

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT THE KANE FAMILY

BY DAVID KANE Written July 1946

The first of the Kane family I know about and that by heresay was my great-grandfather, David Kane, born early in the eighteenth century. He was a farmer in Ballinacara. His farm is still in possession of the Kane family. At that time it consisted of about sixty acres. It has since been enlarged by the absorption of about twenty acres of adjacent small farms. This farm was partly bounded by the Brusna river which here takes a bend surrounding the Kane farm on the west, north and east. The farm consists of a row of low hills capable of cultivation and some meadow land along the river bank. My great grandfather married and raised a family. Who his wife (my great grandmother) was I never knew. His oldest son, Walter Kane (my grandfather), afterwards known as old Watt Kane, inherited his father's farm. He married a girl named Mary Broader whose family had a farm in Moycashel about two miles east of Kilbegan on the road from Clara to Kilbegan. Mary Broader was a superior woman. She lived to be over ninety years old and during her lifetime, furnished intellectual and ~~normal~~-moral leadership to the Kane family.

The Broader family was known in Ireland as a Danish family. Their name indicating they were descendant from the Danes who settled along the coast of Ireland during the tenth and eleventh centuries and finally intermarried and became absorbed by the Celtic Irish.

Walter and Mary Kane raised a family of nine children to maturity, five boys and four girls. Their oldest daughter, Mary, was born near the end of the eighteenth century. She married a

man named, Peter Murphy of Athy, County, Kildare. He was a salesman in the Dublin Cattle Market and in addition had a butcher shop in Athy. They had a family of six children. Their oldest son, Walter, became a priest and later was made a Canon of the ^{Catholic} Cathedral in Dublin and was pastor of the leading Parish in the city. The next oldest son, Pat, inherited hisn father's business in Athy and also became a salesman in the Dublin Cattle Market. He married a girl named, Hearn and raised a large family. His oldest son, William, became a priest and later was rector of the Irish College in Rome. Another son, Walter, was an attorney in Dublin and another son, Stanislaus, was an examiner for the National Board of Education in Ireland. Walter Kane in addition to working his farm, in Ballinacara kept a linen bleach yard. This was the era before cotton became king when flax was king in Ireland. Everything that is now made of cotton was then made o of flax. All the Irish farmers grew flax and my grandfather bought the flax from the farmers as soon as it was ripe and bleached it and prepared it for the spinners. The process of bleaching consisted of first sinking the flax in water drains for several weeks and then bleaching it on the hillside for several weeks more. Then he took the flax to Dublin and sold it to spinners.

Walter and Mary Kane's oldest son was David Kane, my uncle, after whom I was named. When young David grew to manhood he accompanied his father to Dublin to sell the flax. At that time there were no railroads in Ireland and they had to travel to Dublin, a distance of about sixty miles by horse and wagon. On the way they stopped at a road house in Kildare kept by a man named Cullen.

This Cullen had a brother, Cardinal Cullen, who was the first Irish Cardinal. My uncle David married a niece of Cardinal Cullen, the road house keeper's daughter. This was a great source of pride to the Kane family.

Uncle David died quite young during an epidemic of colera leaving a widow and two daughters. Later both daughters came to America and married but had no children, Walter and Mary Kane's second oldest son, my uncle Tom, married a girl named Kelly whose people had a farm in Kilmuchlin, across the river from Ballinacara. This farm was later bought by my father who married Anne Hipwell of Rynn, Queens County in the year 1860. My father and mother had five children. Two daughters Minnie, the oldest, was born in 1861 and Nora, the youngest, born in 1870. I was the youngest of their three sons born, November 11, 1867; Walter was born, 1863 and James, 1865. My mother died when I was four years old (1871), so I barely remember her.

My father who was born in the year 1820 and lived until 1910 was the eighth child born to Walter and Mary Kane. My father, Daniel Kane, became a leading citizen of Offaly, was elected a poor law guardian and county councillor and served in these capacities for a number of years, and was active in all public and local affairs.

Near the close of the seventeenth century a number of French Huguenots in order to escape religious persecution in France settled in and around Portarlinton in Ireland. My mother was a descendant of one of these French families. There are a large number of Hipwells scattered over the county of Leix, some of whom are protestants and some catholic. All of whom are descendants of the

one family.

The Kanes have resided in Ballinacara for about three hundred years. It is now in possession of a nephew of mine, Daniel Kane, son of my brother, James who had married a girl by the name of Daly. James had worked the farm previously.

I have been told that prior to Cromwell's conquest of Ireland, the Kanes owned and resided in Ballikane, a townshand, a few mile northwest of Ballinacara. This estate was confiscated by Cromwell and given to a Major Armstrong, an officer in his army. At this time the head of the Kane family leased Ballinacara which was then a forrest, cleared it and the Kanes have continued to farm it from then until now.

I, David Kane, was educated at the Franciscan Monastery School in Clara, Ireland. After graduating and passing the intermediate examination I emigrated to the United States when I was eighteen years old. After becoming an American citizen I took the civil service examination for the New York City Police Force coming out at the head of a class of one thousand applicants. I served on the police force passing successfully through all the ranks to Inspector, retiring in 1934.

On March seventh 1906, I married Bertha D. Schilling, daughter of Charles and Marie Schilling of Rockaway Beach, L.I., N.Y. Charles A. Schilling was a leading hotel keeper of the Rockaways. We have four children, two boys, David and Daniel; and two girls, Eileen and Marjorie.