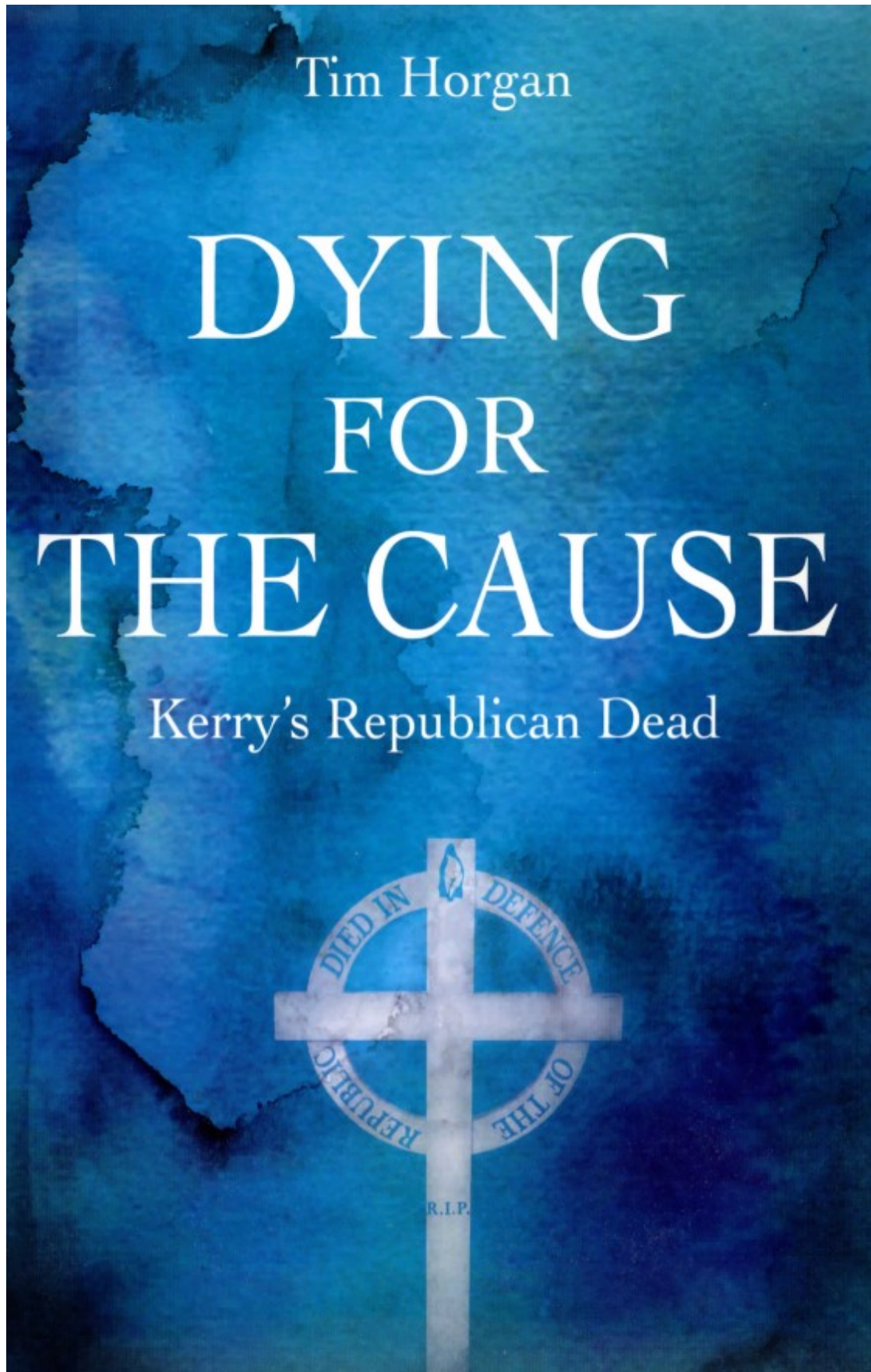


John McMahon B1888 – Shot Dead 1920.

Only Child to his parents Michael McMahon and Ellen Geany – Lived at Droum. Shot at Ballydwyer – Ballymacelligott.

John was a cousin to Patrick McMahon who married Minnie Costello B1899 (Twin of Nora Costello – Hannon B1899).

Humphrey and John McMahon Kilsarcon are cousins to John also.



