

THE KELLY CLAN ASSOCIATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER No. 55



GATHERING MOMENTUM!

Time flies !! The month of May will soon be upon us and the Kelly Clan Gathering will be taking place at Dundrum House Hotel, Co Tipperary on 17-19 May.

There are still some places available and it is worth noting that it is 21 years since the first Kelly Clan Gathering took place at this very same venue. Although that gathering wasn't organised by the present Kelly Clan Association, some of our members attended and it gave them the germ of an idea to form the present Council. Of course, over the last 21 years technology has advanced in leaps and bounds and we are fortunate to be able to take advantage of this – in the form of our DNA programme, speedy methods of communication and our very up to date website www.kellyclanireland.com where you can find all manner of interesting pieces of information.

Some of our present guests were at that gathering all those years ago and it will be interesting to hear their stories of how they enjoyed the event at that time. You will find details of the forthcoming Gathering inside this newsletter, including booking form and programme, but if you require any more information please contact us on clankellyinfo@gmail.com. Indeed you may even have some suggestions to add to the festivities and these will be welcomed.

See you all there



Letter from your Editor



Dear All

I have now edited three Newsletters and I hope you have been enjoying the new format. As I write this I am looking out at cold, wet and windy February skies, but hopefully as you read this you will be looking forward to fresh Spring days with all their associated greenery.

My aim for future Newsletters is to combine both cultural and historical information with lighter, photographic articles hopefully submitted by you the reader! This way I hope we will have what you call an "eclectic mix"! Also we will be having a "Trivia Corner" which as the name suggests is little snippets of "factoids" and funny little anecdotes.

Of course we will be keeping up to date with all the latest news on happenings within the Kelly Clan Association, the next one being our Gathering. This is taking place at Dundrum House Hotel, near Cashel, Co Tipperary on 17-19 May. It promises to be a bumper event, especially as it is 21 years since the first Kelly Clan Gathering was held at Dundrum House Hotel. We are adding names to the list daily and it will be a pleasure to meet and welcome new members. It's going to be an interesting and fun weekend!

The registration for the Gathering will commence at 2pm on Friday 17 May and the programme will kick off in the afternoon with Aidan Kelly holding an informal DNA forum/workshop in the afternoon for anyone who wants to join in.

Included on the main programme of events is Aidan Kelly giving us his update on the Kelly Clan DNA programme, on which, to date, there are nearly 300 names. We also have Michael Martin Kelly giving a talk on how his forebears left Ireland to settle in Australia. Michael will tell us how they settled in the area of Victoria and made it their home, bringing up the family where they live to this present day. The guided coach tour will take you to the area of Moyglass where you will visit sites connected with John "Red" Kelly and hear all about his crimes and antics! The evening will finish with our Gala Dinner where you will have a chance to relax and chat about the day. Entertainment will be provided for the evening in the form of traditional musicians and Irish dancing from a local group.

Dundrum House Hotel is set in beautiful grounds in the heart of the Tipperary countryside. Even though we have a full programme in store for you, there will still be opportunities to explore the surrounding areas independently.

You will find details of the full programme on the back page of the newsletter together with a booking form. We look forward to seeing you there and enjoying all the Kelly Clan has to offer!

Mary K

21 Years on.....

The first International Meeting of the Kelly Clan took place in September 1992 in Tipperary. John Kelly of Cappaghwhite was one of the organisers.

There were Kellys from the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Hawaii and many corners of the globe present. The gathering began with a Concelebrated Mass in the chapel of Dunderum Castle. The celebrants were Fr. Richard Kelly of Tipperary, Fr. John Kelly, parish priest of St. George's, Granada, West Indies and three other Kelly priests. The Mass was followed by a banquet and afterwards Radio Telefis Eireann held interviews. They interviewed Susan Kelly from Canada. Susan parents, Reggie and Joan (Graham) Kelly lived in the original homestead of William Kelly (1802-1870) Her great-great-great-grandfather lived in "the Township of Osgoode, County of Rupell, and the district of Dalhousie, Province of Canada."

Among those attending was Lorne Kelly, a Canadian who was the great-great-grandson of the said William Kelly. Lorne was on his fourth visit to Ireland in search of his roots, with a determination to find the plot of land where William was born and spent his early years before he transferred to Canada. Armed with little information he had failed to solve the mystery on his three previous visits, but like King Robert de Bruce of Scotland this only spurred him on to greater efforts. This time due to tenacity and a certain amount of good luck he solved the problem and to his great excitement he discovered the ruins of the old homestead in Powerstown, a town land near Graigenamanagh, in the south of Co. Kilkenny. In his short book *The William Kelly Story, 1802-1870*, a book that was written from the heart, Lorne relates the failures and the final success in his quest to discover his roots

Dr. Joe M Kelly.
Historian to the Kelly Clan Association.

More on "Our Ned"

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.



