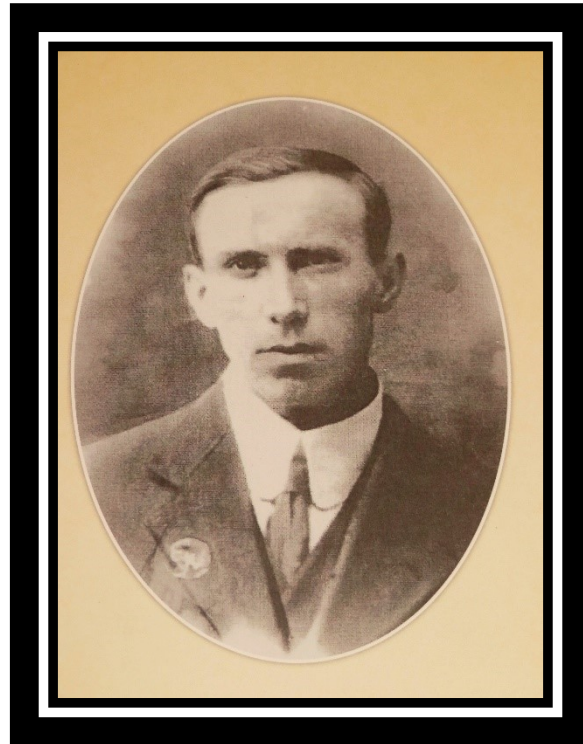


Michael Mulvihill

By 6th Class Sliabh a' Mhadra N.S.



Michael Mulvihill was born on April 1st 1879 in Ardoughter, Ballyduff, Tralee, Co. Kerry. 37 years later on Friday April 28th 1916, Michael was shot dead in Dublin during the Easter Rising. Michael was the second son of a family of nine children born to John Mulvihill, a principal at Ballincrossig N.S., Ballyduff and Mary O' Connor, a native of Ardoughter, Ballyduff. The Census record in the National Archives shows that six of the nine children were living at home in 1901. Michael and two other siblings had moved to England by that time. The children of John and Mary were as follows:

Patrick (Paddy) was born in 1877.

Michael (Mick) was born in 1879.

John was born in 1881.

Elizabeth was born in 1884.

Cornelius was born in 1886.

Jane was born in 1890.

Mary Anne was born in 1892.

Margaret (Maggie) was born in 1895.
 Thomas (Tom) was born in 1898.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
(The Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A. No. on Form B. *57*

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

No.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	SEX.	REL.	AGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.
	Christian Name.	Surname.													
1	John	Mulvihill	Head of Family Roman Catholic	Read & Write	53	H	46	Married	60	Scots					
2	Mary	Mulvihill	Wife Roman Catholic	Read & Write	48	F	3	Married	60	Scots					
3	Elizabeth	Mulvihill	Daughter Roman Catholic	Read & Write	17	F	3	Scholar	Not Married	60	Scots				
4	Constance	Mulvihill	Son Roman Catholic	Read & Write	16	M	6	Scholar	Not Married	60	Scots				
5	Jane	Mulvihill	Daughter Roman Catholic	Read & Write	12	F	3	Scholar	Not Married	60	Scots				
6	Mary	Mulvihill	Daughter Roman Catholic	Read & Write	9	F	2	Scholar	Not Married	60	Scots				
7	Margaret	Mulvihill	Daughter Roman Catholic	Read & Write	6	F	3	Scholar	Not Married	60	Scots				
8	Thomas	Mulvihill	Son Roman Catholic	Cannot Read or Write	3	M	46	Scholar	Not Married	60	Scots				
9	Jane	Connet	Widow Roman Catholic	Cannot Read or Write	85	F	3	No occupation	Widow	60	Scots	Irish-English			
10															
11															
12															
13															
14															
15															

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 63 Vic., cap. 6, s. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

John Mulvihill (Signature of Enumerator.) *John Mulvihill* (Signature of Head of Family.)

Mulvihill Family. 1901 Census.

It was said that Michael had great courage in the face of danger. When he was 17, his mother Mary asked him to travel to her land 2 km away to give water to their cows. Michael took a shortcut through the cutaway bog to reach the field where the cows were grazing. When he reached the final field a bull stood between him and the cows. In the heat of the moment he decided he could outrun the bull. He took off his hobnail boots, hopped over the high hedge and the chase commenced. The bull stood no chance against Michael's speed. But suddenly Michael tripped over a loose rambler and fell to the ground. The bull charged against Michael but he picked up a stone and belted it at the bull's forehead and within a second the bull collapsed on the ground and died. The farmer who owned the bull was not happy and neither was Michael's father who felt obliged to compensate the farmer!

