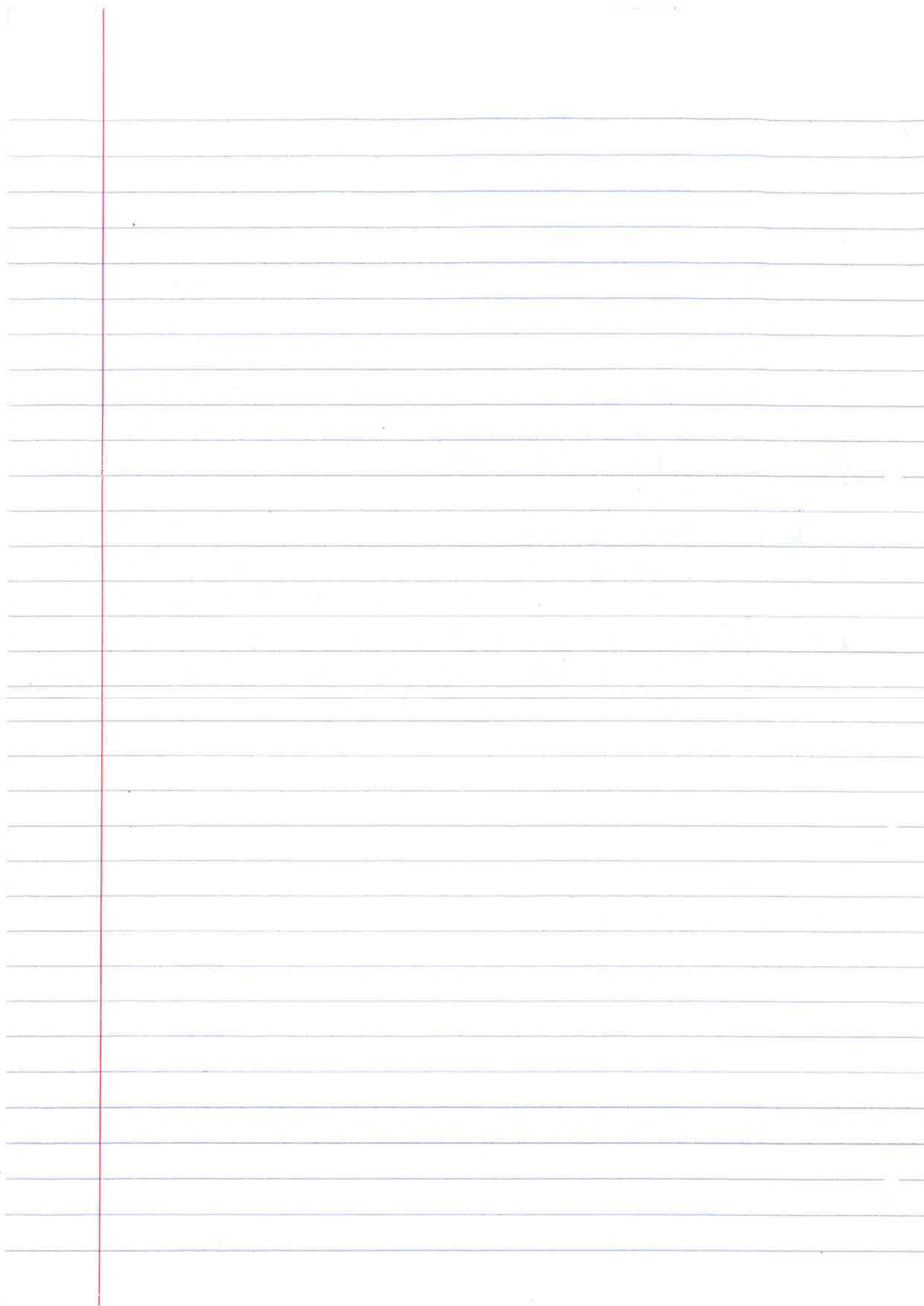


Michael O'Connell.

My great grand-uncle Michael O'Connell (Mikey) was born in 1907 in Rathcooney in Glanmire just outside Cork City. (See his home place marked on photo 1.) He died of cancer on 14th November, 1922, when he was 15 years old. Mikey was buried in Rathcooney cemetery, just down the road from his house. His burial took place on 16th November, 1922. At the same time that day, a soldier named John Francis Cronin was being buried in the same cemetery. He was a Free State Soldier and he was buried in plot B2C2.

