

THE KELLY CLAN ASSOCIATION

SUMMER NEWSLETTER No. 59



KELLY CLAN GATHERING 2015

CASTLECOURT HOTEL, WESTPORT, CO MAYO

15-17 MAY 2015

**SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS OF HOW TO
BOOK, HOW MUCH, WHAT'S HAPPENING
ETC. ETC.....**



Letter from your Editor

Hello All

Here in Ireland we have been enjoying a heatwave which has lasted practically the whole of the summer so far. Let's hope the rest of you spread around the world have been enjoying the same sort of warmth. Now I know those of you who live in the Antipodes are saying, well, it's winter here, and yes, I know that, but I hope those of you in the throes of winter do not have harsh times to deal with! Enough said about the weather, let's get on!

We have finalised the costings for the 2015 Gathering and the price for the weekend is €115.00, the same price as 2013. The cost will include all the talks and presentations, the bus tour through scenic Co Mayo, the Gala Dinner, Sunday lunch plus all the other incidentals - tea and coffee breaks etc. I hope you will agree it is very good value and of course the hotel are offering competitive rates for the weekend stay too. The Gathering promises to be full of interesting happenings,- not to mention the wonderful opportunity of forging new friendships and renewing old acquaintances and friends. There is a booking form on the last page of this newsletter, or you can go on to our website and book from there using PayPal.

To book your accommodation at Castlecourt Hotel, please e-mail the hotel on info@castlecourthotel.ie quoting "Kelly Clan Gathering", or telephone + 353 [0]98 55088 and ask for Reservations. This way you will get the best deal. The price we have been quoted is €155 p/p for 2 nights stay which includes dinner on the Friday night. If you want to add some extra nights on to your stay, the hotel will be pleased to give you a good price - just ask when booking.

To check out the facilities at the hotel, go on to their website which is www.castlecourthotel.ie

There are also some excellent bed and breakfast accommodation in the town and I have included a short list of some of them at the end of the newsletter.

The Council are getting excited about the event and planning is going ahead at a fast rate. If any of you would like to make any suggestions to include anything in the programme please let us know and we will do our very best to incorporate your ideas.

Well, that's it from me for now. Have to get the last of my sunbathing done before the weather breaks!

Mary K

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A bevy of beauties – Sofia Kelly-Byrne with her daughters and granddaughter
I-r Marianne, Joy, Sheila, Alison, and Ada Rose, (Sheila's daughter)

NEW MEMBER

Gerald Kelley USA

We extend to him the O Kelly Welcome - *Failte Ui Cheallaigh*

Editor's Note:

If we all encouraged at least one person to join the Kelly Clan and pay membership it would be great - see what you can do!

The July/August edition of Irish Lives Remembered Genealogy e-Magazine is now live and can be read/downloaded FREE of charge via

www.irishlivesremembered.com

Ned Kelly

Ned (Edward) Kelly, (1855-1880), Australian bushranger, was hanged. His last words were "such is life". Ned was the son of John "Red" Kelly [see 1866 (9)], who was born in Moyglass, Killenaule, Co. Tipperary, on February 20, 1820. John was the son of Thomas Kelly (1800-) and Mary Cody (1798-) and grandson of John Kelly and Ellen Head. "Red" Kelly was convicted of stealing pigs and sentenced to be transported to Van Diemens Land (now Tasmania).

On his release in 1849, he went to Victoria, where he married in 1850 Ellen Elizabeth Quinn, who was born in Armagh, Ireland. John died in 1866. They had three sons, Ned who was born in Beveridge on June 1855, James (1859-1946) and Daniel (1861-1880), and five daughters, Mary Jane (1851-1851), Anne (1853-1872), Maggie (1857-1896), Kate (1863-1898) and Grace (1865-1940).

