

# THE KELLY CLAN ASSOCIATION

SUMMER NEWSLETTER No. 56

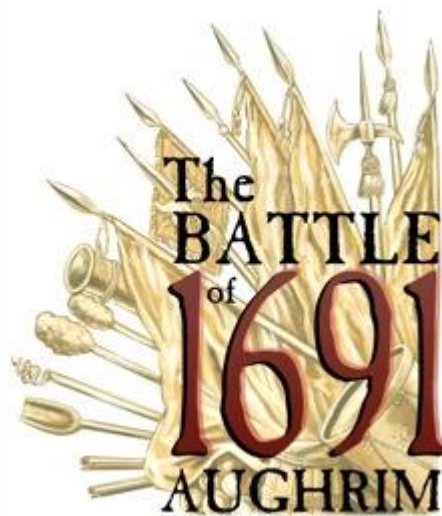


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## Letter from your Editor

Well - What a Gathering we had! A bumper one that's for sure. It was wonderful to see so many people there and I for one met many new and interesting ones, listening to stories of lost and found relatives was one of the many highlights for me. What an eclectic mix of people we had – from the quiet gentlemanly mannered Pablo to the gregarious, outgoing, Joe “AK”. Pablo, we found is a man of many talents and he surprised most of us with his recently written book, a sci fi offering, called “Children of Eve”. Joe, of course, is well known to most of us and the Kelly Clan Council took the opportunity at the Gathering to elect him “Chieftain” for the weekend. Joe accepted this accolade with his usual humour and entered into the spirit of things, donning clothing fitting for the part with his usual sartorial elegance!

This Gathering has to be the most successful to date and congratulations are offered to all our Council members, without whom it wouldn't have been possible, but a big thank you must go to our “man on the ground” John “Cappawhite” Kelly. John certainly pulled out all the stops using his local knowledge and wide circle of relations, friends and contacts. Thank you John for all your marvellous work and effort. We also have to thank local man, Alan Kelly, TD and Séan Kelly MEP for joining us. Both giving us valuable insights into their family and political lives. We were also delighted to receive a personal message of good wishes from the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, whose wife Fionula is a Kelly. It's good to hear that the Kelly name is known in “high places”!

You will find a full report on the Gathering later in the newsletter. This article was contributed by Judy Kelly Fausch of Iowa, USA. Judy was elected on to the Kelly Clan Council at our AGM and we wish her many happy years with the Council. Also elected on to the Council was Aidan Kelly, who as you know is our DNA Co-ordinator. Aidan has done sterling work for us over the last 2 years on the DNA programme, making the information very user friendly for those of us who find the process hard to follow; encouraging folks to “do the test” with some interesting results. Also elected to the Council were Dr Des Kelly and Brenda Kelly – Des being based in Westport and Brenda in the Wicklow area; good to have members coming from both sides of the country and they will both be very valuable to the Clan. These four are a most welcome addition and we know they will make very worthwhile inputs by spreading the Kelly Clan name wider; we look forward to hearing more from them.

Looking far into the future now – well, two years hence – the Council are investigating possible venues for the next Gathering. These are: Westport, Donegal and Wicklow. If anybody can offer any other ideas for venues, help or contribute in any way, the Council will be delighted to hear from them. Please let Bernie Kelly know by e mail on [clankellyinfo@gmail.com](mailto:clankellyinfo@gmail.com) as even the smallest germ of an idea will be considered.

Several new members joined up during the Gathering. You will find details in the newsletter and we welcome them all.

Just a reminder that the newsletter is a great vehicle for getting information out to our members and please do send us any snippets that might be of interest to others. I know a lot of you are “backward in coming forward” but don't be shy. What you might think is nothing may open up a whole new world for somebody else.

*Mary K*

## Our Golden Couple

Your editor will probably get slaughtered for doing this, but how could we not mention the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Michael and Bernie Kelly! They married on 25 June 1963 and over the years built up the very successful business of Kelly Oysters run from the family home near to Kilcolgan. Michael started the business in the early '50's delivering oysters to the local pub using his bicycle. Many years of hard work followed and the business these days is run by the younger family members, but even so Bernie and Michael, with all their years of experience, are still very much part of it.

