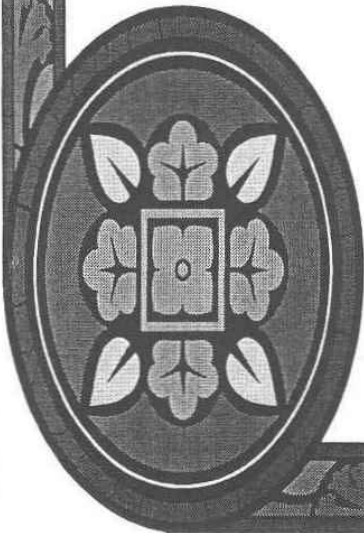
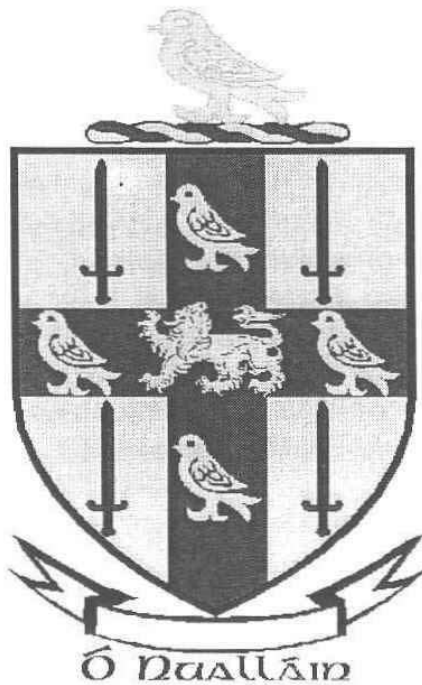


**NEWSLETTER No. 5 November 1998**

**(RN: remastered edition - March 2005)**

*Nolan Clan*  
*Clann Ó Nualláin*

*includes the families of O'Nolan, Nolan, Nowlan, Nowlin,  
Nolin, Nowland, Noland, Knowlan, Knowland,  
and any other variant.*



## Message From The Chairman.

I was elected as chairman of the Committee and Clan Chief at the Clan Gathering last July. My term will be for two years, as it was decided to hold the Clan Gathering on a biyearly basis from this year. This will entail my having to keep Clan members interests alive over this period. I intend to give it my best shot. I hope to concentrate on recruiting new members and to investigate further the past history of the Clan.

I wish to emphasise most strongly that neither I nor the Committee members are the Clan, we only strive to keep the train on the track. You the members are the Clan and I am most grateful for your continuing support and interest. Bear with our shortcomings as all our committee members have families, day jobs and are scattered around the country. Do write to us if you feel that you have something of interest or have a query.

*Des Nolan.*

## Our Clan Chief

Was born and reared in Carlow town. Is connected on the Paternal & Maternal sides of his family to the O'Byrnes, O'Dowlings and O'Doyles.

He served for 38 years in the defence forces and retired as RSM of the Irish Military College. He is at present Vice Chairman of Lt. Kevin Gleeson branch of the organisation of National Ex-Service Men. He served seven periods with the United Nations in Zaire, Cyprus and the Middle East. He was selected in 1964 to undergo a course of Instruction with the 2nd Huzzard Regt. in Orleans, France.

## 2000 Nolan Clan Gathering.

The 1998 Nolan Clan Gathering in Co. Carlow was a great success with Clan members attending from the USA and England, as well as from all parts of Ireland. Plans are already underway for the year 2000 Clan gathering. It will be in mid July 2000. Venue and dates will be given in the next newsletter, which you will receive around April/May 1999.

## Congratulations.

To our Member Mary C. Mc Alister whose daughter "Fiona" was married in August and whose son passed out in the army and is now a trooper in the 2nd Cavalry Sqdn., Cavalry Corps. As a matter of interest his father, grandfather and great grandfather served in the same Corps.



### Nolan excels at 800 metres

James Nolan from Tullamore Co. Offally is the current National senior title holder at 800 metres. He is a student at U.C.D. and it is his first year running at senior level. He came 4th in the European 800 metre indoor championship this year. He has won lots of National and European titles and came 5th in the junior world championships. So watch out for him in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

## Nolan County

Nolan county, and the town of Nolan, in west central Texas are called after Philip Nolan. There is also a Nolans creek and Nolands river. He was the first man to map Texas and helped to free Texas from Spanish and Mexican rule. He was killed in March 1804 in a battle against the Spanish. More anon about this Nolan.

