

# The Nolan

## Noticeboard of the Nolan Clan



Mystic forecasts

Nolan shield carved by Roger Nowlan

### Inside

Details – Nolan Gathering  
2004

County Wicklow

Nolan Art – Sidney Nolan

Nolan's in Newfoundland

Irish Myths and Legends

Nolan World Domination -  
2

# The Nolan

*Spring 2004 Edition*

Dear Clan Member,

Greetings. Christmas and Easter have passed, and we are now one third of the way through 2004! The next event on our calendar is the clan gathering in County Wicklow in October of this year. Do come. Details are enclosed of both County Wicklow and the gathering itself. Please book now, as we would like to firm up the numbers as soon as possible!

Other news – some of this is included in the current newsletter – we hope to soon get into operation our own website. This is long overdue, but it will be well worth waiting for! Please encourage people to join the clan by e-mailing their interest to [thenolan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:thenolan@tiscali.co.uk) or contacting me. Its up to you, its your clan.

The sad news of the past year was of course the loss of John Nolan, our potential future Clan Chief. Condolences were sent to his family, and we all remember with gratitude the contribution that John made to the Nolan Clan. We now need to look forward. The future is up to us. Due to John's loss I have potentially offered to remain in post for one or two more years. This matter will be discussed more fully at the AGM which is will be held at the Nolan Clan gathering. Although small may be beautiful, we do need to increase our numbers. Hopefully the web-site will go some way towards this. Please join us in County Wicklow – a wonderful venue with wonderful scenery and history. I look forward to welcoming you at the gathering. Please information Tom, Shaun or myself of you intention to participate. October the 30<sup>th</sup> will soon be upon us when we hope to have a family gathering of warm Irish hospitality.

Your Clan Chief  
Judith Nolan

**Special 2004 gathering edition**

# The gathering 2004

The Rally will take place at the Glendalough Hotel, Glendalough County Wicklow on the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2004. Glendalough is an absolutely beautiful area, just one hour from Dublin. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty, cultural interest and historical charm. The Glendalough Hotel has offered us a special booking rate which has to be secured by the beginning of May. They are holding twelve rooms for until this time. There is plenty of other accommodation in the area (please refer to the Irish Tourist Board in Glengalough tel 00 353 404 45688). The telephone number of the Glendalough Hotel is 00 353 404 45135, please refer to Cormac or Sinead and state that you are a Clan member. To make it more straightforward, it is up to you to make your own booking with the hotel directly, and inform either Tom, Shaun or myself of your intention to participate.

The format of the weekend will be for most people to informally gather on the Friday evening. On Saturday there will be registration after breakfast. Coffee, freedom to explore will be in the morning. After lunch there will be a guided coach tour and optional walking tour of the many sites of interest in the region – including tea (this will incur an additional charge). The AGM will take place early evening and then our main highlight will be a formal meal together, with the inaugriation of the chief for the next two years. Additionally there will be local entertainment. We also hope to arrange a relevant talk, and for people staying over until Sunday, possibly a further walk or tour depending on demand.

The gathering fee, excluding accommodation, but including dinner and the tour will be 55 Euro's per person.

This should be a rewarding family gathering and I look forward to seeing you all there. Please act promptly and secure your accommodation and let us know whether you will be attending. You'll then be kept up to date with the final details over the coming months.

I hope to give you an Irish welcome.

Greetings

Judith Nolan  
Clan Chief

PS Anybody booking after the beginning of May is welcome to do so but I cannot guarantee that rooms at the special Nolan Clan gathering rate will be available.

# Out and about in County Wicklow

## Destination of the Nolan Clan Gathering 2004

County Wicklow is known as the "**Garden of Ireland**" a name earned for its picturesque landscape, wonderful coastline, mountains and lakes. Wicklow is very fortunate to have an abundance of marvellous gardens and over twenty five golf courses. Lying just south of Dublin city, quaint villages and vibrant towns provide a great variety of accommodation and there are many pubs and restaurants just waiting to be discovered. Wicklow has spectacular valleys like Glenmalure, Glencree, Glenmacnass and the magnificent Glen of Imaal. World famous is the beautiful Glendalough, the valley of the two lakes, a monastic settlement, founded in the 6th Century by St. Kevin. Wicklow is a walkers paradise.

