



Newsletter

1916-2016 Lynch Commemoration News

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Featured monthly in these panels are original illustrations that give a flavour of life a century ago.

Food & Drink



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“SEND HIM HOME” O'DONOVAN ROSSA RETURNS 1915

The Centenary Commemorations continue this month marking the work of the O'Donovan Rossa Committee.

Just over a century ago, the old Fenian [O'Donovan Rossa](#) died aged 84, in New York. Rossa's third wife, the poet Mary J. O'Donovan Rossa gave the head of Irish America, his fellow Fenian [John Devoy](#), the news.

“...Devoy cabled to Tom [Clarke] ‘Rossa dead, what shall we do?’. Tom cabled back ‘Send his body home at once’. He immediately began to organise the funeral and said ‘If Rossa had planned to die at the most opportune time for serving his country, he could not have done better’
Kathleen Clarke ‘Revolutionary Woman’ O'Brien Press, Dublin 1991. P56

Rossa's body was wrapped in the ‘Fighting flag of the Irish Republic’ as his shroud and the casket sealed.

John Devoy described events years later: ‘There was a great funeral on Staten Island before the body was taken to Ireland for final interment in Glasnevin...the body was placed in the receiving vault in St. Peter's Cemetery on July 3 and lay there until July 17 when it was shipped to Ireland on the American Line Steamship, St. Paul.... I kept my grip on the arrangements doing nothing without the consent of Mrs O'Donovan Rossa until the body was placed on board the steamer, accompanied by his wife and daughter Eileen...on July 17th.’ John Devoy ‘Recollections of an Irish Rebel’ C.P.Young. New York 1929. P332

The expected arrival date in Ireland of O'Donovan Rossa was July 28th or 29th with Sunday, August 1st to be the interment date in [Glasnevin Cemetery](#). Dublin.

In Ireland, a special committee was quickly formed to organise the funeral arrangements. This group became one of the broadest political committees in the history of Irish nationalism, comprising diverse groups such as Constitutionalists, Sinn Féin, the Irish Volunteers, I.R.B, Labour, Womens groups and most of the future 1916 signatories. The organising committee viewed the funeral as an opportunity to both honour a nationalist hero while stoking both nationalist and revolutionary sentiment.

Chief Marshall for the funeral was [Thomas MacDonagh](#), who along with [Tom Clarke](#), finalised plans for the procession to Glasnevin. [Padraic Pearse](#) was to deliver the oration. The Labour Movement was represented by [James Connolly](#), [William O'Brien](#) and Richard O'Carroll. Sinn Féin founder [Arthur Griffith](#) sat on the Committee alongside Joe McGuinness, [Constance Markievicz](#), [Major John MacBride](#), [Cathal Bugha](#), [Sceilg](#), [Edward Daly](#), [Brian O'Higgins](#) and [Eamon De Valera](#).

Diarmuid Lynch was a Delegate Representative. *“...Though a member of the Funeral Committee I had hardly any hand in the arrangements. Just then, I had been busy with the Ard Fheis at Dundalk”*

The committee would have a tragic destiny. Many would be executed or imprisoned for their roles in the forthcoming Rising. Others went on to become future political leaders, the Civil War claimed some and two members eventually served terms as President of Ireland.

The Committee operated 100 years ago this month.



O'DONOVAN ROSSA FUNERAL COMMITTEE, 1915

Back Row—J. K. O'Reilly, P. T. Keohane, Diarmuid Lynch, Commandant Eamonn de Valera, James Tobin, B. R. Parsons, John O'Mahony, W. O'Leary Curtis, John Larkin, William Cullen.

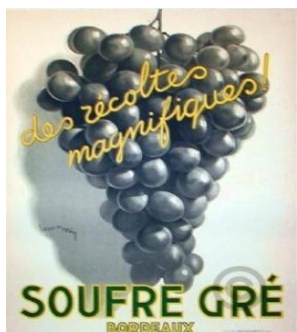
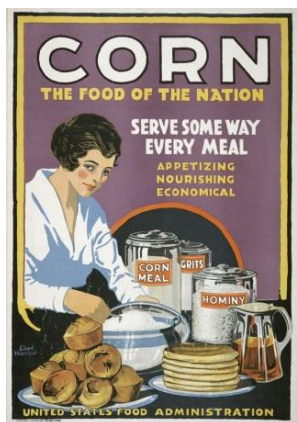
Second Row—Commandant-General Thomas MacDonagh, Martin Conlon, J. J. O'Kelly (Sceilg), James Casey, Councillor Richard O'Carroll, J. Farren, Treasurer; Dublin Trades Council; Seamus Buggy, Arthur Griffith, Sean MacGadhra, Joseph McGuinness, Joseph Murray, Henry Nicholls, B.A., B.A.I.; J. Lawlor, Vice-President, Dublin Trades Council; William O'Brien, ex-President, Dublin Trades Council; Cathal Brugha, James Whelan, Major John MacBride, T. Farren, President, Dublin Trades Council.

