

THE NOLAN

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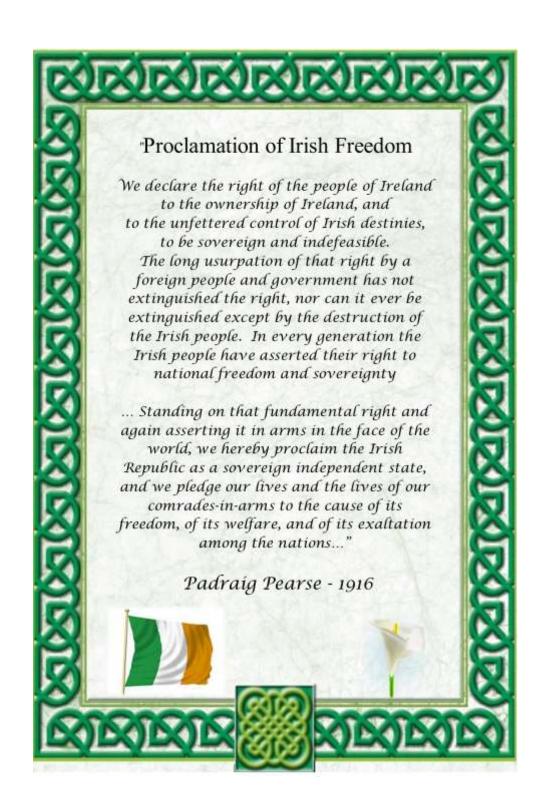
CONTENTS

- 2 In Brief ...
- 3 Thomas Nowlan of Dublin, Esq.
- 9 The Long Road to Freedom
- 16 Nolan Clan & the 1916 Easter Rising
- 20 Miscellaneous News Items
- 21 Membership Application /Renewal Form



Happy
St Patrick's
Day





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

Tánaiste – Catherina O'Brien

Ballytarsna, Nurney, Co. Carlow Republic of Ireland **TEL: +353 (59) 9727377** or cell +353 (87) 9723024

> obrienecat @eircom.net

Secretary – David Nowlan davidnolanartist @mac.com

Treasurer – Pa NolanMopoon Villa,
Sydenham Road,

Dundrum, Dublin 14
Republic of Ireland
FI: +353 (87) 2438047

TEL: +353 (87) 2438047 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 NolanTidbit@gmail.com

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 ...

This year's issue of the Nolan Clan Newsletter has as its main theme the 1916 Easter Rising starting with a special cover which incorporates key wording from the Proclamation of Irish Freedom read out loud on Easter Monday 1916.

The first article, co-written by Paula Edgar and Debbie Dunne, provides an intimate look at life in the mid-1800s painting a portrait of a Dublin businessman, Thomas Nowlan, Esq., who despite challenging times prospered. His shop was just across from the General Post Office (GPO) which would later become the focal point for the Easter Rising. By a strange coincidence, Thomas has another connection to the Easter Rising, not the event itself back in 1916, but its 100th year commemoration on Easter Monday this year. As it happens part of Thomas' lands back in the mid-1800s (approx. 100 acres) now form part of the Fairyhouse Racecourse in County Meath where, as for every year, on Easter Sunday, the Irish Grand National, "The race of the people", will be run. A strange coincidence indeed!

The second article is one of mine where I provide a historical perspective for the 1916 Easter Rising, starting with the High King Brian Boru and a sort of golden age for Ireland, continuing down through the centuries recounting various struggles ultimately reaching a point in the late 1700s when republican ideals emerged, crystalizing in people's minds the fact that the main issue to resolve was becoming master in one's own house, uniting Catholics and Protestants alike, in a struggle which would ultimately succeed, the 1916 Easter Rising being that pivotal moment in Irish history when the tide turned in favour of the Irish people.

The third article by Christopher (Chris) Nolan, our current Clan Chief relates, through anecdotes, the fate of several Nolans involved in the events surrounding the Easter Rising. Chris also asks clan members to submit further anecdotes from the 1916 timeframe for inclusion in the clan's historical files and/or posting to the BLOG section of the NolanFamilies.org website.

I hope that you will enjoy reading the newsletter as much as I enjoyed pulling it together. I would also encourage you to spread the joy. Be kind and print out, mail or hand carry copies of the newsletter to any friends and family members who would not otherwise receive a copy. Many in the Nolan diaspora do not have ready access to computers or may have a phobia for anything to do with technology.

Roger Nowlan, Editor

Remembering Thomas Nowlan of Dublin (1777-1862)

By Paula Edgar née Johnson

(co-written and co-researched by Debbie Dunne née Disson)

Introduction

With slight hesitation I attempt to give you a peak into the life of an interesting and successful Dublin gentleman, Thomas Nowlan, who, in his time, was a great benefactor to the poor, the church and various charities.



Sackville Street, Dublin (by Michael Angelo Hayes)

From his shop in Sackville Street, now O'Connell St, at the heart of Dublin and directly opposite the famous GPO building and Nelson's column, he manufactured and supplied snuff and tobacco to the affluent gentlemen of Dublin and, by appointment, to the royal houses of William IV and Oueen Victoria.

Overcome by events, his story, like that of so many others living in the early to mid-1800s, appears to have been forgotten. This article is my humble attempt at bringing Thomas` story back to life, honouring his memory and hopefully doing him justice.

In my quest for Thomas and the writing of his story I was joined by my cousin, Debbie Dunne, whom I met while doing family research and with whom I formed a strong bond, not only as a blood relative but also as a close friend.

Discovering Thomas

The initial focus of my research was my 3x great grandmother, Clare Nowlan born in 1818 or 1824 in Dublin where she married Michael Plunkett.

Living in Melbourne Australia, a much longed for trip to Dublin was about to take shape, rather spontaneously. I had always been fascinated by my Irish roots and I was keen to know more about my Dublin family connection. I had heard the 'big stories' about their wealth, their social standing but so far these were just stories. On the long voyage in 1889 my 2x Great Grandmother Mary Bridget Salmon, daughter of Michael & Clare Plunkett, had brought Irish Silver to Sydney Australia and, of course, there were whisperings of their family coat of arms inscribed on the silver. However, within a generation in the new land, the family, living in Sydney Australia had fallen on hard times. Life was difficult, not prosperous.

With great anticipation, I prepared for my trip to Ireland setting myself as a goal finding Clare Plunkett's grave. My cousin Debbie from England would also be joining me in what was now "our" quest. Our husbands would also travel with us to Dublin. Surprisingly, the journey to find Clare was only the beginning. Finding Clare would reveal another link – Thomas Nowlan, Clare's uncle - a very special Irish gentleman.

