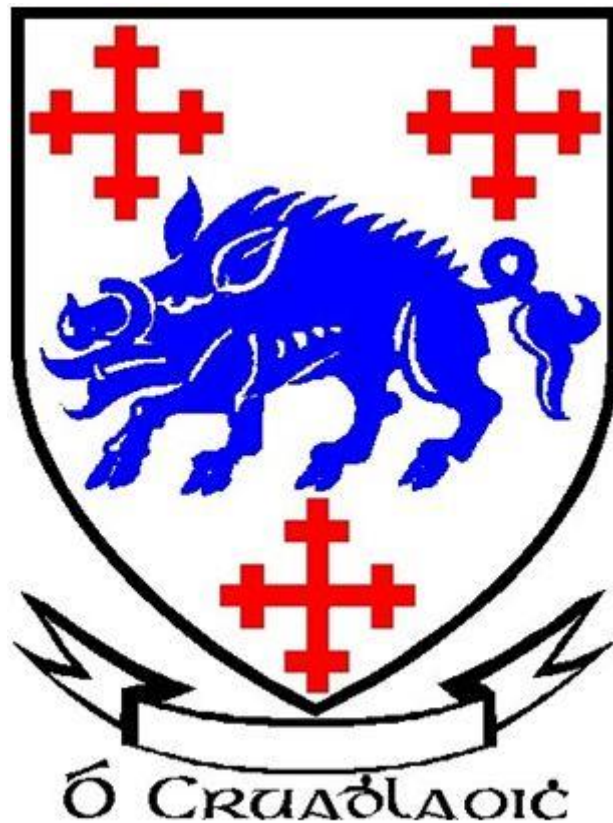


CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

November 2005

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



Letter from the Crowley Clan Taoiseach

Hello from West Cork! I hope you are all keeping well. The Crowley Clan Council has met several times over the last months to discuss the Crowley Castle Project and the 2007 Crowley Clan Gathering. I can report that we are making progress.

Past Taoiseach, Charles P. Crowley is looking into the regulations for forming an organization to protect and secure the remains of our Crowley Castle in Ahakeera. The accounts for will have three signatures, our treasurer, Flor Crowley, our assistant treasurer, Ann Crowley, and myself. All of us have been involved with the Crowley Clan for many years and you can have 100% trust that all transactions will be handled properly.

The council also has set the date and venue for our gathering in 2007. It will be held in Clonakilty, West Cork on September 14th, 15th, & 16th at the Quality Hotel. I urge all of you to consider attending this gathering. If you think you might attend, please contact the Quality Hotel as soon as possible to reserve your room. The more people reserving by February 2006, the smaller the deposit the council must make to the hotel. Please see details on the gathering and the hotel elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, about ten Crowleys in Ireland have agreed to participate in the Crowley DNA project. I urge male Crowleys to consider participating.

God bless,

Liam Crowley
An Taoiseach

The Crowley DNA Project

The Crowley Clan DNA Project began in September. Cathy Crowley Budd, who lives in Marathon, FL, is our group administrator. Due to Hurricane Wilma, Cathy is currently off-line and very busy getting her house back in order. Until Cathy can devote more time to the project, please address any questions or concerns to me (Marian), and I will forward them on the appropriate person. Go to www.familytreedna.com/public/CrowleyClan/, you will get an overview of our project including background and goals written by Cathy. Currently, you will see the results for four participants whose 12 marker test are completed and one participant whose 37 marker test is completed. Most of our participants are doing the 37 marker test, since it provides the most information, but that test takes longer and the results aren't back yet. In about one month we will have those results.

As you can see only the ID number is posted on our site. No names are posted to insure privacy. The information will be shared among the participants as they chose.

The cost of the test is \$169 for the 25 marker and \$219 for the 37 marker plus \$2 handling. You can request to join the project on-line. Most of your questions can be answered on the site, but if you have additional questions, contact me at crowleychamberlain@gmail.com.

To date we have 19 participants. Additional kits were given out to Crowleys in Ireland, and hopefully we will have those results soon.

From Marian's Desk

This November Newsletter has lots of positive information for Crowleys who are laboring on the task of finding their ancestors in Ireland. Haven't we all run into "brick walls" and wondered if it would ever be possible to make that leap across the ocean and across the generations? We have two success stories and one suggestion.

On [page five](#) we have a happy report from Trish Crowley Nelson. Trish not only discovered her roots in Ireland, but she also met the current branches of the family. If you have attended a Crowley Clan Gathering in the past you will no doubt recognize her Irish cousins as being loyal members of our clan organization. For Trish the research was richly rewarded.

