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THE KIDDS OF IRELAND Part II The Dublin and Southern Ireland Kidds

CHAPTER 2

The Ballyrankin, Kilrush and Raheen Branch and Slyguff offshoot

The Ballyrankin, Kilrush and Raheen Branch, stemming from George Kidd of Raheen (1728-1812).

(a) Fourth and fifth generations.

You will recall Joseph Kidd of Raheen who entered into an agreement, on the marriage of Elizabeth Kidd, sixth daughter of George Kidd of Raheen (1728-1812), with William Plummer, her husband, to look after her if she became a widow. This marriage took place in 1809 (Ferns Ossory and Leighlin Marriage Licence bonds). It seems likely that this Joseph Kidd of Raheen was George's eldest son. We have the following records of him. Tombstone in Kilrush Churchyard "In memory of Joseph Kidd late of Raheen in this parish died 28 Nov. 1848 aged 81". Will proved 1848. He was born therefore 1767. The tithe records of 1825 show him as holding 9 acres in Raheen and 31 acres in Ballyrankin in the parish of Kilrush. *He could have been the Joseph Kidd who married a Deborah Hoskins in 1794 (Ferns Ossory and Leighlin Marriage Licence bonds). But equally Deborah's husband Joseph could have been the other Joseph of Cranemore, son we think, of George Kidd of Raheen by the first wife Judith Dockrell.

Another stone in Kilrush graveyard reads "In memory of Eleanor Kidd relict of the late John Kidd of Knocknagee died 2 Feb. 1863 aged 90": Also her sister Margaret Kidd of Raheen departed Sept. 17, 1869 aged 82". Eleanor then was born 1773, and her sister 1787 (14 years later).

The Kidd whom Eleanor married, as we shall see later, was of the Corbally branch, and Knocknagee is 5 miles N.E. of Carlow, and about 20 miles N.W. of Raheen, as the crow flies. His name was John, and the marriage is recorded in the Ferns Ossory and Leighlin Marriage Licence bonds 1819. Eleanor was therefore 46 when she married, so it is unlikely there were children.

George Kidd of Raheen had I believe at least one other son besides Joseph, a George Kidd. This George Kidd was born 1778, died 1813 aged only 35 (Carnew Register). His birth therefore fell between that of Eleanor 1773 and Margaret 1787. In the Carnew Register of his burial he is described as of Ballyellis. Ballyellis House is about a mile east of Carnew, and 3 miles[#] north of Raheen.

*Joseph Kidd of Raheen signed the tithe book for the Parish Kilrush as Commissioner in 1825.

#[note added by WSF Kidd] - Franklin Kidd causes confusion here by giving the distance from another nearby Wexford Raheen, the one near Askamore in Kilcomb parish, not the Raheen adjacent to Ballyrankin, in Kilrush parish, the one relevant in this chapter (from which Ballyellis is distant about 8 miles). The Raheen near Askamore is not otherwise mentioned anywhere else in Franklin Kidd's typescript, as far as I can tell, and in particular there is no mention of any Raheen in Chapter 5 on the Askamore Kidds.

George Kidd married Elizabeth Staples in 1806 (Ferns Marriage Licence bonds). They had three children, recorded in the Carnew Register as of George and Elizabeth Kidd of Ballyellis. They were:

Margaret baptised 15.12.1808. John baptised 16.11.1810. Joseph baptised 26. 2.1813.

I have not traced this family any further.

As regards Joseph's remaining five sisters, I was most interested to find in the Ferns Marriage Licence Bonds *four Kidd girls who got married at dates which make it reasonable to suppose they were daughters of George of Raheen (1728-1812), that is assuming they married in their early twenties. They are as follows:-

Judith Kidd married John Langford 1792.
Jane Kidd married Thomas Chapman 1799.
Ann Kidd married Michael Masterman 1801.
*(4) Harriet Kidd married John Chapman 1805.

Assuming married at 20-25 the corresponding birth dates would be (1) 1767-1772 (2) 1774-1779 (3) 1776-1781 (4) 1780-1785.

So we can now list George's children as follows:-

Joseph b. 1768.
Judith b. 1770c.
Eleanor b. 1773.
Jane b. 1775c.
Ann. b. 1777c.
George b. 1778.
Harriet b. 1780c.
Elizabeth b. 1782c. "sixth daughter".
Margaret b. 1787.

