

O'Molloy Clan elects new chieftain from Chicago

HISTORY came alive last weekend when The O'Molloy Association held their third Clan Rally.

It was considered by all to be an astounding success. Visitors assembled at the Tullamore Dew Heritage Centre on Friday evening and were taken on a tour of the museum. The overseas visitors were very impressed with the history of the Tullamore Dew and its story. The castles and strongholds of Offaly, once occupied by the O'Molloys was the topic of the historical lecture very aptly delivered by Caimin O'Brien at the Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society.

The visitors were taken on tour from Durrow to Clonmacnoise on Saturday, visiting the O'Molloy castles and burial sites on the way. An excellent lunch was enjoyed by the guests at the En Route Restaurant, Five Alley in the heart of the O'Molloy country. The highlight of the weekend was a medieval feast at Charleville Castle.

The castle was handed back to the Molloys for the one day. The main feature of the feast was a roasting pig on spit. Rahan Comhaltas warmed up the audience with lively traditional music to the delight of the American visitors.

John Molloy Baritone entertained the guests with a variety of songs from his repertoire. He also shared his vast knowledge of the famous Molloys with the enthralled audience. He paid special tribute to James Lynam Molloy who famously penned Loves Old Sweet Song.

The Election of the new Chieftain was made at midnight when John Paul Molloy from Chicago was declared the second Chieftain in modern times. John Paul was congratulated by the outgoing Chieftain, Frances Molloy Berry who bestowed him with the cloak and sword. John Paul spoke of his work promoting The O'Molloy history, Ireland and especially the Firceall area of Offaly in America. He has done extensive research into his family genealogy and he has written a book on his side of the family. He will continue to promote the Firceall area abroad and he hopes to encourage Molloys worldwide to visit their ancestral home in the future. He spoke of the great success of the rally and the warm welcome afforded to all the guests by the committee. Then the Molloys toasted the new Chieftain with the famous Tullamore Dew founded by Michael Molloy in 1829.



Geraldine Bermingham, Joe Bermingham, Hannah Berry, Caolan Berry and Frances Molloy Berry at the O'Molloy Clan gathering in Charleville Castle, Tullamore. Picture: Jeff Harvey/HR Photo



Pat Clavin, Tom Moloney and Conor Clavin at the O'Molloy Clan gathering in Charleville Castle, Tullamore. Picture: Jeff Harvey/HR Photo



Edel Molloy Pey and Doloras Molloy at the O'Molloy Clan gathering in Charleville Castle, Tullamore. Picture: Jeff Harvey/HR Photo



Joe O'Brien, Joan Bracken, Mary O'Brien and Maria Molloy at the O'Molloy Clan gathering in Charleville Castle, Tullamore. Picture: Jeff Harvey/HR Photo



John Molloy, Kay Molloy, Mike Molloy and Helen Bracken at the O'Molloy Clan gathering in Charleville Castle, Tullamore. Picture: Jeff Harvey/HR Photo



Danny Owens, Johnny McDonald and Richard Scally at the O'Molloy Clan gathering in Charleville Castle, Tullamore. Picture: Jeff Harvey/HR Photo



Sinead Molloy Horan, Martina Molloy Duffy, Bernie Molloy and Sally Molloy at the O'Molloy Clan gathering in Charleville Castle, Tullamore. Picture: Jeff Harvey/HR Photo



Anne Scally, Maureen Galvin and Noleen McDonald at the O'Molloy Clan gathering in Charleville Castle, Tullamore. Picture: Jeff Harvey/HR Photo