

CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

July 2014

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



1000th Anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf

From April 23 to April 25 the Crowley Clan participated in the commemoration of the 1000th anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf. High King Brian Boru leading the Irish army defeated the Vikings of Dublin, Manx and Orkneys in a decisive battle which crushed forever the Viking power in Ireland. It is at this battle that the name of our clan was given to our ancestor by King Brian.

We proudly participated in the Christ Church ceremony, along with other clan representatives such as The O'Kelly, The O'Tierney, in all about 12 Clan Chiefs were present including our Taoiseach. Our clan throughout the celebration event had a strong representation with Liam, Larry, Dr Patrick, Charlie, Moira (Dr Pat's sister). In support our friend Sean de Verdun had the courtesy to take a picture.



At the celebration banquet our clan delegation made quite an impression as the Crowleys walked into Clontarf Castle Hotel with two pipers, our banner displayed and standing high, walking to the reception of the O'Brien Clan and presenting our Banner to The O'Brien, 32nd descendant in direct line from King Brian.

Later the pipers piped in The O'Brien to his banquet table, and performed the best piping. Alen and Terry Tully are pipers from the Saint Lawrence O'Toole Pipe Band. In 2010 they were world champions. We are proud to have escorted The O'Brien as our ancestor did fight for him at Clontarf.

Contributed by Michael-Patrick Crowley, an Taoiseach

Note: The majority of this article has been superseded by the [Taoiseach's letter](#) in the Autumn 2014 edition of the Crowley Newsletter, which contains much more information than is presented here. The corrections noted here reflect the updates.

Save the Date

The Crowley Clan Council has announced that the next gathering of the Clan Crowley will take place from September 9 to 11, 2016 in ~~the portside city of Kinsale~~, Bantry, Ireland.

The primary venue of the gathering will be ~~Acton's Hotel on Pier Road facing the harbor in Kinsale. This historic hotel, which was the site of the 2010 Crowley Clan Gathering, has recently reopened after a renovation.~~ The Maritime Hotel, The Quay, in Bantry.

~~Acton's will hold a block of rooms for Crowleys for the weekend. You can make your reservation by email at info@actonshotelkinsale.com. Be sure to ask for the special rate for Crowleys.~~ We have negotiated special rates, which will be available for the weekend. Maritime's web address is www.themaritime.ie.

Total plans for the weekend have not yet been announced, but they will include a clan meeting, banquet, touring, a trip to the Crowley Clan Castle at Ahakeera, and a chance to meet other Crowleys from around the world.

The Crowley Council also sends apologies to everyone who ordered a DVD of the last gathering. The original editing did not prove satisfactory, and a total re-edit will be necessary. If you ordered a copy, your name is still on the list.

From Marian's Desk . . .

In our summer issue we have some interesting and informative articles which were contributed by Crowleys from France, Canada, and the USA. We have information about the Crowley Gathering in 2016 in Kinsale, Ireland and the Crowley Gathering in 2014 in Peterborough, Ontario. We have what I think is a very interesting article asking the question: who are the true Crowleys. We have news of honors, births, and events around the world.

We all wish we could have been in Dublin on April 19th to participate in the Battle of Clontarf Festival. Those of us who couldn't be there in person can rest assured that the Crowley Clan was well represented by our Taoiseach, our Tanaiste, and our Oifigeach Cadraimh Poibli (that is our chieftain, our deputy chieftain and our public relations officer). Michael-Patrick, Dr. Pat, and Liam were joined by Larry and Charlie. You can see their photo and an account of the ceremony on [page 1](#). Also you will find links to more photos and information on the internet on [page 4](#). Thanks, Crowleys!! You did us proud.

I continue to be amazed by the following we have picked up on Facebook. I'm a newbie to social media, but it is SO much fun. I can post something and in 5 minutes, 20 people around the world have seen it, and one or two will comment on it. By the end of the day there can be hundreds of people reached. One post, about the Peterborough Crowleys in the St. Patrick's Day Parade reached an unbelievable 2,464 people! There were 119 likes, 30 shares, and nine comments. That is our record, but I'd love to top it.

Visit us on Facebook at our www.crowleyclan.com page and leave us a message or post your comments on the page. Tell us what you like. Join in the virtual community of the Crowley Clan.

