

CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

November 2015

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



2016 Gathering

The Crowley Clan Council has announced that the 2016 Gathering of the Clan Crowley will occur from Friday September 9, 2016 to Sunday September 11, 2016 in Bantry, County Cork, Ireland. The primary venue will be:

The Maritime Hotel

The Quay, Bantry

Phone: 00 353 (0) 27- 54700 or reservation desk : 00 353 27 54700

email: helen.oshea@themaritime.ie

Room rates / Twin per person

Three night's, per person sharing bed and breakfast, €150.00

Two night's, per person sharing bed and breakfast, €100.00

Single supplement, €25 extra per person per night

Registration, which will cover costs of the extensive program, except lunch on Saturday and Sunday, is €140 payable through PayPal at James@obriencussen.com, our treasurer James Crowley. James can also accept Euros in either cash or cheques drawn on a European bank.

Please note we will have an extensive sightseeing program, introducing historical monuments to the clansmen as well as a tour of the Beara Peninsula. We will have a dedicated room, adjacent to the banquet room, for registration, display of genealogical trees (please bring your own), selling of clan brooches, kilt pins and the latest edition of the *Origins and History of the Crowleys as an Irish Clan*.

Schedule of Activities

Friday

14:00 - Registration

17:00 to 18:00 - Genealogical and history room open (adjacent to the banquet room), and all enquiries on genealogy and history are welcome. The second edition of the clan history book will be available.

18:00 - Wine and cheese reception at JJ's.

Saturday

08:00 to 10:00 - Genealogy and history room open, all enquiries welcome.

10:00 - depart hotel for Kilshallow sightseeing and Mass in the traditional homeland of the O'Crowley Clan.

11:00 - Visit Kinneigh round tower and cemetery, the clan ecclesiastical center

12:00 - Visit of Cahir O'Crowley (stone fort), early seat of the O'Crowleys in the 13th and 14th centuries

12:30 to 14:00 - Visit to Cappeen Fort, another early seat of the clan; instatement of the clan sept chieftains. Lunch is available for purchase at Cappeen pub.

14:30 - Mass at O'Crowley Castle

16:30 - Drinks and reception at Maritime Hotel

18:30 - Clan Regalia

19:30 - Banquet. Speakers will include Ambassador Kevin Michael Vickers of Canada who will speak about the Irish diaspora and Gearoid O'Ceallaigh, President of Clans of Ireland

Sunday

09:00 - DNA Session 10:00 - Departing to Beara Peninsula. Sites and activities include Glengarrif, Castletownbere, Dunboy Castle, Allihies; changing of Taoiseach Office at the dramatic site of Dunboy Castle; returning stops at Michael Crowley's pub, where lunch may be purchased; and Glengarrif traditional Irish goods shop.

17:00 - Return to Maritime Hotel



Notes from the Editor

I hope that many of you are planning to attend the Crowley Clan Gathering next year, September 9th to 11th at the Maritime Hotel in Bantry, West Cork. Our Taoiseach Michael-Patrick Crowley has given us the agenda put together by the Crowley Clan Council in Ireland.

Some events on the agenda will look familiar to those of us who have been to gatherings before. Friday evening there will be wine and cheese provided by J.J. Crowley. Saturday there will be Mass at the Crowley Castle and the banquet in the evening. Catherine Crowley Budd will speak about the Crowley YDNA study.

However, there will also be some new events such as tours of several traditional Crowley sites, and a tour of the Beara Peninsula.

Michael-Patrick also describes the "Clan Traditional Dress" endorsed by the council. Have you ever envied the Scottish clans for their colorful tartans? Irish clans don't have tartans, but the provinces of Ireland do. This is your chance to dress the part at our Crowley Clan Banquet!

In addition to the articles about the gathering agenda and the traditional dress, we have other articles of interest.

Jackie Ingram of South Wales, Australia traveled to County Cork recently and discovered some interesting similarities to her family back home. Her story is on page 5.

Stephanie Farrell Grohs has researched and co-written a book about an Irish priest in early California. She tells us the story of Rev. Denis Oliver Crowley and his experiment in helping orphaned children out of poverty also on page 6

Your stories, thoughts, and memories are always welcome in the newsletter. Contact us anytime.

Hope to see you in Ireland!

Mise le meas,

Marian

Crowley Clan News from Around the World

Jackie Ingram, South Wales

(jackie@idea-ingham.co.uk):

I started to do family genealogy in my twenties, and then it fizzled out as my life got busier and busier. But now, in my fifties, I have more time and have rekindled the interest. I had part of the story of my dad's Irish ancestors, but some key pieces of information were missing until I visited the Gwent archives in Ebbw Vale and found what I needed - the Wales census for 1881 recorded the family as coming from Cork. From there I was able to find a lot of information from the Bandon genealogy site and the Great Famine to understand the circumstances that brought my Burchell (sometimes spelled Burchill) Protestant ancestor, Thomas Burchell, and my Catholic ancestor Ellen Crowley to Monmouthshire, South Wales.

