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TERRA MARIQUE

Ó MÁILLE

1985



33rd O'Malley Clan Rally

Sunday, 14th July, 1985.

Our Chieftain, Peter O'Malley of Dublin, cordially invites you to attend the annual O'Malley Rally. All O'Malleys are welcome, as well as their spouses, relatives and friends.

11.30 a.m. Meet for Mass at Kylemore Benedictine Abbey, by kind invitation of the Lady Abbess and the Community.

12.30 p.m. Talk by Anne Chambers on the O'Malleys and the Connemara area.

1.30 p.m. Adjourn to Renvyle House Hotel for lunch. This will be followed by dancing to the music of the famous Tony Chambers Ballroom of Romance orchestra.

Cost of ticket £8; half-price for children.

Accommodation, if required, may be booked at Renvyle House Hotel at a special rate.

It would be greatly appreciated by the hotel, if people would inform the undersigned at least one week in advance of the Rally date, of their luncheon requirements. Reservations may also be made directly to Renvyle House Hotel.

Telephone: Renvyle 3.

The Rally is being organized for your enjoyment. Please make an effort to attend.

Béidh fáilte roimh chách!

Anthony O'Malley, Secretary Clan Committee,
James's Street, Westport, County Mayo. Telephone: 098-25533.

THE O'MALLEY CLAN RECORD

Last year the O'Malley Clan Committee produced a Souvenir Programme for all those attending the annual rally. We were so gratified by the reception accorded to this booklet at the rally, and subsequently in the local shops, that we have decided to produce a larger publication this year, which we now name the O'Malley Clan Record. We hope that the Record will give pleasure to all who attend the rally, and will be a means of promoting friendship among O'Malleys in all parts of the world. We wish to thank all those who helped with its compilation.

Chairperson:

SHEILA O'MALLEY MULLOY.

Secretary:

ANTHONY O'MALLEY.

Treasurer:

MAURICE O'MALLEY.

Recording Secretary:

KITTY O'MALLEY HARLOW.

Committee Members:

BRENDAN O'MALLEY, JIM O'MALLEY, JOE BLACKWELL.

Westport, July 1985.



PETER O'MALLEY, BARNA, CO. GALWAY.

CHIEFTAIN 1984-1985

Our present chieftain is Judge Peter O'Malley of Barna, Co. Galway, who now resides in Dublin. Son of former Professor Michael O'Malley, and nephew of our late Guardian Chieftain Professor C. Conor O'Malley, he was educated by the Jesuit Fathers at Coláiste Iognáid, Galway and Clongowes Wood College, Co. Kildare. He studied subsequently at U.C.G. and U.C.D., and was called to the Bar in June 1944. Appointed Senior Counsel in July 1963, he was Judge Advocate General to the Defence Forces from June 1966 to December 1971. A Circuit Court Judge since 1971, he has been on the Midland Circuit since 1973. An all-round sportsman in his youth, he has at all times been keenly interested in strengthening the links between the farflung members of the clan.

GUARDIAN CHIEFTAINS OF THE CLAN

- 1954-1959 John J. O'Malley, Westport.
1959-1982 Professor C. Conor O'Malley, Galway.
1984 Martin O'Malley, Dublin.

CHIEFTAINS OF THE CLAN

- 1953 John J. O'Malley, Westport.
1954 Prof. C. Conor O'Malley, Galway.
1955 Patrick E. O'Malley, Limerick.
1956 Dr. P. Pearse, O'Malley, Belfast.
1957 Charles O'Malley, B.D.S., Limerick.
1958 An tOllamh Tomás Ó Máille, Galway.
1959 Charles O'Malley, Westport.
1960 Prof. Michael G. O'Malley, Galway.
1961 Bartley O'Malley, Dunmore, Co. Galway.
1962 George O'Malley, Manchester.
1963 Matthew O'Malley, Cleggan, Clifden, Co. Galway.
1964 Patrick O'Malley, V.S., Castlebar.
1965 Thomas O'Malley, Chicago and Dublin.
1966 Prof. Eoin O'Malley, Dublin.
1967 George O'Malley, Castletroy, Co. Limerick.
1968 Stiofán Ó Máille, Galway.
1969 John O'Malley, Manchester.
1970 Martin O'Malley, Dublin.
1971 Tim O'Malley, Limerick.
1972 Gerry O'Malley, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo.
1973 Ward O'Malley, Golden, Co. Tipperary.
1974 Richard Kilroy O'Malley, Clonbur, Co. Galway.
1975 Prof. Ethna O'Malley Gaffney, Dublin.
1976 Michael O'Malley, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
1977 Martin O'Malley, Tourmakeady, Co. Mayo.
1978 Dr. Thomas O'Malley, Florida, U.S.A.
1979 John E. O'Malley, Ardee, Co. Louth.
1980 Thomas J. O'Malley, Navan, Co. Meath.
1981 Grace O'Malley Purcell, Dublin.
1982 Declan O'Malley, Dublin.
1983 Michael O'Malley, London.
1984 Judge Peter O'Malley, Dublin.

OUR MEETING PLACES IN 1985



KYLEMORE ABBEY, CONNEMARA, CO. GALWAY.

Travelling from Leenane to Letterfrack in the heart of Connemara, the road skirts the idyllic Kylemore Lough, while on the right hand side the dense rhododendron bushes form a continuous high screen. At the end of the lake one rounds a corner and there through a break in the rhododendrons is an astounding sight. Across the little Pollacappul Lough is a great Victorian castle with its background of trees and shrubs climbing the lower slopes of Doughruagh (1,756 feet).

Kylemore Castle was built at a cost of one and a quarter million pounds between 1864 and 1868 by Mitchel Henry, a wealthy Liverpool merchant, who became M.P. for Co. Galway at that time. His mother and wife were Ulsterwomen, and he bought the estate of 9,000 acres from the Blake family in 1862. The granite pile was designed in the Neo-Gothic style by James Fuller. In addition to the many splendid reception rooms, there were 32 bedrooms, and modern amenities included bathrooms and central heating. The grounds were extensively planted with exotic trees and shrubs, while the estate was farmed according to the latest methods of the day. There was a laundry, saw-mill and Turkish bath on the grounds, while to the east stands a costly Gothic chapel, now suffering sadly from the damp Connemara air.

The estate was sold after the collapse of Mitchel Henry's financial empire in 1902, to the ninth Duke of Manchester, whose wife was the former Miss Zimmerman of Cincinnati, Ohio. The Manchesters stayed there until 1913 – a time of diminished splendour for the castle and the estate – although it was honoured by a visit from King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1903.

Kylemore Abbey is now the only monastic home of the Benedictine Nuns in Ireland. The castle was acquired by them in 1920 after their abbey at Ypres in Belgium was destroyed in the First World War.

The Abbey is now a prestigious school for girls and visitors are welcomed from February to December. One of the many treasures displayed there is a captured English flag entrusted to the nuns' keeping by the Irish Brigade after the battle of Fontenoy in 1745, and brought by them to their new home in Ireland.



