

MOUNTAINY KENNEDYS MAILING LIST 17

June 2013

The ancestors of the Mountainy Kennedys chose not to go "To Hell or to Connacht" as dictated by Cromwell in 1652. They ignored the dictate, on pain of death, and went to their booleys in the remote fastness of the mountains of the Upper Ormond area of Tipperary. Their descendants have spread far and wide. More descendants and other interested people are regularly joining this mailing list.

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 (**Ph. 062 79104**) 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.

If you have made progress with your research and would like to bring this along to the gathering it would be most welcome. Also, old photographs are always a good addition to the discussions.

TREATIES OF EARLS AND IRISH CHIEFS

The chiefs of Irish clans were always established by the Irish clan members themselves using the process defined in the Brehon system. Professor Edmund Curtis established that the O'Kennedys were secured by the Norman conquerors as chiefs of their territory in Ormond in 1356. Translations of Ormond Deeds Vol II, No.34 of May 16, 1356 and No.35 of June 2, 1356, can be found on pages 426 and 427 of "The Irish Kennedys".

The warfare of two centuries had shown that the rights of the native Irish chiefs could not be extinguished. The Crown had failed to establish them in a secure and general tenure-in-chief but instead the great Norman earls entered into local treaties with them. They, on their part, once it was admitted that they were free of blood and equal in noble status to the 'Foreigners of Erin' did not refuse to make bargains in which they admitted the overlordship of the nobler of these foreigners. Examples are numerous. In 1356, James, earl of Ormond, principal in his nation in Ormond, 'and his people and liegemen' entered into an agreement with Rory O'Kennedy, his nominal vassal, and Mahon O'Kennedy, and their nation and subjects, by which, though the O'Kennedys and their nation pledge themselves to be obedient and respondent to the Earl, it is on honourable terms.

(Curtis, E. A History of Medieval Ireland (Routledge Revivals) from 1086 to 1513.)

The line of descent of Rory Mor O'Kennedy, chief of the O'Kennedys in 1356, from Kennedy, King of North Munster, is shown in the Royal Irish Academy Kennedy genealogies as:

CINCIS,	Kennedy, son of Lorcan
Don-cuain,	Duncan, son of Kennedy
CINCIS	Kennedy, son of Duncan
AOO	Hugh, son of Kennedy
Don-cuan	Duncan, son of Hugh
MAZCAMH	Mahon, son of Duncan
CAIOS	Teige, son of Mahon
GILLA CAOLMGIN	Gilla Kevin, son of Teige
DOMLL CATALEATRAC,	Domnall Cataleatrac, son of Gilla Kevin
CAIOS	Teige, son of Domnall Cataleatrac
GILLA CAOLMGIN buioe	Gilla Kevin (Yellow), son of Teige

AmLaoim
Ruaitóhri mhóir

Auliffe, son of Gilla Kevin
Rory Mor, son of Auliffe

The last great O’Kennedy Fionn (Lower Ormond) was Brian O’Kennedy MacDonnill of Lackeen Castle who died in 1588. He was descended by ten generations from Rory Mor.

The last great O’Kennedy Donn (Upper Ormond) was Connor alias McTeig of Ballycahill (Nenagh). He was descended from Gilla Patrick, son of Gilla Kevin. His ancestor was Mahon Don O’Kennedy.

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 two names, **Laurence/Lawrence and Martin**. These names do not make the list of the 12 most popular on the list of occurrences of male Kennedy first names in the mountain parishes.

The name **Laurence/Lawrence** is the anglicisation of Lorcan. The father of Kennedy, King of North Munster, and first in our line, was named Lorcan. Laurence/Lawrence is uncommon in the mountains.

Laurence Kennedy and Mary Spillane were the parents of 12 children recorded in the Kilcommon baptism register between 1865 and 1887. They were variously recorded as Cummer Moloughney and Grousehall which are adjacent to each other. One of their sons, Laurence, was recorded in the baptism register at Grouse Hill in 1873. On p74 of “The Mountainy Kennedys” there is a picture of a headstone at Killoscully which records the death of Laurence Kennedy of Glenculloo aged 89 years in 1862. Lawrence Kennedy, formerly of Glenculloo and now of London, has previously advised that this Laurence was his grandfather who moved across from Grousehall to take up land at Glenculloo.

The other Lawrences in the baptism registers in the early 1900s are just outside the mountains in Millbrook and Dolla.

The name **Martin** was introduced by the Normans in the 12th century. The earliest appearance of the name Martin Kennedy in the mountains is on a headstone to Mathew Kenedy who died in 1788 and was buried at the Old Templederry burial ground. The stone records that it was erected by Martin Kennedy of Foilduff.

There were 17 baptisms recording the name Martin from 1821 to 1891. It first appears in the baptism records in 1826 at Coolboreen which is about 3 km from the mountains north of Newport. The first appearance in the mountains is in 1840 from which date Martin Kennedy and Margaret O’Brien of Glencroe near Toor are recorded as having five children. From 1845 Martin Kennedy and Margaret Ryan of Curreeny are recorded as having eight children.

My own great-grandfather Martin Kennedy was born to Patrick Kennedy (of Toureenbrien and Foilduff) and Ellen Connors at Foilycleara, Doon Parish, early in the 1820s (prior to the keeping of the Doon baptism register). My grandfather Martin Kennedy was born in Brisbane in 1865 and my oldest brother Martin was born in 1920.