It was 2013 November the 1st, a sunny autumn day in Dublin. On walking towards the entrance to Glasnevin Cemetery I was in awe, I had been waiting for this day for so long. The cemetery was very neat and well-manicured, not overgrown or in disarray and not angelic as I had imagined. The grave we were looking for was located in Curran Square, within the oldest part of Glasnevin Cemetery opened in 1832 and then known as Prospect cemetery. Located by the original cemetery gates, Curran square was small yet imposing having some of the oldest gravestones within this vast cemetery.

Held in my hand were Clare's grave location coordinates, which I had researched online back in Australia. We walked and looked, and walked and looked, and although we found many other Plunkett graves, the one that eluded us was Clare's. Then before our eyes, a grave was located bearing the names Peter Nowlan and Thomas Nowlan. This location was where we were expecting to see Clare Plunkett's name beaming out at us, but it wasn't so. Bewildering for moments reassessed. We had the correct location. The headstone indicated a Peter Nowlan aged 76 years who had died in 1858 and a Thomas Nowlan aged 85 who had died in 1862 both late of Mount Joy Square Dublin. Where was Clare? Who were these gentlemen? They had to be related.

Back at the Glasnevin cemetery office we were reassured that Clare had, in fact, been buried with these two gentlemen. It was only then that I realized that Clare's maiden name might be Nowlan. According to one family story Clare had to be either a Cummins or a Nowlan.

Further research that night led us to visit number 16 Mount Joy Square, north of the city centre, the following day. This was once the elegant home of Thomas and Peter Nowlan. The house stood at one of the corners of a magnificent Georgian square built in 1790 by Luke Gardiner, 1st Viscount Mountjoy. Sadly the house was empty and up for sale, in need of some care as many others in the vicinity. In its prime Mount Joy square had been home to many prominent people including politicians, artist, and clergymen including the writer James Joyce. My initial reaction on seeing the square made me realise that Thomas was no ordinary man and I wanted to find out more about him and his relationship to my family.

Thomas' Family

On my return to Australia and my cousin's to England, our internet research picked up a pace. Thomas was found to be a brother of my 4x great grandfather, John Nowlan, making Clare Plunkett née Nowlan, his niece.

John, my ancestor, had been a successful Dublin hatter for over 26 years starting his business at 16 Temple Bar, moving on to 48 Temple Bar, then 43 Temple Bar where he had lived with his wife

Elizabeth and at least five children until his death in 1850.

Thomas Nowlan, born nearly 240 years ago, around 1777, is believed to have lived most if not all of his life in Dublin city. He was brother to Peter, John and a sister named Eleanor. Eleanor had married John Commins, a coach, gig and jaunting car maker with a factory on Dorset Street. Both were buried in the grave next to Thomas.

Thomas' Tragic End

Having lived a long and prosperous life in the heart of Dublin Thomas died on the 30th July 1862 at the great age of 85 but not as peacefully as he would have deserved. Thomas died from horrific injuries he had sustained in an accident at his home in Mount Joy Square. He had apparently fallen onto the fire burning in the parlour. On hearing of the tragedy the newspapers reported "... he was fearfully burned when assistance reached him. Drs Kirwan, Barker, and Stapleton, were in prompt attendance, but little hope is entertained of the sufferer's recovery."

Thomas' brother, Peter, had died just four years previously in 1858. On Saturday 2nd August 1862 at 9 O'clock Thomas Nowlan's remains were now removed from Mount Joy Square for internment at Prospect cemetery with those of his brother Peter.

Their gravestone at H32 Curran Square (a large flat stone) bears the following inscription:



Thomas' charitable bequests in his will were many. He had strong links in his lifetime with the church including to Rev. Paul Cullen who would become Ireland's first Cardinal in 1866.

Organizations receiving bequests were the Deaf and Dumb Institution of Cabra, the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, the Female Orphan School at Lakelands, both local RC institutions for the Blind (the one at Portobello for males and the one at Glasnevin for females), the St Joseph's RC Female Orphan School on Wellington Street, the Catholic University at Stephen's Green, the Sick and Indigent Room Keepers Society, and many others.

Most of the bequests were given in the form of debentures and under the guidance and in trust of Rev. Paul Cullen (the soon to be Cardinal), Rev. John Hamilton, and finally Rev. Bartholomew Woodlock, rector of the Catholic University of Ireland (1861-79) and Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise (1879-95).





Cardinal Cullen

Reverend Woodlock

Looking over the list of organizations receiving bequests one can easily see that Thomas' will was a carefully considered act. Written in 1854 and with bequests totalling over £18,000 the only codicil added to the will was one made in 1860 appointing his niece Clare as executrix, his brother Peter having died 2 years previously.

The primary beneficiary of Thomas' will was Joseph Woodlock, a stock broker, brother to Reverend Woodlock and also trustee of the Deaf and Dumb institution of Cabra, one of the organizations receiving a bequest. Clare and her husband Michael Plunkett, Gentleman, of Rose Villa, North Circular Road, Dublin, were also prime beneficiaries.

A Gentleman and Shopkeeper

From the few Irish historical records that exist, city directory listings and various other publications of the time we were able to piece together a few notable events in Thomas' life.

- Prior to going into business for himself Thomas "for many years conducted the Manufacturing Department for Messrs. Lundy Foot and Co."
- In 1821 at the age of 44, Thomas opened a tobacco and snuff shop at 25 Lower Sackville Street where he lived with his brother Peter.
- By 1832 he had become "His Majesty's [King William IV's] original Irish Snuff maker".
- By 1835, he was living on Sandymount Avenue and had expanded his business to importing & manufacturing tobacco products.
 - Nowlan Thomas, his Majesty's snuff maker, importer and manufacturer of tobacco, 25 Lower Sackville st. and Sandymount avenue
- In 1839, after the advent of Queen Victoria to the throne, Thomas still retained his status as the royal supplier of snuff.
 - 25 Thomas Nowlan, her Majesty's snuff maker, importer and manufacturer of tobacco
- In 1841 he was still living on Sandymount Avenue at Peach Villa (aka Peachville lodge) whilst carrying on his business as an established member of the Dublin circle of Tobacco and Snuff Manufacturers.
- In 1845 Thomas listed his business one last time in Pettigrew & Oulton's "Almanack".
 - Nowlan Thomas, her Majesty's snuff maker, importer and manufacturer of tobacco, 25 Sackville street, Lower, and Peachville lodge, Sandymount avenue
- In 1846 Thomas retired, selling his business to his faithful assistant William McCready.

As the new owner McCready soon places an advert in the newspaper and "solicits a continuance of that patronage which the House has so liberally experienced for the last Twenty-Five years". He continues to promote the business referring to the late proprietor Thomas Nowlan until 1850 when the property along with others (numbers 23 to 27 Lower Sackville Street) is sold to make way for the new 'Monster Mart', as it was reported in the newspaper, a one stop shop where all of one's needs could be met, the first of its kind in Ireland.

