of 46,036.



Irish Immigration to America: How America Became Irish

The Irish began sailing to America in significant numbers by the 18th century. Hamstrung by English trade restrictions, mostly Protestant Irish from the North boarded ships in search of greater opportunity on the other side of the Atlantic. By the time of the American Revolution, a quarter of a million Irishmen had already immigrated to America.

After nineteenth century industrialism took hold, legions of agrarian laborers abandoned American farms in favor of factory work in the cities. Cities grew rapidly, and the mode of connecting cities and expanding trade routes became a priority. The Irish who landed on American soil found ample opportunity in factories and along canals and railroads. Irish enclaves were formed across an ever-expanding America, with Irish concentration on the Eastern seaboard in New England, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

Irish Immigration after the Great Famine:

After the Great Famine struck the potato fields of Ireland in the 1840s; Irish immigration to America took on a strikingly different character. The famine Irish were not the Protestant, relatively well-to-do immigrants who had assimilated seamlessly into American society for nearly a century. The new Irish immigrants were largely poor, unskilled, unfamiliar with urban life, and Catholic. These Irishmen were not welcome. Contrary to America's renown for liberty and tolerance, the famine Irish were met widely with bigotry and hatred. Many Americans came to believe that an excess of foreigners and Catholics would destroy the fabric of a blossoming democracy. Anti-foreign and anti-Catholic mobs attacked convents and Catholic schools throughout the Northeast. Riots erupted in Philadelphia and New York. Irish Catholics were shunned by landlords and shop owners and denied work in the factories.

An unfavorable reception coupled with immigrant loneliness and yearning for Ireland, intensified the growth of Irish slums. Filth, disease, crime, and alcoholism prevailed in the Irish ghettos. Ex-peasant Irishmen battled a debilitating sense of inferiority and yearned for respectability.

Irish Struggle for Independence: Back in Ireland in the early part of the twentieth century, Ireland suffered great bloodshed as Irish Catholics made a concerted push for self-rule. In 1919, a secret organization was formed with one primary objective in mind: unequivocal independence from Great Britain. The Irish Republican Army, financed heavily by Irish Americans, fought a protracted guerilla war against British forces in Ireland, bombing police stations, convoys, and any outposts of British control. In a brutal and desperate effort to suppress the rebellion, British auxiliary forces known as the Black & Tans burned villages, executed rebels, and murdered civilians. A brief cease-fire was extinguished by months of bloody civil war. In 1922, England finally established the Irish Free State among the twenty-six counties of the South, granting financial, judicial, political and educational independence to Ireland.

Third Wave of Irish Immigration: Centuries-old problems continued to plague Ireland in the early 20th century as a majority of its people lived and died with agriculture. As agricultural exports sagged, many young Irishmen flocked to the cities for work, but low industrial wages and the condition of urban slums made life unbearable. In the 1920s, over 20% of the Irish urban population lived in inadequate, overcrowded housing.

Facing little opportunity on the farms and squalid conditions in the cities, the young people of Ireland continued their mass exodus to other lands of opportunity. For most Irish emigrants, a gathering of friends and family would precede departure for America. It was called the American wake, because so often those left behind would be saying their final goodbyes.

Irish American Golden Age: In America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Irish immigrants in America began to rise from the depths of despair, finding salvation in their only political capital: their escalating numbers, their unbreakable unity, and their irrevocable right to vote.

Throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century, in cities across the Northeast, Irish immigrants banded together in support of political leaders who championed their causes. Labor unions became inundated with Irishmen who ensured good paying jobs for Irish immigrants. Numerous Irish social groups and Irish organizations sprang up and gave Irish immigrants a sense of belonging. The Catholic Church expanded to become a major force in representing Irish values socially and politically. (cont'd)

By the end of the nineteenth century, the Irish had permeated American culture. Songs like "Sweet Rosie O'Grady" and "My Wild Irish Rose" became genuinely American. Irishmen like John L. Sullivan, Paddy Ryan and Gentlemen Jim Corbett dominated the vastly popular sport of boxing. In America's pastime, John McGraw and Charles A. Comiskey built baseball empires in New York and Chicago, respectively. And the "Fighting Irish" were fast becoming the preeminent name in football.