## Tom's visit to Argentina.

On the 30th of July 1998, a group of Traditional Irish Musicians, Dancers and Singers from the Carlow - Kilkenny area traveled to Argentina on a concert tour. I was privileged to be a member of this tour.

The first leg of the journey was to Gatwick airport in London and then the long haul across the Atlantic to Buenos Aires. What followed was a marvellous, once in a lifetime experience.

We played to many packed houses. The majority of these people spoke Spanish. Their ancestors had left Ireland in the years after the Famine. Argentina must have seemed like the promised land to these poverty stricken emigrants. Land was plentiful, and very cheap, to these men and women who left a disease ridden country, to try their luck in foreign land. A lot of these people became quiet wealthy.

We visited the grave of William Browne who left Foxford, Co. Mayo. He was the founder of the Argentinean Navy.

We were invited to play at a place called "The Hurling Club". It was started originally as a proper hurling Club, but eventually the tradition died out and now it is used for playing other sports, and as a social centre.

One of the places we visited was called Lujan. Here was a beautiful old Basilica which is a place of pilgrimage for people of the area. We found many Irish surnames on the walls there, and in one part, we found the original Irish flag, plain green with a Harp in the centre, and "Erin Go Bra" written on it. There was a St. Patrick's Altar there also. Beside this Church is a building which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. As you walk down the various passages of this building, you will see statues of the Virgin from countries all over the world, together with their various flags. There is one from Ireland.

As I mixed with these Argentinean people, I found a great sense of pride in their Irish ancestry, and I was glad I made that long journey.

*Tom Nolan*

## The Nolans of Ballykealy, Ballon, Co. Carlow.

The following are extracts taken from an article about the Nolan's of Ballykealy. Thanks to Kath Rogers from Sydney for sending it to us. The story starts off as follows –

*The Nolans, who were seated at Ballykealy, in the County Carlow, from the earliest periods of Irish history uninterruptedly down to about the middle of the last century, afford one of the most curious examples that can be adduced of remote and continuous connection between a family and a territorial possession, not only in this empire, but perhaps in all Europe. The chief of our ancient writers, the national records, private monuments, monumental and traditional history, all bear testimony to the origin and pedigree of the O'Nolans.*

*Keating, the historian, in tracing the royal genealogies of Ireland, comes to Conn Ceadh Chathach, "the hero of the hundred battles," whom he states to have had two brothers. From Eochaidh Fionn, one of them, descended O'Nuallain, otherwise O'Nolan in Leinster. Conn's posterity were kings of Ireland, and governed in Tara; Eochaidh Fionn's went into Leinster, at the time when Chucorb, the son of Modhacorb, was king of that province.*

The author details how the forces of Munster had conquered a large portion of Leinster. Chucorb entreated assistance from Eochaidh Fionn and a friend of his called Laoighseach Cean More, with their followers, to drive them back into their own territories. The battle was fought at a place called Arthrodain, known now by the name of Athy. The Lagenians, or men of Leinster, had a narrow victory there and pursued the chase through Laois to a place called Ballaghmore near Borris-in-Ossory where they finally expelled the Munstermen from Leinster.

Chucorb, being reinstated in his dominions, by the assistance of Eochaidh Fionn, out of gratitude, thought himself obliged to make a recompense for his services, and therefore he generously bestowed upon him The Seven Fothartuaths, and confirmed this donation by perpetuating the rights to his posterity forever. He rewarded Laoighseach with the Seven Laoighises, to be enjoyed by him and his heirs who took upon themselves the title of Kings of Leix, or Laois.

Keating authenticates this as follows:

*Laoighseach Cean More, the first king of Laoighseach, or Leix, was brought up, and had his education with Eochaidh Fionn, (son of Feidhlimidh Reachtmar) the first king of Fothartuath; for which reason it was that the kings of Leix were obliged to be ready, upon all occasions, with a competent number of troops, to assist the king of F orthartuath, upon the first summons, and this custom was faithfully observed by the kings of Leix, to the time of Henry II King of England.*

*And English corroborative testimony, we find, in the very first mention made of the locality, after the invasion - ample corroborative proof of its still being the property of the descendants of Eochaidh Fionn Fuath-airt, bearing still the same name; and, with this additional corroboration, that, as the Irish nobility had adopted surnames, some century and a half before the invasion, we now find, added to its former designation, the surname adopted by Eochaidh's decendants, thereby giving additional confirmation to the narrative of the ancient histories.*

