



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights....

- Time to book your tickets for Westport next month!
- Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!
- FROM—Four Families and Me, Paul McLoughlin
- Saving the Whales—Damien O'Malley
- Karina O'Malley earns award for her work with the homeless
- Marcus O'Malley and his mission in South Africa
- An O'Malley family trip home to South Mayo
- The Clan Gathering 2025
- The O'Malley crossword!
- About The O'Malley Clan Association
- The O'Malley Clan Association Needs You! Join Today!!

Get those places booked for the O'Malley Clan Gathering!

The clock is ticking folks! There's just 43 days to go to the start of the big weekend in Westport, County Mayo, when Chieftain Grace will welcome us all to the O'Malley Clan Gathering 2025. Now it's not panic stations just yet, but you do need to get those bookings made. Click on the image below to head to the events page.



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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FROM “Four Families and Me” - Part 1, The Voyage

FROM

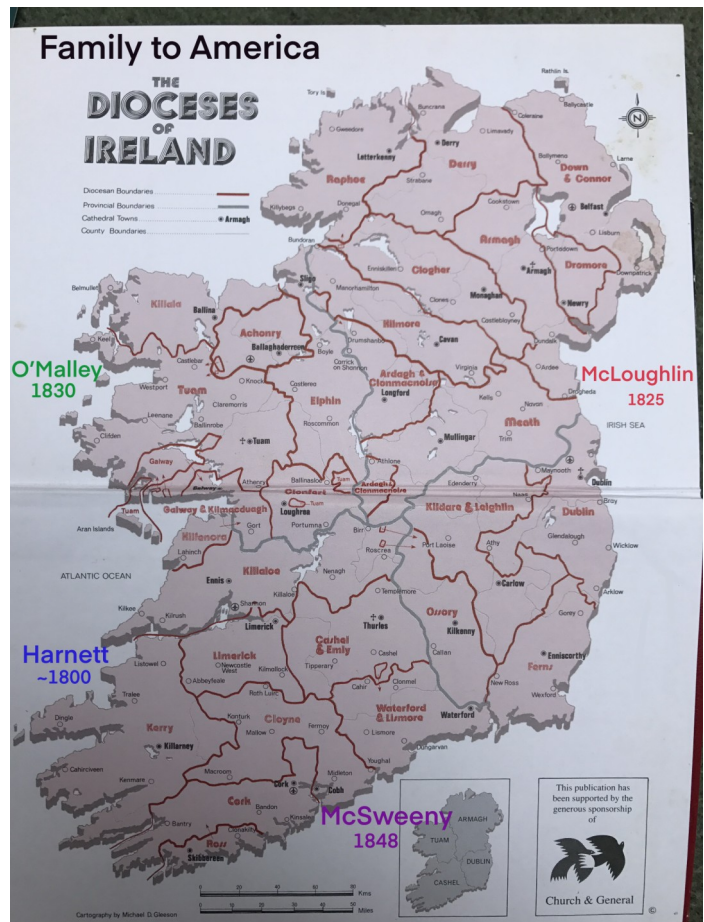
Four Families and Me

My name is Paul McLoughlin and I am an O'Malley, albeit without O'Malley Y- DNA. My grandfather, Charles J. O'Malley, was born in Newport, CO Mayo, in 1867. I am an Irish citizen in the Book Of Foreign Births. I attended the Clan Gathering commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the founding of Newport and have contributed to this newsletter over the years.

Finding FROM began twenty years ago. In 2005 I sailed across the Atlantic on the Rolex Transatlantic Yacht Race in the reverse direction of my Irish ancestors. I will never forget the smell of Ireland still far over the horizon. Nor would they forget their arrival in America after a far more arduous two-month voyage. I visited the National Library of Ireland on my return to confirm a tenuous connection to Grace O'Malley. What began as some romanticized relation to a famous Irish figure became a journey of discovery, co-incidence and personal enrichment.

Now 20 years later I can write of more than just O'Malley. Only now do I know enough to share the stories of the four families which constitute my ancestry. They came to America 100 years before I was born. Each family led me back in time. One as far back as Niall and St. Patrick. (No, I am not related to St Patrick; Grace O'Malley, Yes. St Patrick converted the Mac Laughlins of Clan Owen.) So many interconnected stories have been handed down. Hardly the scrivener, mine is to weave and reveal and honor those before me. They deserve to be known and remembered by generations to come. This narrative, though deeply personal, reflects universal themes – immigration, resilience, and identity. Their stories, like those of all ancestors, are the threads that form the tapestry of our lives.

This is a three-part series: Crossing, Corroboration, Connections. This first installment will tell of their voyages – tales of death, disease, shipwreck, and a razor's edge. The second will detail sources and discovery. The third will create the story, their story, as it unfolded for me.



Above: A map showing the dioceses of Ireland and the areas that the families originated from

FROM “Four Families and Me” - Part 1, The Voyage

New York Daily Herald

Dateline Lewes DE April 26th, 1849

“I have just arrived at the Breakwater from ship Swatara. An attempt was made yesterday to get her off, but it proved unsuccessful.” Two days later, “She has three feet of water in her hold. Capt. Pedrick having anchors out and throwing the pig iron overboard.”

By this time some 320 Irish Famine immigrants had departed the ship, earthly possessions in hand, and slogged through the mud onto America. They were 10 miles SW of the entrance to Delaware Bay and 100 miles from Philadelphia, their intended port of debarkation. O’Callaghan McSwiney and his son, Patrick, aged 11, began the overland trek to Villa Nova to join a relative, William Harnett OSA, then president of the new school.

