

the mulvihill voice

Summer 2007 Issue Number Six

RECORD TURNOUT AT MULVIHILL CLANN REUNION

Over one hundred and twenty Mulvihills turned out for the Third Annual Clann Reunion, held this year on the scenic Kerry/Limerick border on the banks of the Shannon River estuary.

Although the main night of festivities planned was Saturday, Friday evening saw Kirby's Lanterns Hotel between Tarbert and Glin flooded with Mulvihill families who had arrived from nearby townlands as well as from the States and the U.K. A very lively party in the pub ensued and we knew it was going to be a great weekend.

North Kerry is home to the largest concentration of Mulvihills in Ireland. Mulvihills from all walks of life came by. We met farmers, teachers, musicians, writers, nurses, fishermen, housewives, entrepreneurs, students, doctors, electricians, scientists.

(continued on page 8)



ANCIENT ECHOES

DOONMULVIHILL



Mulvihills have been through hard times; of that there is no doubt. Yet very surprisingly, we apparently managed to have our own small castle, or tower house, for a time on the northern edge of the *Dal gCais* territory, in the Inchicronan Parish, close to the Clare/Galway border.

Sometime before 1550, having largely been driven from our Roscommon territory at *Sliabh Bán*, many of us found our way south and formed the town of Doonmulvihill. We may have occupied a hillfort above the burial ground prior to our occupation of the tower house. The castle is thought to have been built by the MacNamaras or the O'Briens but for unknown reasons, the Mulvihills held it for a time. Attempts by the O'Briens to take it back forcibly from us were not successful.

The castle has been in ruins for centuries. Stones from it were used to build various buildings and structures including the tower pictured at left. Scholar and topographer John O'Donovan called it "a pedestal of raising a tower therein" around 1840. A holy well and stones such as *bulllauns* or basin stones and coffin stones are reportedly on site, all indicating the probable prior existence of a churchyard here at Doonmulvihill, now known as Doon.

See future issues of *The Mulvihill Voice* for more information on Doonmulvihill.

