

Ó MÁILLE

1988

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CLAN RECORD



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36th O'Malley Clan Rally

Friday 22 July, Saturday 23 July and Sunday 24 July 1988

Our Chieftain, Joseph O'Malley Blackwell of Ross House, Newport, Co. Mayo, invites all O'Malleys, together with their spouses, relatives and friends, to join him for three days of celebration at our annual rally. We hope you will be able to come.

Friday 22nd July

7 p.m. Civic Reception at Urban District Council Building, Castlebar Street, Westport, to be followed by informal gatherings.

Saturday 23rd July

10 a.m. Boat trip to Clare Island from Darby's Point, Cloghmore, Achill Island. Coach will depart from Olde Railway Hotel, North Mall, Westport at 10 a.m., picking up passengers at Newport House Hotel (10.15), Mulranny Bay Hotel (10.30), Achill Sound Hotel (10.45). First boat will depart from Darby's Point for Clare Island at 11 a.m. Duration of crossing approximately thirty minutes each way. Refreshments available on Clare Island. Coach passengers will be deposited in reverse order on the return journey to Westport, where they will arrive at approximately 7 p.m.

8 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the O'Malley Clan Association in Hotel Westport, Westport, at 8 p.m. precisely.

9 p.m. Chieftain Joseph O'Malley Blackwell's Reception at Hotel Westport, Westport. Entertainment will be provided by local musicians.

Sunday 24th July

12.15 p.m. Mass in Saint Brendan's Church. Kilmeena (or Myna Church), to be celebrated by our Honorary Chaplain, Rev. Éamonn O'Malley, P.P. The Blessing of the Clan Banners will take place during the Mass.

1.15 p.m. Pipe Recital by Pipe Majors Michael O'Malley and Ailean Nicholson. Welcome Address by Guardian Chieftain.

2 p.m. Assemble at Mulranny Bay Hotel, Mulranny, for luncheon, with presentation of awards for outstanding service to the clan. This will be followed by dancing to the music of Tony Chambers. Our Chieftain Joseph of Ross requests that each former chieftain will preside over a table of ten at the luncheon, as their will be no formal top table.

THE O'MALLEY CLAN RECORD

We are happy to present our fifth **O'Malley Clan Record** to clan members and their friends. We hope our readers will find much to interest them concerning O'Malleys and the places associated with them. This year we have contributions from O'Malleys in Australia and the U.S. Their heat-warming stories sharpen our perception of the strong bonds of affection that exist between the homeland and the descendants of exiles. We welcome any further contributions of a similar nature from our overseas family. We are grateful to the following who helped us to compile the 1988 Record:- Lorna Gilmore, Caryl Kennedy Benish, Wayne and Kitty Harlow, Pearse O'Malley, Sister Perpetua, Roddy Heron, Michael McGing, Frank Dolan and Justin Sammon. Many thanks also to our advertisers who made this production possible.

Westport, July 1988.

O'Malley Clan Committee

Chairperson:

SHEILA O'MALLEY MULLOY

Secretary:

ANTHONY O'MALLEY

Treasurer:

MAURICE O'MALLEY

Recording Secretary:

KITTY O'MALLEY HARLOW

Committee:

BRENDAN O'MALLEY, JIM O'MALLEY, JOE O'MALLEY BLACKWELL,
JOHN JOE O'MALLEY, ANTHONY O'MALLEY,
GRAINNE O'MALLEY MCKIBBEN.

Hon. Editor:

SHEILA MULLOY, Carrowbaun, Westport, Co. Mayo.

Back numbers 1985, 1986 and 1987, may be purchased at the Rally for 50p each, or by post for £1 each. Please make the necessary adjustment if paying in dollars. The rate of exchange at going to press is one Irish Pound = One Dollar fifty cents.



M.J. O'Malley Blackwell, Ross House, Newport, Co. Mayo.

CHIEFTAIN 1987-1988

Joseph O'Malley Blackwell was born in 1913 in Windsor, England, the son of William Gordon Blackwell and Nina O'Malley of Westport. Educated in France and England, he served with the British Army during and after the Second World War. He lived for some years in Jamaica, where he was engaged in the import and export of wines and spirits, as well as the sugar, banana, citrus and cattle business. In the U.S.A., where he was to spend twenty-five years, he was with Crosse & Blackwell Foods in Chicago. He visited his mother in Ross House regularly, and came to live there permanently in 1970 with his wife Meike née Von Gevekot, from Detmold, West Germany. A lover of music, he has always been intensely interested in local history and archaeology, and especially the history of the O'Malley 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 Thomas J. O'Malley, Navan, Co. Meath.
1979 Dr. Thomas O'Malley, Florida, U.S.A.
1980 John E. O'Malley, Ardee, Co. Louth.
1981 Grace O'Malley Purcell, Dublin.
1982 Declan O'Malley, Dublin.
1983 Michael O'Malley, London.
1984 Judge Peter O'Malley, Dublin.
1985 Brian O'Malley, Boston, U.S.A.
1986 Anthony O'Malley, Doughmakeon, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo.
1987 Joseph O'Malley Blackwell, Ross House, Newport, Co. Mayo.

35TH O'MALLEY CLAN RALLY

Saturday 11 July and Sunday 12 July 1987

The action-packed 35th O'Malley Clan Rally was held on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July, 1987, and the most active participant was our 88 year old Chieftain, Anthony of Doughmakeon, who with his twinkling blue eyes and inimitable humour led us a merry dance for the two days.

He greeted us at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday morning in the Quay Cottage, Westport Quay, the charming restaurant run by Peter McDonagh and Kirstin McCormick Blackwell, who hosted an exhibition of water colours by Baroness Alexandra Van Hout, entitled 'The Land and Sea of Grainne Uaile'. A pleasant easy-going viewing took place on a beautiful sunny summer morning, where O'Malley visitors from all over the world met and exchanged pleasantries in the presence of Anthony, the Baroness and her family. Kirstin provided us with early morning refreshments and it was a lovely start to the activities that followed.

After lunch some of the international visitors went on a bus tour of the Louisburgh/Leenane area ending with afternoon tea at Kylemore Abbey. The Chieftain, Anthony and his daughter Brigid and Sheila O'Malley Mulloy led the tour, and Sheila gave the history of the area and the



Mr. Anthony O'Malley (seated left), of Doughmakeon, Louisburgh, the outgoing O'Malley Clan Chieftain, pictured with Clan members at the annual O'Malley Clan Rally in Westport. Left to right: P Professor Ethna O'Malley-Gaffney, Dublin; Prof. Tomás Ó Máille, Galway; Cllr. John Joe O'Malley, Westport U.D.C.; Grace O'Malley-Purcell, Dublin; Dr. Pearse O'Malley, Dublin; Kitty O'Malley-Harlow, Westport (Recording Secretary); Michael O'Malley, Ennis; Pierce O'Malley, Castlebar; Anthony O'Malley, Westport (Clan Rally Secretary); Brendan O'Malley, Westport.

weather held good throughout the trip.

The next stop was the Urban District Building in Castlebar Street, where at 6.00 p.m. Séamus Hughes, Chairman of the Westport U.D.C., and Councillor John Joe O'Malley gave a civic reception for the Clan, with a special welcome for all our overseas visitors especially the O'Malleys who had come all the way from New Zealand, as Westport town was twinned with Westport, New Zealand, and some delegates from Westport would be going to New Zealand in 1988 for the Westport get together.

The Chairman then made a presentation to our Chieftain, and various members of the Council paid tribute to Anthony including Mayo County Council Chairman, Martin J. O'Toole whose wife is also an O'Malley, and a very sociable hour was had. The next stop was the Derrylahan, Louisburgh, where the Chieftain received at least 200 guests from U.S.A., Africa, Britain and of course Ireland. Paddy O'Malley acted as Master of Ceremonies and got local musicians to provide some great Irish music, and many of the guests joined in the singing and entertainment, and the sport and crack went on into the small hours of the morning.

Sunday 12th

Another busy day started with Mass in the Parochial Hall, Main Street, Louisburgh, celebrated by Fr. P. O'Malley from Malawi, son of our Chieftain, and he welcomed us on behalf of his father and all his family and gave what was easily the best sermon heard at any of the Rallies. You could hear a pin drop as he held the congregation spellbound, and at the end of the sermon an O'Malley was heard to sing 'You would be proud to be an O'Malley'. A choir of young Louisburgh girls provided the hymns during the Mass and Elaine McEvilly, who had the most beautiful voice, sang a solo. Mrs. Clementine Lyons was the leader of some very talented young musicians. All in all it was a very moving Mass. Other priests who attended the Rally were Very Rev. Éamon O'Malley, P.P., Kilmeena; Rev. Des O'Malley, O.F.M., Galway; and Rev. Tom O'Malley, C.S.Sp., Dublin.

We then adjourned to Hotel Westport, having said goodbye to Fr. Pat who had to leave us. There we were welcomed by our Guardian Chieftain Martin and about 200 people sat to a fine luncheon provided by the Hotel. After lunch, Guardian Chieftain Martin asked Anthony to install Joe O'Malley-Blackwell, our Tánaiste, as Chieftain. Anthony gave a short speech and said it gave him great pleasure to hand over his staff of office to Joe.

Our new Chieftain then gave a special word of thanks to Anthony, and said what a pleasure it had been to work with Anthony over the year. They had travelled the County together and met a lot of O'Malleys en route.

Joe then thanked the local Committee, Sheila O'Malley-Mulloy; Anthony O'Malley, Secretary; Maurice, Treasurer; Kitty, Recording Secretary; and Committee members Brendan, Jim, John Joe and

Gráinne O'Malley-McKibben. He then thanked all the O'Malleys who came from near and far, especially past Chieftain Brian from Boston, and Ellen Devitt-Hodges, present Clan Chieftain in Chicago, and then introduced us to the new Tánaiste, Alice from Chicago.

Alice told us how she runs the largest O'Malley rally in the world in Chicago every year with over 1,500 people present and how proud she was to be our new Tánaiste. Ellen Hodges then said a few words and also Tony O'Malley from New Zealand. After lunch the entertainment began as usual with Tony Chambers and his Ballroom of Romance Orchestra getting all the O'Malleys on their feet, and keeping them dancing and singing for the afternoon.

The Annual General Meeting was held while the entertainment was going on and it was very controversial. It was suggested by the local Committee that we adopt a constitution, and some of the items in the draft constitution led to various reactions, some for and some against; so it was decided to put ratification off for another year so that people would have time to think about it and put any suggestions or changes they would like to have incorporated, in writing, in time for next year's rally.

The meeting was informed that we were forming a Limited Company to protect ourselves against any claims which might arise out of the rally.

The Trust told us about the results of the essay competition.

All in all it was a very intensive few days, but very enjoyable.

Kitty O'Malley-Harlow



Chieftain Anthony O'Malley, Doughmakeon, and members of his family at the 1987 rally.

OUR FLAGS

Guests at our annual rally luncheon in Hotel Westport on 12 July 1987, were very much impressed by our beautiful flags which had been generously presented by our Chieftain-Elect Joseph O'Malley Blackwell. The two standards draped over the top table were a truly inspiring sight, and added an historical dimension to the festivities.

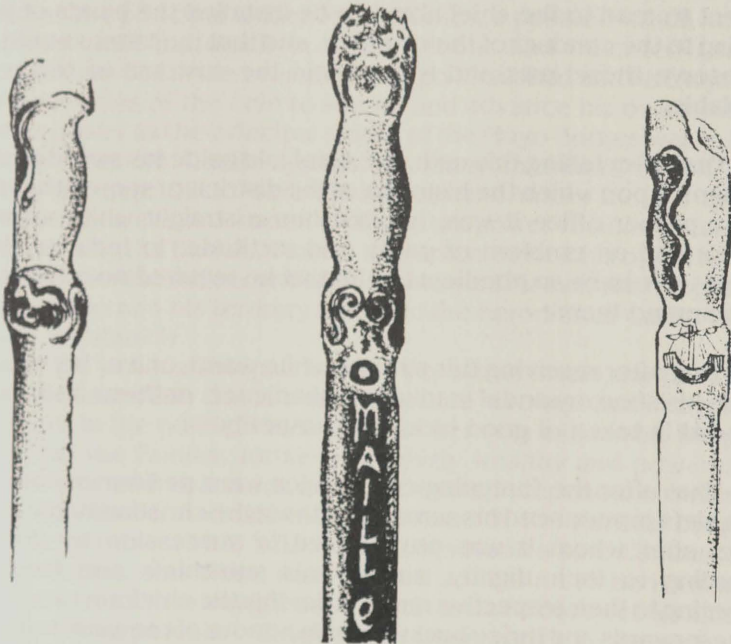
The national flag, made of rich silk, is adorned with a gold fringe. The O'Malley banner of blue silk has been beautifully embroidered with the clan emblems of a white stallion on a wreath, and red boar over a golden ship, with the clan motto 'Terra Marique Potens' underneath. Joseph O'Malley Blackwell has by his munificence contributed enormously to the pageantry of the Rally and we are greatly in his debt.



