

# **O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter**

Ó Máille

This month's highlights

- A great time had by all at The Clan Rally 2015
- Get in touch and share your stories!
- O'Malley Clan Rally 2015
  Some Pictures
- Colonel Austin O'Malley
- About the O'Malley Clan
  Association
- Finding your Irish Roots just got a whole lot easier

#### A great time was had by all at the Clan Rally in Louisburgh!!

Chieftain Brigid O'Malley welcomed everyone to Louisburgh on Friday 26th June and so began a fabulous weekend of fun with the O'Malley Clan in Mayo for the 2015 Annual O'Malley Clan Rally.

Friday night was filled with re-making acquaintances from years past, and enjoying some wonderful talks too.

Saturday was a busy day with the coach tour taking up a lot of the day with trips through the wonderful scenery of the West of Ireland, and then the Chieftain's reception on Saturday evening in the Derrylahan in Louisburgh. A great night was had by all, and a special word of thanks to the Tiernan Family who provided the musical entertainment on the night.

Sunday then and it was time for the Annual Clan Luncheon and a new Chieftain, Denis O'Malley from Limerick, (pictured right).







Have you got an article or old photographs that you'd like to submit for future editions of "O Maille" The O'Malley Clan Association Newsletter. We'd love to hear from you wherever you're based around the world. Old photographs and stories to go with them, old letters, family trees or just an arti-

Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!

cle that you'd like to share with the rest of the clan. Drop us a line and We'll get right to it!



### The Annual Clan Rally 2015, 26th to 28th June

### The New O'Malley Clan Chieftain Denis O'Malley





Some Photos from the 2015 Rally, Left: New Chieftain Denis O'Malley with his Wife Maureen O'Malley and Granddaughters Sarah & Niamh O'Malley. Above: New Chieftain Denis O'Malley with Son Michael, Daughter in law Jean, and Grandchildren Lily and Denis O'Malley. Below: New Chieftain Denis O'Malley with a large group of Limerick/Tipperary O'Malleys at the



**Clan Luncheon.** 

#### **Colonel Austin O'Malley**

When the French general Jean-Jacques Amable Humbert arrived in Killala in August 1798, with an army of 1,000 men, he confidently expected to be joined by the local gentry. But Ireland was now in the grip of a Protestant ascendancy. Power and property were concentrated in their grasp and only minor gentry or younger sons of loyal Catholic gentlemen were prepared to rock the boat. Prominent among those Mayomen who joined the French were Colonel Austin O'Malley and his brother Joseph from Burrishoole, and their cousins Captain James and Alexander O'Malley from Eden Park near Knock. Captain James's father was Alexander O'Malley, a loyal Catholic magistrate. After the battle of Ballinamuck the two brothers were captured and sentenced to death. The younger brother Alec was pardoned but asked to be allowed to take the place of his older married brother. This request was refused and James, better known as Séamus Bán, was hanged and is the subject of a well-known Irish song 'An Caiptín Máilleach' (Captain O'Malley).

His name is on the 1798 monument at Knock, Co. Mayo.

Their cousin Colonel Austin was one of the most prominent of the Irish leaders. His family was Catholic but was closely related to the Protestant Sir Samuel O'Malley, and Captain, later Major-General, George O'Malley, who were so actively engaged on the government side in suppressing the Rebellion. He was a noted duellist, and his friend Miles Byrne, who afterwards fought with him in France, writes that 'he feared no danger and fighting seemed to him a pastime.'

Both brothers survived the battle of Ballinamuck and its aftermath. Joseph died in 1804, while Colonel Austin escaped to France in a fishing boat. In France he received a commission of Captain in the Irish Legion. There were frequent reports of his secret return to the Burrishoole neighbourhood, but he does appear to have been there in 1805.

He returned to France and resumed his military career, fighting in the Napoleonic campaigns in Germany, Spain and Portugal. In 1812 he married the daughter of the French commander of an island off the coast of Holland. Within a few years his sight began to fail, and he had to retire from the army. He created a minor sensation in the neighbourhood of his birthplace when he was permitted to return from France in 1836 in a bid to regain his property at Burrishoole. He brought an order at the Mayo Assizes in 1836 against his sisters for the enforcement of the terms of his father's will. There was a further hearing at the Court of Chancery, Dublin, in 1842. Here he appears to have been successful but was apparently debarred under the Statute of Limitations. This rather pathetic figure from another era 'was treated with marked courtesy by court, jury and counsel' wrote Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Hall. According to tradition he is buried at



Burrishoole Friary.

Colonel Austin's son Patrick had a distinguished career in the French army, becoming Brigadier-General for his conduct at Magenta under Marshal MacMahon. Later he became military commander of the district of Marseilles. Forced to retire in 1868 because of ill health, he died the following year and is buried in Montparnasse.



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The O'Malley Clan Association aims to reach out to O'Malleys from all around the world and foster links between the O'Malleys around the globe and the clan at home here in Ireland.

The Clan Association formed in 1953 has been connecting O'Malleys around the world in The US and Canada, Britain, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, South America, and anywhere else you can think of for over 60 years now.

We hope with our new website, and newsletter, that We can go from strength to strength in our aim to connect all the O'Malleys around the world.



## Finding your Irish Roots just got easier!!



Tracing your Irish roots just got a whole lot easier as the National Library of Ireland is to give free online access to its Catholic Church records collection online, from summer 2015. This will enable millions of people around the world to trace their roots in Ireland.

Genealogy expert John Grenham wrote in The Irish Times that it is "almost impossible to overstate the importance" of what will happen.

The National Library of Ireland has announced that it will give free online access to its archive of Catholic Church records, the earliest of which dates back to the 1700s. The records are considered the single most important source of information on Irish family history prior to the 1901 Census. They cover 1,091 parishes throughout Ireland, and consist primarily of baptismal and marriage records.

Currently, the National Library provides free access to its microfiche records at its research rooms in Kildare Street, in Dublin. However access has been hampered in recent years by high demand and increased pressure on resources. The only online access to date has been through a third party paid genealogical service, RootsIreland.ie.

(check out the full story on Irish Central)