



THE O'DOCHARTAIGH CLANN ASSOCIATION

Ár nDútcas

Newsletter May 2025

ÁR NDÚTČAS (OUR HERITAGE)

Our clann motto above means "Our Heritage". And our name. O'Dochartaigh, translates as a descendant of Dochartach, a 9th century warrior likely named for his prowess on the battlefield. Dochartach means obstructive, unlucky or hurtful.

I feel a deep connection with our clann motto, but how is the meaning of our surname a positive thing?

Our clann members are stubbornly firm in their beliefs and personal values. Perhaps a firm stance could be interpreted as obstructive if the beliefs of others differ. Also, 1200 years ago, different things were culturally important.

I am proud of motto and our surname.

Eva Doherty Gremmert, President

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Click on the images to go to the registration page for the Zoom events below

Y-DNA RESULTS Q&A



Ár nDútcas



HOSTED BY:
THE O'DOCHARTAIGH
CLANN ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025 - ON ZOOM
12 PM PACIFIC, 3 PM EASTERN, 8 PM DUBLIN

WE WILL DISCUSS:

- DIFFERENT LEVELS OF TESTS & WHAT RESULTS YOU'LL GET
- WHAT DATA IS PRESENTED & MADE AVAILABLE
- FAMILY TREE DNA WEBSITE BASIC TUTORIAL

REGISTER HERE FOR AUTO REMINDERS:
bit.ly/may2025dna
OR REGISTER VIA EMAIL
INFO@ODOCHARTAIGHASSOCIATION.ORG

PRESENTED BY:
ZACK DAUGHERTY, PHD

BEGINNING IRISH CLASS



Ár nDútcas

HOSTED BY:
THE O'DOCHARTAIGH
CLANN ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025 - ON ZOOM
12 PM PACIFIC, 3 PM EASTERN, 8 PM DUBLIN

JOIN US TO:

- FALL IN LOVE WITH THE LANGUAGE
- CONNECT WITH YOUR IRISH ROOTS AND THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR ANCESTORS
- KICK-START YOUR IRISH LEARNING JOURNEY

REGISTER HERE FOR AUTO REMINDERS:
bit.ly/june2025irishclass
OR REGISTER VIA EMAIL
INFO@ODOCHARTAIGHASSOCIATION.ORG

PRESENTED BY:
IRISH
With Mollie



Find us on Facebook!



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

Doagh Famine Village partly destroyed by fire – appeal for donations

On May 3, 2025 a devastating fire destroyed half of the Famine Village on the Isle of Doagh, County Donegal. Pat Doherty “Shan”, a previous member of the O’Dochartaigh Clann Association Committee, built the acclaimed attraction on his homeplace into a world-renowned destination tourist exhibition. [Watch a video interview of Pat explaining what happened.](#)

Pat has dedicated almost 30 years of his life to telling the stories of our heritage and culture, from the Great Famine to the present day.

Now the O’Dochartaigh Clann Association makes a general appeal. Please help a fellow clann member to rebuild his incredible outdoor museum.

Our Association President, Eva Doherty Gremmert, reached out to Pat and he confirmed that he would gratefully accept any donations offered by us.

Our website is a collaborative place to celebrate our common lineage. In addition to collecting donated genealogical family trees, hosting online Zoom classes, and much more, we also hold fundraising campaigns.

Our current goal is to raise \$100,000 to help the village recover. Every dollar received by our non-profit organization for this appeal will go directly to Pat and his sister, Majella. Click the button on the right to visit our website where you can donate. If you have any questions, please email info@odochartaighassociation.org.



Media coverage of the fire

- [RTE News](#)
- [Irish Times](#)
- [Irish Independent](#)
- [The Journal](#)



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



From the Archives

O' postrophe vs Òpostrophe

*Adapted from a rhyme published in Vol 1 #2,
February 1982*

We seem to have a problem
within our family tree.
Whether or not to use the mark
that's called apostrophe.

It's found with many surnames,
this comma raised on high.
Who knows how to find the truth?
We all must surely try.

Genealogists and scholars,
they seem to not agree
on when 'tis right or when 'tis wrong,
or how 'tis meant to be.

There's got to be an answer
to set this matter straight.
One great source we agree on
to settle this debate.

A Google search has solved it.
Tell everyone you know!
For diacritic sineadh fada
press Option Shift and O

Using an apostrophe is a typing workaround from the
time before computers. Now we can easily use the
correct form for indicating a long O as the surname
prefix.

