

The Mulvihill Voice

Summer 2010

Issue Number Eighteen

Chieftain's Update

I thought it was time to take a quick look at where we are in a number of programs, and where we hope to be in the near future.

Our e-mailing list now stands at 652 individuals. Most of these folks receive *The Mulvihill Voice* newsletter on a quarterly basis. In addition, we snail-mail a number of copies to folks who prefer that format. I think that it is reasonable to believe that, with sharing of the newsletter, we are reaching the majority of Mulvihill families, particularly in the U.S.

The Clan's private website currently hosts 260 members. It provides a repository for pictures, stories, and files of general interest. The site also contains a popular blog that allows members to interact and share. It's fascinating to see all those old pictures, and read those stories that are so much a part of our heritage. Over a dozen folks have now contributed their complete family trees to the site, which becomes a resource for others looking to explore their own ancestry. I would encourage anyone who has not yet done so, to contact me with your e-mail address so that I can send you an invitation to join. It's free!

Not everything is free, however. Last year we initiated a Contributions program to cover continuing Clan expenses, and it was pretty well received (considering the state of the economy). As you can see from the 'Thermometer' on page 2, we are over halfway to our goal. Our most grateful THANKS! to those folks who have responded most generously. Besides offsetting general Clan expenses, including the newsletter, we hope to reach a point where we can endow some specific projects to explore and preserve exceptional Clan sites or records, particularly in Ireland. Please contact our Treasurer if you would like to make a contribution. Every little bit counts!

Plans for the next Clan Gathering have not been proceeding as well. We had planned to do a West Coast meeting, so that we could all get to meet the Mulvihills from the 'far side'. Using the model from our very successful 2009 Gathering at the Ace Conference Center in Pennsylvania, however, I was not able to find a cost-effective comparable property in the L.A. area. In order to cover the expense of meeting rooms and other equipment

continued on page 2



Author and teacher William Patrick Mulvihill (1923-2004) on right, with older brother Daniel Francis Mulvihill Jr. and sister Dolores Mulvihill Zebrowski of Sag Harbor, New York. Photo taken around 1926.

The three are the children of Lieutenant Commander Daniel Francis Mulvihill (1883-1968) originally of Danbury, Connecticut and Anna C. McDonough (1897-1964) of Sag Harbor. All three children and their father served in WWII.

Bill was instrumental in helping to plan the first Mulvihill Clan reunion (2005) with Father Cathal Stanley in Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.

Bill's and Dan's daughters are pictured on page 3. Dan (1917-1991) was a dentist; Dolores, a retired Nursing Administrator, is alive and well and is the beloved family matriarch and confidante. See our Spring 2007 issue (#5) for our dedication to Dolores and an article about their parents.

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*

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

mulvihillvoice@hotmail.com

Please send your contact info to:
Thomas C. Mulvihill, Membership
8821 Misty Creek Drive
Sarasota, Florida 34141
mm2000@comcast.net
941-929-9093



Clansfolk working on their family trees at the 2009 Mulvihill Clan Reunion in Philadelphia last October. This was our fifth annual reunion and the first to be held in the U.S.

Chieftain's Update, continued from page 1

we have to draw a minimum number of attendees. That, in turn, depends on cost and a convenient and attractive location. I am still looking at other possibilities in the region, and targeting late spring 2011.

Our Clan DNA Program continues to grow and expand, not only in the numbers of tested members, but in the scope of the exploratory testing that is underway. Our major program is the Y-DNA Project, which investigates the male, surname-linked Mulvihill Y-chromosome. We now have 59 tested participants and have used this data to identify four major components of our ancient *Corca Achlann* tribe, reaching back thousands of years. New participants can now have a reasonable expectation of learning something of their ancestor's location and deep history as they match up with one of the four groups... and the Clan benefits from having more data upon which to build a more detailed history of those ancient times.

In an exciting new adjunct to our DNA studies, several of us have now undergone a far more detailed DNA analysis. The testing, called Autosomal DNA analysis, looks at over half a million specific sites on the entire genome, and is capable of resolving matches in the realms of your family tree inaccessible to the Y-DNA Project...like your grandmother's father's mother. This testing was pioneered in the genealogy community by 23andMe, a startup funded principally by Google. Our primary DNA testing company, FTDNA, has now also debuted a competing test.

