

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.70 Sept. 2018

Fáilte / Welcome.

New members:

Kathy Verran recently discovered the Irish Kennedys on our website and made immediate contact. Her great grandmother Mary Kennedy along with her brothers John Henry Kennedy and Matthew Kennedy emigrated from Liskinlawn, Borrisokane in 1883 and settled in the Adelaide area of Australia where she married a Kerryman named Jeremiah McCarthy. Kathy has amassed a lot of information on her ancestors which was a great benefit to her cousins who travelled from New South Wales to their ancestral home in Borrisokane recently. (See story underneath)

Sean Eamonn Kennedy. His grandfather John Paul left Ballyhane, Templederry in 1913 to go to the U.S.. Sean is planning a visit to Ballyhane as I write this.

Daniel Gorman Kennedy lives in Listowel, Co. Kerry. His ancestors hailed from Nenagh and travelled south to Kerry and settled around the Ballybunion area.

A hearty welcome to all above and hopefully at some stage in the future we may get to meet you at one of our Gatherings.

From Australia to Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary – back home after 135 years

By Desley Kennedy Banks.

The Kennedy siblings, Karen, Desley and Glenn left Australia in August 2018, to visit Ireland and to pay our respects to our Irish Heritage. Our great grandfather John Henry Kennedy immigrated to Australia with his brother Matthew and sister Mary in 1883. We knew they came from the small town of Borrisokane in County Tipperary.



John Henry Kennedy, emigrated to Adelaide in 1883
Photo courtesy of Peg Kennedy, Borrisokane.

A few weeks before leaving Australia we contacted Tom at the Irish Kennedy Heritage Group. We can't thank Tom Kennedy and his friend Sean Egan enough for welcoming us to Borrisokane. We met Tom and Sean at the Catholic cemetery and the most amazing day of our journey began with a visit to the farmhouse where John Henry was born. Michael Heenan, the farmer now owning the land took the time to show us the farmhouse and give us a tour of the farm. We felt very privileged to have the opportunity to see and experience the birth place of John Henry. It was like finding and connecting with our deeper roots, a truly unforgettable experience.



Desley, Glenn and Karen outside their ancestral home in Borrisokane.

The Kennedys in Tipperary have a long, long history in the area dating back almost 1000 years and we were astounded to find there were 19 castles belonging to the Kennedy clan dotted around Lower Ormond. Our next stop was Lackeen castle. Wow Wow Wow Tom told us the history of the castle (that we videoed to share with our family at home) and we climbed to the top of the castle. The feeling of touching the smooth stone walking up the spiral stairway sent tingles down my spine and imagining the lives of Kennedys that lived and fought to protect their family and lands was inspiring. Cromwell has a lot to answer for. Luckily for the Kennedys eventually returned to this castle after the invasions.

We continued on to visit a nearby cemetery where more of our ancestors were laid to rest. It was important to us to visit these sites because that's what we were here to do. With all that we had seen, achieved and experienced this day we were so happy. We could not imagine what was to come next. Tom had a final surprise for us "Corporate seats" at a Hurling match (what an exciting game it was) and a later meeting arranged with our living Irish relatives.

The Kennedy family in Australia place great value in family and looking after each other. Our father Tom Kennedy is the youngest of 12 children and his grandfather, John Henry had died 16 years before he was born. Until we met Tom (Irish Kennedy heritage group), we had no idea that we still had living relatives in Ireland. Tom showed us a copy of a letter dated the 26th March 1923 it was sent to Uncle Mick from Mary Guinea (our dad's aunt?) informing the family in Ireland of John Henry's passing. We believe this is the last contact the Australian Kennedys had with the Irish Kennedys.

We were so excited as 8pm approached, the time the meeting was arranged for at the Green Bar Borrisokane. What would we say and how do we react? What would they think of us? How we wished our Dad (who always wanted to visit Ireland) could be here with us.