Third Row—Miss J. Walsh, Countess de Markievicz, Mrs. C. Holohan, Bhatiair O' Foghludha, John R. Reynolds, F.A.A.; Commandant Eamonn Daly, Seamus O' Conchubhair, Thomas J. Clarke, Pesdar McNally, James Stritch, Michael Slater, Mrs. Tom Clarke, Miss S. MacMahon, Miss B. Cassidy.

Fourth Row—Maire Ni Raghnaill, Mrs. C. O'Moore, Michael McGinn, Thomas Meldon, Joseph Kelly, Brian O'Higgins (Brian na Banban), Miss B. Walsh, Mrs. Joseph McGuinness.

[This corrected key to the Committee photograph has been supplied by Mr. M. Cremen, Hon. Sec., O'Donovan Rossa Memorial Committee, 1954].

1916 signatories, three presidents & Diarmuid Lynch identified in a century-old photograph.



A “who’s who” of future Irish revolutionaries is captured in this 1913 photograph taken in Galway – and found in a family attic almost a century later.

Half of the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation, and three future presidents of the new State are identified in this image, a print of which has been presented to the city’s Town Hall Theatre.

Pádraig Pearse, Seán Mac Diarmada, Éamonn Ceannt, Douglas Hyde, Seán T O’Kelly, Éamon de Valera, Pádraic Ó Conaire, Diarmuid Lynch and Constance Markievicz are among those in the original photograph, discovered in a box gathering dust in the attic of the Curran family in Dublin.

The image was shot outside what was then the town hall – now a theatre - in July 1913.

At first, the family thought it was taken at the Gaelic League Oireachtas in 1914 and searched Kerry for a match for the building. When it was confirmed that it was Galway, and 1913, they decided to mark the centenary by presenting a print to the theatre.

The 1913 Gaelic League national convention was held as part of the week-long Oireachtas or national cultural festival that summer, the first time the “parliament of the Gaels” was held outside Dublin. (Galway city and county had some 50 per cent of the island’s native Irish speakers at that point.) The Oireachtas was first held in 1897 and was modelled on the Eisteddfod in Wales and the Scottish Mod, and soon became the cultural highlight of the year. The League’s President, Douglas Hyde described Galway as... “A city that brings us, as no city can, into touch with the history and traditions of our native land,”

By this time, the fervor for the national language within the league had somewhat dissipated and the leaders sought to use the Oireachtas as a means of invigorating the faltering revivalist campaign that was underway in the Irish speaking districts of the west.

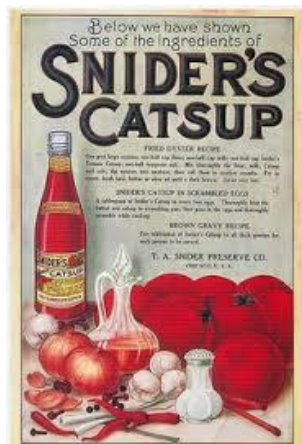
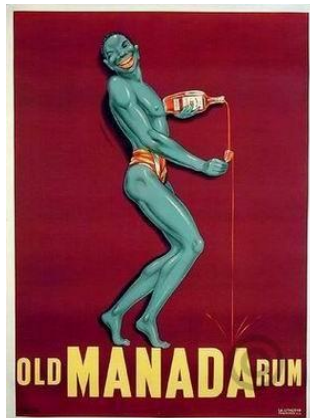
The mass influx of moneyed Gaels to the city via a fleet of special trains provided a welcome boost to local business, which, in order to maximise the dividends of these visitors, scheduled the Galway Races and the Citizen’s Bazaar to take place immediately after the Oireachtas. The city was reported to be festooned with Gaelic streamers and ‘much excitement’. The official opening was on July 26 and took place in the grounds of UCG with an aeriocht.

Things were not as happy within the organisation. There was some conflict in the lead up to this Oireachtas as some members wanted to use the Irish language & the organisation for more political purposes. The league had attracted many nationalists, and it was through the league that many future rebels and political leaders first met. Douglas Hyde and his supporters wanted to place the Irish language above all other considerations. Earlier in July 1913, Hyde resigned the presidency on such an issue, and this left the organisation in a state of consternation. After much persuading, he agreed to return & attend the convention, and throughout the week his presence was met with rapturous applause. At the inauguration of the Ard Fheis in the rooms of the Mercy Convent on July 29 the delegates passed a resolution to invite Hyde to retake his position, which he did, and thus defused much of the tension. But some of it was still there with the Hyde camp being led by Dr Seán P Mac Enrí and the republican opposition captained by Pádraic Ó Máille. Diarmuid wrote later that he believed Hyde’s “... rulings from the, chair were distinctly one-sided throughout the proceedings. Though I was able to follow the discussions my knowledge of Irish was too slight to enable me to participate in the debates... So, I had to content myself with the pertinent query: “An tusa an Ard Fheis”? (Are you the Ard Fheis?)

After the meeting in a key speech, Pádraic Pearse said: “The work of the Gaelic League is finished, it was the prophet, but not the Messiah. The Messiah is yet to come.”

