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February 2024

Ó Máille



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights....

- Happy Valentine's Day—from The O'Malley Clan!
- Limerick 2024,. Time to start planning your trip!
- The Salmon Weir in Galway—Conor O'Malley
- The O'Malley Clan Association Table Quiz
- Just for fun.....How would you have managed with the "Picture Round" ?
- "An O'Malley I wish I could have met" Tell us your stories!
- The 2024 O'Malley Clan Gathering, Preliminary Programme
- About The O'Malley Clan Association
- The O'Malley Clan Association Needs You!

A Happy Valentine's Day to you all from The O'Malley Clan!

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you O'Malley lovebirds out there! We hope you all had a great time sending and getting cards, and doing all that mushy stuff!

If you didn't manage to send that card, don't worry, there's always next year!



Limerick 2024. Get Planning Your Trip! (Click image)

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The Salmon Weir in Galway—Conor O'Malley



The Salmon Weir at Galway Conor O'Malley (O'Malley Journal 1997)

The weir at Galway City is the heart of Ireland West. This is where the waters of Carra, Mask, and Corrib flow down to the sea. The stretch of Corrib River from the weir gates above to the salmon weir bridge below, approximately 200 yards, is possibly one of the best known 200 yards of salmon water in the world. Hitherto, before deepening, it was less than a quarter of a mile from the sea. Now, with each full tide, it is estuarine all the way to the weir falls. For this reason the Galway weir salmon is really never far from the sea, and so he is in prime condition on the hook or on the hotel menu.

In this 200 yard stretch of weir river the salmon lie in hundreds, almost immobile as in a painting, with their heads pointing to Lough Corrib, where they are going, their tails pointing to the great ocean, whence they have come. Come and look at this river in summer, when all fourteen gates of the dam are closed and the waters of Corrib, Mask and Carra are held up in a reservoir. Sometimes only a trickle of water comes through, scarcely enough to keep the salmon decently covered with breathing space. The medial swiftly flowing channel is about eighteen feet wide and two to three feet deep. This is where all the salmon lie. The bottom is rocks, shingle, uneven bedrock projections that break the current into eddies, lies beloved by salmon. They lie in groups sheltering behind any barrier in the swift current. In this crystal clear water, against a background of white rockbottom and polished shingle, one sees the details of each fish as clearly as if he were on the slab of a fishmonger's shop. This has been an aquarium where Eddie Lydon looked at salmon for a seven-hour day, a six-day week, from February to September for fifty-nine

The Salmon Weir in Galway—Conor O'Malley

years. He had an opportunity given to few, to study salmon in all shapes and sizes. He has been in touch with them in the trickling crystal clear waters of summer and the muddy peaty spates of spring, when the river may be a roaring torrent forty yards wide and thirteen feet deep.

When the salmon arrives in the river home from his high living in the ocean, he is full of life and silver sparkle, light colour on his back, bright silver on the sides and snow-white under his belly. The longer he is in fresh water, the more he loses his sparkle and silver sheen. His appearance changes to resemble a somewhat debunked brown trout, with red fins and a 'stale' look.

These thousands of handsome fish lying in a crystal clear summer water are a wondrous sight for hundreds of people leaning on the parapet of the weir bridge. This sight is a 'must' for tourists who visit Galway each summer in ever-increasing numbers. The salmon pose there beneath the bridge, as if by arrangement with An Bord Fáilte. They lie practically immobile, just maintaining station against the stream, seemingly in suspended animation, heedless of gesticulating mankind on the parapet above, and the roar of traffic over the bridge. This strange contempt for all life in the air above them is a never-failing source of wonder to the onlookers; almost always someone is asking, 'Are those fish alive?'

Personally, I have always been trying to find the answer to the question 'How far away in terms of human vision and hearing can a salmon see and hear?' Doubtless all objects as far away as the parapet of the bridge, whether moving or not, are far beyond the range of vision of the salmon in the river beneath. From my observations of hundreds of salmon in the low summer water on the weir, I conclude their vision in terms of human vision is very limited. They do not appear to see the angler moving on the bank ten feet away and one can approach to within four or five feet without scaring them, provided one is slow and deliberate.

