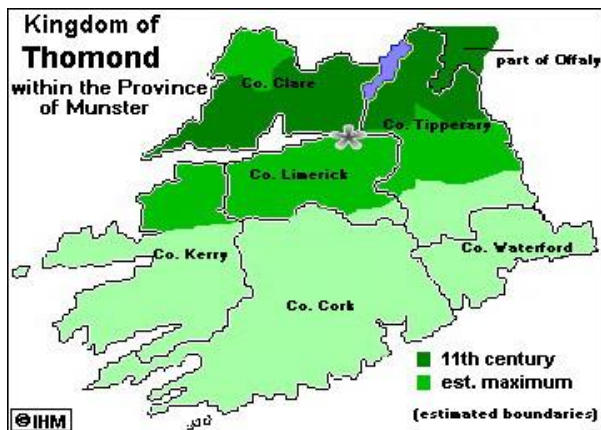


Excerpt from Nolan Clan Newsletter of March 2000, p. 8-9

Nolans of Galway

In early Christian times, the Ua hUallachain (Holohans, Nolans, ...) lived in northern Offaly and, by the 11th century, their territory extended into the kingdom of Thomond centred around the city of Limerick.



By the end of the 12th century, strong bonds of kinship had also been forged with the newly arrived Normans, the daughter of the King of Thomond, having married William Fitzadelm de Burgo, progenitor of the Burkes in Ireland.

Appointed Governor of Limerick in 1185 and succeeding Strongbow as Chief Governor of Ireland, William soon set about conquering all of Connaught, eventually overcoming the O'Connors.

His son Richard married an O'Connor and is said to have founded Galway city, building there a Franciscan friary and a fine house for himself. Around the same time, his older brother, Walter De Burgh, Earl of Ulster, supposedly built a friary (Franciscan /Augustian) at nearby Logboy (Claremorris, Co. Mayo) and this is where we pick the first traces of Nolans in Connaught. Proof of this is found on a monument erected in 1394 in the Franciscan friary of Galway city and dedicated to the memory of the "Nolans of Loughboy".



Recognizing that the early Nolans of Connaught were associated with the De Burgh family both in Logboy and in Galway city we conclude that the two families must have been somehow closely associated.

Such a close association could have first developed very early on in the Limerick area where Nolans and the Gaelic-friendly De Burghs (Burkes) lived in close proximity. If we are indeed correct in this assumption then the only question remaining would be "When did they go to Connaught?"

Two major possibilities present themselves: circa 1200, when the Nolans would have accompanied the De Burgh family in their conquest of Connaught, or; circa 1312, when they would have been part of the flight of Templars from the Limerick area, possibly entering Connaught via the ports of Galway or Sligo and then taking refuge at the Logboy friary (circa 1312).