



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights....

- A very Happy Valentine's Day from The O'Malley Clan
- Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!
- Middleton Moore O'Malley and the Ross House line
- O'Malley Clan Table Quiz, Friday 28th February, Cappamore, Limerick
- Isabella O'Malley on China and Renewables
- Peter O'Malley, making a life in Boston
- The Clan Gathering 2025
- The O'Malley crossword!
- About The O'Malley Clan Association
- The O'Malley Clan Association Needs You! Join Today!!

Happy Valentine's Day from The O'Malley Clan!

A very Happy Valentine's Day to all of our loved up O'Malleys out there around the globe! We hope you haven't forgotten to get those chocolates, and that lovely bunch of flowers for that special someone! Remember, if you have, it's never too late! Get that sorted out today, and enjoy a fabulous weekend out there.



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

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

We'd love to hear from you wherever you're based around the world. Old photographs and stories to go with them, old letters, family trees or just an article that you'd like to share with the rest of the clan. Drop us a line and We'll get right to it!



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Middleton Moore O'Malley and The Ross House Line

Middleton Moore O'Malley: Was he who he said he was?

Brendan O'Malley

(This article was first published in Cathair na Mart, the Journal of the Westport Historical Society, No 39, 2024)

Middleton Moore O'Malley (c.1826-1902) was an important figure in late nineteenth century Mayo. He was a magistrate, a Westport harbour commissioner, a member of the Grand Jury of Mayo and the owner of Ross House, a substantial property on the shores of Clew Bay near Newport. Although Catholic, he was very much an establishment figure, taking an active part in the political and social life of the county. He considered himself a direct descendant of the O'Malley gaelic chieftains, on a social par with the senior Belclare and Cahernamart branches of the O'Malleys. He was friendly with Sir William O'Malley, the second baronet O'Malley of Rose Hill, and collaborated with Dr Austin O'Malley of Philadelphia in researching his O'Malley ancestry. His upbringing in Westport was in a family that would have been considered poor compared to the more affluent branches of the O'Malleys, with little social status and few prospects of advancement. He went to London as a young man, where he had a career in the customs service and acquired his fortune through marriage. Wealth acquired, he returned to Mayo, purchased property, married again and set himself up in the role of country gentleman, pillar of society and leader of the O'Malley clan. This elevation was not without its critics, who disputed his origins, his ancestry and even his name.

Middleton Moore, as we shall call him to distinguish him from other Middleton O'Malleys, was born in Westport around 1827. His (Catholic) parents were Peter O'Malley, a saddler and harness-maker, and Julia Tyrrell from Annagh, near the Mayo/Roscommon border.

Major Harold O'Malley, Middleton Moore's son, describes his father's ancestry thus: 'Peter the son of Owen Mór of Burrishoole married his daughter Mary to Teige O'Malley and they had a son also called Peter who was my paternal grandfather. 'Owen Mór was the last recognised chieftain of the O'Malleys in the gaelic tradition.

Peter the saddler also claimed descent through his father Teige from earlier chieftains. Teige was the great great grandson of Captain Thomas O'Malley, who led a contingent of O'Malleys to support Owen Roe O'Neill in 1642. Captain Thomas' probable father, Edmond O'Malley of Cahernamart, was chieftain of the O'Malley clan in the 1640s, a century before Owen Mór.

Captain Tyrrell O'Malley, Middleton Moore's second son, gives this account of his grandparents Peter and Julia: Father was in the Customs. His mother [Julia] Tyrrell of Annagh had as her mother a Lynch of Bally-



Fig 1: Middleton Moore O'Malley

Middleton Moore O'Malley and The Ross House Line

curran Castle ... Peter her husband and my grandfather was a Captain in the American army in the Mexican war [1846-48]. He had no money owned a saddlers shop or military accouterers plus a factory in the [Westport House] demesne and had to leave and go to the USA. His wife was matron after he left of the Poor House [in] Westport. She was born in 1782 and died in 1886 see her tomb in Aughaval cemetery near Westport.

Peter O'Malley is recorded in *Pigot's Trade Directory* of 1824 as a saddler and harness maker at the Mall in Westport, Co Mayo. That shop is now O'Donnell's shoe shop on the North Mall. The O'Donnell family were saddlers and harness makers prior to specialising in shoes.

It is not clear when Peter left his family in Westport to seek his fortune in America. Middleton Moore was born in 1826, suggesting that his father was still in Westport until at least 1825. Tyrrell wrote that 'Peter ... was a Captain in the Mexican War and is buried [at] Pierre [sic] La Chaise Paris.' The US invasion of Mexico took place between 1846 and 1848, so Peter must have left Ireland for the US before then. In any case, there is no known record of his ever returning to Westport or of how he ended up being buried in Paris. He is recorded as deceased on his son Middleton's marriage certificate in 1855.

Julia O'Malley was appointed Matron of the newly opened workhouse in Westport in 1845, but was asked to resign by the Board of Guardians and did so on the 29th of April 1846. It is not clear why they were unhappy with her. Her letter of resignation declares her to be a widow and appeals for their help as she and her three orphans faced destitution as a result. Julia's claim to be a widow and have three destitute orphan children in 1846 is surprising. Her husband Peter was almost certainly still alive, fighting in the US army against Mexico at that time and there do not appear to be any references to siblings of Middleton Moore O'Malley in any of the letters or records consulted to date by the author. Perhaps she married again after Peter decamped for America and had 3 children by that marriage. Further research may reveal more.

