

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. 66 Mar. 2018

Fáilte / Welcome.

As I write this the Kennedys of Ormond are experiencing one of their coldest winters with Arctic winds and snow coming to us all the way from Siberia. It's hard to imagine some of our cousins basking in tropical sunshine wishing for a little cooling of temperatures but it serves to show how varied the lives of members of the one clan can become. Where ever you are I hope you continue to be well and to enjoy and cherish your Kennedy heritage.

Nenagh Castle and the Ormond Deeds.

Plans are afoot in North Tipperary to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Nenagh Castle in the year 2020 and the Irish Kennedy Heritage Group would hope to be involved in these events.

Nenagh Castle was originally built c 1200 by Theobald Fitzwalter, the first of the Butlers of Ormond, and became the seat of power of the Butlers who became the Earls and Dukes of Ormond. They were subject to continuous attack from the native Gaelic clans with the O Kennedys being among their more prominent tormentors. Peace and war between the O Kennedys and Butlers regularly alternated during the following centuries with the Kennedys being in possession of Nenagh Castle for nearly 150 years. Many treaties or pacts were agreed between O Kennedy chiefs and Ormond Lords during these centuries. These became known as the Ormond Deeds and many of them still exist to this day.

When President John F. Kennedy came on his state visit to Ireland in 1963 he was presented with an original peace treaty, Ormond Deed Vol.1 No.682, signed in 1336 between James Butler 1st Earl of Ormond and a representative of the O Kennedys. This treaty is now housed in the JFK library in Boston, Massachusetts. It is hoped that this treaty may be returned to Nenagh Castle, at least temporarily, for the 800th anniversary celebration.

A copy of this and many other Ormond Deeds can be found in Brian Patrick Kennedy's book, "The Lower Ormond Kennedys- Their Claim to Tipperary Soil"

Phyllis Kennedy has arranged a new display section dealing with the Deeds in the Heritage Centre which is attracting a great deal of interest and admiration.





Copies of Ormond Deeds on display in Nenagh Heritage Centre

I.K.H.G. on Local Radio.

There are 2 popular local radio stations serving the people of Tipperary and surrounding areas. One of those, Tipp F.M., recently visited Chief Rody's Bar in Rearcross to record a programme of local interest. Many members of our group were present in Rody's for the recording. Donncha O Cinnéide of Cashel was interviewed by the presenter and proved a most eloquent, entertaining and able interviewee on behalf of the Irish Kennedys.

The programme "Down Your Way" with Eamonn O Dwyer is scheduled to be broadcast worldwide on Tipp F.M. on Saturday morning 17th March – St. Patrick's Day so if you're not out parading you might like to tune in.

For an added bonus the programme producers expressed a keen interest in coming back to Rody's for our Annual Clan gathering to record another programme specifically about The Irish Kennedys. The programme is usually a mixture of chat, song and music so we'll be looking for many talented Kennedys to display their talents on the night.

I know that Brian Patrick is an accomplished author, historian, seanchaí, artist and boat builder but can he sing? All will be revealed in Rearcross.

8th Annual Kennedy Clan Gathering 2018.

