

Irish Independent 

# 1916

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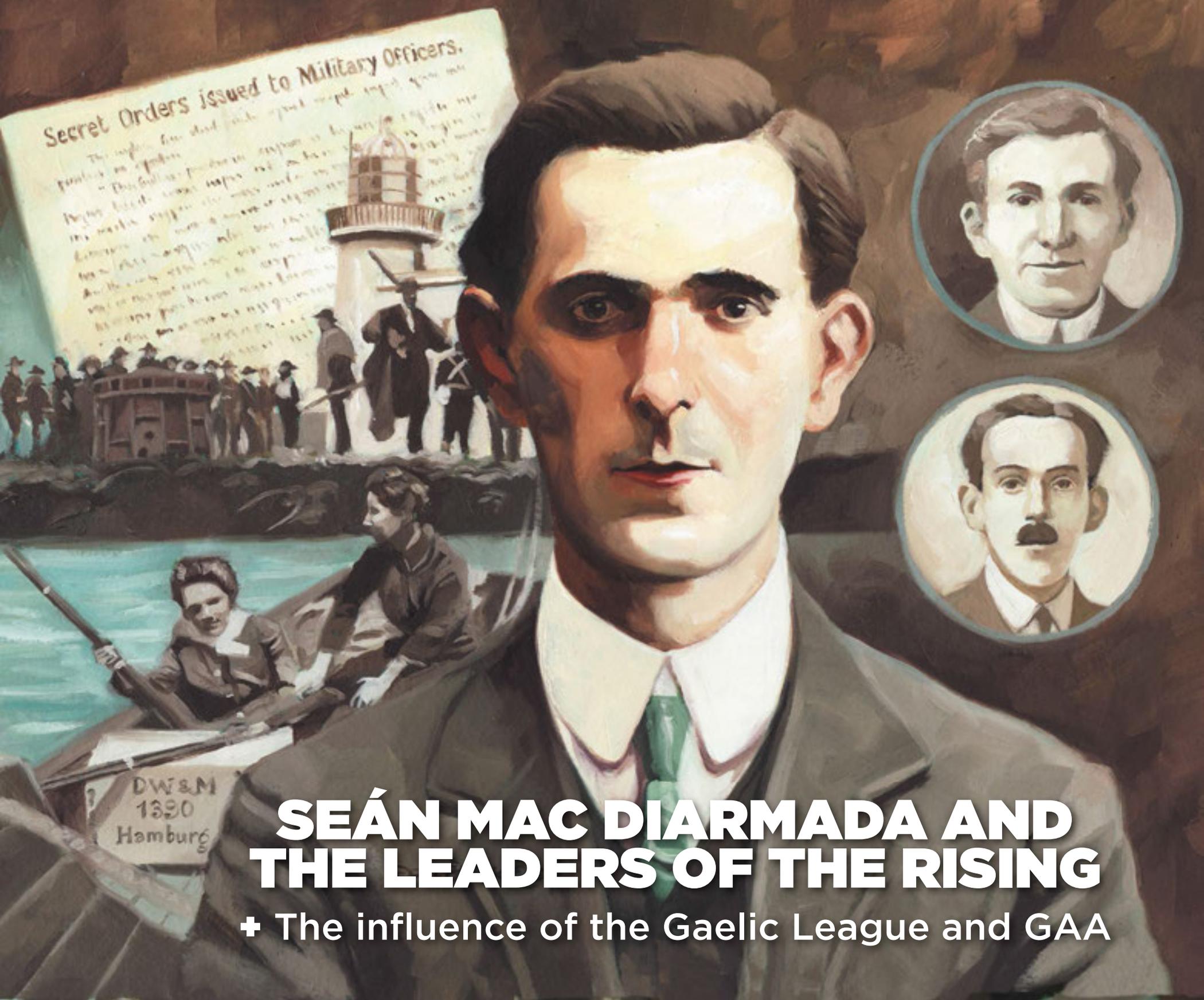
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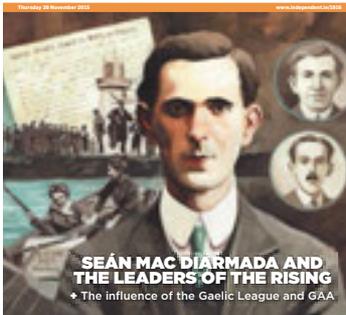


# SEÁN MAC DIARMADA AND THE LEADERS OF THE RISING

✦ The influence of the Gaelic League and GAA

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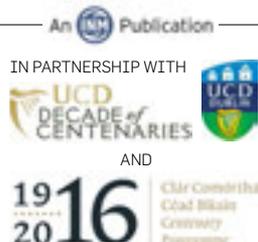
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Cover by Jon Berkeley, shows Seán Mac Diarmada, Bulmer Hobson and Ned Daly



# Rising art helps paint a picture

NORMAN TEELING is painting beside the O'Connell Monument in Dublin when I speak with him.

The 71-year-old open air enthusiast works in his hometown, as well as Arles in France, Spain and California. But it was a visit to Gettysburg in Pennsylvania that inspired his ten-piece painting series on the Easter Rising.

"I had seen these wonderful paintings representing the American Civil War," he says. "I thought it looked very dramatic and wouldn't it be great to try it with the Irish rebellion?"

He had four paintings on 1916 done when he was commissioned by An Post to do six more in 1996. "I only had six weeks. I did as much research as I could," he explains.

There was no photographic reference of what happened inside the GPO so the artist was led by research. The paintings, each 36in by 50in, were hanging for



approximately ten years, according to Mr Teeling, before they were moved into storage. He finds it strange they "are too big for the walls now" but "seemed to be the right size".

Following queries about the collection, owned by the GPO, he says: "I thought, why not do them again? The new variations are better paintings because I have been working on them for the past couple of years." They will be exhibited at the Oriel Gallery in Clare Street, Dublin next year.

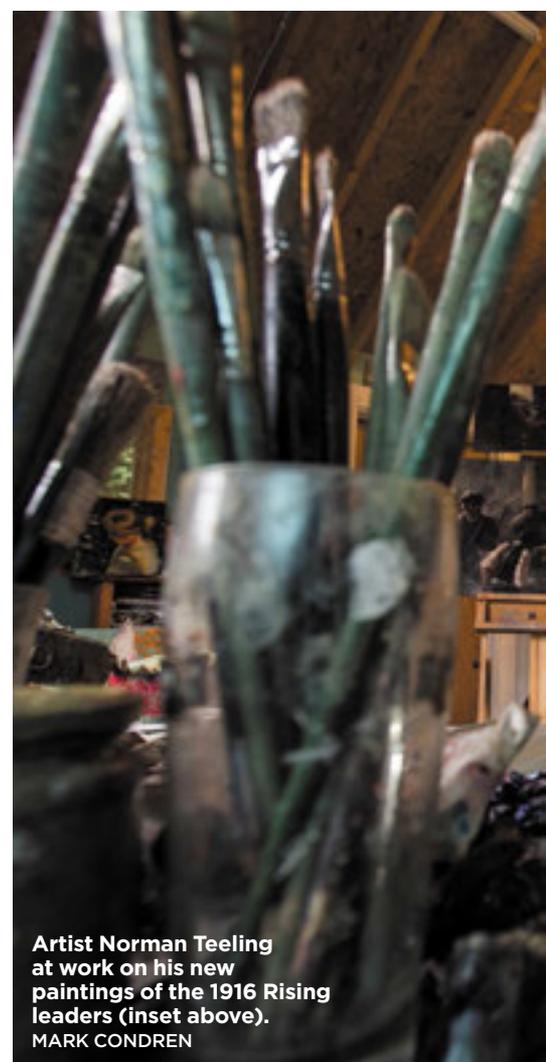
Describing his style as

"historical representational", Mr Teeling says the exhibition is his "interpretation" of what happened during the Rising, which "should be commemorated every year".

"I think the 1916 Rising is very hush-hush and it shouldn't be," he says. "We got our freedom through what these guys did. This was our Alamo where they all died for a cause but the cause itself was not a failure."

For details on Teeling's plein air *Painting In Oils* DVD, see [normanteeling.com](http://normanteeling.com).

**Alison Martin**



Artist Norman Teeling at work on his new paintings of the 1916 Rising leaders (inset above). MARK CONDREN

## FROM THE UCD ARCHIVES

### It changed Irish history but controversy over Castle Document still rages on

FIVE days before the Rising the *Evening Mail* carried a story that would have a bearing on the course of events and create a controversy which still burns. Addressing a meeting of Dublin Corporation, Thomas Kelly of Sinn Féin read into the record the text of a secret document he had been given.

Known as the Castle Document, it contained details of contingency plans for Martial Law, and the arrest and detention of the leaders of Sinn Féin, the National and Irish Volunteers, and the Gaelic League. It also included a list of buildings to be secured by the military.

Questions remain about its provenance: Did such a plan exist at all? Was a military plan

invented to propel momentum toward an uprising? And by who? Was an existing plan altered or doctored to enhance the possibility of a rising, which the Volunteers had deemed necessary before the First World War ended?

Eoin MacNeill, the Volunteers' chief of staff, said that the "document served the purpose of creating great excitement and apprehension of the Volunteers being suppressed — an event which we were all bound to resist".

He wrote: "There was intense tension during these meetings [of the leadership]. At the exec[utive] there was some proposal for a general order which I opposed as being dangerous, and ultimately at the end of the meeting a

### Secret Orders issued to Military Officers.

The cipher from which this document is copied does not indicate punctuation or capitals.

"The following precautionary measures have been sanctioned by the Irish Office on the recommendation of the General Officer Commanding the Forces in Ireland. All preparations will be made to put these measures in force immediately on receipt of an Order issued from the Chief Secretary's Office, Dublin Castle, and signed by the Under Secretary and the General Officer Commanding the Forces in Ireland. First, the following persons to be placed under arrest:—

different general order was drafted by me and accepted by Pearse as satisfactory. It ordered the Volunteers to prepare themselves against suppression".

MacNeill then changed his mind about the authenticity of the Castle Document: "...a fact came to my knowledge showing me that I had been deceived".

The identity of the official who leaked the document was revealed in 1971 through a letter in the *Irish Press*. The writer, Patrick J Little, whose papers are in the UCD archives, revealed that it was "the late Eugene

Smyth, a telegraphist", who "had the opportunity of obtaining full and direct information of the substance of the plans contained in the document".

The letter contained a solemn statement from Smyth which included: "I can definitely confirm the truth of the contents of the document". In 1951 Smyth gave a witness statement to the Bureau of Military History: "The contents of the document were practically identical with that read out by Alderman Tom Kelly at the meeting of the Corporation..." **FC**

## IN MEMORIAM

### The boat that brought the guns ashore...

THE most famous of the boats that ran guns into Ireland ahead of the Rising was the *Asgard*. It was named after one of the worlds of Norse mythology, ruled over by Odin and Frigg.

The 16-metre yacht was owned by Erskine Childers, an English-born writer who was executed during the Civil War in 1922. He and his wife Molly, along with Roger Casement, Alice Green and

Mary Spring Rice sailed the ship laden with 900 rifles and 29,000 rounds from Germany to Howth in July 1914.

After the Rising the *Asgard* was put in dry dock in Wales, and sold in 1928. Thirty years later the Irish government bought the ship and brought it back to Howth on 30 July 1961, re-enacting the landing with some of the original personnel — and rifles.

It was used as a training vessel until 1974 when it was moved to Kilmainham Jail where it was displayed until 2001. By then in a poor state of repair, a restoration project brought it back to life and since 2012 it has been on display in the National Museum in Collins Barracks.

A plaque in the harbour in Howth commemorates the landings. **LS**





1916 ONLINE



Watch more online at [independent.ie/1916](http://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](http://independent.ie/1916) site will continue to build into a brilliant resource for students in years to come.

ROYAL COLLECTION HOUSED IN LONDON MUSEUM

## The banner taken from Countess Markievicz's home as a 1916 war trophy

IN a corner of the Imperial War Museum's acclaimed new WWI exhibition in London, there is a small, emerald green banner, with Gaelic script picked out in time-tarnished gold thread.

Look closer, under the words, "Na Fianna Eireann" and you will see the motif of a pike piercing a sunburst, over the legend "Glaine ár gcroí, Neart ár ngéag, Agus beart de réir ár mbriathar".

And to the right, there is a card, informing visitors that this artefact was; "Lent By Her Majesty The Queen".

The story of how this banner of Na Fianna, the republican youth movement founded in 1909, ended up in a south London museum began in the immediate aftermath of the Easter Rising, when soldiers went to a modest suburban home in Rathmines, Dublin.

A detachment of 3rd Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles had been detailed to search Surrey House, home of Constance Markievicz, who had just commanded the rebels fighting in St Stephen's Green.

As the soldiers were searching through her home, Markievicz was in a cell in Kilmainham. On May 6th, when her sister Eva Gore-Booth and their friend Esther Roper went to Surrey House, they found that it had been ransacked and occupied by the Royal Irish.

Amongst the items taken by the soldiers was a green and gold banner of the Republican youth movement, founded by the countess in 1909 and headquartered out of her home in Rathmines.



The 'Na Fianna Eireann' banner taken from Countess Markievicz's home as a war trophy by the Royal Irish Rifles.

