

John Cahran, Sunnycove, Leap, Co. Cork

Information received from my gran aunt Eileen Moriarty  
Story told by Callum Molloney Listarkin, Union Hall, Co. Cork  
(Nee Cahran)

He was in some organization but we don't know which one because he did not speak of those days.

It was mentioned that he was spying on the Blacks & Tans. Her grandmother once mentioned that soldiers came to the house looking for him and they pulled up all the mattresses and other things looking for what they thought was information about them or others. He went to Canada some time after and it was believed that he was advised to leave the country for a time.

He received a medal from the state for helping his people and his country. (See enclosed photo)

Michael O'Brien, Sam's Cross, Tullineaclogh, Clonsilla, Co. Cork

Information received from my Nanny Kathleen Cahran  
Story told by Callum Molloney Listarkin, Union Hall, Co. Cork  
(Nee O'Brien)

My Nanny was born in Sam's Cross in the same homestead as Joanna O'Brien who was Michael Collins's mother. My Nanny heard about the burning of the Collins's homestead just down the road in 1921 when a detachment of soldiers arrived and at Bayonet point forced a number of neighbours of which her father was one, to pile hay inside the house and outbuildings, douse them with petrol and set them on fire. Michael Collins's family were left homeless.

She also heard that around that time her father was arrested by the same soldiers and imprisoned in a prison in Dunmanway. He never talked about his day to day stay there but we believe it was not very pleasant. He was released after a number of weeks. It was said that he and a few other had to dig their graves - the idea was that if any of the soldiers were killed then her father and the other men would be killed in retaliation. When her father was arrested the soldiers thought he was Michael Collins, as they were first cousins and similar in height and appearance.

All the cousins, neighbours and friends were heartbroken at the untimely assassination of the great Michael Collins in 1922.



MEDAL OF JOHN CALWAN, SUNNYCOVE, LEAP  
my Great grandfather of (Callum Molarly)