Brochures:

*Wicklow County Tourism has produced some very high quality brochures, some of which are available free of charge and others which are available to purchase: Available free is a comprehensive 2004 Holiday Magazine with a pull out map of Co. Wicklow. Please email [wt@wicklow.ie](mailto:wt@wicklow.ie) for a free copy. Please include full postal details.*

## Wicklow Mountains National Park

Wicklow Mountains National Park was established in 1991 and is one of six National Parks in Ireland managed by Dúchas - The Heritage Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. The Park consists of a core area of 3,700 ha around the Upper Lake at Glendalough and the mountains around the Glenealo River to the west. A number of other upland areas have been acquired, the largest of which is Liffey Head Bog. The total area of the park is about 20,000 ha at present.



The Wicklow Mountains are made up of a mass of granite which was forced up to the earth's surface when the ancient continents of Europe and America collided 400 million years ago. The molten granite crushed and baked the surface sedimentary rocks (slates and schists), forming mica - schists, much of which has now been eathered away. The boundary between the granite and mica-schists, holds high concentrations of lead, tin, copper, iron, and zinc, which were mined in various parts of Wicklow including Glendalough.

### Animal Life



Most of Ireland's native mammal species occur within the Wicklow Mountains National Park. A large population of deer occupies the open hill area of the park. The native red deer population of Wicklow became extinct probably around the first half of the 18th century. Since then, red deer and sika deer were introduced into the area and hybridized giving rise to a population which now consists of sika or sika-like deer, characteristically found near coniferous plantations, but also on the open hill, and red/sika hybrids and red-like deer associated more with the open hills.

Foxes, badgers and hares are all found in the Park uplands. Red squirrels are commonly observed in pine woodlands such as those found around the Upper Lake at glendalough. Birds of Prey are well represented with peregrine falcons, merlins, kestrels, sparrow-hawks and, rarely, hen carriers, all occurring within the Park. Red grouse, becoming quite rare in parts of Ireland where they were once numerous, are still quite common in parts of the mountains. Small birds, normally associated with mountain moorland, heath and blanket bog such as meadow pipits and skylarks are common. Less common birds such as whinchat, ring ouzel and dipper, also occur in the Park. The fish fauna is typical of Irish uplands, consisting mainly of trout, stickleback and minnow.

### Exploring the Wicklow Mountains

The roads in the Wicklow Mountains are narrow and can become congested, especially on summer weekends. The best way to experience the upland areas of the Park, rather than touring the mountains by car, is to follow the excellent lowland roads to a convenient centre, such as [Glendalough](#), to explore from there. The Park Information Office is located at the Upper Lake, Glendalough. There is an education centre at Bolger's Cottage, 200m from the

Upper Lake car park and 2 km from the Glendalough Visitors Centre. Admission to both is free of charge. Please call the office for opening hours.

**Tel:** +353 (0)404 45425 for more details.

## Glendalough - 6th Century Monastic Site

**Glendalough, Co. Wicklow.**

**Tel:** +353 (0)404 45325/45352

**Fax:** +353 (0)404 45626



Glendalough "the glen of the two lakes", is a truly spellbinding place - an ancient monastic settlement and two clear water lakes beneath the sheer cliffs of a deep valley which was carved out by glaciers during the Ice Age. The monastic settlement has been a centre for pilgrims and visitors since its foundation by St. Kevin in the 6th century. Kevin is thought to have come from the more fertile lands of County Kildare and like many other men of sanctity in early times, desired solitude for his life of prayer and contemplation. Thus he withdrew into the thinly peopled mountains and set up his hermitage at Glendalough.

The settlement expanded and flourished for many years before being finally destroyed in the 16th century. The present remains, some of the most important of their kind in Ireland, tell only a small part of the monastic story. The buildings which survive - round tower, cathedral, stone churches and decorated crosses - probably date from between the 8th and 12th centuries. The famous Round Tower, about 34m high and 16m in circumference at the base, is still in near perfect condition even though it is almost 1,000 years old.

