



Towey Clan Chlann Tuathaigh

2014 Towey Gathering Report-Out

The Sixth Towey Gathering was held at Durkin's, The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon, Ireland on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 22, 23, 24 August, 2014. Many family members and friends came from Ireland, US, UK, China and Australia. The success of the event was due to the dedication of Clan committee members, under the leadership of Chairperson, *Mike Towey*, of Dublin. The program is posted at [2014 Bi-fold Schedule](#)



Friday Evening, 22 August Towey AGM Business Meeting

The Towey AGM was held in Durkin's the evening of 22 August, 2014.

Executive Committee Election

Volunteers are needed to fill the open positions and may email toweymike@hotmail.com

Executive Committee members are:

Chairperson.....Mike Towey, Dublin: toweymike@hotmail.com

Vice chairperson.....Position open

Secretary.....Caroline Hassett Power, Quinn, Co. Clare, Ire: hassettcaroline@yahoo.ie

Assistant Secretary.....Mary Towey Ratto, Ukiah, CA: mmratto@pacific.net

Treasurer.....Position open

Assistant Treasurer.....Eileen Towey-Collins, Birmingham, UK: etcollins44@gmail.com

Genealogist/Historian....Position open

Webmaster.....Bill Towey, Stockton, CA: wtowey5953@aol.com

Assistant Webmaster.....Mike Towey, Dublin: toweymike@hotmail.com

Committee Members

.....Tammy Adams, Hedwig, TX: mitch777@aol.com

.....Pam Mitchell, Gardiner, ME: garwoodmitchel@myfairpoint.net

.....Helen Towey Phares, Houghton, LA:

Continuing Honorary Officers:

Chieftain (Taoiseach).....Mike Towey, Dublin: toweymike@hotmail.com

Deputy Chieftain (Tánaiste)...Mary Towey Ratto, Ukiah, CA: mmratto@pacific.net

Next Gathering

Our next Towey Gathering is in Ballaghaderreen during the weekend of 25, 26, 27 August 2017. Gathering details and festivities will be forthcoming in early 2017 on this www.toweyclan.com web site. We have high hopes that dozens of Toweys and Towey descendants around the world will attend, inclusive of us with variant family names (see top of our [Home Page](#)).

On display were our [2014 Bi-fold Schedule](#), several historical maps of Ireland, notes on the death of Lord Nelson and suggestion of a possible connection to a John Towey of Ballaghaderreen, plus notes about Haemochromatosis (blood iron overload). Haemochromatosis affects about one in five Irish of Celtic descent

Saturday Morning, 23 August Memorial Mass for Deceased Toweys

The Memorial Mass in memory of deceased Toweys was celebrated at the *Brusna Church* by *Father Tommy Towey*. Other participants were *Eileen Collins*, Birmingham, UK - 1st reading and *Sheila Towey* – 2nd reading. Prayer petitions in memory of deceased Toweys were read by *Mike Towey*, Dublin.

-----*Father Tommy* inspired us with his heart-felt homily about our beloved ancestors and with his appropriate readings.

-----Two school girls, *Caoimhe Towey* of Knocknacunny Road and *Jessica Towey* of Crenane, sang beautiful hymnal music during Mass.

-----*Eileen Towey-Keegan* of Brusna School, led the sale of copies of the school's historical book, "Gathering the Memories - The Story of Brusna." Chapters written by local citizens describe local historical experiences and their past family living. It is an extremely useful publication in association with genealogical studies.

-----After mass, we adjourned by invitation of the owner *Kathleen Horan* to the nearby Brusna Inn. Tea and refreshments were made available.

-----*Brusna* is an area northwest of Barnaboy where a hundred Toweys lived, attended Church and their children were schooled.



Saturday Afternoon 23 August Coach tour of local area

Mike Towey, Clan Taoiseach, who was born and raised in the area, guided and narrated for two dozen riders, a coach trip of Ballaghaderreen and surrounding area where the majority of Towey ancestors lived.

