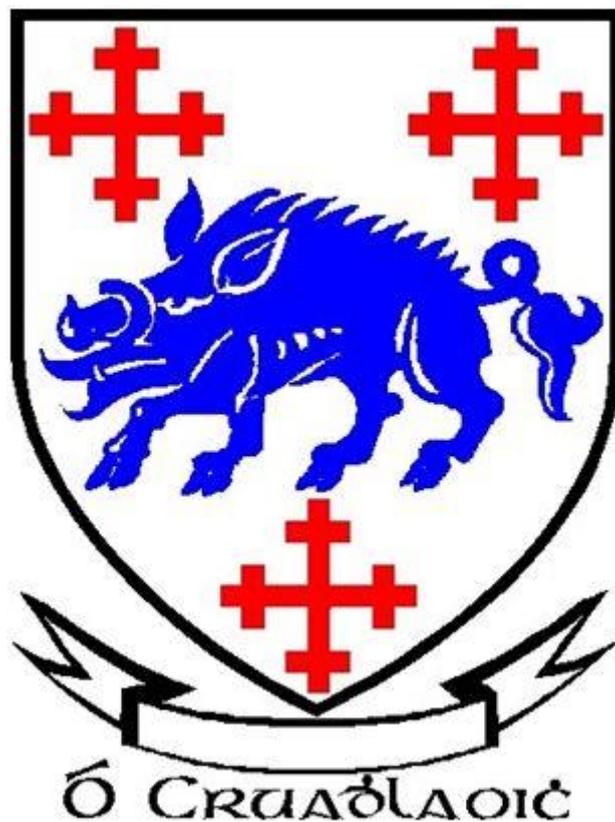


CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

July 2005

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



Letter from the Crowley Clan Taoiseach

Hello from West Cork. I wish that I had more news to give you. I had hoped that our trust fund for the Crowley Castle at Ahakeera would be complete by now. But it is slow working with the solicitors, and we want everything to be done properly. We've not had the progress we would like, but hopefully it will be completed soon. I know there are Crowleys who would like to contribute to the fund when it is officially set up.

The Clan Crowley Council is nearing completion of the plans for the next gathering of the clan in 2007. The site will be in West Cork. And the exact site will be decided very soon. The date will be the first weekend in September 2007. Mark your calendars, and we hope to see you in Ireland.

Again, I would ask of you to help the Clan Crowley Council to find appropriate ways to raise funds for our trust fund once it is finalized. All ideas are welcome.

I hope that you are all keeping well. Until next time,

Liam Crowley,
An Taoiseach

Genealogy and DNA

by Thomas R. Crowley

The ability to verify a direct paternal line is now possible with DNA testing. Recent developments have made it possible to do testing at a fraction of the cost only five years ago. DNA carries our genetic information and passes it on from generation to generation. The Y chromosome is in the male line and the MtDNA is in the female line. These will have only small changes over thousand of years. If two men have nearly identical Y-chromosomes it would mean they share a common male ancestor.

The privacy issue: DNA does not contain any medical data or personal traits. It reveals nothing of the personal data of any individual. Since no personal information is revealed, some scientists have come to call it "junk DNA".

With a genealogy of a line and DNA testing, it is possible to connect to a specific ancestor, as well as the approximate number of years back to that ancestor. Many organizations are starting DNA projects. For instance, National Geographic & IBM have a study to use DNA tests to see where an individual "fits" in the human race, i.e., the place in human migration for the past thousands of years.

There are several basic DNA tests, which generally involve a cotton swab swipe on the inside of the cheek by an individual, who then mails the swab kit to a laboratory. The most common tests are the 12, 25, and 37 markers. Cost is about \$100, \$150, and \$200 respectively. It appears the 25 markers are the most cost effective.

I would like to propose interested Crowleys join a surname project. If there is sufficient interest, this could be a significant break through for those researching their Crowley genealogy. This project would have an administrator to collect, interpret, and assist the participants. The Driscolls of West Cork have such a project. Details on this project can be seen at their website. There is also an excellent overview of DNA on this website. You can find it at: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~colin/DriscollOfCork/DNA.htm>

The above is a very brief overview. There is at least one group that we could join, a Crowley/Croley project, which would keep costs to a minimum. Anyone interested in participating (no commitment) in a Crowley DNA Surname project, please contact me at tcrow95798@aol.com or at:

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Phone: 330 864 3791*

Tom Crowley

From Marian's Desk

This newsletter has a nice variety of articles, and I hope you will find one or more that interest you. In addition to the letter from Liam Crowley, an Taoiseach of the Crowley Clan, there is an article about the value of DNA testing in genealogy by Tom Crowley who is our immediate past Taoiseach. Many of us have hit that brick wall in trying to find out where in Ireland our ancestors originated. DNA testing can help family researchers by comparing DNA with other people of the same surname thereby establishing regional groupings. I know I am very interested in our starting a project, and I hope many of you are too.

