**Dunmanway Murders April 1922: Some contemporary reports**

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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Timeline | Event | Description | Source | | 26/04/22 | Murder 1 | Michael O Neill shot and killed by Herbert Woods in Ballygroman House Ovens near Cork, at around 2.30 a.m. The dispute was about the 'requisitioning of the Hornibrook's car by O Neill. Michael's brother Stephen was a witness to the shooting. | Irish Times Tuesday 2nd May. | | 26/04/22 | Murders 2,3,4 | Midnight April 26th to 1 am April 27th.Francis Fitzmaurice, D Gray, T Buttimer (sic)  Two others wounded. Others escaped by taking refuge in the fields including the Church of Ireland Rector (see letter below) and the Methodist Minister (see letter below) | Irish Times  Friday 28th April | | 27/04/22 | Report of Murder | Report on death of Cmdt. Michael O Neill which occurred on Tuesday 25th. While standing in the hallway a shot rang out, and O Neill died later of his wounds. The Irish Times reported 'It is understood that a member of the Hornibrook family was arrested.' The funeral was in Bandon. (see Report Irish Times) | Irish Times Thur 27th April. | | 27/04/22 | Murder 5 | 10.30 p.m. Robert Howe shot and killed at Kinneigh two miles north of Ballineen | Irish Times Saturday 29th April | | 28/04/22 | Murder 6 | John Chinnery was shot early in the morning of the 28th although his headstone in Kinneigh Church of Ireland states he died on the 27th. | Irish Times Saturday 29th April. | | 28/04/22 | Murders 7,8 | 2 a.m. John Buttimer and James Greenfield shot and killed 3 hours after the shooting of Robert Howe. | Irish Times Saturday 29th April | | 28/04/22 | Murders 9 | Alexander McKinley shot sometime after dark at his home on the main street of Ballineen. He was living in the Peyton House hence the confusion of the name. | Irish Times Saturday 29th April | | 29/04/22 | Report on Murders | Report on page 5 of the Irish Times about 'Five more murders-Night of terror in Cork Village'. The full details of the murders at Ballineen- a village situated about ten miles west of Bandon-and Clonakility are not yet available. Our Cork Correspondent learned yesterday, however, that the victims were:-  The Rev. Richard C.M. Harbord of Murragh Rectory, or his son.  Gerald Peyton, (Alexander McKinley) aged 20 years, of Ballineen  John Chinnery, aged 32 years, a farmer, who lived about three miles from Ballineen in the direction of Castletown-Kinneigh.  Robert Nagle, aged about 18 years, of Mc Curtain Hill, Clonakilty, son of Thomas Nagle, a process-server, and caretaker of the Masonic Hall, which was burned recently.  It was learned yesterday that armed men visited other houses during the night, but, fortunately, the persons for whom they asked were absent.  One account of Mr. Chinnery's death was that early yesterday morning he was awoken by loud knocks on the door. When he opened it he was surrounded by armed men, who ordered him to harness a horse to a car. He was engaged in this task when he was shot dead. | Irish Times Saturday 29th April | | 28/04/22 | 10 am. Letter | Letter from Michael Collins criticising the Irish Times coverage in the newspaper of the 'Belfast Pogroms' on the previous three days on Wednesday 26th. The Times replies that it extensively covered the bombing of St Matthews RC Church in Thursdays 27th Paper. | Irish Times  Friday 28th April | | 28/04/22 | 10 am. Speech | Archbishop Gregg of Dublin addresses Protestant Adoption Society AGM saying he had not the least doubt that this was the work of a very small body, and that the public conscience was profoundly shocked. Sergeant Hanna also spoke saying that he had never been a pessimist as regards Ireland, and always believed that right would win but for the moment his faith had been shattered. He said that the murders were obviously reprisals for the many murders in Belfast. This only made the situation more appalling. | Irish Times  Saturday 29th April | | 28/04/22 | Condemnation | Arthur Griffith condemned the murders in Dunmanway and Ballineen, as did Sean T. O Kelly. De Valera is quoted as saying 'It is essential to take a firm attitude....We are the government of the country, and it is a shame if we can not govern it'. | Irish Times  Saturday 29th April | | 29/04/22 | 14 pm. Inquests | Inquests into deaths of Robert Howe, John Buttimer, and James Greenfield.   1. Catherine Anne Howe (his wife) gave evidence that Robert Howe was attacked in the bedroom of his house at around 10.30 after refusing to harness a horse. When he refused a second time he was shot and killed. 