

# CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

March 2005

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



# Letter from the Crowley Clan Taoiseach

Greetings from Ireland! I hope that you are all keeping well.

Johnny Crowley, an Runai (the secretary) of the Crowley Clan, has been working on the legalities and paper work necessary to set up a trust fund for the Crowley Castle project. Hopefully in the next month the trust fund will be a reality and the Crowley Clan Council will meet to finalize this step and to consider possible ways to go about raising money to put into this fund.

We would be grateful if all of the readers of the Crowley Clan Newsletter would take some time and help us develop ideas for future fund-raising. If you have any ideas or comments about this project, you may send them by mail or e-mail to The Crowley Clan Newsletter. Marian will forward them on to the Crowley Council and me.

I wish everybody a peaceful and happy 2005,

Liam Crowley,  
An Taoiseach

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**Editor's Note:** As many of you know, the remains of the Crowley Castle at Ahakeera are a very important historical site for our clan. The area around the ruins has been fenced in to prevent any further damage. However, more work is desired to stabilize what is left and to determine if any restoration is possible. The ruins of the Crowley Castle are located in the townland of Ahakeera, Dunmanway, County Cork. They are about 10 km northeast of the town of Dunmanway, and are located on a privately owned farm. In the register of archaeological monuments it is called O'Crowley's Castle and is described as the remains of a tower house.

# The Irish Chieftain

by Thomas R. Crowley

Irish Chieftain's Irish genealogy goes back literally thousands of years. In early Irish history there were four classes of kings. One of these was the chieftain of the clan know in Irish as An Taoiseach. His deputy was An Tanaiste. Unlike the rest of Europe, the succession to the chieftain was by election rather than falling to the oldest son. Those eligible were the four generations of the former chief.

Due to the end of Gaelic order by the English in the early 1600s the Irish Clans (or Septs) were disenfranchised. Today there are fewer than 18 heads of the clans recognized by the office of the Chief Herald of Ireland.

In conjunction with this, it is important to note that there is no such thing as a family coat of arm. Arms were (and are) granted to individuals not families.

The recognized O'Crowley chief resided at Kilshallow near Dunmanway and was the military leader to MacCarthy of Blarney Castle fame. Most of the O'Crowley lands were forfeited in the 13th century, much falling into the hands of Richard Boyle, first Earl of Cork.

The ruins of the Crowley Castle dating from about 1600 are near Dunmanway today and preservation efforts continue by members of the Crowley Clan.

Today many of the clans in Ireland elect an honorary chief or Taoiseach. This position is in recognition of their pride in their ancient Celtic heritage. The author was honored in being selected as Taoiseach of the Crowley Clan in 2001, the first non-Irish born (though of Irish decent) Taoiseach in the history of the Crowleys. A gold chain of office today represents the office. A detailed history of the Crowley Clan is found in Michael-Patrick Crowley's book, *The Origins of the Crowleys as an Irish Clan*, Paris, France 2001.

A complete story of the Gaelic dynasties of Ireland is, *Erin's Blood Royal* by Peter Berresford Ellis, Constable, London, 1999.

This article first appeared in the April/May 2004 issue of *The Family Tree* published by the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library in Moultrie, GA.

