



# THE NOLAN

The Newsletter of the O'Nolan Clan Family Association



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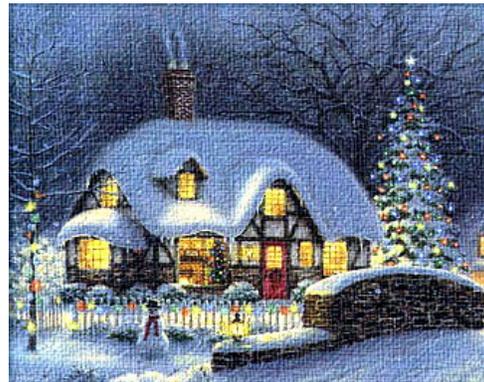
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## Christmas – A Time for Family and Friends

As Christmas approaches our households inevitably witness a flurry of activity and, in the hustle and bustle of modern-day life we are often tempted to put business and its many, sometimes frantic, deadlines ahead of family, friends, even ourselves.

It is the sincere wish of the Nolan Clan Executive that in this Christmas season you will find time to spend with your loved ones, to read a good book, to work on your favourite hobby or to simply enjoy yourselves in the company of family and friends.



### *Nollaig Shona Duit*

May peace and plenty be the first to lift the latch on your door and happiness be guided to your home by the candle of Christmas.

### CANDLE IN THE WINDOW

The custom of putting a candle (or its safer modern equivalent, electric lights) in the window of one's home on Christmas Eve is still practiced in many homes in Ireland. The origin of this custom is rooted in the Irish laws of hospitality that, at one time, were much stronger and very favourable to strangers. Thus, in ancient times, a light in one's window served to light the way of a stranger out after dark.



In the Christian context, a light in the window of one's home on Christmas Eve therefore became an outward sign that those within were ready to receive the Christ child into their midst and that they would not turn him away as was done to Mary and Joseph on that first Christmas Eve.

## O’Nolan Clan Family Association

**Chief - Judith P. Nolan**  
3 Upper Belgrave Rd  
Clifton, Bristol  
B88 2XQ United Kingdom

TEL: +44 (117) 9737992

**Secretary – Roger Nowlan**  
222 Ave. De La Colline  
Gatineau, Quebec  
J9J 1T8 Canada

TEL: +1 (819) 684-2535  
FAX : +1(819) 684-6321  
[secretary@onolanclan.org](mailto:secretary@onolanclan.org)

**Treasurer – Sean Nolan**  
Ardattin, Co. Carlow  
Republic of Ireland

TEL: +353 (59) 91 55666

**Editor - Roger Nowlan**  
(see particulars above)

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**Clan Website**  
<http://onolanclan.org>

## In Brief ...

### In this Issue ...

As you will gather from the table of contents, the topics in this issue are quite varied but generally reflect members’ personal interests in combination with an interest in things Irish or Nolan. The article by Michael O. Nowlan on Stamps in Ireland that combines a personal interest in stamps and an interest in things Irish is particularly illustrative of this point. Similarly, the article by David Brian Nolan Sr. combines an interest in politics with an interest in the Nolan family name. Seeing the writing of such articles as a positive and healthy development, I would encourage other members to consider writing such articles combining their own personal interest with an interest in things Irish or Nolan.

In this issue, I have also included a short humorous piece on “the way we were” reflecting the fact that we also have experiences from a collective past that we may wish to share with others and future generations before their memory is forever lost.

### Next Clan Gathering

Details as to the exact place and time of the Clan Gathering and General Meeting will be mailed to you by the Clan Chief in mid-January. The current plan is to hold the Gathering and Meeting in the Carlow area sometime in early October 2006.

### A Friendly Reminder

Membership Dues are Due  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of each year.

*To help you keep track of the status of your membership, starting with this issue of the Newsletter, your mailing label will also show the year in which your clan membership expires.*

The yearly membership fee is currently 10 Euros per household and payment should be made *in your local currency*, by personal cheque or money order made out to the “Sean Nolan - Nolan Clan”. Currently 10 Euros are roughly equal to \$12 USD, \$14 CAD and \$16 AUD.

When renewing please provide your most recent address particulars and, if applicable, your E-mail address. This will ensure that your payment is correctly credited and that you are included on all clan mailings. For your convenience, a membership application /renewal form is provided at the end of this newsletter.

### O’Nolan – A People’s History

This 376-page book, which documents the Nolan family’s early history in Ireland, was published by the Clan in the Millenium year. If you still don’t have your own copy of this valuable landmark book, you may obtain your own copy from the Clan Treasurer for only 22 Euros, shipping included. To order simply send a cheque or money for the required amount, in your local currency, along with your request to the clan treasurer (see address at left).

Currently, 22 Euros are roughly equivalent to \$26 USD, \$31 CAD and \$35 AUD.

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# IRISH STAMPS ARE CERTAINLY AMBASSADORS

By Michael O. Nowlan

As a stamp collector, I always come alert when I see articles and/or information about postage stamps. This was the case when a friend showed me an article in the May-June 2005 issue of *Ireland of the Welcomes*. Titling his article "Silent Ambassadors," Alan Costello opens:

"Well, stamps really can be complex little things to consider. They are ascribed a value, and so in real terms, they have worth, but they are also very democratic forms of art, literally arriving one morning on your doorstep and quite often passing completely unnoticed. However, these little national representatives pack far more of a punch than their weight would suggest.

"Postage stamps are the end result of a lengthy process of design, more often than not by committee. Throughout their germination, decisions have been made, artists and designers consulted and commissioned, concepts generated, design roughs presented and rejected and accepted. For surviving all that, the stamp you receive is, if little else, worthy of attention. It carries meaning and says something about its country of origin."

