



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights....

- What a wonderful weekend we had in Limerick!
- Keep Liking, Commenting, and Sharing! Lets keep spreading the word to all O'Malleys around the globe!
- The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024, some pictures from the weekend
- The O'Malley Clan DNA Project update from Dr Maurice Gleeson
- The O'Malley Diaspora—Wayne Harlow
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2025, Westport, Co Mayo, Ireland. 27th to 29th June 2025.

What a weekend we had in Limerick at the Clan Gathering!

What a wonderful weekend we had in Limerick once again in June! We'll have lots of pictures inside, but just to say a big thank you to everyone who made the journey to Cappamore, Bunratty, and Limerick City. A huge thanks to Chieftain Nano O'Malley McMahon of Cappamore for her year of stewardship, and for putting together such a magnificent weekend of fun and friendship. It was great to see so many new faces at the Gathering this year, along with some familiar ones too.



Lets get the word out there! LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE!

Lets keep up the good work everyone. We want to get the message out there to every O'Malley/Malley/Maley/Mellia/Melia in the world that the O'Malley Clan is here and making connections worldwide.

As mentioned at the AGM on Sunday 30th June, the best way for us to get the word out there is through YOU!

Head onto your **Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter** accounts and LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE, RETWEET, the posts from the O'Malley Clan Association and lets spread the word and make those connections with O'Malleys everywhere.

Its only with your help that we can spread the word.

www.omalleyclan.ie



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[o_malley_clan_association](https://www.instagram.com/o_malley_clan_association)

The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Left: Chieftain Nano welcoming everyone to Cappamore

Below: Ed, Lizzie, Joanna, and Jack O'Malley, Kansas

Below Left: Professor Bernadette Whelan during her presentation on Friday evening. In Cappamore

Below Right: Sean O'Malley, Jessie Flannery, and Katie O'Malley, Otago, New Zealand

ATLANTIC EDGE
LIMERICK
EUROPEAN EMBRACE



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above: Cllr Martin Ryan, Cappamore, Chieftain Nano O'Malley McMahon, and Guardian Chieftain Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, in Cappamore.

Below Left, Grace O'Malley Spirits helped out with some refreshments, Below right: Tony Watane, New Zealand, and Alice O'Malley



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above Left: Traffic control at Abington! Above right: Tug of War at The O'Malley Olympics.

Below: Jim Cook Texas, Cllr Martin Ryan, Cappamore, Don O'Malley, Murroe, Glenn Maley, Texas.



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above Left: Chieftain Nano at the Charity Concert in Abington Church, and Above right: presenting half of the proceeds to Cappamore Day Care Centre, and Below: presenting the other half of the proceeds to Milford Hospice



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above: Even the transport was all O'Malley

Below left: Don O'Malley, Chieftain Nano and friends at Ardnacrusha

Below Right: Liam and Amiya O'Malley, Florida, enjoying Ardnacrusha



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024

Below: The fabulous song written by Bob Richardson to celebrate Chieftain Nano and the Gathering in Limerick in 2024. A big thank you to Bob and Ita for their efforts over the whole weekend.

Billy Malley's Schottische

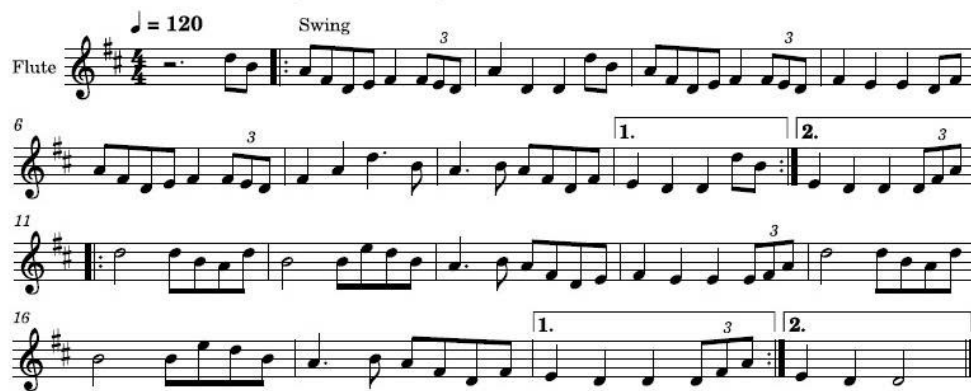
Now better known as Nano's Fandango

I know, I know, the tune name has dropped the O, going straight for Billy Malley himself. Billy Malley was a farmer and renowned fiddle player from Glandree, Tulla in East Clare during the early part of the 1900's. A Schottische is a German/Austrian dance, referring to Scottish melodies, so I am not so sure how Billy came to be associated with same.