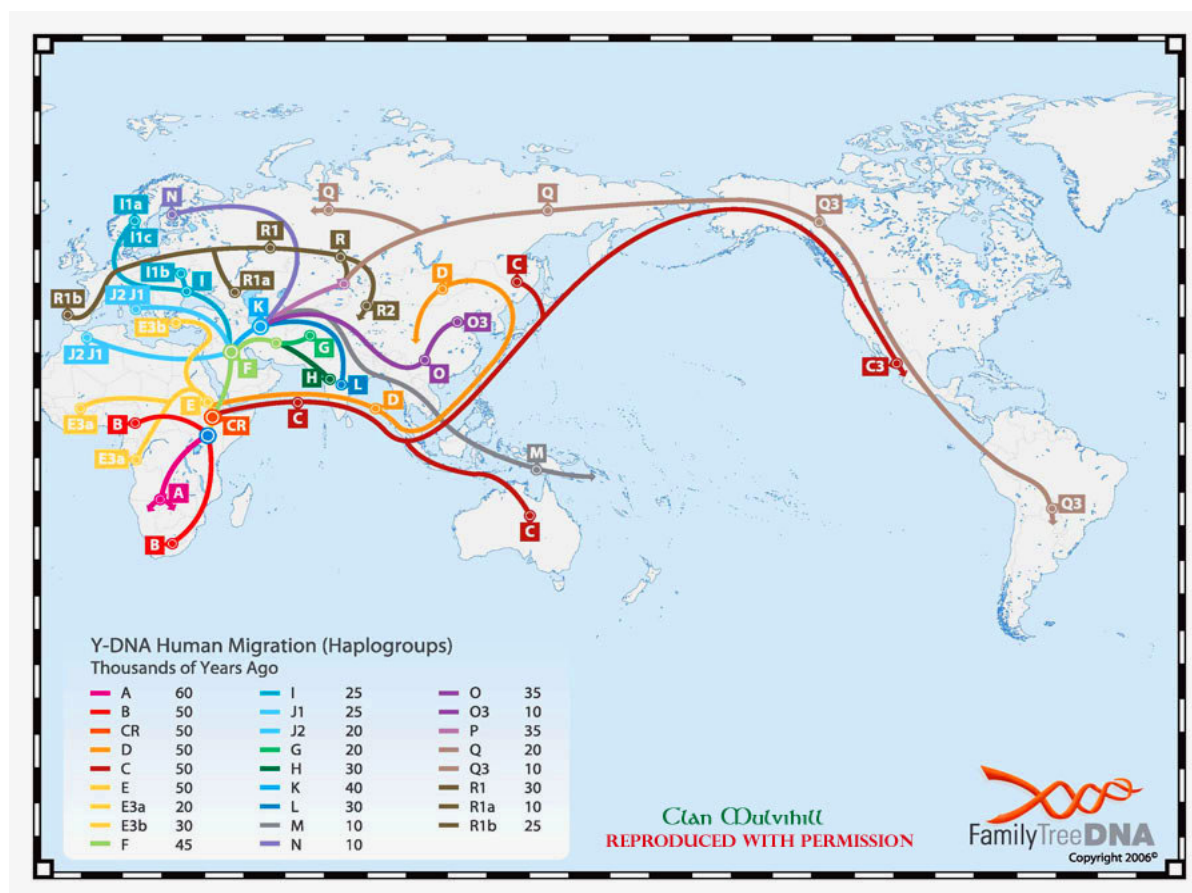


Castle ruins at Doonmulvihill

Photo by Aiden Mulvihill

GENETIC GENEALOGY 5: BUILDING THE TREE OF MAN

By James M. Mulvihill, Chieftain



Current view of the ancient migration of various YDNA haplogroups (courtesy FTDNA)

In prior columns we explored the tremendous promise that DNA testing holds for the future in genealogy, looked at the elements of testing, and defined terms, such as SNP and STR mutations. This time we'll start pulling it all together to see what it can tell us about our ancestry.

An analysis of Y Chromosome DNA for STR mutations at 12, 25, 37, or more locations yields a haplotype for an individual, such as my own DNA example in the last Newsletter. This does not specifically identify me as an individual, but rather defines the family, clan, or tribe that I, and my ancestors, belong to from the very distant past. There are many thousands of different haplotypes. They can be grouped into a larger unit by their commonality in both STR and SNP mutations. These larger groups are called haplogroups. There are presently 18 defined haplogroups.

By gathering this information on people from all over the world, we can plot the relationships among them and trace the path of their initial journey out of Africa. We can do this because after the initial colonization of the world by our species, people tended to stay put for long periods of time. They stayed largely in the areas that they colonized because, while the early movements involved very small bands of people, their rapidly expanding population constrained others from encroaching.

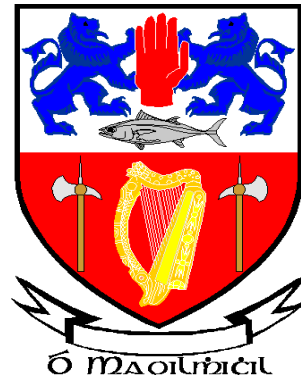
That is not to say that there were not individual or small group movements, but the bulk of the population remained in place for thousands of years.

The introduction of farming at about 10,000 BC further constrained large scale movement by tying people to the land, as did the subsequent development of cities and the social governance that came with it. Not even the scourge of massive armed conflicts and conquests affected the swelling tide of humanity in any one place more than by a few percent.

Thus, in an otherwise as yet crude sense, we can map the earliest movements, as depicted in the figure at left. Of particular interest to most of us is the brown line that depicts haplogroup R as it separated from Q and began to divide itself as it moved westward toward the Atlantic Ocean about 30,000 years ago. A new SNP mutation at that point allows us to classify a portion of them as R1b. After being forced south into refuges in what is now Spain and Portugal, Italy, and the Balkans by the onslaught of the last glacial epoch, yet another SNP mutation characterizes many of the survivors as R1b1c. It is these people that advance northward in a warming climate beginning in about 14,000 BC to become the enduring inhabitants of Western Europe and the British Isles.

This would be just an interesting story if it ended there, but continuing growth in analysis techniques, the discovery of more defining markers, and the growing popularity of DNA testing has allowed the refining of haplogroup R1b1c into more than 60 subgroups. These subgroups are beginning to form the basis of a classification system that will ultimately allow an individual to define the history of his family right up to the modern era.