George of Raheen's second wife (if she was a second wife) certainly did well, nine children, all reaching maturity, over a period of 20 years.

* A HARRIET KIDD married a Thomas Chapman 1799. This comes from the Ferns Ossory and Leighlin Marriage Licence bonds as reported to me by Harry Hollingsworth who had a film of the M.S. Index made for him. The Ferns Marriage Licence Bonds from which the four marriages quoted above came, were printed in the Kildare Archaeological Society's Journal Vol. 9 and 10 prior to 1922 when the originals were destroyed in the Four Courts. They came to me via Harry Hollingsworth, who had Xerox copies of the entire index made for him. Obviously a mistake has crept in somewhere.

(b) Sixth Generation

It seems fairly certain that the following were sons of Joseph of Raheen (1768-1848) aged 80.

(1) John Kidd of Raheen (1805-1883) (aged 78). Kilrush Register and Customs House Register. This man is great grandfather of present holder of Ballyrankin lands. His son, George Kidd, was present at his death. Grant of Administration was to George Kidd 1887. In Griffith's valuations of 1850 John has 53 acres in the townland of Raheen, Parish of Kilrush, and 22 acres in the townlands of Ballyboy, Parish of Ballycarney. He married Margaret Plummer in 1830 (Ferns, Ossory, Leighlin M.Ls.) Margaret born 1810, died 1894, aged 84, Kilrush Parish Register. John's Aunt Elizabeth, you will recall, married William Plummer in 1809. If Margaret was Elizabeth's child, she was John's first cousin. There seems to have been a close connexion between this family of Kidds and the Plummer family. There is a second William Plummer, probably also a child of the first William Plummer and Elizabeth, who was born in 1815 and died (a bachelor) in 1866. This man's tombstone in Kilrush reads "Erected in Memory of William Plummer of Ballyrankin died 12 May 1866 aged 51. Also of Joseph Kidd died 27 Oct. 1912. Also his wife Mary Anne Kidd died 20 May 1936". I place this Joseph as one of John's sons.

(2) George Kidd of Slyguff, Co. Carlow. This George moved to Slyguff, but is buried in Kilrush, nevertheless, as also are his wife and later members of the Slyguff Kidds. His birth date 1807 fits well with the belief that he was Joseph of Raheen's (1768-1848) second son. He married Elizabeth Burgess (1822-1864) in 1841 (Ferns, Ossory and Leighlin M.L.Bs.), and had a large family, and was a very successful farmer and ran 260 acres altogether in the townland of Slyguff circa 1850. (Griffiths valuations). I shall deal with his descendants later.

(3) One of George of Slyguff's grandchildren has told me that her grandfather had two brothers, a John and a Thomas. The John is well accounted for above. The other Thomas I can only surmise on basis of dates and locality. A Thomas Kidd, labourer, and his wife Susan, baptized a child Margaret, (see Clonegall Register) in 1839.

(4) Among the Ferns, Ossory and Leighlin Marriage Licence Bonds which I have only come across recently, through the kind offices of Henry Hollingsworth of Inglewood, California, an American descendant of the Askamore Kidds, hereafter to be dealt with, there is another man, a Joseph Kidd, also two women, a Francis and an Elizabeth Kidd, qualifying on dates only to be children of Joseph of Raheen (1768-1848) and his wife Margaret. The name Francis, I must say, seems out of tune with the rest of christian names used by the Ballyrankin line of Kidds.

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We can now list children of Joseph of Raheen (1768-1848) as follows:

Francis married John Smith 1820. (b. 1795-1800c.) Elizabeth married William Spencer 1827. (b. 1802-1807c.) Joseph married Elizabeth Warren 1836. (b. 1801-1806c.) John married Margaret Plummer 1836. (b. 1805) Died 1883. Thomas married Susan ...? 1831c. George married Bessie Burgess 1841. (b. 1807) Died.1865.