RENVYLE HOUSE HOTEL

The history of Renvyle House dates back at least 300 years to the reign of the O'Flaherty Clan in Connemara. After the destruction in 1653 of Renvyle Castle, which had been attacked in the previous century by Gráinne Ní Mháille (Gráinne Uaile), wife of Donal O'Flaherty, the confiscated O'Flaherty lands were granted by the Cromwellian Commissioners to Richard Nugent, Earl of Westmeath, who sold them to Henry Blake of Galway in 1680. The O'Flahertys remained at Renvyle as 'middlemen' to the Blakes, and it was an O'Flaherty who built a house on the present site in the late seventeenth century.

In the early nineteenth century Henry Blake, the acknowledged head of the name, came over from London and became the first member of his family to take up residence in Renvyle. He enlarged the house, and settled down to life as a landowner and litterateur. His daughter-in-law Caroline Blake, because of difficulties with the Land League, was compelled through financial necessity to take in paying guests in September 1883, and so Renvyle House Hotel was born.

In 1917 the house was bought by Oliver St. John Gogarty, and many famous figures from the contemporary literary and political world enjoyed his hospitality. But in January 1923, during the Civil War, Gogarty's political enemies, after an unsuccessful attempt on his life, burned Renvyle House to the ground.

It was rebuilt by Gogarty, who employed the best available artistic talent in its highly original décor, and was opened as an hotel in 1930. After an initial period of success as hoteliers, the Gogartys ran into financial difficulties and sold the hotel in 1952 to three Galway men – John Allen, D. D. Coyle, and Michael O'Malley. The present house offers all the amenities expected of a modern hotel, while retaining the unique sense of tradition of this 'Long Long House in the ultimate land of the undiscovered West.'

(Based on notes supplied by Jerry Lidwill.)

GRACE AND THE O'FLAHERTIES

BY ANNE CHAMBERS

Fortuna Favet Fortibus (O'Flaherty Motto)

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Grace O'Malley was born c. 1530 into a period which in Connaught, judging by the silence of the Annals, was relatively free from internal disputes or outside invasions. The administration of the English government scarcely touched the region, and a way of life which was old and deep-rooted continued without interference, unaffected by such happenings as the fall of the House of Kildare, Henry VIII's break with Rome or the Reformation.

Grace's father was Owen 'Dubhdarra' (Black Oak) O'Malley, chieftain of Umhall Uachtarach, i.e. the barony of Murrisk. Grace's mother was Margaret, daughter of Conchobhar Og Mac Conchobhair mic Maoilseachloinn, of the sept of Moher O'Malley, a different branch of the same clan.

The earliest reference in the State Papers to Grace's father, chief of the Umhalls, is in 1549, during the reign of Edward VI, when statutes were drawn up by James, Earl of Ormond, and others of the King's Commissioners, in which a list of main regions, counties and the chief Irish of each province was compiled. Under the Connaught heading, in the list of principal chiefs, the name 'O'Mayle of Pomo' appears. This was an interesting misnomer. The word *pomo* in Latin means apple; the Irish word *Umhall*, meaning territory, is pronounced similarly to the Irish word *úll*, apple, and thus the O'Malley of Umhall became the 'O'Mayle of Pomo' in the State Papers.

Grace's father ruled his territory according to the Brehon system, being elected chieftain and receiving the tributes and rents due a chief under this system.

Grace had one brother, Donal, nicknamed Donal-na-Piopa (of the pipes), who received mention in the State Papers, and who later resided at Cathair-na-Mart (Westport). Evidence suggests that this Donal was either illegitimate or was Grace's step-brother. In a Bill of Chancery 1606, Grace's son testified that Grace was 'sole heir to the said Margrett' (her mother) and had inherited Margaret's lands in the Owels.

THE GAELIC LIFE-STYLE

The life-style of a Gaelic chieftain's household was geared to out-door activities, a fact reflected in the buildings of the time which were primarily shelters and defences rather than luxurious and stately homes. Owen O'Malley lived in the stone fortress of Belclare with his family and household. Around the outskirts of his castle nestled the thatched mud and stone cabins of his followers, while in front lay the sea, on which his livelihood mainly depended. In the nearby fields grazed the clan's herds of cattle and sheep and the small but hardy Irish horses, used for ploughing and for the few excursions made inland. In the summer, Grace's father left his permanent residence at Belclare and with his household left for the 'booley' to graze the cattle herds, but unlike his landbound contemporaries, to fish and trade as well. This custom of 'booleying' had its origins back in Celtic times and survived in O'Malley territory into the twentieth century, when 'grazing in common was lately found by the Congested Districts Board, in full operation in Clare island, and in re-arranging the land there they wisely left the old custom undisturbed'.

The O'Malleys were mainly dependent on the sea for their income and much of the clan's work centred on the building and repair of the small hide-covered coracles and currachs and the maintenance of the larger galleys and caravels. Hide-curing, both for export and for their own use, was a major occupation. Fishing was very important and English, Spanish and French fishing fleets, under licence and payment to Grace's father, fished with him for the rich harvest abounding in O'Malley waters. O'Malley fished with net, hook and line both in the sea and on the rivers and lakes, and much attention had to be given to the maintenance and repair of equipment and implements which were held in common by the clan.

Fishing, trading and tending the cattle herds were not their only outdoor pursuits; like the O'Flaherties some of their leisure was spent hunting both the fallow and red deer which abounded in the Umhalls with the help of their great wolfhounds.

The main meal of the day was taken at evening and it was usual to have a light meal at mid-day. Contrary to many English reports of the time that the entire Gaelic nation existed on buttermilk or

'Bonnyclabbe', the Gaelic diet was quite varied. Porridge or stirabout made of oatmeal flavoured with honey, butter or milk was eaten widely. Venison was a favourite meat, particularly in the West, and mutton and beef were plentiful. Fish was also an important item in the O'Malley diet. Vegetables such as cabbage, onions, wild garlic, leeks and watercress were in use and each family within the clan grew their own supply. Dillisk, eaten with butter, was a delicacy. Hazel nuts were also eaten. Meat was boiled or roasted and a spit (*bir*) made of iron was a very important household implement. Buttermilk was a favourite drink among all classes and was 'wonderfull cold and pleaseing' to quote one English description. The native *uiscebeatha* or whiskey, ale and wines from Spain and France were drunk. Mead was a drink very much in demand in Ireland and the area that produced it in quantity was regarded as most praiseworthy. O'Malley's kingdom, particularly in the vicinity of Murrisk, was noted for its plentifulness of mead, as the old laudatory expression, 'the mead-abounding Murrisk', suggests. Meals were served in the chieftain's house on low wooden trestle tables. Meat was placed on large wooden platters from which everyone helped himself by cutting slices with his knife and placing them on wooden plates. Food was eaten with the hands as forks were not in use in either Ireland or England at this time.

In winter, the chieftain's household was entertained from time to time by travelling bards and rhymers who were also the main sources of news and gossip from other parts of the country. These bards were important to the Gaelic structure, for as well as poets and musicians, they were genealogists, historians and chroniclers of current events and were treated with respect in every chieftain's house. Gambling and card-playing were popular pastimes and ones at which Grace clearly excelled – one of her nicknames was Grainne-na-gCearbhach (Grace of the Gamblers).

