

CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

July 2007

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



Letter from the Crowley Clan Taoiseach

Greetings from Bandon. I hope you are all keeping well. It has been a long winter in West Cork, but the spring is finally here.

First, I want to let you know about the progress on the Crowley Castle project. The work to stabilize the remaining wall has begun. And a group of Crowleys have agreed to loan the project the necessary funds to complete the project. I feel very strongly that this is a project that must succeed. If the Crowley Castle ruins continue to deteriorate, the site will be lost to all future generations of our clan. And it is too important to let that happen. Thank you to all you who have made a contribution. And, if you would like to make a contribution, you can still send it to your country representative.

Second, I hope you are planning to come to our Crowley Gathering in Clonakilty on September 14, 15 and 16 at the Quality Hotel. You can still reserve a room by phoning 011-353-23-36-400 and mention group reference #CG1407. **The hotel can only hold rooms until the end of July.** And you can still send your registration fee of €150 per person to your country representative.

The program for the Crowley Clan Gathering is coming together nicely. I hope to see you there.

God bless.

Liam Crowley

From Marian's Desk

Dia duit,

I'm excited to introduce two new contributors to the newsletter. Mary Casteleyn lives in England and has been researching the Crowley family for many years. An example of her research appears on [page six](#). And Anne Crowley Ronco is an experienced writer and editor. Her travel in Ireland piece is on [page three](#). Thanks to both of them for being willing to become a part of the newsletter staff.

There is still room for more on the staff. Do you have research you'd like to see in print? Do you have ideas you'd like to share with our readers? Do you have experience in editing and/or publishing? There are many jobs to do and more people to share the work would be greatly appreciated. Feel free to mail or email me if you have ideas.

If you haven't sent in your registration fee to your country rep, please do so as soon as possible. The more advance money the committee in Ireland has, the easier it is for them to make the arrangements necessary. You can find all of the information in the [March newsletter](#).

The program of activities for the Crowley Gathering:

Friday September 14

2:00 PM

Registration at the Quality Hotel, Clonakilty Evening meal is on your own

6:30 PM

Cheese and wine courtesy of J.J. Crowley, Bantry

8:30 PM

Bus leaves for Jerry Crowley's pub in Crossmahon

Saturday September 15

10:30 AM

General Meeting of the Crowley Clan at the Quality Hotel followed by a discussion on DNA by Cathy Budd. Break for lunch

1:00 PM

Tour of the historical sites of Clonakilty

7:30 PM

Banquet at Quality Hotel. Brian Crowley, MEP, will speak.

Sunday September 16

10:30 AM

Irish Road Bowling at "The Miles"

1:30 PM

Bus leaves for The Parkway Hotel in Dunmanway to watch the All Ireland Gaelic Football Final

5:30 PM

Mass at the Crowley Castle Ruins (all are welcome)

9:00 PM

Finale at Jerry Crowley's pub in Crossmahon

Slán, Marian

Travel Tips for Ireland

by Anne Crowley Ronco

So you're coming to the Gathering September 14, 15, and 16 in Clonakilty, County Cork! If it's your first visit (or even if it isn't), here are some tips to make the visit memorable as well as easy.

Packing Tips:

- You're almost certain to need an umbrella at some point. If it's raining in Ireland (and it often does), that's just a "soft day."
- Take a sweater or jacket for those cool nights or buy an Irish knit sweater when you get there.
- Take some old underwear, socks, etc., and throw them away as you travel. Leaves more room for souvenirs!
- A travel alarm and a small flashlight will be handy.
- Your raincoat can double as a bathrobe.

Driving:

- Clonakilty is about three hours by car from Shannon.
- Most of us who are not used to driving on the "other side" of the road tend to hug the edge of the road and often end up in a ditch. It's better to stay closer to the white center line, even though you cringe when a truck passes going the other way.
- If you can drive a standard shift, those cars are much cheaper to rent than one with an automatic shift.
- Drive with your hands near the top of the steering wheel---raise one finger to thank an oncoming motorist for a courtesy. (Be careful which finger!)

