

# 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. 92 Dec. 2023

## Fáilte

Greetings from Tipperary, and best wishes to all over this festive period.

## New Members

We continue to receive enquiries from Irish Kennedy descendants, hoping to learn more of their Irish ancestry.

- Iris O Flaherty lives in Co. Limerick. It's only quite recently that she has discovered her rich Kennedy heritage, thanks she says to the wonderful work of Professor Mark Kennedy and his brilliant research.
- Colleen Kennedy now lives in Leawood, Kansas, U.S.A. She knows that her great grandfather James Kennedy was born in Ireland, probably Tipperary in 1834 and died in Rochester, New York in 1916. Colleen is hoping to learn more about her Kennedy ancestors and is already looking forward to our 2024 Irish Kennedy Gathering.
- Margaret Kennedy Clarke. More info later.
- June Rooney was hoping to get to our gathering last year. Bringing grandson with her in 2024. June lives in Mallow, Co. Cork.

## Coming Back to a Place I've Never Been Before, *By Carole Lundell*

Carole Lundell first made contact with me in April 2021 through the contact form on our Irish Kennedy Heritage website. Thus began a long series of emails back and forth as she sought more information on her **Kennedy** and **Crowe** ancestors from **Gortahumma** in my own home parish of **Templederry**, in North Tipperary. With interested heightened Carole made the trip to Tipperary in June 2023. I had the pleasure of meeting up with her in Nenagh early one summer morning and we headed to the hills and valleys of Templederry in the hope of discovering some hidden secrets.

Below is Carole's account of that day – I suspect this might be of interest to some of our members who have previously made enquiries about Kennedys and Crowes from Gortahumma.

### ***Coming Back to a Place I've Never Been Before.***

I have always known that I was partially Irish. Certainly, not the biggest part, but it has always been the part that seemed to have the strongest pull for me. I had been to

Ireland once before, many years ago and I didn't want to leave. It would have taken very little encouragement for me to pack up and move there. That's how strong the pull was and is. But at that time, I had no idea where, when or who my ancestors were. This time was completely different.

My mom's mother was fully Irish and died when my mother was 2. Out of what I believe was deep grief, my grandfather never talked about her and would never allow anyone else to talk about her. While my mother was able to see my grandmother's half siblings, they were never allowed to talk about her mother because if they did, they would never see my mother again. Over the years, she and I talked about her. But we didn't even know her name, just Nellie Olson, her married name. Once my grandfather died, my mom reached out to a cousin, and he was able to begin to fill in some of the blank spaces. She also received a couple of letters from her uncle, her mother's half-brother. All of which gave us some clues, the biggest one being her name, Ellen E. Kennedy.

Over the last several years Mom and I have been slowly gathering bits and pieces of information from the few items she had, pictures, a couple of old letters, and of course tons of time on all the usual websites looking for clues. This gave us names of people and places, basic details about who Nellie's family was. Newspaper articles, tiny bits of information from distant family all helped, but nothing that could have prepared me for the feeling that I had the day I went to Gortahumma, the place where my great grandfather Michael Joseph Kennedy is from. Something that would not have happened without Tom Kennedy! I never would have found the townland, much less all the places that we discovered. Thank you still doesn't seem like enough, Tom. And a thank you to Dan Ryan, who happened to be walking along the road as we were on this adventure and agreed to come along with us and show us the way to the places he knew about.

It has been several months since that day and I still don't have a lot of words to adequately describe what it was like that day, other than the phrase from an old John Denver song, "coming home to a place I've never been before". First, it was just plain fun! Even without the connection, it was just fun to explore the places where the pieces of cottages still stand. But the feeling of knowing that these cottages belonged to my ancestors, that I was walking where they spent their day to day lives, was humbling and grounding and still brings tears to my eyes. Second, I felt like I had finally filled in a missing piece. All the years of wondering, searching and speculating finally had something tangible to anchor to. Third, it was immensely satisfying. I have done a great deal of work on this side of our family tree. It was like history had come to life, my history.