The boys were very wild and soon were in trouble with the law. In 1878, a party of constables arrived at their home to arrest Daniel on a charge of horse stealing. The Kellys resisted the arrest. Ned shot a constable in the arm. Ned and Daniel made good their escape. Their mother was imprisoned for her part in the affray. Ned and Daniel were soon joined by two others called Byrne and Harte. For the next two years the Kelly Gang terrorized the borderland of Victoria and New South Wales. The two state governments jointly offered a reward of £8, 000 for their capture.

Joe Kelly, Historian to the Kelly Clan Association

Visit to Old Melbourne Gaol – Contributed by Will Robinson

In December 2013 I visited the Old Gaol in Melbourne, Australia. This building - dating back to the mid-1800s - is probably best known for being the place of execution in 1880 of Ned Kelly, the famous Australian bush-ranger. Although more than 130 people, both men and women, were hanged within the walls of the prison it is the execution of the 26 year old 'iron outlaw' that is still the biggest draw for visitors to the museum. There are regular sessions held during the week where performances look back at the life and the legends surrounding Ned Kelly. His story is well told and does not romanticise what was a short and, in reality, quite brutal life.

The main attractions of the Kelly display are the revolver he used in the final shoot-out with the police where he donned his famous iron armour, the gallows where he uttered his now immortal last words "Such is life", and the actual death mask taken when his body was moved to the prison mortuary. This last feature being part of a bizarre study being undertaken aiming to show that 'criminal types' had specific facial characteristics that differed from the rest of the population.

AN UPDATE ON NED KELLY'S DNA AND HOW A Y-DNA SAMPLE MAY BE OBTAINED TO CONFIRM WHICH KELLY LINE NED WAS

Ned Kelly was an infamous Kelly. His story as an Irish-Australian bushranger is well known. His father John 'Red' Kelly hailed from Tipperary. Details of Red Kelly's life are also well known. Red was transported to Australia for pig stealing when he was aged 10. Eventually freed from prison he married Ellen Quinn and together they had 6 children (three boys and three girls – Maggie, James, Dan, Kate, Grace and Ned).

How does Ned fit into the Kelly Y-DNA study? The answer is not clear. The whereabouts of any living direct male relative is currently unknown BUT all available leads have not been exhausted. I like to think we will get to find out what Y-DNA Ned Kelly belonged to one day after more work. Based on the limited data we have at the moment, being from Tipperary, the Kelly family line of Joseph Arthur Kelly is one of the leading contenders (that is the L21+, L226+ line of Brian Boru); and John, Pat, and Noel Kelly who attended the Tipperary Kelly Clan Gathering in 2013.

After execution, Ned was buried in a mass grave at Victoria's Melbourne Gaol. There his remains may have quietly and invisibly decomposed but for some inefficiencies by the grave-diggers. They used a type of lime that slowed decomposition instead of quickening it (so, slow-lime not quick-lime). Workers found the site littered with skeletons when the grounds were dug up for re-development in 1929. Officials then began to move the remains to the other prison - Pentridge. As the story goes, in a scene of chaos that became a minor local scandal, a crowd of schoolboys and on-lookers raked amongst the bones taking souvenirs. The bones were then re-buried at Pentridge.

Excavations at Pentridge uncovered the re-buried bones in 2008. At least 3,000 bone fragments were exhumed and sent to the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. It was thought high likely that Ned Kelly's bones might be among them but the forensic scientists faced some great difficulties to identify an individual skeleton let alone confirm that it was Ned's. DNA is well preserved in bone, but better in teeth (none of Ned's teeth were expected to be found because after the execution his head was removed to make a death mask) and it is acutely vulnerable to cross-contamination from other individuals. Therefore the scientific team had to do more than extract DNA and record the results. They had to be lucky enough to find uncontaminated remains, avoid mixing skeletal remains and cross-contaminating DNA fragments in the process and then somehow match that DNA with a sample that was known to be related to Ned.

The first requirement was to isolate the bone samples and carefully categorise them to reduce the level of cross-contamination during DNA analysis (avoiding cross-contamination was made even harder by the various acts of past re-burials). The Victorian forensic scientists also sent a range of the sorted and catalogued bone samples to a specialist forensic laboratory in Argentina that uses state-of-the-art techniques for handling and analysing DNA from degraded and aged remains. The Argentine lab successfully extracted DNA from almost all of the samples. Even so, the DNA meant little in isolation. The investigators needed something, or someone, to match it against.

