

Delaney letters from America.

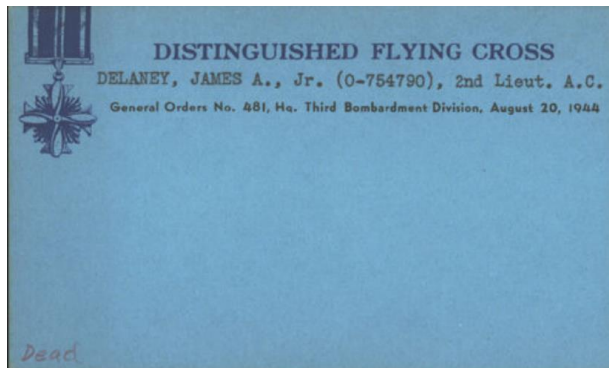
Milltown Heritage Group is pleased to announce that Liam Delaney has kindly made available letters and picture postcards written by his uncles and their wives to family members in Milltown.

Michael and Rose Delaney were tenant farmers in Pollaturick, Milltown and had eleven children. Their sons, James, Michael (Miney), John, Nicholas and Thomas (Tommie) emigrated to America in the 1900s. The postcard messages in 1910 and 1912 from James, who became a mechanic and Miney, who became a steeplejack, may be brief, but it must surely have pleased the Delaney family that they were written on cards showing photographs of the brothers looking well.

James married Maria and their son, Jimmy, grew up to serve in the American air force as a bombardier in the Second World War. Jimmy was missing at the time of Maria's letter in June 1945. The letter is poignant; it reveals James and Maria's natural concern and distress at Jimmy's unknown fate and their pride in his award of the Distinguished Flying Cross/Air Medal and 3 Oak Leaf Clusters. It later transpired that Jimmy had died at the age of 27 on what was scheduled to be his last flight when the aircraft was shot down.



Jimmy Delaney



[National Archives Catalog](#)

Willie, Liam Delaney's father, was one of the sons who remained in Milltown and told his brother Tommie of the deaths of their father and sister, Rose. Tommie's letter of 21 September 1937 refers to the loss Willie must have felt when Rose died and conveys news of people in America who were also known to Willie.

The transcribed letters (5) and postcards (3) are presented alongside scanned copies of the originals.

Margaret Marlow

March 2023