While both burials were going on, shooting broke out between the mourners of John Francis Cronin and the Anti-Treaty supporters. This meant that Mikey's family had to flee from the cemetery, without filling in the grave. That night, some neighbours returned to the cemetery to fill in the grave, after dark.

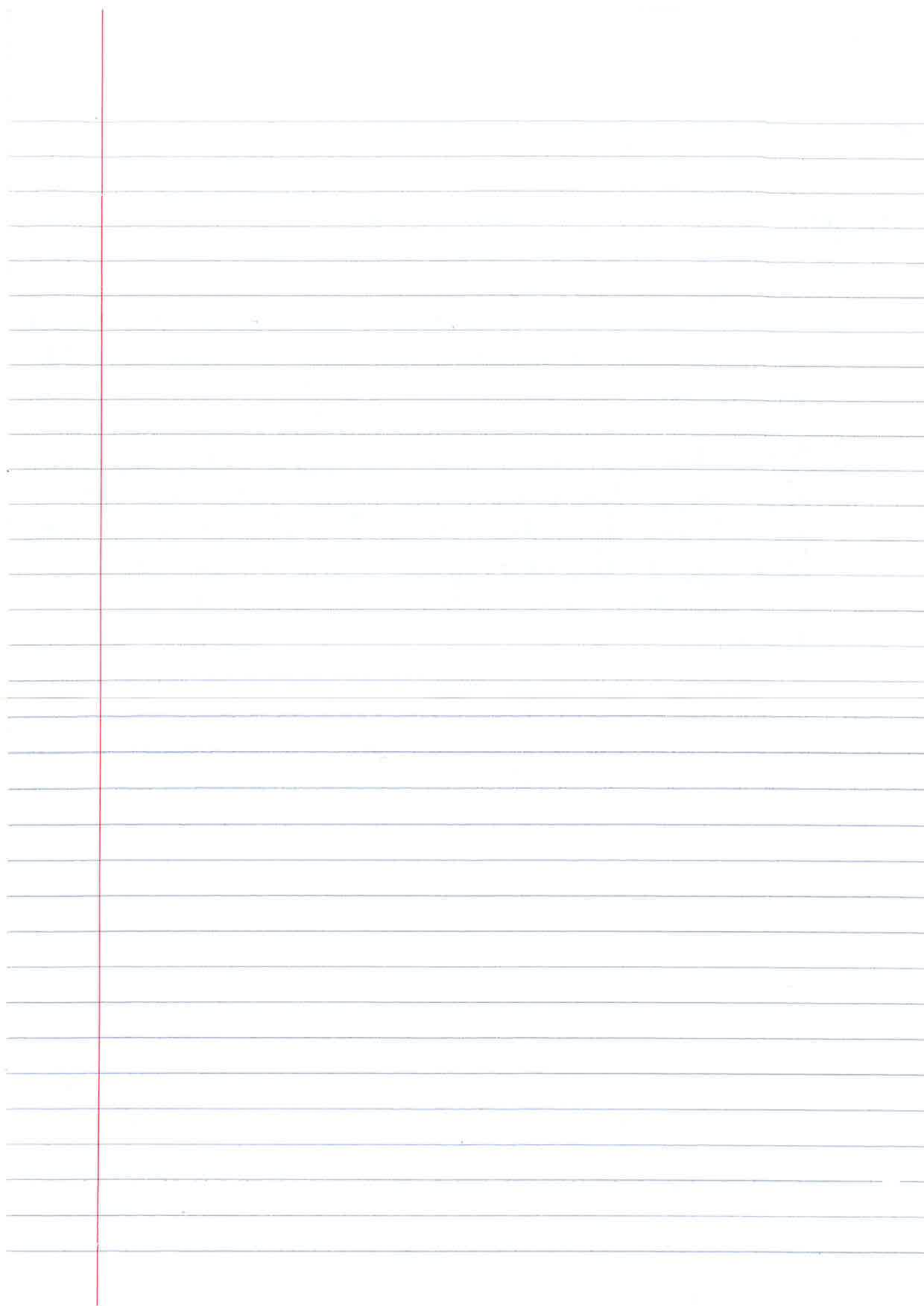
By: Sarah Connolly.
Told by: May Doyle.