Thomas' Lands in Co. Meath

Based upon Griffith's [Tax] Valuation (circa 1851) Thomas owned land in County Meath, 208 acres in Gormanstown townland (parish of Rathbeggan) and 207 acres in the neighbouring townland of Ballybin (parish of Ratoath).

However, by 1854, when he wrote his will, he was in possession of only 102 of the total 207 acres in Ballybin townland, implying that he had, in the meantime, divested himself of 105 acres in Ballybin townland (approximately half).



After Thomas' death in 1862, Michael and Clare Plunkett, prime beneficiaries in his will, took an active interest in his lands in Gormanstown and Ballybin.

In 1867 Michael advertised in the Freeman's Journal 100 acres of grazing land for rent in Gormanstown.

In 1872 he hired Michael Crooke to auction off at Gormanstown House "on his lands" various farm produce (hay, oats, turnips, mangold, ...). That same year he also hired Christopher Wogan to auction off again at Gormanstown House "adjoining the Fairy House Racecourse ... his entire Agricultural Stock ... draft and harness horses, one ... fast-trotting family harness mare, ..., cow, heifers, pigs, ..., cart and cart harness, ..., a piano by Broadwood, ...".

GORMANSTOWN HOUSE.

Adjoining the Fairy House Racecourse,
On FRIUAY, 6th December, 1872.
For Michael Plunkett, E.q., whose business calls him
to reside in the city, his entire
AGRICULTURAL STOCK,

Which comprises useful draft and barness horses, one remarkably fast trotting family harness mare; a superior springing cow, heifers, pigs, poultry; three acres of turnips and mangold wartzel, about thirty barrels of good, sound potatoes; cart and cart harness; ploughs, harrows, iron harrow and grubher, turnip cutter and grinding stone, sacks, ropes, ladders, and candry lots of neefal old iron and timber; three stacks of superior black Tartary cats; a photon and croydon, in good condition, with harness to match; a plane, by Broadwood; together with useful household, dairy, and kitchen requisites.

Sale at Twelve o'Cleck.
Terms—Cash. Purchasers to pay auction fees.
OHRISTOPHER WOGAN, Auctioneer,
[Cattle Salesman, Corn, Wool, and
Hay Factor, 51 and 52 North Kingstreet. 14810

Given that today the Fairyhouse Racecourse includes approximately half of the lands of Ballybin at its western edge it would appear that the 100 or so acres of Ballybin townland which Thomas sold prior to making his will in 1854 were those in the eastern half of the townland such that, in 1872, when two auctions were held at Gormanstown House, Michael and Clare's lands would have been "adjoining the Fairy House Racecourse".

Hosting its first meeting, a point-to-point (steeplechase race) in 1848, the Fairyhouse Racecourse is today home to the Irish Grand National held each year on Easter Monday.

Life as a Retired Gentleman

When Thomas retired his only remaining siblings were his two brothers, John, married to Elizabeth, and Peter, who like him appears to have never married as no record to the contrary has yet been found. Thomas' sister Eleanor, married to John Commins, had died six years earlier in 1840.

Already as early as 1821 when Thomas first opened his shop the two brothers Thomas and Peter had been living together. In retirement they no doubt kept each other company, their life punctuated with events related to church and community.

In 1844 construction of the St Laurence O'Toole church had begun but, by 1848, it had run into difficulties due to lack of funds. Two Dublin gentlemen came to the rescue, Mr. Charles Kennedy and, of course, Mr. Thomas Nowlan. Both making substantial financial donations they contributed to the speedy completion of the works.

Mr. Kennedy and Thomas were honoured for their generosity at a special meeting held in the cathedral on Marlborough Street.

As reported in the Freeman's Journal, Alderman Staunton turning to Mr. Nowlan and wanting to express the gratitude of the "highly respectable and numerous people" assembled said:

"toward one of the noblest benefactors of the new church ... Mr Thomas Nowlan"

(loud cries of "hear, hear" and applause from the assembly)

Continuing on, Alderman Staunton related to the assembly that:

"Mr. Nowlan, a gentleman, had made a fortune, and amassed much wealth in their parish; but he had shown [that] if he had the qualification necessary to the acquisition of money, he also knew how to devote it to laudable purposes."

(loud cries of "hear, hear" and applause)

In fact – to his credit be it told – this gentleman had intended to leave at his death a certain sum to the parish; but he had had the courage – for courage he considered it was – to give that large sum that he had intended to bestow at a distant day, during his life-time.

(cries of "hear, hear" and applause)

He [Alderman Staunton] understood that this donation was very timely – that, in fact, were it not for Mr Nowlan had come forward so munificently, the works would have had to be suspended"

("hear, hear", applause)

Speaking on behalf of the people assembled Alderman Staunton continued on saying:

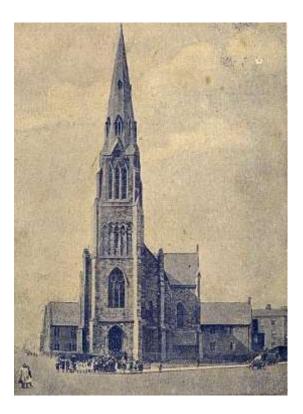
"[Thomas] a retiring individual ... would desire, no doubt, to remain in the obscurity of unknown and private life: but we deem it a duty which we owe to the public worth and virtue to announce his respected name. Mr. Thomas Nowlan, late of No. 25 Sackville Street, by the transfer and sale of 600 pounds in securities, Government has most opportunely bestowed, in aid of our arduous undertaking, the munificent sum of 526 pounds".

Charles Kennedy was acknowledged for having donated initially 400 pounds towards the building of the church and the land rent free for ever and later donated a further 405 pounds. Both Charles Kennedy and Thomas were then acknowledged as two generous benefactors by His Grace the Most Rev Archbishop Murray assigned.

Alderman Staunton thanking the benefactors said:

"Such unexampled generosity cannot be sufficiently rewarded in this world, but awaits the eternal recompense of the next. As some small tribute, however, in lasting gratitude, we have assigned to these two generous Benefactors two chief vaulted resting places underneath the Great Altar, with corresponding recording Marble Tablets in the Chapel, so that their memories may live for ever embalmed in the pious recollection of the People, whilst the Priests of that Altar will continue to remember them in their prayers and sacrifices forever."

These last few words were an overwhelmingly profound find for me. Thomas' generosity would be forever remembered in the form of a vault and recording marble tablet set aside for him when his time came. Thomas at the time was aged 71 years.



