



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights

- Happy St Patrick's Day from The O'Malley Clan
- "Finding Grace" The O'Malley DNA Project update
- "Gramps, Lady Gregory, & WB Yeats
- "So Far From Home" Letters to America
- "The Cry of Granuaile" on the screen at DIFF.
- The Preliminary Programme of Events for the 2022 O'Malley Clan Gathering
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- New Membership structure for the O'Malley Clan Association!

Happy St Patrick's Day Everyone!

Happy St Patrick's Day to all of our O'Malley family and friends around the world from Chieftain Tom O'Malley and all of us here at The O'Malley Clan Association.

We hope you all enjoy the return of the parades to the streets everywhere, and have a great long weekend of celebrations.



2022

**O'MALLEY CLAN GATHERING
24TH TO 26TH JUNE
NEWPORT • IRELAND**

Mark it in your diary, we look forward to meeting up



**O'MALLEY
Ó MÁILLE**

**The Event Booking
Links will be up on the
clan website shortly,
www.omalleyclan.ie
so keep an eye on the
website, and on Facebook,
Twitter, and Instagram**

“Finding Grace” – O’Malley Clan DNA Project Update

Grace O’Malley (1530-1603), “the Pirate Queen”, is one of the most important figures in Irish history and a source of great national pride. Her many exploits are both legendary and inspirational, with successive generations of people worldwide becoming enthralled with her life history and its legacy. Grace’s biographer, Anne Chambers, describes her as *“an accomplished mariner, a fearless leader, by land and by sea, a shrewd political tactician, a successful independent business woman, a ruthless plunderer, a mercenary, a rebel, the protective matriarch of her family and her tribe and – above all else – a woman who broke the mould and refused to allow the barriers placed in her path, either by society or by nature, to deter her from her quest”*.

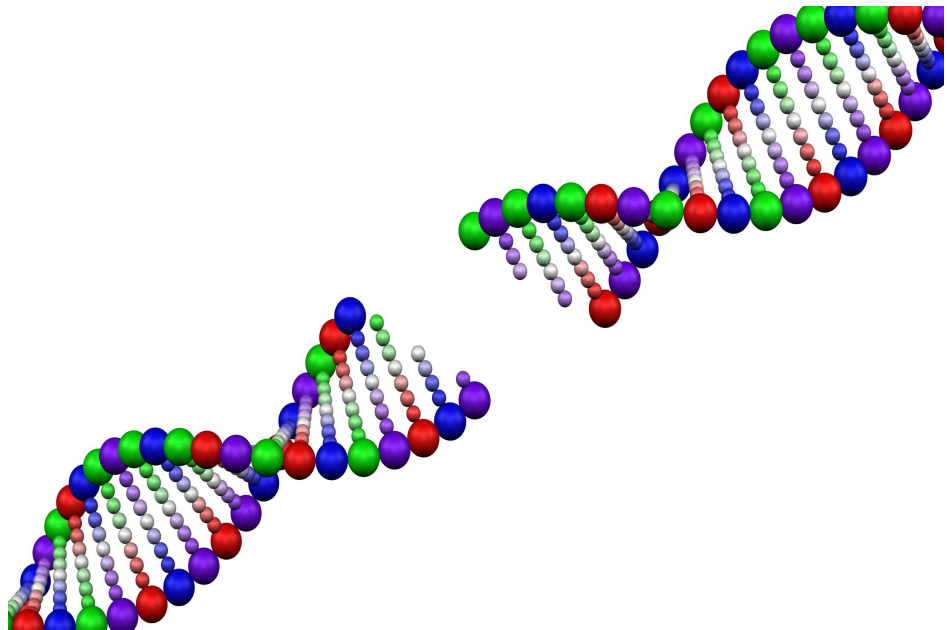
Grace holds a special place in Irish history as the times in which she lived foreshadowed the death of Gaelic Ireland. But despite this, and despite being a woman in a man’s world, Grace tactically manoeuvred the survival of her own people against the machinations of neighbouring clans and the ever-encroaching power of the English Crown. Her inspirational life has captured the imagination of generations of people around the world and she has become a folk hero, a feminist icon, and the “embodiment of positive ageing”.

Now the O’Malley Clan Association is embarking on a new initiative, which we call **Finding Grace**. The mission of the project is to discover, reveal, publicise and promote the importance of Grace O’Malley as an Irish icon and promote her living legacy as an inspiration to present and future generations of women and men in Ireland and across the world. This work will substantially raise Grace’s profile in advance of the 500th anniversary of her birth in 2030 and will pave the way for commemorations and celebrations nationwide and internationally.

