

THE MULVIHILL VOICE

Spring 2010

Issue Number Seventeen

Traveling to Ireland A Perfect Time to Go

Every spring, people write to us asking for information regarding an upcoming trip to Ireland. If you've booked a trip this year, congratulations! There's no end to fascinating and inspiring possibilities for your trip. Ireland has a wealth of places to visit for every taste. Some of us are especially enchanted by prehistoric ruins and seek out 5,000 year-old megalithic tombs, standing stones, stone circles, dolmens and cairns. Others have a particular fascination with early monastic ruins and the lives of 6th century Christian ascetics and saints whose dwellings and church ruins dot the rural landscape. Medieval castles and their stories may be your focus. We recommend taking in sites from all of these eras. Ireland, like all of Europe, is a landscape of layers. Thousands of years of human habitation are recorded beneath your every step. See www.heritageireland.ie. Kerry's Dingle peninsula alone has over 2,000 archaeological sites and is a gorgeous place to visit. If you are physically fit, take an archaeological walking tour which will likely take in sites from several different millennia.

For the young at heart and musically inclined, consider one of Ireland's countless music festivals. Doolin, Co. Clare is alive with traditional music each summer: see www.doolinireland.net. At www.boghill.com find summer workshops in traditional music, cob-building, crafts, yoga and more. Ennis, Westport and Galway are famous for the excellent music in their pubs, but it can be found all over the country. Irish gardens are also worth including on your trip and many are very historic. See www.castlesgardensireland.com.

continued on page 8



Trim Castle in County Meath, along the legendary River Boyne



Michael Mulvihill 1879-1916

reprinted courtesy of his family

April was the time of destiny for Michael Mulvihill. He was born at Ardoughter, Ballyduff, in April 1879. Thirty-seven years later on an April evening in Dublin, he was shot dead on the cobblestones of Moore Lane less than two hundred yards from the flaming ruins of the General Post Office.

He was a spare athletic man, of medium build, with a scholarly face and penetrating eyes. Quick to anger, he was sometimes impetuous in action, but his normal disposition was one of whimsical good humour. Above all, he was generous. The two great loyalties of his life were his family and his country. In the end he had to choose between them, and he made his choice.

Michael was the second son of a family of five sons and four daughters, of John Mulvihill, principal of Ballincrossig National School. His mother, Mary O'Connor, came from Kimore. The family was influenced by a strong Fenian tradition, a fact which contributed to a series of disputes between John Mulvihill and the clerical manager of his school and which culminated in Mulvihill's premature retirement, on a meagre pension, in 1903.

continued on page 2

The Mulvihill Voice

Editor: Mary Ann Mulvihill-Decker,
Deputy Chieftain for North America
Assistant Editor: James M. Mulvihill,
Chieftain, Mulvihill Clan

Printed and electronic copies of back issues are available upon request; also available on the Mulvihill Clan website— email for details

To contact us please write or e-mail to:
The Mulvihill Voice
Box 2772
Sag Harbor, NY 11963 USA

mulvihillvoice@hotmail.com

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

Please send your contact info to:
Thomas C. Mulvihill, Membership

8821 Misty Creek Drive
Sarasota, Florida 34141 USA
mm2000@comcast.net
941-929-9093

Michael Mulvihill *continued from page 1*

Their father's retirement was a financial disaster for the Mulvihill family. Already young Michael, having completed his primary schooling under his father's guidance, had set out for London in search of employment. He made friends among the Irish colony, worked at various jobs and found the energy to further his education by evening studies. Finally he succeeded, by competitive examination, in securing an appointment in the Civil Service. This achievement - no mean one in such conditions - barely preceded the retirement of John Mulvihill from teaching.

Michael's reaction was prompt and generous. He became a second source of revenue to the family, apportioning his personal income gladly so that his younger brothers and sisters might survive at home. One by one, with his help, they completed their schooling and entered upon their careers. By the fateful year of 1916 only one younger brother and one sister were studying at Ardoughter, but a more demanding claim was to take precedence in Michael's loyalty.

