



## O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

### This month's highlights

- The 2021 Online Gathering
- Some of the faces of the Gathering
- General Patrick O'Malley, of the French Army!
- A Journey from Darkness into Light—Ciara O'Malley
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- The O'Malley Clan DNA Project on Family Tree DNA

### Another Great Clan Gathering Was had!

Hi Everyone, We hope you had a great time with the O'Malley Clan Gathering Online 2021. What a fantastic day was had, with songs, dancing, quizzes, genealogy, and just a great feeling of getting together, if virtually.

A big thank you to everyone who helped to organize the event and also of course to all of you for taking part! A great day!

Next year will be different! We'll all be gathering in Mayo once again to renew old friendships, take in the beautiful scenery, have some wonderful food and drink, and have plenty music and dancing, IN PERSON



### Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!

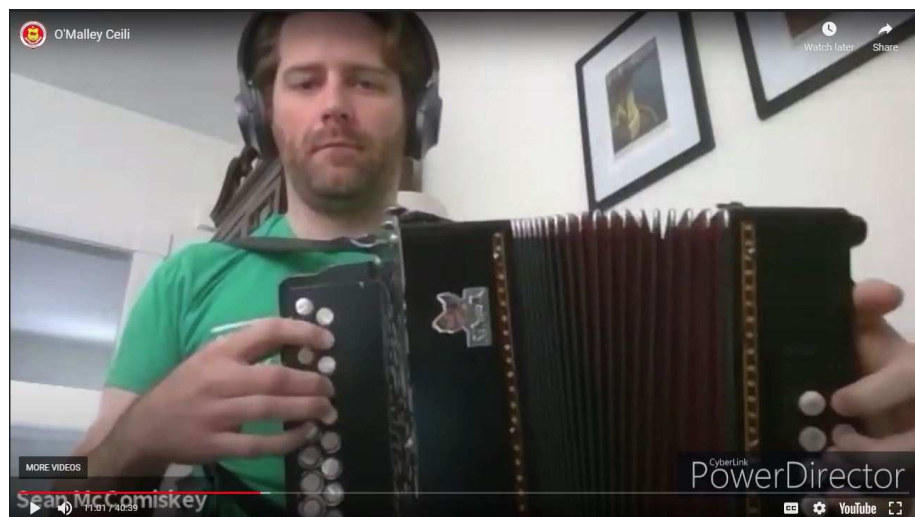
Have you got an article or old photographs that you'd like to submit for future editions of "O Maille" The O'Malley Clan Association Newsletter.

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!



## Some images from the 2021 Online Clan Gathering



## Some images from the 2021 Online Clan Gathering





## General Patrick O'Malley, of the French Army!



### General Auguste-André (Patrick) O'Malley

**1815 – 1869**

O'Malley is an unusual name for a French-born soldier, who rose to become a brigadier-general and commander of military garrison in the city of Marseille before his death in 1869. But there it was on an old family tree: General Patrick O'Malley, French Army. A number of family trees on Ancestry.com also wondered if he might be an ancestor of O'Malleys emigrating to the US in the nineteenth century. After some digging, this article is what we can say as of now with a degree of certainty.

Austin O'Malley, his father, supported the French forces under General Humbert who landed at Killala, Co Mayo, in 1798. Austin, still some months short of his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday and together with his brother Joseph, fought at the battle of Ballinamuck, where the French and Irish forces were soundly defeated by the British.

There are conflicting accounts of his escape to France after the battle, but there is no doubt that he was in good standing with Humbert, who later furnished him with a testimonial. This commends him as having shown the greatest courage and activity in fighting the enemy and records that he was one of the 5 Irishmen who escorted Captain Rannou, ADC to Humbert, back to France with dispatches.

## General Patrick O'Malley, of the French Army!

The implication is that the English gave safe passage for Captain Rannou and his 5 escorts. It is supported by other accounts that indicate the English treated Humbert and his French officers with respect and not long afterwards released them to return to France.

