

MOUNTAINY KENNEDYS MAILING LIST 13  
February 2013

This mailing list engages in further research into the Mountainy Kennedys – those Kennedys and other related families whose ancestors chose not to go “To Hell or to Connacht” as dictated by Cromwell in 1652 but sought refuge in the mountains of the Upper Ormond area instead. Their descendants have spread far and wide and our list is growing with new members and other interested people.

KENNEDY EVENTS IN IRELAND THIS YEAR

Events relating to the Irish Kennedys will be held in conjunction with The Gathering in Ireland this year:

Annual Kennedy Gathering at Rearcross

The third annual Kennedy Gathering will be held at Rody Kennedy’s lounge at Rearcross on a date in July to be notified. All are welcome. Field trips to historical Kennedy sites will be organised to follow this event.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF MOUNTAINY KENNEDY MALE FIRST NAMES

Irish first names are said to follow the generations. The naming convention on p 43 of “The Mountainy Kennedys” shows how they are passed from one generation to the next and provides a means of tracing the descent of individual families. Female names are applied to other family names through marriage and this makes them harder to follow than male names. On page 370 of “The Irish Kennedys” is provided an example of a naming convention table that demonstrates how the names are passed on.

What a challenge! This time we have taken on the burdensome task of locating all of the John Kennedys among the mountainy Kennedys. Extracts of John Kennedy location records from my books are attached.

The attached list shows that most of the John Kennedys in the Civil Survey of 1654 were located in Lower Ormond with only two in Upper Ormond – John Kennedy of Dunally (executed 1650), and Duffe McEdmond John Kenedy of Curragheenspaddy. John O’Kennedy of Ballenaclahy (Ballinaclogh) is mentioned in the Ormond Deeds in 1550.

From the table on p47 of “The Mountainy Kennedys” we can see that the name John applies to 16% (142) of the male Kennedy baptisms in the Kilcommon, Kilmore, Newport and Templeberry baptism registers.

On the attached map of the mountains the years recorded in the registers for fathers named John Kennedy (except for John b1799) are shown in the recorded locations. The use of the father’s names only allows for a condensation of the large number of Johns.

The earliest John listed in the baptism registers for whom a location can be identified is John Kennedy of Toureenbrien who was born in 1799. His father, Brian born 1757, (listed as Ber. - short for Bernard, in the register) was the son of Patrick Kennedy who came across from Boolabane near Templeberry to marry a Madden woman in Toureenbrien circa 1750. Boolabane (the white booley) was the refuge of the O’Kennedys of Ballycapple in Lower Ormond who did not transplant to Connacht. The last great Brehon judgment of 1584 (see p201 of “The Irish Kennedys”) lists John, Conor, Daniel and Henry O’Kennedy, sons of Brian O’Kennedy of Ballycapple. The cluster of John Kennedys located in Toureenbrien and

nearby areas may all have Boolabane and Ballycapple origins. Griffiths Valuation indicates that a John Kennedy was a tenant of a house in a small area in Boolabane in 1850.

A John Kennedy of Curraghfoil near Rearcross with records of six baptisms from 1821 to 1827 was possibly also linked with the Toureenbrien cluster.

The record of John Kennedy of Gortnaskehy (near Toor) as the father of five children between 1835 and 1846 is also a possible link with the Toureenbrien cluster. This could be the John who was born in 1794, the son of Matt Kennedy, who is listed without location in the Newport baptismal register. As a witness was Dns. (Denis) Kennedy this John could also be related to the Bun Kimalta Kennedys.

Another cluster of John Kennedys appears in several places just south of Dolla between 1843 and 1866. These may all be descended from the John Kennedys of Pollanorman and possibly previously of Ballinaclogh.

The Curreeny – Windygap cluster of John Kennedys between 1870 and 1889 are all related and are probably descended from Philip Kennedy of Cloghinch, Templeberry.

The Templeberry area contains a number of John records from 1875. This could be a connection with the Curreeny Kennedys via Michael who came to Oatfield in the 1830s.

The John Kennedy (James) listed in Griffiths Valuation circa 1850 for Ballyhane was the father of seven children between 1845 and 1860, the youngest of whom was named James. This appellation provides the opportunity for further research.

Finally we arrive at Reafadda where John Kennedy was the father of 10 children between 1855 and 1882. As we have often mentioned, the origins of the Refadda Kennedys remain a mystery. However, they may have had an original booley at Reafadda which would give them early mountain origins.

#### A REAFADDA - FOILYCLEARA KENNEDY CONNECTION

Years before meeting the Reafadda Kennedys I went there on a number of occasions looking for traces of my great-grandmother, Honora Burke, without success. When she married my great-grandfather, Martin Kennedy from Foilycleara, in Kilcommon church in 1858 her address was given as Reafadda. Martin was much older than Honora.

It can be very useful to find local knowledge. When visiting the Reafadda area with Michael Ryan Kitt he showed me the remains of the cottage that Honora Burke had left to marry Martin Kennedy.



