



# THE NOLAN

The Newsletter of the O'Nolan Clan Family Association

March 2017

Issue 27

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of Colour

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



*Slán agus beannacht,  
Christopher Nolan - Clan Chief*



# Cover Artwork - A Celebration of Colour

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The artwork appearing on the cover of the newsletter was provided by John Nolan, a prominent Dublin artist.

He was born in Dublin in 1958 and lives and works in Drumcondra. He is a second-generation artist, having been exposed to art from an early age by his father. Over the past 35 years John has established himself as an international artist whose work is characterized by his use of vibrant colour. As an artist, he has worked with fellow artists, poets, musicians, designers, on various commissioned artworks.

The studio in which he works is covered wall-to-wall with a colourful collection of paintings, and it also contains his workspace and a teaching area.



(to view more paintings, visit <http://www.nolanart.com> )

He shares his passion for painting with many. In addition to teaching adult painting classes, John also participates in special projects at several elementary schools in the area. His work is easily recognizable, and is known throughout Ireland and internationally, having been exhibited in many countries as well as in the U.S.

In 2003, he won the distinguished honor of representing Ireland at the “Biennale Internazionale Dell ‘Arte Contemporanea” in Florence, Italy. His work is in many public and private collections throughout the world.

The subject of John’s work is colour. He explores colour through his stylized, contemporary and abstract styles. His paintings have been inspired by many artists. His father, in particular, was a huge influence on and source of inspiration for his work. John’s paintings transmit a positive, upbeat feeling to the viewer.

For John, art is a visual language, an important means of communication. He creates each piece as a unique experience.

*“Art is everywhere, all around us. All we need to do is open our eyes and enjoy. Art is for everyone.”*

## O’Nolan Clan Family Association

**Chief – Christopher Nolan**  
67 Commons Road  
Clermont, New York 12526  
United States of America  
**TEL: +1 (518) 755-5089**

[chrisanolan3@gmail.com](mailto:chrisanolan3@gmail.com)

**Tánaiste – Catherina O’Brien**  
Ballytarsna, Nurney, Co.  
Carlow  
Republic of Ireland  
**TEL: +353 (59) 9727377**  
or cell +353 (87) 9723024

[o'Brienecat@eircom.net](mailto:o'Brienecat@eircom.net)

**Secretary – David Nowlan**  
[davidnolanartist@mac.com](mailto:davidnolanartist@mac.com)

**Treasurer – Pa Nolan**  
Mopoon Villa,  
Sydenham Road,  
Dundrum, Dublin 14  
Republic of Ireland  
**TEL: +353 (87) 2438047**  
[pa@panolan.com](mailto:pa@panolan.com)

**Newsletter Editor – Roger Nowlan**  
222 Ave. De La Colline  
Gatineau, Quebec J9J 1T8  
Canada  
**TEL: +1 (819) 684-2535**  
FAX: +1(819) 684-6321

[RNowlan@primus.ca](mailto:RNowlan@primus.ca)  
[NolanTidbit@gmail.com](mailto:NolanTidbit@gmail.com)  
<http://NolanFamilies.org>

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

## Editorial ...

### Cover

The painting on the cover is, as the artist puts it, “a celebration of colour”. In preparing for the current issue I chanced upon John Nolan’s website (<http://www.nolanart.com>) and, after contacting him, he gladly agreed to have one of his paintings adorn the front cover of our newsletter.

### Next Clan Gathering

Our current Chief, Christopher Nolan, invites us to the next Clan Gathering planned for the weekend of September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> this year. A draft agenda of the activities planned for the Gathering appears on page 5.

### Membership Dues

Members are reminded that the **clan dues are due at the beginning of each calendar year**. The clan does not send out payment notices. For those wishing to join the clan or to renew their membership a copy of the membership renewal form is provided at the end of the newsletter.

### Articles in this Issue

Most of the articles in this issue were inspired by my current research into early Nolan family history with a view to publishing, by 2020, a new book on Nolan family history.

This new book is not meant to replace the first book on Nolan family history published under the sponsorship of the Nolan Clan in the year 2000 but rather to complement it.

For anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the first Nolan book, a Print-On-Demand version is available through **Amazon.com**. Simply enter “O’Nolan – the history of a People” in the search box.

In my opinion, the first Nolan book correctly reflects the understanding of Nolan family history as it existed around 1920 when Father John Nolan first penned the manuscripts found in the “Ark” (a box handed down from generation to generation) which served as the basis for the first Nolan book.

This book published in 2000 remains a valuable resource but it was based on a reduced set of the information now easily accessible thanks to the Internet. Also, the book’s coverage of two important aspects of Nolan family history is minimal, namely immigration from Ireland and the global context for the Nolan story.

Many old textbooks and manuscripts can now readily be accessed, searched and information of interest noted. We now have a real chance at peering through the “Mists of time” first identified by the founders of the modern-day Nolan Clan in 1995, as they shared stories over a beer or two in a local pub such as the Fighting Cocks pub in county Carlow, just a short walk from the Templepeter cemetery, burial place of many Nolan ancestors including one of the last Nolan chiefs who died in 1737.

My current plans to make a second Nolan book a reality by 2020 are outlined in the article “Peering through the Mists of Time” which appears towards the end of the Newsletter.

***Roger Nowlan,  
Newsletter Editor***

## Happy St Patrick's Day to the Clan O'Nolan around the World

As we enter into this year of our 2017 General Meeting we invite you all to join us for the next Gathering on the weekend of 8th, 9th and 10th September. The schedule of events is shaping up to be an exciting and engaging program.

2016 marked the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising in Dublin. At our last Gathering in 2015 we pledged to research Nolans active during that period. Some of that research was published in the 2016 newsletter. Our research continued and we have been posting additional information on the Facebook group pages of the Clan O'Nolan and The Nolan Clan.

Connecting the global Nolan Diaspora through social media has been an exciting challenge. The careers and adventures of the many Nolans from around the world have been inspiring. From the Stephen Nolan Show in Belfast, to Katie Nolan's sports commentary on America's Fox Sports network, Nolans definitely are present in the media. The films of Christopher Nolan, his brother Jonathan and his uncle John Nolan have kept the Nolan name in the forefront of Hollywood. Among our Clan are politicians and lawyers, doctors and businessmen, tradesmen and transportation specialists, scientists, educators, clergy, athletes, artists and musicians.