To give you a bit of my family tree and a little context to the pictures Michael Joseph Kennedy was the son of Edward Kennedy and Bridget Crowe. He was one of 8 or 9 children: Mary Anne (b.1855) who married James Spillane (b. 1845)  
Nora (no D.O.B.) went to Clinton, Iowa and married John Delaney also from Ireland.  
Johanna (b. 1859) who also went to Clinton Iowa and married William Dinan - eventually moved to Chicago but went back to Clinton when her health failed and eventually died there.  
Dennis (b.1860) - the story goes that he got mad when his father gave the farm to the oldest daughter, Mary, as a dowry. He also went to Clinton Iowa, lived with Nora until he married Ellen Hayes. Eventually he moved his family to Chicago. His grandson wrote that he never spoke of his parents again after he moved. He was murdered in Chicago in 1908 in a fight over the operation of a crane.  
Bridget (b. 1862) who married Patrick Murphy  
Margaret (b. 1866) who married Richard Burke  
Michael (b. 1867) - my great grandfather - he too moved to the US and lived in Chicago. He

married Bridget Fitzgerald and they had one daughter, Ellen, my grandmother. Michael died in 1902 by sleepwalking into an air shaft of some sort and falling through a skylight down 4 storeys..

Edward (b.1869) who died as an infant

Sara (b. 1871) who also died as an infant

The 1911 census had Bridget Kennedy still living at Gortahumma with her daughter Margaret and son-in-law Richard Burke. I have no death records for her or for Edward (possibly Edmund).

It was a trip of a lifetime and I can't wait to go back.



My first look at Gortahumma. (with half of Tom's face.)



Ruins of Denis Crowe's cottage. Denis was the uncle of my 2nd great grandmother Bridget Crowe.



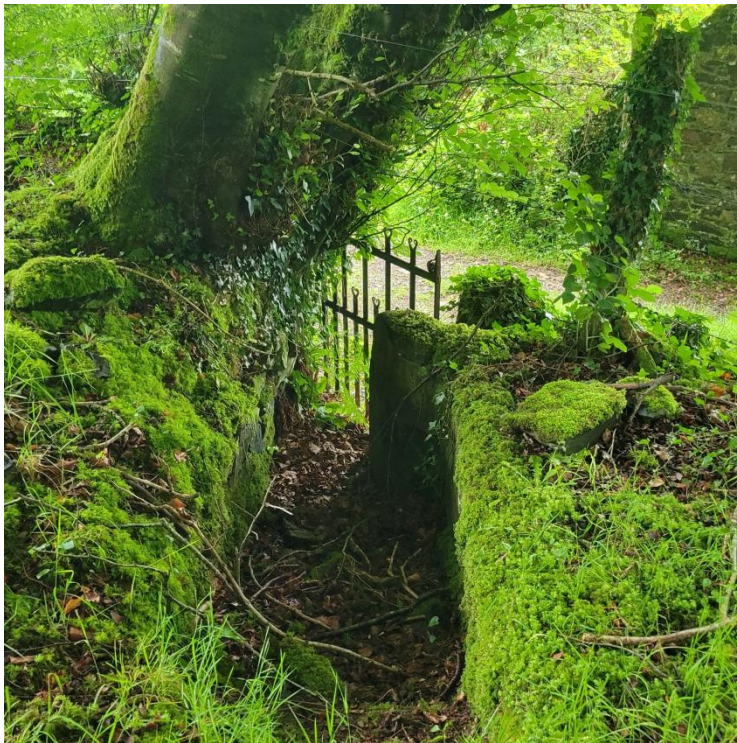
Me inside the Cottage



Out building owned by Sam Crowe, grandson of Denis Crowe, son of Martin Crowe and Margaret Walsh.