Among the many escapades that they were involved in, was the capture of a town. They entered the town of Eurora, Victoria and made all whom they thought would oppose them, prisoner. They robbed the bank taking £3,000. Two months later they repeated the performance in Jerilderie, N.S.W. There they overawed the three hundred residents, robbed the bank of £700, and held the town for two days. The fact that their murders were mainly policemen, and that their robberies were mainly banks and government property, made them heroes with some of the people, particularly the down trodden poor Irish. With the assistance of sympathizers, who sustained them and fed them information, they were able to keep the law at bay. His main following was called the "Greta Mob".

In June 1880, the Kelly Gang's luck ran out. Shacked up in a wooden shanty, near Beechworth, they were surrounded by a great number of heavily armed police. The gang put up a spirited resistance which was afterwards called "Ned Kelly's Last Stand". The wooden walls of the shanty gave poor protection, to the defenders. Soon all the occupants were dead except for Ned who had left the shanty to relieve himself. He chose to remain and help his companions, an act that may have contributed to his later semi-hero status. He came out clad in homemade armour, firing at the police. He was severely wounded. After a period in hospital, he was tried by Judge Redmond Barry and hanged in Melbourne in 1880. Ned is alleged to have said to Barry who was born in Ireland that they would soon meet a higher Judge. Barry died one month after Kelly was hanged. Ned's mother said to her son on the day before his execution "I want you to die like a Kelly". The last words Ned uttered with the noose around his neck, before the hangman pulled the lever for the drop was, "such is life."

[Martin O'Dwyer in his Biographical Dictionary of Tipperary (1999), that "Red" Kelly was an agrarian agitator and was deported for stealing two pigs and was transported for seven years !] [One hundred and thirty years after Kelly's death he is considered a folk hero in Australia. At least two films have been made about The Kelly Gang. Mick Jagger played the role of Ned in one of them. Numerous books and countless articles have been written about the Kellys. Sydney Nolan the great Australian artist of Irish descent had a large exhibition of paintings of the Kellys which gained world wide fame. Ned's fame is extra-ordinary when one considers he was only 25 years of age when he was hanged.]

[On April 24, 2001, a horse called Ned Kelly won The Fair Champion Novice Hurdle, at Fairyhouse. Ned Kellys won by six lengths, resulting in the bookmakers making Ned Kelly a 14-1 shot for the 2002 Smurfit Champion Hurdle. Ned Kelly was trained by Edward O'Grady and was ridden by Norman Williamson. He is owned by John Magnier. The Bushranger who loved horses would have been very proud of his namesake. A suitable caption might read - **Ned Kelly rides again!**]

Article provided by Dr. Joe M Kelly.

Historian to the Kelly Clan Association - Nov 2012





Trivia Corner

Here are some facts about the 1500's

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June.. However, as a precaution brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide any lingering body odour! Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water.

The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water,

Then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies.

By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it.

Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath.

It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof.

When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof.

Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house.

This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection.

That's how canopy beds came into existence.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire.

Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while.

Hence the rhyme:

"Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special.

When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter.

Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status.

Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey.

The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up.

Hence the custom "holding a wake".



Factoids

Did you know that a lot of words in the English language come from the Irish – for instance

Céart go leor

Bargains galore!

Where did the phrase OK come from?

While on a golfing trip to Cork the editor's husband, Tom Mernagh was informed by one of his playing partners that the saying "OK" originated from the Ford car factory in Cork. Apparently there was a quality controller called O'Kelly and after inspecting a car, if he was satisfied, the floor of the car was stamped "OK". Of course this could be up for debate! OK?

DNA co-inventor born in Northampton

Our Editor, Mary Kelly, was born in Northampton and it is also the adopted home town of our Deputy Tánaiste, Joe A Kelly.

Francis Harry Compton Crick, (8 June 1916 – 28 July 2004) was an English molecular biologist, biophysicist, and neuroscientist, and most noted for being a co-discoverer of the structure of the DNA molecule in 1953 together with James D. Watson for which they received a Nobel Prize.

He was born and raised in Weston Favell, then a small village near the English town of Northampton in which Crick's father and uncle ran the family's boot and shoe factory. He was educated at Northampton Grammar School and, after the age of 14, Mill Hill School in London (on a scholarship)

Source: Wikipedia

Pioneers!

On Feb 13th 1850: Archbishop of Sydney Michael Kelly, fourth Roman Catholic archbishop of Sydney is born in Waterford. Kelly was a leading figure in the foundation in 1901 of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart, the primary temperance organisation in Ireland.

Source: Ireland Reaching Out

OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we have to report the death of our oldest Kelly Clan member - Andrew Edward Kelly aka Joe. Joe reached his 100 birthday in October last year and you will have read in the last newsletter, he led an interesting and full life. Our condolences go out to his family, extended family and his many friends.

Resignation

We have to report that two of our Council members have recently resigned, namely Timmy Kelly and his daughter, Margaret. Timmy has been on the Council since its inception and has over the years made a great contribution towards the running of the Kelly Clan. Although Margaret was a relatively new Council member she could always be relied upon to help make decisions and suggest ways of implementing them. We will miss them both and wish them well.

