

WEST

CORK

1916 —

1923



Pat Crowley, Gallowshill (Knockaneerohy) told us these two stories, that he heard from his father.

I want to thank Pat for telling us his story.

Pat Crowley's father Jeremiah Crowley lived with his parents, four sisters and two brothers in the townland of Gallowshill (Knockaneerohy). In December 1920 during the War of Independence, the house was burned to the ground by the Black & Tans.

On that same night, the Black & Tans left the Barracks in Leap Village and <sup>went</sup> up the Drinagh Road. People saw them passing Hourihane's house in Kilmacabia. They turned right at "Croine na leabh" (the Cross of the children).

They travelled into the farmyard through the back bóirín. They entered the

house and woke everyone up and ordered them up out of bed. They took the father out on the front lawn, put him on his knees and put a gun to his head while they were burning the house.

When they left, the father ran into the house and grabbed a suit of clothes and a table. One leg of the table was burned. This was a special wooden table called "the station table". It was used when the stations were held in the house. The priest would say mass in the house and neighbours would be at it too.

On the night when the Black + Tans burned the Crowley's home they stayed in a field. Jeremiah used a <sup>with his wife and children</sup> whistle to make contact <sup>^^^</sup> as they scattered and to gather them together again.



They think that the Black & Tans panicked when they heard the whistle. They went back to the Barracks. They left two drums of petrol not far from the house. It's presumed that they were intending to burn another neighbour's house that night. So they left in case the local people were going to gang up on them and take them hostage.

Jeremiah's sister was in the Leap Cumann na mBan. She carried messages for the men and cycled to different houses with instructions of what to do and where to go. The R.I.C. didn't expect women to be involved in the war so they never checked on these women as they cycled the roads carrying messages for the men.

# Gallowshill (Knockanecrohy)



The Crowley Family Home February 2017

photo courtesy of Pat Crowley, Gallowshill.



Figure 2. The Station Table photos courtesy of Pat Crowley Gallowshill.



Figure 3. The Burnt Leg (now repaired)

# Kilmacabea Civil Parish Townlands

