



The Irish Connection



Irish American Society of Tidewater News

March 2018

The Irish American Society of Tidewater, Virginia, was established in 1980 to promote and preserve Irish culture, and all things distinctly Irish.

Membership is open to persons of Irish birth or ancestry, as well as those persons who have an interest in Irish history and culture.



Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at the

Church of the Ascension
Community Center
4855 Princess Anne Rd
Virginia Beach, VA.

Doors open at
6:30 p.m.,
the meeting usually
gets underway at
7:00 p.m.,
ending at 9:00 p.m.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

To my fellow Irish American Society members:

Happy March!!!

I am especially excited for this year because (1) it is Colin's FIRST St. Patrick's Day (season) and (2) I had to miss so many festivities last year!

Speaking of festivities, please don't forget about all of our upcoming events. There are also some fun volunteer opportunities available for each one, so email ias.tidewater@gmail.com or speak to a board member at the meeting if you are interested.

Finnegan's Wake, is scheduled for **Saturday, March 10th** at the Church of the Ascension. **Mike Bromley** will be on selling tickets at the March meeting: \$15 for Adults and \$10 Children under 12. Mike will not be keeping track of who is sitting where, so please purchase all your tickets at one time to ensure your group will sit together. We will be decorating and setting up at 9AM on March 10th, so please let Katie know if you plan to help. We would love as many volunteers as I possible!

The annual **Norfolk St. Patrick's Day Parade** is on St. Patrick's Day this year, **Saturday, March 17th!** **Teresa and Richard Diaz** (co-chairpersons with **Jim Hagerty**) have graciously agreed to organize the flag carriers this year. Please see them at the March meeting or contact them through the Facebook page to sign up for the banner or your favorite county!

If you are unable to walk the 1.5 mile parade route but would like to participate, there is limited room to ride in the Irish Cottage. See **Jack Kennedy** if you are interested. We will also need volunteers to join the Paddy Pack (for all our dog lovers) and represent the IAS by walking in the parade!

We also still need one truck (and driver) to pull the Paddy Wagon and one convertible (and driver) for the parade. Let a board member know if you are interested.

The new home for our floats is still up in the air. We will most likely need to rent a space



where we will bring them back after the parade. If you have any leads, please let the board know ASAP.

Please remember that **2018 membership dues are now due AND that they have increased to \$30/family (in the same household) and \$25/individual!** Membership forms (for new and renewing members) are available at meetings, on the IAS website, and on the IAS Facebook page.

Our next meeting and social hour will be held on **Thursday, March 1st**. This is the first event of March, so let's make it a fun one! Bring a snack to share and a friend! **We have a few IAS sweatshirts (\$30) and hats (\$20) left**, so grab them before the parade! We will also be having a very special raffle at this meeting!

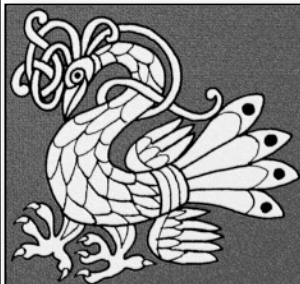


Sláinte,

Katie McCrory

The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614
Virginia Beach, VA
23450



OFFICERS

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Membership

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Sergeant-at-Arms

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HOSPITALITY Volunteers Needed

NEWSLETTER

Lori Shea, editor
lorishea@aol.com

Sunshine Bulletin

email Lori Shea

INTERNET NEWS

Vera Dotson

WEBMASTER

Michael Lawler

WEB SITE

IRLUSA.org

look for us on
Facebook!



SUNSHINE NEWS



Best wishes to **Ed Brash** (father of Edward Brash) in Kingston, ON, and **Lynnee Fitch** (mother of Lynnette Fitch Brash) in Virginia Beach, VA, as they both recover from recent joint replacement surgeries. In late January, Mrs. Fitch had her fifth joint replacement in just a little over two years! This time she had her right shoulder replaced and the

torn rotator cuff repaired. In early February, Mr. Brash had a partial knee replacement. Both surgeries went extremely well, and the bionic patients are in their respective homes in great spirits working away diligently on their post-op rehab. Best wishes also to **Shirley Brash** and **Rex B. Fitch, Jr.**, who each are doing a fantastic job as the true primary care provider for their spouses during the recovery period.