Irish Immigrants in New York: Nowhere was the influence of the Irish immigrant more pronounced than in America's most powerful city, New York. 75% of the famine Irish landed in New York harbor, and by 1860 a quarter of New York City's population was Irish. Within a few decades, the Irish held firm control over Tammany Hall, the Democratic Party political machine that controlled much of New York politics. The rise of the Irish in New York culminated when Al Smith, the grandson of Irish immigrants, rose from the tenements of the Lower East Side to become governor of New York in the 1920s.

For the Irish immigrant who anchored in New York Harbor in the first decades of the twentieth century, no longer were prejudice, hatred and aggression there to spurn them. In their place was a new Irish-American identity, confident, proud, and irrepressible, ready to be assumed by the next greenhorn to step down from the deck of an Irish steamship.

<http://www.irishamericanjourney.com>

(This article includes excerpts from "[The Remarkable Life of Kitty McInerney: How a Poor Irish Immigrant Raised 17 Children in Great Depression New York](#)")

From Nancy – One of our clients at my company is "Kenny" who works for Merrill Lynch in Dublin.

Over the years, I've told him about the IAS, and he sent along this article for the newsletter. It's an article written by a friend of his for the Irish Tourism Board.

Enjoy!

96 REASONS TO BE PROUD OF YOUR HERITAGE – CONNACHT AND

From Thegatheringireland.com/I-Love-Ireland

By Paul Lalor, 13 January 2013

We've all read the school history book – words on a page about 'what's-his-name'. We're asked to memorize dates and places and learn off parts of our history that are explained in a few hundred words. If you're lucky, you might see a drawing of a battle or a painting depicting a King in all his regal finery.

But have you ever stood atop a castle's parapets and gazed at the landscape and imagined times long gone? What it was like to live in the castle? To be attacked in the castle?

Have you stood in a field where a vicious battle involving your ancestors took place? Felt the sodden earth? Smelt the air?

Have you ever climbed inside one of our ancient tombs and seen the sunlight illuminate the stones? Wondered how on earth they managed to do that 5000 years ago?

Have you ever strolled through our ubiquitous beautiful abbeys and churches, walked through their corridors and imagined what life was like back then? What solitude was like? What getting raided and pillaged was like?

Well, I have done all these things and done them in abundance. I just completed a countrywide heritage adventure, visiting 96 of our greatest heritage sites. And the whole experience began with my love of lists.

I've always liked lists. Or more specifically, I've liked crossing things off lists. The sense of achievement after I've 'ticked the box', gives me immense satisfaction and makes me feel like I'm doing something with my time on this earth. I have a list of countries that I want to visit, books I want to read and a list of all the natural wonders I want to see. I actually have a list of lists.

So naturally when I visited Rathfarnham Castle 3 years ago and was handed a book that listed all of the 96 Office of Public Works (OPW) Heritage Sites around our country, my mission was crystal clear.

Growing up in Rathfarnham, I passed by the castle almost every day. I would often look at it and think 'I should do a tour of that place'. I think most people are like me, willing to pay hiked up prices and spend time in long queues to visit tourist attractions when abroad.

Yet these same people might never go see the sites of their own country –or even their own COUNTY!

So after enjoying the tour given in Rathfarnham Castle, I made it a mission to visit every one of Ireland's 96 Heritage Sites and three years later, I'm glad to say that I have completed it!

Not only did I see parts of the country that I would have never seen, I also met lots of interesting people and most of all learned a lot about the history of this country and how it has become what it is today. I found actually visiting these sites makes you learn a lot more. For starters, you are learning with your ears and your eyes. Touch and smell. You remember a lot more about a castle, after you've been in it.

You understand more completely what life was like for the protector and for the servants once you've seen the bedrooms, the kitchen and the garderobe (toilet). You can sense the fear of battle when you see the trip steps, the kill rooms and the dungeons for yourself.

There is a huge range of sites around the country and many of them are free to visit. There is much of what you would expect like castles (my favourite), gardens and abbeys, but there are also really unusual historical sites like the Swiss Cottage in Tipp and the Corlea Trackway in Longford.

Unfortunately, to write about all the 96 sites would be a little too much, so I'm highlighting some of my personal favorites. Let's start with Connacht and Ulster.

Carrowmore Megalithic Tombs – Sligo: This is the largest cemetery of megalithic tombs in Ireland and is also among the country's oldest, with monuments ranging from 5,500 to 6,500 years old.

This place has more than 50 tombs and is one of the most significant sites in all of Europe. Some of these tombs are aligned with Queen Maebh's grave on top of nearby Knocknarea Mountain. There is also a great variety of tombs, from dolmens to small passage tombs and cairns. One of the tombs in the cemetery is said to date back 3,000 years before the pyramids and is possibly the oldest building in the world!