Thomas Burchell and Ellen Crowley married in the mid-1850s at Usk Catholic Church. I had moved as a nine year old to the small market town of Usk, and so I was fascinated to learn that they had married at the lovely little church in the town where I had grown up. I was born in a mining village called Abersychan which is where Ellen and Thomas settled and brought up their five children. Thomas and his sons were coal miners and I found a very sad story about Ellen.

On 6th February 1890 there was a huge explosion at Llanerch coal mine killing 176 men and boys. It is recorded in the Trevethin church records where many of the dead were buried, that Ellen "died of shock on hearing of the Llanerch pit explosion". Ironically, her husband and sons survived the explosion, but returned home to find that she had died. Ellen is the only woman commemorated in the book of remembrance, *"Eastern Valley Mining Fatalities 1829-1899"*. How tragic that Ellen had survived the Great Famine and the hardships of the journey from Cork to South Wales and then died like that.

I had been to Cork before, but had not realised that this is where my ancestors came from. Also, my Dad had been to Cork and probably through Bandon and not known that is where they were from. Sadly, Dad passed away a few years ago before I was able to share this with him.

So, this year a visit to West Cork was planned for the last two weeks of July, and I couldn't wait to look up some of the towns and places that my ancestors came from, seek out some traditional Irish music and ... drink some Guinness.

My family is artistic and musical. Both my children have careers in the art world and my sister's family is well known as folk musicians locally in Monmouthshire, South Wales. They play a lot of Irish folk music and have been instrumental in establishing Celtic nights in local pubs in Usk and surrounding areas. I was fascinated then to see Deirdre Crowley's art gallery in Clonakilty and ventured in to meet Deirdre. Deirdre's family come from Bandon and her mother goes to church with Burchills, so there was a definite connection between us down the generations. Deirdre paints lovely landscapes of Ireland, and I loved looking at her work. There are no other artists in Deirdre's family so she was delighted to learn



that there are artists in my family (My daughter runs her own design company, and my son is a graphic designer with Dyson). The artistic gene has survived down through the generations and across the Irish Sea.

My next job is to update the story of the Burchell-Crowley family for all my aunts and cousins in South Wales with the next installment following my visit to County Cork. I hope to make it to the Clan Gathering next year as I'd love to meet some more Crowleys.

Stephanie Farrell Grohs, Napa Valley, CA, USA

My colleague and I have written a book that was recently published. The story is based on Rev. Denis Oliver Crowley's tenure in San Francisco and the Napa Valley. I was excited to learn about this extraordinary man through the Beara Historical Society website. I thought you and all the worldwide Crowley's would like to know about this book. My dream would be to come to Ireland and visit Castletowne, Beara and share my experience writing this story.

Frankie's Journey, The Silk Road to Napa traces the 1908 trek of an imaginary San Francisco boy from his home at the Youth's Directory, a Catholic charity in San Francisco, to St. Joseph's Institute, an experimental farm in Napa County founded by Rev. Denis Oliver Crowley. There has never before been a book about this extraordinary experiment in the rehabilitation of street children utilizing the teaching of agricultural skill including silk cultivation.

The book is based on historical events, and we have chosen to tell the story through the diary of a ten year old boy. A note of interest is that the silk cultivated at St. Joseph's Institute in Rutherford and milled in Petaluma won a Grand Prize at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in 1915.

Website: www.frankiesjourneythesilkroadtonapa.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/frankiesjourneythesilkroadtonapa

P.S. I would love to be in contact with any Crowley visiting the Napa Valley. My contact information is on the website above.

Clan Council Adoption of a Clan Traditional Dress

The Crowley Clan Council has endorsed the recommendation made by the Taoiseach of a traditional clan dress consisting of:

- saffron kilt (the traditional modern Gaelic dress of the Irish)
- A plaid of the Munster tartan (as in the sample to the right)
- Jacket as appropriate
- Use of Crowley Clan kilt pins and brooches
- A Tam O'Shanter or Gaelic bonnet
- For the ladies: a sash of the Munster Tartan



We encourage all clansmen to dress as recommended for the Crowley Clan Gathering.

In North America a saffron kilt, a Munster tartan plaid may be ordered from:

www.gaelicclothing.com/irishkilt.htm

or www.usakilts.com/

If one wishes a lighter fabric than wool and very economical:

store.stillwaterkilts.com/search.asp?keyword=saffron+kilt&search=GO

If you are in Europe the two best sites are:

www.scotweb.co.uk/tartan/Orange-Colour-Single-Shade/104127?filter_searchterm=SAFFRON

or tartanweb.com/store/kilts/machine-stitched-kilts?product_id=216

Ireland Meets Spain!!!

After centuries of separation, a monumental gathering was held this fall. Antonio Castro, whose Crowley ancestors left Ireland in the early 1700s, and sisters Ann and Mary Crowley, who live near the castle in County Cork, held a reunion in Barcelona. Antonio's wife commented, "We have the feeling we have known them for a long time". Maybe you have!



From left to the right: Mary Crowley, Niall (Ann's partner), Ann Crowley, Chris (Mary's husband), Laura Castro (my daughter), Ricky Castro (My son) and Antonio Castro (me).