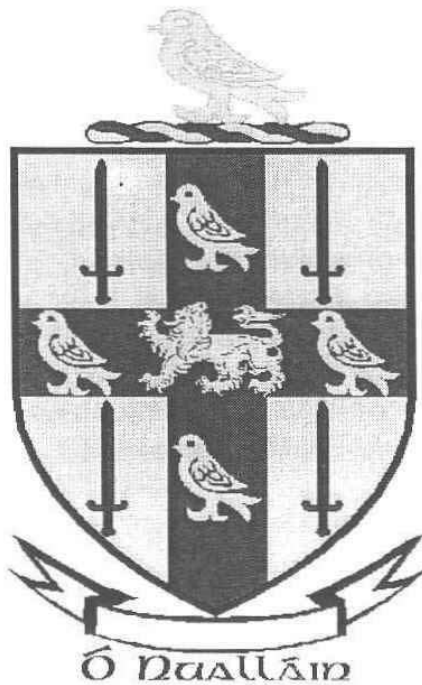


NEWSLETTER No. 11 May 2002

(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.*



Change of Venue for 2002 Clan Gathering

Rathcrogue House had to close for refurbishing due to fire damage.

The 2002 Clan Gathering is now being held in the Lord Bagenal Inn, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow on the Saturday the 3rd of August. This is the same venue that we used for the 1999 and 2000 Gatherings. Leighlinbridge is about seven miles from Carlow on the N9 to Kilkenny.

Contact Information.

Phone: + 353 (0)503 21688

Fax: + 353 (0)503 22629

www.lordbagenal.com

[email: info@lordbagenal.com](mailto:info@lordbagenal.com)

Letter from the Tanaiste

Hello! When I launched the book "O'Nolan - The History of a People" in September 2000, I did so with a great deal of pride, making reference to "roots and shoots" and the enduring quality of the Nolan heritage. This summer, providing I can get there, I become Clan Chief and I look forward to serving the Clan in that capacity. I do so with a strong belief in our history. This year is yet another shoot in our development as a Clan, thanks to the hard work of those members who faithfully put time and effort into keeping things alive.

My background is from the regions of Kerry and Limerick, Tarbert and Glin to be precise, but we always knew the original roots were in Carlow. The journey from East to West was one of the many movements that saw a displacement of families all over the country. We are a markedly independent people, we have put down roots all over the world. Our Clan gathering is witness to that.

Part of my strategy for the next two years will be to increase our membership, to alert the diaspora to our existence. Family history is very much on the agenda these days and I am sure that there are many out there who would be interested in our existence. Myself, I am obviously interested in the western seaboard and would welcome news and contact from that region. My own background is that of an academic with an MA majoring in Irish literature and history, I have a background in Education and the Arts. I am a country, seascape and animal lover and a fan of Irish music.

Although officially retired, I still do a lot of professional work. I have made a specialty for years of helping Irish students. Do feel free to contact me at any time from anywhere. I would welcome your information and suggestions. I look forward to serving the Clan and enhancing our growth.

A Ramble through Carlow town, our county capital

The following walk takes us by many fine buildings and takes approximately one hour.

1. Carlow Courthouse at the end of Dublin Street is where our tour begins. Considered to be one of the finest courthouses in the country, it was designed by William Vitruvius Morrison in 1830. The Court House gives the impression of being a temple set on a high plinth, but this obscures the fact that the basement is a maze of cells and dungeons. An interesting story is associated with Carlow Court House, it was apparently, intended for Cork city, but the plans got mixed up and so Carlow gained Cork's intended impressive Court House. A cannon from the Crimean War stands on the steps.

Walk south-east down College Street to St. Patrick's College.

2. St. Patrick's College opened in 1798, was the first post-penal Catholic seminary constructed in Ireland. Like many other institutions of the eighteenth century, it is built in the form of a large country house. The lodge and gates are particularly attractive, it claims to be the longest seminary in continuous use worldwide.