Next time we'll explore another facet of YDNA analysis that focuses on the nearer term...locating cousins that you never knew you had. We'll be moving from the present this time, and going back into the past, using the power of those newly defined subgroups of R1b1c.



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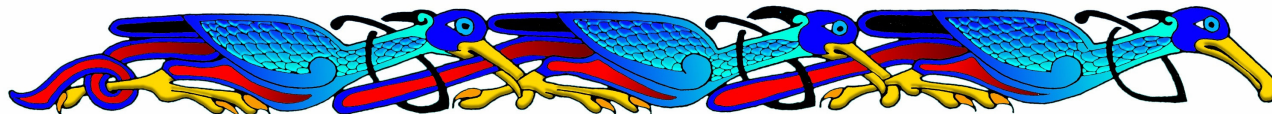
Rites of Passage

Liam Mulvihill, native of Kenagh, Co. Longford, has announced his retirement as Director General of the GAA after twenty eight years in office.

Mulvihill is perhaps best known for his work in the development of the historic Croke Park in Dublin as an ultra-modern stadium and its now internationally recognized excellence. He oversaw huge changes in the association related to new technologies, sponsorships and development of the games and truly brought the organization into the twenty-first century.

The Gaelic Athletic Association was founded in 1884 with the goals of reviving and nurturing traditional Irish games. There are now branches in the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and across Europe.

Best of luck to Liam Mulvihill from the Mulvihill Clann!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mary Ann,

Many thanks for the newsletter. It does make for interesting reading. I have passed a copy to my father up in Scotland.

Unfortunately due to work commitments I will not be able to come over and meet you all.

I did get an e-mail from John (Joe) Mulvihill (Mulvihill Clann Vice Chairperson) the other day and lo and behold he turns out to be my Dad's uncle. It was such a pleasant surprise to hear from someone whom I have never met but shares a common thread. He has filled me in on a few missing pieces of information that I would have never known had it not been for *The Voice*.

Once again, many thanks
Stephen Mulvihill

Hello Mary Ann,

I chanced across the website and am certain we are related. I would be most interested in the newsletter. I believe we may be able to contribute. I am a Mulvihill whose family came from Moyvane near Listowel (north Kerry) in recent years. The family originally lived in Kent where my grandfather and grandmother settled a year or so after arriving from Ireland.

The origins of the family were clouded in secrecy presumably because my grandmother was concerned about anti-Irish feelings at a time when the IRA were active in their campaign on British soil. I did eventually locate a second cousin quite by chance during a visit to Listowel. I didn't even know she existed before arriving at her door and we are still in touch.

I have discovered a great deal about the family. My great-grandfather was an incredible man and everything I have learned has confirmed a view formed intuitively that I was a member of a great family - formed before I had even encountered another Mulvihill.

I shall most certainly be attending the gathering and am positive that other members of the family will be joining me.

Paul Mulvihill
Lincoln, England

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*Printed copies of back issues are
available upon request*

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**We invite you to join the Mulvihill
Clann now!
Meet distant relatives and discover your
roots!**

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Mary Ann,

Hey! My name is Erin Walshe, 20-year-old girl from New York, you don't know me but you have been sending your amazing *Mulvihill Voice* to my mom (Debbie). We just got your spring 2007 issue today. My great grandfather is Jerry Mulvihill, the Irish dancing instructor. Just about 2 weeks ago I was back in Ireland in Glin, Co. Limerick visiting with Popa's sister Lizzie, who is in her 90's and looking great. Still as happy as ever and loves to talk about the Mulvihill family. And thanks for sending us *The Mulvihill Voice*...it's great. Keep up the good work on it.

From,
EMW



AUSTRALIAN FORUM

Hi Mary Ann,

Thank you for sending the back copies of the Voice, I found them very interesting. My ancestors as far as I know came from Moyvanne (Newtownsandes) and Ballylongford. Thomas's death certificate says Newtownsandes, but his shipping record says that he came from Muher. From the information in the Voice, it seems that most of the Mulvihill clan came from Roscommon. I hope you can help me with my research in some way.

