

**MOUNTAINY KENNEDYS MAILING LIST 29**  
**JUNE 2014**

**2014 KENNEDY GATHERING AND INAUGURATION OF KENNEDY CHIEF**

The 2014 Kennedy Gathering is programmed as follows:

Date:           **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**INAUGURATION**

Time:           5:00 pm

Venue:          Curreeny Hedge School

Curreeny

County Tipperary

(Please park at the Curreeny Church and walk down to the Hedge School site)

**CELEBRATION AND FOOD**

Venue:          Anglesey Lounge,  
Rody Kennedy's Bar & Shop,  
Rearcross  
County Tipperary

**FOURTH ANNUAL KENNEDY GATHERING**

Venue:          As above

Time:           8:00 pm

"The Mountainy Kennedys" Volume 2 – Linking Past and Present" will be launched at the Gathering

Dear Brian,

I enjoyed your recent and very informative letter regarding the Kennedy clan and your surprise telephone call some weeks previous.

At our recent A.G.M. when your request for the Heritage Hedge School Site for your gathering was discussed, all the members were delighted and honoured that you had selected Curreeny as the Assembly point. The people of Curreeny are as proud of the Hedge School site as the Americans are of the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island in New York Harbour. The achievement of the Irish people in maintaining their education, their religion and traditional way of life during times of persecution is unparalleled throughout the world.

As you stated in your letter, the old traditions for the inauguration of Irish chiefs required it to be a high place from which the Chief could view his people and territory. Curreeny Heritage Hedge School site is three hundred and sixty metres above sea level with a panoramic view to the Galtee Mountains.

When I was attending Curreeny National School, there was a Kennedy family running a Post Office near Curreeny Church. There was a Kennedy family in Windygap, three Kennedy families in Coumnagella. A girl from one of these families married a Ryan Barrack. A Kennedy woman from Templeberry married Patrick Harrington. There were two Kennedy families in Knockfune and Bridget Kennedy was my Paternal grandmother.

We have Liability Insurance on the property and ye will be covered by that the same as others coming there.

We had a gathering there in August and had people controlling the traffic. Some cars were parked up at the Church and more were at the Community Centre (i.e. National School). A couple of signs: Please drive slowly. No doubt Rody Kennedy and a few men would take care of that. Also to be vigilant that youngsters did not try

to climb on to the memorials. Hopefully the weather will be fine and that you will have a memorable gathering, Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup> 2014, 5pm to 5.30pm.

Yours sincerely,  
John Ryan, M.Sc, DRE, CMIGC

***"A Tour in Ireland in the years 1776, 1777, 1778," by Arthur Young. 8vo. Dublin: 1780.***

The great body of the people were of pastoral habits. The different families used the tribal lands in common, following their herds from the winter feeding grounds to the summer pastures in the mountains, shifting their quarters as the need of fresh pasturage for their cows required, and building for themselves light booths of boughs of trees, covered with long strips of green turf. The tillage ground of each tribe, near which they seem to have had dwellings a little more durable than their movable summer huts in the mountains, was annually divided among the families by the Caunfinny, according to their stock and requirements. But, though the great body of the people had no separate properties, the chief families had portions appropriated to them in perpetuity. There were also lands appointed as well for the elected chief, as others for the Tanist who was to succeed him; other portions were also enjoyed hereditarily by the Brehons, and bards, and physicians of the tribe. The chief also was entitled to tributes of victuals, and certain of his dependants were bound to entertain him and his company for stated times in the year. But the Irish knew no such thing as tenure, nor forfeiture, nor fixed rent; at this they repined, though willing to offer such tribute of victuals as was required, and to let their chieftains eat them almost out of house and home: hence the saying, "Spend me, but Defend me."

Hi Brian

I met you a couple of years ago at your book launch in Kennedy's in Rearcross

Hope you're keeping well and I'd like to be added to your mailing list

My father's mother was a Ryan 'Barracks' and his father was a Kennedy from Cooga. I trust you'll agree that makes us mountainy Kennedys.

Regards

Eleanor Kennedy

Hi Brian,

The following information may be of interest for your records.

Upperchurch parish records showing a baptism on 29/07/1887 for a Richard J Kennedy born to Thomas Kennedy and Margaret McCarthy is that of my grand uncle. He was originally from Portnard/Ballyvorheen near Cappamore, Co. Limerick and married Margaret McCarthy from Lisheen Upperchurch. The name Thomas appears to have come from his maternal side (Keogh's of Caherconlish, Co. Limerick). You mentioned previously to Frank Hanley that Richard is not a common Kennedy name so we are still trying to see if we can trace this. There is possibly a Humphreys connection which I am working on.