I like what Mr. Costello says about the postage stamp - any postage stamp. Each little item is indeed a work of art. It does carry meaning and is worthy of attention because it says something about its country of origin.

When Roger asked me to do a piece about Irish stamps for *The Nolan*, I was quite happy to oblige because Irish stamps are ambassadors for that great isle to which we all claim some connection. The initial comment that stamps are silent ambassadors came from Irish Nobel award winning author W.B. Yeats. In an address to the Irish Senate, he said: "The official designs of the Government, especially its designs with connection to postage stamps may be described, I think, as silent ambassadors of national taste."

Ireland gained its independence from Great Britain in 1921, so a look at the stamps of Ireland commences with an overprinted Great Britain issue on February 17, 1922.

Nonetheless, this is a comparatively recent date in the history of the post in Ireland because Irish Postal History shows the Irish Post Office or An Post spans some 400 years before 1922 and British postage stamps were used in Ireland from their introduction on May 6, 1840.

An overprint on a stamp is made for many reasons, including the case in Ireland where the stamps were used as provisionals while country-specific stamps were being prepared. Many countries after a war have used provisionals while they awaited new stamps. Most nations' stamps feature overprints of one sort or another.

Irish stamps were first overprinted "Rialtas Sealadac na h-Eireann" meaning 'Provisional Government of Ireland'.



By November 1922, the overprint read: "Saorstát Éireann" meaning 'Irish Free State'. Initially, there were 11 different values and three different printers: Dollard, Thom, and Harrison, and the Thom had two types - a narrow and a wide lettering. Those overprinted Ireland provisionals were the regular British definitive issues of King George V.

Generally, stamps come in two types - definitives and commemoratives. Definitives are the regular issues, such as a country's flag or head of state. They are the stamps most often used on regular mail. Commemorative stamps mark special occasions or events.

The first series of Irish stamps featured 15 different values in five different images- Sword of Light was depicted on four values while the map of Ireland and the Coat of Arms appeared on three different values each and the Cross of Cong on two values. The last three values featured St. Patrick and the Paschal Fire. The Sword of Light was an early Irish symbol denoting resurgence. The Cross of Cong was based on the 12<sup>th</sup> century cross of metal and precious stones in the National Museum in Dublin. The Coat of Arms represents the arms of each of the four provinces. All Irish stamps from the beginning have been identified by the word: Éire (pronounced AIR uh).

In 1968, Ireland changed the images on its definitives and added a few higher values: The new images included the Dog from a decoration on an Ancient Irish Brooch in Kilkenny; the Winged Ox, symbol of St. Luke, from the Gospel Book of Lichfield in Lichfield Cathedral; the Stag from Ancient Bowl in Lullingstone, Kent; and an Eagle, symbol of St. John, from an ancient Irish manuscript in the Library of Corpus Christie College, Cambridge. In 1971, the images did not change, but the country moved to a decimal currency. A further change occurred in 1974 when printing was done with unwatermarked paper.

A new series of definitives came out in 1982 which depicted Irish Architecture down the Ages. Images included the Central Pavilion of the Dublin Botanical Gardens, Dr. Steevens Hospital in Dublin, Augh Nanure Castle in Oughterard, Cormac's Chapel, St. Mac Dara's Church, Casino Marino, Cahir Castle, Central Bus Station in Dublin, and Killarney Cathedral. There were 28 different values ranging from one penny to five pints.

By 1990, a change in definitives featured images portraying Irish Heritage Treasures - a silver kite brooch, a Dunamase food vessel,

Derrinboy armlets, a gold dress fastener, Lismore Crosier, Broighter Collar, silver thistle brooch, Broighter boat, tara brooch, and St. Patrick's Bell.

Another series in 1997 saw birds of Ireland on its definitives, and that changed again in 2004 when An Post introduced Irish wild flowers.

Now let's look at the commemoratives. From the beginning with the definitives, Ireland's constant themes focused on religion - the Celtic Cross and St. Patrick, and patriotism with the map and Coat of Arms.

Ireland's first commemorative also portrayed a religious theme. Issued in 1929 for the Centenary of Catholic Emancipation, the image depicted Daniel O'Connell, so it may be said to combine religion and patriotism. A 1932 issue celebrated a Eucharistic Congress, and a 1933 issue marked the Holy Year. Both these stamps used Latin inscriptions: *internationalis congressus eucharisticus* and *annus sanctus* respectively. The themes of religion and patriotism are common among the commemoratives of Ireland.

Sports is a theme on Irish stamps that emerged very early. In 1934, An Post issued a commemorative to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Gaelic Athletic Association, but the next sports issue did not appear until 40 years later to commemorate the Centenary of the Irish Football Union in 1974. In more recent years, sports has been a common topic for Irish stamps. In 2004, for example, An Post marked the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece and the Camogie Association with two stamps each, and in 2003, the 11<sup>th</sup> Special Olympics World Summer Games were held in Ireland June 16 to 29, so An Post released four stamps on May 20 with Irish athletes in various competitions. The World Cup championships in 1990 and various Olympics also made it on stamps. Golf got attention on two stamps in 1991. Irish Horse Racing in 1996 and steeplechase in 2002 are two very popular Irish sports. The list of all the sports-related stamps from Ireland is too lengthy to include it all here.

Since 1985, Ireland has had an annual issue of "Love" stamps, usually issued in January for the Valentine's mail. Other long-running annual issues feature Christmas which commenced in 1971 and the Europa issue which was first released in 1960. Each year the EUROPA community selects a theme and member nations design an appropriate stamp. Ireland's Christmas stamps always feature religious scenes.

