

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1757

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1757

Witness

PATRICK L. ROGAN,

57 Jones Road, Drumcondra, DUBLIN.

Identity.

MEMBER OF I.R.A., WICKLOW, 1919-1922.

Subject.

DÁIL ÉIREANN COURTS, 1919-1922.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

File No S. 3048.

Form B.S.M. 2

ORIGINAL

217 Jones Road
Drumcondra
Dublin

6/12/58

My Lord Justice

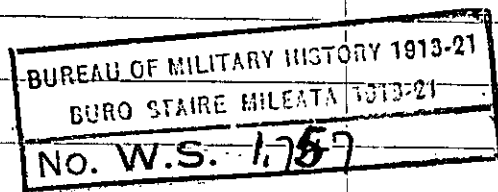
I have been greatly taken up with your admirable suggestion re People writing their experiences of the old Republican Courts. The part I played in the Republican Courts was but a small one, yet the experiences I am forwarding for your consideration may help in some small way to make a start to put your suggestion into immediate and effective operation. I am more than sure that ~~the~~ many, many, interesting happenings can be recorded from the West, South, and Midlands. Your views on my little effort will be eagerly awaited by me, and I do most sincerely hope you will appreciate the spirit with which I have written my little story.

I Remain

My Lord Justice

yours Very Respectfully

Patrick L. Rogan



PERSONAL
URGENT

ORIGINAL

Hon. Mrs. Maria G. Murroughs

Dear Joan
This is what I
wrote to you about on
Monday night.

66 Wellington Road
Baesbrieg

Dublin.

BAILE ATHA CLATH
9 15 PM
6 DEC
1958

POST OFFICE
APPLY
CHAS
39 AS

54/c

ORIGINAL

I was associated with the Courts in Bray and Wicklow during these years, and I can recall some stirring and at times some funny incidents at the Circuit Courts in Wicklow presided over by the late Sir Murphy of Roundwood to Wicklow a great Freshman and a great Quin ^{Finer}, and the District Courts of Bray presided over by the late Larry O'Brien, and when he had to go on the Turf by William O'Brien leaving still with us one Hale and hearty ones, including a football game at Cork Park. One big case, which lasted for 3 days before the Circuit Court was one in which the late David ^{Finer} from, who had bought the House lands and timber of what is now the Presentation College at Bray Head on the Pullana Road, Davney sought possession of a House and Garden from a Herd who had been there for years before Davney came to the Country from Scotland. The case was an amusing and interesting one as legal arguments were the order of the Day each Day for the 3 days. The legal Battle was witnessed by two great Solicitors of the time both gone to their eternal reward they were Mr. J. M. McGeer of Bray and Mr. Craig of Dublin. The Arguments were at times rather heated Craig the Counselor of the two did at times more than annoy Mr. McGeer. However, ^{Finer} from lost the case as indeed we knew he would as Larry Murphy's sympathies were being with the Herd. Many you might say for a Judge, but they were funny times.

I can recall a very amusing incident at the Circuit Court held in Bray. Mr. Moyk was in the case, and I myself in the Chair, it was a case in which a Farmer from Killocoo was charged with assaulting another Farmer on a Sunday Morning on his way to Mass. The Farmer who was assaulted was driving his Mr. Pong Trap with his Daughters when from behind a Hedge they were

Showered with stones and rocks, the Daughter was giving
 evidence of the attack, and was been gross examined by
 Mr Noyk who was for the defendant. Mr Noyk as far
 as I can remember was anxious to prove that the
 witness was not very reliable, and was a shaming
 character, at a particular stage in the examination of
 the witness he said to her, are you married, or single
 witness single. Mr Noyk then says you had a baby recently
 witness I have an son from it. What's it got to do with
 you. Mr Noyk ok nothing I'm just asking a question
 that's all thank you. The old man who had been assaulted
 was now in the witness box suffering how he had been
 attacked when down and again his attacks would
 interrupt by shouting fits, fits, and continual
 growling, in the end he came out his legs and
 pushing up both tables in front of the judge he threw
 down a bundle of five pound notes saying to the
 judge, how much am I fined for a pointing to the
 note to say to the judge, here is 50 and turning to
 the Plaintiff with clenched fists he declared I do
 get the worth of it out of you young man, the witness
 collapsed and the Daughter, Go and murder! Murder!
 after some time order was restored and the case adjourned
 for one month.