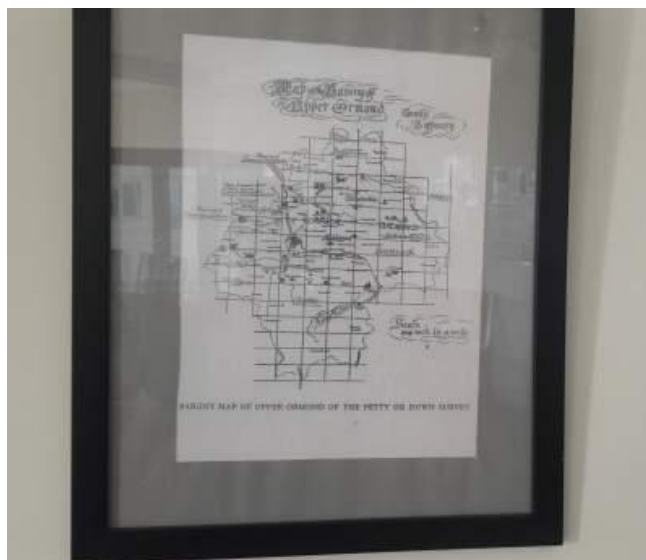
Date : 7th/8th July

- Launch of Brian Patrick's latest Kennedy Book – ***"The Dispersal of the Irish Kennedys – across the Irish Republic from North Tipperary"***.
- Review of "A Creative Life". Brian's autobiography, - all reviews informal and unpublished.
- Tour of Mountainy Kennedy haunts in Upper Ormond.
- Visit to Nenagh Heritage Centre
- Travel to Toor, birthplace of Henry Kennedy of Irish Co-Op movement.
- Presentation on Kennedy DNA by Professor Mark Kennedy.
- Recording of Tipp F.M. Programme featuring most talented Kennedys present.

The above is a draft programme of events and may be subject to some changes.

Among the events mentioned above is the visit to Nenagh Heritage Centre to view the Kennedy Heritage Display housed there. There is a snag however as the Heritage Centre doesn't open on Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays.

So for those who may be around Tipperary a little longer we can organise a visit on Friday 6th or Tuesday 10th July – you might let me know if you have a preference.



Old Map of Upper Ormond.

Membership

Gentle reminder of annual membership of €20 now due payable to Brian in Australia, Phyllis in Toomevara or myself in Borrisokane through Paypal if convenient.

Tracing your Ancestors – What are the odds!

Many of us will be all too well aware of the many pitfalls that can be encountered along the family tracing journey. The following story was sent to me by Edward Kennedy who lives in Wayne, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Edward's ancestor William Kennedy along with 4 of his brothers arrived in New York in the 1850's. It appears that William's parents, Michael and Bridget, remained in Ireland, probably in Kilkenny. In the course of his research Edward found a family in the English census of 1851 that matched the above family – on last name, first name of father, mother and 4 sons. What a discovery, thought Edward, it couldn't be a coincidence. To double check he looked up the English census of 1861 and there they were - the same family still living in England while his ancestors with the same names were well settled in New York – two different families. What are the odds – 14 in 100,000 cases Edward reckons.

Our members are invariably fascinated by life stories of the Kennedy diaspora, so if you are in a position to share your own family life story from the hills or lowlands of North Tipperary or elsewhere to where you are today please make contact with me and I will feature it on a future newsletter, upload it to our website

www.irishkennedyheritagegroup.ie and Phyllis will display it in the Heritage Centre with your consent, of course. Old photographs are an added bonus.

D.N.A. Project

I continue to receive many enquiries about the project being undertaken by Professor Mark Kennedy from Geelong, Australia. I know that Mark hopes to give a full presentation in Rearcross in July. In the meantime he will make contact with the various people who submitted samples as he uploads their results on the Tipperary Limerick Kennedy Tree. So many thanks to Mark for his marvellous work and if you partook in his project you will hear from him if you haven't done so already.

Graveyard Inscriptions in Tipperary.

A valuable new resource for people researching their Tipperary relatives has recently become available on-line. Tipperary County Council, through their local studies initiative, have digitised information collected by Ormond Historical Society in the 1980's. It contains graveyard inscriptions from nearly all graveyards in North Tipperary and can be accessed by following the following link;

<http://tipperarystudies.ie/digitisation-project/gravestone-inscriptions>

Previous Newsletters

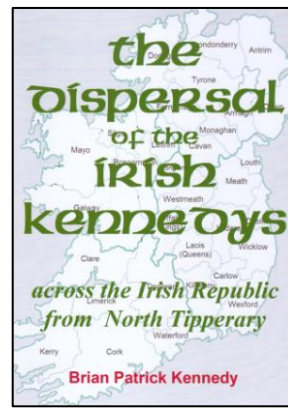
In order to make all earlier editions of the original mailing list generally available, Sean Kennedy has kindly volunteered to publish an **Internet Blog** that will provides appropriately edited posts in order from the first issue. You will find the Blog if you click on

<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



Books currently available



New book to be launched at the Kennedy Gathering in July.

Advance orders can be placed with:
seanpken@gmail.com

This book covers the Kennedys in all 26 Counties in the Irish Republic

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. Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary. Ph. 3536727060.

Internationally all books can be obtained from Amazon.com or from seanpken@gmail.com

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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)

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

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