The generally accepted story in the family was that Julia was a 'sewing maid' to Lady Sligo. It would seem that Lady Sligo took her on in that position after her unsuccessful career as a Matron.

One of the sources of information on Middleton Moore's life and ancestry was Sir Owen O'Malley. A descendant of the Belclare O'Malley chieftains, he was born and educated in England. He served as a British diplomat from 1911 until his retirement in 1948, when he purchased a coastal house at Rossyvera, between Newport and Mulranny. He devoted his time thereafter to building on his father's researches into his family history and to restoring Granuaile's castle at Rockfleet/Carrigahowley. He was particularly interested in the competing claims of the Ross House O'Malleys (Middleton Moore's line) and his own Belclare line to be the "senior" branch of the clan and his papers in the National Library of Ireland contain considerable material on the topic.



Fig 2: Laetitia Keyes

Middleton Moore O'Malley and The Ross House Line

Peter and Julia's son, Middleton Moore, was born around 1826, based on later records of his age. There is no known extant baptismal certificate or any record of his having any siblings. There has been much discussion about his unusual name and various theories have been put forward. A grandson of Owen Mór of Burrishoole, Patrick O'Malley of Castlebar, had a son called Middleton who married Lavinia Moore from Galway. This Middleton was a brother of the famous Major-General George O'Malley, whose statue stands outside Christchurch in Castlebar. One account has it that Peter the poor Catholic saddler was befriended by his cousin, the Protestant Middleton O'Malley and named his son after him and his wife. Further evidence of contact between the two is that the premises on the Mall in Westport where Peter the saddler carried on his business in 1824 had been leased by his cousin Middleton in 1799. A second account, provided to Sir Owen by several prominent local citizens (see below), was that Middleton himself adopted the name later in life in an attempt to promote himself. An embellishment of this account suggests that he was given the nickname 'Middleton's Máille' as a result of running errands as a boy for a Dr Middleton and then adopted this as his name later on. There is no doubt, however, that when he first enters the records aged 18, his name was recorded as Middleton O'Malley.

The records of the (later to be Royal) Irish Constabulary include a Middleton O'Malley born in Mayo, who joined in 1845, aged 18, and was stationed in Clare. There is no reference to this appointment in the family records, but Middleton Moore was the right age for this to have been him. At the time the police force might have been a good option for a young man with limited means or prospects. Four years later, however, we find him in London, where he was appointed to the Post Office as a postman. This position was secured on the recommendation of Lady Sligo, his mother's employer. Family notes suggest that Lady Sligo took an interest in young Middleton and was instrumental in his move to London. He was to spend the next 30 years there.

His fortunes took an upward turn when he stepped into a London street to halt a bolting horse and carriage. The carriage was occupied by Archibella Llewellyn, a wealthy woman, who owned property in the Oxford Street area of central London. Several family letters suggest that her wealth arose from her profession as a high class courtesan; this is not denied by Middleton Moore's sons. In August 1855 the couple were married at St Peter's Anglican Church in Islington, London. Despite the venue, there is no record of Middleton converting to the Church of England and in later life he was clearly a Catholic. The marriage certificate gives her age as 35, but her death certificate and census returns suggest she was in her 40s or even 50s at the time of the marriage. Other accounts suggest she was 'considerably older' than him. A note in Sir Owen's papers reads:

'Captain Tyrrell O'Malley told me that [Middleton's] first wife was called Archibella Melchizidech Llewellyn. He said Middleton went into the Customs Service in London and married this Archibella who owned some very valuable house property in London somewhere in the Oxford St district, so he thought. According to Tyrell, Middleton and Archibella parted company a few days after their marriage, the latter allowing the former a small allowance. However she subsequently tried to take this away and many legal wrangles resulted. When Archibella was on her deathbed, Middleton forced his way into the

Middleton Moore O'Malley and The Ross House Line

house and somehow prevailed upon her to make over her whole fortune to him. It was with this that he returned to Westport [and] began to live in style.'

The 1861 UK census shows Middleton O'Malley, aged 31, from Westport, Ireland, lodging in Islington, London, occupation 'Outdoor officer, Customs'. The 1871 UK census records him lodging at No.64 Millman Street, London, aged 41, a 'Customs House weigher'. Both returns record him as married but his wife was not present on either occasion, which suggests that they were living apart, agreeing with Tyrrell's account above. Archibella died in 1877 and Middleton Moore inherited her considerable fortune. With his new wealth he returned to Westport shortly afterwards.

In 1882 he married Laetitia Keyes, 29, daughter of David Keyes, a veterinary surgeon from Tuam. She was, according to Sir Owen, 'well remembered in Mayo as an extremely handsome woman'. They initially lived in Westport before moving to Ross House in 1886. Ross House, originally a residence of the O'Donel family, stands on a peninsula of some 70 acres at Rosbeg, near Newport. By all accounts, Laetitia was an ambitious woman and she set about establishing herself and her husband in society. Sir Owen wrote:

'At his wife's instance and finding that the main branches of the O'Malley family, viz: the O'Malleys of Newcastle, of [Hawthorn] Lodge and of Spencer Park had either become extinct or left the country, he began to call himself "the O'Malley" but this was not at all well received by the inhabitants of Westport and the neighbourhood.'

