



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

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- The O'Malley Clan needs you! Join Today!

Limerick 2024, start planning your trip!

What a Gathering we had this year in Mayo. It'll be a hard weekend to top, but we'll have a right go at it. The planning has already begun for what'll be another fabulous weekend for The O'Malley Clan. The 2024 O'Malley Clan Gathering will take place on the weekend of 28th to the 30th June next year. So start thinking about your trip. It's never too early to plan! We'll have details of the events up on the website during the autumn as they're confirmed, but start planning your flights, (Shannon is best!), and organise your time off from work, and someone to mind the cat. Limerick will be the place to be next June! Get it in the diary.



Lets get the word out there! LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE!

Lets keep up the good work everyone. We want to get the message out there to every O'Malley/Malley/Maley/Mellia/Melia in the world that the O'Malley Clan is here and making connections worldwide.

As I mentioned at the AGM on Friday 23rd June, the best way for us to get the word out there is through YOU!

Head onto your **Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter** accounts and LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE, RETWEET, and lets spread the word and make those connections with O'Malleys everywhere.

Its only with your help that we can spread the word.

Don O'Malley (Editor)

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Limerick, An Introduction



Limerick City and County: A Blend of History, Sports, and Enchanting Beauty

Nestled on the picturesque western coast of Ireland, Limerick City and County stands as a captivating destination that weaves together a rich tapestry of history, vibrant sports culture, and breathtaking tourist attractions. With its origins dating back to ancient times, Limerick has evolved into a thriving modern hub while retaining its deep-rooted heritage. Limerick's history is a compelling narrative that spans centuries, reflecting the region's enduring significance. The city's name itself is derived from the Irish word "Luimneach," meaning a "bare spot" or "place of the black pool." This city has borne witness to Viking invasions, medieval architecture, and turbulent political events. Its imposing King John's Castle, constructed in the 13th century, stands as a sentinel to the past, echoing tales of battles and sieges that shaped the region. The Treaty of Limerick in 1691 holds particular historical significance, marking a turning point in Ireland's relationship with England. Visitors can still trace the echoes of history through Limerick's cobbled streets, majestic cathedrals, and evocative museums that vividly narrate the story of the area.

Limerick's sporting spirit runs deep, manifesting in a fervent passion for various sports that has become an integral part of the local culture. Hurling, often described as the fastest field sport in the world, holds a special place in Limerick's heart. The county's hurling team, known as the "Limerick Treaty Men," has achieved remarkable success, winning numerous All-Ireland Championships. The roar of the crowd and the clash of ash against leather reverberate through the Gaelic Grounds, the epicenter of hurling in the city.

But Limerick's sporting prowess doesn't end there. The Thomond Park stadium, a hallowed ground for rugby enthusiasts, stands as a testament to the city's affinity for the sport. Home to the Munster Rugby team, the stadium exudes an electric atmosphere during matches, embodying the camaraderie and passion of the fans. This fusion of sports and culture elevates Limerick to a unique realm, where athleticism and tradition converge. Limerick City and County are a treasure trove of captivating tourist attractions that beckon

Above : A view of Limerick from the air, and

Below: King John's Castle in Limerick City



Limerick, An Introduction

travelers from across the globe. The River Shannon, which gracefully winds its way through the region, adds an ethereal charm to the landscape. Strolling along the riverbanks or taking a leisurely cruise offers a serene perspective of Limerick's natural beauty.

For those seeking a glimpse into the past, the Lough Gur Heritage Centre provides an immersive experience into the prehistoric origins of the area. The remains of ancient settlements and the mystical Grange Stone Circle captivate the imagination, bridging the gap between antiquity and the present.

Limerick's vibrant arts scene also flourishes, with the University of Limerick serving as a hub for creative expression. The city's annual Limerick Fringe Festival showcases a diverse array of performances, celebrating theatre, dance, music, and comedy. This cultural extravaganza draws both locals and visitors, fostering an atmosphere of artistic exploration and innovation.

In conclusion, Limerick City and County encapsulate the essence of Ireland's captivating heritage, pulsating sports culture, and awe-inspiring tourist attractions. With its historical significance, dedication to sports, and enchanting landscapes, Limerick beckons travelers to immerse themselves in its compelling story and experience the magic it offers. Whether wandering through its ancient streets, cheering at a hurling match, or basking in its natural beauty, Limerick is a destination that leaves an indelible mark on the hearts of all who venture here.

So.....How do I get to Limerick I hear you ask?

Shannon International Airport is a mere 20 minutes from the city, with connections to the East coast of the US, the UK, and Europe, so whether you're flying in from the Far East, Australasia, North America, Europe, the UK, or pretty much anywhere, its the spot to land at.

If you can't though, Dublin Airport is 2 hrs away, Cork Airport is 90 mins away, and Kerry Airport is 90 mins away.

If you're bringing the car, Rosslare ferryport is about 3 hours away to the South East.

Start Planning your trip!



Above : Thomond Park, The home of Munster Rugby and

Below: The Treaty Stone, upon which it's reputed, the Treaty of Limerick was signed in 1691



2 Martin O'Malleys doing well, Congrats to both!

We have 2 Martin O'Malleys doing very well for themselves this month! Congratulations to Martin O'Malley, Achill Island, and Former Chieftain Martin O'Malley, Baltimore.

TWO Mayo men, Martin O'Malley and Michael Glynn, are set to represent Ireland at the prestigious World Sheepdog Trials, which is taking place in Co Down next month.

The global event has been organised by the International Sheepdog Society and is expected to welcome over 30,000 spectators alongside 240 sheepdogs and their handlers from all over the world, including Argentina, Brazil, Canada and Finland.

Martin O'Malley from Achill Island and Michael Glynn from Cong will join their fellow competitors all vying to be named as 'top dog' with a World Champion announced at the end of the four-day event, which is sponsored by Randox Health, ABP Food Group and Gilbertson & Page Ltd.