On the formation of the Irish Volunteers, Michael Mulvihill, with many of his friends, had joined the London Corps. Among these friends were his brother-in-law, Austin Kennan, from Dublin; Denis Daly who later became a Dail Deputy for Kerry; Michael and Sean McGrath from Longford; and a vigorous young man named Michael Collins from Cork. All the accents of Ireland were heard in the clandestine drill halls of North London. Talk of insurrection was rife. In the early spring of 1916 expectation mounted steadily. Just then a new and urgent complication beset Michael Mulvihill.

continued on page 6



The Mulvihill Clan Officers are formally putting out a call for donations to help pay the costs of our various projects including production and distribution of *The Mulvihill Voice*. The graphic at left, contributed by our treasurer, Tom Mulvihill, tracks the donations to date, as a call went out on the Clan website a few months ago. Generously, \$1,412 has been donated in response, but we do need more. Ink, paper, mailers and postage for each issue distributed through postal means are quite expensive. In order to keep *The Mulvihill Voice* in circulation we do need more donations. We want to continue to provide the newsletter to many who are not able to access the Internet and to many elderly family members. We also want people to receive it regardless of their financial situation, so we do not charge for the newsletter. If you can afford to help us though, please send a check to Thomas C. Mulvihill at the Florida address in the above box. Mulvihill Clan gathering expenses exceeded monies received as well. We also hope in the future to receive enough money to fund some additional projects.

Thank you to all those who have donated to our clan. We really appreciate it very, very much.



Mary Mulvihill née O'Connor, mother of Michael, with her Kerry Blue dog

DEDICATION

For over one hundred and sixty years, St. Vincent's Hospital in lower Manhattan has served the poor, the homeless and generations of New York immigrants and residents regardless of their ability to pay. We join the throngs of people who are saddened by its final closure this past season. We therefore dedicate our Spring Issue to all those who have participated in its mission and cared for our ancestors, friends and neighbors for over a century and a half.

Alfred E. Smith IV, Chairman of the Board of Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers, said the cancer and HIV/AIDS Center will be continuing to care for patients while new sponsors for those programs are found. Smith is the great-grandson of Alfred E. Smith, former New York Governor and presidential candidate, whose mother was Catherine Mulvihill of New York City. The Alfred E. Smith Foundation Dinner has long been one of the sponsors of the hospital, as Governor Smith was a great champion of the poor and disenfranchised.

St. Vincent's was the last Roman Catholic general hospital in New York City, staffed in part by nuns of the Sisters of Charity, who founded the hospital in 1849. It treated generations of Irish including survivors of the Titanic in 1912 and of 9/11. It was apparently a victim of its own generosity, as it closed for financial reasons yet never abandoned its philosophy of compassionate care and dedication to the poor.

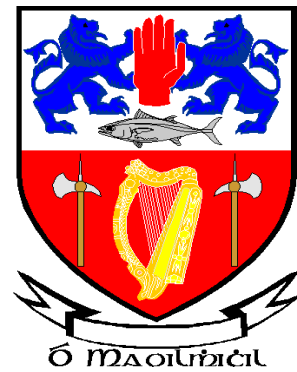
Rites of Passage

Catherine Mulvihill and Paul A. Gatesman, pictured at right, were married on August 22, 2009 by Msrg. Homer Gosselin in Ludlow, Massachusetts in St. John the Baptist Church. They honeymooned in the south and west of Ireland and in Dublin. They then attended the Mulvihill Clan reunion in Philadelphia with brother Denis, sister Alice F. Mulvihill Garcia and niece Annie Mulvihill.

Catherine and Paul had a renewal of vows ceremony after Thanksgiving so that many more of their relatives could take part in their celebration. She tells us they now have six children and eleven grandchildren.

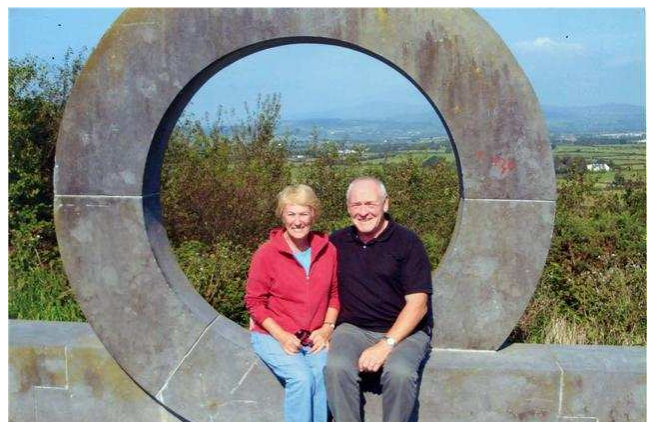
Catherine is the daughter of the late Denis F. Mulvihill III. She says the family originally hails from Co. Roscommon and that this was confirmed through her brother's 2009 DNA test. The old family homestead is in the Bridgeport, Connecticut area.