All in all, your Clan continues to grow and, hopefully, provide the type of information and interaction that can be a tribute to our ancestors.

Slán,

James M. Mulvihill

Chieftain, Clan Mulvihill





DEDICATION

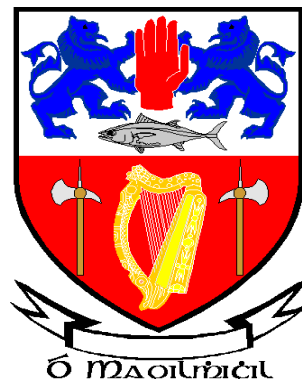
We proudly dedicate our Summer 2010 issue of *The Mulvihill Voice* to the late **Gearóid O Mhaoilmhichíl** (Gerard Mitchell) of Ballinasloe, Co. Galway and his daughter **Siobhán Ní Mhaoilmhichíl** of Argentina.

Gearóid was a teacher who dedicated himself to the revival of the Irish language. While teaching in the Christian Brothers' Schools in Mullingar and Dublin and raising a large family with wife Sheila Ward O Mhaoilmhichíl from Ballymacward, he researched an Irish dictionary which was eventually published.

Siobhán is a Dominican nun and academic who left Ireland in 1977 for the mission of caring for the poor of Argentina. The Dominicans were invited to Argentina by the wealthy Duggan family from Co. Longford to take charge of the Keating Institute, a well-known Irish Catholic educational establishment. It was a difficult time for the nuns with so few of them to bear the burden during the difficult years when the generals ruled there. Her service and that of her congregation of sisters is detailed in a 2001 book entitled *Strands from a Tapestry* by Mary O Byrne, Siobhán Ní Mhaoilmhichíl's friend who served with her in Argentina.

Our dedication this season was contributed by Elizabeth Manweiler of Berkshire, England, formerly of Athlone, Co. Westmeath. She shares with us a translation from Irish of an inscription Gearóid wrote to her in a Christmas card. It reads: *"God Bless you Elizabeth and all the clan. The years are slipping by and only four years to the end of the century. The Irish nation hasn't yet defeated the 'foreigner' but with God's help we will!! In the mean time, may the Mulvihill Clan succeed and prosper. Gearóid"*

Elizabeth presents us with a new mystery to solve. She tells us that Gearóid was working on a history of the O Mhaoilmhichíl Clan for the Royal Irish Academy, but doesn't know if he finished it. Perhaps one of our clansfolk knows of this work or can research it for us. Stay tuned.

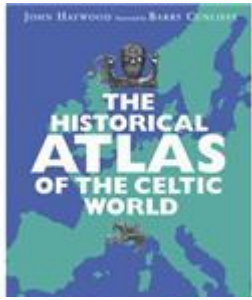


Clann Mulvihill Officers 2010

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



Four little Mulvihill girls on Long Beach,
Sag Harbor, New York



BOOK REVIEW

by James M. Mulvihill



The Historical Atlas of the Celtic World

by John Haywood (Foreword by Barry Cunliffe)
Thames & Hudson
ISBN 9780500288313
2009 (Paperback) 144 pp. Large Format

Fifty-four color maps illuminate an attractive and reasonably up-to-date review of what's known about the early Celts...origin, migration, language, and culture. An additional 160 illustrations detail the Celtic design impact in copper, bronze, gold, and iron jewelry and implements, as well as elements of housing, fortification, burial, and monumental architecture. The book is logically organized and very readable. The last third of the book examines the resurgence of Celtic cultural elements as part of the rise of nationalism and local pride.

This is one of the first popular books to recognize the current shift in academic circles back to seeing migration as a significant element in cultural advancement, but still fails to capture the tremendous impact that genetic testing has had in defining those peoples, and providing another tool for studying the timing and complexity of those movements.

Available in hardcover and paperback through your local, independent book sellers.

