



# THE Ó DOCHARTAIGH CLANN ASSOCIATION

Ár nDútcas

Newsletter September 2025

## ÁR NDÚTČAS (OUR HERITAGE)

This past July in Inishowen, we held an Ó Dochartaigh Clann Association gathering at McGrory's Hotel in Culdaff. We celebrated the 40th anniversary of our first clann gathering in Ireland held in 1985. We are grateful to Paddy "Glackin" Doherty for his generous sponsorship of our Pub Quiz event followed by traditional music, Irish dancing and yummy food. We also received such kindhearted support from individuals and businesses with donations for our prizes and help on the night. See our Clann Association Facebook post of August 7th to see their names.

This was the first in-person gathering in our homeland since 2015. Unfortunately, our 2020 clann gathering was cancelled due to Covid-19. Although the cancellation caused a lot of heartache for all, it was the right thing to do. We have spent the last five years continuing to gather our clann online through Zoom events and resuming the publication of our newsletter.

Our dedicated clann leadership have now embarked on a new era. We are planning annual gatherings in Inishowen. We are excited to announce our new format. We will hold gatherings more frequently with specific activities organized to meet the individual interests of smaller groups of Ó Dochartaighs. We feel that this change will make it possible for more people to travel to our homeland and see the Ó Dochartaigh lands situated in the northwest of Ireland.

Our vision is to work alongside local business that promote tourism, heritage and the arts as we arrange these activities. We will have music, dancing, clann genealogy workshops, heritage tours, painting, pottery and much more.

Please mark your calendars - the next Ó Dochartaigh Clann Association gathering will be held from 12-15 August, 2026, centered in Culdaff, Inishowen, County Donegal, Ireland. Plan to join us in Ireland next summer. Please let us know your specific interests.

More details will follow over the next few months as we finalize the program with the local Inishowen businesses. We are continuing our online Zoom events to be held each month as well as planning the in-person gatherings each summer in Ireland. We won't need to wait five years to gather together.

*Eva Doherty Gremmert, President*



### In this Newsletter

**Clann Gathering 2025**  
Culdaff, Donegal, Ireland



**From the Archives**  
A message from Jeanne

**Culture Corner**  
Traditional Irish Apple Cake

**From the Archives**  
July 1982 Newsletter

**Official Store**  
[Buy Ó Dochartaigh merch!](#)



[Find us on Facebook!](#)



**Subscribe to  
our  
YouTube  
channel!**



## From the Archives

It's October 1982 and the new Clan Research Association is gearing up for their first international gathering. This excerpt from newsletter Vol. 1 No. 4 describes how one of the organizers had travelled far and wide to make connections and stir up interest in the clan.

### A Message from Jeanne

"After attending all of the reunions in the US and Canada, I am all pumped up again. What wonderful people we have in the Association, and how great it was meeting so many of them for the first time, and renewing acquaintances with ones met last summer. I am so grateful for all of the help so many have given us in this, our first year. I really feel that we are gaining momentum now, and that this will build. Margaret Dougherty Johnson, our Treasurer has been busy sending out Letters to the Editor, and the response has been tremendous, with O Dochartaighs writing in now, from all over the United States. We still have 2000 newspapers to contact [people with] and are printing up letters at the present time."

## Book accommodation now for the 2026 Clann Gathering!

Building on the success of our gathering in July this year, the date has been set for the next Ó Dochartaigh Clann Official Gathering in Inishowen, Ireland. It will take place from August 12-15 2026. More details will be announced over the next few months in our newsletters and Facebook group.

McGrory's Hotel in Culdaff is generously offering a 20% discount for guests who will be attending. This is available until 31 December, 2025. Contact the hotel and reception staff will help with room bookings. Email [reception@mcgrorys.ie](mailto:reception@mcgrorys.ie) or call +353 74 937 9104. Places are limited so book now!

## Clann Gathering July 2025

Below are some of the photos taken at our Clann Gathering in McGrory's Hotel in Culdaff.



Some of the Association's Executive Committee



Pub Quiz in session!



Presenting a check to Paddy "Shan" Doherty for the Doagh Family Village. We launched an appeal following the tragic fire at the village.



# Inishowen History – One Family’s Story

Some can trace their Ó Dochartaigh family to a particular spot in Inishowen, County Donegal and know exactly when their ancestors migrated. Despite many years' research, my connection faded out in an unusual tract of Massachusetts wilderness about 1730. I thought it was the end. Then I looked at the map and saw Dorothy Pond in what is now Millbury. My heart leaped, remembering a muster roll showing Dougherty spelled Dorothy! I knew to research, but how? There was no smoking gun. The way was hard, because Charles Dougherty never owned land there. It seems he was a squatter. How do you research that?! What seemed an impossible journey began to come together after immersing myself in thousands of deeds and court cases. Join me on 8 November on the Ó Dochartaigh Clann Association Zoom presentation, where I'll show you how I learned my ancestor migrated in 1718 and get ideas for your own research!

## Will Dougherty III

### **What Was Happening in Inishowen in the 1700s, and why might Will's ancestors move to Massachusetts?**

In the early 1700s, economic, religious, political, and social drivers led people to emigrate from Inishowen (and all of Ulster) to New England and other parts of America.

