

My Grandfather's Story.

In my grandfather went to visit his aunt in Louisiana in America. His aunt was a nun in a convent. While he was there he met an elderly nun named Sister Bernadette and had a unique story to tell him. She lived in Béal na Bláth in Cork, with her brother, her mother and father. She was around eight years old at this time, her brother younger. They lived in a lovely house on a hill. She began to tell him about a day when lots of relatives were visiting their farm. Later that evening she heard loads of gunshots outside her house. Her brother was wailing 'Make it stop! make it stop!' She told him that the gunshots they heard were aimed at Michael Collins. He died August 22nd 1922. My grandfather soon posed a question 'Would the written lines of history be different if his mother had been able to stop it? Who knows?

Mischa
May

My Grandfather's Story

Seán Collins was Michael Collins' older brother. Jim Hurley was Seán's age. They grew up together and were the best of friends. But when Civil War broke out, the two friends soon became enemies.

It was believed that Jim Hurley was part of Michael Collins' ambush. After the war, Jim and Seán made up and were best friends once more. The ultimate reconciliation gesture was to be buried in adjoining graves despite what had happened between them in the years together.

They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in adjoining graves in Clonakilty.

James Ryan.

My great grandfather, James Ryan. James was born in New York but he came home to Ireland when he was 5 years old in 1896. In 1917 he joined the Irish Volunteers [I.V.] in Kilkenny he was very high in order. One night while he was in Kilkenny the Black and Tans saw him, and were chasing him. So he ran in to a nearby field but they saw him and fired at him but it hit him on the lozaces and bounced off him and fell on the ground. James knew his life wouldnt be spared so he surrendered. The Black and Tans beat him up and paraded him around. A local bridge was booby trapped but they couldn't blow it up because he was on it. They questioned him but he wouldn't talk. So they put him Spike Island.

They brought him to a cell and locked him up. In jail, they wore big boots and they polished them every Sunday. So their families sent them tins of polish but they hid ~~them~~ other stuff like coins and money in the tins. While he was there he made a ^{ring}, but not any type of ring a fenian claddagh ring, the difference between a fenian claddagh ring and a claddagh ring, is the claddagh ring has a crown for the queen and the fenian claddagh ring doesn't, because they were fighting against the Black and Tans. [English] He also put the initials H.M. for Hannah Murphy ~~his~~ love. A few days before he was released he was brought to Co. Down to be executed. But two days before he was executed the new treaty was signed.

Misch May

Mischa May

James Ryan

by Michael Collins at December 6th 1921
He gave the ring to Hannah.

James Ryan was awarded the medal of honour by the Irish government by President E.C. Then he joined the Irish Free State Army in 1921-1923. Then he joined the Garda Síochána later that year. In 1929 he married Hannah Murphy. In 1965 he sadly passed away. Before he died he and Hannah had 9 children. The youngest of which was my granny Carmel pictured below. ↴



While he was there he wrote a poem
about waiting for Freedom

Misha May

Spoken

Our goals we did leave behind
Our homesteads we did break
To strike a blow for "Freedom"
And Holy Ireland's sake

~~~~~

Seunyp Uo Ruan  
Cyrer  
Cpats na Mearai  
GU cam nrs

Spoken

Our goals we did leave behind  
Our homesteads we did break  
To strike a blow for "Freedom"  
And Holy Ireland's sake

~~~~~

Seunyp Uo Ruan
Cyrer
Cpats na Mearai
GU cam nrs

Mrscha
May

James (Jimmy) Ryan (son of Patrick Ryan and Catherine Cahill): Born January 12, 1891 in Parkville, Brooklyn, New York, New York and died 8 January, 1965, Clonakilty, Ireland. James married Hannah Murphy of Ballymurphy, Co. Carlow on 23 August 1929. Hannah was born 1902 and died 15 February 1989. They lived in McCurtin Hill, Clonakilty. Jimmy was in the Irish Volunteers from 1917 to 1922 and served in the National Army from 3 May 1922 until 26 October 1923. The Black-and-Tans once arrested Jimmy and he was taken to Ballykinler, Co. Down to be executed. However, the new Treaty which was passed at the time saved his life. Jimmy was awarded a medal of Honour by the Irish Government (see **Irish Free-State Army and the Black-and-Tans**). He joined the Garada on 20 March 1925 until 11 January 1953. Jimmy and Hannah had 9 children

Fr Paddy Ryan: Born in Clonakilty 1922 - Died 25 October 1997. He is buried in St Finbarr's Cemetery in Cork City. (See story of Fr Paddy Ryan)

Anne Ryan -

Betty Ryan -

Breda Ryan -

Mary Ryan - Medical Missionaries Uganda

Thomas Ryan -

Kathleen Ryan - died young and is buried in St Mullin's Cemetery, Co. Carlow

Jimmy Ryan - worked for Aer Lingus, Dublin

Carmel Ryan - Her son Fergal Patwell is a Garda in Dublin.

John Ryan - retired. Worked for Aer Lingus in Dublin. His daughter is in the Drug squad in Dublin.

Photo: Hannie Murphy Ryan, Fr Paddy Ryan and Jimmy Ryan.



Mischa
May

unseen
Graiguenamonagh
Co Kilkenny
12/11/1922

To
The Chief Commissioner Civil Guard
Phoenix Park Dublin

A chara

Application to join the Civil Guard

R.1535
1922

I beg to offer myself as a candidate for admission to the Civil Guards I am $5' 8\frac{1}{2}$ " in height and 36" chest measurement and I am 26 years of age since January last.

I joined the I.R.A 5 January 1914 and was attached to A. company 5th Batt Kilkenny Brigade and was company captain of A company I was imprisoned on the 5th of March 1921 in Spike Island until 8th of Dec 1921

I joined the National Army on the 3rd of May 1922 and held the rank of 1st Lieutenant until I was demobilised on the 26th of October 1923 I am since constantly unemployed I can produce testimonials from my P.P and from the Military authorities and any more if required

I trust my application will receive your attention

Yours Obediently
James Ryan

1954
May

1891	Born in New York
1917	Joined the OLD Irish Republican Army (Irish Volunteers)
March 1921	Captured and imprisoned in Spike Island
December 1921	Released from Spike Island & joined Irish Free State Army
1923	Left the Irish Army
1925	Joined An Garda Siochana
1929	Married Hannah Murphy
1942	Transferred to Clonakilty
1953	Retired from An Garda Siochana
1965	R.I.P.

1953

1954
May