The angler's shadow at rest on the water or moving very slowly does not seem to scare the salmon, but his shadow moving smartly across them on the water always does scare them, temporarily, from their lies in the stream. Rapid jerky movements within the fish's range of vision frighten him, as the sudden upturned face and gun of a fowler scares a bird approaching him in the air. To our sorrow, we have seen how a salmon makes the last successful effort to break away when he sees the landing net suddenly thrust at him by unskilled hands. It is said that salmon in the alevin stage freeze into immobility in their redds when the shadow of a predator bird overhead falls on them. Does this explain the adult salmon's fear of a moving shadow on the water?



The Salmon Weir in Galway—Conor O'Malley

I think the salmon must be almost altogether unaware or unafraid of sounds. Eddie says that during the five years, 1955-1959, the weir river was deepened by blasting four feet deep of hard granite off the river bed. In the midst of all the noise and turmoil the salmon came in there as usual. A coffer dam 200-yards long ran from the weir above to the bridge below, dividing the river into two parallel parts. Each part was alternately dried up for blasting, which went on most of the day for years. While blasts were exploding on one side the salmon came up the other side and rested there as usual or passed up into the lake. They behaved as if the blasting, which went on only a few yards away, did not worry them at all. They took, or ignored, flies and baits as usual. Again, quite recently, in the August low water, the eel weir was being renewed and heavy hammering went on each day, yet I observed salmon a few yards away upstream in no way disturbed.

Sometimes the watchers on the parapet of the weir bridge are rewarded by seeing an angler on the catwalk tense with bent rod 'stuck in a fish'. This is excitement even for those who never saw an angler in action. At the sight of a "great leaping salmon making powerful rushes to get away, all leaners on the parapet become fishermen. Many rejoice and give the angler an ovation when the fish is landed. Some, no doubt, are sorry if the fish gets away. Some, possibly, are not. This whole scene is one that is full of beauty ever new - one of the highlights of Galway. The weir darn above with fourteen great steel gates holding back the waters of Loch Corrib; the handsome six-arch weir bridge of cut limestone; gaily coloured crowds of tourists leaning on the parapet of the bridge; and in recent years a magnificent new Romanesque cathedral replacing the old jail wall. The salmon steps is a feature of the weir that always catches the passing eye. This laneway of foaming water forever falling down from the Corrib River above to the weir river fourteen feet below mystifies the leaners on the parapet. When told that this is the salmon steps, they say, 'Why don't we see them going up the steps with great leaps as salmon do?'



The Salmon Weir in Galway—Conor O'Malley

The explanation is this: the steps constitute a ramp with a gradient of one-in-two, through which a constant depth of water flows from the upper to the lower river. In the sides and bottom of the ramp there are baffle plates set in sites slanted against the current, breaking it into foaming eddies and backwaters that cut down its force. Unseen beneath the foam, the salmon 'walk' up this 'escalator' with comparative ease through the baffled water. Dan Madden, keeper of the gates, tells me that the salmon pass up mainly at dusk and dawn. At the top they swim into the Corrib River. Each fish as it passes breaks an electronic current and so is counted, but two fish passing simultaneously register as only one. Fish less than two pounds weight do not break the circuit, and so do not register. Salmon while still in the Corrib River above are the property of the Fishery; but with the owner's consent, the salmon fishing there is free to all State salmon licence holders. There are other interesting inhabitants of the weir river. In June, with the grilse or small summer salmon, there come the lampreys, those strange nightmare sort of parasitic half-fish, half-worm, which they say Henry I of England ate too much of. Those stonesuckers come in numbers into the river and with frenzied energy, twisting and writhing their suckers, attach to stones great and small, which they drag downstream to make a rampart across the strong current, under which they spawn and some, perhaps, make off 'to sea again; more die in the river. Spectators on the bridge who see these eel-like animals furiously in action think they are engaged in civil war, destroying one another. The opposite is the truth; these primitive 'fish', jawless vertebrates, are intensely active spawning, preparing to raise a new generation of their kind. Incidentally, Eddie never saw a lamprey attached to a salmon in the river sucking its blood as they do to fish in the sea where they fatten on living blood. He never heard of this occurrence from any of his people and, taking all of them, they must have observed myriads of salmon closely for nearly a century and a half. Such an unpleasant sight would surely be remembered.