The Story of John McMahon B1888 D1920 is captured by Tim Horgan in his Excellent Book: DYING FOR THE CAUSE

## JOHN MCMAHON

Seán Mac Macúna<sup>1</sup>

Ballydwyer lies in the centre of the large parish of Ballymacelligott. While it is now bypassed by a modern road, it is sited on the old Tralee to Castleisland route. Though it could not be regarded as a village, it did have a creamery, a shop and a pub, and the church at Clogher was just a mile away. Being the site of one of the creameries in Ballymacelligott and so a place where many of the farmers gathered each morning, it was not surprising that it was subjected to scrutiny by the crown forces. And so it was that Major John McKinnon, commander of 'H' Company of the Auxiliaries based in Tralee seven miles away, led a large detachment of his forces to the creamery on 12 November 1920. It was reported that some twelve lorries descended on the creamery that morning in an attempt to capture any members of the Ballymacelligott active service unit who might be delivering milk there.

John McMahon was a farmer from Droum in the east of the parish of Ballymacelligott and was also a member of Ballymacelligott Company of the Irish Volunteers. On that morning in November he was one of a group of local farmers at the Ballydwyer Creamery, where he was delivering milk and a sack of corn. While he was at the creamery the convoy of Auxiliaries approached and, unprovoked, opened fire from a distance of 400 yards, killing John McMahon instantly. Another IRA Volunteer, nineteen-year-old creamery employee Paddy Herlihy, was wounded and subsequently shot dead as he lay on the ground.<sup>2</sup>

As it happened the main bulk of Tom McEllistram's Ballymacelligott active service unit was about a mile away but had not engaged the Auxiliaries. The men killed were not part of the company's column.<sup>3</sup>

The Auxiliaries departed and McEllistram and his men went down to the creamery where the dead and injured were. Dr Shanahan from Tralee was called for and he was attending the wounded when a three-vehicle column of

- 1 There is no known photograph of John McMahon.
- 2 *The Freeman's Journal*, 19 October 1921.
- 3 Thomas McEllistram, BMH WS 882.

## DYING FOR THE CAUSE

Auxiliaries arrived from the Castleisland direction. The Volunteers took cover but were noticed by the Auxiliaries who opened fire on them. This Auxiliary detachment was escorting a number of journalists who were making a film and were not part of the original raiding party. This party of journalists were being brought on a tour of the martial law area by Hugh Pollard, a senior figure in British Intelligence and the head of the press office at Dublin Castle. As a gun battle raged, it was filmed by a crew from Pathé News from one of the lorries.<sup>4</sup> Another vehicle with Black and Tans arrived at the scene from the Tralee direction. At that stage the Auxiliaries departed back to Castleisland and took seven prisoners, among them Dr Shanahan and William Herlihy, whose brother had been killed earlier. Of these prisoners, four were later charged with attacking the Auxiliary convoy: Thomas O'Connor of Scart, a man named Dowling of Ballydwyer, James Carmody and Richard McEllistrim.

John McMahan of Droum was born on 4 June 1888 and had been married two years before his death. He is buried in the family plot in Nohoval Cemetery, Ballymacelligott, where his headstone records the circumstances of this death on 12 November 1920.

4 Ernie O'Malley, *The Men Will Talk to Me – Kerry Interviews* (2012), interview with Thomas McEllistrim.

## PADDY HERLIHY

### ፆፅፀፀፀ ፀ ስፀፀፀፀፀፀ<sup>1</sup>

Paddy Herlihy was born in December 1900. The Herlihy family had a farm in Ballymacpierce, Gortatlea. As a young man Paddy enlisted in the Ballymacelligott Company of the Irish Volunteers as did his brother Jack.

Paddy Herlihy was employed at the local creamery at Ballydwyer in Ballymacelligott. On the morning of 12 November 1920 several lorry loads of Auxiliaries from Tralee suddenly descended on the area. At least four of the men at the creamery that morning were IRA Volunteers and on hearing the approach of the military vehicles, they made an attempt to escape. Fire was opened on them from a distance of 400 yards. Paddy Herlihy was hit in the arm

and fell, wounded, by a fence. When the Auxiliaries approached him as he lay there, he was shot twice more and died at the scene. John McMahan, an IRA Volunteer who had a farm nearby and was delivering milk to the creamery, was shot dead in the initial volley. Jack McEllistram and Tim Walsh were wounded as they fled but survived their injuries. Witnesses later testified that there were no shots fired at the Auxiliaries or even words exchanged before the killings, which were entirely unprovoked.<sup>2</sup>

Three days previously Tom McEllistram, John Cronin and Jim Baily from Ballymacelligott were involved in the shooting of two Black and Tans at Ballybrack railway station. Constable Archibald Turner died at the scene, but Constable James Woods lived for several days and was able to give descriptions of his attackers. The following day Tom McEllistram and the Ballymacelligott active service unit lay in wait at Ballyseedy for the RIC and Auxiliary vehicles that were returning from burning houses in Ballybrack, but their efforts were in vain. In the heightened atmosphere of that week, it was not surprising that the Auxiliaries came to Ballymacelligott in large numbers that November morning.<sup>3</sup>

1 There is no known photograph of Paddy Herlihy.

2 *The Freeman's Journal*, 19 October 1921.

