

Baptismal Gown



Item: Baptismal Gown

Date: c. 1900?

Find Location: Enfield

Current Location: Enfield

Description:

This christening gown belonged to the Cosgrave family of Newcastle, Enfield. At that time, it was common to baptise babies soon after birth, as infant mortality was high and parents feared that an infant might die before being christened, and therefore be destined for limbo.

The gown is quite large for a new born but is embellished with different designs. The gown was handed down the generations and used for each new child in turn. Thank you to Marie Cosgrave for this item.

Further Information:

<http://ymfashionmagazine.com/irish-christening-gowns-much-more-than-shamrocks-and-lace/>

Pulsocon



Item: Pulsocon Hand Vibrator

Date: c. 1900

Find Location: Drogheda area

Current Location: Drogheda area

Description:

Macaura's Pulsocon Hand Vibrator. The action is a plunging motion of the center disk at the end combined with a rotating eccentric weight. It is secured with one hand and the vibrating plate placed over the desired body part. Turning the handle with the other hand produces a surprisingly intense vibration over the affected area. There were also applicators that would screw into the centre disk. Marked Pat. applied for, Serial No. 6681. Could be from as early as the early 1880's or as late as about 1920. Invented by Dr. G.J. Macaura. Thank you to John McCullen for this item.

Further Information:

<http://www.royalalberthall.com/about-the-hall/news/2017/january/from-the-archives-dr-macaura-and-the-pulsocon/>

<https://www.google.ie/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=9&ved=0ahUKEwjL-sqhnK7SAhXGJ8AKHUoNCQYQFghCMAg&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thackraymedicalmuseum.co.uk%2FThackrayMuseum%2Fmedia%2FBooking-Form%2FJamie%2520Stark%2FMacaura-Pulsocon.pdf&usg=AFQjCNEeuUfIFc9hh6lp0a-Nr34SeE03dA&cad=rja>

Meath in the early 20th century - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

Electric Car 1900 Dunsany



Item: Cleveland Sperry System Electric Three-Seater Stanhope

Date: 1900

Find Location: Dunsany

Current Location: Whereabouts unknown. Sold by Bonham Auctioneers.

Further Information:

Elmer A. Sperry arrived in Cleveland in the later years of the nineteenth century to assist in setting up an electric street railway company. His Sperry Engineering Company built its first electric carriage in 1898 and, joining forces with the Cleveland Machine Screw Company in 1899, Sperry entered motor car production. Coachwork, chassis design and suspension followed closely horsedrawn vehicle principles but here was a state-of-the-art, self-propelled vehicle, running almost in silence, that was capable, allegedly, of 18mph. Initially marketed as Cleveland, Sperry System cars, later models were simply known as Sperry and in 1900, venturing into Europe, the Sperry won a gold medal at the Paris Exposition. This is one of two known surviving Cleveland electric vehicles listed in the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain Handbook.

This car was acquired at auction in London some 25 years ago, becoming part of a small collection of cars in Ireland from whom the present owner acquired the car in 1991. The car carries a distinctive Irish registration number, NI 3, which was first owned by Sir Horace Plunkett – founder of the cooperative movement in Ireland and son of Lord Dunsany.

Further Information:

<https://www.bonhams.com/auctions/21903/lot/216/>

Silver Biscuit Barrel



Item: Silver Biscuit Barrel

Date: c. 1900

Find Location: Drogheda area

Current Location: Drogheda area

Description:

Silver biscuit barrel, awarded to Nicholas Connor, Irish Mile Champion c. 1900. Gifted to Annie McCullen.

Further Information:

Boer War Medal



Item: Queen's South Africa Medal with Bars: Orange Free State & Transvaal

Date: 1901

Find Location: Clonalvey

Current Location: Unknown

Description:

This medal was awarded to Richard McGrane of Clonalvey, who joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1895 aged 18. He had been a messenger by trade prior to enlistment. He served at home, in India and South Africa. Appointed a corporal he served during the Tirah campaign in India before being transferred to South Africa. The Queen's South Africa Medal is a British campaign medal which was awarded to British and Colonial military personnel, civilians employed in official capacity and war correspondents who served in the Second Boer War in South Africa. The Queen's South Africa Medal was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1900, for award to military personnel, civilian officials and war correspondents who served in South Africa during the Second Boer War from 11 October 1899 to 31 May 1902.

