



O'Molloy clan rally attracts visitors from near and far

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By Staff Reporter

The second O'Molloy Clan Rally was deemed a tremendous success by its Chieftain, Frances Berry, with over 100 people attending events over the weekend.

Over hundred and twenty people traveled from the USA and Canada for the event. The O'Molloy Association was formed in November 2004, with the objective of holding an O'Molloy Clan Rally, and an inaugural rally was first held in October 2005. Membership of the O'Molloy Association is open to anyone with family links or interest in the O'Molloy clan or its ancient territory of Firceall. The O'Molloy clan ruled Firceall from the 5th to the 17th centuries. Firceall itself is comprised of the ancient baronies of Ballycowan, Ballyboy and Eglish, and extends from Durrow north of Tullamore to Eglish on the edge of Birr in an area which is some 25 miles in length by 5 miles in width. The O'Molloy Association has a full weekend of events planned with something for everyone.



O'Molloy Clan Committee members pictured at the Chieftain's Banquet in the Millennium Room of the Bridge House Hotel last Sunday night L. - R. Claire Molloy, John Malloy and Mary Molloy Cowan, the wife of Ireland's Prime Minister Brian Cowan.

You do not have to hold the Molloy name to participate. In this area of Firceall, most families have some Molloy connection as the O'Molloy ruled the area for centuries. For example, a Mr. Molloy founded the Distilleries in Tullamore that made Tullamore Dew famous.

The programme of events included lectures by a guest speaker, and a tour of locations of particular connection to the O'Molloy clan. The weekend activities concluded with a chieftain's banquet in the Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore.

Complete family history research was available over the weekend. Those attending were encouraged to bring along old photos, slides, prints, film to be scanned and included in a website, www.omolloy.com and other O'Molloy publications.

Music for Sunday night's dance was provided by PJ Murrity and his band. Another highlight of the weekend was the christening of Sarah D'Arcy Molloy on Sunday in Durrow church by Fr Shane Crombie. The proud parents were Donna and Thomas Molloy. Sarah was their second child to be christened in Durrow as their daughter Meaghan was baptised during the inaugural O'Molloy rally in 2005. A christening reception was held in Durrow Hall and was attended by members, locals and overseas visitors. A number of local historians were on hand to give talks over the weekend including Steve McNeill, Brian Pey, Johnny Butterfield, Agnes O'Gorman and Danny Owens. A booklet was also compiled by Mr. Owens and Pey outlining the O'Molloy sites in region.