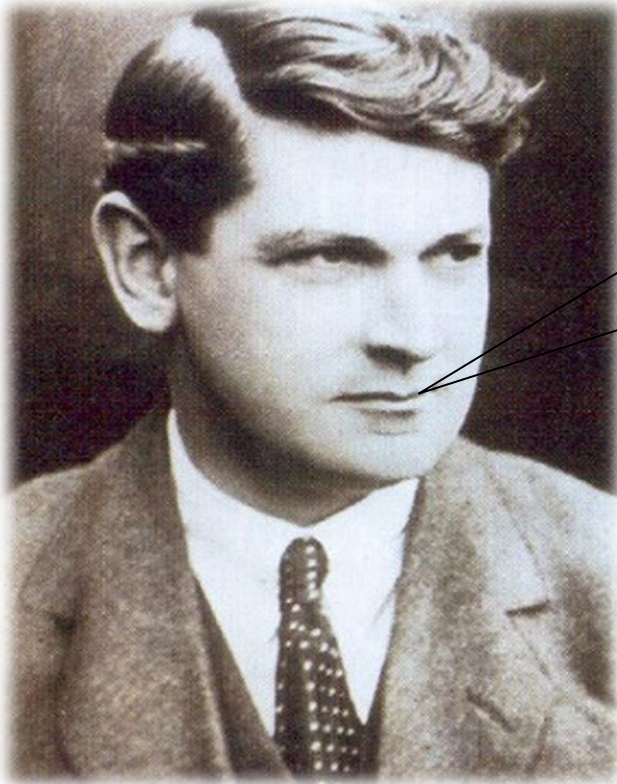


# Michael Collins: His time in Granard, 1917 – 1922



"Last time I was on the Moat...I looked across the Inny to Derryvaragh over Kinali and Sheelan...to Mount Nugent and turning westward saw Cairnhill".

Collins (London 16 October 1921 Letter to Kitty Kiernan).



Michael Collins (Source: The Journal.ie 2015)



Granard Motte (Source: Longford Tourism 2015)

## Introduction/context

Many texts have been written about the life and times of Michael Collins in an Irish historical context. Given the significance of his contributions to Ireland both militarily and politically this is not surprising. Within many of these texts are references to his relationship with Kitty Kiernan, Granard, Co Longford. I think the strength and significance of this relationship are often underestimated. In October and November 1921 Collins negotiated the Anglo Irish Treaty with the British Prime Minister Lloyd George in London, he wrote almost daily to Kitty in Granard. Within these letters he shared his emotional feelings with her and often commented on the progress of the negotiations.



Kitty Kiernan  
(Source: Wikipedia.org 2016)

Kiernan was one of seven children. Kitty, as she was to become known would work with her brother Larry, and other siblings, running the Greville Arms Hotel in Granard. On his many visits to Granard to meet Kitty, Michael Collins would stay in the Greville Arms Hotel. The Greville Arms Hotel is still open for business today in Granard.



The Kiernan family (from left) Lily, Helen, Bridget, Maud, Catherine, Peter, Rose, Christine, and Larry's foot in stirrup

Source: Kiernanfamily.wordpress.com

## Authors' Note

The purpose of this article is not to write a complete history of the War of Independence and the Irish Civil War, or indeed a biography of Michael Collins or Kitty Kiernan. There are an abundance of texts published already covering each of these. However, many references are made to Granard within the existing literature referring to 'The Granard Connection' 'Michael Collins and Granard' etc. The aim here is to establish and document the occasions that Collins was in fact in Granard and if possible establish where in Granard he was. This requires the bringing together of all of the documented references to Collins being in Granard. For this purpose this research whilst consulting the wider literature has relied

primarily on two books; In Great Haste, The Letters of Michael Collins and Kitty Kiernan and Michael Collins, The Secret file. In Great Haste contains a collection of 305 letters, almost all of which are between Collins and Kitty. These letters prove invaluable in documenting Collins' movements with most of the correspondence from mid 1921 until his death in August 1922. However, a small number of the letters are from Kitty to Harry Boland who fought alongside Collins during the War of Independence. He was romantically involved with Kitty for a number of years before Collins' involvement with her and he also visited Granard on many occasions. In fact it was Boland who introduced Collins to Granard and Kitty. Michael Collins, The Secret File contains many police reports from the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) on surveillance of Collins and his fellow volunteers. This is an excellent resource as it records Collins' activities and location often to a specific point in time.

