

The Merediths are generally regarded as being the best of the settlers in East Kerry. Perhaps the most popular member of the family was Captain William. He was born on 28 July 1772. He married Alicia Orpen in 1801. She died in 1821. They had 6 children.

Captain William was the chairman of Castleisland Petty Sessions which were held in the market house. At a time when the law was administered with great severity, Captain William was noted for his leniency and fair play.

1824 In 1824 he donated a site for a Kildare Place Society school in Killeenterna and served as its patron and secretary. He was also patron of the K.P.S. school in Castleisland - the only one of the proprietors to be mentioned in this regard.

His generosity was legendary. A local poor man, Seán Óg, called one wintry day to the captain and informed him of the recent birth of his eleventh child. To make matters worse, there was a drop-down in the bedroom but this could be rectified if the Captain would be so kind as to give him the elm tree, which was growing in the middle of the lawn, in order to make a new roof.

Now this particular tree was the Captain's pride + joy and the audacity of Seán Óg's request so upset the Captain that he almost had a fit of apoplexy whereupon he gave Seán Óg the full blast of his tongue and concluded by informing him that he would not give that tree to the Lord Lieutenant.

By this time the roguish Seán Óg was the picture of abject misery and he turned to go. However, the usual generous instincts of the Captain reasserted themselves and, pointing to a fine heifer that was grazing in the lawn, he told Seán to take the heifer, sell her, and put a new roof on his house.

Seán Óg was not the only man to benefit from the Captain's generosity.

1837 In Samuel Lewis' Topographical Directory of 1837 we learn that the Castleisland C of I church contained a neat mural monument to the Merediths of Dicksgrove.

194 HOK 1838 In 1838 Parkmore House was rebuilt as were many others at that time.

1839 Richard Meredith was born in 1839

1849 Captain William Meredith 1 June 1849.