

THE KELLY CLAN ASSOCIATION

SUMMER NEWSLETTER No. 62



Council members pictured informally at the Gathering

Back l-r: Rev. Celsus, Aidan, Joe, Tom, Des

Front l-r : Count Walter's Son, Robert, Michael, Mary, Bernie, Joe

Missing Judy Kelly-Fausch, John "Cappawhite"

Letter from your Editor



Hello All

It is now 4 weeks after the Gathering as I write this and I still have that lovely buzz of success about the whole thing. We were delighted with the amazing numbers of people who supported the Gathering and so lovely to see new faces. I certainly had some interesting conversations with some of the "first timers" and let's hope it will be the first of many. The Council are not letting the grass grow under their feet though and although flushed with the success of the recent Gathering, it is now time to get our thinking caps on and decide where, when, how etc. for the next one! The dates will be 19-21 May 2015 - that is the one thing we know definitely and the venue will be announced in our Autumn Newsletter so everybody will have plenty of time to plan and save.

I was thrilled with the music on offer at the Gala Dinner. Des's daughter Laoise certainly got together a very talented bunch including the wonderful Marcia Howard. Marcia's rendition of Bob Dylan's "Stay Young" was the highlight for me and I'm sure for many others. Let's not forget the local musicians who entertained us so well and a big thank you to them too. Larry Kelly has very kindly sent his report of the Gathering and this is featured inside.

I hope some of you were able to watch the programme Mayo Matters put out by Irish TV which included our Gathering with interviews and filming of the gala dinner. We got some great publicity from it and occupied practically the whole of the second half of the programme.

We have a great new addition to the Kelly Clan Council as those of you who attended the AGM will know. Maureen Kelly-Mescall who lives in Co Clare was asked to join the Council and we were delighted that she accepted. Maureen has some valuable knowledge on websites and her main task will be to update ours, using her expertise to make the site attractive to newcomers and hopefully encourage them to find out more about us and join the Clan as members. Please send pictures and stories to either Bernie or myself for use in either the newsletter or website, or indeed both.

At the suggestion received at the AGM we are publishing an abridged list of our current members on the last page of this newsletter. We hope this will encourage folks to get in touch with each other - initially through the Council - with a view to promoting friendship and exchange of ideas, news etc.

Oh, well, I am off to sit in the sun for half an hour and I hope by the time you read this the sun will still be shining!

Mary K

Contact details: marykelly3010@gmail.com or clankellyinfo@gmail.com

Who is this person? “Answers on a postcard”!!!



New members

Michael Kelly, Dublin

Aidan Kelly, UK

Susan Kelly-McCollum, UK

John Francis McGrath. USA

J Andrew Watts, Australia

Paul Kelly, Co Dublin

Maureen Kelly-Mescall, Co Clare

Geraldine Kearns, Co Mayo

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

CONDOLENCES

We are sorry to announce three deaths during the last few months. They are :

Michael Pearmain RIP, Maura Kelly RIP, Noel Kelly RIP

We offer our sincere condolences to their family and friends and ask that you remember them in your thoughts and prayers.

THANK YOU'S

Des - for his outstanding work in getting it all organised "on the ground", never flapping and providing a wealth of information for us all

Mike "Chicago" Kelly for his generous contributions including that of organising and funding the excellent photographer who was in attendance for much of the weekend

Mary Pat for her wonderful presentation, peppered with interesting little anecdotes. We hope the new book is as successful as the last and that there is another in the pipeline!

The Local Committee who worked so hard under Des's leadership

Sophia Kelly-Byrne and John Byrne for their generous contribution

The Kelly Clan Council - just for doing everything that they do without complaining!