David Martin

## Collins in Granard 1917 – 1922 ...The Evidence

What follows here is set out chronologically from 1917 to 1922. Although the main aim is to document Collins' time in Granard, other significant events are also referred to here to provide context. There are many references to Larry Kiernan (brother of Kitty) throughout. Whilst primarily a business man it would seem that he was not found wanting when required to assist the volunteers. For example, on the Tuesday after the rebellion had commenced, two Granard men, John Cawley and Paul Cusack set out for Dublin to see if they could assist. Larry Kiernan drove them there in his own car. They could not get beyond Lucan because of the security around the city. They returned to Granard, cutting telegraph wires on the way.

### 1917

In July 1917 RIC Special Branch in Dublin Castle requested an account of the movements of Thomas Ashe and Author Griffith from the RIC in Longford and the following was sent by Charles Collins the County Inspector in Granard. What is interesting here is that this is the first documented reference to Collins being in Granard.

#### Granard 28<sup>th</sup> July 1917 (p56 – 57)

*I beg to report that Thomas Ashe arrived here on 21<sup>st</sup> Inst by train accompanied by a young man named Collins also a discharged rebel. They left for the meeting at Longford on 22<sup>nd</sup> either by motor car or on a wagonette, and returned to Granard on the same evening. Griffith was not seen here. Neither was motor car LI 526.*

*Ashe and Collins left here by train on 27<sup>th</sup> Inst and it is believed they have gone to Keash Co. Sligo.*

*A report about Ashes' movements was submitted yesterday.*

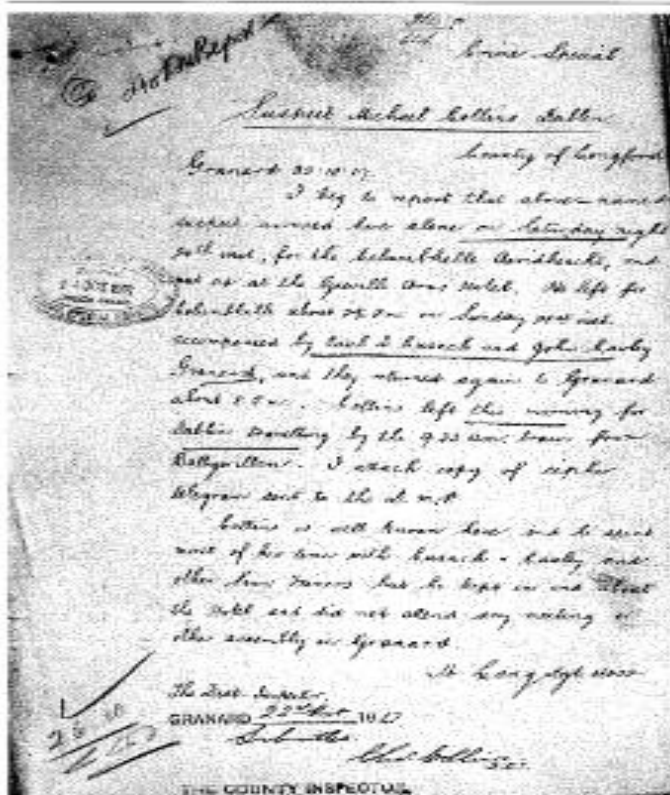
*Charles Collins. County Inspector [RIC]*

**County Inspector's Office. Longford 29 July 1917. (p57)**

*Submitted: Ashe has been in Granard Dist organising Sinn Fein Clubs. As he was present at on which was formed & was trying to start others. He moved about while at Granard with Paul D. Cusack & John Cawley. He has now gone on 27<sup>th</sup> Inst to Keash Co Sligo. A Sinn Feiner named Michael Collins who is alleged to have been in the G P O Dublin and fought there during the rebellion was also with him. The Sergt at Granard wrote by first post to Sergt at Keash informing.*

*Name illegible? C I*

**County of Longford. Granard 22:10:17. (p85)**



**Intelligence Report, Sgt M Lang RIC. (Source: Stewart 1997  
attend any meeting or other assembly in Granard.  
M Lang Sgt 26232**

*I beg to report that the above-named suspect arrived alone on Saturday night 20<sup>th</sup> Inst, for the Columbkille Aeridheacht, and put up at the Greville Arms Hotel. He left for Columbkille about 2 ½ pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Inst accompanied by Paul D Cusack and John Cawley Granard, and they returned to Granard at about 8pm. Collins left for Dublin this morning travelling by the 9.33 am train from Ballywillian. I attach copy of cipher telegram sent to the D.M.P.*

*Collins is well known here and he spent most of his time with Cusack & Cawley and other Sinn Feiners but he kept in and about the Hotel and did not*

Telegram 'Handed in 10.40am 22:10:17.'