Martin Hayes plays this tune on his CD titled Martin Hayes. He also has a tune called Bill Malley's Barndance on his Over The Moon CD. The tunes have a similar tempo and are often played together. But I knew Nano would be much more impressed with a Schottische!!!!

Bob Richardson and The Sliabh Feilim Singers

Billy Malley's Schottische



The O'Malley Clan are gathering to celebrate
 From all corners of the world now they congregate
 Presided o'er by Nano, their Chieftain bold
 She puts Cappamore at centre stage, the Green and Gold

Chorus: Here's a health to Nano, and her big blackthorn stick
 She's controlling the O'Malleys now, and that's no easy trick
 Looking regal and stately in her blue and purple cloak
 Oh here's a heartfelt 'Thank You Nano' now, from all O'Malley folk

Queen Elizabeth met Gráinne Mhaol in 1593
 Anglo-Irish relations now much calmer, glad to see
 Oh but when their latest Monarch he suggested he might come
 Nano said 'Go hop it Charlie Boy, I'd have gladly met your Mum'

Chorus.

I've heard some O'Malley's wonder what will Nano's future be
 She turned down the Limerick Mayoral job, and declined an MEP
 And she says "I have no Dail plans, Ye're all wide of the mark
 I've got my eye on Michael D's fireside, up in the Phoenix Park"

Chorus.

The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above : One of the walking tour groups enjoying The Treaty City Brewery in Limerick

Below: Getting into banquet mode!



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above left: Time for a banquet in a medieval castle! Above right: Chieftain Nano & Tánaiste Grace in Bunratty.

Below left: Friend of The O'Malley Clan, Enda O'Coineen with Guardian Chieftain Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, and Below right: Enda with Chieftain Nano



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above left: Tony Watane from New Zealand getting medieval, Above right: Former Chieftain Maurice O'Malley in Bunratty. Below: Just some of the gang at Bunratty.



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above: Former Chieftain Don O'Malley with Elaine O'Malley and daughters, Grace, Clodagh, Edel, & Eileen.

Below: Chieftain Nano with Brid and Rory McCarthy



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above: Pat McMahon, husband of Chieftain Nano enjoying the Bunratty hospitality!

Below: .Gerard & Anne O'Malley, Newport with Katie O'Malley, New Zealand



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above: Welcome to the medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle

Below: A mighty night at the banquet, with lots of laughs!



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above left: Time for mass on Sunday morning, and Above right: Piper McKay tuning up!

Below left: Chieftain Nano with Tim and Patrick O'Malley California, and Below right Nano with Ita Richardson

