

Irish Independent 

1916

COLLECTION

**PART TWO OF TEN
SPECIAL MAGAZINES**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

 **UCD**
DECADE of
CENTENARIES



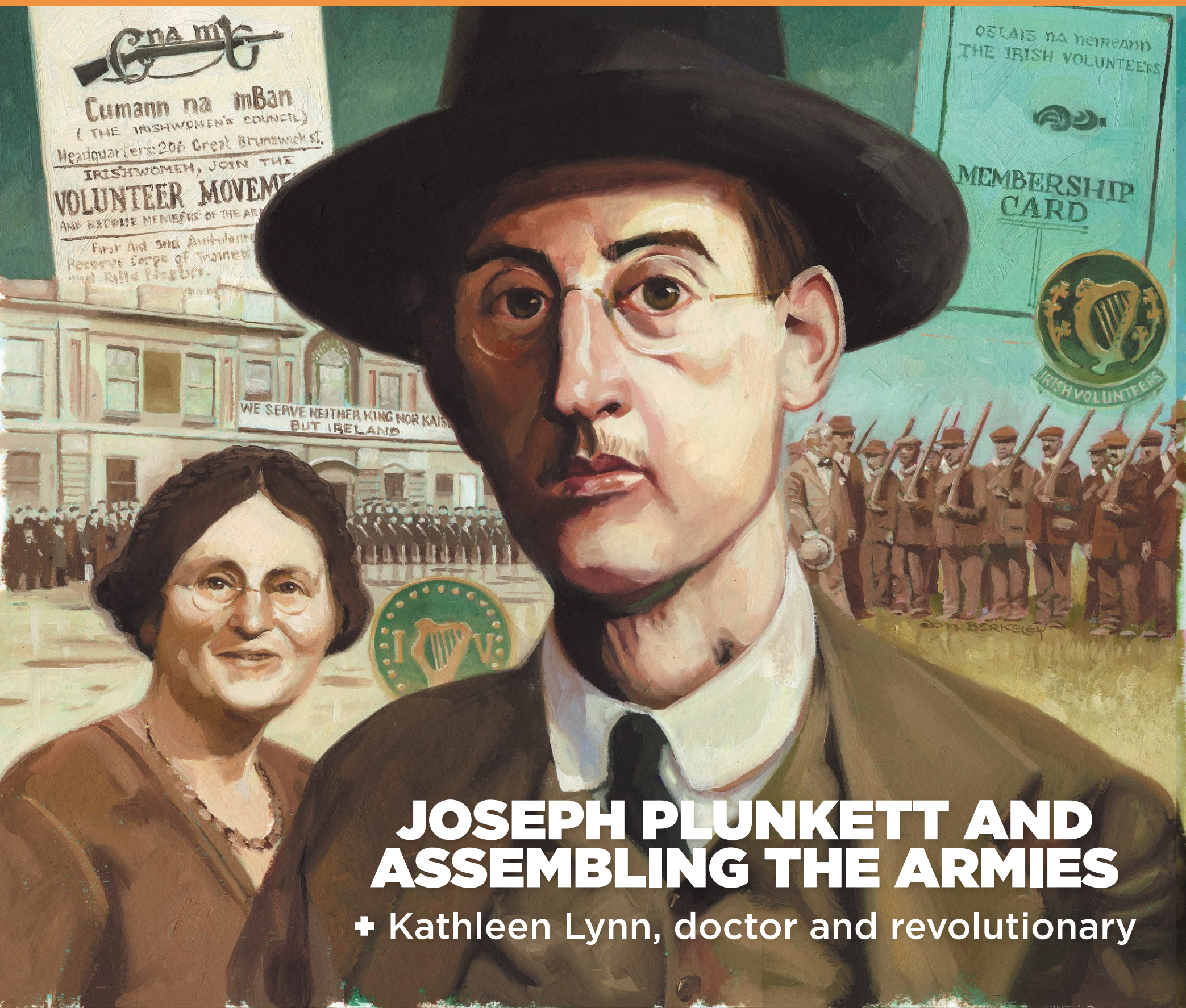
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2016

Clár Comórtha
Céad Bliain
Centenary
Programme

Thursday 29 October 2015

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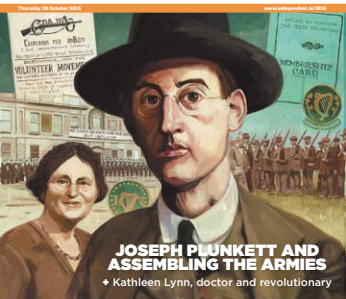


JOSEPH PLUNKETT AND ASSEMBLING THE ARMIES

+ Kathleen Lynn, doctor and revolutionary

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Cover by Jon Berkeley, shows Joseph Plunkett and Kathleen Lynn

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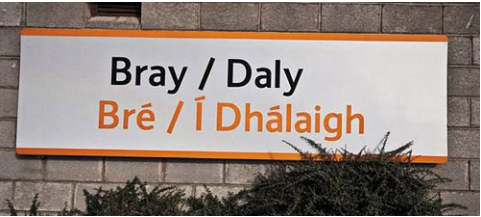
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **UCD** **DECADE OF CENTENARIES** AND **1916** Clár Comórtha Céad bliain Centenary Programme

IN MEMORIAM

Keep track of rebel names at your local train station

ONE of the most visible tributes to the 16 men who were executed after the Rising was introduced on its 50th anniversary. CIE, the state transport company (which was later broken up into Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann and Dublin Bus) renamed its 15 principal railway stations in their memory. In Dublin that meant Amiens Street station became Connolly and Westland Row became Pearse (named after both brothers, who grew up nearby). CIE's headquarters at Kingsbridge was renamed after Seán Heuston, who had been a clerical officer in the Traffic Manager's Office there. A special memorial to Heuston was unveiled at the station in 1966 by defence minister

Michael Hilliard. The idea was proposed by the company's chairman, Todd Andrews, who had fought in the War of Independence and the Civil War — two of his sons and two of his grandsons were later TDs. CIE also had a 1916 symbol, An Claidheamh Soluis, mounted on the front of its buses. The other stations renamed were in Cork (Thomas Kent), Limerick (Con Colbert), Dun Laoghaire (Michel Mallin), Waterford (Joseph Plunkett), Galway (Eamonn Ceannt), Dundalk (Thomas Clarke), Drogheda (Major John MacBride), Sligo (Seán Mac Diarmada), Bray (Edward Daly), Wexford (Michael O'Hanrahan), Kilkenny (Thomas MacDonagh) and Tralee (Roger Casement). **GS**



Station to station: tributes to rebel leaders (from top) Seán Mac Diarmada, Seán Heuston, Michael O'Hanrahan and Edward Daly, and (right) Padraic and Willie Pearse



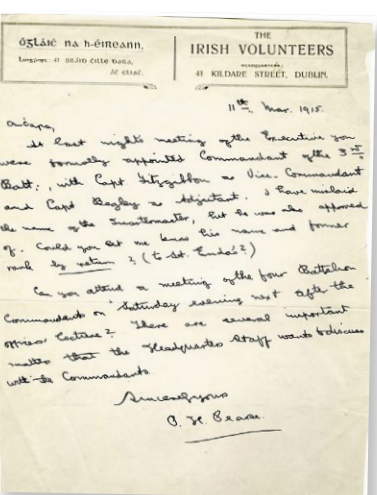
FROM THE UCD ARCHIVES

Pearse's 1915 letter to Commandant Eamon de Valera

WHEN the Volunteers split in September 1914, the smaller group, led by Eoin MacNeill, retained the name Irish Volunteers and set about rebuilding and restructuring the organisation. At a meeting of the central executive in December, chaired by Patrick Pearse, a new military structure was proposed. MacNeill was appointed Chief of Staff, Pearse became Director of Military Organisation, Joseph Plunkett was Director of Military Operations, Thomas MacDonagh Director of Training, and The O'Rahilly Director of Arms. The meeting also agreed that the Dublin Volunteers be divided into four battalions. Edward Daly was appointed acting commandant of 1st Battalion, Thomas MacDonagh 2nd Battalion, Eamon de Valera 3rd

Battalion, and Eamonn Ceannt 4th Battalion. All appointments were confirmed at a subsequent Executive Committee meeting on 10 March 1915. The following day, as they were walking along Kildare Street, Dublin, Pearse handed the letter of appointment to de Valera. It read:
*A Chara,
At last night's meeting of the Executive you were formally appointed Commandant of the 3rd Batt., with Capt Fitzgibbon as Vice Commandant and Capt Begley as Adjutant. I have mislaid the name of the Quartermaster, but he was also approved of. Could you let me know his name and former rank by return? (to St. Enda's?)*

*Can you attend a meeting of the four Battalion Commandants on Saturday evening next after the officers' lecture? There are several important matters that the Headquarters staff wish to discuss with the Commandants.
Sincerely yours
P.H. Pearse*
Following the meeting held by the Battalion Commandants, one of de Valera's first duties was to lead an exercise in Finglas village on Easter Sunday 1915. Plans for a September insurrection were also discussed. Pearse's handwritten letter to de Valera (right) can be viewed online via the UCD Archives Centenary Special. <http://historyhub.ie/march-1915-patrick-pearse-letter-to-eamon-de-valera>



Pearse's letter. Credit: UCD Archives, Eamon de Valera Papers. P150/450. Reproduced by kind permission of UCD-OFM Partnership

IN THE PAPERS



Movie censorship rears its head in 1916

DUBLIN Corporation (now Dublin City Council) was much exercised by censorship in 1916 — particularly by the new medium of cinema. The Lord Mayor received a deputation from the Vigilance Association, whose Canon Dunne told them that "it was needless to point out the necessity for a satisfactory censorship", reported the

Irish Independent. "The advertisements which they saw on the hoardings and at the entrances of the picture houses were sufficient evidence of the need." They said they had "no confidence whatever in the English Censor, who had passed a film which a magistrate afterwards declared to be indecent." The censor admitted

that "he would not allow his wife or daughter to see the film." Cinema was very new — the first picture house, the Volta, was opened in 1909 by James Joyce, but audiences quickly took to the magic of cinema. In 1923, the office of the Official Censor of Films was established in the new state and in 2008 renamed the Irish Film Classifications Office. **LS**



1916 ONLINE

Saturday 24 October 2015

News 1916

Ryan Tubridy: My grandfather's life as a revolutionary

Ryan Tubridy and Barry Andrews talk to John Meagher about their grandfather, Todd Andrews

PUBLISHED
15/10/2015 | 02:30

SHARE



Watch more online at independent.ie/1916

AS part of the *Irish Independent's* unrivalled coverage of the centenary of the Easter Rising, a dedicated website is now online. The site uses words, pictures and video to enhance understanding of a defining moment in our nation's history.