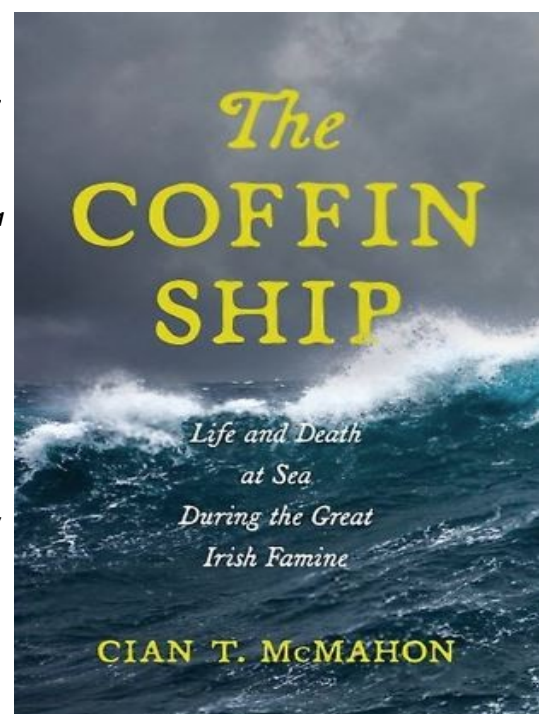


Above: A ship similar to the “Swatara” in similar poor circumstances

(Author’s note: The Coffin Ship by Cian T. McMahon fully chronicles life and death at sea during the Great Irish Famine. Incidentally it recounts a voyage of the Swatara two years prior where she lost her foremast and bowsprit leaving Liverpool. She put in at Belfast for repairs. Medical authorities inspecting the ship at anchor found the steerage compartment badly crowded, poorly ventilated, its occupants more or less destitute and exhibiting marked cases of typhus fever. When she finally set sail a month later bound for Philadelphia 45 of the original complement of 300, mostly from Roscommon, were too ill to travel.)

O’Callaghan and Patrick quickly left Villa Nova, which had been forced to close from incendiary activities of the nativist movement. They traveled to Cincinnati in the hope of starting a spirits blending business. Patrick was enrolled at St Francis Xavier High School, now commonly referred to as St. X. That too didn’t last long. Off they were to New York in May 1850 to greet the rest of the family arriving from Ireland.

Below: “The Coffin Ship” by Cian T McMahon



FROM “Four Families and Me” - Part 1, The Voyage

Honorina Harnett McSweeney and the Garland
New York Daily Herald

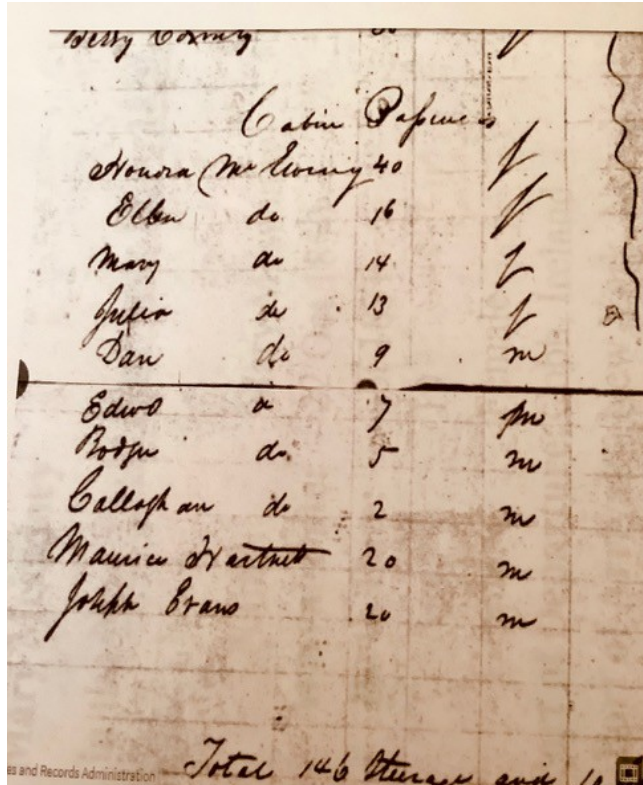
Dateline New York May 30, 1850 The Garland arrives New York.

From family records:

The family took passage from Cork on the Garland. Honorina, “being quality” insisted on traveling first class. The captain, a resourceful and imaginative Irishman, built a partition between them and the rest of the passengers and called it “first class.” There were 146 in steerage and Honorina and family of 10 cabin passengers behind the partition. Maurice Harnett, Honorina’s brother, reinforced the family relationship to the president of Villa Nova.

You had to carry your own provisions in those times. Honorina’s sister, Aunt Curtin, wife of John Curtin, had a farm in Listowel. In order to insure the children of fresh milk, they gave them a goat to take along. The goat did not have a first-class ticket, so she had to mingle with other passengers with the result that for the whole six weeks voyage the McSweenys never saw any of her milk, and once they landed on the dock saw no more of the goat.

Now reunited and the name refreshed to McSweeney, the family took up residence at Corlaer’s Hook on Manhattan’s lower east side. O’Callaghan pursued spirits blending and the boys were enrolled at the College of St Francis Xavier on W 16th Street. The girls got jobs in the millinery business. Listed on the manifest as ‘Mary,’ Mary Frances McSweeney, would become the wife of John McLoughlin in 5 year’s time.



A handwritten passenger manifest for the ship 'Garland'. The document is titled 'Cabin Passengers' and lists names, ages, and other details. The entries are as follows:

Name	Age	Gender
Honorina McSweeney	40	Female
Edwin do	16	Male
Mary do	14	Female
Julia do	13	Female
Dan do	9	Male
Edward do	7	Male
Patrick do	5	Male
Calloph an do	2	Male
Maurice Harnett	20	Male
John Brans	20	Male

Total 146 Steerage and 10 Cabin Passengers

Above: An extract from the passenger manifest of “the “Garland”

Below: A map of Corlaer’s Hook in Manhattan from the time of Honorina’s arrival.



FROM “Four Families and Me” - Part 1, The Voyage

McLoughlin Arrival in America

Family History – Recorded Recollections from Great Uncles in 1919 and 1943.