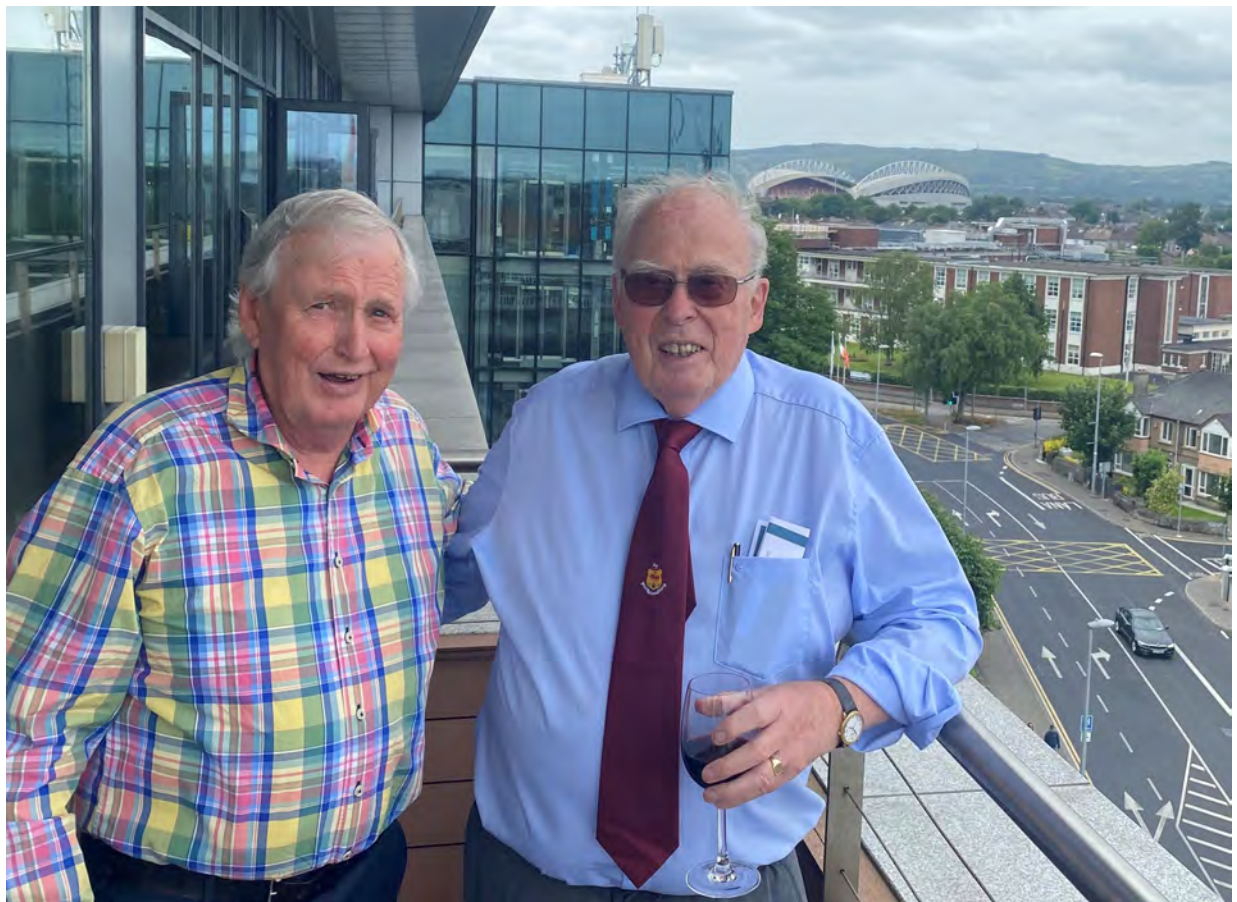


The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above: The Group Photo after mass on Sunday.

Below: Noel O'Malley, New Zealand, with former Chieftain Don O'Malley, (and Thomond Park in the background!)



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above: A fabulous lunch at The Strand Hotel on Sunday

Below: Margaret Davern, Michelle Ryan, Chieftain Nano, Marie Hayes, Don O'Malley, Rosemary Hayes, Carmel Hayes, Carmel Ryan and Alice O'Malley



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024



Above left: Our new Chieftain Grace O'Malley

Above right: Grace with partner Enda, and children Austin and Alice

Left: The Inauguration where the former Chieftains encircle the Tánaiste while they are given the cloak and staff. All closely monitored by incoming Tánaiste Denise O'Malley