John McCullough, Chairman of the World Trial Committee said: "We're delighted to have Michael and Martin representing Ireland at this year's trials. Their extensive experience and dedication will be a great source of inspiration and encouragement to other competitors and we're looking forward to seeing them put on the great performance we know they're more than capable of producing."

"The arrival of the World Sheepdog Trials in Northern Ireland is a momentous occasion. We are truly honoured to showcase the exceptional talent and dedication of sheepdogs and their handlers on the global stage. With competitors hailing from diverse countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and Finland, this event truly exemplifies the universal appeal of sheepdog trials."

"We'll have some of the world's best sheepdogs and their handlers descending into Ireland in September and it is sure to be a spectacle not to be missed," he said.

Isabel Branch, CEO of the International Sheepdog Society, comments: "We are thrilled to announce that the World Sheep Dog Trials are making history in Northern Ireland, as we proudly host this prestigious event for the very first time. The World Sheepdog Trials are very much the Olympics of the sheepdog world, so we are expecting extremely tough competition in each of the classes. This is a fantastic opportunity to observe the best of the best, and we can't wait to welcome enthusiasts and spectators, from across Ireland and further afield, to join us in this momentous occasion." The World Sheepdog Trials will take place at Gill Hall Estate, Dromore, Co Down from Wednesday, September 13 to Saturday, September 16. For more information on the four-day event or to purchase tickets, visit:

www.worldsheepdogtrials.org.

Mayo News



Above Martin O'Malley from Achill Island, who will represent Ireland at the World Sheepdog Trials next month, and

Opposite Page: Former Chieftain Martin O'Malley, nominated to be the new Administrator of the US Social Security Administration

2 Martin O'Malleys doing well, Congrats to both!

President Joe Biden on has nominated former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley to lead the Social Security Administration.

If confirmed, O'Malley would run one of the biggest social programs in the nation and grapple with the surrounding uncertainty over its funding. Roughly 70 million people — including retirees, disabled people and children — receive Social Security benefits.

"Governor O'Malley is a lifelong public servant who has spent his career making government more accessible and transparent, while keeping the American

people at the heart of his work," Biden said in a statement. "As Governor, he made government work more effectively across his administration and enhanced the way millions of people accessed critical services."

O'Malley served as Maryland's governor from 2007 to 2015 and was Baltimore mayor for two terms. He also ran as a Democratic presidential candidate in 2016 but has ruled out running in the future.

The annual Social Security and Medicare trustees report released in March says the program's trust fund will be unable to pay full benefits in about 10 years.

If the fund is depleted, the government will be able to pay only 80% of scheduled benefits, the report said.

There are few options available to keep the program healthy: raise taxes, raise eligibility age, cut costs or rely more on general revenues to cover the gap in funding, which could mean higher budget deficits or potential cuts to other programs.

All of the options are politically controversial.

Currently, full Social Security benefits are available at 67, an age minimum that's increased by two years since the program was first created roughly 90 years ago.

Everett Kelley, president of the American Federation of Government Employees workers union, applauded O'Malley's nomination, and said he "is a strong advocate for working people and labor rights, and he has the skills and experience necessary to tackle the various challenges facing SSA like the recruitment and retention of its dedicated workforce."

Nancy Altman, president of Social Security Works, said her organization "applauds the nomination of Governor O'Malley, a longtime Social Security champion."

"Like President Biden, O'Malley supports expanding Social Security's modest benefits, not cutting them."

Last October, the agency announced that Social Security recipients would get an 8.7% boost in their benefits in 2023, a historic increase prompted by record-high inflation.

Social Security is financed by payroll taxes collected from workers and their employers. The maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll taxes for 2023 is \$160,200, up from \$147,000 in 2022.



Grace O'Malley, on settling in in Sweden

An Irishwoman in Sweden: It took time for me to feel ready to claim a corner of Stockholm just for me

Caring for babies and moving to a different country took priority over a woman's love of theatre, but she found great opportunity in Stockholm

Three months after moving to Stockholm in April 2021, in the midst of a global pandemic with three small children, one question from people in Ireland kept coming up: "Have you made any friends yet?"

"Sure it's no bother to you," people said. "Aren't you so social? Don't you love making friends?"

I didn't know what milk to buy, let alone how to go about making friends. I stood dazed in front of supermarket fridges for weeks –

Swedes like their dairy. Luckily, having a Swedish husband meant arriving into already-formed friendships. Having kids meant meeting mothers, some of whom I added to my list of people to invite around for evenings of wine, laughter and dance, usually in that order. The friend department wasn't lacking, but I was low in something.

In her book, *The Well-Lived Life*, 102-year-old Dr Gladys McGarey calls it your juice – I was low on juice. Your juice is something that sparks you, something that you exist for, your purpose for being alive.

It took time to recognise this, time to allow the kids to settle (one year and eight months to be precise) and time to feel ready to venture out beyond our neighbourhood and claim a corner of Stockholm just for me.

I reactivated my Facebook account (the main social media platform used here) and joined groups that sounded relatable. "Expat English-Speaking Moms" for instance, but chats about where to get new buggy wheels and which playschool is highly rated just didn't do anything for me.

Next I tried "Creative People Meet-Ups in Stockholm", but unfortunately me leaving my family on a Saturday afternoon to meet a group of 20-something-year-olds in the park to "Drink and Draw" didn't sit well with my husband.

All the while, well-intentioned meddling continued from afar. "Have you found your own thing yet? Away from Philip and the kids? Would you try a pottery-making class or something?"

No, I'd be thinking, would *you*? Instead, I'd smile and nod. Yeah, that's an idea all right. God, I missed their abrupt remarks though, the over-interest in other people's lives. It pushed me to question myself.

With my children taking their first baby steps into independence, I had some time to think. Where did I feel juiciest?

Creating and producing *New Fish A Musical* with a group of geniuses in Smock Alley Theatre was one of the most personally rewarding experiences of my life. Its promising future was stunted by Covid. My own motivation for it was stunted by baby number three, and our move to Stockholm left me with an empty glass, not a drop, bone dry.

