



The Richmond Claddagh <http://richmondias.org/>
Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

October 2009

Oíche Shamhna Shona!
(ee-hah shona how-nah) all together now!
Happy Halloween!



Yes – That is the Notre Dame Leprechaun –
so very often - I find I just can't help myself
!! GO IRISH !!

A VERY SPECAIL IAS MONTHLY MEETING -

October 15th Dumbarton Library 6:30 Meet/Social and Program at 7:00 pm at Dumbarton Library, 6800 Staples Mill Road, (23228) Call 804-262-6507 for more info.



Our special guest for the October meeting is **Analee Evans** who is a former IAS member and also a local **Living History Interpreter**. Analee portrays women from many different eras and she brings a unique perspective to their place in history. Vice-President Dan Begley tells us that Analee will be presenting a program on the vibrant Irish community in Antebellum Richmond where many of the Irish were centered in the area around St Patrick's Church. But what was it that motivated the Irish to move to Richmond instead of other Northern cities that were more industrial at that time? How did they integrate into Richmond life as newcomers? In what other sections of Richmond did they settle outside of Church Hill? Annalee will also discuss "The Tragedy" that devastated the local Irish community in the 1800s. For Directions to the library – click here [Get directions](#) –

THIS IS SURE TO BE A REALLY GOOD PROGRAM – It's all about the Irish – right here in River City..... don't miss it!!

IAS MEETING November 19th Bon Air Library – 9103 Rattlesnake Rd, Richmond 23235, 804-320-2461 – Presenting Traditional Irish Music by **"Turf Fire"** – made up of our talented IAS members Mary Smith, on Vocals and Guitar, John Robison on Banjo, Harmonica, Guitar and vocals and Bernard Farrell on the Fiddle and Bodhran. They will present an array of traditional Irish music showing the influences and art of the Clancy Brothers/Tommy Makem, Dubliners, and Irish Rovers. Along with the great music, Mary is a true music historian and often gives the story behind the song – which always lends new meaning to an old favorite. This is a great opportunity for our members to enjoy and learn more about the music or our Irish heritage. Please come out – enjoy the music and show your support for our friends in **"Turf Fire" Meeting starts at 7pm – but Meet & Greet starts at 6:30**

REMINDERS – Call Special Events Chair – Karon Bell 804-517-3249 -if you can volunteer some time to work in the IAS Tent at these upcoming festivals.

October 3rd is the Williamsburg Scottish Festival <http://www.wsfonline.org/> A fun day in a nice setting with Irish & Celtic music and vendors and clans from all over. Such fun.

October 24th & 25th – It's the Big One Folks! – The Highland Games at Meadow Park near Kings Dominion <http://www.richmondceltic.com/>. Karen's looking for help in the tent - but really needs some help Friday night in setting up the tents. So, C'mon you big strong sturdy Irish lads -- we need you and your muscles!

A Very Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members – Karen & Paul Farrell, Edward Farrell Sr. and Patricia Barnes all joined IAS in September and we are delighted to have you as members and we look forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming events. Please contact any of the officers with any questions – there is a listing at the end of the newsletter.

AA RESULTS – Now Gaelic Football and Hurling supporters can receive a free weekly email notices providing the results of Club and County games in Ireland. The service is provided by GAA County Boards in association with the Irish Independent - click here [to subscribe](#).

The Irish in the Movies– A new documentary film titled, **BUTTE, AMERICA**, tells the remarkable mining history of Butte, Montana, once the most Irish city in North America. Narrated by Irish actor Gabriel Byrne, the film will be on PBS in late October – so check your schedules.

More Irish Movies - Two new Irish films about ‘The Troubles’ in Northern Ireland were released last month.

"Five Minutes of Heaven" stars Irish actors Liam Neeson and James Nesbitt, and is a thriller that wowed audiences at the Sundance Film Festival in January. (Be sure to see the note from Carol Rasnic on her upcoming class at VCU in November about "The Troubles" IAS members are invited to sit in on the lectures. (Now that's a great deal for us)

"Fifty Dead Men Walking" starring Ben Kinsley, takes us back to the 1980s. The latter is an action film, while "Heaven" is more of a morality tale.