Welcome to New Members

Leonie and Michael Martin Kelly of Victoria, Australia
Doreen Alsen of New York
Maureen Murphy of Queensland
Ethel and Padraic Kelly and family of Co Roscommon
José Torrebiarte of Guatemala

We extend to them a hearty Fáilte Ui Ceallaígh and look forward to seeing them all at the Gathering in Dundrum in May.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

We have introduced a new Life Member subscription fee and the costs are €250 for a single membership and €300 for a family. We anticipate a big take up on this but there is no membership limit

Famous Kellys

In the last newsletter, we asked you to think of names of famous Kellys. Here are a few of those you've come up with. Do keep sending them.

<i>Matthew Kelly</i>	<i>Actor</i>
<i>Henry Kelly</i>	<i>Presenter of classical music</i>
<i>Barbara Kelly</i>	<i>Wife of Bernard Braden</i>
<i>Admiral Kelly</i>	<i>Royal Navy</i>
<i>Lorraine Kelly</i>	<i>Television Presenter</i>

Congratulations!

Michael Kelly, a grandson of Michael and Bernie, who is studying at Limerick Institute of Technology has in his first year of playing golf, become the golfer of the year in his local golfing society which has 85 members. Michael also won a minor all Ireland hurling medal in 2011. Well done Michael!



The O'Kelly Orchid painted by Bernie Kelly

All the way from Australia

Michael and Bernie Kelly's grand-daughter Sineád is living and working in Australia at the moment and had arranged to meet a friend in a convenient location to pick up some belongings that had been left in Ireland. They arranged to meet in a local park which they both knew. On arriving at the park Sineád noticed that the name of the park was the Martin Sheils Park. She knew from speaking to her grandfather that he had a relation by the same name, so did a little research and this is what she came up with courtesy of the Gold Coast City Council Library Service.

Martin was born in Coomera in 1895, the son of John Sheils, an Irish immigrant and Margaret (nee Smith) a daughter of a Coomera pioneer. They took up a selection of land at Upper Tallebudgera and moved there in 1905. They established a dairy, grew bananas and had 5 daughters, 3 sons and also looked after a cousin.

Martin established a track from Upper Tallebudgera to Springbrook so cans of cream from Percy Reid could come down with Martin's Uncle-in-law, Bill Smith (a carrier) from the mountain rather than the long way through to Mudgeeraba. In 1922 Martin bought the carrying business from Bill Smith and with a wagon and four horses continued to carry cream and citrus. Such was the demand that he adapted a 'double decker' wagon with five horses. He also began to carry mail, passengers and grocery orders for the district.

In the early 1930s he purchased a small truck to continue the carrying, particularly of bananas as Tallebudgera had become at this time one of the largest banana growing areas in the region. With the road improvements he later purchased a bus which he ran daily to Burleigh Heads and also on Saturday nights for the dances.

He worked for Main Roads until he suffered severe burns from an exploding barrel of bitumen. He then worked for Kemps Engineering until retirement at 76. Martin had lost both of his legs due to illness and died at almost 93 years of age in 1988. Their surviving children (at the time of the manuscript being written) are: Pauline, Darcey, Leona and Michael. Martin's sisters were, Win, Liz, Rose, Alice, Ethel, Tom and Jack. The park honouring Martin at West Burleigh was chosen as this was a location where he used to water his horses.

Michael Kelly's mother was Delia Sheils and she was a first cousin of Martin Sheils, so what relation was Sineád to Martin?



Kelly Clan Gathering 17-19 May 2013 at Dundrum House Hotel, Co Tipperary

Provisional Programme (with times to be confirmed)

Friday 17th May

2 pm onwards Registration and payment of subscriptions.
Between 4pm-6pm DNA forum with Aidan Kelly. Opportunity for informal Q & A session
8.30pm Talk on Ned Kelly – Tony Cunningham [tbc]
Followed by Irish-Australian Family account – Michael Martin Kelly

Saturday 18th May

8 am. Mass celebrated by Rt Rev. Celsus Kelly.
9.30 am. "Failte Ui Cheallaigh" by Uachtaran Muintir Ui Cheallaigh.
9.45 am -11.00am Presentation by Aidan Kelly on DNA
Tea/Coffee break.
12 noon Scenic Bus Tour around the Moyglass area - Ned Kelly country with stop off
for lunch during the journey.
8 pm Gala Dinner with local traditional entertainment

Sunday 19th 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 2013. If anyone wishes to attend individual events please contact Bernie Kelly for rates. The cost of the hotel is €129 per person for 2 nights b & b (sharing) which includes dinner on the Friday night and should be booked through the hotel (telephone Dolores on +353 (0) 62 71116) or by e mail quoting reference "Kelly Clan", reservations@dundrumhousehotel.ie

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

2013 KELLY CLAN GATHERING BOOKING FORM

Please reserve places at the Kelly Clan Gathering for the weekend of 17-19 May 2013 at € p/p

Name

Address

Phone Numbers

Post to: Bernie Kelly, "Aisling", Tyrone, Kilcolgan, Co Galway
Or alternatively visit: www.kellyclanireland.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