

Local Events

Kilmichael ambush November 28, 1920.
Crossbarry ambush March 19, 1921.

Reasons for these events

- 1 Remove British control of Ireland. (political social and cultural control)
- 2 End the Act of Union. (1800)
- 3 The GAA allowed nationalists to spread their ideas.
- 4 More money in Ireland to fund the fight for freedom, inspired by the success of 1916.

Local Stories

- My Grandad lives in Barryroe. He told me stories from the revolution, 1916-1923.

Jerome O Hea fought in the Kilmichael ambush.

- He was one of 12 children, his parents were farmers.
- His family was involved in the fight for freedom from Britain.
- His sister Ann was part of the Cumann na mBan.
- He enjoyed singing the song "The Boys of Kilmichael".
- He is buried in Kistevane cemetery, where my Grandad's parents are buried.

- There were also 8 Barryroe men in the Crossbarry ambush.

Family stories

- 1 My Great grand uncle Will Barry was involved in making Lord Bandon until the truce. My great-grand uncle emigrated to Pittsburgh. He told the story of Lord Bandon enjoying whiskey while being held in captive.
- 2 My granddad said that on the night that they moved Lord Bandon to Barryroe they met Séan Hales. Hales had left his group and asked "are there any dead bodies on the road"? This was because the British had been openly killing people at this time. Lord Bandon was held by John Barry, Pats Leary along with Thomas Brophy and his wife.
- 3 Lord Bandon was held in 3 different places in the parish as they feared that his location would be found at Currihevern, Dunwooley and Currihy.
- 4 Granddad can recall his Mom saying this rhyme:

Lord Bandon's caught
Mrs Lynsey's shot
Sealy King is saving hay.

[Mrs Linsey = involved in Dripsey ambush]

[Sealy King = local protestant farmer]

A local event:

- A detachment of IRA men from Barryroe ambushed an RIC patrol at Ahawada 12/5/1920.
- They killed Sergeant Flynn, Constables Coher, Bric + Dunne (Dunne is a grand-uncle of Eileen Dunne the RTE news reader)

Safe Houses:

Patsy Sullivan - Shanagh
Don Hurley - The Glen, Shanagh
Robert Drahe - Ballincollip

Cumann na mban:

Grandad heard of Mrs Molony from Lehina being part of this brave group of women. They were involved in carrying information. The volunteers used women to help as the British didn't often suspect the female involvement in the fight for freedom.

Where were the guns held?

- In a lodge opposite the GAA pitch in Barryroe today.
- This lodge was owned by the Travers family, the local Protestant family based in Timoleague.
- The IRA weapons were held here in the hope that the British wouldn't think of checking in a Protestant lodge house.
- Most Catholics wanted freedom from Britain.
- While the majority of Protestants were happy to be protected within the British Empire.
- These are some of his stories, although he has many more...

Name: Doireann Kelly

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