About Clonakilty:

- The local nickname for Clonakilty is "Clon."
- Among good places to eat in Clonakilty are O'Keefe's (in the Emmett Hotel) and An Sughan.
- Clonakilty is famous for its black pudding. Try it at least once.
- The "Model Village" on the outskirts of Clonakilty is worth a visit.
- The birthplace of Irish patriot Michael Collins is nearby, down a country road. Although little is left, it can be a very moving place to visit.

What to See in Cork:

- Dunmanway is the ancestral home of the Crowleys. It seems every other shop is owned by a Crowley. The Heritage Centre there is small but worth a quick trip. It is open most afternoons, but check first.
- Kinsale is the gourmet capital of Ireland. Nearby is Fort Charles, a star-shaped 300+-year-old fort. See www.cork-guide.ie/charles.htm
- For a view of Ireland that is fast disappearing, the Ring of Beara is a must. Rugged beauty, no buses and little traffic. Plan on a full day, starting in Glengariff and ending in Kenmare. See www.12travel.com/ie/attractions/ring_of_beara.html
- On the drive to the Ring of Beara, see Castletownbere, the largest fishing village in Ireland. Have a pint in the snug at McCarthy's Pub there. Drive through Eyeries, with its colorful houses.
- A few miles outside Eyeries, see the largest Ogham stone in Europe, dating back to 2000 B.C. It's on a small farm and a modest fee is charged.
- A few hundred meters further on is the Hag of Beara. It is said that if a woman walks around it three times, she will return as a beautiful 21-year-old after each of her long and happy marriages! See www.anamcararetreat.com/w_excerpts/maryann_macmurray.html
- A little further out the road are the ruins of the Church of Kilcatherine. Many Crowleys are buried there. Over the door is a gargoyle, reputed to be 1600+ years old and made from sand found in the Mediterranean Sea.

Miscellaneous Observations:

- Irish Masses, even on Sunday, are usually much briefer than those in America and some other countries. Don't be late, or you might miss it!

I am most grateful to my sister, Ellen Crowley, and my brother Tom Crowley, for providing the information for this article. I plan to follow their advice this fall. See you there!

Chrissy Crowley To Perform At Crowley Gathering



Chrissy Crowley, a young Celtic musician from Cape Breton, Canada is coming to Clonakilty to perform at the September 2007 Crowley Clan Gathering. Chrissy is a traditional fiddler and recording artist who has recently released her debut album. She lives in the beautiful Margaree area of Nova Scotia, a place known for its cherished musical culture. Christine is one of the new generation of fiddlers inspired by the traditions of artists who have gone before. She has embraced the music of her celtic roots and has made it her own.

Chrissy is the granddaughter of fiddlers Bill Crowley and Archie Neil Chisholm and her large extended family has always greatly valued the traditions of their Scottish forebears and their Newfoundland/Irish ancestors. It was Chrissy who asked her mother to take her grandfather Bill's violin out of storage. She had decided to become a fiddler and listened intently to her family's home recordings. She remains a largely self-taught artist, absorbing the rich musical culture of the Margaree in which she lives by listening to the local players and learning by observation. Chrissy has also studied at the Celtic College in Goderich, Cape Breton's Ceilidh Trail School of Music and the Gaelic College of Arts and Crafts.

You can hear Chrissy's music and order her CD at www.chrissycrowley.com and at www.myspace.com/marageefiddler

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Crowley Clan News from Around the World

Skibbereen Heritage Centre, County Cork: (info@skibbheritage.com)

Skibbereen Heritage Centre is computerising the Skibbereen, Rath and the Islands baptisms from 1814 and marriages from 1837 Roman Catholic records. A copy of the final database will be presented to the parish, as well as being available at Skibbereen Heritage Centre. At present the centre has the 1901 and 1911 census records computerized. The centre can answer queries while the work is in progress.