The family first mover was Peter McLoughlin. He came to America in 1826 to try his hand at a better life. He wrote to his brother, Patrick, back in Ardee, CO Louth, that if things didn't work out he would head for the West Indies. But work out they did. From a letter to Patrick in 1829 “This is the best country in the world. There is no want; there is room and a living for all but you may depend they must work for it.”

Patrick was married to Jane Healy who knew from priests. In childhood she lived with her uncle, Pastor of Louth and Dunleer, as her father had married again “adding stepmother troubles to the other worries that beset the Irish then as now.” Patrick, renter of a farm at Shanlis, went to market one day and his horse came home without him. He was found dead by the side of the road probably from a heart attack as there were no signs of violence. Jane, a young widow, was left with two sons, Thomas and John.

In 1845 Peter brought Tom, aged 19, to New York where he was entered into the priesthood and ordained in 1851. Old Fr. Tom (hold on, Gentle Reader, there will be a Young Fr. Tom) would flourish in the “out missions” of New York, building parishes and churches in Westchester County. Jane tried her hand at farming but ultimately came to New York with John five years later. She would be housekeeper for her son at Blessed Sacrament in New Rochelle and a guiding hand to her grandson, Young Fr. Tom, who would succeed his uncle at Blessed Sacrament.

But I get ahead of the beginning. Various McLoughlin crossings were unremarkable or at least unrecorded. Perhaps because Peter had crossed years before paving the way for what they would find on arrival. And they would hardly be in Steerage. Regardless, their lives thereafter in America were memorable and detailed.

John McLoughlin arrived in New York the same year as Mary Frances McSweeney. They married in 1855. They are my great-grandparents.



Above: Paul McLoughlin, great grandson of John McLoughlin and Mary Frances McSweeney

Below: The McLoughlin Family Crest



FROM “Four Families and Me” - Part 1, The Voyage

The Fusz Family in America

Dateline St. Louis MO December 18, 1853

The story of the Fusz family in America began in Herricourt, Haute Saune, Alsace, France.

In the late summer of 1853, Francis (aged 41) and Marie Reine (aged 38) Fusz left Herricourt to follow in the footsteps of her sister who had gone to America in 1847. They sold their house, the carriage shop with equipment and all their furnishings except that which they could carry with them. They left Herricourt, October 10, 1853, and as they departed many friends followed them along the road and bid farewell for many miles as they headed toward the port, believed to be Marseilles from which they were to leave. When they arrived there the news at the port was that cholera was rampant at New Orleans where the planned to disembark. Thus they changed plans and went by ship to New York.



Above: A map extract showing the location of Herricourt, Alsace, France

The sailing voyage was extremely difficult even though they had purchased deck passage with the money they had realized from the sale of their home and belongings. Cholera broke out and sea sickness was common. Deaths at first were occasional but as weeks went by death from cholera was so widespread that bodies were thrown overboard immediately without waiting until dark, as was custom. Marie Reine prayed to God and the Blessed Mother to spare her children. She wrote that she wondered why she left her home only now to lose her boys.

Paul the youngest (six years) was the sickest, but God spared all of them.

They arrived in New York early in December and immediately took a train to Pittsburgh, where they got aboard a steamship for the trip down the Ohio River and up the Mississippi. They arrived in St. Louis December 18, 1853 and walked up the levee at Walnut Street to the Old Cathedral to give thanks to God for their safe journey and for their new beginning in America.

Their daughter, Lucille Fusz, married Charles J. O'Malley (Gramps). They are my grandparents, my mother's parents.

FROM “Four Families and Me” - Part 1, The Voyage

O'Malley Discovers America

Dateline New York September 2nd, 1883.

Charles J. O'Malley, my Gramps, trumpeted his own arrival. His crossing would reflect his past and portend his future. “CJ”, as his family called him, travelled to America alone at the age of 16 in style – a manner to which he would become accustomed. In his own words, “My sixteenth birthday was celebrated in Glasgow, and I then and there decided that my next birthday would be celebrated over three thousand miles away in America. When the time came to return to Glasgow for the fall term, I changed my course and arrived in Queenstown, now Cobh. I bought my ticket from my tuition funds and went aboard the S.S. Adriatic.”



Above: The S.S. Adriatic

Below: CJ Arriving in New York in 1883

Gramps well understood that passage on the Adriatic would put him in good company. The White Star line was recognized more for its accommodations than for speed. In both regards it was far removed from famine ship days. He continues, “Enroute to the United States (a nine-day voyage) I met a great many “distinguished citizens” among them a well-known alderman from the city of New York, named Dorland. He took a fancy to me, so much so that he drew at-

tention to the fact that I had “fur on my whiskers,” which was his method of noting the need of my first shave. He said to me, “now I am going to lend you my razor and strop and you sharpen the blade and shave yourself.” So I proceeded – horrors!!! – my dexterity was not as efficient as the old-timer’s, so when I attempted to sharpen as he had done, I cut the strop in two. The good man was angry. He claimed he had used it for forty years. “if I did



