

CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

July 2011

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



Letter from Our Public Relations Officer

Fellow Members of the Crowley Clan:

It has taken us some time to come back to you from our Clan Gathering, but I am the bearer of good news. As Public Relations Officer (PRO), it gives me great pleasure in telling you that having sorted things from the last gathering and the outstanding debts with the castle, we now have most of the loans repaid.

We discussed the project while Tom Crowley (Ohio) was Taoiseach of the clan, and during his reign, it was decided to proceed with the project. It was because of Tom's archeological survey, which cost \$10,000, that we were taken seriously by the Department of Heritage, and that we were granted planning permission after many stumbling blocks.

With the assistance of a plan from the consulting engineers, work on the castle ruin started in 2006 by Robert Rohu. It was with a good relationship with Cork County Council Forum and Robert Rohu, the stonework specialist, that we eventually conserved the Ahakeera Castle for future generations. The total cost of the project was €30,632.

With the assistance of everybody, the Clan Council who gave interest free loans, personal donations from the clan members and contributions of all types at the gatherings, we have brought the debt down to a minimum of €4,000. In the meantime we still have a reserve in the bank account of €1,940.

To be where we are is a major achievement and special thanks must go to Canada for selling the bricks at the last gathering, our thanks to New Zealand for their contribution, and of course the Crowley descendants in America have always been very forthcoming with financial support and their presence.

Recognition must also be given to our Taoiseach Jerry Crowley for organising the contribution of the bar takings in Crossmahon on the way back from Ahakeera to the fund. The barbeque and carol singing events held in Crossmahon Pub and supported by Crowleys in West Cork also contributed greatly to the fund.

Crowleys and Crowley descendants can be very proud of the preservation of our ancestral home which will be there for generations to come. In the meantime, we are now approaching the 1,000th anniversary of our name, having distinguished ourselves at Clontarf in Dublin in 1014. Plans are now afoot to celebrate our 2013 gathering, and it will be one of celebration of our name and of our achievements of preserving our castle site.

As our debts are now to a minimum, the Clan Council will not be taken up with fundraising, but more emphasis will be earmarked to celebrating the occasion and enjoying ourselves.

Finally, we must recognize Marian Crowley Chamberlain's contribution to the newsletter and the responsibility of the seriousness which she undertook to carry out her duties in a more than professional basis and made 2007 to 2010 the success it was.

Liam Crowley

**O'Crowley's Castle
Before Restoration - September 2004**



How the Pope Confirmed a Parish to O'Crowley, Chief of His Clan

By Michael-Patrick Crowley

At the end of the 12th century King Henry II of England, following individual adventures of his vassals from Normandy, England and Wales, obtained submission from the High King of Ireland, O'Connor, along with the major Chieftains. Henry II granted large tracks of land to his vassals and lords; these were shortly faced with the inability to control their lands facing the Irish.

By 1300 at the west of a line that could be drawn from Clonakilty to Bandon, to Charleville, English authority was non-existent. And, subsequent encroachments reduced that influence even further while the Irish clan houses were consolidating and gaining power. One of the major Norman lords of West Cork was Barry Roe, a cadet branch of Barry from North Cork. The Barrys, as others, felt the push from the Gaelic lords to regain their lands. In that respect it is interesting to note that Auliff O'Crowley, then Chief of his clan and Lord of Kilshallow, "on account of deadly enemies which existed between the inhabitants of his lands in the parish of Cruary and the rest of the parish, erected a church at Kilnagross and persuaded the Bishop of Ross to erect it into a separate parish (Kilnagross), an arrangement confirmed by the Pope in 1493."

Kilnagross lays south of the Bandon River and was a detached portion of O'Crowley lands, Kilshallow. However, Kilnagross because originally of the Barry holding was tax exempt.

Ref : "The Development of Lordship In County Cork 1300-1600"
K.W.Nicholls Geography Publications 1993.

From Marian's Desk:

Each time I begin planning an issue of the Crowley Clan Newsletter, I am afraid that there won't be enough news to fill eight pages. And, each time I end up with more than enough! But, without your emails of news and interesting facts about the Crowleys of the world, this newsletter couldn't exist. Thanks to you all.