Please notify **Lori Shea**, newsletter editor, at **lorishea@aol.com** if you would like a member to be included in sunshine news.

FRESH EIRE



GET YOUR IRISH ON FOR
IRISH MONTH!!!



Glasgow Kiss - Schedule for March 2018

Submitted by Edward Brash ~

March 10	Finnegan's Wake	Church of the Ascension, Virginia Beach
March 13-17 8pm T/W/Th, 9pm F/S)	Grace O'Malley's	Norfolk
March 17 (2-5pm)	O'Connor's Brewery	Norfolk
March 24/25 (times TBA)	- Church Hill Irish Festival	Richmond
March 24 (8pm)	Rare Olde Times	Richmond

IAS ANNUAL DUES

\$25 for Individuals

\$30 for Families

As per the IAS by-laws, the annual dues are due each January, and they cover that calendar year, ending December 31st, no matter when during the year you join.

Membership dues help pay for our liability insurance, newsletter expenses, the charities we support and our St. Patrick's Day parade floats and festival banners, etc.

You may download membership forms on our website:

IRLUSA.ORG or on Facebook.

Jim Ramsey A St. Patrick's Day Remembrance

submitted by Jim Hagerty

This year marks the first year that the St. Patrick's Day Parade is without Jim Ramsey, who passed away last August..

I still remember Jim Ramsey from many years ago in what probably was my first St. Patrick's Day parade here. I didn't know it was him in his leprechaun outfit sporting red hair and a tam o'shanter cap.

Every year, this leprechaun would show up. The first year we introduced the county flags, he wanted Donegal but of course Vera had already claimed it. So he carried County Clare in memory of his late wife Nancy.

Jim believed in honoring tradition. His Irish heritage was important. The St. Patrick's Day parade gave him a way to honor his Irish roots. And to also pay respect to his wife.

He spent 33 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and rose to the rank of Sergeant Major. He truly was a great asset to the Country and his Marine Corps. But, he never more proud than when stepping off up Granby Street with the IAS in the St. Patrick's Day parade.



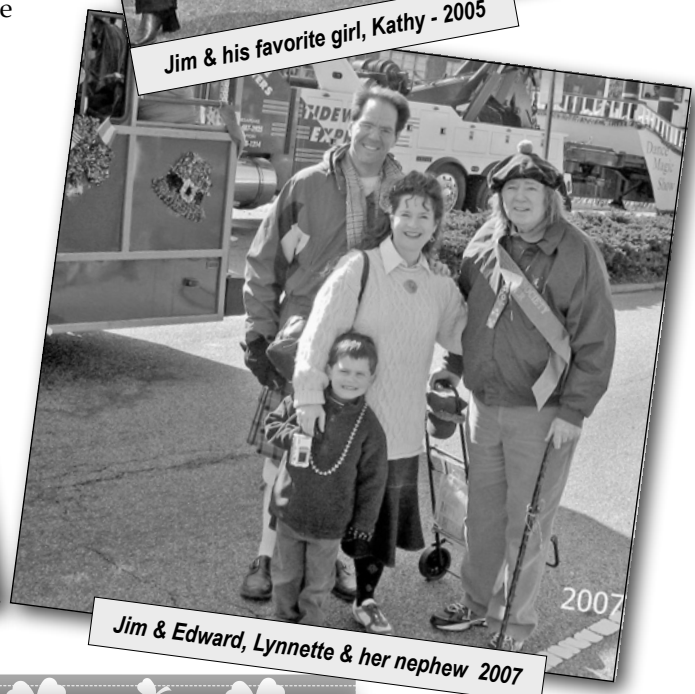
*Jim & Joy & Joe Brady, Rose Orlando
& Mary Ryan - 2014*



Jim & his favorite girl, Kathy - 2005



Jim & Lori Shea - 2014



Jim & Edward, Lynnette & her nephew 2007



FAMILY TREE TALES



THE CLINCH CLAN SAGA IN THREE PARTS

Submitted by Tamara Cervi Williams

Part I - Reconnecting

It all started, in 1996, when Mom came to visit me while I was at university in Prague. She asked if we could go to Ireland and start looking for our family members. All we had to go on were the stories that were passed down to us from my great grandparents. Let me tell you, Grandma Lyons was not a very nice person. She was always calling some of the other Irish in the neighborhood, "Lace Curtain Irish" and "Shanty Irish." I never caught on to what she meant until I was much older. Shame on Grandma Lyons!

