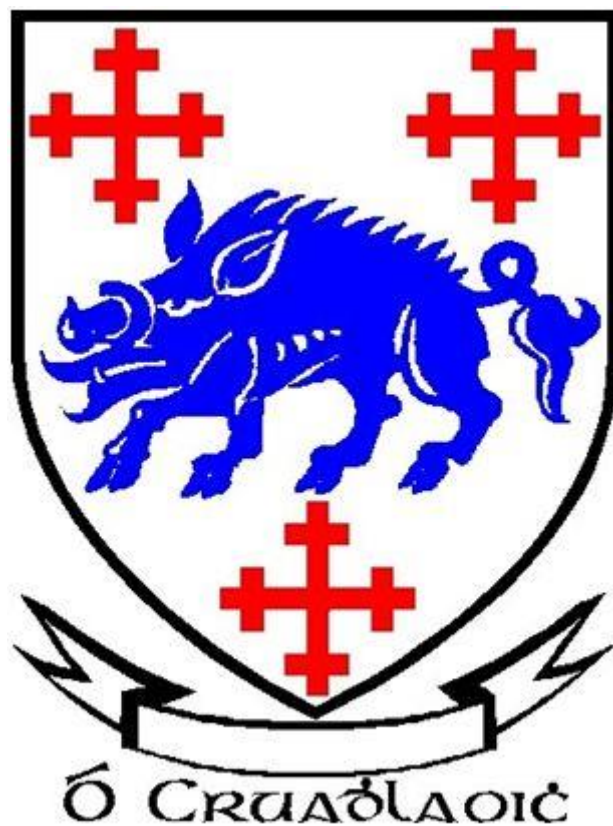


# CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

March 2016

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



**Taoiseach Crowley Clan**

**Comte Michael-Patrick O’Crowley**

**MSV, MDN, C.C, C.D.**

**Ballinderry Castle, January 12th , 2016,**

Dear clansmen and dear ladies,

I would like to extend my best wishes to all of you, your family and dear ones, for this 2016 year. As you may all know 2016 is a special year for us as a clan since we will be having our clan gathering in September 2016 in Bantry. But also it is the year of the anniversary of the Dublin Easter rising and the forming of the provisional government of the Republic of Ireland. This event and subsequent actions lead to the forming of the existing independent Republic of Ireland. While we may celebrate the sequence of events of the 20th century and the sacrifices of many Irish heroes which resulted into the Republic of Ireland, we should not forget that our world is changing. For the first time in a thousand year it is envisaged that the texture and composition of the Irish society and its family name geographical distribution will change. Indeed up to a few years ago the family name distribution in Ireland aside from major cities was evaluated to be the same as in the 1300. This will no longer be the case.

In this context more than ever our clan is a home of traditions and historical continuance celebrating our Gaelic heritage. This heritage must be maintained, enriched in many aspects. Every year our knowledge is enhanced by academic studies addressing and understanding the huge corpus of Gaelic manuscripts, poems, histories and legal documents. Our clan benefits from developed relationships with renowned academics ready to helping enrich our knowledge of the Crowley Clan which was in Gaelic times styled as a “noble community”. It is the results of these efforts that we were able to propose a very comprehensive program for the next clan gathering with visits of sites directly connected to clan for more than 700 years.

The year 2015 was a year full of sad events, with the confirmed prospect of more challenges in 2016. But the 2015 year for the clan ended on a joyful note with the marriage of Liam Crowley from Bandon with Pauline. The wedding was particularly moving, we had 3 former Taoiseach of the clan attending, and a few were in our traditional dress under the sound of a lead piper. As expected our head musician Larry entertained the whole ceremony. Pictures are posted on Facebook. We wish Liam and Pauline the very best life full of joy and happiness. They are a model of kindness and generosity.

We hope to see you in Bantry to share this unique moment of the clan gathering. We also hope that the Crowley clan be a second home to you, where you can find a unique sense of belonging to a wider blood related community, keeping our proud heritage, always ready to share it and welcome all from overseas.

Mise le Meas,

Michael

# Planning for the 2016 Gathering

*by Thomas R. Crowley*

Planning for the Crowley Clan Gathering next September is going well. I was thinking we may wish to inform people on what to expect at the gathering as it appears we may have a number of new attendees. I would emphasize the staying at the Maritime Hotel to get full impact of the weekend and even arriving Thursday rather than Friday. Also stress that no individual cars should be driven to Beara due to narrow roads and at the request of the Gardai.

