



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights




- Time to Book! Lets get organised , only 6 weeks to go!
- A story of Love, War, and a family re-united
- The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2019, Programme of Events
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- The O'Malley Clan DNA Project on Family Tree DNA

Book Now by
going to


<https://www.ireland101.com/booking/start/omalley>

Time to book your place at the O'Malley Clan Gathering in Limerick!

Chieftain Brendan and the O'Malley Clan Association invite you to...



THE 65TH ANNUAL
O'MALLEY GATHERING
LIMERICK CITY
21st - 23rd June 2019
IRELAND



Supported by
Limerick CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

Ó Máille Abú!
O'Malley Forever!

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Ireland 101

A tale of Love, War, and a family re-united!

My Grandmother Mary Josephine Ward was born in Ireland in 1921 and her father my Great Grandfather (Patrick Joseph Ward) was a Private in the Connaught Rangers with his family living at Tober Hill, Westport in Ireland.

When the Irish Republic was established and him probably being unskilled he must have made the difficult decision to remain in the British Army and transferred to the Gloucestershire Regiment. My Great Grandfather moved to the UK first and my Great Grandmother (Bridget Agnes) and three of their five children Mary Josephine, Bridget, Patrick followed him later, sadly Thomas died not long after he was born and must be buried in a local cemetery somewhere near Westport.



Upon remaining in the British Army my Great Grandfather Patrick was stationed initially at the Catterick Army Camp in Yorkshire, Bridget Agnes and their three children were later housed in married quarters and whilst living there a third daughter called Georgina was born.

Whilst at Catterick Patrick became a mentor for a much younger soldier called Bill Harris who was introduced to the family and subsequently became good friends with Mary my Grandmother, they soon got engaged and after a short time they married at Plympton registry office near Plymouth in December 1938 where Bill had become stationed.

Having married so shortly before Britain went to war with Nazi Germany Bill was sent abroad as part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and during the same period my Great Grandfather, Great Grandmother and their family moved to Filton near Bristol where I believe he was based at Horfield Barracks in Bristol.

As hostilities started in France the BEF retreated to the coast (Dunkirk), Bill's Regiment were instructed to fight a rear guard action but soon found themselves behind enemy lines and cut off from any opportunity to escape, Bill was captured became POW for the full duration of the War.

My Grandmother decided to get on with her life and found a new boyfriend called Bruce Pearce (My Grandfather), Bruce was the son of a Welsh miner from South Wales and at the time was working as an Aircraft Inspector at the Bristol Aeroplane Company, Filton, Bristol. From this relationship my Uncle (Clive Pearce) and my Mother (Christine Pearce) were born, on their birth certificates Mary is incorrectly identified with the surname of Pearce nee Harris, whereas it should have said Harris nee Ward but in those days birth out of wedlock was not acceptable. Mary & Bruce set up a home and lived in together Patchway, Bristol in the County of Gloucestershire.

All seems to be good and they lived as a family until the end of the War when Bill Harris came home as a returning POW!



A tale of Love, War, and a family re-united! (continued)

It would be difficult to understand the emotions of this time or the events that took place but the outcome was that Mary returned to her husband Bill Harris & left my Grandfather Bruce Pearce with the two Children. I'm not sure if she ever tried to obtain custody of them however I understand that my Great Grandmother from Wales got involved and convinced my Grandfather that Mary should not see the Children again if she decided to go with Bill.

We do know she suffered greatly from giving up her children and she always carried a picture of my Uncle Clive in her purse until the day that she passed away.

As my Grandfather was left with two children and still working my Mother and Uncle were taken to his parents' home in South Wales and brought up for a while by my Great Grandmother, they spent several years travelling between family in Bristol and South Wales until my Grandfather found a new partner called Joan Waller who he would eventually marry, they made a fresh start, a new family beginning.

Upon my Step Grandmother's death in 2004 my mother started to investigate more about her birth mother and met up with an Auntie (Bridget) upon meeting her my mum was informed that her Mother Mary had already passed away and that Mary's husband Bill had also recently died however my Mother discovered she had a half-sister called Paula and half-brother called Tim, unfortunately her half-brother was now also deceased but her half-sister was alive though at the time her whereabouts were unknown.