Remember, there was no Ancestry.com at that time. Off to Dublin we went. Again, we only had stories to go on, which ended up not being all that correct. We went to churches and libraries to search their records—which were NOT computerized. Many records were piled in a corner of the priest's office or in a dusty room that had not been entered in ages. Talk about stirring up the allergies.

I visited Ireland every year from 1996 to the present, sometimes twice a year, to research if any of our relatives were still in Ireland. It took us 14 years to find my maternal grandmother's family. Now that we have found them, we visit back and forth both ways, Ireland-U.S and U.S.-Ireland.

Mom and I found out that our family (both paternal and maternal sides) entered the United States through the port at Wilmington, DE, and not Ellis Island. I had no idea people could come through any other port beside Ellis Island. In the U.S., we were able to use bank registrations to connect the dots with

Baptismal Certificates, Census Reports, Birth Certificates, etc.

In Ireland, we used land records, tax records, what Church records we could find, and the National Library of Ireland. I spent many hours there scrolling through microfiche.

In Ireland, it all came down to two items that brought us to our family in Cavan: the land records in Dublin and a phone book. Our Clinch family was still on the same land the family was on in the 1800s! In 2010, a phone call was made, a message was left on the answering machine, and then a drive was taken up to Curkish, Bailieborough, County Cavan. We asked a local man if he knew them; he did, and he gave me exact directions to their home...the Irish way: "Go about, oh say 1 mile, you'll see a blue McHale tractor, take a right there, go around the curves until you see an owl on a house that needs a good wash, take a left there. Now, once you have gone on, and you've passed the Reilly's farm with all their cows, you will see a yellow, no, wait, maybe it is a cream house on the right. Take a left there. Go up the hill and look for the only 2 story house closest to the road."



Clinch Family Reunion in 2014. Front row: Kira Cervi (my niece), Dolores Cervi (my mom) 2nd Row, Left to Right: Bob Cervi (my brother), Tamara, and my now husband, Rob Williams.

THE CLINCH CLAN SAGA IN THREE PARTS

Part I - Reconnecting

I know you are dying to know...yes, those directions were perfect! I saw Peter Clinch outside the house, working on a truck, and he looked EXACTLY like my cousin James! They could have been brothers. I pulled over, talked to Peter, and he welcomed us into the house with a nice hot cuppa tea. His father, Michael Clinch, was very skeptical that we were related until he saw some old pictures we had. They had the same pictures in their attic!

There were seven kids in the Clinch Clan. Six went to the U.S., and one son stayed behind on the family land; the same descendants of the son who stayed were there in 2010. They thought they were the last of the Clinches. Little did they know, there were another 200 of us in the U.S. waiting to meet them.



Various family members from Northern Ireland and Ireland

(Part II next month)

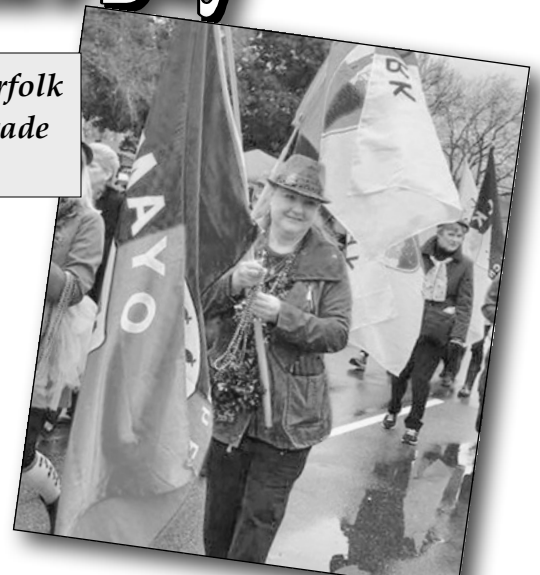
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Happy St. Patrick's Day