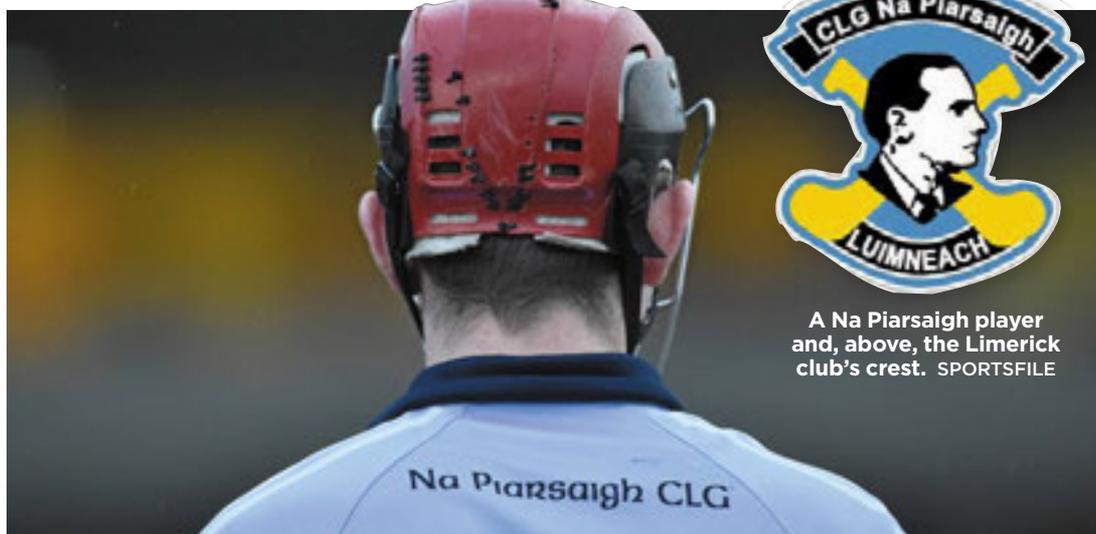
The banner was a war trophy, taken by the Royal Irish Rifles, which eventually found its way into the royal collection. The Irish words under the sunburst may have puzzled officers and royals alike, it translates loosely as: "The purity of our hearts, the strength of our limbs, our commitment to our vow".

Some, especially in Sligo with its strong links to Countess Markievicz, believe this lost banner should now come home.

For the moment, it hangs in a small glass case in the museum's WWI galleries, a reminder of the time when, as 200,000 Irishmen were fighting in Europe, Turkey and the Middle East, some of their fellow countrymen were involved in a different fight at home.

Joe O'Shea

THE FIELDS OF BATTLE



A Na Piarasigh player and, above, the Limerick club's crest. SPORTSFILE

## Rebel names live on through GAA clubs

THERE has been a long tradition of naming GAA clubs after patriotic figures. Most counties have an Emmets, a Mitchels or a Sarsfields from earlier conflicts, and the sacrifice of the 1916 leaders has also been remembered on playing fields at home and abroad.

Some of the clubs are obscure, others celebrated, but those named after the Pearse brothers seem to have been both the most popular and, arguably, most successful on the field.

There are Patrick Pearses clubs in Galway, Kerry, Roscommon and Antrim, while Pearse Brothers play out of Ballybay, Co Monaghan. Two Tyrone clubs, Fintona and Galbally, also attach the Pearse name.

There are four Na Piarasigh clubs, in Galway, Louth, Cork and Limerick. The Cork version was three times county senior hurling champions from 1990-2004 and is home of the celebrated Ó hAilpín brothers.

The Limerick club is even more successful, twice being Munster senior hurling champions in 2011 and 2013 with all-star Shane Dowling to the fore, and won their county title again in 2015.

The only club with one of the signatories' names to win an All-Ireland club championship was Kilruane MacDonaghs from Tipperary in 1986. There are O'Hanrahans clubs in Wexford and Carlow, the latter winning the Leinster title in 2000.

Seán McDermott has four

clubs named in his honour, in Louth, Antrim, Armagh and Monaghan, as has The O'Rahilly, in Fermanagh, Monaghan and Tyrone, as well as the celebrated Kerins O'Rahilly's in Kerry, the club of legends Dan Spring, Paddy Kennedy and Dan O'Keeffe.

Elsewhere there are also clubs in memory of Roger Casement (Antrim) and Thomas Clarke (Dungannon).

In the GAA's overseas units the men of '16 are well remembered, with such clubs as Dunedin Connollys (Edinburgh, Scotland), Brothers Pearse (Huddersfield, England), Roger Casement's GFC (Ontario Canada), Charlotte James Connollys (North Carolina, USA), and Pdraig Pearses (Victoria, Australia). **GS**

THE LOST CHILDREN

## Seán Healy, the 15-year-old boy killed in Phibsborough

SEÁN HEALY was the youngest combatant to die in the Rising on the republican side.

One of a family of ten who shared a home with two other families, he lived at 188 Phibsborough Road, close to the Mater Hospital, the King's Inns and Dalymount Park.

His family were active republicans and his father saw action during Easter Week with the smallest and least known of the participants on the rebel side, the Hibernian Rifles.

A member of the Fianna Éireann republican scouts, he had been sent home from the Jacob's Factory by Thomas MacDonagh because he was too young to fight.

According to Joe Duffy's

excellent new book *Children of the Rising*, Healy's family believe he was asked to deliver a message by MacDonagh

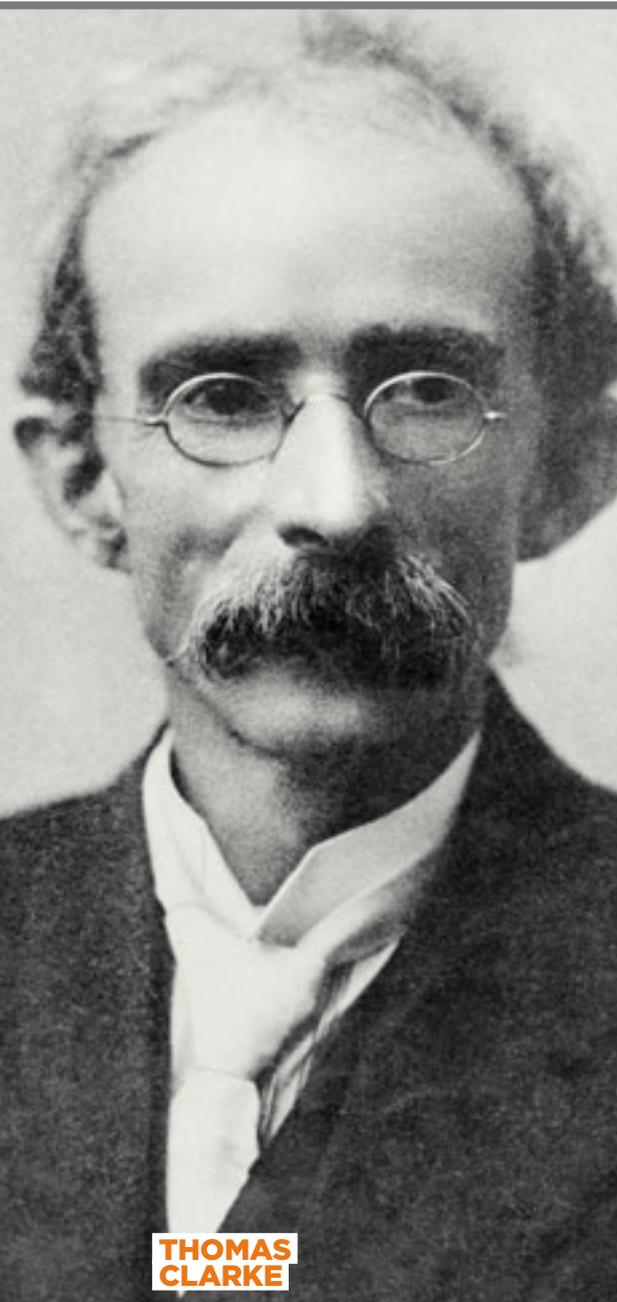
warning of an ambush on Phibsborough bridge.

On his way back from Jacob's he called into his family home for a short time, then went out again.

A few minutes later, at the crossroads known as Doyle's Corner, Seán was shot in the head by a British soldier who was stationed at the bridge. He was taken to the Mater hospital, a few hundred metres away but his wounds were too severe. He was just 15 years old.

A plaque in the pathway at Phibsborough marks the spot where Seán Healy died. **LS**





**THOMAS  
CLARKE**



**SEAN  
MAC DIARMADA**



**PATRICK  
PEARSE**



**JAMES  
CONNOLLY**

# The story of 1916's

## Brian Murphy on the tangled relationships among the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation



**J**AMES CONNOLLY was not a man prone to displays of emotion, but shortly after noon on Easter Monday 1916, the Edinburgh-born socialist was visibly moved. He had just heard Patrick Pearse read the Easter Proclamation outside the GPO and witnessed the unfurling from the roof of the tricolour. Gripping Pearse's hand, Connolly said: 'Thanks be to God, Pearse, we have lived to see this day.'

Connolly's uncharacteristic display of sentiment was undoubtedly prompted

by the seminal moment that had just occurred. The reading of the Proclamation was the formal declaration of a Republic and it was an act that established the Provisional Government. It also signalled the first full-scale Irish uprising since the Fenian rebellion 49 years previously.

Pearse and Connolly had been involved in months of stressful planning, intrigue, cajoling and deceit to arrive at the point where an armed rebellion against British rule would take place. Both men had been wary, even suspicious of the other's motives, but a genuine respect had developed between them. As they

affectionately congratulated each other, WJ Brennan-Whitmore, a general staff officer in the rebel forces, observed that the man who had actually done most to ferment revolution watched contently from the side-lines.

In his memoir written in 1961, Brennan-Whitmore noted that, "Although Patrick Pearse and I were intimates, it is my view that writers and historians in subsequent years have, perhaps unconsciously, given Pearse a position of prominence in the movement which rightly belongs to Clarke... [Clarke's] quiet and somewhat shy unobtrusiveness would seem to have robbed even history of her due. In my frank and honest opinion, insofar as it was in the power of one man to bring an Irish insurrection into forthright activity, the credit for that achievement must go to Thomas J Clarke."

Clarke's long commitment to militant republicanism was recognised by his fellow leaders of the Rising when they accorded him the honour of being the first signatory to the 1916 Proclamation. However, in Irish historiography Clarke features less prominently than Pearse and Connolly, largely because the very nature of his work was furtive. Clarke's

genius was in smoke-filled rooms where secret military plans were hatched, where the covert Irish Republican Brotherhood infiltration of other organisations was encouraged and where every clandestine decision was inspired by a desire to provoke sedition and to ultimately bring about an armed revolt.

Clarke was 58 in 1916. He was born on the Isle of Wight, the son of a British soldier, but was raised in Dungannon. He had spent large portions of his adult life outside of Ireland. For 15 years, he had languished in British prisons, after being convicted of attempting to place bombs in London, and also lived in the United States.

In November 1907, Clarke sold his farm in Manorville, Long Island, and returned to Ireland. He opened a tobacconist shop in Dublin's north inner city and immersed himself in IRB activities. His shop soon became a hub for nationalist activity and Clarke, with a single-minded focus, sought to encourage a younger generation to commit to militant republicanism.

Seán Mac Diarmada, who was 25 years Tom Clarke's junior, became his closest friend and most trusted lieutenant. Clarke was influential in Mac Diarmada's



**THOMAS  
MAC DONAGH**



**EAMONN  
CEANNT**



**JOSEPH  
PLUNKETT**

# band of brothers

appointment in 1908 as the IRB's national organiser and the latter toured the country on a bicycle building alliances and recruiting young radical nationalists. By 1912, control of the IRB was in the hands of Clarke and Mac Diarmada.

Operating on the old Fenian maxim of 'England's difficulty, Ireland's opportunity,' the pair saw World War One as a once-in-a-generation chance to secure a sovereign Irish Republic. At the very least, they believed that a rising would secure Irish representation at a post-war peace conference.

On 4 August 1914, the British prime minister, Herbert Asquith, declared war on Germany. This event gave impetus to Clarke and Mac Diarmada's objective of a separatist revolt. As respectively the secretary of the IRB Supreme Council and its treasurer, they brought all of their influence to bear to rapidly commit the small revolutionary organisation to a definite policy of insurrection.

Just over a month later, on 9 September 1914, as British and French troops engaged the German army in bloody hostilities on the banks of the Marne, the Supreme Council of the IRB in Rutland (now Parnell) Square adopted a hugely

significant resolution. This three-pronged resolution mandated the IRB to stage a rising if: Germany invaded Ireland; the British Government sought to impose conscription on Ireland; the war looked like coming to a conclusion without a rebellion already having taken place.

Trusting no-one but their closest allies, to advance plans for an insurrection, Clarke and Mac Diarmada established a highly secret military sub-committee (subsequently the Military Council) in May 1915 consisting of themselves and Pearse, Éamonn Ceannt and Joseph Mary Plunkett, who had a wide knowledge of military strategy. Senior IRB figures, such as Denis McCullough and Bulmer Hobson, were kept in the dark because Clarke and Mac Diarmada doubted their commitment to a rising.

As a tiny, secret oath-bound society, the IRB lacked the military manpower and capacity to mount a genuine rebellion. Clarke's policy of infiltration of

nationalist organisations had been pursued to surmount such difficulties. Unlike the IRB, the Irish Volunteers, which had been founded in 1913 to protect the Home Rule Bill then going through Westminster from the threat posed by Edward Carson's Ulster Volunteer Force, had a decent-sized armed militia at its disposal. Prior to the Rising, membership of the Irish Volunteers was estimated at approximately 15,000. From the formation

of the Volunteers, members of the IRB had sought to establish secret but effective control of the organisation by placing their own personnel in key positions of authority.

Seán Mac Diarmada had actually been a founder-member of the Irish Volunteers and other leading IRB planners, including Pearse, Plunkett and Eamon Ceannt, also held prominent positions on its executive. However, Eoin MacNeill, the Chief-of-Staff of the Volunteers, was not an IRB man and he was strongly

against any pre-emptive rising. MacNeill had grown increasingly close to Hobson, who held sincere convictions that the Volunteers should adopt only a defensive strategy.