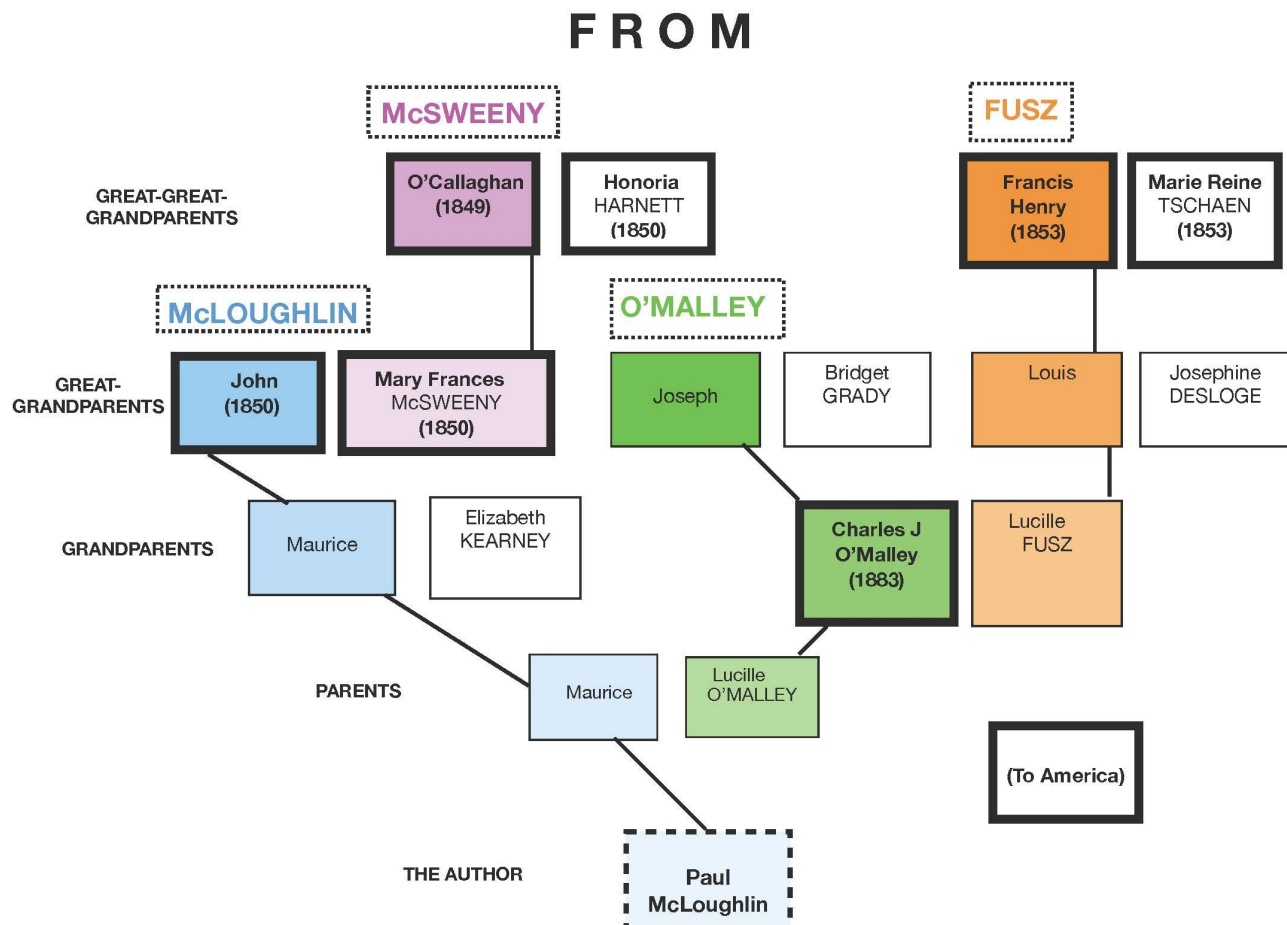
FROM “Four Families and Me” - Part 1, The Voyage

not like you, I would strop my razor on your throat.” Notwithstanding the close shave, they remained friends.

After a week in the gracious hospitality of the alderman (he owned a tavern), Gramps headed upstate to his sister’s then on to Manistee MI to join his brother, the publisher of the Manistee Advocate. [Gramps was one of 17. His oldest brother, 34 years his senior, had left Ireland in a barrel by necessity. The British were after him for gunrunning.] He traveled widely as writer, met and married Lucille Fusz in St Louis in 1904. My mother was born in Boston in 1908.

Part 2 of this 3 part series will examine how each of the families began to make their way in the “new world”

Below: The Family Tree of Paul McLoughlin



Saving Whales—All part of a days work for Damien O'Malley

Stranded whale calf rescued by Galway tour operator and group of tourists – ‘Hopefully the mother whale is close by’

A whale calf was rescued thanks to the efforts of a Galway boat tour operator and a group of tourists.

The minke whale, which it is believed was only a few months old, was spotted on Wednesday May 7, stranded at the Inishlacken Island harbour by Damien O'Malley of 'Roundstone Bay And Island' tours.

Damien explained to the *Irish Independent*: "I was going to the harbour, I could see the shine and I thought it was kelp on a rock. But then I looked a bit closer and I could see the tail sticking over the top of the seaweed. "I thought it was a poor dead dolphin, a big dolphin. So I pulled in the boat, I looked over and noticed it was moving. I could see the tail slightly moving."

After realising it was a whale calf and it was still alive, Damien immediately started thinking of a way of saving it, and the group of tourists that was with him did not hesitate to help as well.

"The lucky part of it was, there wasn't big tides or big strands. I went up to the boat and got a big bucket, we just kept soaking it.

"The group I had out, fair play to them, they came down as well and helped putting water over it. When things like that happen everyone gets together and help. They were happier to do that than to go on a tour. He added: "We went in – of course I had no shorts on board so I had to take the trousers off– and we tried pushing it out, the only problem was he kept swimming back in on top of rocks, it was actually getting in a worse spot, and I knew the tide was against us. "Three times we tried to get it out, it was really hard, it just kept going back on the rocks." As the tide was coming in, Damien used the boat to help the poor whale, and finally, after a couple of hours of hard work, the whale was free, and away from the harbour's rocks.

"It seemed strong the whole time, the energy was there even though there were cuts on it from trying to move itself on the rocks."

"I'd say it must have been there for about four hours, I'm guessing. "Usually when they're found they're dead. When they get beached they don't get found for a long time."

After seeing the calf happily swimming out of the bay, Damien just hopes it reunited with the mother.

"It seemed to be heading out the bay. It was still a young calf so we are hoping the mother whale is somewhere close by and they will hear each other's calls

"All we can do is hope, but at least we gave it a fighting chance. I could sleep last night knowing there's a chance."



Karina O'Malley earns award for her work with the homeless

Karina O'Malley honored with MLK Medal of Distinguished Service

The Sophia Way is proud to share the news of Karina O'Malley, a board member of The Sophia Way being recognized for her work for those experiencing homelessness. Metropolitan King County Councilmember Claudia



Above: Metropolitan King County Council member Claudia Balducci with Martin Luther King, Jr. Medal of Distinguished Service recipient Karina O'Malley.

