



**Oct.  
2005**

## The Parting Glass on the Roof

by Brian Witt

It was the last night of Irish Fest 2005. Up on the roof of the hotel, long after the last visitors had left the grounds, the sky was cloudy, the wind was brisk, and there were hundreds of people gathered. One group consisted of a number of members of the Craobh Curtin Conradh Na Gaeilge, the Milwaukee branch of the Gaelic League, as well as a few of the Irish teachers from the Summer School. Ray MacManais and Meati Jo Sheamais Ó Fatharta started the chorus of “Mo Ghile Mear.” Being one of the few songs that I can sing in Irish, I stayed to add my voice to the assemblage. “Sé mo laoch, mo Ghile Mear, ‘Sé mo Chaesar, Ghile Mear, Suan ná séan ní bhfuairéas féin, Ó chuaigh i gcéin mo Ghile Mear.” “He’s my hero, my gallant darling, (or Shining boy), He is my Caesar (or leader), a Gallant Darling; I’ve found neither rest nor fortune, Since my Gallant Darling went far away.”

The song is about Bonnie Prince Charlie – Charles Stuart– the Young Pretender. And, in spite of its spirited delivery, it is actually a song of great despair. In it, the woman sings of the departure of her true love, who has left her hopeless and alone. This song goes back to the period when patriotic expression of Ireland in poetry was outlawed. Poets would get around such restrictions by couching the terms in love poems. The objects of them would often be a woman, usually feeling as though she was abandoned, or that she was taken captive. Songs and poems in this genre include “Shan Van Vocht”, “Grania Vaile”, “Cathleen ni Houlihan” and “Roisin Dubh.” “The Blackbird” was another song about Charlie, written in

### CONTENTS:

[The Parting Glass on the Roof](#)

[Shamrock Club of Rock County](#)

[Milwaukee President’s Message](#)

[Color Guard News and Notes](#)

[ICHC Celtic Arts and Crafts Sampler](#)

[Shamrock Club Need Help at Folk Fair](#)

[Young Members News](#)

[Honoree Dinner October 2005](#)

[2005 Annual Shamrock Club](#)

[SHAMROCK CLUB HOME](#)

[EMERALD REFLECTIONS ONLINE NEWSLETTER](#)

[PHOTO OF THE MONTH](#)

[MILWAUKEE CALENDAR](#)

[WISCONSIN CALENDAR](#)

[MIDWEST CALENDAR](#)

[JOIN CLUB](#)

[MARCH ST. PATRICK’S DAY EVENTS](#)

[MILWAUKEE CHAPTER](#)

[STATE CHAPTERS](#)

[COLOR GUARD](#)

[LINKS OF IRISH INTEREST](#)

[WISCONSIN MARCH EVENTS](#)

[VENUES](#)

[Sign My Guestbook](#)



[View My Guestbook](#)



[Picnic](#)

[Schooner Fare  
In Concert](#)

[Celtic Women:  
First Friday  
Lecture](#)

[Color Guard  
Fund Raisers](#)

[Learn the Irish  
Language](#)

[ICHHC to Offer  
Flu Shots](#)

[St. Rose  
Spaghetti Dinner](#)

[Fall 2005  
Hallamor  
Concert Series:  
Grada](#)

[St. Patrick's  
Help Fund](#)

[Welcome New  
Members](#)

[Milwaukee  
Calendar of  
Events](#)

[Wisconsin  
Calendar of  
Events](#)

the same vein.

Charles Stuart was the son of James Francis Stuart, the Old Pretender. There were a number of risings in the name of the Stuarts over the centuries that had a direct influence on Catholic and Gaelic Ireland and Scotland. These revolts, know as the “Jacobite” risings, from the Latin word for James, would erode the Gaelic order of Ireland, cause the leading Catholic families to populate the armies and governments of the world, and take away for centuries a naturally based Irish leadership. How did that happen?

The Stuarts, or Stewarts, had been a part of Scottish politics since their arrival from Brittany in the 11th Century. Through a series of interactions, they took over from the House of Bruce as the royal Scottish family. In 1603 James VI, through his great-grandmother Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII of England, inherited the English throne as King James I. After the 1649 execution of James’ son Charles I during Oliver Cromwell’s revolution, the Stuarts were excluded from the throne until the restoration of Charles II in 1660.

Charles II was succeeded in 1685 by his Roman Catholic brother James II, who so alienated the sympathies of his subjects that in 1688 William, Prince of Orange, was invited to come “to the rescue of the laws and religion of England.” James fled, and by the Bill of Rights (1689) and the Act of Settlement (1701), which denied the crown to any Roman Catholic, he and his descendants were excluded from the throne. James II’s loss at the Battle of the Boyne also altered forever the landscape of Gaelic Ireland. The Siege of Limerick, and the subsequent treaty, saw the Irish nobles leaving Ireland under Patrick Sarsfield, and with them many young men who spoke Gaelic. James acquired the nickname “Seamus an chaca” from the Irish nobles.

