

VOLUNTEER HARRY WADE.

Harry Wade was born at Cahernorry in the year 1898. He took an active part in the Volunteer Movement and served with distinction at the Battle of Grange in November, 1920. He lost his life in defending the approaches to Caherguillamore against the enemy on December 26th, 1920.

The idea of a memorial to the fallen heroes of the 3rd Battalion was first conceived in 1943. A Committee, representative of the surviving members of the Battalion, under the Chairmanship of Liam T. Purcell, was formed. Liam Fraher and C. E. Ryan were appointed Hon. Treasurers, and Seamus Moloney and D. Conway Hon. Secretaries. From the very start the project was taken up enthusiastically throughout East Limerick, and even in neighbouring counties. Collections were held at every chapel gate in Co. Limerick, while subscriptions poured in from all over the country, and even from America. When the lists closed, the number of subscribers had reached 2,180. The designing of the memorial was entrusted to Mr. Patrick Sheahan, Architect, who not only gave his services free but worked very hard to bring the project to fruition.

After several years of unavoidable delay, the contract was given to Messrs. Broe & Sons, Sculptors, Dublin. To Mr. Leo Broe, himself an Old I.R.A. man, the work was a labour of love, and the finished statue is to-day a tribute to his genius and artistic talent.

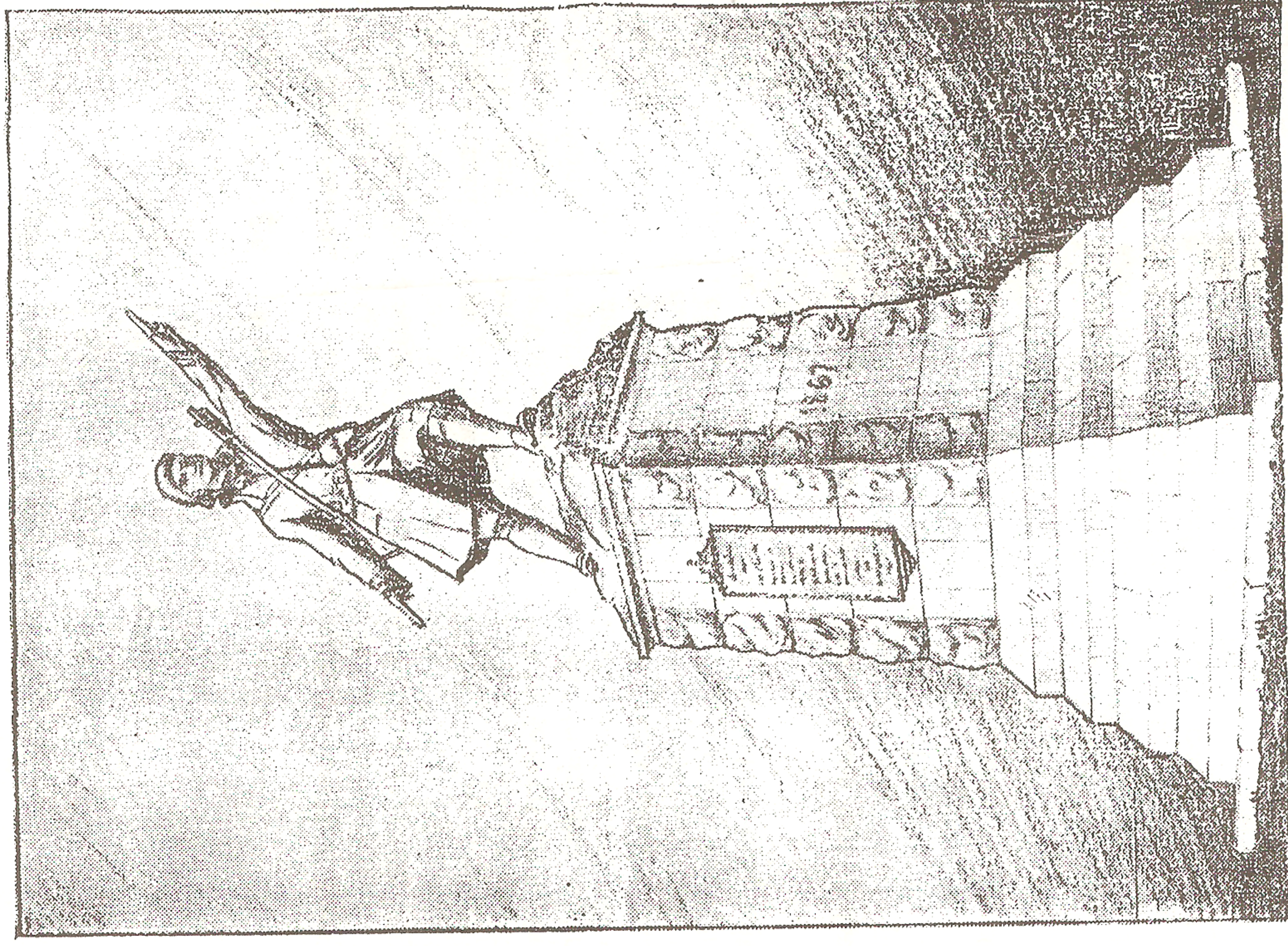
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.