Michael is Treasurer of the Kelly Clan and has been with the Association from "Day One" being one of the signatories of our original Constitution, making most valuable contributions both then, and up to the present day. Bernie has been secretary of the Clan since 2001, giving immense time and effort into the running of the Association in her quiet way, never expecting thanks or accolade! We thank them both for everything they have done and offer them all our very best wishes for a wonderful celebration later this month.



## **ANOTHER REASON FOR CELEBRATION - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Our Count, Walter Count O'Kelly of Galagh and Tycooley, is celebrating his 92nd birthday on 17th July this year. We wish him many congratulations and our warmest wishes.

### **New members**

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter, and at the Gathering:

Catherine Lockett, London, UK

Patricia Derenze, New York, USA

Mary B McGrath, Tulla, Co Clare, Ireland

Bridie Morrissey, Galway, Ireland

Catherine Pearmain, Milton Keynes, UK

Meta Kelly, Cappawhite, Co Tipperary, Ireland

Martin Kelly, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland

Patrick Kelly, Malaga, Spain

Patricia Margaret Kelly, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow, Ireland

**We extend to them a hearty Fáilte Ui Ceallaigh and look forward to seeing them all at the next Gathering**

### **Reminder:**

Members are now offered the opportunity of a life membership. The cost of this is €300 for a family membership and €250 for single. Please contact Bernie Kelly by e mail on [clankellyinfo@gmail.com](mailto:clankellyinfo@gmail.com) or alternatively visit our website [www.kellyclanireland.com](http://www.kellyclanireland.com) where payment can be used by Pay Pal with relevant currency conversions displayed if needed.

### **DNA PRESENTATION**

If anyone would like a copy of Aidan's DNA powerpoint presentation please contact your editor by e mail: [marykelly3010@gmail.com](mailto:marykelly3010@gmail.com).

### **VISIT TO LEINSTER HOUSE**

Alan Kelly TD made an offer of a visit to Leinster House for Kelly Clan members when he attended the Gathering. We would very much like to take up this invitation and if anybody is interested please contact Bernie Kelly and we will see what we can do.



## DUTCH JOURNALISTS ATTEND GATHERING

The Clan were contacted by a Dutch newspaper some months ago asking if they could attend the Gathering and do a report for their newspaper with photographs. Of course, we said "yes" and this is what appeared in their newspaper. The article has been very kindly translated by Adri Grindley who lives in Milton Keynes. Adri is a friend of your ed and the Clan would like to thank her for the time she spent in doing this task. The article may have some anomalies in the translation as Adri was unsure of a couple of words but we are very grateful to her for her contribution.



Trudy Kelly, Chicago, VS.



Rebecca Kelly, Engeland, de dochter van Joe A Kelly (rechts).



Joe A. Kelly, Engeland.



Juan Pablo Torreblanca, Guatemala, met Kelly-voorzitters.



Aidan Kelly, Perth, Australië.



Marie Kelly, Chadville, VS.



Joe Kelly, Galway, Ierland.

# Pas toen ik hier kwam, voelde ik me Iers

De Ieren volgen al eeuwenlang hetzelfde patroon: als het slecht gaat, trekken ze weg. Maar voor 'The Gathering' keren ze even terug. Zoals de leden van de Kelly-clan. „We klinken niet Iers, maar we zijn het wel.”

Door onze correspondent  
TITIA KETELAAR

Het is groener dan ik dacht." Pastoor Juan Pablo Torreblanca kijkt verwonderd om zich heen. 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary', zong Jack Judge honderd jaar geleden al. Dat gelift zeker voor Torreblanca. Hij reisde vanuit Guatemala naar de Ierse provincie. Maar nu is de pastoor 'thuis'. „Is een tiende (of een elfde) Ierse grootvader reden genoeg om lid te worden van de Kelly-clan?", had hij geschreven. Hij was op zoek gegaan naar de geschiedenis van een kalende pastoor op een achttiende-eeuws schilderij in zijn kathedraal, Sebastian O'Kelly. En ontdekte zo zijn Ierse wortels.