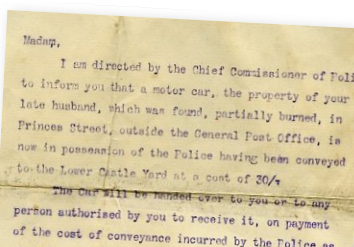
Read excerpts from important books, watch Ryan Tubridy talk about his grandfather, and marvel at the stunning photos of Dublin in 1916. The site also carries all the articles in our ongoing series 'My 1916'.

The independent.ie/1916 site will continue to build into a brilliant resource for students in years to come.

THE STORY BEHIND THE CAR



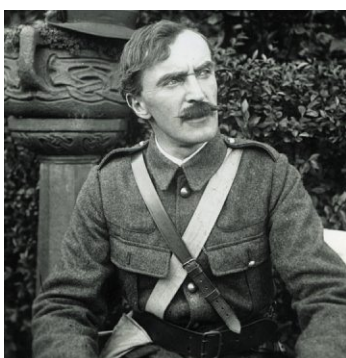
The O'Rahilly's De Dion-Bouton (above), and left, the burnt-out car after the 1916 Rising. Below: a letter from the British authorities charging his widow 30 shillings for the removal of the car's shell.



The O'Rahilly's burnt-out De Dion-Bouton

MICHAEL O'RAHILLY (pictured) was born in Ballylongford, Co Kerry and was a founder member of the Irish Volunteers. He called himself The O'Rahilly as part of the Gaelic chieftain tradition. Independently wealthy, he is said to have donated much of his £900 annual income to the organisation, and personally organised the Howth Gun Running.

He was also one of the few people in the country to own a car and although he disagreed



with the Rising, he drove it into the city from his home in Herbert Park and joined the fight in the GPO. As the rebels tried to escape he led a charge down Moore Street but was shot in a laneway now called O'Rahilly Parade.

The car, a De Dion-Bouton, was used as part of a barricade and burned out during the rebellion. His descendant, Mark Humphrys, has a fascinating website which shows some of O'Rahilly's collection of cars at humphrysfamilytree.com. **GS**

THE LOST CHILDREN

Teenage girl shot as rebels retreated off Henry Street

ONE of the heartbreaking stories from the closing stages of the Rising concerns a 15-year-old girl called Bridget McKane.

As the rebels were retreating from the GPO, they made their way down Henry Street towards Moore Street where they come under fire from the military.

The volunteers tried to take shelter in the buildings along the street and broke into some houses, including No.10 Henry Place.

The front door was closed but the occupant, Mr Thomas McKane, told later that he was "about to open it" when "shots were fired". McKane was holding a baby and a shot went through his shoulder and hit his daughter Bridget, who was standing behind him, in the head.

About 50 rebels piled into the house where they sheltered for a short time. Mr McKane said two of the leaders, Tom Clarke and Seán MacDiarmada "promised to make full restitution when all was over".

Bridget was one of nine children and worked as a box maker. She is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery. **LS**

DID YOU KNOW?

Story of the Scandinavians who fought for Ireland in GPO

ON Easter Monday Liam Tannam was making his way from Liberty Hall to the GPO when he heard crashing sounds coming from O'Connell Street. He ran towards the GPO where the window glass was being broken and barricaded. When his uniform was recognised the door opened.

He approached Patrick Pearse who told him to report to James Connolly. Tannam was put in charge of the ground floor windows on the right. They reinforced the barricades with heavy books and bags of coal.

In the afternoon, one of his men said there were "two strange-looking men outside". He asked them what they wanted. "I am from Sweden, my friend from Finland. We want to fight. May we come in."

In his witness statements to the Bureau of Military History, Tannam told how he questioned how they got there and why they wanted to fight against the British. The Swede replied they had come in on a ship, and his Finnish friend had no English. He continued: "Finland, a small country, Russia eat her up. Sweden, another small country, Russia eat her up too. Russia with the British, therefore, we against."

"Can you fight?" said Tannam. "Do you know how to use a weapon?"

"I can use a rifle. My friend no. He can use what you shoot the fowl with."

Tannam let them in and gave the Swede a rifle, the Finn a shotgun. He put them alongside the others guarding the windows. On hearing movement outside they prepared to fire but it was a false alarm. They had their guns cocked, and when they stepped down from the barricade the Finn's shotgun went off and showered everyone with ceiling plaster.

Joseph Plunkett began admonishing the Finn, who looked around at everyone. Tannam explained the situation to Plunkett who replied: "Amazing, but obviously that man there is a danger. We will have to get him another place out at the back of the Main Hall." Plunkett asked that the Finn join the men who were filling fruit tins with explosives and bits of metal. Tannam was bringing him back when the Swede spoke up. "Where he go, I go. We together."

According to Tannam, the two were there until the end and were captured. "The Swede, through his Consul, got out in no time. The Finn was with us for three weeks. He was with us in Kilmainham Gaol. He was not a Catholic. He had no English but before he left he was saying the Rosary in Irish. His name was Tony Makapaltis. I never heard the Swede's name."

Makapaltis was transferred to Knutsford Detention Centre in Cheshire, about 14 miles from Manchester. **FC**



Assembling armies

The years leading up to the Rising saw plenty of activity as the Irish nationalists began to make long-term plans, writes **Dr Conor Mulvagh**

LOOKING back on the Easter Rising, many in Irish administration and British politics asked why the clear warning signs had not been taken more seriously. In hindsight, the evidence was there to suppress nationalist and socialist paramilitary organisations who paraded and trained unmolested across Ireland but, on the advice of Irish MPs fearing a backlash if the government was seen to act harshly against these groups, tolerance rather than a clampdown was the policy pursued.

Who were these private armies that carried on drilling and arming before and during the First World War, provoking the ire of the authorities? It had begun in the

north, where the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) was established in January 1913. The establishment of the UVF actually represented the formalisation of a situation which had been ongoing in Ulster for some time whereby unionists had been drilling and arming in localised and uncoordinated initiatives.

The UVF brought a central command structure to this. Within 11 months, the precedent made by the UVF was deemed worthy of emulation by nationalists. Again, prior local initiatives preceded the foundation of a nationwide organisation for the defence of Home Rule: the Irish Volunteers, founded in November 1913.

Interestingly, although it was perhaps more rhetorical than sincere, the Irish Volunteers maintained that it did not stand in opposition to the UVF or to unionist

Ulster in general. Stressing its non-denominational ethos and how it was open to all Irishmen, the Irish Volunteers openly welcomed cooperation with the UVF, ignoring the fact that the Ulster Volunteers was pledged to resistance to Home Rule, whereas the Irish Volunteers had been constituted with the defence of that same principle as its primary objective.

By the summer of 1914, both the Irish and Ulster Volunteers had swollen their ranks. The Irish Volunteers' numbers peaked at approximately 180,000 and the UVF had between 80,000 and 110,000 members at its height. Both were genuinely mass movements and, with major arms shipments coming in for the unionists in April 1914 and for the nationalists in July of that year, both clearly possessed funds and organisational abilities that made them forces to be reckoned with.

On the outbreak of the First World War, John Redmond, chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party at Westminster, pledged the Irish Volunteers to the defence of Ireland during wartime. When, on 20 September 1914 he urged Volunteers to fight abroad as the surest means of securing Home Rule for Ireland, he precipitated a split in the movement. Roughly 153,000 sided with Redmond becoming 'National Volunteers'. However, this organisation lapsed into inactivity by the middle of 1915.

Ultimately, only 25,000 National Volunteers had enlisted for service with the British Army by the spring of 1917. Meanwhile, Eoin MacNeill, the founder of the Irish Volunteers, retained the name and 12,500 (seven percent) of the membership of the original volunteer force.

The other thing which MacNeill's Volunteers retained was a concealed cohort of Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) activists. This secret movement had been reinvigorated after 1905 when two northern republicans, Bulmer Hobson and Denis McCullough, took over and revamped the movement.

The IRB had seized the opportunity presented by the vogue for volunteering to infiltrate the Irish Volunteers from its inception. The infiltration went to the very highest echelons of the force. When the provisional committee of the Irish Volunteers was formed in November 1913, 12 of its 25 members were also members of the Brotherhood. Subsequently, other provisional committee members, most notably Patrick Pearse, Joseph Plunkett, and Thomas MacDonagh were sworn into the IRB; their potential having been recognised through their work in the Volunteers.

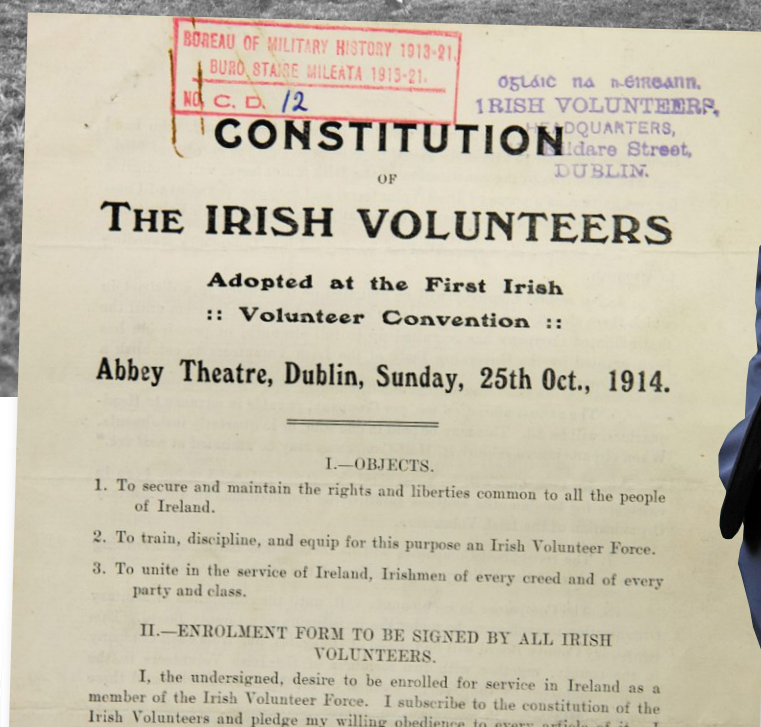
Though by no means as large as the aforementioned Irish, Ulster, and National Volunteers, two other forces — the Irish Citizen Army and the Hibernian Rifles —

UCD's
Conor
Mulvagh.
MARK
CONDREN



Clockwise from left: A mounted National Volunteer saluting the flag during a drill at Keash, County Sligo in 1914; members of the Ulster Volunteers practise their rifle shooting in a remote location in Northern Ireland in 1914; the Constitution of The Irish Volunteers published in October 1914.