One of our aims is to help people to understand if and how they may be related to

her. Many people trying to discover their ancestry run up against the limitations of historical records. Irish genealogical records tend to peter out in the early 1800s and consequently most Irish family trees hit a brick wall at about the year 1800. Older records and pedigrees that survive usually concern themselves with property and so were mainly the domain of the rich and powerful. The Irish annals include pedigrees of the O’Malley chieftains that give us a starting point for our researches.

Genetic heritage is a new and innovative concept when it comes to heritage projects. But DNA is something that is carried by every single person on this planet. Each one of us carries the DNA of our ancestors, and taking a DNA test can unlock hidden aspects of our ancestral past and give us a deeper connection to and appreciation of our ancestral heritage. DNA can help break through the documentary Brick Walls and reconnect people to their lost heritage.



“Finding Grace” – O’Malley Clan DNA Project Update

To make use of this new technology, we are setting out to identify the genetic pattern of Grace's immediate forbears. We are focussing on Diarmuid Ó Máille (Dermot O'Malley), her great-grandfather. By analysing the Y-DNA of approximately 20 present-day male O'Malleys who the O'Malley records indicate to be descendants of Dermot, we expect to be able to identify the unique genetic signature of Grace O'Malley's branch of the worldwide O'Malley clan. Once that signature is established, O'Malleys everywhere will be able to find out how closely related they are to one of Ireland's most illustrious historical figures.

The O'Malley DNA project has been running for quite a few years now and over 200 people have joined up. A unique genetic pattern has been established for the Limerick O'Malleys and several others are being formed for groups originating from Mayo and Galway. The more participants we have, the more detail that emerges.

We would like as many male O'Malleys as possible to take an entry level Y-DNA test with Family Tree DNA (www.FTDNA.com) and join the O'Malley DNA project to share their results. Those identified as possible candidates for the Finding Grace project will then be invited to take a more detailed test, which we hope to be funded by a grant from the Irish Heritage Council.

Another way to help is in identifying potential candidates. Can you help us to establish contact with:

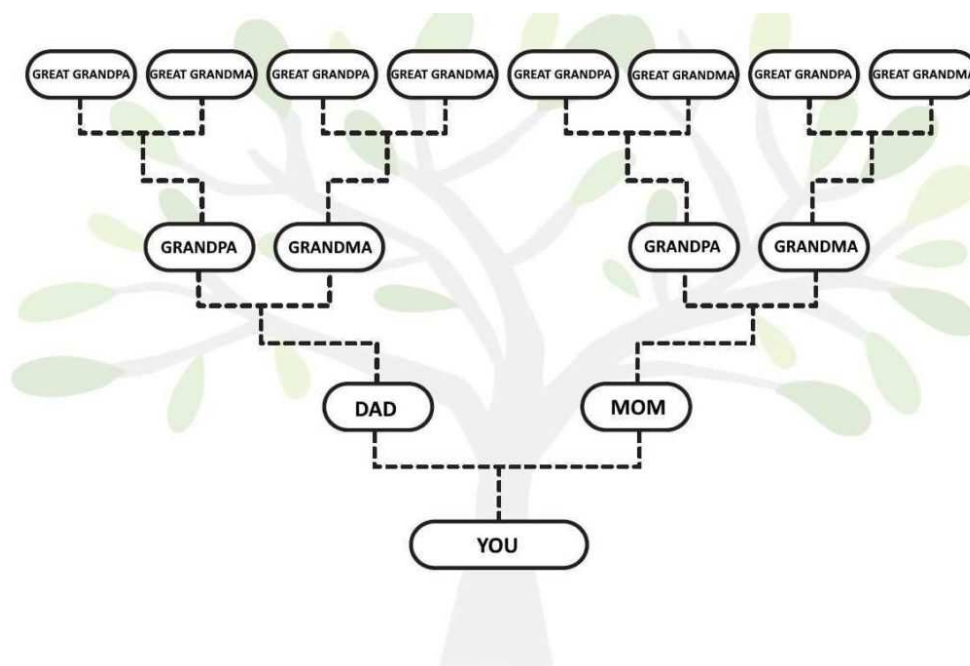
Any direct male descendants of Charles Anthony O'Malley born in Co Mayo in 1810. He emigrated to Canada and died there in 1884. It seems that he married in Canada, but we have no information beyond that. His parents in Ireland were Peter O'Malley and Rebecca Badeley of Suffolk in England.