Addressed to Damp Dublin (This probably refers to D.M.P Dublin.)

Content of telegram: 'By 9.33am train from Ballywillan to Broadstone suspect Michael Collins Dublin'.

From: Sergeant Constabulary Granard. (was sent by Sergeant M. Lang. RIC)

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS. (Inland Official Telegrams only.)		No. of Telegram
Prefix <b>A</b> Code	Office of Origin and Service Instructions.	I certify that this Telegram is sent on the service of the <i>R. I. Constabulary</i> (Signature) <i>M. Lang. Sgt</i>
Q. H. M. S. <i>Handed in 10.40 am.</i> <i>22:10:17.</i>	Words. Sent	
Attention is called to the Regulations printed at the back hereof.		Dated Stamp.
TO { <i>Damp Dublin</i>		
<i>By 9.33 am. train from Ballywillan to Broadstone suspect Michael Collins Dublin</i>		
FROM { <i>Sergeant Constabulary Granard</i>		
The Name and Address of the Sender, IF NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED, should be written in the Space provided at the Back of the Form.		

(5779) W.L. 56052-3044. 450,000. 12/10. Wp. & S., Ltd. Sch. 49.

Copy of Telegram from Sgt Lang RIC. (Source: Stewart, 1997)

## 1918

**Constable Hugh Maguire 59496 Ballinamuck (Granard District) R I C Barracks gave the following account of the Sinn Fein meeting Legga Moyne Co Longford 4 March 1918.**

**Sinn Fein meeting at Legga. Report of mental notes taken.**

*I beg to report that captain Michael Collins Dublin, addressed a Sinn Fein meeting at Legga Chapel after 12 OC Mass on yesterday. He said that he didn't know much about speechmaking but that he knew a little about the working of the G.P.O. in Easter week. He referred to the convention that it was not represented by the Irish people. It was rigged by Lloyd George and it was doomed to failure. The British had no intention of giving them control of Customs, Excise, Judiciary or Police, consequently it would be worse than that attempted at the partition scheme. In S Armagh though we were defeated we claim it as a victory for us. The Orangemen voted to a man for Donnelly the followers of the Allies, he said he was in a place in Armagh at the election and he heard there were 150 Ulster volunteers there and that during Easter week when wild rumours were abroad that the south and west had joined the rebellion those 150 U. V. Went by night and gave in their arms and ammunition at the hall fearing they would have to fight the rebels. He said Sheridanism was now rampant in co. Clare and other places in Ireland the old set were at work again trying to discredit their organisation he wished Longford and every County in Ireland was like Clare today that every village in it was occupied by military with artillery armoured cars and machine guns. He said that Captain Murray of the Irish Volunteers was shot down by the police and that they ordered they people to stand aside till they would finish him. He said he had a communication which their organisation sent to the Press but the latter part was censored and that it would not be censored there that day by people of Moyne & Dromard.*

- (1) That we the Irish volunteers warn our members not to take part in raids for arms useless old shotguns, swords especially from their friends & countrymen.*
- (2) That we condemn the action of the Irish volunteers for taking part in cattle drives.*
- (3) That when volunteers do raids for arms they will go where they will find ones that will be of some use to them and that we call on the Irish volunteers to defend their arms unto the death.*

*The British Government was at their wits end now about the man-power question of the Empire. Ireland too was thinking about her man-power emigration had ceased for the past few years & it had increased considerably. The Irish Party claimed to have defeated conscription but he claimed it was the men of Easter week who had defeated it. The Cabinet might attempt it again but it would take five soldiers to take one man and 50,000 with fixed bayonets to enforce it in Ireland he would say to the Irish Volunteers if such was attempted to stand together & remember Thomas Ash.*

Hugh Maguire Con 50496

**Sinn Fein meeting at Legga. Report of mental notes taken.(Same date)**

*I beg to report that Paul D. Cusack Granard addressed a Sinn F. meeting at Legga Chapel after last mass 12 noon on yesterday. He said he could not understand why any of they men of Moyne or Dromard were not joining the ranks of Sinn Fein that they must be fools or idiots to be still believing in the Nationalist Movement that the Irish Party were doing nothing for them only breakfasting with Lloyd George and drawing their £400 a year the idea of England proclaiming to the world that she was advocating the cause of small nations but not a work about poor old Ireland or self determination. India & Egypt were invaded by England for their protection & there she remains Ireland too was invaded and here she remains, but our case would go before the peace conference. Dr McCartan who was turned down by S Armagh worked his way to America as a stoker shovelling coal & is now in the embassy at Washington where the where the volunteers paid £400 for a house for him where the tricolour flag waves over it. Russia and America was on their side. England would not acknowledge the Bolchevicks of Russia after the revolution. No she is not now going to give the knock out blow to the enemy. I may tell you that she is not winning that she is down & out in this war & we are sorry for the poor old Empire.*

