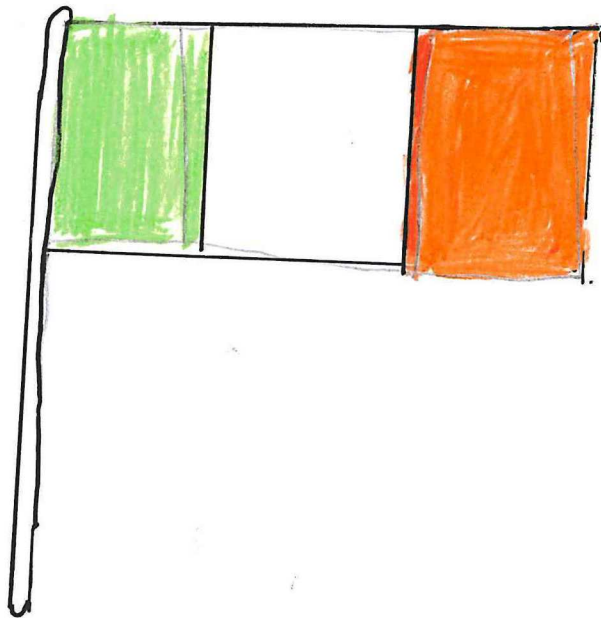


The man who got shot and  
killed by a child during the  
rising.

by  
Shaun O Connell



The man who was shot and killed by a child during the <sup>Rising</sup>

James Crawford Neil worked as a library assistant in the national library of Ireland in Kildare Street in Dublin. He was a poet, a pacifist and a Presbyterian, and was about to be married in 1916. On Tuesday of Easter week, he was returning from the home of his fiancée in Glarbale to where he lived with his widowed mother in Fairview.

Avoiding Backville Street by walking up Siffey Street, the family story goes that he came across children looting a sports shop and warned them that they might be shot for what they were doing. However, one of the children had an air rifle from the shop in his hand and it discharged, a pellet hitting James in the spine. He was taken to nearby Ferris Street Hospital, in general good humour and spirits with a relatively minor injury. His condition gradually deteriorated, however, and he died on the 10th of May. Shortly before he died, he asked the hospital chaplain to perform the wedding ceremony to his fiancée Miss the Abbey actress Patricia Walker, whose own family were involved in the Rising but the priest refused as the bride will soon be a widow.