Michael the Archangel and the Mulvihill name

by Denis Maoilmichil

Many months ago, Niall Mulvihill challenged the clan to research our history and I responded to him that I would get back to him shortly which I failed to do. This past week, Aiden Mulvihill uploaded pictures of Michael the Archangel onto the clan's website. He reminded me of the topic I wanted to research in regard to the origins of the name Mulvihill and Michael the Archangel.

In the 2009 Mulvihill Clan Gathering notebook, Jim Mulvihill succinctly wrote about the early Christian period of Celtic Ireland and God's warrior, Michael the Archangel. The Archdruid Ona's brother of the *Uí Briúin* clan adopted the name Maoilmichil around 460 AD. "A befitting name for a newly baptized warlord that evokes the image of God's principal and most terrifying warrior", Jim wrote. A picture of Northern European lifestyle reminds me of that scene in the movie *Gladiator* when the Gauls come charging out of the pine forest to be slaughtered by the methodical Roman military machine. "So, when are these guys going to know when to give up?" These were ferocious times when clans fought with invaders from Vikings to Anglo-Saxons from across the Irish Sea. However, Christianity was making an impact on Irish souls and culture. In time, Ireland would be dotted with monasteries of Christian monks who studied Scriptures and drew clerics from across Europe to join them. By the fourth and fifth centuries, missionaries were coming to Ireland evangelizing with the tenets of Christian love and the example of Christ's life and death. This process would take centuries. They may have brought with them many new tools, agrarian skills, ideas and literacy as well.

By the time of Patrick and his followers in the seventh and eighth centuries, Ireland would rapidly become Christianized. Let us however, return to Michael, Maoilmichil and Mulvihill. Why this name for our clan? Well, Michael or Michael the Archangel means an angel of high rank, if God were to rank His angels. It is most likely, a human title. Because angels are supernatural beings and saints are believed to be holy persons who have died and are with God in heaven, the name Michael seems to be a misnomer. Another human concoction? I don't think you can have it both ways. Michael is an angel.

Angels appear multiple times in the Scriptures, but only two have names. The angel who killed 185,000 Assyrians in one night because Sennacherib, their king, blasphemed God is unnamed. Only Michael and Gabriel are named. If there is a Michael Gabriel, Gabriel Michael or a Gabriel Mulvihill their name would be truly angelic. Sorry but I could not resist. In any event, Gabriel is the messenger angel and Michael is the warrior/protector angel as they are used *continued on page 7*



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hello Jim,

I am trying to locate any information available on a Michael Mulvihill of Cincinnati, Ohio.

My name is Tom Waller and I am with the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society. Michael was a patrolman with the Cincinnati P.D. He died in the line-of-duty 108 years ago this week, on September 8, 1902. He is believed to have joined the department on May 22, 1901, so his service was a little over one year. His cause of death is believed to be from a skull fracture after a fall from a patrol wagon (horse drawn) responding to an emergency. Unfortunately, this is all of the information we have. His name appears engraved on the walls of the Cincinnati Police Memorial, the State of Ohio memorial in London, Ohio, and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. I note that three other Mulvihills, all of good Irish stock, I presume, have also made the ultimate sacrifice. They were from Kansas City, Chicago, and East Chicago, Indiana.

I subscribe to Ancestry.com and have checked there and every other available online resource. Our museum's memorial committee actively researches line-of-duty deaths in a three state area. We cover Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. We constantly try to add information, especially in cases such as Michael's, where we have very little information.

Apparently, many of the Mulvihills settled in Cincinnati. In one city directory, there were no less than ten (10) Michael Mulvihills listed. I checked census records to no avail. I always hope to find a police occupation listed. Unfortunately, as he didn't join the PD until 1901, his occupation could have been anything in the census. One of the Michaels is listed as a "motorman." My research experience is that many officers had previously served with the street railway as motormen. Absent other information however, I cannot be sure this is him.

I was hoping to find his grave here in Cincy and have had no luck. We have a cemetery, St. Joseph's (New) Cemetery, established in 1854 just for the Irish, as they were not welcome in the German St. Joseph's (Old) Cemetery. There are several Michael Mulvihills there, but again, no one who matches the information.