Parke's Castle – Leitrim: This is an example of a Manor House of the 17th century plantation period. As far as I'm aware, it's the only castle that features an anti-clockwise staircase (going up) – presumably because Mr. Parke was left-handed.

When a castle is under attack, the attackers going up the stairs in a clockwise staircase were forced to brandish their sword in their left hand, while the defenders of the castle, coming down their stairs could chop away at them with their sword in their right hand. The wooded staircase is beautifully restored. There are fine examples of thatched roofs here and some cool holes in the wall where homing pigeons lived. No fancy email or even electricity back in the day!

Grianan of Aileach – Donegal: I'm cheating here a little as this site is not on the OPW website, but is in the book that I was given.

This is an impressive stone ringfort on the summit of Greenan Mountain. The name Grianan of Aileach means "Stone Palace of the Sun". Although heavily restored, there are no doubts as to the antiquity of the site; it is one of only five Irish locations marked on Ptolemy of Alexandria's second century map of the world. From the fifth to 12th centuries, the ringfort

was the seat of the northern Ui Neill, the rulers of the Fifth of Ulster. These guys competed with Tara as the Kings of the country.

Coole Park – Galway: This is now a nature reserve and was once owned by Lady Gregory, who founded the Abbey Theatre along with William Butler Yeats. Lots of her friends used to hang out here and they all signed one special tree on the property. You'll see signatures of artists like W.B. Yeats, Samuel Beckett, Jack B. Yeats, John Millington Synge, George Bernard Shaw and many others.

This park takes up more 400 hectares. There are two trails to follow. The Family Trail is an easy 2km walk, taking you past the deer pen, the site of the house and into the walled garden to see the Autograph Tree. The longer Seven Woods Trail connects the different woods made famous in poetry by W.B. Yeats.

Depending on the season, you will see a large variety of flowers and fauna including bluebells and violets, red squirrels and stoats, butterflies and dragonflies, or swans and other wetland birds. It's a lovely day out for the whole family.

Dún Aonghasa - Inis Mór, Galway: The view from Dún Aonghasa on Inis Mór is spectacular. The beauty and tranquility of the Aran Islands must be experienced. I've been fortunate enough to visit all three islands and even spent three weeks in a Gaeltacht on Inis Mór 20 years ago. Dún Aonghasa is on the biggest of the Aran Islands, aptly named Inis Mór.

The "Fort of Aonghas" is the biggest of many prehistoric forts on the islands. It's believed to date back to the second century and is built at the edge of a 100m high cliff. Although it was clearly built to be defended - the particular location of Dún Aonghasa suggests that its main purpose was religious and ceremonial. The location also provides a view of about 100km of coastline.

The journey out to the islands followed by a bike ride to Dún Aonghasa is an experience not to be missed!

(Words and photos by Paul Lalor. For more information on Ireland's 96 Heritage Sites, visit www.heritageireland.com . You can also browse Paul's photos by visiting his Facebook page.)


From Nancy – There are great stories daily at the link <http://www.thegatheringireland.com/I-Love-Ireland.aspx> - .USoU1TcUOSo

The stories are about Ireland, the people, the places the history.. Enjoy!!

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> or for a full month calendar of current events click here. [IAS Calendar](#)

