

The story of Johnny Linnare

This is a story about Johnny Linnare who was shot by the Black and Tars in the townland of Triereragh Duagh, Co. Kerry. What happened was Johnny Linnare was on the run and he was hiding in the hayshed of the Costello family. This happened about two miles from my granddad's home in Kerry. They had built a hut in the hayshed with turf and covered it over with hay and he had a little escape route. The Black and Tars came and searched the shed several times looking for him and failed. This day 30 or 40 Tars came and they must have known that he was in the hide out. So they picked out all the hay and when he tried to escape by running down field from the shed they shot him in the back and killed him.

On the road-side in that farm as you drive to Duagh village there is a monument erected in his memory.

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The match-box and the Soldiers.

This is a story that took place in Arras in France at the end of the 1914 war. At that time Nathaniel's Uncle was a soldier and was stationed in Arras. They knew there was going to be a battle and they were very bored and not looking forward to it. So they thought of a game to pass the time. One soldier picked up a match-box that somebody had thrown away. So that soldier gathered his fellow soldiers and said "I know what will amuse us while we wait." So they went up to the first floor of a hotel and they threw the match-box out of the window. The match-box was empty of course. So then they would bet whether the match-box would end up at the top of the hill or the bottom of the hill. It was great fun for them because a soldier would come along and say "oh matches" then they'd shake the box and there were no matches in it so they would throw the box to the top of the hill. Then another soldier would come along and do the same thing but throw it the opposite way. The soldiers had great fun betting where the match-box would end up.

details on the other side →

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