

CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

March 2014

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



Letter from the Taoiseach

Michael-Patrick O'Crowley
3 rue de la Harpe
Taoiseach Crowley Clan
Saint-Leger, France

Dear Clansmen and Members,

I wish you a wonderful 2014 year, may this New Year bring you health and happiness to your families and dear ones. 2014 is going to be a special year for the Crowleys as we are celebrating the thousandth year of our name.

We are coordinating our participation to the anniversary of the battle of Clontarf in Dublin with the O'Briens, the preliminary plans are as follows:

- April 23, travel from West Cork to Killaloe, visit of Brian Boru's birth place and round fort homestead. Visit of ClareGalway Castle, lecture on Irish medieval architecture, complementary banquet in the castle
Hotel: ClareGalway Hotel - €75 per double room (10 rooms prebooked)
- April 24, Travel to Dublin, March of the Clans, Crowley Clan night out
- April 25, Reenactment of the Battle of Clontarf (organised by Clontarf Council). Banquet with the O'Briens at Clontarf Castle Hotel - €85 per person.
Hotel: Crown Plaza Dublin Airport - €105 per double room (10 rooms prebooked).

The Clan Council has decided on the dates for the next clan gathering, it will take place in Kinsale from the 9th to 11th September 2016. Kinsale was again selected as it is both a very attractive city, well situated and with the necessary accommodation for our group. Please note these dates in your calendar to prepare for your travelling.

Finally, we are still working on the reediting of the Crowley Clan book - we have had some technical issues due to compatibility of tools the manuscript being on a very old version of StarOffice and on diskettes. All should be in order for the reprint by February, this will be an updated version.

The last Clan Gathering video will be available in a few weeks, stay tuned. Should you have any questions on the Clontarf Celebration or any other subject, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Clan Council members. You can follow [CrowleyClan.Com on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CrowleyClan).

Notes from the Editor

From all of us at the Crowley Clan Newsletter, we wish you a very happy 2014.

You will also find New Year's greetings on page two from our Crowley Clan Taoiseach Michael-Patrick Crowley. Michael has some important information about the upcoming celebration of the Battle of Clontarf on April 23, 2014. It was at the Battle of Clontarf that King Brian Boru gave the Crowleys the name of "hardy warrior". We hope that some of you will be able to join in the festivities. If you do, please share your photos of the event with us.

It is also exciting that the date and the location of the 2016 Crowley Clan Gathering have been announced so early. That should give us all some time to make our plans to join in the celebration.

A long time Crowley Clan member, Tom Crowley of Wales, has recently passed away. I first met Tom (Thomas John Crowley) at my first clan gathering in 1994 in Dunmanway. The gatherings were much smaller in those days, and we had the opportunity to get to know all of the attendees.

Tom took an immediate interest in me, as he did in all of the attendees. I told him that I was trying to find the birth place of my great grandfather, and Tom started brainstorming with me. His interest was very inspiring to me.

At every gathering, Tom would attend as the sole contingent from Wales. He was always friendly, cheerful, and a true gentleman. He will be missed by all who knew him. Our condolences go to his family.

I had a chance in this issue to put my investigative skills to practice. Marjo Crowley from California presented me with the task of researching the background of the sailing vessel Crowley which the pirate Blackbeard captured in Charleston Harbor in 1718. What was the history of this ship? Who owned her, and what was she doing in Charleston (which happens to be my home port)? The results are surprising and unsettling. Read all about this interesting story on [page 5](#).

We also had a request from Jack Crowley who lives in Cork City. It is a health-related request, and hopefully someone reading this newsletter will be able to give Jack some information. This reminds us that, when we are researching our families, it is important to pay attention to the health histories of our relatives. Is there a disease or condition that seems to run through your family? Noting this information and passing it on to other family members can be helpful and even life saving.

We always enjoy hearing from our readers. We love to publish your stories, questions, and family pictures. Hope to hear from you soon.

Mise le meas.