I do have some information regarding Thomas and Johanna, but as yet most of it is unconfirmed, but I will include it here. Thomas Mulvihill b. 18 May 1830 and christened at Roman Catholic Church in Moyvanne, 31 May 1830. He died on 26 Jun 1915 in Tumut NSW Australia. His father was Michael Mulvihill and mother Ellen Connell. Also born were Joanna Mulvihill b. 1832, Michael Mulvihill 1835, Johanna Mulvihill b. 1838 and Patrick Mulvihill b. 1841. I know Patrick was born in Kilbaha, Johanna and Patrick both came to Australia and settled in Tumut as well with Thomas.

I have a handwritten transcript of Thomas and Johanna's marriage which took place in Alderney, Guernsey, Channel Isles England in 1855, on which they stated that Thomas's father was deceased. Thomas and Johanna arrived in Australia in 1857. They departed from Southampton Dec 1856 on the *Mary Ann*.

Johanna Mulvihill daughter of Michael, married Patrick Geary from Co. Limerick, and came to Australia.

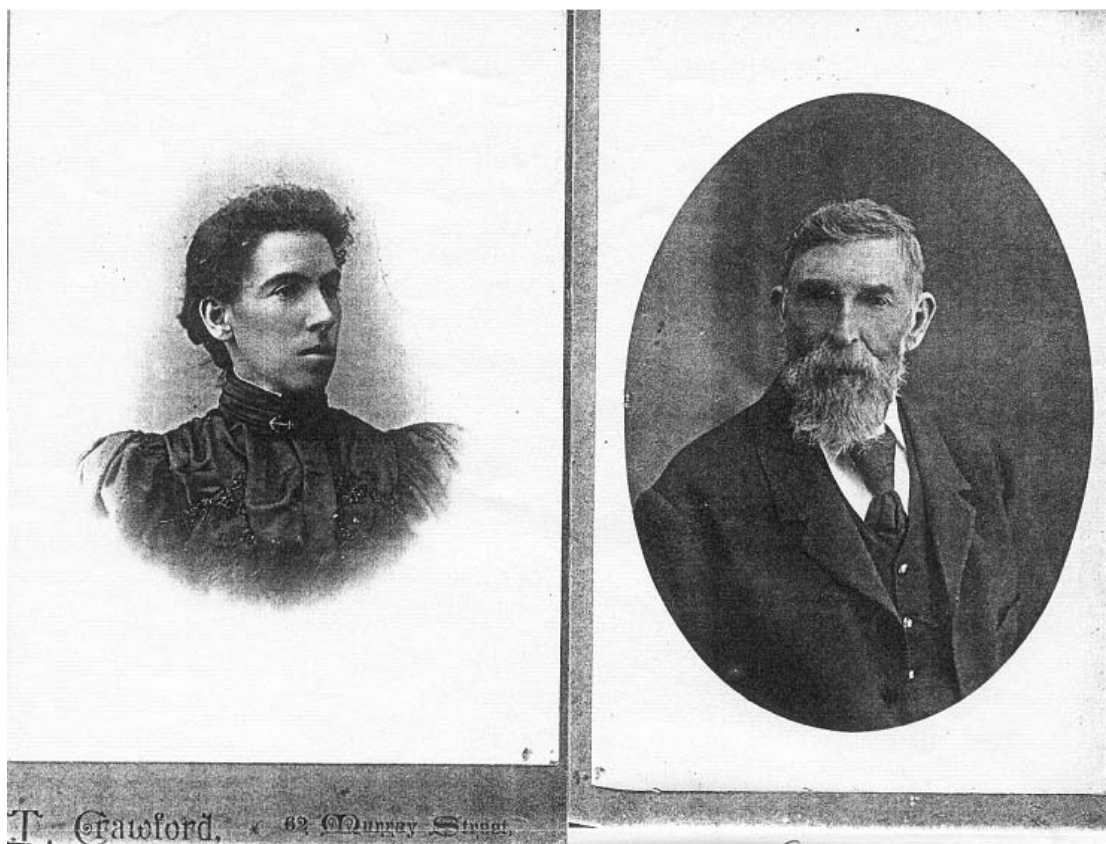
Patrick Mulvihill arrived in Australia on the *Abyssinian* 1859 in Sydney. Shipping papers say that his parents were deceased and he was joining his brother.

I would be very thankful if someone can connect any of this information with theirs, and maybe allow me to further my research into my family.