GETTY IMAGES,
MILITARY ARCHIVES



and acquiring arms

were also founded prior to the First World War and joined with the Irish Volunteers in forming the combat troops of the Easter Rebellion in 1916.

The Irish Citizen Army had been founded in 1913 to protect the citizens of Dublin from the Dublin Metropolitan Police following notable clashes such as Bloody Sunday on 31 August 1913 in which a DMP baton charge resulted in the deaths of two citizens. Approximately 500 were injured in that incident alone. The Irish Citizen Army numbered no more than 350 members in 1916 but, an impressive 250 of these turned out to fight during Easter 1916.

The Hibernian Rifles was smaller again. So small, in fact, that it has been almost forgotten in the history of the Rising. While the Irish Citizen Army wore its own uniform, distinctive to that of the much larger Irish Volunteers, by 1916, the Hibernian Rifles wore a uniform identical to that of the Volunteers but with 'blue facings on the cuffs and collars and slacks'. Numbering around 50, the Hibernian Rifles was established by a faction of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) known as the Irish American Alliance. Whereas the better known and more populous AOH 'Bord of Éireann' was a key part of the Home Rule electoral and constituency machine, the AOH IAA had, as its name suggests, links to radical Irish America. Around 20 of the

Hibernian Rifles fought during Easter week. The unit suffered combat casualties, most notably when it was dispatched to engage in heavy fighting at the Exchange Hotel on Parliament Street.

Two further organisations were Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna Éireann. Cumann na mBan was the women's auxiliary to the Irish Volunteers and Na Fianna Éireann a rebel boy-scouts organisation which long predated the rush to arming and drilling but who nonetheless militarised as the vogue for volunteering swept Ireland in 1913. Both units served prominently during the insurrection.

THE question of gender is an important one. Although entirely gender equal on paper, the Irish Citizen Army has come in for fresh scrutiny in recent years as files in the Bureau of Military History reveal that traditional gender roles perpetuated in the army. Only two female members, Constance Markievicz and Margaret Skinnider, played full combatant roles during the Rising with others confined to cook or messenger duties.

“*In a climate where all sorts of activities from eating seed potatoes to lighting bonfires were outlawed, the relative lack of suppression, surveillance, and infiltration of these private armies can often appear remarkable to modern observers*

By contrast, Cumann na mBan, which was officially an 'auxiliary' organisation to the all-male Irish Volunteers, was an autonomous organisation with its own leadership and command structures.

All five of these bodies: the Irish Volunteers, the Citizen Army, Cumann na mBan, Fianna Éireann, and the Hibernian Rifles fought as part of the rebel army of the provisional government of the Irish Republic declared on Easter Monday 1916.

While historians often dwell on the importance of nomenclature nowadays, Dublin Castle was happy to dub any organisation unsympathetic to the official Home Rule party and to the British war effort as 'Sinn Féiners' and referred to Irish Volunteers as 'Sinn Féin Volunteers'. Strictly speaking, 'Sinn Féin' denoted membership of Arthur Griffith's dual-monarchist party which advocated parliamentary abstention in this period. However, the term features regularly in police reports and Under Secretary's dossiers during the war years with reference to advanced nationalism

and republicanism more generally.

Returning to the British government's attitudes to these organisations, Sir Mathew Nathan had been appointed Under Secretary at Dublin Castle in September 1914, after the First World War had broken out. From then until his resignation in the wake of the Easter rebellion, he was the top civil servant on the ground in Ireland. He reported directly to his Chief Secretary, Augustine Birrell, who was a member of Cabinet in London.

Nathan and Birrell were the focus of blame when the Royal Commission of Investigation into the Irish Rebellion reported on 10 May 1916. Although others such as the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord Wimborne, and the heads of the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Dublin Metropolitan Police, weathered the storm, both Birrell and Nathan resigned thereafter. Inactivity rather than ineptitude was the criticism levelled at them.

Why were large musters of armed citizens allowed to parade and drill in public even after the First World War had broken out? In a climate where all sorts of activities from eating seed potatoes to lighting bonfires were outlawed, the relative lack of suppression, surveillance, and infiltration of these private armies can often appear remarkable to modern observers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>>

Assembling armies and acquiring arms

>>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Assembling young men and women willing to become members of these paramilitary organisations was one thing, the acquisition of arms was quite another. After spectacular large scale arms importations by the UVF and Irish Volunteers prior to the declaration of war, a steady stream of rifles continued to be acquired by nationalists through various methods after the First World War broke out.

In an apparent irony, while it had been illegal to import arms to Ireland at the time of the Larne and Howth gun runnings, the ban on arms importation had actually been lifted upon the outbreak of the war.

One practice that became prevalent during 1915 and into 1916 was that rifles were acquired from British Army Ordnance stores in Ireland.

Soldiers sympathetic to republicanism or just eager to make money by selling arms to persons willing to pay a premium would smuggle rifles out of army stores and remove the brass cap containing its serial number, replacing these with wooden inserts. The government became aware of this practice as late as March 1916, by which point one informant reported that 60 rifles had been acquired in this fashion.

POLICE and intelligence reports from this period indicate official awareness of large Irish Volunteer arms dumps around the city of Dublin. Ten full boxes of ammunition were being stored in Father Matthew Park in Fairview, north Dublin. Similarly, authorities were aware of an arms cache on Connaught Road, near the back of Dalymount Park. This was in the home of Michael O'Hanrahan, second in command to Thomas MacDonagh in the 2nd Dublin Battalion of the Irish Volunteers.

Similarly, in the suburb of Donnybrook, Éamon de Valera, then commandant of the 3rd Battalion, had an arms stash in his house on Morehampton Terrace, and Batt O'Connor, an IRB member who was sent to Kerry during Easter week, stored a vast quantity of arms and especially ammunition at the house he had built for himself on Brendan Road, Donnybrook.

After her husband's death, Batt O'Connor's widow recalled how their house, as well as a builders' yard adjacent to it, were stuffed with munitions; they even kept boxes of cartridges in the hollow kerbs on their fireplaces. A military raid on the premises after the Rising failed to uncover the remnants of the cache.

Mrs O'Connor recalled how, showing them around the adjacent yard, she brought the soldiers 'actually over the places where the stuff was stored but they got nothing.'

Despite official knowledge of these arms dumps and with both Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army carrying out mock attacks and armed parades in Dublin prior to the Rising, there was still an outright reluctance to suppress these movements. Warnings had been received from low-level informants and from America where John Devoy was speaking rather openly about plans for an insurrection in the hope of obtaining funds from sympathetic Germans.

Dismissed as improbable, the Rising that broke out on 24 April 1916 still shocked those in power.

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A Protestant Truth Society's women's meeting protest against Home Rule for Ireland in March 1914 GETTY IMAGES

Home Rule joust laid foundations for insurrection

Paul Rouse on the Irish political landscape of the time

A BILL to give Home Rule to Ireland was put before the House of Commons in London in April 1912 by the British Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal Party, Herbert Asquith.

The introduction of the Bill was driven by the fact that Asquith's government depended for its majority on the support of the Irish Parliamentary Party, led by John Redmond.

The price of Redmond's support was Home Rule for Ireland.

Ireland had not had its own parliament since the Act of Union, 1801 which created the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The persistence of opposition to this Act of Union and the enduring rejection of British rule in nationalist Ireland forced the British Empire — even as its global power was at its greatest — to seek compromise in its governance of Ireland.

Two previous attempts at introducing Home Rule had failed: the first one in 1886 was rejected in the House of Commons; the second one in 1892 was rejected in the House of Lords.

The context in which the 1912 Home Rule Bill was introduced was now hugely different, however, and its successful implementation seemed assured.

Parliamentary reform meant that the



A cartoon from Punch magazine in October 1913 depicting John Redmond having trouble with Ulster, which opposed Home Rule. GETTY IMAGES

House of Lords could delay a Bill for three years — but it could not stop it indefinitely.

On its introduction in April 1912 it was sure to get a majority in the House of Commons and, although it would be defeated in the House of Lords, the Bill could be introduced again after the passage of a year.

This duly happened and in April 1913 the

Bill was again supported by the House of Commons — and again defeated by the House of Lords.

The passage of a further year brought the process to a head. In April 1914, Home Rule was passed by the House of Commons.

The moment marked the triumph of John Redmond and the Irish Parliamentary Party, and was celebrated across nationalist Ireland.

Everywhere that Redmond went, he was feted as a hero. Huge crowds turned out to hear him speak and he was celebrated as the politician who had secured for Ireland its own parliament, even if the powers of that parliament were limited.

While Irish nationalists acclaimed the prospect of having a parliament in Dublin to legislate for the island, unionists were adamant in their rejection of the proposal.

Although led by the Dubliner and Trinity College graduate, Sir Edward Carson, unionist opposition to Home Rule in Ireland centred on Ulster. Massive public rallies of opposition to Home Rule, the signing of the Ulster Covenant in September 1912 by almost 500,000 people and the establishment of the Ulster Volunteer Force in January 1913 underlined determined opposition to the introduction of Home Rule.

UCD's Dr Paul Rouse
photographed on
the Belfield campus
EL KEEGAN



The pledge by unionists in Ulster to reject any measure of Home Rule for the north of the island received powerful support in Britain from the Conservative Party leader, Andrew Bonar Law.

Against this opposition, nationalist opinion was equally determined that Home Rule would be introduced as planned and that it would apply to all of Ireland.

Irish nationalists held repeated public meetings to demonstrate in favour of Home Rule.

In November 1913 they established a militia of their own to rival the Ulster Volunteer Force. This new Irish Volunteer Force quickly assumed a prominence that confirmed the militarisation of political life in Ireland.

By the summer of 1914, there was a bitter, precarious stalemate as the plan to give Home Rule to Ireland dominated political life in Ireland and Britain.

Plans to exclude certain north-eastern counties from Home Rule were proposed as compromise and were rejected.

Amid unprecedented scenes, there had even been a mutiny of British army officers based at The Curragh, Co Kildare.

