

CLANN Ó NUALLÁIN

No. 3 NEWSLETTER

(RN: remastered version – March 2005)



May 1997

1997 Gathering

Plans for the 1997 Gathering are now finalized and the schedule of events is included in this issue of newsletter for those of you planning to attend.

The activities planned include lectures on clan history and genealogy, bus tours of some of our clan sites and a clan banquet, and of course, we look forward to our A.G.M. and the inauguration of our new chief which promises to be quite a dramatic ceremony.

Ballykeally House will host the Gathering of Clan O' Nuallain on 8th, 9th and 10th August '97.

Tickets for the Banquet and Social evening on the Saturday are now available and must be bought in advance. Mai Nolan, Ardattin (0503-55666) is co-ordinating the ticket sales. So if you are interested contact Mai or any officer as soon as possible.

While numbers are limited we need a minimum no. in order to go ahead and make the evening a success.

All donations of 'spots' will be very welcome.

'Put on your dancing shoes' see p. 10

FOLLOW ME UP TO CARLOW

Lift McCahir Og, your face
Brooding o'er the old disgrace
That black Fitzwilliam stormed your place
And sent you to the fern,
Grey said victory was sure
Soon the fire brand he'd secure
Until he met at Glenmalure
Fiach McHugh O'Byrne.

Chorus

Curse and swear, Lord Kildare
Fiach will do what Fiach will dare
Now Fitzwilliam have a care
Fallen is your star low
Up with halbert, out with sword
On we go, for by the lord
Fiach McHugh has given the word
Follow me up to Carlow.

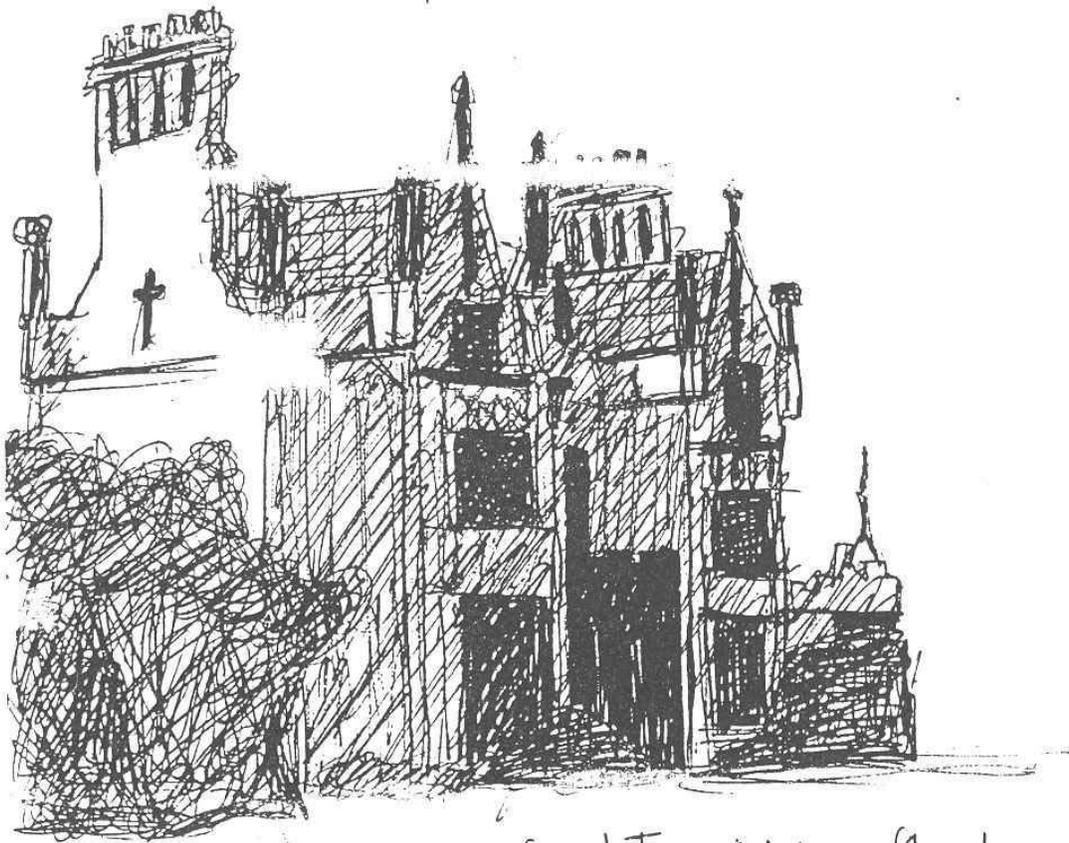
See the swords of Glen Imayle
Flashing o'er the English Pale
See all the children of the Gael
Beneath O'Byrne's banners
Roosters of a fighting stock
Would you let a Saxon cock
Crow out upon an Irish rock
Fly up and teach him manners.