OUR CHIEFTAIN'S STAFF

Our Chieftain's staff used for the first time last year by Chieftain Anthony O'Malley of Doughmakeon, is an impressive piece of regalia. It was decided that as this was an essential element of an Irish chieftain's inauguration up to the seventeenth century, we should continue the tradition and have a similar item for the installation of our chiefs.

The task of making the staff was entrusted to American-born Wayne Harlow, the multi-talented husband of Kitty O'Malley-Harlow, our Recording Secretary. He chose a five-foot length of holly wood, two inches in diameter, and carved it most artistically with the designs as shown in the drawings. On top we have two O'Malley boars confronting each other, and below them 'O Máille' is executed in raised lettering along the length of the staff. On the knop there is Celtic ornament with a horse on one side and a lymphiad (galley) on the other - elements taken from the O'Malley coat of arms. The staff was universally admired at its first outing, and will be a treasured possession of the clan for many years to come. At present the staff and flags are housed in the Granuaile Interpretive Centre, Louisburgh, where they are the subject of much favourable comment from visitors.



Drawings by Wayne Harlow.

THE INAUGURATION OF AN IRISH CHIEFTAIN

The Great historian John O'Donovan in his *Genealogies, Tribes and Customs of Hy-Fiachrach* (1844), after a thorough examination of the best available sources, writes:-

we may infer that the following conditions were generally requisite to constitute a legitimate instalment or inauguration of an Irish chieftain:

1. That he should be of the blood of the original conqueror or acquirer of the territory, and free from all personal blemishes, deformities, and defects, and be of fit age to lead the clan to the field.

2. That the greater part of his sub-chiefs and freeholders should declare in his favour.

3. That the inauguration should be celebrated at a remarkable place in the territory appointed of old for the purpose, where there was a stone with the impression of two feet, believed to be the size of the feet of the first captain, chieftain, or acquirer of the territory.

4. That the hereditary historian or chronicler of the territory should be present to read to the chief about to be installed the heads of the law relating to the conduct of the chieftain, and that the latter should swear to observe those laws and to maintain the customs of the territory inviolable.

5. That after taking this oath, the chief laid aside his sword and other weapons, upon which the historian of the district, or some other person whose proper office it was, handed him a straight white wand as a sceptre and an emblem of purity and rectitude, to indicate that his people were to be so obedient to him that he required no other weapon to command them.

6. That after receiving this straight white wand, one of his sub-chiefs put on his shoe or sandal in token of obedience, or threw a slipper over his head in token of good luck and prosperity.

7. That after the foregoing ceremonies were performed, one of his sub-chiefs pronounced his surname without the christian-name in a loud voice, after whom it was pronounced in succession by the clergy according to their dignity, and by his sub-chiefs and freeholders according to their respective ranks. After this the chieftain turned round thrice forwards and thrice backwards, in honour of the most holy Trinity, as the Irish still do all good things, and to view his people and his territory in every direction; which being done he was the legitimate chief of his name.

GRACE AND QUEEN ELIZABETH I

By Anne Chambers

HUGH O'NEILL IN ULSTER

Hugh O'Neill in Ulster was cautiously preparing for war. He had allied himself with the other leaders of the province and especially with the young Hugh Roe O'Donnell, who in 1592 had escaped from Dublin Castle. In 1593, O'Neill persuaded the ageing chieftain, Turlough, to acknowledge him as The O'Neill and in effect as the hereditary chief of the entire Gaelic kingdom of Ireland. Emerging at last from the debris of Gaelic discord and division was a strong central figure to whom the various Gaelic clans and families might yet rally for leadership. O'Neill continued his outward show of loyalty to Queen Elizabeth, while in his dispatches to the Spanish court he outlined his plans for another Spanish invasion, this time with Ulster as the target.

A STRUGGLE FOR THE SURVIVAL IN CONNAUGHT

In 1591, the principal leaders of the Mayo Burkes died. These were Walter Kittagh, chieftain of the Tirawley Burkes and Walter Mully who was murdered by his own nephew. The Blind Abbot was no longer in contention for any position of power and Grace's son, Tibbot-ne-Long, emerged as the principal leader of the Burkes, a position which he held onto grimly until his death in 1629. Tibbot had inherited Grace's instincts for survival in the ever-changing political field and he frequently played both sides of the coin to secure and advance his own position. His rise to power as the principal leader of the Mayo Burkes was in itself contrary to the old Gaelic system, as many members of the clan, especially the sept Ulick, were his seniors and under the old system would have been elected leader. Owing to the power vacuum created by Bingham among the Burkes, Tibbot, like Grace, seized his opportunities as they arose and acted accordingly. He married Maeve, the daughter of O'Connor Sligo and his territory included the baronies of Carra, Gallen and Owle lochtarach.

Despite the political intrigue and activity which would normally have attracted her attention Grace was at this time involved in a struggle for survival, not in the political sense but for her very existence. Bingham had reduced the Burkes, formerly relatively wealthy and powerful, to abject poverty and Grace, despite her more independent means of securing a livelihood, had not escaped either. Of the Burkes, Bingham wrote in September 1592: 'I find the Devil's Hook's son, Edmund mac Ricard an Iarainn and Tibott mac Rickard an Iarainn to be men of no possessions, or to have any goods so much as half a dozen cows apiece'. Although exaggerated, Bingham's observations nevertheless demonstrate the depth to which these Burkes, Grace's son among them, had fallen. It was imperative then that they align themselves with a power, Gaelic or English, that could restore their lost wealth and

position. Grace's own dominance over the western coastline and in particular over her own sanctuary of Clew Bay had been penetrated at last by English shipping, as Bingham related in the same dispatch: 'At Burrishoole we met our shipping, and so continued there two nights altogether. The shipping had done great service for the same had cleared all their islands'. Bingham's penetration and subsequent domination of Grace's sea domain, resulting in the virtual impounding of her fleet, was the single greatest setback Grace had encountered. She was never fully to recover from it.

Despite all the problems she had encountered in running the gauntlet with the English authorities, she had always contrived to retain control of her fleet and her immediate coastline. This freedom of movement enabled her to remain a leader longer than most in the province. But now her very survival rather than a reassertion of her former position of power was her immediate concern, while her ambitions for power might yet be realised in the person of her son Tibbot-ne-Long. Bingham had been instrumental in reducing her to her present state, a state in which he intended she should remain; the only recourse open to her now in her efforts to secure the restoration of her rights and those of her family was to appeal to a higher authority than Bingham, and that authority appeared to Grace to be the Queen of England.

PETITIONS TO QUEEN ELIZABETH

Record of Grace's first letter to Elizabeth appears in the State Papers of July 1593. It is written in English and addressed 'To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty'. It is thought unlikely that the letter was written by Grace herself. Similar to many of the Gaelic chieftains, her knowledge of the English language would have been very limited, as Latin was usually used for communications with the English authorities. It is an interesting letter and, although the letter of a supplicant seeking favours, the courage, daring and cleverness of Grace is manifest in its tones. The letter begins in the usual tones of a petition:

In most humble wise showeth unto your most excellent Majesty; your loyal and faithful subject Grany Ne Mailly of Connaught in your Highness realm of Ireland that where by means of the continual discord stirs and dissention which heretofore long time remained among the Irish especially in West Connaught by the sea-side, every chieftain for his safeguard and maintainance and for the defence of his people, followers and country took arms by strong hand to make head against his neighbours, who in like manner constrained your highness fond subject to take arms and by force to maintain herself and her people by sea and land the space of forty years past.

In the opening lines Grace immediately establishes her version why she had been 'forced' to conduct a campaign for the past forty years against what had in reality, been a flaunting of English authority, details of which she was aware had already been brought to Elizabeth's attention, especially by Bingham. Grace's excuse for her behaviour hints at the inability of Elizabeth's Connaught governors to cope with the situation, thus *forcing* her to assume her career of 'maintenance by land

and sea'. It was a bold bid to secure a pardon without necessarily repenting of the crime.

Her letter continues with a brief résumé of her life and marriages to O'Flaherty and Burke and of her present destitute circumstances. She asks the Queen to settle some maintenance on her from her late husbands' estates. 'In tender consideration whereof and in regard of her great age, she most humbly beseeches your majesty of your princely bounty and liberality to grant her some reasonable maintenance for the little time she has to live.' She requests the Queen to accept the surrender of her two sons, Murrough O'Flaherty of Bunowen and Tibbotne-Long, so that in keeping with the Queen's policy, they might hold their lands of the crown and that this might also apply to her relations, Walter Burke Fitztheobalt and Shane Burke MacWilliam.

Then, despite her 'great age' and the 'little time she has to live' and mindful that Bingham has put a stop to her sea exploits, she seizes this opportunity of reinstating herself in her old role as leader of her fleet and followers when she asks the Queen

to grant unto your said subject under your most gracious hand of signet, free liberty during her life to invade with sword and fire all your highness enemies, wheresoever they are or shall be, without any interruption of any person or persons whatsoever.

In other words, by the Queen's specific command, she would be above Bingham's control and free to pursue her activities on land or sea as before, but this time with her Majesty's approval. It was an ingenious plan.

THE ARTICLES OF INTERROGATORY

Whether the Queen was intrigued by the tones and content of the petition or whether the details she had to hand, from the dispatches of her governors concerning the activities of Grace, made her want to know more about this extraordinary woman, we do not know; but during July 1593 eighteen articles of interrogatory were dispatched by Burghley, the Queen's private secretary, to be answered by Grace. The set of questions and the answers provided by Grace are preserved in the State Papers, with observations in the margin in Burghley's handwriting, and they not only furnish an informative résumé of Grace's life, but also throw some light on the political and social conditions of west Connaught at the time. The eighteen articles are listed numerically and are answered in similar order by Grace. Questions 1 to 7 deal with her family, her two husbands, her sons and her first husband's relationship to Sir Murrough-Ne-Doe O'Flaherty. Questions 8 to 10 deal with the position of widows in the Gaelic community.

In question number 8 she is asked: 'If she were to be allowed her dower, or thirds of her husband's living, of what value the same might be of'. Grace replied: 'The countries of Connaught among the Irishry never yielded any thirds to any woman surviving the chieftain whose rent was uncertain, for the most part extorted, but now made certain by the

composition and all Irish exactions merely abolished.' A chieftain who ruled according to the Brehon code had little fortune and few possessions to bequeath to his wife. Owing to the uncertainty of the chieftain's income, he usually died in debt, with his wife suffering the consequences. (Some clans did make provision for the widow of a chieftain in the form of what was known as a 'canebeg' (*cáine beag*) or tax which was levied off the chieftain's territory.) Owing to the prevalence of divorce, a woman when she married according to Grace's testimony 'for fear of the worse' received from her husband securities for the return of her dowry if he divorced her and re-married. With divorce the right of both parties, however, Grace neglected to mention the consequences for the chieftain, if his wife decided to divorce him as she is reputed to have done to Richard-an-Iarainn!

The remaining queries and answers, numbers 11 to 18, deal with an account of her life since the death of Richard-an-Iarainn in which Grace recalls the circumstances leading to her seizure by Bingham and her narrow escape from hanging, her flight to Ulster and her pardon by Perrott in Dublin; queries on the relationship of other Burkes to her late husband and queries relating to the identification of various Mayo townlands and castles.

Grace's replies are always guarded and she concentrates on the aspects and events of her life which would be considered least objectionable to the English government. She wisely neglects to mention her plundering exploits by land and sea, her part in the Burke rebellions, her collusion with O'Neill and O'Donnell and the Scots mercenaries. Her deft replies were in fact a match for the sophistication and intrigue of the British government and demonstrate her astute mind and her daring; these qualities had yet to face their ultimate test in face-to-face negotiations with one who also possessed such qualities in abundance - Elizabeth, Queen of England.

MISSION TO ENGLAND

Shortly after her replies had been sent to London, an incident occurred which added new urgency to Grace's petition. Bingham arrested her son, Tibbot-ne-Long, on charges that he had communicated with Brian O'Rourke of Breffni and had offered to raise Mayo in support of the Ulster chieftains, on condition that O'Rourke would keep Bingham busy in Breffni and so direct his attention away from Mayo. Coupled with this, her brother, Donal-na-Piopa of Westport, had also been imprisoned by Bingham some months past for the murder of some English soldiers. Thus, Grace had now to petition the Queen not only on her own behalf, but on behalf of her family and relations, and, judging by her correspondence to both the Queen and Burghley, she had now assumed the role of matriarch of the Burkes and the O'Malleys in placing their cases before the Queen, without any objections from the chiefs of the respective clans.

Bingham's latest actions against her family spurred Grace into action.

The time for written petitions was past. During late July 1593, Grace, accompanied by her first husband's old adversary, Sir Murrough-ne-Doe O'Flaherty, set sail from Connaught for London in an effort to obtain an audience with the Queen. Legend relates that Grace captained one of her own ships for the voyage and this is quite likely. The south coast and the channel were familiar territory to her and well within the capabilities of one who often undertook longer and more hazardous voyages. This, however, was a daunting enterprise when one considers the risks involved to Grace herself. Very few Irish chieftains would, at this time, have dared to put foot on English soil, especially if a record of their anti-government activities had preceded them there. Grace must have had great confidence in her powers of persuasion, that her case would firstly be entertained, that an actual audience with the Queen would be granted and that she would not be hanged as a pirate and a rebel. It is true that she did have some influence at court in the person of Thomas, Duke of Ormond, known as Black Tom, who was emerging as one of Elizabeth's favourites, and whom Grace had obliged on occasion in the shipment of illegal cargo. The risks involved from the actual voyage were also great. Rumours of an imminent Spanish invasion were rife and the seas about the southern coasts of Ireland and England were constantly patrolled by English warships. The capture of an Irish ship captained by a notorious pirate would have been no mean prize for any privateer.