Congratulations to Catherine and Paul on their union and their new family! We wish them a very happy marriage and a joyful life together.



Clann Mulvihill Officers 2010

Chieftain:	James M. Mulvihill, USA
Deputy Chieftain,	Mary Ann
North America:	Mulvihill-Decker, USA
Deputy Chieftain, Europe	
and Secretary:	Aiden Mulvihill, IRL
Vice Chairperson:	Joseph Mulvihill, IRL
Treasurer and Membership:	Thomas Mulvihill, USA
Public Relations Officer:	Carolyn Mulvihill, IRL
Genealogist and	
DNA Project Director:	James M. Mulvihill, USA
Linguist:	Seán Mulvihill, IRL
Founder:	Rev. Cathal Stanley, IRL
Music Director:	Jerry Mulvihill, IRL



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Mary Ann...

Thanks so much for the wonderful review! We enjoyed ourselves in Sag Harbor as well!

I have to say, I was shocked to open your paper and see my cousin on your cover! His name is Father Cathal Stanley, he's my father's first cousin!

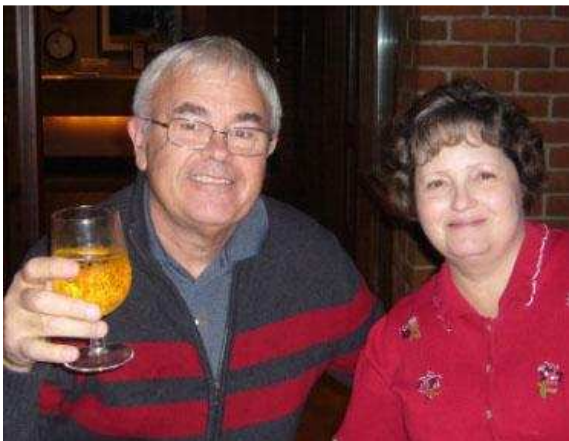
Keep up the good work - there are a lot of great Mulvihills out there!

Thanks, and best of luck!
joanie

JOANIE MADDEN
www.cherishtheladies.com

Another great edition.
Loved the well story!

Steven Mitchell



Howard C. Person and his wife Judy at the Fifth Annual Mulvihill Clan reunion last October. Howard's great-grandmother was a Mulvihill. He is a genealogist. They live in Littleton, Colorado.

Mary Ann, Hello!

I am copying my sister Mary Ann Mulvihill on this email. She is the one who can tell you about our family. She has done some research on our roots. My father was the 3rd generation Mulvihill in the USA. All of us were born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. My mother was Julia Ann Carroll Mulvihill; her parents' names were James Patrick Carroll and Ellen Farrell. My father was John Timothy Mulvihill; his parents' names were Mary Ann Mulvihill and John Mulvihill.

My sisters' names are:
Ellen Rosenkranz
Margaret Rubinate
Kathleen Lunn
Mary Ann Mulvihill

My brothers' names are:
James Patrick Mulvihill (deceased)
John Mulvihill (deceased)
Leo Mulvihill (deceased)
John Timothy Mulvihill
Timothy Mulvihill
Michael Mulvihill

Thanks for all this work.

Julie (Sister Julia Mulvihill, OSF)
Kenya

Mary Ann,

It is so nice to be in touch with another Mary Ann Mulvihill!!!

I have very little info about our branch of the family but here is what I have. We are the "Federal Street Mulvihills" (south Philadelphia, PA), as my cousin has dubbed us. My great-grandfather, Michael Mulvihill (married to Ellen Kelleher) came to America from Roscommon, Ireland around 1870, as far as I know. His father was John Mulvihill married to Sarah Stretch. I believe Michael worked in the oil business, at the "Oil Works", as they say in south Philly. My grandfather and my father both worked there too. My father told me that my grandfather, John, was highly valued by the oil companies for his knowledge of oil formulas.

I hope this helps. It is all I have at this point.

Thank you for the work you do in the clan!