His Excellency, Sean T. O Ceallaigh, President of Ireland, has graciously consented to unveil the memorial, thus crowning the long work of the Memorial Committee and paying the greatest honour the nation could pay to the fallen Heroes of Bruff.

AR OEIS DE SO RAIB A n-ANAMMA.

DO cum SLÓIRE DE ASUS ONÓRA NA n-ÉIREANN

BRUFF I.R.A. MEMORIAL



UNVEILED BY HIS EXCELLENCY SEAN T. O CEALLAIGH,
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND, ON OCTOBER 12th, 1953.

Price - - 1/-

The Bruff Memorial commemorates the following Officers and Volunteers of the 3rd Battalion, East Limerick Brigade, who fell in the War of Independence, 1920-21:

COMMANDANT SEAN WALL,

CAPTAIN MARTIN CONWAY,

VOLUNTEER JOHN QUINLAN,

VOLUNTEER EAMONN MOLONEY.

VOLUNTEER DANIEL SHEEHAN,

VOLUNTEER HARRY WADE.

COMMANDANT SEAN WALL.

Sean Wall was born in the Parish of Bruff in the year 1888. At an early age his training in the cause of Irish Ireland began when he attended the Gaelic classes taught by George Clancy, who was destined, like his pupil, in later years to lay down his life for Ireland. Sean Wall's enthusiasm for the language seemed to grow with his years and with it a deep love of his country. The events of Easter Week had stirred his soul in its depths, and when the organisation of the Volunteers came in 1917 he seemed instinctively to sense the opening of the path that would finally lead to the goal of Irish Independence. On the formation of a Volunteer Company in Bruff, he was appointed first captain. His organising ability and capacity for leadership were soon recognised by the Volunteer H.Q., and early in 1919 he was appointed to the command of the re-organised East Limerick Brigade. From then on Sean Wall's whole world seemed to be concentrated on the military struggle then deepening in intensity every day.

The first engagement of the Brigade under his command was at Ballylanders early in 1920. Kilmallock, Bruree and Grange followed in quick succession. The fatal night at Caherguillamore sadly depleted the ranks of the Brigade, but the fight was renewed at Dromkeen, Bruree, Emly, Shrahule, and many other places. Those engagements made the name of the East Limerick Brigade famous throughout the land.

But other responsibilities fell upon the shoulders of Sean Wall in those hectic days. He was also leader of the Sinn Fein Organisation in East Limerick, and Charman of the Limerick County Council. Under his far-seeing leadership those bodies were linked in a combined attack on the British military and civil institutions in this country.

Sean Wall had all the qualities of a great national leader. From the earliest stages of the conflict his clear intellect had seen the final goal and the path by which it was to be reached, and with a firm purpose he prepared to tread that path to its end. Such was his character that men readily followed him through every danger and accepted his judgment without question. To those who knew him, it seemed as if he had been destined to play a leading part in the final fight for Irish Independence, but Providence decreed otherwise, and he died for Ireland at the hands of the British enemy at Annacarty on the 6th of May 1921

CAPTAIN MARTIN CONWAY.

