



Towey Crest

Towey Clan Chlann Tuathaigh 2007 Clan Gathering

The **2007 Towey Clan Gathering** was held in Durkin's, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon, Ireland over the weekend of 11 and 12 August, 2007. It was a tremendous success, attended by upwards of 250 Clan members. Many traveled from USA, Britain, Australia, France and Spain. The success of the event was due to the selfless dedication of our Clan committee members. The program ran very smoothly under the direction of our Chairperson, Dan Towey, of Minnesota, USA.

Friday, 10 August

On Friday the festive weekend began with an informal get-together in Durkin's. Here arriving guests relaxed after their journeys and settled down in convivial company to talk, renew friendships and exchange experiences.

Saturday Morning, 11 August Mass for Deceased Toweys

On Saturday at 11.00 am. a special Mass was celebrated for deceased members of the Towey Clan in Derrinacantha Church. The music of a lone piper as he played haunting traditional Irish airs welcomed the assembly at the Church gate. Tony Towey, a deacon of the Church from Chicago, USA, assisted at the Mass. He arranged and delivered the readings and petitions to a full congregation. Irish airs played on the flute by Barry O'Grady of Ballaghaderreen echoed throughout the Church as Mass was celebrated.



Derrinacantha Church Altar

Saturday Evening, 11 August Ceili Irish Dancing and Entertainment

At 7 pm. guests began to arrive at Durkin's for an evening of celebration which carried on into the early hours with Irish traditional music, song and dance. A steady stream of guests arrived for registration and they were ably welcomed by Janet Towey Mann from Connecticut, USA, our Clan Secretary.

- Dan Towey, our Chairperson, addressed the gathering with a lively speech outlining our plans, and praised Mike Towey the Clan Chieftain for his efforts in bringing the idea of Clan gatherings to fruition. Mike was born locally and now lives in Dublin. Dan then handed the microphone over to Mike, who was master of ceremonies for the evening.
- Our featured speaker was Maire McDonnell-Garvey, a respected historian, author and musician. She delivered a learned and well researched presentation about the source of the Towey Clan and the O'Neills. Click here to read a copy of [Maire's presentation](#), with a bit of Irish history and our ancestors.



Maire McDonnell Garvey
Historian Speaker

- The night was filled with rousing traditional Irish music with old time waltzes and *Siege of Ennis* aplenty. Talent of the young was displayed with step dancing by our cousins from the USA. We were honoured by the presence of eight Clan members over 80 years young. Grateful appreciation goes to Mr. Jim Towey (Miller-Celia), aged 93, who traveled from Manchester to be with us. Jim was born locally in Derrinabrook and emigrated to England as a boy.
- The celebrations were recorded on DVD by Mr Tom Coppinger (TomCoppinger@eircom.net).
- A raffle with many prizes continued through the festivities and was generously supported. We thank Brian Towey (who died early 2009), Dan Towey, Helen Towey and Mary Towey Ratto all from USA for organising and handling the raffle throughout the night. We are most grateful to Towey Clan members in the USA who donated many prizes for the raffle, particularly those who could not attend but posted on prizes nevertheless.
- The musicians were Dan Healy, Ciaran O'Reilly, Mick Shannon, Martin Toher and Sean Lavin. They were joined by Maire McDonnell-Garvey and Malachy Towey from Chicago.

Sunday, 12 August Towey Clan AGM

On Sunday the Annual General Meeting was held at 1430 and a new committee elected.

The 2007 Executive Committee is:

Chieftain.....Mike Towey, Ireland: toweymike@hotmail.com
Vice Chieftain.....Mary Towey Ratto, USA: mmratto@comcast.net
Chairperson.....Mike Towey, Ireland: toweymike@hotmail.com
Vice chairperson.....Tony Towey, USA: ajtowey@juno.com
Past Chairperson.....Dan Towey, USA toweydan@juno.com
Secretary.....Janet Towey Mann, USA: jtafmn@snet.net
Treasurer.....Helen Towey, USA: stowlight@aol.com
Vice Treasurer.....Pat Burns, USA: 1pmb@comcast.net
Historian/Genealogist...Dick Towey, USA: toweylr@comcast.net
Assistant Historian..... Malachy Towey, USA: estherjmuhr@msn.com
Assistant Genealogist...Peter Towey, England

The AGM was followed by an open forum discussion on matters of interest to the Clan.

Male yDNA Presentation

Dick Towey then presented his findings on yDNA. The use of DNA in genealogical research is gathering momentum swiftly. DNA testing allows the male and female lines to be traced back over long periods. DNA testing traces the X chromosome from daughter (or son in the same generation) to mother to grandmother, etc., to establish common ancestry in the female line accumulated over many thousands of years.

- The male line is traced from son to father to grandfather using the male or Y chromosome (no females have the Y) for 2 types of tests: (1) most male tests analyze Short Tandem Repeat (STR) markers to establish common ancestry within recent centuries, and (2) the less-used Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) test enables the analysis of male ancestry back over hundreds of generations.
- The Towey Clan yDNA project represents an effort to bridge some of the major gaps in our documented genealogies. The STR tests of our yDNA show that most Toweys tested thus far are genetically close to the O'Neills – i.e. along with about 20 percent of all other Irish males, we probably descend from Niall of the Nine Hostages.