Mary Ann Mulvihill

[This clanswoman is the sister of Sister Julia Mulvihill of the Order of St. Francis who received our Winter dedication for her humanitarian work at the Nyumbani community in Kenya. See issue number 16.]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mary Ann,

Thank you for mailing to me *The Mulvihill Voice*. Sorry to learn that you were not present at the celebrations in Philadelphia. I have heard all about it from Aiden and the Sligo cousins, Ultan and Irma. Glad to learn that Aiden is now the European Tánaiste.

All the Irish Clans in Argentina come together at Halloween every year in a different city. Then occasionally a Clan has a big celebration. *The Southern Cross* and the Irish Embassy always have details of these gatherings. I was present at one in La Plata and it was great fun; the wine flowed!

I will mail my copies of *The Mulvihill Voice* to the County Library in Longford. I spoke on the phone to the archivist on the history of the Mulvihill Clan and he is willing to co-operate if he finds anything new. About the Mulvihills who may have come from Mont Michel, France: that is folklore rather than history!

History of County Longford by James P. Farrell, first published 1891 by Dollard Printing House, Dublin (reprinted at the request of his grandson, Lucius Farrell, 1980, by Longford Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd, Market Sq, Longford) is a very good source. Up to 1607 the Irish Clans in Longford, including the Farrells and the Mulvihills, lived side by side in harmony. I didn't find any record of battles between them. The Mulvihills were dispossessed by the Fitzgeralds in 1607. The land area was less than six hundred acres. Fifty years ago Brian McMahon, teacher and writer of Listowel, Co. Kerry, suggested to me when we were walking around the graveyards of the Mulvihills and McMahons in Kerry, that possibly the Mulvihills of Longford were offered tenancies or work on the great estate of Fitzgerald of Thomond, so they sailed down the Shannon bringing all their skills with them.

If Father Stanley could acquire Gearoid Mulvihill's notes, they would probably find an answer to the question - why change the name from Mitchell to Mulvihill. The Archivist and Senior Librarian in Longford have promised to seek an answer to James M. Mulvihill's *Mulvihill mysteries*.

With thanks and best wishes,

Elizabeth Manweiler
Berkshire, England

Note from the Editor:

Our immense sadness associated with the Gulf of Mexico oil disaster cannot be overstated. We think of our clansfolk in the gulf region who have been especially impacted. As more irreplaceable ecosystems become devastated by dispersants, toxins and oil and a myriad of innocent creatures are killed every day, we mourn and none of us are untouched. We pray for those of every species who are suffering and for the horrific well to be sealed at last. We pray for solutions which can move us away from our oil-based lifestyles and economies into ones based on clean and renewable energy.

Hi Mary Ann,

My great-grandmother's birth certificate lists her name as Mary Elizabeth Mulvihill, daughter of Patrick Mulvihill and Mary Dare. The passenger list of the ship *The Illinois* had her as Mary Mitchell. She was born in Fuerty, Co. Roscommon, 13 April 1866 and came to Iowa when she was 18, in April of 1884. She had relatives in Boone County, Iowa and was a nanny for the Judge family who originated from Fuerty as well. (I believe their name would have been Breheny which is the Irish spelling of Judge.) My great-grandmother married Charles C. Tallman in Boone, Iowa and eventually the family moved to Colorado. Their daughter was Caroline Marie Tallman who married my grandfather, Howard A. Person. (Howard's father, George Person, had a farm outside of Ames, Iowa.)

My great-grandmother was the youngest of seven children. As far as I know, none of her siblings ever came to America. Her father Patrick died in the workhouse, now the Sacred Heart Hospital, in the town of Roscommon. I don't have any more information on Mary's mother, Mary Dare Mulvihill, other than she was still alive at the time of Patrick's death in 1903. Two of their children moved to England. There is a slight possibility that one of their sons, Thomas, survived to adulthood. Mary had a sister, Margaret, who married Patrick Cain and moved to England.

There are a number of Mulvihills buried in the Fuerty cemetery. I have documented their names. There is one really old Mulvihill headstone that I took a picture of and did a rubbing. I had baking powder and rubbed it into the writing on the stone so I could transcribe all the information. The parish priest in Fuerty, Fr. John Leogue, was very helpful and was able to find baptismal records for my great-grandmother and the names of the parents of her father Patrick. They were M. Mulvihill and Mary Tyrell, my great-great-great-grandparents. Mary Elizabeth had a brother Michael; I would guess that the M was for Michael.