These early days, spent on the edge of the ocean, her family's benefactor both in peace and war, no doubt instilled in her a love and aptitude for the maritime life which was to be her career. It is reasonable to assume that she travelled now and then on her father's ships to Spain and Portugal where she would have seen for herself the places and people with whom her family traded.

There is one delightful legend told in explanation of her nickname Granuaile, Grainne Mhaol (i.e. Bald). According to the legend, as a young child, she begged to be taken on one of her father's ships which was leaving for Spain. She was reminded by her mother that a seaman's lot was no life for a young lady and thereupon, she departed and returned later with her long locks cut as a boy's, much to the amusement of her family who promptly nicknamed her Grainne Mhaol.

It is far more likely, however, that the name 'Granuaile' is a corrupt amalgam of the Gaelic *Grainne Uí (Ní) Mhaille* or Grainne Umhaille (Grace of the Umhalls).

MARRIAGE TO DONAL O'FLAHERTY

Grace was some sixteen years old when she married Donal O'Flaherty in or about the year 1546. Donal was of the O'Flaherty clan, which from the middle of the thirteenth century had ruled the vast, rugged territories of Iar Connacht and Connemara, separated from the barony of Murrisk by the fiord-like Killary straits.

He was nick-named 'Donal-an-Chogaidh', (Donal of the Battles) and was the eldest son of Gilleduff O'Flaherty. His lands included the castles of Bunowen and Ballinahinch. The marriage would have been considered a welcome and good match by both clans. With the exception of one recorded dispute in 1834, the O'Malleys and O'Flaherties had co-existed in relative peace and friendship down through the centuries, a relationship not usual between Irish clans. The sea also bound the two families closer together, being almost as important to the O'Flaherties as it was to the O'Malleys. For the O'Malleys especially, the marriage was a good match, for Donal, according to the Gaelic custom, was acknowledged tanaist or heir apparent to Donal Crone, then The O'Flaherty or head of the clan and ruler of all Iar Connacht.

It was at the castle of Bunowen that Grace began her new life as the wife of Donal O'Flaherty. Her husband's other fortress at Ballinahinch was smaller and less spacious than the relatively new castle at Bunowen which was built at the turn of the fifteenth century by Hugh Mór, ancestor of Donal. The castle, little trace of which remains, was a tower-house or fortress with an attached rectangular bawn or enclosure to the north of it. It was situated beside a very narrow and concealed sea-inlet merging with the Bunowen river, four miles to the south-east of Slyne Head. In the time of Grace O'Malley, this narrow

tidal inlet provided the only access to this remote castle by small boat or curragh from Bunowen bay and the approach was difficult. The castle was well placed to facilitate the maritime way of life of its inhabitants.

This new home was separated from Grace's father's territory by some of the most wild, rugged and beautiful scenery in the country. It was bounded to the north-east by the mighty Twelve Bens (na Beanna Beola) containing the soaring peaks of Bencor (2,336 ft.), Benbawn (2,305 ft.), Bencailleoghduibh (2,290 ft.), Benderryclare (2,220 ft.), Bengower (2,184 ft.) and Benlettery (1,904 ft.); to the distant south-east lay the extensive island-strewn waters of Lough Corrib, while all around were the moors and stones of Connemara. The lands of Donal-an-Chogaidh contained a large area of island territory which included the islands of Imill (Border Island), Omay island and Inis Lachan or Duck island.

Grace must have had little difficulty in adapting to her new life and surroundings, so similar were they to those of her father's domain. Becoming mistress of two households may well have proved the most difficult task and catering for the visits of various members of the extensive clan who came to consult with her turbulent husband, Donal, heir apparent to the clan leadership, must have been a burden to one who wished to be involved not with household duties, but with the excitement and activity of a man's world. Her marriage was a fruitful one producing two sons, Owen and Murrough and one daughter named Margaret.

The marriage, involving the alliance of two of the most prominent western families, had every reason to succeed. But this was not to be. Donal's truculent disposition was aptly reflected in his nickname 'an chogaidh' (of the battles) and his marriage did not appear to have improved his nature. Political upheaval and intrigue, moreover, were soon to manifest themselves even in the remote kingdom of Iar-Connacht, with unfortunate results for the political aspirations of Donal.

Before this happened, however, an incident which adversely affected Donal's standing as the principal contender for leadership among the Irish of Iar-Connacht took place, in 1549. As both the Annals and Roderick O'Flaherty record, he was implicated in the murder of one Walter Fada (tall) Burke, son of David Burke, later to become The Iochtarach MacWilliam (i.e. chief of the Mayo Burkes), and neighbour and ally of Grace's father. It is recorded that Donal murdered Walter at the instigation of his sister Finola O'Flaherty, Walter's step-mother. Finola wished to secure the succession of the MacWilliamship for her own son by David Burke, who was named Richard.

The murder was committed at the O'Flaherty castle of Invernán in Moycullen, to the west of Galway, during a visit by David Burke and his son to the territory of his wife's relatives. Eliminating Walter from the list of probable successors to the MacWilliamship, increased the possibility of Finola's own son Richard succeeding his father. Donal's likely gain from murdering Walter was less clear. Finola could have made promises of alliance and co-operation with him when her son would assume the MacWilliamship title and with Donal as probable ruler of Iar Connacht by then, it would have been a very powerful and profitable alliance indeed. There is no evidence to suggest that the Burkes took revenge on either Donal or his sister for the death of their kinsman.

START OF A STRANGE CAREER

And what of Grace? Her life during these years as wife to the turbulent Donal remains a mystery. Her wifely duties as mother, rearing three children, and her duties as mistress of the castles of Bunowen and Ballinahinch, no doubt occupied her for some time. Judging by her character and exploits in later life, however, it is doubtful if she would have been content to undertake a passive role in the events and struggles happening around her. She eventually superseded her husband in his authority over his followers, becoming actively involved in political plotting and intrigue, in both initiating and settling tribal disputes, in fishing and trading and from time to time leading an attack on merchant ships en route to the port of Galway and relieving them of their cargo. Galway city had closed its gates to the O'Flaherties and so, in their eyes, any ship, English, Irish or Spanish using the port was a justifiable target for their attack.

When the opportunity arose Grace would swoop out of the shelter and cover of the islands in swift galleys and force a lumbering merchantman to a halt. Her men would scramble aboard and await their leader's command to pillage and plunder, depending on the outcome of her negotiations with the

ship's captain over a suitable fee for safe passage to Galway. Then laden with either the agreed or extracted spoil, Grace and her men would disappear quickly into the mists and safety of Bunowen. The mayor and corporation of Galway were powerless against such attacks and conveyed their displeasure to the English Council.

Grace also it would seem took control of the clan's more peaceful trading missions, sailing far afield to Munster, Ulster, Scotland, Spain and Portugal to sell the produce of Connemara at more lucrative and less prohibitive markets than Galway. Her ships returned laden with the produce of these faraway places: wines, spices, glass, iron, rich silks and fabrics, all of which found a ready market among the Gaelic and Anglo-Irish lords of Connaught who preferred to purchase from Grace rather than pay the high import tolls at Galway.