The picture is on display in the Town Hall Theatre foyer in Galway. (Arrow indicates Diarmuid Lynch). To see the picture in full with a listing of participants – click here: <http://tht.ie/blog/184/Historic-Photograph-Presented-to-Town-Hall-Theatre>

Harry Boland's Boots



These boots belonged to Harry Boland, envoy to the United States of America from 1919 to 1921, and were used to smuggle the document proclaiming Ireland's Claim to Independence hidden in the soles. They were donated to the National Museum of Ireland in 1935 by Diarmuid Lynch.



The Boland family had a long history of involvement in nationalist organisations and activities. Their paternal grandfather, a Fenian, had been part of the attack on the prison van transporting Irish Republican Brotherhood members Thomas Kelly and Timothy Deasy in Manchester in 1867. Later their father, James Boland, and mother had fled to America after the Phoenix Park murders of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Thomas Henry Burke in 1882, due to his supposed connections with The Invincibles, who carried out the murders. James was also friendly with well-known figures such as O'Donovan Rossa and P.W. Nally. After his death, the family continued to be brought up in the nationalist traditions.

All three brothers, Gerald, Harry and Edmund, joined the Irish Volunteers at its inception at the Rotunda in late 1913 and took part in the Rising; Gerald in Jacob's Factory and Harry and Edmund in the GPO. After the surrender, Harry was arrested and sentenced to death, but his sentence was commuted to five years penal servitude and he was sent first to Dartmoor and then to Lewes Prison (as did Diarmuid Lynch)

On his release in 1917, he opened a tailoring and outfitting business at 64 Middle Abbey Street, which became an important centre for dispatching information around the country. He was elected for South Roscommon in the 1918 General Election, and took his seat in the First Dáil in January 1919, where he was assigned as special envoy to the United States by Eamon de Valera. He spent the next three years campaigning for recognition of the Irish State, and also raising finances to help the effort at home.

In her statement to the Bureau of Military History, Kathleen Boland described her brother Harry's secret journey. "...In mid May Harry went to Manchester to make preparations to go to America. He managed to get a job as a stoker on a steam ship, and arrived in New York on the 8th June, where he was met and brought safely through Customs by Jim McGee and Jim Gleeson, who were regularly engaged in the smuggling of weapons from America to Ireland. He was carrying a document, 'Ireland's Address to the Free Nations of the World', otherwise known as Ireland's Claim to Independence, which had been proclaimed at the First Dáil and published by Fergus O'Connor. Due to its nature it had been suppressed by the British Government, and so had to be well concealed on the journey..."

Harry had had a pair of stoker's boot specially made with a hidden compartment in the soles in which he hid the document. When he reached New York he went directly to the home of Diarmuid Lynch, a fellow combatant from the GPO in 1916, member of Dáil Eireann for Cork South East, and National Secretary of The Friends of Irish Freedom, an organization dedicated to promoting Ireland's cause in the United States. He ripped open the soles and delivered the document to Lynch, from where it was distributed to the Irish-American community.

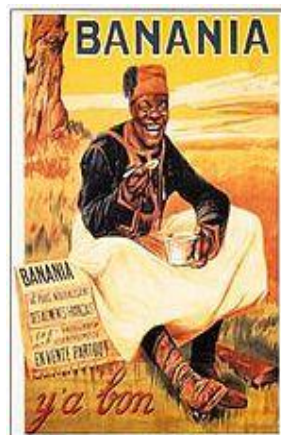
Diarmuid kept the boots safely and donated them to the National Museum in 1935. An old museum exhibition label for these boots explains how they illustrate the difficulties in getting communications out between Ireland and America during this time. This is certainly true, but, like so many objects in the collection, they also represent the personal belief individuals had in Ireland's right to independence, the risks they faced and the personal sacrifices they made to play a part in achieving it.

Harry Boland returned to Ireland in 1921, and, despite his close friendship with Michael Collins (which had survived even through their rivalry over Kitty Kiernan), took the side of the Anti-Treaty forces.

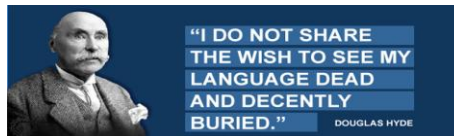


On 31 July 1922, one month into the Civil War, he was shot during an attempt by Free State troops to arrest him, and died two days later in hospital. When his sister asked who had fired the shot he refused to comment, saying *'The only thing I'll say is that it was a friend of my own that was in prison with me, I'll never tell the name and don't try to find out. I forgive him and I want no reprisals'*.

Source: Objects from the Historical Collections of the National Museum of Ireland:



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The IRB & takeover of the Gaelic League. Dundalk, 1915.

By 1915, most Irish national organizations were controlled by the IRB – with the exception of the Gaelic League.

In 1892, Douglas Hyde, the multi-lingual, academic son of a Church of Ireland rector from Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon, gave a lecture titled "The Necessity of De-Anglicising the Irish People" arguing that if the Irish language disappeared, the Irish people would not be entitled to claim to be a nation.

