

Martin Chemin  
The money tree

14/11/17

By Gary Chemin

In the late eighteenth century there was a robbery in Kinsale. The robbers got away with a substantial sum of money and gold. The alarm was raised and the local constabulary gave chase. They chased three men on horse-back north out of Kinsale town, over Camp Hill in the direction of Innishannon. The constabulary briefly lost sight of the robbers, but their local inquiries led them north out of Innishannon in the direction of Ballinacurra. They stopped to make further inquiries at the old forge in Ballinacurra where the blacksmith told them that he was forced to put the spurs backwards on the horses and that after that they had fled north once more in the direction of Aherla. When the constabulary finally caught up to the robbers a short distance north of Tough Bridge, ~~but~~ they did not have any money or gold on them at that stage.

Local legend has it that as the robbers realised that the constabulary were closing in on them, they decided to bury their stash of money or gold in the corner of a field somewhere between Ballinacurra and Tough Bridge. They marked the spot with a twig that they broke off of a nearby white thorn tree. The twig was forty paces from the road and fifty paces from the ditch.

No one knows what happened to the robbers

after that and the money and gold was never  
recovered, but that little thing grew into the  
finest white thorn tree and stood in the corner  
of my garden until storm Ophelia knocked it down.  
Where the root remains there could be a gold  
mine, who knows