In the months leading up to the planned date for the Rising, the IRB element in the Volunteers either worked around or willingly deceived MacNeill, Hobson and others, while making surreptitious preparations for a rebellion. This level of manipulation reached its zenith in the week prior to Easter 1916 when the IRB held Hobson under house-arrest and forged the so-called 'Castle Document' in an attempt to convince MacNeill that the British authorities were going to suppress the Volunteers and that he had nothing to lose in backing a revolt.

Tom Clarke spoke little Irish, but he instinctively understood that the Gaelic League was an influential mass-movement. A year out from the Rising, the League had an estimated 50,000 members nationwide, many of whom had advanced nationalist views. The IRB had for a number of years engaged in a steady infiltration of the organisation. At the League's ard-fhéis in July 1915,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>>**

“  
*The IRB element in the Volunteers either worked around or willingly deceived Eoin MacNeill, Bulmer Hobson and others, while making surreptitious preparations for a rebellion*

## The story of 1916's band of brothers

>>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the IRB moved to change its character from a non-political organisation to an avowedly separatist grouping. Clarke was the mastermind of an organisational *coup d'état*, which precipitated the resignation of the League's founder, Douglas Hyde, who wanted to keep the language movement free from politics. In essence, the IRB take-over of the Gaelic League was about further shaping the wider public's consciousness in support of Independence.

A large number of those who would ultimately taken up arms in 1916 had first travelled down the road of militant republicanism via their membership of the Gaelic League. Its strong Irish-Ireland ethos convinced many young men and women that there was a strong intellectual and political basis for a separatist state.

Pearse, who had originally been a strong supporter of Home Rule, wrote about the politically radicalising effect of the Gaelic League. In 1914, he noted "the Gaelic League will be recognised in history as the most revolutionary influence that has ever come into Ireland. The Irish Revolution really began when the seven proto-Gaelic Leaguers met in O'Connell St... The germ of all future Irish history was in that back room."

**T**HOMAS MACDONAGH, a close associate of Pearse, was co-opted onto the IRB Military Council in April 1916, just before the Rising. His political journey had begun in the early years of the 20th century when he attended a Gaelic League meeting with the intention of sneering at proceedings, but instead he experienced a Pauline conversion. Eamonn Ceannt, another signatory of the Proclamation, had joined the Gaelic League as far back as 1899. He was a talented Irish language teacher and an accomplished uilleann piper, who had once performed in private audience for Pope Pius X.

James Connolly was ambivalent about the Irish language. He once wrote: "You cannot teach starving men Gaelic." Connolly's immersion in Irish politics commenced as a trade union activist and he evolved into a radical socialist hardened by his experiences during the Lockout. Connolly had little sympathy with Pearse's notion of a blood sacrifice, but his decision to throw his revolutionary lot in with the IRB amounted to a recognition that the national question had to be resolved before socialism could take root.

At Connolly's insistence, the fusion of his own Irish Citizen Army with the IRB-controlled Irish Volunteers in Easter Week created a new entity known as the Irish Republic Army. This is the origin of the title that a number of organisations have claimed — or still claim — direct historical continuity with.

Despite his warm handshake with Pearse on the steps of the GPO, Connolly instinctively recognised that they were strange bedfellows. A week before the Rising, Connolly instructed his most trusted colleagues in the Citizen Army that "in the event of victory, hold on to your rifles, as those with whom we are fighting may stop before our goal is reached. We are out for economic as well as political liberty."

Connolly's brand of Hiberno-Marxism sat uncomfortably with the more socially conservative separatists and gaelic revivalists of the IRB and this was just one of the many complexities of Easter 1916.

*Dr Brian Murphy lectures at the Dublin Institute of Technology. He completed his PhD in Modern Irish History at UCD*



Michael Collins throws the ball in at a hurling match at Croke Park in 1921.

# The GAA and the Rising

The organisation claimed it played a major role, but the truth is more complex, writes **Paul Rouse**



XX. GETTY IMAGES



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

**Right: Dick Fitzgerald**



**\* Dick Fitzgerald was captain of the Kerry footballers who won the All-Ireland in 1913 and 1914 and played for the county from 1903 to 1923. He joined the Irish Volunteers in 1915 and after the Rising was arrested and detained in the Frongoch prison camp in Wales.**

**I**N the decades after 1916, the history of the Easter Rising was rewritten by men and women who wished to claim for themselves — or for the organisations they loved — a central part in the Rising.

In sporting terms, the great example of this is provided by the GAA. The Association — and its historians — claimed that, unique among Irish sporting organisations, the GAA had provided the great bulk of the men who fought in 1916.

Like all the best myths, this is rooted in a certain truth: in the aftermath of the Rising, the Official Commission of Inquiry was told by the Chief Secretary, Sir Matthew Nathan, and by the Chief Constable of the Royal Irish Constabulary that the GAA had been an instigating factor in the Rising.

This, in turn, led to the internment of numerous GAA members, including the Association's president, in the ill-conceived, ill-directed round-up undertaken by the British authorities in the months that followed the Rising.

But are claims of intimate GAA involvement in 1916 accurate?

The truth is, unsurprisingly, much more complex.

As William Murphy has written, GAA players were indeed more likely to have participated in the Easter Rising in Dublin than most other sectors of society. It appears that there were some 302 players from 53 clubs.

This total of 302 represents a little less than one-fifth of the estimated 1,500 to 1,800 rebels of Easter Week. There can be no denying that it represented a significant contribution.

Allowing for this, it is also the truth that in the immediate aftermath of the Rising the GAA behaved in a way that was entirely at odds with an organisation apparently in sympathy with rebellion.

For example, the response of the GAA was to flat-out deny any involvement in 1916. It issued a statement saying that all allegations 'that the Gaelic Athletic Association had been used in furtherance of the objectives of the Irish Volunteers are as untrue as they are unjust'.

Then, in the second half of 1916, the GAA sought to engage with the British authorities to safeguard the organisation's sporting operations.

The first episode concerned the attempts of the government to enforce an Entertainments tax on sporting and other recreational bodies throughout the United Kingdom. As the relevant bill was being moved through the House of Commons, an amendment was introduced exempting any organisation founded 'with the object of reviving national pastimes'.

This amendment was introduced specifically in response to GAA efforts, through John O'Connor MP, to avoid

payment of the tax.

While awaiting decision on whether it should be exempt or otherwise, the Central Council of the GAA took the initiative and sent a deputation to General Sir John Maxwell in an attempt to secure GAA exclusion from taxation and to arrange for the provision of special trains to GAA matches.

It speaks volumes for the priorities of the GAA that it should attend a meeting with Maxwell.

After all, it was Maxwell who had been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in Ireland during the Rising. Using extensive martial law powers, he had crushed the rebellion. In its immediate aftermath, he was the chief architect of

government policy and oversaw a series of courts martial leading to the imposition of death sentences on the leaders of the Rising.

Ultimately, the idea that it was the GAA alone that provided the foot-soldiers of the revolution was rejected by some of the leading figures of that revolution.

Ernie O'Malley later recalled there were those 'who belonged to the Gaelic League or who played Gaelic football and hurling ... [who were] very contemptuous of rugby and golf, and soccer. They spoke of the English with inherited contempt, attended public meetings in the streets, approved of physical force in talk, but made no attempt to join the Volunteers.'

More than that, there were also many more GAA men fighting in British army uniforms in France, than there were in the GPO.

Any rounded account of the GAA's involvement in 1916 must acknowledge this basic truth — and accommodate it in any meaningful history of the Easter Rising.

*Dr Paul Rouse is a lecturer in Irish History and Sports History at the School of History at University College Dublin (UCD)*

## The rebel sportsmen

Several of the Volunteers were active in other sports too...

### **EAMON DE VALERA**

An excellent rugby player, he won a trial with Munster as a centre.

**CATHAL BRUGHA** Opened the bowling for Pembroke cricket club, one

of the strongest in Leinster.

### **MICHAEL AND JOHN WALKER**

1912 Olympic Games cyclists, they acted as couriers in the Rising.

### **OSCAR TRAYNOR**

Star goalkeeper with Belfast Celtic, was president of the FAI in 1948.



**Eamon de Valera won a rugby trial with Munster**

SEÁN MAC DIARMADA

# Inspiring the next generation



**Donal Fallon** on the boy from Leitrim who was happy that his martyrdom would reinvigorate a sleeping nation

**S**EÁN MURPHY, an active member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood who participated in the Easter Rising, recalled speaking to a dejected Seán Mac Diarmada while a prisoner in Richmond Barracks. Murphy was taken aback by Mac Diarmada's words that "the cause is lost if some of us are not shot". Murphy told him that "surely to God you do not mean that, Seán. Aren't things bad enough?" To this, Mac Diarmada replied that: "They are so bad that if what I say does not come true they will be very much worse." The martyrdom did come, and the cause wasn't lost. Mac Diarmada was shot by firing squad on 12 May 1916.

Seán Mac Diarmada was born John McDermott in January 1883, the eighth child of carpenter Donald McDermott and his wife Mary. An obituary published in 1913 at the time of his father's passing in the radical newspaper *Irish Freedom* claimed that Donald was not only a veteran of the Land League, but that he "was one of Ireland's true sons and one of those men who, guided by high principles and an ardent love of his country, took his place in the ranks of the IRB."

Brian Feeney, Mac Diarmada's biographer, has noted that while tantalising, "there is nothing else to indicate that the McDermott family was involved in agrarian politics or could have set an example that John McDermott followed."

While he was born in the west of Ireland, at Corranmore, near to Kiltyclogher in Leitrim, his political education came primarily from time spent in the province of Ulster. Following a brief period working in Edinburgh as a young man, Mac Diarmada received an education in Tullynamoyle, Cavan from October 1904 to March 1905, studying the Irish language and book-keeping under the guidance of Patrick McGauran, who kept a night school there.

In his recollections of the young Mac Diarmada, McGauran remembered that he was "anything but a book-worm", but that he did keep a greyhound named Kruger, a nod towards the Boer President Paul Kruger.

Mac Diarmada arrived in Belfast in 1905, a not uncommon journey for a young man



**Donal Fallon.** DAMIEN EAGERS

from the west of Ireland. Many travelled to the northern city seeking employment, often following family. In Mac Diarmada's case, he was following in the footsteps of his brother Dan, who was working in McGlade's bar in North Street.

Yet Belfast's draw also lay in the fact it was a thriving industrial city, the beating economic heart of the island. Despite this, as Kyle Hughes has noted, it was a city firmly divided on sectarian lines, as "Belfast Catholics were significantly under-represented in all of the heavy-engineering trades where a combination of sectarianism and a restrictive apprenticeship system

precluded Catholics from the most prestigious shipyard trades."

Work for Mac Diarmada came in the form of tram conductor, a position he took up in November 1905, though by July of the following year he had lost the position, as a result of "smoking on the platform of his tram". Yet if the lure of Belfast was employment for many men, for Mac Diarmada it seems the political life of the city was more intriguing.

He actively involved himself in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a Catholic fraternal organisation which was closely aligned to the Irish Parliamentary Party in the city, yet quickly moved towards more radical separatist politics, joining a Dungannon Club in 1905. On paper a cultural nationalist society, the clubs have been described as an "open front" for the Irish Republican Brotherhood. Indeed, the two central figures behind the clubs, Bulmer Hobson and Denis McCullough, were the driving forces behind the IRB in Belfast. Hobson remembered that "about the end of 1906 I started a small fund, mostly subscribed to by men who could only afford a few pence per week, and made McDermott the whole-time organiser for the Dungannon Club. He established a number of Clubs in various parts of Ulster."

The Dungannon Clubs introduced Mac Diarmada to the politics of the IRB, an organisation into which he was sworn in 1906. He rapidly rose through the ranks of the secretive body, benefiting from the overhaul Hobson and McCullough were embarking upon. He was co-opted onto the Supreme Council of the IRB in 1908, and appointed national organiser.

Given his ascent in the IRB, and the trust both Hobson and McCullough had in him, it is not surprising he was appointed manager of the newspaper *Irish Freedom* in 1910. Based in Dublin, he became particularly close to Thomas Clarke, the veteran Fenian who had been imprisoned for his involvement in the dynamite campaign of the 1880s.

*Irish Freedom* sought to advance and promote the political aspirations of the IRB. The first issue of the paper laid out its



ideology plain and simple for readers: "The Irish attitude to England is war yesterday, war today, war tomorrow. Peace after the final battle." It was not a voice of moderation or reformism; on the eve of a Royal Visit in 1911, Mac Diarmada argued that "Ireland wants no concession from England. We want what is ours; that is our country, and by the Lord we mean to have it, come what may."

Beyond politics, Mac Diarmada battled with poliomyelitis, which struck him down in the autumn of 1911, and which left him reliant on a walking stick, an obstacle for a man who prided himself on his abilities as a national organiser. He was present at the establishment of the Irish Volunteers in the Rotunda Rink in November 1913, and spoke on that occasion.

Hobson remembered that, "In addition to the 4,000 people inside the hall a crowd of about 3,000 were unable to gain admission. The path from Cavendish Row down to the entrance of the hall was a steep slope and we were much afraid that the pressure of people would smash in the doors which had been closed."

Mac Diarmada, along with others such as Hobson and Clarke, believed that the Volunteer movement could be controlled by the IRB. Indeed, Liam Walsh, a member of the Volunteers, remembered Mac Diarmada telling him that "if it came to a showdown, the backbone of the fighters would come from the IRB." When the movement split

**SNAPSHOT**

**SEÁN MAC DIARMADA**

**Born:** 27 January 1883, Kiltyclogher, Co Leitrim

**Educated:** Corracloona NS; Tullinamoyle night school, Co Cavan

**Affiliation:** IRB/Irish Volunteers

**Career:** Newspaper manager, activist

**Died:** 12 May 1916, Kilmainham Jail





Richard Mulcahy and Min Ryan, Mac Diarmada's former partner.