3. Carlow Cathedral - located immediately beside S1. Patrick's College. The Cathedral, started in 1828 and completed in 1833, at a cost of £9,000, was the brainchild of the energetic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, James Doyle - J.K.L. - the prominent champion of Catholic emancipation. The design of the Cathedral is attributed largely to Thomas Cobden, who drew his inspiration for the Carlow building from European models, particularly the Beltoi tower in Bruges, Belgium, its magnificent tower and lantern, in all its 150 feet, lift it above the ordinary. Local granite and limestone were used in its construction, it is a monument to the unflinching faith and courage of JKL, who died the year after the Cathedral was opened and who lies interred in its walls. The Cathedral also houses an acclaimed statue by John Hogan to Bishop Doyle, considered to be his greatest achievement.

Walk further south and turn right into Tullow Street. Take the first turn to the left.

4. The Liberty tree commemorates the 1798 rebellion, it was designed by John Behan who has skillfully created a fine memorial and an ambiance round which people gather to relax in the Summer months.

Turn back into Tullow Street.

5. This is the **main shopping street in Carlow** and has been greatly altered in recent years, mainly in the design and the types of shops present as Tullow Street has always been a busy commercial area. However the houses that contain the many shops on this street have still some historical and architectural importance, retaining their original uppers.

Cross Dublin Street onto Castle Street

6. St. Mary's Church of Ireland. This church dates from 1727, though the tower and spire, reaching 195 feet were added in 1834. The interior retains its traditional galleries. There are also several monuments including ones by Sir Richard Morrison, the important neo-classical architect.

Walk westwards down Castle Hill. Carlow Castle may be seen from the lane (Mill Lane) on the southside of Castle Hill.

7. Carlow Castle, now a ruin stands on the eastern bank of the River Barrow. It is thought to have been built by William de Marshal, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Leinster between 1207 and 1213 and is similar in design to Ferns Castle in Co. Wexford. At one time Carlow was an important and strong military fortress strategically sited at the confluence of the rivers and the castle withstood repeated attacks in 1494 and 1641. Today, two battered towers and part of an intervening wall are all that remain after a local physician tried to remodel it as an asylum in 1814. In an effort to demolish the interior he placed explosive charges at its base and demolished all but the west wall and towers.

Continue westward to the River Barrow

8. Graiguecullen bridge is one of the oldest and lowest bridges on the River Barrow. An attractive five-arched stone structure, this bridge was built in 1569 and widened in 1815. A short walk down the west side of the Barrow brings you to the lock gates.

At the traffic lights on the Graiguecullen bridge turn right.

9. St. Clare's Roman Catholic Church (on the left hand side), Graiguecullen, built in 1852 by John Derrick, was dismantled at its original site on the Athy road and re-erected on its present Killeshin road site.