(c) The Seventh Generation

In this line the Seventh Generation is that of the Grandparents, and in some cases Great-grand parents of people now living. I shall therefore give briefly what I have from living relatives as well as from records, and I hope that it may be added to, or corrected, as required. Old John of Raheen's children, John the Tithe Commissioner that is, Sixth generation, were as follows. I have the dates of birth of some, but not others. I make George of Raheen the eldest, as he succeeds to the Raheen farms:

(1) George of Raheen.	Born 1838c.
(2) John	Born 1840.
(3) Joseph	Born 1842.
(4) William	Born 1843.
(5) Elizabeth	Born 1845c.
(6) Mary	Born 1848c.
(7) Margaret	Born 1850c.
(8) Thomas	Born 1852.

(1) George Kidd. He may have been John of Raheen's eldest son. George Kidd of Raheen married an Anne Leviston of Boris in 1874 (Kilrush Register), so could easily have been born as early as 1840. His father would have been 69 when George married, and it must have been about then that George took over Raheen. One of his sisters, Elizabeth, is described as "of Raheen and daughter of John Kidd farmer" when she married Joseph Seabrook of Corah, Ballycarney in 1870. Later George left Raheen, and went to some place in Co. Limerick. I think the date was probably about 1890. The reason is that the Kilrush Register records a string of five children of George Kidd and Anne of Raheen "between 1879 and 1887. They are Mary, baptised 1879, Elizabeth baptised 1881, Joseph Robert baptised 1883, Thomas Henry baptised 1885 and Susan Jane baptised 1887. The other thing, George Kidd is recorded in Custom House Register as present at death of his father Joseph (the Commissioner) of Raheen in 1883.

(2) John Kidd. I have little information about this man. He was called "Jack", and went to Australia while still a bachelor.

(3) Joseph Kidd. He seems to have been closely connected with William Plummer (1815-1866) who is described in Customs House Register of Deaths as farmer of Ballyrankin. William Plummer was 27 years his senior. A Kilrush stone (already quoted I think) reads "Erected in memory of William Plummer of Ballyrankin died 12 May 1866 (aged 51). Also Joseph Kidd died 27 Oct. 1912. Also his wife Mary Anne Kidd died 20 May 1936". It looks as if Joseph was regarded by William Plummer almost as a son, and, of course, he was a great nephew of Plummer's mother, and his own mother had been a Miss Margaret Plummer (Ferns Ossory and Leighlin Marriage Licence Bonds 1836). Joseph would have been 24 years old when William Plummer died, and I think may have been left Plummer's Ballyrankin land. However, it is clear he did not stay with it, for we find him as a gamekeeper of Coolbawn, the father of a string of children, from 1874 onwards, the baptisms being recorded in the Killanne Register. Coolbawn and Killanne are some distance from Kilrush and Ballyrankin, some 12 miles to S.E. as the crow flies, and Coolbawn House is situated in a large estate or park. His wife's maiden name was Goff. There appears to have been a gun-shot affair in which a poacher was either wounded or killed, and that, as a consequence of this, he left Coolbawn and went to live in Ballymoney, about a mile from the sea, near Gorey. He died there in 1912 aged 70 (Kilrush Register). His wife, Mary Anne, survived him and died in 1936 aged 86 (Kilrush Register). Although buried at Kilrush she is recorded as of Monart West which is back again in the neighbourhood of Killanne and Coolbawn, and so I think Miss Goff must have been a native of those parts.

We may deal here with Joseph's children (8th generation). To distinguish this Joseph, I call him Joseph the gamekeeper, and as his children were born up to a hundred years ago I shall deal with what I know of them here. Apparently the eldest was Margaret who was born 1874, and died aged 12 in 1886. She is in the Kilrush Register, and described as of Coolbawn, Killanne. The second child, Jane, also died young 1876-1879. The death is in the Customs House Register as of Coolbawn and daughter of a gamekeeper. Present at death was a William Deacon. One of her sisters later married a Mr. Deacon. The third child was a boy, and he was followed by five more boys, six sons in all recorded, and one more daughter, also named Margaret: I list the family here.

Joseph William (Willie) 1879-1964. Moved to Co. Monaghan, a son in Rhodesia, now presumably an old man.

George 1881 - ? Went to South of England as poultry farmer.

Thomas 1884 - ? Married a Miss Godkin, and went to Canada. Has two daughters.