Immigration Research

Janet Toweey Mann followed with details of her USA immigration research. Janet has extracted Toweys and similar variants from USA census of 1870/80/1900/10/20/30, and passenger ship records for Boston 1820-1943, New York 1820-1957, Philadelphia 1800-1945, and New Orleans 1820-1945.

Family Survival in USA

Janet's presentation was followed by Mike McCown of Texas, USA, and Tony Toweey of Chicago, USA. Each gave an entertaining presentation of the trials, successes and survival of their families through generations in the USA.

Family History Workshops

On Saturday and Sunday, Dick Toweey from Oregon, USA, our Clan Historian/Genealogist, hosted a family history workshop. Here he provided much appreciated guidance answering family history questions and giving direction to researchers.

Coach Tours

Tours of local places of interest and townlands of visiting Clan members were organised for each day. These tours were conducted by Mike Toweey and they visited historic and archaeological sites in parishes of Castlemore, Kilcolman and Kilbeagh. Over 100 people braved the drizzly weather conditions and enjoyed these sites and the beautiful scenery. To view the coach tour route, visit our www.toweyclan.com web page for the 2014 Clan Gathering..

- The tour started at Ballaghaderreen Town Square, and amongst the most important sites viewed were Castlemore's flax mill ruins, Barnaboy, Brusna Church and School, Tonregee school, Bockagh Hill from which Lough Gara and five counties can be seen.
- Then at Derrinacantha Church where there are three Stations of the Cross dedicated to Toweys, Derrinabrock and ruins of the Toweey Mill, Cloontia school, Carranemple graveyard with its Celtic grave slabs, the Bishop's palace built originally for use by a Costello landlord in 1865 who later sold it to the Church.
- We also stopped at the Four Altars where Mass was celebrated in open air when it was forbidden to be held within a church during Penal Law Days, and Kilcolman graveyard where Toweys of many generations are buried.

Closing Ceremony

We extend appreciation to Barry O'Grady for music at Mass and who together with Paul Keegan of Ballaghaderreen, entertained us with Irish traditional music at the closing ceremony on Sunday.

Grateful thanks are extended to all members who worked so hard up front and behind the scenes to make the event a memorable occasion.

All too soon the celebrations were concluded and members went to explore the town of Ballaghaderreen and the surrounding area.

See pictures on next page

2017 Clan Gathering, August 2007



Balaghaderreen - 3 km ahead



Tall Towey's
Balaghaderreen



TOWEY CLAN GATHERING
Poster designed by Noble Conry (Ireland)
In Dublin From August 10th - 12th



Clan members at registration table



Mike Towey & daughter Emma (Ireland)

**Friday
Coach Tour**



Some of Towey Clan at Don MacCarthy's School 2007



Bishop Flynn and some Towey's at Bishop's House in Balaghaderreen



Some of Towey Clan at Bishop Flynn's House



Miss Tracy (USA), Bishop Flynn (Ireland) & the community at Bishop's House in Balaghaderreen



Jacqui Cliff (ENG) & Mike Towey (IRE)

**Friday
Get Together**



Brother Michael (I) & James (I) Towey James is Great Towey at Gathering



James (I) & Father James (I) Towey



Bridie Towey (Ireland) and husband Noel (I)



John (Ireland) & Mike Towey (Ireland) at Dinner (Ireland)



John & Mary Ann Pinvale (CA)



Fiona, Julia McSweeney (I)



Angela McGeaney (Ireland)



Angela McGeaney (Ireland)

**Saturday
Mass
at
Derrinacurra
Church**



Derrinacurra Church Altar



Some of Towey Clan at Derrinacurra Church 2007



Some of Towey Clan at Derrinacurra Church 2007



Some of Towey Clan at Derrinacurra Church



Dan Towey (MN), Maureen Wilson (RE) Janet T. Mann (Ireland)



Deacon Tony Towey (I) and Father Michael Barry (Ireland)

**Saturday
Social**



Mary Clooney (Ireland) Maureen Wilson



Raffle Table



Towey Reception: James (Ireland), Maureen (Ireland) & Mike (Ireland) at the Reception (Ireland) at Balaghaderreen



Musicians



Malachy Towey Playing the Bodhran



Maureen & Mike Towey (Ireland)



Maureen & Mike Towey (Ireland)



Tim Towey (TX) & Pat Towey (TX) Same Fox 4 M's Brothers



Janice Towey & Husband Jim (Ireland)



Daniel Towey (CA) & Daniel Towey (MN)



Jim (Ireland), Henry (Ireland), James (CA) & Malachy (Ireland) Towey



Various Towey's

2017 Clan Gathering, August 2007



Tony, Angus, Gaby, Daniel, James, Shirley & Scott



Brian, Mike & Vice-Chief



Brothers Joe & Dan



Jim & Cynthia, Cindy, Andrew & Kip



Paul, Eileen & Keegan



Mary, Gay & Michelle with mother Hilda



Tammy, Jayma & Tim



Pat & nephew



Matti playing violin



Dorothy & Cheryl



Woman & Man



Nancy



Woman & Man



Group of people dancing



Group of people dancing



Group of people



Man with trophy



Woman waving



Group of people



Sunday Clan Meeting



Clan Genealogist Dick



Mike MoCown



Bary & Paul playing traditional flute



Dan, Tony & Mike at ceremony