Hugh Maguire Con 50496

**Granard 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1918 (Addressed to Crime Special Branch, Dublin Castle) (p108 – 109)**

*I beg to report the above named arrived in Granard by car at 6pm yesterday, coming apparently from the direction of Edgeworthstown. This coming was anticipated, as about a quarter of an hour before his arrival about sixty Sinn Feiners formed up in two lines at extended order opposite Kiernan's Hotel to welcome him.*

*It being market day a considerable crowd with some Sinn Fein flags and sang "The Soldier's Song". Collins put up at the hotel where he remained until 9pm., when he left for Edgeworthstown on Kiernan's motor car, evidently intending to travel by train to Dublin. About 80 Sinn Feiners formed opposite the hotel when he was leaving. His departure was ciphered to the D.M.P. this morning.*

*On the 3rd Inst Collins was returned for trial to the next Longford assizes on a charge of inciting to raid for arms. He refused on that occasion to give bail or to recognize the court, and was removed to Sligo Jail.*

*The fact that he was entered into bails may be taken as an indication that the resistance to conscription will not be merely passive.*

Charles Collins D. I.

**Granard 10<sup>th</sup> May 1918 (Suspects Michael Collins & Paul D Cusack)**

*I beg to report that Michael Collins and Paul D Cusack left Granard at 9 ½pm on 9<sup>th</sup> inst by motor car for Streete Ry Station and thense to Dublin by last train.*

*Collins attended 12 noon mass on 9<sup>th</sup> inst (a R.C. Holiday) in company with Cusack. They were afterwards joined by suspect James Cawley of Granard, and all three spent about 2 hours at Cusack's house.*

*Except as stated Collins did not move about very much on 9<sup>th</sup> inst, but remained at the hotel for the greater part of the day. His movements on 8<sup>th</sup> inst have been reported already. I ciphered particulars to Damp today.*

Joseph Gallagher Sgt 55713

### **Granard 12<sup>th</sup> May 1918 (Suspect Paul D Cusack)**

*I beg to report that the above named suspect returned to Granard from Dublin. He arrived about 10.45pm on 11<sup>th</sup> inst by cycle from the Float direction. He accompanied suspect Michael Collins to Dublin from Streete Ry Station on night of 9<sup>th</sup> inst by 10pm train.*

J Gallagher Sgt 55713

During 1918 Collins was arrested for making a speech at Legga Moyne near Granard., Co. Longford (as referred to by Constable Hugh Maguire in page 6 above) that 'was calculated to cause disaffection'. He was lodged in Sligo Jail and subsequently charged in Longford to appear at the next court but of course he didn't. According to Meda Ryan in her book Michael Collins and the Women who Spied for Ireland, Collins and Harry Boland spent a weekend in Granard in March 1918. At this stage Boland was in a relationship with Kitty Kiernan. Her sister Maud had also been in a relationship at some stage with Thomas Ashe who would be dead later that year after being on hunger strike. He was serving a sentence in Mountjoy Prison and after being on hunger strike was brought to the Mater Hospital where an attempt was made to force-feed him. He died during this procedure. The subsequent inquest jury commented on the inhumane treatment given to Ashe.

Probably because Collins was on the run from this time there are a scarcity of sightings until 1921. He was deeply involved in British resistance within the War of Independence and this would also led to a paucity of sightings.

## **1920**

In May 1920 on a trip home from America Harry Boland went on a visit to Granard to meet Kitty. He returned to Granard again in June this time bringing Michael Collins with him. They all attended a ceile in Granard that weekend (Ryan, 2006: 57).

**Friday 25 June 1920:** Collins went with Kitty at North Wall Dublin to see Harry Boland off as he returned to America by boat.

According to Ryan, Sean MacEoin took the decision to have R I C Inspector Kelleher assassinated and this was carried out in the Greville Arms Hotel on 31 October 1920. Collins was not too happy that the assassination had taken place in the hotel and said this to MacEoin. On 3 November the military came to Granard in great numbers and set the hotel alight leaving the Kiernans homeless. All the Kiernan siblings were arrested and shortly released except for Kitty who was detained for three days. (Ryan, 2006). They briefly stayed in Omard House in Granard and later in a flat in the town.

