



# THE NOLAN

The Newsletter of the O'Nolan Clan Family Association

*Happy St. Patrick's Day to All,  
Beannachtaí na Feile Padraig*

March 2015

Issue 25

## CONTENTS

1 Index

2 In Brief

3 Story behind Cover  
& Myles Day

4 Dr. Martin D. Nolan  
and the Famine

10 The Nolan Chantry

11 DNA in Action

16 News from  
our Members

18 Book Reviews

- Nolans of Logboy

- JFK Assassination

20 Programme for  
Next Gathering

21 Form for  
Membership  
Renewal or  
Application



*Slán agus beannacht,  
Mary Nolan - Clan Chief*



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Letters, comments and articles of interest should be sent to the Newsletter Editor by regular mail, by FAX or by Email (see particulars above).

Editorial views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Clan association.

## In Brief ...

### Special Cover

The painting on the cover is of a young Cathleen Ni Houlihan, embodying W.B. Yeats vision of a rejuvenated Ireland (see next page for further explanations).

### Next Clan Gathering

The next Clan Gathering is planned for the weekend of September 19<sup>th</sup> (not the 12<sup>th</sup> as originally planned). If interested in attending the Gathering please contact any member of the executive (see side panel at left for contact details). The current draft programme for the Gathering is given on page 20.

### Membership Dues

For those who may have forgotten to renew their membership a copy of the membership renewal form is found at the end of the newsletter.

Members are reminded that the **clan dues are due at the beginning of each calendar year** and it is the responsibility of individual members to ensure that their membership is up-to-date. The clan does not send out payment notices.

### Major Articles in this Issue

- a first one giving us an up-close picture of conditions in Ireland during the Great Famine
- a second one delving into the life of Monsignor Edmund Nolan, who is commemorated by a small Catholic side-chapel at Cambridge University
- a third one providing an introduction to DNA testing and its application to genealogy

### News Items

Maria Mallenby (nee Nowlan), mother of Douglas Mallenby of Omaha recently celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Just this past December in Bluemont, Virginia, David and Cheri’s Nolan’s oldest, John Joseph Nolan II exchanged marital vows with Kristine Diane Shannabrook

Catherina O’Brien, our Clan secretary, is now a grandmother. As she puts it she and her husband Joe are “mad about” their little five months old grandson Zack.

Katie Nolan, a close relative of Chris Nolan, our Tánaiste, will shortly be hosting her own show on the Fox Sports Live channel.

In the recent (2014) referendum on independence the people of Scotland voted to stay within the United Kingdom.

### Publications of Possible Interest

- “Struggle and Strife on a Mayo Estate – the Nolans of Logboy and their tenants” which provides readers the opportunity to peer into the lives of everyday farmers and tenants in 19<sup>th</sup> century county Mayo
- “LBJ - the Mastermind of the JFK assassination” and a companion eBook, “The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald” written by long-time clan member David Brian Nolan Sr., a former White House attorney.

***Roger Nowlan***

*Newsletter Editor*

*(<http://nolanfamilies.org>)*

## *Story behind the Front Page Image - Cathleen Ni Houlihan*

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The image on the front page of our newsletter is that of a rejuvenated Cathleen Ni Houlihan painted by artist Steven Brown, a native of Coleraine, Northern Ireland, who graciously granted us permission to use it for our newsletter. For more information see <https://stevenbrown12.wordpress.com/about/>.

Found in Irish literature and art, Cathleen Ni Houlihan (*Caitlín ní Uallacháin*) came to represent Mother Ireland and was generally depicted as an old woman (*Sean Bhean Bhocht*) needing the help of young Irish men willing to fight and die to free Ireland from colonial rule. However, in the 1902 play "Cathleen Ni Houlihan" written by William Butler Yeats and Lady Augusta Gregory, we see the first appearance of a rejuvenated Cathleen Ni Houlihan, embodying W.B. Yeats vision for a rejuvenated Ireland.

In the play, the title character first appears as an old woman, at the door of a family celebrating their son's wedding. She describes her four "beautiful green fields", representing the four provinces that have been unjustly taken from her.



With little subtlety, she requests a blood sacrifice, declaring that "many a child will be born and there will be no father at the christening". When the youth agrees and leaves the safety of his home to fight for her, she appears as an image of youth with "the walk of a queen," professing that of those who fight for her: "They shall be remembered forever, They shall be alive forever, They shall be speaking forever, The people shall hear them forever."

Reference URL:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathleen\\_ni\\_Houlihan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathleen_ni_Houlihan)

## *Myles Day Celebrations to be held April 1<sup>st</sup> in Dublin*

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In an earlier Newsletter we introduced readers to Brian O’Nolan, an Irish writer born in 1911 who wrote for the *Irish Times* under the pseudonyms of **Myles na gCopaleen** and Flann O’Brien.

He is perhaps best known for his satirical column *Cruiskeen Lawn* which, for over a quarter of a century, was considered one of the funniest in the English language.

Recognizing Brian O’Nolan’s genius, in 2011, O’Nolan’s centenary year, and seeking to divert some of what he thought was undue attention being paid to writers like James Joyce, John Clarke, an

engineer, inaugurated the first “Myles Day” on April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Palace Bar on Fleet Street in Dublin, meeting with fellow admirers in the Palace’s back room, once an inner sanctum of Irish literature..

This celebration of O’Nolan’s works has now been repeated each year since 2011, and this year some Nolan Clan members in Ireland plan to attend the celebrations which will start at 1:30 pm and end sometime around 5:00 pm.

Reference URL:

<https://www.facebook.com/MylesDay2011>

# Dr. Martin Daly Nolan and the Famine in Gort, Galway

Much has been written about how Ireland endured the Great Famine, how the failure of the potato crops left families starving and unable to pay their rent. Blighted potatoes rotted in fields and storage pits, and soon whole villages were consumed by cholera and typhus. As landlords evicted the tenants from the land, thousands crowded into the workhouses to avoid starvation.

In contrast, little has been recorded about those who struggled to relieve the suffering of the starving and homeless Irish. Working in Gort, Dr. Martin Daly Nolan was one such champion and advocate for the displaced and distressed poor. Relentlessly, he pushed for better conditions for the unfortunate ones forced to seek some sort of refuge in the Gort workhouse.