Music and the arts have long been associated with the Irish people, so it is not surprising that writers and musicians have been depicted on Irish stamps. Two very familiar names are John McCormack, who was honoured on the centenary of his birth in 1984 and whose beautiful, strong voice is still available on cassettes and CDs; and harpist Turlough O'Carolan who was featured on one of two Irish Europa stamps in 1985. The great composers Handel, Scarlatti, and J.S. Bach got attention on the Irish stamps for European Music year in 1985, and as part of its Millennium series Ireland honoured Beethoven in 2000. Contemporary music was also marked on Irish stamps. In 2002, a four stamp issue celebrated U2, Van Morrison, Phil Lynott, and Rory Gallagher.

Writers have often appeared on Irish stamps, but their exposure in 2004 was exemplary. In 2004, An Post had three distinctive issues that paid tribute to Ireland's literary greats. On June 16, two stamps commemorated the June 16, 1904 centenary of Bloomsday, the day that is celebrated in James Joyce's classic novel *Ulysses*. A 48-cent stamp features an illustration of Joyce by Italian artist Tullio Pericoli while a 65-cent denomination has a photographic image of the novelist taken by Constantine Curran in 1904.

On October 1, 2004, An Post teamed with Sweden Post to launch a four-stamp issue celebrating Ireland's four winners of the Nobel Prize for literature. William Butler Yeats earned the award in 1923 followed by George Bernard Shaw in 1925. Samuel Beckett and Seamus Heaney received Nobels in 1969 and 1995 respectively. The four-stamp set is an important selection of four of the world's great writers. In

1994, Ireland also honoured Nobel winners with stamps for George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, Shawn McBride (statesman) and William Butler Yeats.

October 21, 2004 was the centenary of the birth of Patrick Kavanaugh, one of the foremost Irish poets of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was born in Mucker, Inniskeen and his first book of poems, *The Ploughman and Other Poems* (1936), was followed by many successes before the poet's death in 1967. The stamp was designed from a photograph by Evelyn Hofer.

It is not often that a nation pays tribute to so many of its literary greats during a year's stamp production, so An Post is to be complimented for this singular effort. Other literary events honoured include the centenary of the birth of William Butler Yeats in 1965 and the death centenary of Oliver Goldsmith in 1974.

The death centenary of Oscar Wilde in 2000, which was marked with a four-stamp issue, had a direct connection to Canada and my home province of New Brunswick. Wilde made a very extensive reading tour of North America in 1882. Most references and Wilde biographies only relate to his "performances" in New England, but he made two junkets to Canada too.

Wilde's tour of North America, which is often seen as an upward turning point of his career, commenced in New York January 2, 1882. He arrived in Montreal on May 14 where he stayed at the Windsor Hotel and made his first Canadian talk the next day. He then went to Ottawa, Quebec City, and back to Montreal for performances and he visited several other Ontario centres. He launched his Maritimes tour in Fredericton with a talk at the City Hall Auditorium. He stayed at the Barker House where he met and spent an evening with Sir Charles G.D. Roberts. He then moved to Saint John and on to Amherst, Truro, Halifax and Charlottetown before coming back to New Brunswick in Moncton. In Moncton, he faced key opposition to his tour in Canada. The sheriff served a writ on behalf of the Y.M.C.A. trying to halt Wilde's lecture. The Y.M.C.A. was upset because they lost an opportunity to host Wilde's

lecture. The writ was unsuccessful and he continued to Saint John for a second visit the next day.

Another Irish stamp that has a direct connection to Canada and New Brunswick was the March 9, 2000 issue to celebrate launch of the replica of the immigrant ship the Jeanie Johnston. The Jeanie Johnston, a triple-masted barque was built at Quebec in 1847 for the Donovan family of Tralee, County Kerry, in southwest Ireland. She carried immigrants to North America and lumber and other commodities to Tralee. In 1853, the Jeanie Johnston was blown off course in a storm and forced to seek safe haven in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, where 195 Irish immigrants disembarked and some of them stayed rather than go on the Portland, Maine. They still have descendants there today.

Another ship built in Quebec in 1845 was the Dunbrody which was depicted on one of four stamps issued July 4, 2005 to mark the beginning of the 2005 Tall Ships race which commenced in Waterford, Ireland.

Numerous leaders and events in the development of the history of Ireland have appeared on stamps. One such event was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Easter Rising in 1941 and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1966. The latter featured images of James Connolly, Thomas J. Clarke, Patrick Henry Pearse, Eamonn Ceannt, Sean MacDiarmada, Thomas McDonagh, and Joseph Plunkett.

Patriots Tomas MacCurtain, Terence MacSwiney, and Kevin Barry appeared on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their deaths in 1970.

Contemporary Irish art was featured on several sets of stamps in the 1970s and in 2004. In recognition of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Gallery of Ireland, An Post issued the last in a series of three-stamp sets on September 16, 2004. The range of this particular series offers exceptional collectible items for art enthusiasts as well as stamp collectors. Featured on the stamps are Diego Velazquez's (1599-1660) *Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus*, Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio's

(1571-1610) *The Taking of Christ*, Nicolas Poussin's (1594-1665) *The Lamentation over the Dead Christ*, and Walter Frederick Osborne's (1859-1903) *The House Builders*. All four are in 48-cent denomination. Many people say we can't ever afford the great classic paintings, but when they are reproduced on postage stamps, we can get genuine replicas for very little money.

Those who like their Guinness will be pleased to know their hero, the first Arthur Guinness, was honoured on two commemorative stamps in 1958.