The Crowley Clan Newsletter can only exist with content contributions from our readers. If you are reading this page, you are a part of our target audience. You are one of the Crowleys whose interests and ideas we want to know more about. Always feel free to contact us by email (crowleychamberlain@gmail.com) or by postal mail (address on the "[Contacts](#)" page).

Let us know what we can do to make the newsletter more interesting and to focus it toward your needs and interests.

We also welcome family news of weddings, births, graduations, honors, travels, family get-togethers, and memorials. Photos are most welcome; however, we do need the permission of all the people in the photo.

Enjoy your summer, and hope to hear from you.

Mise le meas,

Marian

Crowley World News

Thomas R. Crowley, Akron, Ohio:

Dr. James L. Crowley, professor at Universite de Grenoble, France was recently awarded the National Order of Merit, the second highest honor the President of the French Republic awards. This singular award is for Jim's pioneering work in the area of Robotics, Computer Vision, and Artificial Intelligence, as well as creation of an international masters program in computer science, and contributions to the local economy.

Jim was raised in San Antonio, TX and received his BSc degree from Southern Methodist in Dallas followed by an MSc and Doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. In 1985, Jim took a leave of absence from the Carnegie Mellon Robotics Institute to work as a visiting Professor at Grenoble Polytechnic Institute in France. He was appointed as full professor at Grenoble Polytechnic Institute in 1988. He is married to Joelle Coutaz who is a professor at the University of Grenoble.

This honor is very exclusive, particularly for a non-French citizen. Jim is a cousin of Tom Crowley (former Taoiseach) and now should be addressed as Professor James Crowley, Chevalier de l'ONM. Congratulations Jim!

Patty O'Brien, Yukon, Canada:

Met some members of the Crowley Clan at the Brian Boru 2014 Commemoration Banquet at Clontarf Castle and feel very honoured to know them and to have sung with them, shared stories and good times. Would go into battle with them in a heartbeat!

Michael-Patrick Crowley, Paris, France:

Here is the link to the YouTube video of the celebration of the Battle of Clontarf at Christ Church. www.youtube.com/watch?v=jY43iDJe1LM.

And here is a link to the O'Brien facebook photo album www.facebook.com/moirajane#!/photo.php?fbid=10154074466220374&set=pb.741025373.-2207520000.1400676524.&type=3&theater.

James Crowley, Bandon, Ireland:

Congratulations to James, who is our Crowley Clan Cisteoir, and his wife Kate who are the proud first-time parents of a baby girl named Charlotte.

Will the Real Crowley Please Step Up!

Hello, there! I am a Crowley from the States. My name is Barbara Crowley Burdick, and I was born in 1967 in North Hornell, NY. I am the daughter of Donald Harry Crowley, born on May 5, 1938 in Hornell, NY and passed away on February 14, 2012 in Rochester, NY. He, in turn, was the son of Harry William Crowley born around the turn of the 20th century in Deposit, NY. My Great-grandfather was born the son of Irish immigrants from County Cork. My great-great grandparents departed County Cork c. 1850.

My Uncle Richard Crowley's former fiancée did a wonderfully-detailed genealogy of all of our family lines, the Crowley line going back as far as my great-great grandparents of County Cork. It included such colorful details such as that my great-(great?) uncle passed away at the throttle of an Erie railroad locomotive. My Deposit ancestors and relatives were mainly railroad men, and that tradition continued down to my father.

During the night, I came across the Pinterest pages of a chap calling himself "HRH Prince Andrew O'Crowley." He claims to be of the rightful royal family of Ireland and Britain. I jokingly commented that I knew that I was supposed to be a princess (I'm about as royal as Mia before she became Princess of Genovia - lol!), but obviously this guy seems to be under the impression that the only REAL Crowleys are the O'Crowleys. The rest of us are usurpers. He claims to have the list of the only REAL O'Crowleys, and we who are not on his list are likely not of the Ireland Crowleys, or, at the very best, the descendants of servants who took on the Crowley name, much as slaves in America took on the names of their masters.

Which begs the question: Why are there so many of us from Cork, and why don't we know we aren't "real" Crowleys? His dates as to when the Crowleys took their surname also seem to be off. To my understanding, it was in 1014.