It is difficult to establish why Grace chose this extraordinary way of life. Was there some weakness in her husband's character that forced her to assume the role of leader, or were the qualities of leadership and thirst for power and adventure so much of her being that they became a force within her greater than any of the conventions of her time? Certainly there is evidence in the later life of Donal O'Flaherty that leadership may have been forced upon Grace out of necessity, but there must have been a responding spark in her make-up as a woman for her to undertake such a daunting and dangerous career, at a time when the life of a Gaelic woman was expected to be one of total domesticity.

A CLASH OF TRADITIONS

Grace experienced, at first hand, the might of the over-expanding English power which now had eventually pierced the remoteness of Iar-Connacht, drawing O'Flaherty, O'Malley and MacWilliam Burke into its ever increasing net.

During the 1560s a young O'Flaherty chief had been making his presence felt in Iar-Chonnacht. This was Murrough na dTuadh O'Flaherty (Murrough of the Battleaxes, anglicised Murrough Ne Doe), who was chieftain of the territory of Gnomore, which formed the northern part of the present barony of Moycullen in County Galway. This O'Flaherty was not of the senior branch of the clan and, therefore, according to the Brehon law, could not be elected chief. He made the castle of Fough (Fuathaidh), situated near the present town of Oughterard, his principal residence and from there he made frequent raids on the territory of Thomond, until Conor O'Brien, the third Earl of Thomond, was forced to march against him in 1560. Murrough evaded him and the Earl was forced to return to Thomond, his expensive and exhausting excursion for nothing. In 1564, the Earl of Clanrickard was also forced to take the field against Murrough, on account of his incursions and raids on the barony of Clare. On this occasion Murrough gave battle and defeated the Earl's forces decisively at Trabane (the white strand), two miles west of Galway. This incident was too serious to be overlooked by the English government. To overcome Murrough by force would prove a costly and possibly inconclusive exercise, considering the remoteness of his territory. On the other hand, if he could be persuaded to become a loyal subject it could prove to be to the government's advantage to have so powerful a Gaelic leader on their side. Murrough, however, was a chieftain of little significance by Gaelic law. To rectify the situation the Queen, on his submission, pardoned him of all past offences and appointed him chieftain of all Iar-Chonnacht or in other words, made him The O'Flaherty. In return Murrough promised to 'Observe the Queen's peace, to appear and answer at all sessions within the province when called upon, and to satisfy the demands of all the Queen's subjects, according to justice and equity'. The appointment was in complete contradiction to the Brehon system which had elected Donal Crone as chieftain and Donal-an-Chogaidh as *Tanaist*.

DEATH OF DONAL-AN-CHOGAIDH O'FLAHERTY

With the Queen's replacement of Donal Crone by Murrough-ne-doe, as chieftain of Iar-Chonnacht, Donal-an-Chogaidh's aspirations to become The O'Flaherty were extinguished. His death must have occurred shortly after this as there is no direct reference to him on record, only references to 'the descendants of Donell Coghie'. According to legend he was killed by the Joyces in revenge for an attack on their territory and for his seizure of the island fortress called Hen's castle (*Caislean-an-Circa*). This secluded castle on Lough Corrib was a source of constant dispute and warfare between Donal and the Joyces and together with his more usual pseudonym, 'an-chogaidh', he was also referred to as Donal-

an-Cullagh 'the Cock' supposedly on account of the great personal courage he displayed while defending this castle. There must have been joy in the Joyce camp, if the legend is correct that they killed him while hunting in the neighbouring mountains, as they imagined that at last the castle was theirs for the taking. They reckoned without Grace, however, who defended her late husband's castle with such skill and heroism that, just as her late husband had been named 'the Cock' for his courage, Grace acquired the title 'the Hen' for hers, and hence the name *Caislean-an-Circa*, Hen's castle.

Tradition also states that this castle was the scene of one of Grace's exploits some years later. Grace, with a few followers, was besieged on the island fortress, by a strong force of English soldiers from Galway. As the siege continued, hope began to fade and conditions inside the castle became critical. Grace was determined not to surrender and as the castle roof was lead, ordered her men to strip and melt it down. The molten liquid was then tipped over the turrets onto the English besiegers below who beat a hasty retreat to the mainland, where the siege was continued from a safer distance. With no means of escape, she despatched one of her men, when darkness fell, to the Hill of Doon, through the underground passage which connects the castle to the mainland, to light the beacon there. She had established a network of beacons along the coast-line to be used as signals of danger or attack. From the Hill of Doon flashed the message of her plight and answering beacons from the Killaries to Clare island relayed the news. Her fleet put to sea and her followers, on reaching Lough Corrib, overcame the English and lifted the siege on Hen's castle.

Grace left her late husband's territory and returned to her father's kingdom of Umhall Uachtarach. Her future position in the O'Flaherty country was not very promising; her husband was dead and her sons were grown men, involved in securing their own positions in the power struggle which was to continue in Iar-Connacht.

FOOTNOTE

Extract from **Granuaile, the Life and Times of Grace O'Malley, 1530-1603**, by Anne Chambers. Her second biography on Grace's son, Theobald Bourke, the first Viscount Mayo, 1567-1629 was published in 1983 under the title **Chieftain to Knight**. Both books are available through Wolfhound Press, 68 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1. Reproduced by permission of the Author.

WALDEN POND, COUNTY MAYO

BY GERRY O'MALLEY

"IN MY CULDIC CELL, BY HISSING RUSHLIGHT, PANGUR BAN FOLLOWING THE FLEETING QUILL AND SNATCHING WITH SNOWY PAWS" . . .

Well, maybe not quite like that. But I *did* come down to a cottage that had neither water nor electricity. The man who moved my furniture said: "See you in a few weeks when I come to take you back".

That was ten years ago. By this time I think I've become the complete north Mayo man, that is, someone for whom the letters BMW mean Ballina Mineral Waters.

The first effect was – as they say in the vodka ads. – mildly shattering. Cooking on a camping gas stove, hoiking water from the well, loo arrangements an evening walk with a spade to a corner of the rushy acre, nighttime candlelight flickering on white walls.

But the place wasn't totally isolated. There was the tractor collecting milk churns and an occasional car and, morning and evening, the scholars on their way to and from the nearby school.

Easy to understand why Mayo men are so prominent in the building trade to the world over. Knowledge of such things as wall plates and roof trusses seems to be ingested with the maternal milk. For someone who had never painted a door, much less mixed concrete or fixed a roof tile, the learning experience had to begin straightaway. I am not a handy person. To tell the truth, perfectly sound objects tend to fall apart when I'm around. But, on the rare occasion when a hamfisted effort at house maintenance sort of half succeeded, the experience was extremely gratifying.

I came to the cottage overlooking Killala Bay just when the winter storms were beginning. Dealing with the ravages of weather became a daily chore and wind was a four-lettered word. There were nights when a northern force 9 or 10 did its unabating best to take the roof off. I'd lie there in bed wondering what to grab when lift-off came. Then the wind would change, ferreting out a whole new set of cracks and crevices in the structure.

I went there not knowing "a hawk from a handsaw" but, a pair of binoculars, a good nature book and a lot of interesting walks later, I was able to identify most of the fauna around. I learned to bake bread, brew beer and, to my astonishment, grow the most beautiful vegetables, using sea-weed as fertiliser. Life in the country has considerable freedoms, such as the freedom of being able to leave your property knowing that it's unlikely to be stolen or vandalised when you get back. I don't happen to believe that country people are necessarily more honest or law-abiding than their city counterparts. I think it's the continual close observation the people keep on what is going on around them that acts as a deterrent. I've been astonished at the ability of my neighbours to remember the registration numbers of cars that called at my place when I couldn't have said if my visitors had come by helicopter or bicycle.