In 1893, Hyde, [Eugene O'Growney](#), [Eoin MacNeill](#), [Thomas O'Neill Russell](#) and others founded the Gaelic League with the aims to preserve and revive Irish as a spoken language and to encourage and publish a literature in modern Irish. The organisation developed from [Ulick Bourke's](#) earlier Gaelic Union and became the leading institution promoting the [Gaelic Revival](#), and to preserve and promote the Irish language, carrying on efforts like the publishing of the [Gaelic Journal](#). The League's first newspaper was [An Claidheamh Soluis](#) (The Sword of Light) and its most noted editor was [Patrick Pearse](#). The newspaper provided a forum for writers and poets in Irish. The motto of the League was *Sinn Féin, Sinn Féin amháin* (Ourselves, Ourselves alone). The League contributed largely to the literary and language revival which played a role in the 'national awakening' and recognition of a separate, Irish identity

In contrast with nationalist political organisations and literary associations at the time, the Gaelic League accepted women on an equal basis from the start. They were not restricted to subordinate roles, but played an active part in leadership, although men were in the overwhelming majority. Local notables, such as [Lady Gregory](#) in Galway, Lady Esmonde in County Wexford, and [Mary Spring Rice](#) in County Limerick, founded and led branches in their communities. At the annual national convention in 1906 women were elected to seven of the forty-five positions on the Gaelic League executive. The League established an annual Oireachtas festival in 1897 and after 1900, the organisation grew rapidly.

By 1908 there were 600 branches. Native speakers, known as *Timirí* (travelling teachers) traveled throughout Ireland setting up Irish language classes. The League organised *feiseanna* and literary competitions and promoted Irish music and Irish dancing. It supported the GAA and backed a 'buy Irish' campaign. The League campaigned to have Irish taught in secondary schools and made the Irish language compulsory for entry to the new National University of Ireland.

While the Gaelic League was strictly non-political and the membership included some unionists, the majority of members were nationalists (in the decades leading up to 1916 many of whom were moderates who regarded Home Rule as the only viable objective). However, with growing Irish nationalism, the membership also began to change. Many, including a number of the future signatories of the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic, became particularly influential within the organisation.

By July 1915, growing dissatisfaction with the League's leadership had been evident for some years as the organisation now clearly split: "IRB Members who were also members of the Gaelic League wanted to wrest control of the League from the 'right wing' of the organisation. That right wing strove to be apolitical, co-operated with Dublin Castle and was aligned with the Redmondite Party in favour of Home Rule. According to Lynch: "...By the summer of 1915, however, when the stage was being secretly set for Insurrection against Britain, the time had come in my opinion when the 'Left Wing' ...should control the Coiste Gnotha [Steering Committee]...well in advance of the Ard Fheis I communicated with prominent Gaelic Leaguers – who were also IRB men – urging the delegates favourable to our political views should without fail be selected to attend at Dundalk [for the Gaelic League Ard Fheis]..."

"Diarmuid Lynch - a Forgotten Irish Patriot". Eileen McGough. Mercier Press. 2013. p.39

Shortly before the Ard Fheis, the delegates in Dundalk (who were not all IRB men) held a caucus meeting where the decision to run the prisoners (*Sean MacDiarmada, Ernest Blyth and A.McCabe*) for nomination was unanimous with one exception. Wording for the key resolution was finalised and the stage was set for a bloodless coup of the Gaelic League. When the delegates had gathered in Dundalk, the key resolution was swiftly proposed, that: "The Gaelic League shall devote itself to realising the ideal of a Gaelic speaking and independent Irish nation, free from all subjection to foreign influence".

While Dr Hyde was reported to be alarmed at the content of the resolution, it passed with a comfortable majority. Diarmuid Lynch wrote later that Hyde might have accepted as inevitable, a combination of both cultural and political nationalism, had it not been for the result of the elections for the new Coista Gnotha. When the names of the pre-selected men were read out, Sean MacDiarmada appeared high on the list, followed by Ernest Blyth. At that, and recognising both men as political prisoners and that the Gaelic League was now in the hands of the 'Left Wing', Hyde threw down his papers and left the Convention Hall resigning later that day. This time, unlike in 1913, he could not be persuaded to return. A reluctant Eoin MacNeill was elected in his place. Hyde's resignation was followed by many of the more moderate members while Sean MacDiarmada, Ernest Blyth and A.McCabe were elected to the Coiste Gnotha.

By the time of the Ard Fheis in Dundalk, the main contribution of the Gaelic League to the 1916 Rising had already been made: over a generation the Gaelic League had accomplished significant cultural change in the nationalist population. The young men & women of the 1916 generation were proud to be Irish and heirs to one of the oldest civilisations in Europe; many of them spoke the Irish language; they cherished their cultural traditions; and, moreover, they were aware of their national history—a history in which it was recognised that Ireland had been dominated for centuries. While the majority would settle for Home Rule, some believed Ireland was entitled to full independence, an objective for which they were prepared to use military force to achieve – and soon.

