



BLARNEY CASTLE

THE MOST
DISTINGUISHED
SURNAME
KAILL

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ORIGINS

The original Gaelic form of Kaill was Mac Cathail or O Cathail, while is derived from the personal name Cathal, which is generally Anglicized as Charles. Kaill is derived from the Old Irish "catu-ualos" which means "valor or powerful in battle".

ANCIENT HISTORY

The ancient Irish culture has produced many distinguished family names native to the Emerald Isle, not the least of which is the name Kaill. The world-wide influence of the Irish in the arts, theater, industry, commerce, literature, and the sciences, is disproportionate to the size of that tiny island.

Historical analysts have researched the works of authors such as O'Hart, Woulfe, MacLysaght, and O'Brien, as well as public records of baptisms, parish records, charters and ancient land grants. Despite the loss of records caused by a fire in the Dublin Public Records Office in 1922, an irreparable disaster to Irish history, there is still sufficient evidence available to produce a sketch of the Kaill history.

Researchers found that the family name Kaill first emerged in County Kerry and Tipperary as there are at least two distinct septs of the name. The first sept from County Kerry descend from the Heremon line of kings and were known as the Cahills of Connaught. The second sept claim descent from the Ir line of kings and were located at Corkashinny, or the parish of Templemore, Tipperary. This line further branched to the eponymous Ballycahill, Tipperary. Both branches descended from O'Connors, the Kings of Connacht, specifically "Cathal," also known as Conor na Luinge Luaithe, when anglicized means "Conor, the Swifter-Sailing Ship"^[1] which may elude to the seafaring coat of arms used by the family.

SPELLING VARIATIONS

The name Kaill appeared in many references with different spellings including Cahill, O'Cahill, Kahill, Cawhill, Cahille, Cahil, Cahaly, Cahell, Cahel, Caughell, Kahil, Kahel, Caill, Cail and Cayhill, and others. Sometimes even references to the same person could have different spellings. Many appeared when the Gaelic root was anglicized in several different ways. Also, church officials and scribes spelled the name phonetically, contributing further to the list of very similar names. The abbreviation of Mac in front of a name, meaning 'son of' is popular in Irish names, although this is no guarantee that the name is Irish. The Scottish also use Mac as well as Mc, but the prefix 'O,' meaning 'grandson' or 'descendant of,' is almost always Irish.

EARLY HISTORY

While there is not much factual knowledge of early Irish history, there is an abundance of legends involving ancient Celtic Kings, Queens and heroes. The Celts did not commit their knowledge to writing and instead they relied on a strong oral tradition to remember and pass on events in their history. Another purpose of this oral tradition was to celebrate past warriors at feasts and celebrations, and to prepare new ones for battle with tales of glory. As a result the stories became more fantastic the more they evolved, and how strongly they are based on fact is uncertain. There are many different viewpoints on the issue though, and some historians still have faith in the old legends.

There was an early invasion of Ireland in about 1000 B.C. by a Celtic race from the South, likely from the area of Spain. The books by O'Hart state that these people, the Milesians, were descended from King Milesius of Spain. He turned his attention northward to Ireland to fulfill an ancient Druidic prophecy during a 26 year famine, that he believed was his punishment for not attempting to fulfill it earlier. He sent an army to explore the fertile island and when he found that his uncle had been murdered by three resident Irish Kings, Milesius gathered another army to take revenge. He died, though, before he embarked on the trip, leaving his remaining eight sons to conquer Ireland.

The great Gaelic family of Kaill emerged in later years in Galway, Kerry and Tipperary. One of the more colourful ancestors was Gilla Mo Choinne O'Cahill, Lord of Kinelea East and West who was slain by Shaughnessy, the son of Gilla na Naemh Crom Ó Seachnasaigh, after having been betrayed by his own people. His son then slew Opichin Guer, but he too was slain by Conor, son of Hugh, the son of Cathal Crowderg; such was the violent and troubled times in early Ireland. The family name originates from the western part of Ireland, from the counties of Galway and Clare, near the shore of Galway Bay. Many of the family name can now be found in the counties of Tipperary, Kerry and Clare. The prefix 'O' is rarely used today. The Chief of Kinelea lead the most influential O'Cahills during the early part of the mediaeval age.