Elizabeth Burns, FL, USA: (bizburns@cfl.rr.com)

My maternal grandmother is Kathryn/Katherine/Catherine Frances/Francis Crowley, born July 16, 1883 in Union, PA. Her parents were Bartholomew Crowley, born January 1852 in Erie, PA, and Margaret Crowley, born April 1855 in Canada (from Ireland originally) and his father, Thomas Crowley, born 1820 in Ireland. His mother Mary Crowley was born 1835 in Ireland. All of this is from Ancestry.com. I have information about my Grandmother's siblings, but very little on her parents. I am sure there are an infinite number of Thomas Crowleys, but I was wondering how I could find out more. My Mom always told me her mom's people came from County Cork. My grandmother was one of eleven, strong Catholic family. I, myself, am the youngest of seven.

Dave Crowley (Dathí ÓCruadhlaioich)Australia: (crowley1950@hotmail.com)

I had a y-chromosome test and the result came back R1b. This was no surprise, since R1b reaches about 98% saturation in the north-west of Ireland. I was surprised when I checked the Crowley y-search website. Rather than the Crowleys sharing the same genetic markers, we appear to have several ancestral origins. When Trinity College Dublin did a survey of the O'Neils, they discovered a high frequency of one set of genetic markers, which they named the Northwest Irish haplotype. They concluded this haplotype goes back to Niall Noigíallach (Niall of the Nine Hostages). This was exciting news because it gives scientific backing to the semi-mythic genealogies. For more go to [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup_Rib_\(Y-DNA\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup_Rib_(Y-DNA)).

According to our clan history we are descended from Diarmaid MacDiarmada, one of the MacDermotts of Moylurg in Roscommon. His exploits earned him the title "an Cruadh Laoch", the hardy warrior. He was ruler of Moylurg 1215-1218. The designation an Cruadh Laoch was remembered when our sept parted company from the MacDermotts shortly afterwards, and we derived our surname from it, ÓCruadhlaioich.

According to the old genealogies the Crowleys are descended via the MacDermots from Brion, halfbrother of Niall Noigíallach. You would expect the Crowleys are Northwest Irish haplotype like the O'Neils.

Our clan marched south around 1280 to our traditional lands of Kilshallow in West Cork. In February 2006 Dr. Ken Nordtvedt identified a cluster of people carrying a distinctive haplotype centered although not exclusively in southern Ireland. It is tentatively called the "South Irish" haplotype, and is the set of genetic markers carried by our old allies the MacCarthys. You might expect that we have adopted some genetic material from our neighbors during our 400 years together as a clan in Kilshallow and some Crowleys will test for this instead of the NW variety.

We had assumed we are a kinship group, related in the male line and descended from the one eponymous ancestor (Diarmaid an Cruadh Laoch). But the results so far say our clan was more a social grouping. It would seem that in ancient times people of various different genetic lines were included in the clan for

social and political reasons. It may not be the blood that binds us, but a common history and clan allegiance.

In case any of your readers share closer kinship with me, I'll introduce my ancestors:

1. Bryan Crowley, born in Paul Street, Cork City, 1791; press-ganged into the RN 1807; died in Cornwall 1855.
2. Edward William Crowley, born in Cannon St, Devonport, Devon 1837; jumped ship in Melbourne 1852; died in South Melbourne 1916.
3. Denis Brian Crowley, born in Emerald St, South Melbourne 1866; worked a gold miner; died in Melbourne 1928.
4. Denis Thomas Crowley, born in Martin St, South Melbourne 1902; served in Royal Australian Navy; died in Sydney 1976.
5. David Patrick Crowley, your correspondent.

News of Crowley Archives

by Mary Casteleyn

I recently found a very interesting will in the National Archives at Kew, London. This will dated 1803 related to a Tead O’Crowley, otherwise Crowley, initially described as a Blacksmith of His Majesty’s Leeward Charibee Islands in America. The will was not proved until 1822 in London when Tead is described as a Master Armourer in His Majesty’s Ordnance Department in English Harbour in the Island of Antigua.