# Min Ryan, the woman who 'would have been my wife'

SEAN MAC DIARMADA'S last letter to his brothers and sisters contains a poignant aside. He tells them that if he has any more messages for them, he will convey them through "Miss Ryan, she who in all probability, had I lived, would have been my wife."

Mary Josephine (Min) Ryan was from a prosperous family who farmed at Tomcoole, near Taghmon, Co Wexford. A founder member of Cumann na mBan, she and several of her 11 brothers and sisters were active in the Rising and the conflicts that followed.

During the Rising Min and Phyllis acted as couriers to the GPO garrison.

In July 1916 Min Ryan wrote about her last visit to the man with whom she had been romantically involved for less than a year.

It was reproduced in *Erin's Tragic Easter: the Irish Rebellion of 1916 and its Martyrs*, edited by Maurice Joy:

"The last time I saw Seán McDermott was in a prison cell at Kilmainham Jail at 3 o'clock on the morning of May 12th. He was shot at 3.45 the same morning..."

"The cell was small, black and white were the colours... As he came to the door with both hands extended to welcome us, with a smile on his face that seemed to transcend this brutal place, one felt fortitude and confidence in oneself once more and a strong desire to show no surprise at this unusual scene.

"We sat on the plank bed beside Seán. We discussed many of the events of the revolution. He told us of what had happened to them after

they had been burnt out of the Post Office, the insults hurled at them by the most 'civilised' of armies when they had laid down their arms...

"He preferred to talk of all sorts of casual matters, asking about different people we knew, referring to various happy events of the past and enjoying little jokes and jests almost as naturally as if we had been in Bewley's."

Mac Diarmada cut buttons from his jacket and scratched his name upon them and some coins to pass on to friends as keepsakes.

"As one looked at his beautiful head bent over his work in the dim candlelight, one could scarcely keep one's feelings from surging over at the thought that beautiful head would be battered by four bullets..."

"At 3 o'clock, on the arrival of the Prison Chaplain, we bade farewell to Seán and left him to spend his last three-quarters of an hour in prayer and in preparation for a more lovely world."

In 1919 Min married Richard Mulcahy, who took command of the pro-Treaty forces in the Civil War after the killing of Michael Collins. He was leader of Fine Gael 1944-48.

Her elder sister Kit — a lecturer in French at UCD — married another 1916 veteran and future President of Ireland, Seán T O'Kelly who, after her death in 1934, wed her sister, Phyllis. Yet another, Agnes, married Denis McCullough, President of the IRB. Their brother, James was a minister for almost 30 years.

Min Ryan died, aged 92, in 1977.

Gerard Siggins

in 1914 in the aftermath of John Redmond encouraging Irishmen to enlist in the British war effort, Mac Diarmada's rhetoric in *Irish Freedom* only became more hard-line.

He was central to the organising of a meeting in the Gaelic League library at Parnell Square in September 1914, where a decision to mount a rebellion during the war was reached. To Seán T. O'Kelly, one of those present in the room and later President of Ireland, this meeting had brought together "all shades of advanced nationalist political thought in Ireland".

Despite secretly discussing the prospect of insurrection, Mac Diarmada remained a public voice, and he was imprisoned under the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) in May 1915 following a passionate speech in Tuam, Galway, which encouraged Irishmen to seize upon England's difficulty as Ireland's opportunity. Upon his release from prison, he became a part of the secretive Military Council that set about turning the Rising into a reality.

On Easter Monday 1916, Mac Diarmada, now heavily dependent upon his stick, was unable to take part in the combined march of Volunteer and Citizen Army forces from Liberty Hall to the GPO. Limping, he travelled ahead by car and waited with Tom Clarke on the men to arrive. By Friday, when the roof of the GPO was ablaze, Liam Tannam remembered that: "I heard Tom Clarke declare that he would never leave the

GPO alive." According to Tannam, Clarke was adamant that he would stay, and even "go down with the building". It was Mac Diarmada who convinced him to leave.

In the chaos of the evacuation of the GPO, as the rebels attempted to enter a row of houses on Moore Street, Mac Diarmada was present at a moment of great tragedy. Unable to open a locked door, a Volunteer burst a lock by firing upon it.

When the door opened, a child lay dead on the other side. Joe Good, a member of the GPO garrison, recalled Mac Diarmada limping into the house demanding to know who had fired the shot, but that "the woman of the house herself was insisting that it was an accident and the Volunteers were not to be blamed". This incident brought home the suffering of the civilian population to Mac Diarmada, Pearse and other leaders present.

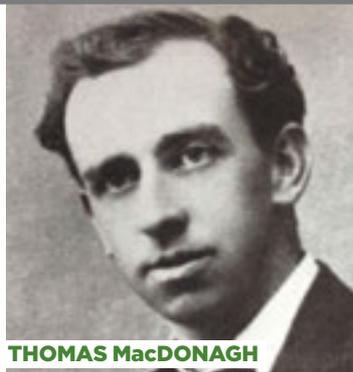
Did Mac Diarmada believe that the Easter Rising could succeed? From reading his departing letters, it seems he believed that the achievement of the Rising would be in its inspiring another generation to fight. Writing to the veteran Fenian John Daly, he outlined his belief that "our blood will rebaptise and reinvigorate the old land. Knowing this it is superfluous to say how happy I feel."

*Donal Fallon is an author and historian, currently researching republican commemoration and memory at UCD School of History*

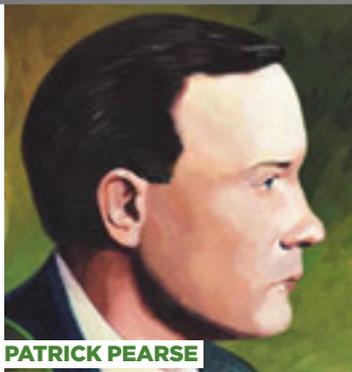
**Above: Tour guide Paul Gibson with pupils from Kiltyclogher National School, visiting the birth place of Seán Mac Diarmada in Kiltyclogher, Co Leitrim.**

PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES CONNOLLY

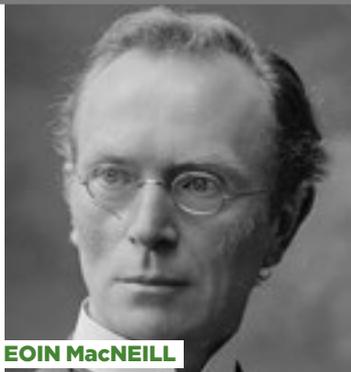
**Opposite page, inset top: A portrait of Mac Diarmada by Irish artist Brian O'Neill.**



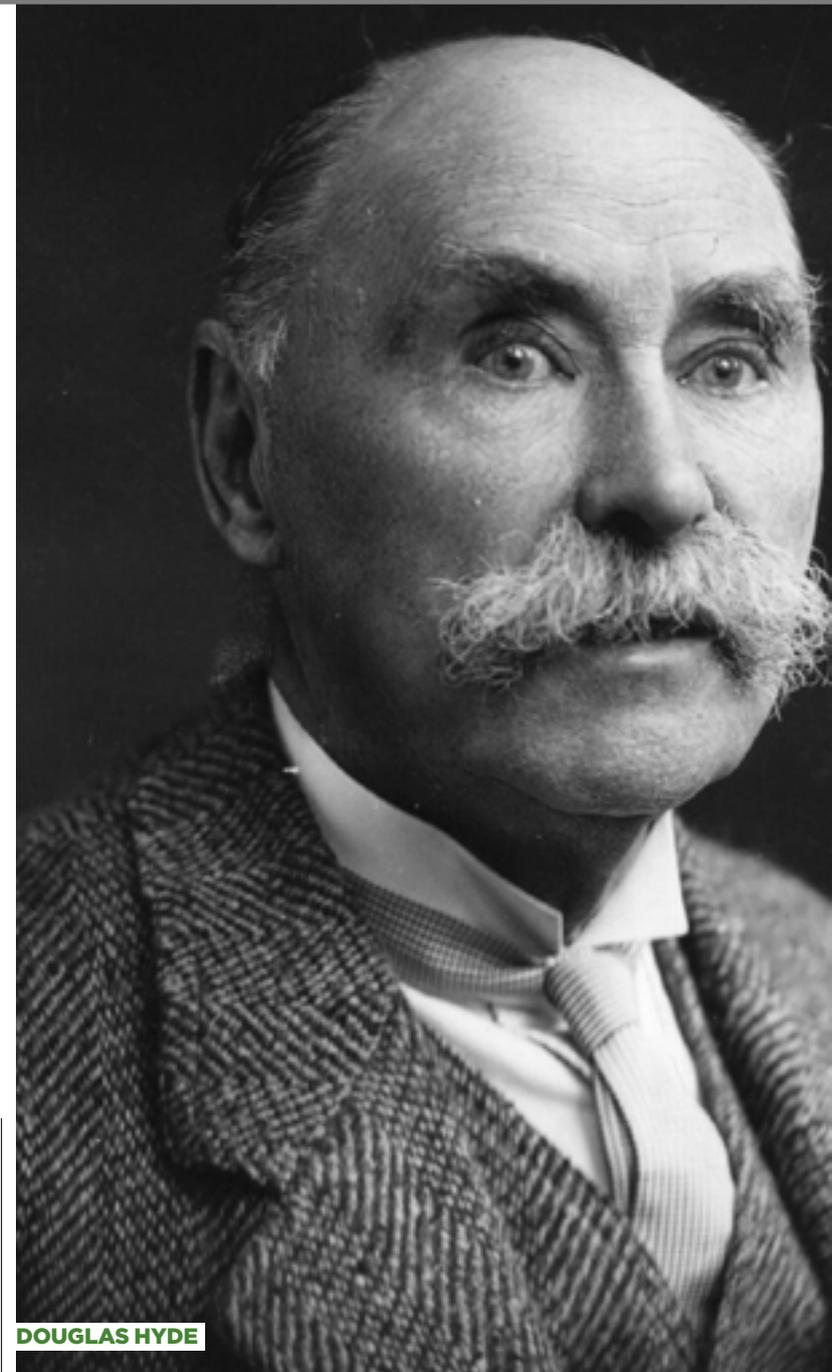
THOMAS MacDONAGH



PATRICK PEARSE



EOIN MacNEILL



DOUGLAS HYDE

# A League of extraordinary gentlemen

Gaelic League was breeding ground for rebels, writes **Richard McElligott**



**R**ELECTING on the rebellion that had given him his first taste of military action, Michael Collins lamented that the Easter Rising was hardly the “appropriate time for memoranda couched in poetic phrases, or actions worked out in similar fashion”. This assessment encapsulates the generational gulf between the romantic idealism of the revolutionaries of 1916 and the military efficiency of those who would successfully lead the Irish independence struggle five years later.

But perhaps the idealism of the rebels of 1916 is understandable. The Rising was precipitated by a generation who had come of age amidst the heady optimism of Ireland’s Gaelic Revival — a moment when the possibilities for fundamentally reshaping Irish political, social and cultural makeup seemed endless.

Realising that the myriad of cultural organisations emerging across Ireland could provide a valuable stream of potential recruits, a newly reenergised IRB began to systematically infiltrate them in the years after 1900. Thus participation and membership in these societies helped bring Irish men and women into contact with the revolutionary republican tradition. Little wonder that many would experience what one veteran of 1916, Padraig O’Kelly, described as “a kind of natural graduation” from cultural nationalism to republican violence.

Foremost among these new cultural associations was the Gaelic League.

The Gaelic League was undoubtedly the formative nationalist organisation in the development of the revolutionary elite of 1916.

With the rapid decline of native Irish speakers in the aftermath of the Famine, many sensed the damage would be irreversible unless it was halted immediately. In November 1892, the Gaelic scholar Douglas Hyde delivered a speech entitled ‘The Necessity for de-Anglicising Ireland’. Hyde pleaded with his fellow countrymen to turn away from the encroaching dominance of English culture before they lost forever their sense of a separate nationality.

He observed how “Irish sentiment sticks in this half-way house — how it continues to apparently hate the English, and at the same time continues to imitate them”. Hyde’s remedy was to rediscover as much as possible from Ireland’s past — its language, its customs, its traditions. Hyde’s speech offered the blueprint for the emerging cultural nationalism that the likes of Arthur Griffith’s Sinn Féin would subsequently develop into political theory.

In July 1893, Hyde and Eoin MacNeill launched the Gaelic League, a society which aimed to preserve and revive the Irish language. More than this, the Gaelic League aimed to reconstruct a populist rural Gaelic civilisation. In the process they hoped to recover Ireland’s perceived Gaelic golden-age.

The Gaelic League quickly turned into a powerful mass movement. By revitalising the Irish language, the League also began to inspire a deep sense of pride in Irish culture, heritage and identity. Its wide and energetic programme of meetings, dances and festivals injected a new life and colour into the often depressing monotony of provincial Ireland.

Another significant factor for its popularity was its cross-gender appeal. The League actively encouraged female participation and one of its attractions lay in the opportunities it provided for romantic and sexual contact. The League also developed close ties with the GAA and both would become the supporting pillars of the Gaelic Revival. In particular, the League was instrumental in the early development of camogie and women’s formal

A cartoon of Douglas Hyde in *An Claidheamh Soluis*



participation in Gaelic games. Within 15 years the League had 671 registered branches.

