

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.

Mailing List No.82. April. 2021



Chief Rody Kennedy

Fáilte / Welcome.

Good morning all from Tipperary. Wishing all our members a happy and healthy Easter.

I can only hope that everybody has managed to survive the global pandemic – as regards us here in Ireland we are and have been living with Level 5 lockdown for a lot of 2020 and all of 2021 and communication with members is very difficult. Life in general and all social activity has been paused in Ireland -our Committee has not met up for well over 12 months now – gatherings of people are not allowed while our travel is restricted to 5km from our homes. The good news is that I have not heard any bad news – I know that some of our members here did contract the virus but have recovered from it. There certainly will not be a Clan gathering in Rearcross this year – Chief Rody’s Anglesey Lounge, like all other pubs and restaurants in Ireland has been shut down for a year now and will not be allowed to re-open anytime soon. Our vaccination programme is up and running, much too slowly unfortunately and it will probably be late summer before a majority of the population has immunity. I am conscious that we have many members in many different circumstances with many different stories to be told but I thought I would give you some flavour of life in Ireland at present.

But as Brian Patrick has often commented – The Kennedys have shown their resilience over hundreds of years and we will persevere through this challenge also.

Anglesey Lounge – Where did the name come from?

All attendees at previous Clan gatherings will be very familiar with the friendship and hospitality of Rody and Ann Kennedy in Kennedy’s Bar and Shop in Rearcross. Today their premises is known far and wide as Kennedy’s Bar and Shop but in a sop to olden times Rody and Ann have kept the name Anglesey for the lounge part of their premises. Not a very Irish sounding name you might think and you would be right.

In the 1820,s in Ireland the British authorities decided to build 2 major roads across North Tipperary – one from Thurles to Nenagh and one connecting Newport to Thurles going through Rearcross. The Lord-Lieutenant at the time who ordered that the road be built was the Marquess of Anglesey – hence the road was called the Anglesey Line. Work on the new road commenced in 1828 and was completed in 1830 at a cost of £9857. Why was the Anglesey Line built? The great object of the construction was to open a roadway into the mountains which had been, for many years, the asylum of outlaws and robbers. All you descendants of the

Mountainy Kennedys can take great pride in the knowledge that the road might never have been built were it not for the “exploits” of your brave ancestors.

More from Irish History by Pat Kennedy, Garnafanna, Toomevara.

Tudor Ireland.

The parliament of Dublin decided that Henry should take the title King of Ireland, thus began the Kingdom of Ireland which lasted until 1800. The parliament which declared King Henry represented the English part of Ireland, but it was attended by some nobles who had been absent for generations, such as the Earl of Desmond. Barry, Roche, and other lords of Munster while proxies attended for O'Brien.

The prevalence of the Irish language was indicated by the fact that the chancellor's speech proclaiming Henry King of Ireland, had to be translated into Irish by the Earl of Ormond for the benefit of Norman and Irish peers.

O'Neill, O'Donnell, O'Brien were created earls, and various lesser titles as baron, were awarded to the lesser chiefs. The history of Tudor Ireland was largely the history of the great landlords for or against the State, and therefore the after-fate of their creations is to be noted.

EDWARD VI 1547- 1553

The minority rule of Edward VI lasted only to 1553, efforts to implement the Reformation were still of a mild variety still only affecting the greater part of Leinster, Butler's sphere of influence. The English government in Ireland realized to get a population loyal to both Church and State, a colony was needed. Already under Edward VI Leix and Offaly were garrisoned because they caused so much trouble to the Pale.

MARY TUDOR 1553- 1558

Mary Tudor a committed Catholic came to the throne in 1553, everything pertaining to Catholicism was restored, her policy of burning heretics at the stake, the most important was Thomas Cranmer helped to accelerate the hatred of the Catholic religion, the English had up to Catholic emancipation. The plantation of Leix and Offaly came to fruition under Mary's rule, the O'Moores, O'Connors, Dempsey were dispossessed of their lands - others were confined to the west of the area. To facilitate the plantation Leix and Offaly were shired counties, administrative units as we know today, English colonists were given the land, to live on it, work it, to send soldiers to the viceroy when requested, and employ only English servants. Prior to the shiring of the Country, no administrative divisions existed.