McGrane serving with the 2nd Battalion arrived in South Africa from India at the close of 1901. They were sent to operate in the Pietersburg district under Colonel Colenbrander, and did good service there. In his telegram of 13th April 1902 Lord Kitchener said: "Beyers' laager having been located at Palkop, the force under Colonel Colenbrander moved by different routes from Pietersburg so as to block all the principal outlets. The march was successful, and at 3 pm on the 8th a half-battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, led by Colonel Murray, attacked the entrance to Molipsport, covering the enemy's position. The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers advancing magnificently in the face of opposition, and making skilful use of cover, by dusk had seized a hill to the east of Poort".

Further Information:

<http://www.angloboerwar.com/unit-information/imperial-units/563-royal-inniskilling-fusiliers>

Meath in the early 20th century - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

First ever Camogie match medal



Item: Medal awarded to 'M. S. Uí Floinn' for Ireland's first ever Camogie match in 1904

Date: 1904

Find Location: Navan

Current Location: Sold at auction by Whytes Irish Art Auctioneers

Description:

This Gaelic Athletic Association medal was awarded to M. S. Uí Floinn. Medal in the same form as All Ireland Championship medals of the period and hallmarked Dublin 1904. Engraved on reverse "M. S. Uí Floinn 1904" The efforts to found a new Gaelic female stick-and-ball game first began in 1903 when draft rules were drawn up by Máire Ní Chinnéide, Seán Ó Ceallaigh, Tadhg Ó Donnchadha and Séamus Ó Braonáin. Through the efforts of Ní Chinnéide and the other members of Keating Branch of the Gaelic League (Craobh an Chéitinnigh) the first ever camogie match in Ireland was played before the public on 17 July 1904 at the Navan Agricultural Society Grounds in County Meath between Craobh an Chéitinnigh and Cúchulainn. The Freeman's Journal noted a few days later that "On Sunday in connection with the Aeridheacht held in the grounds of the Meath Agricultural Society at Navan, the first inter-club Camoguidheacht match took place... both teams were attired in graceful costumes, the Cuchullain colleens wearing light blue with red sashes and the Keating Gaels wearing light blue with yellow ties, the colours of the branch.... The game was fast throughout and it was within five minutes of the call of time before the first score was recorded, a goal for the Keating Club..." It was 1912 before there would be an inter-county Camogie match and 1932 before the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship started. In 2004 the historic match was commemorated at Pairc Tailteann where a plaque was unveiled to mark its centenary.

Further Information:

Photographic Albums



Item: Photographic Albums

Date: 1908 to 1926

Find Location: Bellewstown

Current Location: Bellewstown

Description:

Four large albums of family photographs 1908 to 1926 taken by the members of the Boylan family of Hilltown House, Bellewstown. Contain images of hunting; race-going; early twentieth century farming and farm machinery; First World War; Easter Week Drogheda 1916; early cars.

Hilltown House was located near Bellewstown in east Meath. A two storey house Hilltown had a courtyard of outbuildings and stables dating from a similar period as the house. Bence-Jones described Hilltown as a well proportioned house of two storeys erected by Nicholas Boylan about 1810 although another source dated a house at Hilltown to 1760. One of the demesne gates opened directly onto the Bellewstown Racecourse. Hilltown house was vacated by the Boylans in the 1980s and fell into disrepair. The Bellewstown Heritage Group recorded that the house was dismantled stone by stone. A modern house was erected on the site of the original house. According to 'The parish of Duleek and over the ditches' the Boylan family came from Cavan and initially resided in a house at Ratholland, which is now in ruins.

Further Information:

Bellewstown Heritage Group *History of Hilltown and the Boylan family* (Bellewstown, 2011)

Ballinacree Banner



Item: Banner

Date: 1911

Find Location: Ballinacree, Oldcastle

Current Location: Heritage Room, Ballinacree Community Centre.