EARLY NOTABLES

Notable among the family at this time was Flan O'Cahill, martyred in 938; Daniel O'Cahill, brother of Bogh O'Cahill, chief of the Clan, forfeited under the Cromwellian settlement, his castle and the lands of Ballycahill having to move to Ballyglass, County Mayo in 1654; and Father Daniel William Cahill (1796-1864), American lecturer.

THE GREAT MIGRATION

In about 1167 Dermott MacMurrough, King of Leinster, was defeated in a feud and requested aid from King Henry II of England, who opportunistically allowed him to enlist the help of his subjects. Richard de Clare, or Strongbow, became Dermott's greatest ally. He landed in Ireland in 1170 and solidified the earlier victories of other Norman Lords with the presence of his great force. The success of the Normans in Ireland prompted the King of England to arrive with his own army in 1172, and reaffirm the allegiance of his subjects, as well as establish himself as the overlord of the other kings and chiefs in Ireland. He succeeded, and in so doing, permanently linked England to the affairs of Ireland.

SETTLERS

- Ludovick Kaill, who landed in South Carolina in 1739^[2]

As well as 179 more in the Appendix.

CURRENT NOTABLES

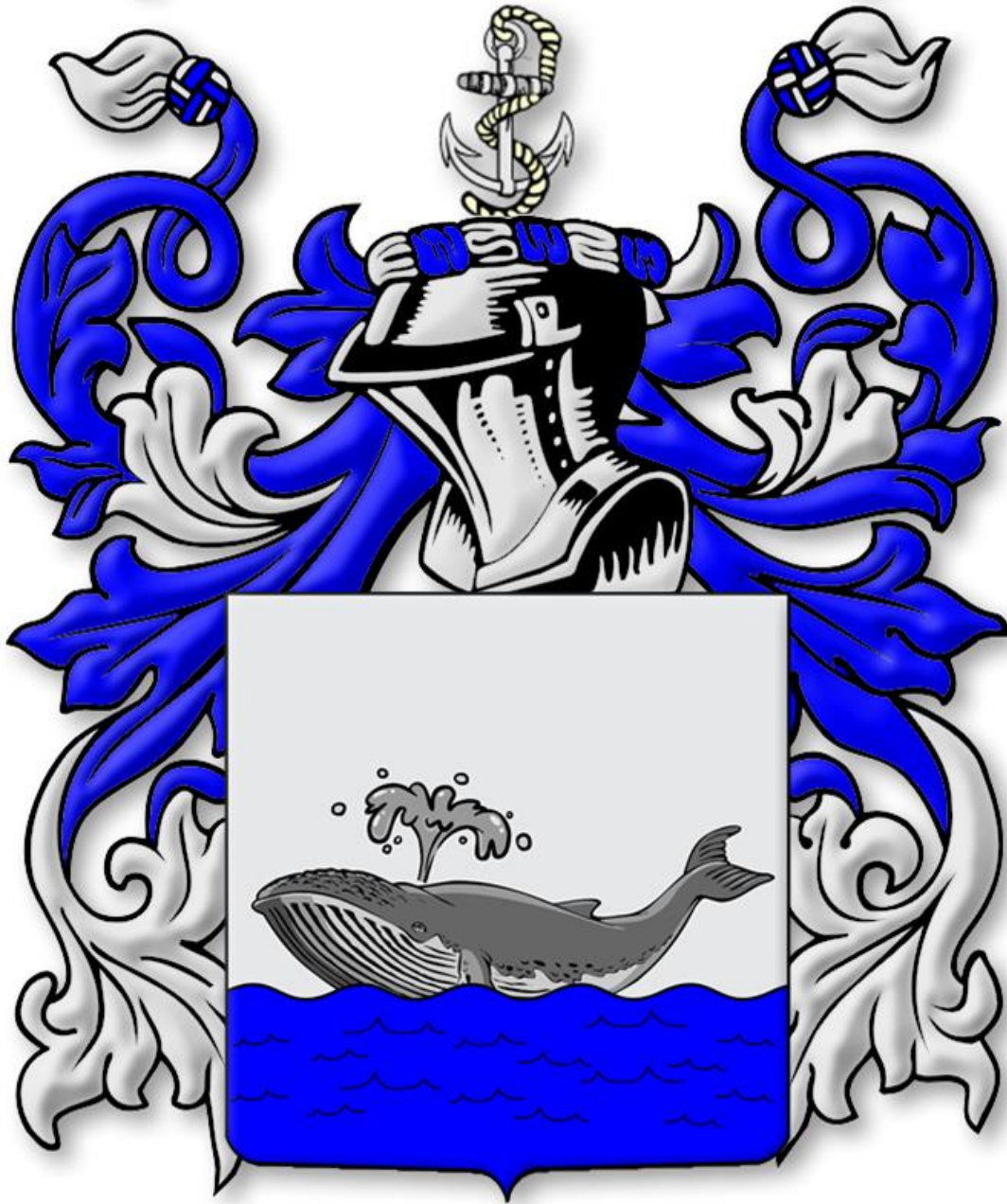
The greatest influx of immigrants to the United States occurred between the 1840s and the 1920s. Between these years, around 37 million immigrants arrived in the United States. Many of these later settlers followed opportunities westward.