In addition to the Oscar Wilde and the Jeanie Johnston stamps, Ireland has several stamps with a North American connection. The first of note was a two-stamp set in honour of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States Constitution in 1939. In 1965 there was a two-stamp set for the United Nations International Co-operation Year and, in 1975, one for the International Women's Year. In 1967, a two-value set marked Canada's Centennial. Those stamps are attractive with a branch of maple leaves and a single leaf on a white background. A four-stamp set celebrated the bicentennial of American Independence in 1976, and one stamp remembered the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of John F. Kennedy.

Transportation was the theme of three issues from An Post in June and July 2003. June 30 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Ford Motor Company in Detroit. Henry Ford's father, William, came from County Cork and the same county was the site of the first Ford Company plant outside North America in 1917. On June 30, An Post also issued four stamps to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Gordon Bennett Automobile Race, an event that still takes place annually. The four stamps present Winton, Napier, Mors, and Mercedes cars. If old cars are your delight, An Post captured four Irish Motoring Classics in April 1989.

On April 22, 2005, An Post teamed with Canada Post to produce a joint issue to emphasize the importance of Biosphere Reserves. Biospheres are living laboratories that consist of areas of coastal and inland

ecosystems. These Biosphere Reserves are internationally recognized by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere program. Sites are chosen against a set of criteria focusing on conservation, development and support for research, and education demonstrating a balanced relationship between people and nature. Since 1970, UNESCO has recognized certain important ecosystems around the world as models of how humans should live with nature. Known as biosphere reserves, the Killarney National Park is one of two such areas in Ireland while the Waterton Lakes National Park is one of 13 biosphere reserves in Canada. The two-stamp issue depicted those respective parks. It was the first time Ireland and Canada co-operated on a joint stamp issue.



In 1992, An Post issued two distinctive sets that have a North American connection. The first was on May 14, the Europa set, celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. The second was on the same date and honoured all who claim Irish ancestry with two stamps to celebrate Irish Emigration to the Americas.

Many of Ireland's stamps depicting flora and fauna are among the most beautiful in the world. A twelve-year series that commenced in 1978 featured in consecutive years: flowers, birds, wildlife (ermine, fox, hare, red deer), horses, fish, dogs, trees, butterflies, ferns, cattle, endangered vegetation, game birds of Ireland, garden flowers, and sheep. An Irish orchids issue of four stamps in 1993 is beautiful.

Ireland's history, culture, and everyday life has been well captured in that nation's postage

stamps. It is the people, however, who dominate. There are always people being honoured ranging from patriots to religious figures, to artists, to writers, to musicians, to politicians, to sports figures.

This ramble through the stamps of Ireland has been fun, and I hope it lends another aspect to the emerald isle. Looking at each of these little ambassadors can lead to a story in itself.

Those who want to learn more about Ireland's stamps may consult *Hibernian: Handbook and Specialised Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-2001*, *Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-1982*, "A History of Irish Stamps" May-June 2005 issue of *Ireland of the Welcomes*, *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue of Ireland* or the Philatelic bulletin from An Post. An Post address is: Philatelic Bureau, An Post, P.O. Box 1991, GPO Dublin 1, Ireland.

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### Editor's Note

Subsequent to receipt of Michael's article for publication, it came to my attention that a Nolan descendant had recently been honoured at the launch of new UN commemorative stamps in Ireland. Pictured below, left-to-right are Major General Patrick Nowlan, who joined the Defence Forces in 1955, Cadet Áine Gilmore, who joined the Defence Forces on 3rd October 2005, and Minister Willie O'Dea TD. They are pictured with a mock up envelope showing the new commemorative UN Stamps.



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## Eochaidh Fionn and the Ballon area

By Roger Nowlan

Feidlimidh Reachtmhar, High King of Ireland between 164 and 174, had two sons who distinguished themselves in battle. One of them was the better known Conn of the Hundred Battles and the other was none other than Eochaidh (Ohy) Fionn, the common ancestor of the Nolans

... and so it was that during the reign of Feidlimidh, Cú Chorb, the then King of Leinster appealed to Feidlimidh to help him fight off the invading Munstermen who, by then, had conquered large parts of Leinster. This is when Eochaidh, our ancestor, came into the picture organizing a large army and, after many hard-fought battles, chasing the Munstermen out of Leinster. In recognition, Eochaidh was given extensive lands in Leinster known as the “seven Fohartas” (which included the modern-day baronies of Forth in Carlow and Forth in Wexford).

Now the story gets interesting for immediately after the death of Feidlimidh Reachtmhar, the kings of Ireland assembled at Tara, and elected Cathair Mór, King of Leinster, as the new Monarch of Ireland. However, this decision did not sit well with Conn of the Hundred Battles, Eochaidh’s brother, for we know that within three years Conn had ousted Cathair Mór and, through battle, won the kingship of Ireland. In the process, Cathair Mór was killed and, according to historians, was buried on Ballon Hill in 177 AD. Lending credibility to this belief is the fact that when Ballon Hill was excavated in the mid-1800s many funerary urns from a prehistoric cemetery were found there. Although most of the artifacts unearthed now reside in Dublin, modern-day visitors to Ballon Hill can still observe a large triangular-shaped stone on the side of the hill facing Ballykealey House. Standing eight feet above ground, it is known locally as the “Stone

of the Dead” or Cloghan-na-Marbhan. Because of its shape local children also know it as the “sliding stone”.



