



Edition 1, Summer 2022

Emblem Continued:

Wicklow occurred around 1370. Soon thereafter the name was changed to Mckeale/Heale, then MacHale and McHale is a shorthand version of that. The origin of the name lies in the ancient name of south Mayo, Conmaicnecuile, shortened to Mac Cuile.

The center of the emblem features a blue phoenix (Ireland's national colour) surrounded by the green & orange of the Tricolour (which works visually as a yin-yang duality). The phoenix is an early Christian symbol of the Resurrection and adopted as a national symbol of Irish renewal. Clan MacHale adopted the phoenix in 2018 as the symbol of the revival of their Clan in that cultural lineage.

In homage to County Mayo a simplified arms has been added and the ship is a slightly more modern vessel (but still olde) to represent the times of emigration. The ship represents that County Mayo is a maritime county and alludes to the times of emigration from which the McHale family spread across the globe. The four crosses represent the three dioceses below the archdiocese which will be the correct archdiocesan cross of Lorraine (double cross-bar). The Patriarchal Cross (the cross with two bars) symbolizes the Catholic Archdiocese of Tuam, while the three Passion Crosses represent the other three dioceses in Mayo: Achonry, Killala and Galway-Kilmacduagh-Kilfenora. This symbolism is integrated directly from the McHale family's county of origin, Mayo.

The mountain is, of course, Croagh Patrick, a famous landmark in Ireland's County Mayo, which is recognisable around the world - universal, national and county all at the same time.

Finally, the banner at the bottom reads Le Chéile (pronounced "Leh kay-lah" in the Connacht dialect). It's a Gaelic phrase that has no English language equivalent, but the feeling is universal. Literally, it means "together". The Clan elders adopted this phrase as the family's motto as the family was coming together.



Registration of Clans 2022

It is with great pleasure that we confirm that the Mac Hale Clan of County Mayo - Mac hÉil Condáe Mhuigheo renewed its official membership with the Clans of Ireland for the year 2022. Many thanks to Kathleen O. Blanchard for handling this responsibility.

Clans of Ireland ~ *Finte na hÉireann* is an independent permanent authority established in 1989 to register Irish clans and historical families. This occurred as a result of the resurgence of interest in Irish heritage, which led to the revival of many ancient Irish clans and the recognition of the cultural value of many Irish historical families. Clans of Ireland is ideologically committed to the development of an objective understanding of Ireland's heritage and culture, using modern academic tools and varying philosophical approaches to historical concepts; so that people who are interested in discovering where they have come from might take inspiration from their ancestors as they travel into the future with a greater sense of common purpose.

Clan Mac Hale's membership in Clans of Ireland is recognition of our family's history and cultural significance as an Irish family

My Own Irish Pub

By: Danny McHale

For my 25th wedding anniversary we traveled to New York City for a long weekend of tourism and relaxation, well as much relaxation as one can get in the city that never sleeps. One item on my bucket list was to visit McHale's Bar and Grill just off Times Square on West 51st Street. After all, it had my name on the marquee in red neon letters – it's my pub!

After ordering the obligatory pint of Guinness, my wife and I started to chat up the staff and ask if the owner was in, and if he was a McHale. Unfortunately, McHale's Bar and Grill isn't owned by a McHale, the staff said it was owned by a corporation in town. They did tell me there was a famous McHale's Bar in the neighborhood that closed and they thought they name was taken from there. The original McHale's operated for over 50 years before closing in 2006 and was in fact owned by McHale's.



Jimmy McHale, whose family owned the original McHale's location in Times Square, New York City, USA from 1953 until it closed in 2006. Photo Credit to Richard Perry/The New York Times

While I was disappointed that I didn't meet any relations, it is a great pub with a good vibe. The food was good for pub food and by New York City prices, reasonably affordable. Despite showing my signet ring and identification with our crest and surname, I didn't get the family discount. There was still something cool about raising a pint in a pub with your family name.



Johnny McHale's pub, in County Mayo, Ireland. Photo Credit to The Guardian Photograph: PR.



Kristi and Danny McHale at McHale's Bar in New York City. Photo credit to Danny McHale 2022.

How many other pubs are out there sporting the name of our proud family I began to wonder. A quick search on the world wide web revealed two more. The first is Johnny McHale's pub in County Mayo, one of the oldest in Castlebar! You can't get much more McHale than an Irish pub in County Mayo!

Opened in 2004, McHale's Irish Pub was a staple of Main Street in Rock Hill, South Carolina. It gained national attention in 2015 when NBC News hosted a presidential debate at nearby Winthrop University. It was owned by Brendan Kuhlkin, whose relation to the name is unknown. The bar closed during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

There you have it, four Irish pubs all named McHale's. There may be more, but I haven't found them yet. If you find them, drop us a line!



McHale's Irish Pub in Rock Hill, South Carolina, USA. Photo Credit to SouthernFoodJunkie.com

Michael L. McHale Southern Patriarch

By: Danny McHale

This McHale family story starts in County Mayo in 1844, which was still recovering from The Night of the Big Wind and the infamous Irish Potato Famine was just starting to gain a foothold. In the midst of this difficult time, Michael McHale was born, although the exact details of his birth and lineage is unknown. His story picks up in 1865 when, at the age of 21, he married Mary Ellen Slavin. The records of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Brooklyn, New York confirm their marriage on June 21, 1865.



