

CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

November 2011

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



2013 Crowley Clan Gathering in Kinsale

On the evening of September 26, the Crowley Council met at Jerry Crowley's pub in Crossmahon for its fall 2011 meeting. Those attending were Jerry, Liam, Larry, Flor, James and Ann Crowley and Mary O'Flynn from Bandon and Tom Crowley from USA.

Taoiseach Jerry Crowley brought the meeting to order, Runai Mary O'Flynn read the minutes of the last meeting.

The Crowley Clan will next hold a gathering of the clan in Kinsale, County Cork on September 13, 14, and 15, 2013. The venue will probably be Acton's Hotel.

Preliminary program subject to change:

Friday:

Afternoon: Registration

Evening: Meet and mingle reception

Late Evening: Music and set dancing

Saturday:

10:30 AM: Business meeting possibly followed by an Irish family connection discussion

Afternoon: Reenactment of the Battle of Kinsale

Evening: Crowley Banquet and informal music to encourage Crowleys from Ireland and from abroad to meet one another

Sunday:

10:30 AM: Depart venue for Crowley Castle site with Mass at noon

Lunch: Soup & sandwiches at Crossmahon Pub

3:00 PM: Road bowling

Evening: Barbeque cookout at Crossmahon Pub with music and singing.

2014 will be the 1,000th anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf, where the Crowleys received their name "Hard Warrior" from Brian Boru. We expect to participate with the O'Brien Clan who are organizing the 2014 celebration.

Tom Crowley

Oct, 2011

Crowley Clan.Com Facebook

The Crowley Clan now has a presence on Facebook. Search for crowleyclan.com and friend us. Marian Crowley Chamberlain began the page in September, and Stephany Crowley Howarth has agreed to co-administrate the page.

Stop by and join in the discussion about where your Crowleys are from and how your Crowleys pronounce their name. Stories, comments, photos and videos are welcome. This will expand our presence on the web.

Crowley Clan News

Maureen Crowley, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

(squirrelcreek@nexicom.net):

We had a wonderful time in Ireland in May. We started off in Northern Ireland, and I was surprised to find out that there is still a lot of political tension. It was very interesting. I loved the Giants Causeway!

We did the south and stayed at Dromcloc House B & B with John and Dympha Crowley in Bantry. We had nice visit. We found that although public transportation is good, it does limit you to where and when you can travel. My good friend and I didn't do too badly for two old ladies backpacking for two weeks.

I am planning on going to the Crowley Clan Gathering in 2013 when I retire. Now I'm saving up for it.

I would be happy to provide any helpful information, for those wishing to try public transportation. It is great, where the train can't get to the bus will, and it's good if driving on the Irish roads is extremely stressful for drivers like me.

Catherine Crowley Budd, Marathon, Florida, USA

(cbudd713@comcast.net):

Our DNA project now has 98 members. Unfortunately, none of the kits that I passed out while in Ireland at the gathering have been returned. If you know of someone who has a kit, or if you lost your kit, please email me and I will have another sent out. I receive several inquiries a month about the project. Not everyone is able to participate, but there is keen interest in the project. If you know of anyone who might be interested in participation, please have them contact me.

Robert Rohu, Ireland:

(robertrohu@eircom.net):

It was great to work with Liam and friends on the Crowley Castle. I would like to keep the friendship going with you, so maybe we can keep in touch by email. To say that I enjoyed the chance to meet you all is an understatement. I am available if anyone wants to chat re maintaining the good work that has been done at the castle. Once again I am proud to have worked on your heritage site and look forward to meeting you all again should the chance present itself.

Stephany Anne Crowley, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

(slipperydiver@gmail.com):

Stephany and her dad, Michael Alfred Crowley, have returned to Montreal after their adventure in Ireland. She sends this photo of them on the Ring of Beara.



Land Tenure in the Gaelic times

By Michael-Patrick Crowley

Land tenure in the Gaelic times, until the collapse of the Gaelic order and laws by the mid 17th century, is both the essence of the clan system and one of the major factors which lead to constant warfare with the waves of newcomers in Ireland. Putting aside some very romantic thoughts of the Gaelic past, let's look at the reality of our ancestors' way of life.

Under the Brehon law system, that is the Gaelic laws, lands were the family or clan commune. All families and individuals related to the same eponymous ancestor could claim land usage while the ownership of land was held in common. This was an entirely different legal framework from feudal Europe where the landlord held the land on behalf of his suzerain or overlord, and ultimately at the top of the hierarchy from the King. The Gaelic system resulted in a level of independence of the clans unknown to other areas in Europe, a real clash of civilization.

J.B. Falconner in 1867 states: "The sept (clan) at large possessed the indefeasible property in all the lands occupied by it. Celtic law declared that not the individual, but the nation (the clan or sept), so to say, had the proprietary right to the land. The main distinctive feature of the Brehon Laws was the fact that the land was held to be possessed by the tribe in- common and not by separate individual proprietors".

