THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF THE SURNAME KIDD We know that our family came to Canada from the South of Ireland but they were not originally Irish. Where did they come from? The obvious answer seems to be Scotland. At Dunluce in the North of Ireland there is a gravestone of a Walter Kidd who had come from Scotland. The families of Kidds in Northern Ireland are Presbyterians, those in the South are Church of Ireland. Does that mean that they stem from different origins? Family tradition says that our Southern families came from France to England at the time of the Huguenot persecution. This might suggest a period of time between 1535, when the first migration took place, and 1685 when the final emigration followed the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. From England they came to Ireland at the time of Cromwell and settled in Wicklow County near the Vale of Avoca. Questioning this, Dr. Kidd says the only connection he can suggest does connect with Scotland. He finds the “Quide” or “Guyde” among the Scottish archers who were the special guards of the French King in the fourteenth century. This could be a French spelling of Kidd. The story is told of a Frenchman who, out hunting in the forest was attacked by a wild boar. To save himself he climbed a tree and blew his hunting horn to attract some of his followers. He was eventually rescued by a Scottish archer named Quide. This man was rewarded by the King who permitted him to have a family crest which showed a tree and a horn. After receiving this honour, he and his family would likely remain in France. Whatever may be the truth of the French connection, there were certainly Kidds in the North of England, sheep farmers and later clothiers, from at least 1550. In 1637 there was a Richard Kidd in Dublin whose family engaged in the clothing business. How would this fit in with the family story? If the family were French Huguenots, emigration began in 1535 so the move to Yorkshire is possible. But “Ireland at the time of Cromwell”? Since Richard of Dublin married Ellen Kelly in 1637, it would seem that he preceded Cromwell! Even so, might not the Wicklow settlement really have been in the time of Cromwell. The settlement of 1653 reserved Wicklow, Wexford, Kildare and Carlow for the English soldiers. Since many officers bought out the land allotted to their men, might not other people also have been able to buy the land? From here on, researchers have been on firmer historical ground. A Kidd family, fairly well-todo middle class folk, have lived in the Wicklow-Wexford district from at least the first of the Eighteenth Century. In the third generation of Kidds in Southern Ireland, there were George Kidd and Thomas Kidd. They were either brothers or cousins. Both lived in County Wexford at about the same time. Thomas in Ballynastraw and George in Newton-Barry (now Bunclody). There is a stone in Athlone erected to the memory of George by his grandson who was the son of the Sovereign or Mayor of Athlone. George had a son Thomas who had a wife who lived to be 98. Dr. Kidd thinks that our great, great Joseph and Thomas were sons of this man -- - although possibly they might be grandsons of Thomas of Ballynastraw. My father for some reason thought the latter. In either case we are certain they are two brothers who married two sisters, Ann and Susannah, daughters of George Poole of Gorey. Joseph was married to Ann in 1790 and the marriage was recorded in the Ferns marriage registry. The Poole’s were in the hatter’s trade and Joseph, as we know, manufactured “Beaver Hats”. Where he lived we are not certain but his brother Thomas in 1804 bought the farm Askamore, situated twelve miles south-west of Wicklow near the Vale of Avoca. During the insurrection of 1798 in which most of the fighting took place in the Wicklow-Wexford district the insurgents attacked New Ross. Over a hundred prisoners were left in the Scullabogue House. When the attack failed, the returning insurgents set fire to the house burning the prisoners alive, Some of the prisoners may have been friends of the family so that they fled North or had they too suffered in the struggle? We know that Anne’s father was at one time captured by a party of Catholics who were going to bind him to a cart loaded with straw and set it on fire. One of his Catholic neighbours interceded for him pointing out that he had furnished straw to thatch the Catholic Church. Then there is the story we have all heard of the family hiding in a haystack to escape the Roman Catholics. They proposed to kill baby Ann for fear she would cry out and betray them. Only her mother’s intervention saved her life. After the insurrection Joseph Kidd of Doneshall, Carnew, received compensation for a house and goods burned on March 23, 1799. Since we are not sure exactly where our great-grandfather lived, in all probability it was his house that burned. VALE OF AVOCA This spot immortalized in the exquisite lyrics of Thomas Moore, presents a combination of scenic beauty unsurpassed in one of the most picturesque localities in Ireland. It is a scene of softness and tranquility rather than of sublimity and or grandeur, of repose and peace rather of wildness and elevating inspiration. “The Meeting of the Waters” is formed by the junction of the rivers Avonmore and Avonbeg – the great and little rivers – and under the name of Avoca the beautiful stream pursues its course through the vale to Arklow, some eight miles distant, and thence to the sea. “After all”, writes a traveller, expressing the regret that every tourist feels, after enjoying the enchanting view of nature “the greatest fault of the Vale of Avoca is that it is so