I had started writing again, which sparked a reminder of what it was to feel connected to a universal energy source.

An article I wrote was shared by the Irish Swedish Society, which led me to finding the amateur theatre group,



Above Grace O'Malley, who lives in Stockholm with her Swedish husband, Philip Konopik.

Grace O'Malley, on settling in in Sweden

Spuds and Sill, who were to tackle the great song-and-dance of the play *Dancing at Lughnasa* in all its complexity and charm for their annual spring production this year.

It was a sign. When I was seven, my Uncle Fergus [Linehan] took me to see Auntie Rosaleen in *Dancing at Lughnasa* on the Abbey stage. I was enamoured. From that moment on, I wanted to perform. My creative little soul found a way of expressing all its juicy outpourings of emotion and enthusiasm for life. Just like my Auntie Rosaleen and those five women whooping and hollering and kicking up on stage, I could let it all out. Caring for babies, moving countries – this had all taken priority over my love of theatre. Here was an opportunity to drink juice. We rehearsed on Monday evenings for three months, not nearly enough time, but we pulled it together and put on a show.

They were a mad bunch to be fair, different ages, some Swedish, some Irish, all there to put their trust in a group of people, to commit to something and see it through.

The National Theatre in London also ran a production of *Dancing at Lughnasa* in May. We shared pictures of the production in our WhatsApp group and joked about which production we would rather be in.

I was about to message, "I would leave you all high and dry for a chance to be in the National," when a message from Maria arrived first.

"I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

Grace O'Malley has now lived outside Ireland for more time than she has lived in it, and despite currently living in Stockholm with her children and Swedish husband, she still calls Dublin home.



Below Right: The Spuds and Sill committee members, cast and crew for the 2023 production of *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and

The Irish Times

Below Left: Grace O'Malley, her husband Philip Konopik and their children, Oscar, Leila and Elsa Konopik, on the morning walk to school in Stockholm in the snow.



Eoin O'Malley on the future of sun holidays

Eoin O'Malley: Irish tourism can adapt to changing climate

About 20 years ago I lived in Madrid. July was unbearable in a modern apartment that was not well insulated from the heat. During the day I worked in an air-conditioned office. Every night the temperature remained above 30 degrees, making sleep somewhere between uncomfortable and impossible.

My then girlfriend, now wife, discovered the “cold water bottle” — a plastic bottle of water left in the freezer during the day and wrapped in a towel in bed at night.

We tried keeping windows open, closing them, keeping blinds closed all day, closed at night, getting drunk, staying sober...anything to make it a bit more bearable. Nothing worked.

In August, we decided we had to escape the Madrid heat, and so took our tent and a train to the north coast of Spain. The first day of rain was a relief. On day three of sitting in a tent staring out at the rain, I almost began to miss Madrid.

We traipsed around the north coast for two weeks, trying to escape the rain.

Many people's summer will have been a mix of the misery of extreme heat and the deluge that was July in Ireland.

Much of southern Europe experienced record-high temperatures making the sun holiday a little too close to experiencing life closer to the actual sun.

In Spain, the high temperatures, especially inland, have made living there unbearable for significant parts of the year.

I had to spend a few hours in Seville this summer, where stepping off an air-conditioned train out on to the street in the afternoon, I was met with a suffocating wall of heat.

I can't imagine that anyone would choose to visit that city in the summer.

In Greece, wildfires have ruined many people's holidays, livelihoods and homes.

It is even worse for many workers who are struggling to work in outdoor jobs such as agriculture or construction during heatwaves.

Unfortunately, some have died, leading governments to bring in laws giving workers rights to stop when temperatures get too high.

All this can be put down to man-made climate change. There are simply too many once-in-a-generation records being constantly broken for any season's weather to be accounted for as a random freak.

This will change tourism. Statistics so far this year don't show much of a drop in visitors to Spain, but it can't be long before we see a change of focus of the tourism.

The Costa del Sol is now regularly in the high 30s, making even sitting on a beach uncomfortable.

If you thought you could escape the heat with a day in the mountains, you'll find that in large parts of Andalucia they are closed for most of the summer to avoid the risk of forest fires.



Eoin O'Malley on the future of sun holidays

Water restrictions associated with drought might mean it becomes harder to rely on a cold shower before bed to help you sleep.

Which is why Ireland might see a boom in tourism from people who want to escape the heat.

I find it hard to believe many would pay to go to a wet north Connemara, having spent all my summers there dreaming of going abroad.

But one thing that became clear was that part of Ireland's problem with the weather was that we were very poor at adapting to our climate. Tourism seemed to be based on hoping for a few sunny days, and there was little to do in the more common wet ones.

This is changing somewhat, as more people get involved in hillwalking. The Greenway cycle paths give holidaymakers in Ireland other things to do.

Our buildings and urban areas are also very poorly designed, given our climate.

Perhaps because we imported the fashions from the south-east of England where the climate is quite different, our streets don't protect us from the rain.

Contrast this to Santiago de Compostela where the vernacular architecture provides shelter from the copious rain it gets. Their buildings have covered paths to protect people from their usual weather.

In southern Europe, buildings have thick walls and are painted white to insulate them from the sun. Narrow streets provide more shelter. The Arabs have shown us how adding water features has a cooling effect on the streets and in homes.

There is now a realisation in many cities that taking cars out of the cities eases the impact of the heat somewhat, and that trees provide shelter, improve air quality, and protect against flooding.

Halting climate change is something we should still strive for but given much of that is outside any country's control, it makes more sense to concentrate efforts of mitigating its effects locally and adapting to it.

That means creating or protecting flood plains, planting more trees, adding water features. It should mean changing with what materials, and how, we build our homes and offices.

And we will probably adapt where and how we holiday.

Twenty years ago we eventually found some relief from the heat and the rain in Galicia, the Atlantic north-west coast of Spain which provides what many Irish people crave — a dependable good Irish summer.

It might be that many Irish people choose there to holiday in the coming decades.

Eoin O'Malley teaches politics and policy in Dublin City University



Sunday Independent

Coffi Kitoko, celebrating a year on the go in South Wales!