Hyde had insisted that the Gaelic League should be strictly apolitical. But he never fully accepted the radical political implications of his warning that Ireland needed to be de-Anglicised. Many others would. The League would soon provide a valuable breeding ground for revolutionary republicanism. In the decade before the Rising, British intelligence reports repeatedly noted that the Gaelic League had come under the influence of men “of extreme views”.

It was Patrick Pearse who would personify the direct link between cultural and physical force nationalism. Having joined the Gaelic League as a 17-year-old in 1896, within two years Pearse had been co-opted onto the League’s Ruling Executive Committee. In 1903 he succeeded MacNeill as the editor of the society’s newspaper, *An Claidheamh Soluis*.

For Pearse, the language was seen as the essence of Ireland’s separate national identity. He warned that if the Irish allowed their language to die, they “would go down to their graves with the knowledge that their children and their children’s children

cursed their memory”. Pearse was prominent in the League’s successful campaign to get Irish included as a compulsory subject in the national school system.

For IRB men like Thomas Clarke and Seán Mac Diarmada, the League represented the perfect platform to help spread their republican doctrine. Both became enthusiastic members of the organisation, using it as conduit to recruit its more radical members into the IRB.

It was through their shared membership of the Gaelic League in Dublin that Mac Diarmada indoctrinated Pearse and Éamon Ceannt into the Brotherhood. Meanwhile Thomas MacDonagh wrote of how his first Gaelic League meeting became his “baptism in nationalism”. Through him, his close friend Joseph Plunkett also joined.

In the two years before the Great War, the Gaelic League became increasingly associated with the militant developments within Irish nationalism. In particular, Eoin MacNeill was warming to the political expediency of physical force. In response to the emergence of the Ulster Volunteers, MacNeill used the pages of *An Claidheamh Soluis* to publish his celebrated article, ‘The North Began’ in

## IRELAND IN 1916

## Ireland reliant on shipping and stout for employment

H&W and Guinness dominated, writes **Fergus Cassidy**

Brecht 2.21

I think I should next deal with an important meeting which was called at the suggestion of some members of the I.R.B. Supreme Council. I was consulted by Clarke and Mac Dermott as to whether it would be convenient for me to allow an important meeting, which was proposed should be held to consider the new situation created by the war in Europe, to take place in my office at 25 Parnell Square. They explained that they wanted a meeting of representatives of the different National bodies whom they regarded as anti-war, and they wished this to take place as secretly as possible, and they thought that the Library of the Gaelic League which I used as an office would be a suitable place if I consented to have it held there. I agreed, and they asked me at once if I would consent to attend the meeting. I asked what the purpose of the meeting was and they said to try to get the heads, or at any rate the influential leaders amongst their sections, of progressive National organisations together to consider what actions could jointly be taken by them in view of the outbreak of the European War. From my conversation with these two members of the Supreme Council of the I.R.B. I gathered that it was their intention to try to organise the progressive - or as others might call it, the extreme Nationalist - element to work together to promote certain activities that they had in mind towards achieving independence while the war continued.

As a result, I consented to the meeting being held in the Library of the Gaelic League and I agreed to attend the meeting. I was told then that a number of important men in the Volunteers would be invited to attend and that others to be asked would be important people in the I.R.B. and in Sinn Féin. I personally had nothing to do with the organising of the meeting. I do not know who issued the invitations to the various people who afterwards did attend the meeting, but I presume they were informally invited by Seán MacDermott acting

**Extract from statement to the Bureau of Military History by Seán T Ó Kelly, President of Ireland 1945-1959, who facilitated the September 1914 meeting in the offices of the Gaelic League in Parnell (then Rutland) Square in September 1914.**  
Credit: Irish Military Archives.

**I**N the 30 years up to the outbreak of the First World War, world trade grew by 40pc. Economies were growing fast, driven by huge changes in railroads, refrigeration and steamships.

By 1913, European countries accounted for 80pc of world trade. Forty years earlier, Britain was the sole economic superpower, accounting for almost one-third of global manufacturing output.

Even though competition, especially from Germany, France and USA, saw its share of world trade beginning to erode in the early 1900s, it remained an economic giant. Industrial expansion, along with population growth, meant that in 1913 Britain accounted for 17pc of all global imports and remained the largest shipbuilder in the world.

The Irish economy was small compared with Britain, with a Gross Domestic Product of around 6pc of the British total. Agriculture was the mainstay, with output twice that of industrial manufacture. In 1911, 846,000 people worked in agriculture and food, and 401,000 in industry, with most of that output based in the north-eastern part of the island, and Dublin. Shipping, linen, food, drink, brewing and distilling were the products of industry.

Outside Dublin, manufacturing was directed at the home market, in areas such as railway engineering, construction, printing and flour milling. From around 1850 small, craft-based manufacture lost out, as observed by Tom Kelly walking around the Francis Street area of Dublin in 1909: "Today they are nearly all gone... Boot-making, brogue-making, clay pipe-making, tobacco and snuff manufacture, the making of hair cloth and curled hair, tabinet [a type of silk] and poplin weaving, hosiery and sock weaving, velvet making, nail-making, soap-boiling, whip-making..."

"I looked through last year's Directory to see what it had to tell, and this is what I found: In Francis Street 60 of the houses are marked tenements and 14



**Harland & Wolff employed almost 9,500 people between 1907 and 1912, when the Titanic was completed.** GETTY IMAGES

ruins. In the Directories of 60 and 50 years ago, industries predominated in this area — today it is tenements."

Mechanisation accounts for some of the decline but globalisation was also a significant factor. Faster transport enabled products like American and Canadian grain, Argentine beef, Australian mutton, and New Zealand butter to be sold abroad.

In 1907 Belfast was Ireland's major industrial city accounting for two-thirds of exports. Its population grew from 100,000 in 1851 to 400,000 in 1914.

Founded in 1861, the Harland and Wolff shipyard — the largest in the world — employed almost 9,500 people between 1907 and 1912, when the Titanic was completed. The linen industry was also mainly northern-based. From the late 1700s to 1914 it was Ireland's premier industry and primary industrial export. In 1907, it employed 71,761. Food production included bacon-

curing, grain-milling and biscuits. There were about six biscuit factories in the country, where up to 9,500 people were employed. Jacob's in Dublin was by far the largest, employing more than 3,000 in 1907.

The output from brewing trebled between the 1850s and 1914, of which about 40% went abroad. Guinness was the largest brewery in the world by 1914 and accounted for about two-thirds of all Irish output. The combined output of Cork-based Murphy's, and Beamish and Crawford, was only one-eighth of Guinness. More than 20 other breweries supplied mainly to local markets.

In October 1915, a newspaper article headlined: 'A New Industry for Dublin', announced "a new and important industry for Dublin. Messrs Pigott and Co, of Grafton street... have informed the Gaelic League that their firm is about to establish a piano-making industry in Dublin. The war has stopped the importation of pianos from Germany."

which he argued that Irish nationalists needed to similarly arm to protect their right to secure Home Rule for Ireland.

Once the Irish Volunteers were established, local Gaelic League branches were instrumental in spreading the movement. In September 1914, Republicans chose the League's library at 25 Parnell Square, Dublin, as the venue for their conference which agreed that the Great War offered an opportunity to mount a rebellion against British rule.

Throughout 1915, Pearse and the IRB's Military Council were also able to use the nexus of control and influence that the Brotherhood enjoyed among nationalist organisations such as the Gaelic League and the GAA to plan their insurrection.

Furthermore by 1915, members of a radical group of Irish language activists with strong IRB connections, known as 'The Left Wing', had staged a coup among the Gaelic League's leadership. The group which included O'Rahilly, Ceannt and Thomas Ashe managed to take effective control over the League's ruling Executive Board.

At its Ard Fheis in August 1915, they passed a resolution declaring: "The Gaelic League... shall devote itself to realising the

ideal of a Gaelic-speaking and free Irish nation, free from all subjection to foreign influences." This radical pledge of support for Irish sovereignty marked a definite break with the non-political policy of the League's founder Douglas Hyde who subsequently stepped down as president, being succeeded by Eoin MacNeill.

Dozens of Gaelic League activists were among the 1,500 rebels who marched into history on Easter Monday. In the aftermath of the rebellion, the British authorities were quick to identify the League as one of four "anti-British bodies" which had supplied the rebel's entire leadership.

Under the terms of Martial Law, which was declared across Ireland in the aftermath of the Rising, the League was officially suppressed for several weeks. Yet by then its contribution to the revolutionary generation had clearly been made.

*Dr Richard McElligott lectures in Modern Irish History in UCD. He is the co-ordinator of the Uncovering 1916 and the Irish War of Independence courses which are being hosted by the National Library of Ireland in the spring of 2016*

**MONEY TALK: POUNDS, SHILLINGS, FARTHINGS AND HALF-CROWNS...**

**THE** Irish pound was abolished in 1826 and replaced with sterling (symbolised by £.s.d, pounds, shillings, pence). The £ derived from the first letter of libra, the Latin for pound weight, as 240 coins could be minted from a pound of silver. The s. and d. also have Latin origins — s from solidus, and d from denarius, both Roman coins.

One pound was divided into

20 shillings, and each shilling into 12 pence, making 240 pence to the pound. Coins in circulation were: farthing (quarter penny); halfpenny; penny; threepence, sixpence, shilling, florin (two shillings), half-crown (2s 6d) and ten shillings.

They were written as a mixed sum, such as 3s.6d, or 3/6 (three shillings and six pence), and spoken as "three

and six". In slang, a pound was called a quid, a shilling was called a bob, thrupence or thrupenny bit (3d), and a tanner (6d).

The Free State government tasked a committee, headed by WB Yeats, to design new coins which featured animals, such as a hare (3d), wolfhound (6d) and horse (half-crown), and were introduced in 1928.

# Daly's eyes 'filled with tears' at the order to surrender

Emma Lyons profiles Edward Daly, who was the commander of 1st Battalion during the Rising

‘AS the body of Ned Daly went limp in death in the high-walled yard of Kilmainham his execution enshrined his name in Irish history.’ So recalled Piaras Béaslaí, vice-commandant of 1st Battalion, after his comrade Daly was executed on 4 May 1916. Although not a signatory of the Proclamation, Edward ‘Ned’ Daly was Commandant of 1st Battalion stationed at the Four Courts during the Rising. At 25, he was the youngest person to be executed for his role in the Rising.

The only son and youngest of 10 children, Ned was born in Limerick to Catherine (née O’Mara) and Edward Daly. His father, who died five months before his son’s birth, was a Fenian, having taken part in the 1867 rebellion along with his brother, John, who was imprisoned.

Ned was educated by the Presentation Sisters, the Christian Brothers, and at Leamy’s commercial college. Following a brief period as a baker’s apprentice in Glasgow, he returned to Limerick and was employed as a clerk in Spaight’s timber yard. In 1912 Ned moved to Dublin, working in a builders’ providers and a wholesale chemists, May Roberts and Company. He lived in Fairview with his sister, Kathleen, and her husband, Tom Clarke, who had been imprisoned with their uncle.

Daly was one of the first to join the Irish Volunteers. Kathleen wrote that she “never saw a happier young man than he was the night he joined. He told me it was what he had always been wishing for”. Ned, who had an avid interest in military tactics, initially joined the Volunteers as a private in B Company, 1st Battalion. By early 1914 he was captain of B Company, and his promotion to Commandant of 1st Battalion by Patrick Pearse in March 1915 was almost certainly a result of his impressive actions during the Howth Gun-running.

On Easter Monday, Daly was charged with occupying the area from the Four Courts to Cabra. However, when he mobilised 1st Battalion shortly before noon, Ned was disappointed that only 150 of the expected 400 men presented. The Battalion’s full plans could not be achieved. Nonetheless, it held a strategic position on the Liffey. Buildings on Church Street and North King Street, along with the Four Courts, were occupied, meaning that fighting spread out to residential streets.

Ned’s men therefore manned barricades

**SNAPSHOT**

**EDWARD ‘NED’ DALY**

**Born:** 28 February 1891, Limerick

**Educated:** Sexton St convent, CBS Roxboro Rd, Leamy’s Commercial College.

**Affiliation:** IRB/Irish Volunteers

**Career:** Worked in wholesale chemist’s

**Died:** 4 May 1916, Kilmainham Jail



Edward ‘Ned’ Daly was the youngest of those executed after the 1916 Rising.

at strategic intersections, escorting civilians to the shops and bakery which remained open. However, by April 27 the South Staffordshires and Sherwood Foresters battalions had surrounded the district, and were supported from one of the few armoured cars available in Dublin.

Ned’s 1st Battalion resisted defeat and the British forces were unable to advance more than 150 yards between the morning of April 28 and 2pm on April 29, when he received Pearse’s order to surrender.

According to Piaras Béaslaí, Ned’s “eyes filled with tears” when he saw the order. Notwithstanding his disappointment, Ned suppressed suggestions Pearse’s orders be disobeyed.

“He impressed the British officers with his dignity. They permitted him to march at the head of his men as they brought us through the empty streets (where the few people we saw were those who cursed us) to where the other bodies of prisoners were assembled... And when the British General asked one of his own officers: ‘Who is in charge of these men?’, Daly proudly answered: ‘I am. At all events I was’, a remark which, he must have known, would sign his death-warrant.”

Ned was arrested and court-martialled. Despite pleading innocent, he was found guilty. Following a visit from three of his sisters, Ned was executed on 4 May 1916, having, in the words of Tom Clarke, “proved himself a fine soldier and hero”.

*Dr Emma Lyons’ (UCD School of History) research focuses on the experience of Irishwomen during World War I and Catholic landownership and education in 17th and 18th-century Ireland*



# Unearthing

Biographer Helen Litton only found out by chance

THE biographer Helen Litton comes from a family that is steeped in the history of 1916, and the tumultuous events that followed.

