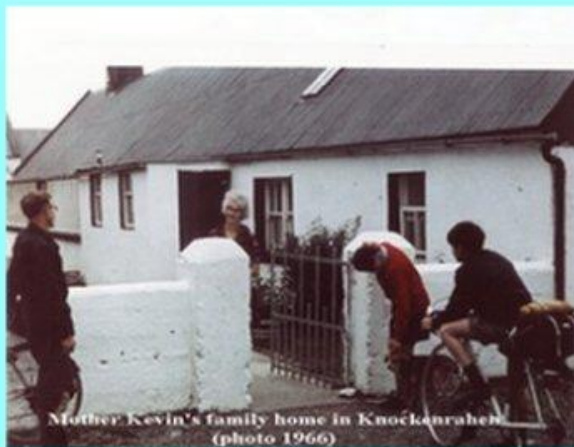




In Happy Memory

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary
of the death of
Mother Kevin Kearney
Foundress of
The Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa
and
The Little Sisters of St. Francis

October 17th 2007



The Kearney home at Knockenrahen,
Co. Wicklow, Ireland.
It was here Theresa was born
on April 28th 1875 - three months
after her father died in a
tragic accident



Teresa joined the Franciscan Sisters
at St. Mary's Abbey, Mill Hill, London
on 21st November 1895 - aged 20.



St. Mary's Abbey, Mill Hill



Sr. Kevin is among the first six pioneering Sisters chosen to leave St. Mary's Abbey for the Uganda Mission in December 1902.

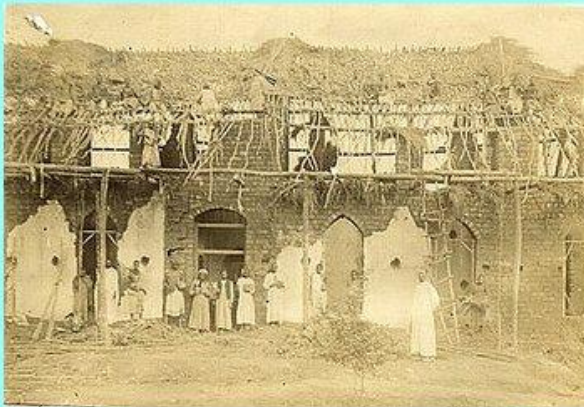
"The 1902 Carvan"
Pioneering Sisters with Mill Hill Fathers
Sr. Kevin on left of Bishop Hanlon.



First hospital building at Nsambya, Kampala, 1903



Relatives carry sick patient to hospital



More permanent building begins



Outside first classroom building at Nsambya



Mother Kevin at Nagalama teaching men and boys how to write



In 1920 there were till only 14 Sisters in total

The gathering for the Annual Retreat in that years is described as:

"the greatest number of Franciscans ever gathered together in the forty-thousand square miles of the Upper Nile Vicariate."



Mother Kevin with the first group of Ugandan women who would become the founding members of The Little Sisters of St. Francis



M. Kevin with the same group - now old ladies and Rev. Fr. Grimshaw, Mill Hill pioneer, their first Chaplain to Little Sisters of St. Francis (photo c. 1947)



Nkokonjeru 1923



Nkokonjeru 1963
Motherhouse of
The Little Sisters of St. Francis



Mother Kevin having a chat
with a young friend



Young Sisters in training
work the farm at
Holme-Hall Novitiate

"We need more Sisters" was the constant
call..."

A Missionary Novitiate is opened
by Mother Kevin in 1929
at Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, Yorkshire, England
to provide more Sisters
for the African Mission

Tribute in June 1946...

As one reads of the convents, schools, hospitals, leper camps, dispensaries, maternity and child-welfare centres which have sprung up by the magic of Faith, wherever the Sisters have passed one feels that one is privileged to witness a vision of Christ Our Lord Lord Himself, walking, not the way of Galilee, but Uganda calling the little ones to Himself, healing the sick, cleansing the lepers, enfolding all in the embrace of His Divine Charity The vision is reality. It is the story of the Early Church retold in a new setting and in modern terms.

