

1922

Dan Holland's
Great Escape!



Dan Holland's Great Escape!

By Calum O'Driscoll

My great-granddad, Dan Holland was a pub owner from Timoleague. He was also a member of Tom Barry's *Flying Column*.

Leading up to Irish Independence in 1922 there was fighting in the country between the Black and Tans (English guards) and The IRA.

One night, Dan was crossing Baxter's Bridge in a horse and cart. He had covered the horse's hooves with pieces of material to muffle the sound of the trotting on the ground. Suddenly in the distance, he heard someone shout 'Stop!' He instantly knew it came from one of the Black and Tans and in that moment, he had to make a swift decision. He leapt out of the cart, over the stone bridge wall, and into the cold murky water.

He swam to the reeds in the river and hid among them for several hours until the Black and Tans gave up searching for him and left. Before they left, they fired several shots wildly into the reeds to see if they could hit or 'spook' him but they failed and he lived to tell the tale.