Photo by Michael Martin of Ballon Village  
(see website <http://www.ballonvillage.com>)

Knowing that Eochaidh had already established himself in Leinster prior to his father’s death, it is plausible to surmise that Eochaidh was instrumental in helping his brother Conn wrest the High Kingship away from Cathair Mór.

Despite the struggle for high kingship, it would appear as if Feidlimidh’s sons (Conn and Eochaidh) enjoyed the favour of the local Leinster population. This is suggested by the fact that one of Conn’s sons, Fionn Fothart, married Uchdelbh, a granddaughter of Cathair Mór, and Conn himself took Eithne Tháebfhota, a daughter of Cathair Mór, as his third wife.

The long association of Nolan families with Ballon Hill is most likely rooted in the fact that, our common ancestor, Eochaidh Fionn, as ruler of the lands in the Ballon area and beyond, would most likely have been buried in the prehistoric cemetery of Ballon Hill. A more recent linkage to Nolans is the fact that the last known Nolan chief in the 1600s resided in the shadow of Ballon Hill on the side of the hill where the Stone of the Dead and Ballykealey House are found.

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# Tara Threatened

By Anita Ní Nualláin

For those with no previous knowledge of the Hill of Tara and the role that it plays in Irish culture, it may be difficult to grasp its importance and the degree to which it has become intertwined with the Irish psyche. However, more than ever, it has become important to convey to all, including those abroad, the significance and importance of the Hill of Tara, and the fact that its survival for future generations is seriously being threatened.

For many thousands of years, Tara served as the cultural and political centre of Ireland, and the place of rule for:

- a Neolithic people who worshipped the “Great Goddess” and built the Mound of Hostages with its central chambers perfectly aligned for the observation of the full moon of Lughnasa and the rising sun of Samhain and Imbolg
- the famous Tuatha De Danaan, a people known as the “ever living ones” who brought with them magical gifts including the Lia Fáil (Stone of Destiny), still visible today in the Rath na Rithe (Fort of Kings) and which supposedly roared/rang in the presence of a true King
- many generations of Celtic High Kings who ruled starting around 200 BC.

The size, grandeur and archaeological importance of Tara is most clearly evident when we consider that Cormac Ulfhada macArt, the Ard Righ (High King) who ruled from 227 to 267 and grandson of Conn of the Hundred Battles, had a Banquet Room, known as Teach Mi Chuarta, measuring 760 feet in circumference and had a retinue of over 3,000 from all over Europe, including Gauls, Franks, Romans, Friesians, Caledonians, Picts, and Saxons.

When Tara was last threatened, W.B. Yeats, et al, were inspired to write in a letter of protest:

"Tara is, because of its associations, probably the most consecrated spot in Ireland, and its destruction will leave many bitter memories behind it." (The Times, 27th June 1902).

As you read this, Tara is again under threat of irreparable damage by those very people entrusted to guard it. This is a matter of grave concern for all who claim an Irish heritage. The Irish Government, the Meath County Council and the National Roads Authority (NRA) plan to build a motorway (the M3) through the Tara-Skryne Valley where the Hill of Tara is situated.

The usual one kilometre zone of protection for archaeological sites established in 1992 will not be respected and a major interchange built practically at the foot of the Hill. A recent amendment to the National Monuments Act passed in 2004 indeed makes it possible for the Minister for the Environment to approve the damage, sale or destruction of any site or monument in the country if it is deemed in “the national interest”.

Looking at the legal basis of such Government action we recognize that the 2004 amendment to the National Monuments Act overturns over sixty years’ worth of heritage protection measures in Irish law not to mention the fact that it contravenes the EU’s Valletta Convention and every UNESCO declaration dealing with the protection of heritage sites.

Aside from the legal basis for the Government’s action one must also question whether the planned action is in “the national interest”. The currently planned route threatens some 156 known archaeological sites even though an alternative route, some 2.5 km shorter and 5 km further west, is available. How can this be in “the national interest”? Indeed, a poll conducted in May 2005 showed that *70% of the Irish*

*populace are in favour of the M3 motorway but opposed to the route through the Tara/Skryne Valley.*

Flying in the face of the democratic standing of the Irish people and showing blatant and sickening disrespect for the people of Ireland and their heritage, the Government still plans to go ahead with the motorway. Several small action/protection groups formed almost immediately after the proposal for the M3 motorway was put forward have, thus far, gone unheeded. However, an effort which is currently underway and may yet yield results is that of a Conservationist, Vincent Salafia, who, in July 2005, was given leave by the High Court to challenge directions given by the Minister for the Environment regarding 38 of the archaeological sites along the most contentious stretch of the motorway. The High Court proceedings have not yet concluded and the next court date is December 18<sup>th</sup>. In the event that the High Court rules in favour of Mr. Salafia and orders the re-routing of the M3, definite progress will have been made but victory in this battle will not ensure that the Hill of Tara and other Irish heritage sites are fully protected from future developments. If the amendment to the Monuments Act stays as it is, unchallenged, the way remains open for the Government to “legally” level Newgrange, Glendalough, The Rock of Cashel and any other monument, without public input.

The Taoiseach (Irish Prime Minister) recently said: “In other countries they just get on with things. If you take a pencil and account for things like snails and archaeology, you will never do anything.” This he says of Tara! Tara that is older than the pyramids, older than Stonehenge, older than The Great Wall of China. Are we to let a man such as this decide to rob us and our children of our heritage? Tara has been revered since time immemorial and is still with us today, passed down to us from generation to generation. Are we now to let it be destroyed? Is the destruction of Tara to be on the heads of this generation?