# Crowley Progenitors

*Submitted by Sue Crowley*

1. ROBERT CROWLEY born about 1470, probably in Wexford, Ireland. Moved to England in the late 1400's. He had a house and 60 acres of land in 1495 in Wooten Wawen, England. The Duke of Buckingham owned the land as "common people" could only have land in trust. Died in Wooten Wawen, England.
2. JOHN CROWLEY born about 1500, probably in Wooten Wawen. Buried 24 Apr 1546 in Wooten Wawen. Married Elizabeth.
3. THOMAS CROWLEY born about 1527, probably Warwickshire, England. Married Agnes Jennings on 20 Jul 1547 in Wooten Wawen. Agnes was born 1529 in England. Thomas' mother was Elizabeth buried 11 Apr 1546 in Wooten Wawen.
4. THOMAS CROWLEY born 23 Apr 1548, married Alicia Dowler 6 Jul 1568 at Wooten Wawen. He was buried 15 Apr 1596 in Wooten Wawen.
5. THOMAS CROWLEY born 19 Apr 1579 in Wooten Wawen, England. His mother Alicia was buried in 1596 in Wooten Wawen.
6. JOHN CROWLEY born about 1610. Married Ann Freeman on 7 Sep 1634 in Kinwarton, England.
7. JOHN CROWLEY born 24 Aug 1637 in Kinwarton. Married Ann Alchin on 6 Jan 1662 in Kinwarton.
8. JOHN CROWLEY born about 1663. Buried 22 Sep 1695 in Kinwarton. His mother was Ann Alchin born about 1639 in Warwickshire. Ann's father was Henry Alchin born 8 Jan 1592 in Kinwarton, buried 24 Nov 1665 in Kinwarton. This John was an "indentured servant" on the estate of Jeffrey Hopkins and he lived near the estate until he died in 1695, buried 22 Sept 1695.
9. AGNES CROWLEY (never married) died in 1702 in childbirth at Kinwarton. She had a sister or cousin Sarah Crowley as Agnes and Sarah Crowley were once jailed for failure to attend Church of England service. Agnes continued to live on the Hopkins estate after her father John died. Jeffrey Hopkins was a married man with children both younger and older than Agnes. It is believed he was the father of Jeffrey Crowley born to Angles.
10. JEFFREY CROWLEY born in 1702 and christened 29 Mar 1702 in the Church of England at Kinwarton Parish, Warwickshire, England and shown as base son. Married Effie (Efra) Nearne about 1729 probably in VA. Died in 1761 in Halifax County, VA. His will was probated in Feb 1762. He and Effie occupied about 1,000 acres at Swift Run Gap (now in Greene County) when he first arrived from Europe. They moved to Lunenburg County and had land on both sides of the Little Otter River. They then sold out and went to Halifax County, VA (now Pittsylvania County). Effie died in 1756.  
Jeffrey then married Martha. She was beneficiary and administratrix of his will. He gave his slave Peter to Martha and horses to sons Ben and Sam. Two sons by name and two daughters not named were mentioned in the will. One daughter was probably Mary born 1733 and married to Randolph Gibson, and the other Martha married a Heath.
11. BENJAMIN CROWLEY born 1730 in Caroline (Orange ?) County, VA son of Jeffrey and Effie Crowley. Probably their first child, but they may have had a son John born 1729 in Orange County, VA. A John sometimes appears, and we are not sure just who his parents were.  
Benjamin's brother Sam was probably born to Effie too as these two boys owned land on the Little Sandy near their father's place on Little Otter. Ben occupied his until he sold and moved to GA in 1784. Married Sarah Strong and they had 12 children. Sam married Elizabeth and was killed as a Virginia Ranger on 10 Oct 1774. Ben died 14 Aug 1817 in Lexington, GA.
12. JAMES M. CROWLEY born about 1777 in Pittsylvania County, VA son of Benjamin and Sarah. Married Dorcas Smith on 23 Feb 1799 in GA. They had 16 children. Three died young. Moved to Decatur, DeKalb County, GA with his family in 1820 or 1821. Died after 9 Feb 1828. James left his family very well off with slaves and property. James and Dorcas both are buried in the Crowley mausoleum in Decatur, GA.
13. ALLEN CROWLEY born 15 Jun 1806, married Eliza Towers. Had at least seven children. Moved from Georgia to Mississippi. Died 28 Aug 1864.
14. JOHN WILLIAM CROWLEY born 10 Jun 1846 in Decatur, DeKalb County, GA. He went to Mississippi with his folks, married 20 Dec 1866 to Louise Augusta Cotton in TX. They had ten children, four died young. Died in Colorado 3 Dec 1927.

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compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain

## From Marian's Desk

Here is the first issue of the Crowley Clan Newsletter for the year 2005. I hope you enjoy it. And thanks to all of the readers who shared their Crowley news. I always enjoy hearing from you, and I hope you will continue to share your stories and your family research.

Thanks to Tom Crowley (Ohio) for the article about the Irish chieftain. It is nice to know that our ancestors were so democratic in choosing their leaders. And thanks to photographer Todd Parker for the fine job he did recording our last Crowley Clan Gathering. See [page six](#) for information about ordering one of his photo cd's.

Sue and Sunny Crowley have shared their family research with us, and you will find it on pages six and seven. Sunny told me that her mother, Sue, has been doing genealogy for 50 years. And Sunny has been doing it for 25 years. Their research is interesting. Despite the fact that they can't definitely trace their ancestors to Ireland, their research goes back to 1470 in England and to 1729 in the United States. That's much earlier than most of us have been able to document. Thanks to Sue and Sunny. I also understand that this Crowley family is looking into using DNA testing to back up their research. If you would like to contact Sue, her e-mail is [snobirdsue@gmail.com](mailto:snobirdsue@gmail.com). And Sunny's e-mail is [sunny@a-natural-choice.net](mailto:sunny@a-natural-choice.net).

DNA research is being used more and more in the field of genealogy. It is a tool that perhaps the Crowley Clan should consider in the future. The World Chamberlain Society, which my husband belongs to, has been using it for several years. Loren participated in it, and his test confirmed the research I'd done years ago. He definitely is descended from Henry Chamberlain who came over from England in 1636.