An update on the O'Malley Clan DNA Project—Dr Maurice Gleeson



Finding Grace - update June 2024

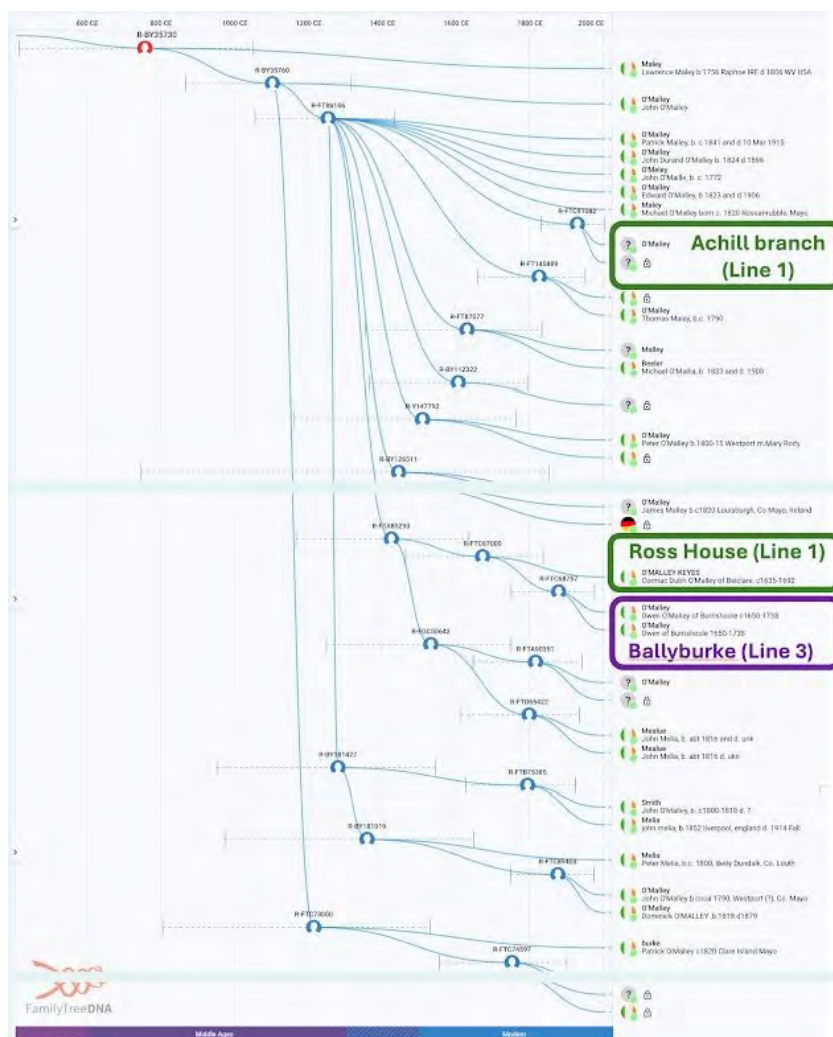
Group 3a of the O'Malley DNA Project represents the O'Malley clan of Mayo, of which Grace O'Malley (the Pirate Queen) is the most famous member. And presumably, if we could test Grace's direct male forbears, they would also belong to Group 3a. The [Finding Grace](#) project was set up to try to establish the specific Y-DNA signature of Grace O'Malley's great great grandfather, Dermot (born about 1400 AD). Previous articles about the [Finding Grace](#) project are available [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

There are now 53 participants in Group 3a (the largest in the O'Malley DNA Project) and of these 40 have undertaken SNP marker testing (mainly the Big Y test). The SNP testing allows us to place these participants on very specific branches of the Tree of Mankind (a.k.a. Y-Haplotree). This is summarised in the diagram below which is from FTDNA's Group Time Tree (available [here](#)).

The overarching SNP marker for the entire group is BY35730, which was passed down to every single member of Group 3a by a common ancestor who lived about 750 AD (current estimate 765 AD, range 417-1044 ... see [here](#)). The next descendant branch is BY35760, and this was passed on to all but one of the members of Group 3a by a common ancestor who lived about 1100 AD (current estimate 1106 AD, range 862-1304 ... see [here](#)). Thereafter, there are two descendant branches - FTC73000, which was passed on by an ancestor who lived about 1200 AD (see [here](#)); and FT86146, which was passed down by an ancestor who lived about 1250 AD (see [here](#)). The FT86146 branch is the largest branch within Group 3a, and 30 of the 40 SNP-tested participants sit on this branch (or one of its sub-branches).

The above diagram is in 3 parts and you can click on each part to enlarge that section. Also, a pdf version of the above diagram is available to download [here](#).

For the [Finding Grace project](#), we tracked down 13 men whose genealogy indicated that they reportedly descended (along a direct male line) from Dermot (born about 1400), the great great grandfather of Grace O'Malley. These 13 men sat on 3 major branches below Dermot:



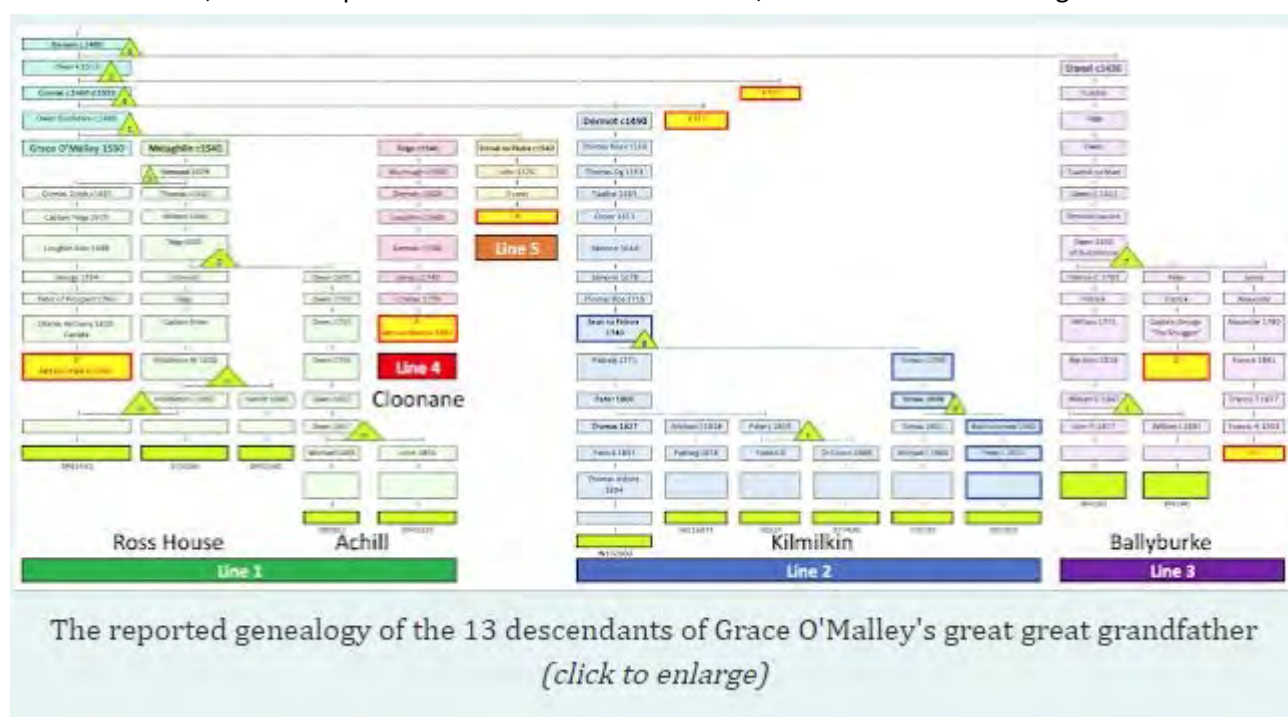
An update on the O'Malley Clan DNA Project—Dr Maurice Gleeson

Line 1 - the 5 men on this branch are reported to descend from Melaghlin (born about 1545), a supposed brother of Grace O'Malley. The Ross House O'Malley's are part of this branch as are some Achill O'Malley's. Three of the 5 members did the Big Y test.

Line 2 - the 6 men on this branch are Kilmilkin O'Malleys and are reported to descend from an uncle of Grace O'Malley, namely Dermot (born about 1490). Three of the 6 men did the Big Y test.

Line 3 - the 2 men on this branch are from the Ballyburke O'Malley family. They are reported to descend from Donal (born about 1430), who is supposed to be a brother of Grace's great grandfather. Both men did the Big Y test.

These three lines, and the reported connections between them, are illustrated in the diagram below.



Our plan was to test the 13 men initially with the Y-DNA-37 test, and thereafter (if indicated) upgrade each one of them to the Big Y test. The Y-DNA-37 test assesses 37 DNA markers, the Big Y test assesses over 200,000 DNA markers (and, as mentioned above, allows people to be placed on very specific branches of the Tree of Mankind). This higher level test was able to determine beyond any doubt that there are significant inconsistencies between the reported genealogies and the DNA data.

The first major finding was that the Kilmilkin O'Malley's of Line 2 were not related to Group 3a at all. They belong to Group 3g, which shares a common ancestor (DF105) with Group 3a (the Mayo O'Malleys) who lived about 200 AD (see [here](#)). This could possibly indicate a long-standing error in the genealogies, or an NPE (Non-Paternity Event, or DNA switch) that occurred some time prior to 1600 (the age estimate for the FTC36168 branch that the Kilmilkin O'Malleys sit on is currently 1573, range 1300-1763 ... see [here](#)). Either way, because of this DNA disconnect, the data from Line 2 was not going to be helpful in our quest to identify the Y-DNA signature of Grace O'Malley's great great grandfather.