An Evening With Poe – Oct. 7th 7pm – 8pm. In the spellbinding play, "**Edgar Allan Poe Comes Alive!**" At the historic and beautifully restored Henrico Theatre, 305 E. Nine Mile Rd. Henrico, VA 23075 -Poe chats humorously with the audience and presents eight of his classic poems and short stories, including The Raven, Annabel Lee, The Tell-Tale Heart, The Masque of the Red Death, and more. For information call the Henrico Theatre Staff at 328-4491.

You know that Edgar Allen Poe was an American born poet and writer of fiction and that he was born in Boston, MA on January 19, 1809. You may even know that the family was of English origin - but did you know that the family was actually settled in Ireland and it was from Ireland that the poets' great grandfather emigrated to Maryland. For much of his life, Poe carried the mantle of personal and family tragedy that is so often connected to the generations of Irish. The Poe family's sympathetic connection to the Irish spirit was most pronounced when the family disowned Poe's brother when he married an Englishwoman.

So come and enjoy an evening with a kindred spirit. It's being held in a lovely local historical location and **it's free.** Call for reservations – and I hope to see you there! [Click for directions to the Theatre.](#) (When I called – there were plenty of seats left.. but **CALL TODAY!**)

Did you know? The **Top Ten** most common Irish surnames are, in order, Murphy, Kelly, O'Sullivan, Walsh, O'Brien, Byrne, Ryan, O'Connor, O'Neill and O'Reilly.

ALL IAS MEMBERS – PLEASE NOTE!!!

I got this **Ultra Tempting Invitation** for IAS members from our favorite Legal Eagle and IAS member – Carol Daugherty Rasnic – author of the book, *"**Can Sean And John Live In Peace? An American Legal Perspective** (book review below)

Dear Nancy, - In case anyone in the IAS is interested in attending the **Northern Ireland Conflict** sessions of my course, *Seminar in International Legal Issues* - at VCU this fall – the Irish sessions are on Tuesday, November 10th, 17th, & 24th from 4-6:40 pm in the **Trani Life Sciences Building** - Room 0255 – Second Floor. These last three sessions on Northern Ireland will reference my book and I will have several handouts. We'll also have one more class on the first Tuesday in December, during which I'll show selections from a PBS documentary on **The Troubles**. Closer to those dates, I can be more specific about what I'll be covering each night (i.e., Irish history including religious discrimination and British statutory law that compounded that discrimination; laws addressing the "Troubles" and past efforts at self-government for Northern Ireland - including what happened after Bloody Sunday, the Good Friday Agreement and its aftermath, and more.

Also, I just contracted to write a second edition of my book on this issue, and I'll be incorporating those additional events/changes into these sessions at VCU.

"Can John & Sean Live in Peace" - A review

A Southern Belle Looks at Northern Ireland –

This book allows the American reader to gain insight into the true nature of what the Irish call "The Troubles".

The conflict between Catholic and Protestant factions is viewed from the perspective of an American woman. Her experience with segregation in the American South enabled her to understand the cultural and economic factors that divide these groups.

Her insight clarifies the fact that this is not simply a religious issue. It is one of long standing cultural and economic differences between all factions.

I found this book to be an invaluable aid in understanding the complex and difficult social hostilities that afflict these people of a common background.

Professor Rasnic has spent a great deal of time in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. Her contacts with officials, politicians, clerics, and most of all, Irish citizens gives her a special perspective. This was an enjoyable and educational read.

(Mary Flanders – Amazon.com review)

(I sure hope to leave work early on a couple of these Tuesdays in Nov. & Dec.)