In his will he leaves his “two tables, my chairs, bed and bedding with all my gold beads and rings in my possession to Mary Saunders for her use forever with all my plate(silver) and Delf ware excepting two patent lamps which I give, devise and bequeath unto my godson James Armstrong. It is likewise my desire that the remainder of my effects be sold to pay for my funeral expenses and out of the balance remaining to pay Samuel Pettigrew a balance due to him on account of the purchase of a negro girl names Polly and I likewise request that the said girl Polly may be sold which amount of sale and monies that may be remained, I do devise and bequeath unto my beloved wife Mary Jagoe of Dunmanway, near Cork. And I do hereby nominate and appoint Mr. Richard Garland and Mr. Stephen Lee of the said island, Executors to this my last will and testament by witness thereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this 30th day of September 1803.”

On 12th September 1822, Administration was granted by the Prerogative Court in London to John O’Crowley, the Administrator of the goods of Mary O’Crowley, otherwise Jagoe, widow who was declared while living to be the relict and legatee named in the above will. John O’Crowley was duly sworn to administer the will for the use and benefit of Catherine O’Crowley, spinster and natural daughter and one of the next of kin of Mary O’Crowley, otherwise Jagoe, deceased. Catherine O’Crowley is residing in 1822 at Cooranadig*. Mary O’Crowley, otherwise Jagoe, widow of Tead O’Crowley had never taken out letters of administration or proved her husband’s will, hence the delay of 19 years.

Tead O’Crowley was almost certainly in the Leeward Charibee Islands in America as part of the British Forces fighting against Napoleonic France.

*This appears to be Cooranig in the Barony of East Carbery (West Division), parish of Fanlobbus, near Dunmanway as in Alphabetical Index to the Townlands of Ireland, Dublin 1851.

Castle Gets Facelift for Clan Gathering Crowleys from all over the world to meet up

by Mary Hassett

They made their name at the Battle of Clontarf. Brian Boru is said to have given them the title of “Cruadhlaioich”, or “hard warrior”. It was an apt name for the Crowley Clan who battled their way down the country from Roscommon to West Cork where they eventually settled.

Even then the Crowley warriors were so busy fighting for the O’Mahonys one week and the MacCarthys the next that they had little time to put down proper roots. The Crowley Clan built their one and only castle at Ahakeera near Dunmanway. All that remains now are some ivy covered walls in the middle of a field owned by Kevin O’Neill.

Restoration work is to start shortly on the ruins to prevent the walls from deteriorating any further. The work is due to be completed in time for the Crowley Clan Gathering which will take place from September 14 to September 16 at the Quality Hotel, Clonakilty.

Clan Taoiseach, Liam Crowley, from Clancool Beg in Bandon, admits that many of the Crowleys living in the West Cork area have only recently come to appreciate the significance of the Castle ruins at Ahakeera for members of the Clan living abroad. A few weeks ago Liam met three ladies from Oregon, USA who were trying to trace their Crowley ancestry. “They were overcome with emotion when I brought them to see the castle ruins and one of them even gave me a giant hug,” says Liam.

The importance of the ancestral site for people living abroad prompted the Clan Council to commission Forum Consulting Engineers to survey the site at Ahakeera and draw up a preservation plan. Stone Mason, Robert Rohu from Waterfall is due to start work shortly on removing the ivy from the stonework and consolidating the existing structure. The work is expected to cost €35,000 and will have to be funded by members of the clan from at home and abroad. Kevin Murphy, chairman of the Archaeological Committee, Cork County Council, will provide the clan with valuable advice on how the restoration work should proceed.

Participants in the Clan Gathering next September will be able to visit the Ahakeera site and see the restoration work thanks to the co-operation of landowner, Kevin O’Neill. Open Air Mass will be celebrated at the site on Sunday, September 16, which promises to be a very moving experience for members of the Clan.

Other highlights will be the road bowling event at “The Miles” in Clonakilty and the banquet at which Brian Crowley, MEP, will be the guest speaker. Brian’s father, the late Flor Crowley, TD, was a former Clan Taoiseach. Brian’s sister Deirdre Crowley, who is an artist, has painted the picture of the castle ruins which will be sold to raise funds for the restoration work.

Already members of the Crowley Clan from America, Canada, France, New Zealand and England have registered for the Clan Gathering. Liam Crowley is hoping for a positive response from the Crowley’s scattered throughout Ireland.

Marian Crowley Chamberlain from America will succeed Liam Crowley as Taoiseach in September.