On a keyboard, type OPTION+SHIFT+O, or on a mobile
device, long-press capital O, and then select the Ò

[Read more old newsletters here.](#)

Inishowen History

1400-1800

When exploring your family history, it's helpful to understand the social and political dynamics of the time. Specific family documentation is limited prior to the 1800s, so knowing a bit of history can help you learn where and why a family might have moved. The history of the Inishowen Peninsula and Donegal, Ireland, from 1400 to 1800, is marked by significant political, social, and cultural changes. Here is a high-level overview .

1400-1500: Gaelic Clan Dominance

Inishowen and Donegal were dominated by Gaelic clans, with the O'Doherty and O'Donnell clans being particularly influential in their respective regions. This era was characterized by clan rivalries, feuds, and a strong adherence to Gaelic culture and Brehon law.

1500-1600: Tudor Conquest and Plantation

The Tudor conquest of Ireland began in the 16th century, leading to the gradual erosion of the power of Gaelic chieftains. The Nine Years' War (1594-1603), involving Hugh O'Neill and Red Hugh O'Donnell, was a significant conflict during this period. The defeat of the Gaelic lords led to the Flight of the Earls in 1607.

1600-1700: Plantation and Rebellion

The 17th century saw the consolidation of the Plantation of Ulster, significantly impacting the social and political fabric of Donegal and Inishowen. This period was marked by religious and political tensions, culminating in the Irish Rebellion of 1641 and subsequent conflicts, including the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland.

1700-1800: Penal Laws & Economic Hardships

The Penal Laws, aimed at restricting the rights of Catholics, were enforced more stringently, affecting the majority Catholic population of Donegal and Inishowen. Economically, the region faced hardships. The agricultural and pastoral sectors were under pressure, and there was little industrial development. Emigration began to emerge as a response to economic difficulties, with many people from Donegal and Inishowen leaving for America and other destinations.

Throughout these four centuries, Donegal and the Inishowen Peninsula experienced a dramatic transformation from being centers of Gaelic resistance to becoming integrated into the British-controlled Ireland, with significant cultural, demographic, and economic changes.

[More about our history.](#)



Culture Corner

Guinness Soda Bread recipe

Here's a tasty Irish recipe, made with a few simple

ingredients:

- 2 1/2 cups wholemeal flour
- 1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp rolled oats, plus 1 tbsp for topping
- 2 tsp sea salt flakes
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 8 fl oz Guinness (or other stout)
- 5 fl oz buttermilk
- 2 tbsp golden syrup (or molasses)

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 390°F (355 for convection fan oven)
- Grease 8.5"x4.5" loaf pan and put aside.
- In a large mixing bowl, combine all the dry ingredients, with a quick whisk to break up clumps and aerate the dry ingredients.
- Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and add the Guinness, buttermilk and golden syrup to the middle of the bowl. Using a wooden spoon or spatula, mix all the ingredients together until they are just combined, but no more, as it doesn't like to be overmixed. It should be a wet and sticky dough.
- Place the dough into the greased loaf pan using a spoon dunked in a little water, and smooth out the top of the loaf.
- With a sharp knife dipped in flour, make a 1/2 inch deep cut on the top of the dough down the center of the loaf. Scatter the loaf with the extra tablespoon of rolled oats.
- Put the loaf into the preheated oven and bake for 35 minutes, or until cooked through (inserted skewer comes out clean) and golden brown on top.
- When baked, remove the loaf from the bread pan and turn it out onto a wire rack to cool. A loaf of fresh bread is cooked when you tap on the base and get a hollow sound.

For more traditional recipes visit

www.theirishmanswife.com (randomly picked from the many delicious sites on the web)

Clann represented at Clonmany event



Clonmany Genealogy and Heritage Group in Inishowen held a two-day event in the town's Market House last month. It showcased 150 years of transportation history in Inishowen, from horse-drawn carts to luxury motoring. *Horses to Horsepower* offered a look at the evolution of transport in Inishowen - from the days of horse-drawn carts to the arrival of motor vehicles and beyond.

The group is based in Inishowen and has an interest in family history and local heritage. Two representatives of the Clann Association were involved in the event - Board Member Marie Doherty, who is one of the Clonmany group founders, and Eva Doherty Gremmert, Clann Association President.

Pictured left to right are Marie, Eva and Agnes O'Donnell, a member of the Clonmany group.

The Association will be holding a free event in Donegal, this summer. It will take place on 23 July in Culdaff 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