Nu zit hij in de bus naast zijn verre nicht Mena. Achter hem Tomas. Er zijn Toms in de bus, Michaels en Blakes, Aidans en Alans, Bridgetts en Marys, en heel veel Joe's. Allemaal Kelly's of O'Caellaigs. Sommigen komen uit de VS, anderen uit Engeland, Australië of Argentinië. Sommigen uit Galway, in het oosten van Ierland. Of uit Tipperary zelf. „Wij zijn degenen die bleven", zegt Joe 'Cav' Kelly. Want emigratie is deel van de Kelly-geschiedenis. Net als zoveel andere Ierse families beproefden ze in economisch slechte tijden hun geluk elders. De Ierse regering schat dat er wereldwijd 70 miljoen mensen met Ierse wortels zijn. Dit jaar roept ze haar diaspora op terug te keren naar Ierland. „Is het maar voor even."

'The Gathering' wordt het genoemd, een jaar met festivals en ludieke evenementen, zoals een dag voor roodharingen, en clubbijeenkomsten van onder anderen de Murphy's, de McKenna's en de Duffy's. Volgens sommigen, zoals acteur en



Tijdens 'The Gathering' worden historische gebeurtenissen nagespeeld, zoals een overval op de Kelly Clan. Foto's: Eirini Luasagh

cultureel ambassadeur Gabriel Byrne, is het een manier om rijke toeristen geld uit de zakken te kloppen in een tijd dat Ierland het economisch moeilijk heeft. Anderen roemen het initiatief als voorbeeld hoe je in een geglobaliseerde wereld kunt vieren toen wordt gezegd dat „er niet genoeg land was om mensen te begraven, niet genoeg bonen om ze op te hangen, en niet genoeg water om ze te verdrinken". Zijn achterkleinind Michael M. Kelly, wetenschapper en zeede generatie Australiër, zegt: „Ik denk dat hij gewoon weg moest. Dat deel van Ierland was verwoest. In Australië zochten ze boerenzonen met families. Ze wilden van de strafkolonie een echt land maken. Families kregen gratis overtocht."

Of misschien had James wel gele-

zen of gechoord over de goudloerts in New South Wales. „Over New York waren er negatieve berichten. Daar waren te veel hongersnodlachtoffers tegelijk aangekomen. Nieuwelingen werden er slecht behandeld." De ouders van Mike Kelly, een gepensioneerde oliewerker uit Chicago, gingen wel naar de VS. In 1910 kwam zijn vader aan op Ellis Island in New York. Ook toen was er veel armoede in Ierland, en op het platteland waren er conflicten over landbouwgrond met de Britten. Zes jaar later zouden de Ieren in opstand komen tegen hun overheersers.

Mikes vader belandde in Chicago, waar veel Ieren zaten. Die bezorgden elkaar werk en trouwden onder elkaar. Ook Mikes moeder was Ierse. „Ze ontmoetten elkaar op een Ierse

danasavond", vertelt hij. Nu is hij terug, samen met echtgenote Trudy, ook een Ierse.

„Ze klinken ze niet. Weinig van de buitenlandse Kelly's trouwen. „We zijn het wel", zegt Trudy. „We zijn lid van Ierse organisaties, actief in de kerk waar Ieren naartoe gaan en bij het centrum voor Iers-Amerikaans erfgoed." Larry Kelly, ook uit de VS en een babyboom leidde tot een banentekort. Alleen al in 1988 vertrokken 70.000 Ieren naar elders.