Almost 60 British Officers threatened to resign their commissions in 1914 as a result of a decision by the War Office to send extra troops to Ulster.

The sensational development was said to have occurred after officers were presented with the choice of pacifying Ulster, or tendering their resignations.

Led by Brigadier-General Hugh de la Poer Gough, the officers in the Curragh camp declined to obey the orders.

Attempts to downplay the significance of the mutiny were unconvincing; it was clear that a military crisis had been laid on top of a political crisis.

Ulster unionists remained implacably opposed to Home Rule and were threatening armed resistance. Irish nationalists were equally determined that it be introduced across Ireland immediately.

Faced with mounting pressure from all sides, the British government — not entirely sure of its army in Ireland and understandably loath to use it to implement Home Rule in any instance — was paralysed.

It says much for the scale of the dilemma that the outbreak of the Great War in August 1914 offered relief from the question of Ireland. Irish politics were at once transformed by events in Europe.

Ulster unionists rallied immediately in support of the war and enlisted in their tens of thousands in the British Army. Their leader, Sir Edward Carson, metamorphosed 'from being a patron of illegality in Ulster to a law officer at Westminster' when he was appointed Attorney General in a national coalition government in London.

Carson urged the Ulster Volunteers to enlist in the British Army and many heeded his call.

John Redmond, too, was offered a place at the cabinet table but, in the tradition of the Irish Parliamentary Party, he refused.

On 20 September 1914, however, Redmond had endorsed the British war effort and called on the 170,000 strong Irish Volunteers to enlist in the army — many of those Volunteers answered that call.

It was a significant political gamble — one which ultimately failed — but that it should have been made at all emphasised the radical transformation wrought by the outbreak of war.

And, of course, this radicalisation was ultimately revealed in rebellion in Dublin in 1916 by a tiny minority of Irish rebels who declined to follow Redmond, but pursued instead a route which saw them take up arms.

They chose not to wait for world war to end — but instead made their own.

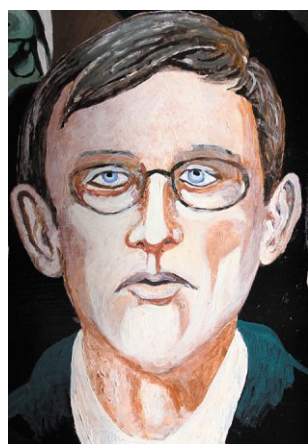
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Handwritten text from Joseph Plunkett's Field Message Book, or Diary, during the 1916 rebellion. The text describes the occupation of the G.P.O. and the proclamation of the Republic.

Handwritten text from Joseph Plunkett's Field Message Book, or Diary, during the 1916 rebellion. The text describes the advance on the G.P.O. and the confusion leaving a few casualties.



Left: Extracts from Joseph Plunkett's Field Message Book, or Diary, during the 1916 rebellion. MILITARY ARCHIVES
Above: Grace Gifford, the artist who married Plunkett the day before his execution; Grace's drawing of her husband (right). MILITARY ARCHIVES
Below left: Joseph Plunkett, by artist Brian O'Neill.



JOSEPH MARY PLUNKETT

Ailing writer who shaped the rebellion

PATRICK PEARSE and James Connolly became the icons of the 1916 Rising as it passed into history and national memory. Their edification eclipsed their comrades and, of these, among the most interesting backstories is that of Joseph Mary Plunkett. On the face of it, Plunkett was perhaps an unlikely revolutionary. Biographers have variously described him as eccentric, nervous, and fragile. By far the most financially comfortable of the Proclamation signatories, Plunkett lived a privileged existence but also came from a family with deep republican credentials.

The enduring image of Plunkett is of him, standing at the altar in Kilmainham, marrying his bride just before his execution in the breakers' yard. However, behind this romantic and romanticised representation is a much more complex figure without whom the Rising would certainly not have played out as it did. Plunkett was the primary military tactician of the Rising. Along with Pearse and Éamonn Ceannt, he was part of the group that conducted a feasibility study into holding an insurrection in Ireland as early as October 1914.

Plunkett was exceptional, too, in that he managed to travel to Germany in 1915 to link up with Roger Casement both to inspect and to assist his foundering efforts to raise an Irish Brigade from Irish prisoners of war in Germany. As an experienced traveller and possessing the credible excuse that he needed to travel abroad to aid his fragile health, Plunkett was uniquely placed among the rebel conspirators to travel to Germany in wartime. Under the pretence of travelling to Jersey, Plunkett set sail for Spain in March 1915 on a long and circuitous voyage that ultimately led to Germany. Knowing the gravity of his mission, he went as far as to destroy every known photograph of himself prior to his departure. Hence, say one of his biographers, only very few 'strange

Dr Conor Mulvagh on the military tactician of the Rising who married shortly before his execution in Kilmainham Gaol

schoolboy photographs' of Plunkett have survived.

As a young man, Plunkett had spent a significant period abroad. Glandular tuberculosis had plagued him since childhood and, in 1911, at the age of 23, he travelled to Italy, Sicily, and Malta with his mother to convalesce. He remained abroad until 1912, spending the winter in Algiers with his sister Moya where he studied the Arabic language and literature. Some of his most important early poems, including those for his first volume of poetry, *The Circle and the Sword*, were written in Algiers. He even reportedly composed some verse in Arabic.

While in Algiers, Plunkett also developed his skills at something a little more frivolous than mystic poetry and revolution: roller-skating. Plunkett had skated in Dublin, indeed Frank Nally has recently written that skating was something of a craze in the city in the early 1900s with several rinks operating, the biggest of which was the Olympia at the RDS, which opened its doors in 1909. Such was Plunkett's prowess that he was offered a

job at a skating rink in Algiers. Plunkett's biographer Honor Ó Brolcháin states that one job offer he received was to manage a skating rink "after the then manager ran away with the owner's wife". Monica Leahy meanwhile states that Plunkett seriously considered the offer of work as a professional skater "being attracted by the magnificent white costume which went with it".

Algerian adventures aside, Plunkett's 1915 trip to Germany was conducted through Spain, Italy, and Switzerland and he grew a beard and moustache to disguise his appearance. In Italy he further enhanced his counter-surveillance safeguards by adopting the alias of 'James Malcolm'. Travelling to Germany on trains often loaded full of German soldiers, Plunkett's lack of familiarity with the language — for he knew Latin, Spanish, French, Italian, Irish, and Arabic but no German — made him fearful that he would be accused of being a spy.

In Germany, although efforts to raise

an Irish Brigade remained difficult, he collaborated with Roger Casement on a related project, *The Ireland Report*, a dossier outlining a much more ambitious rising than that which ultimately occurred. On foot of this proposal, a commitment to send a shipment of arms of the southwest coast of Ireland was given. Plunkett left Germany for America and there met with the senior Fenian John Devoy in New York. By October 1915, Plunkett finally set sail for Ireland after this extraordinary six-month journey.

Back home in Dublin, Plunkett established a rebel training camp at a recently acquired family property at Larkfield, in Kimmage, south-west of Dublin city. The camp had been founded following the introduction of conscription in Britain (but not in Ireland) in January 1916. Under the watchful eye of Plunkett and his siblings, the 'Kimmage Garrison', as it came to be known, was assembled out of Irishmen — most of whom had an existing Irish Volunteer or IRB connection — who had left Britain not wanting to be conscripted. At Kimmage, they were instructed in military tactics and even ran a bomb-making factory preparing munitions for the planned insurrection. In his statement to the Bureau of Military History in 1948, Séamus Robinson, a member of the Garrison, lists 89 comrades who lived with him at Larkfield by name. There were comings and goings from the property but, ultimately, 60 inhabitants mustered on Easter Monday 1916.

THE garrison was the most extraordinary training camp to have existed in Ireland during wartime. In a classically Pearsean flourish of rhetoric, Patrick Pearse told the men of Larkfield that they were 'Ireland's first standing army since the days of Patrick Sarsfield'.

Joseph Mary Plunkett's younger brother, the 22-year-old George Plunkett, was Officer in Charge of the Kimmage Garrison. Jack,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 >>>

SNAPSHOT

JOSEPH MARY PLUNKETT

Born: Dublin, 21 Nov 1877

Educated: CUS and Belvedere in Dublin, Stonyhurst in England; University College Dublin

Affiliation: IRB, Irish Volunteers

Career: journalist, poet

Died: Kilmainham, 4 May 1916





A portrait of Joseph Plunkett and inset opposite page, a photograph of Joseph Plunkett, his brother George and William Fogarty taken in 1912 on the steps of Springfield, Kilternan. MILITARY ARCHIVES

Ailing writer who shaped the rebellion

>>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the youngest of the Plunkett brothers, also fought in the Rising. An iconic photograph of the aftermath of the rebellion shows George and Jack, uniformed and in identical slouch hats, standing side by side under the eye of a sentry in Richmond Barracks. Like their older brother, both were handed down death sentences but, in their cases, the sentences were commuted. This is not the only reason why one should consider the Plunketts' association with the 1916 Rising as very much a family affair. Joseph Mary Plunkett's father, George Noble Plunkett, was an important figure during, and especially after, the Rising. He became the first-ever elected Sinn Féin MP in the North Roscommon by-election of February 1917.

If family was one important aspect of Joseph Mary Plunkett's 1916 story, then friendship was the other. Seeking a tutor to teach him Irish so that he could matriculate into University College Dublin in 1909, Plunkett found Thomas MacDonagh, well-known Gaelic Leaguer and then assistant lecturer in English at UCD. The two became firm friends through a mutual interest in poetry, which seems to have taken precedence over Irish in their tutorial sessions.

EVER while in Algiers, Plunkett kept up his friendship with MacDonagh through correspondence wherein they sent each other their poems. From 1913 onwards, Plunkett and MacDonagh took over the running of a small but important radical journal, *The Irish Review*. It combined poetry, prose, and political commentary. The journal was suppressed by the censor under Defence of the Realm legislation in November 1914.

The friendship between Plunkett was enhanced through the fact that they eventually married two sisters. Thomas MacDonagh married Muriel Gifford in 1912. They had a son and daughter born in 1912 and 1915 respectively. In December 1915, Plunkett became engaged to Muriel's sister Grace.

In a most unusual twist of history, Joseph and Grace were due to be married on Easter Sunday 1916 in a double wedding with Joseph's sister, Geraldine, who was engaged to Thomas Dillon, lecturer in Chemistry at UCD. Joseph was forced to postpone his and Grace's marriage not because of the Rising but because he had to undergo surgery on a gland in his cheek early in April.

