



## O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

### This month's highlights

- Gathering Registration now open for The 2021 Online Gathering
- A Granuaile Tourist Trail being developed in County Mayo
- Westport House gets a major boost in investment
- An update on the pandemic in Kansas with Ed O'Malley
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- The O'Malley Clan DNA Project on Family Tree DNA

### Almost Time to Gather (Online) with the Clan

Hi Everyone, We hope you're looking forward to this years Online Clan Association Gathering as much as We are! The 26th June is approaching fast! Registration is now live via the "Events" page on our website, [www.omalleyclan.ie](http://www.omalleyclan.ie)

Last year was a day of great fun, with music, songs, dancing, and lots more, so don't miss out Get yourself registered, and spread the word.



**Welcome to our new newsletter** from Clan Chief Brigid O'Malley

We hope with the creation of our brand new monthly newsletter that we'll be able to continue our sharing, support and connection with all O'Malley's wherever they are around the globe.

The O'Malley Clan Association has been active in the area of raising and maintaining the O'Malley Clan's profile, and has been active in the area of raising and maintaining the O'Malley Clan's profile, and has been active in the area of raising and maintaining the O'Malley Clan's profile.

**The New US Ambassador to Ireland Mr Kevin F O'Malley**

The O'Malley Clan Association was proud to welcome the new US Ambassador to Ireland Mr Kevin F O'Malley to the O'Malley Clan Association.

Mr O'Malley has been proud to serve as an Ambassador to Ireland and to the O'Malley Clan Association.

### 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!



## Granuaile Tourist Trail being developed in County Mayo



### A Granuaile Tourist Trail Being Developed in County Mayo

Almost five centuries ago, an 11-year-old Irish girl pleaded with her father. Eager to emulate this intrepid, seafaring man, she begged to board his ship and join his next expedition. Her request was denied. The reason he gave: Her long red hair would get caught in the ship's ropes.

The next time this captain saw his daughter, she was near bald. The brazen girl had shorn her own locks and was on her way to cutting a fresh path for Irish women. These were the first bold steps of a future pirate queen.

Her name was Grace O'Malley. Yet the Gaelic moniker that long bellowed across Ireland's rough seas was Granuaile (*Gron-ya-wail*), or "Bald Grace." The fiercest female in Irish history, she haggled with Queen Elizabeth I, rebelled against the English army, and for decades commanded ships that plundered the oceans near Ireland, even while heavily pregnant.

Now this extraordinary pirate tale is set to reach a wider audience. A Granuaile tourist trail is being developed by Mayo County Council and Failte Ireland, the country's national tourism body. Anna Connor, the Council's tourism development officer, says signposts will shepherd visitors through the majestic countryside of Mayo to sites Granuaile made her own.

Covering 2,156 square miles, Mayo is the third largest of the 26 counties in the Republic of Ireland, similar in size to Delaware yet with only one-seventh of its population. Located on Ireland's west coast, Mayo is renowned for its sacred mountains, serene beaches, salmon-rich rivers, cattle-filled paddocks, and quaint fishing villages. The native Gaelic language is still commonly spoken in traditional communities.

## Granuaile Tourist Trail being developed in County Mayo

Granuaile is one of Mayo's heroes, and her story is particularly relevant now as Ireland marks a hundred years of independence from Great Britain, with commemorative events being held throughout 2021. Connor says the Granuaile trail will celebrate a woman who was "one of the last Irish leaders to defend against English rule in Ireland."

The trail will include the picturesque town of Westport, where Granuaile was born in 1530; the beaches of Clew Bay, where her ships docked; her castles on the mountainous Clare and Achill Islands; and Clare Island Abbey, where she was buried at 73 years old.

The planned trail is welcomed by Joe McDermott, a Mayo historian and guided-walks consultant who suggested the trail also include Murrisk Abbey. This 15th-century friary was built by the O'Malleys at the base of Croagh Patrick, a 2,500-foot-tall mountain overlooking Clew Bay and long a site of Catholic pilgrimage.