I hope you enjoy reading about some very interesting Crowleys in this issue. We can all be proud of Liam Crowley, past Taoiseach and current Oifigeach Cadraimh Poibli, for the honor he has received from the Clans of Ireland. This organization advocates for issues important to clans in Ireland and serves as a source of information and support for them. Website is www.clansofireland.ie. Liam, as a member of our clan, has represented us well in this organization.

Another Crowley who we can be proud of is Terry Crowley from Ontario. Terry and his family developed the idea of selling “bricks” to help pay off the loans for our castle restoration. His profile is [here](#).

The news from around the world comes from Ireland, Canada, and USA in this issue. Hearing from all of you makes my job a lot of fun. Keep those emails coming in!

*Mise le Meas,
Marian*

Meet Terry Crowley Crowley Clan Representative for Canada



(Crowley Clan) How long have you been involved with the Crowley Clan?

(Terry Crowley) I attended my first gathering in 1995 and have never missed one since. I had been receiving a magazine called "Inside Ireland" and in their spring 1995 issue there was an excerpt about the Crowley Gathering of that year. I was surprised at the time, not realizing that there were that many Crowleys to generate a gathering. Out of curiosity I went to the gathering and had the time of my life.

(CC) What have been some of the high points of your involvement?

(TC) Without a moment's thought, being asked by the Crowley Council to be the representative for Canada has been one of my highest points. I have been contacted by many Canadian Crowleys over the last few years by phone, mail, especially the internet inquiring about gatherings, asking for help about their ancestry, etc. It has also been a pleasure meeting some of these Crowleys in Ireland at the gatherings.

At our 2004 gathering, before Fathering Liam Crowley started Mass, he announced that the Mass was dedicated to my mother who had died two weeks previously. You can't imagine what that meant to me.

In 2010, my daughter Cristina, my granddaughter, Alyssa, and I represented Canada and became the road bowling champions. Canada has won four times at road bowling.

Another high point was attending the 2000 Millennium Crowley Gathering in New Zealand. There are just too many high points to mention, especially meeting and getting to know many Crowleys from around the world.

(CC) What is your professional background?

(TC) I would have to say public relations, since I have always been involved with people. I started out in the optical business, then interior decorating specializing in draperies and carpets. From there I became a financial consultant, owned and operated a butcher shop, and finally worked for the Canadian Postal Corporation until I retired in 2005.

(CC) What are your interests and hobbies?

(TC) I love to travel, especially to Ireland. In the last 21 years, I have been to Ireland 17 times. I like researching my ancestry and reading.

(CC) Tell us about your family and about your Crowley ancestors.

(TC) My ancestors came from a little village called Carraroe in Connamara. My grandfather left Galway in 1882 and settled in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. He moved to Brantford, Ontario and married my

grandmother in 1911. My father is the eldest of seven children, and I am the second oldest of four, also the only boy. My wife Crystal and I celebrated our 42nd anniversary last October. We have four children, Cristina, Patricia, Mary, and Bill. I also have five grandchildren, Alyssa (Cristina), Payton and Brett (Patricia), Drew and Isabella (Mary). Bill is getting married October 1, 2011.

(CC) How did you get an Irish passport?

(TC) While researching my family, I found out that if I could find the necessary documents to prove that my grandfather was born in Ireland, through him I could become an Irish citizen. I obtained that information, applied for and obtained my Irish citizenship on May 22, 1992. I immediately applied for my Irish passport.

(CC) Tell us about the first time you went to Ireland on your Irish passport.

(TC) It was the fall 1992, I flew to Ireland. It was great! I didn't have to fill out the landing form because I had an Irish passport. After landing in Dublin, I got out my passport to show at customs, and I noticed that the people who were carrying an Irish or European passport just held their passports up and walked through Customs without being stopped. Not me, I stopped and showed the Customs Officer my passport. He looked at it, then he looked at me, smiled and said, "Ah, you're coming back home, son." Bursting with pride, I replied, "I am!"

(CC) How did you get the idea for the Crowley Castle Bricks project?