Any sons or grandsons of John A O'Malley born in 1929 in Co Mayo and died in San Diego CA in 2006.

His parents were Willie O'Malley and Mary Bridget Lynagh

Any sons or grandsons of Tully O'Malley (born 1932 in Galway, died in Cleveland OH in 1992) and his wife Judith Ann Weber.

Note: If you do know any of these people, please ask their permission before putting them in touch. Communications to omalleyclanireland@gmail.com.



Gramps, Lady Gregory, and WB Yeats

I have written in the past year of my grandfather, Charles J. O'Malley (b 1867 Newport, CO Mayo – d 1955 Boston, Massachusetts), and shared vignettes from his memoir, *It Was News To Me*, published in 1939. (Articles on the Bubonic Plague and the wreck of the Brig St. John)

Gramps also wrote of having tea with Lady Gregory and William Butler Yeats. For later generations it was just so much family lore devoid of context or clarity. We were all pretty far removed from Gort and 1922: except my mother, Lucille O'Malley McLoughlin, and the impending O'Malley Clan Gathering in Newport this year, coincidentally 100 years later.

Fast forward to Boulder, CO where we live and the unimaginable Marshall fire over this past New Years'. (6,000 acres and 1,000 homes destroyed.) In its aftermath, we locals took stock of what we would take with us – an 'evacuation box' – should we have to vacate our premises on short notice. Going through my papers, I found a transcript of a conversation between my mother and James Charles Roy, dated November 11, 1997. In the cover letter, Roy wrote, "I've sent the transcript off to Roy Foster, and I'm certain he'll be using it in his second volume of Yeats' life."

Roy Foster, the celebrated authorized biographer of William Butler Yeats, did include the interview in **W.B. Yeats A Life II. The Arch-Poet**, (2003 by Oxford University Press). He cites: "Lucille O'Malley McLoughlin recorded by James Charles Roy, 7 Nov.1997. AG's account of the visit is in *Journals*, i 370: she does not mention Lucille's presence. O'Malley wrote three articles in the Boston Post describing his experiences (19, 26 and 27 July 1922). His expressed skepticism about the Irish people's faith in what he called a 'shadowy republic' may owe something to his conversation with WBY and AG at Coole."

James Charles Roy, himself a distinguished writer, recently authored **The Elizabethan Conquest of Ireland** (2021 Pen & Sword Military, an imprint of Pen & Sword Book Ltd.)

The first I heard of the interview, or any account by my mother, was upon the discovery last month. She was 14 at the time of the tea. Roy Foster in introducing the interview wrote, "seventy-five years later, she recalled it with absolute clarity."

With adjustments for brevity and flow, here is the transcript of the interview with my mother:



Lucille O'Malley, (right of picture with the fur stole), the Author's Mother, at the Grand Canyon, 1918

Gramps, Lady Gregory, and WB Yeats

"My father was from Mayo. In this country, years ago, it was 'those damn Yankees,'" and in Ireland it was "Mayo, God help us." Did you know that?

His parents lived in Glasgow, and they had a large family, ten children. They lost seven in three weeks from the plague brought back by British soldiers returning from the Crimea. The family returned to Newport. My father was the youngest, born in 1867. His mother was fifty and his father sixty-four when he was born. They had great hopes for him. At sixteen he took the tuition money for his schooling back in Scotland and went instead to Queenstown and booked passage to America. He arrived in New York with \$12 in his pocket. He traveled out to Manistee Michigan where His older brother by thirty years had started a newspaper.

My father learned all elements of the newspaper business from pen to presses to advertising and everything twixt and between. Garrulous, engaging, and full of the Irish, he worked for newspapers throughout the mid west; Denver, Detroit, Kansas City and St Louis. He met mother, she of a strict French household, probably talked her head off, something she wasn't used to. She married him in 1904, promising "wherever you go, I go." They soon left St. Louis for opportunity in New York and raised a family of five between there and Boston.



Charles O'Malley, the Author's Grandfather, with the Author's Father, Maurice McLoughlin, and two of the Author's siblings in 1942

Dad was an inveterate reader of newspapers and reporting on what he saw. He always had an itch to be where things were happening. Where better than to return Ireland in 1922 with an entourage of nine – children aged 3-17 plus two friends – and then on to tour war torn Europe? Can you imagine? We boarded the *Pittsburgh*. I was thrilled by the throb of the big engines under foot. We landed in Cobh and he hired two taxis at the dock. Off to Newport.

