



# The Irish Empire: The Story of Niall of the Nine Hostages

By Clayton N. Donoghue

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Beginning in the late fourth century AD, a rich tapestry of tales was woven, telling of a rakish, handsome king who raised an empire and conquered the hearts of countless women. But over the warp and weft of passing centuries, the threads became worn, fraying the distinction between legend and history. But the questions endured: Who was Niall of the Nine Hostages? Was he real, or just another larger-than-life mythological figure? Did he truly establish an Irish Empire? What constituted this empire? Why, when, and how did it fall? Intrigued by these questions-and compelled by credible scientific evidence that millions of Irish around the world are genetically linked to this Irish king-author Clayton N. Donoghue set out to verify just how many of the numerous legends were true. He soon discovered through official records that Ireland was indeed ruled by a young, dynamic, innovative and ambitious king who brought the country to a greatness previously unheard of. And yet the empire's existence was ephemeral and its memory was obscured. Still, Niall himself was not forgotten; enough authentic information exists to pick up the threads of history, allowing the restoration of what could very well be the most incredible story in Irish history.

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