

CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

March 2013

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



John A. Crowley

Global Registrar for Crowley Gathering



The Crowley Clan Council has announced that John A. Crowley of Albany GA will act as registrar for all Crowleys attending the 2013 Crowley Clan Gathering in Kinsale next September with the exclusion of participants from Ireland.

To reserve your place at this historic gathering, mail your name, the names of those in your party, your address and phone number to John along with your check. You can find the conversion rate for your local currency at your local bank or on the internet. John's address is:

*John A. Crowley
2506 Elton Street
Albany, GA 31707, USA.*

Those of you who have attended recent Crowley Clan Gatherings in Ireland are familiar with John and the very professional and organized way in which he has handled previous registrations. His hard work makes registration on the first day of the gathering an easy task. Thank you, John!!!

Accommodations in Kinsale For Crowley Clan Gathering

With only a few months left until the Crowley Clan Gathering in Kinsale, Ireland it is time to make your lodging reservations, if you haven't already.

The primary venue of the gathering will be the Trident Hotel on the waterfront in Kinsale. The hotel has been holding rooms for us, and they will continue to do so until May 1. Rates begin at €150 per person sharing for two nights bed and breakfast. Email Eleanor Wrixton (ewrixton@tridenthotel.com) and ask for the Crowley's rate.

Kinsale is a tourist-friendly town, and there are many hotels, guest houses, and bed/breakfasts within walking distance of the Trident. Nearby Acton's Hotel (www.actonshotel.com) is scheduled to reopen this spring. Also, check www.kinsale.ie for a full listing of accommodations.

Anne Crowley O'Connell (info@kinsaleholidayvillage.com), who manages Kinsale Holiday Village (www.kinsaleholidayvillage.com), informs us that she has three bedroom houses available for the time period of the gathering.

Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of our 18th year of publication. We began the Crowley Clan Newsletter after the Crowley Clan Gathering in Dunmanway in 1995. The goal was to provide a means for Crowleys who regularly attended the gatherings to keep in contact with one another between our every three year event. We were in Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, England, New Zealand and the United States, a very global group of Crowleys. The newsletter gave us a vehicle to communicate with one another more often than just once in three years.

At one time, we would mail out over 100 copies of each issue. Today the number of subscribers to the paper newsletter is dwindling and no wonder. It is easier, faster, and cheaper to read the newsletter online at www.crowleyclan.com thanks to our Webmaster, Jim Ritzert. And that is what most people do. We also can keep in contact on our [facebook page](#). Join us on either or both.

Are you planning on attending the Crowley Clan Gathering this September in Kinsale? If so, it is time to finalize your plans! This issue contains information on how to reserve a room at the Trident Hotel (primary venue for the gathering) at the Crowley Clan rate. Hurry because rooms are booking up and the discount is only good until May 1. We also have information on how to preregister for the Crowley Gathering.

Many of you are familiar with John A. Crowley from Georgia. This year the Crowley Clan Council has named John as global registrar. That means no matter what country you live in, with the exception of Ireland, you can send your registration check to John. He will handle all of the information and forward it on to the Crowley Council in County Cork.

You also will find some very interesting information about the Crowley Clan Coat of Arms in this issue. What is its history, who is entitled to use it, how are coats of arms regulated in England and Ireland? Michael-Patrick Crowley from France has done a great deal of research on the Irish history, Crowley history, and the development and use of coats of arms. Michael, by the way, is the current Tànaiste of our clan and will become our Taoiseach in September.

Hope you enjoy the Spring newsletter. As always, let us know any questions, thoughts, or comments.

Mise le meas,

Marian

Tentative Schedule for the 2013 Gathering

The Crowley Clan Council has announced a tentative schedule of events for the 2013 Gathering of the Clan Crowley, from Friday September 13, 2013 to Sunday September 15, 2013 in Kinsale, County Cork, Ireland.