We headed north and got as far as Gort, only to learn that all the bridges were down and the roads gone. Couldn't go any farther. Well, that didn't bother my father much. Nothing fazed him. We piled into a local hotel in Gort, which as I remember, the floor under my bed – one of the legs went into the floor. I also remember hearing shots at night as I lay in bed.

Dad looked around, to see what was around, and (my mother here clapping her hand) Lady Gregory! So off he went -- there were no telephones – walked up her driveway, knocked on her door, introduced himself and said I'd like very much to talk with you. Fine, she said, come on back tomorrow afternoon. We were invited for tea, you know, sweets and those thin, thin sandwiches that never taste like anything.

Gramps, Lady Gregory, and WB Yeats

I remember Lady Gregory very vividly, and Yeats too, though not his wife. I wasn't very big. It seems to me she and I were about the same size. She was most gracious, just lovely, and she invited my parents most hospitably to come in and chat with her. Who should be visiting but William Butler Yeats, his wife and daughter. And everyone just sat down and started chatting. Lady Gregory said to us children, just go into my library and you can look at anything you want there. Can you imagine the treasures? We looked around at all the books. We were not, I must say, particularly impressed because we were not old enough to be impressed. One thing I remember that intrigued me was an elephant's foot about two feet high, a real elephant's foot with nails in the heel; and it was full of canes. It seems to me, as I remember it, that she walked with a cane.

Then we were all told to sit down, that Mr. Yeats was going to give a reading to us. Well, that was fine. I mean I wasn't impressed. Maybe my brothers were, being older and smarter, but I was too young. And so he started in, "A Prayer to My Daughter."



Charles J O'Malley on his Wedding Day

I don't know why he picked that one out, it had been written a year or so before. Except for the fact, perhaps, that his little one was playing around at his feet – she appeared to be about four or five. He stood up with a great flourish and began. It was all very dramatic, waving his arms, declaiming on the poem. The child wouldn't leave him alone. Her nose was running enormously, and she kept coming up to him and yanking his coat. And the mother -- I have no recollection of her at all -- she was there, but she wasn't there if you know what I mean.

The daughter kept yanking at his coat. Why the mother didn't grab her I don't know, but the girl was annoying Yeats ... not seriously, you know, but she was sort of a beloved nuisance, if you see what I mean. He didn't repulse her or chase her off. He just stopped everything and took care of it. He put the book DOWN, reached into his pocket, took out a large handkerchief which he had been flourishing earlier, bent down – BLOW – a loud blow. Put it back in his pocket and continued reading.

I guess my father must have heard of Yeats because he was very glad to have met him and so was my mother. And nobody else was there, just us and Yeats. They seemed to be on the best of terms: Lady Gregory, she seemed to act as if they were all part of a family. And then she gave each of us a booklet, and she wrote inside it. Where's mine? I don't know. If I still had it it would probably pay for this house. (The interview took place in Cohasset, MA.)

Gramps, Lady Gregory, and WB Yeats

Later on, we set off for Dublin and if a bridge was down or a road broken, my father would say, Go through the fields. And you know the Irish, they just drove through the fields. We got to Dublin, and I remember seeing the buildings on fire, hearing shots everywhere. It didn't bother me too much because my father was there."

My mother died in 2004 at the age of 96, unaware of the interview immortalized. To see her account and its reflection on Gramps and the Irish spirit enshrined in the official Yeats biography is especially gratifying. It certainly was news to me.

Paul McLoughlin

Boulder, CO

14 February 2022

email: mcloughlin@mac.com



Above Left: Lady Augusta Gregory, Above Right: William Butler Yeats, and Below: Coole Park



“So Far From Home” Letters to America

A NEW book of letters from families in Leap to their loved ones who had set off for America during the latter part of the 19th century is proving a hit for anyone looking to discover more about our West Cork emigrants.

Patricia Trainor O'Malley, a retired professor of history from Bradford College Massachusetts, has gathered letters from her relatives in and around Leap and has compiled them all into a fascinating book – *So far from home: Letters from Ireland to family in America*.

‘The letters referenced were sent to my grandfather, Dan Donovan, of Dreenlamane, Ballinlough, who immigrated to Haverhill, Massachusetts, USA in 1885,’ Patricia told *The Southern Star*.

