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THE CONNACHI

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*The Loughnane  
Memorial Unveiled*

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## Dr. Madden Gives I.R.A. Aims.

### CEREMONY AT SHANAGLISH.

Dr. Madden, of Westport, made a striking statement on the aims of the I.R.A. when he unveiled the Loughnane brothers' beautiful memorial cross in the tree-fringed cemetery of Shanaglish on Sunday afternoon. Declaring that physical force was only necessary when constitutional methods failed and was only employed because these methods were powerless, he said we must always be prepared for the mailed fist, and the only way to meet that was to join a movement like the I.R.A., which stood not for Communism or for class organisation, but for Irish nationality and the Irish people. "I am quite sure," he added, "there are people listening to me who are supporters of what is known as constitutional methods. There is no reason in the world why those people should see anything imminent in the I.R.A., because there is no reason why the I.R.A. should embarrass the political parties, because if the political parties are genuine, their goal and the goal of the I.R.A. are identical." He added that the maintenance of the physical force movement was necessary because the politicians had let them down time and again.

The two brothers, Patrick and Harry Loughnane, living with their widowed mother at Shanaglish, were taken from their homes by Crown Forces in November, 1929, and their bodies, horribly mutilated, were some days later found in a pond and interred in the cemetery in Shanaglish by their comrades, members of the Volunteers of the South Galway I.R.A. Since then an annual commemoration ceremony has been held at the cemetery over their graves, and on Sunday last, in the presence of a large gathering from Counties Galway and Clare, Dr. Madden, Westport, unveiled a memorial to perpetuate their memory and gave a detailed account of the circumstances under which they were foully murdered by British Auxiliaries.

The cross, which is of a beautiful Celtic design, with rich interlacings copied from the Book of Kells, and the railings around the graves were made in County Galway, the cross by Messrs. O'Regan, Loughrea, and the railings by the Galway Foundry. The outlay of £300 has been raised by local subscriptions and from friends abroad.

Headed by the Leitrim (Loughrea) band, the large attendance present assembled in the village and marched four deep in processional order to the cemetery where the Loughnane Brothers and Michael O'Keely are buried.

Never before during the twelve years in which the commemoration has been held has the attendance been so large.

Following the recitation of the Rosary in Irish by Mr. Thomas Hynes, Kitara, in which all those present joined, Mr. Joseph Stanford, Gort, chairman of the local Volunteers, who presided, introduced Dr. Madden, and thanked those present for their attendance. "You have been very generous and courteous in every respect in helping to erect this memorial," said Mr. Stanford, "and I could not allow this opportunity to pass without thanking you for the very good work you have all done on behalf of the Loughnane and Kelly families, and the committee and myself desire to thank you as well as the comrades of these Volunteers for your generosity."

#### A Terrible Tale.

Dr. Madden then unveiled the memorial and, having spoken in Irish, gave the details of the tragic story of the murder of the Loughnane Brothers from a report written at the period.

We are assembled here to-day over the graves of three soldiers of the Irish Republic who sacrificed their lives in 1929 and the best honour I can pay to them is to give you a description of the tragic circumstances in which the Loughnanes were murdered (said Dr. Madden).

Amongst the long list of Galway victims there are no names which arouse such sympathy as those of Patrick and Harry Loughnane. These feelings and sympathies are the outcome of their blameless lives and terrible deaths. Of gigantic stature, able, pure-souled, lovable and intensely patriotic, these brothers lived a model life with their widowed mother at Shanaglish Gort. In every phase of human activity in the district Pat took a prominent part and was known and esteemed throughout South Galway and Clare. Beagh G.A.A. full back, he deeply regretted that he took no part in the 1916 struggle. "It grieves me to think," he said, "that we stood by while others suffered, but if I only got the least inkling of the Rising I, too, would do my part." Pat was a well-known figure in all the G.A.A. circles and shone out prominently in the seven-a-side contests; he invariably played full-back, where he was a tower of strength and was the one hurler in all Galway that the giant hurler of Ballinacorney, Gibbons, could not tackle.

Harry was goalkeeper of the Beagh team, and secretary of the local Sinn Fein Club, and although he stood 6' 2 1/2" high he was a more scrupling beside his brother Pat. He was not yet 22 years of age, and was of a gentle disposition, and his ambition was to be a teacher, but his health breaking down he rejoined his brother at farming. He was very religious. He helped his mother in the household work after his day's toil, and his leisure hours were spent in reading and playing with children.

### Found by a Dream.

On November 26, 1920, whilst engaged in farm work, a force of Auxiliaries and R.I.C. surrounded the haggard and pained the brothers under arrest. They were taken to Gort and on the way were subjected to gross maltreatment. There they were surrendered by the R.I.C. to the Crown Forces, who after commandeering eleven yards of rope, tore them away. On the following Monday night, two days later, a large force of Auxiliaries called at their widowed mother's house, saying that her two sons had escaped from Drumbarina Castle, Ardahan, where at the time some Auxiliaries were quartered. Friends became anxious for their safety,

that they were tied to the lorries dragged along the road; that shots fired at them in "Moy O'Hynes" near Kinvara, and that men answering their description were seen there *dying*. Other rumours were current at the same time that the bodies of Loughane brothers were burned cinders. Contradictory rumours that the brothers were safe and well in Island Camp, Galway, were also current.

Brain matter (continued the story) was later found in O'Hynes wood when the men who were supposed to all about the torture of the Loughanes were interviewed they denied it and they knew nothing about them.