Thanks Mary Ann for helping me with this research. I did go over to Ireland in 2005 and tried to find out more information, but wasn't successful at all.

Cheers,
Dorothy Vowles,
Little Bay, Sydney NSW

Johanna Mulvihill (née Scanlon) and Thomas Mulvihill





Knockanira House, heartbeat of Mulvihill territory in the 18th century. Now an internationally recognized refuge for the threatened Lesser Horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) who inhabit the attic, now lovingly known as “The Mulvihill bats”. The home would have been torn down if it weren’t for these rare mammals. Long known as Mulvihill House, it was built by Mulvihills from Doonmulvihill around 1712. Direct descendants of this family live locally as well as in South Carolina and reportedly, France.

DEDICATION

We hereby dedicate our Summer issue to **Jerry Mulvihill**, the renowned Irish dancing instructor.

Jerry was born in Moyvane, Co. Kerry and began dancing at age four. After enjoying much traveling and many competitions in Ireland, Jerry moved to New York in 1948. He soon began teaching Irish dancing and founded The Mulvihill School in the Bronx, which later expanded into many nearby counties.

Throughout his career, Jerry has taught thousands of students and trained countless dance teachers. Many of his students compete regionally, nationally and internationally. Many have become champions. In 1996, he co-founded the Mulvihill-Lynch School of Irish Dance on Long Island, New York which currently has about two hundred students.

The Mulvihill Clann applauds Jerry’s lifelong contribution to Irish dancing and his many achievements in bringing Irish step dancing to generations of children and adults alike. His love of dancing has spread throughout the region and he keeps a very special part of Irish culture thriving in New York.

Please send us your Mulvihill family announcements for the next issue. Weddings, engagements, births, deaths, confirmations, first communions, graduations, initiations, retirements, honors of any kind are all respectfully requested. Thanks!

REVIEW- BROADWAY MUSICAL



From the producers of *Riverdance* and based on Morgan Llywelyn's historical novel *Grania—She King of the Irish Seas* has come the powerful and beautiful production *The Pirate Queen*. Boublil and Schönberg's compositions tell the 16th century story of Grace O'Malley, the famed sea captain of Clew Bay, Co. Mayo who fiercely defended her territory against foreign occupation for over forty years.

Considering how little has actually been written about *Grania*, it is startling that this ancient and amazing story of the clash of the two cultures as told through the confrontation between her and Queen Elizabeth has even arrived on a Broadway stage at all. Yet through the joyful dancing, passionate music, seafaring set design and dramatic costuming one is transported to the shores of western Ireland in the times of the chieftains and Brehon law. One is quickly drawn in emotionally by the performances of accomplished and finely cast actors.

An absolute must-see!

See the book *Granuaile, Ireland's Pirate Queen* by Anne Chambers (historical consultant for the production) for more information on the remarkable life of Grace O'Malley (1530-1603).

*TRADITIONAL MULVIHILL
MOTTO
PRO ARIS ET FOCIS
'FOR OUR ALTARS and our Firesides'*

OUR IRISH HERITAGE

Irish clans are watching very closely, along with countless other groups of concerned citizens from many countries, as the M3 roadway building scheme continues to plough ahead through the Tara / Skreen valley of Co. Meath. Despite the vigorous protestations of professional archaeologists and historians the world over, the route continues to cut perilously near the ancient and revered site of the High Kings of Ireland. Demolition of nearby archaeological sites has already occurred and more loom, as does the installation of a traffic interchange just north of the Hill of Tara. The valley is extremely rich with the treasures of Tara's royal history. Here at *Temair* (Tara), the five ancient roads of Ireland converged. One of them linked Tara to Crúachan, the ancient seat of power adjacent to Sliabh Bágghda, territory of our ancestral Mulvihill tribe, the Corca Achlann.

Tara was the seat of Irish power for many centuries; its early beginnings are lost amid the ancient legends. As many as 142 kings are said to have reigned here. In addition, most of our very oldest legends revolve around Tara, such as stories of the Fir Bolg, the Tuatha Dé Danann, Lugh, Étaín, Gráinne and Diarmaid, Fionn Mac Cumhail and Cormac Mac Airt. A prehistoric passage tomb is also on site, demonstrating human presence here over 4,000 years ago. This has been a sacred place to the Irish for millennia. Tara has often been called the heart of Ireland, both spiritually and historically. Nowhere in Ireland is richer with legend or more layered with history than Tara.