Balducci presented her with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medal of Distinguished Service.

"Karina is our north star. She points our organization in the right direction and reminds us every day about the importance and urgency in this life-saving work. She is a quiet force that builds community coalitions that pave the way for impactful change." – Angela Murray, Executive Director, The Sophia Way

A decade ago, Karina O'Malley recognized the growing number of homeless women living in East King County, and starting working to assist them as one of the founders of nonprofit program The Sophia Way. O'Malley continues to be a tireless advocate for the homeless and today Metropolitan King County Council Vice Chair Claudia Balducci recognized O'Malley work by presenting her with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medal of Distinguished Service.

"Due in part to her efforts, hundreds of women and families have found a safe place to stay," said Balducci. "In 1957, Dr. King pointed out that life's most persistent and urgent question is 'what are you doing for others?' Karina O'Malley has answered that question by dedicating her considerable energy, compassion, and intelligence to improving the lives of women without homes in East King County."

O'Malley helped found The Sophia Way, the Eastside's only low-barrier shelter for women experiencing homelessness, which means women can stay at the shelter while meeting only minimal requirements. This approach allows The Sophia Way to serve more shelter guests, including those most in need like those struggling with mental illness or addiction. O'Malley has served as director of the program and continues to serve on its board.

Along with The Sophia Way, since 2011, O'Malley has been part of the group that started the Lake

Karina O'Malley earns award for her work with the homeless

Washington United Methodist Church Safe Parking program, a church ministry serving women and families living in their cars, and she currently serves as the program coordinator. She also helped establish the Eastside emergency shelter for women and families. Ms. O'Malley serves as treasurer for the Kirkland Interfaith Network.

"Karina is our north star. She points our organization in the right direction and reminds us every day about the importance and urgency in this life-saving work," said Angela Murray, Executive Director of The Sophia Way. "She is a quiet force that builds community coalitions that pave the way for impactful change."

"I don't think there is anyone better at inspiring a crowd. She provides a clarion call to all of us to create a more just society. She has a beautiful soul," said Leslie Miller, the Human Services Administrator, for the city of Kirkland.

O'Malley's tireless work has been recognized by many people and organizations. She has been awarded the Alliance of Eastside Agencies Volunteer of the Year (2016) and the League of Women Voters Making Democracy Work Award (2017).

The annual presentation of the MLK Medal of Distinguished Service is the Council's way of thanking those who have made a particularly strong impact on the county and to encourage others to renew their dedication to serve their community.

This is the third year Council members have recognized individuals in their districts who have answered the question asked by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "What are you doing for others?"

To check out the work of "The Sophia Way"

Click on the image below



Marcus O'Malley and his mission in South Africa

Year in South Africa inspires novel, life-long friendships

Marcus O'Malley gave up his Harrisonburg-based business to spend a year doing mission work in South Africa. Later inspired to write a novel based on his experience, he has also devoted several years to building and fostering soccer leagues for underprivileged youth.



Marcus O'Malley is pictured (right) at center with several boys from the Cape Town community in South Africa, where he spent a year doing mission work in 2008-2009. The experience inspired his 2020 novel, *Reunited*, about three friends who travel to South Africa to honor a fourth friend.

In 2008, Harrisonburg small-business owner Marcus O'Malley ('04) traveled to South Africa on a one-way ticket. Hoping to make a difference in the lives of one, maybe two people, he flew to Cape Town, where he planned to stay for two weeks before heading to Durban on the opposite coast.

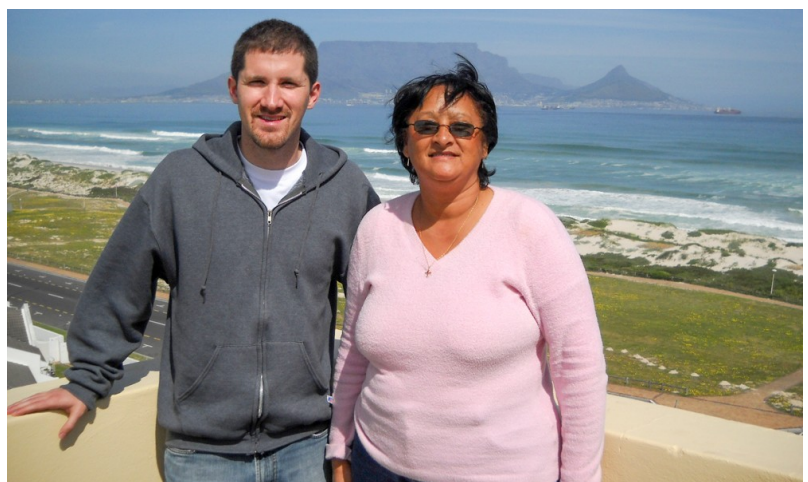
He never made it to Durban. A sudden influx of refugees from Zimbabwe to South Africa's east coast, which limited housing availability, forced O'Malley to stay in Cape Town.

It was this experience that inspired his 2020 novel, *Reunited*, about three friends who travel to South Africa to honor a fourth friend. It was also there that O'Malley made some lifelong connections. "It was unbelievable," he said. "I mean, I was only planning to be there two weeks."

Through his church, he had arranged to spend that fortnight with Ursula Arendse, a tour guide with a son O'Malley's age. When his living arrangements on the east coast became uncertain, she invited him to stay as long as he needed. Ultimately, he remained her guest for a year.

"We've stayed in touch over the years," O'Malley said. "I was in Ireland last year. Her son has moved there, so we met up and surprised her on a video call. ... Her son was like, 'Hey, I got a surprise for you. I got a visitor from America.'"