Finally, the dress for the Crowley Clan Banquet on Saturday evening will be the same as previous years, sports coat or suit for men, dressy for women.

The Crowley Clan Council has endorsed the recommendation made by the Taoiseach of a traditional clan dress. If you are interested, refer to the full description in the Fall 2015 Crowley Clan Newsletter.

## Notes from the Editor

We are in the countdown for the 2016 Crowley Clan Gathering. Five months from now, Crowleys from all over the world will be arriving in Bantry on the beautiful west coast of Ireland. Some of you will be seeing your ancestral homeland for the first time. That first trip is always an emotional event. Be prepared to be overwhelmed.

Questions have come in about transportation from Shannon International Airport to Bantry without a rental car. Driving in Ireland is always an adventure and a wonderful way to see the countryside. But some people would rather not have too much adventure. Are there alternative means of transportation to Bantry? Yes, there are, public bus and private transfers are two. You will find some information about both on page 7. If you have any further ideas or questions, please let us know.

You will find a letter from our Taoiseach, and letters from readers from the USA and from Australia.

Last summer we ran an article submitted by Leo Crowley about his father Matthew Crowley who was 101 years old. We asked if anyone knew of a Crowley who was older, and Thomas Crowley submitted an article, complete with photo, of his aunt Helen Crowley Anstead who is 102! This lovely lady has lived a long and interesting life. You can read about it on page 5.

We would still love to hear from you about your elder Crowleys and about their interesting lives. They are a part of our roots and our heritage. And, we'd love to honor them.

Your stories, your experiences, your family, we are interested in them all. Also, your questions and suggestion are very welcome.

We are hoping to hear from you, and hoping to see you in Bantry.

*Mise le meas,*

*Marian*

# Helen Crowley Anstead at 102

*by her cousin Thomas R. Crowley*

Helen Crowley Anstead was born August 9, 1913 in Ellwood City, PA, to James Crowley and Margaret Walsh Crowley the eldest of nine children. In her life she witnessed many events including World War II and the Great Depression.

Helen recalls that education was always a priority. When she was about four she watched the children walking to school and would sneak out of the house to follow them to school about six city blocks away. When she got there, she would just turn around and go back home. As far as she knows her mother never knew of her adventures.

When she was old enough to attend school, she got about every childhood disease there was. Between being sick and passing it on to her siblings, it seemed her house was constantly in quarantine, and she was again unable to attend school. She always lived in the city and grew up with electricity, but she remembers in the 30's when the Federal Government had the rural electricity program. She was in college when her parents got their first phone. "This piece of technology probably changed my life the most," she says.



The Great Depression affected Helen when she was in high school. "People lived with less material things then they do now, and they just did without," she explains. Her dad always had a job, and they were able to make do, but Helen remembers men riding the trains looking for work. They would come to the back door looking for a meal, and her mother would always feed them.

In 1935, Helen graduated from Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA with a B.S. in home economics including studies in chemistry, dietetics, & math. She also studied English and history while attaining a teaching degree. In Elk County, PA she taught home economics, history, and language arts. It was a very rural area, and the men were great hunters. She had a class of all boys because the school thought the boys needed to know how to cook when they were at hunting camps. With a twinkle in her eye, Helen says, "I taught them to make donuts and ice cream."

While teaching she obtained a scholarship and was able to attend Penn State in the summer for further certification. Even though it was in the midst of the Great Depression, combining what she was able to earn, her scholarship, and help from her parents, she was able to complete her studies.

At Penn State she met Russell, her husband to be, who was from a family of 12. Because he was completely on his own pursuing a degree in agriculture, it took him 6 years to get a 4 year degree, "Once he finished, there was the war!" Helen explains. "He got drafted and was in for four years. It was a struggle for everyone. The war just went on and on and on. Russell was in many battles, including the Battle of the Bulge. It was also his job to write the letters to the families of fallen soldiers. He often did this while in the battlefield himself, carrying a typewriter with him." When the war ended in 1947 they were able to get married on July 4th! Russell had done some of his military training in Indiana, and thought that would be a great place to live. He accepted a teaching job in Goshen, IN, where they lived for 2 years. A better job came up in Hillsdale, MI where they both taught. Three years and two sons later they moved to Alcona County, MI where Russell accepted a government job in agriculture. They were in Alcona County when their 3rd child, a daughter, was born. Eventually they bought a farm and Russell went back into teaching. He taught at Central Lake, Alpena Catholic Central High School, and finally at Alcona High culminating over 30 years of service. Helen taught at St. Anne's Catholic School in Alpena before her oldest son started school. All three of her children went to school there before attending Alpena Catholic Central. Helen taught over 30 years and retired in 1971.

