

MOUNTAINY KENNEDYS MAILING LIST 34 DECEMBER 2014

Best wishes and compliments of the season to all of our mailing list members around the world. We hope Christmas and New Year is all you wish it to be for your families and yourself.

As we reflect on the year that is almost finished we can see that we have made good progress in our continuing efforts to research and foster the history of the great family of Kennedys from whom we are descended. My thoughts go back to a cloudy, overcast hillside in the mountains at Windygap in July where many of us gathered to inaugurate the first Kennedy chief for four hundred years. In Rody Kennedy of Rearcross we now have a chief to rally around who has the challenging task to attempt to keep his clan in order. All Kennedys and their descendants are always welcome at Rody's fine establishment where the display of his scroll and white wand of office confirm his appointment.

ANOTHER TIME CAPSULE

My late cousin, Tomas Ryan Luke, told me that he spent many a day on the old Kennedy farm at Foilycleara mowing and raking hay. The old horse-drawn hay rake was in retirement when Sean and I visited in 1993 but was still performing a useful purpose as a mobile gate between the pillars.



COME FOR A LITTLE WALK WITH JUNE

There are some wonderful messages that arrive from time to time. I just have to share this one from June Kennedy with you. (Glown is the local name for Glenculloo).

Hello Brian,

Thank you for your lovely reply, yes that is our family. Laurence and Kathleen in Glown were dad's aunt and uncle. Laurence in England (as he is referred to in family, as a few Laurences) is dad's first cousin. A lovely man who I have met many times.

My father was Sean Kennedy, and his father John Kennedy together with his wife Mary Anne, had Kennedys pub in Dublin, at Georges Quay, just opposite Customs house. Still run by the Kennedy family, my cousins Ciaran, John and Thomas.

I used to holiday with my Dad's aunt Winnie Hayes (I think a Kennedy cousin) in the Silvermines where she lived with her son Larry (see another Laurence) and had visited Glown many times as a child with Dad. In my late teens whilst staying in "the mines" my

Dad chided me about not having gone to Glown, neither Winnie, Larry nor I had a car, but dad (by phone) told me how he cycled up and down there as a child and sure why not take a stroll up. This was about 1972. I knew there was a look out spot half way up where it was said you could see 7 counties on a good day, and on looking at the sign near the church it said it was half a mile.

Well a mile walk seemed like a doddle, for a 16 year old, so leaving a note for Winnie, off I set..... Well!!!! it was like walking up a staircase, every bend I hoped to see the look out spot, It was quiet, and a bit eerie at times through the trees. I stopped and picked berries for the thirst, never having thought to bring water on such a quick stroll. On getting to the look out I gazed around me and rested. This Dublin city girl was not as fit as she thought. The day was dull so not as good a view as I know can be seen.

Now its decision time, do I keep going or turn back, I ached. Trying to visualise dad up here on a bicycle was unimaginable. But couldn't let down the side now. Off I set, every twist and turn an ache. The mist came down, having thought to bring a light rain jacket at least I would be dry. But no, the exertion had me as damp within as without. Once or twice I thought I heard voices in the distance but it was all so eerie now, all that did was fill me with anxiety.

What seemed to me to be hours later, and maybe it was, I reached the top of Keeper. What a sigh of relief. I sat a while and caught my breath amazed at my achievement. Eventually standing up to take my final stroll, I had not anticipated the steepness, and momentum took me down the other side at speed, out of the corner of my left eye I glimpsed Larry and Kathy's house, but could not stop my pace. Eventually having to make my way back up about 100 yards back to the house. The longest climb ever.



Knocking gingerly and breathlessly at the door, I wondered how to introduce myself. I hadn't been here since a small child. Poor Kathy was taken aback on answering the door to find a dishevelled teenager standing on her doorstep, to make matters worse my face was smeared with sweat and berry juice.

But what a welcome, as we sat and chatted she wondered why I hadn't phoned them, they would have organised a lift for me. This amazed me as so few people had phones in those days around the village, the public phone the order of the day. I never thought there would be one up here in such a remote place. She explained that they had had one for a while, and that the voices I heard through the trees were telephone guys putting up poles.

Well they rang their son Paddy later that evening and he kindly came up to collect me. We laughed at the thought of Dad on bicycle, I think the horse and cart would bring them up and they cycled or ran down.