Oral history tells us that we are somehow connected to some family of Kennedys of Newport. A John Kennedy of Newport is listed as a cousin of Richard J O'Kennedy at the later's funeral in 1906. See attached obituary 3rd sentence from end. Though your connections is it possible to identify who this John Kennedy is? We are not having luck at this end including going through the census for 1901.

Being the eldest male in the extended family, Richard took on O' in front of the Kennedy surname which I think was fashionable at the end of the 1800s amongst Irish families. This has continued to today down through his direct line.

Keep up the good work.

Regards

Frieda Ryan

**LIMERICK LEADER DATED 16/2/1906 FRIDAY EVENING**

**OBITUARY**

**MR. R. O'KENNEDY J.P., MOUNT CATHERINE, PALLASGREEN**

Sincere regret was manifested around Pallasgreen on Tuesday morning when the news was spread that the above named estimable gentleman had breathed his last. Though in failing health for some time past, his demise came with rather painful suddenness, as it was hoped he would survive for some time longer. Mr. O'Kennedy bore his illness with piety and fortitude, and was attended throughout by the worthy parish

priest of the parish, Rev. Thomas O'Dwyer. The deceased was many years a member of the Limerick Board of Guardians, and also was an ex-officio member of the Tipperary Board of Guardians and was after the passing of the Local Government Act and co-opted on the Tipperary Number 2 District Council and Board of Guardians, which position he held for 3 years. He was an amicable and upright gentleman, and his demise at the comparatively early age of 50 years has caused sincere and profound regret not only to his very wide circle of relatives, but by the general public for miles on every side of Pallasgreen. He leaves a widow and young family to mourn his loss. The remains were removed on Wednesday evening from his late residence to the parish church at Nicker and were followed by an immense number of friends and sympathisers. On Thursday, high mass was celebrated for the repose of his soul. The celebrant was Rev. John O'Neill, CC, Pallasgreen; Deacon Rev. Michael Ryan, The College, Thurles; Sub-Deacon Rev. J. Moloney, Master of Ceremonies, Rev. John Power of Kiltleely; Chanters, Very Rev. P. Canon Ryan, V.G. Galbally; and Rev. J. Duggan, C.C. Doon. In the Choir were - Rev. T. O'Dwyer, P.P. Pallasgreen; Rev. Hourigan, C.C. Galbally; Rev. Denis Duggan, C.C. do; Rev. J. Shelley, P.P. Cappaghmore; Rev. J. Nolan C.C. do; Rev. Innocent Ryan, V.P. Thurles College; Rev. M. Ryan C.C. Thurles; Rev. P. O'Donnell P.P. Doon; Rev. P. Hennessy S.J. Limerick; Rev. L. Hayes, Liverpool. After mass the funeral started for the family burial place at Ballinure, Muroe. Perhaps never before was such a sight witnessed in Pallasgreen as the dimensions of the funeral, over 250 vehicles taking part in the procession, which extended nearly 2 miles. This may be taken as a small token of the esteem in which the deceased gentleman was held by the people in the surrounding localities. The sympathy of all classes is cordially extended to his widow and young family in their sad bereavement. The chief mourners were Mrs. O'Kennedy (widow), the Misses Katty O'Kennedy, Rose O'Kennedy, Madge O'Kennedy and Lena O' Kennedy (daughters). Masters Richard O'Kennedy and John O'Kennedy (sons). Patrick O'Kennedy, Ross, Bansha and Thomas O'Kennedy (brothers). Thomas Walsh and E. Gleeson, Dublin; Patrick Duggan, Bilboa; Jeremiah Duggan do; Rev. John Duggan C.C. Doon; Rev. Denis Duggan C.C. Galbally (brothers-in-law), P.K. Walsh; Michael Walsh and John Walsh and Michael O'Kennedy, Ross (nephews), Cornelius Keogh, Ballybrood; John Keogh, do; Bryan Kennedy (uncles), Dr. Stephen Keogh, Dundrum; Dr. Thomas Keogh, Emly; Dr. Thomas B. Mulcahy; Limerick, Dr. T. Kennedy, Toomevara; Cornelius Keogh do; Patrick Mulcahy, do; Patrick Keogh; Laurence Ryan, Bulgaden; Richard Ryan, do; William Hickey; Brother Peter Ryan; Dublin; R. O'Kennedy, Ballybricken; John O'Kennedy, Newport; Laurence Hickey; John Waters; William Waters; Michael Ryan, D.O. Pallasgreen; Mrs. O' Neill, Killuragh; Martin O'Neill, do; Michael Duggan; J. Duggan and Edward Duggan (cousins).