*Hanmer informs us, that "Hugh De Lacy built a castle, in Fotheret O'Nolan, for Raymond, and and another for Griffin, his brother, the sons of William Fitz-Gerald. "*

*Here then, is a clear and distinct proof that, at the earliest period of English acquaintance with the locality, it was found to be possessed by the family, and called by the name of the O'Nolans, and this in an uninterrupted succession from Eochaidh Fionn Fotheret, for none but a genuine O'Nolan, or a descendant of Fionn, could have held property in the district prior to the invasion.*

*Hugh de Lacy was made Lord Deputy, for the second time, in 1179, just seven years after the invasion, by Henry II; and it is well known that Raymond le Gros was amongst the most conspicuous of the expedition first sent by Strongbow, and was founder of the Grace family.*

*By a curious coincidence, the site of the castle, built for Raymond, by de Lacy, is contiguous to Ballykealy, and forms the outside boundary of Fotheret O'Nolan, in that direction. It is called, to this day, "Castle Grace", although few of the ruins remain. Thus commenced the first spoliation's of Fotheret O'Nolan on this side of the boundary, (the O'Nolans had been already driven in from the other side, viz., the "Barony of Forth " in the county of Wexford, which, doubtless, formed originally part of the "Seven Fothartuaths, "), and, as must naturally be expected, the history of the locality,for the next couple of centuries, is scarcely anything but details of conflicts and collisions between the O'Nolans (defending themselves, no doubt, from such encroachments, as that above referred to, on the part of de Lacy) and the English adventurers.*

*The accounts, however, meagre as they are, of this continued warfare, afford, at all events, additional confirmation, that "Foghird" still continued to be the recognised "country" and property of the O 'Nolans.*

*Camden's 3rd vol. of the "Britannia" gives the following: "Philip Staunton was slain, and Henry Traherne was treacherously taken in his house at Kilbeg, by Richard, son to Philip O'Nolan. James Lord Butler, Earl of Ormond, burnt Foghird in revenge to O'Nolan, for his brother Henry's sake. "*

---

**The following are some dates and incidents mentioned by Professor Nicholls during his lecture at the 1997 Clan Gathering.**

- 1311 Henry O'Nolan chief of the Clan killed Sir John Traheme.
- 1312 Henry O'Nolan aided royal forces in putting down the rebellion by the Condons and got a pardon for previous offenses.
- 1322 Henry Traherne killed Henry Nolan.
- 1329 Henry Traherne and Laurence Butler captured in the Traheme castle at Kilbeg by the O'Nolans.
- 1329 James Butler Earl of Ormond came and burnt the O'Nolan territory for 3 days. Henry Traheme and Laurence Butler were released.
- 1331 Richard chief of the Nolans was captured in Duiske Abbey and was forced to give his son as hostage.
- 1332 Richard killed by the Butlers.

- 1340 Laurence Butler killed by the O'Nolans.
- 1354 Traheme sold Kilbeg to Sir John Cornwall.  
The castle was destroyed by the O'Nolans and eventually it fell to them.  
16<sup>th</sup> century records show that Ballinrane castle, as it was known then was owned by the O'Nolans.

After 1354 there was a revival by Art Mc Morrrough of the Kingship of Leinster. The Anglo Norman colony had been totally destroyed, partly due to the plague which swept the country at that time.

1394 Richard II King of England came over and got all the Irish of Leinster to submit to him. Cox tells us that "*Gerald O'Byrne, Donald O'Nolan, Malachias O'Morrrough, Rore Og O'Moore, Arthur O'Connor, and others, made their humble submissions through an interpreter, in an open field at Balingory, near Carlow, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February.*" He says: "*They laid aside their girdles, skeins, and caps, and falling on bended knee, did homage; which being performed, the Marshal gave each of them the Osculum Pacis.*" That "they were bound in large penalties; O'Byrne, for instance, in 20,000 marks, and O'Nolan in £10,000 sterling.

When he went back to England, things returned to normal.

## Sean Óg takes us through the ages

While I was looking up material for the newsletter, I came across a description of the first people of Ireland. The description came from the book of Leinster which was written about the year 1160AD. I came across an account of the above book in Joyces "illustrated History of Ireland", and I found the account of the five colonies fascinating. I hope you do too!

**The Parthalon:** Their leader was Parthalon who came from Greece with 1,000 followers. He settled on an Island in the River Erne near Ballyshannon. Soon they left the east coast where they came to the Plain of Moy-elta (the plain of bird flocks). There they lived and multiplied for three hundred years. Then a plague carried them off in one week (between Howth and Tallaght).