As a young boy, Michael's grandmother Jane Horgan, wife of Michael O' Connor, was to leave a lasting impression on him as to the injustice of the British power. She told him about the courage of the local White boys and Moonlighters in fighting these injustices. His grandmother told him many tales of the brave rebels, who lost their lives fighting for their country.

Michael was educated at Ballincrossig N.S., Ballyduff and privately at home by his father John, and for a short time in Sliabh a' Mhadra N.S. which is where we go to school today. As a young man, Michael was described as athletic, fearless and an enthusiastic competitor and was exceptional at all sports, from running to the high jump to the team sport of hurling. It was hurling that he really excelled in and he was the captain of his local team, Ardoughter. After his heroic death the men of Ardoughter, in the year 1949, joined with Ballyduff Club and demanded that the newly formed club should take the name, "The Ballyduff Michael Mulvihill Hurling Club" and still to this day it does. In the 1904 Summer Olympics held in America, hurling was one of the unofficial games that was played. Michael was very important in the promotion of the event and had a connection with the Scottish team that won.

Michael emigrated to London in the year 1897 and got a job as a sorting clerk in the London Post Office. He worked with his older brother Patrick who had also emigrated to London a few years earlier. He set up a home for his sisters Elizabeth, Jane and himself in Highbury, North Islington. When his father John was forced to give up his job as a principal at Ballincrossig N.S. in 1903, Michael sent £2 home to his mother weekly.

While in London, Michael became a member of the Gaelic League. He was a close friend of Sam Maguire and Michael Collins. He learned the Irish language and became a fluent Irish speaker. His love of Irish was so strong that his final advice to his younger brother and sister, Thomas and Margaret, was to learn their native language. He left them with his most prized possession "The Five Books of O' Growney". Maggie, his youngest sister, took his advice and memorised every word of the O' Growney book and became a fluent Irish speaker. In later years Maggie held classes in Irish for the Ardoughter Company of Volunteers at the house of Patrick Mór Fitzgerald which was the adjoining house to her old home at Ardoughter. Maggie also assisted in the duties of preparing this house as the Sinn Féin Courthouse and as a stenographer (a note taker). These courts were held in Slievadara School House (where we go to school) during the summer break. The ruins of their house in Ardoughter can still be seen today.



6th Class outside the Mulvihill home 28/04/2021

Michael progressed from membership of the Gaelic League to take the Oath of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in 1907. In 1914 he helped found the London Corp of Volunteers alongside Michael Collins, Denis Daly a fellow Kerryman and others. Michael and his brother John were both employees in the British Post Office. John travelled between England and America under the auspices of Clan Na Gael and brought back many arms which were then brought secretly to Ireland by Michael for the Republican movement.

In January 1916, after 16 years of service with the British Post Office, Michael was forced to resign and was no longer paid his salary of £295 a year when he objected to answer his call up for the British Military Service. As a member of the Irish Volunteers, but especially as a member of the IRB, his allegiance was to Ireland. He remained in London at great risk of the British Army hunting him down and he continued to smuggle arms to Dublin for the Republican movement.

By this time, Michael's sister Jane who also worked in London, had married a man named Austin Kennan. Kennan was born in Dublin in 1890 and was also a member of the London Corp of Volunteers. Later he would join Michael as part of the GPO Garrison.

As the year 1916 began, Michael and his brother-in-law Austin were both aware of impending danger planned for Ireland. Michael made one final visit to his Ardoughter home on March 23rd and stayed there until April 17th when he left to return to London.



New penny given by Michael to his sister Maggie on the eve of his emigration to London in 1897. He told her he would double it on each return visit!

On Good Friday Michael and Austin arrived back in Dublin. They had arms concealed in their baggage for the Rising. Michael stayed at the Kincora Hotel in Parnell Square. He used his grandfather's name, Michael O' Connor, when signing the register.

On Easter Monday, Michael (with the rank of Lieutenant) and Austin joined the Volunteers from Kimmage Camp and took up their positions in the GPO. They were to be two of the 413 soldiers that formed defences at the headquarters of the Rising, the GPO, with outposts at the Imperial Hotel and a number of other buildings on O'Connell Street and Henry Street. They were on the front centre section of the roof of the GPO and they defended it effectively with shotguns, homemade grenades and bombs.

On the first day they exchanged fire with British snipers and it was a success. The snipers were positioned in Trinity College. Later British troops resorted to shelling and bombing buildings with heavy artillery and on Wednesday evening they decided to deploy their secret weapon - their gunboat "The Helga". Many buildings on O'Connell Street were destroyed.