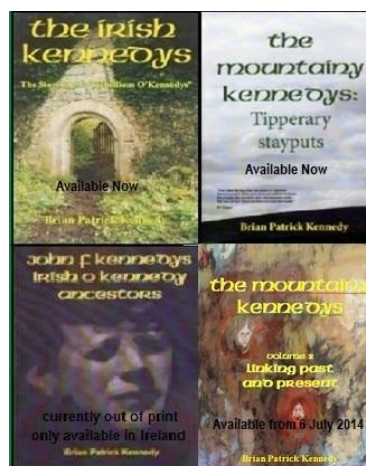
**ENTRIES SIGHTED FROM THOMS DIRECTORIES REF. R.J. O'KENNEDY**

Thoms Directories dated 1900 to 1906 inc. lists Richard J. O'Kennedy, Portnard, Cappamore as a magistrate. In 1889 Rickard Edward Lloyd (lessor of Portnard) is listed as a magistrate. RJO'K may have taken over his position. Lloyd is not listed as a magistrate in 1888.

**BOOKS**

**WARNING**

These books are not available as downloads on the Internet. Do not provide your credit card details to any site that says they have downloads available. The books are not available through UK or US Internet booksellers some of whom claim to have copies available. (at inflated prices e.g. +100%)



Note: Booksellers in various countries use pictures copied from the website to advertise books that they do not have in stock. We have amended the website pictures as a consequence.

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>

***Thank you to all of those people who have bought books over the years. The returns have gone some way towards defraying the expense of having them printed and distributed.***

### **THE IRISH KENNEDYS NOW ON FACEBOOK**

This mailing list will continue to come out monthly and will be sent to all recipients by email. In addition, Sean has now put us onto Facebook. Find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/theirishkennedysbooks>

If you are on Facebook and would click on “Like” on this page it would be appreciated.

Your contributions to the Mountainy Kennedys mailing list are most welcome. Please keep them rolling in.

Brian

## AN O'KENNEDY LAW SUIT OF 1608

The last of the series of the Calendar of the Ormond deeds in Kilkenny Castle has just been issued from the Irish Mss. Commission. It is edited by the late Professor Curia, and by a tragic coincidence appears just after his lamented death. He was one of the great Irish scholars of our time and this edition of these important papers is not the least of the many gratuitous services which he has given to the nation. His death some months ago passed almost unnoticed in the press of great events, but future generations will point to him as one who studied our language and our history and presented us with the results in that objective and scientific manner which stamps the true Irishman and the exact historian. The present volume contains many references to Nenagh and the Ormond country, which cannot be here dealt with, its very last item, however, is a highly interesting and detailed document dealing with the occupation of the lands of Monroan, near Lismacall, which is worth reproducing for the benefit of those to whom the volume is not immediately available.

### THE O'KENNEDYS

Connor O'Kennedy, son of Teig died at Ballycabil Castle in 1583. His death is chronicled by the *Poor Masters* who describe him as "a ready tranquil domestic man, without reproach from his birth." They call him "Connor a Cuan aka Mac Feigh" and John O'Donovan in annotating the entry describes him as "Connor of the Harbour." This is an error for the "Cuan" in the entry relates not to a "Harbour," its English equivalent but to the descent of Connor from Donnan of the Dal gCais pedigree. Connor was O'Connell's Donnan, chief of Upper Ormond. He is mentioned in the "Panel of the Ormond Freeholders" which lists the chief gentlemen of Ormond about 1575, and is another Kilkenny Castle paper (see it in "The Last Lords of Ormond" p. 233), and he appears at the head of the list as being, Sir Henry Sidney the famous Lord Deputy of Elizabeth's reign, calls him, "The Lord Mac-Teigue," and he complains that Connor would not "come in" to submit to him when he visited Ormond. Eventually Connor did submit and gave hostages of his son and entered into a Bond in 1600 with Sydney to keep the peace.

At that time the O'Kennedys of Ballycabil, Ballynecolough, Carrigah, Ballintully, and Killowney were the leading families of Upper Ormond. The first three of these were mainly related while those of Killowney and Ballintully were also closely connected. The Ballycabil and Ballynecolough families held the title of O'Connell's Donnan and Rory of Ballinacough was the last of the old chiefs before the Cromwellian deluge descended on the ancient gentry of the Ormonds. Both Connor and Rory after him, were intermarried with the family of the 10th Earl of Ormond, as were also the O'Kennedys of Kilkenny.

I have endeavoured to show these relationships from contemporary papers in "The Last Lords of Ormond" and otherwise in an account of the Manor of Ballinacough in the current issue of the *Journal of the Historical Society*.