THE HAUNTED CASTLES OF IRELAND –

- **Ardgillan Castle** is twenty miles north of Dublin, on the coast between Balbriggan and Skerries. The ghost of a woman is said to haunt the "Lady's Stairs" railway bridge on the estate.
- **Charleville Castle** is in Tullamore, County Offaly, in the East Coast and Midlands Region. It is said to qualify as one of Ireland's real haunted castles. It is haunted not only by the ghost of its former owner, but also by druids buried on the grounds and by a little girl who fell to her death from a high staircase.
- **Ballygally Castle** is 20 miles from Belfast on the Antrim coast in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. A beautiful castle hotel with the ghost of Lady Shaw.
- **Gormanston Castle** in Gormanston, County Meath, in the East Coast and Midlands Region, was owned by a family for seven centuries. Legend has it that foxes surrounded the castle whenever a family member was dying. The castle is now used as a boys' secondary school.
- **Killua Castle** in County Westmeath is said to have a ghostly figure of a former employee of the family wandering about at night.
- **Kinnitty Castle , near Kinnitty, County Offaly,** in the East Coast and Midlands Region, is a beautifully restored castle hotel situated on land once inhabited by Druids. This castle has the resident "Phantom Monk of Kinnitty"
- **Leap Castle** near Roscrea, County Offaly, in the East Coast and Midlands Region, is considered by many to be the most haunted castle in Ireland. The bloody past of massacre and murder led to the presence of unhappy ghosts and unexplained noises, place it at the top of the list of real haunted castles. Ghost hunters and researchers have studied its history and some say they experienced the presence of spirits as they filmed at the castle for television shows and videos. (From My Guide Ireland)



LEAP CASTLE

Ghosties and Ghoulies and Banshees .. Oh My!!

**BE SURE TO JOIN US AT THE OCTOBER
MONTHLY MEETING –**



GOODWIFE “GOODY” ANN GLOVER

On November 16, 1688 the last woman to be hanged in Boston as a witch was Goodwife “Goody” Ann Glover, an Irish laundress and Irish-Catholic woman, who could not recite "The Lord's Prayer" in English - only in Latin. Glover was an Irish slave, sold to the Barbados by Englishman Oliver Cromwell, during the occupation of Ireland in the 1650s. Her husband died there persecuted for his own religious beliefs.

By 1680 she and her daughter were settled in Boston employed as housekeepers by John Goodwin. When she scolded a 13-year-old child who had accused Glover's daughter of stealing, the girl and her brother went into fits, claiming sharp pains and being struck deaf and dumb. Eventually, four of the five Goodwin children fell ill. Their doctor concluded "nothing but a hellish Witchcraft could be the origin of these maladies." Martha, the 13-year-old daughter, confirmed the doctor's diagnosis by claiming she became ill right after the argument with Glover.

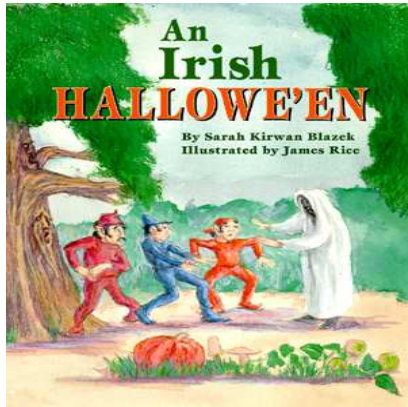
Glover was arrested and tried as a witch. In the courtroom there was confusion over Glover's testimony, since she refused to speak English, even though she knew the language. According to Cotton Mather, "the court could have no answers from her, but in the Irish, which was her native language." The court convicted Glover of witchcraft and sentenced her to be hanged."

Robert Calef, a Boston merchant who knew her, said, "Goody Glover was a despised, crazy, poor old woman, an Irish Catholick who was tried for afflicting the Goodwin children. Her behavior at her trial was like that of one distracted. They did her cruel. The proof against her was wholly deficient. The jury brought her guilty. She was hung. She died a Catholick." Her last words were reportedly, "I die a Catholic" and that may have been a more treacherous statement to the crowd

During the trial the infamous Reverend Cotton Mather, pastor of the Old North Church, called Glover "a scandalous old Irishwoman, very poor, a Roman Catholick and obstinate in idolatry." A decade after Glover was hanged Mather was still preaching against "idolatrour Roman Catholicks," trying to preserve a parochial society in a world that was quickly changing.