The discovery of the bodies came in a very remarkable manner. A comrade of the Loughanes often saw Pat Loughane, and one night as he sat in with his employer on the roadside, a boy, when asked about a vision, said, "I surely saw Pat Loughane leaning over a bicycle." On the evening of the ninth day following the disappearance of the brothers Loughane the boy prayed that he might be the place where the Loughanes were, and that night he dreamt he saw his comrades in a pond at Conal near Drumbarina. After Mass on the following Sunday the boy and a comrade proceeded to the pond and there found the bodies exactly as he saw in his dream.

### **"Hideous Barbarity."**

Going to Kivvara, the boys into the Volunteers and I.R.A. there, who cured a horse and van, and going in 1 to the pond took the charred remains and laid them side by side on the g. The bodies were hideously mutilated, not a particle of clothing remains save one of Harry's boots, their faces being a mass of unsightly scars and gashes. Two of Harry's fingers were blown off, his right arm was broken and almost cut from his body, while nothing remained of the face only the chin and The skull was entirely blown away. The remains were badly charred. Mock incisions in the form of diamond shaped carvings were cut along Pat's ribs, chest, both his arms were broken, his was unrecognisable, and his skull much fractured. Notwithstanding they were then ten days dead the bodies were in a fine state of preservation, without signs of decomposition. Blood flowed copiously from wounds on Harry's and the bleeding was again renewed. The bodies were laid in O'Hynes's barn. Hundreds dipped their handkerchiefs in the martyrs' blood, which they treasure highly. Although the Volunteers themselves were "wanted" men at the time they proceeded in funeral procession the bodies towards Kivvara, and had but a short distance when a battery of Auxiliaries drove up and searched the pond. The Crown Forces proceeded towards Killeegan, met a much "wounded" man on the road and took him to Killeegan, thus allowing the funeral procession to proceed to Kivvara. The "wake" was held in Mr. Hynes's barn as his barn was already burned down by the Crown Forces. Amidst the sobs of a large number of stricken people, who had attended large numbers from the neighboring parishes, the Rosary was recited in the barn. A medical officer and I.R.A. officers were present, and after investigation the following was written:

the breast plates of the coffins: "M. O'Loughlin, a gabad a marbhuid a diogad leis na Swannacall. Mí S 1920, in aoi naoi mhíladain is fíor le a n-uam." and a similar inscription on the breast plate of Harry's coffin. The coffins were then wrapped in the Sinn Féin flag, with the letters "I.R.A." written by the I.R.A. was kept during the night. A Requiem Mass was celebrated on the following Monday, and the remains interred in Shanaghish cemetery.



## " Monstrous Atrocity. "

A British Government inquiry was held. The P.P., Rev. Farber Beagh, who was a chaplain in the War (who was present at the time) described it as a monstrous atrocity and declared that he could not imagine a deed of hideous barbarity being treated. He had, he said, witnessed unspeakable crimes, but that of the case of the brothers Loughmans saw them all in their fondness and hideous

The people, continued the speaker, of Mrs. Quinn being shot down nursing her baby by the wayside; Howley, Gori, shot in the back; of Griffin, lured out on a lovely moon-fully murdered, and others too many to mention, but inured as the people of Galway were to these crimes, and by the ruthless repression at the yet, in the case of the Long brothers, grief prevailed and strong sobbed aloud and women wailed pitifully—there being scarcely a dry eye when the bodies of these martyrs were laid under the Sinn Féin flag—the flag loved so well in life.

Pure-souled and gentle, true to God and Ireland, they loved their countrywomen for well. For her they suffered unparalleled torture; for her their hearts were broken and their bodies given to flames. This was the fate of the Long brothers, who were true sons of the land. Michael O'Kelly, whose name is here also, was a true son of the Republic, a fearless soldier. He lost his life in a regrettable accident.

It is very hard to remember the civilisation, concluded the speaker, crimes brought home to the people that the British were nothing more than they were years ago, when their bodies were put in the ground. Since then, finding it was to the taste of trade, they have clothed themselves with the veneer which the "Civilisation," but there is no where that was so false as in their dealings with the Irish nation. With the English they always did their worst. The only organisation to meet that spirit, to unclench the fist, and to keep the spirit of nationality alive, was the organisation which the Longmans brothers and O'Kelly belonged to, the I.R.A. Politicians, generation after generation, had let this organisation down, and we want to-day that organisation as much as ever, as the best way to keep the spirit of the civilisation up would be to join the Sinn Féin organisation and the Irish Republican Army. For the women there was Cumann na mBan, and for the men there was the Fianna Éireann.

"There is a desperate effort to obliterate the name of the I.R.A.," declared the speaker, "and to try and associate it with Communism, but as far as the I.R.A. has no class, caters for no class, but stands for the rights of the Irish nation against her only enemy in the world, John Bull, and there is the reason in the world why all these people are working constitutionally for Irish independence."

working constitutionally for the  
ality should not join the I.R.A. organisa-  
tion."

In paying a tribute to Messrs. O'Regan, sculptors, Loughrea, for the workmanship on the cross, Dr. Madden said it was the finest he saw yet in the country, and he was glad to know all the work was executed at home. There was no need to leave this country for this class of work in the future.

The Last Post was sounded over the graves, and wreaths were placed at the foot of the cross, when the crowd dispersed.

Amongst those present were: Mr. Frank Fahy, B.L., T.D.; Doctors W. and P.

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Fallon, Messrs. P. Beegan, T.D.; Dr. Walsh, Galway; L. E. O'Dea, solr.; P. A. Arkins, solr., Galway; J. J. Leonard, do.; Joseph Stankford, Gort; Thomas Hynes, Hugh Loughnane, Miss Loughnane, N.T., Shanaglish; T. Flanagan, Galway; M. O'Regan, P. O'Regan, Loughrea.