100 years ago this month.

Documentary interviews in Tracton Arts Centre.

It was lights, camera, action and loads of re-takes mid June at both Tracton Arts Centre and Granig as documentary filming on Diarmuid took place.

Ciara Hyland and camera team of Tony & Pascal with Neill on sound managed to coax the bi-lingual best from Eileen and Ruairi in the Tracton Arts Centre with Brid, Dolores and Mary filmed on location in Granig.



Tony, Ciara, Pascal & Neill at the Tracton Arts Centre – June 16, 2015.

Expect to see the finished work on TNG TV around Easter 2016.

2016 Update

Government proposals for Saturday, March 26th, 2016:



Relative's Event – 26 March 2016

As part of the State Ceremonial Programme, the Government has agreed to host a State event for relatives of those who took part in the events of 1916. It is proposed that this event will be a respectful evening for families to reflect on the involvement of their ancestors and to mark the events of 1916.

The Ireland 2016 Project Team would value the input all interested relatives of 1916 participants in relation to how this event might be structured. The Project Team are currently working to secure a suitable venue, through public procurement processes, in the city centre that will be easily accessible to attendees by public and private transport.

The event will be held during the evening of Saturday 26th March.

We are mindful that there is a busy schedule of events in place for Easter weekend, and in order to facilitate

maximum attendance and ease of access, we would propose inviting people to arrive at approximately 6.30pm, with the event itself lasting from 7 – 9pm.

Light refreshments will be served before and after the formal elements of the event.

The event itself will comprise a number of short speeches followed by a curated performance element. This will be respectful and will possibly include elements of theatre, poetry, song, music and other art forms as appropriate. We propose that content will be routed in the themes of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme and would highlight the role played by individuals during 1916 and have a deep familial resonance. An exhibition element is also being considered.

The format of the evening has yet to be finalised in terms of whether this should be a partially or fully seated event and if so, whether the seating should be ticketed and we would welcome the input of the Relatives in this context. The means of booking and distribution of tickets will depend on the venue, however we would welcome any views on how this could best be managed.

2016 Project Office
28 May 2015

If you would like to comment and/or make suggestions, email executive@defence.ie



Family members & friends attending Easter 2016:

Daly, Daire
Daly, Saoirse
Daly, Ruairi
Daly, Diarmuid
Daly, Aja
Daly, Cale
Daly, Duibhne
Duggan, Brid
Lynch, Dolores
Lynch, Mary
Lynch, Ruairi
Anglim, Helen
Ryan-Lynch, Rebecca
Ryan-Lynch, Cianna
Ryan-Lynch, David
Lynch, Cormac (US)
Lynch, Gaye (US)
Lynch, Diarmuid
Lynch, Christine
Lynch, Robyn
Lynch, Diarmuid
Lynch, Hugh
McGough, Eileen
Collins, Mylie
Murphy, Nora
Murphy, Mark & Ellis
Scott, Dolores, Paul & Family
Winters Family
Cohalan, Judge Peter Fox & Eileen Kremers (US)

Plus others to confirm.
Missed anyone? Get in touch and I'll mail you the form.

Dublin's hotels will be heavily booked during Easter 2016, so it's suggested you make your reservations quickly.

Many of us are staying at the Hilton Double Trees, Dublin 4 (former Burlington) so do come and join with family & friends.

Lusitania Centenary Stamp Launch

A two stamp set, recently released by An Post marks the centenary of the WW1 sinking of the passenger liner *Lusitania* off the coast of Cork in May 1915.



The stamps, beautiful First day Cover (FDC) and minisheet are available at main post offices, at www.irishstamps.ie or via the stamp shop at Dublin's GPO.



Some 1,198 passengers and crew died after the ship was struck by a torpedo fired by a German submarine U20. The sinking and shocking death toll is popularly regarded as prompting the decision by the USA to enter the war, albeit some two years later

The stamps (68c and €1) feature specially commissioned paintings by Vincent Killowry capturing the dramatic scenes of the ship at sail and then listing badly before sinking.

Vincent Killowry, is a renowned West of Ireland based artist. He has worked on a number of stamp projects most notably An Post's Volvo Ocean race set.

The sinking of the Lusitania took place on this day (May 7th) approximately 14 miles off the Irish coast near the Old Head of Kinsale. The ship was struck by a single torpedo and sank quickly after a second explosion. Although there

were sufficient lifeboats on board, the badly listing ship made it impossible to execute a full evacuation. Of the 1,959 people on board just 761 were saved, many of them by boats launched from Kinsale, Cobh and Cork city.

Lusitania was launched by the Cunard Line in 1906, as an ocean liner, famous for its luxury and speed. It was, for a brief time, the largest ocean liner in the world and held the record for crossing the Atlantic. Prior to the sinking Germany had declared the seas around Ireland as a war zone and had placed newspaper advertisements warning people not to sail on the ship. Among the casualties of the sinking was Hugh Lane, art collector and benefactor, founder of Dublin's Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, the first public gallery of modern art in the world.