There were two obvious approaches. The first was to find some of Ned's own DNA from things he had left behind. Hoping to find DNA in Kelly's dried blood, they located the boots, bag and sash he wore the night he was shot. Dried blood or flesh specimens on cloth can preserve DNA for hundreds (even thousands) of years. But the boot and the bag had no usable DNA. The sash, which they found in a country museum, may have been washed before it was put on display as no usable DNA was sampled from the sash. Having found no other DNA that was likely to be Ned's own, the next port of call was to sample from known relatives.

They found Leigh Olver, an art teacher, who is a direct descendent from Ned Kelly's mother through a direct maternal line (Ned's mum Ellen Quinn, Ned's sister Kate, Kate's daughter who is Leigh's mum, then Leigh Olver). Leigh Olver is the grandson of Ned's sister Kate. So Ned was his Great Uncle. He donated his DNA for

analysis. Because he was related to Ned through Ned's maternal line the DNA matching for Ned focused on matching Leigh's mitochondrial DNA with the mitochondrial DNA of the targeted bone samples. This was as good as it was going to get because no adequate quality somatic cell DNA (that is non-mitochondrial DNA) had been isolated from the exhumed bones that would have allowed a Y-DNA profile to be determined. The forensic scientists have indicated that isolation of Y-DNA may still be attempted at a later date.

In 2011 the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine announced that a definite match had been found between a set of bones recovered from the Pentridge burial ground and the mitochondrial DNA provided by Leigh Olver. The matching bones included a palm-size fragment of skull. The matching mitochondrial DNA was classified as mitochondrial Haplogroup Jc1 (the same as King Richard III). Ned's remains were then re-buried in a family cemetery plot after a church service which attracted a lot of media coverage and publicity. The media mainly centred on the debate about whether Ned was a noble outlaw or murderer and what would constitute an appropriate burial?

Finally, is there some hope to confirm Ned's Y-DNA Kelly line? There is none unless some adequate quality somatic cell DNA can be isolated from Ned's remains or from one of Ned's male relatives (dead or alive). Further work to isolate a Y-DNA sample from Ned's known bone fragments may be successful once better techniques are developed. The alternative of using Ned's known male relatives to source a sample of Kelly Y-DNA also presents significant challenges. There are several possibilities.

One is to locate and isolate a sample from a living male relative of Ned's. Is there one in Tipperary today? I think there would be but who knows that for sure?

Two is to identify a relatively recently deceased individual that was a relative of Ned's and locate a sample from human remains or objects left behind (as they did with Ned's sash – perhaps a hair brush).

Three is to sample from Ned's remains in Australia. Ned has a known grave in country Victoria - Avenel from all accounts. Not in the cemetery where the headstone is but for some reason just nearby.

Four is to sample from Dan's remains. Dan has a known grave in the Greta cemetery where he was buried in 1880 after the siege at Glenrowan.

Five is to sample from James' remains. James has a known grave in country Victoria – near Glenrowan. He died there in 1946 of natural causes.

James or Dan would be the pick of the bunch because their DNA could be simultaneously sampled and possibly used to confirm a match with the known mitochondrial DNA data that has been proven for Ned (to avoid mistaken identity). Given the more recent age and less punishing death of James Kelly it seems more likely his remains would yield a viable Y-DNA sample. If so, Ned's Y-DNA line could be confirmed by comparing the sample with the data so far accumulated in the Kelly family Y-DNA study. It could be that easy BUT how hard should we try?

