

MOUNTAINY KENNEDYS MAILING LIST 16
May 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 who 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 Anglesey Lounge at Rearcross on **Sunday 21st July commencing at 8:00 pm**. All are welcome. Please pass this information on to anyone you think may be interested in attending. We already have indications that people will be coming from far and wide for this event. Field trips to historical Kennedy sites will be organised in conjunction with the gathering. **Please advise me if you wish to participate in the field trips.**

I am planning to arrive in Ireland with Colleen on 19th June and Depart on 24th July. This will be my 21st visit to Ireland. I look forward to catching up with many friends and also meeting some new ones who have been in touch and who will be attending the Kennedy Gathering.

KENNEDY REUNION IN DINGLE

On page 27 of “The Mountainy Kennedys” you will read of John Kennedy who in the days of Cromwell left Nenagh in Ormond and settled in the Parish of Garfinach (Garfinny near Dingle, Co Kerry).

Paula Kennedy of Ireland Reaching Out, (one of the Dingle Kennedys) has advised me of a Kennedy Reunion to be held in [September in Dingle](#).

Paula is the National PR Officer, the Volunteer Co-ordinator abroad and HQ Volunteer Co-ordinator for Ireland Reaching Out.

*The Ireland Reaching Out (IrelandXO) programme is based on a simple idea; instead of waiting for people of Irish descent to trace their roots, we go the other way. Working through voluntary effort at a townland, village and parish level in Ireland, we identify who left those areas, and trace them and their descendants worldwide. **IrelandXO offers a free service and it is a not for profit organisation.***

This is a great idea and deserves support from all over. You can read all about it on the website below.

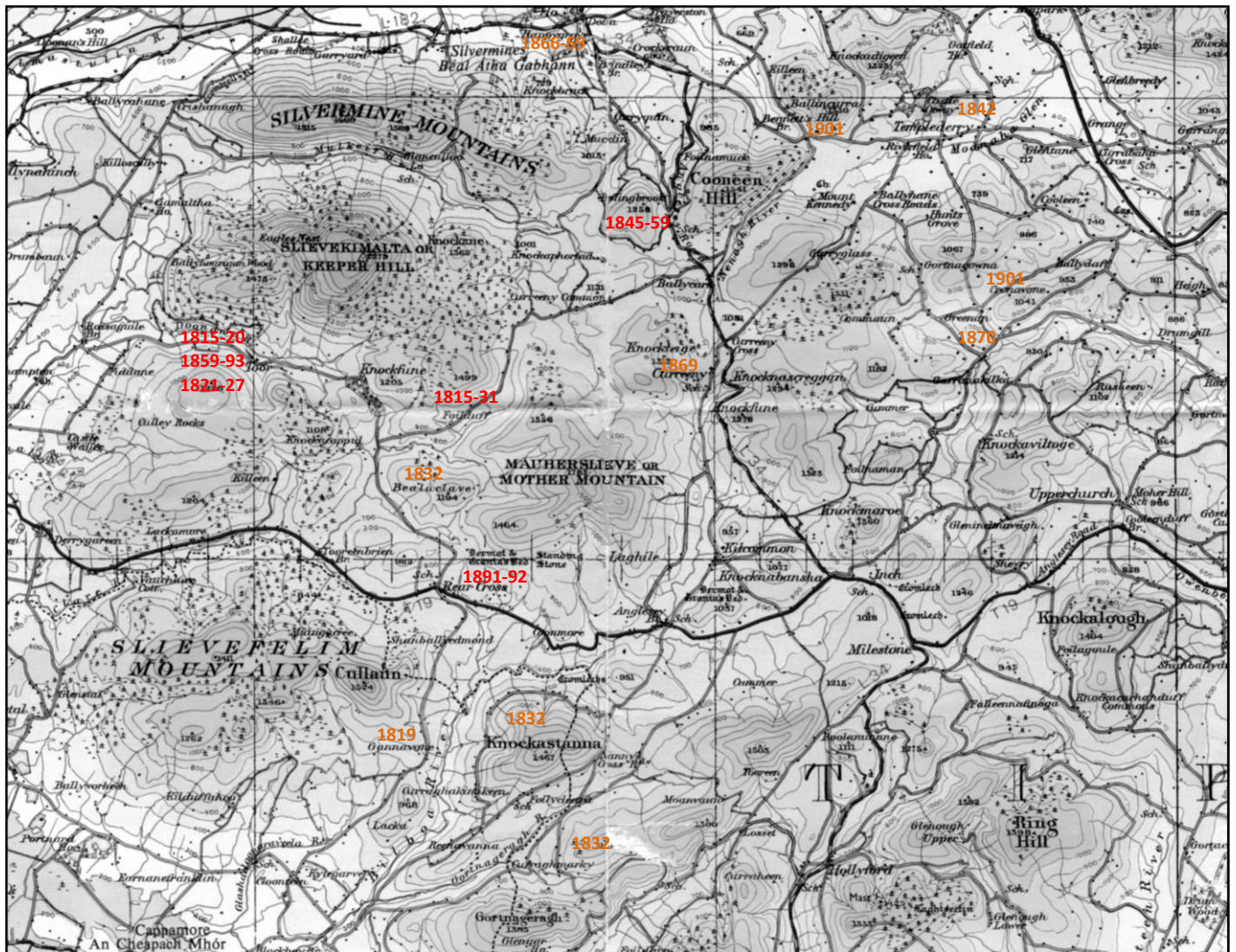
CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF MOUNTAINY KENNEDY MALE FIRST NAMES

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.

