



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

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- Merry Christmas from The O'Malley Clan
- A tale of Irish Emigration from a century ago
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A Very Merry Christmas from The O'Malley Clan!

A Very Merry Christmas to all of our friends around the globe, from Chieftain Tom, and all of us here in The O'Malley Clan Association

We hope you all have a great, safe, and healthy festive season.

Here's hoping that 2022 will be a good year, and that We'll all enjoy the trip to The O'Malley Clan Gathering in Newport, County Mayo, at the end of June.

Nollaig Shona Daoibh
Go Léir!



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!



A tale of Irish Emigration from a century ago



The Staunton Family in County Mayo

A Mayo father's plea for passage to America for his daughters a century ago

A fascinating look into how and why people left Ireland to head for America 100 years ago.

Editor's Note: A poignant reminder of how tough life in Ireland a century ago was given this week when a long-lost letter, written in 1922, and its response came to light.

The letter is from Andrew Staunton, father of 14, a subsistence farmer living in a small cottage in the beautiful but desolate Mayo countryside. It is a plea to his Mayo-born, Boston-based cousin to send the passage money for the two oldest girls to come to America as they had no future in Ireland.

The letter is an extraordinary document, written in the finest English, descriptive, realistic but at its root a story of a father acting out of love asking that his children make the long trek west to America to find work and a new life.

The response from the family relative in Boston, who had risen to become a lawyer, an extraordinary feat back then, is calm and compassionate, warning of a tough voyage but promising a new life when the girls arrive.

The two letters illustrate the heartbreak and necessity of emigration, that millions went through but there is a note of new hope too and indeed, the Stauntons, including Ciaran eventually, who emigrated did prosper.

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This is their story.

It was January 25th, 1922 during the turbulent aftermath of the Irish War of Independence and the formation of the new Irish Free State when Ireland was on the verge of being partitioned.

In the West of Ireland, it was not these historical events that were troubling the heart and soul of 54-year-old West of Ireland farmer Andrew Staunton in Feenone, a village west of Louisburgh at the mouth of the Doolough Valley. What was troubling Andrew, as he sat down to write at the table of his two-bedroom cottage, was the economic hardships that every family in Ireland was suffering, for Andrew, the father of 14 children, knew he needed help for his children.

Andrew was writing to his County Mayo-born cousin Michael Ruane, who had become an Attorney in Boston in the US. Andrew was worried about his family, he had 6 sons and 8 daughters, aged from 4 to 26, living in a two-bedroomed cottage in Feenone, Co Mayo.

In his letter, Andrew asked Michael for help. Specifically, he asked Michael to send the passage to America for one of the children who, in turn, could send the passage for others ensuring them a good life in the United States of America.

On January 25, 1922, Andrew wrote:

Dear Cousin,

I have 6 sons and 8 daughters, all are at home. I was thinking of sending one or two of the girls to America this year. I hope you will be good enough to send a passage to me for them. I cannot keep them all at home. If I had one out there, she could bring out the rest. The eldest girl is the most anxious to go, her name is Sara the other girls name is Mary. Please do not delay in answering this letter. If you do not send it, I will have to write to some other friend.



Andrew wished his cousin well and enquired about his sister Mrs. Wallace and the death of her husband, who he says was a "fine man."

On February 18, 1922, Michael wrote back to tell Andrew saying "you may tell your daughter Sara that his passage will be forthcoming so that she may be preparing to come to this country from now on."

However, he added that he would not advise anyone to come to America any sooner than June because of the economic unsettled condition prevailing in America at the time.

On May 3, 1922, Michael wrote again to Andrew:

With this letter you will find enclosed a second cabin passage for your daughter Sarah. This is a contract ticket to come on the steamer that leaves Queenstown on the 15th day of June next, on the Cunard line.

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In the same letter, Mr. Ruane addresses Sara's mother Alice:

Dear Cousin Alice

I suppose you will be lonesome after your daughter, it is of course a customary thing...Do not make any noise.

He reassures her not to worry: *"This is the best country in the world. You may depend that I will see your daughter is all right...Do not worry about your daughter, remember I have sent for her."*

Turning his attention to Sarah, Michael wrote:

My dear cousin Sarah

Do not bring stockings or anything of that nature for yourself or anybody else. You can wear any dress on the steamer without it being soiled. You want two of the best suits of clothes you can get in Westport and a respectable hat from the milliner shop.

Have your brother, who works for the Congested Board to come to Queenstown with you and put you on the boat...when you get to East Boston, if I am not on the Dock, please go to the telephone and call MAIN 3681

On June 15, 1922, Sara Staunton left Ireland bound for the United States. Patrick, her brother, accompanied her to Queenstown (now Cobh). The journey there had them traveling to Westport, some 20 miles away, by pony and trap. They then took a train from Westport station to connect to other trains to take them to Cobh.

