

ANNIVERSARY OF LIAM SCULLY.

The quiet rural cemetery at Glantine, Templeglantine, Co. Limerick, one of the oldest in the South, was the scene of a great commemorative demonstration on Sunday, when immense crowds, composed of all sections assembled from distant parts of Limerick, Kerry, and Cork, to celebrate the anniversary of Mr. Liam Scully, of Glencar, Co. Kerry, who fell in the attack on Kilmallock barracks. Several companies of the West Limerick Brigades, I.R.A., in addition to many well-known Kerry commandants, were present. Abbeyfeale brass band rendered the "Dead March" in the procession, which was headed by a section of the West Limerick Flying Column. Many expressions of sincere sympathy, touched with pride on his heroic death, were tendered to the parents, Mr. and Mrs Scully, on the death of their patriotic and gallant son, whose memory will be long cherished in affectionate remembrance amongst all who knew and loved him in Limerick and Kerry. Rev. Father O'Dwyer, P.P., Templeglantine, assisted by Rev. H. O'Connor, C.C., officiated at the memorial service, at the close of which Father O'Dwyer referred in eloquent and touching terms to the heroic patriotism and bravery of the young Irish soldier and scholar, around whose modest grave they had assembled in such numbers to do honour and reverence. He knew him well, he said, and a braver or more gentle soul never died for Ireland, nor one more worthy of that remarkable demonstration of affection for their illustrious dead. Many sacrifices had been made for Ireland, and many a brave and pure-souled youth yielded his young life in its defence, but, thank God, it was not in vain, for the bright sun of freedom once more shone over their country, and in joy of that great victory they should never forget to honour the memory and pray for the eternal repose of those who like their brave young friend, made the Supreme Sacrifice to attain it.

Mr S. Conway, Gaelic teacher, recited the Rosary in Irish, after which the visitors withdrew.

ANNIVERSARY OF KILMALLOCK BARRACK ATTACK.

On the night of the 27th May shots were discharged and cheers given at Kilmallock, it being the second anniversary of the attack on the barrack.

UNVEILING OF MONUMENT

TO COMMANDANT LIAM SCULLY

ORATION BY MR. AUSTIN STACK

Passing through the Parish of Templeglantine on Sunday evening one could witness a scene that must bring a thrill to the heart of any true Gael, as contingents from different parts of North and West Munster assembled to do honour to the memory of Commandant Liam Scully, who gave his life in the successful fight that broke down a British stronghold at Kilmallock on the morning of May 28th, 1920.

Away up a mountain by-road the "true men and women from anear and afar" journeyed until they reached a simple country churchyard, where, amidst peaceful seclusion in the valley of the Allaghaun, the dead hero sleeps his last sleep; and there stands for all time a stately monument erected to his memory from the pennies and shillings collected by his faithful comrades of the Irish Volunteers.

When this brave soldier fell, fatally wounded by the enemy's bullet, how appropriate that it was thither to the hills of hidden Ireland his comrades bore his dead body, so that, away from the fury of their pursuers, they could quietly and tenderly lay him to rest until other times and perhaps other men—for many of his comrades have since gone down—should pay tribute to his heroism.

Rev. J. J. O'Kelly, P.P., Templeglantine, who presided and introduced Mr. Stack, said that it afforded him very great pleasure to preside at the ceremony, and introduce the principal speaker. It was not his intention to refer to the present situation in Ireland. He, as Parish Priest of Templeglantine, and his parishioners were proud to have the honour of having the remains of Liam Scully interred in their graveyard, and on every occasion that he and his parishioners would come there to bury their dead they would always kneel and pray at his grave, and the young generations, as long as Templeglantine was Templeglantine, would take from that grave the real spirit of Irish patriotism and, if needs be, they would for Ireland's sake make the same sacrifice as Liam Scully.

Mr. Austin Stack, who received a great ovation, said:—This day I am honoured by being permitted to unveil this memorial to the memory of a man who died fighting for Ireland's freedom. Many amongst you knew Liam Scully as a worker for Irish Ireland and were perhaps numbered amongst his pupils in the Gaelic classes, whilst others in your midst were comrades of his, fighting by his side as soldiers in the field for Ireland's liberty. We all know the story of the great fight which was waged for possession of the British stronghold at Kilmallock, and of the bravery of the Republican soldiers in the attack. In that memorable fight—one of the earliest battles in the war of independence renewed after 1916—the life was given for Ireland of this young teacher-soldier.

Let me say a word here concerning the personality of Liam Scully. I knew him as a young school teacher fourteen years ago, when he was one of the first recruits to the Irish Volunteers in December, 1913. In the autumn of 1914, when he had to make a choice between fighting for England or serving Ireland, he was loyal to Ireland, and he remained with the Irish Volunteers. In 1916 he was ready to do his part if the plans for the area south of the Shannon's mouth had been carried out. This he proved in 1920, when he responded to the new call-to-arms, went on active service and helped to win those battles which shed such glory on the young men of our little nation.

The following is the inscription on the memorial:—"Oroit d'anam Liam O Scolaigne o Ghleann Charthaig, Co. Chiarraidhe, taoiseach d'arm na Poblachta thainig mar an Finghin gan ainm ag ionnsuighe dun na n-amhas i gCillmocheallog agus a fuair bas go cathbhudhach ag imirt a anama ar son na h-Eireann an 28 Bealtaine, 1920.

Pray for the soul of Liam Scully, Co. Kerry, an officer in the army of the Republic, who came like the unknown Fenian besieging the stronghold of the mercenaries at Kilmallock, and died victorious giving his life for Ireland on 28th May, 1920. ©Irish Newspaper Archives