#### **Economic Disadvantage**

Overpopulation and limited arable land made it difficult for families to survive.

The Ulster region had a large tenant population with high rent and no security of tenure. There was little opportunity for advancement, due to lack of infrastructure and trade.

#### **Religious Discrimination**

The Penal Laws severely restricted the rights of the Catholic majority, including no right to vote, no right to own land long-term and no Catholic education or ability to hold public office. Presbyterians also suffered discrimination under the Anglican-dominated Church of Ireland. They were considered Dissenters, were excluded from public office and were taxed to support the Anglican church. This led to widespread dissatisfaction and alienation.

Many emigrants from Donegal in this period were descendants of Scottish settlers from the Plantation of Ulster (1609 onwards).

These Scots-Irish (Ulster Scots) Protestants began a mass migration to New England and Pennsylvania starting around 1717, continuing in waves through the 18th century.

Massachusetts, especially areas like Boston and Worcester County, was a destination for people seeking religious freedom and better land opportunities.

#### **Political Instability & Memory of Conflict**

The region was still recovering from 17th-century wars, including the 1641 Rebellion, Cromwell's conquest, and the Williamite Wars (1689–91). The memory of massacres, land confiscations, and military occupation created ongoing fear and uncertainty.

Donegal, being on the frontier between Gaelic Ireland and the Ulster plantations, experienced centuries of upheaval, prompting some families to seek peace and permanence abroad.

#### **Emigration Networks and Encouragement**

Letters and reports from earlier emigrants in Massachusetts and New Hampshire encouraged others to follow.

Ports near Inishowen such as Derry and Moville became busy emigration points.

Emigrants included Catholic and Protestant families, though Protestant Scots-Irish Presbyterians were dominant in the early waves. These conditions were acute in the first decades of the 1700s, and pushed many to emigrate. Massachusetts offered spiritual refuge and material opportunity.

#### Daniel Doherty

## Resources and links

[Ireland and the Inishowen Today](#)

[Irish Genealogy and History](#)

Ó Dochartaigh (Doherty) Clann-related websites

- [odohertyheritage.org](http://odohertyheritage.org) - early history
- [odochartaigh.org](http://odochartaigh.org) - 100+ spellings of our name



## Culture Corner

### Traditional Irish Apple Cake

An Irish Apple Cake (sometimes called Kerry Apple Cake) is a lovely rustic dessert that celebrates the apple harvest season. It's a cross between a light sponge and a fruit-studded tea cake, often served with warm custard or cream. Here's a classic version:

#### ingredients

- For the cake:
- 3 cups (360 g) all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp ground cloves
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- Pinch of salt
- ¾ cup (170 g) cold unsalted butter, cubed
- ¾ cup (150 g) granulated sugar
- 3-4 medium apples (Granny Smith, Bramley, or other tart, firm apples), peeled, cored, and sliced thin
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup (120 ml) milk

#### For the topping (optional but traditional):

- 2 tbsp sugar (white or demerara) for sprinkling

#### To serve:

- Custard sauce or softly whipped cream

#### Instructions

Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Grease and line a 9-inch (23 cm) round cake tin.

In a large bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, spices, and salt.

Rub in the butter with your fingertips (like making scones) until the mixture looks like coarse breadcrumbs.

Stir in the sugar and apple slices, coating them well.

In a small bowl, whisk the eggs with the milk. Add to the flour mixture and gently combine until you have a thick, sticky batter.

Spoon the batter into the prepared tin and spread evenly. Sprinkle the top with sugar.

Bake for 45-50 minutes, until golden brown and a skewer comes out clean.

Let cool slightly before removing from the pan.

#### Serving

Cut into generous wedges and serve warm with custard or cream. It's also delicious cold with tea the next day.

## Future events

All events take place at 8pm Dublin, 3pm Eastern US and noon pm Pacific US time. Click on the title of each class to go to the Zoom registration page.

#### Saturday, 18 October

##### GEDmatch - an overview

GEDmatch is a website for genetic genealogy research. Anyone can upload their DNA file, analyze results, and compare DNA shared with others. This class will give an introduction to its features.

#### Saturday, 8 November

##### Genealogical Geography

Discover how a New England lake bearing an unusual variant of the Dougherty name unlocked one family's story.

#### Saturday, 6 December

##### Ò Dochartaigh Clann Official 2nd Annual Holiday Hangout

## Recent events

Our free Zoom class on 13 September was "How can Autosomal DNA testing help you research your family tree?" Dr. Michael Lacopo and Dr. Zack Daugherty, both Ó Dochartaigh Clann Association board members, helped us to understand the basics of atDNA and how it differs from other types of genetic testing. You can watch this and previous classes on our [YouTube channel](#).

## Clann merchandise now available

We also now have an [official merchandise store](#)! You can purchase a range of products including t-shirts, caps and mugs. We set the prices to as close to the production costs as we could to make it affordable. The store ships worldwide, so wherever you are you can order something to display your connections with pride. Feel free to share photos of you and your merch on our [Facebook page](#).

Contact us - [info@odochartaighassociation.org](mailto:info@odochartaighassociation.org)