Her grandfather James O’Sullivan fought with 1st Battalion in the Rising, and was there until its final moments when the rebels surrendered on Moore Street.

James later married Laura Daly, a member of a well-known nationalist family from Limerick.

She was a sister of the 1st Battalion commandant Ned Daly, who was renowned for his military prowess during the Easter Rising as his volunteers held crown forces at bay for days on the northside of the Liffey.

Ned was James O’Sullivan’s best friend. Another Daly sister, Kathleen, married Tom Clarke, the Fenian veteran who was the first man to sign the Proclamation.

One of the most prominent of the 1916 widows, Kathleen Clarke, went on to become a TD and Lord Mayor of Dublin.

Helen Litton has been involved in the campaign to save the buildings on Moore Street where some of the most dramatic events of the Rising unfolded.

She believes that not enough has been done to recognise the contribution of Clarke, seen by some as the central figure in the Rising.

“There should be some memorial to Tom Clarke in the capital. One of the Ballymun flats was named after him, but that has since been demolished.”

She also believes more should be done to commemorate both Kathleen Clarke and Ned Daly.

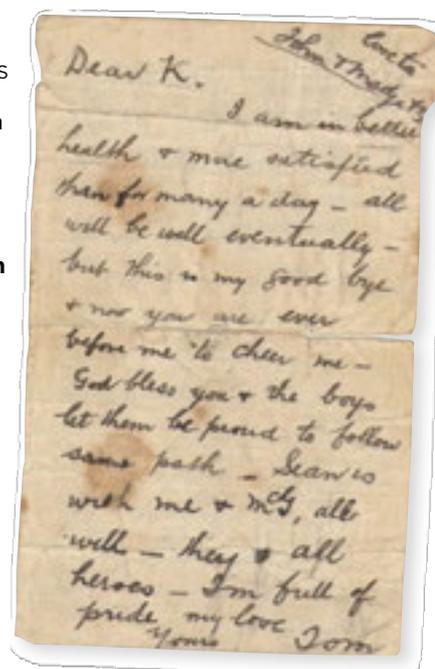
“The railway station in Bray is named after Ned Daly, but he had no connection with the town.”

Helen says she grew up in a household where the events of 1916, the War of



Left: biographer Helen Litton. STEVE HUMPHREYS

Above: Kathleen Clarke, Tom's widow, in mourning clothes, with her sons John Daly Clarke, Tom Clarke Jnr and Emmet Clarke. Right: the letter Tom (inset below) wrote to Kathleen on the eve of his execution. 'I'm full of pride, my love,' he wrote.



## 'The Wayfarer'

By Patrick Pearse

The beauty of the world hath made me sad,  
 This beauty that will pass;  
 Sometimes my heart hath shaken with great joy  
 To see a leaping squirrel in a tree,  
 Or a red lady-bird upon a stalk,  
 Or little rabbits in a field at evening,  
 Lit by a slanting sun,  
 Or some green hill where shadows drifted by  
 Some quiet hill where mountainy man hath sown  
 And soon would reap; near to the gate of Heaven;  
 Or children with bare feet upon the sands  
 Of some ebb'd sea, or playing on the streets  
 Of little towns in Connacht,  
 Things young and happy.  
 And then my heart hath told me:  
 These will pass,  
 Will pass and change, will die and be no more,  
 Things bright and green, things young and happy;  
 And I have gone upon my way  
 Sorrowful.

### AN ASSESSMENT DR LUCY COLLINS

'The Wayfarer' reflects on the fleeting beauty of life's journey at a moment of decisive personal and political change. Alternating rhythms capture its shifting moods of sorrow and joy.

Yet, as its style and language suggest, this is a nostalgic work — here, a timeless ideal is a greater source of imaginative power than the immediacy of lived experience.

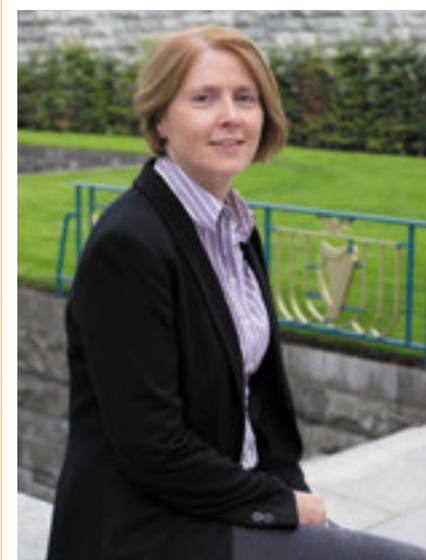
The 'green' and 'quiet' hill evokes perfect peace, but also reveals the passage of time through seasonal patterns of planting and harvesting.

The biblical resonance of the scene is reinforced by the image of the gates of heaven, which open the poem to a space of redemption often invoked by the poets of 1916.

This poem's air of melancholy does not derive directly from political events, however, but from the life that is slipping from the speaker's grasp.

Written shortly before Pearse's execution, it shows the poet seeking to come to terms with his impending death.

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



# ing Fenian roots

ance about her family's strong links to 1916, writes **Kim Bielenberg**

Independence and the Civil War were not talked about.

"We wouldn't have discussed it in the home. My mother is a pacifist, and she had no time for republicanism. She is the sort of person who switched off the television when Gerry Adams came on."

It was when Helen went on holiday to Limerick to stay with her grandparents that she learned more about her Fenian roots and the strong links with 1916.

Her great-grandfather Edward was a Fenian who was jailed for his role in a rebellion in 1867. He had nine daughters and one son, Ned, but died young.

When Edward died, his brother, a much more prominent Fenian, John Daly, became the father figure of the household and ran



a bakery, which became a focus for republican activity in Limerick.

John Daly and his nephew Ned did not get on, however, and the younger man eventually moved to work and live Dublin. Helen says: "It is said in the family that no two Daly men could ever live in the same house happily."

"John Daly felt his nephew Ned grew up spoiled rotten, surrounded by women. Ned was not John's idea of a man — he was very interested in his appearance and he loved to sing in a beautiful baritone voice.

"Ned's ultimate ambition was to be a soldier — but he did not know where to go with it, because he could not join the British Army. He studied military manuals."

Ned Daly's ambition was fulfilled

when he joined the Volunteers, and he rapidly rose up the ranks to become Commandant.

"He was respected as a commander during the Rising, because he was a good tactician. He altered his plans according to the circumstances, and pulled back where necessary."

Helen describes how Kathleen Clarke faced an unimaginable ordeal after the surrender, when both her husband Tom and her brother Ned were sentenced to death.

"On the eve of Tom Clarke's execution, she visited him in Kilmainham Jail, and then on the following day she also visited her brother before he faced a firing squad."

Helen Litton has written biographies of both Daly and Clarke. She also edited Kathleen Clarke's memoir, 'Revolutionary Woman'

**BULMER HOBSON**

# Hobson's *choice*

Kidnapped on the eve of the Rising to prevent him interfering with it, he has been written out of its history, writes **Shane Browne**



**T**HE kidnapping of Bulmer Hobson is a remarkable but largely forgotten tale of the Easter Rising. The ambitious Hobson, born in Belfast in 1883, had been a rising star in the Irish Republican Brotherhood but with the establishment of the Irish Volunteers in 1913, his estrangement from the radical and separatist element within the movement had widened, in particular his relationship with Thomas Clarke and Seán Mac Diarmada.

Hobson saw the Irish Volunteers as purely a defensive force, but the radical separatists were of a different ilk, believing it should become “an instrument for insurrection”.

Historian Charles Townshend has described Hobson as an “unusual kind of ‘physical-force man’, but a dedicated revolutionary for all that”. His 1909 pamphlet, *Defensive Warfare: A Handbook for Irish Nationalists* is significant, because it was here he firmly asserted, “We must not fight to make a display of heroism, but fight to win.”

His disillusionment with the 1916 insurrection was not the repudiation of force, but “the futile use of arms”. As a result, Hobson was not privy to the final arrangements for the Rising.

However, it seems that a speech at a Cumann na mBan concert on 16 April was the catalyst that marked him down for arrest by his IRB colleagues. Here Hobson unabashedly warned “of the extreme danger of being drawn in to precipitate action”, proclaiming that “no man had a right to risk the fortunes of a country in order to create for himself a niche in

history”. Desmond Fitzgerald remembered how “one could feel he was treading on dangerous ground”.

Hobson’s influence over Eoin MacNeill, Chief of Staff of the Irish Volunteers, was also a major factor in his kidnapping. By the evening of Holy Thursday, with “definite information that an insurrection was to occur in the immediate future”, Hobson rushed to MacNeill’s home to ensure that measures were put in place to prevent this. Éamonn Ceannt remembered talking with Thomas MacDonagh, who remarked: “Bulmer Hobson is the evil genius of the Volunteers and if we could separate MacNeill from his influence, all would be well”.

Hence, on Good Friday 1916, with the Rising days away, Seán Tobin — who had succeeded Hobson as chair of the Leinster Executive of the IRB — arrived at Volunteer headquarters to persuade him to attend a meeting at the home of fellow IRB man, Martin Conlon.

While Hobson was immediately suspicious, he relented, recalling how he was curious “as to whether... the meeting



**Bulmer Hobson (seated) with Padraig Ó Riain.**

COURTESY OF NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

was a ruse”. Thus, he was unsurprised when he was greeted with guns upon his arrival at Conlon’s home in Phibsborough. Hobson was “inclined to be obstreperous, protesting against his arrest”, but would later claim that his captors were very nice to him. Con O’Donovan, who was surprised to be guarding Hobson, assumed the reason for his detention was because he was not trusted, but “possibly there was some mistake... which would soon be rectified”. Nevertheless, the situation may not have been as sanguine as Hobson has made out.

Conlon would later recall that shooting Hobson was an option. Once the Rising had commenced, the job of guarding him was of little interest to IRB men who wanted to join the fighting. If we are to take Conlon at his word, he countenanced “any unauthorised action”.

Subsequently, on the evening of Easter Monday 1916, under the orders of Mac Diarmada, Hobson was eventually released. He was no longer considered a threat, as the Rising was under way. Damning accusations of treachery over his arrest would taint his standing, however,

and when he walked from Cabra Park that night, he walked from the pages of history.

Hobson’s crucial mistake was not that he did not take part in the Rising after his release — for he would not be driven against his “judgement by being faced with a fait accompli” — but that he failed to court arrest once the Rising was quashed. MacNeill expressed a keen sense for why such an act would be beneficial, warning Hobson that they would have no political future if they were not arrested.

Instead Hobson opted to go on the run. Upon his re-emergence, he now found that he was ostracised from his former colleagues and soon withdrew from public life. Hobson’s biographer Marnie Hay has surmised: “He disappeared from public view as if he had been executed along with the insurrectionists of 1916, but without the benefit of their subsequent spin doctors”.

Bulmer Hobson’s name was ultimately excluded from the revolutionary narrative.

*Shane Browne is an MA graduate of the UCD School of History specialising in Modern Irish History*

**SNAPSHOT**

**JOHN BULMER HOBSON**

**Born:** 14 August 1883, Belfast, Co Down

**Educated:** Friends’ School, Lisburn

**Affiliation:** IRB/Irish Volunteers

**Career:** Revenue commissioner

**Died:** 8 August 1969, Castleconnell, Co Limerick

**LEARN MORE**

**READ...**

- \* *Seán Mac Diarmada* by Brian Feeney (O’Brien Press 16 Lives series, 2014)
- \* *Seán Mac Diarmada: The Mind of the Revolution* by Gerard MacAtasney (Drumlin Publications, 2006)
- \* *Erins’s Tragic Easter: the Irish Rebellion of 1916 and its Martyrs*, edited by Maurice Joy (New York, 1916)
- \* *Sport and Ireland: A History* by Paul Rouse (Oxford, 2015)
- \* *Ar son na Gaeilge: Conradh na*

- Gaeilge 1893-1993* by Proinsias Mac Aonghusa, (Conradh na Gaeilge, 1993)
- \* *A Short History of the Irish Volunteers* by Bulmer Hobson (1918)
- \* *Bulmer Hobson and the Nationalist Movement in Twentieth-Century Ireland* by Marnie Hay (2009)

**WATCH...**

- \* *Oglaigh na hÉireann — Bulmer Hobson Interview*, RTÉ, 1963, (RTÉ Archives) [www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9nnU6VrSjA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9nnU6VrSjA)
- \* *Douglas Hyde, President of*



*Ireland*, 2007 TG4 documentary. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxJNCe2s378](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxJNCe2s378)

**LISTEN...**

\* *Tomorrow We’ll Gather the Rushes*, 1971 RTÉ radio documentary on Padraic Colum [tinyurl.com/qxml5a5](http://tinyurl.com/qxml5a5)

**VISIT...**

\* The GAA museum at Croke Park has several displays dealing with the fight for independence. Opening times vary but can be checked at [www.gaa.ie](http://www.gaa.ie)





# A peek beyond the Rising with UCD timeline...

**I**n this second part of the UCD Decade of Centenaries timeline we look beyond the Rising and towards the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922.

The UCD Decade of Centenaries timeline was compiled to detail the key events of 1912 to 1923. Many staff, students and graduates of UCD played a pivotal role in the discourse and actions that took place. Throughout the timeline we highlight events associated with UCD, events of national importance and international events that took place during this period.

All details surrounding the UCD Decade of Centenaries commemorations events and resources can be found on [centenaries.ucd.ie](http://centenaries.ucd.ie). Here you will find details on the many projects, lecture series, conferences and events that UCD have already carried out and have planned for this significant period in our history.

An example of the resources and events that you can find on [centenaries.ucd.ie](http://centenaries.ucd.ie) are:

**\* 1916 as a global event:** Lecture series, running until January 2016. 1916 is often seen primarily in a national context, but it was an event that drew global attention and inspired other decolonisation

movements. Guest speakers will include some of the international leading authorities on the period.