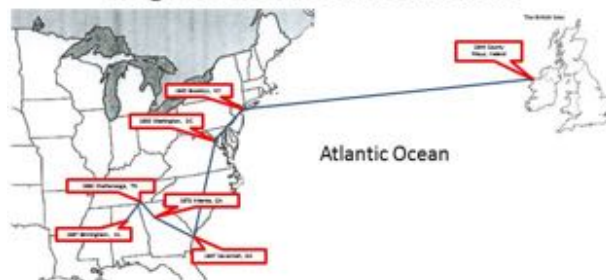
Church of St. Peter – Our Lady of Pilar. Photo credit to The New York City Chapter of American Guild of Organists website.

Sometime between his birth in County Mayo, Ireland and his marriage in Brooklyn, New York, USA, twenty-one years later. Michael emigrated like so many of his fellow countrymen. His new bride, Mary, was the daughter of Irish immigrants living in the Irish neighborhood within Brooklyn they began to form a family. After a year of marriage, the lure of a steady paycheck lured Michael to enlist in the US Army. He was subsequently ordered to Savannah Georgia with Mary following his unit. She washed clothes, did odd jobs for the army, and stayed close to her new husband and they began to make their family.

It may seem like Michael and Mary McHale were putting together a beautiful American Dream of a life, but it was not an easy road that lay ahead. While still serving in the army their first son, Walter Carlos McHale was born, the first of five children. Together they had six children: Walter Carlos McHale (1867-1934), Annie McHale (1869-1877), Agnes McHale (1871-1913), Michael McHale (1873-1910), Maggie McHale (1878-1880), and Mary Agnes McHale (1884-1973).

Walter went on to have eleven children in the State of Alabama. Agnes married Patrick Horan and had three children in

Migration of Michael McHale



- 1844 – Michael McHale was born in County Mayo, Ireland
- 1865 – Michael marries Mary Slavin in Brooklyn, NY
- 1866 – Michael enlists in US Calvary in Washington, DC
- 1867 – Michael's son is born in Savannah, GA
- 1870 – US Census records McHale family in Atlanta, GA
- 1880 – US Census records McHale family in Chattanooga, TN
- 1892 – Michael passes away in Birmingham, AL

the State of Georgia. Genealogical research on Michael McHale's parents and descendants is ongoing.

After Michael's discharge in Atlanta, Georgia, he worked primarily as a blacksmith or some associated trade for the rest of his life bouncing around from Georgia, to Tennessee, back to Georgia, and finally Alabama. He was more than likely living in the Birmingham, nicknamed the Magic City for how it sprang up like magic after the US Civil War becoming a major city, when he died in March 1897.

The tough life continued for Michael's widow Mary who lived with her children off and on until her death from influenza in 1923. She unsuccessfully attempted to obtain a widow's pension in 1911, lost her savings when a bank went under, lived with her children off and on, and lived a hard life. Mary lies at rest in a quiet cemetery with a homemade grave marker. Beside her is an unmarked grave and unfortunately over the years the interment records have been lost. Perhaps she lies at eternal rest next to her Irish immigrant husband, Michael L. McHale.

Since Michael's birth generations of McHale kin across the Southern United States of America trace their roots to this immigrant couple, whether they realize it or not. It may have been nearly one hundred and eighty years since he left County Mayo, but no matter the years or the miles there is pride in saying you're a McHale descended from County Mayo, Ireland.



Grave of Mary Ellen McHale with unknown interment beside her. Photo Credit to Danny McHale

Clan MacHale 2023 Gathering Castlecourt Hotel Westport, County Mayo, Ireland F28 NX84

Our Gathering, (or Oenach in Irish,) begins Monday evening, July 17, 2023 with an early evening Welcome Reception and continues Tuesday July 18, 2023 and Wednesday July 19, 2023. Details on activities will follow, including a questionnaire on interests.

The hotel is in town, walkable to pubs and shops. Westport is a lovely, busy town. The hotel has onsite parking, 2 restaurants, a bar, and other facilities including a pool. Hotel residents have full use of the hotel pool facilities. The hotel is highly recommended by locals. Travel hints are at the end of this document.



<https://www.castlecourthotel.ie/>

<https://www.destinationwestport.com/>

<https://www.mayo.ie/itineraries/explore-towns-villages/westport>

<https://www.discoverireland.ie/westport>

Arrival Date **Monday July 17, 2023**

Departure Date **Thursday July 20, 2023**

No of Nights **3 (or 2 if you wish)**

Group No **1167836**

Rooms: 60 Rooms on hold until December 31, 2022 after which rooms will be released back to general reservations (group rate not available). The key thing with this hotel is that until December 31, 2022 they will not hold us financially responsible for unbooked rooms through December 31, 2022.

