



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights

- Time to gather in Westport, Co Mayo for the 2018 Clan Rally!
- Get in touch and share your stories!
- 2018 Clan Rally Programme of Events
- The Adventures of Lawrence Maley in The American Revolution
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- A young O'Malley pi-rate in the UK

Time to gather in Mayo for the 64th Annual Clan Rally

The time has come for us all to gather in Westport in County Mayo, in Ireland's North West, for the 64th Annual O'Malley Clan Rally.

As you'll know by now, there's a fabulous line up of events for us all to enjoy in Westport and surrounding areas on the weekend of 22nd to 24th June.

If you need to book your place at any of the events, please check out our events page on www.omalleyclan.ie where links are available.

Or if you need further information, drop us a line by email at omalleyclanireland@gmail.com and we'll get back to you!



Our month's highlights

- **Welcome to the new O'Malley Clan Association Newsletter 'Ó Máille' from the Clan Chieftain.**
- **The new US Ambassador to Ireland Mr Kevin F O'Malley.**
- **The O'Malley Clan Rally 2018.**
- **Richard Coeur de Lion.**
- **What the O'Malley Clan Association.**
- **President's Report 2017.**

Welcome to our new newsletter from Clan Chieftain Brigid O'Malley

Many, many thanks and welcome to the new O'Malley Clan Association newsletter 'Ó Máille'.

We hope you will find it an interesting and useful read. It contains news, stories, and photos of the clan and its members. It also contains information about the clan and its members. It is a great way to stay up to date with the clan and its members.

The new US Ambassador to Ireland Mr Kevin F O'Malley

The O'Malley Clan Association has been very fortunate to have the new US Ambassador to Ireland Mr Kevin F O'Malley as its guest at both Washington and the O'Malley Clan Association.

President's Report 2017

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Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!

Have you got an article or old photographs that you'd like to submit for future editions of "O Máille" 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-

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





FRIDAY JUNE 22 ND 2018	VENUE / TIME	WELCOME TO WESTPORT
	4:00PM WESTPORT TOWN HALL	WESTPORT WALKING TOURS A one hour tour of the main streets and alleys of Westport with Stephen Clarke detailing the facts and history of the town.
	7:00PM WESTPORT HOUSE	CHIEFTAINS RECEPTION AND HISTORICAL TALK BY ANNE CHAMBERS Join us in Westport House for an evening of music and drinks followed by a talk by Anne Chambers on Grace O'Malley and her family.
SATURDAY JUNE 23 RD 2018	VENUE / TIME	DAY TOURS AND ENTERTAINMENT
	10:30AM WESTPORT TOWN HALL	CASTLES AND ABBEYS TOUR Brónach Joyce of The Clew Bay Heritage Centre invites you to join her on a bus tour to visit Castles and Abbeys in the Clew Bay area.
	4:30PM WESTPORT TOWN HALL	THE WESTPORT STORY A dramatic tour of Westport led by two actors who play various historic characters of significance to Westport - Including Grace O'Malley.
	8:00PM WESTPORT TOWN HALL	FÉILE CUAN MÓDH An evening of traditional and contemporary Irish Music featuring the best of local musicians, dancers and a short drama from "Matriarchs" by Anne Chambers on the meeting in 1593 of Gráinne Mhaol and Queen Elizabeth I.
	10:30PM MILL TIMES HOTEL	CRAIC AGUS CEOIL Finish the night off with some finger food, craic agus ceoil at the Mill Times Hotel.

SUNDAY JUNE 24TH 2018

VENUE / TIME

FAMILY FESTIVAL

12:00PM

**MURRISK
ABBEY****MASS AT THE ABBEY**

Murrisk Abbey has strong connections to the O'Malley Clan. The mass will be preceded by a procession from the Famine monument led by The Clew Bay Pipers.

2:00PM

**WESTPORT
HOUSE****ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

All Clan Members are welcome to attend and share any ideas.

2:30PM

**GRACY'S
WESTPORT
HOUSE****FAMILY DAY AND BARBEQUE AT GRACY'S**

Join us at Gracy's Restaurant on the grounds of Westport House for a barbeque and a special pass to Westport House and Pirate Adventure Park.