However, in 'The Last invasion of Ireland' (Gill, Dublin, 1937) Richard Hayes recounts a tale of Austin's escape to Achill after Ballinamuck through the aid of a man called Gaughan and of his subsequent fugitive voyage to France. In the Royal Irish Academy's Dictionary of Irish Biography, there is an entry for Austin written by C.J. Woods, who has a slightly different version of a dramatic escape via Achill on a yacht stolen from a Denis Bingham.

In any case, Austin in France joined Napoleon's Irish Legion with the rank of Captain in the hope of joining in another invasion of Ireland. When that did not happen, he transferred to the Irish Regiment in the Napoleonic army and subsequently fought in many battles in Spain and the Spanish Netherlands. While posted in 1812 to the island of Zierikzee, north of Antwerp, he met Marie Antoinette Collomies dites Sourrouille, a daughter of the French military commander of the island. While there, his eyesight deteriorated and in January 1814 he had to retire on a pension from the army at the age of only 38.

The following year, Marie-Antoinette gave birth to a son, Auguste-Andre O'Malley. They were married on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1817, while living together at 27 rue du Vieux Colombier in Paris. Their second son, Alexandre, was born in 1819 at which time they were living in Joigny.

The elder son is called Patrick by both Hayes and Woods who go on to describe his career in the French Army. French military records, however, describe him as Auguste-André. Perhaps he was known in the family as Patrick, while his official French name was Auguste-André. When in France, Austin himself was often referred to as Auguste or Augustin, so it is not an unlikely name to have given his French-born son.



## General Patrick O'Malley, of the French Army!

Austin's years in retirement were dogged by his blindness and poor income. A letter from him dated 1827 found him back at the rue du Vieux Colombier in Paris with his younger son as his sole guide, his wife having left him and her children the previous year. He talks of seeking help to secure his elder son, then aged about 12, a scholarship to a Royal College.

In 1836 he returned to Ireland in an unsuccessful bid to recover his property in the Burrishoole area and died there in 1854, aged 79. He was buried at Burrishoole Abbey. His wife remained in France, where she died at Taverny, a suburb of Paris, in 1873, aged 81.

In Hayes' 1945 'Biographical Dictionary of Irishmen in France' the entry for Patrick O'Malley states that at nine years old he obtained a 'bourse' (scholarship) to the military college at La Flèche, from which he proceeded to the military academy at St-Cyr to continue his studies. The latter was presumably the outcome of his father's efforts as expressed in the 1827 letter. He was commissioned in 1835 at age 20 in the 15<sup>th</sup> léger (light) regiment and began his military career with a posting to Africa. He subsequently served in China and elsewhere.

He was promoted to captain in January 1843, lieutenant-colonel in 1854 and full colonel in command of the 73<sup>rd</sup> regiment in 1855, commanding the regiment in Crimea. He showed special gallantry in the battles of Magenta and Solferino in 1859 while in the 102<sup>nd</sup> infantry regiment under Marshall McMahon. He was promoted to Brigadier-General on leaving the 102<sup>nd</sup> in 1860.

After a period as military commander of the garrison at Marseilles, he retired due to ill-health in 1868. He died in March 1869 from the complications of erysipelas and an unhealed wound received during a campaign in China. After a military service in Paris at the church of San Severin, he was buried with full military honours in the cemetery of Montparnasse. Curiously, the burial record indicates that later the same year, his remains were exhumed and reinterred at Montrouge cemetery. One wonders why this occurred and at whose instigation. His mother was still alive, although in her late 70s, and his younger brother Alexandre might also have been involved.