On November 16th 1988 the Boston City Council recognized the injustice done to Ann Glover 300 years earlier, and proclaimed that day “Goody Glover Day”, condemning her execution because she would not renounce her Faith. (Irish Echo – November 2000)

**And On a Much Lighter Note –
A Little Irish Halloween Treat for the Kids**



Halloween, the fastest-growing holiday in the United States, has its origins in the Celtic world. In Ireland, it has long been known as Snap Apple Night, and many of its traditions, like bobbing for apples, have been brought to America over time. Thankfully, the goblins did not come over, too!

And as the story in this Irish Children's book goes - One year on the Emerald Isle, as eleven *t'ank Gods* (children) get ready for the fun, their mother Maise Magee sets out to fetch water for the apple barrel. Three goblins spy Wise Woman Magee along the way and know that she could use her magic to help their sick friend Rua. Now, as everyone knows, goblins do not ask for what they want-they just take it. And once they have something (or someone), they hold on for as long as they can. What becomes of Maise Magee, her eleven *t'ank Gods*, and Rua and the other goblins is anybody's guess. Anything can happen on *An Irish Hallowe'en*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Sarah Kirwan Blazek, born in County Wexford, Ireland, is now a teacher in Chicago, Illinois, and retains dual citizenship in both Ireland and the United States. She also is the author of *An Irish Night Before Christmas* (\$14.95) and *A Leprechaun's St. Patrick's Day* (\$14.95), as well as the narrator of the companion audiocassette (\$9.95), which is a compilation of these two books. These books are available through: **Pelican Publishing Company, 1000 Burmaster St. Gretna, LA 70053**

(Honest - not pushing anything – just sharing “finds” on Irish culture for our *young'uns*)

Halloween was a favorite time for eating [Stampy](#) cakes (that link is the only “Stampy” link I could find and the website calls it a bread – not a cake - but it sounds good whatever you call it!) made from a blend of grated raw potato and flour flavored with sugar, caraway seeds and cream. Another variation was [Boxty](#) made with mashed potato.(Click the links for recipes)

And - a couple of **wee treats for the adults** to ward away that Halloween chill –weather it's caused by the weather or the “*ghosties*”....



Guinness and Onion Soup

Prep:20 min -Cook:40 min (Easy) Serves: 6

Ingredients

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
5 cloves minced garlic
8 cups thinly sliced onions
Gray salt
1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves, chopped
¼ cup sherry vinegar
1 & ½ cups dark beer (recommended: Guinness)☺
6 cups beef stock
6 slices country bread cut 1/2-inch thick, toasted
1/2 pound Irish Cheddar, sliced thin

Directions

Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over high heat. Add garlic and cook briefly to release aroma. Add onions, season with salt and cook for about 5 minutes stirring often. Reduce heat to low and cook for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally until the onions are golden brown.

Add the thyme, vinegar, and beer. Reduce beer by half and add the beef stock. Bring to a simmer and cook for 10 more minutes.

Preheat the broiler. Transfer soup to an ovenproof serving dish or individual ovenproof soup bowls. Top with toasted bread slices and sliced Irish Cheddar. Broil until cheese melts and starts to brown slightly. Serve piping hot.

Banshee Breath (or Hot Whiskey)

1 1/2 ounces of Irish whiskey (Jameson, Bushmills)
2 teaspoons brown sugar
2 slices of freshly cut lemon
6 cloves
1/2 cup boiling water

Pour whiskey and sugar into a strong heatproof glass. Embed 3 cloves into each lemon slice and place in glass. Add the boiling water and stir **until the sugar has dissolved. Bottoms up! ☺ (For Medicinal Purposes only of course)**



THE IRISH HERITAGE LICENSE PLATES - I

haven't heard from any of our Richmond IAS members to let me know if you're interested in the project suggested by IAS member Ryan Rourke to get Irish Heritage license plates approved by the DMV in Virginia. I got several calls from folks in the Tidewater area that are very excited about the project and expressed their intention to purchase the Irish Heritage plate. If any of you are interested in the project, or would commit to ordering the Special Plates for your car – please email me – bearfan46@verizon.net or call me at 804-323-6415- otherwise – I would suggest that we abandon the project and perhaps another Irish group would be interested in pursuing the possibility. All information on cost and requirements is at the DMV site [DMV Special Plates Information](#). The plates can be set up as Revenue Sharing or Non Revenue – meaning that the group suggesting the plates could earn revenue on plates sold. The non revenue sharing extra cost for special plates is \$10 annually and The revenue sharing plate costs \$15 annually. 350 orders have to be placed before the State will begin to process the request. I think it's a great idea – but I wonder if we can get 350 interested Irish to sign up so that the project can get going. What do you think???

