

# O'MALLEY CLAN RALLY AT HOME OF GRAINNE UAILE

THE Fifteenth Annual Rally of the O'Malley Clan was held at Rockfleet, Burrishoole, on Sunday.

A very representative muster of the Clan was there from the Republic, Northern Ireland and England.

They were welcomed by the Guardian, Chief Conor of Galway, to the 15th century castle of Rockfleet, the home of Grainne Uaile during the last twenty years of her life.

He gave a short talk on the features of the castle, and told something of its story when Grainne Uaile lived there.

She lived dangerously always; existence depended on the strength of her seamen, and fighting galleys. Terra marique potens was her motto, and a sine qua non for survival against the ruthless Elizabethan "Governors" who did their damndest to extinguish the old Irish nobility.

A quotation from the dispatches of Sir John Malbie, Governor of Connacht in 1580, will indicate the quality of our unwelcome Englishmen of those times:

"February 15th at Burrishoole. This is a place for all sorts of commodities of timber, iron ore, salmon and herring. Upwards of fifty English ships came here to fish each year, up to now they had to pay tribute to the O'Malley's. I stopped this awaiting her majesty's (Elizabeth) pleasure."

Note this chap "stopped it" but he offered no quid pro quo to the O'Malley's which he probably would have done had they been "original" English instead of "original" Irish.

"February 17th, yesterday, I took the strong castle of Donamon, and put all the ward men, women and children to the sword." Nice fellow. According to the Annals of Loch Ce, speaking of Malbie: "No gentleman of the English who came to Eirinn was a better man." This was not a left-handed compliment as the annalists did not indulge in humour. In point of fact Malbie was a lamb compared with other "gentlemen of England" in those days.

As the new chief, George of Limerick, stepped ashore at Rockfleet, having sailed his boat from Clare Island, the badge of office was pinned on him by Owen of Dublin, the outgoing chief.

Speaking to the occasion Owen said: "It would be right, and fitting for the Clan to establish a museum of sorts at Rockfleet to commemorate the Clan's history. George of Limerick, the new chief, said he hoped to have a big rising out of Limerick O'Malleys for next year. George of Manchester, a textile manufacturer, said he would like to be able to import materials as Grainne Uaile did without invoices or bills of lading.

Stiophan O'Maille of Galway was nominated tanaiste.