Count Robert and the Countess Tina O'Kelly

Reverend Celsus Kelly who once again provided all the printing of programmes, tickets etc. Thank you so much

Mayo County Council for their generous sponsorship which "got us off the ground"

Aidan Kelly who manages to make DNA an understandable "layman's" topic

Harry Hughes for his brilliant presentation on Croagh Patrick

The musicians, Straw Boys, not forgetting Mary McGrath who entertained us so well

Laoise Kelly for her exquisite harp playing

Marcia Howard for her beautiful songs

All our lovely members and friends who brought so much joy to the whole proceedings

Last but not least - the Hotel, particularly Vincent Nugent who was always there when we needed him. A beautiful venue, lovely surroundings and great staff

PLEASE - If I've forgotten someone it's not intentional and you are thanked anyway!

MK

I am featuring the first of some DNA stories and this is the one sent in by Rick O'Kelly.

Using Y-DNA data to find my ancestors

Rick O'Kelly - rick@arkansasusa.net

I am not the first to research my family. Since 1910 five books have been published about my O'Kelley family. Because my ancestor arrived in America in 1748 as a protestant and with his Irish "O'Kelley" surname intact and with the story that he descended from the "Hy-Kings of Ireland" all researchers before me assumed that Teige O'Kelly who died at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014AD was our ancestor and that we were of the O'Kelly of Hy-Many. This is how I began my investigation in 2010.

As a retired homicide investigator I felt unqualified to conduct a genealogy investigation but I soon discovered that a "cold case" is a cold case and the same methods apply. Running into the "records roadblock" that so many run into, I turned to DNA and by the fall of 2010 Family Tree DNA presented me with some confusing results to work with.

While my ancestor's forename was disputed our surname "O Kelley" appeared in records as early as 1774. Pedigrees backed up by records existed for my family but that jump back to Ireland is where it all fell apart. DNA indicated that it was very unlikely I descend from Teige O'Kelly of Hy-Many so I had to learn how to use DNA to find my family. Joining the Kelley DNA Project and Raymond Kelly's interpretation of my results became critical because in Irish records there seemed to be a William and Thomas O'Kelley under every rock and in every county. I then used DNA combined with research to eliminate lines and my DNA matches brought me to Donagh Parish Co Monaghan as ground zero for my family at least 150 years before my ancestor left Ireland. Now I at least felt that I was back in the ball park.

Conducting a cold case investigation is about building profiles and using evidence. DNA brought me to Co Monaghan, my ancestor's Episcopal protestant faith in 1748 excluded all but the Irish Gentry. The Irish spelling of my family name and family tradition that we descend from a "Hy-King" pointed me toward the O'Kelley of Bregia who descend from Irish Monarch Aed Slaine. This allowed me to build a profile that aided me in locating records for a William O'Kelley a Gentleman and Merchant who died in Kells in 1748 and to the man I believed was his great grandfather an Irish Anglican named Thomas O'Kelley. The latter received land in the settlement of Monaghan in 1591, only 4 miles from many of DNA matches in that time.

My investigation was confirmed when I discovered that Ruth Barton Pullium posted in Genform in August of 2000 that her grandmother Selina O'Kelley b1848 had told her that we came from "County Meath where we were prominent". Meath and Monaghan share a border but while my family pedigree claimed that Selina O'Kelley was my 2 cousin 4x removed I had no proof. Then like a gift from heaven in February 2015 I received notice of a DNA match to Samuel Joseph O'Kelley whose great grandfather was the older brother of Selina O'Kelley. This proved my family pedigree.

DNA was critical to my cold case investigation. Without DNA I would have no ability to exclude the Hy-Many O'Kellys and connect my family to Thomas O'Kelley found in 1591 in Co Monaghan. Without my DNA match to Samuel Joseph O'Kelley I would not be able to prove that Selina O'Kelley and I were truly related thus her claim that we came from "Co Meath where we were prominent" would be just another family story. DNA was the thread that weaved all this into my Family Tree.

GATHERING 2015 – contributed by Larry Kelly

The Kelly Clan held its 11th bi-annual Gathering in Westport, County Mayo on the weekend of May 15 - 17th. The event took place at the Castlecourt Hotel with festivities also at the Westport Plaza Hotel across the courtyard. It was a grand weekend with approximately 90 participants!

