

MOUNTAINY KENNEDYS MAILING LIST 33
NOVEMBER 2014

TIME CAPSULES

During many visits to Ireland I have had great pleasure in visiting out of the way places that could be described as time capsules. When I first saw them they were just as they were left long ago and provided wonderful insights into Ireland of the past. The people were no longer there but their way of life lingered on in the buildings and their contents.



Horse's cart, ass's cart, wooden implement etc in Foilycleara barn



Sugaun (straw) chair at Foilycleara

My Foilycleara Kennedy ancestors used these items but they were disposed of by a new owner after sale of the property. I was able to save the hames that my great grandfather used to put around the neck of the ass.



Kitchen dresser and hearth in a derelict farmhouse on a remote mountain in Ireland

Unfortunately the opportunities to see such history are becoming fewer and fewer as their value becomes unrecognised except by those who would comb through them for something saleable. However, such places can still occasionally be found in Ireland.

TOOMYVARA BAPTISM REGISTER – FEMALE KENNEDY NAMES

A summary of the female Kennedy names bestowed in baptisms in the Toomyvara registers between 1832 and 1911 has been added to the Kilcommon, Kilmore, Newport and Templeberry registers. Of the 1157 female baptisms recorded in five parish registers in the period 1794-1911 the 12 major first names (89% of total) are:

TOP TWELVE FEMALE KENNEDY NAMES IN BAPTISM REGISTERS

Name	Kilcommon	Kilmore	Newport	Templederry	Toomyvara	Upperchurch	Total	% of 1157
Mary	50	27	54	62	43	29	265	23
Bridget	24	21	40	36	23	12	156	13
Margaret	20	20	31	29	13	16	129	11
Catherine	16	10	23	23	15	15	102	9
Honora	15	10	25	13	11	12	86	7
Ellen	10	5	24	19	13	5	76	7
Johanna	10	6	9	21	8	9	63	6
Anne	7	7	10	7	17	6	54	5
Judith	6	4	6	1	12	2	31	2
Winifred	11	2	2	8	-	5	28	2
Elizabeth	6	5	2	6	3	3	25	2
Sarah	-	2	7	4	3	2	18	1
Total	175	119	233	229	161	116	1033	89%

Other female names in the Toomyvara register are Alice (6), Kitty (1), Nancy (1), Onny (1), Peggy (1), Sally (3), Triphonia (1).

A COMMENT FROM SARAH SLATTERY

Sarah commented on The Irish Kennedys video on our Facebook page:

Wonderful to be able to enjoy this from afar, Minnesota. My great grandmother was Ann KENNEDY Ryan. Her brother was Stephen who married Mary Brien. I would love to connect with any of Stephen's children or grandchildren. I visited in Curreeny and area a month ago. My cousin on my maternal side is Michael Hughes of Knockahoppel.

- AND FROM JANICE CHAPMAN

Dear Brian, What a delightful surprise to receive an email about the Kennedy Family. I don't know if I am a relative or not, as I cannot go back any further than 1849 in Australia, when my ggrandmother Catherine Kennedy (Nenagh) arrived here in May 1849 on the female migrant ship The Pemberton. Have tried for years to get some information from Ireland, but have found it impossible, even though she was mentioned in a letter in 1850 and published in the Nenagh Gazette.

Regards Janice (Finn) Chapman.

I replied to Jan as follows:

Hello Jan,

Thanks for your email. As you will have seen by the number of the mailing list, we have been sending it out every month for 32 months. Kennedys from all over have been using the details provided in these and the Kennedy books to further their own research.

You have set yourself a challenge with the name Catherine as it is the third or fourth most common name among Tipperary Kennedy females in the 1800s. However, as your Catherine was 18 when she arrived in Australia in 1849 she was probably born in 1831. A preliminary look provides some possibilities.

My books (Refer the Irish Kennedys website) list almost 2000 Kennedy births in Upper Ormond in Tipperary during the 1800s. Among them are:

1831.01.16 Kennedy, Cath. Parents Rody Kennedy and Cath. Shanahan. Upperchurch

1831.11.29 Kennedy, Cath. Parents William Kennedy and Cath. Walton. Bleanbeg

1831.12.27 Kennedy, Catherine. Parents William Kennedy and Margaret Ryan. Cummergar.

The Irish naming convention sometimes allows deductions to be made about the names of descendants. This is very helpful in family research.

I visit Ireland from Australia every year (23 times to date) and visit Nenagh each time. I have many relatives and friends there. Your Catherine may not necessarily have come from there but may have gone there to try to find work. 1949 was during the famine times and there were many people in the Nenagh workhouse. She may have been sent to Australia from there.

I hope this helps. Brian

ROBERT KENNEDY'S QUERY

Hello Brian/Sean,

Greetings from the U.S.!

I recently came across an article referring to your presentation of honors to Rody Kennedy of Rearcross. This is a great honor for him and the family overall.

A number of years back I bought a copy of your book and have read through it a number of times looking for clues to my own lines. Interestingly, my line goes right back to the Foilduff/Rearcross area. I actually stopped in Rearcross during the summer of 2012 looking for more clues. Had I known what was ahead, I would have stopped to say hello to Rody.