The excellent Glendalough Visitor Centre provides regular exhibitions, informative guided tours of the monastic site as well as an audio-visual show about the rich heritage of the area.



Elsewhere around the upper and lower lakes there are a number of well-known walking routes, which allow visitors to take in as much or as little of the surrounding scenery as they wish.

Once the monastic capital of Europe, Glendalough attracts up to 500,000 visitors annually. The ruins of the seven churches and the 6th century round tower owe their

origins to St. Kevin, the hermit who founded the monastic city and who lived in a cave - St. Kevin's Bed - overlooking the Upper Lake.

### Opening Times

Daily from 9.30am-6pm (summer) or 9.30am-5pm (winter)

Last admission 45 minutes before closing

copyright © wicklow county tourism 2003.

## Glendalough Hotel – Nolan Clan Gathering location 2004

**Glendalough Hotel, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow**

**Tel:** +353 (0)404 45135

**Fax:** +353 (0)404 45142

**E-mail:** [info@glendaloughhotel.ie](mailto:info@glendaloughhotel.ie)

**Web:** [www.glendaloughhotel.com](http://www.glendaloughhotel.com)

Situated beside the National Park and Lakes, Glendalough Hotel is the ideal place to stay. Close to many attractions in Wicklow. The hotel is a very friendly and comfortable place to stay. We serve great food in a relaxed atmosphere and are also popular for conferences and private dinners.



- 40 Bedrooms, all ensuite. Facilities include: Remote control T.V., Direct dial telephone, Hairdryer, Trouser press, & Ironing Board.
- Wheelchair access - 2 Bedrooms suitable for wheelchairs with wheelchair toilet facilities; Ramp to main entrance; Elevator.
- Parking for 100 cars and 10 buses
- Price Range: €65.00 - €85.00 p.p.s.(B&B) Group/Tour Operator Rate available on request.

copyright © wicklow county tourism 2003.



## Sidney Nolan 1917-92

Sidney Nolan was born in Melbourne on 22 April 1917. He studied intermittently at the National Gallery Art School, Melbourne, from 1934, and engraving and lithography under S.W.Hayter at the Atelier 17, Paris in 1957. During the second world war, Nolan was conscripted into the army and served at Dimboola in the Wimmera District of Victoria 1942-5. In 1946 he began a series of paintings on the theme of the bush ranger Ned Kelly, and later painted personal interpretations of historical and legendary figures such as Eliza Fraser and Burke and Wills, in which he expressed the feeling of the country and the timelessness of the myths. He also painted a series of works portraying Central Australia. From 1950 Nolan lived mainly in Britain and became Australia's most internationally celebrated painter. He also designed sets for ballet and opera and provided illustrations for books. He died in London on 28 November 1992, aged 75.



*Perished* 1949

The University of Western Australia Art Collection, purchased under the Tom Collins Bequest Fund in 1953

Nolan once stated that he realised 'how much we painters and poets owe to our predecessors the explorers, with their frail bodies and superb will power'. He responded as much to stories and events as to the direct visual experience of nature. He developed many of his works in response to an urge to visualise a story. *Perished* 1949 belongs to a series of works which Nolan painted on the theme of the ill-fated explorers Burke and Wills. He researched the subject thoroughly, reading the explorers' diaries and studying sepia photographs of the time, as well as portraits of the doomed explorers. On leaving their base at Cooper's Creek on 16 December 1860, Burke told the depot party that he could be considered to have 'perished' if he did not come back within three months. He returned four months later and only nine hours after the others finally departed. He continued south, but eventually became too weak to continue further, and died from exhaustion. In *Perished* Nolan depicted the dead body of Burke within a harsh and desolate Australian outback scene, with a group of eucalyptus trees on the horizon creating a metaphorical image of the regenerative forces of nature, and suggesting that life endures even on this lonely grave. (FJ)



*Agricultural hotel* 1948

The University of Western Australia Art Collection, purchased in 1953 through the Tom Collins Memorial Fund (1953.9)

Each Australian township has its hotel and each has its story. Some of the stories are of violence and struggle. One has known a bushranger, the other perhaps an abduction. Lives as well as timbers can be whiteanted and both slowly disintegrate' (Sidney Nolan, quoted in *The Sunday Sun* colour supplement, 20 February 1949). Nolan's forlorn country hotels and general stores are monuments to endurance. He first visited remote northern townships at the end of 1947, and travelled in central, far north and Western Australia with his family the following year.