A SPECIALIST coffee shop in Cwmbran, Wales, marked one year in business last weekend.

Coffi Kitoko is the brainchild of Michael Davies and Denis O'Malley, who enjoy coffee and wanted to create the coffee house vibe on the 'street' for all to enjoy. The business aims to offer a unique blend of Africa and Wales in their beverages, as well as a wide range of food and drink, including milkshakes, affogato shakes, and light sweet bites such as muffins and cookies.

Located in the Cwmbran Centre, in Cwmbran, a town just North of Newport, in South Wales, Coffi Kitoko has become a hit with the locals. Mr

O'Malley said: "Coffi Kitoko offers the perfect place to unwind, process, and reflect on the daily grind as our doors and ears are open to you! We are more than just baristas; we are your coffi family." The pair both have extensive experience in owning businesses and interacting with people from all walks of life, something which, they say, as members of the LGBTQ+ community, they understand the importance of to a great extent.

Both baristas have previously been invited to work at a mixture of high-profile and local events, such as Weston-Super-Mare Beach Race, Caerphilly Winter Food and Drinks Festival, Luminate National Botanic Garden of Wales, Swansea Flavour Fest and Devon Street Food Festival.

As part of the first birthday celebrations, Coffi Kitoko is hosted a Disney-themed charity event in aid of the Congress Youth Theatre in Cwmbran. This included an appearance of a Disney princess, a cookie sale and a photo wall to reflect on the first year of Coffi Kitoko.

Mr Davies said: "Cwmbran is a beautiful community and we wanted to celebrate the birth of Coffi Kitoko by giving back." The event was a great success! Best of luck to the guys at Coffi Kitoko

You can find the Coffi Kitoko van on Monmouth Square in the Cwmbran Centre.



Above: Coffi Kitoko owners Michael Davies and Denis O'Malley are celebrating a year of business

Below: Denis O'Malley serving a customer



How it all began, an article from 1985, on the First O'Malley Clan Rally in 1953

In 1948 Sir Owen St. Clair O'Malley, K.C.M.G., came to live at Rockfleet, which is about four miles from Newport, Co, Mayo. This distinguished diplomat had served in the British Foreign Office from 1911, and had been accredited in turn to Peking, Mexico, Spain and Hungary. He was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Polish Government in London 1943-45, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Portugal from 1945 to 1947, when he retired. His wife Mary was a well-known novelist writing under the name of Ann Bridge, while his daughter Jane was to become secretary to the Royal Irish Academy. His grandfather, a descendant of the Belclare branch of the O'Malley family, had moved to England from Hawthorn Lodge; Castlebar. The grandson had never lost sight of his Irish origins, and was happy to settle in O'Malley territory albeit in Burrishoole and not the ancestral barony of Murrisk.

Having refurbished and enlarged the house at Rossyvera, which had formerly belonged to the Stoneys of Rosturk Castle, Sir Owen next turned his attention to that other habitation on his property, the beautifully situated tower house of Carraig an Chabhaigh or Rockfleet, which stands at the north eastern corner of Newport Bay. This typical residence of an Irish gentleman from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century, with its four storeys in a square tower, had witnessed many stirring scenes, especially during the tenure of the turbulent Grainne Ni Mhaille or Grania Uaile, as she is commonly called today. For this fifteenth century castle had been the principal residence of Grainne after her second marriage to its owner, Riocard an Iarainn or Iron Dick Bourke, about the year 1566. On one occasion the redoubtable Grainne had driven off an expedition sent by sea from Galway in 1574 to punish her for her attacks on shipping using that port. She retired there after Richard's death with 'all her own followers and with 1,000 head of cows and mares'.

This memory-haunted castle was in a sad state of disrepair when it came into Sir Owen's ownership. He had spent many years researching and writing his family history, and felt he owed it to his ancestors to restore a building which had such strong associations with the O'Malley Clan. He soon discovered there were others who shared his dream, and foremost among them were John J. O'Malley of Westport and Conor O'Malley of Galway.

This dream became reality when at a meeting in the Railway Hotel, Westport, on 14 March 1949, the O'Malley Clan Association was formed for the purpose of collecting subscriptions for repairs to Carrigahowley Castle. At this meeting an executive committee was elected, and subsequently an appeal was circulated to solicit subscriptions to the restoration fund. A copy of this leaflet is here reproduced, and a glance at the list of names constituting this executive committee, shows that it was truly representative of Mayo and Galway O'Malleys.

Alas, most, if not all, of these men have passed to their eternal reward, but happily their families are still strongly represented at recent clan rallies. Grace O'Malley Purcell, daughter of John J. O'Malley, was chieftain of the clan in 1981-2, while her brother Brendan, and Maurice, son of Patrick P. O'Malley, are hardworking members of the Clan Committee. Jane, daughter of Sir Owen O'Malley, is keenly interested in local history and is a strong supporter of Clan activities.



Above: Sir Owen St Clair O'Malley

How it all began, an article from 1985, on the First O'Malley Clan Rally in 1953

The appeal to the loyalty and pride of the clan evoked a generous response from O'Malleys in all parts of the world, and fired the imagination of the general public. It was clear that the West was awake and more especially the O'Malleys. Probably the first post-war appeal for help with the restoration of a national monument, it was fitting that this appeal should have originated among the members of a family still living on their ancient territory. These were ordinary people making an extraordinary effort. This effort was crowned with success, when after four years' hard work on the part of the local committee, the newly-restored castle was the scene of the First Annual Rally on Sunday 13th September 1953. We join here a description from The Western People of the events of that day. Sadly, the enthusiastic crowds attending that first rally have diminished over the years, but the O'Malleys are a race of survivors, and the annual rally still goes on, having taken place without a break for 32 years.

GATHERING OF O'MALLEY CLAN (From The Western People, 19 September 1953.) GRAINUAILE'S CASTLE OPENED - CHIEF ELECTED

Sunday was the day for the gathering of the members of the O'Malley Clan in Westport, to honour their famous ancestor, Grainne Uaile, Sea Queen of the West.