It took Helen about five years to get used to the rural area of Alcona County. When her boys were about 7 and 9 one day she looked out the window to see that they had built a wagon and had hooked it behind the tractor. Not only had they then gotten the tractor started, but there they were riding on the wagon down the road with their 5 year old sister driving the tractor at full speed! "My stomach went in knots!"

Today Helen is healthy and busy at age 102! She takes no meds, and since retiring she has been active in her church, the Red Cross, the Visitation Team, Friends of the Library, the Historical Society, and she is a charter member of the Michigan State University Home Extension Domestic Engineers. She has a close family that loves to get together for weddings, baptisms, anniversaries or any occasion.

The photo above is of Helen Crowley Anstead at 100 with her granddaughter Kate Hillman Urek.

## Transportation from Shannon to Bantry

When traveling in Ireland, the best mode of transportation is probably via rental car. That way travelers can set their own timetable and set their own agenda. They can travel where they want, when they want. But, what about those who choose not to rent a car? What if they don't want to face driving on the opposite side of the road from what they are accustomed? What if they don't want to pay the up charge for an automatic transmission? For those travelers, there are alternate modes of transportation.

This coming September the Crowley Clan Gathering will be held in the West Cork city of Bantry. The closest airport is Shannon International. Transfer services are available at the Shannon airport. If you Google Shannon to Bantry transfer, you will find several.

One recommended transfer company is that of Martin Crowley Coaches ([www.martincrowleycoaches.ie](http://www.martincrowleycoaches.ie)). Martin is a long time supporter of the Crowley Clan, and he would welcome inquiries about his transfer services.

Maureen Crowley from Canada has traveled several times in Ireland without a car. She recommends the public bus service Bus Eireann, and says: "There is an express bus from Shannon Airport to Cork City, then they will have to take a bus from Cork to Bantry. The schedules are on line."

If anyone has further ideas, please let us know.

# Crowley Clan News from Around the World

**Jan Lusk, Arkansas, USA**

**(rebelchic72@yahoo.com):**

I am descended from Sherrod (Sheridan) Massey who married Sarah Adeline McClain in April 1848 in Knox County, TN and moved to AR around 1860. My mother always said, as have other descendants, that Sherrod's parents were James Massey and Mary Jane Crowley.

Sherrod listed on the 1880 and 1900 census that his mother was born at sea. One cousin stated that her great grandmother (Sherrod's oldest daughter) said when they moved to AR they lived near or visited Benjamin Crowley kin at Green County, AR. I am seeking any documentation or information relevant to the Massey/McCain/Crowley.

**Virginia Crowley, Melbourne, Australia**

**(ginny.crowley1957@gmail.com):**

I'm writing this from Sydney Australia, and I am feeling excited to read about our family castle. I saw photos of the ruins a few years ago, and it was saddening and made me wonder about it.

I'm born into the Crowley family in Melbourne and live in Sydney. I have two daughters, Kate and Danielle who married into the Johnson family. I'm proud of my heritage and would love to see some photos if possible. That would be great. I can't afford at the moment to make a donation, but my thoughts often wander to Ireland and family over there, and to what Ireland's like.

I've checked the website and looked at the photos, and I'm amazed at the wonderful work that has been put into saving this site for our future. I have a better understanding of the ruins and history of the family.

## **Note from the Editor:**

We promise, Virginia, to take lots of photos when we are at the Crowley Castle, and we will include them in the fall newsletter.

I'd love to go to Ireland, reunite with the clan, and see our roots. I have always had that in my heart, but that's not possible. My thoughts will be with you all at the time of the reunion.

It must have been very hard for our fore fathers to leave such a beautiful country.

These photos are my grandchildren, Riley, Lacey, and Tahlia.

