

O DOCHARTAIGH FAMILY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

of

NORTH AMERICA

P. O. BOX 98

ATTICA, MI 48412

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VOL I NUMBER 1

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT - 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 not only our Association, but also our reunions, have optimum participation. I am referring to our individual sept (family) reunions, as well as the 1985 Reunion in Ireland. Without your active participation we can accomplish very little. It will take all of us, working together, to build a strong Association, one in which we can all take pride. We have the potential to build the largest family association in existence. Our reunion in 1985 should be the largest family gathering of this century.

I would suggest that you could help us by building strong septs and holding regular annual reunions. Give your children a good background of your heritage. Encourage them to learn about their ancestors and take pride in their name. This is certainly one thing that we have going for us. I have never met an O Dochartaigh that was not proud of his name! We have contacted people with various spellings of our surname. For example, Dougherty, Doherty, Dockery, Daugharty, Daughtry, Daughtrey, Docherty, Daughterity, Daugherty, Dorrity, Daughetee and Daughaday just to mention a few. Of course, there are some who still retain the "O" as did our sept until two generations ago. My own family has seriously considered taking back the gaelic spelling, with the O.

We are a newly formed Association, just coming into existence within the past few months. We have accomplished much in a short span of time and yet, there is still much to be done. We welcome suggestions from our members, indeed are grateful for them. We need in-put from interested members of our tribe. We choose to use the old gaelic "tribe," rather than "clan," so that one would not think of the Scottish clans, nor the KKK. We are of the tribe, O Dochartaigh!

During the past few months, we have been in contact with many tribe members throughout the United States and Canada. We have been in close contact with our cousins in Ireland. Their enthusiasm has been gratifying. Many have offered to help and have helped, by sending out postcards for us, contacting members of the tribe to encourage them to join with us. We have appreciated this willingness to help.

Probably one of the most rewarding contacts we have had, has been with the O Dochartaigh's of Spain. We have corresponded with Reamonn and his brother Pascual, both of whom are very proud of their Irish heritage. Their family name is O Dogherty. Their response to our invitation to join with us, was warm, sincere and absolute. They have joined our association and pledged their support and presence at the Derry Reunion in 1985. The wonderful feeling of kinship that we feel for all O Dochartaigh's has been just as pronounced with this Spanish sept. They have a good knowledge of their history and have supplied us with invaluable information on their lineage. We are looking forward to meeting Reamonn and Pascual and their lovely families, whom we feel we already know through their letters and photo's.

If you plan to attend the grand reunion, in 1985, we would like for you to so indicate in your correspondence to us, so that we may have some idea of the number attending. Let us know how many from your immediate family will be attending. As time goes by, we will be sending out literature on the trip.

We do plan to have one week of reunion festivities in Derry and another week in various cities and towns in Donegal and the Innishowen Peninsula. There will be memorial services at the site where Cahir O Dochartaigh was slain and also by Kieran Doherty's grave. We will have parades and programs in many of the towns. We may wish to adopt a uniform code of dress. Perhaps members from each state, would want shirts, skirts and slacks alike. We should have state and provincial flags to carry, as well as Banners denoting which state or province we are from. The tri-color is forbidden to fly in Derry. Perhaps we could dress in green, white and orange. We have asked about this and are awaiting word. It may be that the ban on flying the tri-color will be lifted for this occasion. These are all things to consider and think about. We want to hear from you, on this!

Our Irish contact in Derry is Paddy Doherty, whom we correspond with frequently, as we do also Colm Cavanagh of Derry, who keeps us abreast of the happenings in Ireland relative to our reunion. Paddy will be here in April with Mayor Joseph Fegan of Derry, who invited us to come to Derry. They are as enthused as we about this reunion. Paddy has obtained a 975 year lease on the land on which our Fort O Dochartaigh is situated, for the sum of one pound. The fort is being rebuilt and the plans call for an exhibition hall, shoppes and a restaurant. As was voted at our Attica, Mi. reunion, we sent part of our funds (\$500) to Paddy to use as he saw fit for helping toward the rebuilding of the Fort. We hope to send more when we find out what their plans are. It may be that we will be able to purchase bricks and have the name and address of the donor imprinted on them. We should willingly help in the rebuilding of this last stronghold of our Irish Chieftain, Cahir O Dochartaigh. In Ireland they have a computer programmer that is setting up a system whereby we will be able to line some of our members up with their native Irish relatives. Our secretary is taking a course in computer programming so that she will be better able to furnish them with the proper information.