The Salmon Weir in Galway—Conor O'Malley

The lamprey, in fact, like the salmon, goes on hunger strike in fresh water when spawning. I have seen dead and dying lampreys in the river after spawning, but have not seen babies of the lamprey family: they are, no doubt, deep under the gravel of the parados formed by the parent lampreys. The parents, having spawned approximately 250,000 eggs each, almost all disappear overnight from the spawning redds, and almost all die, they say. Lampreys are not seen again in the river until the coming of the summer salmon in June. I have watched a spawning lamprey quiver like a bow-string. I do not know at what state the little ones leave the river, nor where they go. One only presumes they go to sea and grow up. Do they return to spawn in the spot where they were born? The parados of stones and gravel made by the lampreys in June may be utilised by the salmon as spawning beds in December, and as lies to break the current when resting en route to spawn - accidental co-existence, chance good-neighbour relations.

Then there are the eels inhabiting the fissures of the bedrock of the river. They lie there, invisible, but alert, for if you dangle a shrimp close to their hiding holes and let it rest only for a moment, they dart out and seize it. Their sense of smell, or smell and sight, seems to be very keen. We see the little elvers, young eels, coming in from the Sargasso Sea in limitless myriads in April. They climb up via the hay-ropes over the steps arranged for them into the Corrib River, en route for the rivers and streams of Corrib, Mask and Carra. Unlike salmon, eels go up and come down through the Mask-Corrib underground channels.

A number of sea trout come into the river in August and September. Some of them ascend the salmon steps into the Corrib River above, but they do not go into the lake. Some of them spawn in the lower reaches of Corrib River. It is said that sea trout do not feel at home in limestone or medium chalk waters like Corrib. They seem to be happy only in a low pH, granite acid, boggy water, where there is no lime. Salmon, on the other hand, seem to make their spawning ground in either type of water. No one has come up with a complete answer as to why sea trout spawn in alkaline Corrib River, but avoid Corrib Lake. Piggins suggests they spawn in the acid patches of river adjacent to boggy terrain.



O'Malley Clan Table Quiz—2nd February, Cappamore, Limerick

What a great night we had at Hayes' Bar in Cappamore, County Limerick on Friday 2nd February!

It helped the mood with everyone in attendance that Ireland managed to beat France in Marseille in their six nations opener for 2024 with their highest ever score in an away fixture against the French, and so spirits were high from the start.

A mighty crowd turned up, and all managed to squeeze themselves into tables and get their brains in gear. It was a nice easy start for everyone, with some easy enough questions in the first round, but as Quizmaster, Don, let everyone know, once round two got started, the honeymoon was over. The questions got tougher and tougher as the night wore on, with some groans from the crowd at times, but there were still a number of teams in contention heading into the final round, and in the end, two teams finished up level, ("Dromalty Boyzone" and "Gettin Quizzy with it").

It took just one round of tie breaker questions to separate the two teams though and the eventual victors were the "Gettin Quizzy with it" gang, (pictured here with Quizmaster Don).



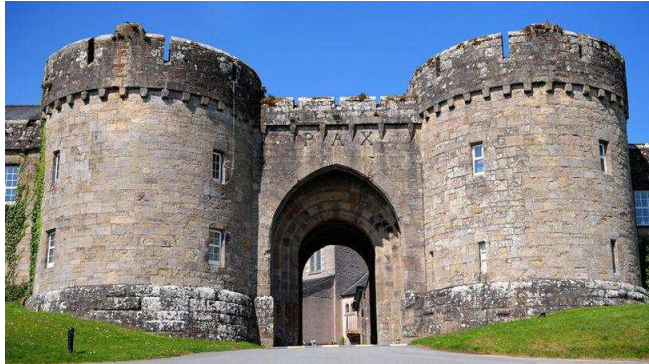
A big thank you to everyone that supported the night by attending, buying raffle tickets, donating prizes, and to Anna and John, and all the gang at Hayes' for hosting the night. An extra big thank you too, to the winning team, for their very generous gesture of donating back their winnings to the proceeds of the night.