One of a group of paintings by Nolan purchased by the University on the advice of Professor Allan Edwards in 1953, through the Tom Collins Memorial Fund.

Extract from

<http://www.arts.uwa.edu.au/LW/waywewere/nolan.html>

## Early Nolan Presence in Newfoundland by Roger Nowlan

*This is the first in a series of articles dealing with early Nolan presence in Canada.*

*The author is a Nolan Clan member residing in Canada with a keen interest in genealogy hosting a "Nolan Clan in Canada" website:*  
<http://home.primus.ca/~rnowlan/clan> ).

*Comments about the article are most welcome and may be sent to the author:*  
Roger Nowlan, 222 De La Colline, Aylmer (Quebec), CANADA J9J 1T8  
E-Mail : [rnowlan@primus.ca](mailto:rnowlan@primus.ca) FAX : +(819)684-6321

From time immemorial, the Micmac Indians of Nova Scotia regularly crossed over to Newfoundland each summer to fish along the South Shore of Newfoundland. Already starting in the early 1500's, French Basque ports and ports in Normandy, Brittany and along the English Channel sent ships to the Newfoundland fishery.

By the late 1500's, settlers from the British Isles, most of them from the southwest part of England, came to Newfoundland to work in the fishing industry. Planters were employers who hired servants, commonly referred to as "youngsters", to work in the fishery for two summers and a winter. The servants when their time expired normally returned to their homes in Europe. In the early days of the English fishing trade, very few Irish countrymen were involved. Not until around 1675, possibly due to political conditions, did servants of Irish origin become more numerous.

Every spring, fishing vessels bound for the rich fishing grounds of Newfoundland would call into ports along the Irish coast to gather provisions and to recruit servants. New Ross, Youghal, and Cork were all sources of supply but Waterford dominated as the principal centre of Irish trade with the new world. According to John Mannion, a well-known historian from Newfoundland, an estimated that over 80% of all Irish emigrants to Newfoundland came from within a thirty mile radius of this city, primarily from towns and parishes along land routes and rivers leading to the city, that is from places in southwest Wexford, south Carlow, south Kilkenny, southeast Tipperary and east Waterford. Most were young men from small farms, eager to improve their lot.



*The first Nolan recorded in Newfoundland was a Thomas Nolan residing in Petty Harbour on the South Shore of the Avalon Peninsula in 1681.*

Not until 1713, at the Treaty of Utrecht, did the English gain control over the Newfoundland fishery, except for fishing around the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, which remained and still remains under French control. An example of an early Newfoundland-based fishing firm is that of Saunders and Sweetman. First established in 1772 in Placentia by a William Saunders, this firm grew quickly such that by 1786 it had holdings at Placentia and Point Verde on the east side of Placentia Bay, at Mortier and Paradise on the west side of Placentia Bay on the Burin Peninsula, and at Point Roche. One significant distinguishing feature of the Saunders and Sweetman firm was its preference for Irish servants as workers considering that "one Irish youngster [was] worth a dozen [English youngsters]".

Before 1784 when Catholic religious practices began to be tolerated in Newfoundland, Irish servants visited nearby French fishing communities on the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, and on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia to receive the sacraments, or to seek refuge. There are many recorded incidents of Irish couples going to Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island in the 1740s and 1750s to have their children baptized or their marriages regularized. There is also the case of eight Irish Catholics from a stranded Newfoundland schooner asking in 1750 to be allowed to stay in Louisbourg with their families so as to be free to practice their religion.

- One Irish "servant" who possibly sought religious freedom on Cape Breton was a Thomas Nolan who in 1752 was working as an inshore fisherman with the Préjean family at La Briquerie, near present-day St. Peter's, known to be one of the earliest places of Irish settlement on Cape Breton Island.

By the late 1700s, seasonal migration to Newfoundland had peaked at 60 to 80 ships carrying from 3000 to 5000 persons per year. Also, more people were taking up permanent residence on the island. The English had also enhanced their military presence in the area as a result of the American Revolutionary war (1776-1783). The major military garrisons were at St. John's and Placentia.