3 Thomas McEllistram, BMH WS 882.

Marriage of John's Parents 1880

Marriage		IN THE UNION OF <i>IRELAND</i>			IN THE COUNTY OF <i>KERRY</i>				
No. (1.)	When Married. (2.)	Name and Surname. (3.)	Age. (4.)	Condition. (5.)	Rank or Profession. (6.)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7.)	Father's Name and Surname. (8.)	Rank or Profession of Father. (9.)	
Registered by me, this <i>24</i> day of <i>February</i> 18 <i>80</i>	<i>24</i> February <i>seventh</i> 1880	<i>Mich<sup>d</sup>. McMahon</i>	<i>Full age</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Droum Clogher Co Kerry</i>	<i>John McMahon</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	
		<i>Ellen Greaney</i>	<i>Full age</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	"	<i>Beuletrium Co Kerry</i>	<i>James Greaney (deceased)</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of *Cusnaghshul* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, *Pat<sup>r</sup>. Moriarty P.P.*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Mich<sup>d</sup>. McMahon* and *Ellen Greaney* in the Presence of us, *James Roche* and *James Enaught*

*A. No. 111* Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, in the District of *Browna*, in the Union of *England*, do hereby Certify, That this is a true copy of the Registrar's Book of Marriages within the said District from the Entry of the Marriage of *John McMahon* and *Ellen Greaney* Number *21*, to the Entry of the Marriage of *Mich<sup>d</sup>. McMahon* and *Ellen Greaney* Number *24* in the County of *Kerry* and *Elizabeth Kerins* Registrar. Witness my hand, this *11<sup>th</sup>* day of *April* 18*80*

I have examined the above, and have compared it with the said original Registrar's Book, and hereby certify that it is a true Copy. Witness my hand this *10<sup>th</sup>* day of *April* 1880. *Superintendent Registrar.*

John McMahon Born 1888

Sponsor at John's Baptism – John's Aunty = Johanna 'McMahon' Kirby (Called after her mother Johanna Kerins) – His Aunty – Johanna married Daniel Kirby, (Parents John Kirby & Margaret Connell - Coolgariv).

AREA - KERRY (RC)

**Area - KERRY (RC), Parish/Church/Congregation - BALLYMACELLIGOTT**

Baptism of JOHN MCMAHON of DROUM on 5 June 1888

Name JOHN MCMAHON  
 Address DROUM  
 Father MICHAEL MCMAHON  
 Mother ELLEN GREANEY

Further details in the record

Date of Birth 4 June 1888  
 Sponsor 1 TIMOTHY KIRBY  
 Sponsor 2 JOHANNA KIRBY

John McMahon married Mary McElligott in 1918 – They had two young daughters, Aileen and Frances when John was shot in 1920,

Marriage		IN THE UNION OF <i>IRELAND</i>							IN THE COUNTY OF <i>KERRY</i>	
No. (1.)	When Married. (2.)	Name and Surname. (3.)	Age. (4.)	Condition. (5.)	Rank or Profession. (6.)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7.)	Father's Name and Surname. (8.)	Rank or Profession of Father. (9.)		
Registered by me, this <i>16<sup>th</sup></i> day of <i>Febry</i> 1918.	<i>16<sup>th</sup></i> February 1918	<i>John McMahon</i>	<i>off full age</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Droum</i>	<i>Michael McMahon</i>	<i>Farmer</i>		
		<i>Mary McElligott</i>	<i>off full age</i>	<i>spinster</i>	<i>Lady</i>	<i>Moglass</i>	<i>Richard McElligott</i>	<i>Farmer</i>		

Married in the Roman Catholic Church of *Clogher* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, *E. C. Daly R. C. Priest*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *John McMahon* and *Mary McElligott* in the Presence of us, *John Connor* and *Kathy McElligott*

*M. Brick* Registrar of Marriages, in the District of *Tracee*, in the Union of *Tracee* in the County of *Kerry*, do hereby Certify, That this is a true copy of the Registrar's Book of Marriages within the said District from the Entry of the Marriage of *William Brick* and *Catherine Collins* Number *145*, to the Entry of the Marriage of *John McMahon* and *Mary McElligott* Number *148*. Witness my hand, this *sixth* day of *April* 1918. *M. Brick* Registrar.

