

Doo Lough CAPTAIN JAMES KIRBY CARÁN COGAUL
BORN 1893 — DEATH IN OTTAWA CANADA 1971

FATHER JOHN KIRBY — MOTHER BRIDGET KIRBY NE(GUSACK)

JOINED OGLAIGH NA HÉIREANN NATIONAL FORCES, IN 1913

WENT TO DUBLIN ^{TO SERVE} AS A APPRENTICESHIP PLUMBER, HE
WORKED AS A PLUMBER DURING THE DAY AND WAS IN THE
MUNITIONS FACTORY OF THE IRA AT NIGHT, MAKING
HAND GRAGES + BOMBS ETC THE KIRBY FAMILY EMIGRATED
TO CANADA IN 1953(OTTAWA). FROM 1ST APRIL 1916 - 31 MARCH 1917

SLIGO VOLUNTEERS. O/C A. McCARTY T.D. 1ST APRIL 1917 - 1918

" " " O/C JAMES KIRBY 1ST APRIL 1920 - 1921

DERRY VOLUNTEERS O/C COMD SHIELDS APRIL 1921 - July 1921

MUNITIONS DEPT Q. H.Q. O/C SEAN RUSSELL,
WAS LIEUTENANT + CAPTAIN DERRY/SLIGO.

HE LEAD OPERATIONS/ATTACK ON BRITISH FORCES IN WAR OF
INDEPENDENCE HE ALSO ASSISTING ARRANGEMENT THE ESCAPE
OF IRA PRISONER FRANK CARTIL FROM JAIL. HE ALSO JOINED
NATIONAL ARMY AND SERVED THROUGHOUT THE CIVIL WAR.

P.J. KELLY FROM CARRONACLAHAN AND JAMES KIRBY WALKED TO
SCHOOL TOGETHER TO COGAUL NS TO BE TAUGHT BY
PATRICK KELLY P.J. KELLY'S ^{HIS} COUSIN. TONY HIS GRANDSON STILL
LIVES IN COGAUL NEAR ME

JAMES KIRBY'S MOTHER WAS BRIDGET CUSACK ^{FROM FATHY}
AND MICHAEL (SONNY) GALLAGHER (MEN OF THE WEST) HIS MOTHER
MARGARET CUSACK WAS SISTERS . HE MADE A SUCCESSFUL
APPLICATION FOR A SERVICE MEDAL WITH BAR 1917 - 1921
BUT NOT FOR 1916 . .

I READ TWO WITNESS STATEMENTS , CAPT PETER J. Mc DONNELL AND
JACK FEELAN THEY TALK ABOUT ANOY'S KIRBY SAFE HOUSE
THIS WAS JAMES KIRBY'S OLD HOME PLACE . IT IS IN COQUAULI BUT
NEAR CARRONNACLEA . THIS HOUSE IS NOW RESTORED AS IT WAS IN
OLD DAYS AND IS A AIR B/S now

I WOULD LIKE TO PERSONALLY THANK YOU VINCENT AND ALL THE TEAM
WHO WORKED ON PRODUCING THE GREAT BOOK "MEN OF THE WEST"
AND BRINGING THAT TIME OF OUR HISTORY BACK TO THE PRESENT
TIME . TO SHOW US HOW POOR AND DANGEROUS EXCITING

TIMES BACK 100 YEARS AGO . WINNING OUR FREEDOM BACK
WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT , HOPE YOU CAN USE THIS BIT OF
INFORMATION TO JOIN A FEW MORE BITS TOGETHER ON THAT
PERIOD . I WOULD LOVE TO SHOW YOU THE COUNTRYSIDE AROUND
COQUAULI AND THE LIFE OF THE LAND SOME TIME . I WOULD
HAVE A FEW OTHER BITS AND PIECES ON THAT TIME

THANKING YOU ALL

Sean Lawley

1901 CENSUS AGED 7 BY 1916 HE WAS 22 YEARS

was D. Finucane.

— *mayo News*, September 27, 1958.

Capt. Kirby's daughter visits Islandeady



● Capt. James Kirby of Cogaula, Westport and Dublin pictured in 1923.

JUST returned to Canada after a very enjoyable holiday in Islandeady is Nuala Kirby, daughter of the legendary Capt. James Kirby of Cogaula, Westport, and Dublin, a close friend and confidante of "The Big Fellow" himself, Michael Collins.

Capt. Kirby was a key organiser of the Irish Republican movement in Sligo and Derry before he accepted Michael Collins' invitation to take up an appointment in Dublin in charge of the Irish Army's munitions.

In 1953, Capt. Kirby emigrated to Ottawa, Canada. He died in December, 1971.

Capt. Kirby's daughter, Nuala, was guest of her cousin, Mary B. Moylette, Islandeady, for her recent visit from Canada and was accompanied by her niece, Sheila Hughes. Nuala thoroughly enjoyed her visit and her meetings with her relations in Cogaula, Westport, Aughagower, Kilmearna and Newport.