Veertig procent van hen keerde terug in de jaren 90, toen de Ierse economie opbloeiende. Onder hen Frank Kelly. Hij werkte vijftien jaar als bankier in Londen. Doelbewust had hij nauwelijks contact met andere Ieren. „Ik speelde geen hurling, ik roide." Maar, „hoe ouder ik werd, hoesterker

het gevoel dat ik ergens wilde thuis-horen." In 2001 kwam hij terug en vond werk als marketeer. Het enthousiasme van de levenswijze die hij in de jaren 80 miste in Ierland, waren terug.

Tot de crisis inzet. „De huidige generatie denkt dat het alleen maar slechter zal gaan. Ze stemt met de voeten", zegt hoogleraar Mac Einri. Hij ontdekte dat de meeste migranten niet vertrokken omdat ze geen werk hebben, maar omdat ze geen vooruitzichten hebben. „Als Ierker of verplegster heb je hier geen zicht op een vaste baan of promotie." Pas als er kans is op economische groei, keren ze terug, voorspelt hij.

De jongste generatie emigranten is niet bij de Clan Gathering van de Kelly's. En dat is het probleem van her hele Gathering-jaar, vindt Mac Einri. „Op het vliegveld van Dublin worden bezoekers met Ierse voorouders met open armen ontvangen, op dezelfde plek awaaien we de jongste generatie uit."

Volgens hem denkt de regering te lichtvaardig over migratie. „In de jaren 80 zei minister Lenihan: we kunnen niet allemaal op dit kleine eiland wonen. Zo wordt nog steeds gedacht." In april had staatssecretaris van Werkgelegenheid Perry het nog

### Wereldwijd zijn zo'n 70 miljoen mensen met Ierse wortels

over emigratie als 'lifestylekeuze'. Maar volgens minister van Transport Alan Kelly zijn de huidige migranten nu eenmaal niet de doelgroep van The Gathering. „We wilden de generaties voor wie de afkomst niet zo concreet was berekenen en hun Iersheid doen ontbranden." Dat heeft niets te maken met groene klaverkrans, rode haren of Riverdance – het stereotype beeld dat The Gathering ook oproept. „Welnee", zegt de minister. „Iersheid is een vorm van kameradschap. Ieren zijn gelijkmakers. Een Ier zal nooit toestaan dat je naasjes schoenen gaat lopen."

De busstocht van de Kelly's voert naar Moylans, diep in Tipperary. Langs de stal waar John Kelly in 1840 twee varkens stal en waarvoor hij naar de strafkolonie Australië werd gestuurd. Daar kreeg hij acht kinderen, onder wie Ned, de beruchte bankrover. Of, zoals de Kelly's hem liever zien, de vrijheidsstrijder tegen de Engelse overheersing.

De bus wordt tegengehouden. Een overval? Maar daar komt Ned Kelly aan in zijn beroemde Ierkeren-maaker. Hij redt de clan. Op tijd voor een Guinness in de pub waar zijn voorouders al drommen.

ADRI GRINDLEY

#### TRANSLATION OF THE NEWS ARTICLE

"It's greener than I thought". Priest Juan Pablo Torrebiarte is looking around in amazement. "It's a long way to Tipperary", sang Jack Judge one hundred years ago. This is especially for Torrebiarte. He travelled from Guatemala to the Irish county. But now the Priest or pastor is 'home'. "To be the 10th (or 11th) Irish great grandfather is reason enough to become a member of the Kelly-Clan", he wrote. He was researching history into the balding Priest of the 18th Century at his Cathedral. He sits in the bus next to his second removed cousin Meta. Tomas is behind him. There are Tom's, Michael's and Mike's, Aiden's and Alan's, Bridget's and Mary's, and many Joe's in the bus. All of them are Kelly's or O'Cheallaighs. Some are from the U.S., others from Great Britain, Australia or Argentina. Some from Galway, the east of Ireland. Even from Tipperary.

"We are the ones who stayed", says Joe 'Cav' Kelly. Immigration is part of the Kelly history. Just as much as other Irish families, they experienced bad economic times and tried their luck somewhere else. The Irish Government guesses that there are 70 million Irish people worldwide. This year they call onto everybody to return to Ireland, even if it is only for a short time.