There are 29 notables with similar origins in the Appendix.

HISTORIC EVENTS

There are 1 historic event entries in the Appendix.

In Domino confido



Kaill

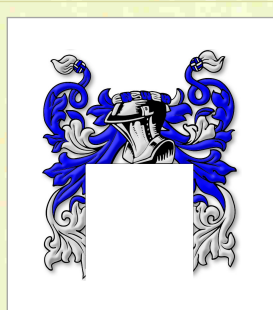
SYMBOLISM

INTRODUCTION

Heraldry, in its early form, was probably introduced to Ireland by the Anglo-Normans around 1172, but by then the practice of using symbols to identify important individuals would not have been unknown to the Irish. It was not until much later that heraldry was regulated by the English Crown, and Irish symbols were then included in the armory.



ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMS OF
KAILL



MANTLE OF KAILL

An Achievement of Arms such as the Kaill arms depicted on the left typically consists of these parts: the Escrolls, displaying the family motto and name, the family crest (if any) seen above the helmet, the actual Coat of arms (also known as 'arms,' or 'the shield'), the Helmet depicted below the crest, the Torse on top of the helmet, and the Mantle draped from the helmet. Each of these elements will be described below. Supporters were a later addition to the Achievement; they are somewhat rare, and are usually personal to the grantee.

The mantle was spread over and draped from the helmet and served as a protection, 'to repel the extremities of wet, cold, and heat, and to preserve the armour from rust.' The numerous cuts and slits suggest that it had been torn and hacked on the field of battle. The style or design of the mantling is up to the individual heraldic artist, and it is usually depicted in the main color and metal from the shield. The helmet (or Helm) varied in shape in different ages and countries, often depicting rank. The Esquire's Helm, as depicted here, is generally shown silver, with a closed visor and facing to the dexter (its right). On top of the helmet is a Torse or wreath which was formed by two pieces of silk twisted together. Its purpose was to hold the crest and mantle on the Helm.

MOTTO

The motto was originally a war cry or slogan. Mottoes first began to be shown with arms in the 14th and 15th centuries, but were not in general use until the 17th century. Thus the oldest coats of arms generally do not include a motto. Mottoes seldom form part of the grant of arms: Under most heraldic authorities, a motto is an optional component of the coat of arms, and can be added to or changed at will; many families have chosen not to display a motto.