**The Nemedians:** are said to have come to Ireland 30 years after the demise of the Parthalons. They were said to have been sea going folk, and were almost exterminated by a fierce tribe from Scandinavia called Fomorians. It is said that only one ships crew survived and escaped to Greece.

**The Firbolgs:** sprang from one branch of the Nemedians, escaped from Greece in several of the King's ships. They arrived about 70 years after Ireland was abandoned by their forebears. They divided Ireland into five provinces, Leinster, Ulster, Connacht, and two Munsters (east and west) which became one after a short time. This colony survived for 36 years when they were defeated at the "Battle of Moytura". They then retreated to the remote Forts of Connacht where they built the ancient Forts lie Dun Aengus on the Aran Islands and surrounding Mainland.

**The Dedannans:** Legend tells us that this race also came from Greece and they defeated the Firbolgs by magic. They were also expert in making bronze weapons. A supposed Dedannan Spearhead in the National Museum shows magnificent craftsmanship. The resting place of the Dedannan rulers was said to be along the Boyne valley. When they were defeated by the fifth Colony, these people went under the hills and mountains of Ireland and became the "Shee" better known as the fairies.

**The Milesians:** Legend tells us that the Milesians sailed up the river Slaney, defeated the Dedannans in two great battles and took possession of the Country. The Milesians wandered the known world for several Generations seeking their final home called "Inisfail", their "Island of Destiny" or Ireland as it is now known. It is believed that all those of the modern Irish who have or have had an "O" or a "Mac" to their surname, descended from these people. The reign of Roderic a'Conor was the last high king of this Colony. The five Colonies cannot now be entirely discounted as legend, because each in turn have left their footprint in History.

The first Colony expired in the vicinity of Tallaght, County Dublin. Tallaght the name in Irish "Tamlacht" signifies "Plague Grave", and in the last century, Tallaght Hill was described as having the remains of Burial Mounds. The second and the third Colonies have left the great stone Forts along our western shore. The fourth Colony gave us Newgrange and the burial places along the River Boyne. The fifth Colony gave us "Roderick O'Conor", a rich tapestry of Legend and the Ancestors of the O'Nolan Clan.

## *Phylis Nolan in Top Hundred*

Phylis Nolan came 32nd in the top 100 women in Ireland. She was the first Superintendent in the Garda Siochana. She is from Ballon Valley and is a first cousin of Sean our ex-chief.

## *The Clan needs your support*

As Clan O.Nolan is a voluntary and non profit making organisation, we are mainly dependent on annual subscriptions to survive and pay expenses. So we would expect members to be our recruiting agents and help swell the clan numbers. I am enclosing an application form with the newsletter, please copy and give to your friends.

I am also enclosing a data sheet for you to give us your family information, which in due time we hope to archive and put on a computer database for future research. We hope you complete the sheet as fully as possible and return it, because this information will be very useful to all involved in family research. It may also link some distant cousins together. All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary: Mr Tom Nolan, 14 Oakleigh, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.

## *Video tapes of the 1997 gathering*

Copies of these tapes can be purchased from John T. Nolan, 22 East Coast Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240, USA. They cover the entire 3 days of the Clan gathering, including lectures by, Noreen Higgins on Genealogy, Professor Nicholls on the history of the Nolan Clan, and a bus tour through the Nolan country in Co. Carlow guided by Martin Nevin our Clan advisor.

## *Des attends Clann Chaomhanach Gathering*

I attended the Kavanagh Clan gathering in August, by invitation. By tradition the Chief of

the Nolan Clan is the inaugurator of the Kavanagh Clan. This function I gladly carried out, and Bridget Kavanagh Dalton is the new Chief for the next two years. A lovely extroverted lady, we wish her well. The ceremony was held in the ruins of "Fems Castle", the home of the Kavanaghs for centuries. The Medieval Banquet, an experience of the banquets of old where the Chief with friends and allies celebrate the hosting of the Clan, was a great success. In attendance also were the Chiefs of the O'Byrne, Kinsella and Mc Carthy Clans.

## *Newsletter*

Our next Nolan Clan Newsletter will be prepared in mid-March. If you have any items of interest to share with the Clan, please send them to Tom Nolan, address as above. We would like to thank the contributors to the Newsletter, all contributions are gratefully appreciated.

**For present members,  
the renewal of membership fee £5 (\$10) is now due.**