Joseph 1886 - ? He did not marry, was employed in Cork, and returned to live with his sister Margaret, by then widowed, Mrs. Margaret Deacon at Monart West. He died in 1953. Both his tombstone at Kilrush and Kilrush Register record him as 64. This gives birth date as 1889 which is three years later than the Killanne Register of his birth. Which is right? And why the discrepancy?

Edward b. 1888. He went to Glasgow, and after his death his widow went to Edinburgh. No issue. Edward Kidd of Glasgow married Elizabeth Allice Willoughby of Gorey in 1920 (Gorey Register).

Margaret b. 1891. Mrs. Deacon, living at Wilmont, Castlebridge, Co. Wexford, in 1962, then a widow.

Bartholomew b. ? Known as "Battie". Died 1959. Lived at Bridgend, Glamorgan, Wales. One son, Joseph Geronwy Kidd (must have married a Welsh woman). Gained M.C. in Burmah Second World War. Now (1960 odd) a chemist at Glaxo's. Children, 2 boys and a girl.

(4) William Kidd 1843-1897. He died at the early age (for Kidds) of 55, and may not have had good health. I have it from one source that he, not Joseph, actually inherited the Ballyrankin farm lands from William Plummer. William Plummer died 1866, so William then would have been only 23. Later he gave up farming to keep an hotel in Gorey. In 1880 Slater's Directory gives William Kidd, Esq., Ballyrankin, so he was evidently still at Ballyrankin then. I find him again in Slater's Directory in 1894, and now "William Kidd Hotelkeeper Main Street Gorey". William was buried at Gorey, where a Tombstone reads "In loving memory of William Kidd of Ballyrankin died 7 Jan. 1897 aged 54. Jane Kidd died 1 June 1923 aged 85". I have found no record of any children born to William and Jane Kidd, or as yet of the marriage.

(5, 6 and 7) Elizabeth, Mary and Margaret. I only have the record of their marriages, all in the Kilrush Register. Elizabeth was married in 1870, Mary in 1872 and Margaret in 1874. Elizabeth is noted as "of Raheen", the other two as "of Ballyrankin". Elizabeth must have been at Raheen with her father and her brother George who did not marry until 1874. Her father survived until 1883. Thomas (see below) was evidently at Ballyrankin with Mary and Margaret.

Elizabeth married Joseph Seabrook of Corah, Ballycarney; Mary married William Collier of Carlow (?); Margaret married James Wilson farmer of Bamogh [Barragh].

(8) Thomas Kidd, He married late, aged 47, Elizabeth Wellwood of Ballyrankin, aged only 20, on 24 April 1899 (Kilrush Register). He died in Oct. 1919 at Ballyrankin aged 67. His wife survived him for 32 years, and died aged 72, still of Ballyrankin.

Thomas was succeeded at Ballyrankin by his eldest son John, who died only last year (1971) aged 66. His other children were: Margaret, born 1900, who married a Mr. Hunt; Elizabeth, born 1902, who married a Mr. Dempsey; Mary Anne (Mollie), a nurse,^[1] born 1907; Willam born 1909 who married Eleanor Margaret Pierce who died 1968 and is buried at Kilrush, - they had three children, Mary Elizabeth, Margaret Anne and William Thomas; finally there was a boy Thomas born 1912 who died young and a girl Susan born 1916 who married John Sheil and had offspring, 2 boys and a girl. John Kidd, who succeeded at Ballyrankin, married Caroline Fenton. They had four boys and two girls. The eldest boy, Thomas Carl Patrick Kidd, is now at Ballyrankin farm, and has two young sons.

The Slyguff branch of the Raheen Ballyrankin line.

The first Kidd of Slyguff,^[2] Co. Carlow, was George Kidd, 1807-1865 (sixth generation), and I have concluded (1) from the connexion this family have maintained to this day with Kilrush Parish Church and (2) from a statement by one of his grand-daughters that he had two brothers, one named John and the other Thomas, that he was a younger son of Joseph of Raheen, the Tithe Commissioner (1767-1848).