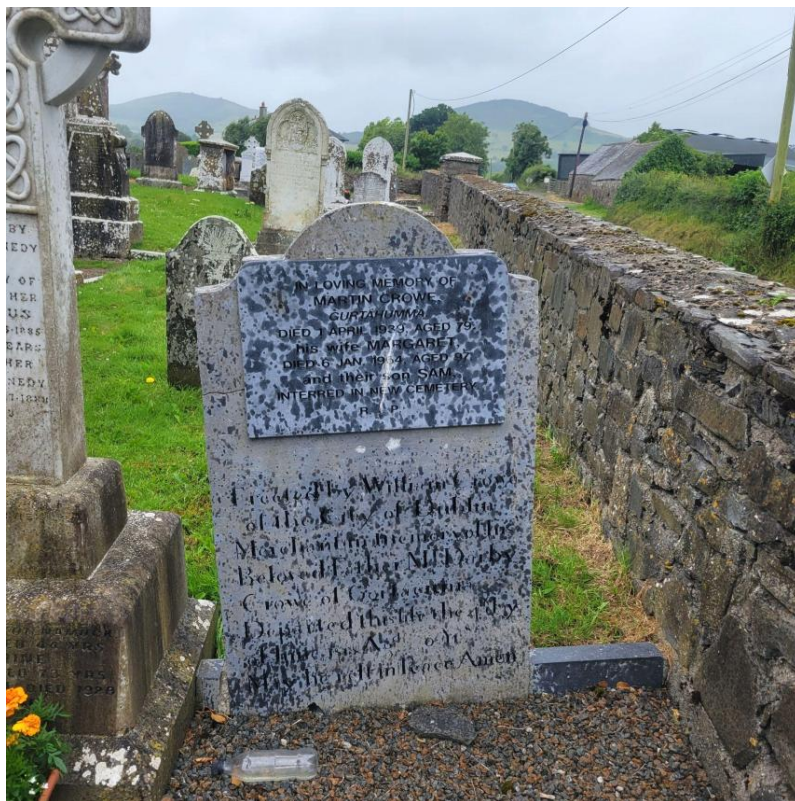
Cottage of James Spillane and Mary Kennedy.



Gate between Sam Crowe's property and the lane to the Spillane cottages.



Outside the cottage of Tom Spillane with Dan Ryan.



Grave of Martin Crowe and Margaret Walsh in Templederry Old Graveyard.



Denis Crowe's grave in Templeberry Old Graveyard.



Ruins of 1<sup>st</sup> National School in Templeberry – called Gortnagoona National School. (1832). It lies in the townland of Gortnagoona, which borders on Gortahumma.

The original date stone is still intact directly over the window in gable end wall facing us.



My last look at Gortahumma ..... for now.

What a great story Carole, thanks a million for sharing it with us.

### **Annual Gathering 2024.**

We have been having tentative thoughts about our 2024 Gathering. We are again looking at our usual 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in July. However we are considering a small tweak from previous years – having it on the Friday and Saturday rather than our heretofore gathering on Saturday and Sunday. This would mean Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. I will continue to keep you updated as we firm up on our plans.



## **Newfoundland Kennedys.**

Mildred Howard has been researching her Kennedy ancestry in Newfoundland and has forwarded on details she found on a headstone in Belvedere Cemetery, St. John's Newfoundland.

### **KENNEDY**

<b>John Kennedy</b>	<b>Jan 14 1892</b>	<b>Aged 73</b>
<b>Spouse Mary Kennedy</b>	<b>Oct.4 1901</b>	<b>Aged 76</b>
<b>John Kennedy</b>	<b>Feb. 6 1917</b>	<b>Aged 56 Son Died Boston</b>

**Natives of Cashel, Tipperary, Ireland.**  
**Erected by Edward J. Kennedy for parents.**

Wondering if anybody can shed any light on people mentioned on headstone.

## **Irish History Update (100 years ago)**

The Civil War finally came to an end in May 1923 when the anti-treaty forces laid down their arms and surrendered to the Free State Army. Approximately 2,000 people had died during the Civil War. The Free State Government, which had been formed after a general election, set about the formidable task of managing the newly independent state. One hundred years on, Ireland is at peace and is now one of the richest countries in the world.

## **Irish Kennedy Heritage Display in Nenagh Heritage Centre.**

Phyllis Kennedy, together with her husband Pat, has devoted many hours and days in putting together a very attractive display of Irish Kennedy memorabilia in the Heritage Centre in Nenagh. What was originally envisaged by the powers that be as a temporary exhibition has established itself as a permanent attraction, which draws great reviews from many visitors. Phyllis now hopes to update the display and has great plans to present a more streamlined modern, 21<sup>st</sup> century appearance to the exhibition. Her hope is that all will be ready to be revealed in time for our gathering in July. We expect there will be fairly significant expense associated with this upgrade so any membership income for 2024 will be appreciated and put to good use.