Most of these proposed trail sites have been closed since Christmas due to a strict lockdown prompted by the coronavirus pandemic, but will re-open this month. When the trail is completed, which Connor says could be more than two years away, tourists will need at least two days to properly explore each site on this driving route.

### ***She ruled the waves***

On the trail, visitors will learn not just about Granuaile but also her father, Owen O'Malley. He was the leader of the O'Malley clan, a powerful dynasty which ruled the seas off Mayo for several centuries, according to Irish author Anne Chambers, the foremost expert on Granuaile. In the 1500s, Ireland was divided into about 40 Gaelic clans, dynasties that claimed ownership of parts of the nation, and often fought over territory and wealth, Chambers explains. Some of these groups accepted the authority of the English, who had taken full control of Ireland in 1541. Other clans, like the O'Malleys, rebelled against this foreign occupation. Governing a clan, then, was not just dangerous but also politically complex.

Yet, when Owen O'Malley died in the 1560s, it was not his eldest son who succeeded him as clan leader. Instead, Granuaile ascended. Wielding the seafaring knowledge and military tactics learned from her father, she controlled two galleys, 20 ships, and more than 200 men in the stormy Atlantic Ocean near Mayo.



A Depiction of the meeting of Granuaile and Queen Elizabeth



## Granuaile Tourist Trail being developed in County Mayo

Granuaile didn't command from afar. She didn't send her orders from the comfort of lavish castles. Rather she bellowed them, from the sloping deck of a ship, her voice raised above the crash of waves, and eyes trained on her men. Even while pregnant, she stood alongside them. The story goes that, in 1567, Granuaile had just given birth at sea when her ship was set upon by Algerian pirates. She rallied her men and repelled their foes.

Gradually, under Granuaile's guidance, the O'Malley clan built great wealth via trade, fishing, and piracy, according to Chambers. "Her leadership by sea sets Grace O'Malley apart from every other female leader in history," Chambers says. "Seafaring was considered, and to a degree still is, a male preserve. It required immense skill and courage to extract a living from the seas along the dangerous Irish coastline."



Above: A view of Clew Bay from 1841, and below Westport today



## Granuaile Tourist Trail being developed in County Mayo

The O'Malleys plundered English ships that dared pass near Mayo, and this banditry soon placed Granuaile in English crosshairs. In 1577, she was imprisoned for two years. That time behind bars didn't extinguish Granuaile's fire. Chambers says that, after she was released, Granuaile repeatedly led her army in bloody rebellions against English generals who attempted to steal her family's territory.

When one such rival killed one of her sons, kidnapped another, and destroyed her fleet, Granuaile deployed both aggression and diplomacy. First, she seized an English ship. Next, she made the most unlikely of requests: In 1593, Granuaile asked for an audience with England's Queen Elizabeth I.

Many pirates had visited London before her. Most had brief and brutal stays, executed at Wapping Dock, their hanged corpses left dangling for days over the Thames River. But Queen Elizabeth was intrigued by Granuaile, so she granted her the rarest of audiences at London's Greenwich Palace.



*Above: A view of Clew Bay with some of its many islands*

When Granuaile confronted the Queen, she was not daunted, Chambers wrote in her book. Instead, she arrived with a bone to pick, a point to prove, and a knife in her dress. She did not see herself as beneath England's royalty. They were emperors bound by borders, whereas she was a ruler of the open seas, whose wealth and power were earned by daring and doing, not gifted by bloodline. It was they who should be impressed by her.

## Granuaile Tourist Trail being developed in County Mayo

Granuaile departed this royal meeting with not a bow but a bounty. She had secured the release of captured relatives and permission to continue her brash seafaring.

In return, Granuaile agreed to end her rebellion against the English. Her final decade on earth, thereafter, was less eventful, and she died of natural causes at Mayo's Rockfleet Castle. Perched on the shore of Clew Bay, near the pretty town of Newport, this four-story, 16th-century castle remains in fine condition and will be included on the Granuaile tourist trail

Granuaile's English opponents labeled her a "notable traitress" and a "nursing mother of rebels." But to many Irish people, she was a legend before she even died. Now, more than 400 years after her death, Irish girls are still being thrilled and emboldened by her tale.

