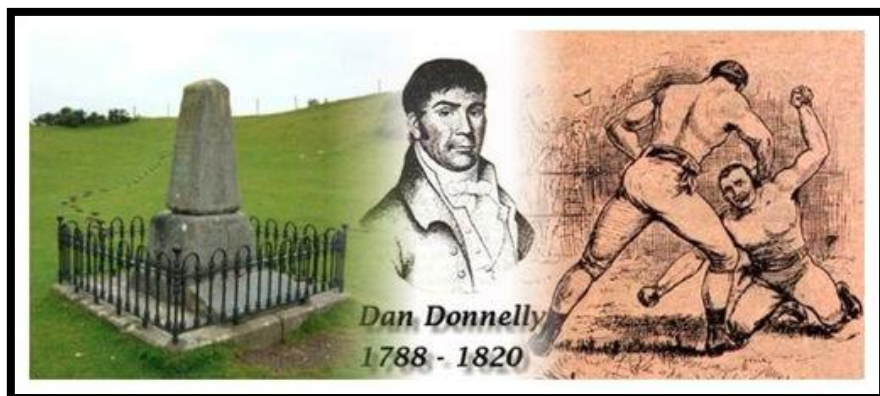


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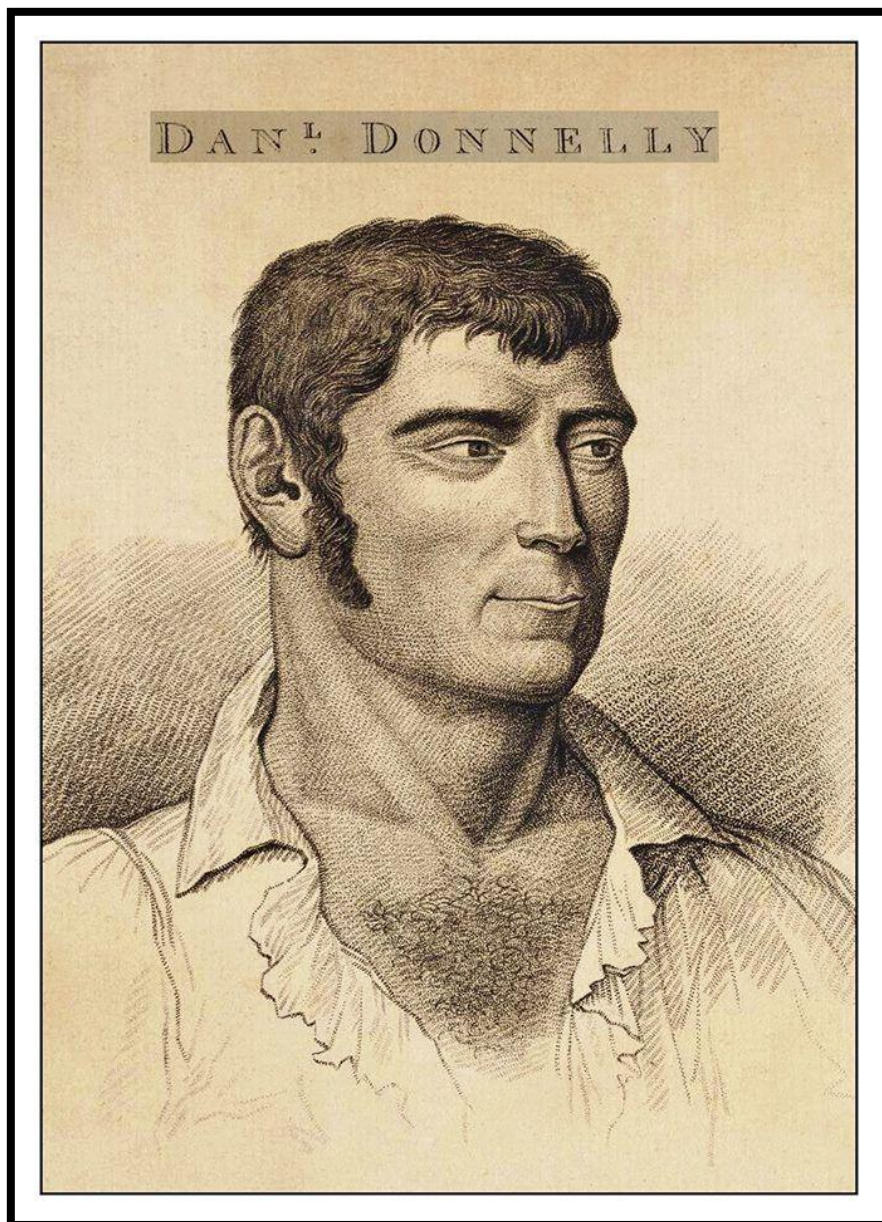
Saturday, March 17th, 1888

Monument to Dan Donnelly

Within the last few days, a monument has been erected in Donnelly's Hollow, Curragh, on the footmarks of the two pugilists' champions, Daniel Donnelly and George Cooper, who battled for championship honours 73 years ago. The monument has been designed by Messrs. Farrell of Glasnevin, Dublin, and is cut from the purest limestone. On the front of the stone the following words appear in large letters: "Donnelly beat Cooper on this spot 13th December 1815." The names of Tom Hall and Tom Oliver, whom Donnelly fought in his time, are also given, and it is recorded that the Irish champion was born in Dublin in 1788 and died 1820. George Cooper, the English champion, was born in Staffordshire 1791, and died 1820. He fought Robinson, Joy, Mollyneux, and Kendrick, who were the cracks of the prize ring in their day. This souvenir of the memorable fight is enclosed by a neat little iron railing something like the size of the ring within which the pugilists stood on the morning of battle. Donnelly's Hollow was visited last October by Jake Kilrain, the American champion, who, it is said, stood in the tracks of the hero of 1815, and contributed towards the erection of the monument.



I wonder what would the champion of 1815 have thought of the sham pugilists of the present day, who seem to use the ring solely as an advertising medium. It is an extraordinary thing that Sullivan, a man under 30 years of age, should attribute his inability to dispose of Mitchell to his increasing years. When Donnelly beat Cooper at the Hollow, he was 28 years of age. I have been told by an old gentleman who witnessed the fight that the immense crowd which assembled to witness it sat round the Hollow, which is a perfect amphitheatre. He described Cooper (the Englishman) as a fine, handsome, athletic young fellow, and Donnelly, as a coarse, repulsive looking man, of tremendous strength and muscle. Although the spectators were quiet at their ease as regards the officers of the law, they had to brave the displeasure of the Church, which set its face sternly against pugilism, and interdicted it almost as strongly as duelling. The Curragh, however, was at this time a great centre of pugilism, and it may be readily supposed both the natural love of Irishmen for fighting of every kind and the international nature of the battle overcame the religious scruples of the multitude on this occasion.



Meanwhile the military authorities are playing sad havoc with the “battlefield.” They have opened a gravel pit in the hill and as the destruction of the hill will necessarily involve the effacement of the Hollow, it would seem that the erection of the memorial is opportune. It is doubtful whether the military people would destroy the place if it were Cooper’s and not Donnelly’s Hollow.





Cavalry Camp, Donnelly's Hollow, Curragh Camp.

