

Irish dance evolved from lessons of Irish "travelling dance masters" in the 17th-18th century. Irish céili dances dance may be performed with as few as two people or as many as sixteen. Céili dance can be "called" – the upcoming steps are announced for the benefit of newcomers.

Irish traditional music also known as "Irish Trad". Céili dances are typically accompanied by Irish instruments: the Irish bodhrán, the fiddle, the concertina, guitar, or flute. American folk music traces its history to the music of Ireland. Since the 1970s Irish traditional music has been fused with great success to rock and roll, punk rock and other genres.

Irish literature Irish writing dates from the seventh century Irish monks (*How the Irish Saved Civilization*). In the 20th century, four Irish writers won the Nobel Prize for literature. Writers including Oscar Wilde, Bram Stoker, James Joyce, W. B. Yeats, Samuel Beckett, Elizabeth Bowen, C. S. Lewis, Kate O'Brien, and George Bernard Shaw are globally renown.

Our heritage: 22 U.S. Presidents of Irish ancestry; 60% of Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded to Irish-Americans; Many of Washington's general officers were Irish.

Irish-Americans always on the Front Lines: Military and First Responders

One Irish Culture Center project is procuring funding for a statue honoring Irish immigrant, Revolutionary War hero, Alexandria, VA civic leader, and confidant to George Washington, Colonel John Fitzgerald.

The Center is governed by a Board of Directors responsible developing policy and direction. The Board consists of at least six, but not more than 11 members. Two positions are reserved for the incumbent state presidents of the Virginia Ancient Order of Hibernians and Virginia Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Current board members are:

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WELCOME!

Incorporated in 2019, the Irish Culture Center of Virginia, Inc. is a 501c.(3) charitable organization (EIN 84-3551738).

Our goals: establish and maintain opportunities that foster understanding of Irish heritage, culture and traditions through language, music, dance, lectures, visual arts, commemorative monuments and social interaction.

To support this mission the Center engages in fund raising, including soliciting donations, hosting dinners, and participating in Irish and Celtic festivals throughout the Commonwealth.

Irish-American Heritage Month

The U.S. Congress proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month in 1991, and the U.S. Presidents have proclaimed the occasion each year. Originally a religious holiday to honor St. Patrick, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century, **St. Patrick Day** has evolved into a celebration of all things Irish. The first St. Patrick's Day parade occurred on March 17, 1762, in New York City.

Irish-American Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate the Irishness flowing through the heart of America. Today more than 32 million Americans claim Irish ethnicity. Many famous and influential Americans are of Irish descent. March is our opportunity to reflect upon our heritage, learn more about it, and celebrate our unique thread through American history.

Irish American Heritage Month is featured on:

National Archives
www.archives.gov/news/topics/irish-american-heritage
Smithsonian Institution
www.si.edu/spotlight/irish-american
Library of Congress
www.loc.gov/rr/main/irishamerican/
Ancient Order of Hibernians
<https://aoh.org>



Free Genealogical Resources

Websites

The National Archives of Ireland
<http://www.nationalarchives.ie/>
IrishGenealogy.ie
<https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>
FamilySearch – Ireland section
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ireland_Genealogy
Fáilte Romhat
<http://www.failteromhat.com/>
American Ancestors: Irish Genealogy
<https://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/read/irish-guide>
Roots Ireland
<https://www.rootsireland.ie/>

Blogs

Timeline Genealogy in Ireland
<http://timeline.ie/timeline-irish-genealogy-blog/>
Irish Genealogy News
<http://www.irishgenealogynews.com/>
Irish Genealogical Society International
<http://blog.irishgenealogical.org/>