

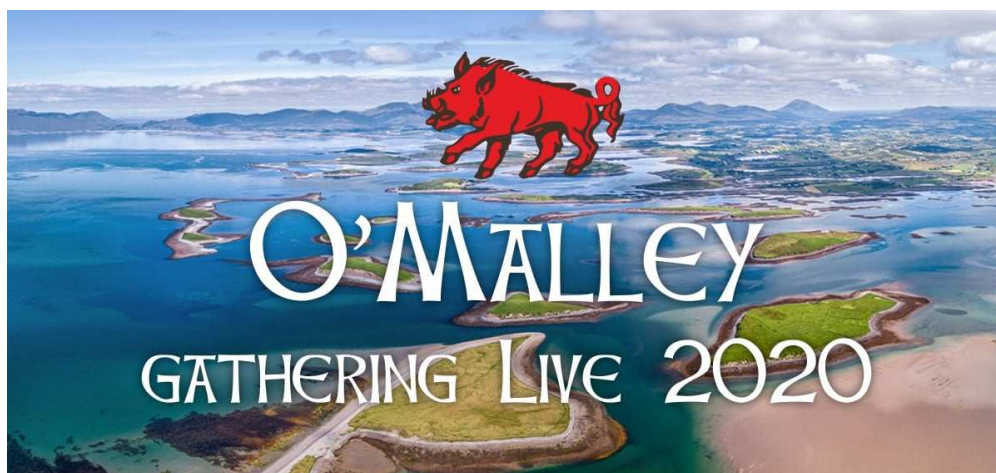


## O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

### This month's highlights

- Live Online O'Malley Gathering on 25th July
- Social Distancing can save lives!
- The Proof is in the pudding- from Ian O'Malley
- Irish Champion of the Slaves- from Anne Chambers
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- The O'Malley Clan DNA Project on Family Tree DNA

### A Live Online O'Malley Gathering on 25th July



#### SAVE THE DATE

25<sup>th</sup> July 2020 - 4PM to 5PM (Dublin time)



Greetings to all you out there from Chieftain Tom O'Malley, and all of us in The O'Malley Clan Association! The Clan Association are holding a Live Online Gathering on 25th July. We're hoping this will help to make up for the lack of a physical gathering this year in Mayo, and allow us all to stay in touch from all over the globe during this pandemic.

Check out the details inside this issue, and stay safe wherever you are!



### 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!



## An Online O'Malley Gathering



### SAVE THE DATE

25<sup>th</sup> July 2020 - 4PM to 5PM (Dublin time)



### An exciting new chapter for the O'Malley Clan

Our illustrious ancestor Grace O'Malley (Granuaile) the Pirate Queen of Ireland, was no stranger to sailing on the high waves of the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea. Nearly five hundred years on from her birth, we O'Malleys will be sailing on the live stream of social media, to remind you all that we are still here, we are thinking of you and hoping you are staying safe and well during these unprecedented times. We look forward to welcoming you back to Ireland next year for Chieftain Tom's Gathering in Newport, Co. Mayo.

Chieftain Tom, Guardian Chieftain Ellen and the Council of Former Chieftains have partnered with iQuest, the Business Post, Ireland101, Mayo Co Council and Grace O'Malley Whiskey to bring us all together for an on-line Gathering to celebrate the far-flung members of the O'Malley Clan. We'll have music, interviews and greetings from all over the world. It'll run for an hour or so from 4 pm on the 25th of July. That's 4 pm Clew Bay Co Mayo time!

We'd love for as many O'Malleys/Melias/Maleys etc as possible to take part.

Details of how to log in and watch the event on the 25th July will be posted on the [Ireland101/omalleyclan](https://ireland101.com/omalleyclan) website in the next few days.

Connect with your O'Malley heritage! We look forward to having you with us.

## Social Distancing can save lives!

# Coronavirus COVID-19



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
Public Health  
Advice

## Social Distancing Outside

Spending time outdoors is good for our health.  
**But social responsibility is essential for  
ALL our health.**



### **Avoid**

close contact  
with others



### **Distance**

yourself at least  
2 metres (6 feet) away  
from other people



### **Small group**

sizes should be kept  
to a minimum



### **Don't arrange**

to meet up with other  
groups



### **Avoid**

an area if it looks  
very busy and go  
somewhere else  
for your walk

## The Proof is in the Pudding



One has a right to be sceptical, but

### **The proof is in the pudding**

The following is a short general statement about how a democratic country like Australia has, in my view, effectively managed the corona virus. This is not to say that I consider every action has been perfect nor that every person was compliant but to state that in a strong democracy major problems such as corona virus can be effectively managed.