Right: Marcus O'Malley poses for a photo with Ursula Arendse in front of Table Mountain along the coast of Cape Town, South Africa. When O'Malley's housing plans fell through, Arendse invited him to



Marcus O'Malley and his mission in South Africa

O'Malley, who started at JMU in the fall of 1999, was among the first to graduate from the new [College of Integrated Science and Technology](#). East Campus had been a selling point for O'Malley, who hailed from Warrenton, Virginia. Before becoming a Duke, he had been considering the soccer programs at the University of Lynchburg in Virginia and Shepherd University in West Virginia, as well as pursuing a degree from Virginia Tech.

"It's young, small and dynamic," he recalled thinking of CISAT. "I think I just felt the energy of the new campus." While studying [Computer Science](#), he also sought out classes on West Campus.

"I love JMU's diversity in education," he said. "I did spend a lot of time on the Quad. I wanted that more well-rounded education. I think JMU grads are unique in that, and it helped me careerwise."

In 2004, he and classmates [Joshua Blake](#) ('05) Justin Creasy ('05) and Kevin Ferrell ('05) competed in the first [Windows Challenge](#) run by Microsoft Corp. Nearly 30 teams of three to four students and a faculty mentor at U.S. colleges and universities participated that year with a goal of using Windows CE to "Make the World a Safer Place." JMU won the contest, led by O'Malley's team and faculty advisor [Dr. Ramon A. Mata-Toledo](#), professor of computer science.

Their winning project was a handheld airport-security checkpoint device that collects information from each passenger's boarding pass and enables a chemical sniffer to sense and identify potential high-security threats posed by travelers or their luggage. Winning the award helped JMU compete on the national stage with top tech schools, while inspiring O'Malley, Creasy, Blake and classmate William Roy ('03, '05M) to start Immerge Technologies in Harrisonburg. Then, three years later, O'Malley embarked on a new journey.

Right: South African children are pictured with donations purchased using money O'Malley raised from the U.S. The toys and games contributed to afterschool programs for anti-gang activities. In Cape Town, O'Malley formed a youth soccer league to help keep children out of gangs. Now, he's pastor of a soccer program for refugees at his church in Louisville, Kentucky, and he plans to lead other soccer programs later this year.



A new convert to Christianity and a member of the Church of the Nazarene in Harrisonburg, O'Malley had a desire to live out his newfound faith and was seeking opportunities to make an impact in the community. While attending a speech by the Rev. Desmond Tutu at JMU on International Day of Peace in 2007, he felt called to respond.

The Anglican archbishop emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa, and 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner was known for his work in ending apartheid. Tutu [visited Madison](#) to share the message "Goodness is Powerful" and receive the inaugural [Mahatma Gandhi Global Nonviolence Award](#) from [JMU's Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence](#). He was recognized for his exemplary contributions toward the improvement of human relations and to social, economic, and political transformation through the creative application of nonviolent methods.

Marcus O'Malley and his mission in South Africa

O'Malley recalled Tutu sharing that about 60% of South African heads of household were age 16 or younger, because of the impact of HIV/AIDS and rampant drug use in their families. "That comment really struck me," O'Malley said. "So many Americans want to give stuff — clothes, money. And [Tutu] said, 'That's great, and I appreciate it. But what South Africa really needs is leaders — adults speaking into young people's lives.'"

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Deciding he would take a year to try to help, O'Malley made his plan to go to South Africa. He sold his belongings and his stake in his tech company. The Church of the Nazarene helped him make contacts in South Africa so he could line up volunteer work and a place to live. He connected with a Catholic priest from his mother's hometown in Ireland who had recently traveled there, and through his research he learned of various others who were volunteering in South African orphanages.

From April to September, his plan came together, and by Sept. 30, 2008, he was en route, first to Qatar and then to Cape Town. A [blog](#) he kept during his first three months shares how he planned to update technology for an organization in Durban. Instead, he spent a year helping Arendse and others with entrepreneurial work, like designing business cards, setting up social media for their businesses and building websites. He also helped at orphanages in and around Cape Town, organized a youth soccer program and a weekly youth group, raised funding from friends and family back home, and otherwise lent a hand in an impoverished community that relied on the aid of people like O'Malley who came there to help.

O'Malley became trained to help with anti-drug and anti-gang work through [Kerus Global Education](#), run by co-founder and Executive Director Dr. Marcia Ball, a tenured associate professor in the [Department of Health Sciences](#) at JMU from 1992 to 2000. O'Malley then helped train others around Cape Town to do the same. His efforts helped him talk down one of the local boys who brought a knife to a game of dominoes and attempted to kill another boy.

"I got to do some pretty unreal, lifechanging, impactful stuff for them and for me," O'Malley said. "I just really felt like that's where I needed to be. I knew there would be risk involved, but that's life. I trusted the Lord's protection and felt I could go anywhere." His work in the Mitchells Plain district of Cape Town also helped inspire neighbor Mymoena Pillay to [go after a local drug lord](#). "She was very proud of that," O'Malley recalled. "Not the inspiration I intended to have ... [but] they ran him out of the neighborhood."

After returning home, O'Malley visited again in 2010 and 2014, and he's stayed in touch with Cape Town residents through social media and video calls. Arendse, especially, has remained a good friend, and he recalled how she phoned to check on his ailing mother before her death in 2023.

O'Malley continues to see the world, having traveled with his wife to Kenya, Malawi, Zambia and the northern Iraqi region of Kurdistan, in addition to his Ireland trip in 2024.

Now living in Louisville, Kentucky, with his wife and three children, O'Malley has [raised funds](#) to build a local [soccer pitch](#) at [Antioch Church](#) where he is pastor for a soccer program for refugees from various countries. He also helps with a food pantry and community garden. This summer, he plans to lead a soccer tourna-

Marcus O'Malley and his mission in South Africa

ment in Ecuador, and in the fall, he wants to build a soccer league of up to 10 multi-ethnic teams around Louisville.

During his visit, O'Malley saw some of the sights, including the Elephant Sanctuary - South Africa in Plettenberg Bay. Over his first four months, he maintained a blog to keep family and friends up to date on how he was doing. Since returning home, he has visited South Africa twice more and also kept up with the friends he met there.