At present it is not possible to estimate what the reunion trip will cost. We do know that the tourist boards are very anxious to be of service to us. We are grateful for their interest, but we do wish to maintain control over the functions and not have it be commercialized any more than is absolutely necessary. It may be that there will be package deals, including the use of automobiles and also lodging. The Irish American Cultural Insititute told us that they can obtain special rates for us. We will keep in contact with them. However, we have been rather skeptical as they have publicized our reunion, in their newsletter, encouraging persons to join their association for \$20.00 to find out the details, on our reunion. They did not list our association name or address! As details become available, we will inform you.

A word about our association officers: Patrick Dougherty is your President. He teaches at a Vocational/Technical School in Michigan. His field is Ornamental Landscaping and Horticulture. The Gardens of Attica are some of his handiwork and a beautiful tribute to his vision, having been created virtually out of what was once a swamp. He is a bachelor-father, with six grown children all of whom were at the Attica Reunion. His heritage is his hobby. Pat has spent much of his free time traveling around Canada and the U. S. seeking out members of the tribe and exchanging information with them. He has made several trips to Ireland and entertains the thought of retiring there, one day. F. Robert Dougherty is your vice-President and lives in Pennsylvania. He has written several articles for our yearbook. He is married and like Pat, has six children. He has been nominated for the 1982 John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal, an honor of which we feel he is most deserving, having been active in Irish organizations for years. We value his good judgment and are in weekly contact with him. He and Patrick met for the first time, over the Christmas Holidays though they had been in correspondence for some time. Jeanne Dougherty Kitchen is your Secretary, and probably in many cases, the first person you

heard from, with regard to the Association. She enjoys writing to all of our members, who can well attest to her friendliness. If there is a delay in Jeanne getting a reply off to you, it usually is because her allotment of stamps have been used up, as she tries to answer all letters within 4 days. She lives in Michigan about 40 miles from Patrick. They try to meet twice weekly and go over the correspondence. Margaret Dougherty Johnson your Treasurer is also from Michigan. She is a bookkeeper by profession and keeps an accurate and current record of your money, as it is received here at headquarters. She has a great sense of humor and has been of great help. We have appointed some additional officers and will be appointing more, no doubt, as warranted. Travel Chairman is Thomas V. Dougherty of Michigan. Reunion Coordinators are Earl "Ed" Dougherty of Tennessee and Anita Dougherty Pobocik of Michigan. You will be hearing more about them and from them later.

Spain and Canada are in the process of appointing their officers. We do know that Reamonn O Dogherty is the President for the Spanish members of our tribe. Stanley Daugharty is the Canadian President and Marg Daugharty is the Canadian Secretary of our Association. John Docherty is the Canadian Travel Chairman. All three reside in Ontario, Canada. Both the Spanish and Canadian O Dochartaigh's will be adding more officers, at a later time.

All of these officers have contributed much in the way of time, support and ideas for the association and the reunion. We have much to be grateful for when we have been able to obtain the cooperation of these fine people!

Abhu! (Onward) O Dochartaigh's

Pat
President

* * * * *

And now a word (?) from your Secretary.....

Will not belabor the fact that our Yearbook was delayed. Patience is not a natural "Irish" trait, but when we consider that we were able to put this together for the low price of \$7.50, we can hardly complain. There are additional copies available and they make fine gifts for family members. Let us know if you wish any more copies.