After everyone was registered on Friday, an informal get-together was held at the Castlecourt enabling attendees to exchange personal information, family history, and just get to know one another. That was followed by a "preview" presentation by Aidan Kelly on the latest news about the Kelly DNA study. It gets more and more interesting! Aidan was followed by local historian Harry Hughes who gave an outstanding and well received talk covering all you would want to know about Crough Patrick, and that was more than attendees even thought they could possibly know! Very, very interesting and entertaining! All in all, the Friday presentations were a great start to the weekend. Dinner was held that night in the Plaza Hotel followed by some traditional Irish music in the bar.

Saturday began with a mass celebrated by Reverend Celsius Kelly and then a welcoming session at the Castlecourt led by Uachtaran Mary Kelly -- "Muintir Ui Chellaigh". Mary Pat Kelly, the author of "Galway Bay" which told the story of her Kelly ancestors in County Galway during the famine times, was our first speaker of the day. She introduced her new novel, "Of Irish Blood", which follows the very interesting life of her ancestor Nora Kelly at the turn of the 20th century, and Mary Pat regaled the attendees with personal stories of her own life history and life adventures. Our second speaker was Aidan Kelly, who came all the way from Australia to bring everyone up to date on the latest goings on in the world of DNA research, and specifically how it all relates to the DNA studies of members of the Kelly Clan. Over the past few years Aidan has become quite an expert and he shared that expertise with all in attendance. And he did it in a way that we could all easily follow. Absolutely a great job, Aidan!

Following Saturday's morning presentations we all assembled for a bus tour of the Westport area arranged by Dr. Des Kelly and narrated by Des and Sean Kelly (we needed two buses), who each brought their historic expertise to our travels. Amongst the highlights was a visit to historic Westport House, which it turns out has its own bit of Kelly history, well explained by our tour guide. We also stopped at Crough Patrick for another highlight where we all got out to see John' Behan's sculpture, "Famine Ship", which is Ireland's National Famine Memorial put in place in 1997. The large scale piece vividly captures the loss of life and suffering in Ireland. Three masts rise above the ship like the crosses on Calvary and the semi-abstract rigging that connects the mass consists of flattened skeletal bodies creating a very emotional and powerful work of art. It was something to see! We then did some touring of the countryside, out to Mulranny for lunch, visited **Gráinne Mhaol**'s castle tower and a historic Abbey and Church before returning back to the hotel to get ready for the evening's events. We all need a short rest after a busy day!

The Gala Dinner on Saturday night was held in the Plaza Hotel preceded by an onsite book launch of Mary Pat Kelly's new book. Count Robert O'Kelly, the son of Count Walter O'Kelly, the official leader of the Kelly Clan, was the Gala's guest speaker and he provided some more Kelly history to the crowd. It was an honour and a great treat to have Count Robert in attendance. Following dinner we were then treated to some outstanding entertainment. Laoise Kelly, acclaimed Irish harper (and daughter of Dr. Des) played some lovely tunes with a Kelly association, and then joined with her friend, Marciana [Marcia] Howard, a singer, composer and musician from Australia, to do a couple of duets ending with a wonderful treatment of "Forever Young". Des had then arranged for some traditional Irish musicians from Westport to play and after a few songs who should arrive on the scene but the Westport "Straw Boys" who added some dance, singing, a bit of audience participation, and some more fun to the evening. And amidst it all, there was even an ad-lib poem recital by Mary Corcoran, whose family own the Westport Hotel Group. Mary told a tale of a shy Irish lad who met a not-so shy Irish lass and the best lines of the poem were told in Irish leaving those non-speakers in the crowd guessing, but with a pretty good notion of what was said. A very fun evening and a fitful end to a great day.

Following mass on Sunday morning at St. Mary's Church in Westport, which was con-celebrated by Rev. Celsius, the General Assembly meeting concluded the weekend. A brief coverage of the previous meeting minutes, the financial report, a discussion of where the Clan is to go in the future, and then "Slan Abhaile" to all attendees, "Safe Journey" home.