With Michael Collins as his bodyguard, Plunkett left the nursing home in which he was recuperating on Good Friday 1916, the day after the Aud, the boat carrying the weapons he had convinced the German high command to send, had arrived off the Kerry coast.

On Easter Sunday, while crisis meetings of the Proclamation signatories were held in Liberty Hall, Geraldine Plunkett's wedding went ahead as planned with neither her father nor Joseph in attendance. The next morning, from her bridal suite in the Imperial Hotel on O'Connell Street, she watched the Rising which she had known was coming unfold beneath her window.

Following the seizure of the Post Office, Geraldine Plunkett Dillon watched her brother Joseph out on O'Connell Street erecting barricades from whatever could be found. He placed a homemade bomb into an empty tram on Earl Street, retreated a safe distance, and fired a shot detonating the bomb and immobilising the tram. This was the last time she saw her brother Joe.

Dr Conor Mulvagh is a lecturer in Irish History at the School of History at University College Dublin (UCD) with special responsibility for the Decade of Commemorations.



'I See His Blood Upon The Rose'

Joseph Plunkett

*I see his blood upon the rose
And in the stars the glory of his eyes,
His body gleams amid eternal snows,
His tears fall from the skies.*

*I see his face in every flower;
The thunder and the singing of the birds
Are but his voice—and carved by his
power
Rocks are his written words.*

*All pathways by his feet are worn,
His strong heart stirs the ever-beating
sea,
His crown of thorns is twined with every
thorn,
His cross is every tree.*

**PLUNKETT
THE POET**
DR LUCY COLLINS



'I SEE His Blood Upon the Rose' is a poem in the mystical tradition, expressing the intensity of Plunkett's Christian faith. These simple verses testify to the presence of the divine in the world, reading in nature the iconography of the crucifixion. At the centre of the poem lies the conviction that Christ's suffering will never be forgotten, as long as God's word remains the bedrock of existence. Here the deeply personal becomes universal through an unworldly directness of address.

Plunkett's commitment to the revolutionary process suggests how shared intentions may find expression in individual action, and indicates the redemptive power of personal sacrifice. Yet this is also a poem about what it is to see — about the significance of the act of writing as a form of revelation. It reflects our need to move beyond the narrow confines of the self in the search for human meaning.

Dr Lucy Collins is a lecturer in English at University College Dublin (UCD). She is the curator of 'Reading 1916', a forthcoming exhibition at UCD Special Collections.

UCD's Dr Conor Mulvagh in front of the Kilmainham Gaol altar at which Joseph Plunkett married Grace Gifford, the night before he was executed. FRANK McGRATH

The new bride who became a widow the same night

JUST a few hours before he was shot, Joseph Plunkett married his sweetheart Grace Gifford in the grim prison chapel in Kilmainham. They had been set to marry a few weeks before, on Easter Sunday, but that was postponed due to Joseph's illness. Her sister Muriel was married to Thomas MacDonagh, who was executed one day before Plunkett.

The night before the execution Fr Eugene McCarthy of nearby St James Church was summoned to the jail in the west of the city. He met with the couple and performed the marriage ceremony just before midnight. The marriage certificate stated Joseph was a bachelor with the occupation of 'gentleman', while Grace was a spinster who was an 'artist'. Two British soldiers acted as witnesses.

Some years later, she wrote of the night: "When I saw him, on the day before his execution, I found him in exactly the same state of mind. He was so unselfish, he never thought of himself. He was not frightened, not at all, not in the slightest."

"I was never left alone with him, even after the marriage ceremony. I was brought in and was put in front of the altar; and he was brought down

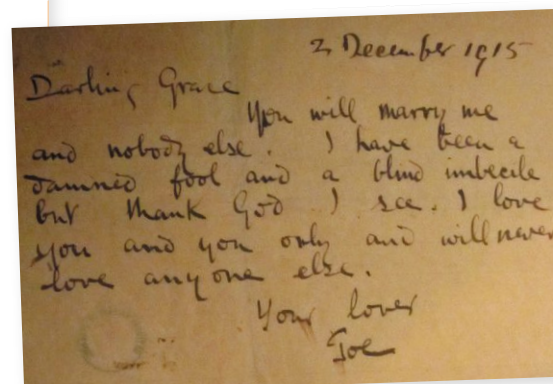


Grace Gifford (above) and a 1915 letter from Joseph to Grace (below), beginning, 'Darling Grace, You will marry me and nobody else...'

the steps and the cuffs were taken off him and the chaplain went on with the ceremony. Then the cuffs were put on him again. I was not alone with him — not for a minute. I had no private conversation with him at all. I just came away then."

The ceremony over, the priest took Grace back to a house in James Street where the church bell-ringer lived. There she stayed till 2am, when an army car arrived to return her to Kilmainham for a ten-minute supervised visit to her husband before she was taken away again and his execution carried out.

Grace was 28 at the time of her husband's death, and although she said she knew nothing of the Rising, later became a committed republican. She struggled to make a living as a cartoonist for many years and eventually sued her father-in-law over Joseph's estate. She died in 1955. GS



IRELAND IN 1916

Transport back to the future

Fergus Cassidy on an era when horses were slowly being overtaken by cars and trains

NO planes. Just trains and automobiles. And ships, bicycles, and horses. All 560,916 of them, as recorded by the Department of Agriculture for Ireland in 1915. Along with 28,923 mules and 227,422 asses. Whether pulling freight barges on canals, or hitched up to carts and carriages, horsepower moved people and goods. Jaunting cars had room for four passengers, seated back to back on top of two wheels. A Charabanc long car had wooden benches and four wheels, and a Phaeton was a sporty, four-wheel open carriage.

In 1915 Dublin had 529 Cabriolets, a light, single-horse, two-wheeled carriage with a folding hood. In rural areas, horse transport provided links to the rail network, which became the dominant form of transport from the 1850s.

There were 65 miles of rail track in 1845, 1,000 in 1857, 2,000 in 1872, and 3,500 in 1914. Between 1873 and 1902 the number of ticketed passengers doubled to more than 20 million. 1897 saw the start of a four-hour service from Dublin to Killarney, and a second storey was added to Kingsbridge (now Heuston) station in 1911.

With the arrival of electricity generation, initially for street lighting, horse-drawn trams in Belfast, Cork, Galway, Derry and Dublin were gradually replaced. But not without opposition, as the Lord Mayor of Dublin protested about the consequences for oat growing and horse breeding. By 1915 there were 270 tram cars in Dublin, running on 60 miles of lines, the experience captured by James Joyce in *Dubliners*: "His head was full of the noises of tram-gongs and swishing trolleys and his nose already sniffed the curling fumes punch".

As with train engines, steam provided power to the ships transiting from the main ports of Belfast, Dublin and Cork, essential for mail, goods and passenger travel. The total value of imports and exports increased from £108m in 1905 to £148m in 1913. In 1906 a new route was opened between Fishguard in Wales and Rosslare in Wexford. By 1918 at least 38 shipping companies operated across the Irish Sea. An indicator of the increasing power of ships was the Lusitania, whose engines were rated at 65,000 horsepower.

Change was also coming with the rise of the internal combustion engine. The first car imported to Ireland, a Benz Velo, arrived in 1898. The Motor Car Act



Left: A horse and cart on Dublin's bustling Dame Street in 1911, where tram tracks can be seen.

Right: steam-powered barges carrying barrels of stout down the River Liffey in Dublin.

GETTY IMAGES



of 1903 raised the speed limit to 20mph and introduced compulsory registration. In 1904 there were 38 registered motor vehicles, 5,058 by 1911 and 19,554 in 1914.

The number of licensed petrol dealers doubled from 1901 to 1914. In July of that year, there was an experimental run of eight motor buses from O'Connell Bridge to the North Quay docks in Dublin. However, motor vehicles were very expensive. One newspaper advertisement

in 1916 invited a trial run of a 35 horsepower Overlands 83, costing £275 plus £6.6s road tax (in comparison, a policeman's annual salary was £65 and a sergeant earned up to £101).

The use of the roads by different types of traffic can be seen in the 110 fatalities during 1914: 49 by horse-drawn; 53 by motor vehicles; and eight involving bicycles.

Although the world's first cycle factory

opened in Dublin in 1888, and 25 cycle companies launched on the Dublin Stock Exchange thereafter, bicycles were also expensive. With the average Dublin wage less than £1 a week in 1915, a Model de Luxe bike was out of range for most people at £4.10s. Appealing to aesthetics, an advert claimed: "To ride a Triumph Cycle is to be in fashion, and to possess a mount which can thoroughly be relied on..." And it was relied on during the Rising.

The mobilisation order for the Irish Volunteers, Dublin Brigade read: "Cycle scouts to be mounted, and ALL men having cycles or motor cycles to bring them". James Cullen, an Irish Volunteer, recounted that "...Commandant Gilligan, who had gone to Dublin on Good Friday, arrived back in Enniscorthy late on Wednesday night. He had cycled all the way from Dublin".

Margaret Skinnider, an Irish Citizen Army member based in St Stephen's Green, wrote: "As I rode along on my bicycle, I had my first taste of the risks of street-fighting. Soldiers on top of the Hotel Shelbourne aimed their machine-gun directly at me. Bullets struck the wooden rim of my bicycle wheels, puncturing it; others rattled on the metal rim or among the spokes. I knew one might strike me at any moment, so I rode as fast as I could. My speed saved my life, and I was soon out of range around a corner".

THE BIRTH OF TRAMS

DUBLIN'S horse-drawn trams were replaced in 1911 by an electrified system, with 330 trams servicing the growing city. They ran for 60 miles through the streets and roadways, helping to bring the new suburbs closer to the commercial centres.

Each of the routes was assigned a number, but as many people could not read, there was also a logo such as a circle, or star attached to the roof. This tram, at its terminus at Sandymount Tower, has a crescent at the front to help those passengers.



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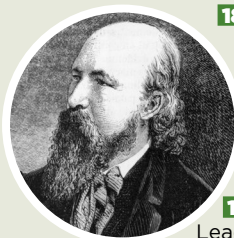
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THE IRISH REPUBLICAN BROTHERHOOD: SNAPSHOTS IN TIME...

1858 Founded in Dublin on St Patrick's Day by James Stephens (right). Called the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood at first. Secret, oath-bound society, structured on military principles.



