

Michael O'Donovan, The Quay, Leap told us these three stories.

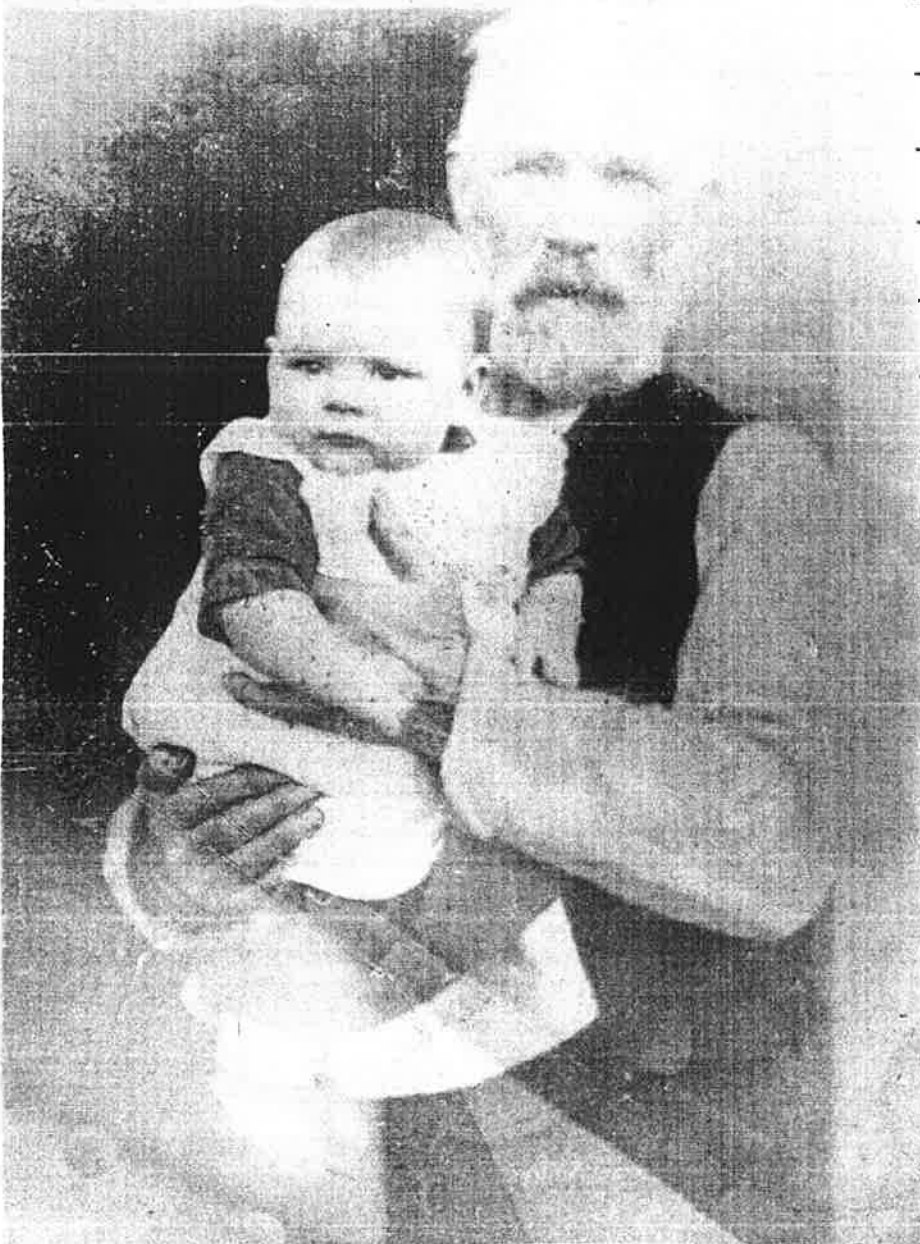
In 1918-1919 the Black and Tans would come and check out the village. The local people didn't like the Black and Tans. They would quickly go into their homes or if they were in the village shopping, they would go home quickly. Michael's grandmother had a pub at the bottom of the village. The Black and Tans would go into the pub and demand whiskey. They wouldn't pay for it, they'd roll hand grenades around the floor of the pub to frighten everyone.

(The Black and Tans)



Michael's mother, Kitty was born in 1924. At that time there was a forge opposite the old entrance to Myross Wood. One Member from that family

went to America to get a job. He was walking down the street in New York one day and stopped at a shop window to look at a photograph that was in the window. It was of a father sitting outside the front door of a house with a baby girl on his knee. He recognised the man as his neighbour from Leap. The baby girl on his knee was Michael's mother.



Child:

Catherine Mary
(Kitty)

D.O.B. 29.05.1924

(about 1 year
old in photo)

Patsy Cal Mc
Carthy, Grand-
father.

(approx. 75 years
old in photo).

[photo courtesy of
Michael + Maura O'
Donovan, The Quay,
Leap]

The photograph was taken by an American tourist who was passing through the village and saw the father and his daughter sitting outside their house. He asked if he could take their photograph. Not many people had cameras in those days.

Michael's granuncle Pad went to Belfast to join the R.U.C (Royal Ulster Constabulary). This wouldn't have been a very popular thing to do around the area as he would have been working for the British, but there were very few jobs for young men to do at that time. Pad came home to visit his mother. The local volunteers heard that he was in the area and they came looking for him. But, he escaped out the back door and took cover. He managed to get back to Belfast but unfortunately was shot dead not too long afterwards.

Thank you Michael for telling us these stories about your family.