In 1850 the St Laurence O'Toole church was completed and dedicated by Archbishop Murray. It still stands today and both vaults reserved for Thomas and Mr. Kennedy sit under the Great Altar. However, Thomas does not lie there, but at Glasnevin Cemetery.

Just before his retirement, in 1845, Thomas had been living on Sandymount Avenue and, based upon the newspaper notice of his "Charitable Bequests" published after his death, he is known to have also lived on Belmount Avenue before ultimately moving to Mount Joy Square where he had the tragic accident which ended his life.

Clare and her family

Clare Plunkett née Nowlan, Thomas` niece, continued to reside at Rose Villa, North Circular Road, Dublin, with her husband Michael until her death in 1883 at which time she was laid to rest, 21 years after her uncle, at H32 Curran Square where our search for Thomas Nowlan first began.

Clare's daughter, Mary Bridgett Salmon née Plunkett, emigrated from Ireland to Australia in 1889 with her young family, where today a few descendants live.

Concluding Remarks

As I reconstructed Thomas' life story, bit by bit, discovering his considerable business success in challenging times for most people in Ireland, his passion for supporting the community, his generosity towards the church, his philanthropy, I could not help but be amazed, awestruck, yet I also felt a little sad that, at the end of his life, he was described in the newspaper of the day referring to his death as simply an "old man" with no mention of his life before dying so tragically or his contributions to the community, etc.

I also wonder why he was never laid to rest in the vault reserved for him beneath the 'Great Altar' of the St Laurence O'Toole Church. Did, over time, memory of his achievements and generosity simply fade away or, perhaps, did he simply wish to rest alongside his family? Whatever the reason, it is comforting to realize that through his final resting place with other family members his wonderful story could be rediscovered and shared for generations to come.

Photo and Information Sources

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The Long Road to Freedom

By Roger Nowlan

Introduction

In this article we retrace the long struggle of the Irish people over the span of 1000 years seeking freedom from oppression, succumbing for a time to English domination and then finally succeeding under the banner of republicanism, the Easter Rising of 1916 being that pivotal event in Irish history which turned the tide in their favour.

Brian Boru

Vanquishing the Vikings at Limerick in 968 and then in other parts of Ireland Brian Boru rose in fame. By 1002 he had managed to unite all of Ireland's fractured kingdoms and, de facto, became the first Ard Rí (high king) to rule over all of Ireland, not only in name but also in practice.



During his reign Ireland prospered, monasteries and schools that had previously been sacked were reopened or rebuilt. He decreed the construction of roads and bridges, and built many churches. Bronze artistry, which had fallen into decline, also experienced a revival. Trade increased.

In 1014 at Clontarf near Dublin, Brian Boru, supported by a united people, defeated the combined forces of the Vikings and their allies in one final decisive battle at Clontarf, putting an end to any further raids. Although Brian Boru died during the course of this battle, his legacy lived on. During the course of his lifetime he had proven to all that the Irish nation could achieve great things and that its people were worthy of praise, respect and admiration.

Irish-Norman Alliance

After 1014, succeeding high kings were not as adept at rallying Irish forces and maintaining national unity. Old animosities and rivalries resurfaced and, in 1166, upon becoming high king, Rory O'Conor, also king of Connacht, deposed Dermot MacMurrough, the then king of Leinster, on the grounds that he had abducted the wife of a Connacht territorial chief back in 1152.

Dermot's response was swift and perhaps unexpected. In August 1166, Dermot traveled to Aquitaine, via Wales and England, for an audience with Henry II, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and also king of England. Obtaining permission to recruit soldiers and mercenaries in Henry II's domains, Dermot returned to Wales where he began recruiting soldiers and planning his return. Foremost amongst those in Wales who offered to help was Richard Fitz Gilbert de Clare to whom Dermot promised the hand of his daughter, Aoife, in marriage.

Richard, otherwise known as Strongbow, assumed leadership of the Anglo-Norman forces and by

1169 was ready to invade Ireland. That year an advance party of archers and knights landed in south Leinster and established a land base. The following year, in 1170, Strongbow landed on the south coast of Leinster with the remaining Anglo-Norman forces. Quickly making inroads, they captured the Ostman (Viking) cities of Waterford, Wexford and Dublin, effectively re-claiming Leinster and re-asserting Dermot's right to rule as its king. Dermot, however, did not live long to enjoy his victory. Dying in May 1171, his right to rule fell to his new son-in-law, Richard de Clare who, as promised, had married Aoife in August 1170. According to Brehon law, Richard could rule over Leinster in his lifetime but, since he had retaken Leinster by force, again according to Brehon, he also had gained the right to rule over the "swordlands" in perpetuity.

Aoife and Richard had two sons and a daughter, Isabel de Clare, who married William Marshal, 1st Earl of Pembroke. The latter served four successive kings of England as Lord Marshal during which time he built a castle for his family in Leinster (Carlow Castle). Benefitting from such a good connection to the English royal household, within a few generations, Aoife and Richard's descendants included much of Europe's nobility.

In these early days following Aoife and Richard's marriage a certain détente existed in Norman-Irish relations to the extent that many Norman families considered themselves more Irish than the Irish themselves, adopting their language, culture, customs and even their way of settling disputes (Brehon law).

Gaelic Lordships

By the early 1300s tensions between the Gaelic and Anglo-Norman populations had increased to the point that many Irish Gaelic chiefs longed for a return to Gaelic rule throughout Ireland.

Their hopes for a Gaelic revival were answered in the person of Robert the Bruce, a descendant of Aoife and Richard and also of Gaelic royal lines in both Scotland and Ireland.

Already, in 1306, he had asserted himself king of Scotland fending off English advances to dethrone him and finally winning a decisive battle against the English at Bannockburn in May 1314.



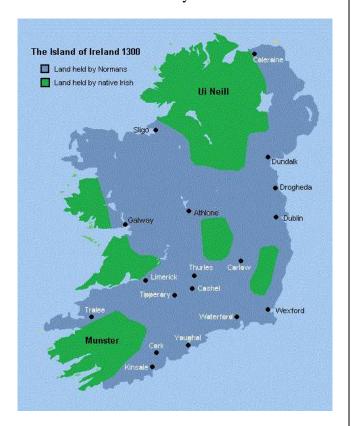
Helping him to win against the English had been a large contingent of Templar knights who had fled Ireland to join his forces after the suppression of their order in Ireland in 1312. These same men, trained in the art of war, together with some of his forces, fresh from combat, could help him to realize his vision of a "Pan-Gaelic Greater Scotia" where his lineage would rule over both Ireland and Scotland (i.e. the old Scotia of Roman times). Communicating his vision to the Gaelic chiefs in Ireland he soon obtained their agreement.