From Tassagart to Clonmore
Flows a stream of saxon gore
Och, great is Rory Og O'Moore
At sending loons to Hades
White is sick, and Lane is fled
Now for black Fitzwilliam's head
We'll send it o'er dripping red,
To Liza and her ladies.

*CLANN Ó'NUÁLLAIN includes the families of:
O' Nolan, Nolan, Nowlan, Nowland, Noland and any other variant.*

BALLYKEALEY HOUSE,
BALLON, CO. CARLOW

Seat of the Lecky Family for over 300 years, the present house was built in the 1830's for John James Lecky and Sarah Lucia Smith as a wedding present.



Sarah-Jane Nolan Gurler

The ancient Irish annalists referred to our family as *ONualláin Fotharta Laighean*, or the "ancient ones of Leinster". It is believed that the O'Nolans were settled in Leinster long before the Milesian 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. The O'Nolans will again 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. This will be the second gathering of the modern O'Nolan Clan.

Schedule of Events

Friday 8th August

5:00PM Registration begins at Ballykealey House in Bailon, County Carlow
8-10:00PM Social Gathering

Saturday 9th August

10:00AM Registration continues
10:30AM Lecture on O'Nolan History by Prof Kenneth Nichol
12:00 Lecture on Genealogy by Noreen Higgins
1 :00PM Lunch Break
2-5:00PM Coach Tour of O'Nolan clan sites and monuments of interest.
7:30PM Annual General Meeting of the O'Nolan Clan
Election of Officers and Chief of the Clan
8:30PM O'Nolan Clan Social Evening at Ballykeally House

Sunday 10th August

12:00 Noon Inauguration of the Chief of the Clan
3:00pm Social time

The activities of the O'Nolan Gathering will all take place at Ballykeally House in Ballon.

SEAN ÓG TAKES US THROUGH THE AGES

In the last issue I gave a brief outline of clan formation, in this issue I will deal with the internal structure of the clan. A clan territory in ancient Ireland was called a **tuath** and its chief would often hold the title of king. The tuath was subdivided into approx. thirty **ballybeteighs** (bally remains the prefix of many townlands in Ireland today). A ballybeteigh was further subdivided into twelve **seasrachs**, each of about 120 acres.

The leading family and certain professionals had private rights to certain tracts of land, but most of the land was owned commonly by the remaining members of the clan who were called **feine**. Two classes made up the **Feine**, the "free" **ceile** and the "unfree" ceile. The former owned their own stock, whilst the latter had to rent their stock, from a noble or a professional who had surplus stock. Below the ceile were two classes which were rated non-free. One comprised of the **bathach** and the **senclaithe**. This class was supported by particular families and employed as herdsman, laborers, ploughmen, etc. These people were considered clan members but had no say at the clan council.

The other class was called the **fuidir**, these were the criminals, fugitives from other clans and war captives. The fuidir were not members of the clan, rather its property. It was not unusual for a member of the lowest class to gain high rank in the clan by working hard over a number of years. This was because of the humanity of the laws which governed life in ancient Ireland.

Sean Óg Nolan
Clan Genealogist

I am the family face:
Flesh perishes, I live on,
Projecting trait and trace
Through time to times anon,
And leaping from place to place
Over oblivion.

Thomas Hardy, *Heredity* (1917)

For two and a half centuries Irish 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: 'Ireland's Own'. Sent to us by Des Nolan, Clane.

Kerry Long Ago

The author of "Kerry Long Ago" wasn't a Kerry man at all, he was a native of Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow, but he had a warm spot in his heart for the Kingdom.

Shaun O'Nolan was born in 1871. He was destined to spend most of his life in the United States where he gave much pleasure to many people on the vaudeville stage.

Primarily a comedian, the man from

Baltinglass had a repertoire that included singing and the playing of the Uilleann pipes, Irish-American audiences loved him, especially when he offered ballads of his own composition.

*Oh, God be with you Kerry,
Where in childhood I made merry,
When I heard the fiddler tuning up,
And roisining his bow;
At the crossroads we were dancing,
And our colleens shyly glancing,
Just like their dads and mothers did,
In Kerry long ago.*

*Now my heart is sad and weary,
In my dreams I see my Mary
Her golden tresses flying.
On her cheeks a rosy glow;
I can hear her softly singing,
With Bill Halpin's fiddle ringing,
As they played "The Stack Of Barley",
In Kerry long ago.*

In Boston O'Nolan could always be assured of a great ovation whenever he stepped on the stage. "Kerry Long Ago" and "Dear Old Donegal" were just two of the successful ballads he wrote for the pleasure of exiles in America.