Marian

Crowley Clan News

David Crowley, Worcestershire, UK

(dave@whitegateszero.wanadoo.co.uk):

Some time ago my sister traced the family line back to Derry in Ireland to 1676, but she could not go back further. I would like to find and to make contact with anyone out there whose history goes beyond this and had connections in Derry at that time?

I would love to hear from Crowleys from County Derry. Thank you in anticipation.

Maureen Crowley, Petersborough, Canada

(squirrelcreek@nexicom.net):

I have a little information for the newsletter.

In celebration of 1000 years of our family name The Peterborough Crowley's will participating in the Peterborough St. Patrick's Parade This will be a large gathering including the many different branches of Crowley families that live in the Peterborough area, some of whom have never met.

We are also planning a Peterborough Crowley's Clan Gathering in June. This will be an opportunity to meet other Crowley families that live in our area to share information, pictures and stories. I will keep you posted and will send you some pictures too.

Catherine Crowley Budd, Marathon, Florida, USA

(cbudd713@comcast.net):

I need everyone who has participated in the DNA study to update their profile. Many email addresses have changed which affects notices about possible matches. Please log in to your kit and update your personal information. If you don't remember your log in, call or email Family Tree DNA to get your log in and password. The email address is info@familytreedna.com and the phone number is 713-868-1438. Thank you.

Ethnicity Makeovers-Still Not Soup

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December 2013*

Unfortunately, ethnicity percentages, as provided by the major testing companies still disappoint more than thrill, at least for those who have either tested at more than one lab or who pretty well know their ethnicity via an extensive pedigree chart.

Ancestry.com is by far the worse example, swinging like a pendulum from one extreme to the other. But I have to hand it to them, their marketing is amazing. When I signed in, about to discover that my results had literally almost reversed, I was greeted with the banner "a new you." Yea, a new me, based on Ancestry's erroneous interpretation. And by reversed, I'm serious. I went from 80% British Isles to 6% and then from 0% Western Europe to 79%. So now, I have an old wrong one and a new wrong one - and indeed they are very different. Of course, neither one is correct...but those are just pesky details...

23andMe updated their ethnicity product this year as well, and fine tuned it yet another time. My results at 23andMe are relatively accurate. I saw very little change, but others saw more. Some were pleased, some not.

The bottom line is that ethnicity tools are not well understood by consumers in terms of the timeframe that is being revealed, and it's not consistent between vendors, nor are the results. In some cases, they are flat out wrong, as with Ancestry, and can be proven. This does not engender a great deal of confidence.

I only view these results as "interesting" or utilize them in very specific situations and then only using the individual admixture tools at www.Gedmatch.com on individual chromosome segments.

As Judy Russell says, "it's not soup yet." That doesn't mean it's not interesting though, so long as you understand the difference between interesting and gospel.

Genetic Genealogy Education Goes Mainstream

With the explosion of genetic genealogy testing, as one might expect, the demand for education, and in particular, basic education has exploded as well.

I've written a 101 series, Kelly Wheaton wrote a series of lessons and CeCe Moore did as well. Recently Family Tree DNA has also sponsored a series of free Webinars. I know that at least one book is in process and very near publication, hopefully right after the first of the year. We saw several conferences this year that provided a focus on Genetic Genealogy and I know several are planned for 2014. Genetic genealogy is going mainstream!!!

Let's hope that 2014 is equally as successful and that all these folks asking for training and education become avid genetic genealogists.

Roberta Estes

Crowleys, Blackbeard, And The Slave Trade

Marjo Crowley from Napa, California emailed me with a mystery. "I ran across some interesting information about Captain Edward Teach, aka Blackbeard, in a book called 'The Pirate Hunter of the Caribbean'. It seems that he, on board Queen Anne's Revenge, along with 3 sloops captured eight merchant ships in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, in May 1718. One of these ships was the "Crowley", mastered by Captain Clarke. It was bound for London. I found no other information about the ship."