If you have information, or can direct me to any other resources, we would be very grateful.

Sincerely,

Sgt. Tom Waller (RET)
Vice President
Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society
vicepresident@gcphs.com

Hi Mary Ann,

Sorry that I haven't written sooner to say how pleased I was with the way you presented the Michael Mulvihill piece in the last issue of the newsletter - thank you for all the care you took over it.

So far only Margaret (whose late father Michael Mulvihill wrote the piece about my great-uncle) has been contacted by an ex-colleague as a result of reading the article in the newsletter. As Margaret had lost touch with the colleague, she was delighted to hear from her and it has led to other further contacts with fellow historians. There has not been any feedback regarding my grandfather John/Jack Mulvihill, but I am not too surprised by that.

As always, the newsletter made very interesting and enjoyable reading so you have done a great job with it.

Best wishes,

Deirdre Foster
South Wiltshire, England



Dr. Jim Mulvihill (UC San Bernadino), Himself, and his son James, Jr. DNA testing at 23andMe confirmed that we are 6th cousins of Dr. Jim.

Deep Ancestry by DNA

by James M. Mulvihill, Chieftain

Analysis of selected sites on the Y-chromosome (male) can be extremely helpful in determining the ancestry of the paternal line. This type of analysis has been used by numerous academic studies, is relatively inexpensive, sampled by simple mouth swab, and discloses no compromising medical information. More formally called a Y-STR test, it is available from our testing laboratory (FTDNA) in packages of 12, 25, 37, and 67 markers. More markers tested means greater resolution in comparing related individuals.

Fifty-nine Clan members have now been tested using this regimen. Fifty-six of them were found to fall within one of four major classifications (two were Brennans that we could show likely belonged to a different, unrelated southern Irish Clan; one was a known unrelated individual). These four major classifications are completely unrelated genetically, and have very different deep histories. This is not what one would expect from reading the early Irish annals concerning our Clan, but instead describes a much deeper, and richer, early history. Remember also, that although differing genetically, these components of our Clan have shared a common existence for hundreds, and sometimes thousands of years. They are socially and culturally indistinguishable.

I'll briefly describe what we know about these four *Corca Achlann* groups and try to give it some historical perspective. Although we cannot, as yet, identify specific tribes from just the Y-STR pattern, we can say quite a bit about their journey to settle in Ireland, and something of the timing of these events. This area is under intensive research by university laboratories, and the Genetic Genealogy community.

You will recall that, historically, the *Corca Achlann* tribe occupied the northeastern part of Co. Roscommon. In 1416, the Mulvihills were driven out and scattered. Our close cousins, the Brennans remained until 1526, when many of them were also evicted. On the basis of the Y-STR analysis we can reconstruct the composition of the tribe prior to its disbanding.

The oldest component of the *Corca Achlann* is almost certainly what we call the **Longford Group**. This is the group colored yellow in the Excel chart in the FILES section of our website, and on the Clan Mulvihill DNA website at FTDNA. It may be the original founder of the *Corca Achlann*. It may even have been the people who first settled Ireland after the last Ice Age. Anthropologists refer to this group formally as I2a2. It is found almost exclusively in Britain and Ireland. It may have been the most populous group in the *Corca Achlann* before the Petty survey in 1649. Some Clan members that are a part of this Group are: Aiden Mulvihill (Co-administrator of the Clan DNA Program and Deputy Chieftain for Europe), Frank Brennan, Sean Mulvihill, and Doug Mitchell. See the Clan DNA spreadsheet for the 10 other members. There is the suggestion that this group may represent the pre-Celtic tribes that evolved into the Cruthine, or Picts in early Ireland, but it is too early to be certain.

As an aside, you'll notice here, and in some of the other groups, that the Brennan and Mulvihill names appear together in the same I2a2 group, and that they are both represented in most other groups. This is further evidence that our people were one, long before the adoption of surnames in the 10th century.