In Ireland, Adam Nolan, Olympic boxer from Enniscorthy, County Wexford, recently announced that he will be concentrating on training with the Wexford hurling team. Members of our clan also are globally curious travelers. Stephen Nolan originally from Rush, County Dublin, emigrated to Sydney and has been posting amazing images to social media over the past several weeks of his travels to Nepal and India.

These are only a few of the many great things Nolans are involved with around the world. The Clan O'Nolan seeks to foster awareness, encouragement and fellowship. Today's achievements and tragedies illustrate our global connection and bring to life genealogical ancestry and family histories.

Those arriving to the Clan events from far away may want to extend their stay in Ireland. We have a few suggestions of other major events: The 86th National Ploughing Championships to be held this year in Screggan, Tullamore, Co Offaly from 19th to 21st September; The National Hurling Championship at Croke Park in Dublin on the weekend of the 2nd September; or the National Irish Football Championships on the 16 September. These major sporting events bring the country to a standstill and tickets to the games are already difficult to obtain!

Check into our social media pages for information on events. We will be live streaming in September on the Facebook page Clan O'Nolan. We look forward to hearing from everyone.

*Christopher A Nolan*



# **NOLAN CLAN GATHERING 2017**

**Weekend 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September**

**Venue Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow**

*(draft programme as of March 10, 2017)*

## **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> - Pre-Gathering suggestions for visits on your own**

12:00 pm - Enniscorthy Castle and National 1798 Rebellion Centre.

*NOTE: Many Nolans were involved in the 1798 Rebellion.*

*These two historic sites are closed on the weekend.*

8:00 pm Traditional Music at a local pub in Carlow or at Clancy's in Athy.

## **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Suggestions for Friday before the Official start in the evening**

12:00 pm - O'Hara's Brewery Tour

12:00 pm - Walsh's Distillery Tour

*NOTE: The brewery and distillery listed above, local Co Carlow businesses*

*near Bagnalstown, are suggestions for Friday because both are closed on the weekends.*

## **Friday evening - The Clan Gathering officially begins**

7:30 pm -10:30pm - Informal social at the Seven Oaks Hotel Library and Pub

## **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> – Group Activities, General Meeting and Dinner**

10:30 am - Assemble at the Seven Oaks Hotel for the day's touring

11:15 am - Ballon walking tour

Nolans Tyres - Michael Dawson

Nolan Hardware - Billy Nolan

1:00 pm - Lunch at The Fighting Cocks Pub

2:15 pm - Templepeter Cemetery

3:00 pm - Stop in Rathoe

3:30 pm - Stop in Tullow at the Fr Murphy Monument

Return to the Seven Oaks Hotel by 4:30 pm

6:30 pm - General Meeting of the Clan and Election of Officers

7:30 pm - Dinner with presentation of special recognition awards,

installation of officers and a traditional music session

## **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> – Morning Social, Group Activities**

10:00 am - Assemble at Seven Oaks Hotel for day's touring beginning with a Breakfast Social

11:30 am - Depart Seven Oaks Hotel

12:00 pm - Nolan Farm, Friarstown Solar Panel Photovoltaic Cell Project (48,000 sq m)

2:00 pm - Nolan Transport, New Ross

4:00 pm - Return to home or hotel

### **Alternate Sunday program:**

Visit to the Killelen Cemetery and the Catholic Church in Moone

Many Nolans are buried in these two cemeteries. Also, visit to the Moone High Cross.

Further suggestions for this year's or future Clan Gatherings are welcome.



## The Nowlins of Virginia – the lost years (1672-1700)

Based upon church records for the St Germain-en-Laye palace in Paris (*former home to the Irish Brigade in France*) there is every reason to believe that, sometime after 1672 having lost all hope of regaining his lands in Ireland, the ancestor of the Nowlins of Virginia, Captain James Nolan, went to Paris with his family dying sometime around 1699.

In August 1697, at the St-Germain-en-Laye palace, one “Eugène Nolan”, widower of “Margueritte Bekar” (sic Margaret Baker?), marries one “Hélène Quin”, a widow.

In August 1700, again at the palace, this Hélène, now widowed, marries a “Manus Begly”, soldier. However, in the marriage record, we find that the name of her deceased husband is recorded as “Jacques Nolan” (i.e. James Nolan in English) implying that when she had married him he had used an alias, namely “Eugène”.

That Captain James Nolan would use an alias is consistent with what we know of his earlier life. Before leaving Ireland in 1670 Captain James had been convicted of murder and certainly would not want to be found while in exile.

However, perhaps a stronger reason for believing that this was really Captain James Nolan, is the fact that “Eugène” was used as an alias. As all Nowlin researchers know Hugh O’Nolan of Shangarry is the most famous of Shangarry Nolans, being at the top of the ancestral tree. “Eugène” in its English form is Hugh. Need I say more?

Based upon the foregoing, James, William and John, Captain James’ sons would have decided to immigrate to America after both of their parents had died, their mother sometime before 1697 and the father, sometime around 1699.

The story then continues from there as related in the Nowlin-Stone genealogy, James Jr. establishing himself on Beaver Dam Creek in Virginia and becoming known as “James Nowlin”, William going initially to Virginia but then moving on to New England and finally John going “Up North” (*RN: possibly to Newfoundland since the Nowling name is found in Newfoundland; we note, in particular, that a James Nowling from Newfoundland arrived in Boston aboard the Sloop Peggy in December 1763*).

## Was William Shakespeare Irish? Some think so!

In her book *The Green Cockatrice*, Elizabeth Hickey (1917 – 1999), a well-known Co. Meath historian, identified William Nugent as a candidate for being “the real William Shakespeare”.

William Nugent (1550–1625) was a Hiberno-Norman rebel in the 16<sup>th</sup> century Kingdom of Ireland and the younger son of Richard Nugent, thirteenth baron of Delvin, from whom he inherited the manor and castle of Ross in County Meath.

A bit of William Nugent’s life is recounted in the article “The Nowland Family Name” which follows and, as you will learn from reading the article, a Tadee Nowland was for a time (1572-1574) a servant to William Nugent, potentially William Shakespeare.

Below, on the left we see William Nugent's headstone and, on the right, an early illustration of Shakespeare's monument. Both show a bird on a helmet.