The motto for the Kaill coat of arms displayed here is:

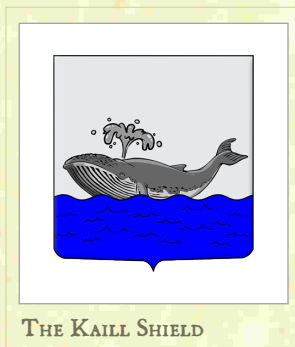
IN DOMINO CONFIDO

This translates as:

I TRUST IN THE LORD.

SHIELD

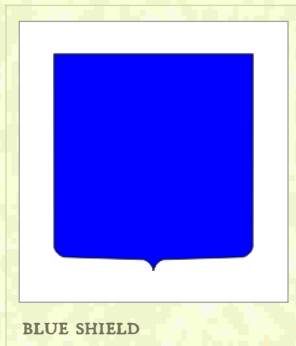
Shields (or Escutcheons) at first were painted simply with one or more bands of color or 'ordinaries'. Later, the ordinaries were used in conjunction with other figures or symbols. The Coat of Arms for the surname Kaill can be described as follows:



THE KAILL SHIELD

KAILL ARMS

A blue shield with a whale on a wavy sea, and a gold trefoil in chief.



BLUE SHIELD

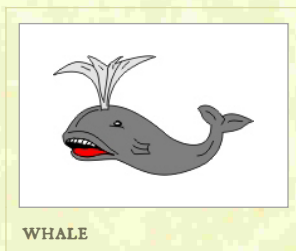
Azure (derived from the French word for "blue") represents the color of an eastern sky on a clear day. It also corresponds to the metal tin. The word, "azure" was introduced from the east during the Crusades. It signifies piety and sincerity, and is equated with autumn. In engravings it is represented by horizontal lines.

Symbolic Virtues: Blue denotes calmness and power of reflection. It infers nobility of the soul and signifies Loyalty, Justice and Courage. The color has also long been associated with purity and love, since the times when brides wore blue ribbons to the chapel.

Precious Stone: Turquoise

Planet: Jupiter

Obligations: Help for the servant

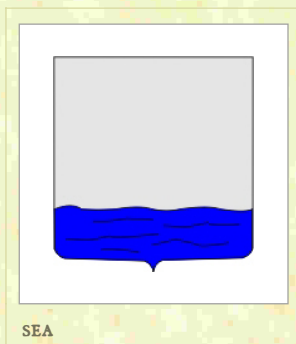


WHALE

According to legend, the whale was often mistaken for an island. Ships that anchored to its side were dragged down to destruction by a sudden plunge of the immense creature. In this way, the whale came to be used as a symbol of the Devil, and the whale's open mouth the open gates of hell. Perhaps this is the reason why the whale is an extremely uncommon symbol in heraldry. French heralds are said to draw the teeth red and blazon the symbol fierté.

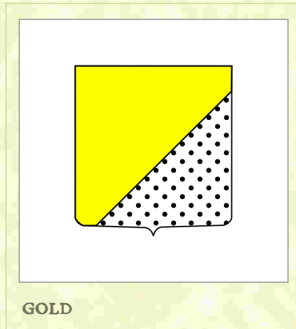
WAVY

The wavy sides of an ordinary represent water or the sea, and signify travel and adventure.



SEA

Water, or the ocean, signifies travel and adventure over some great body of water. It is also a symbol of the generation of life.



GOLD

"Or" (from the French word for gold) is the tincture of gold, or in heraldic terms "or," was considered the noblest color. One of only two metals used in heraldry, it exceeds all others in value, purity and finesse. It represents the light of the sun, and was once borne only by princes. Gold is said to gladden the heart and destroy all works of magic. It is also associated with excellence and achievement, and the bearer surpasses all others in valor. It is represented on coats of arms by the color yellow, and in engravings by an indefinite number of small points.



TREFOIL

The trefoil is a three leaved plant, resembling a three-leaved clover, usually shown slipped (with a stem at the bottom). It is a symbol of perpetuity, with the three leaves representing the past, present and future. It is also sometimes a symbol of fertility and abundance.