Martin was the second son of Andrew O'Nowlan (1772-1814) of Loughrea and Elizabeth Daly (c1774-c1842) of Dalysgrove, Galway. Born around 1806, he grew up on the family estate at Prospect, near Loughcoutra, Gort.



In 1816, Martin began his formal schooling at the Jesuit College at Clongowes, Kildare. Clongowes, a boarding school which took its first pupil in 1814, was established to cater for the education of the sons of Catholic nobility and gentry. The boys wore a

uniform of a cap made from rabbit skin, a blue cloth coat with brass buttons, a yellow waistcoat and corduroy trousers.



The curriculum emphasized moral and intellectual training with great importance being placed on the classical studies of Latin and Greek. Clongowes was a long way from Gort especially in those days of horse drawn transport.

School days at Clongowes were long and regimented (see school schedule below).

SUMMER		1819
1 April—July 31		
5. 0	Rising . . . . .	
5.30	Morning Prayers . . . . .	
5.45	Mass . . . . .	
6.15	Studies . . . . .	
8.30	Breakfast . . . . .	
8.45	Schools . . . . .	
11.15	Writing Class ; Studies . . . . .	
12. 0	Recreation ( <i>Bread and Beer</i> ) . . . . .	
12.45	Studies . . . . .	
1.15	Schools . . . . .	
3.15	Free Time . . . . .	
3.30	Dinner . . . . .	
4. 0	Recreation . . . . .	
5.30	Visit to Blessed Sacrament . . . . .	
5.45	Studies . . . . .	
7.15	Supper . . . . .	
7.30	Recreation . . . . .	
8.30	Night Prayers . . . . .	
8.45	To Bed . . . . .	

There were no frequent holiday breaks during the year for the boys to return home to their families and, perhaps more sadly, no regular visits from home to look forward to. The annual holidays were confined to the month of August. For a boy of a mere ten years, the time at Clongowes must have been testing.

As an adult, Martin studied in Dublin and Edinburgh. In 1830, he graduated from Trinity College in Medicine and the following year in Surgery. He was one of the many distinguished surgeons who apprenticed with Dr. Rawdon McNamara, President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 1832, he graduated in medicine from the University of Edinburgh, specialising in ‘Injuries to the Head’. Of the 112 men who graduated from Edinburgh at this time, 52 were from Ireland.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 1831, Martin married Maria O’Kelly of the O’Kelly family of Ceraun, Galway. After graduating in 1832, Martin and his wife settled in Martin’s hometown of Gort, renting a three storey stone house and office with a yard in the north end of Bridge Street - this building still stands (see picture below, taken in 1997).



For the first ten years of their marriage, life was apparently smooth and Martin worked as the doctor at the Ardrahan dispensary, six miles north of Gort.

One outcome of the Irish Poor Law Act of 1838 was that workhouses were erected throughout Ireland. In 1841, a workhouse was built at Gort. Designed to accommodate 500 people it was built on the town’s outskirts on Ennis Rd. Today, what remains of it is being used as a Council depot (see picture below).



On the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 1841, the first, of what would later become many distressed individuals, were admitted into the workhouse, Dr. Martin Daly Nolan being appointed as Medical Officer responsible for their health. By the end of the decade, this appointment would severely test Martin’s limits.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1845, the *Galway Vindicator* reported the onset of the potato blight as follows:

*“At Gort, the blight of the potato, while on the ground, is nothing when compared to that in the pit. It has carried itself to so great an extent, that many pits of potatoes that were covered perfectly safe for the last 20 days, are at present shovelled out entirely useless.”*

For the many who absolutely depended on the potato for their survival, the blight was catastrophic. Malnutrition and starvation became their lot and many, in their weakened condition, were struck down by typhoid fever and forced to seek unwanted refuge in the workhouse.

In 1844, before the blight struck, the Board of Guardians of the Gort Union decided that a fever hospital was not warranted and, as a direct result, fever patients were also housed in the wards of the Gort workhouse, spreading the disease amongst all inmates. The workhouse had become a hospital which generated its own patients.

Early in 1846, Martin asked the Board for fever sheds to be erected so fever patients could be isolated but his request fell on deaf ears. It wasn't until late 1846 that temporary fever sheds were erected, and not until 1848 that a permanent fever hospital was built – this still stands on the Ennis Road.

Martin took a holistic approach to the care of the inmates, looking at the quality of food, the condition of clothing and the standard of accommodation as well as medical issues. In his weekly report to the Guardians, included in the Board minutes for the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1846, he pleaded:

*“If some decisive step be not immediately taken to check the spread of Dysentery within workhouses, I cannot say where it will stop. It is really melancholy to go through the wards and to witness its extent without making an effort to check its progress and mitigate its severity. It is painful to me to make those reports seeing that those hitherto made have not been attended to, but a sense of public duty, and the responsibility that attaches to my situation, compels me once more to draw your attention to a state of things that ought at any risk or sacrifice, to be remedied.”*

He asked for the wards to be adequately heated, aired and ventilated, the inmates to be warmly clothed and that the soup contain a ¼ lb of meat and 2 oz. of rice per pint. Most significantly, he asked for female attendants to be engaged to help care for those with dysentery saying that:

*“... at present they (i.e. those suffering from dysentery) are all scattered through the House lying in their filth without a single person to attend them a circumstance in itself sufficient to propagate the disease.”*

As bad as the situation was in 1846, as the winter dragged into February 1847, Martin's report to the Board became more distressing informing the Guardians that:

*“Fever and dysentery have increased to an alarming extent and though our mortality has not been as great as other houses, it is still considerably over what, I have no hesitation in saying it would be, under most favourable circumstances.”*

*There are at this moment 60 in the Infirmary or Fever Hospital, over 40 in Dysentery and Diarrhoea, besides over 70 lying in the upper stories in the centre building, both male and female side, in Fever and Smallpox and other cutaneous infections forming an aggregate of considerably more than a fourth of the entire inmates. In fact the whole house is in one mass of disease and infection without accommodation, classification, clothing, bedding or proper attendants and in my opinion it would be much safer and more charitable to close the House altogether than keep it open in its present state.*

*The truth is the time has arrived when serious changes must be made to the establishment or else the whole of the inmates, officers and all will be swept away by one common pestilence.”*

Martin once again asked for more temporary fever sheds, improved ventilation, and a sufficient supply of bedding and clothing as

*“the present inmates are wearing their filthy rags of vermin and contagion”.*

He asked for proper ward men and ward maids to report on the health of the paupers and for proper, intelligent nurses who would be fairly paid for their risk of life working with the sick. The Board agreed to borrow money and to get an estimate for the building of a fever hospital.