The route for the roadway was chosen before an adequate professional assessment of antiquities was done. Plans are forging ahead, due to shortsighted political and economic agendas, despite the irreparable loss to Irish families, future generations and lovers of Ireland the world over. The traditional ethics of archaeology are being erased and the practice of quickly excavating, rushing to record the antiquities noted, then bulldozing the site out of existence is taking over. This year, Tara was named one of the 100 most endangered heritage sites globally by The World Monuments Fund.

Of greatest immediate concern is the recent discovery of a unique Early Iron Age ritual complex at Lismullen, right along the proposed route. An underground *southern* complex and a woodhenge ceremonial enclosure have been discovered along with other finds, some dating from the Neolithic. Much pressure is being brought to bear to alter the route to preserve this unusual site but the outcome is far from certain. Protestors are on site; others have been jailed. Protests also took place at Irish embassies in New York, London, Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles this July and in many European locations. Petition and e-mail campaigns are raging. The European Commission has just ruled that continuing road work through Lismullen violates European law and has demanded that work stop. It has not.

Keep tuned for updates on Lismullen, Tara and other treasured sites we hold dear.

For more information see tarawatch.org.



An Irish Mulvihill and an American Mulvihill unite at the site of the infamous faction fight, defending ourselves against the Cooleens at Ballyeigh, Co. Kerry

THE FACTION FIGHT OF 1834

On St. John's Day, June 24, 1834, the Black Mulvihills and their trusted allies the Lawlors, were enjoying the Annual Ballyeigh Festival of Games and Racing, an event dating back to Pagan times.

Twelve hundred of the rival faction The Cooleens crossed the river and attacked the Mulvihill-Lawlors, who numbered around two thousand. The Black Mulvihills and Lawlors forced the Cooleens to divide and retreat. The fight was said to be one of the fiercest faction fights ever seen and many people were drowned and beaten with Blackthorne sticks. Our clansfolk prevailed and won the fight. It is said that the women fought alongside the men.

Eventually the races were moved to Listowel, Co. Kerry where it still occurs every year, now as a harvest festival around Autumn Equinox.

If anyone has more information about this faction fight, please send it in.

Jim Mulvihill, Mulvihill Clann Chieftain gave an introductory talk on Mulvihill history on Saturday morning which elicited many questions and a fascinating discussion about our roots. In the afternoon, a busload of us joined the tour north across the Shannon by ferry to Co. Clare to some very interesting sites including Doonmulvihill and Knockanira House, seat of the clann in the 18th century.

After supper, Jerry Mulvihill of Trainlair, Galway and his many musical siblings were joined by other musicians and singers, including Sean Mulvihill (pictured at right) for an excellent session that lasted into the wee hours. Many more Mulvihills arrived throughout the evening or returned with additional family members. All ages were represented.

On Sunday, we had further talks about family history and genealogy (after a delicious breakfast), then headed out for a look at some north Kerry Mulvihill sites. We stopped at an old graveyard at Murhur near Moyvane, which contained dozens of Mulvihill graves. The oldest we noted was from the 19th century, but many stones were beyond legibility. This was a truly beautiful place in the countryside to have been laid to rest.



Dancing Mulvihills

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Please recycle or pass around to other
Mulvihills



Seamus Mulvihill of Coosan, Westmeath, left, speaks with Sean Mulvihill of Ballybunion, Kerry

We continued out to Ballyeigh at Ballybunion on the shores of the Cashen River to the site of the infamous faction fight of 1834. Standing on the sunny strand, it was hard to imagine our kinsfolk having to battle here their long standing rivals, the Cooleens.

Many of us stayed over Sunday night and did some planning for next year. Mostly we enjoyed having a little extra time with our clansfolk. One thing is for sure: there is never a dull moment when you get a few Mulvihills together!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

I sincerely wish I could have met all the Mulvihills who arrived for the reunion, but there were so many of us I wasn't able to! I would love to hear from folks about their experiences at the reunion. What were the highlights for you? Do you have suggestions for next year? And most of all, thank you all very much for coming and making the weekend such a success!