In May 1315, his brother, Edward the Bruce, the newly proclaimed king of Ireland, landed on the shores of Antrim leading a fighting force estimated at 6000 men intent on "free[ing] Ireland from the English yoke". Irish warriors and Norman allies soon joined in the fray and, for a time, the Irish-Scottish alliance seemed unstoppable as they won battle after battle.

In less than a year King Edward was in control of most of Ireland but, by early 1317, hampered by

famine which had been ravaging most of the country since his arrival, he could no longer provide food to most of his men. In 1318, King Edward's army, severely weakened, was defeated at Faughart (Dundalk). Edward the Bruce who had fought so valiantly for the Irish cause died in battle but not the hope for a Gaelic revival. The Gaelic chiefs continued to battle intermittently such that by the mid-1300s the only lands remaining under direct control of England were those around Dublin (the Pale).

In a measure designed to ensure greater loyalty on the part of the Anglo-Norman lords beyond the Pale, the Crown revoked all previous land grants it had previously made and only re-granted them in full if the landholding family did not have a record of rebellious activity.



As for the Irish Chiefs, Richard II, King of England, had to come to Ireland with a large fighting force before submission from the Chiefs could be obtained. Arriving in October 1394 his English army soundly defeated the armies of the Leinster king, Art MacMurrough. Facing such

overwhelming odds, the Irish Chiefs opted to negotiate a peace agreement and terms of submission.

Richard obtained their submission but had to agree to act as arbitrator in their disputes with the English in Ireland. By a process of surrender and re-grant the Chiefs could still rule over their lands but with the important distinction that they did so as Lords having sworn allegiance to the English Crown. They also had to cede certain lands to be re-granted to English knights.

Kingdom of Ireland

The peace negotiated by Richard II held for a time and, one by one, as agreed, the Gaelic lords ceded their lands to the Crown. The last Gaelic Chief to cede his lands was the MacMurrough, prince of Leinster, who ceded his lands in 1536.

By this time England had embarked on a vigorous program of conquest and colonisation, and, to no one's surprise, Ireland soon became a prime candidate for colonisation. The plantation of loyal English settlers in problematic areas might also help England curb growing opposition to its rule in Ireland.

In order for Irish lands to be properly managed under English law they first had to be surveyed and then only would the re-grant of Irish lands be finalized. As surveys were completed, one by one, former Gaelic chiefs saw that they could possibly have some of not all their lands confiscated if they did not have sufficient proof of title or if their family had been involved in rebellious activities.

Also many native Irish families and some Anglo-Norman families, like the FitzGeralds, still clung to Irish Brehon law for matters of succession whereas Anglo-Norman families, like the Butlers, had long adhered to English law. This naturally led to disputes and open revolt over ownership between family factions like the Butlers and FitzGeralds. In the process, those who had adhered to English law all along came out on top

and the Crown gained additional lands which it could use for the plantation of English settlers or paying mercenaries doing their bidding in suppressing revolts.

Seeing their power and influence gradually diminishing the Gaelic Chiefs, led by the northern Chiefs Hugh O'Neill and Hugh Roe O'Donnell, rebelled. Lasting nine years (1594-1603) the rebellion pitted the Irish forces against the mighty English army whose ranks in Ireland swelled to well over 18,000 at the peak of fighting in 1600-1601.

In exchange for a promise to be his vassals, the northern Chiefs had obtained from the Spanish king a promise of assistance in the form of men, arms and munitions. These finally arrived in 1601 but at an awkward time of year, in December, and at an awkward location, Kinsale, virtually at the southern tip of Ireland.

Having anticipated the arrival of Spanish reinforcements in the south, Lord Mountjoy, the Lord Deputy of Ireland, was quick to surround them as soon as they landed forcing the Irish forces in the north to march south to rescue the Spanish forces and their shipment of arms and munitions. Their efforts, however, were for nought. In January 1602 at the battle of Kinsale the Irish side lost to superior numbers and returning north, due to harsh winter conditions, lost even more men, more than at the battle itself.

Severely reduced in number, the forces of O'Neill and O'Donnell adopted guerilla tactics hiding wherever they could prolonging the war until March 30, 1603, six days after the death of Elizabeth I and the accession to the English throne of James VI of Scotland.

James was of the royal House of Stuart founded by Robert the Bruce and immediately took a more conciliatory tone in dealing with the Irish, granting full pardons to the O'Neill and the other surviving Ulster chiefs. The Chiefs could also keep their estates but on condition that they abandon their Irish titles and their private armies, and swear loyalty to only one Crown, that of England. Such conditions were unacceptable to the northern Earls and by 1607 they had fled to the Continent with their retinue swelling the ranks of the armies of Europe, hoping to return someday soon.

In 1608 the absent Earls' lands in Ulster were confiscated and soon afterwards were planted by loyal English and Scottish settlers. Ulster having been successfully planted England pursued other plantation projects in Ireland, sometimes with moderate success and sometimes with little success such as in Munster where most of the available lands were in isolated and unprotected areas, exposing new arrivals to harassment by the native Irish population.

After an attempt on his life in 1605 the English Parliament had enacted repressive measures to limit Catholic activity, for example excluding them from practicing law or medicine but, as for James I, he himself is known to have been quite tolerant of Catholics requiring only that they swore an Oath of Allegiance recognizing that the Pope could not depose an English monarch, a simple formality by today's standards. As early as 1606 he had a crypto-Catholic, George Calvert, working in his service and he even trusted him enough to name him a Secretary of State in 1619. In 1625, shortly before he died, James I made George Calvert a Lord, Lord Baltimore, with commensurate lands in Ireland to go with the title.

Upon the king's death George Calvert resigned as Secretary of State and publicly declared himself to be a Catholic. Despite now being in the open George Calvert still enjoyed the favour of the new king, Charles I, James' son, retaining his position on the Privy Council. By the time of his death in 1631 George Calvert had secured from the king a charter for the colonization of Maryland, the first English Colony in America to pass a Tolerance Act (1649) granting freedom of conscience to all Christians.

By the early 1640s, the English Parliamentarians were fed up with the king's power to levy taxes at will and his unwelcome tolerance of Catholics. Organizing a Parliamentary army they rose up against the king's forces deposing him and eventually beheading him in 1649. By this time England's Civil War had spilled over into Ireland and would rage there for a few more years.

By 1653 all fighting in Ireland had ceased and Oliver Cromwell's Parliamentary army had won. Massive land confiscations soon followed most of which were never reversed even after the return of the monarchy in 1660 under Charles II (Charles I's son). A census taken in 1666 shows that by then most Irish lands were in the hands of either Old English families (those of Anglo-Norman descent) or New English families (those of English officials, mercenaries, merchants,...), native Irish landlords having lost over two-thirds of their lands as a result of the civil war.