Afterwards we wrap up the festivities with some live music, the Chieftains Speech and a ceremony based on Clan tradition the investiture of the 2019 Chieftain.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCOMODATION:
SPECIAL RATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ACCOMODATION VIA
DESTINATION WESTPORT**



The Adventures of a Son of Ireland

by David Maley



Lawrence Maley

Born 1756 in Raphoe, County Donegal, Ireland

Died 1806 in Maley's Settlement,

present-day Harrisville, West Virginia, USA

Last year at the O'Malley Clan Rally, Maurice Gleason spoke about the DNA project that Bob Maley and I started many years ago to connect our families. Bob and I have O'Malley / Maley ancestors that immigrated to America in the 1700's. Unfortunately, our DNA did not match directly but still the project may help others to find cousins.

I will be attending the O'Malley Clan Rally this year and I thought I'd tell you about the adventures of a son of Ireland, in America -- my 4th great-grandfather, Lawrence Maley. His life stretched fifty years from 1756 to 1806 and seemed full of adventure.

In the family bible of his eldest son William, the name is written O'Maley, O'Mealey, Mailey, Mealey and Maley. We are not sure when we lost the O' but know it's not uncommon for the spelling to change over the generations. (1)

We have only fragments of historical documents and family legends to know of Lawrence Maley's life, but there is no doubt he was born in Ireland. The first writ-

ten record is from 1776 when he joined the American Revolution in Pennsylvania. Virtually every soldier signed up with their name and the local town where they lived. Lawrence Maley stated he was from Raphoe, County Donegal, Ireland. (2) The Emerald Isle must have been fresh in his mind.

A story told by his grandson, Thomas Maley Harris, (a Union General in the American Civil War), was that he was a younger son of an Irish nobleman and was placed in training for the priesthood in Ireland. He grew dissatisfied in time and ran away, hiding in a ship's hold. After he was a safe distance from land, he was discovered and worked off the cost of the trip when he arrived in America. (1) Family legends can be interesting since who knows if they are truth or exaggeration. More than likely, Lawrence and his family lived a typical Irish rural life in the mid-1700's with a small farm, a few livestock and a spinning wheel.

Since he was from Donegal, he likely traveled by ship from Derry to Philadelphia in 1775, at the age of 19. We've never found records of any other family members in America so it appears he traveled by himself and then moved a bit westward, according to tax records, to a small farming community near York, PA with many other Irish.

You may recall this was an adventurous time to be in America. During the spring of 1775, the first battles of the American Revolution were fought in Lexington and Concord. Thomas Paine's pamphlet, "Common Sense" made an impassioned case for independence and was widely read at taverns and meeting places. And while the Declaration of Independence was still months away on July 4th, 1776, the pursuit of liberty was already underway. Overtures toward a peaceful solution with England had failed so the Continental Congress asked George Washington to form an army to challenge the much larger British forces.

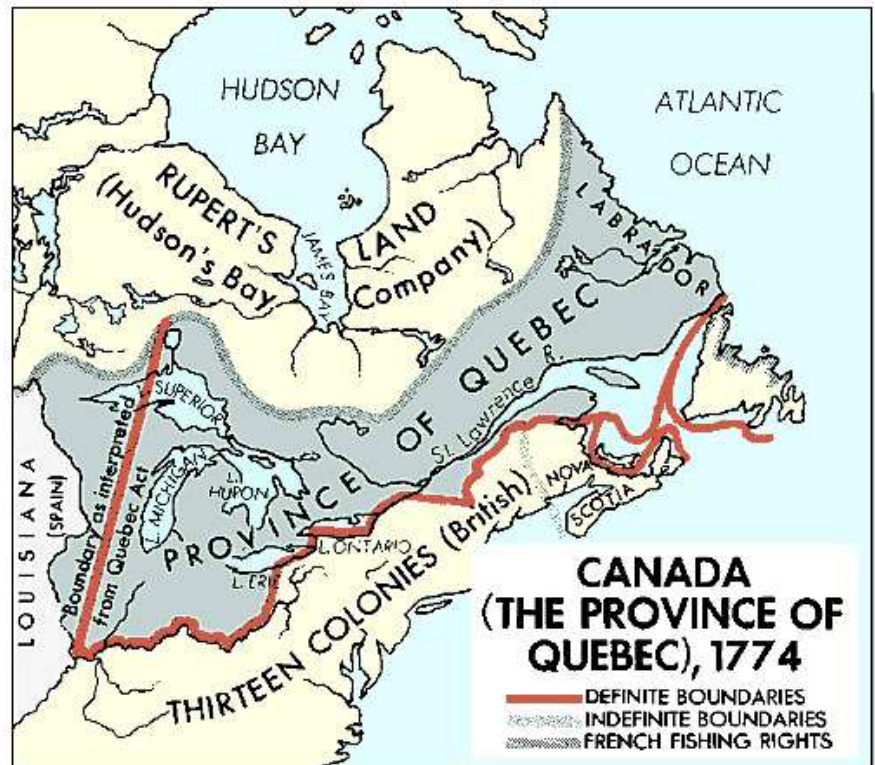
Perhaps less remembered in history is the American invasion of Canada, when the colonists thought they could convince French Canadians to join the rebellion against the British monarchy. Led by Brigadier General Richard Montgomery (born 1738 in Dublin) they defeated the British and took Montreal in November 1775. Moving down the St Lawrence River, he joined General Benedict Arnold (before he turned traitor) and tried to take Quebec City to bring the whole Quebec region into the cause. On December 31, during a snowy blizzard, the Americans attacked but failed to take Quebec City, retreating back toward Montreal.