According to Prof Louis Cullen of TCD who investigated O'Malley family papers, Sir Owen did not believe Middleton Moore's account of his ancestry and set about finding evidence to disprove it. Aided by his sister Marie, he talked to many people about their recollections of the different O'Malley families. One extraordinary document in his papers, handwritten in 1938 by 'M O'M' (presumably Marie), recounts the 'true history' of the origins of the O'Malley-Keyes family, based on interviews with several prominent citizens of Mayo. They tell of him being called 'Middleton's Máille' arising from running errands for Dr Middleton, of his move to be a postman in London with the aid of Lady Sligo, of his first marriage and of his inheritance. The tone is very much of resentment at some barefoot lad returning as a wealthy man and getting above himself.

As observed by Sir Owen, many of the main landowning branches of the O'Malley family in Mayo had died out or left, one exception being Sir William O'Malley of Rose Hill, a great- great-grandson of Owen Mór of Burrishoole. His father, Sir Samuel O'Malley, was a wealthy man and extensive landowner of O'Malley lands in Co Mayo. He had been created baronet in 1804. After the famine, he got into serious financial difficulties and much of his lands were sold off, leaving his son Sir William, the 2nd baronet O'Malley, in much poorer circumstances, although still recognised as one of, if not the most prominent of the O'Malleys in Mayo at that time. According to Tyrrell and Harold, their grandfather Peter the saddler was very much under Sir Samuel's patronage.

After his return from London in the late 1870s, Middleton Moore cultivated Sir William, who had succeeded to the baronetcy in 1865, and established himself, in Sir William's eyes at least, as his nearest next-of-kin. Through his paternal grandmother, Mary O'Malley, Middleton Moore was also a great-great-grandson of Owen Mór of Burrishoole, making them third cousins. This connection to Sir William was the subject of widespread scepticism. In his investigations into the origins of the Ross House O'Malleys in the 1950s, Sir Owen recounted:

Middleton Moore O'Malley and The Ross House Line

'My own attempts to clear up this matter have consisted for the most part in taking the evidence of such people as Mr James Fitzgerald Kenny of Clogher (Minister of Justice in Mr Cosgrave's administration), the late Mr JC Garvey (the best known solicitor in Mayo), Mr Michael Egan (the best solicitor in Castlebar), Mrs Browne of Westport, Mrs O'Grady, Mrs McGreal of Belclare and others. All without exception discredit the origins attributed by the Ross House O'Malleys to "Middleton's Máille".'

Unfortunately, this account does not give any detail as to which aspects of the Ross House account they took exception to, nor what they believed to be his actual ancestry. According to Tyrrell, his father's detractors were politically motivated, so perhaps their accounts should be taken with a grain of salt. Neither, of course, can the accounts of Tyrrell and his brother Harold be taken as dispassionate. Whatever the truth was, it is clear how much importance was attached to breeding and ancestry at the time.

Sir William O'Malley died in 1892 and having no male heir, his title died with him. Sir Owen gives the following account of Sir William's death, quoting John C Garvey, solicitor and James Fitzgerald Kenny. He refers to Sir Samuel but had to have meant Sir William, given that Sir Samuel had died in 1864, well before Middleton's return from London some 15 years later.

'Sir Samuel died at Kilboyne in what I gather to have been circumstances of great degradation. Whether he had any money or not I do not know but it is said that at his death Kilboyne (which is now pulled down) was in a very dirty and decrepit condition. He himself lived for the most part in a room on one side of the front door and in the room on the opposite side of the front door he had been accustomed to stack up his papers and letters. This habit of keeping every scrap of paper is characteristic of the Irish in general and of the O'Malleys in particular and in Sir Samuel's case it had reached such a point that the room to which I have referred is reported to have been [a] foot deep in estate accounts, ledgers, deeds and so on. On the top of this he folded his ewes in hard weather and the state of his family archives at his death can only be imagined.[James F Kenny] tells me that almost before the breath was out of his body a man called Kelly whom I have been unable to identify acting on behalf of the O'Malley Keyes came to Kilboyne and carried away five cartloads of books and papers. Harold O'Malley tells me that Sir Samuel left in his will all his papers and some or all of his money, such as it was to the O'Malleys of Ross House but according to the stories which I have been told locally the

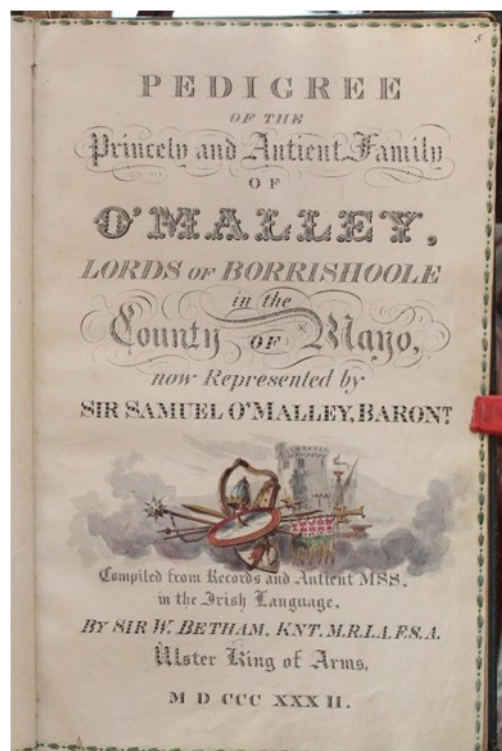


Fig 3: Title page of the Betham Pedigree

Middleton Moore O'Malley and The Ross House Line

papers, at any rate, were removed long before Sir Samuel's will could be proved or an administrator appointed.