Remains of the Burke cottage at Reafadda

Martin and Honora Kennedy left Foilycleara in 1863 to emigrate from Cobh to Brisbane, Australia, on the ship "The Golden Dream. The large state of Queensland had a population of only 6,000 Europeans at the time. In spite of her being illiterate, Honora had a very good entrepreneurial flair. She obtained a land grant given to new arrivals that was valued at £12 and bought several acres close to the centre of Brisbane in an area called Red Hill. I used to wonder why they settled in the hills rather than on the flat land near the town. When I first went to Foilycleara I understood. They were mountainy people and were comfortable living up high. Honora divided her land up into house blocks and went about having small houses built that she sold to the Irish newcomers. After I saw where she had lived in Reafadda I knew why she had small houses built. She must have used the proceeds from one house to fund the next one and so on until she became quite wealthy. She built a large house on the main road where Martin and herself lived and raised their family for the rest of their lives. An elderly aunt told me many years ago that she was known as "Lady Kennedy" because of her aloof bearing as she walked to her own pew in the old St. Stephens Cathedral in Brisbane. Honora died of hepatitis at the age of 56.



Honora Kennedy

(Note the purse which was an artifice used in photographs of the time to indicate being well off)



The house Honora built in Brisbane for herself and Martin as it is today

## REQUESTS

We receive requests for information about Kennedys from time to time. Some of these requests can be answered fairly quickly while others may not have enough clues to proceed. Some are received directly while others are passed on to me. However, we will continue to publish them because we have so many people willing to share what they have.

1. A recent response is shown here to indicate the kinds of deductive processes that may be used in our research:

*Now to the Philip Kennedys; Philip is a fairly common name among the Kennedys going back, as it does, to very ancient times. It is interesting to note your Philip's origin in Kilmore,*

*the church of which is adjacent to Silvermines south of Nenagh. Philip is recorded as having married Julian (sic) Dawson at Kilcommon in 1819. He would have gone across from Kilmore as marriages were traditionally held in the parish of the bride. The first area I can help you with is the following:*

*"I am looking to disprove the theory that the Philip Kennedy listed in Griffiths Valuation is the father of my Michael Kennedy and the grandfather of my Phillip, his cousin Philip and in all likelihood the Philip you have a record for. I'm also working on disproving that the Dawson Landlord is a relative of the Dawson women who married the Kennedy men".*

*There are five Philips listed in Griffiths – three of these relate to the same Philip of Curreeny Commons, Windygap and Killeen. It is probably this Philip you are referring to. I have researched this family extensively and visit the Kennedys of Killeen on my annual visits to Ireland. The name Philip continues there to this day. However, their burial ground is Kilkeary indicating that there is probably no connection with Kilmore. Also, there are no Michaels associated with Killeen. On p49 of my book "The Mountainy Kennedys" I suggest that Philip Kennedy of Cranaharty (Cranahurt), 1 km north-east of Silvermines, listed in the Civil Survey of 1654 may have been the ancestor of the two Philips in the Kilmore baptism register for Bawn, 4 km away.*

2. The following is an example from Tom Kennedy in the US of random pieces of information that may be able to be connected

*Patrick Kennedy was Thomas' and John's father, and he was born 15 Aug., 1807, dying 10 Dec., 1892 in N.Y. Seemingly moved over stateside to live with his son, Thomas. Said Patrick Kennedy, father to Thomas and John, had parents Thomas Kennedy and Catherine (K?) Lynch.*

*John and Thomas came over together. Thomas stayed in N.Y. and buried in Oneida county. John ended up in Oxford Iowa. Thanks in advance!  
1859 into N.Y.*

Does anyone recognise any connections from this information?

3. A quick question from Francis O'Dwyer.

*You have many Kennedy baptisms for Rearcross/ Kilcommon in your book TMK up to 1870's I think. You probably got those details from the Parochial house/Fr. Woods in Kilcommon.*

- *My grandparents Danny Kennedy and Mary Ryan were married in 1883 and their kids were baptised in Kilcommon parish between approx. 1884 and 1906. By any chance do you have the Baptisms for these years recorded? Notes of the respective Sponsor details etc?*

I replied to Francis - Attached is my working document for the last page of the Kilcommon Kennedy baptisms which finished in 1895 and were transcribed from the old registers... I did not go into the later register after that date. You will need to visit Kilcommon to see the next register.

It is very satisfying to see so many people furthering the research into the Mountainy Kennedys. Mattie Ryan Larry of Windygap wrote to me: *There is a lot of interest in The Mountainy Kennedys not just by Kennedys.*

## BOOKS

Copies of “The Mountainy Kennedys” and “The Irish Kennedys” can be obtained Internationally from the website at:

<http://home.onthenet.com.au/~laurieag?index.htm>

If you have any further information about the Mountainy Kennedys that you would like to share or any questions to ask your contribution would be most welcome. As you will appreciate, reading and research takes time, but we will endeavour to keep the mailing lists coming out on a regular basis.

All the best.

Brian