1847 became the worst year for the people of Gort, not only had the blight destroyed the potato crop, it had also destroyed the seed potatoes. Weakened by malnutrition and sickened by fever and diarrhoea, people flocked to the workhouse.

It was about this time, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1847, that Martin asked the Board for compensation for over-work and the risk to his life, and threatened to resign.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 1847 the *Galway Vindicator* reported:

*“We have heard that in Gort, there are, between Fever and dysentery, no less than 240 patients in the workhouse hospital, a hospital that was not originally intended for one-third the number – and that independent of the present overcrowding of it, is miserably deficient in every kind of accommodation – ventilation bad, and ward rooms wretchedly small. Fever sheds are now being erected to remedy, in some measure, these evils. The matron died within the last few days, and the master now lies ill with fever.”*

That the matron had died and the master fallen ill, confirmed Martin’s contention that caring for the inmates indeed entailed a risk to health and life. It was also evident to everyone that conditions in the workhouse had become appalling due to under funding and poor management. However, despite this latest development the Board not only ignored Martin’s request but also stopped paying him altogether for two months as the

Rates were insufficient to meet the demands of the workhouse let alone his salary. Fortunately for the inmates Martin did not resign but instead continued to care for the patients whose lives had been entrusted to him.

As he would later testify on January 13, 1851, at a Parliamentary inquiry into the Gort Workhouse conditions:

*“I scarcely passed a single day, about this period, without visiting the workhouse, as well as the hospital, which, of course, I attended daily. I frequently attended at meal hours during this period, to examine the food, upon the quality of which I depended a good deal for the general health of the inmates.”*

Martin persisted with his calls to change. At each meeting of the Board, he continued to plead for improved conditions for the inmates, for waterproof sheds, to have the neglected privies fumigated and closed up, and new privies erected away from the fever sheds. He sought clean clothes for the inmates and correct disposal of vermin infected clothes of fever patients to prevent the recycling of contaminated clothing. He complained that patients had only one blanket and that many children had to stay in bed for want of clothing.

At a Board meeting on the 16th of July 1847, Martin asked for four fairly-paid nurses for the fever wards and a competent head nurse to supervise the fever patients. Each nurse should be supported by two ward maids so that diets could be regulated, remedies administered and his directions carried out. He concluded with:

*“... It is quite idle to expect that laborious, dangerous and disgusting duties will be performed without some remuneration,*

*unless I am furnished with a proper staff, competent to discharge the duties entrusted to them, I beg to wash my hands from all responsibility in this matter.”*

In response, the Board appointed Anne Robinson to be a head nurse. At last Martin had some medical support. He had coped alone with the medical duties for six years.

In September 1847, the Government declared the Famine officially over but its effects continued at Gort. Between September 1847 and March 1848, another 680 people died at the Gort Workhouse.

By the end of 1847, the population of the Gort workhouse was 850, exceeding its capacity by 350 people and Martin was despairing of the worsening conditions of the paupers. He had pleaded for changes which were slow in coming. In the minutes of the Board meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1847, in despair he forlornly begged:

*“...after the scene I witnessed on Monday, a feeling of Humanity, as well as proportionate duty obliges me to mention it again. The rain comes in torrents, the floors were ankle deep and the bedding and wretched covering of the unfortunate patients, shivering with cold, were literally wringing wet. I am sure it is only necessary to mention those painful facts to induce you to take prompt measures to prevent their recurrence. So far as I am concerned, I can be of little service, unless I am furnished with the proper means to protect the lives of those entrusted to my care.”*

At last, in February 1848, in response to a new Poor Relief Act, the elected Board of Guardians was disbanded and replaced by appointed, paid Vice-Guardians who took over the administration of the workhouse.

The Union had no funds and the Vice-Guardians politely told Martin to stop nagging for improvements. Indeed, they were

so strapped for money that they once again stopped paying Martin and other officers for two months so as to be able to feed the inmates. This must have been a great strain on the officers' personal finances, none more so than for Martin who was supporting his wife and eight children. The Vice-Guardians were quick to ask Martin that, as they didn't have sufficient funds, could he cease his constant requests for change and actively cooperate with them.

Eventually, the Vice-Guardians did manage to relieve the deplorable conditions at the Gort workhouse. They raised the Rate payable by landowners from three shillings to five shillings, which caused great consternation among the landowners but gave them sufficient funds for the necessary reforms. Healthy school children were moved away to accommodation elsewhere in the town, freeing up spaces in the workhouse. More fever sheds were erected and some fever patients were housed in temporary sheds at the nearby town of Kinvarra. Soup kitchens were set up for outside relief: by April 1848, 10,864 people were receiving outdoor relief but the situation began to improve with the numbers dropping to 8,539 by June that year.

In mid-April, 1849, cholera broke out in the Gort workhouse in an epidemic which lasted three months.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1849, in the *Galway Mercury and Connaught Weekly Advertiser*, the Vice-Guardians praised the medical officers of the Union saying:

*“... it is but justice to the medical staff to state, that they braved the dangers of the period like christians and men, in many cases affording the strongest evidence of their knowledge and skill in staying the ravaging malady.”*

By the 1850s, conditions in the workhouse had improved and fewer people were dying from typhoid.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1851, personal tragedy struck when Martin's wife, Maria, died. It is not recorded what caused her death but she died at the young age of 40 years at a time when fever was still prevalent in the workhouse. 51 people died in the workhouse of fever in March of that year. It is likely that Maria died from an infection passed on from the workhouse. It would have been cold comfort to Martin that, by that time, the worst of the famine was over.

Martin was highly regarded by the Board of Guardians. In the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1851 of the Gort Union Board of Guardians, the Chairman, Mr. Joyce acknowledged Martin's work saying:

*“When I mention the name of Doctor Nolan, I am quite certain, that there is not a man on this board, who has witnessed the tact and ability which he has evinced in the*

*discharge of his duties, that will not agree with when I state, that we have been very fortunate, indeed, in obtaining the efficient services of such a man. For much of the improvements made in the internal management of the parent house and auxiliaries, we are indebted to his indefatigable exertions; and while endeavouring to establish these improvements his chief aim appeared to be to secure the comforts of the poor creatures placed under his care.”*

Martin died suddenly on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 1858, aged 52, and is buried inside the ruins of the Carmelite Abbey, Loughrea. A hero of the famine years, a constant advocate for the poor, he strove to improve their lot, and cared for his people with compassion and determination.