Just over 15 months ago I decided to take Mum for a day trip to Trelewis in South Wales where she spent her early years and had some of her earliest memories; we spoke about family and her upbringing. It was during this trip I suggested that we try and find her half-sister which she agreed, I contacted Bridget my Great Auntie who I met for the first time she brought along two of her daughters who would be my cousins, they informed me they had also lost contact with Paula however did provide me with enough information to start my search.

After a lot of time spent searching on the internet I managed to contact Paula from the details I had been provided however she was living in Bulgaria however after some initial IT problems we managed to speak and it was her.

We have now met several times and remain in regular contact, we both visited Westport last September along with one of my cousins (my mother could not travel due to a car accident) however we visited again in April 2018 with my mother and more recently in April 2019 with some more of my cousins.

I feel very honoured to have been able to bring my family back together after all of these years but especially for my Great Auntie Bridget who can remember events that occurred back in the 1940's even though she was a young girl of about 10 at the time.

Thanks to Rob Lewis, one of our subscribers for that lovely story

The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2019

Chieftain Brendan and the O'Malley Clan Association invite you to...



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The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2019

65th Annual O'Malley Gathering Limerick City - 2019



Friday June 21st

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Limerick Courthouse,
Merchant's Quay

6:00 PM onwards
Istabraq Hall
Admission: Complementary

Walking Tour

Walking tour of Historic Limerick, led by Dr. Liam Irwin, distinguished historian. Maximum of 25 people. No charge but must book.

O'Malleys in Public Life Exhibition

To be opened by the Mayor of Limerick. Hear how O'Malleys have featured in the arts, politics, sport, music, and other fields.

Saturday June 22nd

10:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Pick up at Strand Hotel &
Cappavilla Village (UL)
(Exact locations TBC)
Admission: €25

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Strand Hotel
Admission: Complementary

7:00 PM
Strand Hotel
Admission: €35

9:30 PM - ~12:00 AM
Strand Hotel
Admission: Complementary

Bus tour of Limerick and its surroundings

Programme to be announced. Lunch included.

O'Malley Genealogy Workshop

Learn the essentials of genealogy research. Bring your O'Malley family tree & find out new connections. Learn about the O'Malley DNA Project and how to capture oral history.

Dinner

Enjoy a three course meal in the rooftop Harris suite of the Strand Hotel, with spectacular views over the Shannon river and Limerick City.

Chieftain's Welcome Evening

An evening of traditional music, song and dancing with an official welcome by Chieftain Brendan O'Malley. (attendance is complementary but please book your place to ensure we have enough space).

Sunday June 23rd

11:00 AM - 12:00 noon
St. Mary's Church,
Athlunkard Street

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Hunt Museum

1:30 PM - 2:15 PM
Hunt Museum

2:00 PM
Hunt Museum
Admission: €27.50
Under 12's: €15

O'Malley Gathering Mass

Special O'Malley Mass celebrated by Canon Donough O'Malley.

Family & Kids' Events

Watersports, archery, kids' events (entertainment, face painting, music). (Runs in parallel with AGM and Lunch)

Annual General Meeting

All members are welcome to attend and discuss ideas for the year ahead.

The Gathering Lunch

The highlight of the weekend! Chieftain's awards, Fundraising Raffle, Inauguration of new chieftain 2019-2020.



Book now to avoid disappointment.

Tickets and accommodation can be booked at special rates through:

<https://www.ireland101.com/booking/start/omalley>



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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.

The O'Malley Clan DNA Project on Family Tree DNA

The most common queries we get at The O'Malley Clan Association are queries in relation to helping to trace peoples ancestors in Ireland. As we all know, written records can only take us so far, (if you're lucky you'll get back to the early 1800's or late 1700's).

Many of the Irish Census Records and other historic documents were destroyed during the early part of the 20th century and as a result it can be very hard to trace ancestors back beyond the 19th century. Church records are a help, but can be patchy at times.

One way of narrowing down the search is through DNA testing. The O'Malley Clan Association is involved in a project with Family Tree DNA to test as many O'Malleys as possible to try and expand our knowledge of our roots as much as we possibly can.

There's a specific page for the project on the Family Tree DNA website:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/omalley/about>

Check it out, there's lots of info there, and administrators also for any questions.