The Jacobite revolts in 1715 and 1745, first under James Francis Stuart, and the second under Bonnie Prince Charlie, resulted in harsh treatment for the Highland Scots. Both men had come over from France, and both were known as being too Catholic for the Crown and too French to be English.

The Irish nobles, although burnt by the loss of James II in Ireland, were also looking for a return to Ireland. They gave financial support to the rising of 1745, and also helped keep Charles in better circumstances in France and Italy than he might have been, although many complained about the excessive debts he incurred on their generosity. However, the hopes of the many Catholic nobles for a return to power under the banner of the Stuarts was to never happen. Instead of rule,

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they got songs and poems.

The Battle of the Boyne yielded the tune, and most likely a song attached to it, “Seamus an chaca a chaill Eire”, or James the Turd that lost Ireland. 1715 offered up “Sherrifmuir.” And the Cork poet Seán Clárach Mac Domhnaill gave us “Mo Ghile Mear”. The last verse of the song concludes “Hero whose hopes have turned to smoke, Erin all wrapped in mourning cloak, I watch and wait, I dread my fate, Since my gallant laddie went away.”

This song, however, is sung in the Gaeltacht at closing time, in order to stretch out the drinking. As it went on the roof, each chorus was met with a joining of glasses as the singers stood, and sung in a louder refrain. The sadness of the words are completely lost in its robust delivery. And maybe it was just better that way. Because, as the second last verse says, “Come, drain your cups as wild harps play, Let every Celt praise his noble name. As long as blood flows in your veins, Raise a toast for his health, wish him length of days.” Cheers.

## INDEX

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# Rock County

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **OCTOBER 18** – 6 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner; 7 p.m. Regular Meeting; Janesville Senior Center, 69 S. Water St.
- **NOVEMBER 15** – 7 p.m. Regular Meeting.

Plan now to come to our October meeting and potluck dinner. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. The Club will provide the coffee. Mark that date on your calendar – October 18th. Bring a friend along with you. They just might like to join our club. Our program for the October Meeting will be a video about Ireland.

Our Annual picnic was in August and it was enjoyed by all. It was a beautiful evening and the bugs were few and did not cause us any problems. There was plenty of food, and oh, what a wonderful variety. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the October and November meetings. We are starting to make plans for our Christmas Party.

– **President Tom Kennedy**

## Milwaukee President's Message

It may not seem possible that we are in the month of October, as the summer has flown past. October is the end of the Celtic calendar, and begins anew on November 1. We hope you are ready to bring out the Aran knit sweaters, and feel the nip of cold after our long and hot summer season. So many beautiful days are left to enjoy Wisconsin's fine scenery and autumn's spectacular display of color. For hundreds of years, October marked the end of matchmaking in Lisdoonvarna in Ireland. Because the harvest was in, the farmers now had time to go there and look for a wife. Lisdoonvarna was well known for its good water, and began as a vacation retreat. The minerals in this water were thought to cure almost anything. There are only two matchmakers remaining today, and so the tradition continues if not a bit smaller in scale. On a sadder note, October 1845 marked the beginning of the potato famine in Ireland, an event that changed all of Ireland and the United States in particular.

We are beginning to prepare for the annual Folk Fair, and to represent the Irish in the community. We have three areas in which to volunteer, the food booth, the retail booth and the cultural area. The dancers perform in the folk fair setting, and the crowd expects the Irish dancers to be both entertaining and above average in quality, as we have so much talent in this area. This weekend before Thanksgiving is a nice way to get to know your fellow club members, and to assist our fund raising for the year. We do have to wear clothing as dictated by the International Institute, and it provides a uniformity and pride in heritage to do so. If you don't have the clothing required, it may be provided for you.

I certainly hope to see many of you at our Honoree Dinner on October 2nd. You have seen it advertised for the last two months, and we will combine it with the Club's 45th anniversary. We know you will enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones. The Shamrock Club honorees are so deserving of a joyous night of celebration and recognition. The price of \$25 per person for a dinner dance is as economical as we could possibly do, please do attend and bring friends.

See you at the next meeting.

– Julie Smith, President

## Color Guard News & Notes

Well the leaves are turning and the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums is closing out on another year. All that's left for us is Mayville Oct. 2; AOH Mass Oct. 1; and our favorite weekend – Sister Bay on Oct. 14/16. And I'm sorry I don't think there are any openings, but please if you're interested contact Karen Nielson at either [knielson\_23@yahoo.com] or 328-4027.

The Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums is actively fund raising in many ways and I hope that the members of the Shamrock Club come through and help us get to Texas. You can either:

(1) buy a yummy Suzy's Cheesecake for only \$7.75 a pie and they will be delivered on Nov. 15 at the ICHC. Contact any member to order. (2) Have a portrait taken by Leo Pilak Photography. (3) donate to our web site [www.sccgpd.org](http://www.sccgpd.org) (it's tax deductible) (4) donate to Holly's mom's e-bay store any sellable item (5) and lastly a pizza sale is coming.

The group has taken 1st place in Muskego and I want to thank everyone for their hard work.

A big thank you to Joe Donovan. I don't know how you have traveled so many parades and the cool down and each parade. We'll truly miss you. Twenty five years is a long time and the stories you have told, and will tell, are what makes the rest of us out there keep the tradition going. Finally, there is another briefcase story and this one is very interesting.

As always, please check our web site for updates: [[www.sccgpd.org](http://www.sccgpd.org)].

If you would like to have the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums appear in a parade, special event or family occasion – or you would like to join the Unit as a banner carrier, color guard, piper or drummer, please contact:

Richard Pfeiffer, Director  
Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums  
Telephone: (414) 769-1250  
E-mail: [milwpiper@cs.com](mailto:milwpiper@cs.com)

## INDEX

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### **ICHC Arts and Crafts Sampler**

**Sunday, October 2\*; Noon – 5 pm**

Come sample any or all of the ICHC's Celtic Arts and Crafts classes. Each class (Calligraphy, Design, Knitting, Quilting & Straw Weaving) will be taught every hour, so you can visit each or stay for an extra hour with the one of your choice. The sampler will help you decide what class or classes you wish to take when they are offered in the Fall. To register for the sampler or for any questions please call the ICHC at 414-345-8800.

\* Packers play Monday night!

## INDEX

---

### **Shamrock Club Needs Help at Folk Fair**

The Shamrock Club will again be a part of the Holiday Folk Fair at State Fair Park, November 18-20, 2005. We will have representation in the Cultural, Sales and Food areas. If you would like to volunteer for one or all of these areas, please contact Kris Pluskota at (414) 768-8876.

## INDEX

---

### **Young Members**

Erin Canon recently competed at the Milwaukee Feis in both music and dance. She received first place in her harp competition, and was awarded the overall Music Grand Champion trophy. She also had a great showing with her dance, placing 6th in Preliminary Championships and 1st in the Treble Reel.

## **Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Dinner Dance**

**Sunday, October 2, 2005**

You are cordially invited to the 45th Anniversary Dinner Dance of the Shamrock Club. In addition, we will be honoring the Irishman of the Year Ed Mikush, Irish Rose Noreen Barclay, and Parade Marshal Richard Stover.

American Serb Hall,  
5101 West Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI

Cost: \$25

Cocktails 6 pm • Dinner 6:30 pm • Dancing 8 pm

RSVP With Dinner Choice (Filet of Sole, Mandarin Chicken, Stuffed Pork Chop) by September 23 to Kristine Pluskota – (414) 768-8876 or dkplus@tds.net or mail to:

Kristine Pluskota,  
1209 N Chicago Avenue, #B  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

## **2005 Annual Shamrock Club Picnic**

The Shamrock Club picnic took place on August 7 at Lake Park in Milwaukee. Almost 500 attended during the course of the day. Atlantic Wave, the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums, the Milwaukee Police and Fire Pipe Bands, and the Glencastle Irish Dancers all performed. Members of the Shamrock Club Griffins from the Milwaukee Hurling Club were all given a three month membership in the Shamrock Club. Kids games included “pin the shamrock on the leprechaun” and the “shamrock pinata,” made by Jack Suit.

The day’s events were organized by Dawn and Pete Fleming. Special thanks to the Milwaukee Hurling Club for making our picnic its round robin.



## INDEX

---

### **Schooner Fare In Concert**

Yankee folk music will return to Milwaukee on Saturday, October 1, when Maine's Schooner Fare performs at Alverno College's Pitman Theater, 3401 S. 39th, Milwaukee. Tickets for the 8 p.m. show are \$20 and \$17 for adults and \$8 for ages 18 and younger.

Proceeds from a raffle held the night of the concert will benefit the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin which provides educational programs and support. For tickets and information, call Kathy Schultz at (414) 332-8521.

## INDEX

---

### **Celtic Women: First Friday Lectures**

**Oct. 7, 2005**

**Topic: We Cornish Americans**

**Speaker: Jerome Trewyn**

Jerome is a retired history teacher whose ancestors emigrated from Wales and Cornwall 150+ years ago. He is the president of the Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee, leads tours for Historic Milwaukee and is a docent at the Art Museum. His talk will cover Cornish culture; the emigration story; miners and fishermen; art and landscape; unique geology; and how the Cornish are organized today to preserve their heritage.

