

CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

March 2011

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



Taoiseach Jerry Crowley:

To all of the Crowleys around the world, I would like to wish you a very happy New Year.

Crowley Clan Council Fall Meeting Report

From Crowley Clan Cisteoir, James Crowley

We held a council meeting on the evening of November 2nd, and all agreed that the Crowley Clan Gathering in Kinsale was a great social and financial success. In fact, the profit from the weekend was so good that we are now in a position to repay the loans for the Crowley Castle restoration.

Summary

Income

Registration	€12,423
Banquet	2,540
Donation to Castle Fund	905
Fundraising Bricks	1,180
Raffle	1,125
Ransom of Shield	95
Sale of Brooches	1,040
Total Income	€19,308
Total Expenses	€9,566
Profit	€9,742

Editor's Note:

What is "Ransom of Shield", you might be wondering. On the evening of the Banquet in Kinsale, we were all having a lot of fun. There happened to be four ladies from Wales and one man from the United States who were enjoying themselves way too much. They came up with an ingenious idea for a way to raise a little more money for the Crowley Castle loan repayment. They "kidnapped" our Crowley Clan shield and held it for ransom.

On Sunday morning they made their "demand" for ransom or the shield would meet dire consequences. The ransom note was read on the coach to the road bowling. The "kidnappers" suggested one Euro per person on the coach. The ransom was collected (some people were a little more generous than one Euro) and, thankfully, the shield was returned unharmed.

Thanks to the ladies from Wales for their spirited prank that brought more money to the loan repayment fund and more fun for all of us at the gathering.

Clan Council Announces New Website in Ireland

On Saturday morning at the Clan Gathering in Kinsale, the Crowley Clan Council unveiled a new website to serve Crowleys from around the world. It can be found at www.crowleyclan.ie. The homepage invites you "to sign up to share your thoughts and join the discussions". The original www.crowleyclan.com, will remain in existence through private contributions.

From Marian's Desk

I hope all of you had a happy Christmas celebration with your family and friends. And I hope that the New Year brings you health and happiness.

This Winter/Spring issue of the Crowley Clan Newsletter marks the beginning of the 16th year of publication. The newsletter began in April of 1996 when Flor Crowley of Bandon was our Taoiseach, and we had just had a Crowley Clan Gathering in Dunmanway. We have been on-line since March 2003 when Tom Crowley of Ohio was Taoiseach and we were preparing for our gathering in Bantry. Through the years, the newsletter has recorded a lot of Crowley Clan history!

My goal for the newsletter when it began was to provide a means for the Crowleys and Crowley descendants around the world to stay in contact with one another. Originally, this was accomplished by good old snail mail. Today some readers still prefer to read a paper copy, but more and more people are reading the newsletter on-line at www.crowleyclan.com.

Webmaster Jim Ritzert tells me that crowleyclan.com had over 36,000 hits just during 2010! That is a lot more readers than I could ever reach with a paper newsletter. How the world has changed in 16 years.

From the early years, there have been many Crowley researchers who have shared their work with the newsletter's readers. One of these is Carol Doran Barlow who has shared research she did with Family History Library microfilm. In 1999, Carol published a comprehensive history of her mother's family, *Chronicles of the Smith-Crowleys of Ireland and Iowa County, Wisconsin*. Now, this inexhaustible genealogist is working on her history of her father's Doran family. In her research, Carol came across that Gerald de Courcy, the 18th Baron of Kinsale, was married to a Crowley (Mary O'Croley). You will find this interesting article [here](#).

Crowley genealogy and research is always a welcome addition to the Crowley Clan Newsletter. Have you delved into the history and background of your Crowley family? Do you have interesting stories or family legends about your ancestors' lives? Do you have photos of your ancestors, of their homes or farms? Would you like to share them with us?

This is the time of year for fresh starts and new beginnings. I'm sure there are lots of New Year's resolutions being made about family history. The resources on the internet continue to grow, but those "brick walls" are stubborn.

Do you have a favorite genealogy website that you would like to share with us? I like the Ireland Genealogy Project website, www.igp-web.com/IGGPAarchives. From the homepage you can access the archives for the counties. There are land records, church records, census records, and more, all donated by researchers. You can also subscribe to their email list to find out about new postings.

This newsletter is for all of you. Your ideas, comments, and postings are what keep us going.

Mise le meas,

Marian

Meet Michael-Patrick Crowley

Crowley Clan an Tànaiste

How long have you been involved with the Crowley Clan?