Martin Conway was born at Rockbarton, Grange, on February 1887. He was educated at the Monastery Schools, Bruff, from where he graduated to Rockwell College.

He joined the Irish Volunteers at the inception of the movement and was attached to the Bruff Company until in 1918 he organised a Company in his own parish of Grange. He was appointed Captain of his Company. From this on Martin Conway's whole soul seemed to become absorbed in the struggle for his country's independence. His courage and daring became proverbial throughout the country, and to the enemy he was one of the most dreaded I.R.A. leaders. He took part in the Kilmallock Barracks battle in June, 1920, and the Grange ambush in November. From this on the enemy made ceaseless efforts for his capture, but by a series of almost miraculous escapes, he evaded their clutches until the fatal night at Caherguillamore on December 26th when, with four of his comrades, he was killed.

With those four comrades he was laid to rest in the Republican Plot in Grange Cemetery, only a few hundred yards from his home and the scenes of his heroic exploits.

LIEUTENANT JOHN QUINLAN.

John Quinlan was born in Grange in the year 1892. At an early age he emigrated to the U.S.A., where he threw himself wholeheartedly into the Gaelic League and other Irish organisations. Returning home early in 1920, he immediately joined the Grange Company, I.R.A., and from that on took a most active part in the fight for Irish freedom. With his leader, Capt. Conway, he was killed by enemy forces while guarding the approaches to Caherguillamore on the fatal night of December 26th, 1920.

VOLUNTEER EAMONN MOLONEY.

Eamonn Moloney was born in Grange in the year 1900. He was only twenty years old when he gave his life for his country at Caherguillamore on December 26th, 1920.

He was a most active member of the Grange Company and took part in the battles of Kilmallock and Grange. He was on guard duty at Caherguillamore when he was shot by the approaching enemy.

VOLUNTEER DANIEL SHEEHAN.

Daniel Sheehan was born in Grange in the year 1898. He joined the Grange I.R.A. Company at its inception and took a prominent part in all the activities of that Company until his death. He served at the Battle of Grange in November, 1920, and was on outpost duty when he met his death bravely endeavouring to hold back the advancing enemy.

Sean Wall Memorial Committee

Crean,
Bruff,
Kilmallock,
CO. Limerick.
Telephone: 061 - 399718.

8th January 2001.

TO EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE.

A Meeting of the above Committee is arranged,

Date : Monday January 15th 2001.

Time : 7:30 p.m

Venue : Residence of Fr. Jim Costelloe P.P.

Agenda :

1. Minutes of previous Meeting.
2. Correspondence.
3. Treasurer's Report.
4. Secretary's Report.
5. Report Tom Meaney on Monument.
6. Fund Raising.
7. Republican Plot in Grange.
8. Plaque Court house.
9. Any other Business.

It is the intention that the meeting will conclude at 9 p.m.

I look forward to seeing you,

With every blessing to you and yours in the year which has commenced.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael J. Noonan.

Canon
I can collect you
if you so wish
and bring you back
It would be a pleasure
Michael

Limerick Old I.R.A. Memorial Calendar -- 1998

MAY



SEAN WALL

Was probably the Brigade Leader of the Irish Republican Army with the greatest tactical brain during the War of Independence. He was an initiator of the thinking that led to the establishment of the first Flying Column in the country, the East Limerick Flying Column. Problems within the South Limerick volunteer command that preceded him were handled in a statesmanlike way by him, resulting in the Galty foothills providing some of Irelands finest Volunteers.

Brigadier Sean Wall was older than most volunteers in his Brigade. This maturity, allied to an active brain, a strong personality and good features, combined to give him the qualities of an Irish Chieftain. Wall was much more than a military man in the revolution then in motion. He had a shrewd opinion on economic policies with a good knowledge of the agricultural industry in the production and processing sectors.

He was an able public representative as a formulation and articulation of local and national policies for the development of the country. His vision went far beyond the immediate objectives. He was an able chairman of Limerick Co. Council as well as being a General at the battlefield.

His death in action near Annacarty Co. Tipp in May 1921 was a national loss. In a military and political context he had given his life to Ireland after achieving much to establish her nationhood we salute his memory as a great soldier and patriot.