Bing Crosby, himself, turned "Dear Old Donegal" into a gold mine. Bing Crosby, of course, was always proud of his Irish connections and not only on St. Patrick's Day either. Barring the evergreen "I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas", which never fails to find a market each December (and unto which bandwagon even P.J. Proby jumped). "Dear Old Donegal" must

surely count as one of the most popular records Bing ever made.

But if "Dear Old Donegal" is widely known outside Irish circles. "Kerry Long Ago" has its own audience wherever men of the Kingdom gather in the cities of the world. 'TIS a pleasant hummable little song, and the air owes a great deal to "The Stack Of Barley" mentioned in the second verse.

Shaun O'Nolan belonged to a different musical era than the one in which we now live. Yet it is one we are constantly trying to recreate.

The old vaudeville songs – some of them "stage-Irish" in the best sense of the word – are a link with the past we do not want to sever. There is a pleasure in singing the ballads that our fathers and grandfathers enjoyed.

BOYS FROM THE CO. CORK

He wrote "The Boys From The Co. Cork", much to the delight of exiles from the Rebel County. When O'Nolan died in 1943, in New York, aged 74, he had little notion that this ballad would actually be sung on television in Britain twenty-one years later.

As part of the ballad indicates he remained a staunch Republican to the end, and he'd surely like the irony of "The Boys From The Co. Cork" being performed on British television as well as appreciating the tolerance that allowed the performance.

*Some of them came from Kerry,
Some from the Co. Clare,
From Wicklow, Dublin, Donegal,
From Limerick and Kildare.
Some from the lands beyond the seas,
From Boston and New York,
But the boys who licked the Black and Tans.
Were the Boys from the Co. Cork.*

Maureen Jolliffe

Clan Genealogy Data Bank

When you registered as a member of the Nolan Clan you should have received a Genealogy Data Bank Chart. We hope members will complete these as fully as possible and return them to our Clan Genealogist Sean Óg Nualláin.

The duties of the Clan Genealogist involve the compilation of family related information within a central "file" that is accessible to Clan members as a membership service.

Genealogy Data Bank records can be reviewed at the Gathering. We depend upon information provided by Clan members and sharing this information can be very useful to all of us involved in family research. So we are reminding you to provide copies of your own family data. Charts are available from the Clan Secretary and at the Gathering '97.

Genealogist, Noreen Higgins, will hold a question and answer session at the Gathering.

You may be interested in the following which appeared recently in the Clann Chaombanach Newsletter.

Archdeacon Cavanagh
. Pastor of Knock

A special commemoration Mass will be celebrated in the Basilica at Knock Shrine, Co. Mayo on Sunday 7th September 1997 to mark the centenary of his death in 1897. All Clann members are invited to attend this centenary Mass for a very special Cavanagh.

COMBINING FUNDRAISING, CULTURE AND CLAN PROMOTION, WHILE HAVING A VERY GOOD TIME!!

Clann O'Nuallain hosted an evening of **Traditional Music and Storytelling**, in February at Jon's Lounge, Carlow, at the kind invitation of Billy Nolan.

Our Chief, Tom, and his group of musicians provided the entertainment. Jim Nolan, Myshall treated us to some of our favourite recitations. Always most enjoyable, even more so, on this occasion, as he was joined by P.J. Furey, Rathnapish. Thanks Pat for joining us. Both the Nolans and the regulars enjoyed your contribution. We look forward to hearing you again.

Another great success was our **Irish Night** in April at The Halfway, Ardattin, organised by Mai and Sean Nolan. We thank our hosts. Again, all supporters enjoyed an evening of outstanding music and recitation.

We are very fortunate to have so much talent within the Clan and our reputation for holding a great Sessiun is growing fast. On both these fundraising events, our raffle prizes were very generously donated by local supporters for which we are very grateful.

NEW TANAISTE

As August and our 2nd Clan Gathering draws closer so too does my term as Chief of Clan O'Nualláin come to an end. At that time our Tanaiste, Séan Nolan (Deputy Chief of Clan) elected at our last General Meeting (Aug. '96) shall automatically become the Cennaire (Chief of the Clan).

Séan has been an exemplary Tanaiste, working hard acquainting locals with the Nolan Clan and gaining many new members and much valued sponsorship. A founding member of the clan, I don't think Sean has missed a meeting since its inception.