Middleton Moore felt entitled to take possession of Sir William's papers. His son Harold wrote: 'We have the letters from Sir William asking father to go through all the Kilboyne papers and to take and keep whatever he wished.' It is unfortunate that much of the collection appears to have been lost. Prof. Cullen gives a detailed account of the search for these papers in his excellent and detailed article (quoted earlier), where it is also recounted that the Belclare O'Malleys (Sir Owen's branch) and the O'Malley baronets had a long-standing difference over ancestral primacy and that the arrival of Middleton Moore on the scene only added flames to the fire.

One significant document that was retained by the Ross House O'Malleys and is now held by Alex Blackwell, is a pedigree compiled in 1832 by Sir William Betham, the Chief Herald of Ireland. The pedigree was commissioned by Sir Samuel O'Malley, 1st baronet. It contains the family tree, extracts from ancient annals, plus transcripts of 16th-century and later documents held by Sir Samuel. It is frequently cited by both Harold and Tyrrell in their correspondence with Sir Owen and with the Genealogical Office, as supporting their position on their ancestry. The pedigree also features revisions made by the Genealogical Office in the 1940s, at Harold's behest, and Harold's own handwritten annotations.

Interestingly, it makes no mention of the line of Captain Thomas O'Malley who fought with Owen Roe O'Neill in 1642 (though he undoubtedly existed) or of his descendants, including Peter the saddler and Middleton Moore. Furthermore, it only includes the two sons of Owen Mór of Burrishoole who conformed to the Established (Protestant) Church, Patrick and George. Reputedly, Owen Mór had several other sons who remained Catholic, including Peter, whose grandson was Peter the Saddler. So in fact the pedigree neither supports nor refutes Middleton Moore's account of his ancestry.

In the 1890s Middleton Moore was contacted by Dr Austin O'Malley (1859–1932) of Philadelphia, an American oculist and professor of English literature at the University of Notre Dame. He had a distinguished academic career and had become interested in his family history, making several research trips to Ireland. He traced his ancestry to Melaghlin O'Malley, chieftain c.1576–86, and placed Middleton Moore's ancestor Captain Thomas O'Malley in the same line. He claimed that Melaghlin was the brother of Gráinne Ní Mháille (Granuaile/Grace O'Malley), a disputed claim that has been often repeated but for which no earlier source has been found. There were certainly errors in Dr Austin's work, which has been a source of considerable confusion for those trying to piece together 15th-16th century O'Malley relationships. Sir Owen comments: 'Dr Austin's work on family history has been very painstakingly examined and unreservedly condemned as unreliable by the Genealogical Office, Dublin Castle, with whose conclusions I am bound to say I agree.' Nonetheless, Dr Austin won Middleton Moore's confidence and was allowed to consult his papers and documents. He produced a family tree whose contents have found their way into many other O'Malley trees since then and were the basis for the 1940s revisions to the 1832 Betham pedigree.

Between 1882 and 1894, Middleton and Laetitia had five children: Middleton Joseph, Tyrrell, Harold, Gladys and Nina. The boys were educated at English public schools and all later entered military service. Middleton joined the army and served in the Royal Field Artillery during the First World War, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel. Tyrrell served in the Royal Munster Fusiliers and the 7th Bengal Lancers, spending most of the First World War as a German prisoner-of-war. Harold joined the fledgling Royal Flying Corps (later the Royal

Middleton Moore O'Malley and The Ross House Line

Air Force), and reached the rank of major.

Middleton Moore O'Malley died at home in Ross House in 1902. Resolutions of sympathy from Westport Harbour Commissioners and Westport and Newport magistrates were conveyed to his widow. He is buried in Aughaval cemetery outside Westport.

The girls were still young (12 and 8) when their father died. In his will, he left everything to his widow Laetitia, with the exception of legacies of £1,000 for each of his daughters. In due course, their mother's focus turned to finding them good husbands. According to Sir Owen's sources (Mrs Browne of Shop St et al):

she set about marrying her daughters, "lovely girls they were"...for this laudable purpose [she] "settled herself down in the hotel at Mullerany [sic], in the height o' the season" & there fell on strangers in the lounge & introduced them to her daughters. The first success was Sir Walter Nugent, a railway director. Having got onto terms with him at the hotel, she gave a great dinner for him at her house - the linen & napkins were borrowed from Browne's Drapery Emporium & the cutlery from Mrs Gibbons next door in Westport. The same or similar tactics produced Mr Blackwell of Crosse & Blackwell for another daughter.

Middleton Moore's grandson, Captain Hamilton O'Malley, married Lady Iris Mountbatten, a cousin of King George VI, during the Second World War. A great-grandson, Chris Blackwell, was the founder of Island Records in the 1960s. Ross House was lived in by the O'Malleys and Blackwells until Meike Blackwell's death in 2022, after which it was put up for sale by Chris Blackwell.