He was appointed to the Legion of Honour in 1843 and to the rank of Chevalier in the Legion in 1860. His father Austin had also been a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

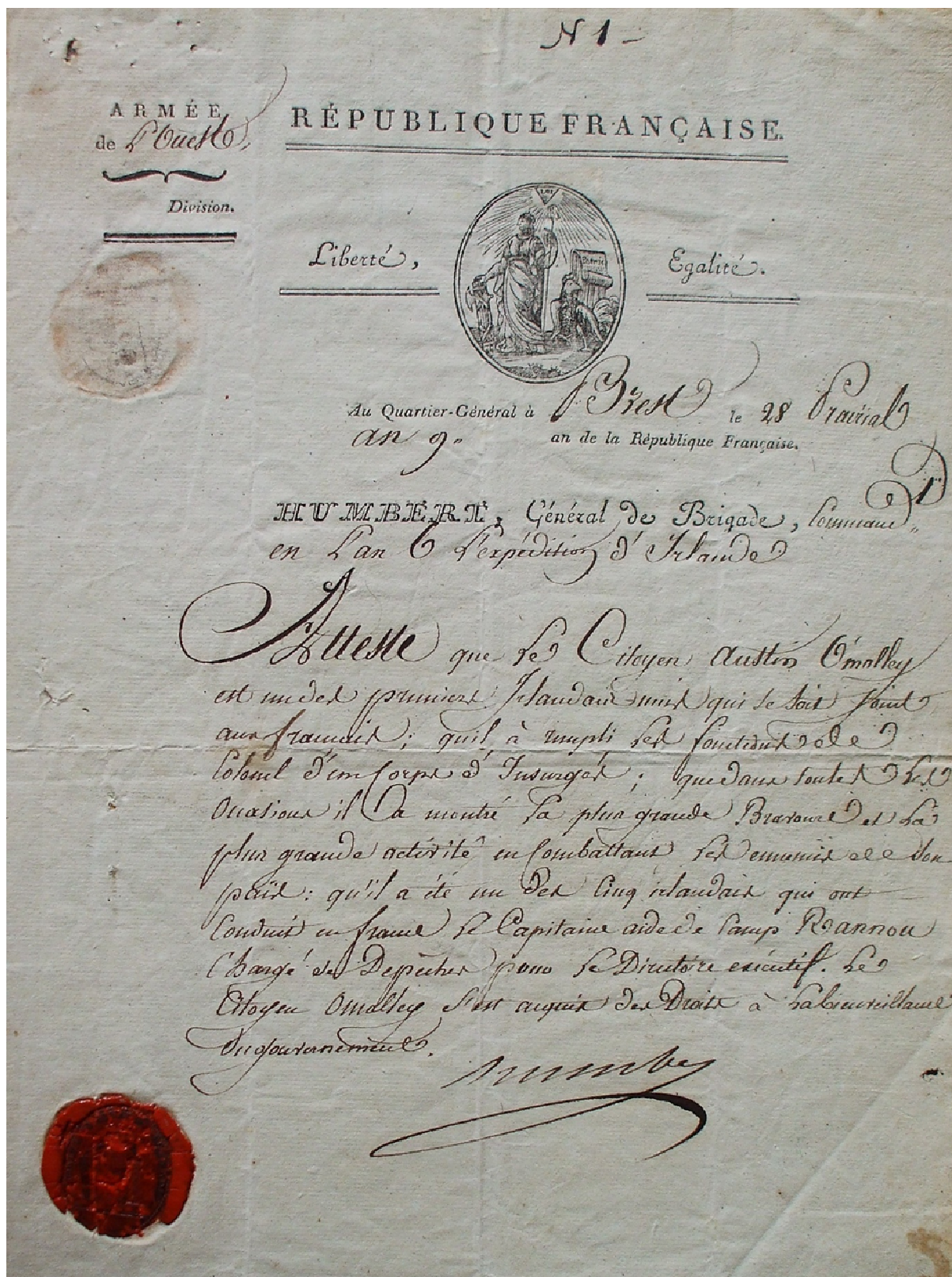
Hayes states that the only record of him ever visiting Ireland was as a young cadet when he accompanied his father home in 1836. However, he was commissioned in the previous year, so at least part of the story is inaccurate. So far, there is no record of him marrying or having children. Neither has any record been found of his younger brother. The search goes on!



