

Submitted By: Richard E. Towey, 2764 N.W. Johnson Avenue, Corvallis, OR 97330 USA

The Towey Clan

The Towey Clan\Clann Tuathaigh is formally recognized by authority of the Clans of Ireland. The Toweys attending the first clan rally accepted this status on Easter Sunday, 15 April 2001, at the Foxhunter, Ballydowd, Lucan, Co. Dublin. Many thanks to the Towey family owners of the Foxhunter for providing facilities on the 14th and 15th.

Over 60 people bearing the Towey surname were in attendance, with about half of them coming from America. The foot and mouth travel restrictions undoubtedly reduced the number, and caused plans to visit Ballaghaderreen to be deferred until a more opportune time. But the level of camaraderie at the meeting was unimpaired as old family ties were renewed and many distant cousins met for the first time.

The Clan was organized as a vehicle to facilitate communication among the Toweys, and to assemble and disseminate what is known about the family's origins so as to develop a greater appreciation of our roots in and around Ballaghaderreen.

Toweys have lived in the vicinity of Ballaghaderreen as far back as the surviving records for the area go, i.e., about two hundred years. Oral traditions would put their date of arrival back by at least another 150 to 200 years, depending on whether the Toweys were Touhy refugees after the Desmond rebellion in Munster, or were O'Neills transplanted from Ulster under Cromwell.

Interestingly, and even curiously, there may be validity in both of these traditions. The surname experts would have it that we are descendants of the ancient chieftain O'Toghtha of Moygawnagh Parish in northwestern Mayo.

Formal organization of the Towey Clan can be attributed to the vigorous and unflinching efforts of Michael (Haul) Towey. Michael is a native of Attaintaggart in Kilcolman Parish and presently resides in Co. Dublin. His family is part of the "Miller Toweys" of Derrnabrook. The "Miller" branch arises because of their traditional occupation as operators of the Derrnabrook mill since their arrival centuries ago. Mike was elected as the first Towey Clan Taoiseach at the Easter meeting. He is assisted by Mary Towey Ratto of California. Mary's great great grandfather Paddy Towey was last to operate the Towey mill in Derrnabrook.

The newly elected Cathaoirleach is Patricia Toohey of West Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A. Patricia's grandfather Thomas Joseph, also a 'Miller Towey', emigrated to America from Cloonmeen Cloontia about 1890.

Dick Towey the Clan Editor and Webmaster lives in Corvallis, Oregon, U.S.A.

His grandfather emigrated to America from Barnaboy in Castlemore Parish. Dick has spent many hours researching the Toweys historically and genealogically. Now he is occupied designing the Towey web site and its associated links. When it is finished, the domain name will be toweyclan.org

Kevin Towey is the Clan Membership Secretary . He can be contacted at the Foxhunter. Kevin will be pleased to issue memberships and deal with any queries.

Jason Towey, the Clan Treasurer, lives in sunny California. Jason's great great great grandfather Paddy Towey emigrated from Derrnabrook.

The Clan Historian is Helen Towey, aunt of Jason and also living in California.

Mike Towey of South Dakota is the Clan Genealogist.

Anthony Towey of Chicago is Vice Chairperson. Anthony and Mike's father was a 'Miller' Towey who emigrated from Cloonmeen to America.

A special invitation to all Toweys throughout the world to come join the Clan and tell us what you know of the Towey origins and of the history of your own branch of the family.

The next Clan gathering in 2002 will be in the U.S.A.

Contacts: Dick Towey, USA.
mail to: Toweylr@proaxis.com

Kevin Towey, Dublin Tel. Dublin 6262599
mail to: KevTowey@eircom.net

Mike Towey, Dublin Tel. Dublin 4642379
mail to: ToweyMike@hotmail.com

Patricia Toohey, USA
mail to: PatriciaToohey@worldnet.att.net