Another freedom comes from the complete lack of interest in dress. After city conformity it was a relief to find myself in a situation where the only absolutely essential "gear" was a pair of wellington boots. In the country, the wearing of wellies constitutes practically a way of life, going far beyond the simple matter of keeping your feet dry. Wellies affect gait and posture and, I suspect, thought processes.

Last year Dublin was in a state of absolute chassis as a result of phone, bus and refuse collection strikes. Being independent of these services I was teetotally unaffected. That's a kind of freedom as well.

According to the Romans who wrote about the people they came across in ancient Gaul, the Celts were "quick to anger, slow to forgive, delirious in victory and downcast in defeat". Their ancestors in this part of north-west Mayo exhibit the same characteristics, good and bad. They are also warm-hearted, good-humoured, helpful, resilient in the face of falling farm and fish incomes and friendly to blow-ins.

In the country, time comes in big, usable lumps, not the useless fragments that come from to-ing and fro-ing to keep appointments. And for somebody more than just a little lazy, procrastination is, I'm happy to say, the opium of the Mayo classless.

I get as impatient with the assumed superiority by the countryman over city dwellers ("the craturs know nothin'") as I do with the cityman's habit of self-abasement before his country cousins ("this is the *real* life you have down here"). Contrasts between city and country are real enough. The styles of life are poles apart, each having evolved naturally from its separate circumstances. It is simply mischievous of

people like party politicians – who, of course, by very definition thrive on divisiveness – to exaggerate this into a conflict, when few enough city dwellers in this country are more than half a generation removed from a cowshite.

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FOOTNOTE

Gerry O'Malley is the son of a Clare Island man who emigrated to the States but returned to Ireland to raise a family of thirteen in Rathdowney, Co. Laois. Gerry – the youngest – took an engineering degree at University College Dublin. He was Clan Chieftain in 1972. Ten years ago he retired to north Mayo to write and has had plays and stories on BBC and RTE. The above light-hearted account of his return to the West was first broadcast by the author on the popular RTE arts programme, "Sunday Miscellany", to which he is a regular contributor.

RE REPAIRS TO GRANIA UAILE'S CASTLE, Carrigahowley, Westport.

Westport,
MARCH 14th, 1949.

Dear Clansmen,

At a largely attended meeting of the Clan O'Malley, held in the Railway Hotel, Westport, to-day, it was decided to form an association to assist this project. The following executive committee was elected:—

Sir Owen O'Malley, Rockfleet House, Westport, (Treasurer),
John J. O'Malley, Merchant, Westport,
Patrick P. O'Malley, Commercial Traveller, Westport Quay, } Secretaries.

COMMITTEE

Very Rev. Canon O'Malley, P.P., Partry, Westport
Rev. Edward O'Malley, C.C., Athenry, Co. Galway
Rev. John Dominic O'Malley, C.C., Tierney, Co. Galway
Doctor O'Malley, Westport
Professor Conor O'Malley, University College, Galway
Doctor Owen O'Malley, Castlebar
Patrick O'Malley, Veterinary Surgeon, Castlebar
Edward O'Malley, Commercial Traveller, Westport Quay
Patrick O'Malley, Merchant, Bridge Street, Westport
Arthur O'Malley, Merchant, Shop Street, Westport
Patrick J. O'Malley, Merchant, The Octagon, Westport
Richard O'Malley, Merchant, The Fountain, Westport
Charles O'Malley, Contractor, The Mall, Westport
Anthony O'Malley, Merchant, Dooagh, Achill
Patrick O'Malley, Merchant, Louisburgh
Austin O'Malley, Merchant, Cross, Louisburgh
Thomas O'Malley, Lanmore, Westport
Joseph O'Malley, Ballyburke, Westport
Matthew O'Malley, Merchant, Cleggan, Connemara, Co. Galway
Thomas O'Malley, Merchant, Rossmuck, Connemara
Patrick O'Malley, "Rose Cottage," Rosbeg, Westport
John O'Malley, Castlebar Street, Westport
John O'Malley, Ardygomman, Westport
Thomas O'Malley, Merchant, Ballinrobe
Brian O'Malley, Tornimore, Clare Island, Co. Mayo
Austin O'Malley, Clare Island, Co. Mayo
Michael O'Malley, Merchant, Bridge Street, Louisburgh

The object of this meeting, as explained in the enclosed leaflet, was to solicit subscriptions to supplement the free grant, given by the Department of Public Works. We wish to say, repairs were carried out by our ancestors, on Grania's famous castle for over four hundred years. It was considered by them a sacred duty to hand it down to us, as an inspiration and a symbol of our Clann. In order to foster this spirit and keep alive the spirit of loyalty, so characteristic of our Clann, it was unanimously decided to appeal for financial assistance, so that, we in our day, would assist in handing it down to our descendants. It was also decided not to solicit or accept subscriptions outside the O'Malley's. When the building is completed, we will have a reunion of the Clann O'Malley, and you will be duly notified. All subscriptions will be acknowledged by the secretaries.

Yours faithfully,

John J. O'Malley,
Patrick P. O'Malley, } Secretaries.

(Leaflet circulated by the O'Malley Clan Association in March 1949.)

HOW IT ALL BEGAN – THE STORY OF THE O'MALLEY CLAN ASSOCIATION

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

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

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

This dream became reality when at a meeting in the Railway Hotel, Westport, on 14 March 1949, the O'Malley Clan Association was formed for the purpose of collecting subscriptions for repairs to Carrigahowley Castle. At this meeting an executive committee was elected, and subsequently an appeal was circulated to solicit subscriptions to the restoration fund. A copy of this leaflet is here reproduced, and a glance at the list of names constituting this executive committee, shows that it was truly representative of Mayo and Galway O'Malleys. Alas, most, if not all, of these men have passed to their eternal reward, but happily their families are still strongly represented at recent clan rallies. Grace O'Malley Purcell, daughter of John J. O'Malley, was chieftain of the clan in 1981-2, while her brother Brendan and Maurice, son of Patrick P. O'Malley, are hardworking members of the Clan Committee. Jane, daughter of Sir Owen O'Malley, is keenly interested in local history and is a strong supporter of clan activities.

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



SIR OWEN O'MALLEY, ROSSYVERA, 1970.



CARRIGAHOWLEY CASTLE, 13 SEPTEMBER 1953.



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

GATHERING OF O'MALLEY CLAN

(From *The Western People*, 19 September 1953.)

GRAINUAILE'S CASTLE OPENED – CHIEF ELECTED

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

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

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

WELCOME

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

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

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

"I am glad to say that Carrigahowley Castle, the one we are going to visit today, has been restored by contributions received from O'Malleys only. The castle has been restored to its original construction, which naturally is not the modern idea of architecture, but was the style prevailing 350 years ago.

"It is by our re-union here today that we are standing fast by our tradition and culture. We are most anxious that many of the other Irish Clans will co-operate in the good work.