Three years later, Sara's sister Mary made her way to America to be with her.

This saw the start of a number of Stauntons making their way to the USA, including this writer, who 60 years and one day later, on June 16, 1982, found himself arriving at the door in Dorchester, Boston of Mary Staunton. Yes, that same Mary whom my grandfather had mentioned in the famous letter to his cousin back in 1922.

By 1932, ten years later, as Andrew had envisioned, there were seven Stauntons living in the Greater Boston area (Sara, Mary, Anthony, Tommy, Catherine Charlotte, Annie, and Alice). Sara had sent the passages home for two of her brothers - Anthony in 1925 and Thomas, my Dad, in 1929 - and four of her sisters, Mary whom I mentioned earlier, in 1925, Catherine Charlotte in 1928, Alice in 1930, and finally Annie in 1931.

It was not easy for the new Staunton family in Boston and that was not only because of the collapse of Wall Street. Tragedy and death came fast and furious and one of the first major purchases the Staunton family had to make was not real estate, but a grave in a Cambridge Graveyard. Catherine Charlotte, married to John Cummings, died in 1932 while giving birth to twins; the baby boy John Cummings lived, but his baby twin sister died. This was closely followed in 1933 by the death of Annie Staunton from TB at the young age of 26 years.

While the American Staunton family was making a new life in Boston, in Mayo, Andrew Staunton and his wife Alice were experiencing harrowing times. Ireland was now at the brink of a Civil War. In the previous War of Independence, three of their children took an active part in the struggle.

Patrick secretly trained IRA volunteers at night, Anthony was an active volunteer, and Thomas

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was an IRA courier. Despite these goings-on, and their stance towards the presence of the notorious Black and Tans and the RIC, the family survived the war with only one injury, a broken finger.

Anthony left for America in 1925, and Thomas followed shortly after. Tragically, Patrick died from pneumonia in 1928.

Having watched and worried through all of this, Andrew now witnessed families from rural Ireland getting massive tracks of their lands, which the British landlords had taken, returned to them.

In their part of Mayo, most of the land was owned by Boswell Houston. Local authorities redistributed land Houston had taken, some 40,000 acres which at one stage held 26,000 sheep at one gathering. Houston had leased the land from Lord Lucan who infamously evicted 300 families in one day in the Thallabawn area, where Andrew Staunton was now moving his family back to. Ironically, Andrew Staunton's family had been one of the 300 families who had been evicted more than 80 years earlier.

Ireland was going through a debate of sorts about the recent partition and accepting the 26 out of 32 counties as the Irish Free State. Andrew welcomed the new state, while his sons who had fought against the crown were opposed to the partition of Ireland and supported what was known as the Anti-Treaty argument. As the conversations raged around the dinner table, a fourth son, John, up and joined the Civic Guard (now known as the Garda Síochána, guardians of peace) a pro-treaty, pro-government national unarmed Police force.

Alice and Andrew were soon settled into their newly built house and newly created farm in Thallabawn, beside the original home before his family were evicted by the British in the 1840s. Most of their children were still living with them, however, four more of the children took the boat to England, Wynne, Bridie, Noreen, and Austin.

Before their deaths, Andrew and Alice sadly saw the deaths of Annie (TB, 1932 Boston), Catherine Charlotte (childbirth, 1932, Boston), Patrick (pneumonia, 1928, Mayo), and Andrew Jr (Hepatitis 1942, Mayo).

Fortunately, many of their sons and daughters settled and married in the USA, England, and Ireland, giving Andrew and Alice a lineage of many grandchildren (30), all still alive except for my sister, Anne, who died at birth, and much later, the death of one of their great-grandchildren in America, the death in 2012 of our son Rory.

Rory was only 12 years old when he succumbed to unrecognized and untreated sepsis. Rory and his many cousins loved to visit Thallabawn every summer, where they ran as one large group of laughing happy children without a care in the world part of a legacy of Alice and Andrew Staunton.

With special appreciation to my Aunt Wynne and her daughter Anna who preserved this history for all of us.

Ciaran Staunton

Lady Grace RIP- - An Appreciation



“Obituary – Grace Mountbatten (a.k.a. Grania or Grace O’Malley)

Grace Mary Beatrice Victoria Mountbatten (born 31st July 1946), only child of Lady Iris Victoria Beatrice Grace Mountbatten and Major Hamilton Joseph Keyes O'Malley (a member of the chieftain branch of O'Malleys of Ross House, Newport, Co. Mayo, Eire) - passed away on 23rd September 2021 in Bath, Somerset, England - after a recent diagnosis of late-stage terminal lung cancer (delayed due to COVID restrictions). She is survived by three sons: Eritrea, Malachi & Joshua.

