

Black Slates

In my grandmothers home house in Lisroneen, Ballineen is an old out house, used for storage. This house made of stone black slates and has been white-washed many times, has stood there for many years, in fact almost 100 years.

This old out-house was built by my great grandfather back in the 1920's.

During the years 1919-1921 the war of Independence was fought in Ireland a war which saw Ireland gain its independence from Britain. A Force of temporary constables called the "Black and Tans" were signed up to help fight the war.

During these years of war and troubled times men did not see home for months on end and would take shelter in sheds and out-houses all around rural Ireland.

Up in Carr in the neighbouring town land to Lisroneen lived a family called Crowleys.

My grand-uncle Michael John told me lately that the "Black and Tans" would hide out and sleep in out-houses up in Carr. The Black Slates on one of these houses are the same ones in Lisroneen today.

