

Ross House, Newport,
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CHIEFTAIN

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Our ref: B33
12/05/88

O'MALLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

MAY 1988

PART III

CLAN GATHERING

Reservations for the Clan gathering are coming in from all over the World and it looks as if we will have a "full house". So as not to be disappointed we would appreciate it if you could send in your reservations and request any special seating arrangements that you might desire. The maximum capacity is only 200 and at the moment we have already over 50 paid reservations. So make your bookings now and don't be disappointed. The luncheon is being especially catered for by Mr. Gunther Hoffman, a past manager of the famous Gresham Hotel, Dublin, and now General Manager of the Mulranny Bay Hotel. We would like to thank the management of the hotel for their kind offer of Gaelic (O'Malley) coffee, to be served after the luncheon.

The wines are being donated by one of our associate Clan members, Mr. Kieran Thompson of Newport House, one of Europe's best known Chateau Hotels which is more on the style of a country house or stately home than a hotel.

The Westport Urban Council are having a reception on Friday 22nd at the Town Hall to welcome all O'Malleys from home and abroad, on their visit to the home of their ancestors and will enable them to carry home the feeling of welcome extended to them by the people of Mayo. We understand that this reception was suggested by the last Chairman, Councillor John Joe O'Malley. I would like to express, on behalf of the Clan Association, our appreciation to the present Chairman, Councillor Seamus Hughes and to the Westport Urban District Council.

The seating at the luncheon will be different from the past as the top table will be eliminated and the guests will be seated at separate tables of 10 or less. It is hoped that a past Chief will host each of the tables.

At the luncheon Mr. Desmond O'Malley, T.D. head of the Progressive Democratic Party, will launch Dr. Sheila O'Malley-Mulloy's book. Dr. Mulloy is one of our experts on history and the O'Malley Clan. She also is a fluent linguist and has contributed to historical journals and edited French manuscripts for the Irish Manuscript Commission. Her book will be titled 'O'Malley, People and Places'. This is a book that every O'Malley should have in their collection.

After this the Chieftain's prizes for outstanding service to the O'Malley name and Clan will be presented by your Chief.

Then last but not least, the presentation of the Staff of Office to the new Chieftain, Alice O'Malley of Chicago, will take place, followed by dancing to the music of Tony Chambers and his Orchestra.

RAFFLE:

Another of our Associate Clan members, The Hon. Walter Curley, ex. U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, has presented to us as first prize, dinner and bed and breakfast for two (when available) at Ashford Castle, one of the world's finest hotels, situated amongst the most beautiful lakes and hills of Ireland, with magnificent shooting and champion golf course. The core of the building is a Burke castle built in the 14th Century. There is a great likelihood that Grania Uaile, either when married to an O'Flaherty or to a Burke, stayed there as a guest.

The second prize will be a beautiful Waterford crystal decantor, which has been kindly presented to us by local members of the Clan. The third prize will be a collection of O'Malley souvenirs - Annual booklet, tie, blazer badge, car sticker, cassette, etc., worth at least £50.

CLARE ISLAND VISIT:

One of the highlights of the gathering will be the trip to Clare Island. A coach will pick up passengers starting in Westport and deposit them home. The boat will sail from Achill to Clare Island, where refreshments will be available, and will be greeted by Pipe Major Michael O'Malley, a past Chief of the Clan. We hope that Michael will be assisted by Pipe Major Nicholson, who has composed two marches for the O'Malley Clan. The stay on the Island will give sufficient time to visit the Castle and the Abbey with the reputed tomb of Grania Uaile. On the way to the embarkation point you will pass Kildownet Castle, another O'Malley Fortress, built to protect the entrance to Achill Sound. The return trip - time being available - will take in Carrigahowly Castle where

Grania died and Burrishoole Abbey where she is also reputed to be buried, from where can be viewed one of the anchorages used by the O'Malley fleet, which was protected by the 12th Century Butler Castle captured and occupied by the O'Malleys. The ruins of this castle guard the entrance to the bay and are in the grounds of Burrishoole Lodge. Also in this area are the remains of the old fortified house where Austin O'Malley lived during the period of the rebellion of 1793. Part of these lands are still owned by Cormac O'Malley of Richmond, Surrey, England.

The coach will then return to Westport via Newport.

CONSECRATION OF STANDARD AND MEMORIAL MASS, KILMEENA:

This will be celebrated by the Chaplain of the Clan, Fr. Eamon O'Malley, assisted by the Newport Folk Choir featuring two members of the Clan as soloists. The choir consists of 40 people, young and old, and there are six musicians attached to the group. Two pipers will also be in attendance. It would be appreciated if those with transport would assist those without to get to Mass and after to the Mulranny Bay Hotel. We would be very grateful if those who require transport would let us know so that we can try and arrange it.

LOUISBURGH:

The hometown of our last Chief, Anthony O'Malley of Doughmakeown is now continuously in the local news. From the premiere of the Grania Uaile play in the Nomadic Structures, courtesy of John Joe Kilcoyne, to the opening of the Grania Uaile Interpretive Centre and the memorable musical programmes throughout the year of such artists as Joe Bourke, Dolores Keane, The Chieftains (last year's festival), De Danann and numerous archaeological tours and lectures. Justin Sammon and his committee are to be congratulated in promoting this virile town.

THE GRANIA UAILE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE:

The object is to provide information, visual and otherwise, of the life and times of Grania Uaile. It will consist of visual displays of incidents in the life of the famous Sea Queen with copies of Mayo charts, letters etc. of the period. There will also be a video of the "Life and Times of Grania Uaile" and of the premiere of the Shaun Davey Grania Uaile Symphony with Rita Connolly as Grace at Greenwich. Also photographs and models of the over 70 archaeological sites in the area. It will be possible to buy O'Malley ties, blazer

badges, car stickers, O'Malley Clan certificates and books on the O'Malley Clan there, as well as paintings and models of the O'Malley Castles.