Nothing daunted, her ship crept around the south coast, past the Old Head of Kinsale and then keeping further out to sea, across the channel, past Lands End and the Isles of Scilly, through the Straits of Dover, and finally into the narrow estuary of the Thames, where the small ship must have been dwarfed by the soaring masts of English shipping. What were Grace's reactions to this city, the then hub of the universe? The hustle and bustle of London with its narrow cobblestone streets and alleys, its extremes of poverty and riches, its colour and pageantry, its milling crowds and loud noises, a city alive and vital, the centre of administration, power and trade. Grace must have pondered how her life, so removed from what she was now experiencing, could be controlled and administered by the powers of this strange world?

How London, and especially the court of Elizabeth, reacted to Grace and her followers has not been documented. Legend would lead us to believe that dressed in her Irish costume and barefoot the court of Elizabeth stared in disbelief at the strange apparition. This may or may not be true. As the wife of The MacWilliam she had attended social gatherings in the governor's residence in Galway and by Lord Deputy Sidney's own account she would seem to have made a pleasing appearance. In this, the climax of her social career, there seems little doubt but that Grace would have dressed as befitted the occasion.

In the meantime in Connaught, Bingham had received the news of Grace's departure for London. He realised that she would not let such an opportunity pass without enlightening Her Majesty and Burghley of

conditions in Connaught and giving full vent to her version of the injustices of his administration there. Conscious of the difficulties he had encountered from the government when the Burkes had filed their Book of Complaints against him, Bingham sought to counteract immediately what Grace might have to report. He dispatched the following letter to Burghley:

There be 2 notable traitors gone over, Sir Morrow Ne doe and Grainy O'Maly both rebelle from their childhoode and continually in accion; and if such be heard to complaine against the officer or rewarded with anything from her Majesties yt wilbe the highway to make more rebelles: but they may challenge their reward to be brydewell (prison), for notwithstanding that they have many pardons, there ys matter ynough of late found out against them to hang them by justice. Grany O'Maly is mother-in-law to the notable tratoure, the Devilles Hooke. Howbeit (my most honourable good Lord) let them directly accuse me of anything, and if I discharge not myself honestly I am to be punished for it: but if they be drawn on to make generall exclamations against me I do not doubt but your Honour will most Honourably and indifferently consyder of it, for if they bely (belie) me not, I care not what all of them say against me.'

One can have some sympathy for Bingham in this his last ditch effort to counteract the claims he knows will be made by Grace and Sir Murrough-Ne-Doe against him in London. His own personality deterred him from making life easier, both for the Gaelic chiefs and for himself, by the methods he adopted in implementing the Queen's policies in Connaught. Few of the Connaught chieftains, Grace included, resisted the implementations of English law, but the methods Bingham employed they could not bear and consequently frequently rebelled. While later he states that although

some in Court hath commended her for doing her Matie. good service but in hope of her amendment I forbear to write any more of her Accions now assuring myself if she contynew never so ill mynded she shall not be lyable to do so much for how great soever any may make her which knoweth her not, I will never aske but a boat of XXX tonnes to beate her and all the boates and Galeyes belonging to the county of Mayo and (with god's assistance) dryve her and all their fleet into the sea.

GRACE AND ELIZABETH

Bingham's observations did not adversely affect her chances of securing an audience with the Queen, for at the beginning of September 1593 Grace received her summons to appear before Elizabeth, at Greenwich Castle. This castle was a favourite place of abode particularly during the summer months.

The details of the meeting of these two women, each outstanding and unique in her own special role as ruler and leader and alike in their personal characteristics, must unfortunately remain in the realm of fantasy and legend. Curiosity must have been a motivation for them both, curiosity about each other. Elizabeth, as ruler in a male-dominated preserve, must have marvelled at how Grace, without supporting facilities of state that she herself enjoyed, could successfully lead and govern so effectively and perform all the exploits for forty years credited

to her by Elizabeth's own Irish deputies and governors. Grace in turn must have been anxious to see this paragon of English power whose orders and plans had affected and altered her very lifestyle so completely. The palace of Elizabeth was far removed from the stone castles of the west of Ireland, fortresses which were built with comfort as the minimum and security the maximum consideration; whose bare walls were constantly exposed to the Atlantic; the luxury of the Elizabethan court must have been over-powering. We can picture the stately Tudor court of the Virgin Queen with its luxury, colour, culture and refinements. Tapestry-covered walls, carved oak wainscots and furniture, ceilings ornate with intricate plaster-work; the long corridors leading to the royal apartments humming with the subdued and modulated tones of courtiers, emissaries, petitioners and many fair and fragile court ladies in exquisite dress and shining jewels, powdered and coiffed like tropical birds, flitting hither and thither trading the latest court gossip. And among this gathering, Grace O'Malley, leader of men, seamstress without equal, pirate, trader, self-appointed ruler contrary to law and tradition but too powerful to be dethroned, an elderly woman whose lined and weather-beaten face proclaimed the harsh conditions of her trade.

According to tradition Grace wore a chieftain's cloak of green over a yellow bodice and petticoat. A long mantle is said to have covered her head and body, while her hair was gathered on her crown and fastened with a silver bodkin. It is more likely, however, that Grace was dressed in the traditional dress of women of the higher ranks of Gaelic society. This would have consisted of a long linen saffron smock or *léine*, reaching to the ankles with long wide sleeves, under a long dress with the sleeves slit and tapered to allow the wide sleeves of the *léine*, to hang through and with a low-cut bodice laced in front. Over this she would have worn the Irish *brat* or cloak, a large woollen, sleeveless cloak reaching to the ground with a fringe of fine wool all around and, at the neck, a deeper fringe to give the appearance of a fur-like collar. Shoes were in general use by all classes in Ireland, so the legend that Grace O'Malley went barefoot for her audience with Elizabeth is rather absurd. What a contrast in style the meeting of these two women produced – the sober dress of Grace and the elaborate and ornamental style of Elizabeth who despite her age had not lost her passion for dress and jewellery. 'The Queen's dresses were not distinguished by refinement of taste: it was rather at a magnificent display that she aimed, and her predilection was for gowns richly embroidered and sewn with jewels, so that they were as encrusted with ornament as the buildings of the early English Renaissance. This passion became no less as she grew older, and at her death her wardrobe is said to have contained more than two thousand gowns, with all things answerable'.

Tradition states that at the introduction of these two remarkable women, Elizabeth held her hand high, but Grace was the taller of the two

and the English queen had to raise her hand to that of the Irish woman. A portrait of the meeting is from an old engraving made two centuries later and professes to show the dress and attitude of Grace on that occasion. It is said that during her conversation with Elizabeth, which was conducted in Latin, one of the ladies-in-waiting perceived that Grace required a handkerchief. A minute cambric and lace one was handed to her. After using it she threw it into the fire but Elizabeth informed her that it was meant to be put in her pocket. Amazed, Grace declared that in her country they had a higher standard of cleanliness than to pocket a soiled article.

Elizabeth was in her declining years yet the chalk-like features, piercing eyes and haughty demeanour had made many, more powerful figures tremble; yet Grace, knowing her own long record of unloyal activities had preceded her to Elizabeth's court, dared to ask not necessarily for forgiveness but for special favours and protection from Elizabeth's own administrators in Ireland. Legend would have us to believe that the meeting of these two women was, from Grace's viewpoint, the meeting of equals; Grace in her capacity as queen of Connaught and Elizabeth in her capacity as queen of England, and that when Elizabeth offered to confer the title of 'Countess' on her, Grace haughtily declined on the basis that a title could not be conferred on one of equal rank. The character and intellect of Grace makes this legendary assertion absurd; Grace was a realist and a leader who fully realised the personal risk she undertook in her mission to Elizabeth and knew that she must tread warily indeed in presenting her case to the power in whose hands her very life rested.

Elizabeth's own correspondence after the meeting is in itself conclusive proof of how well Grace succeeded in her mission. Elizabeth had previously ordered Bingham to supply her with the background information regarding Grace's petition requests and she had also instructed him to advise her how best she could alleviate Grace's personal plight in Connaught.

The favours won by Grace from Elizabeth reflected on the one hand the courage and ability of Grace and on the other the admiration and compassion Elizabeth entertained for Grace. Shortly after the meeting, on 6th September 1593, the Queen wrote to Sir Richard Bingham:

But where Grany ne Maly hath made humble suit to us for our favour towards her sons, Morogh O'Flaherty and Tibbott Burk, and to her brother Donell O'Piper (na Piopa), that they might be at liberty, we perceive by your letters that her eldest son, Morogh O'Flaherty, is no trouble but is a principal man of his country, and as a dutiful subject hath served us when his mother, being then accompanied with a number of disorderly persons, did with her 'gallyes' spoil him; and therefore by you favoured, and so we wish you to continue. But the second son, Tibbott Burk, one that hath been brought up civilly with your brother and can speak English, is by you justly detained because he hath been accused to have written a letter to Bryan O'Rork, the late traitor's son, though it cannot be fully

proved but is by him utterly denied; and for her brother Donald, he hath been imprisoned 7 months past, being charged to have been in company of certain that killed some soldiers in a ward. But for those two you think they may be both dismissed upon bonds for their good behaviour, wherewith we are content, so as the old woman may understand we yield thereto in regard of her humble suit; so she is hereof informed and departeth with great thankfulness and with many more earnest promises that she will, as long as she lives continue a dutiful subject, yea, and will employ all her power to offend and prosecute any offender against us. And further, for the pity to be had of this aged woman, having not by the custom of the Irish any title to any livelihood or position or portion of her two husband's lands, now being a widow; and yet her sons enjoying their father's lands, we require you to deal with her sons in our name to yield to her some maintenance for her living the rest of her old years, which you may with persuasion assure them that we shall therein allow of them; and you also shall with your favour in all their good causes protect them to live in peace to enjoy their livelihoods. And this we do write in her favour as she showeth herself dutiful, although she hath in former times lived out of order, as being charged by our Treasurer with the evil usage of her son that served us dutifully. She hath confessed the same with assured promises by oath to continue most dutiful, with offer, after her aforesaid manner, that she will fight in our quarrel with all the world'.

The contents of the Queen's letter indicate that Grace was in fact granted all her requests by the Queen in spite of the opinions and recommendations of her governor, Bingham. Grace's son, although strongly suspected of collusion with O'Rourke, was to be freed, as was her brother Donal. The compassion shown by Elizabeth for Grace's personal plight is evidenced by the provision for her maintenance for the remainder of her life from her sons' estates and that the amount be deductible from their taxes payable to the state. It was an unprecedented act of clemency and understanding of a woman's plight on Elizabeth's part and Grace must have departed from the royal presence with her 'burden' much lightened.

Grace returned to Ireland and reached Mayo about 19th September. Her visit to the English court must have been the subject of much discussion and no doubt her lonely fortress of Rockfleet hummed as she told and re-told the details of her exciting adventure. But the actual results of her mission took longer to emerge. Bingham proved reluctant to implement the Queen's commands regarding Grace's welfare and the welfare of her son and brother, but Grace was not prepared, after her hazardous endeavours, to allow the provisions of the Queen's letter to be negated by deliberate inaction. She sought to force and threaten Bingham to implement the Queen's instructions. Finally, Bingham acquiesced and on 24th November he wrote to Lord Burghley: 'I have enlarged Grany O'Mally, her son Tibbot and brother Donall na Pipee, upon such slender surtyes (sureties) as they gave us, the woman urging it some importunely swering that she would elles repair presently to

England.'

The Queen, in providing for Grace and her family, had neglected to obtain the sureties or pledges usually extracted from a petitioner in lieu of favours to be conferred. Elizabeth had underestimated the capabilities of the 'aged woman' who had appeared before her. The apparent frailty and agedness belied the true extent of her boundless energy and plotting talents. Bingham realised that the Queen had, in effect, given Grace a *carte blanche* to operate as she pleased and to return to her old trade of 'maintenance by land and sea', despite all Bingham's past endeavours to render her powerless. If the provisions of the Queen's letter were enacted, Grace could once more put to sea in her galleys under the guise of fighting the Queen's 'quarrel with all the world'. The consequences of Grace's actions would have to be borne by Bingham and these could be far-reaching indeed, as Bingham fully realised, Grace's status as a leader had, since her successful mission to London, risen to at least its former strength. However, the Queen commanded and Bingham, with pressure and threats from Grace, had to obey. Tibbot was released from prison and pardoned, as was Donal who faded into obscurity after this event. On his release, Tibbot must have gone into action quickly on the English side against his fellow-clansmen judging by Sir Ralph Lane's dispatch to Burghley written on 4th January 1594: 'The late service done in Connought upon the relics of the Devil's Hook, by young Tybalte Bourke, the son of Granee O'Maillie, by the Governor lately set at liberty, by virtue of Her Majesty's letters to him in that behalf written, and brought unto Sir Richard by his mother Grana. He hath by this means put in a good perpetual pledge for his loyalty during his life.' This action by Tibbot was the tentative start of what was to be a stormy and uneasy alliance with the English authorities. Bingham, while obeying the Queen's command regarding Tibbot and Donal, took his own revenge by interpreting the Queen's command in regard to Grace's own welfare in his own fashion.

