

Person Interviewed: Mr. Tadhg O'Drisceóil, Kilkilleen, Church Cross Co. Cork
Interviewed By: Anna Hurley, Lisheen, Church Cross, Co. Cork

Mr O'Driscoll began by telling me about different men from the area who were involved in the IRA. One of them was called Jack Harte from Kilcoe who was an officer in the third Brigade and who was involved in the planning of the burning of the RIC barracks in Skibbereen. My mom remembers when she was going to school hearing shots over his grave when he was buried down in Kilcoe graveyard.

Then he told me a story about a Margaret O'Mahony from Knockroe and how she faced down the Black and Tans. This story I am calling My Courageous Ancestor.

Once when the Black and Tans were around Ballydehob they set up a roadblock on the Bantry road out of Ballydehob.



Somewhere on the road they came across a cart belonging to Margaret O'Mahony and decided to use it to block the road. Margaret saw them and was having none of it. Even though they had guns and everyone was afraid of them she was not and she started



The ruin of the old mill at Knockroe

giving out to them. They locked her into the mill at Knockroe. They left her there for two days without any food or water. Eventually they released her.

I have found out since that Margaret O'Mahony's husband Thomas is possibly related to me through my mom's dad, my grandad Jerry Twomey of Ardura, Ballydehob. I am very proud to have such a courageous ancestor!

Mr Tadhg O'Drisceoil is a distant relative of Jack Harte.