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THE KEANE FAMILY IN IRELAND

Michael Keane and Mary Guthrie

On 21 November 1939 Lilian Madge Keane married (Joseph) Leo Hamilton at St Colman's Church Balaclava in Melbourne. Leo was the grandson of John Hamilton and Sarah Rainey and youngest son of Samuel Hamilton and Teresa O'Hare. Lil was the daughter of Martin Keane, granddaughter of Andrew Keane and great granddaughter of Michael Keane and Mary Guthrie.

The Keanes lived in the Parish of Ruan, County Clare in Ireland where in 1843 Michael Keane and his wife Mary (nee Guthrie) occupied a farm in the Townland of Ballyogan More.¹ Also in this Townland was a Mrs. Guthrie, a Widow² who we believe was Mary's mother.

Michael's land totaled some 25 acres which for rating purposes was described as 2 acres Arable, rated at 25/- per acre, 8 acres rated at 15/- per acre described as Infertile, 10 acres of Pasture rated at 5/- per acre and 5 acres of Moor rated at sixpence per acre. Therefore Michael had only a small parcel on which to grow crops or potatoes to sustain his family.

We have little if any information about Michael Keane. We are not aware of his birth year or even his death details. Michael and Mary married about 1829 when Mary was 19 years of age.³ She was the daughter of Daniel and Mary Guthrie, whose maiden name was Mary Consadine.⁴

Michael and Mary Keane had nine children:

Martin born c1835 Ballyogan More Co. Clare. Died 22 June 1875. Never married. Buried St Kilda Cemetery.

Mary born c1836 Ballyogan More, Co. Clare. Married **James Gleeson**, 14 April 1858 at St Francis Church, Melbourne. Died 30 December 1905, Prahran, Vic. Buried St Kilda Cemetery.

Andrew born 6 January 1840 Ballyogan More, Co. Clare. Married **Bridget Kelly** 22 June 1865 at St Francis Church Melbourne. Died 18 September 1903, Brighton, Vic. Buried St Kilda Cemetery.

Michael born c1844 Ballyogan More Co. Clare. Married Bridget Crotty (nee Hanrahan) 7 August 1879 at St Finbar's Church, East Brighton. Died 16 November 1917 at East Brighton. Buried St Kilda Cemetery.

¹ Tithe Applotment Books, National Library, Dublin

² http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/tithe_applot/ruan_tab.htm

³ Death Certificate Mary Keane 17 March 1879. Informant was her daughter Mary Gleeson

⁴ Death Certificate Mary Keane 17 March 1879. Informant was her daughter Mary Gleeson.

Daniel born 1849, baptized 13 May 1849, Parish of Ruan-Dysart, Co. Clare. Married Elizabeth Hegarty 2 June 1879, St Francis Church Melbourne. Died 23 December 1935 Hawthorn Vic. Buried St Kilda Cemetery

There were also four other children but we do not know their ages, year of birth or indeed anything further about them. All the children are named on their mother's death certificate with the comment "ages unknown". The other children's names were **Bridget, Patrick, John and Hanora**.

1879 March 1879 Isabel Street Town of Prashan County of Prashan	Mary Keane	78 year	Convulsions coma Femur broken to bits that last 8 years J. H. L. L. L. L. 1879 March 1879	Daniel Guthrie Farmer Mary Guthrie Formerly Consoadine	20.55
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Mary Keane's Death Record Left Side

Mary Gleeson Daughter Isabel St Prashan	Isabelle White 1879 March 1879 Prashan	1879 March 1879 Melbourne George John Daley	10 years 19 Victoria William Pech	C. Clare Ireland C. Clare Ireland 19 Michael Keane	Bridget Mary Andrew Michael Daniel ages unknown Patrick John Hanora
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Mary Keane Death Record Right Side

With Michael and Mary being married about 1829 there was ample time to have other children before the birth of Martin in 1835, the first child for whom we have a birth date. There is also a gap of four years between Mary and Andrew and also a gap of five years between Michael and Daniel.