The U-Boat U20 had another connection with Ireland. [Roger Casement](#) began his return journey to Ireland aboard the U20, transferring to the U19 when the submarine that sunk the Lusitania developed engine trouble.

Griffith's Valuation, Granig 1853

Griffith's Valuation was a boundary and land valuation survey of Ireland completed between 1848 and 1864 which was used to determine liability to pay the Poor rate (the amount of tax each person was required to pay towards the support of the poor within their area or [poor law union](#)). The items shown here for Granig date from 1853.

Background

From the 1820s to the 1840s a complex process of reform was introduced in an attempt to standardise the basis of local taxation in Ireland. The first need was to map and fix administrative boundaries through the Ordnance Survey and the associated Boundary Commission, followed by an attempt to assess the productive capacity of all property in the country uniformly.

Richard Griffith, a geologist based in Dublin, became Boundary Commissioner in 1825 (He was to mark the boundaries of every county, barony, civil parish and townland in preparation for the first Ordnance Survey). He was also called upon to assist in the preparation of a Parliamentary bill to provide for the general valuation of Ireland. This Act was passed in 1826, and he was appointed Commissioner of Valuation in 1827, but did not start work until 1830 when the new 6" maps, became available from the Ordnance Survey and which he was required to use as provided for by statute

Griffith's survey teams conducted two major valuation surveys. First was the townland valuation, which was completed in the 1840s and which took the townland as the geographical unit of valuation. The second and more extensive, was the tenement (or tenancy) survey which valued individual property separately for the first time and which also valued all buildings in the townland for the first time, whereas, previously only the larger houses, principally those of the gentry had been valued in the first valuation.

To assure that this valuation would be carried out within well defined scientific guidelines and procedures, Griffith composed a field manual entitled

"INSTRUCTIONS to the VALUATORS and SURVEYORS for the Uniform Valuation of LANDS and TENEMENTS in Ireland".

He left no doubt in the minds of his staff about the level of efficiency he expected when he stated unequivocally in the manual that..

"Whenever it shall appear that any part of the foregoing Instructions shall have been neglected, or the work imperfectly or carelessly conducted, and that in consequence a more extended revision shall be necessary for the purpose of correcting errors or omissions, the valuator or surveyor in such cases cannot be retained in the Valuation service."

Griffith's Valuation – Granig, 1853. Source:

		Land, offices, and land,	39 0 13	14 5 0	0 15 0	14 5 0
		House, offices, and land,	26 3 0	9 15 0	2 0 0	11 15 0
		Land,	1 0 24	0 12 0	—	0 12 0
		House, offices, and land,	38 3 11	14 5 0	1 5 0	15 10 0
		House,	—	—	0 0 0	0 0 0
		House, offices, and land,	43 2 10	19 10 0	1 10 0	21 0 0
		House,	—	—	0 0 0	0 0 0
		Land,	0 1 36	0 1 0	—	0 1 0
		Total,	659 3 34	275 7 0	38 4 0	313 11 0
		Office and land,	49 2 36	26 5 0	0 10 0	26 15 0
		Land,	0 3 21	0 15 0	—	0 15 0
		House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
		Total,	60 2 17	27 0 0	0 15 0	27 15 0
		House, offices, and land,	38 2 8	8 10 0	2 0 0	10 10 0
		Land,	2 2 6	0 2 0	—	0 2 0
		House and land,	34 1 31	2 15 0	1 5 0	4 0 0
		House, offices, and land,	38 0 0	8 0 0	2 0 0	8 0 0
		House, offices, and land,	—	12 15 0	1 0 0	13 15 0
		House and land,	154 3 28	12 15 0	0 10 0	13 5 0
		House,	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
		House, offices, and land,	95 1 17	22 10 0	4 10 0	27 0 0
		House,	—	—	0 0 0	0 0 0
		House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
		Office and land,	61 0 11	15 5 0	0 15 0	16 0 0
		House,	—	—	0 0 0	0 0 0
		House, offices, and land,	99 3 31	47 5 0	5 10 0	52 15 0
		House,	—	—	0 0 0	0 0 0
		House,	—	—	0 0 0	0 0 0



PRIMARY VALUATION OF TENEMENTS. PARISH OF TRACTON.