## 1921

The sections here from 1921 to 1922 are primarily based on correspondence (letters) between Collins and Kitty. It can be seen at the outset that although Collins is vying for Kitty's affections, Harry Boland is still very much in love with her.

**Tuesday 20 September 1921:** Letter Boland to Kitty: *"Let me say good night, sweet love, and I am certain I will win you against the formidable opponent with which I am faced."*

### Negotiations Commence

Most of the Irish delegation left for London on 8 October 1921. Collins left on the following day. During the Treaty negotiations which were long and protracted he would keep almost daily contact with Kitty Kiernan by letter. Collins had his office at 15 Cadogan Gardens London for the duration of the treaty negotiations. This address is on many of his letters to Kitty. He also wrote to her on 10 Downing Street headed notepaper. Collins could not mention details of the negotiations in the letters to Kitty but he does express his frustrations and emotions which give an insight into how the negotiations may be progressing. The first in the series of letters in this period is sent from Collins at the Gresham Hotel just before he left for London. It is obvious from this letter alone his reluctance to be part of the negotiating team and also his appreciation of the magnitude of the task ahead. There is also a subtle reference here to a possible engagement between Kitty and Collins with him suggesting that they make their arrangement 'more binding'. She was also at this time receiving letters from Harry Boland in America pleading with her to come out and join him. Collins was urging her to end the relationship with Harry but it seemed that she was reluctant to do so. It could just be that she did not want to hurt his feelings. However, perhaps more importantly, she did not want animosity between the two close friends as a result of this love triangle. Although the two men would take opposing sides later in the bitter Irish Civil War they would remain friends following Collins' later engagement to Kitty.

He wrote the following letter to Kitty as he left for London.

**Gresham Hotel 9 October 1921 (Letter from Michael to Kitty, extract)**

*My dear dear Kit,*

*This will be about the last act of mine before going away on the big venture. I am leaving in about half an hour's time and this must, therefore, be my farewell to you for a few days. Goodness knows I have a heavy heart this moment, but there is work to be done and I must not complain...You cannot know what a pleasure it was to me to feel you liked that little present. It will be a token of me to you, and if you think I forget, then listen to its little tick...I feel today that arrangement for ours may be made more binding – do you think so?...If I write you to come to London you will, won't you? I won't do it unless I can see a fair time for you...This page is my last. It is to say farewell. Even before you'd come to London, perhaps I could come home for a weekend and let you know myself.*

*With my fondest love and a sweet caress,  
Mícheál.*

**Thursday 13 October 1921:** Letter Collins to Kitty: *"We must, I think, make that arrangement more binding, but just as you desire."*

**Friday 14 October 1921:** Letter Kitty to Collins: *"I told H. I didn't love him."* This is a reference to her telling Harry Boland that she did not love him and more importantly that she was in a relationship with Collins.



Harry Boland with Collins. (Source: Politicalworld.org)

**Friday 21 October 1921:** Letter Boland to Kitty: *"I need not say to you how much I love him, [Michael Collins] and I know he has a warm spot in his heart for me, and I feel sure in no matter what manner our Triangle may work out, he and I shall always be friends."* Later, on Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 1922 Boland wrote to Kitty congratulating her on the engagement to Collins. He stated that Collins had informed him of the engagement.

On the weekend of Friday 21 October 1921 Collins took a break from the talks in London and spent the weekend in the Gresham Hotel in Dublin in the company of Kitty. Letter Michael to Kitty 23 October 1921 refers.

**Tuesday 25 October 1921:** In a letter from Collins to Kitty he indicates that he has sent her a wire the previous day inviting her to London. She replies in a letter indicating that she cannot travel that she has not enough time to prepare. However, it appears that subsequent to writing this reply that she changes her mind and indeed does travel to London.



Collins in London 1921 (Source: Today in Irish History 2015)

**Wednesday 26 October 1921:** According to O Broin (1996) *"Kitty went over, [to London] probably on 26 October, but we know little more than that. However, Kathleen McKenna, who was one of the four secretary typists to the delegation [in London] that the two Kiernans who came to see Michael in London-Kitty, and Helen...were very attractive girls"*.

**Wednesday 2 November 1921:** In his letter to Kitty, Collins makes reference to market day in Granard. “Granard market is held on an ill-chosen date. Monday-how could anyone be in proper mood or manner for buying and selling on a Monday morning?”