During each of these three periods up to two or three children could have been born and that would not have been unusual and in fact it could have been expected. As well, the circumstances in Ireland were such that many children were lost at an early age. The cold, wet and miserable climate and generally primitive living conditions meant that it was easy for

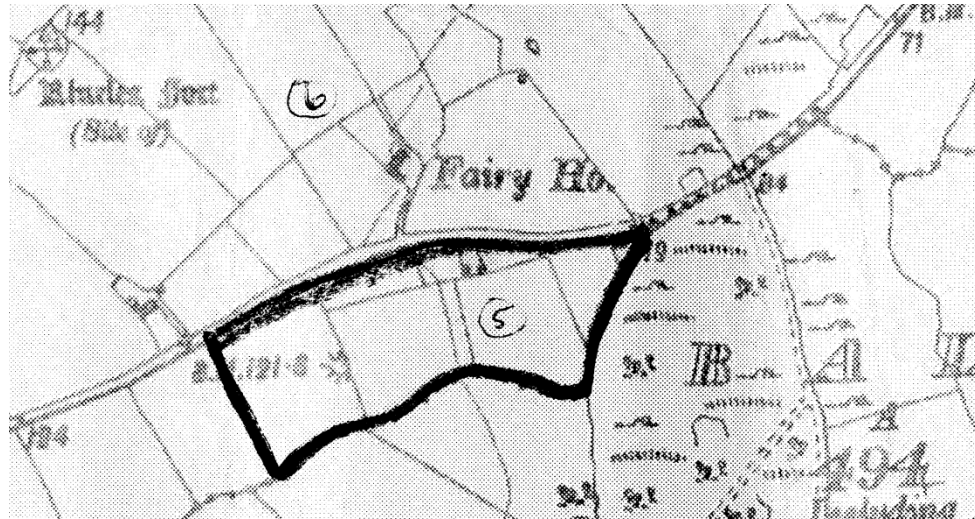
children to contract pneumonia and other similar illnesses and die young. For the last period from 1845 to 1849 the Potato Famine was at its peak and loss of life was very prevalent. The location of the Keane land was in the Burren Country, a part of Ireland badly impacted by the Famine. However, we do know that through this period there were no children of Michael and Mary identified in the Parish Registers as being baptized⁵. The Parish Registers for Ruan-Dysart commenced in 1845. As well, no other children of Michael and Mary were identified as being baptized in any of the Co. Clare Parish Registers where record keeping commenced prior to that date.

In the 1855 Griffith Valuations there is no entry for Michael Keane in the Parish of Ruan. However, Mary Keane was renting land in the Townland of Rinelea, Parish of Ruan. Rinelea adjoins the Townland of Ballyogan More.. These entries indicate that Michael Keane had died sometime between the birth of Daniel in mid 1849 and 1855.

RINELEA (Ord. S. 18.)							
1			Water (Muckanagh Lgh.)	77 2 12	—	—	—
2		John Foster, . . . Marquis of Thomond,	Land,	2 2 30	0 2 0	—	0 2 0
3	a	James Whelan, . . .	House, office, & land,	45 0 27	3 10 0	0 15 0	4 5 0
	b	Catherine Murphy, . . .	Land,		3 10 0	—	3 10 0
	c	Connor O'Dea, . . .	House, office, & land,		3 10 0	0 15 0	4 5 0
	d	Patrick O'Dea, . . .	House, office, & land,		3 10 0	0 15 0	4 5 0
	e	John O'Donnell, . . .	House,		—	0 0 0	0 0 0
4	a	Bartholomew Murphy, . . .	House, office, and land,	3 0 20	1 7 0	0 15 0	2 2 0
5	a	Mary Keane, . . .	Land,	3 1 15	1 0 0	—	1 0 0
	a	Unoccupied, . . .	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
6	a	John Foster, . . .	Marquis of Thomond,	34 1 17	0 12 0	0 8 0	10 0 0
	b	Mary Keane, . . .	House,		—	0 8 0	0 8 0
	c	Mary Burns, . . .	House,		—	0 5 0	0 5 0
7	a	John Foster, . . .	Marquis of Thomond,	107 0 2	34 10 0	—	34 10 0
	a	Catherine Murphy, . . .	House,		—	0 8 0	0 8 0
	b	Mary Hootighan, . . .	Same, . . .		0 3 0	0 5 0	0 8 0
	c	Unoccupied, . . .	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
	d	Unoccupied, . . .	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
8	a	John Whelan, . . .	Same, . . .	2 0 30	1 3 0	0 15 0	4 0 0
9			House, office, & land,	4 0 12	2 2 0	—	
Total, . . .				279 3 5	63 10 0	6 10 0	70 9 0
RINNEEN.							