Extract from *Granuaile, The Life and Times of Grace O'Malley, 1530-1603*, by Anne Chambers, M.A. She is the author of *Chieftain to Knight, Tibbot Ne Long Bourke First Viscount Mayo, 1567-1629*, and of *Eleanor Countess of Desmond, 1545-1638*, which was shortlisted for the Irish Book Award 1987.

OUR STORY

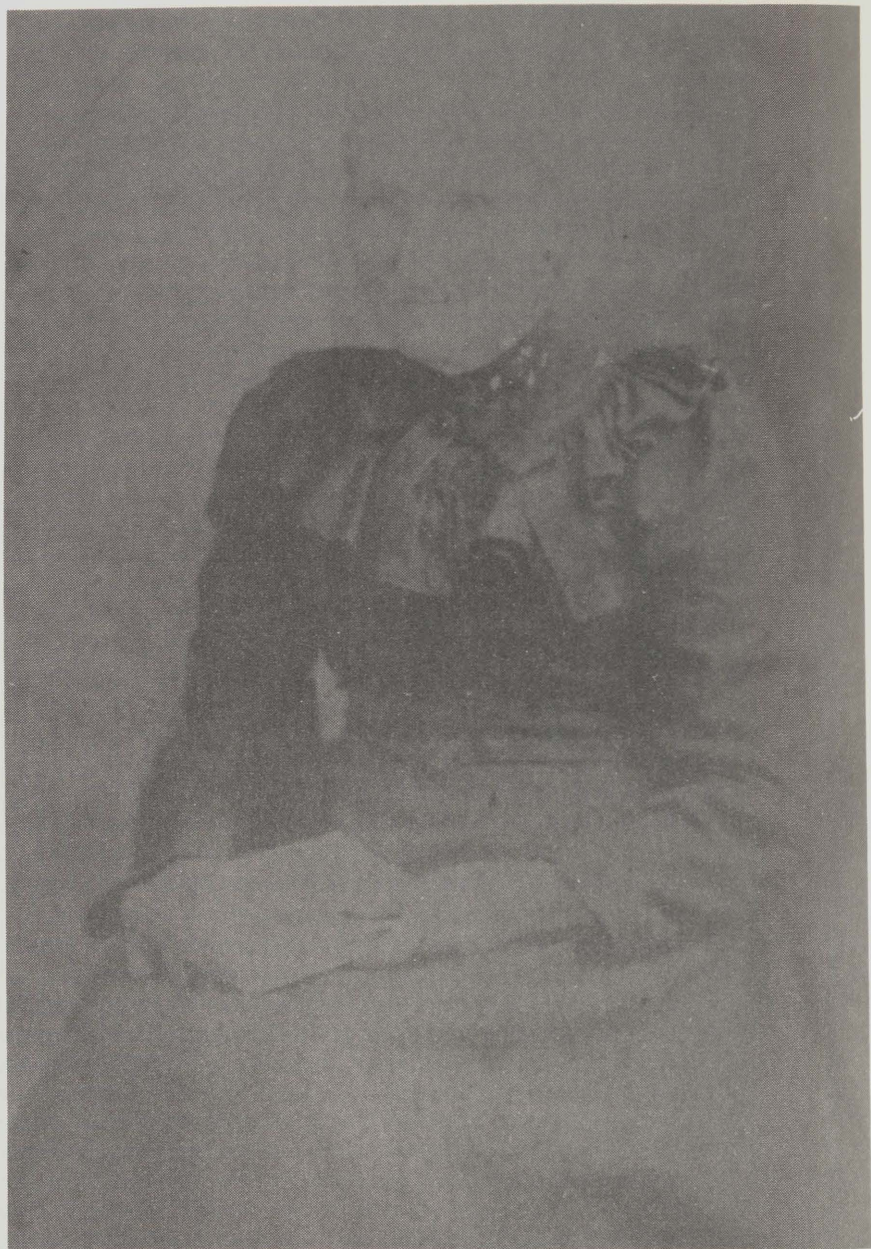
By Lorna Gilmore

I am delighted and honoured to be asked to contribute to our family magazine, and hope that the short account I will write here will give my Irish cousins a glimpse of life in Australia both past and present.

When my great-great grandfather, Patrick O'Malley was transported from his home in Ireland with his brother Peter in 1832, they must have had some apprehensive feelings. No doubt, there were letters from previously landed Irish convicts sent back to the home country, but I doubt that they would have seen the light of day in Patrick and Peter's family as neither boys were able to read or write. Perhaps word-of-mouth stories were conveyed to the various families, and probably these were far more glowing than they should have been..

However, no matter what they knew or had been told, conditions were not for the faint of heart in the Antipodes. On the voyage out they would have been deprived of decent food, or perhaps it was much better than the famine in Ireland. Rodents and vermin would have been their shipboard companions, not to mention the rigours and uncertainty of the sailing boat. Misbehaviour would have resulted in floggings and being locked up without food or water.

When they arrived at Sydney Cove, the convicts would have probably felt like slave girls in an Arab market, when the wealthy landholders would have come to appraise them for their capabilities, and strength. Patrick and Peter were assigned to landholders in what was then known as the 'never-never'. Even today in Australia, parts of the Continent are referred to as the 'never-never' or 'back of beyond'. In fact, when my great grandfather ventured forth to the Bourke district in Western New South Wales, it was and still is the 'back of beyond'. The saying goes – 'Back'o'Bourke – where the crows fly backwards to keep the dust out of their eyes.' The country is very large and has extremes of temperatures. In summer the sun rises after the 'Picaninny dawn' which is the beginning of light and occurs about 3 a.m. It is the most beautiful time of day, cool with light breezes, just enough light to see, and so quiet that you can hear the rustling of the early birds and their morning songs on the breeze. After about 8 o'clock in the morning on a hot summer's day the sun is high enough for the heat to start seeping into everything. The chairs become hot to touch, you can feel the heat coming off the walls, and by lunchtime the red earth is hot enough to cook eggs on. Even so, it is possible to remain relatively cool, as even on the hottest of days, there always seems to be a breeze just drifting by under the shade of a tree. Wintertime produces a very dry cold in the outback, and the ice on puddleholes can be very thick indeed. As a girl, I often broke the ice on a water trough so that the animals could have their early morning drink. But one could always get warm in front of the fuel stove or the open fire.



Bridget O'Malley who was born in Mayo in c1820. Her father was John O'Malley and her mother was Nappe Davitt. She was transported to Australia in 1840 on board the 'Isabella' (2). She married John Fox and died in Forbes, New South Wales in 1903.

There always seemed to be a fight over the stove.

It never ceases to amaze me how Patrick and his brothers Peter, James and John, learnt to cope with the harshness of the Australian land in those first few years after they arrived. The country where they were was totally virgin land, and the scrub was so thick that if you wandered too far, it was extremely easy to get disorientated and lose all sense of direction, and yet they successfully shepherded their flocks of sheep, and managed to select land of their own and clear it. Patrick's first selection was around 1837, outside the recognised boundaries of the Colony, and appears to have consisted of about 30,000 or 40,000 acres. How ironic, when I learn from my Irish correspondents that there was a distinct possibility that they were 'framed' in order to gain control of their Irish land probably consisting of half an acre. How Patrick must have wished they could see him with this great expanse of land in Australia. He paid ten pounds a year rent for his land and ran about 800 cattle on it. In those days he would not have been classed as wealthy, but he would have had a reasonable life style even though hard work was the order of the day. Whilst Patrick was out shepherding his flocks, it would have fallen to the lot of his wife Julia (eldest daughter of Patrick and Ellen Downie of Tipperary) to cope at home. She would have made all the clothes for the family by hand; milked the cows and made the butter and cheese; grown the fresh vegetables for the family to eat. She would have coped with childbirth herself, having possibly only the company of her mother or a neighbour to help her, and she would not have had the benefit of a doctor or hospital should she suffer a difficult childbirth. It would have been most likely a day's ride on horseback to bring the doctor and a day's ride back if he was able to come. It says a lot for Julia's stamina that not one of her children died as an infant or at birth. There were many women in the early days of the Colony who were not quite as fortunate as Julia. However, she did lose one child as an infant, because he wandered into the bush and could not be found. The danger of children getting lost in this fashion was very great, and the women used a number of ways to ensure their children did not get lost. One was to tie a rope or piece of string to the child's ankle and tie them to the nearest post; another very common modern-day one that I saw used as a child, was to put a harness on the upper torso of the child and attach a rope from the harness to the clothes line. It may have looked cruel, but it was far better than to turn your back and find your child missing and not be able to find it, knowing that if you were unable to find your child, it would suffer far worse cruelty from the elements. Such was the fate of Patrick and Julia's little boy James, whose remains have never been found. He was just two years of age.

The children of Patrick and Julia nearly all chose the land as their field, and today their descendants are scattered across Australia. Patrick and Julia endured many hardships, including that of having their substantial home destroyed by the Colonial Police, and their eldest son John shot.

John was a bushranger who rode with Ben Hall, and he was shot at Forbes in November, 1863. He had developed a very great hatred of people who ill-treated their convict assignees. There was in Australia up until about the last twenty years or so a dreadful stigma attached to convict parentage. Why it should be so is very difficult for me to understand, as the convicts who were sent to Australia are the people who built Australia. Perhaps the stigma was fed by people suffering from guilt at their treatment of the convicts? To add to the stigma of the convict parentage, we had to cope with the stigma of John being a bushranger. No one in the O'Malley family would admit to being related to him, and if you got curious and asked questions, the old folk would admit to nothing. In fact, some of the family would be chastised for even passing the knowledge on to the young ones. My father tried for many years to discover his origins, and the response was always the same - quite blank. Nobody would tell him anything, in fact, I doubt that he was even able to discover his great grandfather's christian name.

I hope that after reading this short résumé, our family in Ireland will come to an understanding of how strong our thirst is for knowledge of our ancestors. The O'Malley family did not begin with the arrival of Patrick, Peter, James and John in Australia; it has survived for thousands of years. As the years have passed since 1832, this thirst has grown into what I could almost describe as a disease for knowledge of our ancestors, and this disease has been nourished by the fact that our old folk will not tell us the stories. In fact, it is very common to find that when old folk die, everything is burnt as if to wipe out all trace of the origins.

If at any time members of my Irish family are visiting Australia, please make contact with me. Unfortunately, I cannot foresee myself visiting Ireland with any degree of certainty for some considerable time, much as I would love to. Also any members of my American family would be most welcome. My husband and I live on a small property in Southern New South Wales, and our door is always open. We are always happy to welcome visitors and show them the Australian farm life.

(Lorna Gilmore has recently published *The O'Malley Heritage*, the story of six members of the family of John O'Malley and Nappe Davitt of Co. Mayo, who were tried for sheep-stealing between 1831 and 1839, and transported to Australia. There, the various members of the family prospered and are blessed with numerous descendants.)

THE O'MALLEYS OF WISCONSIN, U.S.A.

By Stella O'Malley-Kennedy
Edited by Charlotte O'Malley-Kennedy

Some time ago my daughter Caryl Kennedy Benish asked me to write down whatever I knew, heard, or remembered about the O'Malley family so that the grandchildren might know something about their grandparents' lives.

Ireland

In the middle of the seventeenth century Oliver Cromwell pillaged Ireland for the English parliament. He forced the landowners to flee from their fertile land with the cry 'To hell or Connaught'. This had only one meaning - to either migrate to the barren west or die at the point of Cromwell's sword. Then the land was parcelled out to the conquerors. Cromwell's outrage was followed several decades later by the enactment of the Penal Laws that deprived Catholics of every human right. They were forbidden to own land, receive an education, vote or hold public office. The final indignity was the obligation of paying tithes to the Anglican Church. Cromwell parcelled out to his followers two and a half million acres of the best land. The revenue was used to finance his various campaigns. Even St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin became a stable for Cromwell's horses. The stringent laws plus the great potato famine caused many families to migrate to America. When anyone asks, 'are you related to Grace O'Malley, the pirate queen?', the answer is probably 'yes'. According to Jill and Leon Uris's book, *Ireland a Terrible Beauty*, Grace did live in Westport, County Mayo and also on Clare Island. Again quoting the Uris's book, 'Clare Island was the main fortress of Grace O'Malley, the pirate queen of Connaught'. It is said of Grace O'Malley that she brooked no guff at all from Elizabeth of England, who tried unsuccessfully to bribe and threaten her to keep her hands off English shipping.