*Join us at the 2018 Norfolk
St. Patrick's Day Parade
March 17th*



Tom Crouch and Jim Hagerty at the 2017 Parade



Debra Taylor-Kelly our new Vice President at the 2017 Parade



CU CORNER



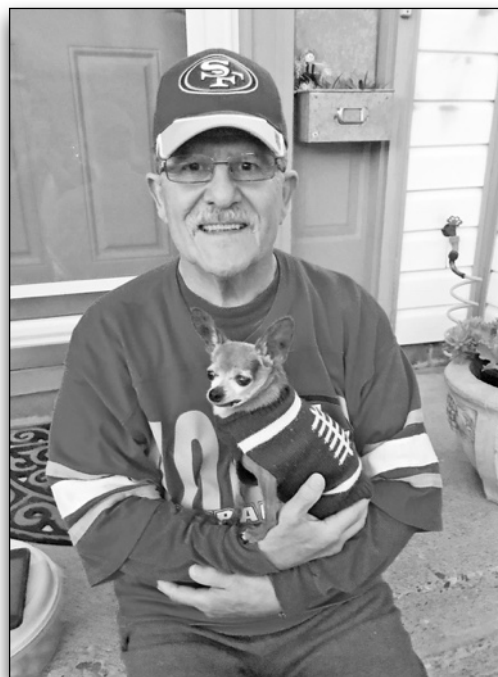
Hear all the latest about our Hibernian hounds!

Feel free to submit news and/or pictures relating to Irish breed or Irish-owned dogs!

Submitted by Lynnette Fitch Brash

~SUPER BOWL EDITION~

OK, normally this "column" only features canines, but we are going to stretch a bit this month to give a shout out to an "underdog" team who came out on top, the **Philadelphia Eagles** football team, who are the new reigning Super Bowl champs! Congratulations to our own native PHILLY IRISH members **Mike & Mary Ann Bromley** on their hometown team's first-ever SUPER BOWL win! You may recall that some years Mary Ann runs a football pool for the IAS in the months leading up to the Super Bowl, so it is no surprise that Mike and Mary Ann always go all out for their annual Super Bowl party. This year, they included homemade Philly cheese steaks, Philly soft pretzels, and hoagies as well as Tullamore Dew and other Irish drinks. Mary Ann told me she was so excited after Philadelphia won that she "was up until 1:45 watching celebrations/interviews, etc." and "could hardly talk [the next day] from screaming Sunday night"!!! 🍀



We should also give a shout out this month to **Animal Planet** for their annual **Puppy Bowl**, which highlights the plight of rescue animals. This year, puppies rescued in the aftermath of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria were on **Team Ruff** and **Team Fluff**. Congrats to Team Fluff for taking home the **Lombarky Trophy**. And while the Puppy Bowl is always totally adorable, they've got nothing on our own **IAS Paddy Pack** member **Buddy Diaz** with his daddy **Richard** when it comes to cuteness! Is that Chihuahua not the cutest football ever????!! Richard and **Teresa** rescued that lucky little boy, and it has been a total love story from day one. <3



(Note: Cu is Gaelic for dog!)



THE PARTING GLASS



*Oh all the time that e'er I spent,
I spent it in good company;
And any harm that e'er I've done,
I trust it was to none but me;
May those I've loved through all the
years
Have memories now they'll e'er recall;
So fill me to the parting glass,
Goodnight, and joy be with you all.*

*Oh all the comrades that e'er I had,
Are sorry for my going away;
And all the loved ones that e'er I had
Would wish me one more day to stay.
But since it falls unto my lot
That I should leave and you should not,
I'll gently rise and I'll softly call
Goodnight, and joy be with you all.*

*Of all good times that e'er we shared,
I leave to you fond memory;
And for all the friendship that e'er we
had
I ask you to remember me;
And when you sit and stories tell,
I'll be with you and help recall;
So fill to me the parting glass,
God bless, and joy be with you all.*

