

# Clann Mhor

## Blue Ridge Railroad Project

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Benefit Awareness Day  
Crozet, Virginia

**Clann Mhor** means “Great Family” in the Irish language, and it refers to a group of workers who lived and died in obscurity, but left a great railroad stretching from the Valley of Virginia to the Ohio River and beyond as their legacy. A dedicated group of researchers is delving into the history of these workers; Irish immigrants and enslaved African Americans, who labored on construction of the Blue Ridge Railroad and its four tunnels from 1849 through 1859. The longest of these is the Blue Ridge Tunnel on Afton Mountain, Virginia.

**Spend an afternoon in lovely Crozet, Virginia, and learn more about the Clann Mhor Project. The public is welcome to attend all or part of the events!**

**4:00 pm – Tour of the Tunnel:** The meeting place is on top of Afton Mountain. Take 64 west, exit 99, turn right on Rt 250, and just before you go under the stone bridge, there will be an abandoned Howard Johnsons on your right. Volunteers of the Clann Mhor project will be there to show you the tunnel and talk about the research.

**Fardowner’s Restaurant**, located at 5773 The Square, Crozet, VA 22932, (434-823-1300) will be the gathering place for the rest of the evening. Fardowners specializes in well prepared local food and beers. *Directions: From 64, take exit 107 (Rt. 250/Crozet). At the stop sign, turn right onto Rt. 250 East. Go about one and a half miles. Turn left on Rt. 240 at the third stoplight. Go about one mile. Turn right into The Square at the first stoplight. Fardowners is on the right hand side, next to the pharmacy.*

**6:00 pm – Drinks and Dinner:** For the Clan Mhor event, there will be Irish specials on the menu, Harp on tap, and an extra supply of Jamesons.

**7:15 – Clann Mhor Presentation:** Clann Mhor historians will talk about the research that has been carried out, what has been learned, and ongoing plans.

**7:30 – Tom Martin:** A highly acclaimed performer from Belfast known for thoughtful and well crafted lyrics along with extraordinary guitar skill, Tom performs a mix of original material along with a selection of traditional Irish songs.

**10:00 – King Golden Banshee:** Traditional Irish songs and instrumentals performed by one of Charlottesville’s premier Irish music groups.

For more information, email [richmondfolkmusic.com](mailto:richmondfolkmusic.com) or [clannmhor@gmail.com](mailto:clannmhor@gmail.com) Learn more about the project at <http://clannmhor.blogspot.com>.