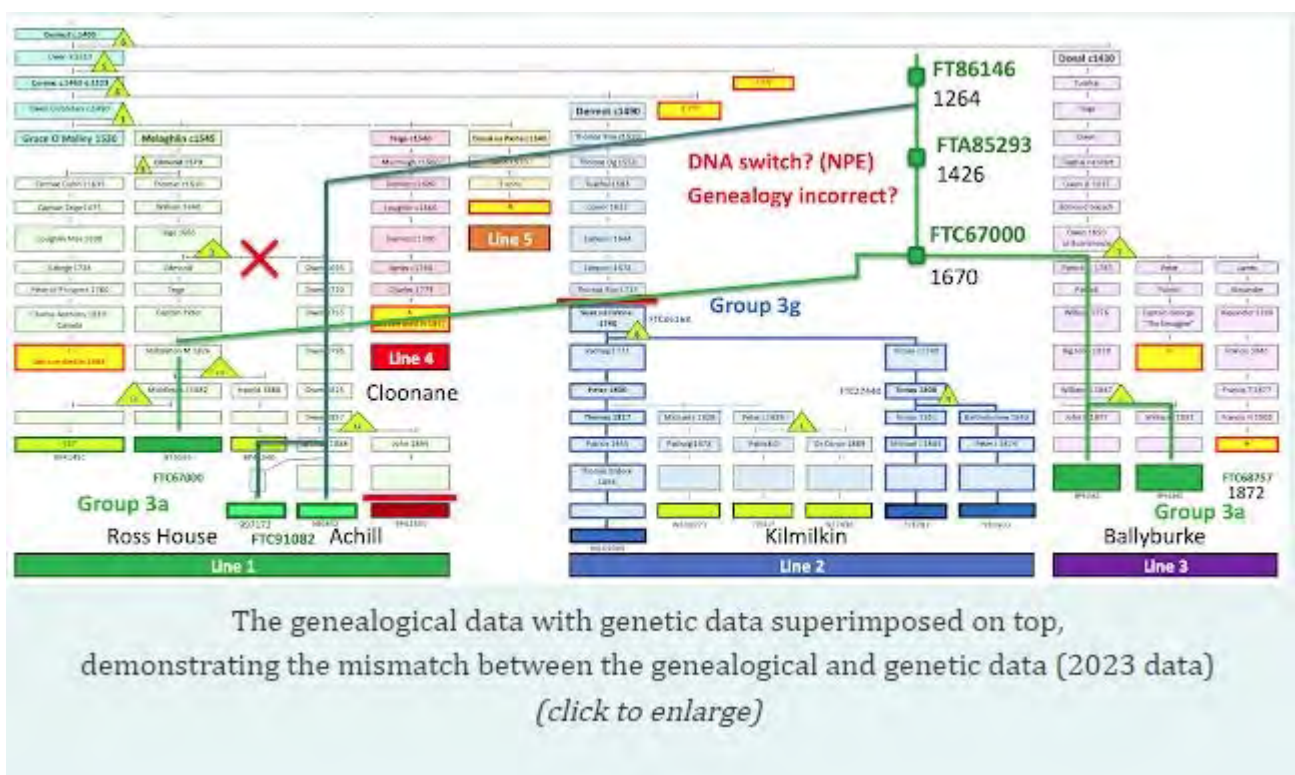
The second finding was that the Line 1 O'Malleys did not match each other as expected. The Ross House O'Malleys sat on the FTC67000 branch whereas the Achill O'Malleys sat on the FTC91082 branch. These two branches have a common genetic ancestor in branch FT86146, which has a current age estimate of 1255 AD

An update on the O'Malley Clan DNA Project—Dr Maurice Gleeson

(range 1048-1422 ... see [here](#)).

This genetic age estimate is very different to the birth year of their reported genealogical common ancestor, namely Teige O'Malley born about 1655. So this finding suggests an error in the genealogies, or an NPE (DNA switch).

The third major finding was that the Line 3 O'Malleys of Ballyburke sit on exactly the same branch as the Ross House O'Malleys of Line 1, namely FTC67000. The age estimate for this DNA marker is currently 1669 AD (range 1451-1820 ... see [here](#)), which is far removed from the estimated birth year of their genealogical common ancestor, namely Dermot (born about 1400), the great great grandfather of Grace O'Malley. So this result also indicates a discrepancy between what the genealogies say and what DNA tells us. Again, this could be due to a long-standing error in the genealogies or an NPE / DNA switch.



Nevertheless, the data produced so far by the [Finding Grace](#) project allows us to generate some hypotheses that can be tested as we move forward. Firstly, it seems reasonable to assume that one or both of Line 1 & 3 descend from the O'Malley chieftain line. And as they both sit on the same branch (FTC67000), then one of the upstream SNP markers is likely to have been carried by an O'Malley chief. Now, we know that Grace's great great grandfather Dermot was born about 1400 and thus he may very well have carried a SNP marker above FTC67000 that is estimated to have arisen around this time. So let's look at the list of ancestral SNP markers above FTC67000 ...

R-BY35730 > BY35760 > FT86146 > FTA85293 > FTC67000

... and the respective current age estimates for each of these branches is as follows ...

