

Seán Kelleher

His name is Seán Kelleher, son of Tomas Kelleher, who took part in many engagements in the war of Independence, Upton ambush where he rescued Charlie Hurley and he was section commander in the historical battle of Crossbarry on the 19th of March 1921. An undercover of darkness, Barry and his men decided to move column. Seán's father Tom was in charge of the advance and Shane Doyle the advance guard and Jim Doyle from Kilmore was in charge of the rear guard. Barry in many ways put all his eggs in one basket in Crossbarry. He had 104 officers including himself. The column was divided into 7 sections, with 14 men in each section within each section commander.

Seán Hales, Knocknacree was in charge of section 1. John Jordan, Newcentown took charge of section 2. Mick Crowley, Kilbittain the brigade engineer was in charge of section 3. Dennis Jordan, from Marabulla, Timoleague was given section 4. Tom Kelleher, Seán Kelleher's father oversaw section 5. Pete Kearney, Durmanway took charge of section 6 and Christy O'Connell took section 7 away to the west. Barry had a major decision to make at this point. The decision was whether he should leave the location and try get a withdrawal or should he face the British. He was well aware that the British were coming in large numbers. There was no doubt about that. What was running through their minds "How could they survive?"

By Cara O'Sullivan

Age: 12