*Thanks to Brendan O'Malley*



## General Patrick O'Malley, of the French Army!



Humbert's testimony regarding Austin O'Malley (courtesy of Nicholas Dunne-Lynch)

## A Journey from Darkness into Light—Ciara O'Malley

Ciara O'Malley's life crumbled before her when her partner David Gavin died in 2017. Slowly, she has built it back together

Ciara O'Malley and David Gavin had their whole lives together mapped out. Going out for ten years, they hit for Vancouver, Canada in early 2017. They were living the dream, seeing the world, making lots of new friends, and their lives were damn near perfect.



Had you asked Ciara then what turning 30 in 2020 would look like, she would have told you it would probably have consisted of being engaged to her “teen sweetheart” and thinking about married life and having children.

But Ciara's plans for that future crumbled on June 30, 2017, when she got the most heartbreaking of news.

David and friends had been en route to a Gaelic football tournament in the province of Alberta. They stopped at Kinbasket Lake in eastern British Columbia for a swim to cool down.

David, the ever adventurous type, suggested they jump into the water off a bridge. He went first and came up, waving to his friends, before suddenly, frighteningly, being pulled under. Despite frantic efforts, his friends could not reach him. What's more, no one else who came along to help with the rescue efforts could reach him either. As minutes turned into hours it was clear this was no longer a rescue operation but a recovery operation. In the days that followed, David's family and friends were praying for a funeral. Now, just over 2 years later, Ciara has released a book “Miracles Appear, When Loved Ones Are Near”

In it she recalls her journey from that “horrendous” day to where she is now, in December 2020, an altogether better place. Writing about the moment when friends in Vancouver called to her and David's apartment to break the awful news, she says simply “My heart just fell into pieces”

### Author Q&A with Ciara O' Malley

#### Why did you write this book?

This book was divinely guided by David and my angelic team. This book is part of my soul's purpose here. From reading this book, you will see all the synchronicity that led up to the writing of this book. David gave me lots of signs that assisted in me following my intuition and writing this book. Grief tore my life apart and stripped me off everything I once knew. Grief stripped me of who I thought I was and what I thought I knew about the world we live in.

Through being stripped of everything, I had a chance to rebuild myself and find out who I truly was. Something which I am now eternally grateful for.

One day I chose “me”, and that was where the magic happened. You could say I surrendered.



## **A Journey from Darkness into Light—Ciara O'Malley**

It was not easy, and at times it would have been easier to cave in and give up. But I had magic right beside me, pushing me on every step of the way. I had my beloved Davey, and he was going to do everything to show me he was still around guiding me on this new journey.

I have grown so much as a person and learned so much about my life and life, in general. For so long, I felt so lost, alone and honestly, I did not want to play a part in this cruel world. A world that had stripped me off everything and taken my David.

Through resilience, I have grown through all of this and completely changed my outlook on life. I have a new-found love for life that I never had before. I view every day as precious and something that it should be cherished.

This book is intended to uplift and inspire others to seek their own inner strength and courage in the face of adversity. To use my story to empower others to never give up hope, even when faced with the worst challenges. To enlighten others that miracles do happen when we have hope. To show others, we are so guided, loved and protected by our past on loved ones.

Everything I have done, you can do too. This does not just have to relate to grief, it can be any troubling situation in your life.

Once you choose "you", you are on the path to discovery, and you can welcome miracles into your life.

Everything comes back to you, and through my own self-healing journey, I have become fascinated with how the mind works.

Through my own journey, I believe we have everything within us to heal and grow as a person. The moment we choose ourselves, we welcome extensive experiences and opportunities into our life.

Our mind is such a powerful tool, and once we figure out how to navigate it, we can really step into our own and claim our power back.

Early on in my journey of grief and loss, it became apparent that writing helped ease my pain and release some of my anguish.

Early on, this book was only planned for my own personal healing. My intuition and signs from David led me to believe though it had a bigger purpose. I needed to use my experience and healing journey to help others.