Recorded Nolan presence in this time period includes:

- a Patrick Knowlan, labourer, living in St. John's in 1776
- a James Nowlan and Son living in St. John's Upper Division, and a Michael Nowlan living in St. John's Lower Division in 1780

- a John Nowland recruited in Newfoundland in 1780 for service in the American Revolutionary war as part of a Nova Scotia Volunteers contingent; at the time, it was common practice in times of war to draft overseas fishermen into the Royal Navy; by 1786, the bulk of those drafted for service in the American Revolutionary War are known to have returned to regular civilian life, many of them as settlers on new lands granted to them in exchange for military service; some Newfoundland recruits would probably have found their way back home but others would have settled in more hospitable areas of British North America such as Nova Scotia or New Brunswick.
- a William Nowlan, soldier, in a Corps of Foot stationed in St. John's in 1782
- a John Newlande, soldier in "The King's Own" 4th regiment, stationed in Newfoundland, reported as "Sick in Hospital" when the Muster Roll was taken in June 1787
- a William Nowlan, fisherman, in St. John's in 1794, recorded as having been in Newfoundland already 17 years
- a Patrick Nowlan, shoreman, in Quidi Vidi, near St. John's, in 1794, recorded as having been in Newfoundland already 15 years
- a Morlough Knowlan, fisherman, living in Bay Bulls in 1785
- a Nowlan man, his wife and infant twins living in the coastal village of Bay Bulls in 1796; this Nowlan household was supposedly the only one spared as the French marine under Admiral Richerie raided and burned the village that same year; the French marine supposedly took pity upon the Nowlan family, finding the father still in his house holding the infant twins on his knee as they entered
- a David and Richard Nowland, servants in the fishing industry, seeking their wages in Ferryland in 1789 from the now bankrupt firm of Leigh & Co.
- a John Nowlan living in the Harbour Main area registering a will in 1799
- a John Nowlan cutting a "fishing room" out of the woods in the Harbour Main area in 1799 and, by 1805, having a house, a garden and a meadow

- a Nowland man dying before 1804 in the Harbour Main area when his widow Elizabeth married Thomas Hicks in St. Paul's Anglican church in Harbour Grace; as a matter of interest, it should be noted that in the 1700s and early 1800s all sacraments administered in the area, even Catholic ones, were performed under the auspices of the Anglican church.

From a political standpoint, it is interesting to note that the Irish Rebellion of 1798, which was most intense in County Wexford in Ireland where most Irish inhabitants in Newfoundland had relatives, did have its repercussions in Newfoundland itself. During the winter and spring of 1799-1800, the Irish population grew increasingly weary and discontented, probably at the news of the failed Rebellion back in Ireland and the ensuing hangings. Also, at the time, most of the men in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment were of Irish descent or natives of Ireland. It is therefore not surprising that, at the time, a sympathy movement against English domination did emerge in Newfoundland. Many of the soldiers in the Newfoundland Regiment and a large number of the Irish settled on the South Shore swore a "united oath" (ref: United Irishmen) to rise up against the English masters and merchants in Newfoundland. But, on the appointed night, April 24, 1800, at the appointed location, the Powder Shed behind Fort Townsend, less than 20 men showed up. Those who did show up quickly dispersed into the surrounding woods but most were caught within a fortnight.

Having been forewarned of the plot, the English commanders had taken steps to limit the possibility of Irish soldiers deserting on the appointed night and sending a key rallying signal from Signal Hill to points along the South Shore. The extent of planned desertions from the Royal Newfoundland Regiment was never fully revealed but, according to some estimates at the time, upwards of 50 soldiers could have been involved. As regards, the Irish population, several hundred inhabitants are believed to have been involved. Following a general court martial of 12 soldiers, the Royal Newfoundland Regiment was replaced by the 66th Regiment which retained only two companies of handpicked men from the old regiment. The fate of the remaining soldiers in the old Regiment is unknown. As for the Irish inhabitants suspected of involvement, it has been suggested that several of them fled to other parts of Atlantic Canada or to the United States.