1863 Denounced by Catholic Church hierarchy. Newspaper, the *Irish People*, is published. Suppressed two years later.

1865 Leaders, including

Stephens, arrested. He escaped from prison and travelled to America.

1867 Denounced by Pope Pius IX. Rising planned for February called off because of informer. Outbreaks in March in Dublin, Tipperary, Limerick, Clare

and Waterford suppressed. 'Manchester Martyrs' hanged in November. 60,000 at funeral in Dublin.

1869 Supreme Council drafted a constitution for the Irish Republic. IRB soldiers called the Irish Republican Army.



Dr Richard McElligott lectures in Modern Irish History at UCD MARK CONDREN

Revolution is in the air

The Irish Republican Brotherhood's revival played a key role in the planning of 1916, writes **Dr Richard McElligott**

THE Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) had been established as a secret, oath-bound, revolutionary organisation dedicated to the overthrow of British rule in Ireland by violent means. However following the disaster of its 1867 rebellion, the ruling Supreme Council adopted a new constitution which dictated that the Brotherhood and its members would wait until they enjoyed the popular support of the Irish people before they attempted another uprising.

By the 1890s, that prospect looked increasingly remote as self-government for Ireland, in the form of Home Rule, seemed on the cusp of reality and only an insignificant minority persisted in their commitment to achieving an Irish republic through arms. As the new century dawned, the IRB appeared to have increasingly lost its way. Its membership (which once surpassed 40,000) shrank and its leadership seemed more interested in Dublin municipal

politics than plotting the overthrow of British rule.

Yet the advent of the Gaelic Revival and its profound impact on Irish nationalism would help rejuvenate the IRB. The Brotherhood became adept at infiltrating the various organisations which sprung up in its wake. In particular, its members gained increasing influence within the Gaelic League and the GAA, two pillars of the emerging cultural nationalist movement. The centenary celebrations of the 1798 rebellion also facilitated the IRB's re-emergence on the national stage. Many of its members were successfully appointed to local and national 1798 centenary committees, established to organise and plan the celebrations to mark that doomed rebellion.

More significantly, the emergence of cultural nationalism as a force in Irish society helped to radicalise a committed core of young militant nationalists who revitalised the Brotherhood. Veterans of the 1916 Rising would later remark how their generation naturally graduated from

cultural to physical force nationalism, a development demonstrated most forcefully by the fact that six of the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation were Gaelic League members and five of the 16 men subsequently executed were prominent in the GAA.

In 1905 two members of the Belfast IRB, Denis McCullough and Bulmer Hobson, took a leading role in the reinvigoration of the Brotherhood. Through their mutual involvement in Sinn Féin, Hobson became close friends with Seán Mac Diarmada, who was subsequently sworn into the Brotherhood. In 1907 their reorganisation of the IRB was given added impetus by the return to Ireland from the United States of Thomas Clarke. Aware of the possibility of a future European war between the Great Powers, Clarke returned to help ensure that if Britain was dragged into such a conflict, Irish republicans would be in a position to react.

Once Mac Diarmada, McCullough and Hobson relocated to Dublin, Clarke became their political mentor. By 1911 all four had

secured key positions on the IRB's Supreme Council. Under their secret direction, the Brotherhood now became a much more active and prominent force in the years before 1916.

MEANWHILE the formation of the Volunteers signalled the moment the gun was introduced into popular Irish nationalist politics. The threat posed by militant Ulster unionism to nationalist aspirations of Home Rule helped radicalise a number of former political moderates.

Among them was Patrick Pearse who now began to extol the virtues of an armed nationalist militia; 'We must accustom ourselves ... to the use of arms ... bloodshed is a cleansing and a sanctifying thing, and the nation which regards it as the final horror has lost its manhood.'

Pearse along with fellow Gaelic League members, Joseph Mary Plunkett, Éamonn Ceannt and Thomas MacDonagh, attended the inaugural meeting of the Volunteers in November 1913 and all four

“
The outbreak of the First World War seemed to present republicans with an ideal opportunity to turn the old Fenian mantra 'England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity' into political reality. In September 1914, Thomas Clarke (pictured) chaired a meeting of the Supreme Council which came to the decision to stage an insurrection before the conflict's end



1873
Divide opens on constitutional versus non-constitutional approach. Membership fell from 11,000 to around 8,000.

1876
Support withdrawn for Home Rule.

1884
Adopted policy of infiltrating organisations such as the GAA.

1898
Support recovered with leading role in 1798 Rising commemorations.



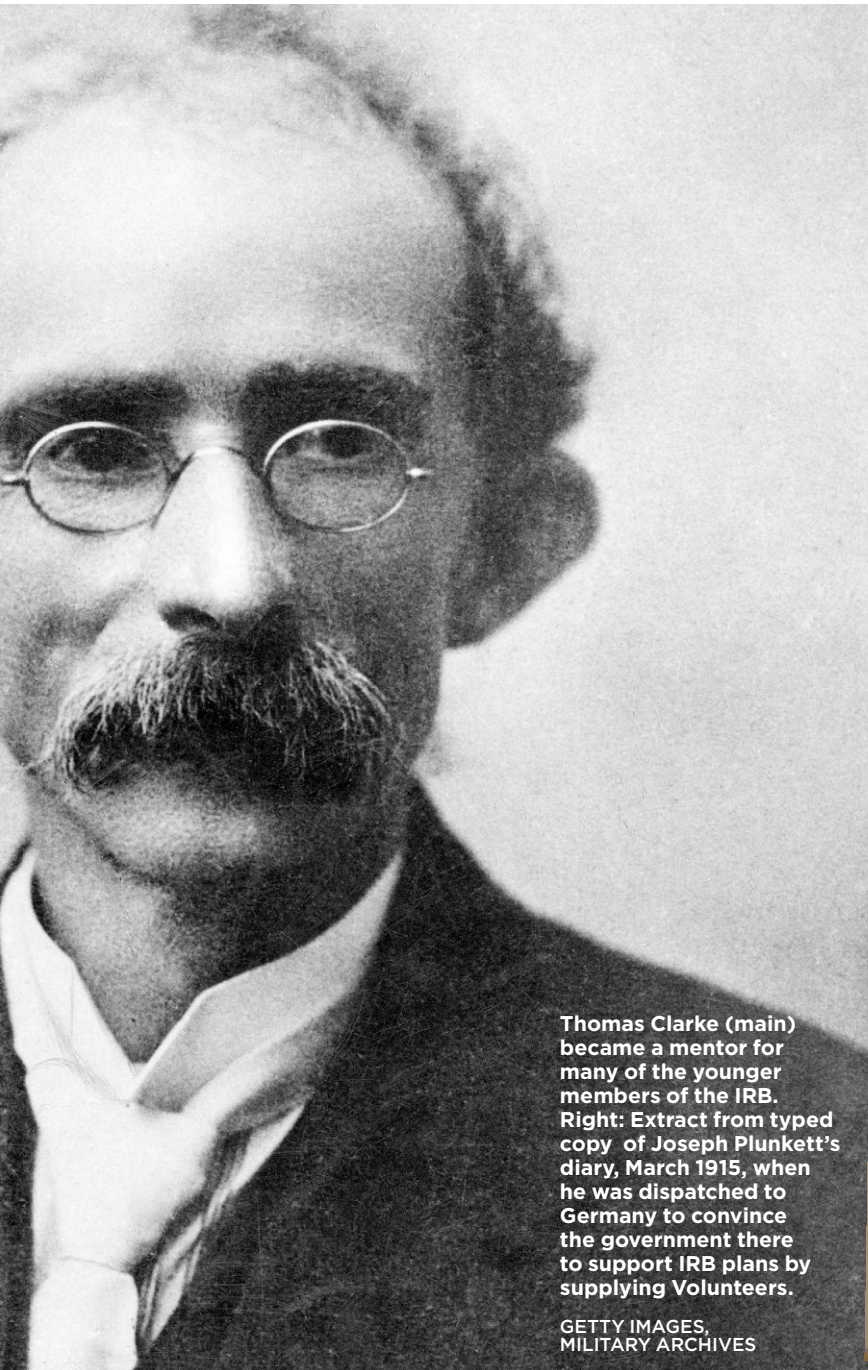
1904
Belfast revival with Bulmer Hobson (*left*), Denis McCullough and Seán Mac Diarmada.

1907
Return from New York of Thomas Clarke.

1913
Hobson held public meeting at the Rotunda, Dublin, at which Irish Volunteers was established.

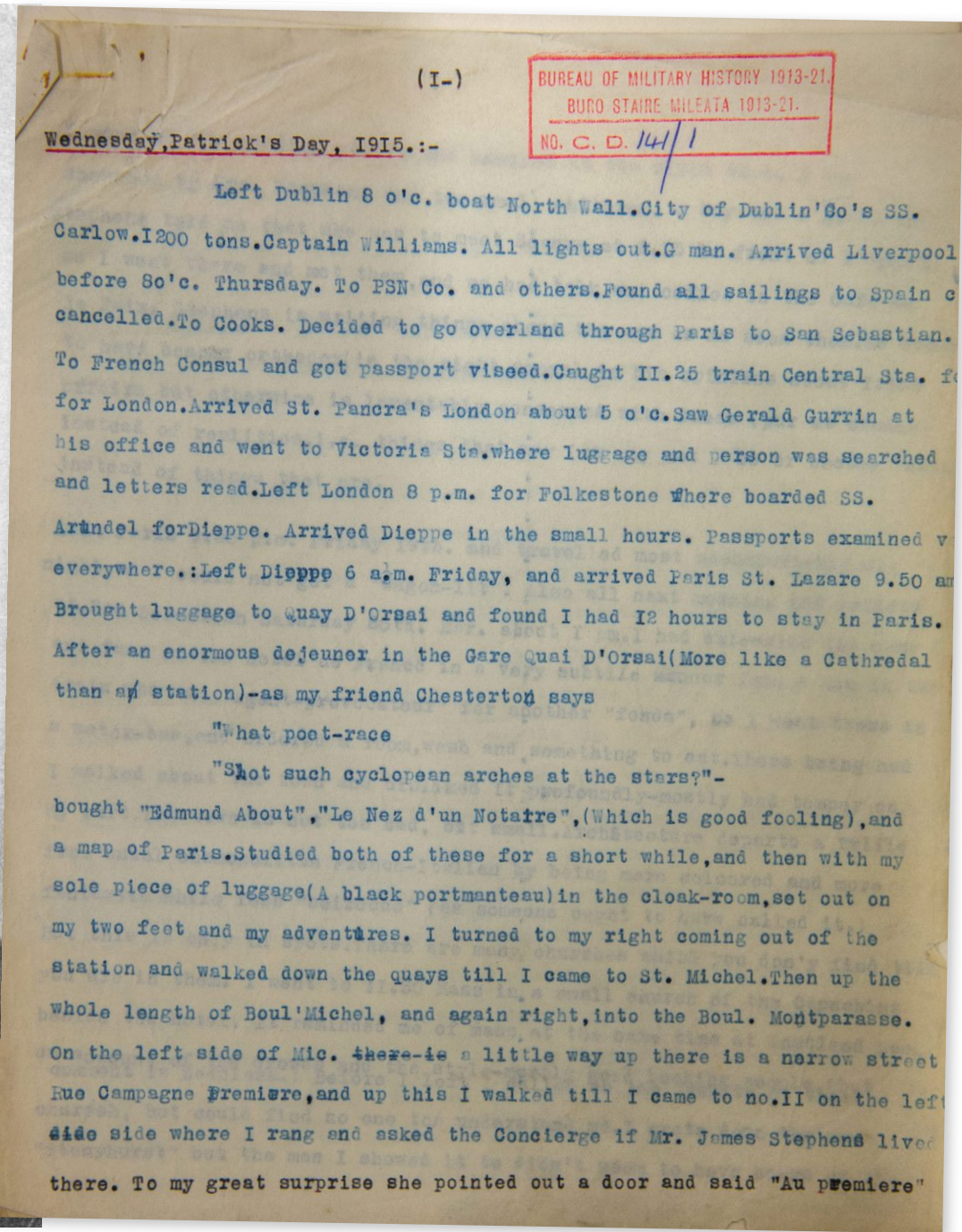
1914
Membership around 80,000. The Asgard lands rifles and ammunition at Howth. By September, membership was