Uncle Mick (82) arrived first dressed impeccably, relying on a walking stick and with a twinkle in his eye, (he looked so much like our Pop it was uncanny.) He soon had a whiskey in his hand and a story to tell. Uncle Mick was such a charming, happy chap and greeted us in true Kennedy style with a kiss, hug and a tear in his eye.

Aunty Peg (96) was next to arrive, what an amazingly beautiful and knowledgeable woman. After hugs and kisses all round, the first thing she said to Glenn was you're a real Kennedy (we're not sure if it's the ears or nose) Karen felt an instant connection with her and did not leave her side all night. It was so wonderful to listen to their stories and make the connections with our Irish family after all this time. I was so overwhelmed by the whole experience. I was either laughing hysterically or close to tears for the entire evening. We saw the letter and photos Peg had brought along to show. It was a very emotional day and evening. We feel incredibly fortunate to have had this incredible experience arranged for us. We also met Sheila Ryan and in all the excitement we forgot to find out how we're related. There'll plenty of time for that as we intend to keep in contact.

As we now know Ireland is an amazing country and we have seen some amazingly beautiful places and met some incredible people but the highlight of our trip was our visit to Borrisokane, County Tipperary. To be able to connect with our relatives and discover our history. A very big THANK YOU to Tom Kennedy from the Irish Kennedy Heritage Group and his friend Sean.

*Desley Kennedy-Banks, Karen Kennedy-Mitchell Glenn Kennedy
Lismore Murwillumbah Uki
(all small towns N.S.W. Australia)*



*Glenn, Karen, Desley with their Irish cousins Mick Kennedy, Peg Kennedy and Carina (Mick's daughter)
Missing from Photo Sheila Ryan.*

Footnote from Tom Kennedy, Borrisokane:

It is worth mentioning how invaluable Brian's book "The Lower Ormond Kennedys" was in helping me to connect the Kennedys of N.S.W. with their living relatives in Borrisokane. Desley mentioned in her lovely account of her visit to Borrisokane what it would have meant to her father Tom Kennedy to hear of their meeting with Mick, Peg and Sheila.. To assure Tom that he is not alone I managed to dig up a photograph taken in Nenagh Co. Tipperary about 15 years ago



Left to right Tommy Kennedy, Tommy Kennedy, Tom Kennedy, Thomas Kennedy, Tom Kennedy, Tommy Kennedy.
All members of the Glastrigan Kennedy family.
Tommy Kennedy (extreme right) has recently become father to his first son named Tom!

(Footnote from Brian Patrick Kennedy. Among my ten brothers was also one named Tom. Tom Kennedy who does such a great job keeping Kennedys worldwide informed with this newsletter is second from the right).

The Following has been submitted by Brian Patrick Kennedy

AN HISTORIC O'KENNEDY LAMENT

In a remote and difficult to access area in an ancient O'Kennedy castle, several Kennedy descendants were recently privileged to see an inscription in the form of a lament. (A **lament** is a passionate expression of grief over a loss).

Apparently dating from A.D. 1657, in the aftermath of the Cromwellian dispossessions in which most Kennedys lost their lands in Ormond, the inscription is in Latin and, as such, is open to a degree of interpretation.

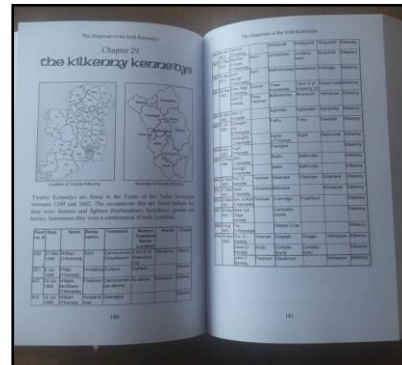
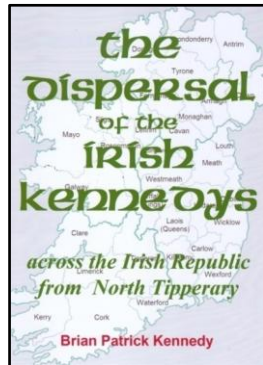
I have arrived at what I consider to be the gist of the relatively short lament after looking at a range of possibilities of translation.