**\* Globalising the Rising: 1916 in context** – Conference will be held in UCD on February 5th and 6th, 2016. Renowned national and international speakers will consider the impact and legacy of 1916 on global political systems.

**\* Revolution: Results and Reappraisal** is a two-day conference and public exhibition showcasing Revival material not previously seen by the public. It will be held on February 21st and 22nd in both UCD and the Pearse Museum.

**\* Resource library:** This section showcases some examples from the UCD archives of national and international significance and a wealth of commentary from our expert faculty in the form of videos and podcasts.

By registering on the [centenaries.ucd.ie](http://centenaries.ucd.ie) website you will be kept up to date on news and information about upcoming events.

NB



Allied officers standing on chairs and tables to see into the Hall of Mirrors where the Peace Treaty of Versailles is being signed. The Treaty kicks off our second tranche of the UCD Decade of Centenaries timeline.



## 1919-20

28th June 1919

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

### TREATY OF VERSAILLES SIGNED

After five months of negotiations at the Paris Peace Conference, the Treaty of Versailles is signed. The Treaty places harsh conditions on Germany, reducing her territorial possessions and land mass. It is established that Germany will have to pay reparations to the victors of the war, the exact figure is later set at 132 billion gold marks.



Postcard depicting an imagined Irish entry at the Paris Peace Conference, where the Treaty of Versailles was negotiated (UCD Archives)

25th February 1920

NATIONAL EVENT

### GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND BILL INTRODUCED INTO COMMONS

This new Bill proposes the establishment of two separate Home Rule parliaments in the North and South of Ireland.



Walter Hume Long, head of the British cabinet's Committee for Ireland, who pushed for the creation of two separate Home Rule parliaments in Ireland

## 1920

16th January 1920

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

### PROHIBITION IN AMERICA

In the USA, the Eighteenth Amendment comes into effect, prohibiting the sale and production of alcohol. The measure stays in place until 1933, when it is repealed.



Liquor is poured down a drain following the introduction of Prohibition

25th October 1920

NATIONAL EVENT

### TERENCE MACSWINEY DIES ON HUNGER-STRIKE

Terence MacSwiney, the Lord Mayor of Cork and commandant of the 1st Cork Brigade of the IRA, dies following a 74 day hunger strike. His death provokes an outpouring of condemnation, both at home and abroad. His predecessor, Tomas MacCurtain, had been killed earlier in the year, allegedly at the hands of the RIC.



Terence MacSwiney

## 1920

1st November 1920

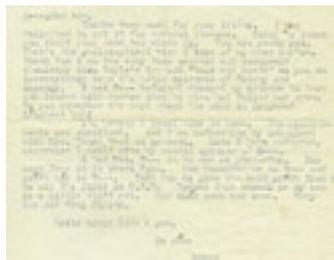
UCD EVENT

### EXECUTION OF KEVIN BARRY

20 year-old Kevin Barry, a medical student at UCD, is executed in Mountjoy Prison following his role in an attack on 20th September, in which three British soldiers were killed. After learning of his death sentence, he writes a letter to a friend, asking him to convey his "said grádh from me to all the girls in UCD". His execution comes a week after the death of Terence MacSwiney, and both become major rallying points for the republican cause.



A portrait of Kevin Barry (UCD Archives)



A typed copy of a letter he wrote to a college friend (UCD Archives)

## 1920

11th December 1920

NATIONAL EVENT

### CORK CITY BURNED

The Auxiliaries and the Black and Tans sack Cork city, reducing several buildings, such as City Hall and the Corn Exchange, to ruins. Two IRA volunteers are killed and damage estimated at £2 ½ million, approximately €150 million in today's money, is caused to the city.



A burnt-out tram on Patrick Street, Cork City (UCD Archives)



The ruins of Cork Town Hall (UCD Archives)

2nd November 1920

UCD EVENT

### RAIDS ON UCD

Hostilities intensify in the aftermath of Kevin Barry's execution and the ensuing events of Bloody Sunday, 21 November, 1920. On the day after Barry's execution, Auxiliaries carry out a search in the College. John Mowbray, a first-year medical student at the time, recalls seeing fellow students, "whom I regarded as harmless callow youths, produce massive revolvers and sheafs of papers and hand them to even less guileful waitresses, who were, of course, members of the Coláige Cumann na mBan". On another occasion, Professor Michael Hayes' house is raided. Although the authorities seize some classified documents, they narrowly miss out on capturing Richard Mulcahy, who escapes through a skylight.



Mulcahy in uniform



Professor Michael Hayes in his later years (UCD Archives)

23rd December 1920

NATIONAL EVENT

### GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND BILL ENACTED

The Government of Ireland Bill is enacted, bringing partition to Ireland. 6 Ulster Counties are governed by a Home Rule parliament at Stormont, while the Sinn Féin representatives continue their policy of abstention, leaving the Home Rule parliament in Dublin redundant.



The new Irish border

21st November 1920

NATIONAL EVENT

### BLOODY SUNDAY

Following the assassination of 14 British secret service agents by a covert unit of the IRA, crown forces open fire at a Dublin-Tipperary football match in Croke Park. 12 people lose their lives.



A member of the Black and Tans in Dublin

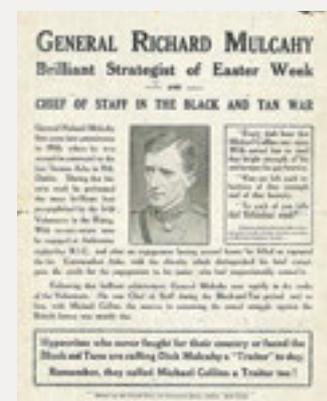
## 1921

10th February 1921

UCD EVENT

### MULCAHY EVADES CAPTURE AGAIN

A raid on Paul Farrell's flat on South Frederick Street fails in its goal of capturing Richard Mulcahy. Mulcahy later recalls that he was "quite all right in UCD" on that particular evening. During this period of heightened tension in the conflict, Mulcahy frequently uses his office in Earlsfort Terrace as a base from which to conduct his role as IRA Chief of Staff.



A poster depicting Richard Mulcahy, "Brilliant Strategist of Easter Week" (UCD Archives)

28th November 1920

NATIONAL EVENT

### KILMICHAEL AMBUSH

The 3rd Cork brigade of the IRA ambush a patrol of Auxiliaries in Kilmichael, Co. Cork. All 18 members of the patrol are killed.



A gutted house, which was burned by Auxiliaries as a reprisal for the Kilmichael Ambush (UCD Archives)

14th March 1921

UCD EVENT

### EXECUTION OF FRANK FLOOD

Frank Flood, an engineering student at UCD, is one of six IRA Volunteers to be executed for his part in an attack on the police in January. A "great chum" of Kevin Barry, the pair are the youngest Volunteers to be executed during the War of Independence.



A portrait of Frank Flood

1921

9th July 1921

NATIONAL EVENT

TRUCE CALLED BETWEEN IRA AND CROWN FORCES

A truce is called between the forces of Britain and Ireland, coming into effect as of noon on 11th July. Over 2,000 people have been killed in the conflict, including 550 IRA volunteers, 410 RIC members and over 700 civilians.



Éamon de Valera with members of the Irish delegation in London, July 1921



A crowd at the Mansion House, Dublin, ahead of the announcement of a truce on 8th July, 1921

1921

11th October 1921

UCD EVENT

UCD AT TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Charles Hubert Oldham, Tom Kettle's successor as Professor of National Economics at UCD, supplies financial briefings to the Irish delegation during negotiations of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. UCD law graduate Hugh Kennedy acts as legal adviser, while fellow graduates Jeremiah Joseph O'Connell and Fionán Lynch form part of the secretarial staff.



Fionán Lynch at an election rally in the 1920s

9th July 1921

UCD EVENT

O'MALLEY RECEIVES NEWS OF TRUCE

In south Tipperary, Ernie O'Malley, who had abandoned his medical studies in UCD during the Easter Rising, receives a message from the IRA Chief of Staff Richard Mulcahy, which states that, due to the commencement of peace negotiations, "active operations by our forces will be suspended as from noon, Monday, 11 July." O'Malley, who had made Tipperary something of an IRA stronghold during the conflict, later wrote that he was "bewildered" by the order, though he nevertheless conveyed the message to the five IRA brigades under his command.



Ernie O'Malley

19th November 1921

UCD EVENT

DE VALERA MADE CHANCELLOR OF NUI

At a formal reception at Earlsfort Terrace, Éamon de Valera is made Chancellor of the National University of Ireland. De Valera spent time as a postgraduate student in UCD prior to becoming a revolutionary.



The formal reception of Éamon de Valera as Chancellor of the NUI (from UCD, A National Idea: The History of University College Dublin)



De Valera at his graduation (UCD Archives - courtesy of the UCD-OFM Partnership)

29th July 1921

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

HITLER BECOMES LEADER OF NAZI PARTY

Having become a full member of the German Workers' Party in the previous year, Adolf Hitler is elected as the leader of what has since been renamed the Nationalist Socialist Workers' Party. He will later create the title of Führer for himself, giving him a position of unchallenged authority.



Adolf Hitler's membership card for the German Workers' Party (DAP)

6th December 1921

NATIONAL EVENT

ANGLO-IRISH TREATY SIGNED

After two months of negotiations, the Anglo-Irish Treaty is signed by the British and Irish delegations. The Treaty grants Ireland the status of a dominion, placing it alongside countries such as Australia, Canada and New Zealand. However, Northern Ireland is given the option of withdrawing itself from the new set of arrangements. The British administration at Dublin Castle will cease, while crown forces are to withdraw from Ireland, although three ports remain under control of the British Navy. Although signed, the Treaty must be ratified by the elected representatives of both Britain and Ireland. The ambiguous status given to the Irish plenipotentiaries in advance of the negotiations causes problems in the ensuing Dáil debates.



The signatures page of the Anglo-Irish Treaty

FIND OUT MORE:

- HISTORY HUB  
Professor Michael Laffan, The Irish Revolution, lecture 8, The Anglo-Irish Treaty:  
<http://historyhub.ie/anglo-irish-treaty-the-irish-revolution-lecture-8>

11th October 1921

NATIONAL EVENT

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND DÁIL REPRESENTATIVES LAUNCHED

Following talks between Éamon de Valera and David Lloyd George, a delegation of Irish plenipotentiaries led by Arthur Griffith arrive in London to begin talks with representatives of the British Government.



Arthur Griffith, leader of the Irish delegation



Arthur Griffith, Art O'Brien and Michael Collins walk up the steps of 10 Downing Street, to begin the Treaty negotiations

14th December 1921 - 6th January 1922

UCD EVENT

TREATY DEBATES AT EARLSFORT TERRACE

At the request of the 2nd Dáil, the debates on the Anglo-Irish Treaty are held in the Senate Chamber of UCD at Earlsfort Terrace. The ruptures that emerge during the debates lead directly to the Civil War and have a lasting impact on Irish politics and society.

Panorama of UCD Earlsfort Terrace showing the arrival of deputies during the treaty debates, 3 January 1922 (UCD Archives)



**1922**

1st January 1922

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

## BRITISH EMPIRE AT ZENITH

At the beginning of 1922, the British Empire is at the height of its territorial extent, covering one quarter of the globe and around 458 million people.



*Imperial Federation, Map of the World Showing the Extent of the British Empire in 1886, (levelled) by Walter Crane*

**1922**

16th June 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

## IRISH GENERAL ELECTION

The Irish general election is won by pro-Treaty Sinn Féin, who gain 58 seats to defeat anti-Treaty Sinn Féin's 36. In advance of the election, Collins and de Valera had drawn up a pact to ensure that Sinn Féin representatives on both sides of the divide would not run in opposition to each other.



*Countess Markievicz campaigning for anti-Treaty republicans in Cork*



*Michael Collins speaking to a crowd at College Green*

7th January 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

## DÁIL RATIFIES TREATY

After a month of heated debates, the Dáil accepts the Anglo-Irish Treaty on a vote of 64 to 57. The debates are marked by several heated exchanges. Those against the Treaty suggest that it falls too far short of the sovereign republic that they had fought for; Michael Collins argues that the Treaty provides Ireland with "freedom, not the ultimate freedom that all nations desire ... but the freedom to achieve it." Following the result, Éamon de Valera and his supporters, who had spoken against the Treaty, walk out of the chamber. Two days later, Arthur Griffith is elected the new President of the Dáil.



*Card admitting Dr James Ryan into the Dáil for the first day of the Treaty debates (UCD Archives)*

**FIND OUT MORE:**

• HISTORY HUB  
Professor Michael Laffan, The Irish Revolution, lecture 9, Reaction to the Treaty and lead up to the Irish Civil War:  
<http://historyhub.ie/reaction-to-the-treaty-irish-revolution-lecture-9>

22nd June 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

## SIR HENRY WILSON SHOT

Reginald Dunne and Joseph O'Sullivan, both IRA men, assassinate Sir Henry Wilson, security advisor to Northern Irish Prime Minister James Craig, outside his house in London. The British Government, believing the killing was the work of anti-Treaty republicans, pressures Collins to attack the Four Courts.



*Field Marshall Sir Henry Hughes Wilson*

14th January 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

## PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND FORMED

The pro-Treaty wing of Sinn Féin take power under the name of the Provisional Government. Michael Collins serves as both the Chairman and Minister for Finance of the Provisional Government. Two days later, the British administration from Dublin Castle ceases at a formal "handing-over" ceremony.