Upon Charles II's death in 1685 the English crown passed on to his younger brother James VII of Scotland, a Catholic, who now became James II of England and Ireland. As the new king, James tried to obtain religious liberty for English Roman Catholics and Protestant nonconformists raising the ire of the Anglican establishment. Parliament also questioned James II's loyalty. Was Scotland not party to an "Auld Alliance" with France dating back to 1295? Was not James II a cousin of the French king, Louis XIV?

To resolve the issue, the English Parliament called upon William of Orange, married to James II's Protestant-raised daughter Mary. He was Protestant and definitely not pro-French, having fought several battles against the French on the Continent. Also his wife Mary being first-in-line for the throne he could possibly rule with her as a joint sovereign. In 1688, leading what some have termed the "Glorious Revolution", William of Orange marched on London with an invasion force from the Netherlands forcing James to flee. Seen as an abdication, the English Parliament proceeded to declare Mary and William the new

heads of state, King and Queen of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Jacobite Risings

In 1689, James II made one serious attempt to recover his titles, moving the fight to Ireland where here hoped to rally enough forces to win back the English Crown. Being soundly defeated at the Battle of the Boyne in July 1690 he returned to a life of exile in France.

Two further risings were organized by his descendants, one by his son James Francis Edward Stuart in 1715 and another by his grandson Charles Edward Stuart ("Bonnie Prince Charlie") in 1745. Both attempts, fought mainly in Scotland, were unsuccessful but included many soldiers recruited to the Jacobite cause in Ireland. Recruiters in Ireland included both descendants of the "Wild Geese" (who had fled to the Continent in the 1690s) and members of old established Irish Catholic families such as the Nolans of Ballykealey, near Ballon, at the heart of Nolan territory in County Carlow. In 1726, a Captain Moses Nowland, described as a young man and presumably from county Carlow, was charged with high treason and hung at Stephen's Green in Dublin having admitted to enlisting men for the service of the exiled Stuart In 1745, Peter Nowlan(d) of Pretender. Ballykealey, believed to have been the last Nolan Chief in the old Gaelic order, was hung at Clonmel after having been found guilty of enlisting men for the Jacobite cause.

No doubt the Nolan Chief line resident at Ballykealey, like many other Catholic families at the time, wished for an English Catholic king of the Stuart line who would reverse the repressive measures against Catholics introduced by Acts such as the Popish Recusants Act (1605) which, among other things, required that every Catholic receive communion in their Church of England parish at least once a year or, failing that, forfeit two-thirds of their land or pay a heavy fine.

Republic of Ireland

After hundreds of years of English interference and several failed rebellions, the Irish people were ready to explore new pathways to freedom. Thomas Paine's books, "Common Sense" (1776) and "Rights of Man" (1791), spoke eloquently, in popular language, of the right of all peoples to govern themselves free of monarchy and any outside influences.

By 1791, Republicanism had taken root in America and the revolution in France had begun. Thoughts of hope and freedom for all abounded especially in the parlours of Belfast city where a group of Protestant reformists, largely comprised of businessmen from the linen trade and calling themselves the "Society of United Irishmen", began exploring republican ideals. Expanding to other centres they soon recognized that the main issue facing Ireland was national sovereignty stating:

"We have no national government; we are ruled by Englishmen, and thus servants of Englishmen, whose object is the interest of another country, whose instrument is corruption; whose strength is the weakness of Ireland".

They denounced continuing British interference in Irish affairs and called for a full reform of the Irish Parliamentary system.

In 1792 violence erupted in France putting an end to the French monarchy. The First French Republic was proclaimed and, in 1793, its new assembly declared war on England. This new state of affairs forced the newly-formed Society of United Irishmen, now more popularly known as the "United Irishmen" underground.

Continuing to grow in popularity, in 1795 the United Irishmen linked up with the Defenders, a Catholic agrarian secret society and by 1797 plans were underway for a nationwide popular revolt, supported by French troops who would come by sea. Due to information leaks and the

English side anticipating rebel moves, the Rebellion of 1798 failed. The Society of United Irishmen came to an abrupt end but republican ideals survived inspiring follow-on rebellions such as the Robert Emmet Rebellion of 1803 and the Young Irelander Rebellion of 1848.

1858 saw the formation of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in Ireland and the Brotherhood in the United States. Collectively the two organisations referred to themselves as "fenians". They organized the Fenian Rising of 1867 and, in the 1880s, carried a dynamite campaign on British soil hoping to sway the English government to release its hold on Irish affairs. On this front the Fenians did not win but the harsh treatment that they received in British prisons garnered sympathy for them and, slowly, Irish public opinion began to shift in favour of Irish independence. The late 1800s also saw a revived interest in Gaelic culture, literature and sports, most notably the founding of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) with James Nowlan as its first president.

At the turn of the century the Irish Republican Brotherhood began planning another rising. The Easter Rising took place from 24 to 30 April 1916, when the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, both para-military organizations, seized the centre of Dublin, proclaiming the "Irish Republic" on behalf of the people of Ireland, and holding off British forces for almost a week.

The execution of the Rising's leaders led to a surge of support for republicanism and, in the general elections of 1917, the Sinn Féin party running on a platform of "securing the international recognition of Ireland as an independent Irish Republic" won 73 of the 105 Irish seats. The elected members did not take their seats in the British Parliament at Westminster but instead chose to establish an independent legislature in Dublin called the "Dáil Éireann" (Assembly of Ireland).

Between 1919 and 1921 the Irish Republican Army (IRA), who were loyal to the Dáil, fought the British Army and the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) in the Irish War of Independence. Talks between the British and Irish in late 1921 led to a treaty by which the British conceded, not a 32-county Irish Republic, but a 26-county Irish Free State.

The Dáil had approved the treaty by only by a slim margin. Pro-Treaty republicans believed that the treaty created a new base from which to move forward but those opposed strongly objected causing a rift. The majority pro-Treaty republicans organised themselves into a new party while dissenting sitting members retained the Sinn Féin party name. The Army (IRA) also split between pro-Treaty and anti-Treaty elements, with the former forming the nucleus of the new Irish National Army.

Fighting between the two factions soon escalated into civil war. Hostilities finally ended in May 1923 when the IRA called for a general dumping of arms, but wrongs had been committed leaving bitter feelings on both sides for many years.

Concluding Remarks



Today it is somewhat Ironic that Ulster, the birthplace of republican ideals in Ireland should still have some attachment to a monarchy, being part of the United Kingdom.