Special thanks to Des Kelly and his local committee for arranging such a grand weekend and to the Kelly Clan Council and anyone else who helped to make the weekend happen. For those reading this report, don't miss the next Gathering in May 2017.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Alfie Kelly on making his First Communion in May



Siobhán Moylan [Bernie and Michael's daughter] on attaining her half century!

Rachel Allen visits Michael and Bernie Kelly at Kilcolgan

Contributed by Bernie Kelly

We were delighted to welcome Rachel Allen and her crew who were filming her new Coastal Cookery TV programme,

We had a great day harvesting first and then cooking the oysters on the pier. She first went over to Killeenaran Pier and down to the sea shore to see and learn all about the different types of oysters and harvested some for her cooking.

Her work top was the wall of the pier which was built by Alexander Nimmo circa 1822-1825 and when she was ready to cook the flame of her gas cooker had been blown out by the wind. Diarmuid and Micheál decided to build a wall of rocks around it but the breeze still managed to get in so they then came up with idea of putting seaweed wrap around it which worked well and cooking could commence.

The dish of the day was spaghetti and oysters in a delicious sauce which combined butter, lemon juice, gin, wild garlic and cress and of course oysters.

By this time everybody was starving so they all came back to our house for tea and sandwiches and lovely tea brack made from Rachel's own recipe by Theresa, my daughter in law. We are looking forward to seeing the TV series when it is shown in the autumn

Pictured are Diarmuid, Rachel and Micheál with Rachel harvesting the oysters



CURRENT MEMBERS

Brian O Ceallaigh	Dublin
Dolores O Kelly	Lifford, Co Donegal
Des Kelly	Westport, Co Mayo
Joe Kelly	Oranmore, Co Galway
Michael and Bernie Kelly	Kilcolgan, Co Galway
Rt Rev Celsus Kelly OCSO	Portglenone, Co Antrim
Judy Kelly-Fausch	Iowa, USA
Mary Helen Woods	Illinois, USA
Diana Kavanagh-Potter	Massachusetts, USA
Stan and Brenda Kelly	Co Dublin
Tim and Mary Kelly	Cree, Co Clare
Mike Kelly	New South Wales, Australia
John Kelly	Cappawhite, Co Tipperary
Joe Kelly	Northampton, UK
Anthony and Nora Kelly	Belfast
Mike and Trudy Kelly	Chicago, USA and Westport, Co Mayo
James Kelly	Galway City
Sophia Kelly-Byrne	Dublin
Mary Kelly and Tom Mernagh	Miltown Malbay, Co Clare
Larry and Carol Kelly	Connecticut, USA and Kilcolgan, Co Galway
Raymond Alan Kelly	Florida, USA
Alex C Kelly	Tennessee, USA
Joe and Clare Kelly	Ashford, Co Wicklow
Kathleen Harrison	Queensland, Australia
Paul E Kelly	Colorado, USA
Margaret Kelly	Ennis, Co Clare
Fr Juan Pablo Torrebiarte	Guatemala, Central America
Kitty Pearmain	Milton Keynes, UK
Meta Kelly	Cappawhite, Co Tipperary
Mary B McGrath	Tulla, Co Clare
Catherine Lockett	Wraysbury, Middlesex, UK
Bridie Morrissey	Kilcolgan, Co Galway
Mary C Conneely	Monaghan
Aidan Kelly	Freemantle, Western Australia
Colm O'Kelly	Dublin
Gerald Kelley	Hernando, Florida, USA
Sandra Thackett	Indiana, USA
John Kelly	Westport, Co Mayo
Mary Theresa Ash	Kilcolgan, Co Galway
Catherine M Rubright	Texas, USA
Michael Kelly	Dublin
Aidan Kelly	Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, UK
Susan Kelly-McCollum	Chesterfield, Derbyshire, UK
John Francis McGrath	Tulla, Co Clare
J Andrew Watts	Victoria, Australia
Paul Kelly	Dublin
Maureen Kelly-Mescall	Kilmihil, Co Clare
Geraldine Kearns	Kilmeena, Co May