1855 Griffith Valuation Townland of Rinelea

⁵ Search of Indexed Registers Clare Genealogy Centre. Corrofin, Co. Clare.



Keane Land at Rinelea adjoining Terence Guthrie's land in Ballyogan More

The location of Mary's land in 1855 is shown above marked 5. It had an area of 3 acres 1 Rood and 15 Perches and was on the boundary of the Townlands of Rinelea and Ballyogan More. The land on the Ballyogan side was occupied by Terence Guthrie. It is possible that there had been a small change in the boundary between the Tithe Applotment Books of 1843 and Griffith Valuation of 1855 moving the Keane land from Ballyogan More to Rinelea. However the land is substantially less in area than was recorded in the name of Michael in 1843 (25 acres) and it could well be a different parcel.

Mary's land is shown as having a house but the house was shown as unoccupied. The location of this house was on the far right hand corner near the road. It was shown with a valuation of 5/-

As well Mary, shown at 6b across the road, shared a property with Mary Burns. The Griffith map shows there were two houses at this location and this is supported by two separate house valuations of 8/- and 5/- shown in the Griffith's table above. We believe Mary lived in one of these houses.

All of the land for the Townland of Rinelea containing 272 acres was owned by the Marquis of Thomond and John Foster was subleasing to Mary Keane. The adjoining land of Terence Guthrie in Ballyogan More was a little over 276 acres was also leased from the Marquis of Thomond who owned all of the Townland's 527 acres.

The marquisate of Thomond covered some nine parishes in Co. Clare in the Unions of Corrofin, Ennis, Ennistimon and Ballyvaghan. The Parishes were Carran, Clooney, Dysart, Inagh, Kilkeedy, Killinaboy, Kilnamona, Rath and Ruan.

Murrough O'Brien was the 1st Marquis of Thomond. He had been a member of the Grenadier Guards and fought for the British in Europe. He retired in 1756 and became a member for Clare in the Irish House of Commons. Because of his support for the Act of Union of Great Britain and Ireland, on 29 December 1800, he was created Marquis of Thomond in the Peerage of Ireland.

He had a close relationship with King George III. In 1783 he was one of the Founding Knights of the Order of St Patrick. He died after a fall from his horse in Grosvenor Square, London on 10 February 1808. The title of Marquis of Thomond passed to his nephew William O'Brien, 2nd Marquis of Thomond.

On William's death in 1846 the title passed to his brother James McEdward O'Brien 3rd Marquis of Thomond. James had joined the British Navy in 1783 and by 1847 was a full Admiral. He died at his residence, near Bath, England, on 3 July 1855, and was buried in the catacombs of St. Saviour's Church, Walcot, Bath. Although he married twice, O'Brien left no issue, and the marquisate of Thomond became extinct.⁶

Mary's four eldest children migrated to Australia together. The eldest, Martin, would have been about 22 and the youngest, Michael, 13. We have not located any shipping or migration records and the various records of marriages and deaths are not helpful in identifying the year with any precision and in fact the estimates vary widely. The best estimate relates to Mary's marriage in Melbourne on 14 April 1858. Allowing for a reasonable engagement period of say six months the indications are that they would have arrived in about mid 1857 although it may have been a year or so earlier.

In September 2012 Elizabeth and I visited Co. Clare and met Dan Guthrie and his family. Dan is a descendant of Dan and Mary Guthrie. He showed us the Keane land and also the ruins located there. These ruins were not shown as buildings on the 1855 Griffith Valuation map. This is consistent with the showing of Mary with a house across the road. After her children left for Australia, Mary continued to live in Ireland for another 10 or 11 years with her son Daniel and possibly other older children. These may have been born between Michael and Daniel. It seems likely that Mary either built the house (ruins) after her four children had left or alternatively it was built by others after she had left Ireland.



Ruins on Keane Land

⁶ Wikipedia.com



Keane Land

Mary followed her children to Australia in 1868. She was 58 and she brought her son Daniel then 16 years old. They came to Victoria on the ship "*Conflict*" arriving in November 1868. This leads us to believe that there were no more of her children alive in Ireland. After she left Rinelea Mary's land was taken over by a Mary Flynn and the land was merged with other property bringing the total to 7 acres 3 Roods 15 Perches.



**Peter & Elizabeth with Dan Guthrie, his daughter Naimh & her three children
& Dan's youngest daughter Quever 2012**