## **Membership:**

Thanks to the many people who have paid their annual membership recently.

If you haven't done so and wish to pay €20 annual fee I will be happy to facilitate payment through electronic funds transfer, Paypal or just old fashioned cheque.

We are a voluntary organization and our needs are fairly simple, but we do incur quite an amount of expense in paying for our tour guides, insurance for our gatherings and now, as stated above, presenting a really professional display in the Heritage Centre. as well as lots of little miscellaneous expenses. We are also mindful of the possible risks of having so many cars travelling in convoy on quite narrow roads, so we will probably look at the feasibility of maybe hiring buses, in future and it would be nice to have the funds available to be able to do that.

## IRISH KENNEDYS BOOKS

Brian Patrick and his oldest son, Terrence Brian, have finished working on another book that will dramatically change the perspective on the history of the Irish Kennedys. "Our Irish Kennedy Y-DNA Roots – Early northern Tipperary origins in the first millenium". There were Kennedys in North Tipperary earlier than Cinneidi, stepfather of Brian Boru. The following passage is from the new book:

*The science of Y DNA provides a startling fresh perspective on our Kennedy family resilience and origins. Not only does it provide a new way of looking at the diverse nature of what constitutes being a Kennedy but when combined with extant historical records it provides a new and rich understanding of Kennedy connections and origins in Northern Tipperary in the first millennium that date back well before the birth of Christ. This new baseline also allows further insights to be drawn from our current understanding of the family history in the second millennium.*

So these will then be added to the impressive list of publications by Brian already available.

In the meantime "The Ryans of Ireland"- from their origins in Uí Dróna and Uí Cheinnselaig is now available from the bookshops listed below..

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:

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

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

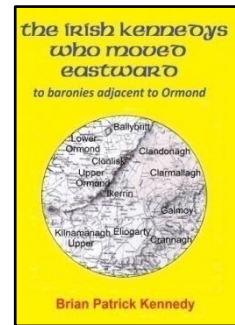
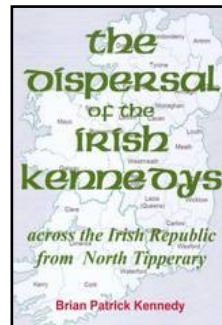
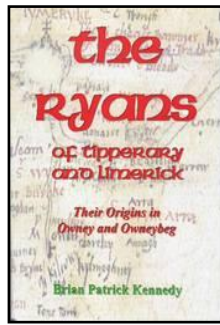
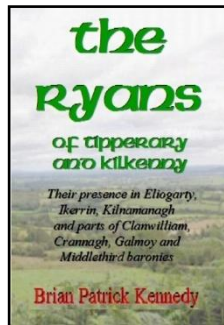
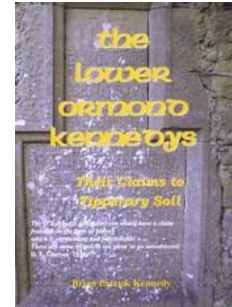
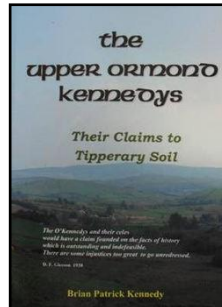
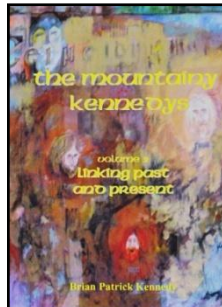
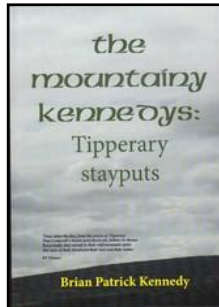
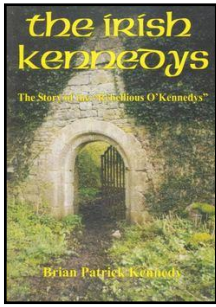
**The Bookshop. NENAGH. Tipperary**

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

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

**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.**



## Data Protection Regulations.

You may have heard that the Data Protection laws are changing within the E.U. (possibly worldwide, not sure) from 25<sup>th</sup> 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

<https://tikhg.blogspot.com>

[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.

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