I love a good mystery (probably why I love genealogy), so I went to work to find out what really happened with Blackbeard and the sailing vassal Crowley. I knew that there were seafaring Crowleys on the east coast of America in early history, but they were fisherman who sailed in the waters around Maine. There was no reason for their ships to be in Charleston harbor in 1718. I first tried contacting the author of "The Pirate Hunters of the Caribbean", David Cordingly. I emailed his publisher, and Cordingly did very graciously answer me by writing that he did not have any further information about the Crowley.

I then started Googling combinations of 1700s, sailing vessel Crowley, London. Finally, I discovered the connection. The Crowley was owned by John Crowley who was the son of Sir Ambrose Crowley of London. Sir Ambrose, who died in 1713, became successful manufacturing armaments during the European wars of the late 1600s. When peace came, the company needed to find new markets and began making hoes and other tools.

John Crowley took Sir Ambrose's company international concentrating on the new world and its farming needs. Crowley's inventory included "Carolina Hoes", "Carolina Axes", and padlocks "for Negroes Necks". Crowley was supplying the plantations of South Carolina with tools and with shackles for the purpose of transporting and restraining the Africans who were enslaved on the plantations.

Ironically, Sir Ambrose was known for his hard work, innovations, and for taking good care of his workers. "He was a man of unquenchable ambition and energy", Chris Evans, teacher of history at the University of Glamorgan in the UK wrote. Ambrose Crowley treated his workers far better than most employers of his time.

Blackbeard, Edward Teach, was considered a fearsome pirate, and there are varying accounts of his methods. Some historians say that he ruled by fear and intimidation, but not by violence. Another quotes him as saying, "I have to kill someone now or then, or they will forget who I am". He was in Charleston in May 1718 in search of medical supplies because his crew, and possibly Blackbeard himself, was ill. He captured several prominent Charlestonians and ransomed them for a chest of medicine.

So ends the mystery of Crowley, Blackbeard, and the slave trade.

Poly cystic kidney disease

Hi,

I hope you will help in a rather morbid request. Could I ask you to put this email up on the website and to circulate it to the membership.

I have Poly cystic kidney disease. It is in my case rather unpleasant at this stage. Last year my right kidney was removed and I am now on dialysis. The good side is that I now feel a lot better than previously.

It is a progressive, irreversible and incurable disease. It is congenital. It comes from one's ancestors. Not everyone gets it.

I would like to find out from whom I got it, not that I can do anything about that now. No one in my family can point to anyone they know of who had it before me.

Could I ask if there is anyone out there who knows of any Crowleys who have, had or may have had this disease. There are at least three other Crowleys on dialysis in Cork University Hospital. As I do not know any of them I am slow to ask questions. The staff are very discreet and never discuss other patients.

Recently I started on a two year diploma course in Genealogy in University College Cork under my good friend Dr David Butler. It promises to be quite interesting. Two years ago I attended a short course on the subject in UCC. I was run by Tony McCarthy whom you know from Kinsale. I learnt a lot from Tony. I regret I could not make it to Kinsale last September as I was rather weak at the time.

I signed on to the Crowley DNA scheme a few years ago. I have not learnt much from it but that may be my problem.

My family are in Cork City since 1879. Before that they were in Rathorgan near Clonmult in East Cork. There is a headstone there in Templeboden for John Crowley dated 1789. As you most Crowleys come from West Cork. My dna suggested an relationship going way back with Brian Crowley, MEP, from Bandon.

Thanking you

*Jack Crowley
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Thomas John Crowley from Wales

I'm writing this to inform you of the death of my father, Thomas John Crowley, from New Inn, Pontypool, Gwent, S.Wales, U.K. and would appreciate it if you would kindly pass on this news to the Crowley Clan. For many years dad was a committed member of the Clan and often took the opportunity to visit Ireland for the Crowley Clan gatherings. He loved these gatherings and would speak fondly of his visits to beautiful Ireland and was very proud of the 'Crowley' name.

Unfortunately, over the last couple of years his health deteriorated and on Monday afternoon this week he passed very peacefully away at the grand age of 83 years old.

Please inform anyone who would wish to know that a service for him will be held next Thursday 23 January at 10.20am, at St Alban's Church, Pontypool.

Many thanks.

*Yours sincerely,
Anne Crowley*