Based on O'Malley's time in Cape Town, *Reunited* is a Christian fiction story about four friends wrestling with their faith as they journey through South Africa.

Looking back, O'Malley says that his year in South Africa granted him perspective on other challenges he encounters in life.

"It really has empowered me to look through the lens of life exceptionally different," he said. "There are probably many regrets in life. That year will never be one of them. It's absolutely shaped and changed my life, and hopefully the lives of some of those folks over there as well."

Click on the book cover below to check it out!



MARCUS O'MALLEY

One O'Malley Family and their trip home to South Mayo!

There was a great atmosphere of excitement, pride and homecoming in Irishtown on Easter Monday as members of the Fitzgibbons and O'Malley families - descendants of local woman Mary Ellen O'Malley - returned from Boston for a long-awaited reunion. The group of 34 travelled to Mayo as part of a wider family trip to Ireland, enjoying time in Dublin and Galway before making their way to the ancestral home in Boleyboy, Irishtown.

Leading the welcome was Monica O'Malley-McMahon, a cousin of the visiting family and now based in Mossbrook, near Mayo Abbey. Monica's father Stephen and Mary Ellen O'Malley were brother and sister, both born and



raised in Boleyboy. Monica, who has lived in Mayo for over 20 years, was delighted to meet and host the American side of the family. "Mary Ellen emigrated to Boston in the 1930s when she was just 17. There wasn't much here at the time, so like many, she made her way across the Atlantic in search of a new life," Monica explained.

Mary Ellen met Joe Fitzgibbons, who was born in Boston to Cork parents. They settled in Quincy, Massachusetts, and went on to raise a family of eight. Three of their daughters, Nora, Gayle, and Anne, made the journey to Ireland for the reunion, accompanied by several generations of their family.

The visit was more of a pilgrimage than a holiday. It included a visit to the old homestead in Boleyboy and the old Cuillaun National School where Mary Ellen was educated. There was also a poignant trip to the O'Malley family grave at Irishtown Cemetery.

"Their grandfather, John O'Malley, and his wife Ann Sheridan are buried just inside the gate. It's a deeply personal journey for them," Monica said.

The idea for the trip had taken shape some months earlier when one of Mary Ellen's great-granddaughters planned to study for a semester in Dublin. That sparked a flurry of conversation among the wider family, which eventually led to the decision to organise a group visit. The family contacted Monica's sister Catherine in Dublin, who put them in touch with Monica, given her local roots. Nora McCarthy, one of Mary Ellen's daughters, reflected warmly on her mother's legacy and the significance of the visit.

"She was the eldest of ten and the first to emigrate. She made a life in Boston and worked incredibly hard. She ran a rooming house and raised eight children. She was so kind, so hardworking, and the person everyone gravitated toward."

The rooming house became a soft landing for other members of the O'Malley family, including several of Mary Ellen's sisters who arrived from Ireland. It also became a base for newly arrived Irish emigrants trying to find their footing in a new world.

Nora described her mother's love of fun and storytelling.

"She adored parties and was the heart of every gathering. My father used to call her Rosie. He once pointed to a painting of a man looking out over the ocean and said, 'That's me waiting for your mother to arrive from Ireland.' She meant the world to him."

Mary Ellen returned to Ireland several times over the years. Her final resting place is in Boston, where she was buried on September 11, 2001 - the same day as the World Trade Centre attacks.

"She was 90 when she died," Nora said. "We remember her every day."

Daniel O'Neill, a recent graduate from the University of Massachusetts Lowell, was visiting Ireland for the first time.

"It absolutely met my expectations. The people are so warm and welcoming. What struck me most is how the houses and buildings seem to blend with the land. At home everything is so structured. Here, it feels more organic."

Daniel, like many of his generation, is part of a large extended family that remains tightly connected in North Andover, Massachusetts. "We see each other all the time. There are about 50 of us living in the same town. My mother's side of the family has a real closeness."

The Irish trip was a chance to deepen those bonds and explore the roots of that closeness. Daniel and his cousins visited Dublin and Galway before making their way to Irishtown, where they spent the day immersed in local heritage, hospitality, and family history. As the family gathered in the village that their ancestor once called home, it was fitting that the visit coincided with the unveiling of new sculptures in Irishtown commemorating the Land League. "I was conscious of wanting the family to be part of today, especially with the sculptures being launched," said Monica. "This is where the Land League began - it's the cradle of that movement. I think Mary Ellen would have been proud." For this extended Irish-American family, the visit was more than a homecoming—it was a re-connection, a celebration of resilience, and a powerful reminder of the ties that bind across oceans and generations.

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

Friday 27th June 2025

Children's Illustration Workshop with Fatti and John Burke

Friday, 4.00pm - 5.30pm, Cost €10 (donation to Barretstown)

Location: Sean Staunton Room, Westport Town Hall Theatre Westport,

Illustrator Kathi "Fatti" Burke and her father, author John Burke have collaborated on many children's books on Irish culture, language and history, including "Granuaile – The Pirate Queen". Join them for a talk and illustration workshop. Suitable for children aged 5-15.

The entry fee of €10 will go to Barretstown children's charity, which provides free, specially- designed camps and programmes for children and their families affected by cancer and other serious illnesses.

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, Westport House

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

Genealogy workshop with Dr Maurice Gleeson

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (Ireland Time). Cost: Free

Location: CastleCourt Hotel, Westport

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.

Chieftain's Reception

9:00 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

Clew Bay, O'Malley Castles, and Circus 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

Bus tour led by Anne Chambers: Grace O'Malley and the Bourkes of Mayo. The tour will visit the O'Malley Castles at Carrigahowley and Kildavnet. The tour will include a performance of "Grace: The Story of a Pirate Queen" by Circus250 on Achill Island, a new aerial show about Granuaile with original live music, storytelling and performance by an all-female cast and crew. A light lunch at Alice's restaurant in Achill Sound is included.