"The Canada enterprise, looked upon as promising and easy and almost sure success, now yawned wide and deep, threatening to engulf the young state" (3) While still holding Montreal, the American hoped a counterattack would succeed beginning at the halfway point – Trois-Rivières or Three Rivers.

That's when Lawrence Maley entered the scene. Several accounts have survived that describe the Battle of Three Rivers. I borrow liberally from them to tell the story.

In December 1775, the Continental Congress ordered four more battalions be raised in the colony of Pennsylvania. Then on February 16th, the secret committee of Congress was directed to furnish the battalions with arms and to use the utmost diligence in getting them ready, and to march the companies fast to Canada. (3)

The 6th Pennsylvania Battalion was formed in Cumberland County with Colonel William Irvine its commanding officer. Colonel Irvine was born in Ireland in 1741 and immigrated to PA in 1764. The battalion consisted of 8 companies of 68 privates each.



Lawrence Maley enlisted on February 21, 1776 in the 6th PA Battalion as a private, a rifleman in Captain David Grier's company. (1) It is said, these men joined from a sense of patriotism as well as adventure.

It took several months to organize and complete the 600 mile march north to Canada. Each man was armed with a musket and tomahawk. They were provided with mittens, knapsacks and haversacks, and wooden canteens. They had their regimental colors (blue and white for the 6th PA) and each company its drum and fife. The officers wore their hair powdered and tied up in cues and shaved their faces clean." (4)

After getting organized and supplied, Colonel Irvine was ordered to march the 6th Battalion and its 710 men (including Lawrence) to upstate New York and connect with other American troops. Then under command of the Irish-born Brigadier General William Thompson, they set off northward with 2,000 men total on this dangerous adventure.

American reconnaissance in Quebec was extremely poor. They did not know the area so employed "trusty men disguised as Canadians to find out the number and situation of the enemy." News was received of a force of "only 300 men" at Three Rivers, so they planned to cross the St. Lawrence River on June 8, 1776 and make an early morning surprise attack to take the town. From there they would try again to take Quebec City. (4) "In the dusk of the evening of June 7, they set off with about 1,500 rank and file, besides officers, intending to attack Three Rivers about daybreak in four places." (4) The remaining men were kept in reserve.

“The troops marched down in a long column, elbow to elbow, and as quietly as possible to the strand. The boats, rocking a little on the swell and scraping softly one against another as if the flotilla were rubbing its hands with satisfaction.” They crossed the St Lawrence River and landed June 8th around two o’clock in the morning on “the red soil and wild strawberry blossoms of Pointe du Lac.” (3)

Antoine Gautier, a Pointe du Lac farmer, was pressed into service for local directions. This guide however was a British sympathizer. He led them down a branch road while his wife alerted the local militia. As the night dragged on they realized they were deceived so they decided to set out cross-country toward the river road. Unfortunately, they marched straight into a swamp.

