

MOUNTAINY KENNEDYS MAILING LIST 19 AUGUST 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 ITALY

This issue of the mailing list is coming to you from Italy where Colleen and I are exploring the Continent. We are planning to spend a further three weeks around Europe before returning to Australia in early September.

ANNUAL KENNEDY GATHERING AT REARCROSS

The third annual Kennedy Gathering was held at Rody Kennedy's Anglesey Lounge at Rearcross on Sunday 21st July. Thanks to Rody and Ann for their great welcome for this event. Photographs of some of the people who attended are shown on <http://home.onthenet.com.au/~laurieag/index.htm>

We had some great documents brought along. One was a family chart of Australian descendants of Long Andrew Kennedy. Another was a large 1769 surveyor's map of the Warter Wilson Estate prior to it being acquired by Lord John Rous (later the Earl of Stradbroke) by his marriage to Elizabeth Warter Wilson. This estate covered all of the mountain areas from the Rearcross area down to the Doon area. Thanks very much to Denis O'Malley for this contribution. It will take some time to digitally tidy up this map but it will eventually be made available via this mailing list. We also received a copy of a wonderful very early photograph of a Kennedy woman and her husband all dressed up for the photographer.



Alice Kennedy and Pat O'Malley 1860

Kennedy Chief Revival

A show of hands at the gathering indicated virtually unanimous approval of a proposal to revive the chieftainship of the O'Kennedys after a lapse of 430 years. Connor alias McTeig of Ballycahill (Nenagh) was the last great O'Kennedy Donn (Upper Ormond) circa 1580.

It was suggested by Michael Ryan Kitt that the proposal be advanced by the establishment of a sub-committee to take the matter forward. Details will be advised in due course.

CLOUGHJORDAN O'KENNEDY PRESENTATION

A large audience attended my presentation on the history of the O'Kennedys at the Thomas MacDonagh Centre at Cloughjordan in mid-July. Kennedys and other interested persons came from all over North Tipperary to attend.

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. I had much pleasure in presenting them with a large O'Kennedy family chart incorporating the Dunganstown Kennedys from whom US President John F Kennedy is descended. This chart will be on permanent display at the centre.

LIST OF MOUNTAINY KENNEDY MALE FIRST NAMES

Due to the challenges of researching while travelling the next names will be held over until my return home.

THE MISSING TOWNLAND

While it is mentioned in various places in "The Mountainy Kennedys", the townland of COMMONALINE in Doon Parish was not allocated a specific chapter. Following a contact via the Kennedy website from Catherine O'Gorman of Clonmel who is descended from Patrick Kennedy of Commonaline, I discovered that she was descended from Thomas Kennedy of Foilduff and was a fourth cousin of mine. We had a small gathering at Cashel attended by Catherine and her sister Theresa who also lives at Clonmel. Also present was Patsy Kennedy who continues to operate the Kennedy farm at Commonaline.

THE EFFIN KENNEDYS

I was also contacted by Ann Marie Kennedy of Effin, near Charleville in Co. Limerick. During a visit to the Kennedy home there Ann Marie told me that it was family tradition that they came down from Tipperary. Among her ancestors, the names Jeremiah and Patrick are strong indicators that they have mountainy Kennedy origins. There was a great deal happening at the Kennedy household at Effin as they were preparing for their own Kennedy gathering on the same day as the one at Rearcross.

TOUREENBRIEN VISIT

Jim Kennedy of Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick, and formerly of Toureenbrien hosted a visit to his old home at Toureenbrien prior to the Kennedy Gathering. The group is shown below outside the house in which seven generations of Kennedys were born in the room to the left of the picture. All of the people in the picture are descended from Brian Kennedy (1857-1823) who was born there. His father, Patrick Kennedy, came across to Toureenbrien from the Templederry area c1750 to marry a Madden woman.



From l. Brian Kennedy, Theresa Fitzgibbon, Catherine O'Gorman, Jim Kennedy, Michael Ryan Kitt
Front Willie Fitzgibbon

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