"The GATHERING" it is called, a year of festivals and musical (not sure what 'ludieke' means), events, such as a day for 'redheads' and clan meetings with the Murphy's, the McKenna's and the Duffy's. According to some, such as actor and cultural ambassador Gabriel Byrne, it is away to get money from the 'rich' tourists in a time of Irish austerity. Other people call this an initiative to celebrate your heritage in a global world. This is the question at the moment in Ireland. Since 2008 about 3000 Irish leave Ireland every month, especially young people. The worry is that they won't return

"The longer you stay away it is more difficult to return", says Professor or (Senior Lecturer) Piaras MacEoin of the Irish Centre for Migration Studies of the University College Cork. Migration is our 'default' position as the social-economic fluctuates" he says. "We are an island, we export people". Take James Kelly. He left in 1852 from Galway to Sydney. Just after the 5 year potato famine which decimated the population. They say that that Ireland did not have enough land to bury people, not enough trees to hang them from and not enough water to drink". His great grandchild Michael M Kelly, a scientist and 6th generation Australian, says: "I think he just had to get away". That part of Ireland was wasted. In Australia they were looking for farmer sons with families. They wanted to change a penal colony to a proper county. Families had free passage." Maybe James had read or heard about the gold rush in New South Wales. "A lot of negative news came from New York. Too many famine victims arrived there at the same time. Newcomers were badly treated".

The parents of Mike Kelly, a retired oil worker from Chicago, went to the U.S. His father arrived in 1910 at Ellis Island New York. Even then there was a lot of poverty in Ireland, and there were conflicts in the countryside with the British. Six years later the Irish rebelled against their rulers. Mike's father ended up in Chicago, as many Irish were already there. They provided each other with work and married with each other. Mike's mother was Irish as well: "They met at an Irish dance evening" he says. He is back together with his wife Trudy. They do not sound Irish. Many of the foreign 'Kelly's' do not sound "Irish", "but we are Irish", says Trudy, "We are members of the Irish organisations, active in Irish churches and the Centre for Irish- American Heritage".

Larry Kelly, also from the U.S. with his parents, who left early 20th Century, says: "Only when I returned, I really felt Irish," "Suddenly I understood where 'a cuppa tea' came from, and 'the love for lamb'".

For those who left later the tie with Ireland remains very strong. Joe A Kelly, who emigrated in the fifty's, just 5% of the professional population, will always cheer for Rugby player Leinster. "Ireland is in my blood, my genes". He went to England, just as many did before him.

"Migration is often definite", says Professor Mac Einri. To return meant you had failed." This only changed with the 1980's generation, with the baby boom, and therefore a shortage of jobs.

Only in 1988, 70,600 Irish left. 40% of them returned in the 90's, when the economy improved. One of them was Frank Kelly. He was a London banker for 15 years. Purposefully he hardly made any contact with other 'Irish': "I did not do hurling, I rowed". But the older I got, a strong feeling returned, I wanted to belong somewhere". In 2001 he returned and found work as a marketing consultant. The enthusiasm and excitement in Ireland, what he missed in the 1980's, returned. Until the crisis started.

"Only the present generation think it is getting worse. "They vote with their head not their heart", says Professor Mac Einri. He discovered that most people do not leave because they have not got a job, but because they have not got any views. As a tutor in Nursing you have no right to have a permanent job or promotion. "Only when the economy improves, they return", he predicts. The younger generations of emigrants are missing the Clan Gathering of the Kelly's. "And that's a problem for the whole 'Gathering Year'", thinks Mac Einri. "Visitors of Irish ancestry are welcomed with open arms at the Dublin airport, at the same time we wave the younger generation goodbye". According to him, the Government is thinking too lightly about migration. "In the 80's", Minister Lenihan said: "We cannot all live on this small island". "And they continue to think this". In April the State Secretary of Work Opportunities mentioned emigration as a 'life style choice'.