This DNA research has also put Loren in touch with about a dozen cousins (7th and 8th). They now e-mail each other and share stories of their different branches of the Chamberlain family.

And finally, thanks to readers who pointed out that I had incorrectly identified the knight on page seven of the November 2004 issue as Bill Crowley. In fact brother James is the knight in the foreground, and Bill is in the background. My apologies to the Crowley brothers!

*Slán, Marian*

# Crowley Clan News from Around the World

**Ann Plant, Warren, Ohio, USA:** I want to report the death of my uncle. Father Thomas J. Crowley, of the Diocese of Buffalo, NY, died on Oct. 24, 2004, at the age of 78. He was born April 22, 1926, in Buffalo, the son of Francis and Loretta Dowd Crowley. After completing his studies at Niagara University in 1951, Fr. Tom was ordained in the Buffalo Diocese.

From the time of his ordination, he was very involved working with the Native American Indians of the Seneca Tribe. He helped them with civil rights, AA, and spiritual needs. On March 28, 1976, at the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation, Irving, NY, the tribe officially adopted him giving him the name of "The Dropping Snow", an event he took great pride in. He was a man of great faith who loved his family and will be missed by many throughout the area.

**Tom Crowley, Gwent, Wales:** Tom (Ohio), rather ex-Taoiseach, put in a tremendous amount of time and effort in the three years he reigned. He visited Ireland many times over those years. He led the work for the surveying of the Crowley Castle and the fencing around it in order to preserve what is left and to keep all Crowleys in Ireland and abroad conscious of their background in the history of Ireland. I think Tom followed so well the work started by the Taoiseachs of the modern era. Now it is good to see Liam following in his father's footsteps. I'm sure he will do a great job!

**Ruth O'Crowley, Mission, Kansas, USA:** I continue to work as a travel consultant though trying to cut my time to three days a week. Interestingly, I have two different clients with Crowleys in their families. I gave both copies of the newsletter and hope they subscribed. On a personal note, my daughter-in-law, Christine Ellsworth O'Crowley (Mrs. Timothy O'Crowley) has a sister Gay who is married to a Gene Crowley from Boston! I sent Gay a copy of the newsletter too.

**Peach Van Gronigen, Simcoe, Ontario, Canada:** Hi everybody. Well, I have good news. January and Colum have a 7 lbs. 10 ozs. baby girl. Her name is Mia Margaret. Mia has a big sister Emma who I think is very happy to have a little sister. Every one is fine except maybe Grandma who just keeps smiling and boo hoo ing, but that's me.

**Ann E. Guell, Oregon, WI, USA: [ldybgfm@aol.com](mailto:ldybgfm@aol.com)** I am interested in any Crowleys who may have immigrated to the Peterborough, Ontario, Canada area in the first third of the 1800s. I would be interested to know about any Crowleys around Prescott, Ontario who may have worked on the St. Lawrence Seaway during that same time.

**Kathleen Crowley Masterson, Eugene, OR, USA: [mail@mastersons.us](mailto:mail@mastersons.us)** My great-grandfather was John P. Crowley, who was born in Skibbereen in 1859 to John Crowley and Margaret Corcoran and emigrated to the U.S. My paternal aunt visited Crowley relatives in Clonakilty about 50 years ago, but the connection has been lost. I would like to subscribe to the newsletter so that I can be informed about any future reunions of the family.

**Terry Crowley, Goderich, Ontario, Canada:** Hi to everyone. Just wanted you all to know that Mary had her baby girl at 7:19 this morning (December 16, 2004). Isabella weighed in at 9 lbs. 10 ozs. Both are doing fine with no problems.

**Betty Bookser, Pittsburgh, PA, USA:** Small world department-my grandson Michael Bookser dates a girl whose sister dates a John Crowley (he has a twin named Kevin) and according to Michael either John's parents or grandparents were at the reunion. They are from West Mufflin, PA.

## **Keeping the Memories Alive Souvenir Photo CD of the Crowley Clan Gathering**

Photo CDs of the 2004 Crowley Clan Gathering are still available from photographer Todd Parker. The CD contains 300 plus images culled from over 600 photos Todd shot during the three-day event. To purchase a CD send a check for €30 or \$35 to:

*Todd Parker  
21 Whitestrand Avenue  
Salthill  
Galway, Ireland*

Todd has graciously offered to donate \$10 from each CD to the Crowley Castle Fund. And he says he hopes to see everyone again in 2007.

A few of those final images are currently available for viewing on his website, [www.toddparker.com](http://www.toddparker.com). Individual prints can also be purchased. Orders and enquiries should be directed to Todd by email at [todd@toddparker.com](mailto:todd@toddparker.com).