

# 1916 History Project

I am writing about my great grandfather Timothy Hourihane. He is my grandfather's father. He was born in 1843 and lived at Rerahanagh, Drimoleague where my grandfather also grew up and my grand-uncle Paddy still lives. He was the oldest child in his family. He had seven sisters and three brothers many of whom emigrated to New York in the United States of America.

Timothy joined the Irish Volunteer in 1916 and remained a member until the truce in 1921. He was not a member of Tom Barry's Flying Column but his two first cousins Jack and Jemrich Hourihane were members and fought at Crossbarry and Killmickel.

Timothy played an active part of delivering secret dispatches to the flying column. It was dangerous to post letters as all suspicious letters would be opened and there were no phones back in those days. As he was a farmworker he could move freely around the countryside. He hid the messages in his shoe for if they were found he would have been shot on the spot.

At a place called Clounleg, Timothy had a role to stop the British lorries with a horsecart filled with sandbags and he had to push it out onto the main road to block the lorries. The British got information about this so they did not appear in Dunmanway that day, as they were too afraid.

Three people including himself were involved in this exercise and if it had gone ahead it would have meant certain death for all three. That is so sad to think how near to death he almost came too.

Timothy Hourihane was presented a medal in recognition of

his services during the War of Independence. He wore the medal on the day of the opening of the O'Donovan Rossa Park.

In coincidence, my mom was in Derry recently and she saw the same medal on display in a Museum.

By Grace Gallagher,  
11 years old,  
Coolnagruan, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.



A mounted cutting of the Service Medal  
Ribbon is enclosed herewith, for wear at your  
pleasure when the medal is not being used.



Department of Defence,  
Dublin.

COGAD  
na  
Saoirse