

CLANN Ó NUALLÁIN

No. 1 NEWSLETTER

(RN: remastered version – March 2005)



August 1996

THE NOLAN GATHERING (9th August 1996)

The O'Nolan Clan is one of the oldest families in Ireland, so old in fact that our origins are lost in the mists of time. But the old Druid genealogists preserved our lineages back to *Eocaidh Fionn of Fothart*, the son of *Feidhlimidh Reachtmhar*, King of Ireland in 164-174AD, and even further back to *Cobhthach Caol mBreach*, a King of Ireland who ruled from 591 to 541 BC. The ancient Irish annalists referred to our family as *ONuallain Fotharta Laighean*, or the "ancient ones of Leinster". It is believed that the O'Nolans were settled in Leinster long before the Melisian Celts ever arrived and are probably descended from the mythical Da Danaans. Our roots are deep indeed, penetrating to the very soul of Ireland. The O'Nolans, like all Irish families, are now spread throughout Ireland and the rest of the world, however, amazingly, many are still concentrated on the same lands the family has occupied since history began, now the barony of Forth in County Carlow. For the first time in many centuries the O'Nolans will gather at Ballon, County Carlow, on the second weekend of August, in midst of their ancestral lands, to renew the bonds of blood and fellowship. It is an historic occasion with very special meaning.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our clann is gathering and growing stronger every day. The Clan O'Nolan was re-organised in 1995 and has since been registered with the 'Clans of Ireland'. The past two years has been an uphill battle. Starting out as a 'party of three', we persevered and gradually, increased our numbers. Thanks to the great work of our committee we have gone from strength to strength. The next year promises to be very exciting. Apart from building on friendships within the O'Nolans, we have made very strong links with our neighbours, Kavanagh Clan and the O'Toole Clan who have been an enormous help to us. 'The Clans of Ireland' proved invaluable support. With our A.G.M. on 9th August and a new committee being elected, I now wish to say it has been a great pleasure to be your Chairman. I thank everyone *for* their great support in Clan business and especially their kindness in my personal life.

TOM NOLAN

*THE O'NOLAN CLANN WISHES TO THANK
ALL THEIR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS*

For two and a half centuries Carlow people have distinguished themselves throughout the world in politics, religion, business, the arts and science and the following is an account of a Nolan who did just that. Source: Nationalist & Leinster Times, April 17th, 1897

DEATH OF A REMARKABLE CARLOW WOMAN

- *Well known as a Writer, Artist and Dramatic Reader*

The St. Louis *Republic* of the 25th March says - yesterday morning at 10 o'clock Miss Mary Nolan, writer, artist, dramatic reader, chemist and inventor, died, at her home at 1211 Washington avenue, after an illness of 20 years, at the age of 61. Such is the brief history of the passing of one of the best-known women in St. Louis.

Miss Nolan was born in Carlow, Ireland, December 5, 1835. She was born in the seat of the Nolan family, for generations past, it being a common saying that everybody in Carlow is a Nolan, from the hangman to the Bishop. Her father, James Nolan, was at that time quite wealthy and Mary grew up amid all advantages for culture. The education of the Nolan children was entrusted to private masters. Financial reverses drove the family to America, when Mary was 10 years old. The four years they resided in New York she attended St. Joseph's College on Sixth Avenue. The family then removed to St. Louis, Mr. & Mrs. Nolan opening a select school at Eighteenth and Morgan streets, in which Mary served as teacher. She was subsequently made principal of the Carr School and was acting in this capacity at the outbreak of the war. Miss Nolan was an ardent sympathiser with the South. Because of her strong sympathies, she was subjected to the indignity of arrest. An inmate friend of hers was implicated in some political matters, and Miss Nolan was told she must tell what she knew of the circumstances or to go prison rather than prove false to her friend she went to prison.

During these years, Miss Nolan gave her attention to many subjects, coming into special prominence as writer for the magazines and daily press, having been a frequent contributor to the columns of the *Republic*. She wrote on every subject, her versatility being something remarkable. In 1872, she founded and edited the *Central Magazine*. She was not only editor, but contributed articles of every nature over various noms-de-plume.

In 1876, she was appointed by the Governor to represent Missouri women at the Centennial Exposition. Her departure was delayed by the last illness of her mother, who died on March 24th, 1876. It will thus be seen that Miss Nolan died on the anniversary of her mother's death, 20 years later. Her manner of representing the interests of Missouri earned for her the lasting gratitude of the women of the State.