FTC67000 ... 1669 AD (range 1451-1820 ... see [here](#))

FTA85293 ... 1424 AD (range 1158-1621 ... see [here](#))

FT86146 ... 1255 AD (range 1048-1422 ... see [here](#))

An update on the O'Malley Clan DNA Project—Dr Maurice Gleeson

BY35760 ... 1106 AD (range 862-1304 ... see [here](#))

BY35730 ... 765 AD (range 417-1044 ... see [here](#))

As Dermot's estimated birth year (i.e. 1400) falls within the current range for both FTA85293 and FT86146, it seems probable that he carried the SNP marker FT86146, and it seems possible that he carried the SNP marker FTA85293, and passed them on to all his descendants, including the O'Malleys of Line 1 and Line 3.



Also, because the FT86146 branch is relatively the most successful branch in Group 3a (30 of 40 SNP-tested members sit here), this could indicate that it represents the royal line, which, being wealthier and more powerful than the lines of more common folk, would have produced more surviving descendants.

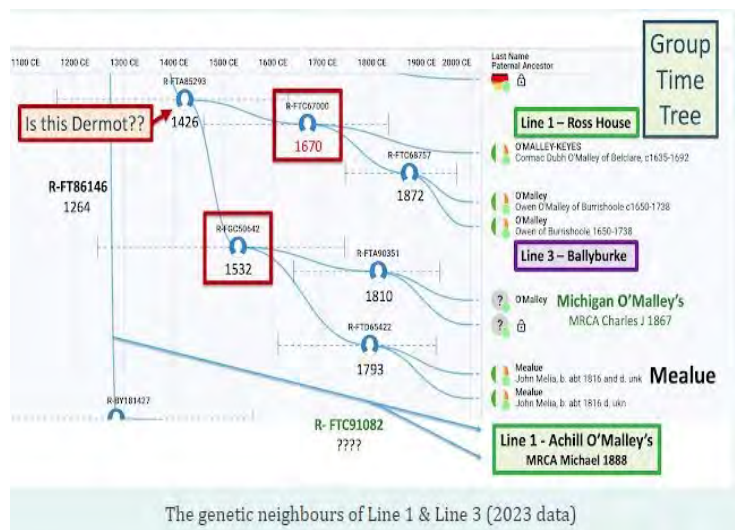
Another line of enquiry would be to explore the other descendant branches of FTA85293 for additional clues. Members who sit of the FGC50642 branch include the Michigan O'Malleys and members called Mealue.

Hopefully, over time, additional Big Y test results will further illuminate this current working theory. And we are still in search of extensive O'Malley lineages to test, in the hope that new Big Y results will throw light on some of the remaining questions. We are currently pursuing a branch of O'Malley's in France that dates back to the 1500s ... the trouble is we have yet to identify a direct male line that has survived to the present day.

But hope springs eternal.

Maurice Gleeson

June 2024



The O'Malley Diaspora—Wayne Harlow

THE O'MALLEY DIASPORA

(Diaspora, from the Greek meaning a scattering, the dispersing of peoples outside their native land)

The beginning of the O'Malley diaspora, hitherto thought to have begun around the time of the great famine of 1845, is not only incorrect but is far out by several thousand years. The true story of the diaspora of the O'Malleys is as follows.

A few years ago I found myself stranded in Sandusky, Ohio, due to a fractured fuel pump in my car. As I was waiting for the car to be repaired (which was to take several hours), I spent some time browsing around some

bookshops and then wandered into the local library. Pouring through some ancient books I came across one that simply blew me away. The title was *Where Have All The O' Malleys Gone?* It was written by a Professor Theodopolis O'Malley, who was, at the time of the writing of the book, chief lecturer at the small but respected college in Bowillow, Ohio. In the preface of the book it was stated that the Professor had taken sixteen years to write the book, thousands of miles of travel to Iraq, Sudan, Palestine and Yuma, Arizona with the spending of his own fortune and the final breaking down of his health. The book, printed on the best paper available, bound in calfskin and illustrated by the famous artist Reginald K. Connald, sold the amazing amount of 291 copies, all of which, eventually, became collectors' items.

So it begins: Professor O'Malley during one of his trips to Iraq in the early 1920s came across an English translation from the ancient Akkadian concerning the discovery, two thousand years before, in the ruins of an ancient library in 'The Land of Shinar' (Shinar was the biblical name for Shumer) a cuneiform text. This in itself was not a great discovery as there were thousands of clay tablets that said nothing more than who hadn't paid their rent that month in Nineveh, or what was the current price of flax that year.