Description:

The Banner, which is the centrepiece of the busy hall, was ordered by Ballinacree Fife and Drum Band members in 1911. Messrs. W. Ahern, J. Gibney, Ned Alwill and M. Flood paid the then substantial sum of £14 - raised locally - to a Dublin designer to acquire the piece. Ned Alwill collected it from Oldcastle railway station on his ass and cart, despite its height and massive frame. It proved an instant wonder locally. The banner received its first outing in 1913, at the unveiling at Parnell monument in Dublin. It was again on display at Tara in 1948, and in Cavan a year later. It was seen regularly at the Pattern Day in nearby Finea, and also featured at the annual Loughcrew Mass and the Oldcastle Fleadh. Some time ago, Emily Naper, Professional Gilder, was commissioned by the Ballinacree Hall Committee to repair and clean the banner at a cost of £900. The hall is only its latest home, having previously been stored in the school, as well as in Husseys and Gibneys.

Further Information:

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~ballinacree/banner.htm>

Ulster Covenant

(MEN)

3838

SHEET No. 1

PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION Kells, Co. Wick.

DISTRICT _____

PLACE OF SIGNING _____

Covenant:—

BEING CONVINCED in our consciences that Home Rule would be disastrous to the material well-being of Ulster as well as of the whole of Ireland, subversive of our civil and religious freedom, destructive of our citizenship, and perilous to the unity of the Empire, we, whose names are underwritten, men of Ulster, loyal subjects of His Gracious Majesty King George V., humbly relying on the God whom our fathers in days of stress and trial confidently trusted, do hereby pledge ourselves in solemn Covenant, throughout this our time of threatened calamity, to stand by one another in defending, for ourselves and our children, our cherished position of equal citizenship in the United Kingdom, and in using all means which may be found necessary to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule Parliament in Ireland. And in the event of such a Parliament being forced upon us, we further solemnly and mutually pledge ourselves to refuse to recognise its authority. In sure confidence that God will defend the right, we hereto subscribe our names.
And further, we individually declare that we have not already signed this Covenant.

NAME	ADDRESS
<u>William Stewart Biddell</u>	<u>Maperath Kells</u>
<u>John Stewart</u>	<u>Conover, P. Boyanally</u>
<u>Robert Glenn</u>	<u>Maperath Kells</u>
<u>Walter R. Walsley</u>	<u>Kells, Co. Meath</u>
<u>John A. Shickpatrick</u>	<u>Kells Co. Meath</u>
<u>William Chedden</u>	<u>Cherry Mount Kells Co. Meath</u>
<u>Samuel Robinson</u>	<u>Kells Mandlin St</u>
<u>Wm J. Matchett</u>	<u>Doctra St Kells</u>
<u>William J. Robinson</u>	<u>Mandlin St Kells</u>
<u>John Robinson</u>	<u>Mandlin Street Kells</u>

Item: Covenant

Date: 1912

Find Location: Signed at Kells

Current Location: Public Records Office, Northern Ireland

Description:

The Ulster Covenant, also known as Ulster's Solemn League and Covenant, was signed by just under half a million men and women from Ulster, on and before 28 September 1912, in protest against the Third Home Rule Bill, introduced by the British Government in that same year. A number of Meath people signed the covenant.

Further Information:

Meath in the early 20th century - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

Cigarette Box 1914



Item: Cigarette Box Photo: Marion Gilsenan, Athboy.

Date: 1914

Find Location: Western Front but associated with Athboy.

Current Location: Private Hands

Description:

The Princess Mary Gift Fund box is an embossed brass box that originally contained a variety of items such as tobacco and chocolate. It was intended as a Christmas present to those serving at Christmas in 1914 and was paid for by a public fund backed by Princess Mary. It was anticipated that the majority of eligible recipients would receive an embossed brass box, one ounce of pipe tobacco, twenty cigarettes, a pipe, a tinder lighter, Christmas card and photograph but quite early on the committee in charge received strong representations that an alternative gift should be made available for non-smokers.

Mattie Mooney from Athboy received this gift at Christmas 1914. He also wrote about his own war service. Mattie Mooney wrote that his own war service in France was at the beginning and end of the war.