*Margaret McKeown  
Toodyay, Western Australia*

NOTE: Margaret McKeown is descended from Andrew O'Nowlan (c1772-1814) of Loughrea. Andrew married Eliza Daly and they had two sons, John Daly Nolan (1804-1892), a solicitor in Dublin, and Martin Daly Nolan, (c1806-1858), a doctor in Gort during the famine years and also Margaret's great-great-grandfather.

# *The Nolan Chantry at Cambridge University*

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I recently had the pleasure of visiting *the Nolan Chantry* at Cambridge University, England, and also the opportunity to view the splendid portrait of Monsignor Edmond Nolan in whose memory this special side chapel, within the main chapel of St. Edmund's College, was dedicated.



St. Edmund's College itself is unique among all the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge in having, by statute, a Catholic Chapel and a Catholic priest as Dean.

Within the Nolan Chantry is a remarkable pair of stained-glass windows recalling the lives of two English martyrs, St. John Fisher, a former Professor of Theology at the University, and St. Thomas More, both of whom were canonised in 1935, four hundred years after their martyrdom. The closely paired windows depict various scenes from the martyrs' lives and there is a particularly poignant one of St. Thomas More having a farewell visit from his three daughters just before being executed in 1535.

Monsignor Nolan was the first Catholic Chaplain to students at Cambridge University since the Reformation. In the interim Roman Catholic scholars had been barred from entry to the University by both the State and the Catholic Hierarchy itself who considered Cambridge to be even more anti-Catholic than Oxford. By the late 1800s, however, positions had moderated and higher education was opened up to Roman Catholics, but on condition that candidates selected for admission reside in a Catholic Hostel, hence the establishment of a hostel at St. Edmund's College for Roman Catholic scholars seeking admission to Cambridge University.

Edmond Nolan was born in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, in 1857. His father was John Nolan of Logboy, Co. Mayo.

At 16 years of age Edmond was sent to a Catholic grammar school in Leicester, and went on to study for the priesthood at St. Edmund's College where he was ordained in 1882. He later joined the staff of St. Edmund's where he held the office of Vice-President from 1892. It was in this capacity that he collaborated with Baron von Hügel, the Duke of Norfolk and the then President of Ware, Mgr. Bernard Ward, in a series of moves which eventually led to the founding of St. Edmund's House in Cambridge.

By his contemporaries he was described as being *particularly successful – where his ready wit and gift for story-telling made him a most welcome guest at hightable*. He received an Honorary Doctorate in Philosophy and Letters from Louvain University, was President of the Old Secular Brotherhood, and Canon of the Westminster Chapter. He resigned in 1909 to return to parish work and died at Hartford in 1931. His obituary said he was *full of years and honours*.

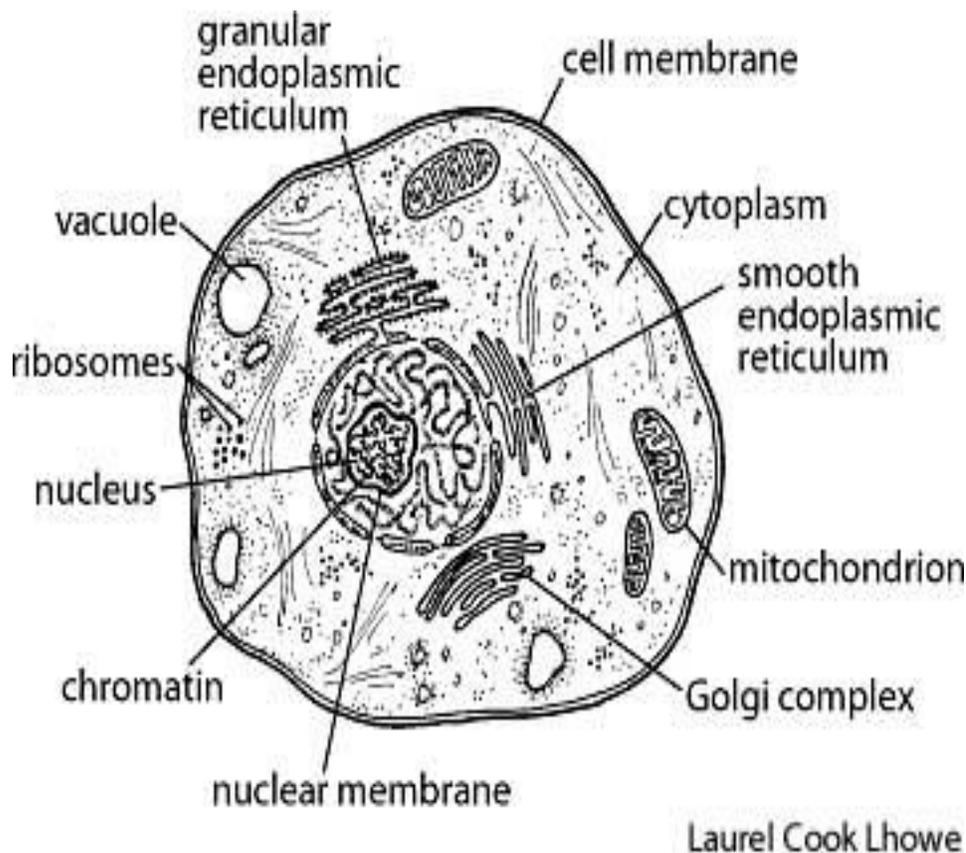
*Mary Nolan,  
Nolan Clan Chief*

# [DNA In Action: The Nolan Y-DNA Surname Project](#)

**By Kenneth E. Nowlan, Jr, CG(sm)\***

The use of DNA as a source for genealogy research is becoming increasingly common. More and more individuals are taking tests to document their DNA for genealogical purposes. The cost of testing is decreasing, and as a result, databases are growing. This allows a better opportunity for genetic matches to complement more traditional genealogical sources. One such opportunity is the “Nolan y-DNA Surname Project” online at Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) and a public site at WorldFamilies.Net. Before looking at this project more closely, let’s look at some basics about chromosomes, DNA and DNA’s application to genealogy.