Special buses -and hundreds of cars brought people named O'Malley and their friends from the four corners of Ireland, and some from Leeds and America, to the Mall, Westport, where they were welcomed by the President of the Clan, Mr. John J. O'Malley, merchant, Westport. They all gathered at the Railway Hotel, Westport, which was decorated for the occasion.

While they were waiting for the opening ceremony to begin Westport Boys' Brass Band rendered a selection of national airs like those which kept the spirit of freedom alive in the people at the time Grainne Uaile and her daring seamen sailed the waves in Clew Bay.

WELCOME

From a lorry decorated with the Papal and National flags Mr. John J. O'Malley, organising secretary, welcomed the members of his Clan as follows:-

"Clansmen and O'Malleys - Cead mile failte, a thousand cead mile failte to you, welcome home to Cathair na Mart, home to Westport, citadel of our Clan. Some of you have been away from home for a generation, some for several generations, but it doesn't matter, all are sincerely welcome - a welcome that is as big and sincere for the humblest man of the name as for the more materially favoured of our Clansmen. I congratulate you on making such a big sacrifice to attend this great re-union. It shows plainly that the loyalty and a family pride so characteristic of the O'Malleys, is no empty boast. We assemble here today to commemorate the 1,500th anniversary of the conversion of our Clan to the Faith of St. Patrick, in the year 453. Crom Cruach, Chief of the O'Malleys, embraced the Faith from the hands of St. Patrick, and it is our proud boast that the O'Malley Clan held on to the Faith all through the centuries. They brought the Augustinians to Murrisk, the Dominicans to Burrishoole, and the Carmelites to Clare Island.

'They governed that country, known as the Kingdom of Umhall, Achill. They were powerful on land and sea. As you are aware, Clansmen, the Clan O'Malley were lords of the soil in the greater part of Mayo and Galway and the adjoining islands. The memory of Grainne Uaile, or Grace O'Malley, should be to us an inspiration and a glorious inheritance, which we are proud to claim as our own. This sea-queen carried out many daring exploits. Many are the traditions and legends woven around this great daughter of our Clan and she was looked upon by our Irish poets as a symbol of Irish freedom.

How it all began, an article from 1985, on the First O'Malley Clan Rally in 1953

"I am glad to say that Carrigahowley Castle, the one we are going to visit today, has been restored by contributions received from O'Malleys only. The castle has been restored to its original construction, which naturally is not the modern idea of architecture, but was the style prevailing 350 years ago. "It is by our re-union here today that we are standing fast by our tradition and culture. We are most anxious that many of the other Irish Clans will co-operate in the good work.

FAITH AND FATHERLAND

"We are strictly limited to time, and this does not permit us to deal further with the glorious traditions of our Clan. It is incumbent to say a few words about the future responsibility - to uphold Faith and Fatherland, to co-operate with our Government in starting industries and promoting agricultural activities, as the farmers of Ireland are the true salvation of the country, approximately 80 per cent, living on the land; to co-operate with the members of our Gaelic League in keeping alive the Irish language, culture, and music.

"In every free community, such as ours, there are political, religious and social differences. Our object should be scrupulously respect every man's opinion, and to carry out the Divine command, 'love God above all, and our neighbours as ourselves.

"To conclude, I welcome you again. I congratulate you on your great turn-out. I hope that next year we will have a bigger and better function, and that, in a thousand years from now, this re-union of O'Malleys will be as great as ever. Thank you, and may God bless you all."

MR. CHARLIE O'MALLEY

Mr. Charlie O'Malley, Chairman, Westport Harbour Board, who also worked hard to gather the members of the Clan, said he was glad to meet them all and welcome them to Westport. They should be proud of their Queen, who never let the English subdue her. It was a great day for the O'Malleys.

Mr. Andrew O'Malley, N.T. Kilmeena; Mr. Patrick P. O'Malley, Westport Quay, and Dr. Conor O'Malley, U.C.G., also spoke. Also on the platform were: Dr. Owen K. O'Malley, Dublin; Mr. P. O'Malley, V.S. Castlebar, and Professor Thomas O'Maille, lecturer, Galway University.

The party moved off at 2.30 p.m. to perform the opening ceremony at Grainne's Castle, at Carrigahowley, which stands on the edge of the sea, 4 miles from Newport, beside the home of Sir Owen O'Malley, at Rockfleet.

The castle was decorated with Papal and National flags and the Arms of the O'Malley family, which are a galley on a blue ground on top, with a wild boar on a golden shield below. At the foot is the motto: TerraMarique Potens.

The ship was chosen because the O'Malleys lived on the sea, and the wild boar showed that the O'Malleys were fearless in battle because the wild boar is the only animal that will turn when brought to bay without being wounded.



PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ON OCCASION OF FIRST O'MALLEY GATHERING AT CARRIGAHOWLEY CASTLE. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, CHARLES O'MALLEY, THE MALL, WESTPORT; _____; ANDREW O'MALLEY, N.T., KILMEENA; PROF. C. CONOR O'MALLEY, GALWAY; PROF. TOMÁS Ó MÁILLE, GALWAY; JOHN J. O'MALLEY, WESTPORT.

How it all began, an article from 1985, on the First O'Malley Clan Rally in 1953

HISTORY OF CLAN O'MALLEY

In a learned address, Dr. Conor O'Malley, Galway, gave the history of Clan O'Malley as follows:-

"The early history of our Clan O'Malley dates back to Pagan Ireland. Earliest legends and traditions, many bearing the hallmark of truth associate the Clan with the Barony of Murrisk and the territory between Killary harbour and Achill. In John Brown's 16th century map this territory is called 'Owle O'Mayle.' It is said that a paramount Chief of the Clan submitted with all his retinue to St. Patrick and became converted to christianity. So there seems good reason to believe that our christian heritage has come down in unbroken continuity for fifteen hundred years, and that the faith implanted by Patrick, the apostle of the Irish, has been kept steadfastly all down the ages through weal and through woe by the O'Malley Clan.

