

MOUNTAINY KENNEDYS MAILING LIST 18

July 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 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.

OUT OF IRELAND

This issue of the mailing list is coming to you from Ireland where Colleen and I are currently enjoying the wonderful Irish hospitality.

We had a great weekend in County Wexford recently where we were invited to the festivities associated with the official opening of the new John F Kennedy Visitor Centre. These were held at various places including the Kennedy Homestead at Dunganstown. Included was a dinner attended by the Kennedy visitors from the US. Below is a picture of Colleen with Kiley Kennedy, daughter of Ted Kennedy Jr. and granddaughter of Senator Edward Kennedy who sat with us at our table.



CLOUGHJORDAN O'KENNEDY PRESENTATION

I have been invited to give a presentation on the history of the O'Kennedys to be held as follows:

WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 8:00 PM
Thomas MacDonagh Centre
Cloughjordan
North Tipperary

All are welcome.

The new centre has been beautifully integrated with the former home of Thomas MacDonagh, Irish revolutionary and poet, who was a signatory to the Proclamation of Independence and was executed by the British in 1916.

The centre is dedicated to preserving the history of North Tipperary and is managed by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. It is well worth a visit. See their website at www.cloughjordan.ie

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.

Revival of a Mountainy Kennedy Chief?

The last great O'Kennedy Donn (Upper Ormond) was Connor alias McTeig of Ballycahill (Nenagh) who was recorded circa 1580. He was descended from Gilla Patrick, son of Gilla Kevin. His ancestor was Mahon Don O'Kennedy.

In recent discussions with various people associated with the Mountainy Kennedys I have canvassed the possibility of reviving the position of a chief who could have a title such as the Mountain McTeig O'Kennedy. This proposition has received sound support and it will be discussed further at the Kennedy Gathering at Rearcross. The ancient Brehon Laws relating to the appointment of chiefs are available for guidance in this process.

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.

There is usually a groan of anguish when someone says they are searching for Patrick Kennedy in Tipperary. With 138 Patricks in the mountains in the 1800s, almost every Mountainy Kennedy family has had several Patricks over the generations.

The name Patrick does not appear among the Kennedys until after 1690. It may have displaced traditional names such as the second son named after the mother's father.

They were deprived of over 90 per cent of their land when the Cromwellian confiscations were carried out in the mid-1650s. At that time, there were 131 Kennedy landowners in Upper and Lower Ormond. Not one of them had the Christian name of Patrick. The great popularity of the name Patrick dates from the time of Patrick Sarsfield who figures in the siege of Limerick of 1690. (Father Rody Kennedy: 1999).

The attached document lists all of the Patrick Kennedys in the records for Kilcommon, Kilmore, Templederry, Newport and Upperchurch in the 1800s. A map of their distribution will be on the agenda for later this year.

ANOTHER PIECE IN THE JIGSAW PUZZLE

Michael Ryan Kitt recently brought to my attention the existence of a marriage certificate between a Kennedy of Gannavane and a Kennedy of the family of Thomas Kennedy of Foilduff. On this certificate were the words "Third degree of consanguinity" indicating that the wedding partners had common ancestors. This is a clear indication of a blood relationship between Thomas Kennedy's family and the Gannavane Kennedys. We have previously established that the Gannavane Kennedys are descended from Long Andrew Kennedy of Knocknamoheragh. We also recently found Long Andrew's grave in old Templederry graveyard just a few metres from the graves of Thomas Kennedy and his father Bryan. After they died, Thomas and Bryan were taken back to Templederry to be buried, almost certainly in the grave of their ancestor Patrick Kennedy who went across to Toureenbrien in 1750. Long Andrew went across to Knocknamoheragh, on the other side of the hill from Toureenbrien, about the same time. It seems to be a reasonable assumption that Patrick Kennedy and Long Andrew Kennedy were brothers and that they were buried in their ancestral graveyard.

DID JFK COME FROM LOWER ORMOND?

The Nenagh Guardian published the attached article last week after interviewing me regarding the conclusions I arrived at in my book "John F Kennedy's Irish O'Kennedy Ancestors". I am awaiting further comments relating to this article.

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