Have you ever dreamed of owning a castle in Ireland? Michael-Patrick Crowley did more than dream. He purchased a castle in County Galway and has spent the last 13 years restoring it and researching its history. You will find his story on [page 6](#).

I probably spend way too much time on the Internet. But I was rewarded recently when I came across www.westcorkgenealogy.com. This fine website has links to many of my favorite West Cork sites including ones that have maps of the parishes and townlands. And it also has a link to several family websites including our own www.crowleyclan.com. This should provide us with more hits and enable us to disperse more information about our clan.

Next time you are on-line be sure to check out our clan website. The site is filled with interesting information about Ireland and the Crowleys. There is a page on the Crowley Castle at Ahakeera. And you will find back issues of the Crowley Clan Newsletter. This is all thanks to our wonderful web-master Jim Ritzart. Thanks, Jim, for all you do!

Do you have favorite genealogical websites? If you do, please let me know and I'll pass the information on to our readers.

And, finally, you can still order souvenir photo CDs of last year's Crowley Clan Gathering by sending €30 or \$35 US to:

*Todd Parker
21 Whitestrand Avenue
Salthill
Galway, Ireland*

Ten dollars from each CD will go to the Crowley Castle Fund.

Slan, Marian

Crowley Clan News from Around the World

Betty Halberg, Washington, USA: halberg@olypen.com My Denis Crowley was married to a Joanna (Joan) Walsh sometime around 1820 in the vicinity of Coachford, Co. Cork. I have not been able to find a marriage record, although I have written to Parish of Aghabullogue, St. John's and Mallow Heritage Centre. Denis and Joanna had Richard Crowley (1826), Honora Crowley (1828), Mary Crowley (1829) and Jeremiah Crowley (1832). Joanna must have died and Denis remarried my great great grandmother, Catherine Connor in Coachford at St. John's (I have the record) and they had five children in Coachford: Timothy (1838), Catherine (1839), Denis (1841), Daniel (1843) and Mathew (1846). Denis was a "Tavern Keeper." Sometime between 1847 and 1852 I believe they left Ireland for Bangor, ME. If anyone has any ideas about the marriage of Denis and Joanna or is related in any way, I'd love to hear from them.

Jerry Crowley, County Cork, Republic of Ireland: JerryCrow650@hotmail.com I am looking for any information on my grand uncle Jack Crowley who played and won an all Ireland medal with London in 1901. I am also looking for information on my granduncle Timothy Crowley who went to America. Both came from a small village in County Cork called Aherla. One sister Nell stayed in Ireland, as did my grandfather Dan Crowley. My grandfather was a shoemaker and died when my father was very young. All I know is that some family dispute arose over the burial of one of the immigrants. None of my father's generation is still alive, and as part of the next generation I would love to find out more about my family.

Catherine Budd, Marathon, FL: Just got Todd's photo CD. There are some great pictures. I got one for my Dad for his birthday since he wasn't able to attend. He could be Tom Crowley's older brother. I showed Tom his picture at the 2001 gathering and he agreed. Funny that we can't trace past my Dad's grandfather and neither can Tom from what I understand.

Jennifer McLaughlin, Georgia, USA: mcla4894@bellsouth.net I'm looking for any information about a Frederick William Crowley who lived in Springfield, MA in the early 1900's. He married Bertha Ellen Clark on 23 Sep 1902 and had a son Donald Frederick born 16 Jul 1904 and a daughter Evelyn born 15 May 1911. Donald joined WWI as a 16 year old. My mother Joan Crowley is the daughter of Donald and Elizabeth Crowley. I've always wondered if my grandfather Donald Crowley was English or Irish and no one seems to know.

Barbara Malin, California, USA: femalin@earthlink.net I was wondering if anyone in the clan has done any DNA testing? I have sent a couple of queries to our group here and am waiting for replies but I don't believe that anyone has. Ours is the group from County Clare and it would be great to find out who they are linked to. Plus it would be interesting to find out more about the genetic origins of the line. I think it would be an interesting subject and would love to hear what others think.

Mary Casteleyn, Birmingham, England: Many thanks for the latest issue of the newsletter. Greetings from Birmingham, England

Joe Colford, New Jersey, USA: ProfColf@aol.com I am looking for information on my maternal great-grandfather, Dennis Crowley, who was born around 1860 in Dunmanway. He apparently was the only son in a family with six or seven sisters. He came to the United States around 1880 where he married Catherine (Katie) Hayes, herself from Leap, County Cork. My mother's mother was a Crowley, and my mother (86 years old) is curious about her Crowley roots . . . I am doing this research for her.

Delores Crowley, County Cork, Republic of Ireland: Museum (Michael Collins Heritage Center) starting to get hectic, and we are very busy. Enjoy the summer.