I have examined the above, and have compared it with the said original Registrar's Book, and hereby certify that it is a true copy. Witness my hand this *27* day of *April* 1918. *Superintendent Registrar.*

	McMahom	Reanagowan													
1901	Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses			
1826	Brosnan	Elizabeth	75	Female	Mother in Law	R Catholic	Co Kerry	-	Cannot read	Irish and E	Widow	-			
1855	Mc Mahon	Humphrey	46	Male	Head of Family	R Catholic	Co Kerry	Farmer	Read and write	Irish and E	Married	-			
1869	Mc Mahon	Mary	32	Female	Wife	R Catholic	Co Kerry	Farmers Wife	Read and write	Irish and E	Married	-			
1885	Mc Mahon	John	16	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Kerry	Scholar	Read and write	English	Not Married	-			
1889	Mc Mahon	Terence	12	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Kerry	Scholar	Read and write	English	Not Married	-			
1895	Mc Mahon	Patrick	6	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Kerry	Scholar	Read and write	English	Not Married	-			
1897	Mc Mahon	Mary	4	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Co Kerry	-	Cannot read	English	Not Married	-			
1900	Mc Mahon	Humphrey	1	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Kerry	-	Cannot read	English	-	-			
1885	Brosnan	Mary	16	Female	Servant	R Catholic	Co Kerry	General Servant	Read and write	English	Not Married	-			

Census for  
McMahon – Census  
1901 & 1911

	McMahom	Reanagowan													
1911	Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses	Years Married	Children Born	Children Living
1854	McMahon	Humphrey	57	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Farmer	Read and write	Irish and English	Married	-	18	-	-
1869	McMahon	Mary	42	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	-	Read and write	Irish and English	Married	-	18	6	6
1895	McMahon	Pat	16	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Farmer's Son	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
1897	McMahon	Mary	14	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Scholar	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
1900	McMahon	Humphrey	11	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Scholar	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
1902	McMahon	Margaret	9	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Scholar	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
1906	McMahon	Norah	5	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Scholar	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
1910	McMahon	Jeremiah	1	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	-	-	-	Single	-	-	-	-

- 1) Humphrey
- 2) Terence
- 3) Michael & only  
Son John  
Ballyegan

**Residents of a house 3 in Ardcrone (Currana, Kerry)**

1901	Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses			
1846	Mc Mahon	Terence	55	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Farmer	Read and write	Irish English	Married	-			
1847	Mc Mahon	Mary	54	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Farmers Wife	Read and write	Irish English	Married	-			
1881	Mc Mahon	Mary	20	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Farmers Daughter	Read and write	Irish English	Not Married	-			
1883	Mc Mahon	Michael	18	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Farmers Son	Read and write	Irish English	Not Married	-			
1887	Mc Mahon	Humphrey	14	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Scholar	Read and write	Irish English	Not Married	-			
1889	Mc Mahon	Julia	12	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Scholar	Read and write	Irish English	Not Married	-			
1890	Mc Mahon	Bridget	11	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Scholar	Read and write	Irish English	Not Married	-			

**Residents of a house 5 in Ardcrone (Currans, Kerry)**

1911	Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses	Years Married	Children Born	Children Living
1842	McMahon	Terence	69	Male	Head of Family	R Catholic	Co Kerry	Farmer	Read and write	-	Married	-	-	-	-
1846	McMahon	Mary	65	Female	Wife	R Catholic	Co Kerry	-	Read and write	-	Married	-	38	3	3
1884	McMahon	Michael	27	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Kerry	Farmers Son	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
1886	McMahon	Catherine	25	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Co Kerry	-	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
1888	McMahon	Bridget	23	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Co Kerry	-	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-

**Residents of a house 3 in Ballyegan (Ballyegan, Kerry)**

1901	Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses			
1851	McMahon	Michael	50	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Farmer	Read and write	Irish and English	Married	-			
1853	McMahon	Ellen	48	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	House Keeper	Read and write	Irish and English	Married	-			
1871	Cronin	Patrick	30	Male	Servant	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Farm Servant	Read and write	-	Not Married	-			
1877	Keane	Katie	24	Female	Servant	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	General Servant Dome	Read and write	-	Not Married	-			
1889	McMahon	John	12	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Scholar	Read and write	-	Not Married	-			

**Residents of a house 1 in Ballyegan (Ballyegan, Kerry)**

1911	Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses	Years Married	Children Born	Children Living
1849	McMahon	Michael	62	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Kerry	Farmer	Read and write	-	Married	-	-	-	-
1851	McMahon	Ellen	60	Female	Wife	R Catholic	Co Kerry	-	Read and write	-	Married	-	31	1	1
1888	McMahon	John	23	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Kerry	Farm Labourer	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
1888	Lucy	Daniel	23	Male	Servant	R Catholic	Co Kerry	Farm Servant	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
1891	Courtenay	Hannah	20	Female	Servant	R Catholic	Co Kerry	General Servant Dome	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-

John McMahon Burial Plot at Novohal Cemetery – with one of his two daughters Aileen – D2007