For more information on the life of William Nugent I suggest reading the Wikipedia article on the Internet ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Nugent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Nugent) ).

# The Nowland Family Name

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## First Recorded Instance

The first use of the Nowland family name seems to have been in Yorkshire, England, where, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1572, one “William Nowland” had his son Thomas christened in the church of Saints Peter and Paul in the small town of Howden.

Howden, a market town, was home to a vibrant community of Anglo-Catholics, also known as “Anglican Papalists”, committed to following Catholic rites for their services and considering themselves still under papal supremacy even though they were not “in communion” with the Roman Catholic Church. Such an environment would have been very welcoming for anyone coming from the Ballon area in Co. Carlow, whether they be a Catholic, Anglo-Catholic, Crypto-Catholic or simply a committed Anglican.

The Howden area also had a reputation for its expertise in training horses, a reputation which still exists today. In the 1807 issue of *The Sporting Magazine* the Howden fair was cited as being the “largest fair for horses in the Kingdom”.

This expertise in training horses is believed to have been what attracted a Nolan from the Ballon area to Howden. To understand why horse training was an attraction, especially for a Nolan from the Ballon area, it is important to review the definition and origin of the word “marshal”. As you may recall, under Gaelic rule, in times of war, the Nolan Chief seated at Ballykealy House in later times, acted as “marshal” for the kings of Leinster. This involved rallying and preparing the troops for battle providing them with mounts as necessary. Well-trained horses could make the difference between winning or losing a battle. Horses were important especially to anyone who saw the possibility that they might one day become the marshal for the kings of Leinster, the O’Nolan chief.

Reviewing pages 245-246 of the Nolan book published in 2000 we see that William O’Nolan of Kilbride lived in the timeframe of interest and is the prime candidate for being the father of the William Nowland who had a child christened in Howden in 1572.

From the Nolan book, we also learn that William of Kilbride had at least 7 sons but, strangely, none seems to have been named William.

This strongly suggests that our William of Howden was none other than William O’Nolan Jr. of Kilbride, an eldest son sent away to England to learn the art of marshalling as practiced by the O’Nolan Chief, their close relative, seated at the nearby Ballykealy House. Based upon the findings in an earlier article (“Templar Knights & the O’Nolans” in issue 20 of the Newsletter) it appears as if this was not the first time that a Nolan related to the Chief line had been sent away to a foreign land to learn about the art of marshalling.

Another reason why William O’Nolan Sr. of Kilbride might have sent his son to Howden could be that he simply wanted to shelter him from the open warfare which was then raging in Ireland. Starting in 1565 war would rage on and off for several years involving two main factions, the Butlers (*associated with the Earl of Ormonde and the rule of English law in matters of succession*) and the FitzGerald (*associated with the Earl of Kildare and Desmond and enforcement of Brehon law*) finally ending in 1583. This period of on and off fighting is known to historians as the *Desmond Rebellions*.

## Nowlands in Yorkshire

William Nowland of Howden had one son, Thomas, and possibly another one named Henry.

Thomas, born in 1572, seems to have settled in the nearby town of Snaith sometime before 1596 when he married a Catherine Smythe. Together they had at least 8 children: William (1596), George (1598), Elizabeth (1601), Thomas (1603), Christopher (1604), John (1607), Jane (1609) and Frances (1613). In the parish register recording the birth of Thomas and Catherine’s children we also find noted “Gardner” as an alias for the family name.

The Henry Nowland (or “Henrie Nowland” as he is recorded in the Snaith registers) who had a son christened George in 1613 is a possible second son of William Nowland of Howden.

## Nowlands in Meath

It is believed that once the troubles in Ireland were over (*Desmond Rebellions ending in 1583*) William Nowland of Howden (*or William O’Nolan Jr. of Kilbride as we have established*) moved back to Ireland not to Co. Carlow but rather to Co. Meath. Circumstantial evidence supporting this theory is found in the transcript of the findings of a court case involving a land dispute in 1585. In the court findings mention is made of a “William and Christopher Nolan, farmers” who were leasing part of the lands being disputed, lands in the area of “Riverston” (sic Riverstown) in Co. Meath.

Why William and Christopher would choose to settle near Riverstown is obvious to anyone familiar with early Nolan family history once they realize that it is right next to the Hill of Tara (*where Eochaidh Fionn, son of the High King, lived prior to being banished from there in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century by a grandson of their older brother, Conn of the Hundred Battles, who had taken the kingship by force after their father’s death*).

William Nolan of Riverstown would then have been the “William Nowland” we first encountered in Howden in 1572 and Christopher, likely a brother who may or may not have been in Howden but had joined him in the Riverstown area by 1585.

William and Christopher are believed to be the ancestors of many of the modern-day Nolans in Co. Meath, such as the family to which the “Thomas Nowlan of Dublin”, identified in our last newsletter, belonged.

## Nowlands in Dublin Area

Around the same time that William and Christopher established themselves in Co. Meath, a “Tadee Nowland” established himself in the Dublin area.

On January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1584, he was questioned at Dublin Castle with regards to his master’s recent travels through Europe.

His master, William Nugent, was the nephew and former ward of Justice Nicholas Nugent, a prominent Dublin lawyer, who had been hung for treason in 1582 (*on April 6<sup>th</sup>, Easter week, to be more precise*) charged with plotting to depose Queen Elizabeth and to replace her with Mary, Queen of Scots, a Catholic.

The English authorities at Dublin Castle now wanted to know more about William Nugent’s recent activities suspecting him of actively seeking support for his uncle’s planned rebellion.

In his “confession” Tadee recounts in detail his master’s travels over the course of the last two years, identifying the places in France, Italy and Spain they had visited and the names of the persons they had met including several high-ranking church officials such as the Pope and a Cardinal de Como.

The above-mentioned Tadee Nowland is believed to have been a brother of the William and Christopher Nolan of Riverstown, Co. Meath, and it is further conjectured that Tadee first met William Nugent, his future master, at Justice Nugent’s trial in Trim which is a mere 12 kilometres distant from Riverstown.

The trial held in Trim in 1582 would have provided the opportunity for Tadee Nolan/Nowland to meet William Nugent and be hired on as his servant.