When I went looking for the soldier's grave, at B2C2 all I found was an unmarked, grassy plot. I was surprised by this but the local grave-digger explained some reasons for this.

1. The family might not have been able to afford to put up a headstone or put a kerb around the grave.

2. John Francis Crmin was a soldier for the Irish Free State. There were many people who did not support the Irish Free State. The family might have been afraid that his grave would be interfered with if they drew attention to where he was buried.



CORK UNION.
CEMETERY,

The Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, 41 & 42 Vic., Cap. 52.

Registry Book of Interments in the

No. of Body	Age	Sex	Profession	Place of Birth	Time of Interment	Signature of Registrar
5287	22	M	Soldier	London	18/11/22	James Cronin
5288	15	M	Soldier	London	18/11/22	James Cronin

Signature of Registrar: *James Cronin*

This is the Registry Book of Interments in the Rathcooney Cemetery, it shows the soldier John Francis Cronin and Michael O'Connell (Mikey).

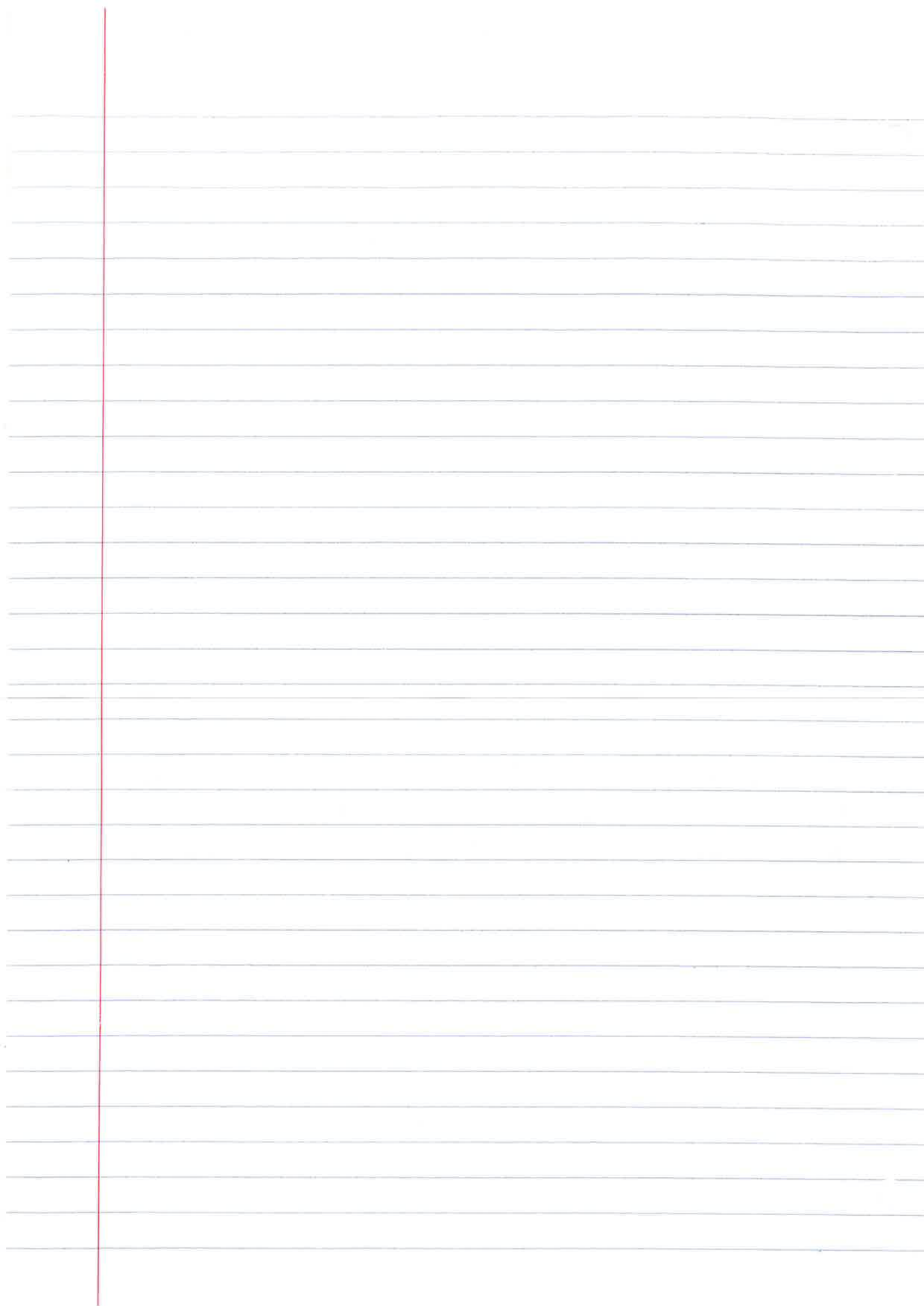


Photo 1



The black arrow points to Mikey's home.
Both the old and new cemeteries are also
shown.