### **What surprised you the most as you researched or wrote it?**

As I wrote the book, it brought me to a deep state of reflection. It brought me so much healing. I had to go back and sit with everything that happened. It brought me back to the part of me that never thought I was going to overcome this. The part of me that was broken beyond repair. The part of me that could not see a life without David, that was so consumed by grief and loss in this world. It was very empowering and uplifting to go back and revisit those parts with my new sense of purpose and understanding of the world around us. I felt so proud of myself and inspired because if I could do it, so could others. It made me feel in awe of myself and how far I have come and grown as a person. To say I prefer myself now than before David's death sounds a bit mad, but it is true. I feel at home and I feel like I have a purpose. I have developed a newfound relationship with myself and a new connection with David.

After writing this book, I was able to see the natural flow of my life and all the synchronicity that occurred. Before I was so stuck in my grief it was hard to see all the signs David was showing me. It made me feel so blessed and grateful, even though David was gone in the physical sense he always had a plan and guided this new journey I was embarking on.

## **A Journey from Darkness into Light—Ciara O'Malley**

### **What is the most important lesson or message readers will get from it?**

That our past on loved ones never leave us and will do anything to connect with us. We are so protected and supported always. That no matter how broken you are, you can overcome any challenge, that hope will always prevail.

That when you put the work into yourself the whole world around, you will change. Everything you need to heal, and grow is within you. Do not ever underestimate how powerful and strong you are.

Miracles can and do happen all around us, every day is a miracle. Do not ever stop believing in them. Your belief alone is welcoming miracles into your life.

### **Did writing this book change your life in any way?**

This book brought me so much healing, and it is my pleasure to share my story with others to help spread hope, inspiration and love. The book made me feel so grateful at the newfound connection I have with David. I just feel so in awe of the world we live in and the magic that surrounds us.

I never, in a million years, thought I would ever say something like that. I feel like I had done a full 360 in my life. I feel like I am exactly where I am supposed to be.

Every day I get up knowing that there is a plan for me. I feel connected, protected and supported always knowing David continues to guide me in this life.

### **What do you hope will come from others reading it?**

I hope people put that book down and feel a sense of awe of the magic that surrounds us all each day. That it uplifts people and inspires them to never ever give up hope. Life can throw anything at you, but never give up hope that your situation can improve or that a miracle can occur. I never ever gave up hope that would find Davey, even when people thought I was mad and that I was inflicting more pain on myself. I never gave up hope, life has taken everything else from me, but one thing it was not going to take was my hope. I hope that this inspires others to never give up, your miracle may be just around the corner.

I hope that my story lights something in others to help them start their own healing journey. I am as unique as every single person who reads this book. Everything I have done; they can do too. I feel so much love thinking that this book may help others.