But according to the Minister of Transport Alan Kelly, the present migrants are not the aim of the Gathering. "We want to reach the generations of no concrete heritage and fire up their 'Irishness'". "That has nothing to do with 'green clover', 'red hair' or 'River dance'", recalls the Gathering. "Of course not", says the Minister. "To be Irish is a form of camaraderie. The Irish are peacemakers. The Irish will never allow you to be proud".

The bus route from the Kelly's goes to Moyglass, deep into Tipperary. Passed the shed where John Kelly stole 2 pigs and was sent to a criminal colony in Australia. He had 8 children, one of them was Ned, the well-known bank robber. Or, as the Kelly's would like to see him, as the freedom fighter against the British.

The bus was stopped. A robbery? Ned Kelly arrives in his famous iron mask. He saves the clan in time for a Guinness in the pub where his great grandfathers also drank.



Alfie Kelly with granddad Tom Mernagh



The Village Inn, Moyglass









## The Gathering – by Judy K Kelly Fausch

The biennial **Kelly Clan Gathering** was held from 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at Dundrum House Hotel in County Tipperary. This lovely old manor house with its surrounding, beautifully kept grounds was a perfect setting for our Gathering.

Attendees started arriving around 2:00 pm to register, complete check-in and generally enjoy their weekend. It was apparent from the buzz of conversation that people were renewing old acquaintances as well as establishing new ones with all the “relatives” who carry a form of the Kelly name.

The schedule for Friday’s activities differed from previous Gatherings, with an opportunity in late afternoon for a more informal forum/discussion on DNA led by Aidan Kelly. After dinner, there was a talk on Ned Kelly by Terry Cunningham, and the account of an Australian immigrant family by descendant Michael Martin Kelly. Attendees appreciated this added opportunity to learn and discuss.

Saturday morning started with Mass celebrated by An tUachtaran, Rt Rev Celsus Kelly, followed by a more formal presentation by Aidan Kelly on DNA patterns for the Kelly Y chromosome family study with an update on Ned Kelly DNA. I did note that once the talk turns to DNA, it’s very difficult to move on to other activities! This is definitely a “hot topic” among our members. Alan Kelly, TD then joined us for a short while, treating us to a talk on his family history; life in the Dáil and then posing with members for photographs. After a tea/coffee break, we boarded a bus to tour this exceptionally beautiful area, culminating in a robbery attempt near Moyglass! We were rescued by Ned Kelly himself, on a very imposing –looking steed and wearing his signature iron mask. This event was followed by a lovely lunch at The Village Inn where many of the local residents (much more friendly than the armed neighbours) joined us.

We returned to Dundrum, and after relaxing a bit, and changing clothes, we gathered for a wonderful banquet dinner, with dignitaries being led to tables by the stirring sounds of a local bagpiper. We enjoyed an outstanding meal and heard from John “Cappawhite” our local “man on the ground” from Tipperary for this very successful gathering, Historian Dr. Joe Kelly, Tanaiste Joe A Kelly, and MEP Sean Kelly, all giving insight into what it means to be Irish and members of the Kelly Clan.

Sunday Mass was concelebrated by Rt. Rev. Celsus Kelly and Fr. Juan Pablo Torrebiarte in the church at Donaskeagh. A choir, led by Tom Mernagh and made up of members of the Clan, led the singing.

Our annual meeting included election of new Council members and a discussion of possible venues for the next gathering in 2015. A luncheon followed with presentations for two long time members. After a long and difficult leave-taking, the Kellys left this lovely venue with promises to enjoy future gatherings, wherever they may be held. We had definitely felt the words of a poet describing “The O’Ceallaigh Welcome” of William Bui O’Ceallaigh

“A blessed, long living, great, courteous welcome,  
An affectionate, charitable, just, proper, true hearted welcome,  
A welcome and twenty, and I add hundreds to them,  
Like the surge of the stream is my welcome to you.”