However 2016 is not 1916. Positions have softened somewhat since then and the English monarchy has been relegated to more of a ceremonial role, than one with any real power in directing affairs in England or elsewhere.

Since 1973 Northern Ireland has its own constitution. The Parliament consists of a house of elected representatives and a Senate, much like in Canada and Australia. In all cases the Queen is represented by a Governor or Governor-General.

Also, since 1916 the western world's attention seems to have shifted away from nation-building to that of greater unification between countries.

In 1945, after World War II, the United Nations (UN) was established to promote greater international cooperation, most notably on the issue of human rights, following up on the republican ideals first expressed in Thomas Paine's "Rights of Man" (1791).

In 1973 both Ireland and the United Kingdom joined the burgeoning European Union, a politico-economic union which now comprises 28 member states, having its own Parliament and governing bodies.



The NOLAN CLAN and the 1916 EASTER RISING

Compiled by Christopher A Nolan

Introduction

April of 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising. Events have been planned around the world to commemorate this important moment in Ireland's history.

Last September at the 2015 biannual General Meeting of the Nolan Clan, David and Orla Nowlan of Dublin suggested a project to discover Nolan Family involvement during this Rising period. What a great idea!

Simultaneous with the 1916 Rising were several other world events that still reverberate today: WW1, the Russian revolution, the breakup of the Ottoman Empire, etc. This traumatic era split families and friends, allegiances. Nolans were no exception with members on all sides of the questions.

We reach out to the worldwide Nolan diaspora and ask anyone reading this brief article and having information about a Nolan family member during the troubled 1916 time period to write to me chrisanolan3@gmail.com so that we can add it to the Clan's historical archives.

Many Nolan families have connections to events during the Rising. We hope to hear from Nolans at home, in Ireland or wherever else the winds have taken us.

Many thanks to David and Orla Nowlan for suggesting this project and for the fascinating story of David's great, great uncle James Nowlan found in this article.

Shooting by British Soldiers - 1914

At about 6.30pm on July 26, 1914 along Bachelors Walk beside the Liffey River the King's Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB) returning to the Royal Barracks (now Collins Barracks) were confronted by a hostile crowd of about 600.

When the KOSB had reached about 100 yards of the Ha'penny Bridge, the crowd was right behind them at which point the soldiers were ordered to block the street. They fired on the crowd. Four people died and many more were injured, including **John Nolan of 44 Cabra Road, Dublin**, who received a bullet wound to the leg.

Aid to Soldiers - Easter Rising, 1916

On 24 February 1917, at Buckingham Palace, King George V honoured <u>Louisa Nolan</u> just 18 years old with the Military Medal for her actions during the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin.

According to the Sinn Féin Rebellion Handbook, she tended to wounded officers and men during the battle on Mount Street Bridge.

Official British casualties accounted four officers and 216 other ranks killed or wounded during the engagement at Mount Street. Seventeen Volunteers had taken up defensive positions in buildings along the street. Four Volunteers escaped through the rear of the buildings evading capture.



Louisa Nolan was the daughter of the former head constable of the Royal Irish Constabulary (Ireland's police force before 1922). After the Rising, Louisa Nolan moved to London where her two sisters were nurses. Her two brothers were in the British Army and Navy respectively. A third brother was killed in August 1916 on the Western Front during World War I.

Lou Lawrence on Facebook notes:

"Louisa Nolan was my great, great aunt."

James Nowlan-Sinn Féin Rep, 1921



In this picture taken at Croke Park on Sunday, 11 September 1921, the Dublin hurling team looks on, as a very happy Harry Boland smiles directly at the camera and Michael Collins shakes hands with James Nowlan (1862–1924), GAA president, Sinn Féin rep and Kilkenny Alderman. Less than a year before on 21 November 1920, British forces had stormed into Croke Park during a match, killing 14 civilians. Less than a year later, on 2 August 1922, Boland was dead from a gunshot wound and 20 days later, on 22 August, Collins was assassinated at Béal na Bláth.

James Nowlan was a member of the Gaelic League, a lifelong supporter of the Irish language revival movement and a supporter of Sinn Féin from its founding in 1905. He was President of the Gaelic Athletic Association from 1901 to 1921. He held that position for twenty years - making him the longest serving GAA president.

Following the 1916 Easter Rising, Nowlan was arrested by the British and interned without trial in Frongoch, Wales. In August of that year he was released. He publicly voiced support for the Irish Republican Army during the Anglo-Irish War. Nowlan Park, the GAA stadium in Kilkenny, was renamed in his honour. He is buried in Glasnevin cemetery.

Irish Volunteer Brigades - 1916

In Dublin

- P Nolan & Patrick Nolan at Boland's Mills
- Tomas Ó Nualláin at the Four Courts
- John Nolan at City Hall
- Patrick Nolan at Jacob's Factory
- George Nolan on Marrowbone Lane

Patrick Nolan, Boland's Mills, served in "A" Company, 3rd Battalion, Dublin Brigade. Born in 1895 he died on the 12th of April 1979. He fought at Boland's Mills, on Grand Canal Street and along the Dublin and South Eastern Railway Line between Westland Row and Lansdowne Road. He also fought during the War of Independence and remained with the National Army up to 1924 being a Lieutenant with the Mechanical Transport Corps.

George Nolan, Marrowbone Lane, served in "A" Company, 4th Battalion, Dublin Brigade, fighting on Marrowbone Lane throughout Easter Week. On the day of the surrender he was ordered by Con Colbert to deliver letters to Fathers Kiernan and Eugene at Mont Argus and after delivering the letters he was not to return to Marrowbone Lane, as a result he was not interned after the Rising. In 1917 his Company was reorganised and he fought throughout the War of Independence. At Christmas 1920 he was recruited into a full time Active Service Unit and took part in several attacks on British personnel including Colonel Winters and the burning of the Customs House.

In County Wexford

Michael Nolan, Enniscorthy, served in "A" Company, Enniscorthy, Wexford Brigade. Aged 47 years old at the time of the Rising, he fought at the Athenaeum, Saint John's Mill, Cooperative Road and Slaney Road Enniscorthy and at Manor Mills Enniscorthy. He joined the Volunteers at their inception in Enniscorthy in 1913 and was also a member of the I.R.B. Arrested at his place of work on Tuesday the 2nd of May, he was taken from

Enniscorthy to Waterford and then to Richmond Barracks Dublin before being deported to Stafford. He was released from Stafford on May 17th 1916. He had no further activity with the Volunteers or I.R.A. and did not take part in the War of Independence or Civil War.

In County Galway

Bartley Nolan served as a Volunteer in the Castlegar Company of the Galway Brigade, Irish Volunteers. Aged about 20 years old during the Rising he fought at Carnmore Cross, Agricultural Station Athenry, Moyode and Limepark County Galway. He went on the run after the Rising and was captured on May 9th. He was released from Frongoch Prison at the beginning of August 1916 and re-joined the Volunteers on reorganisation in 1917. He took no part in the Civil War.