This time we are examining the occurrence in the mountains of the name **Matthew**. This name is the eighth most popular on the list of occurrences of male Kennedy first names in the mountain parishes. Matthew is an anglicised form of the old Irish name Mathgamhain or Mahon. In the Kennedys the name

goes all the way back to Mahon, oldest brother of King Brian Boru, son of Ceineidi, King of Thomond. More recently the great Mahon Donn O’Kennedy was Lord of Upper Ormond in 1427.

The name Matthew Kennedy as a father first appears in the mountain parish records in 1815 in Glencoe (near Toor) and in Foilduff, Rearcross as shown on the map. The name is not widespread as indicated by the father’s dates below in red and some random baptisms shown in orange. Full details of Matthew Kennedy records from my books are provided in the attachments. This includes the various families headed by Matthew Kennedys. The location of some Matthews in the records was not able to be established beyond parish level.



Fathers named Matthew Kennedy in red. Random baptisms in orange

THE DOWN SURVEY OF IRELAND PROJECT

This resource is now on line at <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/history.html>

Thank you to all of the correspondents who alerted me to the availability of this website. It provides an interesting insight into the Cromwellian conquest and settlement of Ireland in the 1650s. Extracts from the site inform us as follows.

The Down Survey GIS consists of three main components; database, maps and user interface.

The Down Survey of Ireland Project was funded by the Irish Research Council under its Research Fellowship Scheme. The project began on 1 October 2011 and was completed on 31 March 2013.

The original phase of the project involved identifying and digitising surviving copies of county, barony and parish maps. We are very grateful to the numerous archival and technical staff in the institutions listed under 'Project Partners' who assisted us in this process.

The second phase involved building the database from the Books of Survey and Distribution and these were incorporated into Geographical Information System written by the project team. As part of the GIS, the set of county maps were overlaid onto a Google Earth layer, along with the late nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey map. The project added a complete set of townland polygons to these images and then connected the modern and seventeenth-century data together.

Navigation around this website provides some challenges and a User Guide is provided to help with this process. With perseverance you will be able to discover much of the interesting detail that the website contains.

Other than the maps, the site seems not to have as much information about Kennedys than has already been established in my book "The Irish Kennedys". For example, a search of the name Kenedy or Kennedy in the landholders in 1641 on this website reveals far fewer than the 132 Kennedy landholders listed in the Civil Survey of 1654.

The availability of the website has already enlivened debate across Ireland about the Cromwellian dispossessions. The provision of the original landowner's name for each townland in 1641 together with the names of the Cromwellian grantees has given rise to a flurry of commentary in the Irish chat rooms. There are the inevitable calls for confiscated land to be returned to descendants of the original owners (however that could be established) and other debate about a series of confiscations over millennia by one conqueror after another.

In 1922 John Prendergast expressed some of his feelings about the Cromwellian dispossessions in:

Extracts from *The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland, 1652-1660*. Dublin, 1922.

But how must the feelings of national hatred have been heightened, by seeing everywhere crowds of such unfortunates, their brothers, cousins, kinsmen, and by beholding the whole country given up a prey to hungry insolent soldiers and adventurers from England, mocking their wrongs, and triumphing in their own irresistible power! Inspired by such sights, bands of desperate men formed themselves into bodies, under the leadership of some dispossessed gentleman, who had retired into the wilds when the rest of the army he belonged to laid down arms, or had "run out" again after submitting, and resumed them rather than transplant to Connaught.1 He soon found associates, for the country was full of swordmen, though 40,000 took conditions from the King of Spain. Others came back from Spain.~ These were the Tories. The great regions left waste and desolate by the wars and transplantations gave them scopes for harbouring in; and the inadequate numbers of the forces of the Commonwealth to fully control so extensive a country as Ireland left them at liberty to plan their surprises. These outlaws were so daring and desperate, that they attacked the new English tenants and purchasers within hail of the garrisons.

But the main objects of the Tories were the cows and cattle of the Englishmen, to support them in their fastnesses. If a band of those outlaws came down from the hills, and drove off the horses, cows, and cattle of the stranger to their retreats where none dare follow them

In consideration of the issues I wrote the following in the Introduction to "The Irish Kennedys":

While this story contains many references to members of the Kennedy sept who were killed and or who had their land confiscated by conquerors, it is not a book that seeks to dwell on bitterness. Rather, it seeks to present the facts in as much as they can be ascertained. What is done is done. History cannot be undone, it can only be learned from in order that its mistakes are not repeated. All Irish Kennedys and their descendants alive today

owe their existence partly to the long series of events recorded in this story. Those events are presented here to add to their knowledge and the knowledge of others.

BOOKS

Copies of "The Mountainy Kennedys" and "The Irish Kennedys" can be obtained Internationally, books can be obtained 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