Collins at Downing St (Source: Digbeth.org 2015)

**London 16 November 1921 (Letter from Collins to Kitty)**

*My dearest Kit,*

*Here I am away at the present moment from a meeting of the Delegation to telephone to someone and to write a line to you. Up very late last night and in a ferment of haste and worry all day. I went down to my sister's place late last night – after – 12 and I found your lovely little note. I did love it. But I was sorry also for I somehow had a kind of idea that if I had been able to go to **Granard**, it would have been entirely to ourselves – but there you are – I was there in a way at all events. Pen bad also.*

*Goodbye me dear Kit.*

*Fondest love, Mícheál.*

**Saturday 26 November 1921:** Collins spent the weekend in Granard with Kitty returning to Dublin (Letter Michael to Kitty 28 November 1921).

## The Treaty is Signed

Treaty was signed in the early hours of 6 December 1921. On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1921 the Dail, assembled in the Aula Maxima of University College, Dublin. On his return from London DeValera called a cabinet meeting. The treaty was not well received with final vote taken, Cosgrave supported Griffith, Collins and Barton against de Valera, Brugha and Stack. The following Sunday Collins went to Granard and Kitty commented that he was very tired (Ryan, 2006). The treaty was ratified on the 14 January 1922.

**Sunday 11 December 1921:** According to O Broin 1996 who edited the Collins/Kiernan letter collection *"the Dail discussion of the Treaty began on Wednesday 14 December. Michael had been in Granard the previous Sunday."* The letter from Michael to Kitty on 12 December also supports this claim.

**Friday 30 December 1921:** Letter Collins to Kitty on 29<sup>th</sup>: *"My present intention is to go down [to Granard] tomorrow by the 1.30 train and I should like you to meet me with a car at Edgeworthstown."* On Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> Collins wrote to Kitty to say that he had got back to Dublin.

## 1922

Collins spent New Year 's Day in Granard with Kitty talking about their future plans which included marriage (Ryan). He announced this engagement to Kitty in the Dail in January 1922.

**Monday 16 January 1922:** Collins took over Dublin Castle from the British. He was late for the ceremony as he had been in Granard for the weekend and returned to Dublin by train. A train strike had caused him to be late. (Ryan 2006). In his letter to Kitty on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan Michael states that he has hot tea in Mullingar during the train journey back to Dublin.

**Thursday February 2 1922:** Collins came to granard. *"Got back safely [3 Feb]...Evidently 3 hours in Granard [sleep] is as good as about 6 hours anywhere here"*

**Saturday February 11 1922:** Collins got 1.30 train to Edgeworthstown or Streete spent the weekend in Granard and returned on Monday 13. Letter Michael to Kitty 13 Feb refers to him having got back to Dublin safely.

**Wednesday March 8 1922.** It is obvious from the letter of Kitty on 10<sup>th</sup> March and letter of Collins on 9<sup>th</sup> March that he has spent Wednesday March 8 in Granard. *"Am back. How are*

*you? I am wondering if the day kept fine.” Lamenting that he would have liked to remain in Granard for a further day he stated that “wet or dry I’d have loved it.”*

**Monday April 3 1922:** Collins was in Granard with Kitty. His letter to Kitty on 4 April *“Got back safely and I did go to bed early last night...I want to tell you that I was really very very glad that I had gone to Granard for I was scarcely ever so overjoyed at seeing you.”*

**Friday April 7 1922:** Harry Boland was in Granard and went on a hunt. According to Kitty in her letter to Michael on 11 April, *“I’ll tell you about H when I see you. He went off on the 6 o’c [train] on Saturday. He had a great hunt on Friday.”*

**Thursday May 4 1922:** Greystones Envelope addressed to ‘Miss Kiernan No 10’ *“Kitty dear, I knocked very gently on your door but there was no answer and I didn’t have the heart to wake you up”* She stayed for some of the time in the Grand Hotel in Greystones while she is ill and not many letters are necessary as they see one another regularly.

**Wednesday June 12 1922:** There is a reference to her being diagnosed by doctor.....says that she was talking to M in Mullingar *“last night”* she may be staying in Greystones at this time. (P178...Kitty looking well and feeling well after the restful days in Greystones, resumes her letter-writing in June.