What intrigued Professor O'Malley as he poured through the script (having taught himself how to read Cuneiform writing) was a name that kept cropping up. That name was Ali Abu Suida. The Professor translated the name through Akkadian, Babylonian, Assyrian, Greek, Roman and early neoclassical eastern seaboard American and to his wonderment and great delight the name translated to 'O'Malley'.

So here was the proof that the O'Malley clans had dispersed and began scattering around the world. They left their native land for many reasons, natural disorders, undersea earthquakes that produced living conditions that were not very hospitable and giant tsunamis that washed everything on the coasts into the sea. There were famines, drought, civil disturbances and roaming bands of barbarians who would, from time to time, raid the island of Ireland causing all manner of grief and uncertainty. So began the dispersing of the native peoples of Ireland that is still going on today. They went by sea, and land. They sailed, trekked, swam, hitched lifts from passing Phoenicians ships, joined the Crusades, went with Columbus to the new world and joined the travelling Japanese circuses that were so popular at the turn of the century.

Dispersed they did, and in great numbers so that by the eighteenth century there weren't many Irish people left on the island, compared with the amount of people who were now in the Diaspora. A number that Professor O'Malley came up with at the beginning of the twentieth century was in the neighbourhood of forty-six million, give or take a few thousand.

Over the centuries a few did return to Ireland only to find that they were strangers in a strange land. Not only did they not understand the language and the many changes that had occurred over three thousand years,



Wayne Harlow (Left) with Philip O'Malley Dunlop

The O'Malley Diaspora—Wayne Harlow

but some of the returned even came to the conclusion that maybe their ancestors didn't come from Ireland in the first place. Those who did return and seemed to fit in well with the natives who never left, found a warm welcome because they brought back to Ireland many good things like tea and potatoes, pasta and curry and a new and exciting sense of identity.

Professor O'Malley's dream was that eventually all the Irish of the Diaspora would return to the native soil and build a great and prosperous nation. He proposed this idea along with a ninety-nine page document of how it could be accomplished, to Dail Eireann in 1947. It was voted down by a large majority. The reason it was voted down was outlined in a long statement to the Irish Times stating that the return of fifty-eight million Irish would put a great strain on the social welfare budget, housing and infrastructure and would lead to much civil unrest and resentment.

Professor O'Malley's dream died with him. In his last years he became a disillusioned and bitter man and thought his life work was all in vain. He would be happy to know that in a beautifully kept cemetery on the outskirts of Wadi Rum there is a small headstone made from the pink rock of Petra. The inscription translated from the Cuneiform reads: Here lies Professor Theodopolis O'Malley, scattered to the four winds.

Since this article was published in the Woongurra Gazette in Perth, Australia, I have had a flood of mail, not only from Australia but from places as remote as Moose Furrow, Alaska; Chung Pou, Southwestern China and Apache Stand, Wyoming. Most of the letters state that Professor O'Malley was not only wrong in his research concerning the O'Malley Diaspora but had taken liberties with the truth. It's too complicated and detailed to relate here as I would need to build up a large portfolio to prove Professor O'Malley's history of the Clan.

One letter from a Mr. Linus O'Malley of Calcutta states, in no uncertain terms, that his branch of the clan actually left Ireland in the seventh century, and he claims that the first O'Malley Clan Rally was held in India in the tenth century and that his ancestors documented the history of the Diaspora long before Ali Abu Suida ever came on the scene.

Such is the stuff of history. We may never know the full and true story of the history of the O'Malley Diaspora unless more relevant information comes to light. The only thing we can know for sure is that there are a lot of O'Malleys out there. And good luck to all of them wherever they may be and whenever they left the native shores of our island.

Wayne Harlow RIP was the husband of former Chieftain Kitty O'Malley



The good things they brought back!

Potatoes, Tea, Pasta, and Curry!



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[o_malley_clan_association](https://www.instagram.com/o_malley_clan_association)

The O'Malley Clan Association aims to reach out to O'Malleys from all around the world and foster links between the O'Malleys around the globe and the clan at home here in Ireland.

The Clan Association formed in 1953 has been connecting O'Malleys around the world in The US and Canada, Britain, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, South America, and anywhere else you can think of for 70 years now.

We hope with our website, and newsletter, that We can go from strength to strength in our aim to connect all the O'Malleys around the world.



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2025 27th to 29th June Westport, Co Mayo www.omalleyclan.ie