Most people know that our genetic material, our “genes”, is generally located in our cells in something called “chromosomes”. In humans, a normal individual has 46 chromosomes in 23 pairs. These include two sex chromosomes, the “Y” and/or the “X”, and 44 others that are numbered and collectively called “autosomes”. Only the male has a “Y-Chromosome”, but both male and female have at least one X-chromosome and all of the autosomes. There is also a small amount of DNA in another structure in the cell called a “mitochondrion”, present in both male and female, in the “cytoplasm” of the cell, outside of the nucleus (see Figure 1). For purposes of this article, let’s focus on the Y-Chromosome.



**Figure 1**

The Y-chromosome is the second smallest chromosome of the 46 in humans. Unlike other chromosome pairs, it doesn't match up neatly with its partner, the X-chromosome. For that reason, it has large portions that do not swap DNA material with its X partner. This is called non-recombinant DNA, which changes less frequently. Of course, it also includes segments that are genes with a specific purpose and other non-gene segments that have no known function. These non-gene segments are sometimes called "junk" DNA. Suffice it to say it is that junk DNA that does not recombine that provides a means to compare different men.

The Y- chromosome is actually a tightly coiled and wound strand of DNA. If you stretch that Y-chromosome out, the DNA strand is actually two long strings of something called "nucleotides" (see Figure 2). The two strings actually are complementary – they have matching points that bond with each other. When they do bond, they actually curl around each other, so that you have a spiral staircase structure where the bonds are the actual steps. This is where the term "double helix" terminology comes from. If you pulled the strings apart, essentially breaking apart the spiral staircase, each single string can be analyzed. That single string is the basis of the Nolan y-DNA Surname Project.

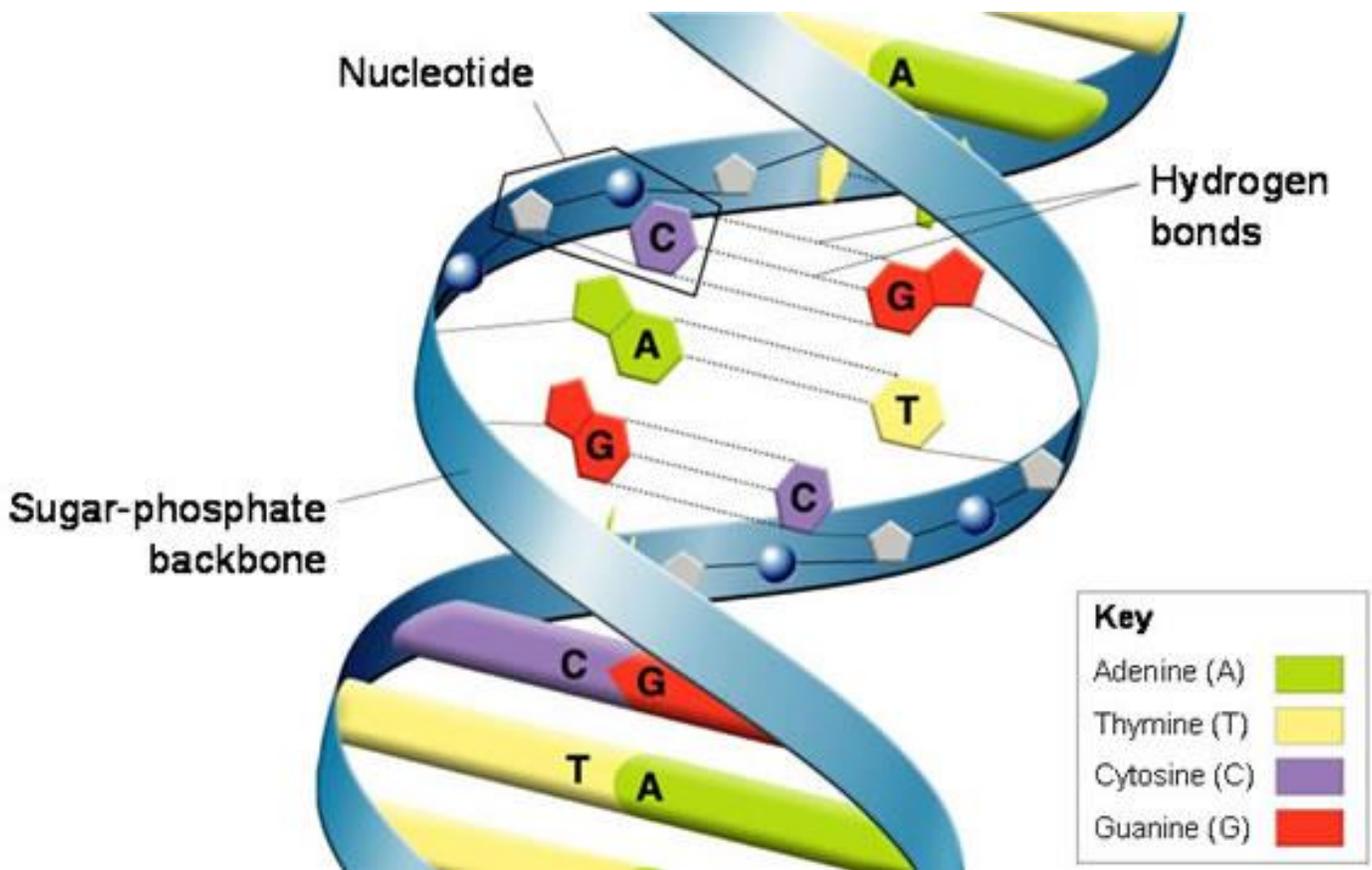


Figure 2

Before we get to the Nolan Project spreadsheet, we need a little more science and terminology. Using Figure 2, each of those nucleotides in either string of nucleotides, mentioned in the previous paragraph, actually contains one of only four different “bases” – Guanine or “G”, Cytosine or “C”, Adenine or “A”, and Thymine or “T”. Importantly, they are paired having a specific chemical affinity for each other – G likes C and A likes T. It’s this affinity that creates light bonds between the paired bases, which actually represent the rungs of that spiral staircase of the double helix. So, using Figure 2, if you pull the two strings apart, the marked bases on the right, from bottom to top, would be A-G-C-T-G-A and those along the left would be T-C-G-A-C. Note, that if you know one side, you would know the other, because of their chemical affinity.

