

CROWLEY

[REDACTED]

E mail: Janita52@btinternet.com

24 th January 2007.

Mr J Alden.
Cowbridge Record Society.
1 Mill Park,
Cowbridge.
CF71 7BG.

Dear Mr Alden,

Thank you so much for your letter regarding my great grandfather John Crowley and yes please I would be delighted to have any information you have on the family. I have been researching off and on for a number of years and do have some information although as you are probably aware the family originated in Ireland and unfortunately no-one in the family knows from which village/town except that it was in the county of **Cork** - I have been told the Irish records were destroyed in 1922 and to ascertain any details one must know **the village** where the family originated as there may be some parish records kept by the Church.

The details I have are as follows:- **John [Jack] Crowley**. born 1848 in Cork: died 19.2.1912 Cowbridge. {my great grandfather} married **Eleora 'Ellen' Donnavan** on 30.1.1875 at St Mary House, district of Bridgend. [I don't know where or what this could be] I understand he was a Brewery Drayman and the story goes he liked his beer and would get a bit tipsy but could still recite the rosary backwards! . I was aware that Ellen, his wife, kept the Bridge Inn and in the past have purchased several books in which Ellen is mentioned from the Cowbridge Bookshop. They had 6 children, my grandfather being one of them. He was also **John Crowley**, born 10.5.1877. Died 14.5.1939. He actually died while on holiday with my parents in Bournemouth and my father arranged a special train carriage to bring him home. He was an engine driver and on arrival at Llantrisant Station all his fellow workers were there blowing their hooters and apparently carried him home shoulder high - it was a big funeral. My grandfather married **Elizabeth Ann Lougher** [Wick] and since joining the GFHS have been contacted by several people who are related.

I do know of Kathleen Fredericks of Geriant Way as she is my mothers first cousin and I am in contact with her. I do intend to visit Cowbridge Records Office as there are several items I need to look up - mainly newspaper reports of various incidents in the family but I won't bore you with these.

As you see I have an e mail address but I'm new to computing and not exactly "au fait" with it yet but I'm learning. I greatly appreciate you contacting me and hope that if I need specific help I may contact you in the future.

I enclose some stamps for your use and look forward to hearing from you.

Gratefully yours.

Elizabeth Davies

Elizabeth Davies.

Cowbridge Record Society

Registered Charity No 1094061

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1 Mill Park Cowbridge CF71 7BG

01446 - 773373

28 January 2007

Dear Mrs Davies,

John Crowley

Thank you for your letter, although it would seem that you have much of the information which I have gleaned!

It is strange that nowhere in the census details does it state that 'your' John Crowley was born in Ireland, though Mrs Fredericks had always maintained that they were an Irish family. I had assumed that John's father was born in Ireland, but of course I have not looked up birth certificates, etc.

The first mention I can find in Cowbridge is when the house in which John Crowley was living was conveyed to the Taff Vale Railway Co. This is a house which was later demolished to widen the entrance to the railway station off Eastgate in Cowbridge (adjoining Glen Cottage).

The 1881 census shows them in this property:

(#194) John Crowley, age 32, brewer's haulier drayman, b Bridgend
Ellen Crowley, age 25, wife, b Cardiff
Margaret Crowley, 5, b Cowbridge (so they were living in C in 1876)
John Crowley, 3, b Cowbridge

In 1891, they are still there:

John Crowley, 42, brewer's labourer, b Cowbridge (sic), speaking English only
Ellen, 36, b Cowbridge (sic)
John, 13, b Cowbridge
Edward, 5, b Cowbridge
Mary, 2, b Cowbridge – all English-speaking only
• 2 boarders

In 1901, they had moved to The Limes, a road leading off Eastgate and very close to The Bridge Inn. Probably the Eastgate house had been demolished soon after the 1891 census as the railway station had been enlarged in 1891.

John C, 52, general farm labourer, born Bridgend, speaking Welsh and English
Ellen, 46, b Cardiff, speaking English only
Margaret, 12, , Cowbridge
John, 23, railway engine stoker
Edward, 15, postman (rural)
William, 10
Thomas, 1.

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The first reference I can find to them being in The Bridge Inn is in Kelly's directory of 1910, when Mrs Ellen Crowley is named as the licensee. In 1920, Ellen and Thomas Crowley were fined for permitting the consumption of intoxicating liquor out of hours! In 1926 this was one of a number of pubs to lose their licences ("Bridge Inn, tenant Mrs Helen Crowley, lost licence on grounds of redundancy. Compensation to owner £1150, tenant to receive £100" - Glamorgan Gazette).

And that's about it so far. I'll let you know if I find out any more – and if you think I can help in the future, don't hesitate to ask. Incidentally there is no 'Cowbridge Records Office'; I keep a lot of records but the best place for newspaper references is probably Bridgend Local Studies library in Park Street, Bridgend, or Cardiff Central library. Many thanks for the stamps; I'll use one and return the others!

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Alden