Tadee’s apparent willingness to volunteer detailed information to the Dublin authorities in 1584 does not appear to have gone unnoticed. In a letter dated October 15, 1588 sent by Queen Elizabeth to the Lord Deputy at Dublin Castle, she personally instructs him to pay “Tadee Nolan” a “pension of twelve pence sterling a day ... in consideration of his commendable service” implying that by then Tadee was an employee of the Crown.



*Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy, accompanied by an Armed Force sets out from Dublin Castle (circa 1581)*

By the mid-1600s some of the Yorkshire Nowlands seem to have moved back to the land of their ancestors. Evidence of this is found in the records for the church of Saints Peter and Kevin in Dublin. In particular, we note that a George, son of a Thomas Nowland, was buried from this church in the 1670s. This is without a doubt the same George, son of Thomas Nowland, who was christened in the Snaith church in 1598, especially after we notice that in another Nowland burial entry “Gardiner” is given as an alias for the “Nowland” family name, just as in the Snaith (Yorkshire) church records at the beginning of the century.

Still in Dublin and in the mid-1600s, we find a “Thomas Nowland” serving in a regiment of horse in Cromwell’s army. He is believed to have been a descendant of the Tadee Nowland identified earlier as a state messenger working at Dublin Castle.

As a soldier on the Parliamentary side, this Thomas Nowland would likely have been involved in the routing of the combined Royalist forces (7000 foot and 4000 horse) at the Old Rathmines Castle on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 1649. This battle was a decisive turning point in Cromwell’s war in Ireland and anyone who contributed to the victory of the Parliamentary side would have been handsomely rewarded.

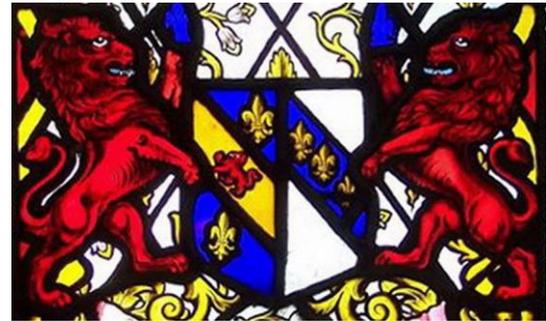
It is believed that this Thomas Nowland, a soldier and assumed descendant of Tadee Nowland, was the one who first lived at the Old Rathmines Castle, receiving a grant or lease of the property in payment for his military services. Such a sequence of events is consistent with our earlier assumption that Tadee Nowland, the state messenger at Dublin Castle, maintained a country house in Co. Meath, which later became known as Geraldstown House.

Proof of this Nowland family’s link back to Co, Meath is essentially found in the information recorded about the Nowland/Nowlan/Nolan family which resided at the Old Rathmines Castle in the mid-1700s, the last family of an Edward Nowlan (b. circa 1745), a lawyer at the Court of Exchequer, and a Florinda Shinton of Cullenstown, Co. Meath.

Edward and Florinda had two sons, Michael, born around 1770, and Frederick born around 1784.

Michael Nolan (c1770-1827) became a lawyer and legal writer of some renown and maintained the family’s country seat at Geraldstown House, Navan, in Co. Meath.

Frederick Nolan (1784-1864) became a noted theologian, inheriting the Geraldstown House in Co. Meath when his brother died. In his latter years, he moved to Geraldstown House and served as minister to a nearby church at Kentstown. After his death in 1864, his widow had a stained-glass window erected to honour his Nowland family and that of another family, the Toler family, which had also ministered at the Kentstown church.



The left half of the dual family crest shown above relates to the Nowland family (based upon the family’s grant of arms). With the passing of Frederick Nolan in 1864 this line of Nolans died out and there is no indication that their family crest was adopted by any other “Nowland” line.

Today, the Nolan family crest most widely accepted by Nolans is the one depicted on the left-side of the Nolan-Skerritt family crest shown below which embellishes the entrance to a house once owned by Thomas Nolan of Galway. The dual family crest is dated 1642 and is believed to be the earliest known depiction of the Nolan family crest now used by Nolan families spread throughout the world. The Nolan Clan family association is most grateful to Nuala Nolan of Galway for bringing this early depiction of the family crest to its attention.



## **Nowlands in Cork**

The Nowlands of Co. Cork are believed to be descended from Felix Nowland who was living in the Mallow area in 1726.

In the early 1500s much of the land in Co. Cork was controlled by the FitzGerald's but after the death of the Great Earl of Desmond in 1583 (*marking the end of the Desmond Rebellions*), the FitzGerald lands in Co. Cork along with other lands were confiscated. Most attempts at plantation in Co. Cork failed, settlers finding it difficult to adjust and often being left without protection in isolated areas. Faced with such difficulties many settlers returned to their former homes opening up opportunities for land speculators. There would be more land confiscations in Co. Cork in the 1690s following the deposition of James II (*first Jacobite Rebellion 1688-1691*) again providing opportunities for land speculators.

That land speculation may have occurred during this time period appears to be reflected in an old Irish deed dated 1718 whereby a Thomas Nowland and a Thomas Marriott, both residents of England, gave that year full ownership of lands they possessed in Counties Meath and Wexford, a total of around 1500 acres, to a Joseph Gardner, his wife and two daughters.

The very generous nature of this deed is indicative of the lands being an inheritance implying that the beneficiary was likely related to one of the donors mentioned in the deed. Recalling that "Gardiner" was an alias for Nowland amongst the Nowlands of Yorkshire and Dublin we therefore conclude that the Thomas Nowland mentioned here was related to the Yorkshire Nowlands, consistent with him being described as "of England".

1500 acres is more than what anyone might need for one's own use suggesting that what we have here is the accumulated portfolio of the lands owned jointly by two land speculators who had amassed property over the years. Now, in old age, they were passing on their fortune to the next generation. That this is likely the case is further confirmed by the fact that the lands in question were almost immediately resold (*to the Roche family of Co. Carlow*).

Having advanced this far in our thinking, one can easily make the next logical step which is to suggest that the Thomas Nowland, now a suspected land

speculator, may have gifted lands to other members of his family. This is where Felix Nowland of Mallow likely fits into the current scenario as described. Felix Nowland may have been another beneficiary of Thomas Nowland's generosity, however, this time the lands being gifted would have been in the Mallow area of Co. Cork. This is where we find Felix Nowland in 1726.