The second oldest group appears to be the **North Kerry Group**. This is the orange group in our charts. The results here tell an interesting story. One measure of the age of this group, formally R1b1b2a1b*, places its formation over 4,000 years ago...but probably not in Ireland. Exactly when the ancestor of this group moved from the North German plains to Ireland, we cannot say as yet. Interestingly, a second measure of the age of this group tells a different story. It says the origins were 500-600 years ago and probably originated from as little as one individual alive at that time. What we may well be seeing is the catastrophic population drop caused by the eviction from Roscommon, and a very strong subsequent explosion in numbers thereafter. You could speculate that this group may represent the Erainns, or Fir Bolg of early Irish history. They may really be Germano-Celtic Belgae tribesmen displaced from the European coast by encroaching Angles and Saxons. Some clan members in this group are our Music Director, Jerry Mulvihill, Cyril Melville, Joseph V. Mulvihill, Pat Mulvihill, and yours truly. This is the most populous

continued on page 8

Update on the Strokestown Pharmacy Heist of 2009

In our Summer 2009 issue (#14), we reported on a dramatic burglary from a pharmacy safe in Strokestown, Co. Roscommon. It was significant because the robbers, in their search for drugs and cash, inadvertently stole four-thousand year old treasures: a gold lunula or neck piece and two gold discs. It also especially interested us because Strokestown is in the heart of the territory of our tribal ancestors, the *Corca Achlann*. The O'Maoilmhichil (Mulvihill) name arose from this area over a thousand years ago and for this reason was the site of our first two modern clan reunions.

It turns out the treasures are very important to archaeologists. The discs were the first pair to be found since the nineteenth century and were the second pair found in Co. Roscommon. According to experts Eamonn Kelly and Mary Cahill of The National Museum of Ireland in Dublin, this is the first time gold discs have been found with a lunula. The items were previously believed to date from different eras. It is now thought that the earlier style of goldwork represented by the discs must have overlapped with the style embodied by the larger crescent-shaped lunula.

The detective work that led to the recovery of the priceless objects was remarkable. As the items were rather flat and wrapped in paper, it was hoped that the thieves hadn't noticed them among the many papers taken. Antiquity experts provided the Gardaí with photos of similar objects. The confession of the suspects indicated that indeed they had never seen the gold. The artifacts were retrieved from the rubbish just in the nick of time before pick-up and disposal.

It also took inquiring minds to determine where the early Bronze Age hoard was originally found. Members of two local families had different pieces of the puzzle. According to his widow, the late Mr. Hubert Lannon of Tully, Four Mile House, Strokestown had found them in a bog in 1945 where he often cut turf adjacent to his farm in the townland of Coggalbeg. In 1947, they were given to his acquaintance Mr. Sheehan, the chemist, who put them in his safe where they remained for 62 years. Mr. Sheehan's family inherited them, but had no knowledge of their value or age. Sadly, a search of the remaining bog at the site yielded no new artifacts as the turf had been cut away over many years and been repeatedly disturbed.

The artisans who crafted the lovely items in 2,000-2,300 BC could never have imagined our lifestyles or our



great interest in their creations. The designs on the graceful artifacts are intact and we can't help but wonder whether they represent elements of the natural world, the cosmos or artistic aesthetics.

One thing though is clear.

Whether created by an ancestor of ours or not, our modern eyes find the delicate geometry and symmetry upon radiant gold to be stunning and intriguing and we share a sense of beauty with the ancients that crosses over four millennia.



Archangel Michael *continued from page 4*

by God. Both appear once in the Old Testament and twice in the New. Gabriel helps Daniel to interpret his visions of the end times and in Luke, Gabriel appears to Zechariah and later Mary to inform them of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, respectively. Michael also appears in Daniel as his protector from the King of Persia, and in Jude as the warrior God uses to rebuke Satan. In Revelation, Michael leads God's angels to conquer the devil and his angels, and to expel them out of heaven. Quite an inspiration for a fifth-century warlord called upon to protect his clan and battle their enemies.

MaoilMichil, the earliest named member of our clan, went to the top when selecting a name. And most people don't even know that Mulvihill is Irish. What a great heritage we Mulvihills have, beginning with our name.

Pro Aris et Focis

Denis Mulvihill lives in Melrose, Massachusetts.

