

Mayo News Sept 2 1967

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WESTPORT. Phone 47.

Printed in Republic of Ireland. PRICE — FIVE PENCE

O'Malley Clann Gathered At Grainne Uaile's Castle

O'Malleys, young and old, from all corners of Ireland and England, gathered at Carrigahowly Castle, at Rockfleet, near Newport, on Sunday for the annual Clan Rally. The castle was once the home of Grainne Uaile, the illustrious sea queen and the most famous of the O'Malley Clan.

Professor Conor O'Malley of Galway, the Clan's Guardian Chief, welcomed the large attendance and in the shadow of the walls of the 16th century castle he briefly outlined its history and its interesting connection with the O'Malleys, particularly Grainne Uaile, who lived there.

In his address the outgoing Chief of the Clann, Professor Eoin O'Malley of Dublin, said the large attendance was an indication that there is real support for, and meaning in the idea of a Clann Rally. "I am particularly glad to see the young generation so well represented," he said, "because our annual gathering is concerned only with the past in so far as it helps to inspire us to cope with the present and to prepare for the future.

"We are all the products of history and the more we know of our past, the more we know ourselves and the better we know where we are going."

Continuing he said the venue for the rally was an ideal place to take time off to look at the past for it was there that Grainne Uaile, the most famous of the O'Malleys, based her naval power.

"Grainne's," qualities of leadership, courage and self-confidence in the face of tremendous odds have for generations endeared her to Irishmen and made her name a symbol for the poets of Gaelic Ireland, he said.

Grainne Uaile had to do more than survive the natural hazards of life in 16th century Mayo. She had to maintain her family and her people in the face of powerful enemies.

Continuing he said: "It is right that her memory should be preserved in this old castle. It is right too that we should recognise again our debt to the late John J. O'Mal-

originator and organiser of these rallies and who was largely responsible for the restoration of this castle, an event celebrated by the first O'Malley Clann Rally held at Carrigahowly Castle in 1943".

CASTLE AS A CLANN CENTRE?

Professor O'Malley suggested that further development of the castle might now be considered. He suggested that it be made an O'Malley Clan Museum Centre, Carrigahowly Castle had an obvious interest for O'Malley's but it also added to the tourist attractions of the area, he added.

He paid tribute to the work of the officers—Conor, Brendan, Patrick and Andrew O'Malley—whose diligent work ensured the successful staging of the rally.

Before concluding he referred to the grievous loss the clan had suffered in the deaths of Fr. John O'Malley and Martin O'Malley of Cleggan (a former Clan Chief).

ARRIVED BY SEA

On his election as Chief of the O'Malley Clan for the coming year, Mr. George O'Malley of Limerick was warmly applauded, particularly when he announced that he had sailed from Achill to Carrigahowly Castle for the rally—a fitting arrival for an O'Malley Chief.

Mr. George O'Malley of Manchester, in his short address to the attendance said God had blessed them with a glorious day for the rally. Such a beautiful sunny day urged him to again suggest that a rally be held on Clare Island where Grainne Uaile is said to be buried.

Professor Conor O'Malley said the suggestion was one which the Clan Rally committee had given much consideration to and the Irish Lights had even offered to place their vessel, the "Grainne Uaile" at their disposal for the trip from the mainland. The question of insurance, however, had forced the dropping of the suggested trip by sea.

Other speakers included Pearse O'Malley of Belfast and the newly-elected Taniste (Deputy Chief), Stiofhan O Maille of Galway.

Mr. Brendan O'Malley, Westport was re-elected Treasurer and Messrs. Patrick O'Malley, Westport and Andrew O'Malley, Newport were re-elected Joint Sec-

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