Australia is not a one party state. There is a Federal Liberal coalition(Conservative) Government and in Liberal Governments in NSW, Tasmania and South Australia. There are Labor Governments in the other 5 States and Territories.

The Federal, State and Territory Governments all came together to determine a joint strategy. Together they:

- . took action early.
- . took advice from the health experts.
- . communicated clearly.
- . took the politics out of it and concentrated on public health.
- . tested widely.
- . resourced the hospitals and prepared for the worst.
- . quickly identified the problem areas and identified sources.
- . controlled the corona virus.

In six of the eight States and Territories there is now no community transmission and only very small numbers in the other two. The vast majority of new cases are Australians returning from overseas all of whom are placed in quarantine.

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## The Proof is in the Pudding

As at 16 June 2020, the Australian stats are:

Population: 25,486,000

Total tests: 1,830,665

Tests per million: 71,830

Total cases: 7,335

Cases per million: 288

Total deaths: 102

Deaths per million: 4

Active cases: 384

Serious or critical cases: 4

New cases: 15

Now Australia is on the road to recovery. We still have some small numbers of cases but they are being effectively managed.

Our figures for cases and deaths etc are accurate. If a person with corona virus dies they are counted as a death from corona virus. If they recover from the virus and then die from other cause they are not counted.

Other countries have done even better than Australia because they acted earlier and put controls in place.

Has the action taken by the Federal, State and Territory Governments put our individual rights at risk? There have been some constraints but they are being gradually lifted. I consider that they were reasonable in the circumstances.

We were fortunate to have an excellent universal health system in place.

As a result of the action taken by our Federal, State and Territory Governments thousands of lives in Australia have been saved. The transmission of other viruses has also slowed during the past three months.

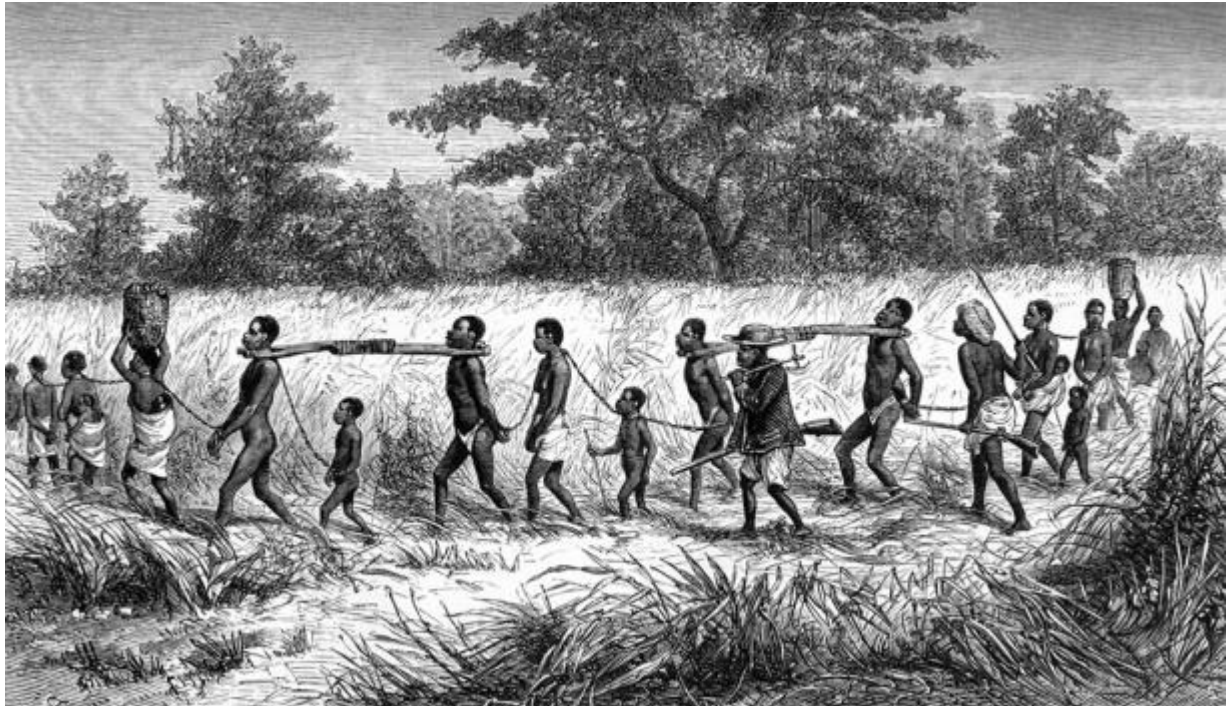
There have been negative consequences that we will not become fully aware of until over time more complete analysis is undertaken. The economic, trade, foreign relationship etc impacts will be significant and much will not become apparent for years.