2. Frances Buttimer (his wife) stated that she heard noise and shots- Her son said 'we are being attacked', and jumped out of bed. She became weak, but recovered quickly. She met her husband on the landing, and said 'for God's sake get out', and he said 'shure I can't'. Greenfield called on her to stay with him. She came down stairs, and met a man and said 'Where are you going?'. He replied 'Where are the men?' She said ' I do not know. What do you want them for?' He said 'only very little'. She said to him 'Take my house, my money, or myself and spare the men'. She put her hand to his chest to keep him back, and he pushed past her, and went upstairs calling on her husband in a blasphemous manner to come down. She went away from the house and returned after a while and met a man and said 'You have killed them, but you cannot kill their souls'. She went into the house and found her husband dead in a sitting position in Greenfield's room, and Greenfield was dead in bed. 3. John Shorten (later identified correctly as John Bradfield)- Killowen Bandon Elizabeth Shorten (his sister) stated that at 11 p.m. on Saturday a group of men called to the door to get a horse and car. Her brother got out of bed, but did not answer. They knocked on the door, and broke the windows. On entering the dining room they asked for her brother William. They entered John's room and she heard a shot. John was unable to walk without sticks. | Irish Times Tuesday 2nd May | | 01/05/22 | 10 am. Letter | Reverend W. Harbison Methodist Minister at Dunmanway, wrote 'During the disturbances reported the Methodist Manse was neither visited nor attacked, and there is no truth whatsoever that I had to seek refuge in the fields, or elsewhere. Never at any time have I been molested or interfered with in any way. I have always received the utmost courtesy from the people of this town and surrounding area.' | Irish Times Monday May 1st | | 01/05/22 | Occupation | The Kildare Street Club Dublin seized by Anti-treaty forces who had vacated the Masonic Hall, along with the Ballast Office on Monday May 1. Free State troops persuaded them to evacuate the club with the help of an armoured car. | Irish Times Tuesday 2nd May. | | 01/05/22 | Letter | Letter from Dan Breen, Tom Hales, H Murphy, S O Hegarty, Sean Mullan, R A Mulcahy, Owen O Duffy, Gearoid O Sullivan, Michael Collins to Four Courts garrison to end occupation and allow a plebiscite on the Treaty. Letter rejected by garrison, and by De Valera- though in his case on very poor ground that it copper-fastens partition. | Irish Times Tuesday 2nd May | | 02/05/22 | 10 am. Editorial | Irish Times Editorial 'Nine innocent persons have been done down-apparently for no other reasons than they were protestants. The public conscience is shocked by this hideous- and in Southern Ireland-unprecedented outbreak of sectarian violence.' | Irish Times Tuesday May 2nd | | 02/05/22 | 10 am. Article | *Sisters in Sorrow* column about meeting at Amiens Street (Connolly) Station between a Dunmanway protestant woman going to Scotland to give her nerves a rest, and a Belfast Catholic woman who was returning to Belfast to pick up the pieces a month after her house was burned. Article next to editorial | Irish Times Tuesday May 2nd | | 02/05/22 | 10 am. Speech | Report of speech by Archbishop of Dublin-and Cork native-at the unveiling of a war Memorial that, 'It is no matter of wonder if the members of our Church at large feel a deep uneasiness, and positive alarm in view of the horrible events of the past week in Cork.' | Irish Times Tuesday May 2nd | | 02/05/22 | 10 am. Letter | Canon Wilson Rector of Dunmanway writes from the Rectory 'Though our houses are situated close to the houses attacked no insult or attack was made on us or our families personally. Immediately after the first outrage I was called upon to attend the first victim, and I remained in his house until 7 am. with the exception of a few minutes when I returned to the rectory. All classes and creeds in the parish have lived together in peace and quietness during the troubled times, and I believe ninety percent of the inhabitants regard the recent events with the deepest abhorrence, and sincere sympathy with the bereaved. | Irish Times Tuesday May 2nd | | 03/05/22 | 10am. Article | Report in the Cork Examiner that Protestants were fleeing West Cork | Cork Examiner Wednesday 3rd | | 03/05/22 | 10 am, Article | An article under the heading of 'Sectarian Outrages' condemns