O'Malley Clan 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.

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

1:00 pm - 1:45 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

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm (Ireland Time). Cost: €39, (Kids €18)

Location: 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

Deadline for Nominations this year is Friday 13th June (As Per Rule 5.3.2.2)

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

Test your brain with a crossword on Irish Music, Bands, & Singers

Across

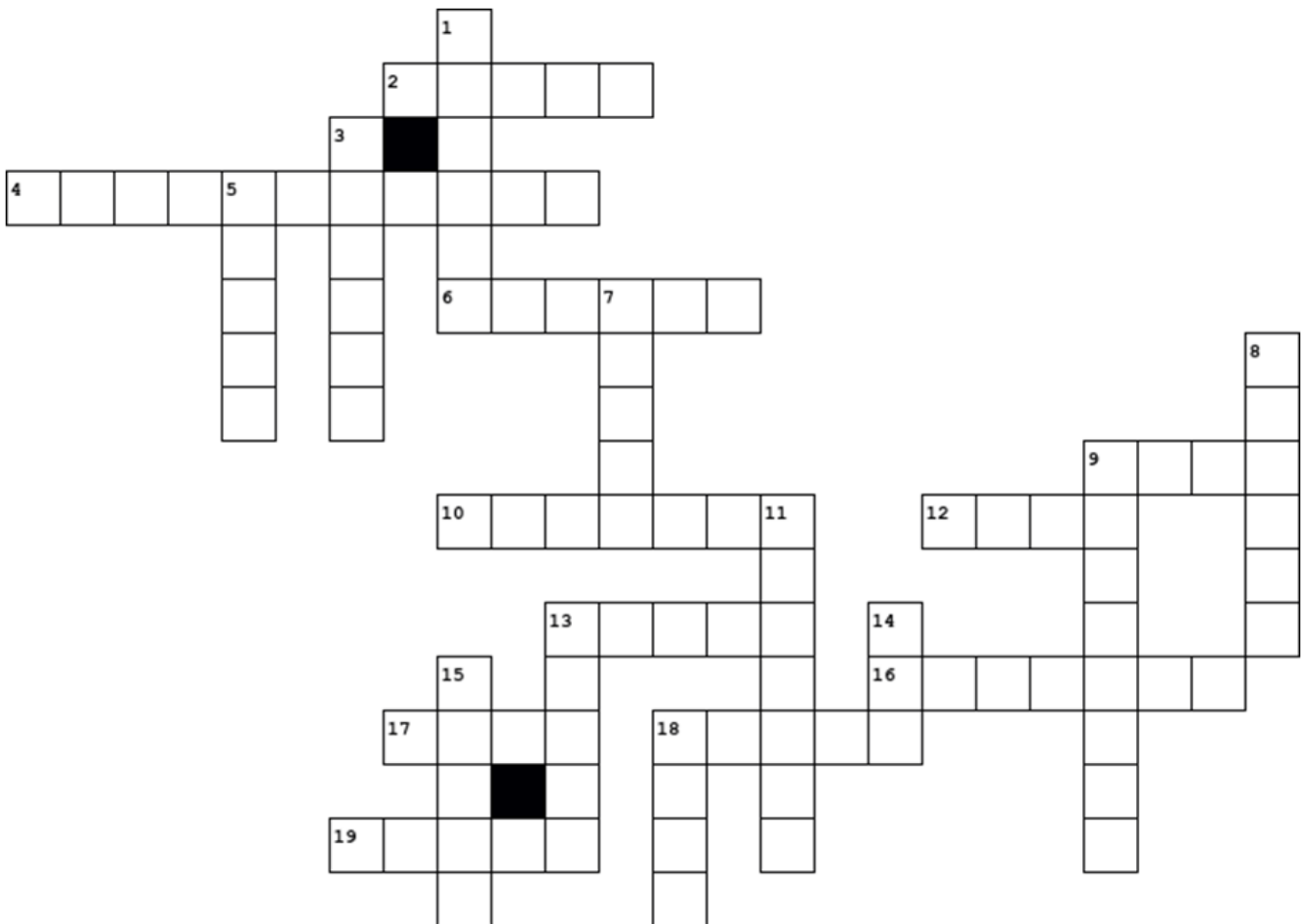
2. Christy Famous Irish singer from Kildare
4. Band that had hits with "Dreams" and "Linger"
6. Paddy Famous for "The fields of Athenry"
9. "Dirty old" An urban area smaller than a city
10. Fairytale of A Great Christmas song.
12. "She moved through the"
13. "The West's" Not Asleep
16. Sinead Nothing compares to you
17. "Brown Eyed " A Van Morrison hit.
18. "The road to Dublin, Famous boxing movie.
19. "The wearing of the" Blue mixed with yellow

Down

1. "Take me to church"
3. "The Green Fields of" Country North of Spain
5. Chris De Famous for "Lady in Red"
7. Thin Famous for "The Boys are back in town"
8. Where the streets have A U2 hit.
9. "The Ould" A geometric Shape.
11. Medically known as the patella.
13. Band called after the Lion in Narnia
14. "The Minstrel ..." Not a girl.
15. "Oh Danny boy the the are calling"
18. "On Raglan "

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS: **ACROSS**, 2 FATHER, 3 MURPHY, 9 WAYNE, 10 GLEESON, 11 AWAY, 12 MESCAL, 13 BROSNAN, 17 COLIN, 18 NEESON, 20 OHARA, 21 LEWIS. **DOWN**, 1 DAUGHTER, 4 HARRIS, 5 RONAN, 6 TITANIC, 7 FASSBENDER, 8 VERONICA, 13 BYRNE 14 NEESON, 15 WIND, 16 PEOPLE, 19 FRICKER.

Test your brain with a crossword on Irish Music, Bands, & Singers





The O'Malley Clan
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Ireland V94 XFD3

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Website: www.omalleyclan.ie



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www.facebook.com/omalleyclan



@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