And so as Sean becomes Cennaire we will need to elect a new Tanaiste on 9th August. I invite all clan members to submit nominations for this office by 5th July. Any member descending from an ancestor with the family name or any of the variation of the family name is eligible for nomination and election to this office.

All members will have a chance to vote either by post or in person at the General Meeting. Nominations for all other offices (other than Tanaiste) will be accepted in advance or at the G.M. Election to these offices will take place at G. M.

The General Committee shall consist of all Clan Members present and attending the General Meeting at the time of the Clan Gathering and such members shall constitute a quorum. Any member in good standing may nominate any other member in good standing for any office.

All motions, resolutions and/or other business to be acted upon must be submitted to the Clan Secretary by the end of July to be prepared in the agenda for the G.M. Looking forward to August.

Clan Chief/Chairman of Executive Committee.



Let not Ambition mock their useful Toil, Their homely Joys and Destiny obscure; Nor Grandeur hear and with disdainful Smile, The short and simple Annals of the Poor. Thomas Gray (1716 - 71) An Elegy written in a Country Church Yard
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ORIGINS OF IRISH SURNAMES

Hereditary surnames began to evolve in Ireland in the tenth century and developed spontaneously from single names to short lived names taken from a father or another ancestor. In the early stages the surname was formed by using the prefix "Mac" before the father's name and "O" before the name of a grandfather or earlier ancestor. This started even before the tenth century, but the names did not continue as hereditary. Other words that came into use to identify people were, *Giolla* and *Maol*, which were also used with the two prefixes, "Mac" and "O". *Giolla* meant "servant of" and *Maol* meant "follower of." Thus we get, *MacGiollaPadric*, "servant of Patrick", now called FitzPatrick; and *O'Maoil Mhichil*, "follower of St. Michael," now known as Mulvihill, Mulville and Mitchell.

Names were also formed from paternal occupations such as the modern names Ward and MacWard, which were derived from *Mac an Bhaird*, "son of the bard." The "mac" and "o" were prefixed to the names to denote character or peculiarity of the father or grandfather, e.g. *MacDubhgail*, "black stranger," modern MacDowell. From this it was a short step to incorporating nicknames into permanent surnames, for example *Mac an Mhadaidh*, from Mada meaning "dog," now called MacAvaddy, and cognate with O'Madain, Madden.

The common practise of adding an epithet denoting some personal characteristic to the Christian name and surname eventually led in some cases to the loss of the surname proper and the substitution of the epithet for it. Often these are Gaelic surnames without the distinctive "Mac" or "O", such as *ban*, or white, became Bane, *ruadh* or red, became Roe, *laidir*, or strong, became Lawder, and so on. Similarly agnomina such as *Caomhánach*, or C/Kavanagh and *Chennselagh*, or Kinsella. became hereditary surnames without a Gaelic prefix., though an "O" has sometimes been erroneously inserted in this name in more modern times.

There are many names now in use in Ireland that are Norman in origin such as Dillon and Butler.

Other sources of Irish surnames are those which evolved from the Norsemen, the Huguenots and English. The English sources arrived with different times, during the Elizabethan, Cromwellian and Plantation periods. That is another story though.

Extracted from "Surnames of Ire/and" by Edward MacLysaght, a book of interest to everyone of Irish descent.
(Source: Clann Chaomhánach Newsletter Autumn '95)

Nolan Irish: Anglicized form of Gael. Ó Nualláin ‘descendant of Nuallán’,
 a personal name representing a dim. of nuall famous, noble. Vars: O’No(u)lane, (O’)Noland, (O’)Nowlan.

Put on your dancing shoes

If all goes according to plan, we should have our own Resident Callers at our Gathering. Noreen Higgins our highly recommended Genealogist is also, I am told a fair set dancer. Her father Charles is not bad either, so I hear.

Just to refresh some memories or perhaps to put some of you off, I am including the following.

Only one figure from each set for now – more available on request.

Clan Secretary.

COROFIN PLAIN SET

Figure 1: Reels (112 bars)

- (a) All lead around anticlockwise, holding hands in front. Turn the lady clockwise under right arm only. (8 bars)
- (b) All face partner and dance one full turn clockwise around partner in 4 bars, then swing for 4 bars in place. (8 bars)
- (c) Top couples dance to opposite side, ladies going first passing right shoulder to right shoulder, followed by gents who pass left shoulder to left shoulder. All tum in towards partner on opposite side - ladies clockwise and gents anticlockwise, then dance back to place. (8 bars)
- (d) Top ladies chain, right hands in centre, left arm around opposite gent, right in centre again and back to place.. (8 bars)
- (e) Top couples dance around partner and swing. (8 bars)
- (f) Top couples holding right hands in &ont turn girls twice to opposite position, drop hands. Ladies come home right to right and gents left to left follow. (8 bars)
- (g) All dance around partner and swing. (8 bars)
- (h) Side couples dance (c) to (t). (32 bars)
- (i) All dance around partner and swing. (8 bars)
- (j) All house around. (8 bars)

THE EAST GALWAY HALF SET.