FAITH AND FATHERLAND

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

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

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

MR. CHARLIE O'MALLEY

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

Mr. Andrew O'Malley, N.T. Kilmeena; Mr. Patrick P. O'Malley, Westport Quay, and Dr. Conor O'Malley, U.C.G., also spoke.

Also on the platform were: Dr. Owen K. O'Malley, Dublin; Mr. P. O'Malley, V.S. Castlebar, and Professor Thomas O'Maille, lecturer, Galway University.

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

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

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

HISTORY OF CLAN O'MALLEY

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

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

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

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

'An interesting tradition has come down to us that the O'Malley chieftain line had been wiped out to the last man by the Danes, leaving only one male child who was reared by a foster mother. The boy later grew to be a great warrior under the special patronage of St. Brendan the Navigator. This attractive story assumes various shapes down the ages, taking on new forms to suit the changing times. For instance, Cromwell replaces the Danes in the later versions.

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

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

ALLIES

"The Clan seems to have accepted the De Burgo as their best policy and became allies of their powerful neighbours, the Slocht Ulick Burkes and so held complete suzerainty in Umhall under the

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESTORATION OF CASTLES AND ABBEYS

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

O'Malley made safe in six years, and all now in the nation's care.

CLAN SUBSCRIBED

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

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

CASTLE ON FIRE

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

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

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

CASTLEBAR HISTORIAN SPEAKS

Having joined in thanking the lecturer, Mr. J. F. Quinn, *Western People*, who, it was mentioned, had written the history of the O'Malleys, said he also would like to join in the chorus of approval and appreciation from all parts of the country of the step taken by those who had brought about this memorable and historic gathering of Clan O'Malley, whose place in Mayo history for more than fifteen centuries made it but fitting that the scattered sons of this important sept should be federated under the old banner with the motto "powerful by land and sea," which in the stirring past was often carried in triumph against the Saxon foe. A permanent family organisation of this kind would serve a good and useful purpose, but if it only saved from oblivion the name and fame of a family whose exploits in the Anglo-Norman epoch are interwoven in the warp and woof of Mayo history, and not with discredit, it would be justified. And, apart from the famous Sea Queen, there was a galaxy of outstanding men of the name, and though they did not all fight for Ireland, such as Major General George O'Malley, whose imposing epitaph is at Christ Church, Castlebar, and tomb in Murrisk Abbey, they yet deserve to be remembered. In Church and State, and in the learned professions there were men of the name. This was not the time or place to recall them, but he thought it was justifiable that at least a few should be enumerated now. Who of the Irish race today could you place higher in intellectual ability than Surgeons Michael and Conor O'Malley, of Galway? And most of them could look back with pride and gratitude to what the late Padraig O'Malley did to save the Irish language in Connaught and organise the forces that won independence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN J. O'MALLEY, CLAN PRESIDENT

Such a large crowd of O'Malleys and their friends attended at the C.I.E. Hotel, Mulranny, afterwards, that there had to be two sittings for lunch. At the second sitting Mr. John J. O'Malley, Westport, chief organiser of the O'Malley Clan Rally, was appointed Chief of the Clan, with Dr. Conor O'Malley, Galway, Vice-Chief. The appointments are for one year, and next year an O'Malley from Galway or Limerick may be elected Chief.

Amongst those also present were Rev. Charles O'Malley, Inishboffin. Mr. Paddy O'Malley, Hibernian Bank, Dublin, brother of Mr. Ernie O'Malley, author, and soldier of 1916, who was unable to be present. Dr. Owen K. O'Malley, Dublin; Mr. P. O'Malley, V.S., Castlebar; Mr. Seamus O'Malley, N.T., Coilmore N.S., Claremorris, who captained the Mayo team which won the All-Ireland crown in 1936; Major O'Malley, Suir Castle, Tipperary.

The youngest O'Malley present was Imelda O'Malley, aged 2 years, daughter of Charlie and Mrs. O'Malley, Dooagh; Grainne O'Malley, aged 6, daughter of Mr. P. J. O'Malley, engineer, and granddaughter of Mr. Charlie O'Malley, Westport. The oldest member came from Clare Island, John O'Malley, aged 96.

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

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

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

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

Mayo – P. O'Malley, Carrowmore-Lacken; A. O'Malley, Roonith, Louisburgh; Patk. P. O'Malley, Furmoyle; Anthony O'Malley, Pullgloss; Peter O'Malley, Feenone; M. O'Malley, Killadoon; Thomas O'Malley, Ballyhaunis; Maire Ni Mhaille, O'Malley, Killadoon; T. O'Malley, Bridge Street, Swinford; Matt O'Malley, Ballintubber; John O'Malley, Kilmeena; James O'Malley, Ballyburke; Joe O'Malley, Streamstown; Austin and Anthony O'Malley, Ballyheane; Austin O'Malley, Ballintubber; Mr. and Mrs. J. O'Malley, Kinnewery.

Achill – H. O'Malley, Bunnacurry; Owen O'Malley, Melawn; Mrs. Nora Connor, Bunnacurry; Mrs. Joseph Deane, N.T., Bunnacurry; Charles and Mrs. O'Malley, Dooagh; A. O'Malley, Dooagh; Tony O'Malley, Keel

P.O.; James O'Malley, Newport, Co. Mayo; Ed. O'Malley, Newport, Co. Tipperary; Kenneth O'Malley, Leeds; John J. O'Malley, Rathdowney; Ellis O'Malley, City Hall, Kilkenny.

Westport — John J. O'Malley and Mrs. O'Malley; Miss M. A. O'Malley, Mill Street; Mr. Brendan O'Malley, M. O'Malley, Miss Eileen O'Malley, Bridge Street; Mr. R. O'Malley, High Street; Miss Lillie O'Malley, Messrs. J. F. and Edward O'Malley, Lanmore; Arthur O'Malley, Shop Street; Peter O'Malley, S.S.O., The Fairgreen; John O'Malley, Castlebar Street; E. O'Malley, Castlebar Street; Mrs. N. O'Malley, Castlebar Street; Edward O'Malley, Cloonmonad; Wm. O'Malley, Newport; Mr. Chappie O'Malley, Mr. and Mrs. O'Malley, Murrisk; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. O'Malley, The Mall, Westport; Brian O'Malley, The Mall, Westport; Ml. O'Malley, The Mall Westport; Miss Nan O'Malley, The Mall, Westport; Miss May O'Malley, The Mall, Westport.