IN CHIEF

Any charge that is said to be 'in chief' is placed in the upper 1/3 of the shield. A chief itself stands for authority and domination of will.

THE CREST

The Crest was worn on top of the helmet, and was usually made of wood, metal, or boiled leather. It provided the double advantage of easy identification and the addition of height to the wearer. The Crest for the surname Kaill is described as follows:



THE KAILL CREST

AN ANCHOR WITH AN OAK
BRANCH COMING OUT OF IT'S
DEXTER SIDE.



ANCHOR

ANCHOR

The anchor is the emblem of salvation and hope and an appropriate device for the coat of arms of a family with a seafaring tradition. It is a common figure in the English armory. A device steeped in tradition, it was once born by King Richard I.

OAK

Oak is an emblem of virtue, strength, resiliency, longevity, and re-birth. In Norse mythology, the oak is associated with the thunder gods. The ancient Greeks and Romans revered the oak. Abraham's Oak, the Oak of Mamre, is thought to be on the spot where the bible states Abraham pitched his tent; thus the oak became a symbol of Christian worship. In the British Isles, the ancient Druids considered oak to have both medicinal and mystical significance. According to legend King Arthur's table was made from one gigantic slice of a very ancient oak tree. For centuries, an oak sprig was inscribed on English and German coins. Sprigs, branches, leaves, acorns as well as whole trees of oak are fairly common symbols in heraldry.

BRANCH

The bough has long been associated with ceremonies of triumph and is thus an ancient and traditional sign of victory. Though they may not differ much visually, different types of branches often have very different symbolic meanings. Victorious princes returning from mighty enterprises often bore palm branches. The palm branch thus became an emblem of victory and justice. Acacia branches or leaves have traditionally signified eternal and affectionate remembrance. The olive branch is a heraldic emblem of peace.

DEXTER

Dexter (from the Latin word dexter meaning "right and auspicious" or "favorable") refers to the right hand side of the shield from the point of view of someone holding the shield (the left hand side as viewed from the front). As the word sinister also means suggesting or threatening evil; so, in heraldry the sinister is often avoided: unless otherwise stated all helmets, heads, and animals in heraldry all face to the dexter. Thus, the bend sinister generally denotes illegitimacy.

CONCLUSION

APPENDIX - NOTABLE LIST

SURNAME VARIANTS OF KAILL

- Paul Calle, American artist, painter of American historical events
- Juan José Calle y Calle, lawyer in Peru
- Michael Caughill, American writer, known for *Winter of Frozen Dreams* (2009)
- Thomas Cale (1848-1941) American politician, delegate to the United States House of Representatives from the District of Alaska
- Mabel Cahill (1863-1905) Irish championship tennis player
- Edward Cahill (1867-1941) Irish Jesuit priest and academic
- Thaddeus Cahill (1867-1934) American inventor of the teleharmonium, the first electromechanical musical instrument
- Pandeli Cale (1879-1923) one of the signatories of Albanian Declaration of Independence
- Thomas Jay "Tom" McCahill III (1907-1975) American automotive journalist
- William T Cahill (1912-1996) Republican Governor of New Jersey, 1970-73
- William Raymond "Ray" Cale (1922-2006) Welsh dual code rugby international player
- Tom Cahill (1924-1983) Australian politician from New South Wales
- James Francis Cahill (1926-2014) American art historian, curator, collector, and professor at the University of California, Berkeley
- Leo Cahill (b.1930) American former professional football coach with the CFL
- John Weldon "J.J." Cale (1938-2013) American Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter and musician, best known for his songs "After Midnight" and "Cocaine" made famous by Eric Clapton
- Jim McCahill (b.1939) English football chairman
- Bruce Cale (b.1939) Australian jazz double-bassist and composer
- Thomas Vincent Cahill (b.1940) American scholar and writer
- John Davies Cale OBE (b.1942) Welsh musician, composer, singer-songwriter and founding member of the experimental rock band The Velvet Underground
- Mark P. McCahill (b.1956) American developer of Internet technology

APPENDIX - HISTORIC EVENT LIST

HMS REPULSE

HMS Repulse was one of the world's fastest battleships. She participated in many campaigns during her time, but eventually sunk on the 10th of December 1941 by a Japanese Aircraft. After witnessing the explosion of the HMS Hood she took torpedo fire and quickly capsized, 508 men lost their lives.