Now that we are slowly but carefully opening up the economy the politics are returning to normal. At least for a time we had some relief from that! Will Keynesian or market economics be to the fore? Will China continue to try to bully us? Only time will tell.

In any event, I think we struck a good balance here.

*Ian O'Malley, Queensland, Australia (June 2020)*

## Irish Champion of The Slaves



Author ANNE CHAMBERS writes about Grace O'Malley's 19<sup>th</sup> century descendant.

*'Slavery has divided society into two classes:  
to the one it has given power, but to the other it has not  
extended protection. One of those classes is above public  
opinion and the other below it; neither one therefore is  
under its influence.'*

*Lord Sligo, Governor General of Jamaica.*

The above observation, in view of the present struggle for racial equality worldwide, seems as relevant today as when first written in 1836.

Lord Sligo, Grace O'Malley's 8<sup>th</sup> great grandson in descent, was appointed Governor General of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in April 1834. While the importation of slaves from Africa had been abolished in 1807 slavery, the cornerstone of sugar production and profit, continued. Evangelical missionaries conveyed the horrors of slavery to the British public and in 1833 the government passed an Emancipation Act which Sligo was entrusted to implement in Jamaica.

The Act, however, did not give immediate freedom to the slaves, who merely became 'apprenticed' to their masters for a further six years. Described as 'slavery under another name' the controversial 'Apprenticeship System' was nonetheless resisted by the Jamaican Plantocracy and by powerful commercial and political vested interests in Britain.

## Irish Champion of The Slaves

As the owner of two plantations on the island which he has inherited from his grandmother, Elizabeth Kelly, heiress of Denis Kelly, former Chief Justice of Jamaica, the Jamaican planters expected Sligo to be on their side. His objective, however, as he told them on his arrival as Governor General in April 1834, to establish a social system 'absolved forever from the reproach of Slavery' set them on a bitter collision course.

Sligo found the savagery of the slavery system he encountered personally abhorrent. From the flogging of field workers with cart whips, branding with hot iron, to the whipping of female slaves 'the cruelties are past all idea,' he told the Jamaican Assembly. 'I call on you to put an end to conduct so repugnant to humanity.'

To counteract the worst excesses he maintained personal contact and control over the sixty Special Magistrates appointed to oversee the implementation of the new Apprenticeship System in the nine hundred plantations throughout the island. As he noted

*It is treason in Jamaica to talk of a Negro as a free man  
or to speak to him or to give him any knowledge of the  
extent to which the law protects him...*



Much to the derision and indignation of their masters, to alleviate such inequality he personally 'gave a patient hearing to the poorest Negro which might carry his grievance to Government House...'

He advocated the education of the black population so they might extract maximum benefit from their future freedom and supported the building of the first schools on the island, two of which he established on his own property. He was the first plantation owner to initiate a wage system for black workers and later, after emancipation, to divide his lands into small farms which were leased to the former slaves. His efforts to improve Jamaica's infrastructure, land reclamation and better husbandry practices, as well as to steer the economy away from its dependence on sugar, lead to the establishment of Agricultural Societies of which he became patron.

His efforts on behalf of the black population were bitterly opposed by the planter-dominated Jamaican Assembly who accused him 'of interpreting the laws 'in favour of the negro' and who, as Sligo noted, set out 'to make Jamaica too hot to hold me'. Derisively referring to him as 'The Great Leviathan of Black Humanity' they withdrew his salary and commenced a campaign of vilification against him in the Jamaican and British press. With the connivance of powerful commercial and political vested interests it resulted in his removal from office in 1836.