**Tuesday & Wednesday July 18 – 19 1922:** Letter from Kitty to Collins on 22 July states, *“Overjoyed. I never properly appreciated the meaning of that word before, but that must be how I felt all Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. Overjoyed to see you and know you once more.”* This evidence that this encounter occurred is contained in Collins’ letter to Kitty dated 21 July, *“I have written you three letters since I came back from Granard and have not heard from you.”*

**Friday July 28 1922:** Letter from Collins to Kitty, *“You don’t know [how] glad it made me to speak to you on the phone yesterday- to hear your voice and I can always feel very near one when I speak on the phone.”*

**Wednesday August 2 1922:** Harry Boland died on 2 August 1922 following a clash with National Army in Skerries a few days previously. Kitty appears to have been surprised at the significance of the impact that Boland’s death had on her as she alluded to Michael, *“Naturally I feel Harry’s death but I would never have believed that I could feel it so much. The whole thing’s so tragic that today I almost wished I had died too.”*

**Saturday August 5 1922:** It would appear that Collins and Kitty met up most probably in Dublin. The contents of Kitty’s letter to Michael indicate this *“When you left my room on Saturday, and I felt you had really gone, I was very lonely.”* This is a rather ominous line given that Michael would be dead within a matter of weeks. Furthermore in a letter to

Michael from Kitty received on 3 August she stated, *"I am still worrying about you. I hope that nothing will happen to you...I'm afraid I might lose you before I really had you"*.

Final letter from Kitty to Collins was received on Thursday 17 Aug 1922

Final letter from Collins to Kitty sent on Friday 11 Aug 1922

## Concluding Remarks

This concluded the correspondence and visits between Kitty Kiernan and Michael Collins as documented in letters between Kitty and Collins and RIC intelligence reports. The funeral of Arthur Griffith took place on Wednesday 16 August 1922. That was probably the last time that Collins and Kitty met. *"Early on the Morning of 22 August he [Collins] left Cork City in a convoy and travelled to Clonakilty and Skibbereen and as light faded in the late evening, he*

**MICHAEL COLLINS KILLED**

**A NATIONAL TRAGEDY A MAN, A SOLDIER, AND A**

COLLINS' DEATH A TERRIBLE BLOW TO THE IRISH PEOPLE

**KILLED IN NATIVE COUNTY**

MOVING MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF TO ARMY AND PEOPLE

General Michael Collins was killed in an ambush near Bandon, Co. Cork, last night.

Particulars of this calamitous tragedy were not to hand at the time of going to Press, but it is known that the Commander-in-Chief of the National Army, who arrived in Cork on Sunday, visited a number of military posts in the county in the interval.

In Cork City he was received with enthusiasm everywhere his unexpected presence was recognised.

His terrible end, coming at the moment that his military efforts had been crowned with success, comes as a violent shock to the whole country.

A moving address to the men of the army and to the people of Ireland is issued by General Mulcahy, Chief of the General Staff, in which he reminds all of their duty at the moment and of the spirit that the needs of the nation require.

The genial personality of Michael Collins which made him loved.

when the problems of the plough replaced those of the sword.

**SOLDIER-STATESMAN**

In a brilliant series of articles in the American Press, Collins once reviewed his general ideals and hopes for the coming Irish State. The character of the man was never better revealed: a soldier-statesman with a firm grasp of every reality and a high vision of a Gaelic, prosperous and free nation.

But from 1919 Collins was, perforce, concerned more with action, and lived the harassed life of a refugee hunted relentlessly by resolute and watchful enemies. It was the brain and his eye which never rested as the guerrilla war developed in inevitable and bloody intensity and an iron militarism exhausted every wile and weapon.

He snared raid after raid, spy after spy, trap after trap by the simple expedient of

The fine, soldierly personality of Michael Collins which made him loved, respected and feared.

was but did not discover me. It was nearly 10 a.m. when the British Outlaw Hunt

HISTORY IRELAND Autumn 1995 23

*was on the road back to Cork. At Beal na Blath near Bandon the party was ambushed and Collins killed. A bullet made a fearful gaping wound at the base of the skull and behind his right ear."*