By 1815, the migratory fishery had been mostly replaced by a resident fishery and, by 1836, more than half of the Newfoundland population was of Irish descent, mostly settled along the South Shore of the Avalon Peninsula, including the St. John's area. There were also clusters of Irish settlers along the north and south shores of Conception Bay in places such as Carbonear, Brigus, Harbour Grace and Harbour Main. This settlement pattern, already established by the 1830's, remains to this day. Over time, many Irish did migrate westward from the Avalon Peninsula, to communities in St. Mary's

Bay, in Placentia Bay, on the Burin Peninsula and even on the adjacent French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Church records and vital statistics for Newfoundland's early settlement period are very scarce. Nonetheless, relying on available substitute records, it has been possible to sketch a somewhat general picture of early Nolan settlement in Newfoundland.

In the pre-colonial period, like most other Irish in Newfoundland, Nolans were to be found mainly along the South Shore, especially in the St. John's area. However, starting in the late 1700s, Nolan men were beginning to take up residence farther afield and starting families. Based upon a study of available records, the following picture of early Nolan/Nowlan settlement emerges.

- Along the South Shore of the Avalon Peninsula, Nolan/Nowlan men appear to have settled and started families by the mid to late 1700s, at places such as Quidi Vidi, Petty Harbour, Bay Bulls, Mobile and Renewes. A case in point is that of a Patrick Nowlan who, in 1794, was working as a shoreman in Quidi Vidi for McGlashen & Company. At the time, he was also married and had a son and a daughter. Despite this early presence, as the Newfoundland fishery changed from a migratory to a resident fishery in the early 1800s, it is believed that most Nolan/Nowlan families on the South Shore opted to move to other more hospitable parts of Newfoundland such as the Conception Bay, St. Mary's Bay and Placentia Bay areas.
- In Conception Bay, located northwest of St. John's, and points northward, Nolan/Nowlan descendance seems to stem from a John Nowlan who had a fishing "room" (station) in the Harbour Main area in 1799. This Nolan/Nowlan presence in the area seems to have been further supplemented by the arrival around 1827 of a Jeremiah Nowlan and a Patrick Nowlan. Jeremiah who hailed from Fethard, county Wexford, worked in the fishing industry and, as the industry waned in the mid-to-late 1800s, some of his children moved on to the United States. Patrick became a prominent merchant, ship owner and politician in Brigus and may have been responsible for the naming of Nowlan's Harbour, a summer fishing community on the Labrador coast frequented by Conception Bay fishermen in the late 1800s. Generally speaking, Nolan/Nowlan presence seems to have then spread northwards from the Conception Bay area into more northerly fishing communities such as: Trouty and Port Union in Trinity Bay; Sweet Bay, Duntura and King's Cove in Bonavista Bay; Fogo Island; Fortune Harbour in Notre Dame Bay; and, of course, Nowlan's Harbour on the Labrador coast.



- In St Mary's Bay, southwest of St. John's, Nolan/Nowlan settlement seems to have started in the 1830's around St. Mary's and later spread to other areas bordering the bay such as Mount Carmel, Salmonier, Colinet, Mall Bay and Point La Haye. It is believed that the original Nolan/Nowlan settlers in this area came from other parts of Newfoundland, most likely from the South Shore and/or from the Harbour Main area of Conception Bay.
- In Placentia Bay, Nolan/Nowlan settlement seems to have started on the Burin Peninsula also around 1830. A prominent Nolan in the area at the time was a Father Pelagius Nowlan (1784-1871), a native of Kilrush, county Wexford, who, in 1831, was appointed "Apostle of the Micmacs" and resided at Little Placentia. Father Nowlan ministered for many years to the Catholics of Placentia Bay, dying in 1871 in Little Placentia after more than 50 years of service as a priest. By the 1850s, the Placentia-Dunville area seems to have become the focal point of Nolan/Nowlan settlement in the bay and, by the late 1890s, Nolan/Nowlan fishing families were to be found in Long Harbour, Fox Harbour, Cuslett and St. Bride's. By this time, we also find that, due to the waning fishing industry, Nolan men were relocating to other major fishing centres along the Atlantic seaboard such as Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Thus far, only a few distinct Newfoundland Nolan/Nowlan family branches, with genealogies going back to the early 1800s, have been identified. However, with time and the sharing of information facilitated by the Internet, it is expected that this number will grow rapidly. Details on currently known distinct Nolan family branches in Newfoundland have been posted at the "Nolan Clan in Canada" website: <http://home.primus.ca/~rnowlan/club> and these will be updated as more information becomes available.