Since this guy also claims to have been shortchanged on the treasure of Queen Boudicca, something stolen by Russia (I haven't read all of his boards), and ancient Egyptian family treasures, and also tends to punctuate these claims profusely with exclamation points, I'm thinking he might be a little dotty.

I'm just wondering if anyone else has heard of him and his claims, and are we the illegitimate bastards he seems to be implying we are? I don't need to be a royal, but I'd like to think I'm still a Crowley!

Editor's Note: I think you answered your own question, Barbara. You know quite a bit about your Crowleys, they are from Cork, and you are proud of them. You are therefore qualified to be a "true Crowley". Ignore all who tell you otherwise.

Crowleys Celebrating 1,000th Anniversary Of Their Irish Name

Maureen Crowley is the Chair of the Peter Robinson Crowleys Committee. She is currently organizing a Crowley Clan Gathering of Crowleys in the Peterborough, Ontario area on June 14th at Assumption Hall in Petersborough. Maureen also helps to organize the group of Crowleys who march annually in the Peterborough St. Patrick Parade. The following is an article that appeared in the local newspaper about Maureen and her work with the Crowleys.

Peterborough This Week

By Lance Anderson

PETERBOROUGH, Ontario

The Crowley clan has 1,000 reasons to celebrate its historic role in the development of Peterborough at this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade. This year marks the 1,000th anniversary of the Crowley name. The name's lineage has been traced back to 1014 following the Battle of Clontarf in Ireland.

The oldest living Crowley in the Peterborough area is Anne Gainey (née Crowley), 94. She grew up on the Crowley Line where many Crowleys settled after they came to the area with Peter Robinson in 1825. Miss Crowley married George Gainey. Together they had seven children. Their son Bob went on become an NHL star and vice-president and manager of the Montreal Canadiens. "Oh my goodness," says Mrs. Gainey, when told of her maiden name's 1,000 year history. "And I'm still here."

Although Mrs. Gainey doesn't know much about her family's background, her brother Dick, 83, does. He traced the family's tree through ancestral records. He says three Crowley families settled in Otonabee Township on what became the Crowley Line.

Mrs. Gainey says when she was growing-up, there were at least seven Crowley family homesteads on the rural farm road south of Peterborough. The book *Forest To Farm: Early Days In Otonabee*, written by D. Gayle Nelson of Keene, outlines some family history.

Ms Nelson writes that many Crowley family members were identified by nicknames and came to be known as the Foxy Crowleys, the Black Crowleys and the Yankee Crowleys.

Mr. Dick Crowley appreciates the importance of his family ties to the Peterborough area. He is pleased people are recognizing the 1,000th anniversary of their namesake. "It's always good to educate the next generation. If you don't, history will be lost," says Mr. Crowley.



Locally, Ms Crowley is organizing the Crowley float that will be in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday (March 16) as well as a Peterborough Crowley clan gathering on June 14 at Assumption Hall. She hopes local Crowleys come out to learn about their heritage and to commemorate their 1,000th anniversary.

"Universally, we have such a close-knit connection," says Ms Crowley.

This year in Ireland, Crowleys will be getting together to do a re-enactment of the Battle of Clontarf. Legend has it that it was there the name Crowley was bestowed upon a clan of fighting men by High King of Ireland Brian Boru during a battle against the King of Leinster Mael Morda Mac Murchada. During this battle, King Brian was so impressed with the fighting from a clan of fighting men he dubbed them 'Hard Warrior' (Crudadlaioich). Over time that name eventually became Crowley. When asked if she considered herself a 'hard warrior,' Mrs. Gainey replied: "I would say so. I had seven kids."

Unfortunately, Mrs. Gainey says her health will prevent her from joining her family at the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Tim Burke, parade organizer, says the festivities get underway at 2



p.m. at Peterborough City Hall. He adds there will be close to 80 entries in the parade, including 20 local Irish families being represented. "This parade has really grown because of what the parade is about. It's about families and kids," says Mr. Burke. He adds the friendly rivalry between the Irish families is a highlight as they try to outdo each other with their floats.

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The Crowley name is quite common in Ireland. Maureen Crowley from Peterborough has been to Ireland twice to meet her ancestors and trace her family's history.