

The death of Jane Costello from Kilmallock

by Des Ryan

Miss Jane (Janie) Costello, from Glenfield Kilmallock County Limerick was shot dead on Thursday 27 April, 1916. She was hit by a bullet while she was raising a bedroom window at her lodgings at 113 Seville Place, Dublin. Her friend, Miss Katie Lewis, who witnessed the incident, reported that the bullet was fired by a soldier in a doorway on the street. She stated that she was shot through the lungs and turned around and said "I'm shot, oh Katie, I'm done" and fell lifeless.

Miss Lewis then stated

"I know she felt no pain; her face was as peaceful as though she was asleep. I seem turned to stone since I left her behind me in Glasnevin, but I am certain of one thing; she is in Heaven. She was at Holy Communion a few days before she died. She was after making a Novena and she died a martyr's death."

Janie was the second eldest of seven children born to Timothy and Mary Costello. Timothy was a farmer and stone mason. Janie trained as a typist in Limerick before travelling to Dublin to take up a position as

a shorthand writer and typist. She was only 24 years of age and she is buried in Glasnevin cemetery.

References:

1. Jane Costello and Katie Lewis rented a house and small yard from a Bernard Hanlon. In the 1880s Dublin Artisan's Dwelling Company built workers cottages in Seville Place on the grounds of a demolished vinegar works. In 1888, Saint Laurence O'Toole GAA club was founded in Seville Place. Tom Clarke, one of the executed leaders and first signatory of the 1916 Proclamation was the first president of St Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band. Seville Place is near Amiens Street Railway Station, which was renamed Connolly Station in honour of James Connolly, who was executed following the Easter Rising.
2. *Limerick Chronicle* 11 May 1916.
3. National Archives census records at: <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>
4. The Costello family are still in the stone business at Bruree, County Limerick.



Nearby cottages to 113 Seville Place which is now demolished.

Executions Stayed

Commons Debate To-Day.

The Prime Minister, in Parliament yesterday, promised to give an opportunity for a debate to-day on the execution of rebels in Dublin. Meanwhile executions would cease.

Trial of Sir Roger Casement.

It has been arranged that the case against Sir Roger Casement will be commenced at Bow Street, London, on Monday, before Sir John Dickinson, who will continue the hearing from day to day.

Shooting of Mr Sheehy-Skeffington.

Mr Asquith, in the House of Commons yesterday said that with regard to the case of Mr Sheehy-Skeffington, he had received a telegram from Sir John Maxwell saying that Mr Skeffington was shot on the morning of April 26th without the knowledge of the military authorities, and that the matter was under investigation. The officer who had directed the shooting had been under arrest since May 6th, and directions had been given to bring his case before a court-martial.

Shot Dead in a Bedroom.

County Limerick Girl's Sad Fate.

Miss Janie Costello, shorthand writer and typist, who was shot dead while raising a bedroom window in her lodgings in Dublin on April 27th, was a native of Glenfield, Kilmallock. A friend of hers, Miss K Lewis, who witnessed the tragic incident, states that Miss Costello was shot through the lungs, turned round and said: "I'm shot; oh, Katie, I'm done," and fell lifeless.

"I know she felt no pain," says Miss Lewis; "her face was as peaceful as though she were asleep. I seem turned to stone since I left her behind me in Glasnevin, but I am certain of one thing—she is in Heaven. She was at Holy Communion a few days before she died. She was after making a Novena, and she died a martyr's death."

Worse Than Gallipoli.

A soldier who witnessed the development and climax of the rising states that he was also in the landing at Suvla Bay, and if he were asked which was the most thrilling he would say it was his Dublin experience. "In the Gallipoli campaign," he declares, "we knew what we were in for, but the fighting in the Irish capital was so promiscuous and so erratic, and the snipers were operating from so many quarters that you never knew when a stray bullet would find a victim."

The *Limerick Chronicle* 11 May 1916 reports the death of Miss Costello, the suspension of executions, the trial of Roger Casement and the British response to the death of Sheehy Skeffington.