

O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

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Happy New Year to you all from The O'Malley Clan Association

A very Happy New Year to you all from Chieftain Tom O'Malley, and all of us in The O'Malley Clan Association! Will 2020 be the year that you make the trip to The Annual O'Malley Clan Gathering?

This year, in Mayo, there'll be a fabulous weekend for all of the O'Malleys and their friends. The preliminary programme is inside!



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 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 article

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



Cardinal Sean O'Malley's Christmas Message

As thousands of families across Massachusetts gathered together and gave each other gifts in the comfort of their homes Wednesday, Cardinal Sean O'Malley called upon the community to celebrate the last Christmas of the decade by showing more compassion to the homeless, both in the city and across the globe.

"We cannot be indifferent to the plight of the homeless or of refugees in the world. And it's not enough to reflect on these things once a year as we

celebrate Christmas," O'Malley said during a Christmas Mass at Boston's Cathedral of the Holy Cross. "It must be a constant motivation for us to work for a more just society, that cares about human beings, especially the most vulnerable and forgotten."

O'Malley's sermon comes after he spent Christmas Eve serving meals to homeless men and women at the Pine Street Inn.

"Who could disagree with such a thing," said Boston resident Cheryl Pavlik. "I liked hearing it, it reminded me of what my personal responsibilities are."

Still, despite agreeing with O'Malley's message, Pavlik said it's more important that the message be received on days that aren't as high-spirited as those during the holidays.

"On Christmas Day, there isn't anybody who would say, 'no, we shouldn't try to be kind to the homeless,'" Pavlik said. "Today it's easy, but it's on days like March 3 or July 17 that it really matters."

In addition to caring for the vulnerable, O'Malley discussed how billions of dollars worth of Christmas gifts are thrown away each year and reminded the hundreds of worshippers in attendance that the spirit of the holiday needs to be more about faith and togetherness rather than commercialism.

"For too many people success means living in the right zip code, driving the right car, wearing the right designer clothes, having the latest handheld device," O'Malley said. "But in the heart of our hearts, we all know that these things cannot bring happiness or fulfillment."


Boston Herald




Preliminary Programme for the 2020 O'Malley Clan Gathering

26 – 28th JUNE 2020

CHIEFTAN TOM O'MALLEY
AND THE O'MALLEY CLAN ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO





PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Friday	Launch: Hotel Newport
4:00pm	Historical Talk & Walking Tour in Newport Half an hour walking tour around Newport with local historian Peter Maloney detailing the role of the O'Malleys in local history.
4:30pm	Screening of 'The Peacemaker' <i>An award winning documentary directed by James Demo about Irish peacemaker Padraig O'Malley who had a prominent role in the Northern Ireland Peace Process. He was born in Dublin and has family in Kilmeena and Newport area.</i>
6:00pm	Chieftain's Reception and talk by Professor Padraig O'Malley (John Joseph Moakley Distinguished Professor of Peace and Reconciliation, University of Massachusetts, Boston) <i>Join us for an evening of music and drinks followed by a talk by the internationally recognized peacemaker Padraig O'Malley. Mary Madec (Mary O'Malley, Newport) will read poems from her latest book 'The Egret Lands With News From Other Parts'.</i>
Saturday	Day Tours and Entertainment
10:00am	Traditional guided bus tour of local sites of historical interest to the Clan
7:00pm	Ceiliúradh Uí Mhaille, Nevins Newfield Inn Tiernaur <i>An evening of food, music session, folk and traditional with Céilí and set dancing</i>
Sunday	Celebration Lunch And Inauguration
10:00am	Mass St Patrick's Church Barrack Hill View the 'Last Judgement' East Window by Harry Clarke renowned Irish stained glass artist
2:00 pm	Lunch Hotel Newport <i>Join us for the traditional lunch followed by Awards Ceremony and Investiture of the new Chieftain</i>

The O'Malleys are everywhere!

Every good wish to all Clan members for a happy and a healthy 2020.

We are all looking forward to Chieftain Tom's Gathering in Newport in June. I would like to congratulate Chieftain Tom on his programme of events for this year's O'Malley Clan Gathering.

I would urge clan members to book as soon as possible, (once the booking links go up on the websites), as we don't want anyone to miss out on what promises to be a most enjoyable 2020 event.

Our Tánaiste Governor Martin O'Malley was in Dublin before Christmas on the invitation of Shane McGowan, who was being celebrated on the Late Late Show on RTE. For those of you who haven't seen the programme it is still possible to get it on the RTE Player. Shane McGowan is a great fan of our Tánaiste and from all accounts the admiration is reciprocated.

During Tánaiste Martin's visit, our Taoiseach Leo Varadkar met with him in Government Buildings. While we were waiting to go into the Taoiseach's office what did we spy on the wall but a beautiful Tony O'Malley painting. Us O'Malleys are everywhere!!!!

Ellen O'Malley Dunlop
Guardian Chieftain of the
O'Malley Clan



The O'Malleys are everywhere!



TERRA MARIQUE POTENS • POWERFUL ON LAND AND SEA

Ernie O'Malley and Bellatrain RIC Barracks



One of the first seizures of an RIC barracks during the War of Independence happened not in the “Republic of Munster”, scene of so much of the fighting, but a place called Bellatrain in Co Monaghan, a few miles from where I grew up.

The imminent centenary aside, it is interesting to read about that event now, after the Government’s commemoration debacle. For one thing, it involved several celebrity IRA men of the period, including Eoin O’Duffy, Ernie O’Malley, and Dan Hogan.