No newsletter can be complete without an article from our historian Dr Joe Kelly

On October 19th and 20th the James Fenning Sale of Antiquarian Books took place at Whyte's Molesworth Street, Dublin. There were two items of special interest to the O'Kellys. The first of these was a work by Professor Sir William O'Kelly de Aghrim on Philosophy in Latin was on offer. The estimate for this First Edition was between 1,000 and 1,200 Euro. Perhaps the readers might be interested in this very famous O'Kelly scholar.

**Sir William O'Kelly** was born in **Aghrim**, Co. Galway about 1670. He studied humanities at Louvain University (present Belgium), and philosophy at Paris. He settled in Vienna in 1698 and was soon a friend and **adviser to Emperor Leopold**. He usually signed his name in Latin Guillermo (or Giulio) o Kelly, Hibernia, ex familia o Kelliorum ab **Aghrim**. and sometimes William O'Kelly of Aghrim, chevalier of the Holy Roman Empire, hereditary Lord of Culagh and Ballinahown, Count Palatine Imperial and Inspector of Arms of His Imperial Royal Majesty. In 1701 he published his great work dealing with Logic, Ethics, Physics and Metaphysics. In the preliminaries there are a number of neo-Latin poems by O'Kelly giving some autobiographical and family information which confirmed his love for Ireland and his ancestors who were kings of Hy-Many, covering East Galway and South Roscommon. He died about 1744. [For further information see Ware page 287, also 1698 (1), and 1699 (1).].

Sir James Ware wrote in 1745 in his *The Works of Sir James Ware concerning Ireland* page 287 Volume 2 wrote "William O'Kelly was born in the County of Galway and the parish of Aghrim and was descended of the O'Kellys of Aghrim. He quit his native country very young some years before the Revolution and applied himself to the Study of Humanity in the College of Louvain in Flanders and of Philosophy and Law in that of Paris. He afterwards visited and was very conversant in several other Universities of Europe, particularly those of Germany. About the year 1699 he settled in Vienna, where the Emperor Leopold gave him the chair of Philosophy, History and Heraldry at the Imperial Court, in which Faculties he was also chosen by the States of Austria for the Academy founded at Vienna by the said States for the noble Youths of that Province. About that time he published the following Treatises.

A Compendius System of Philosophy entitled, *Philosophia Aulica*, Vindebonae 1700 written for the use of young Gentlemen of the Province of Austria.

*Historia Bipartita Hibernia* is written in Prose and Verse and grounded on O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*. He tells me himself in a modest letter from Vienna, dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1741 written in answer to one of mine to him "that he could not expect any applause from this piece, since he was well persuaded of his then insufficiency on that subject." From that letter I have formed my account of his Education, Writings and Preferments. He wrote An Abridgement of History, Chronological and Geographical under the title of:

*Institutiones Academica*, intended both for Public use and for the Halls when he was obliged to lecture on those matters.

*Speculum Imperiale Historica-Chronologicum.*

*Speculum Heraldicum*

All these tracts were published in Latin.

The three last Emperors (besides very decent Emoluments for his Profession of Sciences and inspection of Arms in the respective Chanceries throughout the greater part of Hereditary Dominions) conferred on him the honourable titles of *Consiliarius Imperialis*, *Comes Palatinus*, *Sacri Romani Imperii Eques*, and *King of Arms*. Though men are for the most part fond of their own children, yet he had little regard for the issue of his own brain; since it is manifest from the forgoing account that he did not keep by him even copies of his own works, so that I have not been able to set down the times when they were printed. I am informed that he is lately dead and that he has left behind him the Character of a good Latin Poet, and a facetious Companion, and a trusty friend. It was his genius in Poetry that brought him first into notice. For his *Panegyricks* upon some great Families in that Country met with such a general Approbation, that they procured him Recommendations to the Imperial Family, which were the foundations of his Preferments.



[The above has been written down by me in the archaic writing and the use of capitals as in Ware's Works.]