Please check the calendar below or the website for all our upcoming events.

PLEASE NOTE: - No October Pub Supper – the schedule is crowded with the Festivals and some Super Events in October – So take advantage of everything that you can!!.... **HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

ATTENTION ALL GENEALOGY HUNTERS!

An important new tool in tracing your Irish family history has been released in Ireland. The National Library has released a searchable online database for the April 1911 family census for the entire 32 counties. Genealogists can search by name, surname, age, sex and place. Even better, the entire database is free. This is the first time such information - which includes the images of the original census forms - has been put online. The forms offer a view into an Ireland from long ago. A world divided into type of resident (boarder, visitor or family) religion, literacy, profession, marital status, Irish language ability and children.

The project has so far taken three years to get online and the results are astonishing. The census search is markedly different from the Central Statistics Office tables that cover 1926 to 1991 and were released earlier this year. They show the data tables from the Central Statistics Office rather than the actual forms or identifying information. The head of the 1911 census search project said the CSO census forms are still considered too modern for public release and the records themselves remain confidential for 100 years.

The 1911 census - which is available two years short of the 100 yr limit - was the last census completed until 1926. Crowe said they hope to get the 1901 census online by spring 2010; they released the 1911 census first because it as better quality than the 1901. Crowe said she also hoped to include Google maps to compare street maps between 1911 and now. (Kelly Fincham)

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search/>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Click on links in calendar for more And ALWAYS click the link directly below to get the latest updates on upcoming events <http://richmondias.org/index.php?content=upcoming>

October 2nd & 3rd Williamsburg Scottish Festival	Friday, Oct 2 nd , Balmoral Reception , 7 PM–9:00 PM, Ceilidh 6 P.M. – 11 P.M. Saturday, Oct 3 rd . Festival 9 AM–5:30 PM Ceilidh 5:30 PM–Midnight - Sunday, October 4 th – Kirkin 10 A.M. http://www.wsonline.org/ (To volunteer in our tent on Saturday. Please call Karon Bell 804-517-3249
October 7th 7:00 - 8 pm FREE EVENT An Evening With (Famed Irishman) - ☺ Edgar Allen Poe Henrico Theater	<u>An Evening With Poe</u> For all ages. In this spellbinding play, "Edgar Allan Poe Comes Alive!" Poe will chat humorously with the audience and present eight of his classic poems and short stories, including The Raven, Annabel Lee, The Tell-Tale Heart, The Masque of the Red Death, and more. Henrico Theater (a local historical landmark is located at 305 E. Nine Mile Rd. Henrico, VA 23075 --Call Henrico Theatre Staff for Information & Reservations – 804-328-4491.
October 9th – 11th Richmond Folk Music Festival Traditional Irish Music	Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill have created one of the most memorable musical partnerships of our era. Based in West Hartford, Connecticut and Chicago, Illinois, this spellbinding Irish fiddle and guitar duo weave music that slowly smolders before exploding with exhilarating energy. An excellent duo offering traditional Irish music, more specifically from County Clare, with great lyrical pieces played on the fiddle and guitar. Click here to read more and to hear some music samples. http://www.martinhayes.com/ Click here for Full Schedule of the Festival