short. How gladly would the eye feast more on those beautiful meadows, those bold crags, those ivy-mantled oaks!” At any rate the battle raging all along the coast would be close to wherever they lived so that we don’t wonder at their move. They went North. According to the story they went to Antrim. This supposition seems doubtful. Antrim too was on the coast and troubled with fighting. More likely they went to Athlone in the centre of the country where life was more peaceful and where they had influential relatives. Sackville or Ralph Kidd (1718 – 1780), the son of George of Newtonbarry. A second indication that this may be true is that Joseph’s son, George named the place where he settled in Ontario, Athlone. Early settlers often chose to name their villages after the place they lived in the “Old Country”. What ever happened during the next twenty years the family did not lose touch with their former home, for we find in 1822 the record of the confirmation of George, Mary and John in Carnew Church where the family had been baptized (Carnew is close to Askamore). Finally in 1824 the decision was made to emigrate to Canada. THE KIDDS OF IRELAND Dublin and Southern Ireland Kidds Chapter V THE ASKAMORE BRANCH Askamore, as the map shows, is in Wexford, across the border from Carnew, which is in Wicklow. The Parish of Carnew, however, includes Askamore, as it covers parts of both counties. The man who is pivotal in this tale of the Askamore Kidds is Thomas Kidd (fifth generation), who lived to be a hundred years old (1750-1850). I have got to speaking of him in the Welsh habit as Thomas-a- Hundred. Very early in my search for my grandfather's origins, I came across the record\* of a stone in Carnew churchyard which I have since seen myself, and which reads "This tomb was erected by Thomas Kidd in memory of his daughter Susanna Kidd who died 17th of Jan. 1813 aged 14. Also of his wife Susannah Kidd who died 9 Jan. 1824 aged 64. Also the above named Thomas Kidd, late of Askamore, who died 21 Mar. 1850 aged 100 years, and also his son Samuel Kidd who died 8 Feb. 1853 aged 25 years." We now know that Samuel' s mother was a Jane Katherine Dunbar, whom Thomas married in Dublin in 1826 she being 37 and Thomas 76. All these four deaths appear in the Register of Carnew Church. The wife is entered as Susan, the daughter of Susanna. Incidentally, I must mention here that Carnew Registers contain by far the greatest number of Kidd entries of any Parish anywhere in Southern Ireland. + That was my starting point. I was particularly interested because in the Royal Irish Constabulary records the county of origin of my grandfather, Benjamin Kidd, is given as Wicklow/Wexford, which points directly to his having come from the Parish of Carnew. \* Quoted on the journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland Vol. VII p. 203. + Baptisms, forty, from 1808-1904 ; marriages, twelve, from 1812-1849; burials thirty 1812-1925; confirmations, six, all in 1822. Most, if not all of these entries have eventually been "placed" in the jigsaw, if I may call it so, of family trees, on actual documentary evidence, or on suppositions based on name date and locality. I should here also like to record how difficult it is to be certain nothing has been missed. Three different people at different times, one being myself, have been through these Carnew Registers to pick out Kidd entries. On each occasion new ones emerged, but also on each occasion a few were overlooked. Later I found that Thomas-a-Hundred had a brother Joseph. This Joseph married (Ferns Marriage Licence Bonds) in 1790 Ann Poole. I have no record of the date of Thomas-a-Hundred's marriage to Susanna but she was a sister of Ann Poole. The Pooles were in the hatters trade, and Joseph is recorded by his descendants as "a maker of beaver hats". The following extract from "The Poole Family" compiled from John Poole's memoirs by his daughter, Edith Poole Moore, is of major importance. It shows that Thomas-a-Hundred and Joseph were brothers and had a sister who married, but it does not record her name or her husband's name, only that her family went to America in 1831. "The earliest ancestor of the Poole family of whom anything is known lived in Gorey,\* Wexford County, Ireland, at the time of the Rebellion in 1798. It is not known for certain what his name was, but John Poole once said he thought it was George. This was George Poole the First, as we will call him, and all his descendants were Protestants. During the times when neighbour was suspicious of neighbour, according to religious faith, he was captured by a party of Catholics from the mountains, who made preparation to bind him on a cart loaded with straw, and burn him. One of his Catholic neighbours interceded for his life, by telling what a good man he was and how he, though a Protestant, had helped build the Catholic Church by furnishing the straw to thatch it. This interference of a Catholic neighbour is said to have saved his life." George Poole (I) had several children; George (II) (1774-1860), who married Susan Gour and from whom the present Poole family is descended....Also Mrs Thomas Kidd whose children came to America and settled in or near Cincinnati in 1831......Ann, another daughter of George Poole I married Joseph Kidd brother of Thomas Kidd, and came to Canada with a large family in the year 1824. (This Joseph is elsewhere recorded as 'a maker of beaver hats'.) George Poole II, mentioned above, settled in Cincinnati in 1832, where he followed the hatter's trade. He had five children: John, Susan and Ann, George III, and William, all born in Ireland. The two daughters Susan and Ann, came to Cincinnati when girls in 1831 