Assuming we are correct in our assumptions, before coming to Co. Cork, Felix Nowland, known to have been a Quaker, would likely have been living in an area where there were Nowlands and Quakers. Yorkshire and Dublin are definite possibilities for Felix's origins but two other possibilities would be Co. Kildare and Co. Carlow.

## **Nowlands in Carlow and Kildare**

By 1641 most land disputes in Co. Carlow had been settled. However, as a result of land confiscations over many years, the O'Nolans in Co. Carlow were now left with only a little over 2200 acres shared between two main Nolan landowners and a few other smaller Nolan landowners. The landowners were "Patrick Nowlan" of Shangarry with approximately 1100 acres and "Garret Now land", the O'Nolan Chief, seated at Ballykealy with approximately 550 acres. The remaining lands were shared between several smaller "Nowlan" landowners and one "Nolan" landowner. From the foregoing, it can be seen that, by 1641, most Nolan landowners in Co. Carlow had adopted the "Nowlan" spelling for their family name and that the Chief Nolan line at Ballykealy had adopted the "Nowland" spelling. Based upon future known use of this spelling in Co. Carlow it would seem that the family was used mainly by the Ballykealy Nolan line and their close relatives. In 1641, the "Nowland" spelling was very new for the Ballykealy Nolans. Only four years earlier, at an inquisition held in Carlow after the death of the Nolan Chief Teige O'Nolan in 1636, "Garret Nowland" had been referred to "Gerald Fitz-Gerald [O'Nolan]". What had changed? Well, for one thing, Garret was now the new Chief. In 1637 Teige's successor had been identified as "Teige" Jr., Garret's uncle. His father "Gerald" had also been identified as a second son. Undoubtedly, in the intervening years Teige Jr. had died and his father had either died or passed on his right of succession to his son "Gerald Fitz-Gerald".

Whatever the case may be, by 1641, Garret, as he now called himself, was the new Nolan Chief and was no doubt anxious to raise the profile of the Ballykealy Nolans.

He was also likely aware that, by then the family's cousins, the Nowlands in Yorkshire, in Co. Meath, in Dublin and perhaps even those in Co. Cork had a higher renown amongst the English gentry in Dublin. The Ballykealy Nolans were their cousins and if adopting the "Nowland" spelling for their family name would give them more visibility and respect in Dublin social circles. Why not do so?

### **1650s – Two Nowlands Transplanted**

After 1641, the next time we encounter the Nowland family name is in the mid-1650s on a list of persons to be transplanted to Connaught. The names of a "Patrick Nowland" of Kilballyhugh (*in the Tinryland area*) and a "James Nowland" of Ballinadrum (*near Ballon*) appear on this list.

As many Nolan researchers know, it was a Patrick Nolan of Shangarry who, most famously, had his lands confiscated in the mid-1650. A quick check in the land ownership table appearing on pages 277-280 of the Nolan book tells us that, in 1641, the major Nolan landowner, "Patrick Nowlan", was the owner of the Shangarry townland making him the well-known "Patrick Nolan of Shangarry".

On the transplantation list, he is identified as being "of Kilballyhugh" implying that during the incursion of Cromwell's forces into Ireland Patrick must have taken refuge in the fortified Kilballyhugh House on the heights of Tullowmagimma (*Tinryland area*), consistent with the age-old practice of "taking to the hills" in times of conflict. Also on the transplantation list are the names of Kavanaghs who would likely have taken refuge in their nearby castles at Castletown and Ballyloo.

Patrick's son, John, appears to have been dispensed from transplantation. In May 1656, Major Charles Kavanagh reached an agreement with the Government which dispensed him and 13 men of his choosing from transplantation in exchange for:

*"prosecuting and destroying Tories ["pursued men" from the Irish word "tóraidhe"] in that county [Co. Carlow], and in the adjoining counties of Wicklow, Wexford, and Kilkenny ...".*

Amongst the 13 men selected by Sir Charles Kavanagh for dispensation from transplantation was a John Nowlan, believed to have been the son of the Patrick Nowland of Shangarry, later Kilballyhugh, who was transplanted to Connaught.

### **1658 – Two Nowlands refuse an Oath**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 1658, "at a session of the peace" held in Naas, certain yeomen of Co. Kildare identified as "Popish Recusants" refused "for conscience sake" to swear an "oath of abjuration" (loyalty to one authority, repudiating all others). Amongst them were a Thady Nowland of Clane (near Prosperous) and Edmond Nowland of Kilkea (near Ballitore).

The proximity of their places of residences to Quaker settlement areas (*namely Ballitore and Prosperous*) suggests that they may have been Quakers or perhaps Quaker sympathisers refusing to bear arms "for conscience sake" as recorded in the court document.

Circumstantial evidence indicating that this may have been the case is the fact that Christopher, as we have seen, was used as a first name by both the Nowlands in Yorkshire and in Co. Meath.

The "Garret Nowland" of Crophill who died in 1763 and was buried in the old cemetery at Timolin near Castledermot is likely a descendant of the Edmond Nowland of Kilkea mentioned above.

### **1661 – Patrick Nowland settles in Galway**

In 1661, upon restoration of the monarchy, Patrick Nowland, the biggest Nolan landowner in Co. Carlow prior to the Irish Civil War had his lands restored to him.

However, at that point in time, perhaps having already re-established himself in Connaught, he chose to exchange his lands for equivalent lands in Connaught and established himself at Ballybannagher Castle in Galway.

### **1669 – Shangarry Lands held "in trust"**

In 1669, Richard Butler, 1st Earl of Arran, leased the Shangarry lands to Thomas Bagnal to be held "in trust" for John Nowlan for 3 lives. This John Nowlan is believed to have been Patrick Nowland's son and also the same John Nowlan who was dispensed from transplantation in 1656.