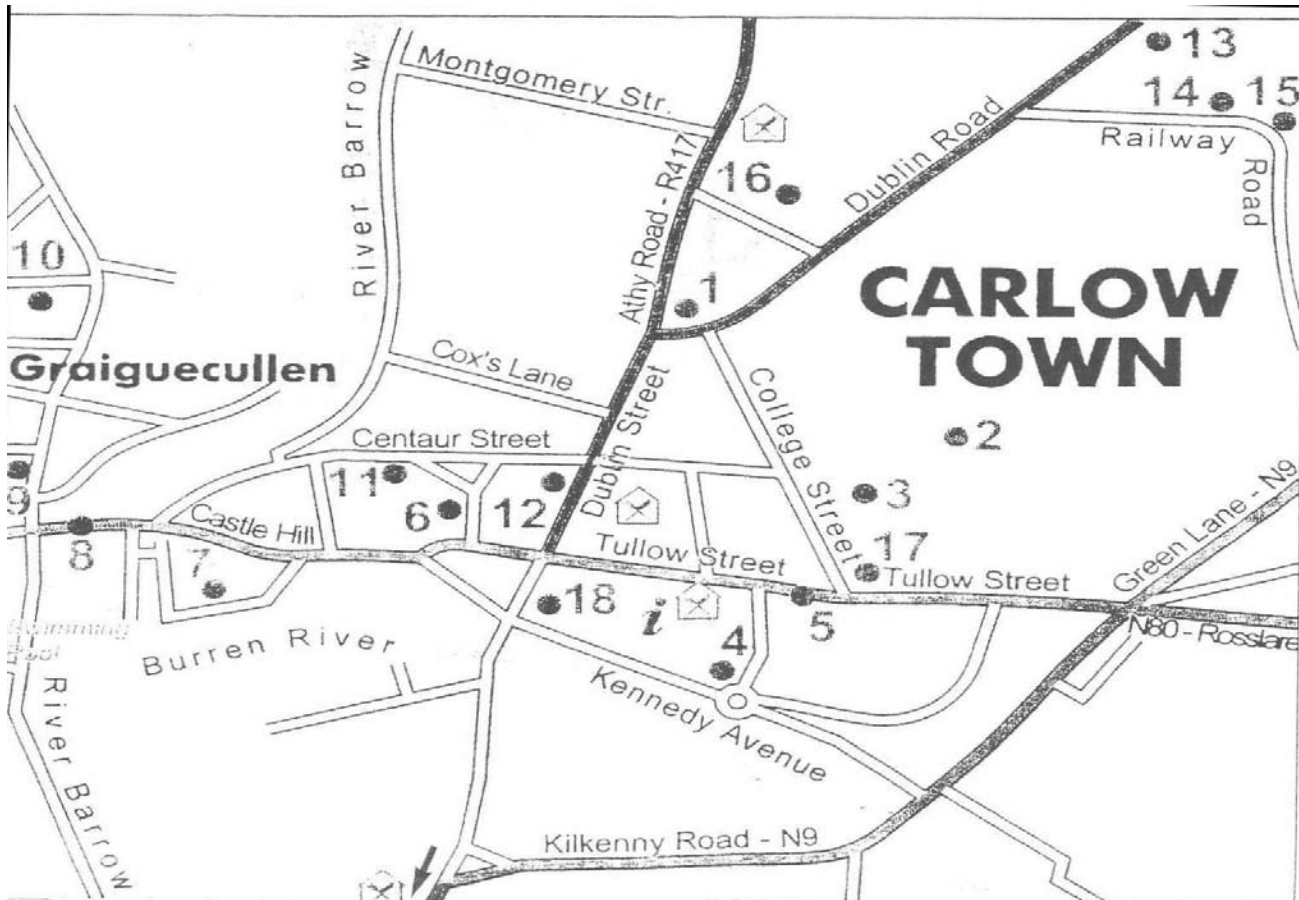
Continue north and turn into Chapel Street.

10. The Croppies Grave. A handsome monument rises above the site of an old sand pit where in the aftermath of the disastrous rising of the United Irishmen in 1798, the bodies of 640 slaughtered Carlow insurgents were thrown and covered with quick lime in a mass grave. The Croppies was the name given to the United Irishmen after the habit of cropping their hair to mark their allegiance. The monument stands as testimony to those who gave their lives to further the cause of freedom from the harsh regime.

Cross the bridge, turn left and walk east along the curiously named Centaur Street.

11. On the north side of the **Haymarket** is the **Town Hall** designed by the Church architect William Hague in 1884. The Carlow Museum is housed on the first floor. It is essentially a folk museum exhibiting various facets of Irish life in 20th century Carlow. The museum also contains a collection of stone and bronze age tools, photographs and an impressive military and religious section. The Haymarket was the trading centre for Carlow. A number of markets dotted around the town - the **Potato Market** and **Butter Market**, for example, indicate the strong agricultural focus of the town.

12. Continue east until you reach Dublin Street. Turn right for a few paces until you reach the "Cigar Divan" The only other cigar divan is in Mallow, Co. Cork but this is the older of the two. It has a Victorian shop front with elaborate iron panels below the windows and several engraved glass advertisements. Its name dates from the time when Turkish cigarettes were highly fashionable.



