

Senior Winner
Katie Riordan
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The credit of Knocknagow

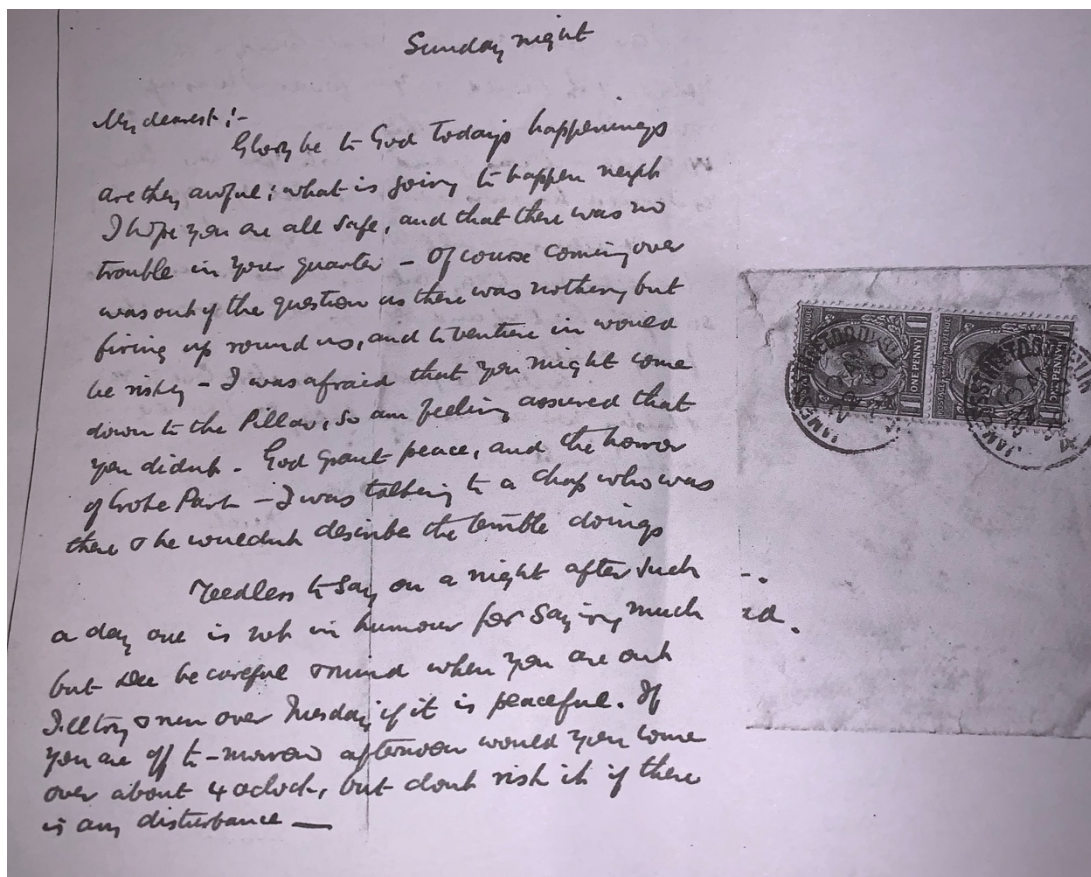
History is never black or white,
In 2020, Black and Tan has coloured our thinking.
Remember, find closure, forgive, forget.
Any comment will release the spring loaded offended on social media.
My great grand uncle's books passed down through the family,
Were many and varied,
But mostly covered Irish topics and GAA newspaper clippings.
Kept hidden away in his trunk of keepsakes.

A letter bookmarked pages 452,453 of his favourite book,
Knocknagow,
Where Matt the Thrasher uttered those favourite words,
"For the credit of the little village"
A nationalist who often spoke of Bloody Sunday
And as an orphan was moulded in Artane Industrial School,
Where Nationalism and GAA were inseparable.

I'm told that in later years,
He would read the letter and try to hide the tears.
The rigid unrepentant republican.
After a lifetime and with failing eyesight,

Perhaps saw things more clearly.
An ordinary couple of the extraordinary times,
A snippet from the day that shaped the years since,
Croke Park and battle ground seem unlikely companions,
But even those events of the past,
Under the modern day microscope,
Reveals nothing.

I suppose you had to be there,
To see it
To feel it
Through that letter,
My grand uncle found his own answers,
And perhaps some peace.



Michael writing to Delia
Bloody Sunday (21/11/1920)
Envelope reveals the time and date, 10am 22nd Nov 1920