“At the outbreak of war, I had two years service with the RAMC (Royal Army Medical Corps), and my unit was on manoeuvres in the south of Ireland. I was appointed to No 1 General Hospital, 1st Army Corps ... the GOC in chief was Sir John French, and my CO was Colonel Dalton. We landed in France on August 18th 1914 at Le Harve and pitched our canvas hospital about ten miles northwards near the railway line, and erected an impromptu siding for loading and unloading casualties. Ten days later, we got an order to strike canvas and get going as quickly as possible. Colonel Dalton joined a medical unit at the Marne and he was killed at the battle. Our unit went to St Nazaire by sea, and after a week we returned by land to Etretat, a tourist village in the coast, and we took over some hotels as hospitals, one of which was Hotel De Roches Blanches.” Mattie recalls that before striking canvas during the retreat from Mons, they treated many casualties which were sent to the hospital ship, Austurias, at Le Harve. The wounded were in a dirty condition, and many wounds were septic.”

After the war, Matt Mooney returned to Ireland, trained as a watchmaker in Carlow and opened his own business on Main Street, Athboy, which he operated for many decades afterwards.

Further Information:

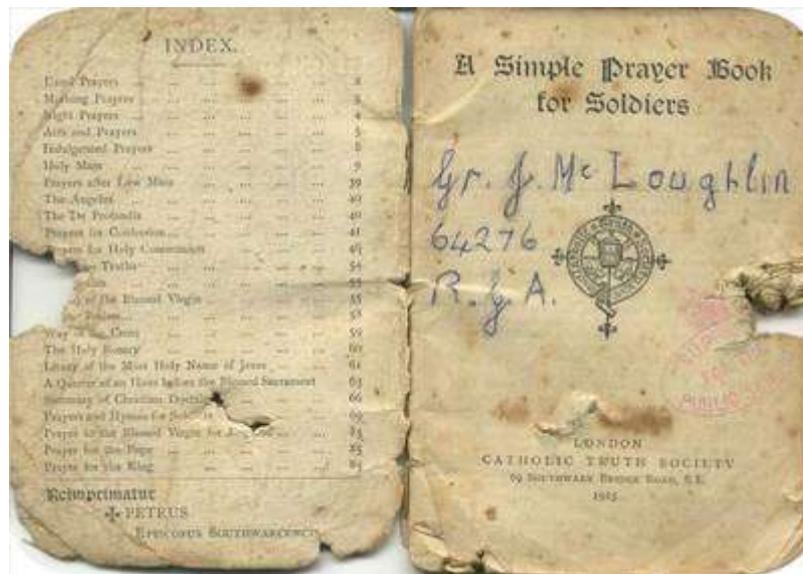
<http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en/contributions/3750#prettyPhoto>

<http://www.meathchronicle.ie/news/roundup/articles/2014/08/09/4031910-athboy-mens-roles-in-the-theatre-of-the-great-war>

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/first-world-war-princess-mary-gift-box>

Meath in the early 20th century - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

Prayerbook



Item: Prayerbook

Date: 1915

Find Location: Western Front. Associated with Enfield.

Current Location: Private Hands

Description:

James McLoughlin (1895-1966) from Kilcorney, Enfield, County Meath, Ireland enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery, British Army, in Dublin on 3 November 1915 and served as a Corporal on the Western Front from 1916-18. He was wounded in action in March 1917 and carried a piece of shrapnel in his head for the rest of his life. He remained in the British army until June 1922 when he was serving with Q Coast Battery in Cork. The only surviving material from his war service is a crucifix and prayerbook which he had with him in France. The prayerbook shows the signs of shrapnel damage. He enlisted in the newly formed Irish Free State army in July 1922 retiring as Director of Artillery in 1955.

Further Information:

<http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en/contributions/3289>

Ashtray from WWI



Item: WW1 Ashtray made from Howitzer Shell

Date: World War 1 1914-18

Find Location: Western Front

Current Location: Janice Matthews, a relative of John Cunniffe who served in World War 1 currently holds the item.

Description:

Brass ashtray made from the base of a howitzer shell case. John (Jack) Cunniffe was a Private in the Royal Munster Fusiliers, 2nd/4th Battalion, 18291. Baptised Athboy, 20 January 1887. Son of Michael and Elizabeth Cunniffe, Clifton Lodge, Athboy and later of Cloughbrack, Ballivor. Father's occupation: (1901) Land Steward, (1911) Farmer. He had passed two exams in accountancy when he joined the Dubliners in 1914. His brothers, James and Michael, also fought in the war and survived. Enlistment location: Ranelagh, Dublin. He was engaged in the battle of Beaumont Hamel in March 1918. Surviving the battle he was mortally wounded near St. Omar and died in St. Omar Hospital. Died of wounds, France & Flanders, 24 April 1918. Age: 31. His remains were repatriated to Athboy for burial in the family plot.