Any items of historical interest would be gratefully received and the donation acknowledged.

CASTLEBAR:

Maurice O'Malley has bought a house in Castlebar. He has moved there from Tuam on promotion with the Allied Irish Banks. It is nice to have him closer to Westport as he is one of main stalwarts of the Clan Committee and as a Banker is most useful as Treasurer.

Part of the old Linen Hall has been transformed into a magnificent Exhibition Centre. At the moment there is the 'Daily Life in a Viking Town' and a video entitled 'Ten Centuries Deep' on the excavations of Dublin's Wool Quay. They are both under the supervision of Marie Farrell. Future exhibitions include 'The Spanish Armada' and 'Keeping the Peace' from the Public Records Office.

WESTPORT:

There has been a great change in Westport during the last few years. Not only is it one of the cleanest towns in Ireland but great care is being taken to present it in its best light. The Fairgreen is now a nice park, the Mall cleaned up and flowers planted where possible. The Monument has had graffiti removed, and the Town Hall has been renovated. Unfortunately, the old Wyatt Theatre, which should be the glory of the town, gives the whole place a look of decay and is obviously derelict with the roof in a bad state. It is a pity that Westport's outstanding building is also its greatest detractor.

Every week there is something of interest going on, whether a play, a concert or an exhibition. There is, as well, a fine Cinema, which offers something to everyone. The restaurants are amongst the finest in Ireland offering Irish and Continental food at prices to suit all pockets. It is a town in all ways to be proud of thanks to Seamus Hughes and the Urban District Council and its members, amongst them John Joe O'Malley.

Anybody interested in the families and traditions of the western area of Mayo, should become members of the Westport Historical Society under the Chairmanship of Jarleth Duffy, with amongst others Sheila O'Malley-Mulloy and Kitty O'Malley-Harlow assisting him.

Their Journal is produced yearly and contains articles of historical, biographical and genealogical interest, beautifully presented and written by experts in their fields. Three or four lectures are given yearly on subjects relevant to the history of the area.

This Journal is highly recommended for everybody who has roots in the Clew Bay area. It can be obtained from the Historical Society for £4 plus £1 postage.

DUBLIN:

My thanks are due to Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop for pointing out our mistake in stating in the last Newsletter that Sal O'Malley-McInerney donated £1,500 for the endowment of an O'Malley Bursary at University College, Dublin, for a new degree in master of Urban and Building Conservation. The amount should of course have read £15,000. In her speech on that occasion she pointed out that the O'Malleys were in the forefront of conservation because at the Railway Hotel, Westport in 1949, they issued an appeal for the restoration and preservation of Carrigahowley Castle near Newport. Thanks to the generosity of the Clan members, the castle was indeed restored and became the venue for the first Clan Rally in September, 1949.

Patricia Hyde, Senior Executive Planner, Dublin Corporation, is the first recipient of the O'Malley Bursary.

Past Chief Pearse O'Malley and his wife Mary, hosted a Bridge afternoon, also a Poker evening and a Batik display to raise funds for the Granuaile Trust. On April 9th the Trust Committee organised a most successful ceili at Sal's beautiful house in Foxrock.

Ellen is a real powerhouse in organising the younger generation to assist in the promotion of the Clan. We congratulate and thank her.

We regret to announce the death of Michael O'Malley of Seapoint House, and extend to his wife and family our condolences.

We extend to Tom O'Malley of Navan, a former Chief, our deepest sympathy and that of the Clan Association, on the death of his wife, Margaret.

ENGLAND:

Cormac O'Malley, who is a highly placed executive in the Bristol Myers International Corporation, has been moved from Brussels, Belgium to Richmond, England. He informs us that his parents' donation to the O'Malley Collection has been divided between Tuam and Castlebar. He has also stated that he intends to be here for the Clan gathering to greet old friends and relations. He still owns land around Burrishoole.

Michael O'Malley of Ramsey, Hampshire, writes asking that any O'Malley with an interest in archaeology or geneology should contact him. He says "it would be most interesting if I could find someone else who is interested in family research. I am sure from the thousands of O'Malleys there must be someone". He also suggests that if O'Malleys traced their ancestry as far back as possible "this could be fed into a computer and by collation would clarify the family history by hundreds of years".

Michael O'Malley, the piper has just returned from a most successful tour of the Continent. We wish his wife Yvonne, who has not been too well, a speedy recovery. We hope to see them both over here for the Rally, and that Michael will be in good form to greet the Clan on their arrival in Clare Island. Michael is considered one of the finest pipers of these Islands and has played before the Pope, Queen Elizabeth and the President of France.

U.S.A.

San Francisco:

Grainne O'Malley, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Conor O'Malley, San Francisco, wrote giving us a very nice order for ties, cassettes etc. for which we thank her. Her grandfather was Dr. Conor O'Malley, K.M., one of the founders of the new Clan Association and first Guardian Chief. Her grandmother was Dr. Sal O'Malley. It makes it worth while writing this Newsletter to get such nice letters in return.

New England:

Thomas J. O'Malley, Senior Partner of O'Malley, Deneeen, Messina & Oswecki, of Windsor, Connecticut, wrote to say how much he appreciated the Christmas card and the Newsletter and that when cleaning out some personal files he found an edition of the New York Times of November 1923 commenting on the pedigree of the O'Malleys. This was given to him by his grandfather. The article states 'The oldest and hautiest families in England have been put in the shade this week by the O'Malley family of Ireland which claims to be the oldest