At this remove, it is difficult to reach any categorical conclusions about Middleton's exact place in the O'Malley family tree. However, the O'Malley DNA project, conducted by the O'Malley Clan Association, has made it clear that the Ross House O'Malleys are indeed related to other O'Malleys whose family records indicate descent from the O'Malley chieftains, although there is not yet enough information to be sure about the precise details of their common descent. As additional O'Malleys join the project in the future, we hope that a more complete picture of the genetic family tree will emerge.

There is no doubt, however, that Middleton Moore O'Malley held a substantial position in Co Mayo society in the second half of the nineteenth century. He was a notable public figure and served in various roles in public life befitting his position. His remarkable ascent to such a position from poor beginnings inevitably invited detractors, but he and his family remained undeterred in asserting their position as one of the leading lines of noble O'Malley descent.

Brendan O'Malley is an independent researcher, a former Chieftain of the O'Malley Clan, and an co-administrator of the O'Malley DNA project on www.ftdna.com. The project is led by genetic genealogist Dr Maurice Gleeson who has also found many of the source documents cited.

Figure 1 by kind permission of Dermot O'Malley, great grandson of Middleton Moore O'Malley

Figure 2 by kind permission of the University of Galway Library

Figure 3 by kind permission of Alex Blackwell.

Be there! O'Malley Clan Table Quiz, 28th February, Cappamore, Limerick



Table Quiz

**Hayes' Bar
Cappamore**

**Friday 28th Feb 9pm
Teams of 4 for €40**



**COME ALONG AND TEST
THE BRAIN OUT AT OUR
TABLE QUIZ NIGHT.
A BIT OF FUN AND A
GOOD NIGHT OUT!
CHECK OUT THE
O'MALLEY CLAN
ASSOCIATION ON
WWW.OMALLEYCLAN.IE**



China expanding their renewables—Isabella O’Malley

China raced ahead building renewable energy last year, installing more wind and solar power than ever before and continuing to leave all other countries in the dust.



The nation put up 357 gigawatts of solar and wind, a 45% and 18% increase, respectively, over what was operating at the end of 2023, according to China’s National Energy Administration. That’s akin to building 357 full-size nuclear plants in one year.

The installations meant China surpassed a goal, six years early, of having 1,200 gigawatts from renewables by 2030, a benchmark Chinese President Xi Jinping set five years ago.

The scale of the advance is important because at the same time, China remains the country that currently contributes the most to climate change, relying heavily on burning coal to make electricity, cement and for manufacturing.

“While China’s overall emissions are the largest of any single country, they have recognized – at least, in part – that rapidly building renewables is essential for energy and climate security. Given the recent administration change in Washington, China is now well poised to lead the world in the energy transition,” said Daniel Jasper, senior policy advisor at Project Drawdown, a group that publicizes climate solutions.

According to Carbon Brief, China’s carbon dioxide emissions, which have been rising, actually fell slightly when you compare the last 10 months of 2024 with the same time the year before. It’s too early to say whether this marks an important turning point for the planet.

The U.S. also produced a surge of clean energy installations in 2024. It amounted to less than China — 268 gigawatts of solar and wind — according to preliminary numbers from the American Clean Power Association.

Not only does China build and use a lot of clean energy, it’s the world’s most important exporter of equipment to make it. It’s the top supplier of batteries, solar panels and wind turbines, plus the electrolyzers used to make hydrogen fuel, according to the International Energy Agency .

The vast scale of Chinese manufacturing has lowered the cost of solar and wind, which are cheaper ways to make electricity in most cases now than fossil fuels. This week, DeepSeek , a Chinese artificial intelligence company, raised the hope that researchers there may have found a way to innovate in that realm, also, using less electricity.

The U.S. clean energy industry is facing headwinds from President Donald Trump who issued executive orders that paused leasing and permitting for wind energy projects , gave the green light for oil and gas drilling and mining in Alaska , and declared a national energy emergency .

Isabella O’Malley, Washington Post

Peter O'Malley, Alive and Well, and living his best life in Boston

Trudging the Road of Happy Destiny: The Life and Legacy of Peter O'Malley (Alive & Well)

If you know Peter O'Malley, you've likely seen a man who knows how to keep moving, whether it's running marathons, working out, or making his rounds across Dorchester and Southie. At 70, Peter's life is a testament to the power of perseverance, community, and grit.

For those of us in recovery, we hear the word "trudge" often. It is not glamorous, but it's real. It's the slow, steady push forward through mud,

sand, and whatever else life throws in your way. My father has embodied that journey, showing those of us who need a power of example exactly how it's done.



Peter's story begins in 1955 in the Gaelic-speaking region of Roskeeda, Rosmuc, County Galway, Ireland.

Born into a small farmhouse as the only boy among seven siblings, he grew up in a world of resilience, sharing cramped quarters without indoor plumbing. When he came to America, speaking mostly his native Gaelic and barely knowing English, he was just another young Irish immigrant searching for his place. But much like the countless immigrant families who settled in Boston, Peter found strength in his community.

He joined his sister Mary and her husband John Walsh, whose family helped establish Laborers' Local 223 to lift up new arrivals and provide opportunities. The Walsh Family – Pat and his siblings – were true giants, building a foundation for working-class families to rise into the middle class. My father benefitted from that legacy, joining the union himself, securing job stability, and building a life where he could support a family, send us to parochial schools, and provide opportunities that wouldn't have been possible otherwise. Today, the Walsh Family legacy continues with the third generation now in leadership positions throughout the Boston Building Trades and beyond.