The funds raised will help to pay for things that'll need to be organised for the upcoming 2024 O'Malley Clan Gathering in Cappamore and Limerick at the end of June, so a big thank you to everyone for their help with the night.

For those of you who couldn't make it on the night, just for fun, I've included the picture round from the quiz on the next two pages. See how you might have done! How many of the castles pictured would you have been able to name? (No Googling Now!)

Don O'Malley

How would you have done at the picture round? Name those castles!



1



2



3



4



5

How would you have done at the picture round? Name those castles!



6



7



8



9



10

Answers on Page 10

Tell us your O'Malley Stories—What O'Malley would you love to have met?

We want to put together something very special for the O'Malley Clan Gathering coming up in June. There'll be various great events over the weekend, including Irish Dancing, and Irish Music, but something we want to include too, is the great Irish tradition of storytelling.

What we're looking for is your stories. We want you to tell us about an O'Malley that you would have loved to have met. on a single A4 sheet, with no more than 500 words, (please include an image too),

It could be artist and freedom fighter Ernie O'Malley, it could be Grace O'Malley, the Pirate Queen herself, or maybe Lord Sligo, one of the men that ended the slave trade. It could be someone from your own family history. A great grandad that sailed the seas of the world and would have lots of stories to share with you. It could be a grandad that dropped into Normandy by parachute in June 1944, or maybe a great great grandmother that sailed to the new world in the 1800's to find a new life for herself. It'll be your story, so you tell us who it is that you would have loved to meet and have a chat with. To hear all about their life, their adventures, their triumphs and tragedies.

What we plan to do with these single sheet stories is to create display boards with multiple sheets on each, and to have these on display at the Gathering in June. So, even if you can't wing your way over to Ireland to be at the Gathering in Limerick, you can still be present in this small way, and share a little bit of your O'Malley story with us all.

Who knows, if we were to get enough of these single sheet stories, we could put them together into a booklet too, and make that available.

We'll need you to get on board and put your stories together though. A single A4 sheet, so no need to go into forensic detail. There won't be space for that. If you do end up writing a book about your ancestors, we can promote that for you in the newsletter too, but for this we're looking for a short extract, a small window into their story, a snippet of the bigger story.

We have an example of what we might be looking for on the next page, but this is only a suggestion, lets get our thinking hats on, and see what we can come up with.

Please forward all submissions to story@omalleyclan.ie before 1st April, and we can go through all of them then and get those displays put together.

It'd be fantastic to have input for the Gathering from everyone around the world, including those that can't make it to Limerick, so here's your opportunity!

Thanks for your efforts, in advance.

Don O'Malley

O'Malley Clan Association

Picture Round Answers:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Glenstal Castle | 6. Dublin Castle |
| 2. Blarney Castle | 7. King John's Castle |
| 3. Dunguaire Castle | 8. Dunluce Castle |
| 4. Trim Castle | 9. Kilkenny Castle |
| 5. Rockfleet Castle | 10. Bunratty Castle |

Tell us your O'Malley Stories—What O'Malley would you love to have met?



Grace O'Malley, also known as Granuaile, is a captivating historical figure whose life as the Pirate Queen of Ireland in the 16th century has left an indelible mark on history. The prospect of traveling back in time to meet Grace O'Malley is an enticing one for numerous reasons.

First and foremost, Grace O'Malley was a trailblazer who defied societal norms and gender expectations of her time. In an era when women were often confined to domestic roles, Grace fearlessly embraced a life of maritime adventure and leadership. Meeting her would offer a unique opportunity to witness firsthand the resilience and determination of a woman who dared to challenge the status quo, carving a path for herself in a male-dominated world. The political landscape of 16th-century Ireland was tumultuous, marked by the clash between the Gaelic clans and the encroaching influence of English rule. Grace O'Malley, as the chieftain of the O'Malley clan, skillfully navigated this complex terrain, forging alliances at various times with both Irish and English powers. Interacting with her would provide insights into the challenges and strategies employed by a leader during a pivotal period in Irish history.