180,000. National Volunteers formed. Irish Volunteers continue with Patrick Pearse and Joseph Plunkett as Directors of Military Organisation, and Thomas MacDonagh as Director of Training. These three became members of the IRB Military Council and planned for the Easter Rising. **FC**



Thomas Clarke (main) became a mentor for many of the younger members of the IRB. Right: Extract from typed copy of Joseph Plunkett's diary, March 1915, when he was dispatched to Germany to convince the government there to support IRB plans by supplying Volunteers.

GETTY IMAGES, MILITARY ARCHIVES



men were elected onto the Volunteers' ruling provisional committee. Though the force was nominally under the control of another high ranking Gaelic Leaguer, Eoin MacNeill, the IRB had already begun to clandestinely infiltrate it at every level. Through their prominent Volunteer activity, Pearse and Plunkett were co-opted into the Brotherhood (Mac Diarmada had already recruited Ceannt into the IRB in 1911).

The outbreak of the First World War seemed to present republicans with an ideal opportunity to turn the old Fenian mantra 'England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity' into political reality. In September 1914, Clarke chaired a meeting of the Supreme Council which came to the decision to stage an insurrection before the conflict's end. An Advisory Committee was subsequently established which approached Plunkett (a man considered by his contemporaries to have a flair for military tactics) to draft a plan for military operations in Dublin.

Once John Redmond's call for the Volunteers to enlist in the British war

effort split the powerful movement in two, the IRB's control over the more radical faction under MacNeill continued to grow. In the winter of 1914, Pearse's growing national prominence as the Volunteers' chief propagandist secured him the role of Director of Military Organisation in the newly created Volunteer Headquarters Staff. He was joined by Plunkett who became the Volunteers' Director of Military Operations, MacDonagh (Director of Training) and Ceannt (Director of Communications).

THE following May, Clarke and Mac Diarmada established a separate Military Council within the IRB to finalise plans for an uprising against British rule using the Irish Volunteers. The continuation of the First World War offered the Council the opportunity and time to execute its plans. Pearse, Plunkett and Ceannt were the only ones initially on the Council and numbers were kept small for security purposes. In September Clarke and Mac Diarmada also joined.

Gathering in secret, the Council left no

written records of its meetings, yet by now it had become the real power within the IRB. MacDonagh, who was finally initiated into the IRB in the spring of 1915, and James Connolly, whose radical Citizen Army had increasingly aligned with the Volunteers throughout the previous year, were the last two members to join the Council in January 1916.

Pearse was now emerging as the central figure of the forthcoming rebellion and had initially planned to launch a revolt in September 1915. To that end Plunkett was dispatched on a mission to Germany to convince its government to support the IRB's plans by supplying the Volunteers with a shipment of modern, military grade rifles and heavy weaponry. The rebellion's date was subsequently pushed back until the spring of 1916. Into the winter of 1915, the Military Council secretly perfected its plans, which were a modified form of Plunkett's strategy worked out the previous year. In preparation for the uprising, Volunteer units across the country were increasingly placed under the command of trusted IRB men

who reported directly to Pearse, bypassing MacNeill's official chain of command.

Profoundly influenced by the legacy of the failed rebellion of his idol, Robert Emmett, Pearse became increasingly convinced that modern Irish nationalism needed a similar sacrificial gesture. Only then would it be pushed into a final and decisive war of independence against British rule. Increasingly displaying this martyrdom complex, Pearse had prefigured his destiny in a play, *The Singer*, which he wrote in 1915. It centred on a poet-turned-rebel who dies proclaiming 'one man can free a people as one man (Christ) redeemed the world.'

As events would soon show, Pearse's sense of destiny was strong enough to pull the other six signatories and 1,500 Volunteers into the maelstrom of Easter 1916.

Dr Richard McElligott lectures in Modern Irish History in UCD. His study of the role of the GAA in the 1916 Rising will be published this October in 'The GAA and Revolution in Ireland: 1913-1923' (Collins Press), edited by Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh



Clockwise from left: Kathleen Lynn outside the Four Courts with Countess Markievicz (far left); Lynn worked with Dublin's poor and children at the Rotunda and other hospitals; UCD's Mary Daly outside Dublin's City Hall, where Lynn served during the 1916 insurrection.

IRISH INDEPENDENT/NPA, STEVE HUMPHREYS



The rebel commander who founded a hospital

Prof Mary Daly on the inspirational doctor Kathleen Lynn, who fought with the Citizen Army and for the health of Dublin's poor

KATHLEEN LYNN belongs to the first generation of Irish women doctors. The daughter of a Church of Ireland clergyman, at first sight she seems to be an unlikely graduate of the Catholic University Medical School. But when she graduated in 1899, that School admitted women students, whereas Trinity College, her more natural home, did not.

After graduation she studied in the United States (not a common career path at the time for UCD/Catholic University medical graduates, they were more likely to study in Vienna, Paris or in Germany), but the USA offered much wider opportunities for women.

There, many of the pioneering generation of women doctors worked in institutions that they had established and which were under their control — this offered a mechanism for overcoming the gender discrimination which was rife at the time.

In 1909, having returned to Ireland, Lynn became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. She failed to secure a position in the Adelaide Hospital because she was a woman. However, Sir Patrick Dun's and

the Rotunda Hospital proved to be more accommodating. From 1910–1916 she held a position at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital — the first female resident doctor, combining this with a private practice in Rathmines.

This active medical career did not preclude an equally active role in political affairs. Her story gives us an insight into the political ferment that characterised Dublin 100 years ago, and the lives of a remarkable generation of educated women.

Kathleen Lynn was active in the suffrage movement at a time when the campaign for female suffrage was becoming increasingly militant. The campaign was closely linked with Irish Home Rule, because the Irish Party held the balance of power in Westminster at the time, but John Redmond refused to use their power to demand votes for women. As a consequence most politically-active Irishwomen joined more radical groups.

During the 1913 Dublin lock-out, which saw tens of thousands of Dublin labourers and their families in dire circumstances, Kathleen Lynn worked in Liberty Hall with Constance Markievicz to provide food and care for destitute families. This was an

experience that made her acutely aware of their lives and medical needs.

Her involvement with Liberty Hall and James Connolly led her to join the Irish Citizen Army, which admitted women and men. Connolly appointed Lynn Chief Medical Officer to the Irish Citizen Army. She gave the Citizen Army ambulance and first aid training, and was involved in weapons smuggling. She also taught first aid to Cumann na mBan, the female wing of the Irish Volunteers.

During the Rising, Lynn was appointed Captain in the Irish Citizen Army and second-in-command of City Hall. She took full command when Seán Connolly was killed, until they were forced to surrender. She was then imprisoned in Kilmainham Gaol until 1917.

She spent a further spell in prison in 1918. When Sinn Féin was reorganised in 1917, she became a vice-president and in

1922, like most republican women, she sided with the anti-Treaty side.

But although Lynn was elected to Dáil Éireann in 1923, by this time she was concentrating on her medical life. In 1919 she and a number of other politically-active medical women founded St Ultan's in Charlemont Street. The initial focus was on treating syphilitic infants — Cumann na mBan was convinced that soldiers returning from the war were killing Irish infants — in truth syphilis was endemic in sections of the Dublin working class. St Ultan's soon began to treat other illnesses.

Although the range of treatments available for sick infants was very limited, St Ultan's provided personal care for the infants of Dublin's poorest families at a time when there was an acute shortage of paediatric beds. The hospital's 52 beds — or cots — accounted for a quarter of beds available for sick children in Dublin at the time.

She had diverse motives for founding St Ultan's — it provided medical care for sick children like those she had met in Liberty Hall, and a supportive environment for their mothers. St Ultan's also offered Lynn and her fellow women doctors a place where they could shape their own medical careers, and make a distinctive contribution. Kathleen Lynn died in 1955 and was buried with full military honours.