### *Reviving the legacy*

In a country where patriarchy has long loomed, Granuaile was a key example of female self-empowerment, according to Chambers. "Breaching boundaries of gender imbalance, and bias, in a period of immense social and political upheaval and change, Grace O'Malley rewrote the rules to become one of the world's first recorded feminists," Chambers says.

It was only after death that chauvinism finally bested Granuaile. Chambers says that, until just 40 years ago, the pirate was largely omitted from mainstream Irish history. This was partly due to the over-emphasis on Ireland's male protagonists. Another key factor was that Granuaile didn't fit the mold of the "patriotic, untainted, dutiful picture of Gaelic womanhood promoted by later generations of Irish historians."

In fact, Granuaile may still be underappreciated if not for Chambers. Her 1979 biography of O'Malley, *Granuaile: Ireland's Pirate Queen*, is widely considered to have revived this story. Granuaile is now part of Ireland's public-school history curriculum and has been the subject of books, articles, documentaries, and stage plays.

And in years to come, tourists from across the world will be able to follow a Granuaile trail through Mayo. As they admire this county's phenomenal scenery, they'll learn an outrageous story: the tale of an audacious girl who defied gender roles, murderous foes, and an invading colonial power to protect her family's legacy and blaze a trail for Irish women.

*From National Geographic*





## Westport House gets a major boost in investment!



Barry O'Connor, CEO of Westport Estate, said: "We are incredibly proud that Westport Estate has been awarded the Fáilte Ireland grant.

"The funding, along with the investment from the Hughes family, will enable us to take our offering to the next level and transform Westport Estate into a world-class tourism destination and visitor attraction.

"We have a bright, bold vision for the future, one that is built on sustainability, innovation, and heritage and this public-private partnership will have a hugely positive impact on Westport and the wider region."

Earlier this year, works commenced on Westport House which is phase one of the restoration project and is expected to be completed by the autumn.

Estimated to cost in the region of €5 million, it will see much-needed conservation work carried out to the Georgian-era home to help prepare it for the larger project ahead.

"A key element is the 'Wild Realms' project which will allow visitors to connect with nature and absorb the vibrant sights, smells and sounds of the wild flora and native woodlands across the estate.

"The new attraction, over the 300-acre estate will allow visitors to explore ancient Irish rituals and our ancestors' connections to the land as told through a series of accessible wild and natural spaces. Westport House and Gardens will also be restored.

"Visitors can enjoy the enhanced experience of the grand house with its formal gardens and learn about the Grace O'Malley family who lived there for centuries.

"This funding and subsequent development will entice domestic and international tourists to the West of Ireland for years to come".

"I wish to take this opportunity to once again compliment the Hughes family on purchasing Westport House and continuing to develop this wonderful attraction".

*From the Connaught Telegraph*



## Westport House gets a major boost in investment!



Some views of the proposed development on westport house estate



## An update on the pandemic in Kansas

### Extra efforts being made to convince people in Kansas to get vaccinated

As many as 750,000 people in Kansas could be vaccine hesitant, and the Kansas Beats the Virus campaign is training people in how to respond to their concerns.

According to Ed O'Malley, president of the Kansas Leadership Center, which started the Kansas Beats the Virus group, it might not be easy to convince some people to get the vaccine. What works, according to O'Malley, is to create conditions where people convince themselves. He talked about the effort during a media update Wednesday morning at the University of Kansas Health System.

Debating or lecturing people doesn't work, but helping people understand the research or who else has taken the vaccine usually works, according to O'Malley. His group is training neighborhood leaders and influential people in techniques that work.



People always have reasons for their beliefs and too often others don't take the time to try to understand those beliefs, O'Malley said.

O'Malley said he thinks the new CDC guidelines saying only the unvaccinated need to wear masks sent a message that COVID-19 is over and that has made the job to mobilize people much harder.

Julia Fabris McBride, project lead for Kansas Beats the Virus, said it works when people hear from others they know and trust, and not from a government official telling them what to do.

The group has a goal of 500 action projects by Aug. 1, but it's harder now to get people to feel the same sense of urgency they felt in December, she said.