with the family of a sister of Thomas and Joseph Kidd. \* Gorey is on a main north-south road nine miles east of Carnew, which also runs through Ferns. William Poole, brother of the above mentioned Susan, came to America in 1824 with his aunt and her husband Joseph Kidd. Joseph Kidd paid William's passage to America. They took passage in the sailing vessel "Maria" in April 1824 and were twice shipwrecked. They finally arrived at Quebec on August 1st of that year, and got to Toronto in May 1825. It is desirable here to deal more with sister of Thomas and Joseph; whose family apparently (according to the Poole records) came to Cincinnati in 1831. In the reconstruction of the first 5 generations (Chart 1 Chapter 1), the full discussion of which as regards parents and grandparents of Thomas-a-Hundred and his brother Joseph follows in this chapter, it appears that they may have had three sisters, Elenor who married Bartholomew Goff in 1764, Mary who married John Graham in 1767 and Ann who married Robert Sells in 1771. The children of any one of these would by 1831 have been well passed middle age with families of their own, but I suppose might in the Poole records still be 'the family of a sister of Thomas and Joseph Kidd.' It should be stated here, anticipating, that of Thomas-a-Hundred's three sons by Susannah Poole, the eldest Thomas emigrated to New York in 1829 - the year after Jane Dunbar's first born Samuel arrived on the scene. He later moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. John, the miller did the same in 1831, travelling to Cincinnati via Canada, and, with all his children, Jane Dunbar having by this date had two sons and a daughter, probably to everybody's surprise, as Thomas-a-Hundred was 76 when he married her. George the middle son however stayed on at Askamore till 1839 or 40 all his children being baptised at Carnew except the last in 1841. Lucy Hollingsworth Kidd who was baptised at Kiltennel on the coast a long way from Askamore, the parents being then of Ballymoney, farmers. Earlier that year George's eldest son aged 17 died and was buried at Carnew. Finally in 1850, after the famine, Thomas-a-Hundred died whereupon George and all his family went to America too. Samuel, Jane Dunbar's eldest, inherited all the Askamore lands at the age of 22. I think from the facts we can deduce that there was little love lost between Susannah's children and Jane Dunbar and her children and that Jane Dunbar's advent started the exodus to U.S.A. The question as to origin of Askamore Kidds Now we know from the stone that Thomas of Askamore was born 1750. Who was his father? For a long time it seemed almost certain on the basis of (1) dates, (2) locality, (3) trade, that his father must be the William Kidd of Clonegall, tailor, who in 1740 inherited all those properties in the neighbourhood from his father Thomas Kidd of Ballynastraw and immediately sold them back to the person - a Matthew Derenzi - from whom his father had bought than in 1720 (Chapter 1). We have dated this William, with question marks, 1710-1775. Unfortunately nothing at all more has so far come to light regarding him. On the other hand a good deal of new information has accumulated. On dates and locality Thomas and Joseph could be brothers of Samuel Kidd of Ballisland 1740-1812. Also on the ground that this Samuel (see Chapter 2) so far stands alone while we might have expected to find some record of brothers or sisters. Secondly, there is Thomas of Coolroe (dates of birth and death only within limits) who married Hannah Clarke in 1736, who died a widow in 1805 aged 98. For long all I had known of this Thomas was that his wife's name was Hannah and that he acquired 30 acres "part of Tintern" in 1750. "For the lives of himself, his wife and Thomas Derenzi of Clobemon Hall". When I found later the date of his marriage, I was able to trace John of Kilrush, another lone figure, born within a year of this marriage as the first child of Thomas and Hannah followed by three girls whose marriage dates fitted and also found no place elsewhere, namely Elenor, Mary and Ann (see Chapter I). The name Elenor, points to Thomas being another son of George and Elenor of the Newtownbarry stone which I think I have been the first to record. Finally therefore on the basis of the recurrence of old age+ and viewing it as to some extent as an inherited tendency I decided that I would abandon the idea of Thomas and Joseph being sons of William of Clonegall (tailor) and include them among the children of Thomas of Coolroe and Hannah Clarke. The date of Joseph's birth is uncertain, as we shall see, but on various considerations I now think he was born before Thomas of Askamore, in 1745-8. Hannah would have been fortytwo at the time of Thomas of Askamore birth in 1750. In making the above judgement I have considered a statement by one of Joseph's great grandsons in Canada who had written me that one of Joseph's brothers was William of Clonegall and his father Thomas of Ballynastraw (impossible on dates). This, I now believe, was not based on family tradition but, as in my case, on the discovery by someone of the record of Thomas's purchase of properties and their subsequent resale by his 'eldest son and heir', William, a tailor, of Clonegall. It may be noted that the new hypothesis still provides in some measure for Joseph being in the business of 'making beaver hats', for according to it his grandfather George of Athlone and of the Newtownbarry Stone, was a tailor and his uncle Sackville of Athlone is now known to have been a periwig maker (see Appendix to Chapter I). So it was quite natural that he should have been apprenticed by his father with the Pooles of Gorey.