Professor Mary E Daly is President of the Royal Irish Academy and emeritus professor of the UCD School of History

SNAPSHOT

KATHLEEN FLORENCE LYNN

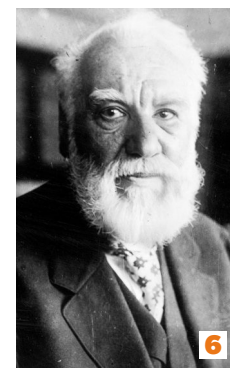
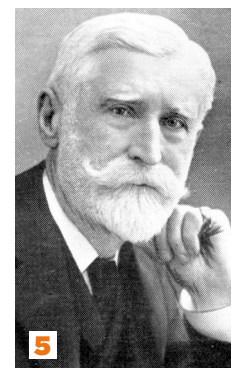
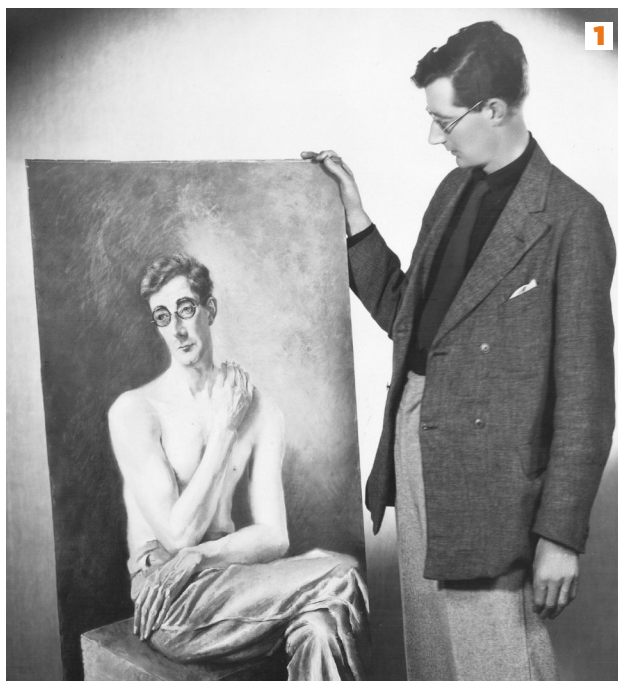
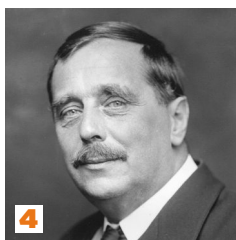
Born: Killala, Co Mayo, 28 January 1874

Educated: School in England and Germany; college at UCD and in USA

Affiliation: Irish Citizen Army

Career: Doctor (qualified 1899), TD (1923–27)

Died: Ballsbridge, Dublin, 14 September 1955



NINE LIVES

Grainne Coyne on the playwrights, authors, inventors, artists and sportsmen of the era

1 LENNOX ROBINSON was a leading playwright and poet who also worked as a theatre producer and director with the Abbey. His father gave up a career as a stockbroker to become a Church of Ireland minister. Lennox's first play *The Cross Roads* was performed at the Abbey in 1909 when he also became manager of the theatre. He resigned after a financially-crippling American tour but returned in 1919. His plays were often of nationalist outlook such as *Patriots* (1912), *Dreamers* (1915) and *The Big House* (1926) but his best-known was probably *The Whiteheaded Boy* which he wrote in 1916.

2 Born in Kanturk, Co Cork, **Hannah Sheehy Skeffington** was an important figure in the Irish suffragette movement and the republican cause. Sheehy was a founding member of the Irish Women's Franchise League and the Irish Women's Workers Union. In 1903 she married the writer Francis Skeffington and they both added each other's name to their own. She was very active in promoting votes for women and was arrested in 1912 when she and others threw rocks at Dublin Castle in protest over the exclusion of votes for women from the Home Rule Bill. She was active in the Rising during which her husband was murdered by a British officer.

3 Bethel Solomons was a leading rugby player who was prominent in Jewish and medical circles in Dublin. He won 10 caps while with Trinity and Wanderers — he told of how he once hailed a taxi to take him to Lansdowne Road for an international and the driver complained how the Irish team consisted of "14 Protestants and a Jew". He was a friend of the Sinn Féin founder Arthur Griffith and a supporter of the Easter Rising. His sister, Estella, was a well-known artist who joined Cumann na mBan and took the republican side in the Civil War. Bethel was a leading gynaecologist and later Master of the Rotunda Hospital.

4 A science fiction writer hailed as the 'father of futurism', **HG Wells** was truly ahead of his time. His novels predicted World War Two, economic globalisation and the rise of major cities and suburban lifestyle. Wells had instant success with *The Time Machine* (1895) and later with *War of the Worlds* (1898). He also served as a book reviewer for the *Saturday Review* in London and there promoted the careers of many authors including James Joyce.

5 Although a hugely successful entrepreneur, **William Martin Murphy** is best known for his role in the Great Lockout in 1913. He founded the *Evening Herald*, *Irish Independent* and *Sunday Independent*, built railway routes throughout Ireland and in Africa and served as a nationalist MP. He organised an international exhibition in Herbert Park, Dublin in 1907 but refused to accept a knighthood for doing so. As employers' leader he came into conflict with Jim Larkin after refusing to give in to workers' demands. The lockout caused great hardship and even starvation during the six months it lasted. His newspapers were initially hostile to the Easter Rising.

6 Alexander Graham Bell, along with Thomas Watson, had the world's first telephone call in March 1876. Bell, who was born in Scotland, had to defend his telephone patent in numerous court challenges but none of these were successful. His mother was deaf and he was very active in trying to improve the life of deaf people through various inventions and techniques. In his later years he helped found the National Geographic Society. Bell also made the first transcontinental

call from New York to his old friend Watson in San Francisco in 1915. When he died in 1922 the entire telephone system was shut down for a minute in tribute.

7 Virginia Woolf was known for her unique writing style which influenced many writers. Born Virginia Stephens, she was a prominent member of The Bloomsbury Group which comprised of people from the literary and intellectual scene in London including her brother Thoby. It was there she met fellow writer and future husband, Leonard Woolf. Her novels *Mrs Dalloway*, *To the Lighthouse* and *Orlando* were acclaimed while the later essay *A Room of One's Own* (1929) tackles issues of feminism within literature and is regarded as a classic. The Woolfs visited Ireland in 1934 and she wrote about literature, people and the landscape in her diary.

8 James Cecil Parke was born in Clones, Co Monaghan. He played various sports at an extremely

high level including chess, golf and tennis and even captained the Irish rugby team for two years. Before Irish independence he represented Britain in Davis Cup tennis six times. He went on to be Irish men's singles champion in 1905 and 1906, and again from 1908 to 1913. He also won a silver medal in doubles at the 1908 Olympics, and won Wimbledon mixed doubles titles in 1912 and 1914. As well as his sporting exploits, he fought in World War One and gained a Military Cross for bravery.

9 A renowned portraitist and stained glass artist, the work of **Sarah Purser** was admired by Douglas Hyde, WB Yeats, and Countess Markievicz. She was the first woman to be elected to the Royal Hibernian Academy and to receive an honorary academician status in 1890. Born in Dun Laoghaire in 1848, Purser grew up in Dungarvan, Co Waterford. She was active in promoting the work of other artists and founded the stained glass co-operative, An Túr Gloine.

LEARN MORE READ...

- * *Joseph Plunkett* by Honor Ó Brocháin (O'Brien Press, 2014)
- * *Kathleen Lynn: Irishwoman, Patriot, Doctor* by Margaret Ó hÓgartaigh (Irish Academic Press, 2006)
- * *The Politics and Relationships of Kathleen Lynn*, by Marie Mulholland (Woodfield Press, 2002)
- * *Grace Gifford Plunkett and Irish Freedom: Tragic Bride of 1916* by Marie O'Neill (Irish Academic Press, 2000)
- * *Unlikely Rebels: The Gifford Girls* by Anne Clare (Mercier Press, 2011)

WATCH...

- * Seán and Frank O'Meara wrote a moving ballad about Joseph Plunkett's marriage to Grace Gifford in Kilmainham Jail. It was recorded by Jim McCann of the Dubliners. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMf6lyJIOe4>
- * TG4's excellent documentary on Kathleen Lynn is available on their player, <http://www.tg4.ie/en/player/documentaries/>

CHECK OUT...

- * Grace Gifford's career as a cartoonist: <http://irishcomics.com>



[wikia.com/wiki/Grace_Gifford_\(1888-1955\)](http://wikia.com/wiki/Grace_Gifford_(1888-1955))
* *The Poems of Joseph Mary*

Plunkett was published in 1916. It is now available on the internet: <http://poetry.elcore.com>

net/CatholicPoets/Plunkett/index.html

* The O'Rahilly's collection of motor cars are shown on this family website, <http://humphrysfamilytree.com/ORahilly/the.orahtilly.cars.html>

VISIT...

* National Transport Museum, Howth, Co Dublin. See several of the vehicles that were on Irish roads in 1916, including some examples of the trams such as ran past the GPO. The museum is open from 2-5pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

JAMES POWER ● CHRISTINA PURCELL ● PHILIP ADDISON PURSER ● JAMES QUINN
ELIZABETH QUIRK ● THOMAS RAFFERTY ● ALAN LIVINGSTONE RAMSAY ● MARY REDMOND
CHRISTOPHER REDMOND ● REILLY ● JOHN REILLY ● THOMAS REILLY ● GEORGE REYNOLDS
TIMOTHY SPELMAN ● PATRICK STEPHENSON
HAROLD ROEDIGER REID ● JOHN REID ● JOHN REID ● JOHN STILLMAN
HOLDEN STODART ● GEORGE SYNNOT
ROSANNA TADAT ● DAVID PERCIVAL TEMPLETON
JOHN A. THOMPSON ● MARY TIMMONS
JOHN JOSEPH TRAYNOR ● THOMAS TREACY
PATRICK TRYON ● WALTER ALSTY TENNILEY
ALFRED TYLER ● PRUDENCE VAN TREN
EDWARD CARMEN VARNALS
MARGARET MARY VEALE ● WILLIAM WALKER
KATE WALSH ● PHILIP WALSH
JOHN WALSH ● PHILIP WALSH
JAMES JOSEPH WALSH ● AUSTIN JOSEPH WALTON
ELANOR WARBROOK ● ALFRED DANIEL WASHINGTON ● ARTHUR WARNER ● ABRAHAM WATCHORN
WILLIAM WARD ● WILLIAM WARD ● WILLIAM WARD ● WILLIAM WARD ● WILLIAM WARD
THOMAS JOSEPH WEAVER ● WILLIAM WEST ● PATRICK WHELAN ● PATRICK WHELAN
CHRISTOPHER WHELAN ● DANIEL WHELAN ● SARAH WHELAN
JOHN WHELAN ● MYLES WHITE ● ELIZABETH WILKINSON
DAVID WILSON ● PETER WILSON ● ALBERT EDWARD WOOD
RICHARD WOODCOCK ● BASIL HENRY WORSLEY-WORSWICK
WILLIAM THOMAS WRIGHT ● GEORGE WOOD
SIDNEY LEONARD YOUNG
JOHN YOUNG

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