The defence of this great monument now falls upon us, on you and me. Those we entrusted with its care are failing us. We cannot let Tara slip away quietly. We must stand and make ourselves heard. We must save Tara for ourselves and all future generations. The only way this can be done is through concerted public pressure and international exposure. There is so much you can do, even from abroad, such as informing others, sending e-mails, writing letters, informing local media, and the list goes on. The world cannot lose Tara; it's up to you to do your part.

Despite the Irish government's apparent stubbornness and desire to act progressively, it needs to realise, or be made to realise, that progress and preservation are not mutually exclusive.

*My thanks to Claire McGrath, Niamh Price and Jennifer Nolan, who all helped with the completion of this article.*

For more information and ways YOU can help

Check out the following sites:

- [www.protect-tara.org](http://www.protect-tara.org)  
- all you want to know about Tara, including a “What you can do to help” section
- [www.hilloftara.info](http://www.hilloftara.info)  
- updates on M3 Motorway and the Hill of Tara Litigation
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/taralitigation/>  
- updates on the ongoing litigation process
- <http://www.petitiononline.com/Temair/petition.html>  
- sign the online petition and forward it!
- [www.savetara.com](http://www.savetara.com)  
- news report, maps, details of organised protest/fund raising events

or write to:

Dr. Muireann Ni Bhrolchain, PRO  
Save Tara/Skryne Valley Group  
58 Laurence Avenue  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare  
Republic of Ireland

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## Nolan Leaders in Modern Times

By David Brian Nolan, Sr.

An amazingly high number of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century descendants of Eochaidh Finn, a second century war hero and brother of Conn of the Hundred Battles, have distinguished themselves as leaders throughout the English speaking world.

Michael Nicholas Nolan was born in County Carlow, Ireland in 1833. After coming to America, he was elected in 1878 as the mayor of the City of Albany, the capital of the most populous American state in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Later in 1880, he was elected as a Democratic Party member of the United States Congress from New York.

Many Nolans have become candidates for electoral office to further their respective political and economic ideals rather than to seek power or other remuneration for themselves. For instance, Robert J. Nolan was an unsuccessful Socialist Party candidate for the United States Congress from New York at the height of that American political movement in 1912.

A similar idealist, David F. Nolan, founded the United States Libertarian Party in 1971. His Libertarian movement influenced the governing philosophy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan who sought to limit the growth of federal power domestically so as to help preserve individual liberty.

One Nolan politician had a meteoric rise to power and just as sudden a crash. In 1978, at the age 28, attorney Patrick J. Nolan was elected to the California Assembly. By the early 1980's he rose to become that lower legislative body's Republican minority leader.

As the result of an FBI investigation into alleged illegal kickbacks to state legislators in the nation's most populous state by the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, the young Californian with a golden political future was convicted of taking a

gratuity from a lobbyist and sent to prison. Upon regaining his freedom, Pat Nolan led the prison ministry of Chuck Colson, who himself was caught up in the Watergate entanglements of the late U.S. President Richard Nixon.

In contrast, Michael Patrick Nolan, furthered propriety in the United Kingdom. In 1991, Prime Minister John Major appointed Michael Nolan to chair the Committee on Standards in Public Life. The future Baron Nolan became a life peer under the Appellate Jurisdiction Act of 1876 while investigating numerous inquiries including the cash-for-questions affair concerning two Members of Parliament. Lord Nolan later served as Chancellor of the University of Essex from 1997 to 2003 and joined the British Privy Council in 2004.

Just as members of our ancient Clan have served for centuries as trusted assistants and loyal advisors to the line of the Leinster Kings in Ireland, a couple of Nolans played a similar role to the elected sovereigns of the United States. Attorney Beth Nolan served as Counsel to the President during the second term of Bill Clinton, the 42<sup>nd</sup> U.S. president. Cheri Nolan served as Special Assistant to White House Chief of Staff, Donald Regan during this Irishman's tenure in the Reagan White House. She later became a Deputy Office Director in the U.S. Justice Department of the 41<sup>st</sup> president, George Herbert Walker Bush, Sr. In 2001, she became a Deputy Assistant Attorney General under the 43<sup>rd</sup> U.S. President, George W. Bush, Jr. with oversight over billions of dollars in grants to state and local police organizations.

Our family tree of leaders includes 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century office holders, a University Chancellor, a diplomat, a union president, party candidates representing a wide spectrum of priorities, and spouses of note. Ella Mae Nolan, the widow of California Congressman

John Ignatius Nolan was elected to replace her husband in 1922 after his decade of public service as a member of the U.S. Congress.

Actress Kathleen Nolan led the 120,000 members of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) from 1975 to 1979. Irishman Ronald Reagan, who used that union position and leadership experience as a stepping stone in successfully running for Governor of California in 1966 to 1970, headed SAG from 1947 to 1952 and again from 1959 to 1960.

In 2004, Gary Nolan, a popular talk radio host, was the first Nolan to run for President of the United States. Prior to seeking to become the leader of the free world, Gary Nolan had previously hosted “Nolan at Night” from 1998 to 2002 on 65 U.S. affiliates of the Radio America Network. The fifty year old finished a strong third in balloting at the National Convention of the United States Libertarian Party and then swung his delegates over to select the eventual nominee.

The voters of Ridgeway, New York have continuously returned Catherine Nolan to the Assembly of the Empire state since 1984. However, M.J. Nolan of Ireland is the only O’Nuallain descendant presently holding an elective office in a national assembly.

He has continuously represented his Carlow-Kilkenny constituency of 97,000 in the lower house of the Irish Parliament (O’riachtas) since 1988. His Fianna Fail party predecessor from the district, Michael Nolan, served in the Dail from 1961 to 1987 and served as Ireland’s Labour Minister from 1980 to 1981.