But taken in isolation, it might have been a role model for attempts to commemorate the other side of the conflict, because notwithstanding a three-hour gunfight and the destruction of the barracks with a landmine, it appears to have been a very gentlemanly affair.

Bellatrain (or Ballatrain) is what locals call it, by the way. The usual English spelling is Ballytrain. And latter-day confusion is increased by the fact that the barracks was not located there, but rather in the neighbouring hamlet of Shantonagh.

They’re two crossroads, basically, a few hundred metres apart. If you amalgamated them now, you would still barely have a village. But one of the few places I have seen Bellatrain mentioned by that spelling was in this newspaper’s “Where’s That?” column once, in 1988, which suggested it was a more substantial place in former times.

Then the Famine intervened. Some parts of south Monaghan were much worse affected than others, including Ballynagearn (where my mother went to school), which lost three-quarters of its population. But as for Bellatrain, as our columnist wrote, it “simply disappeared after the disaster”. Seventy years later, events of February 15th, 1920, put it back on the map. A large force of IRA men under O’Duffy first barricaded approach roads, then took over a “lock-up store” adjoining the barracks and a shop across the road.

A gun and grenade battle started at 2am and ended three hours later when Hogan’s landmine blew in the gable wall. Expecting the explosion, the six RIC men had removed themselves to the opposite side. Four were injured, but not seriously, and while the raiders helped themselves to weapons, the defenders were not further harmed.

On the contrary, police reports of the aftermath (quoted in *The Irish Times*) suggest the decorum of a cricket match. Told the RIC men were all alive, the IRA leader was said to have expressed relief: “I am glad that no life has been lost. None of our men were shot either. We did not come to do injury, but only for arms.”

Ernie O'Malley and Bellatrain RIC Barracks

Nor was he interested in the station's cash: "We don't want your money; it is too much money we have". In his own statement on the attack, meanwhile, as if writing them a reference for their next posting, O'Duffy praised the RIC men's courage. And before withdrawing, the raiders left bandages for the injured, having failed to find a doctor. Maybe they didn't look hard enough for the doctor, because in O'Malley, they had a former medical student. Then again, perhaps he was distracted by other things. In his classic memoir, *On Another Man's Wound* (1936), for example, he devotes a mere paragraph to the taking of the barracks, the first "north of the Boyne".

Typically, however, he precedes this with a description of equal length on his general travels in the area as IRA organiser:

"I wandered for months through the small lakes and little hills of Monaghan. I saw sieges of heron in the reeds and waited for bat-tailed otters near Carrickmacross where they are said to pass through when going from one lake to another. I was able to disprove the lines: 'From Carrickmacross to Crossmaglen/You meet more rogues than honest men'."

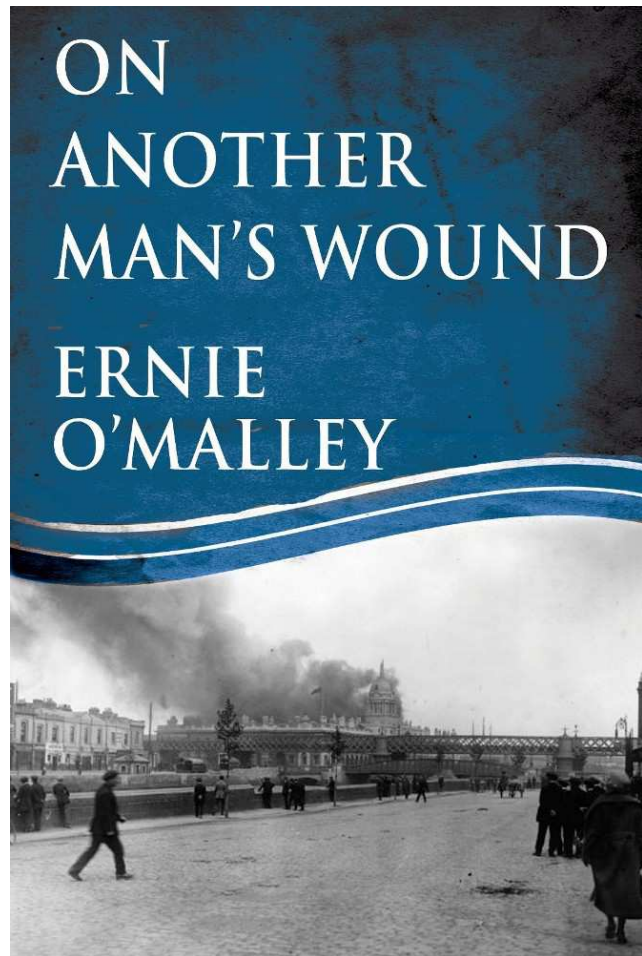
That's the sort of thing that made O'Malley the conflict's best writer. Brilliant a soldier as Tom Barry was, by contrast, his memoir has little such colour.

Unfortunately, O'Malley did not elucidate on how he disproved the old slur about the alleged rogueishness of my native region – we could have done with the PR.

Nor does he elaborate about the other wildlife, although despite being from Carrickmacross, I myself have never seen a bat-tailed otter, whatever that is.

Wildlife books seem to share my ignorance. So – almost – does Google. You may have heard of the game Googlehack, the challenge of which is to come up with two words that, entered in the search engine, produce precisely one hit. It's not easy to do, but when I entered the term "bat-tailed otters" just now, the only result anywhere in the world is O'Malley's book.

If any readers have more information about this mysterious species, my incident room is now open.



Frank McNally, Irish Times



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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.