The second item in the James Fenning Sale of Antiquarian Books at Whyte's was entitled **Kelly Riots, Smock Alley Theatre**. An appeal to the public by a gentleman of Trinity College, Dublin. Printed by Peter Wilson in Dame Street,

The **Kelly Riots** took place in **Dublin**. Thomas Sheridan was playing the title role in Vanburgh's *Aesop* at the Smock Alley theatre in Dublin on January 19, 1747, which he had recently taken over. During the performance, Edward Kelly from Co. Galway, climbed on to the stage. Kelly, a student at Trinity College, was very drunk. He proceeded to the dressing rooms at the back where he found one of the actresses a Mrs. Dwyer, who he tried to rape. Women's screams and abusive curses from Kelly were soon heard on the stage and in the auditorium. Sheridan stopped the play, went back, confronted Kelly and had him arrested by the stage door guard. The play recommenced but soon Kelly who had made good his escape from the guard reappeared. He hurled abuse at Sheridan and hit the actor in the face with an orange. Sheridan stopped the play once more and remonstrated with Kelly and his friends. When Kelly continued the insults, Sheridan retorted "I am as good a gentleman as you". This was like a dagger, as at that time actors were considered artisans and actresses only one step higher than prostitutes. After the play had finally finished, Kelly followed Sheridan backstage where he demanded an apology. This was refused. Kelly's insults continued and Sheridan hit him with a heavy stick and broke his nose. Kelly's friends were outraged by the fact that that an actor who was equivalent to a mere servant should hit a gentleman, and what was even worse he claimed to be a gentleman. Kelly's friends banded together under the title "the Gentlemen" and went to the theatre two nights later. When it was announced that Sheridan on medical advice was not taking part in the production, "the Gentlemen" started a riot, and went to the back stage area in search of Sheridan. Failing to find him they ransacked the area and proceeded to Sheridan's home but finding it under guard, they dispersed. Sheridan then closed the theatre for two weeks, for repairs, hoping that when he reopened the problem would have disappeared. Sheridan tried to make peace with Kelly's friends. They insisted that he make a public apology. If he agreed to this it would be tantamount to admitting that he was not a gentleman. He refused this option and instead he went to law and had seven of the "Gentlemen" including Kelly indicted for riot. Before the trial took place, Sheridan reopened the theatre, playing the title role in *Richard II*. As soon as he appeared on the stage he was greeted by the "Gentlemen", with cries of "a submission, a submission, off, off". Sheridan said he was ready to apologize, if the public wanted him to do so. One of the audience, Dr. Charles Lucas, who was well disposed to Sheridan, called for a show of hands in support of Sheridan. The "Gentlemen" seeing that they were vastly outnumbered, withdrew.

Two nights later thirty "Gentlemen", occupied the front rows of the theatre, and ordered Sheridan off the stage as soon as he appeared. As he withdrew insults were traded between the "Gentlemen" and other members of the audience, who were mainly students from Trinity College. They were angered by their good name been being dragged in the mud by a small number of spoilt brat sons of landed gentry. The following morning a thousand students attacked the lodgings of the leaders of "the Gentlemen" leaders - a Mr. Martin, Captain Fitzgerald and John Browne of the Neale, Co. Mayo. Both Brown and Martin were forced to apologize on their knees. After this Kelly came to College no doubt in fear of expulsion, and made a public apology.

The court case saw Sheridan and Kelly suing each other. The general feeling was that no jury would take the side of an actor against a gentleman. Kelly's counsel addressed the jury thus. "I have often seen a Gentleman Soldier, and a Gentleman Taylor, but I have never seen a Gentleman Player". At this Thomas Sheridan rose bowed modestly, and said "Sir, I hope you see one now". This display of a gentleman act of dignity had the desired effect on the jury. Sheridan was acquitted. Kelly and Brown were found guilty of assault. Kelly was fined £500 and sent to jail for a month. [I have not been able to determine what County Galway family Kelly belonged to.

J. M. Kelly]