There was another Mulvihill family in Creggs, Co. Galway. I met an elderly lady there whose mother's maiden name was Mulvihill. This community is 5 miles from Fuerty just over the county border. I have the name of a researcher in Creggs. My main Mulvihill family contact lives across the road from the Mulvihill farm and is in her mid-eighties. My family tree is below.

Howard C. Person
Littleton, Colorado

M. Mulvihill
+Mary Terrell
Patrick Mulvihill 1831-1903
Mary Dare 1841-
Margaret Mulvihill
+Patrick Cain
James Mulvihill
Michael Mulvihill
Thomas Mulvihill
John Mulvihill
Patrick Mulvihill
Mary Elizabeth Mulvihill 1866-1959
+Charles Crawford Tallman

OUR IRISH HERITAGE

The religion of our distant ancestors has come into focus in the United States military. The Associated Press reported this past winter that the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado has created a double circle of standing stones upon a hill near the school so that cadets who practice Druidism and other Earth-centered faiths may have a place for worship. The school already has facilities for Christians, Jews, Muslims and Buddhists to worship.

Ireland has roughly two hundred and thirty-four stone circles. They are thought to be of Neolithic and early Bronze Age construction in general, being around four to five thousand years old. While most counties in Ireland have some, counties Cork and Tyrone have the highest concentrations. Counties Kerry, Fermanagh and Derry are also rich with them along with a wide variety of prehistoric stone monuments. England, Scotland and Wales also have many stone circles. Numerous circles are found in western continental Europe as well, especially in Brittany.

See issue number four (Winter 2006/07) of *The Mulvihill Voice* for more information about these stunning sites.



View at the prehistoric complex of Loughcrew outside of Oldcastle near the Meath/Westmeath border

Michael Mulvihill *continued from page 2*

Shortly before Easter he was called for military service in the British Army. His reaction was forthright. Certainly he would fight for the freedom of small nations, especially that of his own, but not in the uniform of imperial oppression. And so he rejected conscription, although this decision involved the forfeiture of his job and rendered him liable to arrest on sight anywhere in Britain or Ireland. Thereafter his movements became evasive, but he retained contact with the Volunteers. The climax of his life was approaching. One evening after a meeting in London, Michael Collins, who was known to be well informed, said crisply that any Volunteer who meant business would be in Dublin at Easter.

Mulvihill meant business. Accompanied by Austin Kennan, he sailed for Dublin on Good Friday, 1916. They stayed at the Kincora Hotel in Parnell Square, Michael signing the register with his mother's surname to deceive the prying eyes of the RIC who were zealous in the apprehension of fugitive conscripts. The two men had a meeting with Denis Daly at Kimmage Camp, but there was no definite news of a rising. A weekend of uncertainty followed, lit brightly by the general order to mobilize, and then darkened by the countermanding order. On Easter Monday, Kennan and Mulvihill were walking in O'Connell Street when the Volunteers from Kimmage Camp wheeled into the General Post Office. Denis Daly waved to them and called: "This is revolution!" The flag was run up, the fight was on.

Kennan and Mulvihill joined the Post Office garrison. Armed with shotguns and home-made bombs, for use in repelling the expected bayonet charges, they were posted to the front centre section of the roof with the Rathfarnham Company on their right.

Details of the siege are already chronicled. The two comrades remained together, under continuous fire, until Thursday of Easter Week when the intensified bombardment made the roof untenable. Withdrawn to the ground floor, they were posted to different positions. Next day the whole building was ablaze, and Pearse issued the order to abandon it. The two friends lost contact in the confusion of the retreat. Austin Kennan and Michael McGrath were among the group led by The O'Rahilly into Moore Street where, unlike him, they had the good fortune to survive the hail of bullets. Neither of them saw Michael Mulvihill alive again. No Volunteers who knew him personally, whether from Kerry or from the London Corps, were among those with whom he left the Post Office.

After the surrender, the body of Michael Mulvihill was found lying in Moore's Lane near the junction with Henry Place. Ironically, he was recognised and identified, as was The O'Rahilly, by an RIC man from the Ardoughter area. He was buried in a mass grave at Glasnevin with soldiers of the Citizen Army and other Volunteers who were killed in action, among them his neighbour, Patrick Shortis of Ballybunion.