(TC) After years of being involved, I wanted to do something special that everyone would appreciate. I had an idea of creating a Crowley lapel pin, not a cheap one that you can buy in any Irish shop, but a beautiful, well-made one that would last. I had quite a few made, and I handed them out at the 2004 and 2007 gatherings. Not long after that, I was asked by the Crowley Council to consider selling those pins with some of the profits going to the Crowley Castle Restoration Fund. But how could I give out these pins for free at two gatherings and then start charging for them!

Then I came up with the idea of selling bricks and giving a Certificate of Appreciation to the donor. It could be taken home as a memento and maybe give the donor a feeling of doing something important for clan. My daughter Patricia helped with the design, had them made and donated them. At the 2010 gathering, my sister Barbara and I sold 236 Crowley Castle Bricks for a total of €1,180 of which 100% went to the fund.

(CC) What would you like to see the Crowley Clan accomplish in the next years?

(TC) The clan has accomplished so much since 1995. Look at the castle ruins back then, and look at them now. The gatherings have mushroomed. Compare the room we used at the Dunmanway Hotel to the banquet halls we use today. I would like to see the Crowley Castle Fund completely debt free. All of us need to pitch in and help.

Crowley Clan News

Maureen Crowley, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

(MCrowley@peterborough.ca):

Check out this article that was in the *Peterborough This Week*:

St. Patrick's Day Parade from the Crowley Family Float

The Crowley family is proud of their Irish heritage. Last year, their green decorating efforts garnered them first place for best family float during the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Peterborough. This year they tried to outdo themselves decorating their flatbed trailer with all things Irish including a rainbow and unicorn.

The Crowleys settled the region when Peter Robinson arrived in 1825. The Crowleys acquired land to the east of Peterborough, now known as Crowley Line, and built farms.

There are now seven generations of Crowleys in the area. This Week photographer Lance Anderson joined the Crowleys aboard their float for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday (March 13). There were some 70 entries participating in the popular parade.

James Crowley, Bandon, County Cork, Ireland

(james@obriencussen.ie):

I am proud to announce that Liam Crowley has been appointed as Companion of the Order of the Clans of Ireland. This is the highest honor that can be bestowed by Irish Clans. It is an order of merit conferred on individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to Irish culture and heritage and who have brought conspicuous honor to their Clan. The conferring took place on the 16th of April at the Mansion House in Dublin. The recipients received their insignia from the Lord Mayor.

Please join us in congratulating Liam.

Catherine Crowley Budd, Marathon, Florida, USA

(cbudd713@comcast.net):

The only news I have as the DNA Project Coordinator is that none of the kits I gave out at the Crowley Clan Gathering last year in Kinsale have been returned.

If you have one of these kits, please contact me. If you have misplaced the kit, it can be replaced. And, if you don't have one, but you know someone who does, please contact that person and remind him to return it. Our project is relying on these new participants.



Anne Crowley O'Connell, Kinsale, Ireland

(info@kinsaleholidayvillage.com):

My cousin Michael Crowley and I bought some Crowley Castle bricks at the rally in Kinsale last September. We bought them for our Uncle Alph Crowley who is elderly and lives in Canada. It was the most wonderful present, and they are now proudly framed and hanging on his wall in Canada. He was thrilled!

Stephany Anne Crowley, Montreal Canada

(slipperydiver@gmail.com):

My father Michael Alfred Crowley was born in Montreal, Canada in 1927. His parents Michael Francis Crowley and Jane Bartram, and his grandfather John Crowley came to North America from Bantry Bay via England.

My father is 84 years old this August and has one remaining wish. He's been dreaming since boyhood to return to Ireland and see the places of his ancestry. His sisters, nieces, and friends have all visited, but he's the only one in the family who has never been. He says he'd better do it before he loses his mind or expires into rose beds. ;) It is my intention to grant his wish this summer and take him "home" to celebrate his birthday in County Cork.

I want to let you all know how wonderful it was to come across your Crowley Clan website today. I was sitting this fine Sunday afternoon with my Dad looking up all the places we might visit when we came across your site. He thought it was absolutely fantastic that you all have put so much effort into creating his link for us. I intend to document this trip via pictures, online journals, and video for our Crowley Clan here in Eastern Canada.

Thank you for everything you do.