Family connections run deep for us all. My father is not only the proud uncle of Marty Walsh, but he has also been a constant presence in the lives of all his nephews, nieces, and countless godchildren. Marty, as many of you know, went on to become the Mayor of Boston, U.S. Secretary of Labor, and now the Executive Director

Peter O'Malley, Alive and Well, and living his best life in Boston

of the NHL Players Association. Long before that, he was just another nephew who battled life threatening cancer, being shot, and alcoholism. A nephew that could count on his uncle for unconditional love and support. My father's steadfast commitment to family mirrors his larger role in the community, where he's always been a pillar of support – the kind of guy you can count on, no matter what. That doesn't mean it was easy. Life has a way of testing us. My father survived a devastating accident in a paper mill that cost him all the toes on his right foot, yet he refused to let it define him. Doctors said he wouldn't walk again, but Peter said otherwise – and went on to run marathons, some sub-3:10:00.

He battled alcoholism, a fight many of us in our family know all too well, and came out the other side, showing me and countless others that trudging forward, one day at a time, is how we eventually reach solid ground. Peter's life isn't just about his own journey; it's about the people he's touched along the way. Whether it's being a regular at the Boston Athletic Club, Peter Welch's Gym, The Irish Pastoral Centre, or a friendly face at "The Local," he's connected with people from all walks of life – presidents, priests, politicians, notorious criminals (allegedly), and everyday humans like me. He's the kind of man who never says no to someone in need, even if it might cost him. In recent years, "The Pharaoh" (his nickname thanks to his Yul Brynner-esque looks) has taken on a new role as the full-time nanny for my sister's kids, Sadie, Ollie, and Georgie. Additionally, he is always available for my son Owen.

Watching him trade gym sessions and steam rooms for school pickups and dinnertime has been nothing short of inspiring. His grandkids are obsessed with him, and it's not hard to see why. As a first-generation American father, I often reflect on how far we've come. My father's journey started in a farmhouse in Ireland, trudging through uncertainty, and led to solid ground here in Dorchester.

Thanks to the sacrifices and hard work of those who came before us – in Local 223, the immigrant communities, and most importantly in recovery – we've been able to start life on first base, giving our children the chance to start on second or third base. That's what my father's life reminds me: none of us get here alone.

So, if you see Peter O'Malley around town, wish him a happy 70th birthday. He deserves it. His life reminds us that even in uncertain and divided times, good people like him keep trudging forward, turning mud into solid ground and creating lives filled with love, laughter, and meaning. And to all of you pillars of the community – many of whom will join us at Florian Hall on February 1st for a surprise celebration – thank you for being part of what makes this journey worthwhile. We will see you as we "trudge the Road of Happy Destiny."

– Joe O'Malley (*mhac Peter Joe Peadar*)

The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2025, Westport, Co Mayo

Friday 27th June 2025

Walking Tour with Anne Chambers: "Westport House and the Descendants of Grace O'Malley"

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm (Ireland Time). Cost: Free

Location: Westport Adventure Park

Walking Tour of Westport Demesne grounds. Learn about the history of Westport House and the families who lived there from Anne Chambers, biographer and leading authority on Grace O'Malley - Granuaile the Pirate Queen. Note that this does not include a tour of Westport House itself. Tours of Westport House can be booked directly at www.westporthouse.ie

Annual General Meeting

7:00 pm - 7:45 pm (Ireland Time). Cost: Free

Location: Castlecourt Hotel, Westport

Guardian Chieftain Ellen O'Malley Dunlop will chair the AGM of the O'Malley Clan Association. All O'Malleys and their families are welcome but only members of the association may vote. The Chieftain, Treasurer and Secretaries will present their reports, a new Tánaiste will be elected and any motions submitted for discussion will be debated.

Chieftain's Reception

8:00 pm - 10:30 pm (Ireland Time). Cost: Free

Location: CastleCourt Hotel, Westport

Welcome to the O'Malley Gathering from Chieftain Grace. Mingle and meet other O'Malleys to the sound of traditional Irish music.



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2025, Westport, Co Mayo

Saturday 28th June 2025

"Bus Tour led by Anne Chambers: "Grace O'Malley and the Bourkes of Mayo"

9:30 am - 3:00 pm (Ireland Time). Cost: €35.00

Location: Pickup and return at Castlecourt Hotel, Westport

A bus tour of the O'Malley Castles at Carrigahowley and Kildavnet. Anne Chambers will be on hand to talk about the castles and their association with Grace O'Malley. A light lunch at Alice's restaurant in Achill Sound is included.

Screening of The Cry of Granuaile

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm (Ireland Time). Cost: Free

Walnut Suite, Westport Plaza Hotel

A recent film about Granuaile by director Dónal Foreman, shot on Clare Island.

Genealogy workshop with Dr Maurice Gleeson

A discussion on the genealogy of the O'Malleys, the Finding Grace DNA project and an opportunity for those exploring their O'Malley family trees to make contact with like-minded others. Led by Dr Maurice Gleeson, renowned genetic genealogist.

Gala Dinner

8:00 pm - 11:00 pm (Ireland Time). Cost: €55

Ashleigh Suite, Castlecourt Hotel

An evening of merriment in true O'Malley fashion, bringing together all the Clan from near and far over a delicious four course meal, followed by music and dancing.