The records for Laurence/Lawrence and Martin are attached together with the map of the distribution of Kennedy fathers with those names.

A SPECIAL KENNEDY EVENT

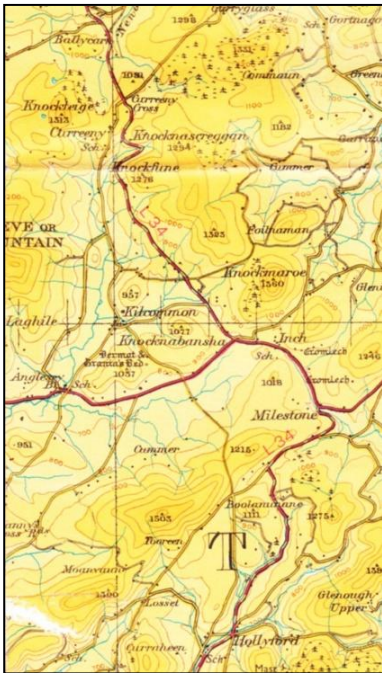
John and June Kennedy of the Gold Coast, Australia, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends. Among the many messages they received from across the world was a certificate

of congratulations from His Holiness, Pope Francis. We would like to add our very best wishes to John and June.



BANDIT COUNTRY

Dan Kennedy of Reafadda (see p275 of “The Mountainy Kennedys”) told me a year or two ago that “From the top of Curreeny to the bridge at Hollyford was bandit country”. This lore had been passed down through his Kennedys over the generations.



“Echoes of the Hills 2010” covering Kilcommon, Rearcross and Hollyford provides some insight into troubled times in the past:

In the days before the Anglesey Line was constructed (the first roads in the area – there were two of them that intersected), Kilcommon was perceived by the establishment as the place where criminals and outlaws could hide. The following is an extract from Richard Griffith’s report to the parliament in London as to why the roads should be built and how he had the support of Lord Anglesey to open up this fastness.

This mountain tract has been for several years the asylum of outlaws, and also of several gangs of murderers and robbers, who, concealed in its fastness, had continued to elude the vigilance and pursuit of the police and the military.

Several outrages having been committed during the year 1828, by persons issuing from these fastnesses, the Marquis of Anglesey directed me to examine them, and to ascertain the best lines for opening direct communications through them. Having effected this object, and laid the surveys of the proposed roads before His Excellency, he proceeded himself to the County of Tipperary, and rode on horseback across the mountains, when I had the opportunity of pointing out to him the proposed lines for the new roads, and of receiving his approbation of them on the spot.

The construction of the road seemed to resolve some of the problems with the outlaws and the outrages which would have occurred but there was resistance from the labourers who wanted to work by their own way and not by the system laid out by Mr. Griffith.

Since the works were begun no outrages have been committed in the mountains but in the commencement we had much trouble with the labourers, who seemed to think they should have everything their own way, and refused to work by task or measurement, according to the system laid down by me, and demanded to be employed by the day, but by patience and perseverance we at length overcame their prejudices, and on finding that when they worked fairly they always earned good wages, they gave up their opposition, and now prefer to work our system to their own; and none of our practised hands will work by the day who can get employment by task.

It would be interesting to know who these labourers were. They must have been locals with Kennedys, Ryans and other local names among them. It would also be interesting to know who the bandits were. The exploits of “Ned of the Hills” of the Hollyford area are well documented and “Kirby the Outlaw” was from the Foilaclera area. While seen by the authorities as bandits the locals often saw them as heroes.

The opening of the Anglesey roads may also have brought further opportunity for lawlessness. There are people in Australia who are descended from a man who came from the hills near Curreeny and who was convicted of highway robbery in 1836.

THE MOUNTAINS by John Francis O'Donnell

From Duffy's Hibernian Magazine Vol. 3, No. 14 (Dublin: James Duffy, August, 1861), page 72.

My spurs are rusted, my coat is rent,
My plume is dank with rain;
And the thistle down and the barley beard
Are thick on my horse's mane;
But my rifle's as bright as my sweetheart's eye,
And my arm is strong and free—
What care have I for your king or laws?
I'm an outlawed rapparee!
Click, click your glasses, friends, with mine,
And give your grasp to me;
I'm England's foe, I'm Ireland's friend—
Click, click, I'm a rapparee!

The mountain cavern is my home,
High up in the crystal air;
My bed is the limestone, iron-ribbed,
And the brown heath smelling fair.
Let George or William only send
His troops to burn and shoot—
We'll meet them upon equal ground,
And fight them foot to foot.
Click, click your glasses, friends, with mine,
The midnight's made for glee;
Stout hearts beat fast for Ireland yet—
Yes—I am a rapparee!

Hunted from out our father's homes,
Pursued with steel and shot,
A bloody warfare we must wage,
Or the gibbet be our lot
Hurrah! the war is welcome work,
The hated outlaw knows;
He steps unto his country's love
O'er the corpses of his foes.
Click, click your glasses, friends with mine,
In coming days I see
Stern labours for our country's weal—
Yes—I'm a rapparee.

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/~laurieaq?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