

Fatal Altercation in Saggart Irish Times report 16 June 1891

FATAL ALTERCATION AT SAGGART.

On Sunday evening last an altercation resulting in the death of a young man named Patrick Tipper, a labourer, a widow's son, took place in the village of Saggart. As far as can be ascertained the following are the circumstances connected with his death. A meeting in support of the National Federation was held on the afternoon of Sunday, at Lucan, and amongst those who attended it were a deputation from the Saggart branch of the National Federation. As is not infrequent on occasions of meetings in the country, some, at all events, of the parties attending the meeting at Lucan took drink, and this, no doubt, had the effect of making them more or less quarrelsome. When the parties who accompanied the Saggart branch of the National Federation to Lucan were returning in the evening, Tipper was on one car, while men of the name of Hinch, Mulligan, and Brown were on another, and Tipper, it is said, vigorously protested against the rate at which the car on which the other men were was driven.

When the parties reached Saggart, Tipper went into his own house, but he soon afterwards reappeared, and the contention between him and the other parties became so hot that Tipper and his opponents relieved themselves from some of their everyday attire, and in the form of pugilists confronted each other. They fought stiffly till at the conclusion a tradesman named Michael Connor rushed on Tipper and struck him in the groin or in the lower part of the abdomen. Tipper died almost immediately. An inquest will be held at one o'clock to-day, at Saggart, and it will then, perhaps, be stated in evidence whether the deceased was struck by the hand, or whether, in point of fact, Connor kicked or knocked his knee against him.

Mr. Carr, District Inspector, Lucan, and the police of Brittas, Rathcoole, and Clonsilla having been informed soon after arrested four men.

Yesterday, at a special Petty Sessions Court held at Rathcoole, the magistrates being Sir John Kennedy and Mr. J. W. Drury, the men, named respectively Michael Connor, George Clinch, Michael Mulligan, and Andrew Brown, were charged with the murder of Tipper.

District Inspector Carr, R.I.C., prosecuted.

Daniel Tipper, of Saggart, father of the deceased, deposed that at eight o'clock on Sunday evening his son Patrick came home from Lucan, where he had been attending a meeting. When he entered the house he said he had been assaulted in Saggart village, and added that he would go out and have revenge. His mother endeavoured to induce him to remain in the house, but he refused to do so. He went out of the house, and on the road a scuffle ensued between the deceased and the prisoners who were on a dray outside. One of the men, Michael Connor, in the course of the scuffle said, "If you don't kill him, I will," and getting off the cart he kicked him (deceased) with his knee, and he (Patrick Tipper) fell to the ground. He was picked up and carried inside the house, but he never spoke afterwards. Dr. Reardon was sent for, but when he arrived he pronounced life to be extinct.

Thomas Tipper, a brother of the deceased, gave corroborative evidence.

The magistrates remanded the prisoners for eight days, taking bail for George Clinch, Michael Mulligan, and Andrew Browne, themselves in £100 each, and two sureties each in £50.

The bails were found.

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A suggestion had been made that Tipper's death was the result of a political dispute, but from inquiries made it appears that in point of fact no political question arose, and that the contention arose out of a race on cars on the road home. The body of the young man who suffered in the encounter is now lying at his mother's residence at Saggart, and the police are in charge of it.