### **Summary of Established dates when Michael Collins was in Granard**

1. July 1917 (21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>) Charles Collins RIC.
2. July 1917 (27<sup>th</sup>) Left Granard for Keash, Co Sligo. Reynolds Keane RIC.
3. October 1917 (20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>) Greville Arms. M Lang RIC.
4. October 1917 (22<sup>nd</sup> 9.33am) Ballywilliam Train Station. M Lang RIC.
5. March 1918 (4<sup>th</sup> 1pm) Sinn Fein meeting Legga. Hugh Maguire RIC. Charges dropped July 1919.
6. April 1918 (23<sup>rd</sup> 6pm to 9pm) Greville Arms. Charles Collins RIC.
7. May 1918 (8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>) Collins attended 12noon mass in Granard on 9<sup>th</sup>. Greville. J Gallagher RIC.
8. May 1918 (11<sup>th</sup> 10.45pm) Streete Railway Station, returning to Dublin. J Gallagher RIC.
9. November 1921 (26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>) Michael spent the weekend in Granard with Kitty returning to Dublin (Letter Michael to Kitty 28 November 1921).
10. December 1921 (11<sup>th</sup>) Michael letter to Kitty 14 December.
11. December 1921 (30<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> Jan) Letter Michael to Kitty 29 December
12. January 1922 (1<sup>st</sup>) Spent the day talking to Kitty about future plans. Ryan.
13. January 1922 (14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>) Spent weekend with Kitty returning to Dublin on 16 to take over Dublin Castle.
14. January (1922 16<sup>th</sup>) left Granard by train to take over Dublin Castle. Ryan.
15. February 2 1922 Thursday Collins came to granard. M to K 1 and 3 Feb 1922
16. February 11 1922 got 1.30 train to Edgeworthstown or Streete spent the weekend in Granard and returned on Monday 13. Letter M to K 10 Feb.
17. March 8 1922 Michael was in Granard with Kitty.
18. April 3 1922 Monday was in Granard with Kit. Letter M to K 4 April refers.
19. July (1922 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> July) Letters M to K 21 July and K to M 22 July 1922.

## References

Coogan, T. P. (1990) *Michael Collins: A Biography*. London: Arrow Books.

Digbeth is Good, (2016) *Irish Heritage June report: The Collins 22 Society* [online]. Available at: <http://digbeth.org/irish-heritage-june-report-the-collins-22-society/> (accessed 12 March 2016).

Doherty, G. and Keogh, D. (1998) *Michael Collins and the Making of the Irish State*. Cork: Mercier Press.

Forester, M. (1981) *Michael Collins: The Lost Leader*. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan.

Glasnevin Trust (2015) Kitty Kiernan [online] Available at: <http://www.glasnevintrust.ie/visit-glasnevin/interactive-map/kitty-kiernan/> (accessed 19 May 2015).

History Ireland, (2015) Keeping an eye on the usual suspects: Dublin Castle's 'Personalities Files', 1899 – 1921 [online] Available at: <http://www.historyireland.com/20th-century-contemporary-history/keeping-an-eye-on-the-usual-suspects-dublin-castles-personalities-files-1899-1921/> (accessed 24 May 2015)

Irish Showbands . com (2015) *Ballrooms & Hotels of Romance* [online]. Available at: [http://www.irish-showbands.com/ballroom\\_photosdg.htm](http://www.irish-showbands.com/ballroom_photosdg.htm) (accessed 17 March 2015).

Longford Leader (2013) *Collins celebrated at unique event* [online] 13 October 2013. Available at: <http://www.longfordleader.ie/news/local-news/collins-celebrated-at-unique-event-1-5615118> (accessed 12 May 2015).

Longford Leader (2012) *Those that passed 1919 – 1921* [online] 9 September 2012. Available at: <https://www.google.ie/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=inspector+kelleher+granard> (accessed 19 May 2015).

Longford Tourism (2015) Granard Motte and Bailey [online]. Available at: <http://www.longfordtourism.ie/see-do/attractions/granard-motte-and-bailey/> (accessed 17 March 2015).

Mackay, J (1996) *Michael Collins: A Life*. Edinburgh: Mainstream Publishing Company.

O' Broin, L. (1996) *In Great Haste: The Letters of Michael Collins and Kitty Kiernan*. Dublin: Gill & Macmillan Ltd.

Osbourne, C. (2003) *Michael Collins Himself*. Cork: Mercier Press.

Ryan, M. (2006) *Michael Collins and the Women who Spied for Ireland*. Cork: Mercier Press.

Stewart, A.T.Q. (1997) *Michael Collins: The Secret File*. Belfast: The Blackstaff Press Limited.

The Journal.ie (2015) *Michael Collins: Still the second biggest enemy of Britain?* [Online].

Available at: <http://www.thejournal.ie/michael-collins-still-the-second-biggest-enemy-of-britain-390119-Mar2012/> Accessed 12 March 2016.

The Kirenan Family, (2015) [online]. Available at:

<https://kiernanfamily.wordpress.com/ancestry/the-granard-connection/> (accessed 17 March 2015).

Today In Irish History (2015) Anglo Irish Negotiations 1921 [online] Available at:

<http://todayinirishhistory.com/tag/anglo-irish-negotiations-1921/> (accessed 15 May 2015)