Two couples facing, partners facing each other.
 Both hands joined in front, right on top.
 Step - Connemara style - dancing 1, 2, 1 2 3 throughout the set.

FIG. 1 (Reels - 48 bars + 8)

House around each other.	8
Ducks - ladies lead off, followed by gents, in a clockwise direction to place, girl turns in place both fall.	8
Swing.	8
Repeat.	24

CLANN Ó NUALLÁIN



OFFICERS

Clan Chief/Chairman of Executive Committee:

Tom Nolan, Slyguff, Muine Bheag, Co. Carlow. Tel: 0503-21221

Tánaiste:

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

Clan Secretary

Claire B. Nolan Sturley, c/o Olan Chief.

Clan Treasurer:

Billy Nolan, Bailon, Co. Carlow. Tel: 0503-59101

Public Relations officer:

Enda Nolan, Park, Tinryland, Carlow. Tel: 0503-41184

Clan Genealogist:

Sean Óg Nolan, 44 Carlton Road, Marino, Dublin 3. Tel: .01-8331934.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

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

John Nolan, Ballytarsna, Numey, Carlow Tel: 0503-27345

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

John Nolan, Ballinrush, Myshall, Co. Carlow. Tel: 0503-57658

Anne Nolan, 65 Shelbourne Village, Ringsend Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 01-6682553.

Miriam Nolan, 10 Monread Lawns, Sallins Road, Naas, Co. Kildare.

Judith Nolan (Bristol Organiser), Garden Flat, 3 Upper Belgrave Road, Clifton, Bristol U.K.
Tel: (0044) 117-9737992

TOM NOLAN

CLAN CHIEF AND CHAIRMAN OF CLAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE NOLAN CLAN WISHES TO THANK
ALL THEIR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

THE CLAN NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The CLAN membership continues to grow as more Nolans are aware that their CLAN is again organised. We welcome the following new members:

‘CEAD MILE FAILTE’

IRELAND

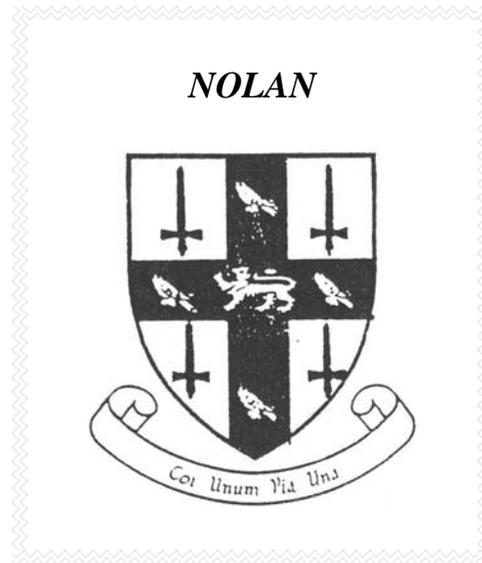
Mrs. Betty Murphy, Ardattin., Carlow
Mr. Tom Nolan, Castletown, Carlow
Mr. Ned Nolan, Grange Park, Tullow
Mrs. Marie Kehoe, Rathvindon, Leighlinbridge
Mr. Joe Nolan, Dublin Road, Tullow
Joe & Margaret Nolan, Leighlin Rd., Carlow
Des & Michelle Nolan, Leighlin Rd., Carlow
Mrs. Martina Mulligan, Kilcock, Co.Kildare

ENGLAND

Mrs. Ana Nolan, Kingsbury, London N.W. 9

U.S.A

John T. Nolan, 22 East Cout Street, Iowa City



Irish Genealogy Congress

The 3rd Irish Genealogical Congress will be held in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare on September 22-28 1997.

The Congress will be of great interest and value to everyone working on their Irish Roots. The final program has now been published and can be obtained by writing to IGC c/o National Archives, Bishop Street, Dublin 8, Ireland.

If you plan to attend this congress you should not delay in registering as there is a limited number of people that can be accommodated.

If any of our Nolan kinsfolk are attending, please contact our Clan Secretary Claire Sturley or our Chief, Tom Nolan so we can make arrangements to meet you!