Further Information:

Prisoner of War Rings



Item: Rings made by a prisoner of war at Oldcastle

Date: 1914-18

Find Location: Oldcastle

Current Location:

Description:

Shortly after the outbreak of war in 1914, Germans and other foreign nationals living in Ireland, faced arrest and internment as “enemy aliens”. Men from all over Ireland were detained, and held at a camp in Oldcastle. The intention was to hold them in this converted building until the war concluded. There was a great deal of ingenuity among the German and Austrian Internees. The Anglo Celt reported that the prisoners “amuse themselves by making toys of all descriptions” adding, they were “adept at this type of business and have turned out very fancy toys with the aid of pocket knives”.

In 25th May 1918, the prisoners were taken from Oldcastle, by special train, to the North Wall (Dublin). There, they were put on a ship and sent to Knockaloe Camp on the isle of Man.

Further Information:

<http://www.rte.ie/radio1/the-history-show/programmes/2014/0608/619146-the-history-show-sunday-8-june-2014/>

John Smith *The Oldcastle Centenary Book - a History of Oldcastle* (Oldcastle, 2004)

Irish Tricolour Flag



Item: Irish Flag

Date: 1916

Find Location: Dublin/Drumbaragh, Kells.

Current Location: American Irish Historical Society, New York

Description:

The Irish tricolour, modelled on the original French republican emblem, dated to the nineteenth century, but only became widely used from 1916 onwards. This flag was flown in Dublin during the 1916 Rebellion.

A number of tricolours were captured by British soldiers. Sergeant Thomas Davis of Lisburn, who served with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, captured one flag during a clear-up of the city. The 53-year-old soldier was wounded in fighting before the Battle of the Somme and was sent home to Lisburn, County Antrim, to recuperate. Sergeant Davis presented the flag to Dr. George St. George of Lisburn, who was closely identified with the Ulster Volunteer Force. A note from Davis, which accompanies the flag, reads: "Captured by British Troops at GPO Dublin, April 1916, and given to Dr George St George by an old war veteran, Sgt. Davis." Dr. St. George died in 1922 whereupon the flag passed to his only daughter, Ethelreda, whom married Captain Samuel Waring of the British Army. Samuel Waring was the youngest son of Lucas Waring, Bellbrook, Glenavy, County Antrim. The couple lived at Riverside House, Kells. Upon the death of his wife in 1951 Captain Waring presented the flag to his Kells neighbours and close friends, the Sweetman family of Drumbaragh. Grateful for their friendship and being aware of the family's past association with Sinn Féin Captain Waring supposedly uttered the words, "You may have more use for this than I do" when presenting the flag. The flag was handed over to John Walter Sweetman, eldest son of John Sweetman, the second president of Sinn Féin.

The Sweetman family placed the flag for auction in New York in 2010. The flag failed to reach its reserve price and was withdrawn. The straightened times in Ireland meant the Irish government was unable to make a bid for the flag. The family then donated the flag to the American Irish Historical Society, New York where the flag is on display as part of a long-term loan arrangement. The flag measures 74 by 159 centimetres.

Further Information:

Noel French *1916 Meath and More'* (Trim, 2016)

<https://www.adams.ie/9343/A-1916-Tricolour-An-Irish-linen-Tricolour-flag-sewn-in-three-parts-and-dyed-yellow-white-and-green-believed-to-have-flown-from-the-GPO-Dublin-1916-74-x-159cm-29-1-x-62-6-PROVENANCE-Captured-by-Br>

<http://irishecho.com/2011/06/1916-tricolor-to-go-on-display-in-new-york/>

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1916 and War of Independence Medals



Item: 1916 Rising Service Medal, 1917-21 War of Independence Medal with Active Service bar, and 1966 Rising 50th Anniversary

Date: 1916

Find Location: Newport, Tipperary.

