



THE O'DOCHARTAIGH CLANN ASSOCIATION

Ár nDútcas

Newsletter January 2026

ÁR NDÚTČAS (OUR HERITAGE)

I'm getting so excited for the Ó Dochartaigh Clann Association gathering this summer in Ireland! 🍀

Come and share in a warm Irish welcome with other Ó Dochartaighs for four days of good craic. It's from 12-15 August, based at [McGrory's Hotel](#) in Culdaff, Inishowen, County Donegal. The per-person ticket price is €295 Euro for the four-day gathering. We have nine exciting and very different events lined up over the four days.

The gathering kicks off on Wednesday, 12 August at 7pm, with the premiere of Concert "Sara Dougherty: The Un-Crowned Queen of Country Music" at McGrory's

The next day we will enjoy a bus tour of Inishowen and Ó Dochartaigh Antiquities, including lunch, a Clann Genealogy Forum Open Conversation about Genealogy research, and a Pub Quiz.

Next up will be Heritage Lectures at McGrory's (with a light lunch), Cultural Crafts workshops in the hall in Culdaff and a Céilí Dance at McGrory's.

The last day will include a visit to the [Doagh Famine Village](#), which rose from the ashes last year after a devastating fire destroyed two thirds of the cultural landmark. In the afternoon, we will visit the Clonmany Market House for the Clonmany Genealogy & Heritage exhibition. The gathering ends with a closing banquet, with traditional entertainment at McGrory's.

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Eva Doherty Gremmert, President

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12-15 August 2026
County Donegal, Ireland

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"Odochyrtu"

RootsTech 2026

The world's largest family history conference. One of our Clann Board members is among the presenters!



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
O'DOCHARTAIGH CLANN
ASSOCIATION



ST. PATRICK'S DAY HANGOUT

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026 - ON ZOOM
12 PM PACIFIC, 3 PM EASTERN, 8 PM DUBLIN

REGISTER NOW:

<https://bit.ly/stpatricksdayhangout2026>

be sure to check the start time
based on your local time zone



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Ó Dochartaigh Clann Association gathering

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These gatherings draw members of the Ó Dochartaigh diaspora from the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, Ireland and beyond.

Meeting cousins you never knew you had, or connecting with people who have pieces of your shared story, is one of the most emotional and rewarding experiences in heritage travel.

Book early! Create memories for a lifetime as you savor the traditions of our homeland. The venues in Inishowen are intimate and seating is limited.

Tickets are now available.

I'm counting down the days to when we will reconnect, share stories, and explore our common heritage and ancestry. I know it's going to be special — I can't wait to see everyone there!

For more information, email us at odochartaighgatherings@gmail.com



Some of the Clann Association Board Members at the 2025 Ó Dochartaigh Clann Gathering in Inishowen: (l-r) Brian Dougherty, Rosie Doherty Gremmert, Marie Doherty (Turner), Kathleen Travers, Eva Doherty Gremmert, and Joe (Paul) Doherty.



Culture Corner

Bread and scones

Plenty of recipes can be found in books and on the internet. Here are a few tips to increase variety and improve results. Enjoy these excerpts from *An Irish Farmhouse Cookbook* by Mary Kinsella, 1983.

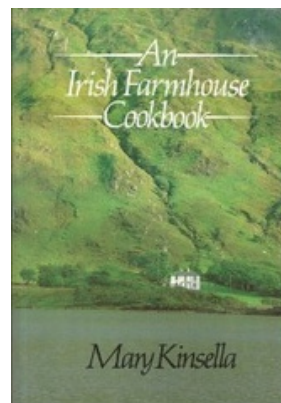
In former years an Irish housewife made fresh soda bread every day. Some of the oats, barley and wheat harvested during August and September were stored in the loft. Every month bags of grains bagged and were brought to the mill, where they were finely ground for breads—oatmeal, wheaten meal, and bran.

Hints for making bread and scones

1. When making bread with baking soda, use buttermilk or sour milk; when making it with baking powder, use whole milk (sweet milk).
2. Brown bread can be a light or coarse. Vary the amount of wholemeal according to taste. More wholemeal will make the bread more nutritious and courser. Too much flour can spoil the taste and appearance.
3. The addition of bran makes bread very rich and nutritious.
4. To vary scones, add half a cup of grated cheese, or half a cup of dried fruit.
5. Set bread or scones out on a lightly flowered baking sheet or casserole dish for baking.
6. Brushing the scones or bread with milk, or egg and milk, gives them a better appearance.
7. To get a soft bread crust, put the dough in a casserole. Keep the lid on during baking. Allow an extra five minutes cooking.
8. Set baked bread out on a wire rack or stand it on end as soon as it is done, so it will cool all around and avoid becoming soggy.
9. Bread and scones can be baked in large quantities, and then wrapped and frozen.

The fresh country buttermilk we used gave the soda bread crust a rich golden brown colour. Our grandparents baked in a big heavy pan with a lid, over a log fire. They put it on a windowsill to cool.

Griddle bread has been going strong in Ireland for centuries. A little effort makes splendid results when spread with fresh butter and smothered with honey or jam.



RootsTech 2026

RootsTech is the world's largest family history conference. It is presented annually by [FamilySearch](#). This year it will be from 5-7 March in Salt Lake City, Utah, with options to attend either in person or online.

This global event features nearly 400 lectures designed to inspire, educate, and advance your genealogical skills at every level.

We're especially proud that Ó Dochartaigh Clann Association board member, Dr. Michael D. Lacopo - whose maternal grandfather was a Daugherty - will be presenting in person. He joins an outstanding lineup of speakers from around the world.