A Brief History of Carlow town and county

The origin of the name Carlow (Ceatharlach) is most probably derived from the Irish for "four lakes", due to the overflowing of the rivers Barrow and Burrin. Tradition has it that the Norman town Carlow was built on a site separated from the Castle by a swamp which was formed by the two town rivers. This swamp was situated near Kennedy Street area and was referred to as the "Moneen" (marshy area).

Pre-Christian inhabitants of the region left their mark in the form of tomb monuments or dolmens, the largest of which is at Browne's Hill with a capstone weighing roughly 100 tonnes. Dolmens such as these dotted through the county were used as communal burial grounds during the earlier Neolithic period and possibly also for religious rituals and were constructed around 3300 - 2900 B.C. In the Christian era numerous other churches and structures have been built including the Cathedral, St. Patrick's College and religious settlement at St. Mullins.

The first castle in Co. Carlow was built by the invading Normans and by the middle of the 14th century over 150 castles had been built. While none survived intact, some imposing ruins remain as a reminder of eight centuries of Irish history. Carlow Castle constructed between 1207 and 1213 is thought to have been built by William the Marshal, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Leinster to guard a vital river crossing. The earliest chapter in on record relating to Carlow was also granted during this period, around 1209. The Castle has a long and chequered history as Carlow was at one time an important and strong military fortress strategically sited at the confluence of two rivers and on the south eastern corner of the Pale.

In 1361 when Lionel, the son of Edward III arrived in Ireland he moved the King's Exchequer temporarily to Carlow and constructed a wall around the town. The Castle was attacked and plundered numerous times through the centuries but remained in relatively good repair until 1814, when Dr. Middleton attempting to convert it into an asylum carried out alterations which undermined the foundations of the castle resulting in the collapse of all but two towers and a wall.

Other castles dotted throughout the county and well worth a visit include Leighlinbridge, The Black Castle, Ballymoon and Clonmore Castle.

In 1798 County Carlow, along with County Wexford took the brunt of the fighting with a fierce battle taking place in Carlow town. Of the 640 croppies slaughtered in this battle, there were 70 Nolan's from Conaberry

Carlow Tourist Office

There is lots to see and do in Carlow and the best place to start is the Carlow Tourist Office - it is located in the Kennedy Avenue carpark - plenty of convenient parking and loads of information to help you get to know Carlow and all it has to offer. They stock a wide range of guide books, maps and everything you need to plan the perfect break in Carlow or anywhere in Ireland.

They can confirm your accommodation on the spot, offer suggestions on your leisure time options and in general help to insure that you have a really good time.

Carlow Tourist Information Office, Kennedy Avenue, Carlow. Ph: +353 (0)503 31554.

2002 Clan Gathering

The Lord Bagenal Inn, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow

3rd August

Our gathering schedule will be roughly as follows:

- 11 :30 Welcome to the Gathering Lecture / talks at the Lord Bagenal Inn
- 14:00 Bus Tour, stopping for light refreshments at Smiths Bar in Newtown.
- 18:00 A.G.M. in the Community Hall, Leighlinbridge.
- 20:00 Meal in The Lord Bagenal Inn
- 21 :30 Ceremony to inaugurate our Tanaiste Judith Nolan as Clan Chief

A.G.M.

The A.G.M. is being held in the Parish Hall, after the bus tour. Nominations for election to the committee are most welcome and we invite all members to make an input at this meeting. Only paid up members will have a vote at the AGM.

O'Nolan Book

There are still copies of the book available from Sean and Mai Nolan, Ardattin, Co. Carlow. Ph: +353 (0) 503 55666 .
The price is 26 EURO including P&P, or for 19 EURO at the gathering.