Birth Register of Skibbereen Parish

Submitted by Col. Myles R. O'Crowley

Mar 1836

Patrick of Jeremiah Crowley & Mary Collins
Sponsors: Tim Crowley & Anna Starkie

02 Apr 1836

Charles of Denis Crowley & Mary Barry
Sponsors: Denis Crowley & Katherine Minihane

May 1836

Margaret of Charles Crowley & Ellen Collins
Sponsors: Michael Crowley & Hanora Collins

04 May 1836

Patrick of Michael Crowley & Mary McKennedy
Sponsors: John Rowan & Mary Coholane

Jul 1836

Cornelius of Denis Crowley & Mary Walsh
Sponsors: Dan Keating & Honora Boohane

06 Jan 1837

Tim of John Crowley & Mary Leary
Sponsors: John Carthy & Peg Hayes

08 Jan 1837

Mary of Richard Crowley & Ellen Hourihane
Sponsors: Tim & Norry Crowley

29 Jan 1837

Denis of Tim Crowley & Norry Murphy
Sponsors: Denis Murphy & Mary Crowley

01 Feb 1837

Mary of Michael Crowley & Kate McCarthy
Sponsors: Jerry Carthy & Norry Crowley

03 Apr 1837

Honora of Jeremiah Crowley & Mary Wholohane
Sponsors: John & Norry Wholohane

06 Aug 1837

James of Charles Crowley & Honora Burke
Sponsors: Charles McCarthy & Honora Shea

13 Aug 1837

Mary Anne of Michael Crowley & Mary McKennedy
Sponsors: Jerimiah Kennedy & Angel McCarthy

21 Aug 1837

William of Daniel Crowley & Mary Langton
Sponsors: Rev. Tim Murphy & Anne Browne

24 Aug 1837

Myles of Timothy Crowley & Ellen McCarthy
Sponsors: Jerry Sullivan & Catherine Fitzpatrick

10 Dec 1837

Cornelius of Timothy Crowley & Mary Spillane
Sponsors: James Donovan & Mary Sullivan

13 May 1828

Daniel of Daniel Crowley & M. Driscoll
Sponsors: Patrick McCarthy & Anne Cushin

Ballinderry Castle

By Michael-Patrick Crowley

Since 1992 I have had the pleasure, but also the stress, of restoring an Irish castle. Ballinderry castle is in County Galway, in the barony of Clare, five miles south of Tuam, which the O'Connors made the capital of Ireland in the 13th century. The Normands de Burgos built Ballinderry between 1450 and 1500. They were said to be « more Irish than the Irish » and adopted Irish laws, dress, language and architecture.

Ballinderry was a moated castle on the shores of a lough that has since disappeared. The castle consisted of a keep with an inner ward and an outer ward that had a garden. At least two corner turrets at opposite angles strengthened the bawn of the outer ward that included a number of buildings. Access was through a gatehouse from the medieval road.

The castle was typical Irish architecture made of limestone with a mortar of lime, cattle hair and blood. The stone vaults were made with wickerwork supports of baskets forming the vault on which the stones were set in place with mortar. In many places the wickerwork, more than 500 years old, remain in place. The roof was covered with slates. Slate and cobble were on the ground floor. The walls were six foot thick supporting the 60-foot high building.

The ground floor was storage. The floor over it was the guards' quarters. The third floor was the kitchen that retains its massive six by three foot fireplace. The next floor was a suite of two rooms, the larger having a fireplace. The upper floor was the largest room, lighted by large windows. It also had a fireplace. This room was the living quarter of the master who had banquets there. The medieval toilets were at two different levels and retain the French name garde robe. Here clothes were stored preserved thanks to ammonia.

Defense was carried out from the battlements at the top, from the machiculation galleries at mid height and from numerous loopholes. On the ground floor all doors interlock themselves. The main door was strengthened on the outside by a yet and on the inside by a portcullis. If an attacker got into the lobby he was attacked from a murder hole in the ceiling and confronted by fire from a loophole facing inside. He would then have to climb the spiral staircase, which is clockwise giving an advantage to the defender manning the sword with his right hand. Communication between the floors was insured through chimney flues, which connect each other for that purpose.

Ballinderry was taken by O'Donnell took Ballinderry in 1592, in the same year taken again by Lord Grey for the crown, who actually wrote a letter while he was there. Cromwell's army also took the castle. The castle would be manned by at least 60 men. In 1659 Ballinderry was given to the Nolan family who had lost their 20,000 acres in Galway and in exchange received Ballinderry and adjoining lands. In the 19th Century they erected a manor and left the castle. Captain Nolan was a strong sympathizer to the nationalist cause and invited Parnell who stayed in the castle. The last military use of Ballinderry was as a British outpost during the troubles.

Today Ballinderry echoes the old Irish songs of the banquets. However, questions remain. What is the significance of the stone carvings, including the sheila na gig over the entrance door? Why were oyster shells used in some of the window settings? Ballinderry is 20 miles from the sea. Did the de Burgos enjoy oysters that much? Maybe their ghosts will tell me.