MPC: I got involved 34 years ago when I first met Dr. Pat Crowley in Kilmoganny while I was doing a workcamp. Pat introduced me to the history and legends of the Crowleys, a glass of whiskey helping. Pat invited me to join a clan gathering which took place at the "Pink Elephant" after having mass in the Ahakeera woods. From then on I think I attended all gatherings.

What have been some of the high points of your involvement?

MPC: I did some historical research on the Crowleys, and published a small study of 20 pages or so. It was presented to some of the clan members, and as a result I was encouraged to produce more thorough research which lead to the publication of a 200 page book.

The book has been submitted to the Chief Herald of Ireland, and is now regarded as the reference history book of the O'Crowley Clan. It was also favorably reviewed by the Cork Historical and Archeological Society, Geraid O'Chruaidloich producing the review.

What is your professional background?

MPC: I hold an MBA from Boston University in International Finance. I started working in finance, then switched to sales and business development, and now marketing. I spent 14 years at IBM, eight years at Sun Microsystems, and now I am with SAP for almost five years in charge of Government Marketing World Wide for the Business Intelligence Division.

In parallel, I also had a career in the French army reserve where I served 22 years in operations.

What are your interests, hobbies, etc.?

MPC: History, of course, horseback riding, and fox and stag hunting which I practice every week during the season. And I have a passion for medieval architecture.

Tell us about your family and about your Crowley ancestors?

MPC: My grandfather Michael left Ireland in 1914 (the last day of the races) to go to Rochester, NY where he married a neighbor of his, Mary O'Leary. He had 11 brothers and sisters; eventually two of his brothers joined him in Rochester.

My father had two brothers, and he came to Europe with the US forces in World War II, stayed, and married my mother. The family ties are strong across the ocean. My Irish cousins still live on the farm which has been our family farm for a hundred years. It is in Ardglass near Ballyhea, and they have regular visits from their American cousins.

How did you come to own a castle in Galway?

MPC: Well this is a long story. My dream was to have a romantic thatch cottage, but I could not afford it. By pure coincidence 30 years ago I met with Col. Sean O'Driscoll who had restored Castle Matrix in County Limerick. Sean happened to have known my Dad, who by then had passed away.

We became best friends and he advised me to acquire a castle since it was cheap and restoring it only required labor, stones and wood, cheap as well. He advised me on the acquisition and restoration. After surveying more than 90 castles, including some in County Cork (alas too expensive or in bad repair) I acquired Ballinderry in Galway.

Tell us about your experiences while renovating the castle?

MPC: This could be the subject of a whole book! It is a very enriching experience, at time discouraging, but very rewarding. In the end I learned a lot about the old techniques and medieval architecture, doing things slowly to understand how the structure reacts to the renovation. But I think the best part is having the chance to meet good people happy to work on such a project. I became good friends with most of them and they know the castle is opened for them any time.

What would you like to see the Crowley Clan accomplish in the next 6 years?

MPC: We need to keep up the good work that has been done which is quite a responsibility, but also maintain the friendly social spirit in which everything is done. We do have an opportunity to join up with other Cork clans to increase awareness and achieve more Irish membership. Perhaps we can do this in a very informal way.

Certainly we have a major objective which will be the Battle of Clontarf's 1,000 year anniversary in 2014. I believe we all think that should be a major event for our clan since it was at this battle that we were given our name.

From Catherine Crowley Budd, Crowley Clan DNA Project Administrator

What a wonderful Crowley Clan Gathering we had in Kinsale this year. During the event I gave out eight DNA kits to potential new participants. As yet none have been returned.

If you were one of the recipients and have not returned your kit, please take the time to complete the test. If you have lost or misplaced the kit, please email me, and I will have a new one sent out to you

We are now up to 93 participants, but I need everyone to return their kit. To all those who have helped to recruit new members you have my heartfelt thanks. If anyone has questions or concerns about the process please feel free to email me at: Cbudd713@comcast.net.

Crowley Clan News

Margaret Brannan, Redditch, Worcestershire, UK

(margaret@alpineadventure.co.uk):

I would like to thank everyone involved in making the Crowley Gathering in Kinsale such a success, especially the ones in the background making it all happen. It was my first time at a Crowley Gathering, please God it won't be my last. For those of you who have not been to a Crowley Gathering, come home to the next one. You will have a great time and a wonderful failte.

For me, the Mass at the Crowley Castle was very spiritual. The piper piping us down to the alter for Mass was very moving. Father O'Brien said a lovely Mass, and I was glad that I was there with my missal.

Editor's note: Father O'Brien who said Mass at the Crowley Castle at the Gathering in Kinsale, forgot his missal. Fortunately, Margaret had hers and lent it to him. Good work, Margaret!