"It can be held that when recorded history first touched the country of Clew Bay it found O'Malleys the dominant septs. The earliest reference in Irish Annals describes Flannabhra (773) as the Lord of Umhall, the territory later called 'Umhall O'Maille,' when the Clan assumed the surname 'O'Maille.'

"In their day the Norsemen sea rovers made murderous descents on Umhall, slaughtering and being slaughtered by the men of Umhall. It must have been a place of note then, since those sea wolves were always in quest of fair prizes and worth-while loot.

'An interesting tradition has come down to us that the O'Malley chieftain line had been wiped out to the last man by the Danes, leaving only one male child who was reared by a foster mother. The boy later grew to be a great warrior under the special patronage of St.

Brendan the Navigator. This attractive story assumes various shapes down the ages, taking oft new forms to suit the changing times. For instance, Cromwell replaces the Danes in the later versions.

"There are many references to O'Malley Chiefs and warriors in the Irish Annals, but as usual they are laconic statements of battle and sudden death. In one respect I think the historic bulletins about O'Malleys differ from those of other Clans in that the enemy that claimed many victims was the sea. Those ancient sailors of Umhall O'Maille had to contend with one of the roughest seas in all seven oceans. It is little wonder that many brave men in the small ships of those days sailed out of Clew Bay, never to return. They did not fear the sea, however, unlike most people of ancient times in Ireland, and there seems to be ample justification for their proud motto, terra marique potens. In the Book of Rights the King of Connacht gives the O'Malley the unusual present of five ships.

"In the early 12th century the O'Connors seemed to have invaded West Mayo in force and despoiled O'Malley country, the result being that when those O'Connors were in turn attacked by the strangers, namely the Normans, in a battle in Clew Bay the O'Malleys observed armed neutrality.



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ALLIES

"The Clan seems to have accepted the De Burgo as their best policy and became allies of their powerful neighbours, the Slocht Ulick Burkes and so held complete suzerainty in Umhall under the MacWilliamship. It is quite clear that O'Malleys remained rulers of their own territory under the Norman domination, and a pact of friendship with the great De Burgo existed from the early Norman invasion down to the final extinction of the MacWilliamship in Mayo. This same pattern of friendship seems also to have held between O'Malleys and O'Flahertys. No doubt the alliance was cemented by marriage, like the celebrated marriage of Grainne Uaile, first to the head of the O'Flahertys, and secondly to Richard De Burgo, chief of the Lower Burkes. One gets the general impression that O'Malley enjoyed comparative peace on land in those stirring times; but they sailed the seas from Tir Connell, in the North, to the Kingdom of Kerry, in the South, to intervene in many battles and forays between other Clans and nations. At a time when raiding the neighbouring chief for loot, on one pretext or another, was the fashion, and a legitimate 'trade,' the O'Malley 'trade,' was exceptional in that it seems to have been mainly sea borne.

"It would be impossible in a short sketch to deal with the life and adventures of the great sea queen of the O'Malleys, Grainne Uaile. We can say at the outset that pure Irish tradition and O'Malley tradition has nothing but good to say about her. She got a very bad Press, however, from the only written records about her, namely, the Elizabethan State Papers. This is only to be expected, since such documents were mainly political propaganda. We have only to recall the truth value of modern war communiques or even note what modern politicians say about one another, to assess the true value of Elizabethan State Paper reports from the Queen's Buccaneers in Connacht. A clear picture emerges, however, of a lady of great courage who parleyed or fought as occasion deemed best; but she always maintained her independence against all comers. Her worst enemy was Sir Richard Bingham, one of the ablest of Elizabeth's gangsters in Ireland. In the eyes of modern Ireland no greater compliment could be paid than when in his malicious letter to the Privy Council he calls Grainne Uaile 'a noted traitress and nursemaid of the rebellions in Connacht for forty years.'

"Two illustrious and scholarly Archbishops of Tuam, namely John MacHale and John Healy, regarded Grainne Uaile as a heroine who embodied the undying spirit of the Irish to maintain their freedom. This is a short stanza of a poem by Archbishop MacHale:

'One night as oppressed with soft slumbers I lay,
And dreamt of old Erin, oft thought of by day.
With the long, wasting wars between Saxon and Gael.
Up rose the bright vision of fair Grainne Uaile."

Archbishop Healy also had a particular interest in the great career of Grainne Uaile. To him She typified the struggle for Faith and Fatherland which went on in Ireland for centuries. He said she would be remembered 'as long as the holy mountain of St. Patrick stands on its pride of place, looking down like a guardian angel on that beautiful bay with its myriad islands, which Grainne kept so stoutly and loved so well.'

"All true blue O'Malleys, whether in Ireland or scattered over 'the four corners of the earth, are proud of Grainne Uaile. We stand here today to bear testimony to that. It is only fitting, therefore, that we translate this admiration into stone and mortar, and rebuild again the stronghold where she withstood her last enemies. This is the best answer that can be given to some half-baked historians and scribblers who would decry her prestige. It is a fitting tribute from the O'Malley Clan to their sea queen of the West."

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RESTORATION OF CASTLES AND ABBEYS

Lady Mary O'Malley, wife of Sir Owen O'Malley, welcomed the O'Malleys to their castle and said: Ladies and gentlemen, and friends of the O'Malley Clan. I am here today to greet you on behalf of my husband, Sir Owen O'Malley, and to tell you how sorry he is that owing to illness in his family over in England, he cannot be with us to welcome you himself to this ancient castle, which by your efforts, and his, has been restored to the condition in which it was in the days when the great Grainne lived in the topmost room. When my husband and I came to West Mayo 15 years ago, and bought the house yonder and this castle, he was greatly distressed by the ruinous and indeed the dangerous state of the principal O'Malley buildings around Clew Bay. The abbeys of Clare Island, Burrishoole and Murrisk, the Castle of Kildownet on Achill Sound, and this castle, were all neglected and steadily falling into decay. By his constant pressure on the Ancient Monuments Commission, which had little care, sitting far away in Dublin, for "Mayo God help us," he has caused all to be restored. Fine landmarks in the history of Clan O'Malley made safe in six years, and all now in the nation's care.