British Army Casualties - 1916

James Nolan of the Irish Volunteer Training Corps (or the GR's) died in Dublin. This Corps of soldiers was the first to suffer fatalities in the Rising. On Monday April 24th the GRs left Beggar's Bush Barracks and marched to Ticknock. On completion of the exercise they marched back to Beggar's Bush where they came under heavy fire from the Rebels who kept up continuous shooting from the corner house at 25 Northumberland Road and Haddington Road.

<u>J. Nolan, 8692, Rifleman of the Royal Irish</u> <u>Rifles</u>, born and enlisted in Dublin, died April 24th 1916, aged 20. He was the son of Mrs. M. Nolan of 48 Power's Court, Mount St., Dublin.

Civil War Casualties - 1922, 1923

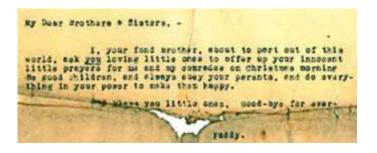
James Nolan of Kenyon Street, Nenagh, an anti-Treaty soldier was killed on Monday August 14, 1922, when a mine he was planting at Nenagh Barracks exploded prematurely. The dead man was a 32 year old father of one. Patrick Nolan of Rathbride, Co. Kildare, member of an anti-Treaty guerrilla-style cell was captured with 6 other members in Kildare on December 13, 1922 and taken to the Curragh Military Detention Barracks in Co. Kildare for trial.



Sentenced to death, Patrick and the others captured with him were duly executed by firing squad at 8:30AM on December 19th at the Curragh Barracks.

The day before their execution, the men were allowed to write letters to their families. Thirty four year-old Patrick Nolan penned a final letter to his mother and father. He hoped that they would bear his death with "the Courage of an Irish Father & Mother".

A shorter letter to his younger brothers and sisters asks that they remember him and his comrades on Christmas only a few days away.



A memorial to the men executed on December 19th is located in Market Square in Kildare town with their names listed as follows:

- Patrick Nolan (34), Rathbride, Kildare
- Stephen White (18), Abbey Street, Kildare
- Joseph Johnston (18), Station Road, Kildare
- Patrick Mangan (22), Fair Green, Kildare
- Bryan Moore (37), Rathbride, Kildare
- James O'Connor (24), Bansha, Tipperary
- Patrick Bagnall (19), Fair Green, Kildare.

Private John Nolan of the Railway Protection Corps was shot dead on Bride Street in Dublin on March 15th 1923. Aged 29 years, married and with 5 young children, he was stationed at Wellington barracks.

Martin Nolan, Ballywilliam, New Ross, of the Kyle Flying Column, was one of four members of his group killed on March 23rd 1923 after being pursued.

Note from the Editor

I would like to reiterate Chris' appeal at the beginning of this article asking for information about any "Nolan family member during the troubled 1916 time period". The anecdotes in Chris' article will be posted to the BLOG area of the http://NolanFamilies.org website. You may add to the collection of 1916 era anecdotes by sending any you might have either directly to Chris (chrisanolan3@gmail.com) or to a general Email account (nolantidbit@gmail.com) which I have set-up to receive information of possible interest to the Nolan diaspora and for posting to the website.

Miscellaneous News Items

News from the 2015 Clan AGM

Chris Nolan is now the new Clan Chief. Catherina O'Brien is replaced as secretary by David Nowlan of Dublin.

Catherina now becomes the new Tánaiste and Pa Nolan retains his position as treasurer.

Roger Nowlan also stays on as newsletter editor.

By a unanimous vote Sean & Mai Nolan of Ardattin and Roger & Rosie Nowlan of Canada were made Honorary Life Members of the Nolan Clan.

The currently proposed dates for the next Clan Reunion in 2017 are September 9th and 10th.

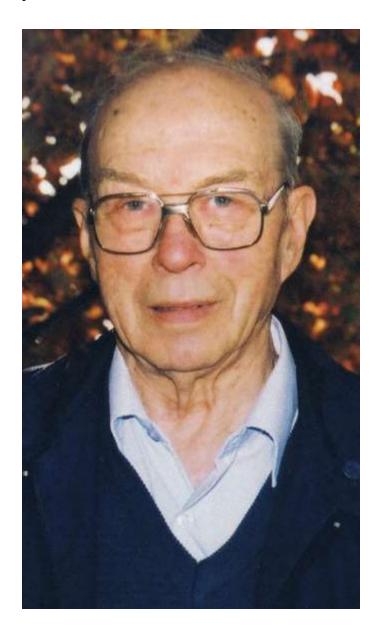
It was also proposed by David and Orla Nowlan that a project be launched to collect for the clan archives information and stories related to the 1916 Easter Rising.

News from Our Members

Chris Nolan, our Clan Chief, reports that Katie Nolan, a native of Framington, Massachusetts, and daughter of his cousin, Michael, continues to do well in broadcasting. Now into its second season the show "Garbage Time with Katie Nolan" has generated consistent buzz and corresponding hope almost exclusively because of Nolan, a charismatic, irreverent former bartender with an affinity for venting hard truths and making her audience buckle in laughter within the same half-hour. https://www.bostonglobe.com/magazine/

Albert Nowlan (1918-2015)

Albert Nowlan, a long-time member of the Nolan Clan and father of Roger Nowlan, our Newsletter editor passed away in August 2015 at the advanced age of 96. He will be fondly remembered by his wife of 72 years Rose Nowlan née LeBlanc, his children, friends and family. His son Yvon predeceased him in 2004.



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 in the member or applicant's local currency upon joining and thereafter, at the beginning of each calendar year, prior to March 17th.

I also understand that the yearly membership fee per household is currently set at 10 Euros for European countries, \$13 US for the United States, \$15 CAD for Canada and \$17 AUD for Australia. For other countries the membership fee is the equivalent of 10 Euros in the local currency. To save on postage and service charges, I may also choose to pay for more than one year at a time.

Post To:	Pa Nolan, Nolan Clan Treasurer
Other family members	
Telephone E-Mail Ac	ddress if available
City Co./State/Prov	Country/Postal/ZIP Code
Address	
Name	
For clan records and to help with administration	n, my particulars (or revisions thereto) are:
This is a renewal []. This is not a renewal []. (Please place check mark where appropriate)
Enclosed is a personal cheque in my local in the amount of as payment for _	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

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

or Email: pa@panolan.com)

Mopoon Villa, Sydenham Road

Dundrum, Dublin 14, Republic of Ireland