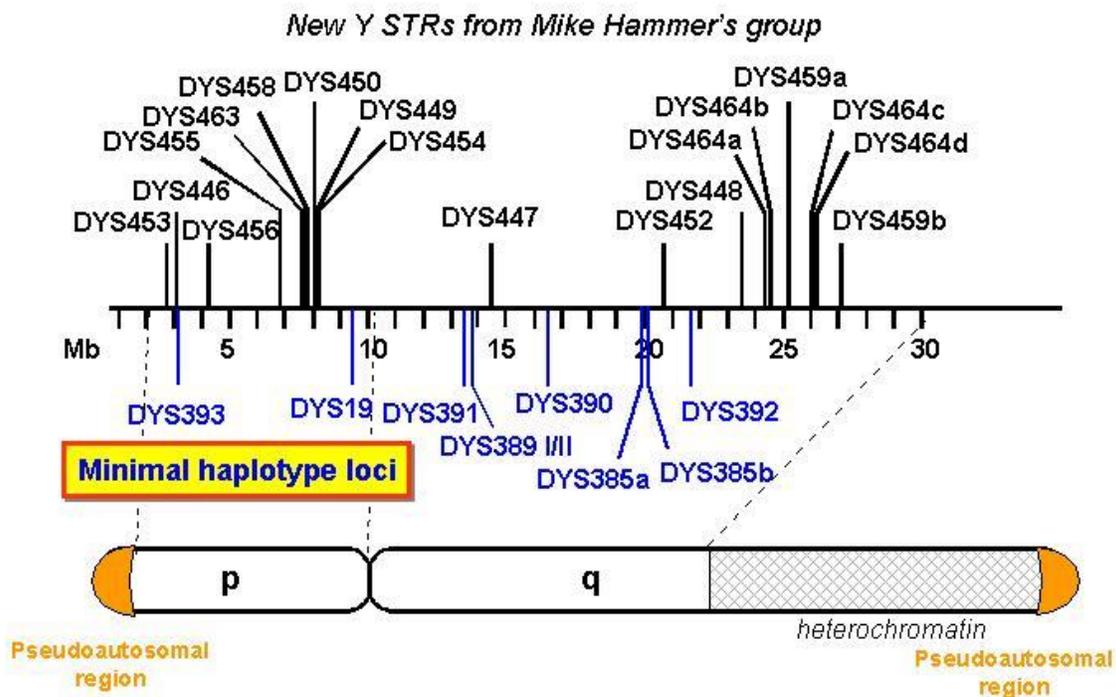
So, I ask you to mentally visualize another string, that had a base alignment of G-G-A-T-G-G-A-T and its facing string partner would be C-C-T-A-C-C-T-A. Notice, the string G-G-A-T is repeated twice on one string and its complement opposite of it is C-C-T-A, also repeated twice. That essential represents a point on the chromosome where a sequence of bases repeats two times. That would be called a Short Tandem Repeat or “STR” in DNA terminology and would be shown as an allele number of “2” for that location (or marker) on a spreadsheet for that chromosome. By definition, the string of bases in a STR can be no longer than seven in length. My “G-G-A-T” example above obviously contains four bases.

3	3	1	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		
9	9	9	9	8	8	2	8	3	8	9	8	5	5	5	5	5	4	3	4	4	6	6	6	6
3	0		1	5	5	6	8	9	9	2	9	8	9	9	5	4	7	7	8	9	4	4	4	4
				a	b								a	b						a	b	c	d	
									1	2														
13	25	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	13	14	29	17	9	10	11	11	26	15	18	29	15	16	17	17
13	25	14	10	11	13	12	12	12	13	14	29	17	9	10	11	11	26	15	18	29	15	14	17	17
13	25	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	13	14	29	17	9	10	11	11	26	15	18	29	15	15	17	17
13	25	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	13	14	29	17	9	10	11	11	26	15	18	29	15	16	17	17
13	25	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	13	14	29	17	9	10	11	11	26	15	18	29	15	16	17	17
13	25	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	13	14	29	17	9	10	11	11	26	15	18	29	15	16	17	17
13	25	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	13	14	29	17	9	10	11	11	26	15	18	30	15	16	17	17
13	25	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	13	14	29	17	9	10	11	11	26	15	18	31	15	16	16	17
13	25	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	13	14	29	17	9	10	11	11	26	15	18	30	15	16	17	17

Figure 3

Now let's apply this STR concept to an actual table of values from the Nolan Project (see Figure 3). Across the top are marker locations, in a column layout. For example, in the upper left-hand corner, is the number "393" ("3" above the "9" above the "3"). Immediately to 393's right are 24 more markers. Routinely, these marker location numbers are preceded by "DYS", standing for *DNA Y-Chromosome Segment* (first letters). These are actual locations on the Y-Chromosome that have no known genetic purpose, but in this case, they can be used to compare individuals (see Figure 4).

## Y STR Positions along Y Chromosome



**Figure 4**

Back to Figure 3, look below the markers and see lines of information, ten total – each line beginning with the number "13". Each one of these lines represents an individual man with values at each marker location. These values are called "alleles" and represent a string of repeating bases at that marker location. So, at marker location DYS393, there is a short string of bases, actually A-G-A-T, which repeats thirteen times. Clearly, most of these ten individuals match at most of the marker locations. The blue-highlighted results show where individuals do not match. Actually, these men are related, sharing a common ancestor at some point in the past – the more they match, the closer in time is the shared ancestor. The string of all STR values for an individual is the person's "haplotype".

Using 25 markers (like Figure 3), typically, a father and son would match 25 out of 25 markers. In fact, grandfathers and grandsons would also match at that level. The point is, barring some unusual mutation,

the non-recombinant DNA passes unchanged along the paternal line of a family. Essentially, the Y-Chromosome is passed from father to son unchanged for many generations. Mutations to STRs do randomly occur, but at a relatively low rate (e.g. once in hundreds of generations). To complicate this mutation rate further, the rates vary for each marker location (e.g. DYS393 different than DYS390, etc.). Still, considering a generation in genetic terms is usually 25 years, STR-based analysis has value for modern genealogists, who tend to focus on the last 500 years. Deeper ancestry analysis is another issue and requires some new terminology and description.