The inscription is attributed to a direct descendant of the Lords of Ormond. In it, the writer of the lament expressed his consideration of the extent of the change that had taken place in his previous situation as a major O'Kennedy landholder and the strangeness and surprise of the situation in which he found himself in 1657.

In keeping with the necessity for material of this nature to be carefully protected, the Irish Office of Public Works has this well in hand.

The Irish Kennedys who moved eastwards to Baronies adjacent to Ormond.

Now that The Dispersal of the Irish Kennedys is available on the bookshelves Brian has turned his attention to another group of Irish Kennedys. Research is well under way in preparation for his next book "The Irish Kennedys who moved eastward to Baronies adjacent to Ormond" It will I'm sure prove an invaluable resource to Kennedys living in these areas. Publication date not yet known – next year's gathering perhaps.



The Dispersal of the Irish Kennedys.

General Data Protection Regulations. (for our newer members)

You may have heard that the Data Protection laws are changing within the E.U. (possibly worldwide, not sure) from 25th May 2018 with the introduction of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). If at any stage, you no longer wish to receive newsletters or other communications from the Irish Kennedy Heritage Group please email me and I will delete your contact details from the database. We only hold your contact details so that you can receive information on I. K.H.G. news, meetings and events.

Your contact details will not be shared with any other party. You can unsubscribe at any time by emailing me.

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 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

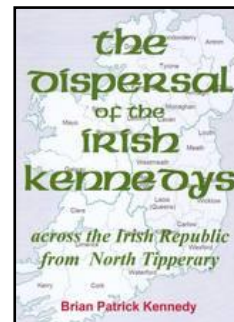
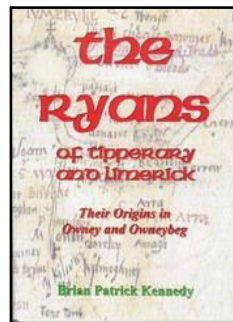
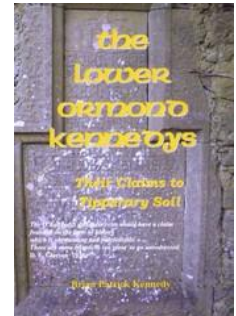
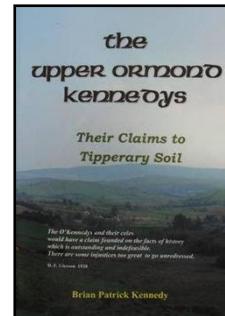
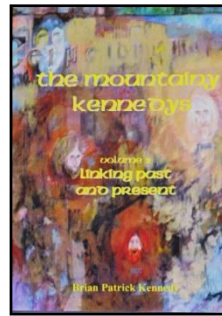
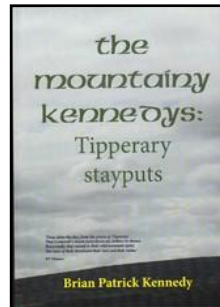
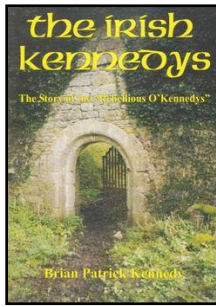
The Kennedy Homestead, DUNGANSTOWN. Wexford. Ph. 051 388 264

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

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



Next book:

The Irish Kennedys who moved eastward To baronies adjacent to Ormond

[Join the Irish Kennedys on Facebook](#)

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

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

Become a member of the Irish Kennedy Heritage Group and share your story.

Tom Kennedy
Email: tom.irishkennedyheritagegroup@gmail.com
Mob: 353876545646.