As we have seen, he was buried in Kilrush graveyard. As to why he moved to Slyguff, it is merely guesswork. His Aunt Eleanor who married John Kidd (of the Corbally line) was living at Knocknagee about 5 miles N.E. of Carlow, and I think his wife, Bessie Burgess, was a Carlow woman, whose family were tradesmen, and judging by the large acreage he held circa 1850, 270 acres, she probably had money. Judging by the obvious ability shown by their descendants, she probably also had brains. He married in 1841 (Ferns Ossory and Leighlin Marriage Licence Bonds) when Bessie was only 19 years old. The deaths of George and Elizabeth (Bessie) are recorded in the Customs House Register, Dublin, "Elizabeth 27 Feb. 1864 farmers wife of Glenharry [Glannahary] Boris, Co. Carlow Joseph Kidd present at death. George Kidd 28 Aug. 1865, farmer widower, of Slyguff Boris Co. Carlow. Joseph Kidd son present at death".

1. Much interested in the family history, and to whom I owe many thanks.

2. Slyguff House is 11 miles south of Carlow on the road running through Leighlinbridge and Baganalstown.

Seventh Generation.

Joseph, who was their eldest son, was only 22 when his mother died, and only 23 when his father, George, died a year later. He inherited the Slyguff property, and also the care of eight younger brothers, who all subsequently had successful careers. It would be interesting to know more of this man. All I can recount from hearsay is that his wife's name was Elizabeth and the names of his children, (1) Anna Kidd, who went to the U.S.A. (2) Elizabeth Kidd, born 1880, (3) George Kidd, of Slyguff House, bachelor, who died in 1961, and who had carried on the farm, and lived with his two spinster sisters, Ammie and Sarah.

The other seven sons (I do not know their birth dates) were:

(2) George Kidd, who held a nearby farm, and, I was told, married a girl called Frances.^[1] She had twins. One, Thomas James, carried on with the farm, and died in 1958.* The other, the Rev. Joseph Henry Kidd, did well at Trinity College, Dublin, a Gold Medallist in Mental and Moral Philosophy. He died in 1930, being the Hon. Canon and Proctor in Convocation, Diocese of St. Alban's, England. He was unmarried.

(3) Rev. Ralph Kidd, at one time of Bandon, Co. Cork, and later a missionary in Lagos, Nigeria. He had a son, Col. Gerald Kidd., who was killed in Hongkong, and a daughter, Frances, who was living in Kenya in 1959.

(4) Dr. Thomas Kidd, of Rathvilly, who had two sons, Henry and Percy. Henry married and lived in England, no issue. Percy also no issue, went to California.

(5) Dr. Henry Kidd, of Tullow. He married Elizabeth Malone, of Mount Lucas, Rathvilly. She was born 1855 and died 1927, aged 72. They had three daughters, Mabel, Constance and Norah. Mabel married an Army officer by name of Cantan, who became a Lt. Colonel and was awarded the C.M.G. He was in the D.C. Light Infantry, and was killed in 1916. Mabel Cantan had two sons,

1. This must be doubtful for an Annie Elizabeth, widow of Thomas James Kidd died at her son's residence Glenharry Bagenalstown Sept. 22 1972.

* The farm was carried on by the son, Thomas Roland. There were two other sons, George Kidd and William Henry Kidd. These men now (1972) in their fifties or sixties.

one now a retired Army Colonel, and the other Dr. R. F. Cantan, of Dublin. Constance married the Rector of Tullow, Rev. Jameson, and had a daughter who also married a parson, Rev. J. Nelson, of Staplestown, Co. Carlow. Norah married Philip Pallin of Curragh House.

(6) John Kidd. This man remained a farmer. Married a Roman Catholic and became one. He had a son, Ralph.⁺

(7) William Kidd, also a farmer "of Glenharry". Two daughters.