‘There are also letters sent to my grandmother, Nora McCarthy from Ballinlough, Leap, who immigrated to the same place in 1895.

‘The letters were written by parents, siblings, cousins, schoolmates, and even an aggressive former girlfriend of Dan’s!’

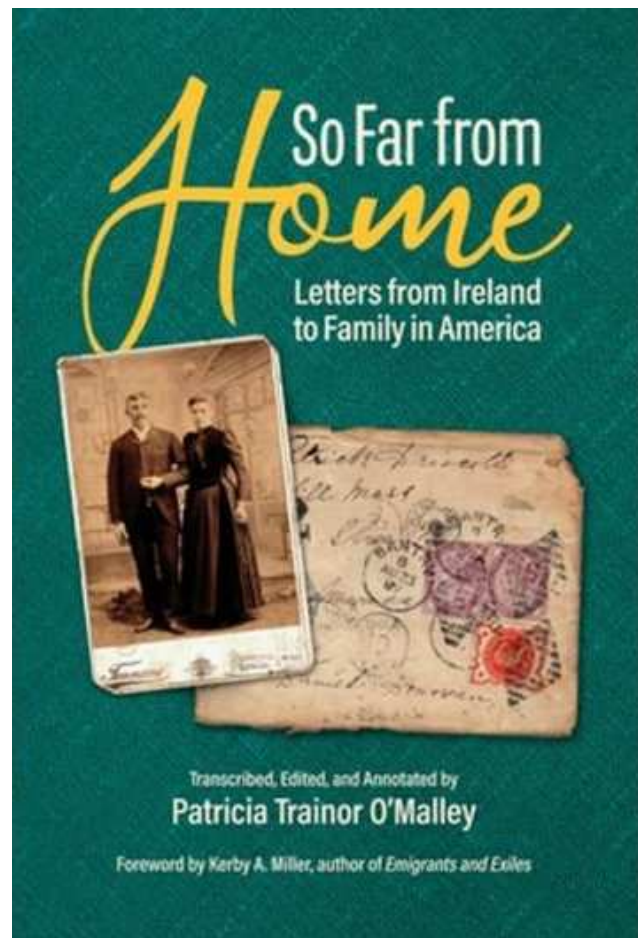
The letters in the collection that are included in the book are also from fellow immigrants, many of them former schoolmates of Nora at the Knockskagh National School, north of Leap. Most of them had become domestic workers in the homes of the wealthy in America.

‘The letters have attracted much attention from scholars because of their numbers and quality. This collection of 200 letters was the largest collection of previously unpublished Irish immigrant letters until they appeared in this book,’ Patricia said. The relatives of Dan and Nora are still on the family farms in Ballinlough and Dreenlamane and other relatives can be found from Clonakilty to Bantry, with a significant cluster of O'Donovan cousins around Dublin and Cork city.

‘There are stories of dancing at the four corners, the boys road bowling, the many Fair Days throughout the area where friends met, gossip exchanged, horses, cows, and pigs sold. ‘The fisherman cousin describes the storm that blew him and his craft from Glandore Harbour to Kinsale,’ Patricia said. In one letter a sister laughs about her brother Tady and his friends dancing so enthusiastically that they broke down Tom Kingston’s loft in Leap village, or the humour of the young man who came from America to marry his girlfriend and bring her back to America.

‘She turned him down, and in a matter of weeks, he had found a more willing female, and they were off to America!’
So far from home: Letters from Ireland to family in America is available in bookshops or online.

From the Southern Star



“The Cry of Granuaile” screens at the DIFF

Donal Foreman's much anticipated feature *The Cry of Granuaile* will have its world premiere during this year's Dublin International Film Festival.

In *The Cry of Granuaile* an American filmmaker, reeling from the death of her mother, enlists the help of a young Irish academic on a trip to the west of Ireland to research a film about Granuaile, the legendary 16th century pirate queen and "nurse to all rebellions." As the two women journey towards a remote Atlantic island, lines begin to blur between memory and history, dream and reality.

Donal introduces the film below...

A few years ago I had a meeting with an American film producer who had a proposal: if I could come up with a film about an American woman's travels in Ireland, something that could be a vehicle for a well-known actress, he was confident he could raise the money.

Most of my films have drawn on personal experience, so trying to come up with a story to order was a challenge; even more so because "an American in Ireland" seemed like such a tired trope. One immediately thinks of misty-eyed Irish-Americans seeking solace in the homeland, or modern city women finding rugged rural romance — characters we Irish typically (and understandably) scoff at, on or off screen.

