



# Cullen

## Michael

1901 - 1975



### Children of Dominick Cullen & Mary Lyons



*Michael Cullen's* name was not recorded in the Census of Ireland, taken on 31st March 1901, but he was born four months later on the 11th July of that year.

He and his brother, Josie, were both members of the 1st Battalion, South Roscommon, during the war in Ireland involving the old IRA and the Black and Tans.

Michael served as the 1st Lieutenant of the Company and participated, along with his brother, in the raid for petrol at Ballinlough Station in June 1920; the attempted attack on the Castlerea Station Guard in July 1920 and the burning of the Ballinlough Barricks on 14th September in that same year.

It was not very extraordinary for a 19 year old, like Michael Cullen, to be a 1st Lieutenant in the army in 1920, as this was a young man's war. Consider the fact that Michael Collins was only 31 years old when he was killed and he had led the Irish Intelligence and been the Minister of Finance when he was in his mid-twenties.

During the Truce, Michael attended the Battalion's Training Camps in Castlerea, Hermitage, Cloonkeen and Kilkerrin in County Galway. His home, at Carrick, served as the Headquarters for "G" Company in the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Western Division during the post Truce times.

Along with Josie, he took the Anti-Treaty side in the Civil War and fought against the Free State troops at Castlerea in July 1922. He was subsequently arrested by the Irish Free State





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Government and sent to Tintown 'A' - that was a nickname for the Curragh, which was a well known military installation during British times, located at the Curragh in County Kildare, and was used for Irish prisoners during the Civil War. Tintown 'A' and Tintown 'B' were two different sections of the same prison camp. Michael was released on 22nd February 1923.

It is said that Michael drove as a chauffeur for de Valera (who eventually went on to become President of Ireland) and he is also said to have escaped from jail on another occasion prior to 1923.

While on the run, he was sought by the Black and Tans and at one point they surrounded a house in Ballinlough where they thought he was hiding. The soldiers fired at the door, blowing a hole through the middle, but when the door swung open, a man fell to the ground having taken the gunfire. It was not Michael Cullen - rather another case of mistaken identity.

Michael was very clever with his hands and a good mechanic and also drove the family's hackney car before going to England where he worked in a pub in Manchester. It was here he met his bride-to-be, Ann Brown and they both returned to Ireland briefly before they were married in 1927, then emigrated to Boston as husband and wife and Michael remained there for the rest of his life.

He and his family lived in Brighton, Boston and worked for the Boston Transport Company at Bennett Street for 24 years, where he drove a bus, before retiring in the early 1970's.

Michael and Ann had four children:

Vincent - born at Brighton

David - born at Brighton

Anne - born at Brighton

George - born at Brighton

Each of his children had 7 children of their own, giving him 28 grandchildren.





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*Michael Cullen died on the 12th August 1975, at the age of 74, and was buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, West Roxboro, Boston. His wife, Ann, survived him and died in April 1994, aged 90 years.*



*Michael and his sister Tess in Boston in April 1956.*