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2025, Westport, Co Mayo

Sunday 29th June 2025

Croagh Patrick climb

8:00 am - 1:00 pm (Ireland Time). Cost: Free

Location: Meet in the car park beside the Murrisk Community Cafe

Climb the famous "Reek", Croagh Patrick mountain overlooks Clew Bay and is a famous site for pilgrims. Check out this guide to the climb: <https://www.destinationwestport.com/explore-westport/a-bluffers-guide-to-climbing-croagh-patrick>.

This is not an organised event, but book here to let other O'Malleys know you're planning to go.

Traditional Clan Mass

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (Ireland Time). Cost: Free

Location: Murrisk Abbey

Outdoor Mass beside the ruins of Murrisk Abbey on the shores of Clew Bay.

Clan lunch and inauguration of new Chieftain

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Ireland Time). Cost: €39

LuSeas Rooftop Restaurant, Westport Coast Hotel, Westport Quay

Clan lunch at LuSeas Rooftop Restaurant with panoramic floor to ceiling views of Croagh Patrick and Clew Bay. After lunch, Tanaiste Denise O'Malley Kelly will be inaugurated as the new Chieftain of the Clan.

All events/activities during the weekend are subject to change



Time to nominate our next Tánaiste, check out the details

Every organisation needs a leader and the O'Malley Clan is no different. If you go back through the mists of time, the O'Malleys most famous leader would be usually acknowledged to have been Granuaile, or Grace O'Malley, often known as The Pirate Queen.

Our current Chieftain, also Grace O'Malley, (but not a pirate!), is leading the O'Malley Clan during 2024 and up to June 2025, where she will host O'Malleys from all around the world at The O'Malley Clan Gathering in Westport in County Mayo on the weekend of 27th to 29th June.

At the end of the annual O'Malley Clan Gathering next June, our current Tánaiste, Denise O'Malley, will take over the reins from Grace and will be inaugurated as the new Chieftain of the O'Malley Clan for the remainder of 2025 up to June of 2026. Denise will then host the annual O'Malley Clan Gathering in County Clare in June of 2026.

As has been done since 1953, a Tánaiste is elected each year as "Chieftain elect" and they then become Chieftain and continue an unbroken line back through the decades.

So what does the O'Malley Clan Chieftain actually do in the 2020's I hear you ask?

There aren't any tribal wars in which the Chieftain will need to lead us into battle thankfully, and so the main role of the Chieftain is ceremonial. Events can pop up from time to time during the year, but the main duty of each Chieftain is to lead the organisation, and the running of the annual O'Malley Clan Gathering on the last weekend in June each year.

You don't need to have a qualification in event management, so not to worry. There's a great team of folks on the O'Malley Clan Association committee who have literally decades of experience in putting the weekend together. All you'll need is a bit of enthusiasm, and a good sense of humour.

In order to be nominated for the position of Tánaiste you are required to be a current member, and to be nominated, you have to have agreed to be nominated, and are required to be nominated in writing, (the nomination form is below), by two other current members.

Of course if there is more than one nomination, and both nominees wish to contest a particular year, then an election would be held at the Annual General Meeting, on a 50% + 1 basis.

If you're thinking about putting your name forward, and seeking a nomination from some fellow members, don't worry that you're going to be thrown into the deep end and be asked to run the organisation from a standing start. The entire organisational side of things within the O'Malley Clan Association is overseen by the Guardian Chieftain. This position is filled every three years from within the ranks of the former Chieftains of the clan, with the Guardian Chieftain being selected and appointed by the Council of Chieftains. The Guardian Chieftain is there to guide the Chieftain of the day in making their year of office as Chieftain of the O'Malley Clan a success, and chairs the O'Malley Clan Association committee.

So, to conclude, if you'd like to be a part of history, and think you have what it takes to lead this powerful, historic, Irish clan. Have a think about it and have a chat with your family or other members.

If you've any questions at all on how it all works, there's information on the "about us" section of the O'Malley Clan Association website, or pop us over an email to omalleyclanireland@gmail.com

Time to nominate our next Tánaiste, check out the details



O'Malley Clan Association

Nomination of Tánaiste (Chieftain elect) for 2025 -2026

I, _____ (name), _____ (Membership No.)
 _____ (address)
 _____ (e-mail)
 _____ (phone)

AND

I, _____ (name), _____ (Membership No.)
 _____ (address)
 _____ (e-mail)
 _____ (phone)

hereby nominate

_____ (name), _____ (Membership No.)
 _____ (address)
 _____ (e-mail)
 _____ (phone)

For the position of Tánaiste of the O'Malley Clan and confirm that my candidate has agreed to be nominated.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Please return completed forms (hard copy) to:

Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, Guardian Chieftain
 33 Springfield Road
 Templeogue
 Dublin 6W, Ireland

OR

Photo or scan of signed form by e-mail
 to: ellenomalleydunlop@gmail.com

O'Malleys! Test your brain with a crossword on Animals!