Current Location: Sold at Auction by Whyte's Auctioneers

Description:

Awarded to Patrick Bradley, (1893-1972) Ballymckeogh, Newport Co. Tipperary Irish Citizen Army, College of Surgeons Garrison. Accompanied by two spent FN rifle cartridges from the volley over his grave in 1972.

Patrick Bradley was born in 1893, the son of Myles and Anne Bradley, nee Henry at Newtowngirley, Fordstown. Patrick moved to Dublin and lived with his brother, Luke, in 1 St Mary's Terrace, Sarsfield Road, Inchicore. He worked at Kingsbridge railway station for the Great Southern Railway. Patrick joined the Citizen Army and later recalled a visit by the police to Liberty Hall to seize a "seditious" publication. Suddenly James Connolly appeared with a gun in his hand and ordered the police to "Drop those or I'll drop you." A moment later Countess Markievicz appeared with her gun in her hand and the police left empty handed. Patrick was mobilised on Saturday evening and spent Easter Sunday night in Liberty Hall before marching out on Monday to Stephens Green. The group were under attack from the British troops stationed at the Shelbourne Hotel. He lost his job as a result of taking part in the Rising. After his release he went to work in Oldcastle and reluctantly joined the local Volunteer unit after much persuasion. He lived in Newport, County Tipperary until his death in 1972. The Bradley brothers were present on Easter Sunday and Monday in Dublin during the 1966 commemoration.

Further Information:

Noel French, 1916 Meath and More (Trim, 2016)

Meath in the early 20th century - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

1916 and War of Independence Medals



Item: His 1916 medal, engraved with his name and numbered 84 verso, with ribbon and clasp bar, in original box with complimentary slip.

His 1916 Ribbon with original letter from the Department of Defence, Jan 1942, boxed.

His War of Independence medal, engraved with his name and numbered 514 verso, with ribbon, clasp and comhrac bar, in original box with complimentary slip. A linen Irish tricolour flag.

Date: 1916

Find Location: Associated with Longwood

Current Location: Sold at Auction by Whyte's Auctioneers

Description:

Éamonn Duggan is often said to have been born in Longwood but this is incorrect. Part of his early years were certainly spent there and he had strong local connections particularly to the Giles family. Edward John, know later as Éamonn, Duggan was born on 2nd March 1878 at Richill, County Armagh and baptised two days later. His father, William, a policeman was a native of Wicklow and stationed at Longwood. In 1914 Duggan joined the First Dublin battalion of the Irish Volunteers as a private. Duggan was attached to Commandant Daly and so was serving in the North Dublin Union in the initial days of the Rising and then in Father Matthew Hall. In the autumn of 1917 Duggan was appointed as Director of Intelligence for the IRA and when the role became full-time in January 1919 Michael Collins took over the position. In September 1918 Duggan was selected to stand for Sinn Féin in the South Meath constituency.

In October 1921 Duggan was appointed as a member of the delegation, despatched by de Valera to London to negotiate a treaty between Ireland and Britain. In the 1923 election Duggan headed the poll in Meath with a large majority. In May 1926 Duggan was appointed as secretary to the Minister for Finance. Following the 1927 election Duggan was appointed as Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Executive Council and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence. In June 1936 he was addressing a meeting of Fine Gael local election candidates when he collapsed and he died shortly afterwards.

Further Information:

Noel French, 1916 Meath and More (Trim, 2016)

Meath in the early 20th century - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

Constabulary Medal



Item: Constabulary Medal (not actual medal)

Date: 1916

Find Location: Ashbourne

Current Location: Unknown

Description:

District Inspector Harry Smyth, was posthumously awarded the Constabulary Medal (Ireland), which is the equivalent of a police Victoria Cross, following his death at Ashbourne. District Inspector Henry Smyth was born in Hertfordshire, England he joined the RIC at the age of 25. He served in Offaly, then known as King's County, and Kildare before being appointed to Meath in 1910. Married he left a widow and four children. He was twice wounded, shot in both hands and other parts of his body. As the rebels attacked the police Smyth was shot by an explosive bullet in the last hour of the battle and died shortly afterwards. A large number of people from Navan and the surrounding districts attended his funeral in Ardbraccan Churchyard.

