

THE KELLY CLAN ASSOCIATION

WINTER NEWSLETTER No. 60



A MARATHON EFFORT BY KELLY DESCENDANTS

The Hughes family, pictured above, took part in the Dublin Marathon in October. There were 41 of them in total, hailing from all four corners of the globe, and are all related to John Kelly of Westport – John’s first cousin, Máire Kelly, is their grandmother – hope that makes sense but I think the relationship is “first cousins twice removed”. But correct me if I’m wrong. The family created a world record for the largest number of runners from one family competing in the Marathon and it has been entered into the Guinness Book of Records. They also hit the headlines in the national newspapers. Well done! We are very proud of you.

Photo: Irish Independent



Letter from your Editor

Hello All

By the time you are reading this, Christmas will be practically upon us and another year nearly over. It's been a very successful year for the Kelly Clan. We are going ahead leaps and bounds with plans for the May 2015 Gathering and Des Kelly has a very active working committee on the job. The tour promises to be a very busy one from start to finish. There will be a treat of accomplished local musicians over the weekend which I know many of you really enjoy. The talks are in the process of being finalised and we should have definite topics and timings very soon. We will have a more detailed programme of events a little nearer the time, but you can rest assured this Gathering will be one of the best! We have already received a number of bookings so if you are coming to the Gathering it would be wise to make an early booking - you will also receive a discounted price by booking early. See details on the back page. Don't forget when booking the hotel to do this either by e mail or telephone as preferential Kelly Clan rates do not appear on their website.

I recently stayed in Westport and it certainly is a lovely town. You are spoilt for choice as a visitor, with some lovely walks in the vicinity; interesting buildings to visit; the peaceful river meandering through the town; coffee and tea shops offering a tasty selection of homemade goodies; an eclectic selection of shops selling a variety of things, from vintage clothes, beautiful crafts, second hand and antique objects, not to mention the number of beauty salons, hairdressers and the like. I, for one, will find some time to visit some of the establishments. I hope this list will encourage many of you to join us and not just for the Gathering.

We are continuing to enjoy the balmy weather, even as I write this in the middle of November. The trees are holding on to their leaves, folks are still mowing lawns [I keep hearing "this is the last cut" I don't know how many times!] and the surfers in nearby Spanish Point are enjoying an added bonus with the not so freezing water as would normally be the case at this time of year.

Mary K

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WESTPORT VISITORS

These two photos show Princess Grace and Prince Rainier on their visit to Westport as part of their visit to Ireland in 1961.

The couple were visiting Croagh Patrick when they were snapped enjoying their cup of tea - or perhaps it was coffee. I prefer to think it was tea! A local lady living on the route back down supplied the beverages! Wasn't Grace a real beauty?



A detailed article of the couple's visit to Ireland can be found using the following link:

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/true-grace-prince-albert-of-monaco-returns-to-ireland-26720386.html>

Lapel pins

The Council have commissioned a number of enamel lapel pins to sell at the Gathering in 2015. They are pictured here. There will be a limited edition available for sale at a price of €5. We do hope you like them. The colours are replicated exactly and the quality is of a very high standard – Thank you John Kelly of Westport for doing all the hard work of arranging and ordering them.



CHRISTMAS GAME



Here's a lovely little game for both adults and children alike to play at Christmas. It will keep the kids away from the TV, phones, electronic games etc. and keep everybody entertained for at least an hour depending on the number of people playing.

Each person [even the children] buys 2 gifts prior to Christmas. It can be anything, ranging from chocolate to a gift mug, hair ornament, toy, even a tin opener! etc. Keep the price to a reasonable level, say under 5 euro, dollars, pounds whatever. Wrap the gifts so that they look exciting and so their identity isn't obvious.

Each person then throws a dice and anyone who throws a 6 then takes a gift from the middle of the table. When all the gifts are distributed, you then put a timer on for say half an hour, or less and the dice is thrown again. This time when anyone throws a 6 they can take a gift from any other person's stash. When the time is up you get to keep all the gifts you have "won". Of course, everybody will do "swops" and that's all part of the game. You organise the second session of timing according to the number playing, for example if only 6 are playing then 20 minutes would be more than ample.

This is a brilliant game, not involving much cost or effort and you will be surprised at how many times one gift will keep being "bagged" if the players think it's something special!!!