the murders and forcible depriving of any Irish citizen of his means of livelihood because of his conscientious opinions, and states that until the recent tragedies in County Cork hostility to protestants by reason of their religion has been almost, if not wholly, unknown, in the twenty-six counties in which protestants are a minority. The meeting is the preliminary one for the proposed Protestant Convention organised for May 11th in the Round Room of the Mansion House to coincide with the Church of Ireland Synod. The meeting is attended by | Cork Constitution Wednesday 3rd May. | | 10/05/22 | Debate 9 p.m. Vote at 11p.m. | 'Why are British troops retained in Southern Ireland when they are forbidden to give protection to the large number of persons who are daily appealing in vain to the British Government and to the Provisional Government for protection for their lives and property? ' Sir William Davison-Member for Kensington-agreeing with Field Marshall Sir Henry Wilson-Member for North Down, in adjournment debate <http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1922/may/10/ireland-kidnapped-british-officers#S5CV0153P0_19220510_HOC_440> | Hansard Record of the House of Commons 10 May 1922 Adjournment debate on Ireland Kidnapped British Officers | | 11/05/22 | Debate | 'What I want to ask the Government is this. How is this problem going to be dealt with? It is no use saying: "We do not want to encourage a general exodus from Ireland." I ask the Government to give these people a lead as to what they ought to do. After being faithful to British rule for all these years, and fighting your battles—and these are the men who did fight—surely it is not much to say: "What do you advise us to do? Do you advise us to stay here till we are shot, or till we die of our nerves as a consequence of this terrible treatment, or do you advise us to emigrate to England? And if we go there, how shall we be supported?" What you are saying to these people really is: "We do not care what happens to you." Ireland, as the Colonial Secretary said, must be worse before it is better. Probably so, but the price that is paid is paid in the lives and the misery not of those men who fought against you, and now fight amongst themselves, and who are preventing government, but in the lives of the men who not only supported your Government when it was in power there, but who, when you told them they were to be handed over to this Provisional Government under the treaty of surrender, were willing to accept that so long as their lives and property might be saved.' Lord Carson <http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/lords/1922/may/11/situation-in-ireland#S5LV0050P0_19220511_HOL_40> | House of Lords Debate 11 May 1922 Situation in Ireland initiated by Lord Carson | | 03/04/23 | Case reported the following day in Irish Times. | 'Three men taken from home-never heard of again' description by Matilda Woods about the murder of her father Thomas Hornibrook and his two companions (unnamed in the report). Presumably the report of the case is now in the National Archives. She was living on the Cross Douglas Road in Cork at the time of the court report. | Irish Times Saturday April 14th Page 6 | | 04/05/28 | Case reported in the following days Irish Times, and in the Irish Weekly Times on the 12th | The second probate hearing- this time for Samuel Hornibrook, which discloses that Matilda Warrington Woods is his half-sister, and generally summarises what happened again. Surprisingly, the graphic details that appear in her claim for damages before the Irish Distress Commission in London are mentioned in neither court report which presumably means they were not revealed by Matilda. At no stage in either report does she make any attempt to claim the Herbert Woods estate, which is surprising if she was married to him. Matilda describes Herbert Woods as their nephew, and not as her husband. It appears more and more likely that they were not husband and wife as suggested by Meda Ryan, but cousins as suggested by the 1901 and 1911 census material. It is most likely that she was married to Edwards Woods a Wine and Spirits merchant in House 2, on Crosses Green Quay in Cork 1911, who was Herbert's cousin. | Irish Weekly Times 12th May 1928 | | 05/05/28 | Case report in Irish Examiner | This takes place after her submission to the Irish Grants Committee, and she makes no mention of the supposed hang drawing and quartering of Woods in her affidavit. Her counsel has no such information when asked by Justice Hanna. |  | |