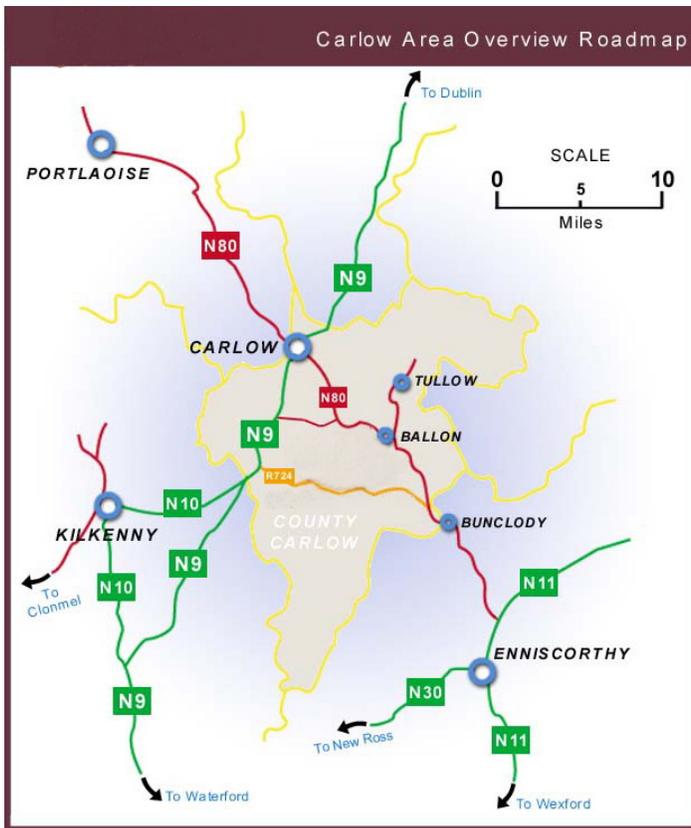
Following is a list of known Nolan descendants (including some with variants of the Gaelic O’Nuallain surname) who have been honored by election to the public trust or otherwise have become distinguished among their peers who trusted their leadership. These include:

- Joseph R. Knowland, Republican Congressman from California (1913-1915)
- William F. Knowland, Republican U.S. Senator from California (1945-1953)
- A. Nolan, National Party MP candidate from Island Bay, New Zealand (1991)

- Andrew F. Nolan, mayor of Ansonia, Connecticut, (1937)
- Buster Nolan, Legalize Cannabis Alliance candidate for MP, Braintree, Eng. (1992)
- C.B. Nolan, Montana state attorney general, (1897-1901)
- Elizabeth Nolan, Green Party MP candidate (1997) from Dewdney-Alouette, Canada
- Captain Louis Edward Nolan immortalized in Tennyson’s Charge of the Light Brigade.
- James Nolan, Speaker of the Alaska Territory (USA) House of Representatives (1949)
- John Nolan, Justice of the Peace, Kent Co., CA (1960’s)
- John Nolan, U.S. Deputy Postmaster General (1991)
- John Francis Nolan, Democrat member, Town Council, West Hoboken, N.J. (1896-1900)
- John J. Nolan, mayor of Evansville, Indiana, (1909-1910)
- Michael D. Nolan, New York Assemblyman, (1906)
- Patrick Nolan, mayor of Ottawa, Canada, (1934-1935)
- Pete Nolan, Patriot Party candidate for Lt. Governor of Alaska (1994)
- Philip Nolan, a pioneer American trader killed by Mexican troops in 1801. He became immortalized in the naming of Nolan County when Texas joined the United States.
- Richard Michael Nolan, Democrat Congressman from Minnesota, (1975-1981)
- Thomas Nolan, Democrat Mayor of West Hoboken, New Jersey, (1903-1907)
- Thomas Martin Nolan, Pennsylvania State Senator, (1970)
- W.A. Nolan, Republican member of the Minnesota State House (1906)
- William Ignatius Nolan, Republican Lt. Governor of Minnesota, (1925-1929) Republican Congressman from Minnesota, (1929-1933)
- David R. Noland, Democrat from the North Carolina House of Representatives (1913)
- Edward T. Noland, Missouri state treasurer, (1889-1890)
- James A. Noland, Republican State Senator from Missouri, (1968)
- James E. Noland, Democrat Congressman from Indiana, (1949-1953)

- Francis Perry Nolen, Australian Diplomat, born 1945
- James R. Nolen, Democrat State Representative from Massachusetts (1959),
- James Nowlan, President of the Gaelic Athletic Association, from Kilkenny, Ireland
- George P. Nowlan, Progressive Conservative MP from Nova Scotia, Canada (1965-1993)
- Patrick Nowlan, MP for Harbour Main, Newfoundland legislature, Canada (mid 1800s)

## *2006 Clan Gathering to be held in the County Carlow area*



The above map on the left shows access roads to the County Carlow area and should prove useful to those planning to attend the Clan Gathering in October 2006. As indicated earlier in the newsletter details on the exact time and place for the Clan Gathering and General Meeting will be mailed to you by the Clan Chief in mid-January. The type and number of other activities preceding and following the core activity, i.e. the General Meeting, are still to be determined and will depend upon expressed member interest and involvement. Foremost, however, the Clan Gathering will be an opportunity for us to meet with other Nolans from different regions of Ireland and the world, to truly celebrate our oneness as expressed in our clan motto “Cor unum, via una” (one heart, one way).

