

January
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West Cork: Stories of the Revolution,
1916 - 1923

By Eoin O'Sullivan (D.O.B. 25/11/2006)
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Written by Eoin O' Sullivan
(D.O.B. 25/11/2006) of 20, Carraighada,
Baltimore Rd. Skibbereen, Co. Cork.

My Grandfather, Faching O' Driscoll
(borned, Baltimore Road, Skibbereen,
Co. Cork) grew up in Sleaagh, Aghadown.
He recalls his parents telling the
following stories:

My Great Grandfather, Con O' Driscoll
(15/8/1903 - 13/3/1979) grew up in Kilskeogh,
Drinoleague. He was too young to be
active in the IRA but spoke about
making tea for them and bringing
it to them in buckets, as they lay
in wait at Gloundaw (between
Drinoleague and Pummamway) to ambush
the British soldiers. After two days
waiting, they gave up when the
soldiers didn't arrive.

He was a student in de la Salle
College, Waterford, during the Civil War.
When returning to college in January
1923, he got the train from Drinoleague
to Cork, as usual, planning to get
a further train to Waterford. However
railway lines were cut and he
was forced to stay in the Victoria
Hotel in Cork overnight. The hotel staff
instructed the guests to sleep in the

corridors as there were gunfights/snipers on Patrick's St. and there was a danger of being shot through the windows if they stayed in the bedrooms. On the following day he had to travel to Waterford on a trawler - the trawlerman was conducting a 'ferry' service as roads and railways were cut.

My Great Grandmother, Mary O'Driscoll nee Kingston (25/03/1909 - 03/03/2000), grew up in Bannahow Primrose League. She remembered being woken up in the middle of the night aged about 11 or 12 by armed British soldiers running upstairs to the bedrooms in her house and searching for IRA men who they suspected were hiding in the house. The Kingston house was known to be a 'safe house' for the IRA.

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 Baltimore Rd. Skibbereen, Co. Cork.

My Grandfather, Pat, O' Sullivan, lives
 in a 400 year old farmhouse at Lough
 Troe, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork. My Dad,
 Micheál, is the 3rd generation of the
 family to grow up there.

My Great Grandfather (Michael
 O' Sullivan born 1901) was in the
 old IRA. His gun is still in
 the house. It was found hidden in
 a wall while re-roofing an old
 farm building. He was a flagman
 for the IRA up on the hill
 behind the house, signalling the
 IRA from a high point, if
 the British army were close by. He
 housed two horses that were stolen
 from the British army and he
 brought them out at night to
 exercise them.

They were trained by Pádraig O'
 Caoimh who Páirc Vi Caoimh was
 named after. O' Caoimh used to
 stay close by sleeping under a wooden
 bench in a workshop.

Under the stairs in the house was a bunkhouse for IRA members on the Run. Upstairs there was an escape hatch out the back in case of an RIC raid.

Recent Photographs:

Dwelling ↓ House



'Horse' ↑ Shed

'Gym' →
Shed

5

'Horse' Shed

'Gun' Shed



'Gun' Shed



6

'Bunk House' under the stairs