On the memorial above their grave is written:

*"We know their dream
They dreamed and are dead"*

- Michael Mulvihill (Nephew)

Thank you very much to the children of the writer, Margaret, Conor, Brendan and Niall Mulvihill, who have kindly allowed us to reprint the piece.

A Mulvihill Mystery

Clanswoman Deirdre Foster (née Crick) of South Wiltshire, England is the grand-niece of Michael Mulvihill, featured in the cover article. Her grandfather, his brother, was John/Jack Mulvihill. She contributes the following information about her grandfather, in the hope someone may recognize the family and shed light on what happened to him in the New World.

John/Jack Mulvihill

My grandfather, born 1881 in Ardoughter, Co. Kerry, was reputed to have been an athletic teenager and young man. A family story is that he killed a bull with his bare hands but then had to pay the farmer for it! He appears on the 1901 English census living with his brother Michael, but an occupation was not given. In the 1911 English census, his occupation is given as 'Clerk'. On his marriage certificate in 1905, he is described as a 'Post Office Clerk'. On my mother's 1909 birth certificate, he is described as an 'Assistant Point Fitter Tramways'. His marriage to my grandmother has been described as volatile by my still living Irish relatives. My grandmother often had long visits to her parents in Tralee, Co. Kerry, usually following a disagreement with Jack.

Sometime after 1911, Jack is reputed to have stowed away on a ship going to America. He is supposed to have gone to New York or Chicago to raise funds for arms for the Irish Volunteers or similar organizations. It is said that he stayed with two women judges* in New York who had some link with the Mulvihill family in Tralee. Family stories of his death include:

- He was killed in a road accident in N.Y.
- He committed suicide in N.Y.
- He was murdered by British agents in N.Y.
- He was lost overboard on the journey to America.

Although my mother Norah did tell me stories about her father Jack, I don't remember ever seeing a photograph of him. My grandmother married again in 1921 in London but not surprisingly, she never mentioned my grandfather Jack Mulvihill to me. So all this leaves a big question mark over how, when or where my grandfather died. I would very much like to solve this mystery to give closure to that part of my family history.

Editor's note: *In the early twentieth century, few women were lawyers let alone judges in New York. (New York granted women the right to vote in 1917, three years before the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.) Instead, they might have carried the common Irish surname Judge, or Breheny. Note Howard Person's letter on page 5.

The Siblings of Michael and John/Jack Mulvihill

(children of John and Mary; grandchildren of Patrick, born around 1825)

Patrick Mulvihill: Born 1878 Rattoo, Co. Kerry. He worked for the Post Office in London as a 'Sorting Clerk', according to the 1911 English census. He was married by then, but his wife Ellen Mary and daughter, were staying in Tralee, Co. Kerry, with her parents, at the time. They had the one child, Maureen.

Elizabeth Mulvihill: Born 1884 Kerry. In the 1911 English census, she was a 'Student' in London. She married Thomas Parker in Islington, London in 1915.

Cornelius/Con Mulvihill: Born in 1886 Ardoughter, Co. Kerry. Also in London at time of 1911 English census, and described as a 'Ledger Clerk'. He married Kitty Shanahan in Islington, London in 1912. Their eldest son Michael born in 1918, was well-known in Dublin as a playwright, author and broadcaster. [This Michael was the writer of the cover article.]

Jane Mulvihill: Born about 1889, registered in Listowel, Co. Kerry. Also in London at the time of the 1911 English census.

Mary Anne Mulvihill: Born about 1892 in Kerry. In the 1911 Irish census, she was still in Ardoughter at school but six years later, she married Jeremiah Hartigan in Barnet, London. They had three children in London.

Margaret Mulvihill: Born in Ardoughter. In the 1911 Irish census, she was described as a 'Scholar'. Known as Maggie, she appears to have lived in Ardoughter all her life and never married.

Thomas/Tom Mulvihill: Born in 1898 in Ardoughter. He is reputed to have been badly injured in some sort of conflict with the Black & Tans. This left him with life-long breathing problems. He had an amazing memory and was a brilliant storyteller. He had committed to memory the *Tales of the Arabian Nights*, each story told in serial fashion over long winter nights. He lived in Ardoughter with his sister Maggie and did not marry. (They are pictured below.)