Membership Campaign - With the help of many persons throughout the U.S. and Canada, we have sent out over 3,000 post cards in an attempt to reach as many of our tribe as possible. We want no-one left out! The following states have been covered: New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Tennessee, Michigan, Washington D.C. and parts of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Indiana, Wisconsin and Texas. We do have persons compiling lists for us in the states of Delaware, Minnesota, Louisiana, Ohio and Montana and hope to hear from them soon, as to the number of postcards they require. Our Canadian contacts have covered the province of Ontario quite well, but we are desperate for someone to help with the other provinces. If you know of any O Dochartaigh in the states not yet contacted, and the provinces not yet contacted, let us know. Perhaps we can ask them to get out the telephone directories at their libraries and make up mailing lists and then address the postcards for us. It is important that we don't over-burden those that are already working very hard...lest they lose interest!! Many persons receiving the Yearbook have not sent in their 1982 dues, which, as you are aware is a bargain, at just \$6.00 per year. 1982 dues will not expire until your birthday in 1983 and we desperately need the dues money to continue with our work of publicizing the association and the Derry reunion, better known as the "Strive to Arrive in '85" campaign. Many of you send self-addressed-self-stamped envelopes and we are very grateful for that, as much of our mail requires a minimum of 37¢ postage. Overseas mail is 40¢ for each ½ oz, so you can imagine what those letters are costing us. We certainly would appreciate your sending in your

dues and encouraging other members of your families to join. We need those memberships!

Barnesville Reunion - July 31, 1983 - Plans are underway for a large reunion of the tribe at Barnesville (Ohio) Memorial Park, in 1983. The park facilities are excellent. Overnight camping will be available for those with campers and trailers, with the understanding that we are all adults and act accordingly. Barnesville is 25 miles west of Wheeling, W. Va. Some of us attended the reunion held there last summer and cannot say enough in praise of the people, who were very hospitable and friendly. It has been their custom to have a one-day reunion, with members bringing food for a meal to be shared by those in attendance. As some of us will be traveling long distances, we will need to charge those not bringing food an additional \$5.00 per couple which will help toward the cost of the "meat" entree. A \$5.00 donation is suggested for other reunion expenses. There will be more details on this as it is a year and a half away. The area is much like Donegal, Ireland. Rugged and mountainous. Very beautiful, and well worth planning for!

1983 O Dochartaigh Yearbook: We are collecting information from members to be published in our 1983 Yearbook, which will be available in time for the Barnesville reunion. We need information on sept (family) histories, family folklore, photo's, reunion reports, reunion announcements, amusing anecdotes, histories of places named after O Dochartaigh's, poetry and whatever articles you wish to include. There will be many new ancestry sheets included in this 1983 Yearbook, from those members whose direct descendency charts did not appear in our Yearbook this time. It is not too early to start sending this in.

Items for Sale: We have front license plates available for \$11.00 each. They read "O Dochartaigh of Donegal" and are white lettering on a green background. Shirts with various spellings of the surname on the back and O Dochartaigh of Donegal on the front are available in adult sizes, small, med. large and x-tra large for \$13.00 each. They are green lettering on green and white shirts. Childrens are in sizes 6 - 14 and are white lettering on green background and are \$8.00 each. We have the books entitled the "Origin of the O Doherty's" for \$7.50 each. We will have pewter mugs at a later time, made in Derry especially for us. (We are trying to figure out a way to get them over here without the cost being prohibitive.) We also have Origin books on the following surnames for \$7.50 each - McKenna, McCann and O Donoghue. We have smaller books on the surnames; O Neill, O Flaherty, O Reilly, O Kelly, O Rourke and Mc Guinness for \$5.00 each. Allow two weeks for delivery.

If you have not filled out an ancestry sheet and returned it to us, let us know and we will send you one and assign you a family group number.

I have probably neglected to mention something of great importance, if so, let me know.

We are going to have, as a regular feature of our newsletter, a "Missing Links" section. If you would like to use this service the charge will be \$2.00. The item would appear like this: Lavonnie Brimhall, Box 787, Winston, Oregon 97496 needs info on Eda or Edie Ann Daugherty, born 1823 - married 17 Feb. 1840, Bedford County Va. to James A. Farmer who was also born in 1823. Eda Ann died in Virginia. (Lavonnie you got the first "freebie.")

Ancestrily yours,

Derry/Donegal Patches \$2.00 ea.

O Dougherty & O Doherty Pennants
\$3.00 each