The Kelly Clan Council members would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas followed by a Peaceful New Year.

Ned larger than life!



This sculpture of Ned is located in Kate Street, Glenrowan, Australia

PHOTOS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

SEND AS MANY IN AS YOU WANT. THEY WILL ALL BE USED

This pic of Ned was supplied by Jack Bason of Brixworth, Northampton. Jack turns our newsletter into booklet form for posting out to members who don't use the internet.

Thanks Jack for all your patience and hard work!

New member

John Kelly Westport, Co Mayo, Ireland

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

Newtown House, Abbeyknockmoy, Athenry, Galway

There were two good reasons not to rejoice when the British empire finally abolished slavery in its colonies in 1833. Firstly it was replaced by a system of indentured servitude that was not much better and, secondly, parliament decided slave owners would have to be compensated handsomely for the loss of their property. The payout amounted to £20m – almost half of Britain’s annual exchequer budget at the time.



Among the eager claimants was **James Kelly** of Newtown House, Abbeyknockmoy, Co Galway. A family with county Roscommon origins, members of 18th century generations of the Kellys served in the Austrian Army

Kelly had two plantations in Jamaica. One was Crescent Park, St Anne, where had 101 slaves, the other was Green Castle at St Thomas in the East where 215 people were in forced servitude. Green Castle today is a hotel on a 1,600 acre estate.

James Kelly received £6,141.6s.3d in compensation for the loss of these 316 pieces of ‘property’ – which equates to around £500,000 in today’s money.

The prosperous Catholic family had bought the Newtown estate in 1802 from the Brownes of Moyne and three generations of the family lived there in the 19th century. In the mid 19th century the estate amounted to 9 townlands in the parish of Abbeyknockmoy, barony of Tiaquin, county Galway. Charles Kelly is recorded as the owner of over 2,000 acres in county Galway in the 1870s. The last was a county court judge and vice-president of the RDS, Charles Kelly, who died in 1905 – his daughter Countess Matilda Turquet de la Boisseri wrote a memoir of her childhood at Newtown.

The house had a succession of owners afterwards, including the Carr’s water biscuit family. It is described in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage as “a relatively modest country house....made grander by the attached wings and classical proportions, and detailing that feature typically in Georgian buildings”.

The 18th Century Galway mansion is now on the market for sale at an asking price of €2.3m.

Anybody got a spare couple of million hanging around – perhaps they’ll buy it?

Sourced in part: Irish Independent 31.10.14

WWI CENTENARY

This year we remember World War I which started one hundred years ago. This war has been called the Great War. The only thing great about it was that a great number of people mainly young men were wiped off the face of the earth and will forever remain young. In all about 15 million people lost their lives as a result of the war. A very large number of Kellys lost their lives. Many more remained invalids for the remainder of their lives. Many Kellys were honoured for their bravery. The three Kellys mentioned below were honoured with the Victoria Cross.

The Victoria Cross, the highest award in the British or British Commonwealth Army, that can be offered to an individual, for conspicuous bravery or prominent act of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy. The award was instituted in 1856. The medals were made from cannons captured from the Russians during the Crimean War. The award was made to three Kellys.

Lieutenant Henry Kelly, V.C., M.C., a twenty nine year old, Manchester born, son of a Dubliner, on October 4, 1916, at Les Sars, France, twice rallied his company under the heaviest fire and eventually led the only three available men of his company into the enemy's trench, remaining there bombing, until two of his men became casualties and enemy reinforcement arrived from the rear. He then carried his wounded company sergeant-major back 70 yards to his own trenches. He subsequently brought in more injured. Kelly was later promoted Major. He was also awarded the Military Cross and Bar.

Captain Christopher Patrick John O'Kelly, V.C., M.C., a twenty one year old Canadian, on October 26, 1917, at Passchendaele, Belgium, led his company with extraordinary skill and determination. They captured six pill boxes, with 100 prisoners and 10 machine-guns. Later his company repelled a strong counter attack, taking more prisoners, and subsequently during the night they captured a hostile raiding party, consisting of one officer, 10 men, and a machine-gun. He was later promoted to the rank of Major. He also won a Military Cross. His Victoria Cross is publicly displayed at the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, Canada. O'Kelly had the further distinction of being the youngest recipient of the rarely awarded Victoria Cross. Christopher is son of Edward O'Kelly descended from the O'Kellys of Crearan, near Moylough, Co. Galway.

