Tom Crean

Tom Crean from Annascaul in county Kerry was born in 1877. He had nine other brothers and sisters.

One day in 1892a man from the British army was looking for men 16 or over to work for the British army and fight. Tom really wanted to go so he lied and said he was 16 when he was only 15. Captain Robert Scott and Tom set off on a ship called the discovery in 1901 for the South Pole but never reached because the storms were too vicious and the crew were not equipped properly for the journey.

In 1910, 2 groups set off on the Terra Nova for the South Pole again and Landed in Antarctica. The Crew had to walk 1800m before they reached the South Pole. But the group was too big. They had to leave three or four people behind in the hut because it would take too long to reach the South Pole. They would have not had enough food and supplies. Tom was one of the people left behind. He was so disappointed because it was his dream to reach the South Pole. When Tom was on his way back to the hut. He rescued a man who was about to die. Tom saved his life.

When Tom got back to Annascaul he died 1 week after his 61st birthday. There is now a public house where Tom lived.

By Emma Owens Brady