Dick and Helen Cheek, Portland, Oregon, USA

(cheeksr@msn.com):

If any members of the Crowley Clan from Ireland are coming to Oregon, they are welcome to stay with Richard and Helen Crowley Cheek in Portland. Our mailing address is

*5114 N.E. Wistaria Drive
Portland, Oregon, 97213
USA*

We attended the 2010 Crowley Clan Gathering in Kinsale along with our son John, granddaughter April, Helen's cousin Mary Beth Crowley Broderick, and her husband Jay Broderick also from Portland. We would love to receive any visitors.

Tom Crowley, Pontypool, Gwent, Wales

(tomascrow@talktalk.net):

Winter is now getting much colder, -8 Celsius last night. Further north it was -18 Celsius, although here we have only had one inch of snow, but more is in the forecast. So, up will go my heating bill which is expensive here.

My daughter Anne who lives and teaches in Brunei Borneo is coming home for Christmas, so we will have a good family get-together which will be great.

Carol Doran Barlow, Rocklin, CA

(cdoran1927@sbcglobal.net):

I'm including a couple of "strays", records that I picked up this past year in researching 20,000 pages of Irish History for my O'Doran family of Leinster, County Wexford. They are from *Hores' History of Ireland*. These records indicate that Gerald De Courcy, Lord Kingsale, had Mary daughter of Cornelius Crowley for his second wife, and that she was the mother of his sons.

I'm currently writing the O'Doran's history in Ireland.

Editor's note: Carol wrote her Crowley family history in 1999.

Gerald de Courcy, Lord Kingsale From *Hores' History of Ireland Volume IV, Page 40*

Submitted by Carol Doran Barlow

Gerald, 18 Baron

His Lordship married to his first Wife Catharine, Daughter of William Cogan, Esq., by whom he had no issue; and 2dly Mary, Daughter to Cornelius O Cruley of Carbery in the County of Cork, Esq., Chief of his Sept, and dying 25 July 1628, was buried in the Abby of Tymoleague, having issued one Daughter Ellen, married to Randal Hurley of Ballynacargy, Esq., and four Sons, Gerald, his Heir; Edmond, who died childless; Patrick, who succeeded to the Title; and David, who, against the Family's Consent, married Elizabeth, Daughter to Mr. Vicars (or Vizard) of Carbery, and had three Sons (1) Anthony, who died without issue male. (2) Miles, who by Elizabeth, Daughter to Mr. Williams of Rhode Island in North America, left three Sons, William, Heir Apparent to the Barony of Kingsale, on failure of Issue male in the present Lord; James, and John, all in his Majesty' Sea Service. (3) John, living in Bandon, hath no Issue.

Gerald, 19 Baron

Gerald, the 19th Baron of Kingsale, was of full Age at his Father's Death, and a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to King Charles I., in whose first Parliament, 14 July 1634, he took his Seat in the House of Lords, but died in the Year 1642, and by Hellen, Daughter to Sir John FitzGerald of Dromanagh in the County of Waterford, left an only Daughter Mary, married to Sir Patrick Gough of Killmanehine in that County; so that the Honour devolved on his Brother.

Patrick, 20 Baron

Patrick, the 20th Lord, who, in Consequence of Cromwell's Scheme for transplanting the Irish into Conaught, was ordered, among others, to retire into that Province; but his Lordship procuring several Certificates of his good and peaceable Behaviour during the Troubles, which he represented in a Memorial to the Protector, he procured an Order of Council, dated 19 May 1655, to prevent his Transplantation and to allow him the peaceable Possession of his ancient Inheritance.

Col. Donal Francis Crowley Former Crowley Clan Taoiseach

Sister Anne Marie Crowley has informed us that her brother, Col. Donal Francis Crowley, died on December 13, 2010 in Dunlaoghaire, Dublin. "He had been ill for some time and being the old soldier that he was, he fought a long tough battle. Finally and peacefully his dear soul took flight into eternity. His requiem Mass was celebrated by the chief army chaplain of the Free State Army, Father Eoin Thyne who extolled Donal's virtues and emphasised his love for his family, his country and for the life in the army.

"His wife Kay, his son Ross, his three daughters, Sharon, Janet and Elva were present. Also present, were six of his eight sisters and one of his brothers-in-law. His two surviving brothers were not well enough to make the journey. There were many of his friends from the army including the only survivor of those who were with him in the Congo in 1959/62. He had a military funeral. It was most impressive to see six young soldiers carrying the coffin which was draped in the tricolour, surmounted by his hat and ceremonial sword."