Traveling to Ireland *continued from page 1*

Where to stay? We recommend bed & breakfasts, which generally provide a much more personal touch than hotels do and have the added advantage of making you feel as welcome as family. We find them consistently comfortable and clean in Ireland. Hospitality is an ethic for which the Irish take great pride. You usually get a full Irish breakfast to begin your day, fortifying you for your next adventure. An afternoon stop in one of Ireland's countless pubs for some "pub grub" provides an economical choice for lunch or an early supper. As you are never far from the coast anywhere in Ireland, seafood is very fresh and especially delicious. Food is served piping hot all over Ireland.

Whether you choose a hotel, bed & breakfast or country home, please stay in Irish-owned lodgings and patronize Irish-owned stores, pubs and restaurants. Check your labels. Make sure to buy souvenirs made by Irish artisans and craftspeople. The economy has hit Ireland very hard and they need every bit of tourism right now. Keep what you spend in Ireland! As the dollar has been rising compared to the euro, it is much more economical for Americans to travel there now than it has been over the last few years.

We feel that *not* renting a car can be a great relief from our auto-oriented daily lives. Walking a lot every day can be the best way to get an authentic feel for an area and immerse yourself in the local culture. You can purchase 8, 15 or 30 day bus/train passes for unlimited travel. See www.buseireann.ie and www.irishrail.ie. To visit many particular sites though, you will need a car. If renting and not accustomed to driving on the left, seriously consider spending a bit more for an automatic transmission. It is *far* easier to learn when you do not have to shift with your left hand while honing your new skills.

Ireland is one of the friendliest and easiest places there is to travel. Whichever parts of the country you choose to visit, you will find new friends, beautiful experiences, enchanting places. Life is just too short not to go to Ireland.



Photo by Daniel Mulvihill-Decker

Some Mulvihill sites of interest

County Roscommon is where our family name originated. In Strokestown, we recommend a visit to the Famine Museum. On the grounds are Urney Church Ruins, believed to be built by Mulvihills, as it sits at the heart of the *Corca Achlann* tribal territory. It was consecrated in 1236, according to ancient texts. It even appears in legend as the burial site of one of Queen Medb's favorite warriors.

Nearby in Elphin, at the western tribal boundary, is the holy spring where legend has it that St. Patrick confronted the Archdruid Ona, grandson of Niall of the Nine Hostages. The saint convinced Ona to allow a church to be built, which it was in the year 450. (See issue number three for the story.) Ona reportedly changed his name upon his conversion to *Maoilmhicil* (servant of St. Michael; later Mulvihill). On site is also a church ruin from the 1720s.

Don't miss a ride up *Slieve Bán* (Irish for white mountain), just east of Strokestown. Here was the eastern tribal boundary; stone markers on the summit mark it from the O'Hanley territory (*Cenel Dobtha*). It was known until the Middle Ages as the last refuge of the ancient Fir Bolg people who preceded the Gaels in the area.

Clonmacnoise in Co. Offaly is a must see. The religious and archaeological complex along the Shannon houses two of the three known ancient slabs bearing our name--*OMaelmhichil*. Here were buried many of the kings of Tara and Connacht. It was a major center for art and higher education by the 9th century. The surviving round tower attests to the many attacks the community endured. (See issue number two.)

If in Co. Kerry, head over to Glenbeigh and The Red Fox Inn for a delicious meal, an Irish coffee and the hospitality of John and Olive Mulvihill and family. Here you can see the rare and lovely Kerry bog ponies which John literally saved from extinction. The family has also created The Kerry Bog Village which depicts the traditional buildings and lifestyle of the area. (See issue number four.)

As north Kerry is now home to more Mulvihills than anywhere else in Ireland, many graveyards in the area are the final resting place for many Mulvihills. Visit the Muher cemetery near Listowel for a plethora of family stones.

Outside of Ballybunion one can visit the strand which was the site of the infamous 1834 faction fight in which the Black Mulvihills and their allies, the Lawlors, prevailed to the tragedy of their opponents, the Cooleens.

Doonmulvihill, now known simply as Doon, in Co. Clare is where Mulvihills once briefly held a small castle for unknown reasons. A folly now stands on the hill above Doon Cemetery, built from stones of the long dismantled castle.

See the 2009 Mulvihill Clan Gathering book for more information on Mulvihill sites.