## Irish Myths and Legends

### Fairies

In Ireland two distinct faery types exist, the *trooping faeries* and the *solitary faeries*. The trooping fairies can be found in merry bans about the hawthorn tree or at feasts in gilded fairy palaces. They delight in company, while the solitary fairies avoid large gatherings, preferring to be left by themselves and separate from one another.

Fairies exist all over the world. In Ireland they are the '*sidhe*' (pronounced shee), a name retained from the ancient days. In a group they are the '*daione sidhe*' or fairy people. Some say that they get their name 'Aes Sidhe' (folk of the 'sidhe' meaning hillock or mound) from the large sidh/mound they inhabit; but others claim that the mounds got their name from the fairies' habitation of them.

The trooping faeries are found living in the bushes & circles of stones that crop up all over Ireland -the fairy raths. The fairy raths crop up in pastures all over Ireland, and the farmers never plow them up for fear of disturbing the fairies who live there & bringing bad luck upon themselves.

Fairies are said to be very beautiful, with long yellow hair & perfect delicate forms. They love milk and honey and drink flower nectar as their fairy wine. The fairies can assume any form & can make horses out of straw. They have the power to affect human life, especially unbaptized children. Fairies also love music, often luring mortals into an eternal dance with their piping & singing.

### Leprechaun

Irish fairy. looks like a small old man (approx 2 feet tall), often dressed like a shoemaker, with a cocked hat & a leather apron. According to legend, leprechauns are aloof, unfriendly, live alone, & pass the time making shoes...they also possess a hidden pot of gold. Treasure hunters can often track down a leprechaun by the sound of his shoemaker's hammer. If caught, he can be forced to reveal the whereabouts of his treasure, but the captor must keep their eyes on him. If the captor's eyes leave the leprechaun, he vanishes & all hopes of finding the treasure are lost.

### Banshees

Banshee or '*Bean-sidhe*' is Irish for fairy woman. Her sharp, cries and wails are also called 'keen'. The wail of a banshee pierces the night, it's notes rising and falling like the waves of the sea, it always announces a mortal's death.

She is solitary woman fairy, mourning and forewarning those only of the best families in Ireland, those with most ancient Celtic lineages, whose names begin with 'Mac/Mc' or 'O'. Each Banshee has her own mortal family and out of love she follows the old race across the ocean to distant lands. Her wails or keens can be heard in America and England, wherever the true Irish have settled.

When a member of the beloved race is dying, she paces the dark hills about his house. She sharply contrasts against the night's blackness, her white figure emerges with silver-grey hair streaming to the ground and a grey-white cloak of a cobweb texture clinging to her tall thin body. Her face is pale, her eyes red with centuries of crying.

White Lady of Sorrow some people name her, and Lady of Death. Unseen, banshees attend the funerals of the beloved dead. Although, sometimes she can be heard wailing, her voice blending in with the mournful cries of others.

### Blarney stone

The Blarney Stone is a stone set in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower in the Irish village of Blarney. Kissing the stone is supposed to bring the kisser the gift of persuasive eloquence (*blarney*). The castle was built in 1446 by Cormac Laidhiv McCarthy (Lord of Muskerry) -- its walls are 18 feet thick (necessary to thwart attacks by Cromwellians & William III's troops).

The origins of the Blarney Stone's magical properties aren't clear, one legend says that an old woman cast a spell on the stone to reward a king who had saved her from drowning. Kissing the stone while under the spell gave the king the ability to speak sweetly & convincingly. It's tough to reach the stone -- it's between the main castle wall & the parapet. Kissers have to lie on their back & bend backward, holding iron bars for support.