But I started to wonder if there was a way I might subvert a premise like that. After all, some of my favorite filmmakers, like Abel Ferrara or Robert Altman, have excelled at twisting and personalising genre tropes rather than dismissing them completely.

I realised that my attraction to the idea was also tied to the film that I had just finished - my feature documentary, *The Image You Missed* (released at the Irish Film Institute in 2018), concerned the life and work of my father, Arthur MacCaig, an American documentarian who made fiercely partisan films about the conflict in Northern Ireland. My research for that film led me to put together a program of rarely-seen documentaries on the North by other non-Irish filmmakers, that also screened at the IFI

In the case of both MacCaig and these other directors, it was clear that their outsider status had its advantages. They could be more susceptible to naivety or romanticism — but they were also able to approach their subjects with a disarming openness and curiosity.

I started to develop the idea of an American film director researching a film about Granuaile (AKA Grace O'Malley), the 16th century "pirate queen" of Mayo, a character and a place I've been fascinated by for years. The director, Maire, comes to Ireland full of mystical ideas about "resurrecting" Granuaile through the many myths, poems and stories written about her. Cáit, a Derry-born, Dublin-based academic who takes Maire on a tour of Mayo, is convinced that these narratives are just fantasies we've projected onto Granuaile; the real person is completely lost and unknowable.

Virgin Media **Dublin**
International
Film
Festival



“The Cry of Granuaile” screens at the DIFF

Nothing came of the meeting with that American producer, as is often the way with these things, but the idea was lodged in my mind. Instead, I was very fortunate to have *The Cry of Granuaile* funded by the Arts Council of Ireland through their new *Authored Works* scheme — a bold initiative which supports feature films that may be seen as too risky or challenging for other funders.



I was even luckier to be able to cast my first choice for the character of Maire: Dale Dickey, a renowned actress with more than 100 credits to her name who, while not a familiar name to everyone, is very much a familiar face, having acted in everything from *Breaking Bad* to *Iron Man 3*, and worked with directors such as Clint Eastwood, Sean Penn and Tony Scott. Dale stars alongside Judith Roddy (as Cáit), who recently performed with Stephen Rea in Frank McGuinness' *The Visiting Hour* at the Gate. Both brought a lot to the film, giving emotional weight and humanity to the ideas their characters wrestle over.

In an early scene, *Irish Times* film critic Donald Clarke (who generously agreed to play a snarkier version of himself) asks Maire point blank: "What gives you the right to poke around in our history?" In *The Cry of Granuaile*, Maire invites us into her increasingly surreal vision of "our history" — mixing together local folktales, romantic literature and the history of cinema into a delirious collage.

Whether she has any right to is something viewers will have to decide for themselves.

***The Cry of Granuaile* had its world premiere at the Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival, at the IFI on March 3rd .**



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2022 (Preliminary Programme)



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| FRIDAY June 24 th | Time | Launch, Townhall Westport |
| | 2:30pm | Updates on Clan projects, Clare Island Castle restoration, O'Malley DNA project and Genealogy |
| | 3:30pm | Screening of 'The Peacemaker' An award winning documentary directed by James Demo about Irish peacemaker and Author 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. |
| | 5:00pm | Official launch Chieftain Tom O'Malley Professor Padraig O'Malley (John Joseph Moakley Distinguished Professor of Peace and Reconciliation, University of Massachusetts, Boston) will talk to us about his soon to be published book 'Perils of a United Ireland' |
| SATURDAY June 25 th | Time | Day Tours and Entertainment |
| | 10:00am | Bus tour to Ballintubber Abbey and National Museum of Country life Turlough Castlebar(collection Westport and Newport) |
| | 4:00pm 5:30 pm | Family tree presentations Newport Hotel Chieftains Reception and Dinner Hotel Newport Music by renowned singer Sean Keane and Doherty, Doocey brothers from Foxford. Céili Sean nos dancing and poetry reading by Mary Madec Newport |
| SUNDAY June 26 th | Time | Day Tours and Entertainment |
| | 11 am | Traditional Clan Mass Burrishoole Abbey Newport Photoshoot at Grace O'Malley Rockfleet Castle enroute to lunch |
| | 1:00pm | Lunch Nevins Newfield Inn Tiernaur Presentations Inauguration of new Chieftain |



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www.facebook.com/omalleyclan



[o_malley_clan_association](https://www.instagram.com/o_malley_clan_association)

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.

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