Brought up as a dual-citizen of Eire and the UK in a form of exile with her father between Spain, France and England, she was expected to eventually marry into royalty, as he had done. But for most of her life she chose a life away from the spotlight. She was a professional secretary and model and latterly was a trained nurse working with the elderly whom she adored and respected. Somewhat of a child of her generation, she was also passionate and fierce campaigner for childrens', womens' and elderly rights, able to identify injustices and brave enough to tackle them head on. More recently, and unlike her generation, she was a social media star gaining thousands upon thousands of followers on facebook and other platforms. She fearlessly updated fans with thereto unknown facts, photos, family letters and (often) explosive family revelations on her blogsite ('Lady Grace's Journal'). Importantly, she was a loving and dedicated mother, a wise teacher, and a woman of immense strength of moral character in the family. Bringing up her three son's internationally between England, Ireland, France and Spain – she worked hard to help us to become ever more courageous and authentic human beings, nurturing in us a sense for the importance of self-expression, social justice, heritage and family – for which I am, as a son, truly grateful. In retirement she dedicated her time to travelling, loving and caring for her two dogs, Monti and Lindi (latter now deceased), and more recently, her little Chiwawa, Marina. She was a fiercely intelligent, beautiful and passionate human being with a fascinating history. An authentic, all-round force de nature. She will be sorely missed by all those whom loved her; never forgotten.

A poignant memorial funeral service was privately held in Bath, Somerset by close friends and family. Memorial donations may be made in Grace's name to the following charities: Julian House: <https://www.julianhouse.org.uk> and / or Macmillan Cancer Support: <https://www.macmillan.org.uk> (or else via the campaign links here: <https://gofund.me/c379b99f> and/or here: <https://gofund.me/89d4890c>). Thank you.” *Eri Mountbatten O'Malley*

Katie Curran O'Malley on the campaign trail!



At the official launch of her campaign for Maryland Attorney General on December 1st Katie Curran O'Malley said: *"I have the experience and knowledge of our criminal justice system that our Attorney General needs to do the job on day one. I will fight every day to protect all Marylanders and ensure that everyone is treated equally, because everyone deserves justice and a fair chance."*

Katie started her career as a public service attorney helping victims and defendants navigate Maryland's legal systems. As a judge for the past 20 years, she has worked every day to resolve issues ranging from domestic violence to drug addiction, to the mental health crisis affecting Maryland. She started her career as an Assistant State's Attorney in Baltimore County and for the last twenty years she has been a Baltimore City District Court Judge.

If elected she has committed to use the office of Attorney General to protect Maryland families, to fight for a criminal justice system that is equal and fair for everyone, to protect the civil rights of all Marylanders, to protect the environment, and to help ensure that we all have a voice and a vote.

Katie is married to our Tánaiste former Governor of Maryland Martin O'Malley.

We wish her every success in her campaign and we will be supporting her in whatever way we can.

Ellen O'Malley Dunlop.



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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

O'Malley Clan Association Membership Restructure

Firstly Thank you to our valued Newsletter Subscribers for your support for Ó Máille, the newsletter of the O'Malley Clan. Your subscriptions have helped to fund the ongoing efforts of The O'Malley Clan Association to forge links with The O'Malley Clan throughout the world, by helping us host The O'Malley Clan Association website omalleyclan.ie. For the past 7 years, we've been sending this publication exclusively to our valued Newsletter subscribers, every month.

As part of our drive to expand the O'Malley online community, we'd like to make it available to a wider audience, so the Council of Chieftains have decided to send it free of charge to everyone on our wider mailing list, starting with the December 2021 issue. Of course our Subscribers are on that mailing list too! So you'll still receive your monthly issue of Ó Máille into your email inbox.

We're also announcing a new approach to formal membership of the Clan. In appreciation for the support of our Newsletter Subscribers up to now, we have awarded our existing Newsletter Subscribers formal membership of the O'Malley Clan Association until the expiry date of their current subscriptions to the newsletter. At that point, we'll send an email to the Subscriber inviting them to renew their membership. We hope all of our current Newsletter Subscribers will do so and will continue to be valued members of the O'Malley Clan Association for many years to come.

If you've any queries in relation to the newsletter or your clan membership, please don't hesitate to drop me a line by email to omalleyclanireland@gmail.com

Regards

Don O'Malley

O'Malley Clan Association