

Kennedy history

In the [graveyard](#), there's a structure near the front boundary wall with iron doors and a family crest over the entrance. This is the Kennedy family crypt which was constructed in 1828, and its high visibility is testament to the high esteem in which the Kennedy family was held in these parts over the years since the first interment in this vault took place. This took place in 1828, the deceased being Maria Beaumon, wife of John Kennedy, who later became the first Baronet Kennedy.

Later Kennedys married into the Gentry and had among their number a noted Justice of the Peace, three British army officers, a philanthropist and a Magistrate. The Kennedy family home, the Johnstown-Kennedy estate, still exists and gained fame as the house used for exterior shots in the 1980s UTV/RTE series "The Irish R.M."

Also prominent enough to be visible from the street is a distinctive burial marker in the form of a broken column. This is the Verschoyle family plot. The broken column memorial is a common theme in late 19th to early 20th century burials, and symbolises a life cut short. Arthur Griffith's headstone in Glasnevin Cemetery takes the same form.

[n Kennedy House](#)



THE KENNEDY BARONETS OWNED 1,447 ACRES OF LAND IN COUNTY DUBLIN

DARBY O'KENNEDY (c1648-1745), of Ballykerogue Castle, County Waterford, wedded a daughter of Stephen Baron, of Knockdrumla, and had a son,

JOHN KENNEDY, of Johnstown, County Dublin, who espoused Eleanor, daughter of Eaton Fagan, of Feltrim, and left issue at his decease, 1758, a son and successor,

EDWARD KENNEDY (1746-1811), of Johnstown, who married, in 1781, Sarah, daughter of John Bayly, of Gowran, and had issue,

JOHN, *his heir*;

Charles Edward, of Peamount.

The elder son,

JOHN KENNEDY (1785-1848), of Johnstown, wedded, in 1819, Maria, daughter of William Bowman, of Rutland Square, Dublin, and had issue,

CHARLES EDWARD BAYLY, *his heir*;

William;

John;

Francis;

Robert, *father of [Admiral Francis W Kennedy CB](#)*;

Maria.

Mr Kennedy was created a baronet in 1836, denominated *of Johnstown Kennedy*, County Dublin.

He was succeeded by his eldest son,

SIR CHARLES EDWARD BAYLY KENNEDY, 2nd Baronet (1820-80), who espoused, in 1854, Augusta Maria, daughter of Henry Hartstonge Pery, Viscount Glentworth, and had issue,

JOHN CHARLES, *his successor*;

George Edward de Vere.

Sir Charles was succeeded by his elder son,

SIR JOHN CHARLES KENNEDY, 3rd Baronet, JP DL (1856-1923), of Johnstown, who married, in 1879, Sydney H Maude, daughter of Sir James Macaulay Higginson, and had issue,

JOHN RALPH BAYLY, *4th Baronet*;

JAMES EDWARD, *5th Baronet*;

Augusta Mabel; Gladys Maude.

Sir John was succeeded by his eldest son,

SIR JOHN RALPH BAYLY KENNEDY, 4th Baronet (1896-1968), of Johnstown, who died *unmarried*, when the baronetcy devolved upon his brother,

SIR JAMES EDWARD KENNEDY, 5th Baronet (1898-1974), of Johnstown, who died *unmarried*, when the title reverted to his cousin,

SIR DERRICK EDWARD DE VERE KENNEDY, 6th Baronet (1904-76), of Johnstown, who wedded firstly, in 1926, Phyllis Victoria Levine, daughter of Gordon Fowler; and secondly, in 1945, Barbara Mary Worthing, daughter of William Shepherd, and had issue,

GEORGE RONALD DERRICK, *his successor*;

Mark Gordon;

Julia Maureen Patricia.

Sir Derrick, former Major, Royal Ulster Rifles, a hotelier from 1947 until 1966, was succeeded by his eldest son,

SIR (GEORGE) RONALD DERRICK KENNEDY, 7th Baronet, OBE (1927-88), who married, in 1949, Noelle Mona, daughter of Charles Henry Green.

The 7th Baronet, Lieutenant-Colonel, Royal Artillery, and was appointed OBE (military) in 1975.

By his wife he had issue,

MICHAEL EDWARD, *his successor*;
Carolyn Phyllis.

He was succeeded by his son,

SIR MICHAEL EDWARD KENNEDY, 8th Baronet (1956-2012), of Otford, Kent, who wedded, in 1984, Helen Christine Jennifer, daughter of Patrick Lancelot Rae, and had issue, GEORGE MATTHEW RAE, *his successor*;
Constance Andrea; Josephine Jennifer; Katherine Colleen.

Sir Michael was succeeded by his son,

SIR GEORGE MATTHEW RAE KENNEDY, 9th Baronet, born in 1993.

The present baronet has not (2013) successfully proven his succession to the baronetcy and is not therefore on the Official Roll of the Baronetage.

However, the case is under review by the Registrar of the Baronetage.



JOHNSTOWN KENNEDY HOUSE, Rathcoole, County Dublin, was a plain, three-storey Georgian house.

It had a three-bay side; with a porch which was enclosed at some later stage.

The drawing-room was notable for its acanthus plasterwork.

It was renowned as having been the residence of Major Sinclair Yeates in the television series, *The Irish RM*.



The Irish RM on the tennis court

The estate included a most impressive and extensive range of farm buildings.

The buildings had courtyards with high walls and dramatic gateways some with pinnacles, curved equestrian buildings, Gothicised doorways, a small dairy, and several well-constructed utilitarian buildings serving various agricultural purposes.

There was also a water mill with mill race and a cast-iron mill wheel *in-situ*.


A roadside forge with horseshoe shaped entrance displays the initials "E K" and the date over the door.

The remains of a later walled garden with ruined greenhouses, a gardener's house and other structures, added a further dimension to this outstanding collection of estate buildings.

Johnstown Kennedy was sold by Sir Derrick Kennedy, 6th Baronet.

The house was subsequently demolished and the estate now forms part of [Beech Park Golf Club](#).

First published in March, 2016.

Posted by Timothy Belmont at [13:12](#) 

Labels: [County Dublin Landowners](#)

[Email This](#) [BlogThis!](#) [Share to Twitter](#) [Share to Facebook](#) [Share to Pinterest](#)

2 comments :

Anonymous said...

Will not forget taking a party of reporters from Belfast down here to watch the filming of this series. Peter Bowles forgot his lines over and over. Seem to remember that the house was chosen for the incredibly old fashioned kitchen in the basement. A wonderful location on the Grand Canal.

[22 May 2018 at 08:51](#)



[Unknown](#) said...

Born in 1954, I was named after the 5th baronet, Sir James Edward Kennedy and recall meeting both him and his elder brother, John Ralph, around about 1962 at their house in Eniskillen. I am told that they are uncles or great uncles of my father Trevor George Edward Hughes(deceased).
My name is James Edward David Hughes.

[19 August 2018 at 20:47](#)