On Wednesday night, while they were on the roof, heavy rain fell. They were worried that the damp weather might affect their bombs. They decided to take off their coats and cover the bombs with them. On Thursday Michael was posted to the ground floor as the roof was on fire and in danger of collapse. On the ground floor they had to defend a window position which unlike their position on the roof was of little advantage.

On Friday, April 28th Pearse and Connolly decided it was time to evacuate the building. Their plan was to escape through the Henry Street exit and make their way to Williams and Woods, to set up a new headquarters there and join with Commandant Daly at the Four Courts. For this escape to work, an advance party was needed to remove a barricade which was occupied by the Sixth Sherwood Foresters. Unknown to the Volunteers, they had machine guns in place at the end of Moore Lane and Moore Street. Michael O'Rahilly requested 12 volunteers to form the advance party. 4 of these brave volunteers were from Kerry: Michael Mulvihill, Patrick Shortis of Ballybunion, Patrick O'Connor of Rathmore and Denis Daly of Caherciveen.

Michael Mulvihill, while attempting to charge across from Henry Place to Moore Lane, was shot by a large burst of machine gun fire and bled out from his wounds. He died within a few meters of his Commander Michael O' Rahilly who was also killed.



Sixth Sherwood Foresters

On Sunday April 30th Michael Mulvihill's body lay on the cobble stones with no identification on him other than a receipt from the Kincora Hotel in the name of Michael O'Connor. Fate would then take a turn. Sergeant Nicholas O' Neill, a member of the Dublin Metropolitan police and a native of the adjacent townland of Clashmealcon was a member of the force drafted into the area around the GPO to prevent looting. One body caught his eye. He discovered that it was his neighbour from Ardoughter, Michael Mulvihill. He took off his white glove and placed it over his neighbour's face. He was then ordered to vacate the area as fresh looting had started on the nearby streets.

Four days later on May 2nd, 1916 the body of Michael Mulvihill together with those of Patrick Shortis, Michael O' Rahilly, and others were taken to a mass grave at Glasnevin Cemetery. It later became 'The Republican Plot'. Austin Kennan, Mulvihill's brother-in-law, made it safely back to London. After some time, Sergeant Nicholas O' Neill secured a day's leave to travel to Kerry and inform the Mulvihill family personally of his discovery in Moore Street.

/COPY/

172 Windsor Road,
Ilford, Essex,
England.

5. 5. 66.

Dear Margaret,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., re death of your brother Michael during Easter week in Dublin. Yes, I saw the dead body of your brother Michael lying in Moore Lane off Henry St. and at the rear of O'Connell St. Dublin after the surrender, also, the dead body of The O'Rahilly lying in Henry St. close by. I had no further time for scrutiny as we were hurriedly take into O'Connell St. to prevent looting.

What does it matter where he was shot. He lost his life fighting for his country's cause.

Peace to his dear soul,

I am, yours etc.

(Sgd.) N. O'Neill.

Sgt. Nicholas O'Neill's letter to Margaret Mulvihill.



Memorial plaque placed on the front wall of the Mulvihill home at Ardoughter in 1966.



Michael Mulvihill is remembered in this monument in the village square in Ballyduff.

Bertie O' Connor, historian and author of the commemorative book - "Michael Mulvihill", met with our class and spoke about Michael Mulvihill and events that occurred in our local area during that period in history.



6th Class Sliabh a' Mhadra N.S. outside the Mulvihill home on the 105th anniversary of Michael's death - 28/04/2021.

Also pictured Bertie O' Connor, and Rita Goulding, 6thClass teacher.



Austin Kennan's 1966 Survivors Medal and 1916 Service Medal.



Bertie O' Connor historian with 6th class students.

Proclamation day was celebrated in our school in March, 2016. We were in 1st class. Invited guests to the ceremony included Eithne Kennan, grand-niece of Michael Mulvihill and grand-daughter of Austin Kennan. Eithne found her grandmother's name on a School Register from 1895!



Eithne Kennan and Shane Ashe (a relative of Thomas Ashe) raising the National Flag on Proclamation Day 2016 in our school.

Michael died that fateful day for his country. His family was left heartbroken. Not only had they lost a son and a brother but also a provider and a mentor. Much blood was shed in Ireland in 1916 so it is important that we write about these men and honour their story.

One of these men, was the great, Michael Mulvihill.



Monument unveiled at Ardoughter in 2016 in honour of Lt. Michael Mulvihill.



Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.