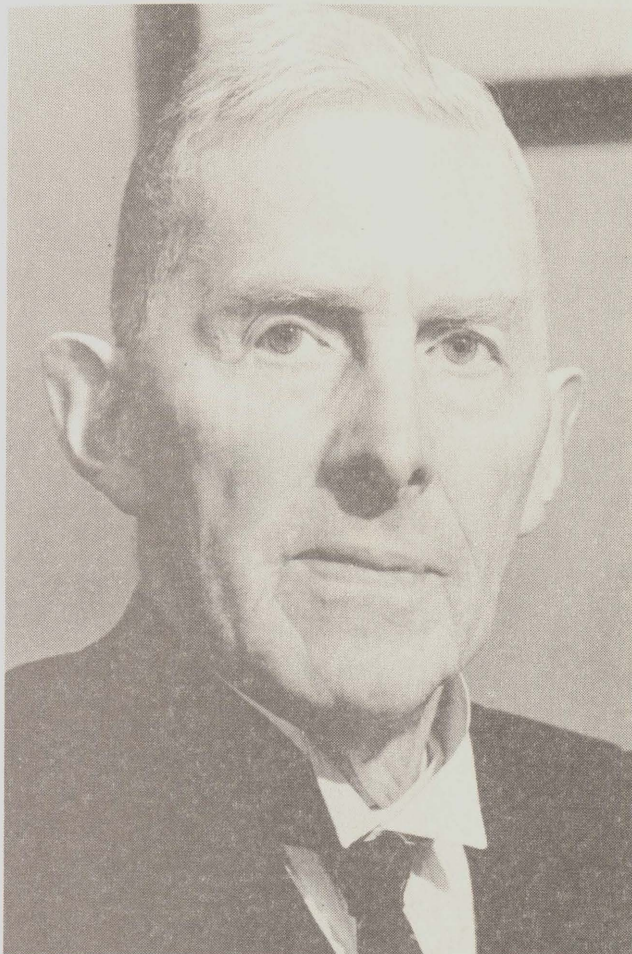
Westport Quay — Mr. and Mrs. Pa O'Malley, Messrs. Ed. O'Malley, J. J. O'Malley, John F. O'Malley, Miss Margaret O'Malley, P. O'Malley, Altamount Street; Mrs. Rita O'Malley, John's Row; Frank O'Malley, High Street; Mr. P. J. O'Malley, The Octagon.

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

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

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

THE EARLY DAYS – OUR FIRST CHIEFTAINS



JOHN J. O'MALLEY (1872-1959)

One of the best known businessmen in the West of Ireland, his wife was Sabina Joyce, daughter of Thomas Francis and Sabina Joyce of Muintir Eoin and Leenane, Co. Galway. His parents were John and Maria (née Garavan) O'Malley of Knockfelim, Aughagower, Westport. Educated at Derrygorman National School and a private academy at James's Street, Westport, his early interests were boxing and field sports. He served his business apprenticeship in Westport and Mullingar, and started his own wholesale and retail business in Upper Bridge Street, Westport, circa 1904. Founder and first president of Westport Chamber of Commerce, he became a prime mover in the promotion of local industry. A director of the Irish Sewing Cotton Co., the Reliable Shoe Co., and Westport Doubling Co., he was also proprietor of the Ormond Hotel, Dublin. He was a founder member and president of the O'Malley Clan Association, and a driving force behind the project of restoring Gráinne's castle of Carrigahowley. Chief organiser of the first Clan Rally in 1953, he was elected chieftain at the gathering that took place on that day at the C.I.E. Hotel, Mulrany. The following year he was elected Guardian Chieftain, a position which he held until his death in 1959.



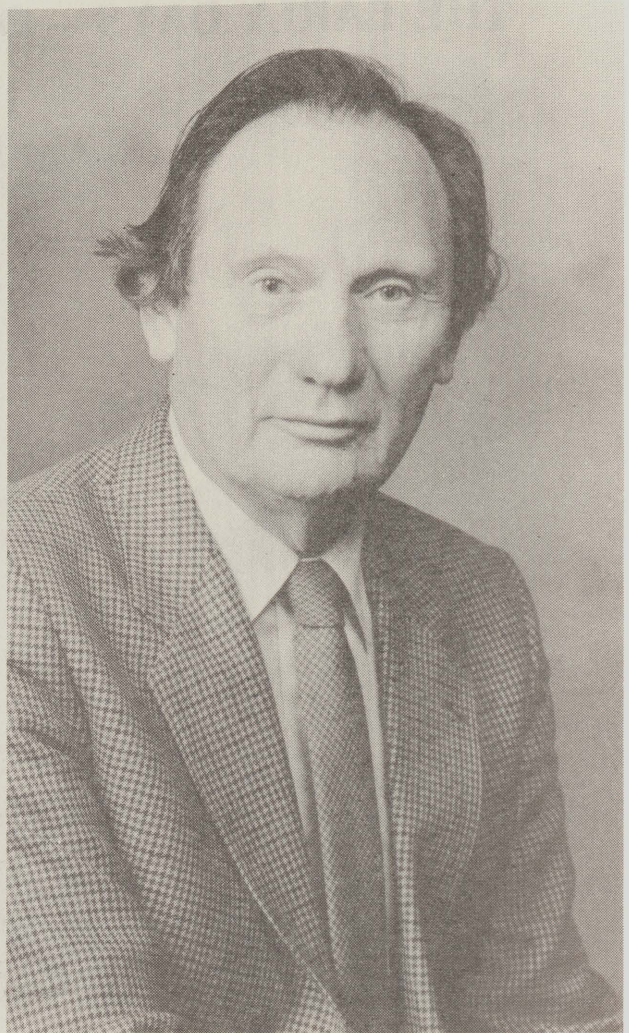
C. CONOR O'MALLEY (1889-1982) B.Sc., M.D., K.M.

Youngest child of Peter and Mary O'Malley of Kilmilkin, Maam, Co. Galway, Conor qualified as a doctor in 1917, and served with the British Navy during the First World War. In 1924 he married Dr. Sal. Joyce, daughter of Thomas Francis and Sabina Joyce of Muintir Eoin and Leenane, Co. Galway. He became Professor of Ophthalmology and Otology in University College Galway, and was one of the most prominent eye, ear, nose and throat surgeons in the west of Ireland. A keen sportsman, he was also intensely interested in archaeology and family history. He brought the Order of Malta Ambulance Corps to Ireland, and in 1958 became a Grand Knight of that Order. Apart from his many contributions to medical journals, he wrote extensively on travel and his early experiences as a medical student and golfer in the Galway of his youth. His publications include *A History of the Founding of the Order of Malta Ambulance Corps in Ireland*; *The Story of Queen's College, Galway*; *With a Fishing Rod in Ireland*. Having helped to organize the first O'Malley Rally, he became chieftain in 1954, and guardian chieftain at the death of his brother-in-law, John J. O'Malley in 1959.