45 Superior Rooms – Mixture of Superior Double, Twin & Family Rooms

15 Standard Rooms – Mixture of Standard Double, Twin & Family Rooms

Guests can email to make a booking to info@castlecourthotel.ie quoting **MacHale Reunion Group Number 1167836** or by calling +3539855088. Guests will be asked for a credit card number to secure their booking. You can check availability via email and then call to give credit card. The staff is very pleasant to deal with. If all reservation lines are busy, the switchboard will ask them to call you back (and they will call back asap.)

Room Rates include breakfast each day (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday if you stay 3 nights) and a dinner. Dinners that are included in room rate are NOT for our group dinner, that is separate (you could have that dinner Monday or Wednesday evening). We will advise of costs for the group dinner (estimated €35 per adult) and additional costs (bus, share of overall event costs, etc.) at a later date. We are endeavoring to keep costs as low as possible while having a good time!

Rooms (Note the single supplement, when booking for one. This is common.)

3 Nights Bed and Breakfast with dinner on one evening

Superior Twins/Doubles €309pps (€618 for 2 guests sharing) or €429 single

2 Nights Bed and Breakfast with dinner on one evening

Superior Twins/Doubles €219pps or €438 for 2 guests sharing €299 single

3 Nights Bed and Breakfast with dinner on one evening

Classic Twins/Doubles €279pps or €558 for 2 guests sharing €369 single

2 Nights Bed and Breakfast with dinner on one evening

Classic Twins/Doubles €199pps or €398 for 2 guests sharing or €259 single

ADDITIONAL NIGHT STAYS (IF YOU WISH TO ARRIVE ON SUNDAY OR LEAVE ON FRIDAY)

Sunday 16th or Thursday 20th B&B €75pps standard room (€150 total) or €85pps superior room (€170 total) (Plus €30 single supplement)

Children's rates:

Children aged 4-12 sharing with parents is €30 per child per night B&B. Children aged 13-17 years are charged €40 per night B&B. Children under 3 are free of charge.

Children's Meals:

Children can choose from the adult menu at a rate of €30 per child or choose from the child's menu at €12.50 per child.

For more information on hotel facilities, visit the hotel website on www.castlecourthotel.ie

Castlecourt Hotel Location



OTHER HOTELS

Other Room Options – these are NOT part of our block of rooms but are additional nearby options owned by the same corporation, if you do not want to stay at the group hotel. There are, of course, other hotel and B&B options in Westport.

2023 Rates will be set within a few weeks.

Westport Heights (walking distance to Castlecourt Hotel)

<https://www.westportheights.ie/> Email: info@westportheights.ie

Asgard Apartments (at The Quay in Westport, a car or taxi would be needed – taxi service is available in Westport)

<https://secure.westportcoasthotel.ie/convert/site/Westport%20Coast%20Hotel/en/rate/76288474.html>

Email: info@westportcoasthotel.ie

Westport Coast Hotel, also at The Quay <https://www.westportcoasthotel.ie/>

Westport Plaza Hotel (next to Castlecourt Hotel) <https://www.westportplazahotel.ie/>

TRAVEL HINTS

Driving: For those driving from Shannon or Dublin, you can simply put the Eirecode F28NX84 into your phone maps, or your GPS, and it will direct you directly to the hotel. (Unlike USA zip codes, the Eirecodes [pronounced air codes] direct you to a specific destination, even individual homes! I don't believe that Australia has a system like Eircodes but I could be wrong – let me know.} The Eirecodes are also used when mailing to an address.

Rental Cars: I (Kathleen) recently rented a car in Ireland and found an excellent deal with Enterprise! If you have a credit card that will cover insurance (like the Chase Sapphire Reserve card), you will need a letter from the card company/bank that specifically says it covers insurance in Ireland. Chase, in this example, has a canned letter they will email to you but make sure it spells out that it covers drivers in Ireland. Many cards do not cover insurance in Ireland. (Get the little transponder that pays most tolls automatically!) You can also obtain additional insurance from companies like Allianz Travel.

Train: you can take the train directly from Dublin's Heuston Station to Westport. You can book online ahead of time and simply pick up the tickets at a machine at Heuston Station, which is easily navigated. <https://www.irishrail.ie/en-ie/>

Bus: Bus Eireann does run buses from Dublin Airport to Westport locations. People in Ireland ride buses frequently (unlike in many parts of the USA). <https://www.buseireann.ie/>

Sunrise and sunset in July in Ireland (these are for 2022 but 2023 will be similar). It stays light late into the evening.

2022	Sunrise/Sunset	
Jul	Sunrise	Sunset
17 ▼	5:29 am ↗ (51°)	9:58 pm ↘ (309°)
18 ▼	5:30 am ↗ (51°)	9:57 pm ↘ (309°)
19 ▼	5:31 am ↗ (52°)	9:56 pm ↘ (308°)
20 ▼	5:33 am ↗ (52°)	9:54 pm ↘ (308°)

JOIN THE OENACH COMMITTEE

Many thanks to Kathleen Blanchard for the leadership she is providing organizing The Gathering (or Oenach in Irish) and getting us to this point. If you have an interest in being on the 2023 Oenach Committee and helping make our event a success, please email us at machaleclan@gmail.com and Kathleen will be in touch.