October 11th IAS Board Meeting – all members welcome 7pm at Gloria’s	Board meetings start at 7:00 and members are welcome. Meetings are held at President Gloria Cahen’s house – please call her for directions - 804-233-2113. Your ideas and thoughts are welcome. If you can’t come – contact any Board member with your ideas, suggestions, or comments. We need and encourage your input.
October 14th The Blaggards” Shenanigan's Eatery/Pub 4017 McCarthur Ave. Richmond	Billed as <i>Stout Irish Rock - The Blaggards</i> bring their own sort of Irish High Energy music to Shenanigan's (think The Wolfe Tones meet Johnny Cash or “Irish Traditional” meets “No Hold Barred”!). Word is that they may even be joined by some of our fellow members from St. Andrew’s Pipes & Drums who will add to the musical fun by playing a bit with these Irish Rockers -Starts at 8:00 – call 804-264-5010 for ticket information
IAS MONTHLY MEETING October 15 th 7:00 pm 6:30 Meet/Social IAS Monthly Meeting Dumbarton Library 6800 Staples Mill Rd. Richmond 23228 804-262-6507	Vice President – Dan Begley tells us that <u>Annalee Evans</u> is presenting a program on the vibrant Irish community in Richmond in the Antebellum period of the 1860s. Many of the Richmond Irish were centered in the area around St Patrick’s Church. But what was it that motivated the Irish to move to Richmond instead of other Northern cities that were more industrial at that time? How did they integrate into Richmond life as newcomers? In what other sections of Richmond did they settle outside of Church Hill? Annalee will also address The Tragedy of 1863 that devastated the local Irish community. Directions to the library – click here Get directions – THIS WILL BE A REALLY GOOD MEETING – All about the Irish – right here in River City..... don’t miss it!!
Oct 24th & Oct 25th The Highland Games and Celtic Festival NEW LOCATION	The Meadow Event Park – 13111 Dawn Blvd., Doswell VA 23047. It’s a new name and new home for the fifteenth annual Meadow Highland Games & Celtic Festival (formerly the Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival) features two days of “Music. Food. Large Men Throwing Stuff.” http://www.richmondceltic.com/ The IAS Needs Volunteers for the IAS Tent – Please call Karon Bell - 804-517-3249
Nov 10th, 17 th & 24 th The Troubles in Ireland	See the Newsletter for more information on Carol Rasnic’s Class at VCU! Free to sit in on lectures for IAS Members.
November 19th – IAS Meeting – Bon Air Library Meeting 7pm Meet & Greet 6:30 Traditional Irish Music by “Turf Fire”	Our talented members Mary Smith - Vocals, Guitar John Robison - Banjo, Harmonica, Guitar, Vocals Bernard Farrell - Fiddle, Bodhran comprise the trio “Turf Fire” and they present an array of trad Irish music showing the influences and art of the Clancy Brothers/Tommy Makem, Dubliners, and Irish Rovers. Mary is a true music historian and often gives the story behind the song. An interesting evening for our members – Please come out – enjoy the music and support our friends in “Turf Fire”
December 5th More info coming Mark The DATE	IAS Christmas Party – James River Boat Club –But Mark your Calendar now and be sure to start planning for the Annual Silent Auction. Start putting those pennies away and also start looking for donations for the auction - .

President	Gloria Cahen	804-233-2113	zebagus@comcast.net
Vice-President/ Programs	Dan Begley	804-740-5631	begley55@hotmail.com
Secretary	Stephen Gallagher	804-639-1044	stephen.g1@verizon.net
Treasurer	Ann McGehee	540-894-7284	anniev67@juno.com
Board & Special Events	Karon Bell	804-517-3249	
Board Member, Email, Membership & Newsletter	Nancy Emig	804-323-6415	bearfan46@verizon.net
Board Member/Pub Master	Joan Finnegan	804-840-0080	jfinn@hotmail.com
Board Member	Sallie Gordon	804-561-2362	celticgranny1@tds.net
Board Member	Frank Hardy	804-883-6230	fenway7@msn.com
Board Member	Denis Maguire	804-739-0429	maguired@comcast.net
Board Member	Kathryn O’Meara	804-745-1903	Mungojerrie23@aol.com
Webmaster	Doug Elder	804-365-7948	elderclann@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Jim Bandeleian	804-347-0924	jbandeleian@gmail.com

PLEASE USE THIS INFORMATION TO contact any member of the Board with suggestions, ideas, complaints, offers to help, Silent Auction Donations, verbal pats on the back, your contributions for newsletter, and

Good Irish Jokes... ☺