*The words "Rialtas Sealadach na hÉireann 1922" (Provisional Government of Ireland 1922) printed over a British 2 pence postage stamp*

26th June 1922

UCD EVENT

## KIDNAP OF JJ O'CONNELL

JJ (Ginger) O'Connell, former engineering student at UCD and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Free State Army, is captured by forces under the command of fellow UCD graduate Rory O'Connor and held at the Four Courts garrison. O'Connell's kidnap provides Michael Collins with a justification to launch an attack on the Four Courts and begin the fighting phase of the Irish Civil War.



*Rory O'Connor*



*The Four Courts, view across Usher's Quay and Usher's Island (UCD Archives)*

14th April 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

## THE FOUR COURTS SEIZED BY REPUBLICANS

Rory O'Connor and around 200 anti-Treaty republicans take the Four Courts and a small number of other buildings, including the Ballast Office and the Freemasons' Hall on Molesworth Street. The occupation, which lasts for a period of over two months, fuels tensions between the Sinn Féin factions.



*The Four Courts in 1922 (UCD Archives)*

28th June 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

## FREE STATE ARMY ATTACKS THE FOUR COURTS

Supplied with arms and ammunition by the British Government, the Free State Army bombards the Four Courts. Michael Collins uses the kidnapping of JJ O'Connell, the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Free State Army, as a justification for the attack. The republican garrison holds out until 3 July, when the Four Courts is overwhelmed by flames, forcing Rory O'Connor and his men to surrender. During this time hostilities break out around the country; clashes occur between pro- and anti-Treaty forces in Kerry, Donegal and Sligo, amongst other places. This period marks the beginning of the Irish Civil War.



*Soldiers of the Free State Army fire at the Four Courts (UCD Archives)*



*Smoke billows out of the Four Courts (UCD Archives)*

**FIND OUT MORE:**

• HISTORY HUB  
Professor Michael Laffan, The Irish Revolution, lecture 10, The Irish Civil War:  
<http://historyhub.ie/the-irish-civil-war>



1922

12th August 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

DEATH OF ARTHUR GRIFFITH

Arthur Griffith, whose health had been deteriorating over the course of the Civil War, dies at his home in Dublin, suffering a brain haemorrhage. He is buried in Glasnevin cemetery.



Arthur Griffith's funeral procession (UCD Archives)

1922-23

17th November 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

REPUBLICANS EXECUTED BY FREE STATE

James Fisher, Peter Cassidy, Richard Twohig and James Gaffney become the first of 77 republicans to be executed by the Free State between November 1922 and May 1923. Such prominent figures as Erskine Childers, Liam Mellows and Joe McKelvey are amongst those killed. The executions prompt several reprisals from the anti-Treaty IRA, including the killing of Sean Hales, TD and the burning of WT Cosgrave's house.



Erskine Childers, executed 24th November, 1922



Liam Mellows, executed 8th December, 1922

22nd August 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

DEATH OF MICHAEL COLLINS

While travelling to Bandon, Michael Collins and his convoy are ambushed by republican soldiers at Béal na Bláth. Collins is fatally wounded during the attack. An estimated 500,000 people attend his funeral in Dublin.



Pallbearers carry Michael Collins' coffin (UCD Archives)

6th December 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

IRISH FREE STATE ESTABLISHED

The provisions of the Anglo-Irish Treaty are adopted by the government and Ireland officially becomes a dominion of the British Empire. WT Cosgrave becomes the President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State.



WT Cosgrave, back row, first on the right, representing the Irish Free State at the 1926 Imperial Conference in London

9th September 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

WT COSGRAVE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THIRD DÁIL

With the two primary leaders of Pro-Treaty Sinn Féin now dead, WT Cosgrave is chosen as the President of the Third Dáil. He simultaneously holds the role of Chairman of the Provisional Government.



WT Cosgrave

8th December 1922

UCD EVENT

THE EXECUTION OF RORY O'CONNOR

Rory O'Connor is executed in retaliation for the assassination of Seán Hales, a pro-Treaty TD. The execution warrant for O'Connor, who had controlled the republican garrison at the Four Courts earlier in the year, is signed by his former friend and fellow UCD alumnus Kevin O'Higgins. Just a year previously, O'Connor had served as best man at O'Higgins' wedding, making a toast to those who died in the Easter Rising. Under pressure from Richard Mulcahy, O'Higgins is the last member of the cabinet to put his name on the warrant. In retaliation, O'Higgins' father is murdered and his house burned down, while O'Higgins is himself assassinated by republicans in 1927.



A photograph taken at Kevin O'Higgins and Birdie Cole's wedding. O'Connor stands to O'Higgins' left, Éamon de Valera to his right (UCD Archives)

FIND OUT MORE:  
 • HISTORY HUB  
 A toast made by Rory O'Connor at Kevin O'Higgins' wedding:  
<http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ivrla:30877>

28th October 1922

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

MUSSOLINI LEADS THE MARCH ON ROME

Benito Mussolini, leader of the Italian Fascist Party, leads 30,000 men in a march on Rome. Although the marchers pose little military threat, King Victor Emmanuel III summons Mussolini to become Prime Minister two days later.



Benito Mussolini, accompanied by Emilio De Bono, Italo Balbo and Cesare Maria De Vecchi during the March on Rome.

1923

11th January 1923

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

FRANCE AND BELGIUM OCCUPY RUHR VALLEY

French Prime Minister Raymond Poincaré initiates the military occupation of the Ruhr Valley, a key location for German industry, in an effort to speed up the repayment of Germany's war debt. The move is criticised by Britain and Germany.



French troops and a German civilian during the occupation of the Ruhr Valley

**1923**

7th March 1923

NATIONAL EVENT

## BALLYSEEDY MASSACRE

Eight republicans are killed by the explosion of a landmine in Ballyseedy, Co. Kerry. It is one of several incidents that contributed to a high death toll in the last weeks of the Civil War.



A memorial for those who died at Ballyseedy, Co. Kerry

**1923**

27th August 1923

UCD EVENT

## IRISH GENERAL ELECTION

After the tumultuous events of the preceding decade, the election of 1923 marks something of a new beginning for the Irish state. The majority of the people reaffirm their support of the treaty by voting for Cumann na nGaedheal, paving the way for a new state in which UCD would continue to play an important role. Professor Eoin MacNeill is the Free State's first Minister for Education. Alongside him in the cabinet are Minister for Justice and Deputy President Kevin O'Higgins and Minister for Lands and Agriculture Patrick Hogan, both UCD graduates. Fellow graduate Hugh Kennedy, who had already become the State's first Attorney General, is made the first Chief Justice of the Irish Free State. He is the first of several UCD law graduates to hold a prominent position in the judiciary, including Supreme Court judges James A. Murnaghan and Cecil Lavery, and President of the High Court Cahir Davitt.



Kevin O'Higgins, Vice-President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State, 1922-1927 (UCD Archives)



Hugh Kennedy, first Attorney General and Chief Justice of the Irish Free State

10th April 1923

NATIONAL EVENT

## LIAM LYNCH SHOT

Liam Lynch, the commanding general of the anti-Treaty IRA, is shot during a raid by the Free State army on his hideout in the Knockmealdown Mountains. He is succeeded by Frank Aiken.



Liam Lynch, fourth from left, standing with a group of IRA leaders before the outbreak of the Civil War (l-r, Sean MacEoin, Sean Moylan, Eoin O'Duffy, Liam Lynch, Gearoid O'Sullivan and Liam Mellows)

10th September 1923

NATIONAL EVENT

## IRISH FREE STATE ENTERS THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

WT Cosgrave heads an Irish delegation at Geneva, where the Free State is admitted into the League of Nations. The admission confirms international recognition of the Free State's status.



The Irish League of Nations delegation, Geneva, 1923 (UCD Archives)

24th May 1923

NATIONAL EVENT

## REPUBLICAN MILITARY CAMPAIGN ENDS

Frank Aiken issues orders to cease-fire and dump-arms, ending the Civil War. However, deaths such as those of Noel Lemass in 1924 and Kevin O'Higgins in 1927 demonstrate that political violence had not fully ended. The War has cost an estimated 1,000-4,000 lives and leaves an indelible mark on the Irish political landscape.



Frank Aiken in later years (UCD Archives)



Free State soldiers carry the coffin of a comrade (UCD Archives)

8th - 10th December 1923

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

## BEER HALL PUTSCH, MUNICH

Hitler's Nazi party launch an attempted coup against the Weimar republic in Germany. The revolt is quickly suppressed, resulting in 16 Nazi deaths and the 8-month imprisonment of Hitler.



Participants in the Beer Hall Putsch

27th August 1923

NATIONAL EVENT

## CUMANN NA NGAEDHEAL WIN VICTORY IN GENERAL ELECTION

Cumann na nGaedheal, the party formed from Sinn Féin's pro-Treaty wing, wins the first general election of the Irish Free State. WT Cosgrave's party wins 63 seats, with Éamon de Valera's Sinn Féin claiming 44. Sinn Féin's representatives abstain from taking their seats until 1927.



A wall in Ennis, Co. Clare, adorned with posters for the 1923 general election

15th December 1923

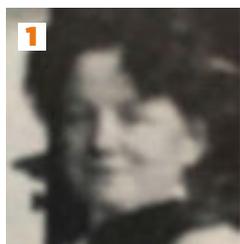
INTERNATIONAL EVENT

## HYPER-INFLATION IN GERMANY

Inflation reaches its highest point at 4,200,000,000,000 Papiermark to the dollar.



A 50 million mark bank note, printed in September, 1923



# NINE LIVES

Grainne Coyne on the artists, footballers and poets who were the celebrities of the '10s decade



**1** BORN in Dublin in 1880, **Kathleen Fox** studied drawing and painting at the Metropolitan School of Art under William Orpen, also working as his assistant. In 1908, she won a gold medal for her enamelled cup *Going to the Feast*. Fox received accolades for her stained-glass work including her *St Tobias* in St Joseph's Church, Glenageary. While studying in Paris in 1911, she submitted the first of many works to the Royal Hibernian Academy. Upon returning to Dublin, Fox created her most famous work *The Arrest*, depicting the surrender of Countess Markievicz at the College of Surgeons during the Easter Rising. Fox died in Milltown, Dublin in 1963.

**2** Born Reginald Ingram Montgomery Hitchcock in Dublin in 1893, he took the name **Rex Ingram** in honour of his late mother. In 1911 he left for the US where he later enrolled at Yale School of Art. Rex never completed his studies, but began an acting career, starring in *The Witness to the Will*. His breakthrough occurred with *The Great Problem* (1916), which he

wrote and directed. At Metro Studios he worked on many box office hits including *Hearts are Trumps* and *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*. He died in Hollywood in 1950.

**3** Born in 1887, **Patrick O'Connell** grew up in Dublin where he played junior soccer before gaining a professional contract with Belfast Celtic in 1909. His performances in Ireland's 1914 Home Championship triumph attracted attention and eventually led to him joining Manchester United. In 1922 O'Connell moved to Spain where he managed Racing Santander, Real Oviedo and Real Betis. His most famous role was as manager of Barcelona who he famously saved from bankruptcy thanks to exhibition matches in north America. 'Don Patricio' died in London in 1959.

**4** French fashion designer **Coco Chanel** has created timeless designs that are still popular. Born Gabrielle Bonheur Chanel in 1883 in Saumur, after her mother's death she was

raised in an orphanage where she was taught to sew. After a brief singing career where she gained the nickname of 'Coco', she opened her first shop in 1910, selling hats. In the 1920s, she launched her most famous perfume Chanel No. 5 and later introduced the Chanel suit and the Little Black Dress, with an emphasis on comfort for women. She closed her house in World War II and did not return until 1954. She died in 1971, aged 87.

**5** A dancer and choreographer, **Isadora Duncan's** emphasis on freer forms of movement was a huge influence on modern dance. Born in 1877 in San Francisco, her family later moved to Europe where she gained much success. This led to sell-out tours throughout Europe. She went on to found dance schools in the US, Germany and Russia, with her students dubbed the 'Isadorables'. Duncan died in Nice in 1927 when her scarf became entangled in the wheel of her car.

**6** A poet and one of the great figures in modernism,

**TS Eliot** was born in St Louis, Missouri, on September 1888 and attended Harvard. At 22, he left for Paris and in 1914 moved to England where he came under the influence of Ezra Pound. Eliot's first collection *Prufrock and Other Observations* (1917) established him as a poet. He received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1948. Eliot had various Irish connections during his life from discussing poetry with WB Yeats to a friendship with James Joyce.

**7** Born in Liverpool in 1876, **Jim Larkin** grew up in Co Down. He helped form the Irish Transport and General Workers Union in Dublin and was later elected president of the Irish Trades Union Congress. With James Connolly he founded the Irish Independent Labour Party in 1912. He was the major figure on the side of the workers in the Lockout of 1913 and afterwards left for the US where he was active with the Industrial Workers of the World, known as the Wobblies. He was expelled from the ITGWU in 1924 and founded the Workers Union, and was elected three times as a Labour TD.

**8** **Val Harris** was captain of the first Irish soccer team to beat England, in 1913, and the following year played on the Home Championship winning side. Born in Ringsend, Dublin in 1884, Harris won an All-Ireland senior medal with Isles of the Sea in 1901, before joining Shelbourne. A hard but versatile player, he was sold for £350 to Everton, with whom he twice finished second in the league. He returned to play with Shelbourne, who he managed in the 1930s.

**9** Born in London in 1871, **Jack Butler Yeats** was the youngest son of Irish portraitist John, and brother to future Nobel laureate, William. He studied at the Westminster School of Art, before work as a graphic artist and illustrator. Yeats preferred watercolours and did not work in oils until about 1905. He came to live permanently in Ireland with his wife, Mary Cottenham White, in 1910. Sympathetic to republicanism, in 1924, he won an Olympic silver medal for his painting *The Liffey Swim*. He died in Dublin in 1957.

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