

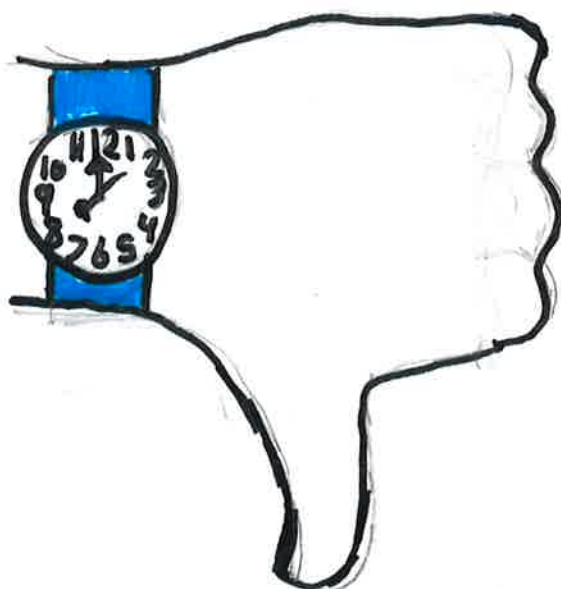
1916 = 1923!

with the black and tans!! (Dun)



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Green white and orange.



My maternal grandmother (née O'Mahony) comes from Skibbereen, in west Cork. As a child, she would have listened to many tales about the War of Independence, around the dinner table from her father, Willie. Since he lost his wife during childbirth, he told her stories from both her mother Margaret's (O'Mahony) side of the family, and his own side of the family, ~~and his own side of the family (also O'Mahonys)~~

Her ~~mom's~~ family home, (My great-grandmother) was a safe house in Dromig, for ^{the} Irish Republican Army. A "safe house" meant, that members of the IRA, were sure of shelter, food, ⁺ dry clothes, when they

Stopped at their home, on their travels through the west Cork countryside, while trying to avoid the "Blacks and Tans." The "Blacks and Tans" were mostly ex-British soldiers, who were brought in from Britain, and paid to help the Royal Irish Constabulary to overcome the IRA, who waged a guerilla campaign against the British occupation of Ireland.

One day, when ten year old Margaret and her 8 year old sister, Mary, were thinning turnips, they were spotted by the black and tans. They opened fire on them across the fields. A neighbour spotted the youngsters and shouted at them to lie down flat in the drills and crawl to safety.

when possible. Thankfully they survived or I would not be here today. There were also ammunition sites in the town land of Droic, Only a handful of individuals ever knew this information, as to know, it would put you in great danger from the black and tans. To not know was much safer.

My great grand father him self came from Cleannaphuca. (valley of the ghosts) He was one of seventeen children born to another O'Mahony family, 2 of which died in infancy. This house was also considered a safe house for the IRA. His father told him that he had to give the black and tans his last pound,

As he knew that if he refused, his livestock would either be slaughtered or stolen. He also knew that his protestant neighbours had their cattle stolen when they refused to pay the black and tans. When the protestants reported the theft to the RIC, they themselves were shot dead!

Most of his large family emigrated to the USA or Wales. Two were promptly killed by the unfamiliar motor-car in the US. One brother sold up his new found fortune in the states to return to fight in the War of Independence. Another brother - Mikey who remained in Ireland won

a medal for bravery from the IRA for his part in a train robbery to raise funds for the cause. He was shot in the hip for his efforts. I find this side of my family fascinating and it has prompted my granny to Refresh her memories by talking to her surviving relatives before the information is gone for good