March 9th & 13^{TJ}	Programs commemorating the Tragedy at Brown's Island The Civil War explosion of the Munitions Factory all details in the newsletter
March 12th 2013 – 7 pm Celtic Crossroads Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center	The name Celtic Crossroads originates from a time in Ireland when neighbouring communities met at the crossroads between towns and villages to socialize – long before the pub tradition began. Enjoy this group of seven highly talented singers/multi-instrumentalists and dancers. Direct from Ireland, they take the art form to an entirely new level.. Click on this link to see a video of the group. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wDtEDAy0Js 2880 Mountain Road, Glen Allen VA 23060 804-261-2787 Visit the Website for more info - http://www.artsglenallen.com/ http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase
March 13th Turf Fire at Hanover Tavern	IAS Members Mary Smith and John Robison – “Turf Fire” present an evening of Irish Music at the Theatre – Hanover Tavern 7:00 pm http://www.hanovertavern.org/ . Details in this issue.
<u>Danú</u> March 16 –SAT 7:30 Modlin Center Alice Jepson Theater – \$36.00 804-289-8980	<u>Danú</u> - from historic County Waterford, Danú is one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles today. Their concerts throughout Ireland feature high-energy performances and a glorious mix of ancient Irish music and new repertoire. For more than a decade, Danú's virtuosi players on flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, bouzouki, and vocals (Irish and English), have performed around the globe and recorded seven critically acclaimed albums. NOTE: - Meet at the Modlin Center for the Arts and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a pre-show reception beginning at 6pm in the Booth Lobby. Discount available for Senior Citizens 62+ and groups of 20 or more - \$32/ticket. Tickets on line http://modlin.richmond.edu/tickets/index.html
March 17th Turf Fire	Crossroads Coffee and Ice Cream (3600 Forest Hill Avenue) Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at this neighborhood watering hole and ice cream parlor - 5:00 to 8:00 pm – Irish music by Turf Fire!
March 17th Kelly Kennedy & Handsome Molly	St. Pat's Day Party with Irish Music and Dance, Local actors presenting selections from the Golden Age of Irish literature AND MORE!!! It all starts at 7 pm and it's just \$10 @ the door. Music begins at 7:00 and its FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!" Plenty of well-lit parking! The Barksdale Theater. It's located at 1601 Willow Lawn Dr., Richmond, VA 23230. (804) 282-9440
March 18th IAS Board Mtg	The Board meeting is at O'Toole's Restaurant 4800 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225. All members – and their ideas and suggestions are encouraged to attend!
Mar 23rd & 24th Irish Festival St. Patrick's Church Hill	Volunteers needed to meet and greet visitors in the tent on Saturday and Sunday. Please call Karon Bell –804-982-7835 to donate some time either day. Help us attract new members to the IAS.
March 30th Richmond Folk Music	<u>Blue Ridge School of Irish Music</u> presents "An Evening of Irish Music and Dance" The students and instructors of the Blue Ridge Irish Music School (BRIMS) have been actively bringing traditional Irish music and dance in its most vital and exciting form to central Virginia since 1999 –details in Newsletter.
April 20th TIME 1:00 SATURDAY IAS Meeting Program Tuckahoe Library	Requested – Encore Presentation - To commemorate the 100 year Anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic –The meeting will focus on The Titanic and the Tragic Irish Connection 

Hmm... needed one more page to make it an event count..... SO -----

IF YOU KNOW ANYONE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE IAS – PLEASE PASS THIS MEMBERSHIP FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE – ALONG TO THEM. IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANYONE.-.

KEEP IT TO USE WHEN YOU NEED TO RENEW! 😊



RICHMOND IRISH AMERICAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

www.richmondias.org

Name _____ Date _____

(If Family or Dual Membership - please include all names)

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Membership Fees: Single \$20 _____ Dual (2 adults – same address) \$25 _____

Family \$30 _____ Contributing \$35 or over _____

Please fill in these sections

<p>Are you a Native of Ireland? _____</p> <p>If so, What County? Counties _____ _____</p> <p>If Irish/American - What is your county or counties of ancestry _____ _____</p> <p>Do you have any skills or talents you wish to share? (Circle)</p> <p>(Legal, Financial, Computer, Dance, Musical, Other) _____</p>	<p>What types of Educational Programs would you like to see presented by the IAS:</p> <p>Irish Music/Dance _____</p> <p>Drama/Storytelling _____</p> <p>Irish History/Politics _____</p> <p>Specific Topic _____</p> <p>Genealogy _____</p> <p>Irish Language _____</p> <p>Travel in Ireland _____</p> <p>Irish Music/Dance _____</p> <p>Other Topics _____</p>	<p>CAN YOU HELP WITH ANY???</p> <p>I am interested in volunteering to work in the following areas.</p> <p>Special Events _____</p> <p>Cultural Programs _____</p> <p>Fund Raising _____</p> <p>Membership/Marketing _____</p> <p>Board of Directors _____</p> <p>Public Relations _____</p> <p>Hospitality _____</p> <p>Email Notices _____</p> <p>Newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising _____ • Contributing Writer _____
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Please fill out this form and send your check made **payable to the Irish American Society** to

Denis Maguire – Membership Chairman
14008 Summercliff Trail
Chesterfield, VA 23832
804-739-0429
maguired@comcast.net

The Irish American Society of Greater Richmond is a non-profit, non-stock corporation whose mission is to promote Irish culture and heritage through educational and public forums. This organization is non-sectarian, non-political and is open to any person regardless of race, color or religion