PATRICK E. O'MALLEY

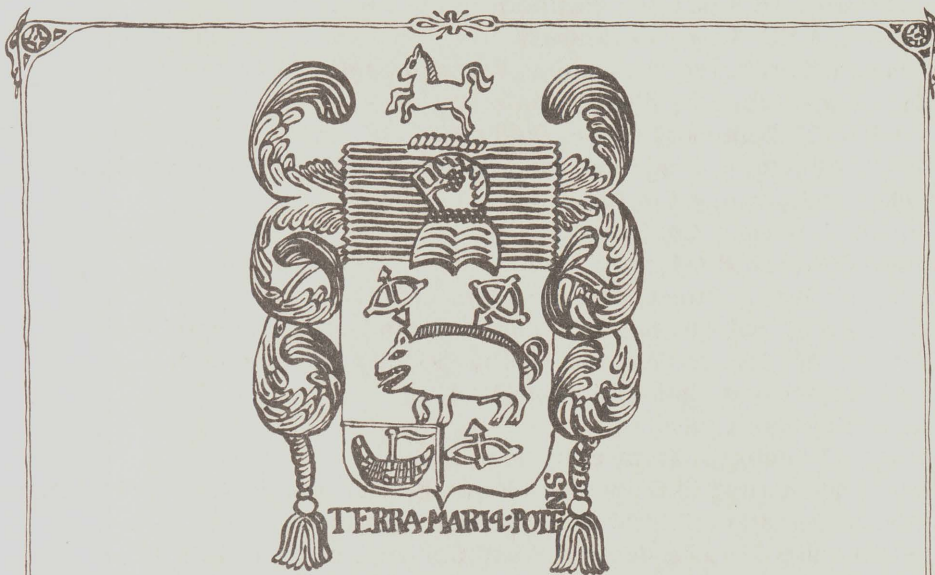
Elected chieftain of the O'Malley Clan in 1955, Patrick Eugene O'Malley, son of Patrick O'Malley, was born in 1892 and educated by the Jesuit Fathers at Crescent College, Limerick. After his father's death, he became managing director of the family wholesale wine and spirit business at the Roundhouse, High Street, Limerick. He was also director of the Limerick drapery firm of Cannock & Co. Actively interested in the business life of the city, he was at one stage President of the Chamber of Commerce. He represented France in the city for over 25 years, acting as Agent Consulaire de France up to the time of his death.



P. PEARSE O'MALLEY, M.B., F.R.C.P., F.R.C. Psych.

Patrick Pearse O'Malley, born in Armagh in 1918, studied in Queen's College Belfast and University College Dublin, and married Mary Hickey of Cork in 1947. He worked in Dublin, Bristol, London and Belfast. He was Director of the Neuro-Psychiatric Clinic at the Mater Infirmorum Hospital Belfast and Clinical Teacher at Queen's University Belfast from 1946 to 1980. At present he is Consultant Neuro-Psychiatrist to the Ulster Independent Clinic Belfast. The author of several professional papers, he was appointed a member of the Tribunal d'appel des maladies mentales in 1962. A member of the Newman Society, and the Union des acteurs dramatiques, he was a foundation trustee of the Lyric Players Theatre Belfast, of which his wife Mary was co-founder and artistic director. He was elected chieftain of the O'Malley Clan in 1956.

THE CLAN CERTIFICATE



INSCRIBAIMID leis seo

WE HEREBY INSCRIBE

AS

OF

mar Fíor-ball uasal de

**A TRUE AND HONOURED MEMBER OF THE
CLANN Uí Máille**

O'MALLEY CLAN FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS

ar Feas trí bliana ó'n lá seo

FROM THIS DAY

Ceann Cloinne

O·MÁILLE·

In 1983 we introduced a Clan Certificate scheme, which has been a remarkable success. For a modest five pounds (or ten dollars, if you live in the United States) we offer a specially designed certificate which shall be valid for three years. The holder will have his or her name registered in our Leabhar Cloinne, or Book of the Clan, and will be entitled to receive notice of the annual rally and the annual general meeting, where elections will take place for the positions of Tánaiste, Chieftain and Guardian Chieftain. We would hope that at least one member from each household would purchase a certificate, and that we would also attract members from abroad, especially from the United States, where so many O'Malleys have settled over the years. In this way, funds would be available to organize the annual rally, which is presently at risk through increased costs, especially postal charges.

BUY A CERTIFICATE AND HELP US TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU.

LIST OF CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

1. Anthony J. O'Malley, 16 Kings Hill, Westport.
2. Maurice O'Malley, A.I.B. Tuam, Co. Galway.
3. Maureen O'Malley, Cap Martin, Serpentine, Blundell Sands, Liverpool.
4. Pat O'Malley, Carina, Suncroft, Kildare.
Gráinne O'Malley, 22 Beaumont Grove, Dublin 9.
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6. Donie O'Malley, Rathdowney, Co. Laois.
7. Eileen Vaughan, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.
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13. Mary O'Malley, Shraugh, Louisburgh.
14. Kevin O'Malley, 13 Rostrevor Terrace, Rathgar, Dublin.
15. Grace O'Malley Mohlman, 653 Ocean View Road, Brielle, New Jersey 08730, U.S.A.
16. Kathleen O'Malley Wagner, 3324 SE Fairway East, Stuart, Fla. 33494, U.S.A.
17. John & Carol O'Malley, 119 Bartlett Hill Road, Concord, Mass. 01742, U.S.A.
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19. Dr. John O'Malley, Carraroe, Co. Galway.
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25. Ned O'Malley, Westport Road, Louisburgh.
26. Richard O'Malley O'Toole, St. Anne's, Westport Road, Louisburgh.
27. Thomas Tuttle, Cottonwood Drive, Evergreen, Col., U.S.A.
28. Millicent Rayner, 4283 SE Fairway E., Stuart, Fla. 33494, U.S.A.
29. Michael O'Malley, Bearnafunshin, Barefield, Ennis, Co. Clare.
30. William O'Malley, Cloonfad, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo.
31. Prof. Ethna O'Malley Gaffney, 11 Stillorgan Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.
32. Anne Chambers, Murrisk, Westport.
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35. Grace O'Malley Purcell, 44 Eglinton Road, Dublin 4.
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38. Brendan O'Malley, Helensville, Rosbeg, Westport.
39. Rev. Charles O'Malley, Athenry, Co. Galway.
40. Mary O'Sullivan, 56 Main Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
41. The O'Malley Family, 151 Philipsburgh Ave., Marino, Dublin 3.
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46. Martin O'Malley, 1 Calderwood Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.
47. Clare McMyler, Bayview, Kings Hill, Westport.
48. Brian O'Malley, 239 School Street, Walpole, Mass. 02081, U.S.A.
49. Maureen O'Malley Aspell, Letterbeg, Blacklion Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.
50. Joan Ringrose, 3 Whitethorn Road, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14.

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63. Conor Plunkett O'Malley, 11 St. Helen's Road, Booterstown, Dublin.
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67. Dr. Patrick O'Malley, 52256 Hickory Rd., Granger, South Bend, Indiana, U.S.A.
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80. Elizabeth O'Malley, Mill Street, Westport.
81. Mary Malia Keenan, 3830 No. 26th Street, Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A.
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84. Michael Malley, 609 Franklin Ave., Indialantic, Florida 32903, U.S.A.
85. George F. O'Malley, 3538 S.W. Barbur Boulevard, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.
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87. Miss Angelica O'Malley, 3040 Idaho Ave., N.W., No. 721, Washington D.C. 20016, U.S.A.
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89. Philip B. O'Malley, 47407 Kameahameha, Kaneohe 96744, Hawaii, U.S.A.
90. Claire Edna O'Malley, 45 The Drive, Roundhay, Leeds LS8 1JQ, West Yorkshire, England.
91. Ulla O'Malley, Kilmilkin, Maam, Co. Galway.
92. William O'Brien, P.O. Box 1276, Marci Island, Florida 33937, U.S.A.
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94. Dara O'Malley, 23 Heyside Ave., Heyside, Royton, Oldham, Lancs. OL2 6LB, England.
95. John & Sarah Flynn, Cabra, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.
96. Patrick John O'Malley, Shrataggle, Porturlin, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