Its a day I have never forgotten, any future visits took place by car, but I giggle at my little adventure and its one of my favourite memories.

It was on this holiday too that Larry and his friends (who were a lot older) kindly allowed me to bundle into the car with them to go to Portumna to a Marquee Dance. Such a night. At one stage talking to a Galway lad I was asked my name and where I was from. Answering I was June Kennedy from Dublin, he said no I was a Kennedy from the back of the Mountain. I must admit I took offence, I thought he was insulting me as we all loved watching the Beverly Hillbillies. Larry Hayes, and friends, when finished laughing at my astounded expression, went on to say that that was a term for the Kennedys from Glown and the surrounding area.

Its my sister Therese Kennedy who has introduced me to this site, and am very proud to now call myself A Back of the Mountain Mountainy Kennedy.

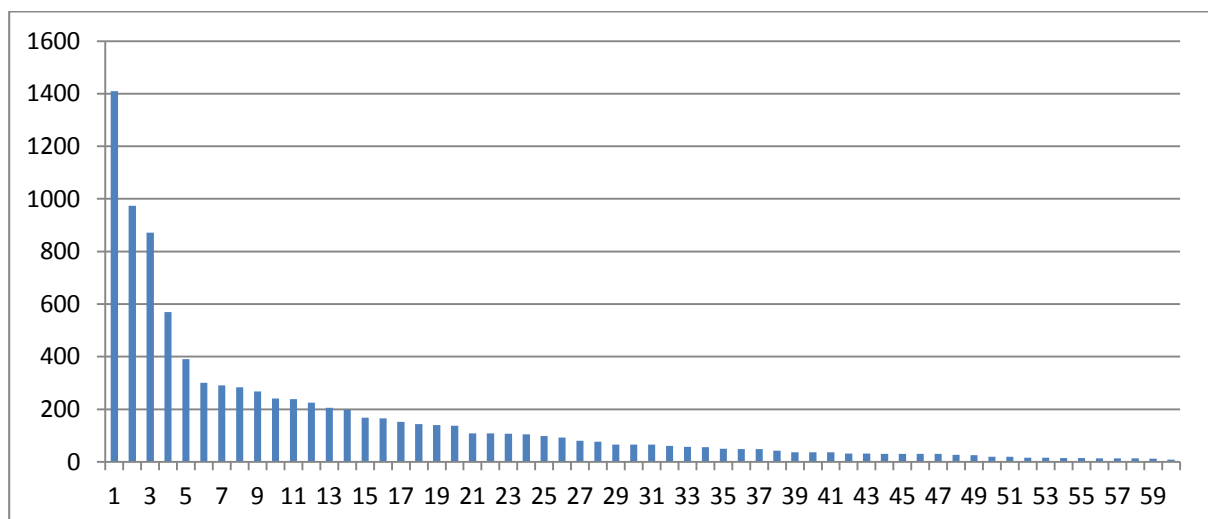
Sorry for the long ramble, but once started I couldn't stop, a bit like those 100 yards down the back of the mountain.

Many thanks for reviving those buried but not forgotten memories.

June Kennedy

RESEARCH FOR THE NEXT KENNEDY BOOK “The Upper Ormond Kennedys – Their claims to Tipperary soil?”

The landholdings of the Upper Ormond Kennedys are well-documented in the Civil Survey of 1654. The archaic terminology provides a challenge to work out just how much land they held. We read of the *sd Wm. Kenedy pprietor in fee by descent from his Ancestors of ¼ 1/16 & 1/32th part of a pld of the pld afforesayd*. After much calculation we established that William McDaniell Kenedy owned 42 plantation acres of Garrybriddy in Kilnaneave Parish. After many more such calculations we have been able to establish the land owned by all Kennedys in Upper Ormond in 1640. We find that the combined holdings of individuals range from a massive 1409 acres by Rory Kennedy of Killowney down to a tiny 7 acres held by Hugh Kennedy of Tiermoyle. If we put all of the holdings of the 62 landholders on a graph they look like this:



This chart reveals a surprising difference in the land holdings across the range of Kennedys. The descendants of the former chiefs and their families held large areas while the smaller holdings of the others are obvious.

Although the chart represents landholdings 37 years after Brehon law was abolished, research into the Brehon System of landholding provides an explanation for the differences.

