

Towey Clan Chlann Tuathaigh

2010 Clan Gathering Report Out

The 2010 Towey Clan Gathering was held in Durkin's, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon, Ireland, on May 14th to 16th, 2010. It was a remarkable success, despite travel delays from Mt Eyjafjallajökull's Icelandic volcano ash. Over 100 families and friends attended from US, UK, Britain, Canada and Ireland. 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 [2010 Clan Schedule](#).



Photos taken and submitted by several Clan members may be viewed:

- By clicking web page links on its Navigation panel .
- For additional snapshots of our weekend activities, try clicking <http://picasaweb.google.com/ToweyClan2010Gathering>
- Additional web photos posted by Trevor Snellgrove are located at <http://gallery.me.com/trevors1>

Coach Tours

Coach Tours Friday and Saturday afternoons brought passengers to ancestral lands and other areas of interest. Mike Towey, Taoiseach, who was born and raised in the area, narrated the trip in and around Co Roscommon, Co Sligo and Co Mayo which included:

- Dillon Home, now occupied by the Western Development Commission and Ballaghaderreen Branch Library
- St Mary's Hall
- St Nathy's Cathedral and St Nathy's College
- Power House
- Old Grave Yard
- Fairgreen
- Shambles
- Flannery Bar burned by Black and Tans in 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
- Bohalis Townland
- Tonreege Townland
- Bockagh Hill with views of Lough Gara and five counties
- Attaintaggart Townland, close to priests rock
- Broher Townland
- Derrinacartha Townland
- Derrinabrock School and ruins of Miller Towey ancestral home and mill
- Cloontia School
- Carrowntemple Cemetery with ancient Celtic stone drawings
- The Four Altars hilltop where Mass was celebrated in open air when Penal Law Days forbid it
- Bishops House in Edmondstown
- Kilcolman Cemetery

Friday Evening

Friday evening an informal get-together was held at Durkin's where we greeted, renewed friendships and exchanged experiences over a pint or two.

Saturday Morning

Saturday at 11:00 am, Mass was celebrated for all deceased Toweys in Derrinacantha Church by Father Tommy Towey, assisted by Deacon Tony Towey of Illinois. Other participants were Mike Towey, Dublin -1st reading and Eileen Collins, Birmingham, UK – 2nd reading. Fr Tommy inspired us with his heart-felt homily about our beloved ancestors and with his hymn selection. Within the church three Stations of the Cross are dedicated to Toweys.



Family History

Dick Towey, Clan Genealogist was available several hours both Saturday and Sunday to assist with individual family history research. This was a busy room with many people coming expressly to locate their ancestors. It was fascinating watching members attend to their family charts, compare notes, discuss family stories and traditions.

Saturday Evening



The Saturday night social began at 8 p.m. with Secretary Janet Towey Mann assisted by Norrie Sullivan, accepting 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. The musicians were Johnny (father playing flute) with wife (bodhran), Johnny (accordion), Colleen (singer and tin whistle) Tara (piano) and Martin (drums). From the audience were Richard McGettrick, Galway playing tin whistle, and singers Seamus Beirne, Ballaghaderreen; Mike Towey, Dublin; Norrie O'Sullivan, Co Cork; and Anne Gavaghan, Ballaghaderreen who further enhanced the evening with their talent. Further, the Ireland attendeed taught traditional Irish dancing to their oversea cousins.

We thank Dan Towey, MN chairperson, assisted by Ed and Anne Towey of MN who organized and ran the raffle. A very special thank you to those who donated raffle prizes. It is our only way of paying for the Gathering expenses.

The celebrations were recorded on DVD by Mr Tom Coppinger. Contact Tom at TomCoppinger@eircom.net or telephone 0872255408/(09498)60481

Sunday Afternoon

The General Meeting was held in Durkin's at 3:00

p.m. Committee Elected:

The 2010 Executive Committee is:

Chairperson Edward Towey, Deephaven, [MN: etowey001@yahoo.com](mailto:etowey001@yahoo.com)
Vice chairperson Dan Towey, Blaine [MN: toweydan@juno.com](mailto:toweydan@juno.com)
Secretary Janet Towey Mann, Southbury, [CT: jtafmn@snet.net](mailto:jtafmn@snet.net)
Assistant Secretary Caroline Hassett Power, Quin, Co. Clare:
hassettcaroline@yahoo.ie
Treasurer Patrick Hassett, Shannon, Co. [Clare: phassett@ups.com](mailto:phassett@ups.com)
Vice Treasurer Patrick Burns, Gig Harbor, [WA: 1pmb@comcast.net](mailto:1pmb@comcast.net)
Historian/Genealogist Position Open
Assistant Genealogist ... Dick Towey, Corvallis, [OR: toweylr@comcast.net](mailto:toweylr@comcast.net)
Webmaster Bill Towey, Stockton, [CA: wtowey5853@aol.com](mailto:wtowey5853@aol.com)
Assistant Webmaster... Mike Towey, Dublin, [Ire: toweymike@hotmail.com](mailto:toweymike@hotmail.com)
Committee Members..... Eileen Collins, Birmingham, UK: eileen.collins34@tiscali.co.uk
..... Michael Towey, Liverpool, [UK: ticky1@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ticky1@blueyonder.co.uk)
..... Tim Towey, Newport, [RI: tim_towey@stgeorges.edu](mailto:tim_towey@stgeorges.edu)

Continuing Honorary Officers are:

Chief Mike Towey, Dublin, [Ire: toweymike@hotmail.com](mailto:toweymike@hotmail.com)
Deputy Mary Towey Ratto, Ukiah, [CA: mmratto@comcast.net](mailto:mmratto@comcast.net)

The General Meeting Program

A presentation by Dick Towey, Clan Genealogist (Oregon), about male yDNA and female mtDNA. See web page [Male yDNA and Female mtDNA](#).

Bill Towey of California resented proposed changes to the www.toweyclan.com and requested improvement suggestions from all Towey Clan members.

The Clan General Meeting concluded at almost 4:30 p.m.

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

Next Gathering

August 2012: We have high hopes for hundreds of Toweys and friends attending the next Towey Clan Gathering in August 2012 in Minneapolis / St Paul, MN area. Meeting details will be forthcoming on this www.toweyclan.com web site.

2014: We return to our ancestor homeland in Ballaghaderreen during 2014.