McBride said many unvaccinated people don't know the vaccine is free and worry about missing work if they get sick from the vaccine side effects.

To get started on helping the community, go to the Kansas Leadership Center website, <https://kansasbeatsthevirus.org/> to sign up. They will provide a project facilitator and if needed, there is grant money available to help local projects get started

Dr. Dana Hawkinson, medical director of infection prevention and control at The University of Kansas Health System, said the low number of patients at the health system is proof that vaccinations work. He said those worried about myocarditis, or inflammation of the heart in some young people, should not worry about it being caused by the vaccine.

He also feels mask wearing in health care facilities is here to stay for now because it works and said masking in schools may still be needed until those under 12 can get vaccinated. He reiterated that the way out of the pandemic is for as many people to get vaccinated as possible.

## An update on the pandemic in Kansas

<p><b>18,898</b></p> <p>COVID-19 cases Wednesday in Wyandotte County, an increase of 6.</p> <p>(From UG Health Department, <a href="https://wyandotte-county-covid-19-hub-unifiedgov.hub.arcgis.com/">https://wyandotte-county-covid-19-hub-unifiedgov.hub.arcgis.com/</a>)</p>	<p><b>299</b></p> <p>Deaths, cumulative on Wednesday in Wyandotte County, no change.</p> <p>(From UG Health Department, <a href="https://wyandotte-county-covid-19-hub-unifiedgov.hub.arcgis.com/">https://wyandotte-county-covid-19-hub-unifiedgov.hub.arcgis.com/</a>)</p>	<p><b>37</b></p> <p>Average daily number of new hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients in Greater Kansas City (nine-county area) on Tuesday.</p> <p>(From MARC COVID-19 resource hub, <a href="https://marc2.org/covidhub/">https://marc2.org/covidhub/</a>)</p>
<p><b>175,293</b></p> <p>Cases in Greater Kansas City, nine-county area on Wednesday.</p> <p>(From MARC COVID-19 resource hub, <a href="https://marc2.org/covidhub/">https://marc2.org/covidhub/</a>)</p>	<p><b>315,500</b></p> <p>Cases in Kansas Wednesday, an increase of 401 since Monday.</p> <p>(From Kansas Department of Health and Environment, <a href="https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1629/Nov-13-case-summary?bid=1">https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1629/Nov-13-case-summary?bid=1</a>)</p>	<p><b>33,413,999</b></p> <p>Cases in the United States Wednesday night. There were 598,760 total deaths in the United States.</p> <p>(From Johns Hopkins University, <a href="https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html">https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html</a>)</p>

### Free walk-in vaccinations available

The Kansas National Guard Armory, 100 S. 20th, (near 18th and Ridge), will be open for free walk-in vaccinations for everyone 12 and older from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 10. The vaccines are through the Unified Government Health Department.

People may also schedule vaccinations at [WycoVaccines.org](https://WycoVaccines.org). Residents may request rides to the vaccination clinic through a form on the same website.

The Unified Government Health Department vaccination hours changed recently. To see the schedule and more information about vaccinations, visit [WycoVaccines.org](https://WycoVaccines.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/UGHealthDept>.

Those who receive COVID-19 vaccinations are asked to consider bringing an ID to make the process go faster.

The Health Department is doing more mobile COVID-19 vaccinations, and people may request vaccines to be given at different sites in the community by going to [WycoVaccines.org](https://WycoVaccines.org) and clicking on “mobile vaccine request.” People also may request a ride to vaccination sites on the same page.

Those who wish to schedule an appointment may use the Health Department’s self-scheduling tool at [WycoVaccines.org](https://WycoVaccines.org) and click on a blue button that says, “Click here to schedule an appointment online.” The page is available in Spanish by clicking at the top of the page. Walk-in appointments also are welcome.

Those who don’t have an internet connection may call 3-1-1 or 913-573-5311 for assistance in scheduling their vaccination appointment time and date.

To see more information about Health Department vaccinations and next week’s schedule, visit [WycoVaccines.org](https://WycoVaccines.org).

*Extract From the Wyandotte Daily*





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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.