Furthermore, Grace O'Malley's mastery of the seas and her formidable naval exploits make her a legendary figure in maritime history. Her command of a fleet of ships and her prowess as a tactician enabled her to engage with powerful adversaries, including the infamous Queen Elizabeth I of England. Travelling back to her time would allow one to witness the daring maritime adventures and battles that have become the stuff of legend. Beyond her military and political achievements, Grace O'Malley was also a shrewd businesswoman. She engaged in trade, managed her family's economic interests, and supported the bards and musicians of her time. Meeting her would provide a holistic understanding of her multifaceted persona and the dynamic role she played in various spheres of society.

Grace O'Malley's legacy extends beyond her lifetime, influencing the narratives of Irish folklore and history. Her story continues to inspire generations, serving as a testament to the indomitable spirit of those who dare to challenge conventions. To meet Grace O'Malley would be to engage with a living embodiment of courage, resilience, and a fervent commitment to one's principles.

In conclusion, the prospect of travelling back in time to meet Grace O'Malley, the Pirate Queen, is an enticing one for anyone intrigued by history, maritime adventures, and the resilience of trailblazing women. Her multifaceted life and enduring legacy make her a captivating figure whose presence in the annals of history beckons to be experienced firsthand.

O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024—Preliminary Programme

Friday 28th June



Cappamore Sports Centre Complex, Cappamore

2pm “The O'Malley Olympics” We'll kick off a mighty weekend for all O'Malleys and our friends with lots of fun and games for kids of all ages in Cappamore, with treats for the kids, and a great time to be had by all. For O'Malleys **and all of our friends too!** A nice informal, fun start to the weekend in Limerick!



Hayes' Bar & Sliabh Feilim Room, Cappamore

5pm: Chieftain's Reception, followed by a historical presentation on Ireland and the US, and our intertwined history over the hundred years since the Irish State was recognised by the USA, on the 28th June 1924. 100 years to the day. Professor Bernadette Whelan will examine the rituals of Irish emigration to the USA, from decision, to packing, to departure, and the intense impact on the social, psychological and emotional lives of those who left and those who stayed behind

O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024—Preliminary Programme

St John's Church, Abington, Murroe

8pm Concert by The Sliabh Feilim Singers with special guests, in aid of Cappamore Day Care Centre and Milford Hospice, Limerick.

Hayes' Bar & Sliabh Feilim Room, Cappamore

10pm Drinks and nibbles back at Hayes' with Irish music and dancing, exhibits of family trees and family photographs. A great night in Cappamore!



Saturday 29th June

Bus Tour

11:00am Bus Tour will take us to a Guided tour of Ardnacrusha Hydroelectric Power Station, built in the late 1920's with O'Malley Engineers to the fore, then on to 1pm Lunch in Limerick.

2:30pm A combination of walking tours around Limerick City finishing at the Round House with a special cocktail for everyone, to round off the afternoon.



O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024—Preliminary Programme

Saturday 29th June

Evening Events

7pm Pre-dinner drinks at the pub in Bunratty Castle Folk Park.

We'll meet up at the pub in Bunratty Folk Village for a little tippie before we head over to Bunratty Castle.



8:30pm till late, Medieval Banquet in Bunratty Castle.

What a night this will be! A medieval banquet in Bunratty Castle with the O'Malley Clan. This is an event that you won't want to miss.



O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024—Preliminary Programme

Sunday 30th June

St Munchin's Catholic Church, Limerick

11:30am Annual Clan Mass

We'll pause and reflect on the year that has passed, and those we've lost in the past 12 months, with Canon Donough O'Malley celebrating mass.



Strand Hotel, Limerick

1pm O'Malley Clan Annual General Meeting. Time to look at the admin side of things, see how we're doing and see what can be done better. Time to have your say as a member of the O'Malley Clan.

2pm Annual Clan Luncheon

3:30pm Inauguration of New Clan Chieftain Grace O'Malley



We' have the booking link up on the O'Malley Clan Association website [here](#), where you can secure your spots at the various events.

If you've any queries at all, please drop us a line by email to omalleyclanireland@gmail.com Get your trip planned and we'll see you in Limerick, June 28th to 30th 2024!

Events are, at this early stage, subject to change



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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 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.

The O'Malley Clan Association NEEDS YOUR HELP, Join Today!



**Support
the Clan,
Be a part
of it**

**The O'Malley Clan
Association Needs You!**

Join Today.....www.omalleyclan.ie