



THE Ó'DOCHARTAIGH CLANN ASSOCIATION

Newsletter March 2025

Ár nDútcas

ÁR NDÚTČAS (OUR HERITAGE)

We are excited to relaunch the ÓDochartaigh Clann Association newsletter.

Our editorial committee plans to publish a regular email newsletter that will help any ÓDochartaigh (Doherty) explore our heritage: Ár nDútcas.

We will announce dates for Clann Association sponsored events. We will publish tales from our early clann history in Inishowen. We will republish gems from the archives of previous newsletters. We will also have cultural, geneology and links to ÓDochartaigh related websites and resources.

Remember what Vincent van Gough said: *"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."*

Eva Doherty Gremmert, President

In this Newsletter

From the Archives
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Inishowen History:
Our Name

Events & Workshops:
On Zoom at 8pm BST
(12pm PDT, 3pm EDT)
unless noted otherwise

Culture Corner:
A traditional Irish recipe



We are delighted to announced that the Association will be holding a free event in Carndonagh, Donegal, this summer. It will take place on July 23 and includes a pub quiz and a clann meeting. Dohertys from the USA, Ireland, Scotland – and possibly others – will be there. Please spread the word! Email us for more details at info@odochartaighassociation.org

Forthcoming events - on Zoom

Mar 15 - St. Patrick's Day Hangout
Code: Clann. 7pm UTC

Apr 5 - Y-DNA / ÓDochartaigh Name with Michael Lacopo Code: Clann. 8pm BST

May 17 - Y-DNA Results Q&A with Zack Daugherty Code: Clann. 8pm BST

Jun 21- Irish Language Class with Mollie. Zoom link to be announced

The Ó'Dochartaigh Clann Association Organizing Committee meets online on the 2nd Saturday each month.

Find us on Facebook!



www.odochartaighassociation.org



info@odochartaighassociation.org

From the Archives

History of the ÓDochartaigh Clann Association.

Paddy 'Bogside' Doherty was a pioneer of community relations in Derry City. In the late 1970s, Paddy reached out to the Irish diaspora and invited them to visit their homeland. He foresaw the potential for international relations and the benefits for Irish tourism.

Paddy and other Derry locals promoted development projects and were instrumental in creating the first Clann Gathering. Paddy traveled to Michigan to collaborate with Patrick Dougherty, who also had a passion for connecting all ÓDochartaighs with their roots. They planned an international ÓDochartaigh reunion for 1985.

In 1982, Patrick started the ad hoc ÓDochartaigh Research Association of North America: *"The next three and a half years promise to be very busy and (hopefully) productive ones for our Association. Our goal is to reach as many members, of our tribe, as possible, to ensure that we have optimum participation. I am referring to our individual sept (family) reunions, as well as the 1985 Reunion in Ireland ... I would suggest building strong septs and holding regular annual reunions. Give your children a good background regarding our heritage. I have never met an ÓDochartaigh who was not proud of their name! Abha! (Onward) ÓDochartaighs."**

*Source: <https://www.odohertyheritage.org/newsletter>

Pat moved to Inch Island, Donegal, and the committee organized reunions from 1985 up to 2020. When Pat Dougherty resigned in 2000, Eva Doherty Gremmert was nominated as the reunion coordinator. Paddy Bogside passed away in 2016. A USA charitable non-profit association was chartered in 2018. The pandemic cancelled the 2020 reunion.

Eva retired from coordinating and the ÓDochartaigh Clann Association stopped hosting international reunions.

Since 2020, the Clann Association has not been hosting reunions in Ireland. However, there are local travel companies organizing tours. We encourage all ÓDochartaighs to visit our homeland. **Ár nDútcas!**

Inishowen History

The O'Doherty surname

The ÓDoherty surname, derived from the Irish "ÓDochartaigh," meaning "descendant of Dochartach," reflects a deep connection to ancestry and heritage. Early Irish names were patronymic, identifying individuals by their fathers or grandfathers.

Ó'Dochartaigh became a hereditary surname to honor an ancestor's reputation and distinguish the family within the broader clann Fiamhain. The personal name "Dochartach" first appears in the Annals of Ulster in 974 AD and is linked to the Cenél Conaill, descendants of Conal Gulban, King of Tirconnell. Its root, dochar, translates to "harm," "injury," or "loss," and suggests meanings like "destructive" or "hurtful." The name likely originated as a battlefield nickname for a valiant warrior who led and protected his people.

The many spellings of ÓDochartaigh, including Doherty, Dougherty, and Docherty, arise from phonetic transliteration. Anglicization began in the 1600s during English colonization, when Gaelic names were altered for easier use in English society. Variations emerged due to evolving English language, differing regional accents, and inconsistent historical spelling practices. Many Irish families restored the "Ó" prefix during the Gaelic Revival in the late 19th century.

Today, Doherty remains the most common variation, with nearly 300 recorded forms reflecting the enduring legacy of the ÓDochartaigh name. [Find out more.](#)

Culture Corner: Traditional Irish Stew

Download a traditional Irish stew recipe. A hearty and comforting dish made with simple ingredients.



Find more recipes at www.theirishmanswife.com

