

The War of Independence

Michael McCarthy

In the year 1920 my great-great Grand Uncle had a brother-in-law in the Metropolitan Police in Dublin. He came from a place called Lacknalooa in Clonakilty which was very near my Grand Fathers childhood home. His name was Michael McCarthy. Michael went up to Ballinascharthy with my great-great Grand Uncle on a Sunday night and there was some talk about the RIC and the RIC were a legitimate hard target at the time.

The following Tuesday he was in Ridges, which was also very near the place where my Grand Father grew up, and these two men came up to a place called the Corageen, up the hill through Castle View, near Clonakilty, and they came up the foot bridge on the Argideen where there is a house currently, and they stood there and fired five or six shots at him. He then apparently made an escape out over the ditch into the next field which would have been sixty or seventy metres away from where they were. He later died the day after from his wounds.

He died on the 24th of April 1920. Before he died he said that one of the men looked a bit like Joe Calnahan, but Joe did not have anything to do with his death.

It was rumoured afterwards that the two men were Hurley and O'Mahoney.

The ~~RIC~~ later came up and ransacked my Grand Fathers house. My Grand Fathers family had no involvement with the RIC at the time as they were anti-British.

By Martha Coakley

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The Trashing

In October 1920 my Great-Great Grand Father was in Ballinascarthy at a thrashing and he had beer in the back of the horse and cart when suddenly, a few British soldiers came up to him and asked him what he had in the back.

He then replied that he had milk in the back because he did not want to admit that he was bringing alcohol to the thrashing because they would probably steal the bottles of beer and drink it themselves.

The soldier then replied "Mulk?". The British army then frightened the horse and the horse bolted and he fell off the horse and cart and broke his leg and then he had a limp in his legs for the rest of his life.

Michael Collins

Once my Great-Great Grandmother who was a Michael Collins fan came back from Clonakilty and said she saw Michael Collins in town. She later found out that Michael Collins had been shot the same day.

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This War Of Independence Medal was given to a relation of mine who was called John Buckley. He was given this medal for non-active services.

