

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. 67 May. 2018

Fáilte / Welcome.

Welcome to our latest edition of the Irish Kennedy newsletter. As many people around the world are finalising their plans for their trip to Ireland for the Kennedy Clan Gathering in Rearcross on 7th / 8th July I am going to feature the stories of two Kennedys in this edition.

Howard Kennedy came from Brisbane in Australia last year for the Clan Gathering while Sarann Ryan Slattery is travelling this year from her home in the U.S.A. They have both been kind enough to put together some of their family history to share with you.

Howard first in verse.

A life of Conviction – The Lives of Hugh Kennedy and Jane Fox

Birth:

*Descended from Long Andrew, his father Andrew too,
A little lad of Irish birth in honour named as Hugh ! (Aodh)
He lived in very troubled times, his ancestors the same!
And he grew up spirited. By God he grew up game!*

Marriage:

*He married quite a plucky girl, a wily little fox,
It happened that their story was a “Uni” of hard knocks.*

Rebellion:

*For Aodh was on the rebel’s side, thought it a noble cause!
Little did he realise he’d land on foreign shores.
He’d knocked down “illegal” fences denying access to the bogs.
He’d cut out peat for his family fire, instead of using logs.
But he did grow in anger, when Irish Catholics had no rights!
He feared for his family ’cause of potato blight!
He saw so many weaken, especially the poor,
It broke his heart to turn away those knocking on his door.
He detested those who prospered in their all-consuming greed
Rejected those who didn’t help, with much more than they need.*

Offence

*So, with some cronies, all with a blackened face
Entered into an abode, it was a traitor’s place.
A warning was the message, he hoped they would well heed,
But the owners of this property were of a different breed!*

*Hugh stayed for some hours, hoping for some peace,
"Victims" turned on him as soon as they were released
Into the hills they scattered hoping to be free.
But the "victims" knew him well, knew just where he'd be.*

Trial

*At the Limerick Assizes of theft he was accused
His victims had their contacts, a benefit abused.
The court then found him guilty. They sentenced him to hang
But his sentence was commuted to hard labour in a gang.*

Transportation

*He served in Dublin Castle and in Spike Island, Co. Cork
Transported to Van Diemen's Land, a place where most would baulk.
Because he'd been a cattle man, raised near Keeper Hill
He was indentured to a sheep stud, breeding champions at will.*

Ticket of Leave

*At last he'd served his sentence, received the governor's leave,
He'd saved a little in his "kick", a little up his sleeve.
He'd asked a friend to write for him to his darling wife at home
Asked her to forgive him for leaving her alone.
Asked if she'd rejoin him and bring their children too.
After ten long years of hardship if they could start anew.*

Jane's Departure

*As I said before, a plucky girl, a wily little fox,
From Limerick to Cobh did she ride or take the locks.
How did she with children get to the docks at Cork
Her journey must have taken her on a long and painful walk.
But soon they were all aboard, never to return
Aodh, now a freeman, able to buy a farm and earn.*

The Re-union

*No doubt he met them at the docks, his heart so open wide
He would have been so happy to have them at his side.
He wanted to make up to them those many years apart
Took them to his lodgings with no doubt a happy heart.*

New Life, New Son

*He'd brought them to Tasmania, way up in the north,
Soon another son was born - James at the port of Forth
His farm had been well started as in Ireland he had learned
His daughter married off there - before the port was burned.*

Departure to Victoria- Holey Plains

*Her surname now was Meers - in Tasmania to remain
Others moved to Victoria to shake off the convict stain.
They pioneered the Gippsland, share farmed Holey Plains
Reputation as blacksmiths today they still retain.*

The Heritage

*Generations after were scattered far and wide,
Yet they're still drawn to Ireland, drawn here by the tide.
Some return as "pilgrims" as is our stubborn will,
To honour those before us who lived near Keeper Hill.*

Well done Howard, the Bard of the Kennedys.



This beautiful photograph is of Ann Kennedy Ryan, great grandmother of Sarann Ryan Slattery

Ann Kennedy Ryan was baptized in Knigh / Monsea / Nenagh in 1832. She emigrated to the U.S. where she met another Irish immigrant, Tommy Ryan, also from Tipperary. They married in Boston in 1853 and their first child John H. was born in MA in 1854. Sarann's grandfather, Edward T was born in Lawrence MA in 1856. The family then began a gruelling and tortuous trek westward. By 1860 they had settled in northern Iowa and eventually they had nine children in total - 4 boys and 5 girls. Ann Kennedy Ryan died on their farm in Iowa in 1899 and is buried nearby in St. Patrick's cemetery.

Both Howard's and Sarann's stories illustrate the courage of our Kennedy ancestors and the trials and tribulations they faced as they spread their wings from the hardship of Upper and Lower Ormond in Tipperary to face a very uncertain future around the globe.

NENAGH HERITAGE CENTRE.

The full detailed story of Sarann Ryan Slattery is now on display in the Heritage Centre. The display continues to attract many visitors and much favourable comment. Phyllis Kennedy has now commandeered another wall for the growing display.

As part of our Clan Gathering Phyllis has arranged a guided tour of the Heritage Centre and Nenagh Castle for Tuesday 10th July. Hopefully many will be able to stay around and take part

CLAN GATHERING.

Brian's latest Kennedy book "The Dispersal of the Irish Kennedys" is with the printers and will be launched at the Clan Gathering. Unbelievably the grapevine suggests that he is already working on his next Kennedy book which I believe will deal with Kennedys in Baronies neighbouring Ormond. There has been a slight glitch with the website for ordering Kennedy books. This has now been remedied and the new link is <https://theirkennedys.weebly.com/>

This has also been updated on our website <http://www.irishkennedyheritagegroup.ie/>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M will be held in Chief Rody Kennedy's Angelsea Lounge, Rearcross, this Thursday 10th May at 8.30 pm. There's a lot going on so a big attendance from members around Tipperary and Limerick would be appreciated. A new Constitution for the Irish Kennedys will be discussed and hopefully ratified. Many thanks to Mark Kennedy in Cappamore and Lawrence Kennedy in London for their work on this.

We also need to firm up some arrangements for the Clan Gathering. Some arrangements re recording of event for Local radio also need to be put in place.

8TH ANNUAL KENNEDY CLAN GATHERING 2018.

Date : 7th/8th July

- Launch of Brian Patrick's latest Kennedy Book –Dispersal of the Irish Kennedys.
- 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 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.

My contact number in Ireland is at the bottom of this newsletter so it might be an idea to take note of it for when you arrive in Ireland.

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.

D.N.A. PROJECT

Many Kennedys are deeply interested in the project being undertaken by Prof. Mark Kennedy of Victoria, Australia. Mark continues to record and correlate results of the DNA samples he funded and we look forward to his presentation in Rearcross.

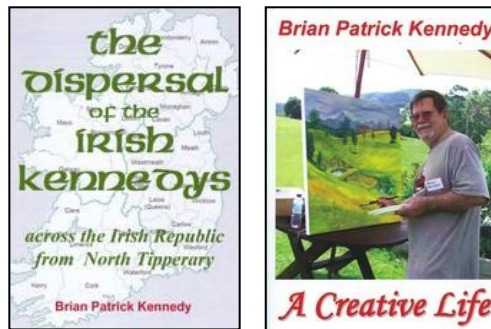
PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

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 <https://theirkennedys.weebly.com/> 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. Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary. Ph. 3536727060.
 - Alan Hanna's Bookshop. 270 Rathmines Road Lower, Dublin 6. Ph. 01 4967398
- www.alanhannas.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>

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