SURNAME VARIANTS OF KAILL

- Mr. William T Cahill, British Leading Seaman, who sailed into battle on the HMS Repulse and survived the sinking^[3]

APPENDIX - SETTLER LIST

AMERICAN SETTLERS

- Ludovick Kaill, who landed in South Carolina in 1739^[2]

SURNAME VARIANTS OF KAILL

- Thomas Calle, who arrived in America in 1637^[2]
- Thomas Calle, who arrived in New England in 1637^[2]
- Susan Cale, who arrived in Maryland in 1672^[2]
- William Cale, who landed in Maryland in 1672^[2]
- Aiolce Cales, who landed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1683^[2]
- Alice Cales, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1683^[2]
- Elizabeth Cahill, a bonded passenger, who arrived in America in 1735
- Thomas Cahill, an "enforced emigrant" sent to America from Ireland in 1737
- Henrick Cahill, aged 19, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1738^[2]
- Nicholas Cail, who landed in Georgia in 1741^[2]
- Daniel Cahill, who arrived at Marblehead, Massachusetts in 1768
- John Cahill, who settled in Maryland in 1774
- Dominikus Kail, who arrived in America in 1783^[2]
- Jeremiah Cahel, who arrived in Mississippi in 1798^[2]
- Petrick Cahill, who landed in America in 1807^[2]
- Juan DeLa Calle, who arrived in America in 1814^[2]
- Martin DeLa Calle, who landed in America in 1814^[2]
- Peary Cahill, who arrived in South Carolina in 1821^[2]
- Fco Calle, aged 18, who landed in New Orleans, La in 1830^[2]
- James Cayhill, who arrived in Maryland in 1833^[2]

CANADIAN SETTLERS

SURNAME VARIANTS OF KAILL

- Denise Lemaistre Cahel, aged 22, who arrived in Montreal in 1659
- Francois Cahel, who landed in Montreal in 1662
- John Cale, who arrived in Nova Scotia in 1750
- John Cahill, who settled in St. John's, Newfoundland in 1763^[4]
- Mr. George Caughill U.E. who settled in Canada c. 1783^[5]
- Mr. George Frederick Caughill U.E. who settled in Canada c. 1783^[5]
- Mr. George Reuben Caughill U.E. who settled in Canada c. 1783^[5]
- Edward Cahill, who settled in Freshwater, Newfoundland in 1791^[4]
- Patrick Cahill, who settled in Musketta, Newfoundland in 1795^[4]
- Elizabeth Cahil of Caplin Cove was married in St. John's, Newfoundland in 1815^[4]
- John Cahill, who landed in Nova Scotia in 1818

- Elizabeth Cahill, who landed in Nova Scotia in 1830
- Margaret Cahill, who landed in Nova Scotia in 1831
- George McCahill, aged 25, who arrived in Saint John, New Brunswick aboard the ship "Eleanor Gordon" in 1834
- John Cahill, who arrived in Nova Scotia in 1835
- Elizabeth Cahill, who arrived in Nova Scotia in 1837
- Mary Cahill, aged 30, who arrived in Saint John, New Brunswick in 1837 aboard the brig "Thetis" from Cork, Ireland
- Ellen Cahill, aged 30, who arrived in Saint John, New Brunswick in 1837 aboard the barque "Robert Watt" from Cork, Ireland
- John Cahill, who arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1843
- Mr. Bernard Cahill, aged 36 who emigrated to Canada, arriving at the Grosse Isle Quarantine Station in Quebec aboard the ship "Virgilia" departing from the port of Liverpool, England but died on Grosse Isle in October 1847^[6]