Needless to say, I was intrigued reading of Rory's origins. Since you did the research on his line, is it possible to see your research or his line to use for cross-reference and to possibly extend some lines? This would possibly be of great help to me. As you know, it is difficult to gather birth and death records so if I can fine tune my search it will save me a lot of time and effort. As I move into my 60s, time is important.

Anything you can help with will be greatly appreciated.

Cheers,

Robert Kennedy

I replied to Robert:

Hello Robert,

Thanks for your email. Sean has passed it on to me for a response.

I presume you bought my book "The Irish Kennedys". There are two further books – Vols 1 and 2 of "The Mountainy Kennedys" which were launched in 2012 and 2014 at the annual Kennedy Gatherings at Rearcross. These contain a considerable amount of information about the Kennedy families in the mountain areas including over 1,500 Kennedy baptisms. There are a number of Kennedy families from the Foilduff area with different origins. This includes my own family. The different families are spelled out in detail in the two books.

If you can provide me some preliminary details about your Kennedys I will see if I can locate them for you. It will be useful for you to have the Mountainy Kennedy books to assist with your further research.

Thanks again for your enquiry.

Brian Kennedy

THANKS PHYLL

Thanks once again to our very strong supporter Phyll Kennedy of Garnefarna, Toomyvara. Phyll has tracked down some missing information on Toomyvara baptisms and forwarded it on to me. Some of it is included in the above table. Thanks also to Noreen Ryan for her assistance with this.

THE NEXT KENNEDY BOOK "The Upper Ormond Kennedys – Their claims to Tipperary soil?"

Research and preparation of a mass of information about the Upper Ormond Kennedys continues. The amount of English and later, Irish, legislation directed at land tenure in Ireland over a period of 400 years is astounding. Well over 100 Acts of Parliament refer to Irish land tenure in one way or another. The English and Anglo Irish just could not seem to achieve satisfactory outcomes with the legislation no matter what they tried.

Compilation, calculation and analysis of the considerable diversity of information recorded in The Civil Survey of 1654 have revealed that Kennedy landholders owned 8,926 plantation acres of land in Upper Ormond in 1640. At the time of the Civil Survey, that land was valued at £873. 03. 0. This averages at around two shillings per plantation acre. In current Australian dollars this is about 38 cents per acre, in U.S. dollars it is about 33 cents and in

Euros it is around 25 cents. If only the land was available for purchase at these prices today! If you are looking for a starting price for a statute acre today just add 00 to the 1654 valuation and divide it by 1.62 (to change plantation acres to statute acres) and change it to the full currency e.g. GBP 1,481, AUD 2,345, USD 2,037 or EURO 1,543 for one of today's acres. Good luck if you can find any at these prices.

One fascinating discovery the research has brought to light is that All Ordinances and Acts of Parliament passed during the Cromwellian period of the English Civil War and the Interregnum (the period between King Charles I and King Charles II) were considered void after the English Restoration as they had not received Royal assent. The 1652 Act of Settlement used as the legal means of dispossessing the Kennedys of Upper Ormond of their lands was found to have no basis in law. Unfortunately the story does not end there. In fact, it is just the beginning.

However, comments from the last Mailing List such as those that follow may be seen to be subject to question: *If the peasants had but known, they had not technically been deprived of anything: land under the old dispensation had belonged to ruling kinship systems rather than to communities of peasants, and most of the ruling families who had not conformed to English ways had either been killed in battle or had abandoned the country at the conclusion of one of the several political tumults of the previous era.* (Canny, Nicholas. Early Modern Ireland c.1500-1700. Chapter 3 in *The Oxford Illustrated History of Ireland*. R.F.Foster Editor. Oxford University Press. 1989.).

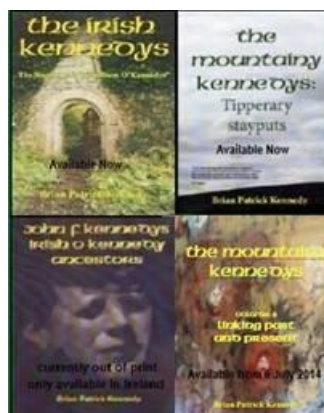
In 1603 a Proclamation of King James I received the Irish people into the King's protection. This brought English Common Law to Ireland. It was the end of the Brehon Law's authority. The country was subsequently divided into counties and English law was administered throughout the country. Kennedys then held their lands as individuals and not as family groups operating under a ruling kinship system. It was the individual owners who were dispossessed. It should not surprise us that the history books may need correction.

Hindsight is perfect vision as they say. It has crossed my mind that, if the English in 1654 had done a Cost Benefit Analysis on the potential outcomes of dealing with £873. 03. 0 worth of Upper Ormond Kennedy land over the next 400 years, they may well have decided to save themselves a lot of time, money and trouble by just letting the Kennedys and their land be.

BOOKS

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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.

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Thank you for your many contacts and contributions.

Brian