Condolences to **Donna Looney-McGlynn** and her family on the passing of her mother, **Agnes "Aggie" Wagner Looney**, in early December 2017. Last fall, **Mrs. Looney**, who was 94, fractured her femur and had to go to a rehab facility. Donna made several trips up to Connecticut to spend time with her, as did her local family and friends, but her condition deteriorated. Mrs. Looney had a long and lovely life and will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Her obituary can be seen at the following link. www.vincentfuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/3369056/Looney-Agnes/obituary.php

Condolences to **Katie Morse McCrory** and **Caroline Morse** and their family on the loss of another dear uncle, **Neil "Monty" Larimer**, who also passed in early December. His death was unexpected and sudden. His obituary can be seen at the following link. www.legacy.com/obituaries/sanantonio/obituary.aspx?n=neil-m-larimer&pid=187464718&

Condolences to the family and friends of **Geraldine "Gerry" von Mussinan McDowell** who passed in early January just two weeks before her 100th birthday. Gerry was a founding member of the **Scottish Society of Tidewater**, and many IAS members will remember her from our Celtic Cousins Cook Outs over the years. She was most recently at our joint Christmas Ceili in December and had been so looking forward to her 100th birthday party, which was scheduled for January. Many SST /IAS members ended up going to her beautiful funeral, which was held that day instead. She will be missed by us all. Her obituary can be seen at the following link. www.hdoliver.com/obituary/Geraldine-Anne-von-Mussinan-McDowell/Norfolk-Virginia/1774269

Condolences to **Jennifer O'Connell** and her family on the passing of her father, **Edward J. O'Connell III**, in late January. He was originally from Boston, but resided in Midlothian, Virginia, where Jennifer and her siblings grew up. His obituary can be seen at the following link. www.blileys.com/obituary/Edward-J.-O%E2%80%99Connell-III/Midlothian-VA/1777615

Condolences to the extended Gilmour-Crouch family on the loss in February of **Alex "Sandy" Hart Gilmour, Jr.**, father of **Lynette Gilmour Crouch** and grandfather of her daughters **Eadlyn Alexandra Crouch** and **Eilidh Grace Crouch**. Mr. Gilmour endured his thirty-plus year battle with Parkinson's Disease with quiet dignity. He was a devoted family man through and through, and never let his condition keep him from being there for his kith and kin. His obituary can be seen at the following link. obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Alex-Gilmour+%22Sandy%22&lc=5088&pid=188154905&mid=7758772

FINNEGAN'S WAKE
MARCH 10TH 2018
 Performing once again! By Popular demand

GLASGOW KISS

Irish Music
Irish Dancers

MENU
 IRISH STEW
 CORNED
 BEEF
 CABBAGE
 POTATOES
 SODA BREAD

Adults \$15.00
 Children \$10.00
 Cash Bar
 Doors open at 6:30 PM

No refunds

FINNEGAN'S WAKE 2018

Finnegan's Wake (Saturday, March 10, 2018) tickets will be for sale at the March meeting.

You can also call Mike Bromley at 757-572-2835 (cell) or 757- 471-2007 (landline) to reserve them.

Mike will NOT be keeping track of seating (who bought which seats, who is sitting where, etc.), so please buy all of your tickets together.

Tickets are \$15/adults & \$10/children under 12.

2018 OCEAN VIEW SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE March 17, 2018

PARADE ROUTE

The parade begins at Northside Middle School which is located at the corner of Westmont Ave and Granby Street. From that point it travels North on Granby, turns left at A View Ave, turns left on First View Street, and ends at the intersection of First View and Government Ave.

The parade route is approximately 1.5 miles.

PARKING

On-street parking is available on most of the adjacent blocks along the parade route. Off-street parking is available at the Sarah Constant Beach Park, Ocean View Beach Park, and Ocean View Elementary.

PARTY AFTER THE PARADE

Remember that the parade after-party, thrown by the Columbian Club of Ocean View, is held at 211 W. Government Ave. There will be food, refreshments and live music. Free admission and open to the public. Come join the fun!

Check us out on the web at:
www.NorfolkParade.com