While in the Carlow area you may also want to visit an old tree which proudly stands in the shadow of Ballon Hill and which is sure to have witnessed the passing of many Nolan generations. The tree which, in some ways could be called our “family tree” stands on the grounds of Ballykealey Manor House where the last known historic Nolan Clan Chief is known to have lived.

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## Next General Meeting – A Time for Reflection

Having just marked our 10<sup>th</sup> year as a modern-day clan I believe that the time has come for us to pause and reflect upon where we have been as a clan and where we want to go. The next clan General Meeting to be held within the context of the next Clan Gathering in October 2006 will be our opportunity to do so.

One of the first items of discussion is likely to be the clan's objectives as currently reflected in the statement of member benefits (i.e. bi-annual clan gatherings, annual newsletters, free lookups in the clan's genealogical records, assistance with individual members' ancestral research).

To help us with the review of clan objectives, it may be useful to look at the statements of objectives of other clan organizations. For example, if we take the Waldron Clan (Co. Mayo) set of objectives and replace the Waldron-specific wording with Nolan-specific wording we obtain a first tentative restatement of Nolan Clan objectives, that is:

- To collect and preserve as much information as possible on the history of all [Nolan] families from all available sources and to try and rescue whatever details may be still available towards establishing connections between the many [Nolan] families in [County Carlow] and other

parts of Ireland and to develop an archive of this material accessible to all members.

- To encourage research into the early history of all families of the surname, with the ultimate aim of trying to establish for certain the true origins of all the [Nolans] in Ireland [, the British Isles and the Continent]
- To organise a re-union and gathering of all [Nolans], and those with [Nolan] ancestry, to be held in [ ???? ]
- To publish [a Newsletter, at least once a year,] containing articles of interest to those with [Nolan] connections.

In the area of clan operations we will also certainly want to discuss the frequency, format and timing of the Clan Newsletters and Gatherings.

Membership renewals are another concern. Despite a healthy growth this year in the number of new members, the number of membership renewals is far below what had been anticipated. What can we do to address this concern?

In preparation for the next clan General Meeting I would therefore invite all clan members to reflect upon the clan's direction and operation and to provide their feedback to the clan executive.



## A Child is Born

On March 9, 2005, was born Alexandra Miorbhail Nolan to proud parents Mark and Jennifer Nolan of Centerville, Iowa. Mark and Jennifer also have two young boys named Brendan Gabriel and Michael Thomas.



## Membership Card and List

Included with this issue of the Newsletter is an up-to-date Clan Membership List. You will also find a Nolan Clan Membership card meant to provide you with ready access to clan contact information and to serve as a reminder of your current membership status.



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# Down Memory Lane – When we were young

## Editorial Note

*The following humorous posting, tentatively attributed to a “Reverend Stephen Booth” and published in **uk30plus**, an online journal, will certainly bring back fond memories for many. I hope that you will enjoy reading it as much as I did.*  
Regards, Roger

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According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were kids in the 50's, 60's, 70's and early 80's probably shouldn't have survived, because...

Our baby cots were covered with brightly coloured lead-based paint which was promptly chewed and licked.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, or latches on doors or cabinets and it was fine to play with pans.

When we rode our bikes, we wore no helmets, just flip flops and fluorescent ‘clackers’ on our wheels.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or airbags - riding in the passenger seat was a treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle and it tasted the same.

We ate dripping sandwiches, bread and butter pudding and drank fizzy pop with sugar in it, but we were never overweight because we were always outside playing.

We shared one drink with four friends, from one bottle or can and no-one actually died from this.

We would spend hours building go-carts out of scraps and then went top speed down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into stinging nettles a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back before it got dark.

No one was able to reach us all day and no one minded.

We did not have Play stations or X-Boxes, no video games at all. No 99 channels on TV, no videotape movies, no surround sound, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no Internet chat rooms. We had friends - we went outside and found them.

We played elastics and street rounders, and sometimes that ball really hurt.

We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits. They were accidents. We learnt not to do the same thing again.

We had fights, punched each other hard and got black and blue we learned to get over it.

We walked to friend's homes.

We also, believe it or not, WALKED to school; we didn't rely on mummy or daddy to drive us to school, which was just round the corner.

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate live stuff, and although we were told it would happen, we did not have very many eyes out, nor did the live stuff live inside us forever.

We rode bikes in packs of 7 and wore our coats by only the hood. Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected.

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law. Imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

And you're one of them. **Congratulations!**

# O'Nolan Clan Ò Nuallàin



## Membership Application / Renewal Form

I wish to join/renew my membership in the O'Nolan Clan, a voluntary, non profit-making organisation, relying upon its members for fund-raising, organizing clan activities and recruiting new members. I also understand that membership is open to anyone who supports the goals and aspirations of the clan and that benefits of membership include:

- Bi-Annual Clan gatherings
- Annual Newsletters
- Free lookups in the clan's genealogical records
- Assistance with individual members' ancestral research.

Cost of membership is currently set at 10 Euros per individual/family per year.  
For clan records and to help with clan administration, my particulars are as follows.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Co./State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Country & Postal-ZIP  
Code \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other family members \_\_\_\_\_

I also include 10 Euros or its equivalent in my local currency, in the form of a personal cheque, a bank draft or international money order payable to "Sean Nolan - Nolan Clan", to cover one year's membership. I understand that dues are payable at the beginning of each calendar year and that, at my discretion, I may choose to pay for two years at a time to save on postage & service charges.

<b>Post To:</b>	<b>Sean Nolan Nolan Clan Treasurer Ardattin, County Carlow Republic of IRELAND</b>
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**NOTE: If sending a cheque, please make it out in your local currency!**

**\*\*\*\*\* Thank You for your Support! \*\*\*\*\***