[He died in a drowning accident on Lake Ontario in 1930. He was descended from Edward O'Kelly and his wife Miss Browne of Ontario]

Lieutenant Colonel John Sherwood Kelly, V.C., C.M.G., D.S.O., a thirty seven year old commander of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, on November 20, 1917, at Marching, France, when a party of men were held upon the near side of a canal by heavy rifle fire, he at once ordered covering fire, and personally led his leading company across the canal, and then reconnoitred under heavy fire, the high ground held by the enemy. He took a Luis gun team, forced his way through obstacles and covering the advance of his battalion, enabling them to capture the position. Later he led a charge against some pits, from which heavy fire was coming, capturing five machine guns and 46 prisoners. His Victoria Cross is publicly on display, at the National Museum of Military History, Johannesburg, South Africa.

There were a number of Kellys who deserved to have been awarded the Victoria Cross but because they were not officers they did not receive it. One of these is mentioned below. His father was lost in 1912 when the Titanic sunk.

James Kelly, age 45, a casual labourer from Leixlip, Co. Kildare, had found it difficult to get regular work at home and the offer by his daughter Margaret to pay his passage to America to get work in New Haven, Connecticut was accepted. He intended to bring his wife and the rest of the family to America to join him, when he had saved enough money.

His wife Catherine was 47 years old and they had six children. Tom the eldest son was a soldier with the Connaught Rangers was stationed in India at the time of the disaster. Margaret the eldest girl, age 20, had immigrated to the US in 1911 and had gathered enough money to pay for her father's passage to America. His other children were Catherine, age 18, a mill worker, Mary, age 16, William age 12, and James age 7.

James drowned in the disaster. His body was found and he was buried at sea. The family at home were destitute. After a detailed interview they were granted 4 shillings a week relief. The American Red Cross acted as an honest broker and Margaret's employers in America volunteered to be responsible to the immigration authorities that the family would not become public charges and were admitted in June. Catherine and Mary got employment in the factory with their sister. The two boys went to school. The eldest son Thomas was a distinguished soldier in the famous Connaught Rangers. General Willcocks, G.O.C. Indian Corps., in his book *With the Indians in France* says "Lieutenant George, the Adjutant, was severely wounded as he rushed forward, but Lance-Corporal Thomas Kelly cleared the parapet, and in the face of very heavy fire, lifted his officer to carry him to safety; as he was doing so another bullet killed Lieutenant George in his arms. This was a splendid and from personal descriptions at the time, a far finer one than I can describe it, and I should have liked to have him get the Victoria Cross; but as it was he was awarded the D.C.M. (Distinguished Conduct Medal) and it was never better earned. He died of wounds on Sunday January 23, 1916." (Suffered in a battle in Mesopotamia and is commemorated on Panel 40-64 on Basra Memorial, Iraq.) [Had Kelly been an officer, no doubt he would have joined the other three Kellys (all officers) who won the Victoria Cross, the supreme award for bravery in war. Alas the powers that decided these things were snobs, and were very much influenced by class distinction. This was foremost in their decisions on these matters, and was based on the principal of "them and us". To make the son of a casual labourer a Victoria Cross holder went against the grain.

Article contributed by Joe Kelly, Historian, Oranmore

The November/December edition (26th issue) of Irish Lives Remembered Genealogy e-Magazine is now live and can be read/downloaded FREE of charge via www.irishlivesremembered.com or directly at <http://bit.ly/1u6UhlR>

Topics of interest covered in the latest issue include:

Fiona Fitzsimons from Eneclann shares her research on Princess Charlene of Monaco's Irish Family History (*Part 1 – The Fagans of Feltrim*)

Brid Nowlan covers Seattle Mayor, Ed Murray's Irish heritage trail - From Ireland to Elma

**[Tracing your FERMANAGH Ancestors](#)
[The Irish in CONNECTICUT](#)**

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 Ui Cheallaigh" by Uachtaran Muintir Ui Cheallaigh [Mary Kelly]
9.45 am -11.00am Presentation by [TO BE CONFIRMED]
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)

For local B & B's please contact Mary Kelly (marykelly3010@gmail.com) Tel 065 7085889 / 086 3296475

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 [€100 if booked before 1 May 2015]

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)