Count Robert with his wife the Countess Tina and their daughter Amy Louise at Amy's Graduation

The May/June edition (29th 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/1FbYal1>

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Kelly Clan Association
Muintir Uí Cheallaigh





And to finish, a few final words from Rick O'Kelley on the Kelly Crest

I have some additional details about the O'Kelly coat of Arms that might be of interest. Dr John O'Donovan on page 129 in his book "Tribes and Customs" gives a description for the arms used by the Tycooly House in Co Galway Ireland and he describes their arms as using a "gules" field or a red shield and unchained lions so there were different variations as recent as the 19th century. You may know that I possess and display on my website an original bookplate that bears the Arms for Castle Kelly and the lines on the shield in the engraving represent colours. This bookplate displays unchained lions and at the base of the tower it rests upon on a purple field but the rest of the shield, the background for the lions and tower is "Vert" or green which is the colour of the shield reported to have been in use by the Mac Giolla Cheallaigh which except for the crest is identical to the commonly accepted Hy-Many shield. The Enfield for the Castle Kelly arms doesn't appear have a colour but it does have a spotted chest.

I also have a bookplate for D H Kelly and his shield is blue and it has a green Enfield that is statant or with all fours on the ground which is the arms that is widely distributed as the official arms of the Hy-Many O'Kellys. I have never seen a coloured version of the O'Kelly arms where the shield is red or green and purple but both O'Donovan and my Castle Kelly bookplate indicates that such arms were in use and could be valid for some Hy-Many lines. I can document four different coat of Arms for the Hy-Many O'Kellys. Bookplate for Castle Kelly <http://okelley.net/BookPlates/CastleKelly.jpg>
Bookplate for D H Kelly <http://okelley.net/BookPlates/DHKelly.jpg>
Arms used by Macon and your website <http://okelley.net/images/CoatofArms/CharlesOKelly.jpg>

I have two additional bookplates, one for Fritz Roy Kelly and the other for Authur Keily. Both use a tower with unchained lions, Keily uses an Enfield while Fritz uses a Great Dane as his crest but he uses a blue shield and the motto of the Hy-Many O'Kellys while Keily uses a different motto and his shield is Argent which is either white or silver.

Fritz Bookplate <http://okelley.net/BookPlates/FitzRoyKelly.jpg>

Keily Bookplate <http://okelley.net/BookPlates/AuthurKelly.jpg>

The Enfield isn't unique to the O'Kellys. It is one of many heraldry symbols used and it was used to indicate the death of a great chief thus the reason it appears on the arms of the descendants of Teige O'Kelly d 1014. I suppose in time someone found a need to explain why it was on the O'Kelly crest and they didn't know so they made up the story about the beast coming from the sea to protect Teige's body much like George Washington chopping down a cherry tree. O'Donovan reports that the Enfield appears on some O'Kelly tombs so it might be that those O'Kellys were also chiefs of their sept and the Enfield appears on their tombs to indicate they were killed in battle, likely fighting in one of the many wars with the English and in time the true reason the Enfield appears on their tombs was lost. I think it is likely that in the time the Enfield was carved on the tombs of these O'Kellys that the meaning for the Enfield was known and it had nothing to do with an O'Kelly being buried there.

It would seem the Coat of Arms used by the Hy-Many O'Kellys wasn't as common as some may have thought. Feel free to share or use anything in this email as you desire including the images of the bookplates I have provided. I have the four originals and I know the person who possess the painting done by Fred O'Kelley of the arms you use on your website and Macon used in her book. Fred died in 1967 so that arms was certainly created by someone before that year. Who created it and if it was created in Ireland or Georgia is still a mystery.

Link to Fred O'Kelley <http://okelley.net/b4145.htm>