Westport, County Mayo, the home of the original O'Malley family, is situated on the far west coast of Ireland on Clew Bay, an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean. Grace's great-great-granddaughter married Colonel John Browne of Westport. The present Marquess of Sligo is the direct descendant of this couple. The family built and still occupy the beautiful Georgian Westport House.

The early writers speak of County Mayo as a large and much indented coastline with magnificent views of sandy beaches, towering cliffs, rugged headlands and many off shore islands such as Achill. Many painters have tried to capture the magic of the western island.

The people of Westport had to either fish or farm, as it was their only source of a livelihood. In their early years, the O'Malleys may have been fishermen.

Our great great grandfather, Michael O'Malley, was born in Westport, Ireland, in 1787, the son of Patrick and Mary Stanton O'Malley. Nothing is known about any other children of this marriage. Raising and feeding a family of ten children on poor land and the indignities inflicted because of the Penal Laws, may have stirred their imaginations for something better.

The first of the family to migrate to America were the two oldest sons, Thomas and John. Thomas stayed for a while in Quebec, but later joined John at Big Foote Prairie near Janesville, Wisconsin, where they had purchased land. The two brothers, enthusiastic about possibilities in America, persuaded their parents to come and bring the whole family.

In 1847, Michael, a great and strong leader, a man of great faith, courage and vision and financially able to pay passage for himself and family, decided to make the great change. Because the ship's captain was afraid of overloading the vessel, Dominic, the seventh child, was left behind to go to school in Dublin and then to law school before he too joined the family.

After six weeks' sailing, the family arrived in Milwaukee, purchased a yoke of oxen and a wagon and drove to Big Foote Prairie. They looked over the land and decided to move on to government territory in Madison, Wisconsin, on the north shore of Lake Mendota. In selecting land, two elements were necessary, water and trees, and there they found water and large tracts of wooded land.

Either by foot or oxen, Michael went to Milwaukee and purchased 160 acres of new land on highway 113, east of Waunakee. The certificate no. 10509 shows that full payment was made and deposited in the Register of the Land Grant Office of the United States in Milwaukee on 2 February 1848. The certificate is signed by U.S. president James W. Polk and assistant secretary J.K. Stephan. This certificate is still a family possession. Michael built his home on the above purchased land in 1850, and added an addition in 1860. Part of the original house still stands and is occupied.

Wisconsin became a state in 1848, and a year later the township of Westport was organized. The first town meeting was held in the O'Malley home and the township was named 'Westport' after their home in Ireland. Michael was chosen as the first town chairman and three of his sons were picked for the first jobs, namely 'town clerk', 'constable' and 'fence viewer'. While there were many Indians around, there never seemed to be any conflict or trouble and all seemed to be friendly.

The O'Malleys were a religious people, and the first Mass was read in the O'Malley home. So the next thing after establishing a home was to establish a church. A high spot, overlooking Lake Mendota, was selected and the new church was called 'St. Mary's of the Lake'. St. Mary's was the name of their church in Ireland.

By this time, Dominic had arrived from Ireland, and he joined several brothers going to California during the gold rush. How much gold was

actually mined is uncertain, but it is interesting to note that our mother's wedding ring was made from a nugget brought back by grandfather Patrick. When the brothers returned from California, they all purchased farm land near the parents' home.

The O'Malley family was a closely knit one, not only because of blood and religion, but because they trusted and enjoyed each other. This is illustrated by an interesting story told about the two brothers, Martin and Dominic, who formed a company to share each other's fortunes and losses. Each brother had a separate farm, but the two farms were jointly owned. All income went into the company and all expenses were paid by the company. Dominic had lost an arm and went to France to obtain an artificial one. He stopped over in Ireland on his return journey, married his former sweetheart and brought her home, all at the company's expense.

Eventually the company was dissolved and the brothers split the property and finances. Martin, being the older, was given the first choice of farms, and he picked the farm occupied by Dominic. So the two brothers just exchanged places, taking with them only clothing and personal possessions.

Here a word should be said about the two youngest sons, James and Joseph. James spent most of his priestly life in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and Joseph, unmarried, purchased or inherited the original homestead which he held until years later when he sold it to our father, Michael Henry.

The family of Patrick O'Malley, our grandfather, and his progeny.

Little is known about our grandfather Patrick, except that he was the third eldest son of Michael and Mary Stanton. He was born in Ireland in 1818, died in 1892, aged 64, and is buried in Westport as are his wives. A head and shoulder crayon portrait, drawn by his daughter Frances, pictures him with a full white beard, piercing eyes and with a very stern countenance. His first wife, Elizabeth O'Keefe, was born in 1829 and died in 1865, at the age of 36. There were seven children of this marriage. Our father, Michael, the fourth oldest and only son, was born in 1851. He was eight years old when his mother died.

After the death of his first wife, Elizabeth, he, Patrick, married Mary Walsh, and they had five children – three sons and two daughters, one dying in infancy. Father's two full sisters as well as his half sister, joined the Dominican Order, a teaching order of Sinsinawa nuns. His two other sisters married and moved west. Of the second family, Dominic became a Holy Cross priest at Notre Dame; William became a doctor in St. Paul; and the third son, James, stayed on the family farm.

Our father was very fond of his half brothers and sister, and that relationship remained throughout their lives. However, he was not fond of his stepmother, nor she of him, and her harsh treatment caused him to leave home, but some cousins, knowing his whereabouts, persuaded

him to return.

Just how our father acquired the land on River Road, on the Yahara river, or the Catfish as it was then known, is not known because an early map of the township showed that it belonged to P. O'Malley. His father might have sold him the land or given it to him. At least some arrangements must have been made, because in our grandfather's will, our father was to inherit a certain amount of land, and personal property consisting of a team of horses, a wagon, ten sheep, ten hogs, provided that he work for his stepmother for three years without pay. When grandfather died, father and mother had been married for six years, so he never qualified for his inheritance.

In 1887, Michael, our father, aged 31 years, was married to Julia Castle, aged 24 years. Mother, was the second oldest daughter of John and Julia Castle in a family of six children. She had an older married sister. Two other sisters entered the convent, one brother farmed and the other brother established a fuel business and was president of Castle & Doyle Co., Madison, Wisconsin.

The Castles also lived on a farm but were close to Madison and to the Mendota State Hospital where mother was an attendant before her marriage. With her dark hair and brown eyes she was considered quite a beauty, and our father, also known as 'Big Mike', with prematurely iron grey hair was considered quite the eligible bachelor. They were a strikingly handsome couple.

When mother came to the farm as a bride, the farm was well established and their home was already built. They had eight children, namely, Joseph M., Martin, Agnes E., Frances, Stella, Charlotte, Letitia, and Gerald. Martin died in infancy. All the children were born in this home except Gerald, who was born in Madison, Wisconsin.

Our Parents and Children.

This farm home, with seven bedrooms, was quite unusual in that the downstairs rooms opened one into another, but the second floor was divided into two parts - each part with separate stairways. One part contained the family bedrooms, the other part was used by the domestic and farm employees.

Father was a very knowledgeable and ingenious man, and provided many comforts and luxuries unknown to most farm homes, such as central furnace heat, a lighting system made in the basement from carbide, as well as running water for kitchen and baths.

He was considered a good farmer who had great pride in his home and family and was a leader in the township. He was a great and enthusiastic planner and gave full support to projects whether it be raising money for the church, a whole day with the family at the Dane County Fair, planning a Fourth of July celebration, or making a cart and harness for our big dog 'Nero'. Father had a good sense of humour and enjoyed harmless practical jokes as is illustrated by the following stories.

When he purchased the 'talking machine' with the big horn and a recorder (the forerunner of the phonograph) he made records about the family, the neighbours and their ailments, which he blamed on their spending too much time on the party telephone line, listening to gossip.

Another time, he signed the name of the 'town's drunk' to a pledge card for church improvements. When the priest, mis-trusting the name on the card, and knowing Michael's sense of humour, asked the reason, Father said, 'The Lord knows who did it, and I thought Jim needed a little credit here.'

We had a good life on the farm, with lots of play equipment, and unusual places to play, such as the stone quarry with its echoes. The river was always a source of great fun, especially in the spring when Indians camped there and came to the house for food. We loved riding in the three seated surrey with the fringe on top, driven by the two spirited horses, Fanny and Daisy.

Suddenly things began to change. Father's health started to fail and he realized his farming days were finished. With the same sense of planning, he bought a lot in Madison, had an architect draw up plans for a house, hired builders, had wood from the farm's cherry trees cut and finished for material for the woodwork in the Madison home. The excess wood was used for the governor's reception room in the new State Capital, which was being built at the time. Father bought the original O'Malley land and built a small cottage for summer use. By then, the farm was sold, and the family sadly and tearfully moved to the cottage, and then to the new house in Madison for the opening of school. Father was restless in town with too much time on his hands, so he set up a fence business for Grandfather Castle and here he could spend hours visiting with old friends when they came to purchase fencing.

Father's health worsened and finally his brother, Dr. Will, took him to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, only to return with the sad news, the final verdict, cancer of the liver at an advanced stage, with not more than six months to live. Father died in July 1908. He was fifty one. Mother was forty three. J.M., the oldest was 18 and in high school, Gerald, the youngest was six months, and the rest ranged in various ages in between. There were seven of us to be raised and educated.

Mother was an intelligent and capable woman but had no knowledge of business or finance. She had very good advisers, however, in Uncle Joseph, Father's uncle, and her brother, James Castle. Whilst the fun and excitement went out of our lives, Mother managed well. J.M. chose to quit school and worked the farm, and the rest (six) graduated from the University of Wisconsin. The cottage on the farm, the original O'Malley homestead, became our outlet in summer and provided a change for us. This lasted until J.M. married and then we only visited there.

Mother died in 1944 in Bronxville, New York – the result of a broken hip while visiting her daughter, Agnes Wolf. In her later years Mother enjoyed a full social life, loved parties and cards, was a tireless traveller

and was affectionally called 'Donna' by her eleven grandchildren.

John married Angeline Hurban and they had one daughter – Sheila. After a divorce, he married Claire, who had three children; Paige, Tod, and Alden. They later had a daughter, Heather.

Letitia married Marion Strain in 1924 and they had a son Robert, and a daughter Sheila.

Robert was married to Mary Ann. They had two sons and two daughters; George, David, Laurel, Sheila. They later adopted a little girl named Sheri.

Sheila married Dr. Stephen Cieciora and they had three children; Ann, Craig, and Mark.

Stella was married to Dr. Thomas F. Kennedy in 1920. They had two children – a daughter, Caryl who married Dr. George Benish, and they had five children – Robert, Susan, David, George William and Thomas. Richard, the son, married Joan Donalds and they had three living children – Thomas, Barbara, and Elizabeth. Joan died in 1959. Later, Richard married Emogine Middleton, was divorced and married May Devoe. He died in 1972.

Charlotte married Samuel Sewall in 1932 and they had four children – Samuel, Michael O, Sheila and John. Samuel married Louise Sigvertsen, who had three children – Terry, Bradley and Stephen. Michael O, married Joan Ostby and they had three sons – Christopher, Barry and Carey. Sheila died in 1966.

Gerald married Mary Holmes, and they were later divorced.

This is the history of the O'Malley family, written to the best of my recollection, and with the aid of documented sources. I hope I have fulfilled my objectives in writing an accurate history of my family.



Committee planning first annual dinner dance of the Chicago area O'Malley clan inspects coat of arms that binds them together during meeting at Oak Lawn Holiday Inn. Seated (left to right): Patrick O'Malley, Chairman; Alice O'Malley; Mrs. Donald Blythe, Dinner Chairman; Alice D. Stanton, Co-Chairman. Standing: Robert O'Malley; Ellen Devitt, Secretary; Bridie O'Malley; Edward F. O'Malley; Denis O'Malley and Edward O'Malley.

(Economist Newspapers, Sunday, October 8, 1978)

THE CLAN IN CHICAGO

Our exiled cousins in Chicago had been gathering annually for picnics before World War II. Many years later, in 1978, they decided to organize themselves as an active clan association, inspired by the happenings in Ireland, where the first O'Malley gathering was held in 1953.

Patrick O'Malley, the first chairman, was a cousin of John J. O'Malley of Westport, one of the prime movers behind the revival of clan activities in Ireland, while Alice O'Malley, niece of John J. O'Malley, was a committee member. Ellen Devitt was the secretary and she was later to become the chairperson. We have had the great pleasure of meeting Ellen when she attended the 1987 rally in Ireland with her husband Terrance Hodges. And of course Alice is the incoming Chieftain of the O'Malley Clan in Ireland. Patrick is a brother of Rev. Des O'Malley, O.F.M., in Galway, and Eileen O'Malley, Station Road, Westport, who are stalwart supporters of the annual rally.

The first annual dinner was held in Chicago on 15 October 1978, and was attended by 400 people. This dinner has been an important event in the O'Malley calendar ever since. But the Chicago clan does not confine its activities to an annual dinner. They support local charities and take part in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Their unit received an award in 1981 in the marching units category of the parade. There is also an annual summer cocktail party in July.