To the Jamaican black population, however, Sligo was their champion and protector as the pro-emancipation press on the island recorded:

## Irish Champion of The Slaves

*'The shout of fiendish triumph that sends Lord Sligo from the shores of the colony is the prelude to the acclamations that will hail him a DELIVERER of the human race, as a friend of suffering humanity, as one of the truest champions of liberty...'*

In an unprecedented gesture the black population presented him with a magnificent silver candelabra inscribed:

*'in grateful remembrance they entertain of his unremitting efforts to alleviate their suffering and to redress their wrongs during his just and enlightened administration of the Government of the Island...'*

Lord Sligo's experience in Jamaica turned him from a supporter of the Apprenticeship system into, as he recorded, 'the warmest advocate for full and immediate emancipation'. On his return he became active in the anti-slavery movement in Britain.

One of his published pamphlets '*Jamaica Under the Apprenticeship System*' detailing his personal experiences and views on slavery, influenced the 'Great Debate' on Emancipation held in the British parliament in February 1838.

On 22 March 1838 being, as he wrote, 'well aware that it would put and end to the [slavery] system' Sligo announced in the House of Lords, that regardless of the outcome of the government's deliberations, he would free all Apprentices on his own plantations in Jamaica on 1 August 1838.

*'I am confident that no person who is acquainted with the state of the West Indian colonies and at the same time uninfected with colonial prejudices will deny that the time is now come when it is important to effect a final arrangement of this question.'*

His public pronouncement left the British Government with no alternative but to implement full and immediate emancipation on the same date.

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## Irish Champion of The Slaves

Sligo's efforts in Jamaica also influenced the struggle for emancipation in America. In September 1836 in New York and Philadelphia he met with members of the newly-formed American Anti-Slavery Society, as well as with individual clergymen at the forefront of the emancipation struggle and 'all who met him formed an exalted opinion of his integrity and friendship for the poor.'

Lord Sligo earned an honoured and respected place in the history of Jamaica, where he is acknowledged as 'Champion of the Slaves' and where Sligoville, the first free slave village in the world, is named in his honour. In 1838 his name, together with Wilberforce and Buxton, leading figures in the anti-slavery movement in Britain, was commemorated in an emancipation memorial medal.

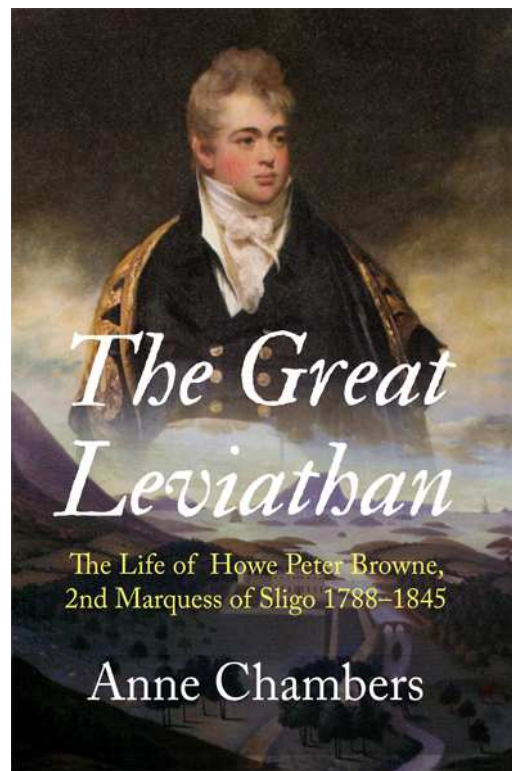
That many of the racially-motivated inequalities and injustices that Sligo sought to eradicate during his lifetime still exist one hundred and seventy-five years after his death he could undoubtedly not have envisaged.

As statues of historic figures involved in slavery over the preceding centuries are toppled from their plinths...perhaps one should be erected to this 19<sup>th</sup> century abolitionist.

Anne Chambers

*The Great Leviathan – The Life of Howe Peter Browne 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquess of Sligo, 1788-1845* by Anne Chambers  
(New Island Books)

Also available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and as an e-book





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@clanomalley

*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.

