

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

CLANE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP.



MICK SAMMON

Many Clane people would be familiar with the most violent incident of the Troubles 1919-21, known as Bloody Sunday, from their study of Irish history in Secondary school. On the afternoon of November 21st 1920 a group of Auxiliaries invaded Croke Park in the middle of a football game between Dublin and Tipperary. They fired indiscriminately into the crowd killing 12 people including a Tipperary player named Michael Hogan.

However, few Clane people realise that their village is linked to Bloody Sunday through the presence on the Croke Park pitch on that day of a Clane man named Mick Sammon. He was born in Loughbollard Commons in 1892; he got involved with the movement for independence and became a prominent Gaelic footballer, winning an All-Ireland medal at midfield with Kildare in the 1919 All-Ireland Final against Galway. The dreadful events of that tragic day took place under the eyes of Mick Sammon who was refereeing that fateful game. Moments before the shooting started Mick had been talking to Michael Hogan the Tipperary captain. When the firing commenced Hogan was killed and Mick Sammon crawled to the sideline and thence to safety. He died in 1947 and is buried in the graveyard of the old Franciscan Friary.