An amusing case before W. O'Brien in the District Court
 at Bray was one in which a man James James Smith
 was charged with a breach of the Licensing laws on
 a Sunday, when asked if he had anything to say he said
 he did not recognize the court as he was all a band
 of hoodlums and he was a cleric and a decent
 Presbyterian, the justice said he would fine him 1/6
 if he pay 1/6 said Dan all right said the justice
 I'll send you to jail for 7 days, well in that
 case said Dan I'd better pay as I don't want to be

found Reed at an unknown destination. It lay in a few days Justice 4 days to pay. Smith had a fine Courtroom one of our officers with D.R.A. They were afterwards married, the officer was to spend every Sunday with his first wife at Smith's house. I went to collect the fine and when I knocked on the door Smith's wife opened it, and when her husband heard that he said I know what that is, and walking backwards towards the door, starting with his back to me, he said to me in his hand I took it and gave him a receipt. As I was about to leave he called me back, and what was to me an amusing remark and one that has often made me laugh down the years. This is what he said. When you go back will you tell that General of yours that he is coming here for his cheap Pennies on a Sunday, the General was of course the Lieutenant who was courting his wife.

There was another memorable occasion, in the District Court Harry O'Brien was presiding when the late Joseph Campbell the great Patriot Poet (The Humphrey Trade etc) arrived and came on uproad that night have been more than serious. He claimed that he had been instructed from H.C. to preside at the Court. Some heated and at times nasty collisions took place between Campbell and O'Brien leading to O'Brien ordering the arrest of Campbell. I can still see Campbell standing with his back to the door in his green unepson knee breeches and the first with hand outstretched like the pro of Edmund in one of the beautiful paintings that were seen of Edmund. Campbell declared among other things that he felt sure his old and gallant comrades with D.R.A. would not leave a hand on him, that of us who knew he would not do so but some other, not long in the movement advanced to Harry O'Brien's orders, when ~~two~~ two notes were filed

from a Revolver and Pandemonium was let loose. In
 the midst of it all Campbell raised his hands and
 called for order, order was immediately restored.
 We brought him out of the Hall and away. He left the
 County after that, and I think he was later a Lecturer
 at Fordham University U.S.A. 1920-22 or a
 long time ago unfortunately I have no written record
 but given time there is much of the doings of the old Courts
 in the Seventeen days I could and would love to recall
 I often thought it strange when serving summons
 Chas. Bell etc in the County District. The
 people appeared to be afraid, they would offer you money
 Butter Eggs or Fowl, I think it was fear of the
 Name. J.K.A.

As I write this little story I am reminded of our little
 head out on the upper Dargle Road at Bray where we
 used to hold prisoners when arrested and on demand
 much food, wine & wine were by great friends and
 comrades in arms. Still alive. Owen Gallagher
 and Peter Redwood. But Rafferty William
 O'Brien is still with us and living in Bray
 L. Conna and I am sure would be helpful
 when Republican Court Experiences
 will begin to be written, as you my friend
 Justice have suggested.

Patrick L. Rogan
 5/12/58

GOPY.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1757

27 Jones's Road,
Drumcondra,
Dublin.

6/12/1958.

My Lord Justice,

I have been greatly taken up with your admirable suggestion re people writing their experiences of the old Republican Courts. The part I played in the Republican Courts was but a small one; yet, the experiences I am forwarding, for your consideration, may help, in some small way, to make a start to put your suggestion into immediate and effective operation. I am more than sure that many, many interesting happenings can be recorded from the West, South and Midlands.

Your views on my little effort will be eagerly awaited by me, and I do most sincerely hope you will appreciate the spirit with which I have written my little story.

I remain,

My Lord Justice,

Yours very respectfully,

(Sd.)

PATRICK L. ROGAN.

Copy.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ ÉIREANN 1913-21
No. W.S. 11757

STATEMENT BY PATRICK L. ROGAN,
27 Jones's Road, Drumcondra, Dublin.

SOME SHORT MEMORIES OF THE REPUBLICAN COURTS,
1919 - 1922.

I was associated with the Courts in Bray and Wicklow during these years, and I can recall some stirring and, at times, some funny incidents at the Circuit Court in Wicklow, presided over by the late Lar. Murphy of Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, a great Irishman and a great Sinn Féiner, and at the District Court at Bray, presided over by the late Larry O'Brien, and, when he had to go on the run, by William O'Brien, happily still with us, and hale and hearty, never missing a football game at Croke Park.

One big case, which lasted for three days before the Circuit Court, was one in which the late David Frame, who had bought the house, lands and timber of what is now the Presentation College at Bray Head, on the Putland Road, sought possession of a house and garden from a herd who had been there for years before Davey came to this country from Scotland. The case was an amusing and interesting one, as legal arguments were the order of the day, each day, for the three days. The legal battle was performed by two great solicitors of the time, both gone to their eternal reward. They were Mr. J.M. McGee of Bray and Mr. Craig of Dublin. The arguments were, at times, rather heated. Craig, the cooler of the two, did at times

more than annoy McGee. However, Frame lost the case, as indeed we knew he would, as Larry Murphy's sympathies were more with the herd. Funny, you might say, for a judge, but they were funny times.