STRs refer primarily to a string of nucleotides and their associated string of single bases from complementary pairs – essentially one side of a double-string DNA molecule. In contrast, a SNP, or **Single Nucleotide Polymorphism**, is two facing nucleotides and a specific base pair. SNPs have a very slow mutation rate, generally much slower than a STR. As a result, they become of greater interest in very deep ancestry – thousands of years ago. Keep in mind, surnames are a relatively new creation – last 1000 years or so. A set of one or more SNPs can define a whole group of human beings or in genetic terms, a “haplogroup”. A subset of a haplogroup is frequently called a “subclade”. Though the Y-Results Table in the Nolan y-DNA Surname Project does include haplogroup and subclade information, its focus is still on the nearer term and STR matches. A discussion of haplogroups, and at least two systems for describing them, is a subject for another article.

Y-Chromosome testing is a must, if you are examining the paternal line in a family; however, it’s not the only type of DNA testing. Notably, two others are very useful. First, inside of almost all human cells is a structure called a “mitochondrion” (see Figure 1). There’s DNA inside the mitochondria (plural), which can be analyzed. Since mitochondria are passed from mother to children, especially daughters, their DNA becomes very useful in tracking the maternal line (e.g. daughter, mother, grandmother, etc.). So, my mitochondria came from my mother, from her mother (my grandmother) and so on. Men cannot pass their mitochondria to their children. So, mtDNA testing is a valuable tool. Second, portions of all the non-sex chromosomes (excluding X and Y) can be tested. These are the autosomes (atDNA) and are especially useful filling in all the cousins, genetically. At a site like FamilyTreeDNA.com, these cousin associations/matches are provided to the person tested.

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\*CG and Certified Genealogist are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, used under license by board certificants after periodic competency evaluation, and the board name is registered in the US Patent & Trademark Office. Ken Nowlan is the current (February 2015) Project Administrator for the Nolan Y-DNA Surname Project at Family Tree DNA.

Notes:

- 1) Figure 1 – a drawing by Laura Cook Lhowe
- 2) Figure 2 – from [www.goldiesroom.org](http://www.goldiesroom.org).
- 3) Figure 3 – extracted from the Nolan y-DNA Surname Project’s “Y Results Table” at [www.worldfamilies.net](http://www.worldfamilies.net).
- 4) Figure 4 – from [www.cstl.nist.gov/y-strs.html](http://www.cstl.nist.gov/y-strs.html).
- 5) Some definitions from an online paper “A Basic Guide to Y-DNA Testing for Ireland Projects”, by Susan J. Barretta, 14 November 2012.

## *Maria celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday*

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On January 29, 2015, Maria Mallenby nee Nowlan quietly celebrated her 100th birthday in the company of her son Douglas. She claims her secret to longevity is to stay away from doctors and medications.

Maria, born near Buctouche, New Brunswick, Canada, is the mother of clan member Douglas Mallenby of Omaha, Nebraska, and aunt to Roger Nowlan, our Newsletter editor.



Maria at age 23  
with husband Tom



Maria at age 94  
with son Douglas

## *A Wedding in the Blue Ridge Mountains*

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On December 9, 2014, John Joseph Nolan II and Kristine Diane Shannabrook exchanged marital vows in a winery facility nestled on a slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Bluemont, Virginia.

John Joseph, born in 1981, is the son of long-time clan members, David and Cheri Nolan, former White House staff members under the Reagan administration.

## *Other News from Clan Members*

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Catherina O'Brien of Ballytarsna, Co. Carlow, our Clan secretary reports that she and her husband Joe very much enjoy their new 5-month old grandson Zack.

Catherina also reports that our Clan organization was recently presented with a Certificate signed by the President of Ireland, recognizing our participation in the 2013 "Gathering", a country-wide initiative seeking to reach out to the Irish diaspora spread around the world.

Chris Nolan, our Tánaiste (Chief in-waiting), from Clermont, New York, reports that Katie Nolan, the daughter of his cousin Michael, has become a rising broadcaster in the sports media world. She will be hosting a new show called "Garbage Time with Katie Nolan", expected to soon begin airing on Sunday nights on the Fox Sports Live channel.

*Reference URL:*

<http://www.sportsbusinessdaily.com/Daily/Issues/2015/02/16/Media/FS1-Nolan.aspx>

## *Scottish Independence Fails*

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Historically, King Robert the Bruce won independence for Scotland at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. However, by an "Act of Union with England" passed in 1707 by the Scottish parliament, Scotland became an integral part of the United Kingdom with one monarch and one parliament at Westminster.

This decision to be a part of the United Kingdom was revisited in a 2014 referendum on Scottish independence, this time the population itself voting on whether they wanted to be independent or not.

Late polls showed a possible lead for the 'Yes' side but, on voting day, 55% voted 'No' and 45% voted 'Yes'.

Scotland's Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon told the BBC the result was "a deep personal and political disappointment". The "Better Together" campaigners, including the U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron, said Scottish independence would have been detrimental to Scottish interests.

Despite the 'No' vote, Scotland did get the promise of more powers from the British government and Ms Sturgeon said that she would work with "anyone in any way" to secure more powers for Scotland.

*Reference URL:*

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140920-scottish-independence.html>

[News Item suggested by David B. Nolan Sr]

## **BOOK: “Struggle and Strife on a Mayo Estate, 1833-1903 – the Nolans of Logboy and their tenants”**

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This book by Michael Kelly reveals how landlord and tenants on a Mayo estate responded to a series of crises during the Victorian era, dominated by the Famine and the Land War.

In 1833 the debt-burdened estate of the Catholic Nolan family at Logboy was inherited by Edmond J. Nolan, a Dublin-based attorney.

A benevolent landlord, he was forced to sell the estate after the Famine. The purchaser was his wealthy nephew, John Nolan Ferrall, who enjoyed a privileged lifestyle during the post-Famine economic recovery. But when a confluence of misfortunes reduced Mayo tenants to poverty again in the late 1870s, the Logboy estate was targeted by organized land agitation led by Fenian activists and closely linked with agrarian unrest at nearby Irishtown.

Relations between Nolan Ferrall and his tenants deteriorated, resulting in violent confrontations and evictions. The murder of his bailiff in November 1881 was a turning point and he abandoned Logboy for good.