Then we have lucky Don Perkins. Some of us have been reading the Crowley Clan Newsletter for years hoping to find information about our ancestors. Don found Sue Crowley's article "Crowley Progenitors" before he even subscribed to the newsletter. He immediately recognized that he was from the same ancestors as Sue's husband's family. Her research took him back several generations all the way to England and possibly Ireland. Don has considerable information about his family in America, and he shares that with us in this issue. The saga continues.

And, for the rest us, there is the Crowley DNA project.

Slán, Marian

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2007 Crowley Clan Gathering in Clonakilty

The Crowley Clan Council has set September 14, 15, & 16 as the weekend of the 2007 gathering. Officially, Taoiseach Liam Crowley is calling Crowleys from around the world to come home to Clonakilty, West Cork for a weekend of fellowship, celebration, and exploration.

The primary venue for the gathering will be the Quality Hotel in Clonakilty. For more information go to www.qualityhotelclonakilty.com, phone 00-353-23-36-400 or email info@qualityhotelclonakilty.com. When contacting the hotel mention Group Ref. 439 (Crowley Clan Gathering)

The hotel is quoting €128 per person sharing with breakfast for two nights and €177 per person sharing with breakfast for three nights. If you are considering coming to the gathering, you are encouraged to make a reservation by February 2006. The more reservations that are made, the lower the reservation fee the Crowley Clan Council will have to commit. Be sure to check the cancellation policy of the hotel.

California Meets Kilrush

by Trish Crowley Nelson

In July 2004 my husband Frank and I traveled to West Clare knowing that it was the birthplace of my paternal great-grandfather M.J. Crowley. Not only was it my first visit to Ireland, it was the first time a direct descendant of Michael James Crowley had set foot on Irish soil since his emigration circa 1883. West Clare felt warm and welcoming 121 years later, not least because the west coast of Ireland is so similar to the west coast of the United States, particularly California where I live. Of course being a Crowley around Kilrush in West Clare is like being a Smith in the States. You can't swing a cat without hitting one.

We returned to West Clare this summer with a new focus: to meet the Kilmihil Crowleys from whom the California Crowleys had been separated for so long. Fortunately, past Clan Taoiseach, Tom Crowley, knew exactly whom I should call when I reiterated the sketchy details I had of Michael's life in Ireland. And so, on August 6th, 2005 in Waterville, County Kerry, the California branch of the Kilmihil Crowleys reunited with the Labasheeda branch of the family after, as Padraig says, "a 122 year walk-about."

"The Old Country," took on new meaning as I explored with my cousins! As we drove Pat home to County Killkenny, he regaled us with stories of Irish history and the Crowleys' part in it. He directed us to Cobh (Queenstown) harbor where Michael left all those years ago.

After familial hospitality under my cousin's roof, we returned to Ennis, County Clare, and met Pat's sister Moiré who took us on a wonderful new journey of discovery. She's been recording "our" Crowleys in West Clare cemeteries and knew there was a monument erected by my great-great granduncle, James Bartholomew (older brother of Michael James). We were not disappointed. There it stands, taller than anything else in the churchyard with the exception of the apex of the old church, a direct connection between my family in California and my family in Ireland. Our combined history will become complete as we all fill in the family tree and re-forge our line's connections. I can't wait to report the sequel!!!

Crowley Progenitors: Picking up the thread from Sue Crowley's Article in Vol. 10, No.1 March, 2005

by Samuel Crowley Descendant Don Perkins

Samuel Crowley b. 1742, in Virginia, d. 10 Oct. 1774 may well be the first soldier to die in the American Revolution since the U.S. Congress declared the Battle of Pt. Pleasant VA now W.VA to be the first battle of the American Revolution. No. 10, Jeffrey Crowley in Sue Crowley's Crowley Progenitors was the father of Benjamin and Samuel Crowley. Their mother is Effie Nearne. Jeffrey's will was probated in Feb 1762. This is where our story begins. Our major source is Jack Grantham of TX. He did not discover the line before Jeffrey, but he filled in many of the details. Sue Crowley has breached his brick wall for us!

Jack Grantham's research is well supported by authentic sources. The present day Crowleys reunite annually in Williamsburg, KY. Family records confirm Jack Grantham's and other Crowley researchers' sources. Grantham says these Crowleys bred, traded, raised, and raced horses. Jeffrey owned a racetrack known as Jeffrey's Path and raced horses there and at other tracks. Jeffrey also grew peaches and made peach brandy for sale to inns and ordinary houses all over Virginia. From these the Crowley family's prominence grew.

