

Irish Kennedy Heritage Group



Lackeen Castle

The mission of the Irish Kennedy Heritage Group is to research, preserve and disseminate the history of the Irish Kennedys.



Chief Rody Kennedy

Mailing List No. 58 Jan. 2017

BEST WISHES FOR 2017 FROM THE IRISH KENNEDY HERITAGE GROUP

NEW MEMBERS.

As we begin a new year we continue to welcome new members to the Irish Kennedy Heritage group. We extend a warm welcome to Bill and Marilyn Kennedy who came across an old IKHG Newsletter on Facebook and made contact. Bill and Marilyn now live in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and have already made the journey to Ireland and visited Chief Rody Kennedy in the Anglesea Lounge in Rearcross.

CLAN GATHERING 2017.

We expect that the Annual Clan Gathering of the Kennedys will take place in Rearcross this year in the month of July as per usual. It is hoped to organise a small tour to places of interest on either Sunday 9th or Sunday 16th July. I will continue to keep you updated as our plans become clearer. If there is anything in particular that you would like to have included in the tour let us know and we will consider it in our planning.



Photo from 2016 Kennedy Country tour shows Brian Kennedy, author and historian, Gold Coast, Australia, and Maureen Kennedy, Connecticut, U.S.A. in Tullaun Castle (a restored Kennedy castle in Lower Ormond, Tipperary) while Colleen keeps a discreet eye in the background.

BOOLEY HUTS, SMOKEHOUSES OR SWEATHOUSES. ARE THEY ALL THE SAME?

We know from our research that the Tipperary Kennedys had booleys in the mountains to where they took their cattle for pasture during the summer months. There they built booley huts of various types to accommodate the family members who were looking after the herds. Following the Cromwellian dispossessions of 1654 many Kennedys went to their booleys in the mountains rather than transplanting to Connacht.

Estyn Evans, in his 1957 book "Irish Folk Ways" informs us "A 'smoke', in the seventeenth century inventories and to this day among country folk, means a house. In the days before chimneys were adopted the cabins were described as oozing smoke through the thatch so they resembled 'reeking dunghills'. It should be remembered that the brick or stone chimney flue is a relative newcomer". He also describes a sweathouse as being a dry-stone corbelled structure up to seven feet in diameter. A fire was lit inside to heat it up and then it was swept clean and strewn with green rushes. As many as seven people would sit inside and sweat profusely before emerging and cooling off in a nearby stream or with a bucket. This took the place of the doctor in treating rheumatic pains.

Allowing for differences in construction and roofing it seems that booley huts, smokehouses and sweathouses could all be used for different purposes including accommodation, medicinal and storage. Rather than go to the trouble of building several different structures, perhaps our ancestors used common structures for different purposes.

We know of the location of a signposted 'sweathouse' at Boolatin in the mountains near Toor. The name Boolatin indicates that the area was the site of a Booley. There is also a reference to a sweathouse at Bolingbrook near Curreeny. The name Bolingbrook also refers to its origins as a booley.

Do you know of the sites in Tipperary or Limerick of ruins of any of the above types of structure? They may just be scattered stones in a remote area or there may be more substantial remains. I would appreciate hearing of any such structures as an aid to further research.

Thanks in anticipation.

Brian Kennedy

A SHORT HISTORY OF IRISH SURNAMES

CINN EIDE - KENNEDY.

Up to the 1500's most of the Irish male population's name began with the prefix Ó (Descended from) or Mac (son of). Various English efforts at conquest and Plantation through the 1500's sought to diminish the Gaelic influence and replace it with English influence. The native Brehon laws used by the Irish Gaelic clans were outlawed and replaced by English law. In 1518 the authorities in Galway decreed that '*neither Ó or Mac shall strut and swagger through the streets of the city*'.

It became a matter imperative for survival for many Gaelic families to at least appear to conform to these new laws. Many surnames were Anglicised, often phonetically, and so the Gaelic Cinn Eide became Kennedy in English. During the Gaelic revival of the late 19th century some families or branches of families chose to reverse the changes imposed centuries earlier while others left well enough alone.

THE 21 MOST POPULAR SURNAMES IN MODERN IRELAND

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Murphy | 8. Ryan | 15 Murray |
| 2 Kelly | 9. Smith | 16. Doherty |
| 3. Walsh | 10. O'Neill | 17. Burke |
| 4. O'Connor | 11. O'Reilly | 18. Lynch |
| 5. O'Sullivan | 12. McCarthy | 19. McLoughlin |
| 6. Byrne | 13. Doyle | 20. Quinn |
| 7. O'Brien | 14. Brown | 21. KENNEDY |

All of the above are inclusive of the surname with and without prefixes. 97% of Kennedys use Kennedy on its own while 3% use the prefix Ó. Any Irish Kennedy is entitled to use the prefix Ó. It's use is not confined to any particular part of the clan.

As an example Archie O'Kennedy from Nova Scotia, Canada, has adopted the name O'Kennedy in association with his visit to the Kennedy Gathering in Ireland last year.

KENNEDY DISPLAY IN HERITAGE CENTRE , NENAGH.

Phyll Kennedy, curator of the Kennedy display is always looking for any old photographs or pieces of memorabilia that she can put on display. She envisages that the display will be dynamic and ever-changing so anything given to Phyll will be on a temporary basis only. Copies will be made of original photos and the originals returned immediately.



Photograph of Phyll Kennedy' ancestors – the Kennedys of Lisduff, AGLISH, BORRISOKANE, currently on display in The IKHG in The Heritage Centre, Nenagh.

UPGRADING OF KENNEDY MEMORIALS

Descendants of Long Andrew Kennedy have decided on a course of action to improve the old gravestone in Templeberry Graveyard and the expectation is that the work will be completed by the summer gathering. It might perhaps be a port of call on our summer tour since so many Kennedys are able to trace their ancestry back to Long Andrew.

PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

In order to make all earlier editions of the original mailing list generally available, Sean Kennedy has kindly volunteered to publish an **Internet Blog** that will provides appropriately edited posts in order from the first issue.

You will find the Blog if you click on

<http://tikhg.blogspot.ie/search?updated-min=2016-01-01T00:00:00-08:00&updated-max=2017-01-01T00:00:00-08:00&max-results=1>

IRISH KENNEDYS BOOKS

Internationally all books can be obtained via “The Irish Kennedys” web page at <http://home.onthenet.com.au/~laurieag/index.htm>. The page contains links to Amazon.com from which they can also be obtained.

The Irish Kennedys books may be obtained in Ireland from:

Chief Rody Kennedy's Bar and Shop. Rearcross. Tipperary. Ph. 062 79104

The Bookworm Bookshop. THURLES. Tipperary. Ph. 504 22257.

The Bookshop. Friar Street. NENAGH. Tipperary

The Kennedy Homestead, DUNGANSTOWN. Wexford. Ph. 051 388 264

Phyllis Kennedy, Garnafana, TOOMEVARA. Tipperary. Ph. 067 26069

Harvest Fresh, Main St. Borriskane, Co. Tipperary. Ph. 3536727060.

WARNING: Books are not available digitally on line. Do not provide credit card details to any site purporting to have digital copies available.



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[Click on the Kennedy chief inauguration with sub titles on You Tube](#)

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

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