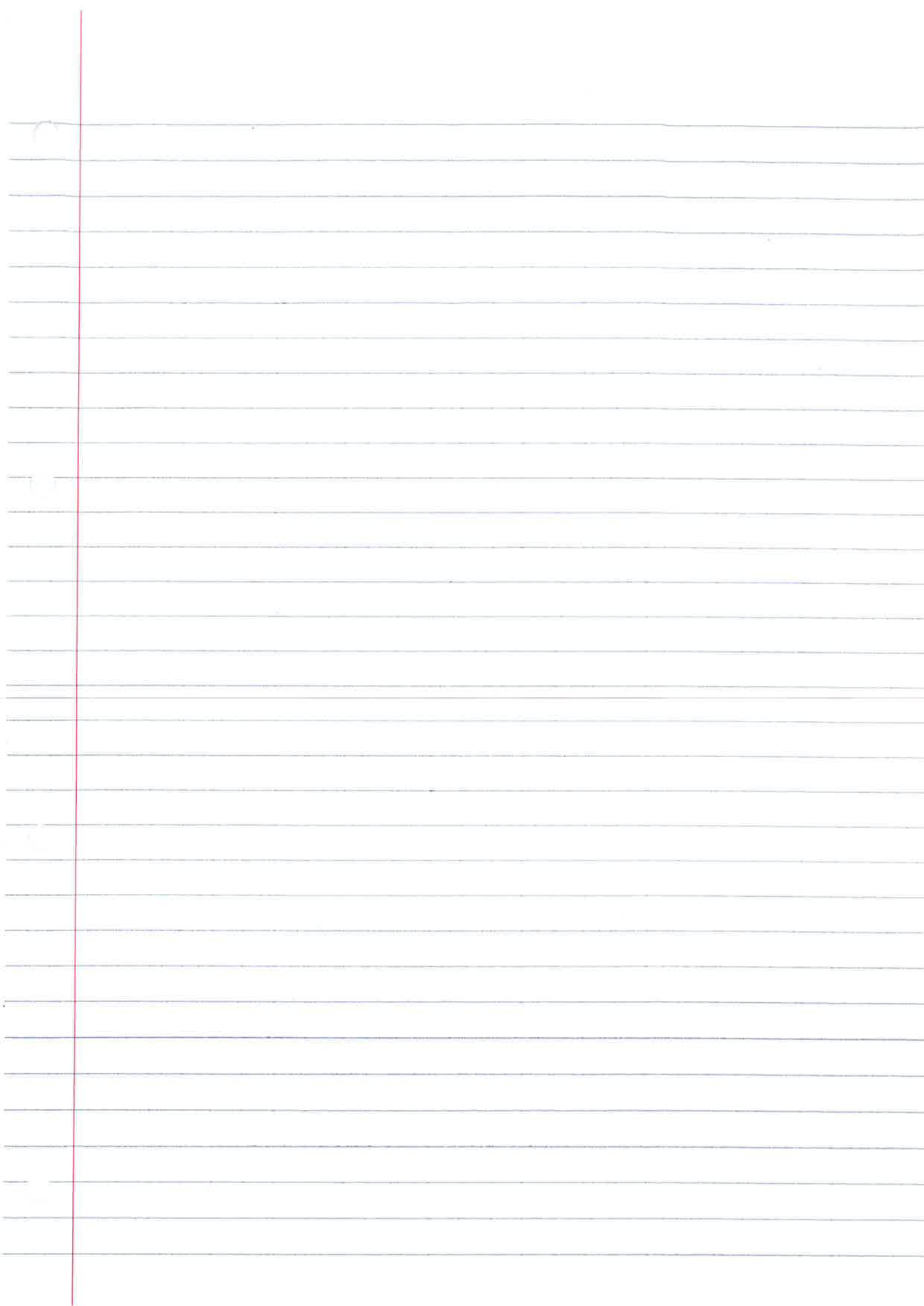
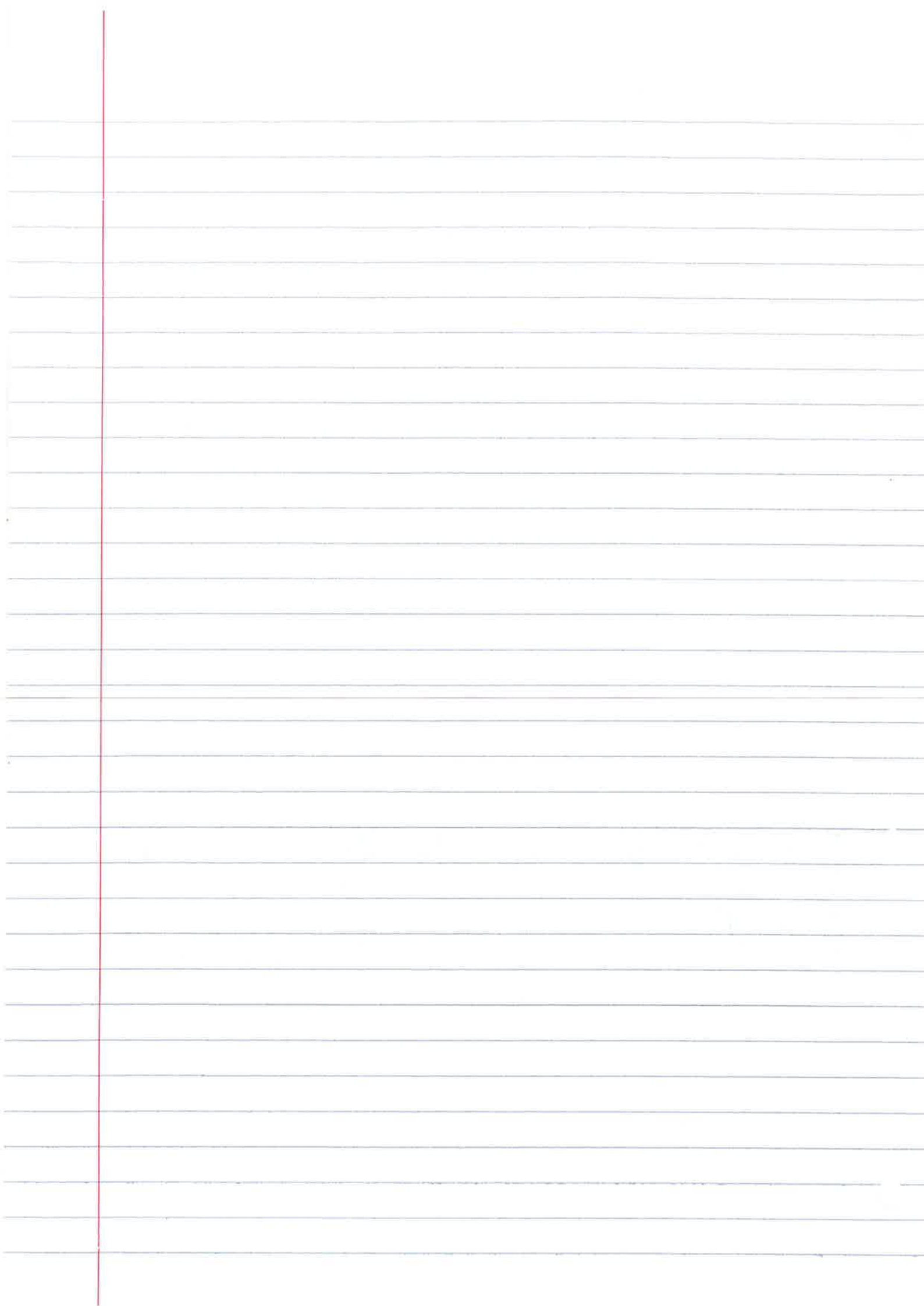


Photo 2



This photo shows the Old Rathcooney Cemetery. The red circle shows plot B2C2 where the soldier John Francis Cronin was buried. The black circle shows the O'Connell Family grave, where Mikey was buried.



These photos show the O'Connell Family grave. The headstone was carved by Mikey's grandfather (my great-great-great grandfather) Edward O'Connell.