Connor O'Connell's Donnan of Ballycabil, and his successors in title up to Cromwell, were owners of the greater part of Upper Ormond by descent from their ancestors" as the Civil Survey of 1653 phrases it. They had by Connor's time, indeed, acknowledged an overlordship by the Earl of Ormond to the extent of taking leases from him and paying a yearly "Maist Bart" or Earl's rent in the form of cattle, and this rent will be found mentioned in many contemporary papers as "The Cows of Ormond," or "The Kyne of Ormond." The total of both baronies amounted to about 1600 value in English money in a Stafford's time (i.e., about 1630), subject to this, and to an undertaking to assist the Earl in his hostings" by furnishing men and arms, etc., they were free, holding their land under the old Irish suzerain, and preserving their ancient rights and chiefries as well as their own.

These preliminaries will enable us to understand the purport of what follows. The Deed itself is a record of the Palatine Court of the Earl of Ormond of date August 3rd, 1608. The Palatine Court had jurisdiction over most of the manors and townships of Tipperary and was independent of the English Courts in

County of Tipperary and was independent of the English Courts in the rest of the county. In Ormond the people had no occasion to resort to it before the end of Elizabeth's reign because the Ormond area had been lost to the Butlers by the Irish uprising in the 14th century, and it was not until the Butlers recovered Nenagh Castle in the 16th century and a succession of Lord Deputies under Henry VIII, and Elizabeth had reduced Ormond and other places to English law during the Desmond rebellion and after it, that the Court of the Seneschal of the Earl of Ormond supplanted the native jurisdiction of the Brehons in the Ormond country. This had come to pass by 1603—hence

### RIVAL CLAIMS

It would appear that one Macolroonagh O'Mulrian laid some claim to the lands of Monroan in 1608. This was contested by the descendants of Connor MacTeige O'Kennedy Donnan, and Nicholas Haly, the Chancellor of the Liberty of Tipperary came to try what would now be called an equity suit. The O'Kennedy's claim was that these lands were part of their ancient patrimony, while Mulrian apparently attempted to prove some contrary claim. We have no details of the plaintiff's pleadings and what follows is the proof of the defendant. Throughout the Deed the lands are described as "Monroan," and the deed paper has therefore this added in fine that it gives the ancient form of the place name, the "U" having been lost in the interval since 1608.

We are not told where the Court sat, but the record states that the Chancellor, acted "by virtue of a direction to him made by the Seneschal of this said Liberty and his associates, enclosed upon the interrogatories herunto annexed, at the behest of Malroy Mulrian, plaintiff, regarding Monroan in Ormond." The procedure is analogous to that now obtaining when the Circuit Judge refers certain inquiries to the County Registrar, in a similar type of procedure. The evidence of the witnesses is then recorded. The first was Donagh O'Kennedy, of "Kill-pyne" (Killowney) who is described as "Gent," and "of the age of 80 years or thereabouts." He being sworn and duly examined stated that "he knows Monroan very well, and that it is of the inheritance of the O'Kennedys and has heard that Mahowne O'Kennedy, O'Kennedy, and Cnocher O'Kennedy were seized thereof, but has seen none of them in possession having that it was commonly reported that Teig or Morny (Piper) was Cnocher O'Kennedy's aforementioned tenant there, and that the said Cnocher received reflections there of the said Piper as his tenant by common report."

The office of Piper was a common one at that time—one being kept by every important family. Apparently Teig or Morny was Piper to O'Kennedy Donnan and, as such, had Monroan as his tenancy. What he form "de Morny" may be a doubtful—it is rendered phonetically and is hardly a surname, being more probably a descriptive epithet. The "reflections" referred to would be services rendered by Teig to his Lord as a condition of his tenancy. This was a common type of annuity in the Gaelic tuatha, the better known example being the holding of lands by Brehons and Doctors in return for their services as such.

Donogh goes on to add that Morny or Kennedy, sister to Cnocher O'Kennedy, told this examinee that Donnell O'Clohesie and Keane O'Clohesie were tenants into Cnocher O'Kennedy, and that he sergents levied presents and services in Cnocher's name out of that place." Here there is evidence that specific rents in kind were due to O'Kennedy out of Monroan in addition to the "services" or "her value" and that they were paid by the "sergents" who could correspond to our agent or rent collector.