### Shamrock

Long ago, when Ireland was the land of Druids, there was a great Bishop, Patrick by name, who came to teach the word of God throughout the country.....This saint, was well loved everywhere he went. One day, however, a group of his followers came to him & admitted that it was difficult for them to believe in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. St. Patrick reflected a moment & then, stooping down, he plucked a shamrock & held it before them, bidding them to behold the living example of the "Three-In-One." The simple beauty of this explanation convinced these skeptics, & from that day the shamrock has been revered throughout Ireland.

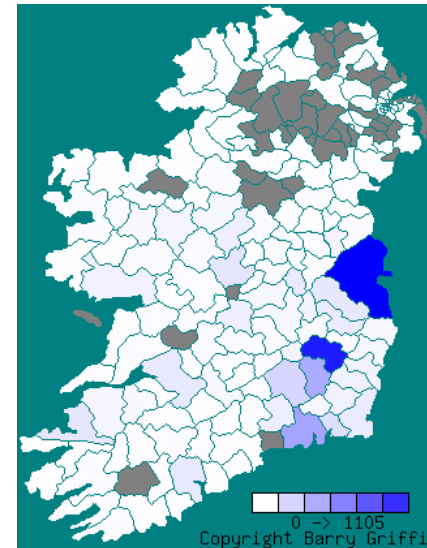
Extract from <http://www.jantacc.demon.co.uk/ire3.htm>

Copyright © Nicole Taggart 1997

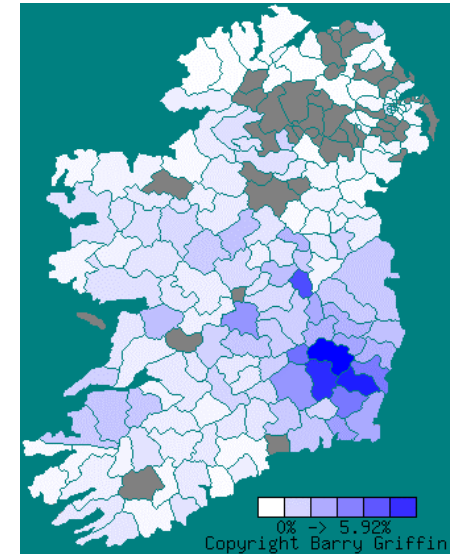
## Nolan world domination – part 2

In the last copy of The Nolan we looked at the distribution of Nolan's worldwide, now we look at where our fellow Nolan's can be found on our home territory.

Absolute number of Nolan's



Percentage of Nolan's



\*Note that due to migration, city areas tend to have much higher concentrations of a surname irrespective of whether the surname has its origins in this area or not.

Areas coloured Grey above have no occurrence of the Nolan surname.

Information from <http://baz.perlmonk.org/index.html>

# Mystic Nolan

The Mystic Nolan returns for more mystic forecasts and handy gardening tips.

## **Stocks and shares**

With elections nearing in both the UK and USA cynical Mystic Nolan believes that prospects for stockmarkets worldwide remains positive in the near term. For the brave, there may be gains to had, but The mystic advises caution due to on going volatility. The Mystic's risky share tip is Argonaut – a company that has aspirations to bring computer games to your mobile phone.

## **Motoring**

Mystic Nolan says that with ever tightening emissions laws and environmental regulations, now is the time to buy that gas guzzling noisy sports car you've always promised yourself – before they are outlawed. Mystic Nolan recommends TVR Griffith for European clan members or a shiny classic Triumph TR5 for members in the USA.

## **Wild Boar Hunting**

Mystic Nolan recommends mid/southern Corsica as the choice destination for wild boar hunting during 2003.

## **Chinese Nolan 2004 good fortune tip**

Allow at least one lizard to share your house to eat flies and other unwanted insects.

## **Gardening**

Mystic Nolan says please your neighbours by removing the concrete makeover he recommended last year and planting your own vegetable patch instead. The Mystic recommends a combination of root vegetables, fruit trees and for tasty winter pies, plenty of Black and Red currents – as always don't forget your Feng Shui guide.

# Contact The Nolan

Contact The Nolan by e-mail at [thenolan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:thenolan@tiscali.co.uk) for all enquiries to do with the gathering 2004, the newsletter or anything else that's on your mind!