

UNVEILING CEREMONY

A memorial erected by the people of Shraharla and surrounding districts to commemorate the memory of Captain James Horan of Inch-St. Laurence; Lieut. Timothy Hennessy of Killonan, Captain Patrick Casey of Ballybricken, Captain Patrick Starr of Nenagh, who fell fighting British forces at Shraharla on May 1st, 1921; Capt. W. O'Riordan, Local Company, who fell at Lackelly, May 2nd, and Capt. J. O'Riordan, who fell at Garrypillane, was unveiled on Sunday in the presence of relatives and friends of deceased, and a very large gathering of people.

The unveiling ceremony was to have been performed by Mr. D. Breen, T.D., but owing to illness he was unable to attend. He sent a message regretting that he could not be present to pay a tribute to those heroes who gave their lives for freedom.

Mr. Sean Carroll, T.D., then unveiled

proud occasion, and one of pride to the people of that locality who had raised that beautiful monument to the memory of brave men who gave their lives on that mountain-side. The greatest tribute that could be paid to them was to be true to the principles for which they had died, those of Tone, Emmet, Pearse, Connolly, and Tom Clarke, the brave old Fenian principles of O'Neill Crowley who died not far from there in historic Killelooney Wood, facing the same foes that those boys faced. He felt that their spirit and that of O'Neill Crowley was with them there that day.

Rev. Fr. Hayes, C.C., Ballybricken, said it was a great privilege to be allowed to say a few words in honour of the memory of those soldiers who gave their lives for Ireland. An old soldier of Ireland had just spoken, who had tramped the hillsides with those boys, and whose heart was rent when they died; there were old soldiers like him there that day, and while they had memories for those who died they also had a warm corner in their hearts for those who live for Ireland. He expressed his gratitude to those who erected that beautiful memorial, which would be there through the ages to show, not alone their patriotism, but their faith—to God and Ireland true. Future generations of men and women in Ireland would thank them, and it would tell them that they were always true to the principles of their faith and of their land. His mind went back to over 50 years, when, in that neighbourhood, men threw defiance in the face of the British Empire, but though they killed O'Neill Crowley his spirit lived on, and in another generation new men arose, flung defiance into the face of the same foe, and that cross would tell generations that whenever Ireland would need it, there would be men prepared to sacrifice their lives for the land they love. Their dead they had with them, and no matter what their position in the country may be at present, or to what party they may belong, their dead belonged to them all. Their dead would unite them. Over their graves old comrades would clasp hands and they would forget the civil strife. Let them think of the sacrifices those heroes had made; of the widowed mother; the father and mother that waited for the footstep they would hear no more. It should be their prayer that the country would unite, that their differences would disappear, and that they would join hand in hand on the road that leads to Ireland's destiny (applause).

Mr. D. Kent, T.D., and Mr. W. Manahan also spoke.

Mr. D. Hartigan, Chairman of the Memorial Committee, thanked the people for their attendance, and also thanked Mr. John Ellard for having given the site for the memorial.

Father Hayes said they would recite a decade of the Rosary for the repose of the souls of deceased and also for all those who died for Ireland. His beads were those he had when he said the Rosary outside Wormwood Scrubbs when the boys were on hunger strike in that prison.

The request of Father Hayes was fervently complied with.

Amongst those on the platform were:—Rev. Father Hayes, C.C., Ballybricken; Messrs R. O'Connell, T.D.; Sean Carroll, T.D.; D. Kent, T.D.; W. A. Hanrahan, — O'Farrell, D. Hartigan, Chairman of Committee; T. Rea, sec., etc.

The relatives present were: Of the late Lieut. Hennessy, Miss Hennessy and Mrs O'Farrell, sisters; D. Hennessy, Misses Hennessy, Mr and Miss Crowe, cousins.

Of late Captain Starr: Mrs Starr, mother; Mr Joe Starr, brother; Miss Starr, sister.

Of late Captain Horan: Mr Daniel Horan and two sisters.

Of late Captain Casey: Father, mother, sister and brother-in-law (Mr Godfrey).

The O'Neill Crowley Band, Mitchelstown, discoursed a selection of airs.

The memorial is erected where Captain Horan, Captain Starr, Capt. Casey, and Lieut. Hennessy fell on the side of the hill. Far below is a deep valley, through which courses a placid river, winding its way on by Killelooney, a mile or so off, where fell Peter O'Neill Crowley, close on 60 years ago. The site of the memorial commands an extensive view in a very attractive country, with fields covered with a fresh coat of green, but largely interspersed with beautifully tilled gardens and residences that are neatly kept and are pleasing to look at. The memorial is a Celtic Cross bearing the words—"To God and Ireland true." Then follow the names of those to whose memory it is erected. It stands on an elevated position some feet higher than the public way, and is approached by concrete steps. It is surrounded by walls, which give plenty space about the monument, while close by some young shrubs have been planted. The memorial reflects credit on everyone who contributed to its erection.