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names.	Description of Tenement.	Area.	Net Annual Value.		
				Land.	Buildings.	Total.
	MINKANE—con.					
	Unoccupied.	Daniel C. McCarthy.	House.	—	0 8 0	0 8 0
	David Leahy.	Daniel C. McCarthy.	House.	—	0 8 0	0 8 0
	Mrs. Dooley.	Daniel C. McCarthy.	House.	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
	Bartholomew Canty.	Daniel C. McCarthy.	House.	—	0 12 0	0 12 0
	Unoccupied.	Daniel C. McCarthy.	House.	—	0 8 0	0 8 0
	Unoccupied.	Daniel C. McCarthy.	House and garden.	0 1 0	0 19 0	1 0 0
	William Daunt.	Achilles Daunt, Esq.	Land.	24 1 4	—	20 0 0
	Unoccupied.	William Daunt.	House.	—	0 12 0	0 12 0
	Mrs. Canty.	William Daunt.	House.	—	1 5 0	1 5 0
	Bridget Canty.	John Michael Scannell.	House.	—	1 0 0	1 0 0
	Mrs. Sullivan.	William Daunt.	House.	—	1 2 0	1 2 0
	Simon Holmes.	William Daunt.	House.	—	1 12 0	1 12 0
	John Dempsey.	William Daunt.	House.	—	2 12 0	2 12 0
	John Shea.	Achilles Daunt, Esq.	House, office, and land,	38 2 20	2 0 0	40 0 0
	Jeremiah Lynch.	Jeremiah Lynch.	House.	—	0 12 0	0 12 0
	Mrs. Kieley.	Jeremiah Lynch.	House.	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
	Jeremiah Daly.	Jeremiah Lynch.	House.	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
	James Walsh.	Jeremiah Lynch.	House.	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
	David Noonan.	Jeremiah Lynch.	House.	—	0 12 0	0 12 0
	Denis Desmond.	Jeremiah Lynch.	House.	—	0 14 0	0 14 0
	Timothy Crowley.	Jeremiah Lynch.	House.	—	0 12 0	0 12 0
	John Desmond.	Jeremiah Lynch.	House.	—	0 14 0	0 14 0
	Bartholomew Scannell.	Achilles Daunt, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	2 2 2	1 15 0	2 5 0
	Unoccupied.	Jeremiah Lynch.	House.	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
	Denis Noonan.	Jeremiah Lynch.	House.	—	0 18 0	0 18 0
	John Neill.	Bartholomew Scannell.	House.	—	0 12 0	0 12 0
		Total,		100 1 30	73 17 0	24 4 0
	RINGABELLA. (Ord. S. 99.)					
	Samuel Hodder, Esq.	In fee.	House, offices and land	100 1 30	73 17 0	24 4 0

Links to the Ordnance Survey maps that accompany Griffith's valuation are complex and needs a little explanation.

The leftmost column in the printed valuation is headed 'No and Letters of Reference to map'. Each holding within a townland or street is numbered sequentially in order of valuation, not of geographical contiguity. In general, on the accompanying map each townland is surrounded by a thick line, with the numbered subdivisions outlined inside lighter lines. Within these numbered subdivisions in the printed valuation, letters are sometimes included.

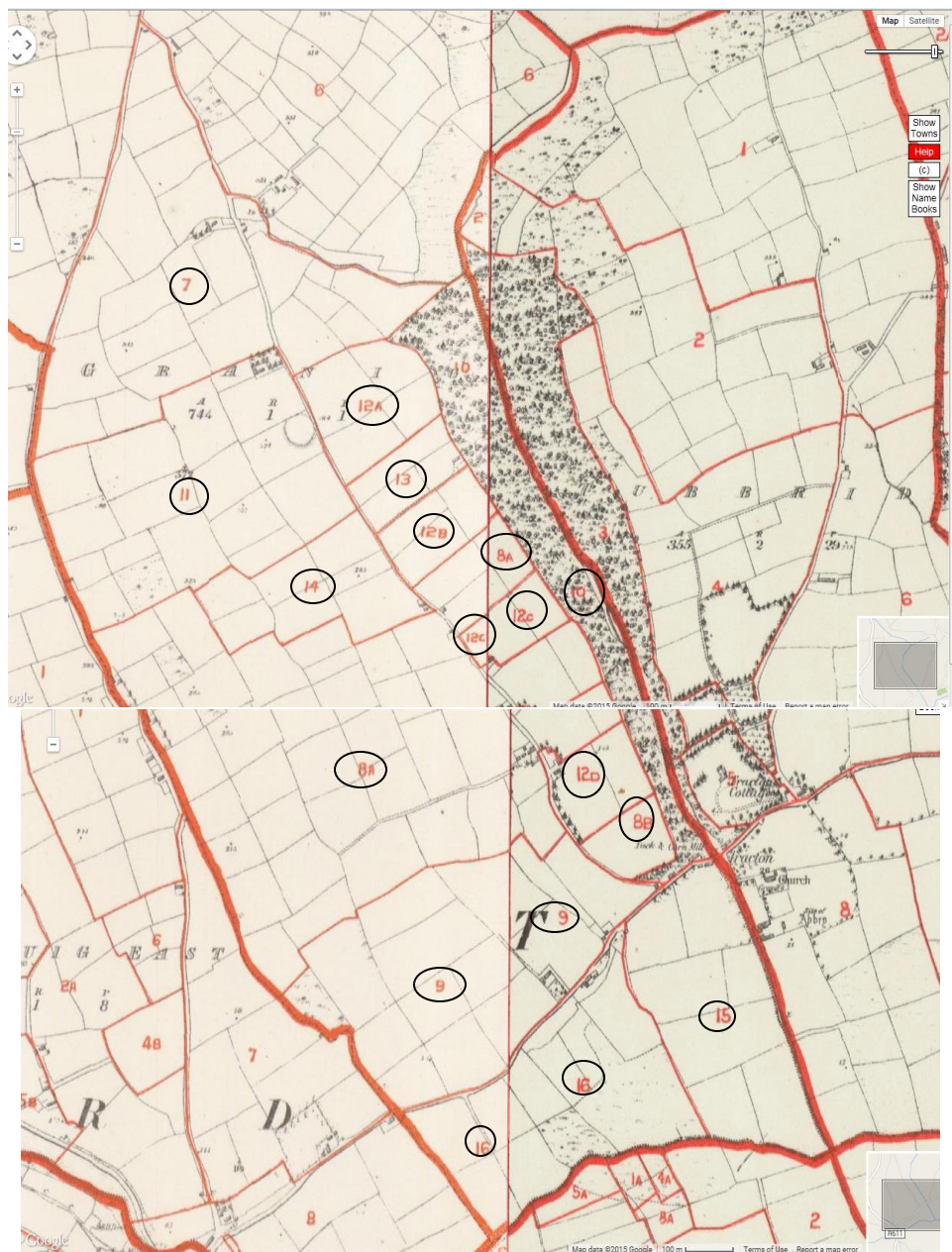
Capital letters after the subdivision number (e.g. '2A, B, C') indicate separate parcels of property in the townland held by the same individual. So if a John Kelly leased two separate fields in the townland of Ballymore, these will be listed within the townland under his name following each other as 2A, B. Lower-case letters after the holding number (e.g. '2a, b, c') indicate a house situated within a parcel of property