CLAN SUBSCRIBED

Only this building has been roofed and floored, and that we owe to the generous subscriptions of many members of the Clan, collected through the tireless energy of, particularly Mr, John J, O'Malley, of Westport (applause),

But before more learned people than I begin to tell you about the history of the castle, I wish to say one thing that Sir Owen would have said had he been with us (and don't be thinking it odd that a Maille woman should be standing up talking to you) when people hear the name O'Malley throughout the world is it a man they think of? It is not; it is a woman, Grainne Uaile.

CASTLE ON FIRE

What I have to say is this. Isn't it about time the O'Malleys began to look after the ancient buildings of Mayo themselves and to teach their children too?

When Sir Owen bought this castle fourteen years ago half the roof was still on it, but while he was abroad the tiles were stripped off and stolen. Two years ago when the wooden floors were newly put in, Miss Jane looked out one Sunday afternoon and saw smoke pouring out of the castle windows, She ran across and found that the lads. from around about had lit a fire and were trying to burn the ladders down, and not the little gossoons either! It was the big lads, who could think of no better use of a Sunday than to destroy what had just been built up. Now isn't that a shocking thing altogether?

If Sir Owen were here I know his wish would be to urge all who bear the same name as himself to press for more education about this. To have talks for the children in the schools about respecting and taking care of all ancient things, which are our Irish heritage, It is no good boasting of being descended from Grainne Uaile and talking about the glorious past, if we are so careless as to let what is left to us of the glorious past be destroyed.

And now I have only to open the doors of Grainne's old home and hand the key to the committee, so that you may see what a fine job the Ancient Monuments Commission have made of it with the clansmen's good money. And may Clan O'Malley, which has been a Catholic Clan for 15 centuries this very year, remain faithful to the Catholic Faith till the world's end, (applause).

CASTLEBAR HISTORIAN SPEAKS

Having joined in thanking the lecturer, Mr, J, F, Quinn, Western People, who, it was mentioned, had written the history of the O'Malleys, said he also would like to join in the chorus of approval and appreciation from all parts of the country of the steps taken by those who had brought about this memorable and historic gathering of Clan O'Malley, whose place in Mayo history for more than fifteen centuries made it but fitting that the scattered sons of this important sept should be federated under the old banner with the motto

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"powerful by land and sea," which in the stirring past was often carried in triumph against the Saxon foe. A permanent family organisation of this kind would serve a good and useful purpose, but if it only saved from oblivion the name and fame of a family whose exploits in the Anglo-Norman epoch are interwoven in the warp and woof of Mayo history, and not with discredit, it would be justified, and, apart from the famous Sea Queen, there was a galaxy of outstanding men of the name, and though they did not all fight for Ireland, such as Major General George O'Malley, whose imposing epitaph is at Christ Church, Castlebar, and tomb in Murrisk Abbey, they yet deserve to be remembered, In Church and State, and in the learned professions there were men of the name, This was not the time or place to recall them, but he thought it was justifiable that at least a few should be enumerated now, Who of the Irish race today could you place higher in intellectual ability than Surgeons Michael and Conor O'Malley, of Galway? And most of them could look back with pride and gratitude to what the late Pdraig O'Malley did to save the Irish language in Connaught and organise the forces that won independence.

Above and beyond all others associated with this hosting of the outstanding men proclaiming allegiance to the Umhall he had to place that merchant prince of Westport, John J, O'Malley, whose record shines throughout all Ireland, and though others were associated with him, the credit in a large measure goes out to him.

The acquirement and re-edification of one of the queen's dismantled palaces was a happy thought and in Carrickahooly Castle the Clan would have a historic rallying place, and after a time somewhere to tarry, amongst the most magnificent scenery in Ireland, and to delve deeper into the history of the kingdom. And scholars and tourist will come from afar to enjoy what it provides.

He said he visualised Carrickahooly equipped with a suitable library, at least everything bearing on the history of Umhall and its outstanding men; also museum and art gallery. Like the British Trust, set up to preserve historic houses, its counterpart in Ireland has little funds, so that the cost of making Carrickahooly suitable for the purpose intended must be provided by those interested. Fortunately for the Clan, the O'Malley abbey at Murrisk was in a fair state of preservation. Not so, however, the Carmelite Convent on Clare Island, where the queen takes her long sleep, and above and beyond everything else this structure has got to be seen to.

"And in this connection," he concluded, "I would suggest that all with the blood of Grainne in their veins, such as the Marquis of Sligo, to whom recently fell the Earldom of Clanrickard; the Earls of Mayo, the Boyd Barrels, O'Donnell Brownes, Knotts, Burkes, O'flahertys -even members of British royalty itself, and various others - should be approached in the matter."

Tomas O Maille, Ph.D., Lecturer, Galway University, spoke entirely in Irish on the life of Granuaile, and praised the efforts of the Clan.

The Castle was then opened by Mr. Charles O'Malley, Westport, and a large number went in to inspect it. The first O'Malley to reach the top was Charlie O'Malley, aged 17, Westport Post Office staff, a member of the boys' band.

A salute was sounded from the battlements. Mr. A. O'Malley, N.T. Kilmeena, presided at the meeting.