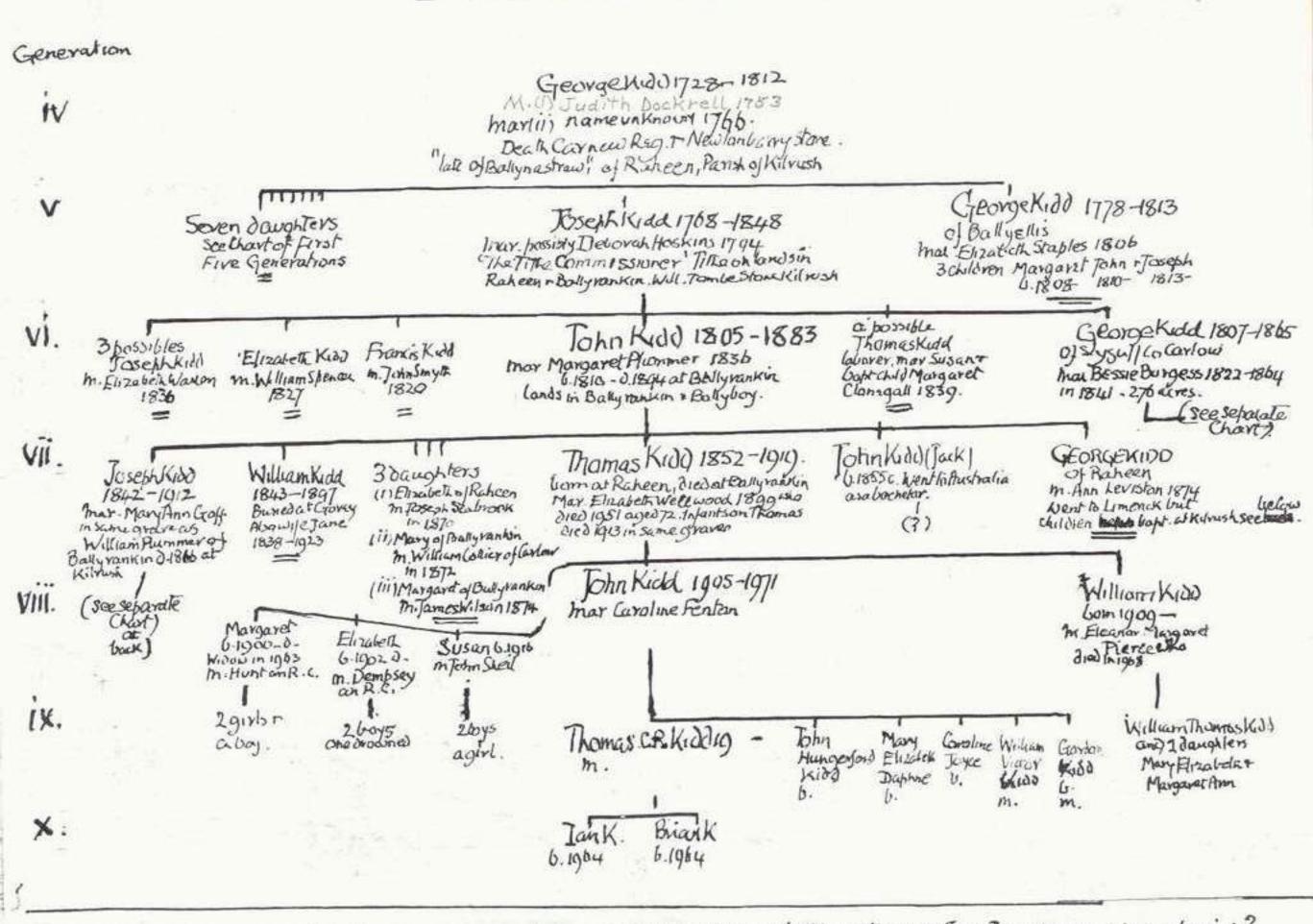
(8) Nathaniel Kidd (evidently running short of the usual names, Joseph, George, Thomas, William and John). A doctor, who went to Kansas, U.S.A. and had a son, Adair, also a doctor, but left no issue.

(9) Frederick Kidd. His birth date as given me by one of his daughters was 1864. This was the year his mother died aged 42. Married at 19 she had had 9 sons, and as I was informed 2 daughters. Frederick became a very well known Veterinary Surgeon. He had three children, Irene, Edith and Victor, all living in 1959. Victor Frederick Kidd, late Provincial Bank, Fermoy, died 24 Aug. 1972.

So ends this account of the Slyguff branch of the Raheen Ballyrankin line.

⁺ Two Ralphs in this family. It is a recurrence of an unusual name. George Kidd, the first of Slyguff had an Aunt Eleanor who married the John Kidd of Knocknagee, as we have seen. This John of the Corbally line had an uncle Ralph Kidd who was killed at the battle of Castlecomer 1798, and his grandfather was also a Ralph.

Ballyrankin, Kilvushr Raheen KilDS.



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