Mike pointed out the following historical sites and led walking stops at Brusna Church, Derrinacantha Church, Carrontemple Graveyard, and Four Altars:



 Dillon Home, now occupied by the Western Development Commission and Ballaghaderreen Branch Library	Bohalis Townland Tonreege Townland Bockagh Hill with views of Lough Gara and five
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">📍 St Mary's Hall📍 St Nathy's Cathedral and St Nathy's College📍 Power House📍 Old Grave Yard📍 Fairgreen📍 Shambles📍 Old road through Ballaghaderreen📍 Flannery Bar burned by Black and Tans in September 1920📍 Bianconi Coach Stop📍 Ballaghaderreen Railway Station, closed in 1963📍 De La Salle School📍 Technical School, Convent and Industrial School📍 Castlemore's flax mill ruins and adjacent Castlemore Castle being rebuilt into apartments📍 Barnaboy Townland📍 Brusna Church and School	<p>counties</p> <p>Attaintaggart Townland, where priests rock is located</p> <p>Broher Townland</p> <p>Derrinacantha Townland</p> <p>Derrinabrock School and ruins of Miller Towey ancestral home and mill</p> <p>Cloonmeen Townland, birthplace of Patrick Tuohy famous artist's father</p> <p>Carrontemple cemetery with ancient Celtic stone drawings</p> <p>The Four Altars hilltop where Mass was celebrated in open air during Penal Law times when Catholics were forbidden to worship in Church</p> <p>Bishops House in Edmondstown</p> <p>Kilcolman Cemetery</p>
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To view or print a copy of the tour route, click [Coach Route Map](#)

Some historical information and pictures of the area are available on websites www.ballaghaderreen.com and www.ballaghaderreen.ws.

Saturday Evening 23 August Ceili Social Evening

The Saturday night social began at 8 p.m. with with *Caroline Hassett, Patrick Hassett, John Ratto, Brigid Smart (Tuohy)* and *Mike Towey* receiving guests and updating registrations from attendees.

-----Chairperson *Mike Towey* warmly welcomed everyone to the festivities and acknowledged those involved in planning the Gathering.

-----Johnny Towey Band played traditional Irish music, encouraging song and dance to which everyone eagerly responded.

-----We had many waltzes, the Siege of Ennis, Shoe the Donkey, Stack the Barley and other dances. The granddaughter of Johnny Towey band danced the Broom Dance and other Sean Nos dances. View the types of Irish dancing at www.youtube.com and use the search block for [step dancing ireland](#), for [set dancing ireland](#), [Sean Nos dancing](#) and [Siege of Ennis dancing](#).

-----From the audience came *Malachy Towey* playing the Bodhran and singers *Chris Lynot* and *Mike Towey* who further enhanced the evening with their talent.

-----Let us honor the oldest Towey attendees -- *Malachy Towey, 97*, from Chicago, IL and his sister *Isobel, 83*.



Raffle During Social

We thank all those Toweys and friends who organized and ran the raffle. A very special thank you to those who donated raffle prizes. It is one key way of paying for much of the Gathering expenses. The raffle is a key means of covering the cost of the room rental, entertainment and other miscellaneous expenses.

Tom Coppinger recorded the Saturday festivities and will produce a DVD. Place your order with him by contacting TomCoppinger@eircom.net or 0872255408/(09498)60481. His address is Clover Terrace, Ballaghaderreen, Price €20, payable by check, Euro or international money order.

Alternatively contact Mike Towey, Clan Chieftain at toweymike@hotmail.com



Sunday Morning, 24 August Genealogy Discussion

Mike Towey, Dublin, Ireland, provided a Genealogy briefing on *How to Create a Family Tree* .

----Among attendees was *Brigid Smart (Tuohy)* of Manchester, England whose relatives were originally from Cloonmeen, Cloontia (located at top of [2014 Route Map](#)). Her parents also owned a house on Market Street in Ballaghaderreen. She is also a relative of *Patrick Tuohy*, a famous Irish artist born in Cloontia. They also believe her Tuohy ancestors were, long ago, banished from Cork during the Desmond Rebellion

---- On a side table were posters of historical interest that included a 1894 map of Ballaghaderreen town, railway photos, farmland maps of Barnaboy and Attaintaggart, Brusna School & church photos, and old Catholic churches & cemeteries .

---- Handouts on the poster table included a 1901 Ireland census of Toweys, a chronological outline of Ireland history, several maps of historical Ireland, the Towey Y-DNA Project and other historical information. Contact wtowey5953@aol.com if you wish copies of the handouts for email to you.

Slan go foill