Dr. O'Donovan in 1849 goes further: "Those of lowest rank among a great tribe traced and retained the whole of their descent with the same care which in other nations was peculiar to the rich and great; for it was from his own genealogy that each man of the tribe, poor as well as rich, held the charter of his civil state, his right of property in the cantred in which he was born, the soil of which was occupied by one family or clan, and in which no one lawfully possessed any portion of the soil if was not of the same race of the chief".

So if the clan lands were held in common, how was it allocated to families? The practice over the whole of Ireland was to provide a large proportion to the elected Chief and his immediate relatives. That proportion varied between 20% to 40%, however, in West Cork it appears that the practice was set at about a quarter of the land. Diarmuid O'Murchadha, 1993, conducted an analysis of land tenure of the O'Leary Clan in 1650, which would reflect quite well the end of Gaelic times. He found that the Chief, Domhnall held 23.4% of the land, the eldest son and tanist of the former Chief Donnchadh held 14.2, while his two brothers held 10.1% and 7.1% respectively. The rest of the land was held by 11 individuals who each had two townlands (totaling 27.3%), while 17 held a single townland (totaling 11.6 %).

The analysis shows that land was redistributed among the clan members at each new Chief election. In the example above Donnchadh should have succeeded his father, however, Domhnall was elected and succeeded his brother Airt, occupying the allotted lands to the Chieftdom but providing a substantial share of the lands to his nephew and former tanist. With population change land tenure changed as well; for example under Brehon Laws a widow would find upon the death of her husband their lands redistributed among other clan member leaving her only a quarter of the share. In the O'Leary example the 17 individuals holding just a single townland will find some of their next generation facing the prospect of moving outside the clan commune or else becoming a tradesman providing services to the clan members.

What can we say about the O'Crowley lands? Can we find a similar pattern? It seems so. Looking at the townlands in O'Crowley ownership at about the same time we have a total of 13,014 acres covering areas of Fanllobus and Kinneigh parishes in Kilshallow. There is a pattern of townland occupation for the elected Chief since the documented period of the 1570s providing 28.2 % of the land (Ahakeera, Behagullane, Lisheenleigh, Anaharlick, Kinneighbeg, Drimidiclogh, Dromfeagh).

It is worth noting that when Teige MacDermot becomes the Chief around 1601, Drimidiclogh and Dromfeagh are detached to the sons of the former Chiefs Cormac and Teige, a very similar scheme as found in the O'Leary case. The O'Crowley example is also of interest if we look at lands outside the clan commune of Kilshallow. In Skeaff (Kilmaloda), Ballinacloghie (Ross) or Phale (Ballymoney) in O'Crowley ownership it appears that the lands were transferred from one generation to the other; probably being outside of the clan commune these lands were exempted from the reallocation schemes following elections of the Chief.

Reference: *Cork History and Society, Gaelic Land Tenure in County Cork: Uibh Laoghaire in the Seventeenth Century*, Diarmuid O'Murchadha, Geography Publications, 1993

Meet John A. Crowley Crowley Clan Representative for USA



How long have you been involved with the Crowley Clan?

I attended my first Clan Gathering in September of 1998 and was hooked.

How did you get started?

In the fall of 1997 while doing genealogy research I ran across a genealogy magazine that referenced the Crowley Clan gathering. I called Tom Crowley (Akron, Ohio) for details and started making plans to attend the 1998 gathering in Bandon. The first person I met when I walked into the Munster Arms Hotel was Terry Crowley (Ontario, Canada). Ironically, the DNA project had revealed that Terry and I share an ancestor within the last 15 generations.

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

I have been privileged to meet many fine people, some who are no longer with us but who as well as the living hold a very special place in my soul.

What is your professional background?

I have worked in the food service business most of my life, first, in restaurant management for fifteen years, and the last twenty-five years I have worked for food service distributors who sell food and supplies to restaurants. My time with distributors has been divided between sales (working a sales route) and marketing and public relations.

What are your interests, hobbies, etc.?

Genealogy & Photography

Tell us about your family and about your Crowley ancestors.

I am a bachelor and the only son, so my line will stop with me.

My Irish ancestor was Felix Crowley born in County Louth in 1834. He was the son of William Crowley and Margaret Clarke and the grandson of Laurence Crowley and Mary Greenan. The family left County Louth in the late

1840's for Glasgow, Scotland where they remained.

Felix came to America about 1852. He entered through the port of Philadelphia later working in the coal mines of western Pennsylvania. By 1860 Felix had relocated to Eastern Tennessee, Polk County where he worked in the copper mines. By 1880 the family moved across the state line into neighboring Union County, Georgia where they purchased land and began farming.

My father James Edward Crowley was born in Union County, Georgia in 1905. Most of my Crowley line remains in Georgia today.

How many people have you registered for the Crowley Clan Gatherings since you became the USA Representative?

I became the USA rep shortly before the 2001 gathering. I looked back briefly through my records and estimate I registered 225 to 250 attendees.

When can we expect to see you in person at a Gathering?

I always plan and hope to attend the next gathering. Then life dictates if I actually get to attend.

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

I would like to see an active genealogical data base set up and maintained for all Crowley Clan members.



Crowleys assembled for Mass at the Crowley Castle in September of 2010. The restoration work on the castle was done by Robert Rohu, Master Stonemason.