Friday, 13 September

- 2:00 PM - Registration opens
- 6:00 PM - Wine & Cheese Reception
- 8:00 PM - Irish Music

Saturday, 14 September

- 10:00 AM - Business meeting
- DNA Report by Catherine Crowley Budd
- Clan History by Seamus Crowley
- Tony McCarthy, Founder of *"Irish Roots"* Magazine and Author of *Tracing Your Cork Ancestors* and *Irish Roots Guide*
- 12:30 PM - Lunch (on your own)
- 2:00 PM - Tours of Kinsale
- 6:30 PM - Cocktail Reception (Cash bar)
- 7:30 PM - Banquet Keynote address by Brian Crowley, MEP and Remarks by Dr. Patrick Crowley, Kilkenny County Councilman Music for Dancing or Listening

Sunday, 15 September

- 11:00 AM - Meet at Trident Hotel for Transportation to Castle PERSONAL CARS NOT ALLOWED
- 12:00 noon - Mass at Crowley Castle at Ahakeera
- 3:00 PM - Transport to Crossmahon for Traditional Gaelic Games. Spectators Needed!!
- 5:00 PM - BBQ at Crossmahon - Jer Crowley's Pub
- 7:00 PM - Irish Music and Dancing

Monday, 16 September

- Golf tournament at Old Head in Kinsale.

NOTE: There are still rooms available at the Trident Hotel. The special rate for the Crowley Clan is good until May 1. Contact Eleanor Wrixon, phone: 00 353 21 477 9300 or email ewrixon@tridenthotel.com. Ask for the Crowley discount when you book.

2014 will be the 1,000 year anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf, where the Crowleys received their name 'Hardy Warrior' from Brian Boru. We expect to participate with the O'Brien Clan which is organizing the 2014 celebration.

JOIN US IN BEAUTIFUL KINSALE!!!

2013 Crowley Clan Gathering Registration Information

Registration is now open for the September 13th to 15th, 2013 Crowley Gathering at The Trident Hotel in Kinsale, County Cork, Ireland.

This is our every three year Crowley Gathering, but it has added importance this year, as it precedes by several months the 1,000 anniversary of our Crowley surname. On Good Friday, April 23, 1014 the Irish forces of Brian Boru, the Irish king, defeated the Vikings at Clontarf near Dublin. Our Crowley ancestor was so outstanding in this battle that Brian named him "Cruadhlaoich" or "Hard Warrior". This has been anglicized to Crowley.

Before May 31, 2012 the fee for the entire weekend's activities is €130/per person.

After May 31, 2012 the fee for the entire weekend's activities is €140/per person.

Remittance should be made out to "Crowley Clan" and sent to:

*John A. Crowley
2506 Elton Street
Albany, GA 31707
Phone (USA): 229-878-8474
Email: jcrowley@jacrowley.net*

This fee covers all events for the weekend, including the Saturday evening banquet, transportation from the hotel to all events, as well as insurance for the Crowley Castle site visit, and organizational expenses, printing, etc.

You can find conversion rates for your currency into Euros online at sites such as www.xe.com/ucc/, or you can ask your local bank.

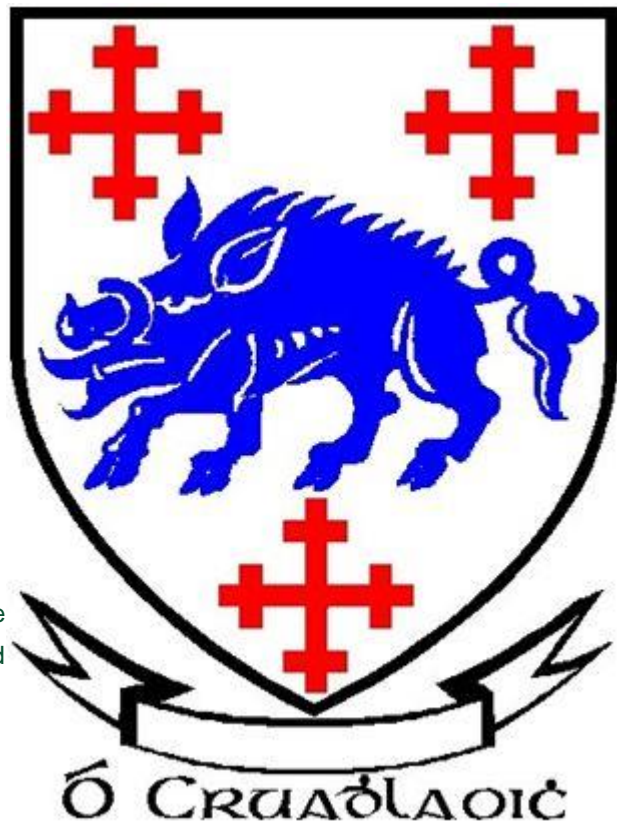
Air travel and hotel reservations are the responsibility of the individual.

