

I am Aoife O'Donovan from Knockavilla in 6th class I am interviewing my Granny Gretta O'Donovan about our family history from 1916-1923.

My grandmother is telling me a story that her mother told to her. She recalled the days when her mother was in her early 20's. She talked about the night before the Crossbarry Ambush in which her house was headquarters. It was an open house for members of the I.R.A Battalions. All the men stayed awake waiting for the sound of the of the horrors of the Black and Tans coming from Bandon. The ambush was a victory for the I.R.A even though they were out numbered by the Black and Tans by 10 to 1.

A few days after the Ambush the Blacks and Tans opened the door and ordered the family out. They burned the house down. My great-grand mother managed to go up stairs and throw some of her Sunday clothes out the window as it was the ~~middle~~^{middle} of March and the wind was blowing the flames on to the out houses.

She unstalled the cows and let out the other cattle. The family moved to a nearby cottage while the house was being repaired. As the Man of the house was a member of the I.R.A the Black and Tans retaliated by burning his house and jailing him. This house was known as a safe house for all the I.R.A members on the run.

On one occasion ~~when~~^{when} my great grand mother and her parents were living in the cottage the Black and Tans called to the house looking for her brother. They insisted to go down to a room in the house but she informed them that there was a woman there giving birth, so they went away. In the mean time her brother was hiding underneath the bed in the room. The men in the I.R.A were not the only ones helping - the women were also involved. My Grand mother said her mother was a member of the Cumann na mBan.