Benjamin and Samuel grew up able to ride, shoot, hunt, race and trade with the best. Living on the frontier, they also traded with the Indians and learned Indian languages. They used these talents to spy on the Indians in time of war.

Benjamin and later brother Samuel became Long Hunters in the 1760's and made a small fortune in skins. Benjamin rode with the Boones, Finleys, Callaways and introduced Samuel to them during their trips to Kentucky. Virginia law required all able bodied males to join the militia at age 16. Benjamin fought in the French & Indian Wars. Samuel joined him later in the Botetourt County, Virginia Militia.

Benjamin Crowley married Sarah Strong. Samuel married her sister Elizabeth. The Strong's were another prominent VA family. By 1774, Samuel and Elizabeth Crowley had 7 children. He was age 33 then.

In 1774, the Botetourt County, Militia was called up by Gov. Dunmore for service against the Shawnee of Ohio, to be joined by the Virginia British Regulars. They were to meet and assemble at Point Pleasant where the Great Kanawha meets the Ohio River (a natural trap). Samuel Crowley was detached from the Botetourt County Militia and assigned to Commander Lewis as a scout and Indian Spy (Virginia Ranger). Grantham has found evidence that our Samuel Crowley was sent out early the morning of 10 Oct 1774 with another man, Robertson, to search for Indians.

Unbeknownst to the Militia, Governor Dunmore had made an agreement with Shawnee Chieftain Cornstalk to let Cornstalk make a surprise attack on the Militia while he held back his Regulars. Without the Militia to protect them, the settlers west of the Appalachians would have to withdraw from Indian Territory as agreed to in the Treaty of 1763. As the Indians were about to make their surprise attack, Crowley and Robertson came into view. A Shawnee warrior fired and mortally wounded Crowley, while Robertson raced back giving the alarm. We won that battle. So it may very well be that Samuel Crowley was the first American to die in our War of Independence.

Samuel Crowley was the only Virginia Ranger recognized by the Virginia House of Burgesses for his sacrifice. His wife Elizabeth Strong Crowley received a widow's pension for the care of her seven children.

Elizabeth Crowley stayed in Virginia until 1791 growing peaches and making brandy until her children were old enough to travel and she could sell her land. Her oldest son James and the Widow Crowley signed over the deed and left to make a 900 mile journey first by wagon over the famed Wilderness Road and then by river down to join with Benjamin and Sarah Crowley in Oglethorpe County, GA.

The Samuel Crowley story is then carried on by his seven children:

1. Effie married Jeremiah Burnett, Jr.
2. Agnes married Thomas Perry
3. James (b. 1763) married 1786 Mary McClain
4. Mary (b. abt. 1765, d. 1835) married James Kimsey
5. John (b. 1768) married (1) Elizabeth McClain (sister of Mary)
6. Littleberry I or Greenberry and sometimes called Benjamin. (b. 1773, d. 1816) married Mary Polly Gibson.
7. William (b. 1774, d. ca. 1875) married ?? Ch.: Littleberry II.

Brothers Littleberry I and James migrated from Georgia to Powell Valley, TN in 1803. Records also show brother William as deed witness by 1808 in Tennessee. Campbell County, TN. court records show a petition signed by Littleberry I, Wm., James, John and Jeremiah Croley in 1813. Mary Ann Croley married Burgess Siler about 1825 and they settled in Whitley County, KY where many of their Croley Descendants still live. Samuel Crowley's name is on two monuments at Tue Endie Wei Park (Shawanese for "place mingling two waters") where the Battle of Point Pleasant was fought. He was buried with the officers and other scouts assigned to the Commander who were killed or mortally wounded in battle. The graves are under an enormous black granite disc slanted to read the inscriptions. His name is misspelled Samuel Corley. However examination of the rolls shows there was no Corley, but there were two Croley names. One was Sam Croley and the other was his nephew James Crawley. Evidently the stone engraver got his o's and r's reversed. An 85-foot tall stone monument a short distance away has several bronze plaques telling about the battle and listing who died. One of them says Samuel Croley, Militia, unit unknown.

Samuel Crowley is buried under the Pt. Pleasant Battlefield Powder Magazine. The rolls are contained in numerous books about the closing war of the French and Indian Wars and the opening battle of our War of Independence. Battleday Celebrations are held annually at Pt. Pleasant with parades, Governors luncheons, Governor's Ball and Memorial Services. Samuel Cro(w)ley is represented in the Parade of Warriors. For questions e-mail me at donp12@juno.com.