The Crowley Coat of Arms

by Michael-Patrick Crowley

In England and continental Europe feudal society coat of arms were the exclusive use of individuals of the nobility and clergy, tied to lordship titles. These were strictly regulated by heralds and courts, heralds granting arms on behalf of the sovereign with specific heraldic terminology for colours and figures. This practice would be introduced in Ireland with the coming of the Cambro-Normans. Prior to the formal introduction of heraldry we know from extensive documentation that the Irish used clan and tribe symbols, notably on banners which sometimes displayed very sophisticated designs, these form the bases of many Irish coat of arms.

In 1362 King Richard II of England created the Herald of Ireland office with Chandos being the first King of Arms of Ireland who had wide powers; to search and enter any castle, church or house to deface, burn or pull down any representations of arms illegally borne. As part the Anglicization policy of the Gaels, in 1484 Henry VII encouraged Finghin MacCarthy Reagh, 8th Prince of Carbery, whom he held in high regard, to receive homage of his vassal lords and chiefs in the feudal manner. The O'Crowley, O'Mahony, O'Driscoll and O'Donovan were thus recognized as Lords and the recording of Gaelic coats of arms started from this date. In 1562 the herald Bartholomew Butler confirmed Cormac O'Crowley coat of arms and Lordship, styled esquire and "of Carbery" , The O'Crowley was paying a Lord fee of £ 9, 4 s, 4 d to MacCarthy Reagh (feudalism comes from the term "fee"). Subsequent coat of arms confirmations were made later as well as recording in the Funeral Entries, 1588, 1618, 1775.



James II in exile in France had at his court a herald, James Terry, styled Athlone Herald. Terry recorded or confirmed over 120 Chiefs of clans coat of arms, including O'Crowley. Interestingly all these were recognized in the kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland by act of the British Parliament.

So, since 1484 the O'Crowley coats of arms have been recorded, these have not evolved overtime, all subsequent confirmations and grants bear the same arms. The central figure of the wild boar undoubtedly is an old Celtic symbol of the warrior qualities, strength, courage, fighting to death. We have ample references in antiquity of the Celts using this symbol in battle. It is of interest to note that the related clans, MacDermot, O'Crowley, MacDonagh, O'Mulrooney, do have this figure as central in their coat of arms, it must have been a common old tribe totem, perhaps recalling the legend of Diarmuid and Graine. The cross crosslet does symbolise the mystery of the faith while making reference to the 4 essentials of nature; earth, water, fire, sky, all merging into one.

What are the rules of bearing arms? In Ireland the English and Scottish rules apply, anyone bearing arms in the proper sense (use of them on a seal, letter headings, or banner) must either have a grant or a proven unbroken lineage from one who had a grant. Arms are thus personal, part of unalienable property attached to the patronymic. Since the establishment of the Free State, and the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland in 1943 (replacing the Ulster King of Arms) Ireland has its own heraldic authority.

Considering the particular historical background of Gaelic Ireland based clan society, the first Chief Herald of Ireland, Edward MacLysaght, introduced the practice that persons descending from Irish clans, could display in the form of a plaque the recorded arms of the Chief or former Chief (when extinct). He further recommended that a clan member wishing to do so should get a confirmation of arms to avoid improper display, for example O'Kellys in Antrim do not wear the same arms as the O'Kellys of Galway.

In conclusion while the Irish clans had their own symbols of distinction, the Clan Chiefs incorporated them adopting coat of arms in the British fashion along with the official recognition of their status and lordship. This allowed the Chiefs to navigate in both societies, Gaelic and English, playing as much as they could a survival game.

There are five O'Crowley recorded coats of arms, the main one recorded since 1484 for the Chiefs of the clan, and which since has not changed is: argent (white), a boar passant azur (blue), three cross crosslets gules (red).

Our arms are some of the oldest Gaelic arms recorded; they display the continuation of our Gaelic clan emblem, the wild boar, symbol of the Celtic warrior fierceness and courage, preferring to die than to yield. The heraldic recording including this symbol is just a confirmation of status. Today when we proudly display the clan banner we raise the clan emblem over a thousand years old, the spirit of the wild boar is with us. We, as fierce Gaelic warriors of princely origin, are still alive and are linking with our ancestors whom by this very act are with us as well.

Anyone wishing to have more information on heraldry in Ireland should go to www.nli.ie/en/heraldry-introduction.aspx. If you have proven Irish descent you may apply for a grant of arms. Though I feel there are no better coats of arms than the O'Crowley Clan's, I would be happy to provide advice.