About this time Miss Nolan brought out a fire-proof building material, which she called Nolanum, and which furnished the inspiration for many similar devices. While at the Centennial Miss Nolan became a victim of the unsanitary conditions prevailing there, contracting blood poisoning, which developed into ostitis, from which she never recovered. For ten years past she has been entirely helpless, her joints having become united. During all these years that she lay helpless her patience never became exhausted, nor was she ever known to enter a word of complaint. The only surviving member of the family, Miss Theresa Nolan, declares that she never heard her sister utter a hasty word. The last years of her life were spent in constant reading. Miss Nolan was strikingly beautiful as a girl and even at the age of 60, after an illness of nearly 20 years, all her beauty had not departed. Her funeral took place from St. John's Catholic Church on Thursday morning, March 25.

Submitted by Sarah Jane Nolan, Carlow

PLEASE NOTE

We are grateful for the many contributors for the Newsletter and wish to express our thanks and appreciation. Every member of the Clan is invited to submit articles they think will help inform other Clan members of their ancestors.

The reader must realise that articles are taken as received with minor editing where necessary. The content is strictly the author's. Inclusion does not imply an endorsement of any article's content nor does it imply that the material is accurate. If the editors only included information consistent with our accepted knowledge, no progress could be made in building our genealogical data. On the other hand, some statements are obviously not correct to someone who may have researched the same topic.

The reader would be wise to check with the author about the source of any specific data and ascertain how reliable it may be.

GENEALOGY PROJECT

The Carlow Genealogy Project began in April 1995. It is sponsored by FÁS and Carlow County Family Heritage Research Ltd. The Chairman of the latter is Mr. Jim Kearney also County Secretary of Carlow County Council.

At present, we are computerising the parish registers of County Carlow, therefore we are only keeping queries on file until we are in a position to do research for the public. We only index/computerise pre 1900's for confidential reasons.

*Mary Moore, Co-ordinator, Genealogy Project,
Old School, College Street, Carlow. Tel: 0503-30850.*

CLANN O NUALLAIN OFFICERS

Chairman of Executive Committee:

Tom Nolan, Slyguff, Muine Bheag, Co. Carlow. Tel: 0503-21221. Clan Secretary:
Enda Nolan, Park, Tinryland. Tel: 0503-41184.

Clan Treasurer:

Billy Nolan, Ballon, Co. Carlow. Tel: 0503-5910 1.

Executive Committee Members:

Sean Nolan, Ardattin, Tullow, Co. Carlow. Tel: 0503-55666.

Jimmy Nolan, Kernanstown, Carlow. Tel: 0503-32095.

M.J. Nolan T.D., Shandon House, Strawhall, Carlow. Tel: 0503-30800.

John Nolan, Ballytarsna, Nurney, Carlow. Tel: 0503-27345.

Claire B. Nolan Sturley, 50 Highfield, Dublin Road

Martin Nevin, Leighlinbridge, Old Carlow Society (Clan Advisor).

THE ANCESTOR TRAIL

The starting point in tracing a family tree should be *by* questioning your relatives. Often a visit to the countryside or town and a chat with locals can be very rewarding. Gather as much information as possible and no matter how insignificant it may first appear - write it down. Probably the first official Irish record sources worth consulting are Parish Church records. Most *of* them are stored on microfilm in the National Library *of* Ireland.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Irish Genealogical Register: Joyce House, 8-11 Lombard Street, Dublin 2.

National Archives: Four Courts, Dublin 7.

Genealogical Office: 2 Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Office of Valuations: 6 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

Registry of Deeds: Henrietta Street, Dublin 1.

Irish Land Commission: 24 Merrion Street, Dublin 2.

Carlow County Library: Dublin Street, Carlow, Co. Carlow.

County Heritage Society: Methodist Church Hall Athy Road, Carlow.

CARLOW COUNTY LIBRARY - Dublin Street, Carlow.

For visitors tracing their roots and those interested in the county, a visit to the reference section of the library is a recommended starting point. Microfilmed newspaper files dating back to the early 1800's and a range of books dealing with Co. Carlow are among the comprehensive stock of reference material available. Open Monday to Friday 10am-1pm and 2:00-5:30pm. Late opening Tuesday and Thursday. Tel: 0503-31126.