

KENNEDY, Patrick James

R.P. Riddon N. 1892-95.

Westmeath N. 1900-1906.

BIOGRAPHIES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

In 1929 the Prime Minister (The Right Honourable Stanley Baldwin, M.P.) appointed a Committee, presided over by Colonel the Right Honourable Josiah Wedgwood, D.S.O., M.P., to examine the material available for a record of the personnel and politics of members of the House of Commons from A.D. 1264. The Committee reported that the task of preparing and publishing such a record was possible and should be undertaken.

It has been suggested that it would be desirable for Members or their surviving relations to assist in the compilation of these biographies. Below are questions which ought to be dealt with. It would have been useful to have answers to these from our predecessors.

Answers to all these questions are optional. If it is desired that answers be treated as confidential, they should be enclosed in brackets; these will remain unpublished for 100 years.

Please supply also the usual bald facts from "Who's Who" or any other work of reference so as to save the compilers trouble.

Please write your answers in the space provided.

COMMITTEE ON HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT,
1, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE BUILDINGS,
DARTMOUTH STREET, S.W.1.

1. When did you first become interested in national politics? Why?

When at the age of ten I heard Parnell (c. 8) speak here
in 1875 at his first election to Parliament - because I was Irish.

2. What influence started you on this line of thought?

Reading patriotic literature and hearing of cruel landlordism

3. What books formed your political views?

Books and writings on above

4. What were your religious convictions?

Roman Catholic

5. Which was then your favourite newspaper?

The Old "Freeman's Journal"
of Dublin

6. Why did you want to be an M.P.?

I wanted to see more of the big world.

7. What or who first led you to think of it as a career? In 1892 a Deputation -
in want of a representative who would support himself,
without receiving a stipend from the old Party funds -

8. What was your trade, profession or occupation? waited on me

Landowner and Farmer

9. Annual income, earned and un-earned, when first you stood for Parliament?

£ 500- a year

10. Had you any experience of public work—if so, what?

I was on local public bodies from age of 21.

11. How did you first get a seat?

The Party behind above
Deputation (query) returned me an unknown boy of 27

12. What was your chief political interest?

Then Home Rule for Ireland & Land Purchase

13. On what did you, in fact, concentrate most in Parliament?

Matters of local interest

14. What did it cost you then to contest? And how much yearly while M.P.?

yearly cost
whatever
I had to spare

I only contributed £ 100 to my 1st election & nil to 2nd.
My Constituents paid the rest whatever it may have been

15. Who, at that time, was your ideal (a) living British statesman, (b) dead
statesman of any land?

(a) W. E. Gladstone

(b) Daniel O'Connell

16. How did Parliament modify your views?

Made me Conservative

17. How did being an M.P. affect your earning capacity?

I suppose I lost about a £1000 of my Capital

18. What did you enjoy most in Parliamentary life?

Great Speeches and
the mixing with eminent Men.

19. What did you dislike most, apart from getting re-elected?

Irish Party discipline

20. Which speech do you think was your best?

I don't think much
of any of them and hated having to speak

21. What was the greatest speech that you remember hearing?

Gladstone on Home Rule - A. J. Balfour on Education
Earl Percy & Lord Hugh Cecil on Deceased Wife's Sister Bill

22. Did speeches affect your vote?

While in Irish Party = Mechanical - after
left it (or rather name erased by Party list) - voted on Merits of Speeches

23. What was your best piece of work?

The day seven of us disobeyed the
Irish Party Whips & voted for A. J. Balfour's Education Bill

24. If you are no longer in Parliament, why did you leave?

arising from above disobedience and from my general
association with Jim Healy. I had to walk the plank

25. What books have you written, and what books have been written about you?

No one ever wrote a Book about me, or ever will
I never wrote a book, except ~~a book~~
and a Book of Standing Orders for Meath
County Council when I was its
first Chairman (see Ref. extract on back)

Extract from "Thorn's Irish Who's Who 1923"
(only edition of that Reference Book ever printed)

Kennedy Patrick James - Educated at Saint Vincent's College
Castleknock M. P. for North Kildare 1892-5 and
for North Westmeath 1900-6.
First Chairman of Meath County Council 1899-1902
and was a member of that Body for over 20 years
and one of the original members of the Irish Council
of Agriculture, on which he sat, for 21 years.
High Sheriff of County Meath for year 1910 and,
for a number of years, represented the Grand
Jury of Meath - of which he was a member -
on the Visiting Justices Committee of Kilmainham
and Mountjoy Prisons J. P. for Co. Meath since 1893.
Only Son of Brian Kennedy of Rathore, Cossneath
Born there in 1864 and claims descent from
Donchuan son of Cineadh and brother
of the Monarch Brian Boru
He married in 1888 Cornelia daughter of Professor
P. A. Darnan of Vienna - Has one Son Antonio B.
Is a Landowner - Residence Rathore, Enfield, Co. Meath

W. Kennedy