## Nowland Jacobites and Culloden

In 1688, William of Orange (*brother-in-law to James II, being married to his Protestant-raised sister, Mary*) landed in London with an invading force from Holland, deposing James II by force and forcing him to flee into exile. Supporters of the Stuart line rallied and mounted a rebellion, the first Jacobite Rebellion (1688-1691). Included amongst James II's supporters who rallied were at least two Nowlands or Nowland descendants:

- Andrew Nowland, serving in Dominick Browne's Regiment (Galway) during the Rebellion; he is believed to have been a son or grandson of the Patrick Nowland or James Nowland transplanted to Connaught in the mid-1650s
- Laurence Nowlan, a grandson of Patrick Nowland of Shangarry who, because of rebellious activity, forfeited his life in a lease being held "in trust" for the Shangarry lands; in a court review in 1702 it was established that only one life remained on the lease for 3 lives held "in trust" for John Nowlan of Shangarry, Laurence's father; when John died the first life was expended; when Laurence was attainted the second life was expended leaving only one; John Jr', Laurence's younger was allowed to assume the third and remaining life on the 1669 lease held "in trust" by Thomas Bagnal.

In the early 1700s, a Lawrence Nowlan of Carlow and a Gregory Nolan of Galway, lawyers in Dublin, were involved in several land transactions to essentially restore Nolan lands in Co. Carlow lost through confiscation since the mid-1650s. This Lawrence Nowlan is believed to have been the Lawrence, son of John, who forfeited his "life" on the lands of Shangarry in the 1690s.

He is also believed to have been the father of the Lawrence Nowlan, baker, who resided at Whiteswall in northern Kilkenny in the mid-1750s. This Nowlan family at Whiteswall held lands in the Ballon area at Clonaleigh near Kilbride until the mid-1850s. At that time, Lawrence Webb Nowlan was the owner.

There is no known involvement of Nowlands in the second Jacobite Rebellion (*circa 1715*). However, in the period leading up to the third Jacobite Rebellion in 1745, Nowland involvement picks up. This is when the Ballykealy Nowlands get involved in actively recruiting Irishmen for the Jacobite cause but pay the price. Several of them are hung for high treason. We note in particular

- Moses Nowland (1726)
- Martin Nowland (1742)
- Peter Nowlan(d) (1745), *last Chief*

With regards to the Battle of Culloden itself, a Thomas Nowlan, believed to have been a brother of the above-mentioned Peter Nowlan, was captured at Inverness in June 1746, a couple of months after the battle. At his capture, he was recorded as having been a Captain in Baggot's Hussars, an 80-man light cavalry unit, commanded by Major John Baggot, an officer in the French Service and "of Limerick". He was imprisoned at Fort Tilbury at the mouth of the Thames river and from there transported to the Caribbean, to either Bermuda or Jamaica. The latter destination seems more likely given that the estate of a Thomas Nowlan is known have been settled in Jamaica in 1832. It is believed that this latter Thomas was actually Thomas Jr., son of Thomas the Jacobite fighter.

## Nowland Jacobites after Culloden

After the Battle of Culloden, many of the refugee Jacobites refocused their energies, choosing to bring about change through political, social and economic means, rather than through armed conflict, becoming bankers, merchants, soldiers, churchmen and diplomats. Amongst the Jacobite refugees were Nolans.

Following is a list of those believed to have been of Nowland descent and ex-Jacobites:

- 1749 – James Nowland of Tuam, farmer
- 1750s - William Nowlan of Waterford, Cork merchant
- 1750s – Michael Nowlan, wine merchant
- 1770s - Thomas Nowlan, Dublin sugar boiler

Sometime before 1770 a Thomas Nowlan leased lands near Tinryland in Co. Carlow, in the Ballyloo townland to be more specific, a townland once owned by the Kavanaghs who, in earlier times, had a castle there. They also had a residence at Ballinacarrig, closer to the Carlow town centre. This Thomas Nowlan (c1711-1779) and his wife Catherine Byrne (c1714-1784) are both buried in the old Linkardstown cemetery atop the heights of Tullowmagimma. In the same cemetery are also buried Patrick Nowlan (c1720-1796) and his wife Elizabeth Byrne (c1732-1792). Patrick is believed to have been a younger brother of Thomas.

*NOTE: Without the diligent efforts of the Dowling family of Linkardstown, many many years ago, none of the information from the Linkardstown cemetery would be available today. The cemetery today is thick with bramblebush.*

After Thomas' death in 1779, his son Francis and grandson John continued leasing the Ballyloo lands and, in the late 1700s, John moved to Kilballyhue House (still in the Tinryland area) for which he obtained a lease. Renovating the house and improving the estate, he eventually acquired Kilballyhue, house and lands, as per certain terms contained within the lease. His descendants continued to live at Kilballyhue House until it was sold sometime after 1864.

When John moved into Kilballyhue House in the late 1700s he was the first Nowlan to reside there since the mid-1650s when "Patrick Nowland of Kilballyhugh" (better known as "of Shangarry"), resided there just before being transplanted to Connaught.

A clear indication of a Jacobite past for this Nolan family is found in Kilballyhue House itself where to this day still hangs an old framed poster. The poster (*seen on the right side of the page*) essentially depicts Pope Pius VI, in 1794, thanking the future Major Robert Browne and his men for their services in defending the Vatican. Robert Browne is believed to have been a former officer in the Irish Brigade when the Irish Brigade was disbanded in 1792. He would then have been reassigned to a new command position within the British Army.

Consistent with army practice at the time his new posting would have been in a location where he was not likely be forced to confront his Irish brothers in battle such as Italy.

Further evidence of a Jacobite past for the Nowlans/Nolans of Kilballyhue House is found in the Tinryland church records pertaining to this family. Here we find several instances of the family name spelled as "Noulan". For those who may not know, "Noulan" is essentially a French phonetic-rendering of the Gaelic family name "Nualláin".



Based upon the foregoing evidence it is believed that the Thomas Nowlan who leased lands in Ballyloo in the 1770s was none other than Captain Thomas Nowlan of Baggot's Hussars who had fought at Culloden in 1746. Conceivably he could also have been the Thomas Nowlan, a sugar boiler in Dublin in the 1770s, identified earlier as a possible ex-Jacobite turned businessman after Culloden.