Aidan Kelly (aidan.kelly@inet.net.au)

Bed and Breakfast Accommodation in and around Westport

Lurgan House, Carrownalurgan, Westport *****

Ena and Ger Scahill

+353[0]98 27126

+353[0]87 9487450

lurganhouse@eircom.net Website: www.bandbwestport.com

Adare House, Quay Road

Ms Margaret Madigan +353[0]98 26102 or info@adarehouse.ie, 0.5km from Westport

Town Centre. Website: www.adarehouse.ie

Deerpark Lodge, 20 Deerpark East, Newport Road

Ms Teresa Gavin on

+353[0]98 26003/087 7568784 or info@deerparklodgebandb.com.

Website: www.deerparklodgebandb.com. 0.5km from Westport Town Centre.

Boffin Lodge, The Quay

Mr Pat Aylward on +353[0]98 26092 or email info@boffinlodge.com 0.5km from Westport

Town Centre. Website: www.boffinlodge.com

Elderberry, Deerpark Est., Newport Road

Ms Myra Berry on +353[0]98 26374 or email elderberrywestport@gmail.com. 0.5km from

Westport Town Centre. Website: www.elderberrywestport.com

Linden Hall, Altamount Street

Ms Maria Breen on +353[0]98 27005_ 0km from Westport Town Centre.

Website: www.lindenhallwestport.com

Abbeycourt, Deerpark East, Newport Road

Contact Ms Kate Hastings on +353[0]98 28166 or email info@abbeycourtwestport.com.

0.5km from Westport Town Centre. Website: www.abbeycourtwestport.com

Brooklodge, Deerpark East, Newport Road

Contact Ms Noreen Reddington on +353[0]98 26654 or email

brooklodgebandb@eircom.net 0.5km from Westport Town Centre. Website:

www.brooklodgewestport.com

***** Your editor and family have stayed at Lurgan House and it's First Class!

MUINTIR UI CHEALLAIGH

KELLY CLAN ASSOCIATION GATHERING 2015



Kelly Clan Gathering 15-17 May 2015 at Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, Co Mayo

Provisional Programme (with times to be confirmed)

Friday 15th May

2 pm onwards Registration and payment of subscriptions
Between 4pm-6pm Informal get together and exchange of information
Evening To be confirmed

Saturday 16th May

8 am Mass celebrated by Rt Rev. Celsus Kelly.
9.30 am "Failte Uí Cheallaigh" by Uachtaran Muintir Uí Cheallaigh [Mary Kelly]
9.45 am -11.00am Presentation by Aidan Kelly on DNA
Presentation by local historian
Tea/Coffee break.
12 noon Scenic Bus Tour around the Westport area with visits to locations of Kelly interest -
stop off for lunch during the trip
8 pm Gala Dinner with local traditional entertainment

Sunday 17th May

Time tbc Mass in local church
Tea/Coffee Break
Time tbc. General Assembly of all Clan members
Address by An tUachtaran
Followed by Buffet Lunch

The cost for the Gathering, including two lunches, dinner, entertainment and bus tour is €115. However you will only pay €100 if you book and pay before 1 May 2015. If anyone wishes to attend individual events please contact Bernie Kelly for rates.

The cost of the hotel is €155 per person for 2 nights b & b (sharing) which includes dinner on the Friday night and should be booked through the hotel (telephone Reservations on + 353 [0]98 55088 or by e mail quoting reference "Kelly Clan", info@castlecourthotel.ie)

Local B & B's are available. Please contact Mary Kelly (marykelly3010@gmail.com) or phone 065 7085889 / 086 3296475 for details.

2015 KELLY CLAN GATHERING BOOKING FORM

Please reserve places at the Kelly Clan Gathering for the weekend of 15-17 May 2015 at € 115.00 p/p

Name

Address

.....

Phone Numbers

Post to: Bernie Kelly, "Aisling", Tyrone, Kilcolgan, Co Galway

Or alternatively visit: www.kellyclans.com to make your reservation with Pay Pal payment

Please note: *'Any Clan Member who wishes to have business put before the Clan Assembly shall notify the Clan Council of such intent together with a summary of such business at least 30 days before the commencement date of the proposed Clan Gathering, and notify the Clan Secretary accordingly (e mail: clankellyinfo@gmail.com)*