I can recall a very amusing incident at the Circuit Court held in Bray. Mr. Noyk was in the case, and L. Murphy in the chair. It was a case in which a farmer from Kilcoole was charged with assaulting another farmer, on a Sunday morning, on his way to Mass. The farmer, who was assaulted, was driving in his pony trap, with his daughter, when, from behind a hedge, they were showered with stones and rocks. The daughter was giving evidence of the attack, and was being cross-examined by Mr. Noyk, who was for the defendant. Mr. Noyk, as far as I can remember, was anxious to prove that the witness was not very reliable and was a shady character. At a particular stage in his examination of the witness, he said to her, "Are you married or single?" Witness, "Single". Mr. Noyk, "Have you had a baby recently?" Witness, "I have, and I'm proud of it. What's it got to do with you?" Mr. Noyk, "Oh, nothing! I'm just asking a question. That's all, thank you!" The old man, who had been assaulted, was now in the witness box, explaining how he had been attacked, when, now and again, his attacker would interrupt, by shouting, "Liar, liar!", and continually growling. In the end, he could hold out no longer, and, rushing to the table in front of the Judge, he threw down a bundle of notes, some £50, saying to the Judge, "How much am I fined?", and, pointing to the notes, he said to the judge, "Here is £50!" And turning to the

plaintiff, with clenched fist, he declared, "I'll get the worth of it out of you, going home!" The witness collapsed, and his daughter roared, "Murder! Murder!" After some time, order was restored, and the case was adjourned for one month.

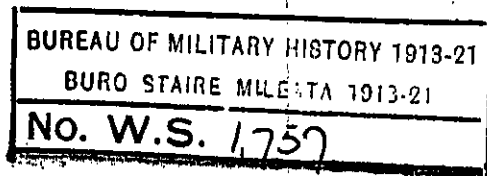
An amusing case before W. O'Brien in the District Court at Bray was one in which a man, named Daniel Smith, was charged with a breach of the licensing laws on a Sunday. When asked if he had anything to say, he said he did not recognise the court, as we were all a band of hooligans, and he was a clean and decent Irishman. The Justice said he would fine him 7/6d. "I'll pay no 7/6d.!", said Dan. "All right!", said the Justice, "I'll send you to jail for seven days." "Well, in that case", said Dan, "I'd better pay, as I don't want to be found dead at an unknown destination. I'll pay in a few days." Justice, "Seven days to pay". Smith had a niece courting one of our officers in the I.R.A. They were afterwards married. The officer used to spend every Sunday with his girl friend at Smith's house. I went to collect the fine, and, when I knocked on the door, Smith's wife opened it, and, when her husband heard me, he said, "I know what that is". And walking backwards towards the door, standing with his back to me, he had the 7/6d. in his hand. I took it and gave him a receipt. As I was about to leave, he called me back, and made what was to me an amusing remark, and one that has often made me laugh down the years. This is what he said: "When you go back, will you tell that General of yours not to be coming here for his cheap dinners on a Sunday!" The General was, of course, the Lieutenant who was courting his niece.

There was another memorable occasion in the District Court. Larry O'Brien was presiding, when the late Joseph Campbell, that great patriot poet (The Nine-penny Fiddle, etc.), arrived, and caused an uproar that might have been more than serious. Joe claimed that he had been instructed from H.Q. to preside at the Court. Some heated and, at times, nasty exchanges took place between Campbell and O'Brien, leading to O'Brien ordering the arrest of Campbell. I can still see Campbell, standing in the middle of the room in his green uniform, knee breeches and the rest, with hand outstretched like the pose of Emmet in one of the beautiful paintings that we see of Emmet. Campbell declared, among other things, that he felt sure his old and gallant comrades in the I.R.A. would not leave a hand on him. Those of us who knew Joe would not do so, but some others, not long in the movement, advanced to carry out O'Brien's orders, when two shots were fired from a revolver, and pandemonium was let loose. In the midst of it all, Campbell raised his hands and called for order. Order was immediately restored. We brought him out of the hall, and away. He left the country after that, and I think he was later a Lecturer at Fordham University, U.S.A.

1919-1922 are a long time ago. Unfortunately, I have no written record, but, given time, there is much of the doings of the old Courts in the Sinn Féin days I could and would love to recall. I often thought it strange when serving summonses, civil bills, etc., in the remote country districts, the people appeared to be afraid. They would offer you money, butter, eggs or

fowl. I think it was fear of the name, I.R.A.

As I write this little story, I am reminded of our little hide-out, on the Upper Dargle Road, at Bray, where we used to hold prisoners when arrested and on remand. Much more could I write, were my great friends and comrades in arms still alive, Owen Gallagher and Peter Ledwidge. But, happily, William O'Brien is still with us, and living in Bray. He could, and I am sure, would be helpful when Republican Court experiences will begin to be written, as you, My Lord Justice, have suggested.



SIGNED: PATRICK L. ROGAN

DATE: 5th December, 1958.