The second witness was Hugh O'Connell, late of Ballynecolough, "Gent." Some Account of him will be found in the paper on Ballynecolough, already mentioned. He was

also "of the age of 80 years or thereabouts," and testifies "that he knows Monroan in Ormond, very well, and that it is the inheritance of the O'Kennedys, and that the same Teig as son and heir to Mahowne O'Kennedy and Cnocher O'Kennedy as son and heir to the said Teig, were seized of the said Monroan in their demesne as of the inheritance one after another, but that he has not seen Mahowne O'Kennedy for that he died before this examinee's birth. This interesting testimony of one who was himself in the next succession gives us the pedigree of the Ballycabil family over three generations going back to 1400. In the Ballinacough paper I refer to this can be further traced up to the 13th century in the direct line, one of the last being a Bryan Kennedy, of Nenagh, attorney at law, in 1703.

### O'KENNEDY'S OF BAWN

The third witness was Hugh Macdonmond O'Kennedy, of "Bawn-doncomony, Gent," aged 60 and upwards. The place name gives us the original form of the modern place-name Bawn, where the family still holds away. Bawn was in the old parish of Doncomona which covered the area between Tullacahilly and Bawn, having Ballycabil ruin for its parish church. It had gone as a parish before the Reformation.

Hugh says in his evidence "that he knows Monroan well, and that he learned of his ancestors that it was of the inheritance of Mahowne O'Kennedy and descended from Teig to the said Mahowne, his son and heir, and that each of them died seized thereof, by beaueux. To the second interrogatory he says that he has seen Cnocher O'Kennedy as son and heir to the said Teig, seized of Monroan and that he died seized thereof; the cause of his knowledge is that he has seen Teig or Morny, Piper, inhabiting the said Monroan as tenant to Cnocher and visiting unto him duty or reflections out of the same. To the sixth he says that he was present and has seen a writing made by Cnocher O'Kennedy aforementioned unto Philip O'Haly and Teig O'Monroan containing a gift upon Monroan together with Ballycabil and other lands unto the use of WILLIAM O'Kennedy and his heirs and has seen the said Cnocher delivering possession of the lands of Ballycabil in name thereof, and Monroan, to the said Philip and Teig, but whether the said gift was sealed he knows not, but has seen the said delivery unto the aforesaid feeoffees by Cnocher O'Kennedy; the cause of his knowledge that he procured his own name as witness to be set to the said writing."

### EVADING CLAIM OF COURT

This is interesting testimony. In Elizabeth's reign the procedure in English law to create trusts and trust estates was becoming well known in the "Irish quarters." It was made use of to evade the Court of Wards who claimed the right to administer the property of a minor and to commit the minor to wardship and bring him up in the reformed religion. This could not be done when the legal estate was in Trustees and the age was one when all the niceties of legal procedure were insisted on to the last letter. Another reason for the conveyance was often that if a landowner was "attainted" for treason his estate was forfeit and this pretext was often seized upon to capture all his lands. Having the estate conveyed to trust avoided the seizure. This type of deed was very common in Ormond at this time as can be seen from the Inquisitions of James I. when even the MacEgan family are found to have made use of it.

The next witness was Brian O'Kennedy, of Ballyhincikim, Gent, aged 60 years. He says "he well knows Monroan in Ormond for that he dwelt within three miles thereof, and further says that he does not know nor has seen Mahowne O'Kennedy or Teig O'Kennedy but has heard of his neighbours and of his own knowledge and thinks that Monroan was of the inheritance of Mahowne and Teig O'Kennedy and descended from them to Cnocher the said Teig's son and Mahowne his nephew."

### IRISH LAW

The most interesting part of this testimony is the avowment that the inheritance descended by Irish law and not by English since the nephew would have no claim by the English law of descent. Brian then goes on, "he has seen Cnocher O'Kennedy, said Teig's son and heir, seized of Monroan and die seized thereof; the cause of his knowledge that being the said Cnocher's neighbour within three miles of Ballycabil, he has seen the said Cnocher set the same to Teig or Morny and the said Teig yielding reflections and duties out of the same." He goes on to add that he was present at the signing of the deed deposited to by Hugh of Bawn but does not know if it was sealed. He also witnessed it.

The next witness was David McShane Glass O'Mulrian, of Killinbegh, Gent, aged 60 years. I know of no place of this name in Ormond, but it may well be the old form of Killeen in Templemore where the Mulrians had property at this time. He says indeed that "he knows Monroan well being neighbour thereof." He confirms by hearsay the possession by Mahowne and Teig O'Kennedy, and says he saw Connor in possession up to his death. He adds "that he heard that Cnocher aforesaid did charge the same as his own inheritance with country duties." This is probably a reference to the "reflections and services" paid by Teig the Piper. He also was a witness to the deed deposited to by the other witnesses. He concludes, "the cause of his knowledge appeareth in his deposition and that having married the said Cnocher's daughter, he was made privy of the premises."

### DIARMUID O GLIASAIN

(To be concluded)