AUSTRALIAN SETTLERS

SURNAME VARIANTS OF KAILL

- Sylvester Cahill, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Orleana" in 1840^[7]
- Ellen Cahill, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Orleana" in 1840^[7]
- John Cahill, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Orleana" in 1840^[7]
- Thomas Mark Cahill, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Orleana" in 1840^[7]
- Mary Ann Cahill, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Orleana" in 1840^[7]
- Thomas Cahill, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Navarino" in 1848^[8]
- Mary Cahill, aged 16, who arrived in South Australia in 1849 aboard the ship "Elgin"^[9]
- Daniel Kail, aged 17, a labourer, who arrived in South Australia in 1849 aboard the ship "Macedon"^[10]
- Mary Cahill, aged 16, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Elgin" in 1849^[9]
- Daniel Kail, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Macedon" in 1849^[10]
- Edward Cahill, aged 22, a labourer, who arrived in South Australia in 1851 aboard the ship "Prince Regent"^[11]
- Leonard Cahill, aged 22, a labourer, who arrived in South Australia in 1851 aboard the ship "Reliance"^[12]
- Edward Cahill, aged 22, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Prince Regent" in 1851^[11]

- Cornelius Cahill, aged 29, a farm labourer, who arrived in South Australia in 1852 aboard the ship "Charlotte Jane"^[13]
- Pat. Cahill, aged 25, a farm labourer, who arrived in South Australia in 1852 aboard the ship "Charlotte Jane"^[13]
- Mary Cahill, aged 20, a servant, who arrived in South Australia in 1852 aboard the ship "Charlotte Jane"^[13]
- Margaret Cahill, aged 27, a servant, who arrived in South Australia in 1852 aboard the ship "Charlotte Jane"^[13]
- Patrick Cahill, aged 25, a labourer, who arrived in South Australia in 1852 aboard the ship "Marshall Bennett"^[14]
- John Cahill, aged 23, a labourer, who arrived in South Australia in 1852 aboard the ship "Marshall Bennett"^[14]
- Catherine Cahill, aged 20, a servant, who arrived in South Australia in 1852 aboard the ship "Marshall Bennett"^[14]

NEW ZEALAND SETTLERS

SURNAME VARIANTS OF KAILL

- Timothy Cahill, aged 21, a farm labourer, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Jessie Osborne" in 1867
- Catherine Cahill, aged 19, a servant, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Jessie Osborne" in 1867
- Fergus Cahill, aged 50, a farm labourer, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Waitangi" in 1874
- Dorothy Cahill, aged 42, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Waitangi" in 1874
- James Cahill, aged 14, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Waitangi" in 1874
- Thomas Cahill, aged 12, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Waitangi" in 1874
- Charles Cahill, aged 12, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Waitangi" in 1874
- Fergus Cahill, aged 21, a shepherd, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Waitangi" in 1874
- Patrick Cahill, aged 18, a carpenter, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Waitangi" in 1874
- John Cahill, aged 16, a plumber, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Waitangi" in 1874
- Ellen Cahill, aged 22, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Waitangi" in 1874
- Julia Cahill, aged 17, a servant, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Waitangi" in 1874
- John Cahill, aged 25, a farm labourer, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Salisbury" in 1876
- John Cahill, who arrived in Wellington, New Zealand aboard the ship "British King" in 1883

- Mary Cahill, who arrived in Wellington, New Zealand aboard the ship "British King" in 1883;

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Here is a listing of some of the sources consulted when researching Irish surnames. The resources below directly or indirectly influenced the authors of our surname histories. We have most of these titles in our library, others we have borrowed or had access to. Source materials have been chosen for their reliability and authenticity. Our research into surnames is ongoing, and we are continually adding to our source library. For each surname history, we seek and refer to sources specific to the surname; these are generally not included in the list below.

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Extra Credit goes to Guilhem D. at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Blarney_Castle.JPG for the picture on the cover.

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