

1916 Stories

This story is about my great great granddad, John Leen, who was born in Cappagh, Kilfynn, Co. Kerry in the late 1800's. He was a small farmer and was married and had four daughters, one being my great granny. He was involved in the fight for independence.

At that time in Kerry, all of the names and ages of everybody who lived in each house had to be written on a piece of paper and pinned to the inside of the front door. The Black and Tans had raided the house a number of times but had found nothing, so one day, a big crowd of them came and accused John of having a son, which he didn't. They kept on accusing him of having a son and when he wouldn't give in and agree with them, they pulled him out of the house and beat him. They then forced him to carry their guns up over Stacks Mountain. They tied eight guns to him. He carried the guns to the boundary of his farmland and then refused to carry them any further and he threw himself on the ground. They beat him with the butts of their guns until they thought he was dead, and then they left.

He was eventually found and brought back to his house. He wasn't able to work anymore and he died a young man.

Told to me by my Granddad, Con McCarthy, Skibbereen

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