Very Rev. P.J. Morris, DD., L.S.S.
Rector of St. Joseph's Foreign Missionary College,
Mill Hill, London, N.W.7

Foundations made in Mother Kevin's lifetime



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1903. Nzambya, Kampala, Uganda | 1938. Jinja, Busoga, Uganda |
| 1906. Nagalama, Buganda, Uganda | 1939. Madera, Soroti, Teso, Uganda |
| 1914. Kamuli, Busoga, Uganda | 1939. Iganga, Busoga, Uganda |
| 1926. Nkokonjeru, Buganda, Uganda | 1941. Mangu, Kenya |
| 1929. Holme Hall, Yorkshire, England | 1941. Kabaa, Ukambani, Kenya, Kenya |
| 1930. Nsube, Buganda | 1943. Dabani, Samia, Uganda |
| 1931. Nyenga, Buganda, Uganda | 1943. Kavule, Buganda, Uganda |
| 1932. Buluba, Busoga | 1946. Kanzalu, Ukambani, Kenya |
| 1932. Namilyango, Buganda | 1949. Muthale, Kitui, Kenya |
| 1932. Ngora, Bukeddi, Teso | 1952. Amakura, North Nyanza, Kenya |
| 1933. Nagongera, Budama, Uganda | 1953. Kikajja, Buganda, Uganda |
| 1934. Lwala, Teso, Uganda | 1954. Kiminini, Kenya |
| 1935. Mount Oliver, Dundalk, Ireland | 1954. Cedarville, South Africa |
| 1936. Pallisa, Mbale, Uganda | 1954. Lusikisiki, South Africa |
| 1936. Namagunga, Buganda | 1955. Nyabondo, Kenya |
| 1938. Budaka, Bugwere, Uganda | 1955. Nakuru, Kenya |
| 1938. Budini, Busoga, Uganda | |



Sisters sporting "new dress/habit"
in 1952
as the African Province
of St. Mary's Abbey, Mill Hill, becomes
an autonomous
new missionary congregation
having the title
"The Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa"

(Cardinal Dalton of Armagh in Centre)

Mother Kevin is appointed first Mother General
and later acknowledged as Foundress



*Cardinal Cushing of Boston,
a great friend and benefactor,
presents Mother Kevin with a cheque
to help build Novitate
in Brighton, Mass. USA*

***It was in the Boston Convent
that Mother Kevin died peacefully
on 17th October 1957.
On the night before her death she was
still 'on the road' giving missionary
talks to promote her beloved
African Mission***

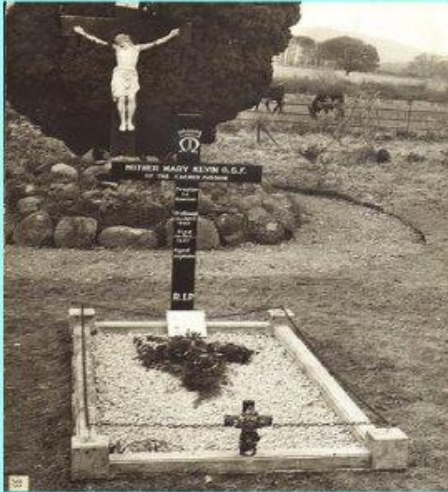
Back to Ireland



Arrival at Shannon Airport,
Ireland



Through Dundalk Town



The First Burial

Interred at Mount Oliver, Dundalk, Ireland,
Motherhouse of The Franciscan Missionary
Sisters for Africa.

But the call soon came from Uganda

"Please send our Mother back"

"At Nkokonjeru Chapel "built literally by the
hands of Mother Kevin" the remains lay in
state all night"

The Pontifical Requiem Mass the following morning was a
in a crowded chapel... Chiefs and people travelled
distances over 400 miles to attend the ceremonies.

... all business was suspended, and the day was made a
Day of mourning.

The Second Burial

The Safair Line (Hunting Clan) brought the body to
Entebbe. On arrival the magnificent preparations made
by His Highness, the Kabaka, Ministers and Government,
in conjunction with the Protectorate Government, and all
under the guidance of Right Rev. V. Billington, Bishop
of Kampala, were not long in taking effect. Over fifty of
the County Chiefs, from the Protectorate, chiefly from
Buganda sought permission ... to be Pall Bearers... It
was touching to see the Prime Minister, himself the
Minister of Justice and many others taking their turn in
carrying the remains of her who had been to them a
Mother as well as a Missionary.



After the Mass the funeral procession to the peaceful, beautiful convent cemetery took place through the grounds of the Convent where Mother Kevin had lovingly laboured for so many years, bananeries on one side, eucalyptus and cassia forests on the other, past the site where the first bricks were burnt from the old "White Hen" tree...

From "Evening Mail" 17/12/1957