Following is a list of other Nowlands or Nowland descendants who are believed to have served in the Irish Brigade before its disbandment in 1792:

- 1790s – Co. Antrim - Thomas Peter Nowland (b. circa 1770) would have joined the Irish Brigade as a young man shortly before it was disbanded in 1792; around 1803 he was impressed into military service serving until 1812 thereafter settling in Co. Antrim; his son Peter later immigrated to Upper State, New York, settling in the Brasher Falls area.
- 1790s – New York - James Nowland is believed to have been a young soldier in the Irish Brigade when it was disbanded in 1792 ; at that point his unit was absorbed into the British army and, around 1815, he settled in the area of Hogansburgh, New York, and seems to have been related to the Thomas Peter Nowland already introduced, possibly a brother; both are believed to have had Co. Carlow roots.
- 1780s – France - Babington Nolan, grandfather of Captain Nolan of the Light Brigade, is believed to have been a descendant of the James Nowland of Ballinadrum (*next to Ballykealy townland*) transplanted to Connaught in the mid-1650s; as a young man, Babington Nolan would have joined the Irish Brigade in France serving as part of a battalion of the Régiment de Dillon assigned to the Caribbean; in 1792, after losing a battle with the English in Santo Domingo, the remnants of his battalion were absorbed into a British Army unit serving in the Caribbean; in 1797 Babington Nolan died of yellow fever while serving there; from here the story continues as related in an earlier issue of the Newsletter (see “Captain Louis Edward Nolan (1818-1854) of the Light Brigade” in March 2011 issue).
- 1793 – Carlow - James Nowland of Ballon is believed to have been serving in the Irish Brigade when, in 1792 it was disbanded; already older at that time he would have chosen to return to Co. Carlow; in 1793, he married a widow, Mary Clowry (nee Shortall) and they had at least two sons, Peter (c1796) and Edward (c1798) who immigrated to New Brunswick around 1818.

## Nowlands in America and Australia

Settlement in America and Australia by Nowlands was largely driven by troubles in Ireland, or from England for that matter, if we consider that Nowlands were already in England by 1572.

- 1659 – Newfoundland - A Thomas Noland, fisherman, was working on Newfoundland’s South Shore at Petty Harbour in 1659; he seems to have been the first in a long line of Nolans who, generation after generation, would brave the waters of the northern Atlantic to earn enough money to establish themselves back in Ireland or simply to provide assistance to their parents back in Ireland; he likely came from the upper reaches of the Slaney river, a “Nowland” from the Ballon Village area, recently dispossessed, and hence now a “Noland”; fortunately for him, the main headquarters for the Calvert family’s Newfoundland fisheries operations was a short distance from Kilbride (Ballon Village area) a few kilometres downriver at Clohamon House, just past Bunclody, on the east side of the Slaney river; a memory of the important part played by fishermen from the Kilbride area is retained in the name of one of St John’s city sectors, namely Kilbride.
- 1680s – Virginia - In the 1680s, Pierce Nowland Jr. (c1655-1715), born in Co. Mayo, immigrated to Virginia, a colony with a thriving economy at the time, establishing himself in Stafford county, Virginia; his father Pierce Sr. (b. circa 1628 in Dublin) is believed to have been transplanted to Connaught in the mid-1650s.
- 1680s – Maryland - Desmond Nowland, a Catholic, settled in Maryland close to the Bohemia Manor estate where his landlord was Augustin Herman, an explorer, merchant and cartographer employed by Cecil Calvert (George’ Calvert’s son), Proprietary Governor of Maryland and the Colonies of Avalon and Newfoundland; Augustin may have encouraged some of his tenants to work in the Newfoundland fishery; indicative of this is the fact that the first name Augustin is found amongst the Nowland descendants in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland.

- 1700 – Virginia - James Nowlan/ Nowlin of Shangarry, Co. Carlow, settled in the area of Beaver Dam Creek, Virginia; based upon new information presented earlier in this Newsletter, James, son of Captain James Nolan of Shangarry, may have lived for a time in France before immigrating to Virginia.
- 1763 – Newfoundland - A James Nowling of Newfoundland, perhaps related to the Nowlins of Virginia, visited Boston in 1763.
- 1783 - Nova Scotia prior to 1784 (when it New Brunswick was created from its northern part) - At the end of the American Revolution, many ex-British soldiers were given land grants in Atlantic Canada. Amongst these were a John Nowland who settled Sheet Harbour, Nova Scotia, and a James Nowland who settled near Escuminac along the shores of Miramichi bay in what became New Brunswick.
- 1790s – New Brunswick -After the American Revolution, a Michael Nowland seems to have gone first to Waterford where a son was born and returned in the mid 1790s settling in the area of Sussex, New Brunswick.
- 1780s-90s - Newfoundland - A Patrick Nowland settled in the Placentia Bay area of Newfoundland in the late 1700s and most of modern-day Nolans in the area are his descendants; a branch of this line lived for a time on the neighbouring French island of St. Pierre. Patrick is believed to have been a relative of Father Pelagius (baptized Morgan) who served the Micmac and Irish population on the island starting in the 1830s at Placentia Bay. Father Pelagius is known to have been from Kilrush, Co. Wexford (*near Bunclody*).
- 1780s-90s – Newfoundland - A David and Richard Nowland worked for a time in the Newfoundland fishery as indentured servants on the South Shore, as did a Stephen and Philip Nowlan from Ballitore, Co. Kildare. Upon their return to Ireland they established themselves as successful businessmen. Philip became a baker in Carlow town and seems to have lived in the Tinryland area where a tombstone to some of his children is found. Stephen ran an inn in Ballitore and also baked bread.
- 1790s – Louisiana – In the 1790s, a Maurice Nowland attempted to obtain from the Cuban Government a land grant to found an Irish Colony but was unsuccessful. In the early 1800s, he was in New Orleans while it was still under Spanish control and, in a court proceeding, he is identified as an ex-Captain in the British army. He is believed to have been an Irish Brigade officer who was absorbed into the British Army in the 1792 timeframe. After New Orleans, he seems to have gone to Grenada where he was a merchant. In old age, he seems to have returned to Co. Carlow operating as a merchant in Carlow town in the 1820s. He died in 1832 and was buried in the old cemetery behind the Ballon church. On his tombstone, we read “of Grenada, late of Carlow”. Based upon his will he appears to have been related to the Ballykealy Nolans, the later Bishop Edward Nolan being one of the executors for his will.
- 1790s – Texas - Philip Nolan/Nowlan of Texas, born in Belfast around best 1771, is best known as a “mustanger and filibuster”; his father, Peter Nowlan, may have been the son of an ex-Irish Brigade soldier absorbed into the British army in 1792; his mother was an Elizabeth Cassidy. He died in 1801.
- 1790s – Australia – In In 1790, a Michael Nowland of Middlesex, England, born sometime around 1761, arrived in Wilberforce, New South Walse, aboard the “transport” ship "Scarborough" in 1791; he was one of many convicts sent to Australia at the time as a means of reducing Government spending on prisons and on aid to the homeless and unemployed; he may have been a descendant of the Yorkshire Nowlands. He died in 1828.
- 1818 - New Brunswick - Peter and Edward Nowland settled in the Buctouche area of New Brunswick, and became farmers; in a family story recounting an adventure experienced by Peter upon his arrival in the “Colonies” around 1818 he is referred to as “Pierre” suggesting that already back in Ireland he had been called “Pierre” or something similar to it like “Pierry” which is known to have been in use in Ireland, likely being introduced to Ireland during the Jacobite era when many Irishmen joined the Irish Brigade in France.