An unusual feature of the Chicago organisation is the appointment of an Honorary Chieftain, Patrick L. O'Malley, recipient of the 1978 Chicago Man of the Year Award. Patrick is chairman of the Canteen Board, president of the Chicago Park District, and member and supporter of numerous other political and Irish-oriented organisations.

We continue to maintain close links with our Chicago friends. Our very active Clan Chieftain Joseph O'Malley Blackwell attended the Chicago Dinner in 1987, and this year we welcome Alice O'Malley, chieftain-elect of the O'Malley Clan in Ireland, who will lead a party from Chicago to attend our annual rally in July. We extend to them a sincere 'Oró sé do bheatha 'bhaile (oro and welcome home).'



Clan Chieftain Joseph O'Malley Blackwell and Ellen Devitt Hodges, Chairperson of the O'Malley Clan in Chicago, at the Annual Dinner in Chicago in 1987.

THE GRANUAILE TRUST OF THE O'MALLEY CLAN



This trust was established in 1986 with the following objectives:

1. To encourage research into the background of the O'Malley Clan, including the publication of appropriate brochures, journals or books, or documentation or recording by any other medium.

2. To promote and encourage, particularly by those of the O'Malley Clan, architecture, art and design, music and musical composition, theatre arts, film arts, and any other cultural or educational medium.

3. Preservation of the wall paintings in St. Brigid's Church, Clare Island, and of all ancient monuments and artefacts associated with the O'Malley Clan.

4. To encourage the presentation of works of art, and historical documents and memorabilia to appropriate institutions.

5. Provision of a museum in Mayo in order to make available to the public memorabilia and historical exhibits which reflect Irish traditions and heritage.

6. To seek support for the objectives of the Trust in any part of the world.

A brochure giving full details is available from the Secretary, Joan

O'Malley Ringrose, 3 Whitehorn Road, Clonskea, Dublin 4,
or the Treasurer,

Sara O'Malley McNerney, Kelston, Bray Road, Foxrock, Dublin 18.

Since the Trust's inception the Trustees have been active in pursuing its cultural and fundraising objectives. In 1987 a National Essay Competition was held, and all schools and colleges of higher education circularised, inviting entries from candidates under twenty-five years of age. The subject was judged appropriate for the Trust 'The Relevance of Granuaile to present-day Ireland'. Three awards were given on the advice of the adjudicators, Thomas Kinsella, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin and Tomás Ó Máille.

In the same year the Trust gave an endowment of £15,000 to fund a bursary in University College, Dublin, to be awarded each year to a student studying for the new degree of Master of Urban and Building Conservation. The first student, Patricia Hyde, a geographer, has already been appointed. Before Christmas a Batik Exhibition by the artist Bernadette Madden was sponsored and officially opened by the Northern painter, Terence P. Flanagan. The exhibition was very successful with specially prepared batiks of interest to Clan members available. These included a mythological presentation of Granuaile in a Clare Island setting, and a variety of Clan motifs as well as paintings of Carrigahowley and other castles.

A number of fundraising events were successfully arranged. These included Duplicate Bridge, Classic Poker, Diminishing Coffee Sessions and a Cake Fair.

A special Committee to advise and co-operate with the Trustees in the advancement of their objectives was set up in 1987. This has permitted the direct involvement of many Clan members. In this way it is hoped in the future that all sections of the Clan will be able to make a contribution. This committee has already organised a Céilí in Kelston, Bray Road, Foxrock. It proved to be a most enjoyable and happy event attended by over a hundred Clan members and their friends. Three generations of the Clan were represented. It was so successful that it has been decided to make such a Céilí an annual fixture. The committee are also planning to arrange a summer sports event at the same venue which will be of special interest to the younger generation.

The Trustees are most grateful to all Clan members and wellwishers, who have supported so generously their activities to date. They would welcome suggestions from any member of the Clan about the pathways for future development.

Trustees: Pearse O'Malley, Cormac K.H. O'Malley, Grace O'Malley Purcell, Sara O'Malley McNerney, George O'Malley, Joan O'Malley Ringrose, Sheila O'Malley Mulloy.

Committee: Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, Kieran O'Malley, Peter O'Malley, Pat McDonnell, Sabina Purcell, Mary O'Sullivan, Art O'Malley, Conor O'Malley.

GRANUAILE TRUST BURSARY

This important bursary was established in 1987 through the initiative of Mrs. Sara O'Malley McInerney, Treasurer of the Granuaile Trust. An endowment of £15,000 has been given by the Trust to University College, Dublin, to fund a bursary to be awarded each year to a student studying for the new degree of Master of Urban and Building Conservation.

At a reception in University College, Dublin, to mark the endowment which was attended by Clan members from all over the country, Mrs. Sara O'Malley McInerney said:

On behalf of the Granuaile Trust of the O'Malley Clan, I would like to place on record our sincere thanks to the President of the College who so kindly placed this Memorial Hall at our disposal to enable us to combine the Endowment of this Bursary with an informal launch of our Trust on the Campus here at Belfield.

As Treasurer of the Granuaile Trust of the O'Malley Clan, I am particularly pleased to present this bank draft for the endowment of a bursary for the new degree of Master of Urban and Building Conservation in University College, Dublin, for the following reasons:

1. I am an architectural graduate of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture of this College, as was my late brother Ciaran. My late father Éamonn also graduated as an engineer at the turn of the century. Many of my close relatives and clansmen and women are either architectural or engineering graduates of the Constituent Colleges of the National University of Ireland, some of whom are here this afternoon.

2. It may come as something of a surprise to many of my listeners (O'Malleys of course excepted) to learn that long before the term 'conservation' became the talking point it is today, the O'Malley Clan were genuine conservationists.

They decided to issue an appeal for funds to supplement a grant given by the Department of Public Works for the restoration of Carrigahowley Castle. This appeal was confined to O'Malleys only, and I am proud to be able to say that owing to the generous response to this appeal by both O'Malleys of means, who dipped deeply into their coffers, and by O'Malleys of little or no means who scraped their few shillings and pence together, this castle was indeed restored and it became the venue for the first gathering of the O'Malley Clan in September, 1953.

Therefore it appears fitting to me that this bursary should be called 'The O'Malley Bursary' in commemoration of all those O'Malleys both rich and poor who contributed so much, each in their own way, to the conservation of part of their heritage.

3. I would like to point out that this bursary is not in any way confined to O'Malleys only; it is open to applicants, irrespective of their origins, race and religion or domicile, whose qualifications comply with the College Regulations.

It would, of course, be a source of satisfaction if, at some future time, an O'Malley should be deemed acceptable to receive the bursary.

4. It is an added pleasure for me to hand over this Money Draft to my old friend Joe McHale before he retires as Secretary and Bursar tomorrow, since the MacHale and O'Malley families have been friends for generations.

Replying on behalf of the College, Mr. J.P. MacHale said the endowment was a model for other graduates of the college to emulate, and constituted an annual investment in a young person's future. Professor Cathal O'Neill, Head of the School of Architecture, said it was particularly appropriate that the reception was held in the Memorial Hall of the School which was an example, executed by the College, of what could be achieved in building conservation. He welcomed the endowment and the opportunities it offered to students to undertake the new and nationally important degree course.



At the endowment by the O'Malley Clan of a £15,000 Bursary in Architecture were, from left, Dr. Pearse O'Malley, Chairman and Trustee of the Granuaile Trust; Mrs. Sara O'Malley-McInerney, Trustee and Treasurer of the Trust, and Mr. J.P. McHale, Secretary and Bursar of the College.

THE GRANUAILE INTREPRETIVE CENTRE

Louisburgh Development Company has opened an interpretive centre in Louisburgh, the main theme for interpretation being the 'Life and Times of Granuaile', the famous sixteenth century Pirate Queen and leader of the O'Malley Clan.

Louisburgh is particularly suitable for the siting of such a centre, situated as it is in the heart of the O'Malley country and adjacent to Clare Island, home and final resting place of this famous woman.

The main objectives of the Centre are educational and cultural. We hope that it will become a centre for the study of the sixteenth century period which saw the demise of the old Gaelic system and the consolidation of English rule. Granuaile witnessed the collapse of this system and the beginning of the new.

The Granuaile Interpretative Centre is situated at Chapel Street, Louisburgh, and it includes information on the following:

- The history and archaeology of Umhall Uí Mháille (O'Malley Territory).
- History and territory of the O'Malleys - sixteenth century.
- Sixteenth century Ireland - political.
- Sixteenth century Ireland - social.
- Granuaile and the O'Flahertys of Connemara.
- Granuaile and the Bourkes of Mayo.
- Granuaile and the English.
- Granuaile and Queen Elizabeth.
- The descendants of Granuaile.
- The Spanish Armada.

We perceive the Granuaile Centre in Louisburgh as being a fitting tribute to this legendary figure. It will provide an opportunity for our youth and visitors to gain a deeper understanding of both our local and national heritage. The recognized expert on the subject, and author of *The Life and Times of Grace O'Malley*, Anne Chambers, is supervising the project.

The Centre will be open to the public from 10.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m. daily until October.



Patrick Kitterick and Anne Chambers with a replica of a thirty-oared galley as used by Granuaile.

THE O'MALLEYS IN KILMEENA

By Jarlath Duffy

The Parish of Kilmeena is among the largest parishes in the archdiocese of Tuam and it is centered in the old kingdom of the O'Malley Clan – the territory of Umhall.

The folklore concerning the O'Malleys goes back a long way. A long time ago St. Brendan met the wife of one of the O'Malley chiefs at Myna, who had fled from havoc and slaughter on Clare Island. The woman had given birth to a baby girl and meeting St. Brendan she told him of her husband's death and that now the family line would end. St. Brendan there and then pulled up a flag, a kind of plant with bladed leaf, from the earth and a well appeared in that spot. After the baptism the mother found herself holding a baby boy!

On the summit of Rosehill stands the ruins today of what was once the great residence of Sir Samuel O'Malley – often referred to as 'Sir Samuel's Folly'. Local tradition says Sir Samuel never lived there and that the night of the Big Wind (Oíche na Gaoithe Móire), 1839, put an end to his lavish plans.

The parish has its fair share of O'Malley priests. In 1935 Fr. Wm. O'Malley of Innishcuttle went on the missions in Birmingham, and in June 1937 Father John Dominick O'Malley from Gortawarla was ordained for the Archdiocese of Tuam.

Drumhuskert is the birthplace of two O'Malley brother priests in the last century – Father Patrick and Father Thomas. Fr. Patrick was P.P. of Kilconly and Kilbannon and died there; Fr. Thomas was curate in Carna and used to compose Irish psalms. It is held locally that it was he who composed the 'Bells of Shandon' in Irish, which song was later translated into English. On his death while still young, the Carna people because of the great love and warm affection they felt for their curate, insisted on his mortal remains being buried there.

Last century also saw the ordination of Father Edward O'Malley of Slogger a relative of the O'Malleys of Ballinlough, a good horseman and P.P. of Roundstone and Carna. After 1859 he retired and returned to Ballinlough where he died in 1890. One hundred years later the people of the parish are served by the kind and benevolent Canon Éamonn O'Malley, P.P.

Other notable O'Malleys include Captain Paddy O'Malley, Rossinrubble, who was the proud possessor of a rifle at the ambush in Kilmeena in May 1919 and was wounded in that fateful battle. Michael Kilroy in the heat of the ambush saw Seán Collins, shot in the heart, being comforted by Paddy O'Malley who said the Act of Contrition for him. Paddy relinquished his rifle to Kilroy with the remark 'it throws to the right and high' and so the battle continued. With the other prisoners captured by the Black and Tans, Paddy O'Malley was cruelly treated, for

although his leg had been broken by bullets during the fight, he was thrown into a lorry with the dead and injured and brought to Westport. It was some time before any attempt was made to get him medical help. The action of the Black and Tans towards the vanquished at Kilmeena, has been contrasted sharply with the treatment meted out to the wounded Tans and RIC after the ambush at Carrowkennedy a short while later by Michael Kilroy and his men. The famous republican, Ernie O'Malley, visited Westport and was in Ross House for a time during the Civil War.

Like the sea, the O'Malleys can be said to be all around us. Drumhuskert sometimes called 'the Six Counties' claims to be the birthplace of the forefathers of Des O'Malley, who is a special guest at this year's Rally.

(Jarlath Duffy, Principal of Westport Vocational School, is the Chairman of Westport Historical Society.)