The Constabulary Medal was a decoration of the Royal; Irish Constabulary (RIC). The medal was established on 15 April 1842, by the Inspector General of the Royal Irish Constabulary and approved by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The medal is circular made of silver, and 36 mm in diameter. The obverse of the medal depicts a crowned harp within a wreath. The first version of the medal has the inscription "REWARD OF MERIT - IRISH CONSTABULARY" while the second version has the inscription "REWARD OF MERIT - ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY" This change is in recognition of the addition of "Royal" to the name of the Irish Constabulary in 1867. The reverse bears a wreath half in olive leaves and the other half in shamrocks. The centre is plain to allow for the engraving of the name of the recipient

Further Information:

Noel French, 1916 Meath and More (Trim, 2016)

Meath in the early 20th century - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

Credence Table



Item: Credence Table

Date: 1916

Find Location: Navan

Current Location: Navan

Description:

A credence table in memory of Alexander Gray who died as a result of wounds received at the battle of Ashbourne in 1916. A credence table is a small side table in the sanctuary of a Christian church which is used in the celebration of the Eucharist.

County Inspector Alexander Gray was the most senior police officer killed in the Easter Rising in 1916. County Inspector Alexander Gray was born in Tyrone in 1858 and joined the RIC in 1882. He served in various counties including Kerry, Donegal, Armagh, Dublin, Antrim, Kildare, Roscommon and Westmeath before taking up the position of County Inspector for Meath in 1912. He is mentioned in Peig Sayer's autobiography *Peig* where she called him "Baby Gray" on the account of his boyish looks. Terence Dooley wrote an article on Gray in *Riocht na Midhe* 2003. At Ashbourne a convoy of more than twenty cars led by County Inspector Alexander Gray and District Inspector Harry Smyth, came under fire from the Volunteers. Wounded in both hands and his hip at the Battle of Ashbourne Gray died in the Navan Infirmary on 10th May. He was 57 years old and had served 32 years in the RIC. Following a funeral service in St. Mary Church, Navan, he was buried at Esker Cemetery, Lucan, as he had lived at 8 Cooldrinagh, Lucan.

Further Information:

Dooley, Terence (2003) *Alexander 'Baby' Gray (1858-1916) and the battle at Ashbourne, 28 April 1916*. *Riocht na Midhe*, 14. pp. 194-229 <http://eprints.maynoothuniversity.ie/775/>

Meath in the early 20th century - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

RIC Inspector's Uniform



Item: RIC Inspector's Uniform

Date: 1916

Find Location: Trim

Current Location: Dunshaughlin

Description:

The uniform of Mr. David Murnane, District Inspector, R.I.C. Trim Barracks has been preserved by his family and held locally. On Easter Monday 1916 District Inspector Murnane was in charge of the police at Fairyhouse Races. On his return journey that evening he called at Dunshaughlin barracks where he received a coded message to arrest all Volunteer leaders.

At the following Trim Petty Sessions District Inspector Murnane said: 'His sympathy went out to the widow of Sergeant Young, (one of the men killed at Ashbourne) who had been married only three years, and was now left with two young children. Every man from his station had done their duty nobly and well, and he was glad to say that the entire sympathy of the people of the district was with them.'

He died in 1939 aged 82 and had had served in Cork, Dublin, Clare, Roscommon, Tipperary, Fermanagh, Down and Meath.

Further Information:

Bureau of Military History: WS Ref #: 324 , Witness: John Murnane, Son of RIC Inspector, Trim, Meath, re Robert Monteith, 1916

[Meath in the early 20th century - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French](#)

Penknife



Item: Penknife

Date: 1916

Find Location: Drogheda area

Current Location: Drogheda area

Description:

Penknife of William McQuillan, Drogheda and Laytown. The Irish Volunteers in Drogheda were small in number. William McQuillan was arrested on Thursday 5th May following the 1916 Rising and imprisoned in Richmond Barrack but was released on 24th May. He later took a court case against D.I. Carberry for wrongful arrest. T.M. Healy acted for McQuillan. Carberry retired from the police in 1921 after 42 years service and remained in the Drogheda area. Thank you to John McCullen for this item.

Further Information

John McCullen, “William McQuillan of Drogheda: An Unlikely Rebel” in *County Louth and the Irish Revolution, 1912–1923* (Dublin, 2017)