After his death [John Nolan Ferrall], the United Irish League took up the tenants’ case until the Wyndham land act of 1903 finally enabled them to become landowners.

A native of Co. Mayo, the author, Michael Kelly, has lived in Dublin for many years and is a former civil servant. He holds an MA in Local History from NUI Maynooth.

His 64-page book with illustrations (ISBN 978-1-84682-518-7) is available from various book dealers including online suppliers such as Amazon.com and FourCourtsPress.ie.



## **BOOK: “LBJ - The Mastermind of the JFK Assassination” and companion eBook “The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald”**

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The first book by Phillip F. Nelson published in 2013 attempts to prove that Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) played an active role in the assassination of US president John Fitzgerald Kennedy (JFK). The author shows that LBJ had both the motive and the opportunity to mastermind the murder of the United States’ 35<sup>th</sup> president and its first Irish Catholic president.

Because of the pending corruption investigations of LBJ in 1963, JFK had decided to dump his 1960 running mate from the 1964 election ticket. According to the author, LBJ feared going to prison if he did not initiate a coup to remain in power such that he could call upon presidential powers to block any indictments which were likely to surface.

The book alleges that LBJ used teams of mafia sharpshooters for the carefully orchestrated JFK assassination in Dallas, Texas. Sniper Charles Harrelson, later imprisoned for the murder of a federal judge, admitted to inflicting the frontal throat and forehead rifle wounds to JFK from the grassy knoll at the Dealey Plaza. Malcolm Wallace, who mysteriously served no jail time from a prior murder conviction in Texas, left his finger prints in the shooter’s nest in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Texas School Book Repository (TSBR) above JFK’s motorcade to the rear. Three rifles were found in the upper two floors of the TSBR.

Eighty percent (80) of the American public now believes that Lee Harvey Oswald was set up as the “patsy” for others. Two days after Oswald’s own assassination on November 24, 1963 by mobster Jack Ruby, LBJ’s Washington immediate neighbor and Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), J. Edgar Hoover,

wrongfully ruled that the investigation of the JFK conspiracy was closed.

LBJ coaxed U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Earl Warren, to head a Commission for the self-serving conclusion that Oswald was the sole assassin. The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald fired all “three” shots including the so-called “magic bullet” inflicting multiple wounds to both JFK and Texas Governor John Connally. Dallas police motorcycle radio records confirm that, in total, as many as eleven rifle shots were fired.

*In 1976, the U.S. Congress concluded that there was a JFK conspiracy involving shooters from both the school book repository and the grassy knoll around Dealey Plaza.* In this year, several mobsters were murdered, seemingly to ensure their silence that LBJ had organized rouge elements of the CIA, FBI and the Secret Service to orchestrate his self-serving power grab.

Calling upon my experience as a former White House attorney I have documented in an eBook all the facts relating to “The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald” which, had Oswald survived Ruby’s single gunshot, would have no doubt led to uncovering the real story behind JFK’s assassination

If interested in obtaining a copy of the eBook I have written I can be reached by Email ([dbnesq1@aol.com](mailto:dbnesq1@aol.com)), by telephone (1-571-277-3265) or by regular mail (David B. Nolan Sr., 97 Willow Run Drive, Centerville, MA 02632).

*David Brian Nolan Sr.*

# NOLAN CLAN GATHERING 2015

Weekend 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September

Venue Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow

*(draft programme as of March 1, 2015)*

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – From 8 pm Casual get together in the Seven Oaks Hotel

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> – 11 am Collect participants to go to Ducketts Grove & Dolmen

Saturday Afternoon – Lunch in Country pub  
(Rugby World Cup Match  
Ireland vs Canada on TV at 14.30 pm)

Return to Hotel

Saturday night – 7 pm A.G.M and election of committee  
– 8 pm Dinner and talk on Nolan Name  
– 10.30 pm Traditional music in hotel or local establishment

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> – 10.15 am Collect participants for  
a visit to Kilkenny Castle, Co. Kilkenny

– 2 pm Lunch in Seven Oaks Hotel

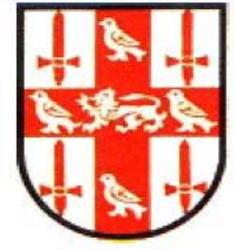
Sunday afternoon – 3.30 pm All Ireland Football Final available on TV in Hotel.  
– 6 pm Gathering will officially finish in Seven Oaks Hotel



Members may wish to take part in some or all of the events over the weekend, some may wish to do a bit of shopping in Carlow Town as there are many shops and boutiques and Fairgreen Shopping Centre which is just a short walk away from the Seven Oaks Hotel.

There are also many other attractions in and around Carlow Town and the local Tourist Office is always very helpful to our members. If you have children we have the Dome where you can go bowling among other activities including a soft play area.

# O'Nolan Clan Ò Nuallàin



## Membership Application / Renewal Form

I wish to join (or /renew my membership in) the O'Nolan Clan, a voluntary, non-profit organisation, relying upon its members for fund-raising, organizing clan activities and recruiting new members.

I understand that membership is open to anyone who supports the goals and aspirations of the clan:

- To organize a Clan Gathering every second year
- To publish a Clan Newsletter at least once a year
- To create and maintain, for current and future generations, an archive of historical and anecdotal information of interest to Nolans everywhere.

I also understand that membership dues are to be paid upon joining and, thereafter, at the beginning of each calendar year, prior to March 17.

The yearly membership fee per household, in known local currencies of interest, is currently set at 10 Euros, \$13 USD, \$15 CAD or \$17 AUD.

For other local currencies, the membership fee is the equivalent of 10 Euros in that currency. To save on postage and service charges, I may also choose to pay for more than one year at a time.

Enclosed is a personal cheque in my local currency made out to "Pa Nolan - Nolan Clan" in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ as payment for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) membership in the clan.

Indicate whether this is a renewal or not: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_\_

For clan records and to help with administration, my particulars (or revisions thereto) are:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

### Post To:

( To inquire: Tel: +353 (87) 243-8047

Email: [pa@panolan.com](mailto:pa@panolan.com) )

**Pa Nolan, Nolan Clan Treasurer  
Mopoon Villa, Sydenham Road  
Dundrum, Dublin 14 Republic of Ireland**