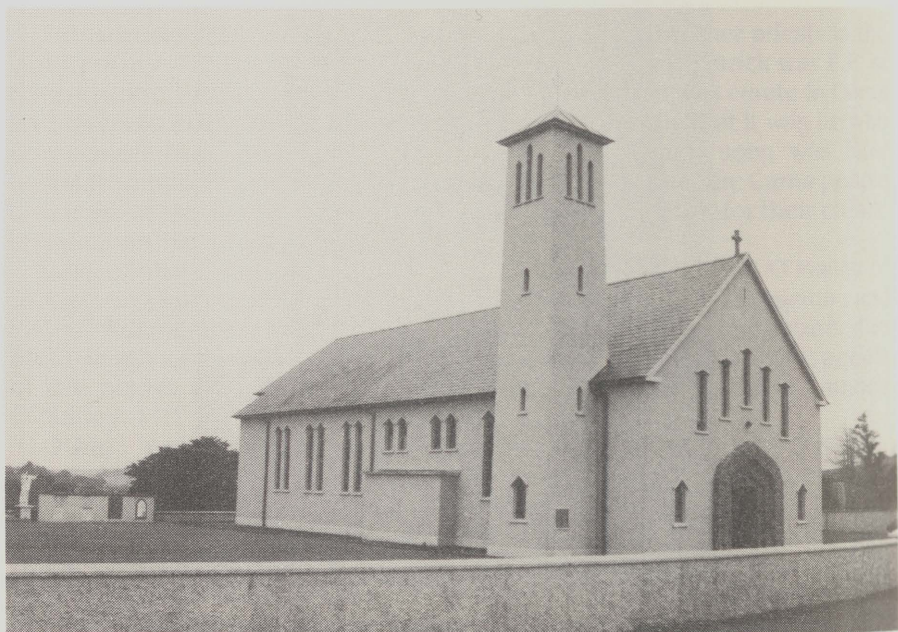
Castleaffey, Roscahill, Kilmeena, owned by the O'Malleys in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Photo: Frank Dolan.



St. Brendan's Well, Kilmeena.

Photo: Frank Dolan.



St. Brendan's Church, Kilmeena.

Photo: Frank Dolan.

MIRACULOUS SURVIVAL OF THE CLAN

By the ninth century the Vikings or Norse sea-raiders were making their presence felt in the western world. The Annals record battles between the 'sea robbers' and the men of Umhall in 807, 811 and 812, with further raids at intervals from then until the middle of the following century. In the 812 raid it is related that they slaughtered Cosgrach, son of Flannabhrat and Dunadach, King of Umhall.

This slaughter, although it predates by some three hundred years the first mention of the name O'Malley in the Annals, appears to be the source of an old O'Malley legend which is commemorated in the beautiful stained glass window in Kilmilkin Church in the Maam Valley of Connemara. The legend, referred to by Jarlath Duffy in his article on Kilmeena, is a very old one which has reappeared in various guises down through the ages. It contains elements which are common to many folktales, but has remained intimately linked with the O'Malley Clan. It has been examined in depth by Grosjean, Ó Moghráin and Ó Riain, but can for simplicity's sake be reduced to two versions with the same theme in both, the miraculous survival of the clan.

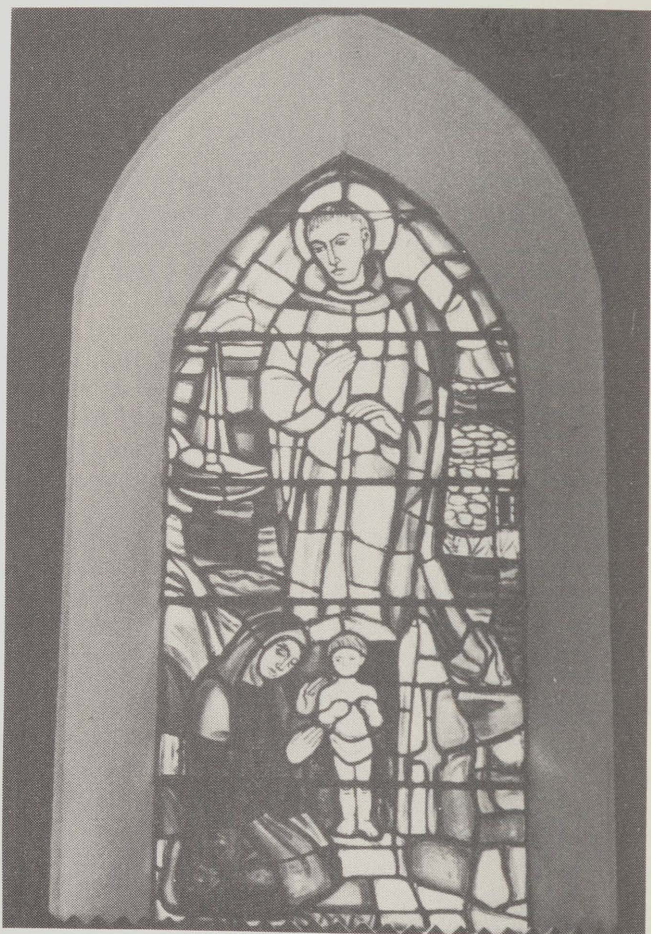
According to one legend, the family with the exception of a little boy was wiped out by the 'Danes'. This child was saved by his nurse who fled with him to the south of Ireland. Here the nurse married, and the boy was reared as her own, and he regarded her as his mother, and her children as his sisters and brothers. When he grew up, however, his foster mother did not think it right to leave him in ignorance of his true birth and parentage, so she told him of his illustrious descent. He went back to Umhall, where he was recognised by a blind man named Ó hOireachta (Herrity) an old retainer of the O'Malley family. They say he knew him by his hands! The young man told him his story, and immediately with manifestations of great rejoicing, he was proclaimed chieftain of Umhall.

The other version of the legend is the one chosen by that great artist Evie Hone for the window executed by her in 1951, in memory of John Francis O'Malley, the Wimpole Street (London) surgeon. This story relates that the young mother with her son, the only surviving male child of the O'Malleys, fled to Inish Glora, off the Mullet Peninsula. The child was sickly and was restored to health through the intervention of Saint Brendan, at whose well his mother prayed. There is a variation of this story which attaches the incident to Saint Brendan's well in Kilmeena parish. It was believed that this well could change the sex of babies if they were dipped in it. When all the O'Malley male children were slain, a baby girl was dipped in the well and so turned into a boy 'and from him all the O'Malleys are descended'.

Professor Conor O'Malley, brother of John Francis, and mainly responsible for the erection of the window, describes it as follows:

The dominant figure in the window is St. Brendan the Navigator. In the background is the green hill of the island. Alongside are the blue sea with the Navigator's ship and beehive-like stone cell. In the foreground is the Ó Máille Chieftainess in blue cloak and red skirt – traditional dress. She kneels by the well, shown as polished stones. On one stone is scratched a rude cross, which is not unusual on blessed wells where Stations are made. She holds a comely boy who has been dipped in the well, and is now healed by the invocation of Brendan, Patron of Inish Glora – an island off Belmullet (The Mullet), associated with much folklore.

(This is an extract from *O'Malley People and Places* (1988), by Sheila Mulloy.)



Stained glass window of St. Brendan by Evie Hone in Kilmilkin Church, Maam, Co. Galway.

MULRANY

BY SHEILA MULLOY

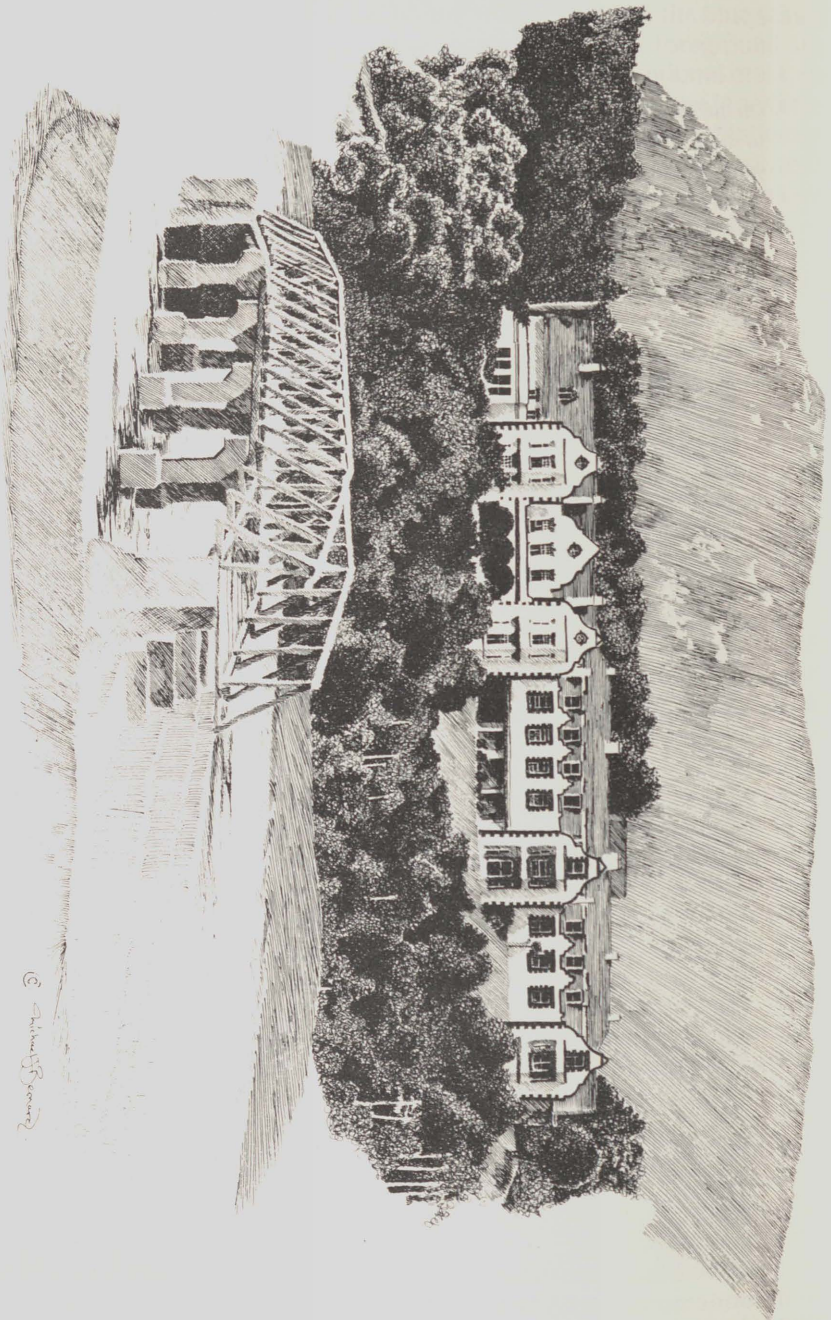
On the road to Mallaranny the ground occasionally drops so one can see down to the bay and the islands. That evening, in the late sunlight, the sward was yellow-green, the sea like silk, and the islands had all the same yellow-green sward so they looked like pieces of mainland cut out with a cake shape. Everything here was gently sloping and tranquil. On the other side of the bay Croaghpatrick, isolated and unforgettable in shape, rose from the shore edge. Out beyond the bay, Graine O'Malley's island of Clare stood from the water, its cliffs white . . . Mallaranny, with its mild air and its fuchsias, is the place from which to see the bay. The view there is famous and on this delicate evening it was at its loveliest.

Olivia Manning, *The Dreaming Shore*.

Few people indeed fail to be moved by the view from Mulrany, more especially at full tide. It has long been a favourite with the tourist, although the village itself has lost its picture postcard appeal of unusually pretty thatched houses each with its cheerful flower garden. These, alas, have vanished like their counterparts all over the country. The modern village is bright and busy with a warm welcome for the visitor.

Mulrany owes its existence as a tourist resort to the coming of the Midlands Great Western Railway Company. The first train to use the Westport-Achill Sound line will be forever associated with the Clew Bay drowning disaster on 14 June 1894. On that day 32 migrants tragically perished near Westport when their overloaded hooker capsized within sight of the steamer which was to take them to Scotland. Special arrangements were made to have the coffins conveyed on the as yet unopened railway line. The *Mayo News* of the day reported that 'crowds followed the train, which moved slowly, inquiring for relatives and weeping bitterly. At Molranny a vast number of people had assembled and on the arrival of the train there was a loud cry of sympathy with the relatives'. Most of the victims are buried in Kildawnet Cemetery at Achill Sound near the O'Malley castle of the same name. In that graveyard also are buried the victims of the Kirkintilloch (Scotland) fire disaster where ten migrant workers lost their lives in 1937. This last tragedy was to fulfil a prophecy made two hundred years earlier by Brian O Cearbháin who foretold that 'carriages on iron wheels, emitting smoke and fire' would carry corpses both at the beginning and end of their era.

The coming of the railway line brought with it a happier event in 1897 with the opening of 'the really good, comfortable, first-class hotel belonging to the railway company', as described by J. Harris Stone in his book on Connemara published in 1906. He further states that it is one of the 'two hotels most nearly approaching the first-class hostels of the



The Great Western Hotel, Mulranny. © M.J. Bernard.

Continent and the States'. The building, now in private ownership, is in the French chateau style. It is situated 'one hundred feet above the sea-level, on the southern slope of an isthmus commanding an unimpeded view over Clew Bay with its multitude of islands'. The extensive grounds are well wooded, while the terraced front gardens have an impressive display of azaleas and rhododendrons in early summer.