- 1825 - New Brunswick - A Moses Nowlan, son of an Edward/Edmund Nowlan, settled in the Pokemouche area in northern New Brunswick; his father immigrated from Ireland around 1798 and worked in the Newfoundland fishery.
- 1830s - New Brunswick - A Michael and Hugh Nowlan of Co. Wexford, brother and related to the Patrick Nowland of Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, already introduced, settled in the area of Grande Aldouane, just north of Richibucto, New Brunswick; they were involved in lumbering.

The tombstone shown below found in Ballon clearly demonstrates the rapidity of adoption of the “Nolan” spelling, going from Nowland in 1811 to Nolan in 1882.



In other parts of the world adoption of the “Nolan” spelling has been slower. Some have dropped the “d”, some have dropped the “w”, some both.

## The Family Name Today

In the registers for the church of Saints Peter and Paul in Ballon Village, for the period 1782 to 1795, we find that most Nolan entries use the “Nowlan” form of the family name. This is also apparent from the older tombstones found in the area.

There are also a few tombstones which have the “Nowland” spelling on it used by the Ballykealy family and their close relatives. Below is a picture of one such tombstone located in the old cemetery behind the Ballon church.

After the 1798 Rebellion, use in Ireland of the Nowland and Nowlan forms of the family name rapidly declined. By 1851, as reflected in Griffith’s Valuation, more than half of the Nolan families in Co. Carlow had adopted the “Nolan” spelling. By 1901, the percentage was down to less than ten.

## Closing Remarks

I would like to thank the many people in Ireland who over the years have helped me attain a better understanding of Nolan family history, sharing whatever information they possessed.

I would also like to say that writing this article has been very challenging at times, stretching me to my limits. However, in the process, I have realized, once more, a few things:

- I am inclined to follow my mind not a schedule.
- I have more ideas than energy. I must set realistic goals for myself
- I can’t do it all and, at one point, I need to pass the torch on for a few things.

With these things in mind, I must tell you that the goal I have set for myself of having a new Nolan book ready by 2020, as stated in the Editorial section, is a tentative one. I won’t kill myself trying to attain it.

*Sincerely, Roger Nowlan,  
Nolan Clan Newsletter Editor*

# Peering through the Mists of Time

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## Introduction

In this article, I discuss my approach and plans for having a second Nolan book ready for publication by 2020. For me this year is a significant year for two reasons. Firstly, the Nolan book published in 2000 was largely based upon manuscripts written by Fr. John Nolan around 1920. Secondly, in the book, I will be “Peering through the Mists of Time” relating to readers what I believe as best as I can determine the underlying narrative, “the story of the Nolans”. In doing so, I will need a discerning eye to distinguish between “facts” and “alternative facts” (hearsay/misinformation) that is near “2020 vision” in a logical sense.

## Basic Approach to Writing the Book

I will attempt to avail myself of as much of the currently known facts as possible:

- those presented in the first Nolan book
- those presented in earlier issues of the Nolan Clan Newsletter
- those now readily identifiable via the Internet in online databases and electronic archives.

Categorizing and analysing facts relevant to Nolan family history is perhaps the biggest challenge. Individual bits of information must be summarized and recorded. These pieces of information are what I call “tidbits”.

## Information Technology to be Used

- a new Facebook group created specifically to support the writing of the new Nolan book
- a revision to my existing website BLOG ( <http://NolanFamilies.org/Blog> ) changing its focus to one of answering questions specifically related to the writing of the new Nolan book, e.g. “Who was Michael O’Nolan of Loughboy?”
- an Email address ( [nolantidbit@gmail.com](mailto:nolantidbit@gmail.com) ) for gathering “tidbits” of Nolan-relevant information (information summaries derived from available facts with reference to sources being provided)

## Wetware – You and Me

I have a very good associative memory and am able to quickly make links between various bits of information and any new uncovered fact which comes along. Recognizing this rare ability in me is perhaps what is most responsible for me deciding to tackle the challenge of writing a second Nolan book.

On the other hand, I, as an individual, find little time for social media interaction but do recognize its benefits. I would therefore suggest the following as a workable arrangement for interaction between myself, primarily focused on writing a second Nolan book, and members of Facebook groups.

- I issue a Nolan-related “History Challenge” on my website BLOG (NolanFamilies.org/Blog) outlining the facts as I know them and inviting visitors to provide any confirming or contradictory information they might have relating to the question, asking them to submit their information to “[nolantidbit@gmail](mailto:nolantidbit@gmail.com)” or to the new Facebook group dedicated to the writing of the new Nolan book.
- Information of a historical interest to Nolans posted to any Facebook group may be re-posted to the Nolan book-writing one or discussed within the original group as deemed appropriate.
- Anyone at any time may provide information of a historical nature directly to my Email inbox ([nolantidbit@gmail.com](mailto:nolantidbit@gmail.com)) dedicated to that purpose.
- I could also use a few feet on the ground in Ireland to do fact-checking for me.

## Getting Started

For anyone interested in helping out with this book-writing project I suggest reading the “The Nowland Family Name” article appearing in this issue of the Newsletter. It will be my starting point for developing the new book.

*Roger Nowlan*  
*Newsletter Editor*

# O'Nolan Clan Ó Nualláin



## 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 €10.00 EUR, £10.00 GBP, \$13 USD, \$16 CAD or \$16 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 )

**Pa Nolan, Nolan Clan Treasurer  
Mopoon Villa, Sydenham Road  
Dundrum, Dublin. D14X7P9.  
Republic of Ireland**