In addition to this year's sessions, RootsTech offers access to recordings from prior conferences, allowing you to learn at your own pace and explore topics that matter most to you.

Whether your passion lies in Irish genealogy, storytelling, research strategies, or uncovering hidden record collections, RootsTech offers something for everyone. Explore the full schedule and register at www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech

If you're new to FamilySearch, you can quickly and easily create a free account, which opens the door to one of the most valuable resources available to family historians today.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and be inspired by the global genealogy community.

Michael D. Lacopo D.V.M.
www.Roots4U.com
Roots4U.blogspot.com



Our Executive Committee



Eva Doherty Gremmert
Association President
Carnation, Washington, USA



Joseph Pascal Doherty
Association Vice President
Carndonagh, County Donegal, Ireland



Kathleen Travers
Association Secretary
Scottish Borders, Scotland

Our Directors

- Brian Dougherty**, Goodrich, Michigan, USA
- Daniel Doherty**, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
- Marie Doherty** (Turner), Clonmany, County Donegal, Ireland
- Michael D. Lacopo**, Granger, Indiana, USA
- Rosie Doherty Gremmert**, Cedar Hills, Utah, USA
- Will Dougherty III**, Williamsville, Missouri, USA
- Zack Daugherty**, Coral Gables, Florida, USA

Music and dance

In County Donegal, the clan Ó Dochartaigh has a long and proud tradition of music and dance.

The county is home to a number of renowned musicians and dancers who have helped to preserve and promote the traditional music and dance of the area.

One of the most famous is the fiddler Tommy Peoples, who was born in St. Johnston and went on to become one of the most respected and influential Irish musicians of the 20th century.

Other notable musicians from County Donegal include Altan, a band that has been at the forefront of the traditional Irish music scene for over three decades.

The Clancy Brothers, who were born in the town of Carrick-on-Suir, went on to achieve international success with their blend of traditional Irish and American folk music.

[Find out more about Irish culture on our website.](#)



Intrigue in the Abbey

This is the story of the Abbot “Odochyrt” and the chieftain’s daughter. John Colton was the Archbishop of Armagh—the senior ecclesiastical figure in Ireland and successor of St. Patrick. In the year 1397, he made a visitation of the Diocese of Derry, during which he was to review the teaching and behavior of the clergy, audit finances, and issue corrections. As Inishowen is within this diocese, it is here that we learn the story of two controversial Ó Dochartaighs. The account centers around the “Celle Nigre” (or Black Cell), a monastic settlement of Saint Columbkille’s church in Derry. From the name, it may be that those in the community wore a black habit (customary religious clothing). At that time, the group was associated with the Augustinian order, and thus semi-cloistered. Though they were to live in common, the priests were attached to parishes where they preached, heard confessions, celebrated Mass, and performed pastoral care.

“Brother Odoni McGylbryd Odochyrt”—that is, Aodh Mac Giolla Bhríghde Ó Dochartaigh—was the abbot or leader of the monastic community. His byname, Mac Giolla Bhríghde (“son of the devotee of Saint Brigid”), likely indicates membership in a McBride branch of the Ó Dochartaighs—an ecclesiastical family in Donegal associated with church lands at Raymunterdoney. Archbishop Colton’s letter to Abbot Ó Dochartaigh began with “greeting, grace, and blessing.” However, the reprimand soon threatened the abbot with excommunication if he did not put away *Katerinam*, daughter of “Odochyrt,” whom he had taken as a concubine. The abbot was also charged to refund the money he had appropriated for her maintenance within the monastery. The letter reiterated the expectation that no women were allowed in the monastery, sleeping and meals were to be held in common, and there was to be regular instruction, celebration of Mass, and chanting of prayers. Finally, he charged the Dean of the Cathedral Church of Derry to enforce his directive.

Early Irish Christianity differed in several respects from the Western Latin Church. Until the eleventh century, clergy (including abbots) could marry and have children. As reform advanced, churches and monasteries—often tied to clans—and ecclesiastical offices, some of which had become hereditary, were brought into conformity with clerical celibacy. This ensured that church lands remained ecclesiastical property instead of passing into clann control. Older customs sometimes persisted, though no longer sanctioned, and this instance of “concubinage” may testify to the endurance of the earlier practice.

This rare glimpse into the medieval era illuminates one facet of the multifaceted Ó Dochartaigh conquest of Inishowen. *Katerinam* (from the Latin text) would have been Cáitlín in Irish. Cáitlín was not just any Ní Dhochartaigh, for it says she was the daughter of “Odochyrt.” “The Ó Dochartaigh” was a title of our clann chieftain—at that time, Conor an Einigh Ó Dochartaigh, who ruled from c. 1374 to 1413. It was Conor who consolidated power, shifted the chiefly residence northward, and was the first to be officially granted the title “Lord of Inishowen.”

This episode of intrigue suggests that the relationship between Cáitlín, daughter of the Lord of Inishowen, and the Abbot of the Black Cell formed part of a broader strategy. Though Archbishop Colton moved to rebuke what he judged disorder, his letter preserves evidence of the close alignment between Gaelic lordship and ecclesiastical office. As the Black Cell’s priests ministered throughout the peninsula, their presence likely reinforced Ó Dochartaigh authority, blending spiritual influence with territorial consolidation. Thus, what appears in the record as a censure may, in fact, reveal the deliberate shaping of Ó Dochartaigh rule in late medieval Inishowen.

From [John Colton, Acts of Archbishop Colton in His Metropolitan Visitation of the Diocese of Derry, A.D. 1397](#), ed. William Reeves (Dublin: Irish Archaeological Society, 1850), 20-21, 56-58.

By Will Dougherty III