Lectures are held from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at the ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Admission is \$5 for all. Everyone is welcome including men and non-members as well as Celtic Women members. Tea and biscuits are served. Please join us for a delightful few hours of Celtic education and entertainment. You may call the ICHC at 414-345-8800 for more information.

**Parking Note:** Please observe the parking areas surrounding the ICHC and follow the posted signs designating the lots where parking is allowed for the ICHC. Thank you.

INDEX

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## Color Guard Fundraisers

The Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums is trying to raise money in order to appear in the San Antonio 2006 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

To help us in this endeavor, a photo package deal is being offered through Leo Pilak Photography. For every \$75 donation to the Unit he will donate one 8.5" x 11" Family Portrait Certificate with a value of \$200. The second offer is through Suzy Creamcheese. A number of flavors are available for \$7.75 each for 6-inch cakes. Flavors to choose from are: New York Cheesecake, Chocolate Chip, Cheesecake, Chocolate Amaretto Cheesecake, Strawberry Marble Cheesecake, Toffee Cheesecake with Butter Brickle, Blueberry Streusel Cheesecake and Irish Cream Cheesecake. These retail for \$10 each, so this is a bargain, as well as a chance to help send the group to Texas. See any Color Guard member for information.

INDEX

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## Learn the Irish Language

### **An Ghaeilge**

Learn basic conversation, greetings, blessings, curses, proverbs, a song, and more in a relaxed, non-stress course geared for adults and teens.

Ná lig don fhéar fás faoi do chosa! "Don't let the grass grow under your feet."

Sinéad Pitterle, who has studied Irish for several years and teaches in the Milwaukee area, will be teaching the course. Sinéad is a member of the Gaelic League of Milwaukee and volunteers at the Gaeltacht in the Cultural Area at Irish Fest.

Class will be held at the Irish Fest Center located at 1532 Wauwatosa Ave. (N. 76th St.), Milwaukee, Wis. 53213; (414) 476-3378. Cost is \$60 for the seven week course

which runs Thursdays 7 – 8:30 pm; October 6 – November 17.

For more information or to register, contact Sinéad at (262) 783-4830 or [sineadn@aol.com].

## [INDEX](#)

---

### **ICHC to Offer Flu Shots**

The Irish Cultural and Heritage Center will be offering flu shots again this year.

The evening is sponsored by Covenant Home Health and will take place on Thursday, October 6, 2005 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in Parlor A at the ICHC. The cost is \$25. Persons under Medicare may bring their Medicare card and the vaccination will be provided free of charge.

The ICHC is providing the venue free of charge as a service to those in the neighborhood, Shamrock Club members, and any others who might be using our building that evening. It is the night of the Shamrock Club October meeting.

– **John Maher**

## [INDEX](#)

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### **St. Rose Spaghetti Dinner**

The Milwaukee Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, in cooperation with St. Rose Parish, will again host the annual Irish Mass of Remembrance and William Ryan Drew Scholarship Spaghetti Dinner, at St. Rose Catholic Church, 544 North 31st Street, Milwaukee on Saturday, October 1, 2005.

## [INDEX](#)

---

### **Fall 2005 Hallamor Concert Series**

## **Gráda**

**Friday, October 14, 2005**

Gráda (Irish for “illustrious”) is an innovative young Irish band poised at the brink of international recognition for their multi-faceted take on traditional Celtic music. Taking its influences from Irish, Breton, Eastern European and other diverse regional styles, Gráda compliments its instrumental virtuosity with an elegant, timeless vocal style. Now well established in Irish music circles, Gráda continues to win new fans with an intense concert schedule. Flautist Alan Doherty is widely heralded for his solo performance on the film score of The Lord of the Rings Trilogy. His freewheeling, “soaring flute playing” is a major part of Gráda’s sound.

8 pm Concert

Doors open at 6:45 with a brief opening act at 7 pm

Tickets: \$19 advance, \$21 day of concert

– **Gwen Sisk**

### [INDEX](#)

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## **St. Patrick’s Help Fund**

St. Patrick’s Help Fund is in desperate need of non-perishable foods. Please place in container at each meeting. However, donations can be brought to the ICHC any time during the week. Questions? Call Katy Voss (414) 352-6479.

### [INDEX](#)

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## **New Members**

NOTE: Please send your dues to your Membership Chairperson in your chapter. All names and addresses are listed in Emerald Reflections.

Milwaukee – Chris Brust Family; Doug Defenbaugh (referred by Kim, Glencastle Irish Dancers); Ellen Donaghy; J. Patrick Hoyt; Ms. Teresa O’Malley Matter.

– **Tom Smith**

### [INDEX](#)