“For hours they ploughed and wallowed in miry ground and muddy bogs, amid rushes, thickets, greasy roots, decaying logs, and all other slimy obstacles of a deep morass. This way and that way they groped in the darkness. Many lost their shoes and even boots were sucked off by the gluey mud. Feet were bruised and actually pierced through sharp snags. Both strength and spirits felt the drain.” (3)

As they exited the swamp, they ran right into the teeth of a reinforced, entrenched British army. The Americans retreated and then finally made it back to river road as dawn broke, only to be spotted by British ships in the river. The sloop-of-war *Martin* opened fire. Americans responded with muskets with no effect. (3)

After taking fire from the ships for three-quarters of a mile, the column took a slant into the woods, intending to regain the highway but again they were defeated by the terrain. The men marched once more into a swamp. (3)

“Nature perhaps never formed a place better calculated for the destruction of an army,” Colonel Irvine later wrote to the Continental Congress. (3)

For many more hours the Americans fought the morass. Every moment they expected to find solid ground and every moment found a fresh disappointment. Plastered with mud, here and there streaked with crimson, the lines of blue and white pressed on, badly scattered. (3)

General Thompson and Colonel Irvine, with about forty men (including Private Maley) were cut off from the main body and wandered about the swamps until utterly exhausted. Indians tirelessly stalked them and Canadians ambushed them at every turn. (4)

When dawn broke, they found themselves not only tired but completely surrounded. Rather than be shot down from the bushes by lurking Canadians, they delivered themselves as “prisoners at discretion” to a British guard. (3)

Captured that day were General Thompson, Colonel Irvine, Private Lawrence Maley and 200 other men. The balance of the army was able to retreat southward across the St Lawrence.



The Battle of Three Rivers was a disaster for the Colonies and ended the American pursuit of Quebec. For Lawrence Maley it meant he was a prisoner of war in Canada as the Declaration of Independence was being read in Philadelphia. He was released on parole August 9, 1776 and returned home to Pennsylvania. (1)

Maley served in the local Cumberland County Militia for the remainder of the war but also returned to a more normal life. (1)

On November 17, 1777, Lawrence married Agnes Harper, the daughter of Samuel Harper, another Irish family in Pennsylvania. He paid taxes on 100 acres, 2 horses and 2 cows was recorded as a wheelwright. They had 8 children and I am descended from James, born in 1800, who was #7 of 8. (1)

After the war ended, the family headed west, purchasing 1000 acres on the frontier, which at the time was western Virginia. According to a local history, "Having a wife and eight children, the eldest, a son, 21 years of age and finding it necessary to clear a corn field at once, he built a rude shelter by driving stakes in the ground and peeling poplar bark for a roof. This served as their dwelling until the corn had been planted. Others soon found their way into the wilderness and a settlement was formed which for forty years was known as the Maley Settlement." Lawrence's son Thomas had the first school and mill. (1)

Lawrence Maley died in 1808 at age 50 and was buried in what is now called Pioneer Cemetery in Harrisville, WV. The customary inventory of his goods upon death was found recently in local archives. His net worth was \$299 and included 1 grey mare, 3 featherbeds, some livestock, and 1 spinning wheel.

His adventurous spirit must have been passed on as many of his children and grandchildren continued further westward. Some stopped halfway across the continent while others traveled all the way to Oregon and the Pacific Ocean.

Over the years I have learned that when seeking to discover your ancestors, you'll never know what you will find. Some may have accomplished a great feat. Some may have scandal. Many lived quiet lives of farming or prayer. Mine lost his boots in a Canadian swamp.

Whatever you discover, it is part of their life adventure and therefore a part of us. I treasure Lawrence Maley's spirit of adventure and courage that established my branch of the O'Malley Clan. I hope this article encourages others to share stories of their O'Malley ancestors in Ireland or abroad.

Footnotes:

- (1) History of Ritchie County by Minnie Kendall Lowther, 1911
- (2) Pennsylvania Archives (Pittsburgh, PA) 5th Series, Volume II, pp 223, 226, Volume VI, pp 347, 349.
- (3) Our Struggle for the Fourteenth Colony by Justin H. Smith, 1907
- (4) History of the Campaign for the Conquest of Canada by Charles Henry Jones, 1882
- (5) The Invasion of Canada by the Americans 1775-1776 by Jean-Baptiste Badaux Journal, 1776





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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.

A young O'Malley pirate in the UK!

We got a lovely email recently from Tom McCarthy, Herefordshire, England, (nephew of Fionnuala, Enda, and Maire McCarthy, the "McCarthy Sisters" who regularly attend the clan rally).

Having recently got a copy of "Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls" Tom's 7 year old Daughter Kitty was fascinated by the story of her ancestor Grace O'Malley, The Pirate Queen.

Kitty's school had a day celebrating heroes recently, and the kids were all to dress up as one of their heroes.

As you can see there was only one choice when it came to Kitty's hero for the day.

One word, Fabulous!