Leighlinhridge: venue for the 2002 Gathering

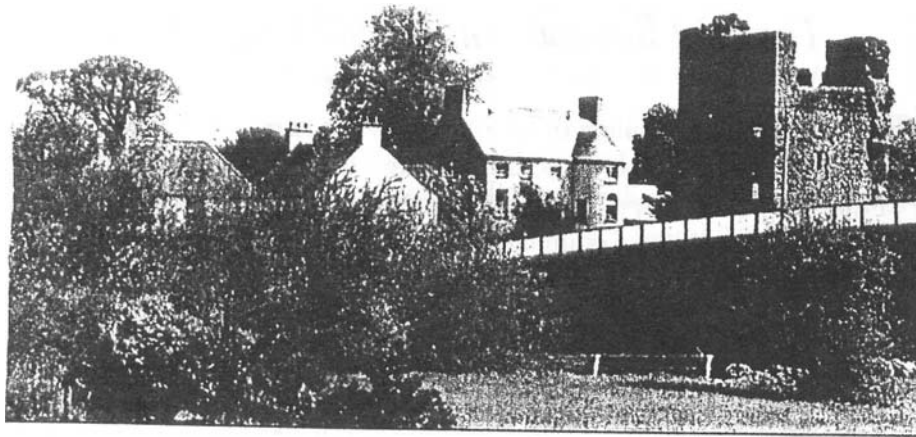
An historic village on the River Barrow. A strategic tower known as the Black Castle was first built here in 1181 and so was one of the earliest Norman Fortresses. A pretty village where the well-known Lord Bagenal Inn is situated. On Sundays throughout the Summer, fishermen from the local club can be seen in competition on the banks of the river. At Old Leighlin, two miles west of Leighlinbridge, is St. Lazarian's Cathedral, built on the site of an old monastic church founded in 632 AD.

Golf Courses

Carlow is a golfers paradise where, no matter where you are staying there is a quality golf course within easy driving distance. Visitors have a marvellous variety of golf courses to choose from including testing parkland courses and a smaller club ideal for families and the less experienced golfer. The novice is also well catered for with driving ranges, pitch and putt and par 3's. Green fees are good value everywhere and considerably cheaper than in other areas of the country.

Carlow Golf Club: This spectacular 18-hole course near to Carlow town is ranked among the top twenty Championship courses in Ireland. Located on the N9, 3.2Km north of Carlow town. Ph: +353 503 31695

Mount Wolseley Golf & Country Club. Once the ancestral home of Frederick York Wolseley who pioneered the Wolseley Car and set against the backdrop of the haunting splendour of the mountains of East Carlow and Wicklow. It is a fair but testing 18 holes of championship golf, none of which will disappoint the most discerning player. Located near Tullow, Co. Carlow. Carlow 22Km, Dublin 64Km, Rosslare 88Km



Picturesque village of Leighlinbridge with Black Castle.

Membership Dues

*A few members have suggested that I should put a reminder of when the membership dues are due! and the amount!
The membership fee is now £6, it was £5 up to 2000.*

Our records show that you owe for 1999 2000 2001

So the total that you owe is You can return a personal cheque for that amount,
to Sean & Mai Nolan Ardattin, Co. Carlow, Ireland.

The newsletter will only be posted to fully paid up members from now on.

New Members

We welcome the following new members that have joined recently:

Christopher George Nolan, 41 Bridge Close, Gillingham, Dorset SP8-4LS, UK
Gerald W Nolan, 11 Brynfield Court, Langland, Swansea SA3-4TF, Wales
James Nolan, Waverley Crescent, Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire FK4 2AX, Scotland.
Sr. Rebecca Nolan, 5393 Yorkshire Tee. Dr., Columbus, Ohio H3232, USA
George & Linda Nolan, Ard Drum, 8 Sydney Ave. Blackrock, Dublin.
Timothy Nolan, 122 Leonard St, North Attleboro, MA 02760, USA.
Rathel Nolan & Rosalie Hartsfield, 136 Ashcot Circle, Jackson, Ms 39211, USA

Newsletter

If you have any items of interest to share with the Clan, please send them to Tom Nolan, 14 Oakleigh,
Celbridge, Co. Kildare, Ireland. email: tomanolan@tinet.ie .

The next newsletter will be due around December 2002.

Don't forget if you change your address, please let us know.