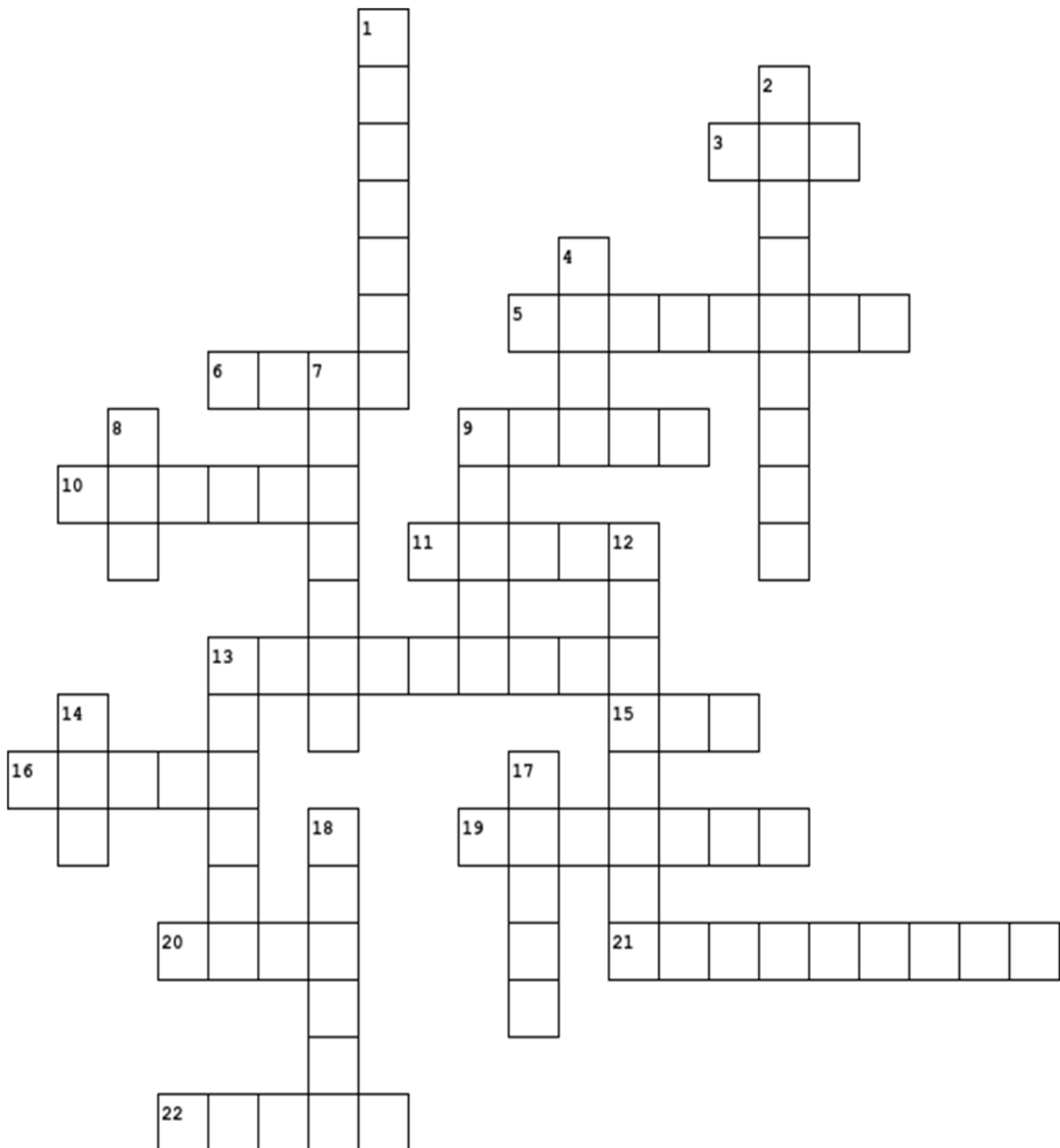
Across

3. As sly as a ...
5. An Australian hopper
6. Aslan was one
9. Woolly creature
10. Bugs, Thumper, etc
11. Fond of cheese apparently
13. Worlds largest mammal
15. Mmmmmm Bacon, (as Homer would say)
16. Hooded Snake
19. Known for being very tall
20. Kermit was one
21. A scary, furry, 8 legged thing
22. A black and white horse!

Down

1. Flipper et al
2. A grizzly's arctic cousin
4. Looks like a rabbit
7. Eight legged sea dweller
8. Curiosity killed the ...
9. A sleepy sort
12. Never forgets!
13. Dam Builder
14. Man's best friend
17. Big stripy cat
18. A big cat, and also a car

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS: **ACROSS**, 5 SOUTHKOREA, 6 SCOTLAND, 8 ECUADOR, 9 BELGIUM, 10 BANGLADESH, 11 PHILIPPINES, 15 CANADA, 18 CZECHIA, 19 SPAIN, 20 KENYA 22 SWITZERLAND **DOWN**, 1 MOROCCO, 2 AUSTRALIA, 3 PORTUGAL, 4 WALES, 5 SWEDEN, 7 GREECE, 12 ITALY 13 NEWZEALAND, 14 LIBYA, 16 DENMARK, 17 MONGOLIA, 21 MEXICO, 23 LATVIA.

O'Malleys! Test your brain with a crossword on Animals!



The O'Malley Clan
Association
Unit 11, Abington Enterprise Centre
Murroe
Co Limerick
Ireland V94 XFD3

Email: omalleyclanireland@gmail.com

Website: www.omalleyclan.ie



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@clanomalley



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.

O'Malleys ! We need you! Join Today!



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

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

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