



THE Ó DOCHARTAIGH CLANN ASSOCIATION

Ár nDútcas

Newsletter May 2026

ÁR NDÚTČAS (OUR HERITAGE)

The first time I visited my ancestral homeland in 1985, for the first Ó Dochartaigh Clann Gathering, my experience was multi-layered. I felt the excitement of being somewhere I had dreamed of.

There was a sense of coming home and of belonging. Small things were familiar, the gestures people make, the cadence and rhythm of the conversations, the smells of certain foods. These things gave me the heartfelt sensation that I had been there before.

Oh, there were things that I had to learn too. Some of the cultural norms of Inishowen were unfamiliar and other things were very different even though they had the similar names. Such as black and white pudding. This gap in understanding sometimes brought with it a little tension and took a bit of time to overcome.

I did feel a strong emotional tie to my family history. Walking the same lanes as my grandparents, and seeing the buildings where they lived, made the stories they told my father come alive. Ordinary things - like the rock wall (photo below) that was built by my grandfather as a young teenager is still a beacon to me because of that connection. I have taken many pictures of that same rock wall. I visit it each trip I take.

Visiting my ancestral homeland changed how I saw myself. Revisiting each time continues to add layers to who I already am. I recommend that if you are drawn to visit, do it! You could join us this August 12 - 15, for this year's Ó Dochartaigh Clann Gathering and experience it all for yourself.

Slán go fóill (goodbye for now)!

Eva Doherty Gremmert, President



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Culdaff, Donegal, Ireland

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Irish Research Roundtable

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www.odochartaighassociation.org



info@odochartaighassociation.org

Culture Corner

Doherty's Mince

We published a hearty Irish Stew recipe in a previous newsletter, which featured lamb chunks. Irish channels on the internet are alive with praise for Doherty's Mince so we looked for a recipe that approximates it. We are going out on a limb with this untested formulation, but give it a try and/or adjust to your taste.

Doherty's Mince comes from Doherty's Meats, a long-established Derry butcher/processor since 1830, with a strong local following. A variety of factors make it stand out:

1. Proprietary seasoning - Locals describe a spiced flavour that is not typical of plain ground beef—described as a “secret blend.”
2. Distinct texture - It's more cohesive than regular mince meat, forming small meatballs easily in stews. Likely a mix of fat proportion (~15%), grind size and mixing method.
3. Regional food culture - It's central to Derry Stew, which is mince-based rather than lamb chunks. It inspires nostalgia.
4. Consistency - Industrial-scale production with a traditional recipe results a repeatable taste over generations, which builds memories and loyalty.

The closest commercial approximations are British-style sausage meat from specialty shops, and some butcher-made pre-seasoned hamburger mixes. You can get close or create your own variation by treating ground beef like a lightly spiced sausage base:

Base

- Medium ground beef with 15–20% fat
- Add, per 500 g / 1 lb
 - 1 tsp salt
 - ½ tsp black pepper
 - ½ tsp white pepper
 - ½ tsp paprika
 - ¼–½ tsp ground nutmeg or allspice
 - Optional: small pinch of mace or clove
 - 1–2 tbsps very fine onion (or onion powder)

Technique (important)

Mix more thoroughly than usual - until slightly sticky- to develop that cohesive texture. Note: no binders are added.

Let sit in the fridge 1–2 hours (or overnight) before cooking

For “Derry stew” effect, roll into small meatballs and brown before simmering.

Go n-éirí leat (good luck)!



Contact us - info@odochartaighassociation.org

2026 Gathering

McGroory's
SINCE 1924
Ó DOCHARTAIGH
Clann Gathering
2026
12-15 AUG
CELEBRATING FAMILY.
HONORING OUR HERITAGE.
ROOTED IN IRELAND. UNITED BY FAMILY. CARRYING OUR LEGACY INTO THE FUTURE.
Fáilte roimh chách!

THE OFFICIAL Ó DOCHARTAIGH CLANN ASSOCIATION 2026 GATHERING ITINERARY

AUGUST 12, 2026 – WEDNESDAY

7 PM: PREMIERE OF CONCERT TITLED:

“SARA DOUGHERTY : THE UN-CROWNED QUEEN OF COUNTRY MUSIC” AT MCGRORYS PRODUCED BY MUSICIAN PEARSE DOHERTY OF IDIR DHA LOCH

AUGUST 13, 2026 – THURSDAY

10 AM - 4 PM: BUS TOUR OF INISHOWEN AND Ó DOCHARTAIGH ANTIQUITIES INCLUDING LUNCH DINNER ON YOUR OWN

7 PM - 9 PM: CLANN GENEALOGY FORUM – OPEN CONVERSATION ABOUT GENEALOGY RESEARCH

9:30 PM: PUB QUIZ

AUGUST 14, 2026 – FRIDAY

10 AM - 4 PM: HERITAGE LECTURES AT MCGRORYS OR CULTURAL CRAFTS WORKSHOPS AT CULDAFF HALL (BOTH WITH A LIGHT LUNCH AT MCGRORYS)

7 PM: AGM (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING) AT MCGRORYS

8 PM: CEILI DANCE AT MCGRORYS

AUGUST 15, 2026 – SATURDAY

10 AM: DOAGH FAMINE VILLAGE LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

2 PM: CLONMANY GENEALOGY & HERITAGE EXHIBITION

6 PM: CLOSING BANQUET AT MCGRORYS



From the Archives

The 1659 Census of Ireland (aka Petty's Census), is one of the earliest surviving population surveys of Ireland. It was compiled under the direction of William Petty following the Cromwellian conquest, and offers valuable insight into early Irish ancestry.