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JOHN J. O'MALLEY, CLAN PRESIDENT

Such a large crowd of O'Malleys and their friends attended at the C.I.E. Hotel, Mulranny, afterwards, that there had to be two sittings for lunch. At the second sitting Mr. John J. O'Malley, Westport-chief organiser of the O'Malley Clan Rally, was appointed Chief of the Clan, with Dr. Conor O'Malley, Galway, Vice-Chief. The appointments are for one year, and next year an O'Malley from Galway or Limerick may be elected Chief. Amongst those also present were Rev. Charles O'Malley, Inishboffin. Mr. Paddy O'Malley, Hibernian Bank, Dublin, brother of Mr. Ernie O'Malley, author, and soldier of 1916, who was unable to be present. Dr. Owen K. O'Malley, Dublin; Mr. P. O'Malley, V.S., Castlebar; Mr. Seamus O'Malley, N.L; Coilmore N.S., Claremorris, who captained the Mayo team which won the All-Ireland crown in 1936; Major O'Malley, Suir Castle, Tipperary. The youngest O'Malley present was Imelda O'Malley, aged 2 years, daughter of Charlie and Mrs. O'Malley, Dooagh; Grainne O'Malley, aged 6, daughter of Mr. P. J. O'Malley, engineer, and granddaughter of Mr. Charlie O'Malley, Westport. The oldest member came from Clare Island, John O'Malley, aged 96.

Present also was Mr. Tom O'Malley, a native of Clare Island, home from Chicago and settled at Murrisk. He said he had a club in Chicago in which were 2,500 O'Malleys. Also present were Grace O'Malley, Wexford. Exiles Ni Mhaille, Maire Bean Ni Dailigh: Mrs. O Flaherty, Kilkenny. The O'Malleys came from the following places:-

Dublin -Michl. O'Malley, Clondalkin; Bernadette O'Malley, Glasnevin; M. O'Malley, Gladstone; P. O'Malley, Blackrock; Nellie O'Malley, Kimmage.

Limerick -James O'Malley, Bottomstown, Brian O'Malley.

Galway -P. O'Malley, Moylough; Matt O'Malley, Cleggan; L. O'Malley, College Road; Mrs. O'Malley, Kilmilkin; Martin O'Malley, Headford; Padraic O'Malley, Shop Street, Westport.

Mayo-P. O'Malley, Carrowmore-Lacken; A. O'Malley, Roonagh, Louisburgh; Patk. P. O'Malley, Furmoyle; Anthony O'Malley, Pullgloss; Peter O'Malley, Feenone; M. O'Malley, Killadoon; Thomas O'Malley, Ballyhaunis; Maire ·Ni Mhaille, O'Malley, Killadoon; T. O'Malley, Bridge Street, Swinford; Matt O'Malley, Ballintubber; John O'Malley, Kilmeena; James O'Malley, Ballyburke; Joe O'Malley, Streamstown; Austin and Anthony O'Malley, Ballyheane; Austin O'Malley, Ballintubber; Mr. and Mrs. J. O'Malley, Kinnewery. Achill -ti. O'Malley, Bunnacurry; Owen O'Malley, Melawn; Mrs. Nora Connor, Bunnacurry; Mrs. Joseph Deane, N. T., Bunnacurry; Charles and Mrs. O'Malley, Dooagh; A. O'Malley, Dooagh; Tony O'Malley, Keel. P.O.; James O'Malley, Newport, Co. Mayo; Ed. O'Malley, Newport, Co. Tipperary; Kenneth O'Malley, Leeds; John J. O'Malley, Rathdowney; Eilis O'Malley, City Hall, Kilkenny.

Westport-John J. O'Malley and Mrs. O'Malley; Miss M. A. O'Malley, Mill Street; Mr. Brendan O'Malley, M. O'Malley, Miss Eileen O'Malley, Bridge Street; Mr. R. O'Malley, High Street; Miss Lillie O'Malley, Messrs. J. F. and Edward O'Malley, Lanmore; Arthur O'Malley, Shop Street; Peter O'Malley, S.S.O., The Fairgreen; John O'Malley, Castlebar Street; E. O'Malley, Castlebar Street



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Mrs. N. O'Malley, Castlebar Street; Edward O'Malley, Cloonmonad; Wm. O'Malley, Newport Mr. Chappie O'Malley, Mr. and Mrs. O'Malley, Murrisk; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. O'Malley, The Mall, Westport; Brian O'Malley, The Mall, Westport; Ml. O'Malley, The Mall Westport, Miss Nan O'.Malley, The Mall, Westport; Miss May O'Malley, The Mall, Westport. Westport Quay- Mr. and Mrs. Pat O'Malley, Messrs. Ed. O'Malley, J. J. O'Malley, John F. O'Malley, Miss Margaret O'Malley, P. O'Malley, Altamount Street, Mrs. Rita O'Malley, John's Row; Frank O'Malley, High Street; Mr. P. J. O'Malley, The Octagon.

Mr. P. Pearse O'Malley, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.M., Belfast; M. Bartley O'Malley, Dunmore, Co. Galway; Thomas O'Malley, Ballinrobe; Paddy O'Malley, B. E., Monaghan; Paddy O'Malley, Long Street, Louisburgh; Councillor Mary O'Malley, Belfast Corporation; Dr. B. O'Malley, Mill Street, Westport; Mrs. P. O'Malley, Lanagh House, Castlebar; John O'Malley, Kilmeena; Mrs. P. P. O'Malley, Westport; Mrs. O'Malley, Chemist, Castlebar; Mrs. Alice Sweeney, Achill Sound; Miss Eileen O'Malley, Killadangan; Mr. and Mrs, P. O'Malley, Linenhall Street, Castlebar; Mr. G. O'Malley, Ballinrobe; Mr. John O'Malley, Newport; Mr. L. O'Malley, Cross, Kilmeena; John Ned O'Malley, Clare Island, who is a member of the Old IRA, and M. J. O'Malley, Clare Island.

Mass was offered in Westport and Newport Churches for the souls of the deceased members of the O'Malley Clan.

The hard-working Secretaries, Mr. John J. O'Malley, Westport; Mr. P. O'Malley, Westport Quay; Mr. C. O'Malley, Westport, and Mr. Andrew O'Malley, N.T., Kilmeena.

O'Máille, 1985

A big Thank You to former Chieftain Don O'Malley, for supplying this article from times past.





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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 70 years now.

We hope with our website, and newsletter, that We can go from strength to strength in our aim to connect all the O'Malleys around the world.

SUPPORT THE CLAN! JOIN TODAY AND BE PART OF IT!



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