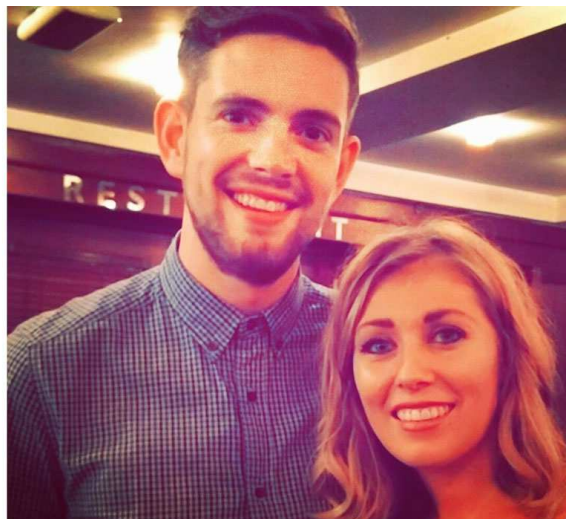
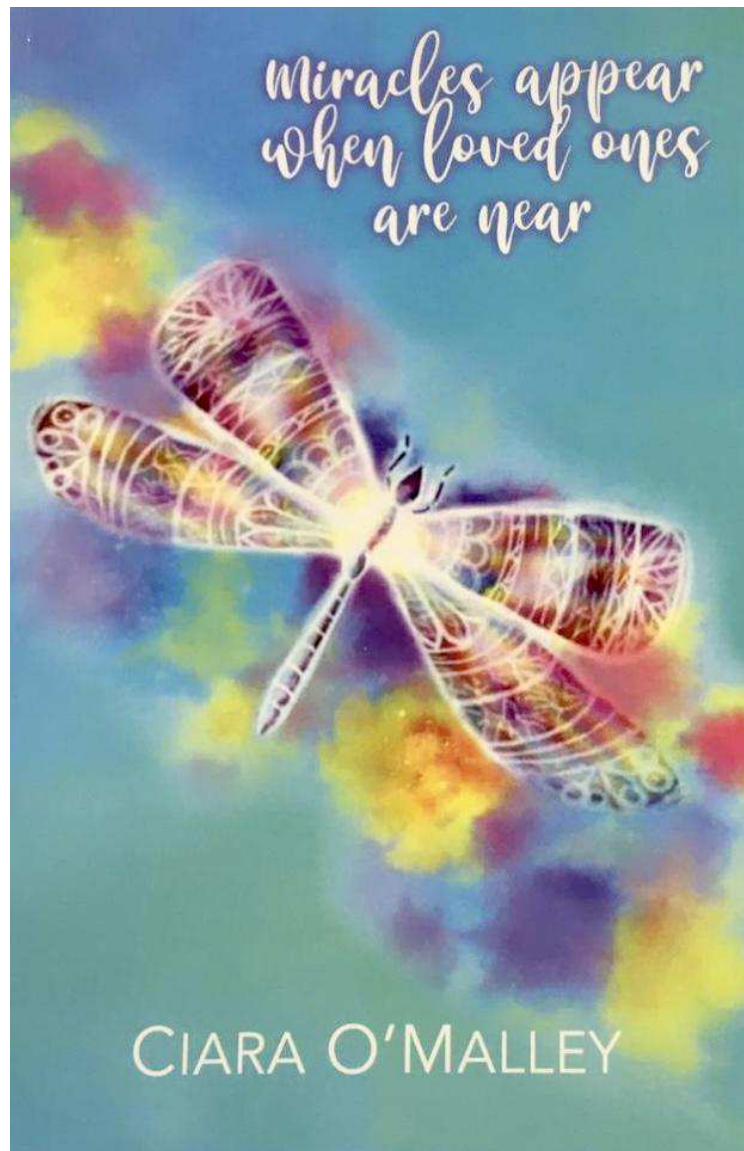
For people who are grieving, I hope it shows them that love never dies. It knows no boundaries or depths. A symbolic part of the book is the poem about a dragonfly; a water beetle who transforms into a beautiful dragonfly. How wonderful.

Just like our loved ones, the water beetle had transformed, gone to a new home.

Our loved ones would love to come down and tell us they are ok, but they cannot. They may be gone in the physical sense, but their soul does not ever leave us. Your relationship continues with them; it just takes a different form. We live in a world where we are continually seeking logic to back everything, ok. When our loved ones send us signs, we must believe, trust and have faith. When we open ourselves up to this magic can really occur.

Most importantly I hope it empowers people to realise We have everything we need within ourselves to heal and grow as people. In the world, we live in, we often seek everything from outside of us. We need people to fix us, we need others to validate us when really everything we need is within each one of us. You are special because you are you.

## A Journey from Darkness into Light—Ciara O'Malley







The O'Malley Clan Association  
Mary Jane O'Malley (Hon Sec)  
2 Main Street  
Newport  
Co. Mayo  
Ireland

Email: [omalleyclanireland@gmail.com](mailto:omalleyclanireland@gmail.com)

Website: [www.omalleyclan.ie](http://www.omalleyclan.ie)



[www.facebook.com/omalleyclan](http://www.facebook.com/omalleyclan)



@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.