The ancient Irish system of landholding, illuminated by the Brehon Laws, divided the territorial possessions of the tribe (the Tuath) into five parts.

1.	The 'Deis' or lands of inheritance	Not owned by the family but were either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the private possessions of the Ri or King, the private possessions of chiefs, or initially granted for life but not returned to the family group on the death of the grantee. (It seems probable that the most powerful members of the family exercised their might in the determination of succession to these lands)
2.	Office or 'mensal' lands	Originally intended to support the chief in his office but later extended to support the public officers such as the Bard, Brehon and Historian. The chiefs impoverished their people with impositions such as coshering and other extractions.
3.	'Termon lands'—the possessions of the Church	All lands held by the Church which were free from any impositions by the chiefs.
4.	Pasture lands	Lands in common, open to every free family member for the use of his cattle.
5.	Arable lands	Common tillage held in more or less permanent allotments by family members.

However: It must not be imagined that in the Brehon Laws ownership in severality was recognized as the rule. On the contrary the property, social, and juristic rights of individuals are still theoretically merged in the system of the family group, but the numerous exceptions which are apparent show clearly the effects of the attacks made on the original conception of ownership. (Montgomery: 1889).

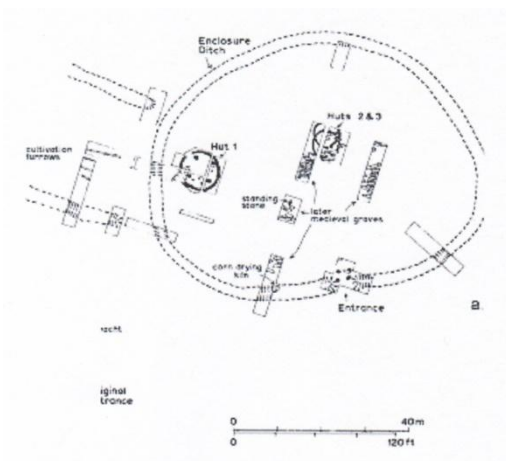
The foregoing is just a taste of the complexity of attempting to unravel the story of the Upper Ormond Kennedys.

THE UPPER ORMOND GRAVEYARDS

Headstone inscriptions provide occasional clues in researching the history of the Upper Ormond Kennedys. Aghnameadle, Ballinaclough, Ballygibbon, Ballymackey, Curreeny, Dolla, Kilkeary, Kilmore, Kilnaneave, Kilruane, Latteragh, Lisbunny Old, Rathurles, Templederry Old, Toomyvara and Tyone are all graveyards in which Kennedys have been or may have been interred. Not all graves are marked with legible headstones and some have no stones at all.

Some of these graveyards (e.g. Kilkeary) are quite ancient and date back many hundreds of years to times well before the Kennedys came on the scene.

There are also little-known graveyards at Killederdadrum, Rathurles, and possibly Glenahilly that could contain Kennedy graves.



From *The Archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland* by Nancy Edwards, we find the above sketch of the possible church at Killederdadrum which contains later medieval graves. This site is in Lackenavorna townland in Aghnameadle Parish. Several Kennedys are listed as having landholdings covering about a third of this townland in 1640. Whether any of them were buried here is not known. Thanks to Marian Harrington for her help with enquiries in this regard.



The Kennedys built a stone church inside the remarkable ruined trivallate ring fort of Rathurles, six kilometres east north east of Nenagh, in Kilruane Parish. Adjacent to the south wall of the church is a small cemetery. It is not known if any Kennedys are buried there.

There is also occasional mention of a small graveyard at Glenahilty in Ballygibbon Parish. I have not been able to locate this graveyard.

Thanks to Mary Kennedy of Dublin and Dolla with information about the graveyard in the Kilboy estate at Dolla. If anyone has more information on Upper Ormond graveyards and headstone inscriptions to share they would be most welcome.

BOOKS

MINING THE PAST

The third Silvermines Historical Society journal was launched at Dolla recently. Mining the Past – The History, People and Places of Silvermines District 2014 is now on sale in all local outlets & can be posted elsewhere - contact email:

silvermineshistoricalsociety@gmail.com

THE KENNEDY BOOKS



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>

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Find the Kennedy chief inauguration with sub titles on You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KtsQKz-VAUw&feature=youtu.be>

All the very best.

Brian