The hotel was designed by F. Johnstone, architect to the builders Collen Bros., Contractors and Engineers, of East Wall Dublin. Mr. Roddy Heron of Achill Sound, a grandson of Joseph Collen, chairman of the company, has much information on the construction. Work began in 1895 with a workforce of two foremen (at £2 a week each), nine masons, forty-two labourers and thirteen carters, with an additional man in charge of a donkey and cart. Three steamships, the S.S. Jane, S.S. Elizabeth and S.S. Anne, brought specially selected bricks from Cardigan & Co. in Wales. The rocky nature of the site required the use of dynamite, which was brought by train from Dublin by a member of the Collen family carrying a revolver. Roddy's Uncle Harcourt Collen, who was 19 at the time, supervised the construction. He was paid £1 10s per week, and stayed at the Post Office in Ballycroy, where he kept his two horses stabled at the R.I.C. barracks. The hotel was occupied by the Free State troops during the Civil War.

The strand below the hotel, like so many western beaches, was for long the venue for extremely popular horse-racing in the autumn. The people flocked there from Achill and the surrounding countryside to enjoy the racing as well as the usual sports events and side-shows, with attendant refreshment stalls doing a roaring business. These events, which frequently led to faction fights, have gradually fallen victim to the increasing sophistication of rural Ireland, but they have happily been commemorated in the evocative watercolours of J.B. Yeats.

The attractive little church of the Immaculate Conception, built in part of the local red sandstone, was erected in 1905 by Rev. Peter Varden, C.C. and enlarged in 1930 by Very Rev. Canon McDonald, P.P. Its architect was Rudolf Maximilian Butler, who designed the well-known Newport Church, which at the time of its dedication in 1918, was a milestone in Irish church architecture. Pádhraig Ó Móráin has an interesting story to tell concerning the building of the church. He relates that Dr. John Healy, bishop of Clonfert, 'had on one occasion been refused permission to celebrate Mass in any of the public rooms in the Railway Hotel. He then determined that, if ever he became Archbishop of Tuam, he would have a church built in Mulranny. He did not forget. As soon as he became Archbishop, he instructed Fr. Varden, C.C., to take the work in hands.'

In 1926 the Sisters of Mercy were given charge of Mulranny National School. They lived in the curate's house which was later enlarged to serve as a convent. The curate meanwhile lived in the hotel until his house was built. A new school was opened in 1939 and this was

extended in 1982. At present there are 82 pupils on the rolls in the care of three teachers. Sisters from other parts of Mayo come to the convent for summer holidays.

Mulrany is in the parish of Burrishoole. Its Irish name is An Mhala Raithní ('hill-brow of the ferns') or Maol Raithní meaning 'bare hill of the ferns'. In recent times the late Sir Ernst Chain, joint Nobel prizewinner for the discovery of penicillin, built a holiday home at Cushlecka, to the west of the village. Lady Anne Chain and her family continue their regular visits to the area.



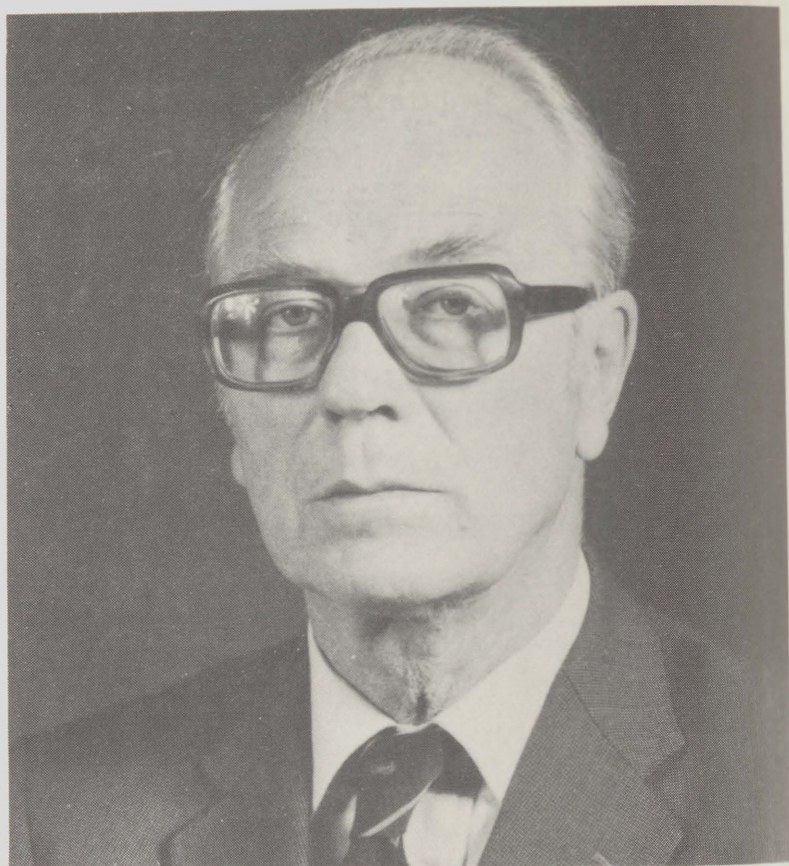
Mulrany Racecourse, from J. Harris Stone, Connemara (1906).

SOME FORMER CHIEFTAINS



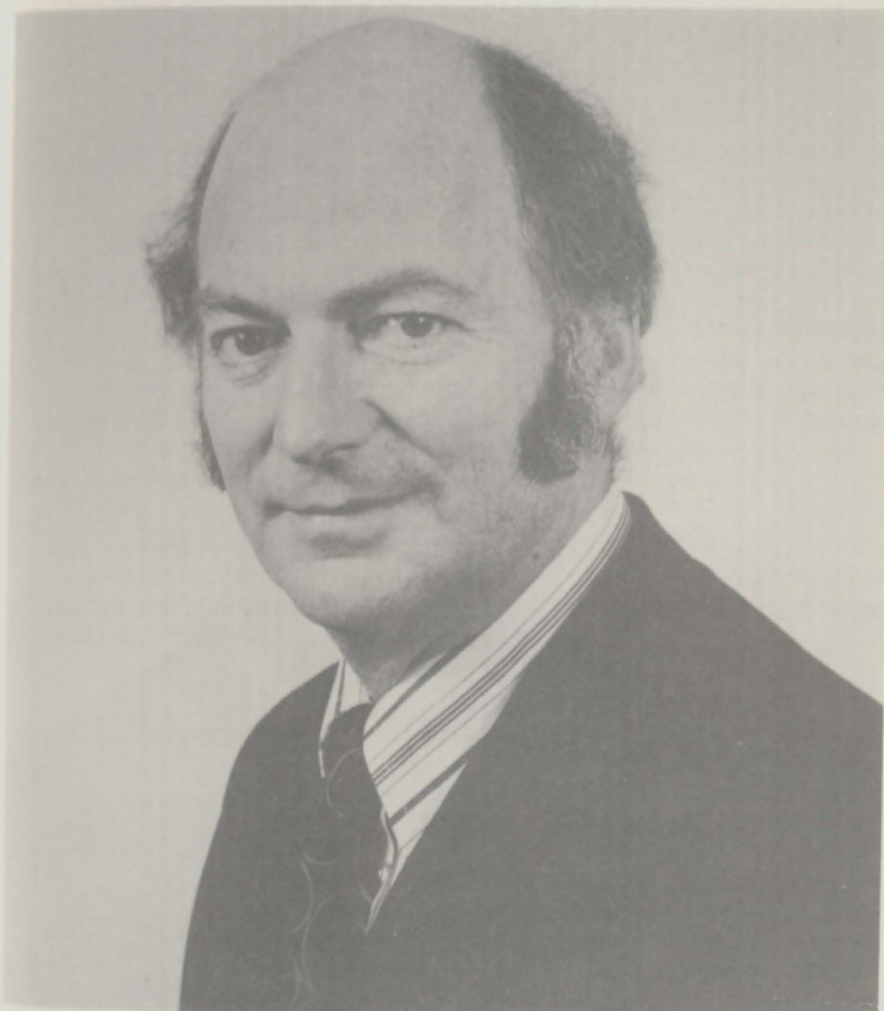
Thomas O'Malley (1882-1976)

Tom O'Malley was born on 8 December 1882, the son of Michael O'Malley, Clare Island, and Brigid Staunton. The family moved later to Tallabawn and Letterbrock. Tom went to Blackburn, England, and became a salesman for a sewing machine company. Later he went to the United States and made a successful career in the insurance business. He retired to Westport in the early 60s. He had been a supporter of the Clan rallies from the beginning, and was deeply interested in Irish history. Married twice, he was the father of eight children. He was elected Clan Chieftain in 1965.



Eoin O'Malley, M.Ch., F.R.C.S.I.

Son of former clan chieftain Professor Michael O'Malley, Galway, and Christina Ryan, Tomcoole, Wexford, Eoin graduated in medicine from University College, Dublin, in 1942. Professor of Surgery in University College Dublin, 1958-86, and Consultant to the Mater and other Dublin hospitals 1950-86. Extern Examiner in Surgery to University College Galway, Trinity College Dublin, Queen's College Belfast, Dundee and Glasgow Universities. President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, 1982-4 and Professor Emeritus of Surgery at University College Dublin since 1986. Guest lecturer at medical schools in Britain and the U.S. and recipient of honorary degrees from Irish, British, American and Australian universities. Author of numerous medical papers. Formerly Chairman of the Medical Research Council, and member of the Higher Education Commission, the Higher Education Authority and Comhairle na nOspidéal. His wife is Una O'Higgins, daughter of Government Minister Kevin O'Higgins, and their children are Kevin, Eoin J., Art, Christopher, Finbar and Iseult. Elected Clan Chieftain in 1966.



George O'Malley, B.A., B.L.

Son of former clan chieftain Patrick E. O'Malley, Limerick, and Kathleen Bonass of Dublin. His wife is Ann MacDermot, and his children are Brendan, Conor and Siobhán. Educated at Glenstal School, Limerick, University College and King's Inns Dublin. He entered the family wine and spirit business, becoming Director of Baggot O'Malley, Wine and Spirit wholesalers and importers, 1969-74, and Director of the Wine and Spirit Association of Ireland since 1976. Former President of Limerick Chamber of Commerce and the Employers Federation Limerick. First President of Mid-Western Tourism Organisation. Interested in history sailing and music, he was Chieftain of the O'Malley Clan in 1967 and is a member of the Granuaile Trust.



Stiofán Ó Máille (1920-1978)

Born in Ballyglunin, Co. Galway, the son of James O'Malley from Portacarron, Oughterard, and Sarah Hession from Gortbeg, Ballyglunin. He was educated at the Christian Brothers School in Tuam, and was a founding Director of the internationally known Galway tweed shop of P. Ó Máille, Teo., in Dominick Street. Fishing and shooting were his pastimes, but his great loves were the Irish language and the O'Malley Clan. He attended the first rally in 1953 and all subsequent rallies until his death. He was elected Clan Chieftain in 1968.

And now for a commercial break . . .

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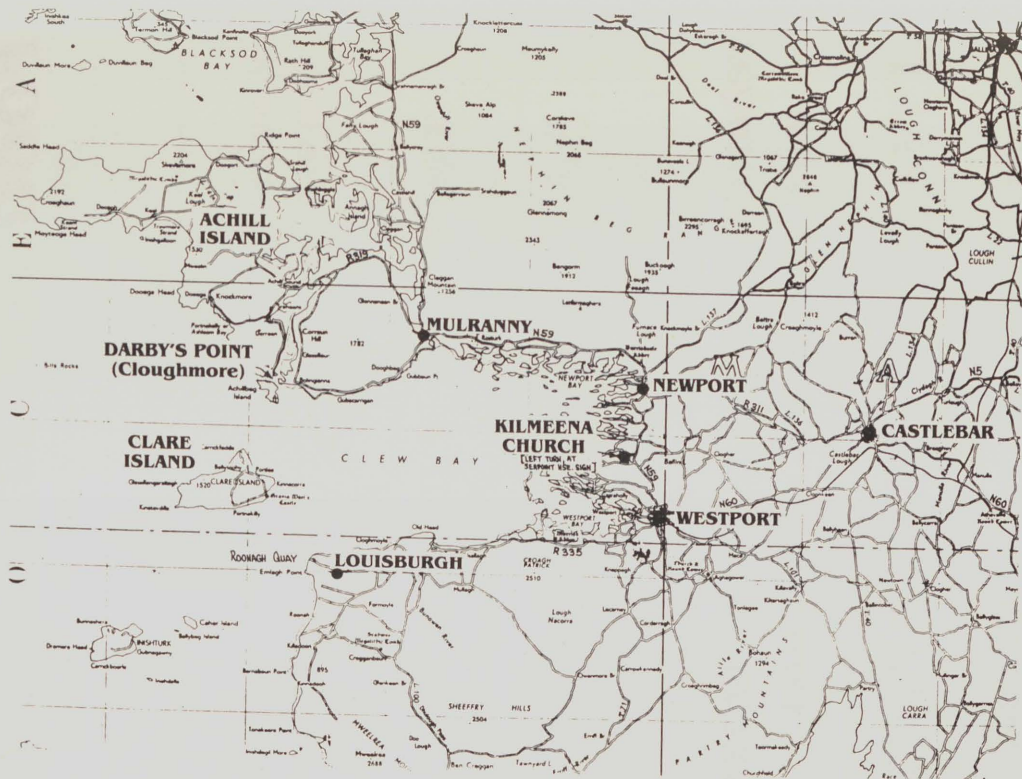


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