It records population totals and clues about family names, despite inconsistent spelling influenced by Gaelic and Anglo forms.

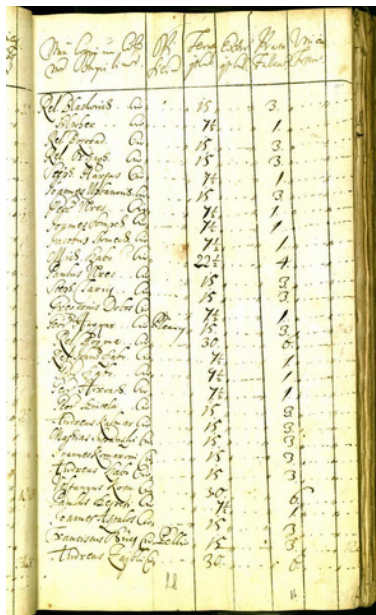
At that time, Ulster included six counties, with County Donegal reporting a population of 12,001. Of these, 8,589 were native Irish and 3,412 were of English, Scottish, or other origins. Donegal was divided into five baronies, with Raphoe showing a significant mix of Irish and English inhabitants.

The census frequently identifies leading local figures as "Titulado," referring to individuals of status such as landowners or gentlemen. It also organizes people by parishes and townlands, though many of the latter no longer exist.

For the Ó Dochartaigh (Doherty) name, the census is particularly revealing. Variants of the surname appear widely, with 203 recorded in Killmacrenan and additional groups in Boyleagh & Banagh and Raphoe. Several individuals are named, including Hugh Boy O Doherty and his son Shane in Moville, along with other household leaders across different parishes, each with groups ranging from about 8 to over 30 people.

Overall, the census identifies at least 267 individuals bearing our name in Donegal, indicating the surname's prominence and suggesting even broader distribution across Ireland.

**Summarized
from Newsletter
#8, Jan 1984**



Parish	Population	Other
St. Nicholas	15	3
St. Peter	75	1
St. Paul	15	3
St. James	15	3
St. John	75	1
St. George	15	3
St. Andrew	75	1
St. Martin	75	1
St. Michael	75	1
St. Anthony	225	4
St. David	15	3
St. Elizabeth	15	3
St. Margaret	75	1
St. Helena	15	3
St. Katharine	75	1
St. Lucia	75	1
St. Eustace	15	3
St. Ignace	15	3
St. Francis	15	3
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One Family's Migration Story

My Doherty family story reflects a common pattern of early 19th-century Irish migration to Canada, shaped by loss, resilience and integration.

William Doherty Sr. of Labadish - Sheriff of Donegal - died in 1818, leaving his widow, Marjorie (Fetters) Doherty, to lead the family through a major transition.

Their eldest son, Isaac, had already emigrated to British North America around 1814, establishing an early foothold. A year after her husband's death, Marjorie and her remaining children followed the eldest son, landing at Magudavic (now St. George) in New Brunswick.

From there, the journey was indirect and demanding. The family travelled on foot to Saint John, then by schooner to Great Village, Nova Scotia. Over time, family members dispersed and resettled, guided by opportunity and family connections.

William Jr. eventually moved to the Richibucto region of Kent County, New Brunswick, where relatives were already established.

In the next generation, the family became firmly rooted in the region. William Jr. married Nancy McLellan of Great Village and developed a substantial milling operation along the Richibucto and later the St. Nicholas River, including saw, grist, and carding mills.

His younger brother Joseph established mills in Buctouche before later relocating to Campbellton. Isaac, the pioneering son, engaged in trade with Newfoundland and shipbuilding in the Bay Verte-Tidnish area.

The family's presence continued to grow through subsequent generations.

Contact us - info@odochartaighassociation.org

William Jr.'s son, Dr. Isaac Wilson Doherty, became a prominent physician in Kent County and was the source of this family history.

His own son, Peel Doherty, worked as a travelling dentist in the Great Village area before eventually making his way to the west coast of Canada, extending the family's reach across the country.

Peel's sister Kate was a nurse and did extensive family research. Although the family passed through several communities, their lasting roots took hold in Kent County, where they became part of the region's economic and social fabric. I'll be following their path on a trip to New Brunswick this year.

Pictured below: Dr. R. Peel Doherty, DDS, violin making hobby, c1930



Submitted by Daniel Doherty, grandson of Dr. Peel Doherty

Resources and links

[Ireland and the Inishowen Today](#)

[Irish Genealogy and History](#)

Ó Dochartaigh (Doherty) Clann-related websites

- odohertyheritage.org - early history
- odochartaigh.org - 100+ spellings of our name