SHANE O'NEILL

Shane O'Neill was the most uncompromising opponent of the English rule that had yet appeared. Unusual among Gaelic chiefs, a skilful politician, a handsome and proud personage, disarmingly attractive, understood the powers of negotiation, more than a match for the English officials, he was not a great soldier. His father Conn O'Neill in accepting the title earl of Tyrone renounced that of O'Neill, Conn's eldest son Matthew was his heir at law. Shane claimed Matthew was illegitimate, and he was the rightful heir. In a feud that followed between the two brothers, Matthew was slain. Matthew had two sons, Brian the earl of Dungannon, and Hugh. Brian was slain in 1562, and Hugh rescued by the English and brought over to London where he was taken into the earl of Leicesters household. Shane visited the queen in London who received him with great admiration. Sydney the lord deputy said of Shane. (Lucifer was never more puffed up with more pride or ambition than O'Neill is) Shane stated (My ancestors were kings of Ulster and Ulster is mine and shall be mine) In this aim his opponents were the O'Donnells and the Antrim Scots..He defeated the Scots at Glenhesk in 1565. Encouraged by this and other engagements, he marched into Tyrconnell and was completely routed by Hugh Dubh O'Donnell. Having lost his army, Shane took the completely irrational idea of seeking protection from the Antrim Scots, they murdered him in a drunken quarrel. Thus perished the greatest O'Neill that the old Gaelic order had yet produced.

Among the measures for making Ireland a monarchy Henry VI established Kings Inn in Dublin as the centre of the Irish legal profession for without it the much desired English law could not spread, this weapon was now turned against the government, for the lawyers of the old English stock who were trained there henceforth opposed the reformation and set themselves to defeat whatever penal laws might be passed. The lords and lawyers formed what was known as the Country party in parliament, and were quite successful as a result that by 1603, the Irish Statute book contained much less penal legislation against the Catholic faith than did the English.

The chief motives for rebellion under Elizabeth were destined to be the insecurity of land titles among the old English of Leinster and Munster threatened by English born planters, the attack upon feudal and chiefly landlords, and religious grievances. When the presidency of Munster was set up, a band of adventurers, robber barons from Devon and Somerset, began to arrive in Ireland., such as Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Humfrey Gilbert, and others, among them Sir Peter Carew claiming pedigree back to the original Carews and Fitzstephens with a pedigree that was most uncertain he was awarded a large part of Co Carlow, and the moiety of the old Kingdom of Cork. After Carew's success, it proved easy for the crown and adventures to claim land from the lords and Gaelic chiefs. Perrot, President of Munster declared Earl of Desmond's palatine liberty of Kerry to be null and void, while that of the Earl of Ormond in Tipperary was not infringed. The old English of Munster felt the religious appeal more strongly than did the native Irish. already abroad the Irish Catholic Church had its bishops papally appointed, and soon had its colleges in the low countries Italy, Spain, Portugal. The easy-going religion of the old sort was replaced after the council of Trent by zeal determination and the conscious knowledge of the grounds for one's religion. The Jesuits and the bishops were the guiding spirits of this movement, while on the other hand, the crown for the success of the State Church relied on Englishmen such as Adam Loftus and others who by royal pleasure were installed in Armagh and Dublin and the nearer sees. The puritan spirit, now growing in England, was to be a militant antithesis of the Jesuit spirit of the Catholic side.

Elizabethan wars to follow

IRISH KENNEDYS BOOKS

Brian Patrick is continuing his work on “The Resilience of the Irish Kennedys”. Covid 19 has hampered progress of this book but it is expected to be available in 2021. However in the meantime “The Ryans of Ireland”- from their origins in Uí Dróna and Uí Cheinnselaig is now at the printers and will be available soon. So these will then be added to the impressive list of publications by Brian already available.

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. 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

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PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

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