Where a number of houses are situated on a parcel held in common by a number of listed occupiers, large braces enclose them (like this). This was common in rural areas in early and mid-nineteenth-century Ireland, especially in the west, with anything up to twenty families farming an area in common.

However, the map set is not contemporary with the printed valuation: it appears to be at least thirty years older, with the result that many of the subdivision boundaries no longer match those recorded in Griffith's.

Tenement: A ratable hereditment held or possessed for any term, tenure or agreement not less than from year to year. One person may hold several distinct tenements, and several persons may hold one tenement. **Office:** Factories, mills, stores, stables, cow sheds, pig sty, etc.

Ordnance Survey maps accompanying the above entries appear on the next page...



Griffith's Valuation contd...

Close examination of the Valuation reveals direct information about the economical condition of an ancestor, of his siblings and his relatives; it described and values his house and its adjacent structures. It often reveals an occupation, that may lead to further sources of information. Family relationships can often be deduced from the frequency and proximity of a same name. The absence of an ancestor's name may be explained by clues found in the Valuation beyond the simple "Oh, he went to America."

The results of his surveys, the Primary Valuation of Ireland, were published in stages between 1847 and 1864 (Co. Cork was published in 1853) The valuation is arranged by county, barony, Poor Law Union, civil parish and townland, and it lists every landholder and every householder in Ireland. Apart from townland address and householder's name, the particulars given are

- name of the person from whom the property was leased ('immediate lessor')
- description of the property
- acreage
- valuation

The only directly useful family information supplied is in areas where a surname was particularly common. The surveyors often adopted the traditional Irish practice of using the father's first name to distinguish between individuals of the same name, so that 'John Reilly (James)' is the son of James, while 'John Reilly (Michael)' is the son of Michael. For similar reasons, occupations are also sometimes used to tell 'John Ryan (weaver)' from 'John Ryan (farmer)'. After the primary valuation, later valuations were made throughout Ireland approximately every decade. Changes in ownership or tenancy as well as the types of information recorded in the original valuation (name of the head of the household, name of the landowner, acreage, and property value) were noted in the valuation books.

View files online at :

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>

Opposite: 1853 maps and transcribed data for Granig & our ancestor Jeremiah Lynch. The lands were owned by Achilles Daunt and let to Jeremiah as a tenant farmer who in turn sub-let cottages (to Timothy Daly, Daniel Carthy, Michael Sweeney & John Leahy) with 4 other 'houses' available but listed as unoccupied. (Most probably mud cabins as none survive) Also note the slate quarry which may have been exhausted at this stage as valuation is nil. Numbers correspond to the original maps.

[illegible]

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language
McCarthy	Denis Jerome	40	Male	Head of Family	R Catholic	City Cork	Commercial Traveller Drapery	Read and write	-
Ua Loingsigh	Diarmuid	31	Male	Boarder	Roman Catholic	Co Cork	Shopman Seeds and Implement	Read and write	Irish and English
McCarthy	Patrick	78	Male	Boarder	R Catholic	Co Cork	Retired Farmer	Read and write	Irish and English
O'Connor	Ellen	19	Female	Servant	R Catholic	Co Cork	General Servant Domestic	Read and write	-

Census of Ireland 1911 continued...



Life in Ireland was dramatically different over a century ago....

- Life expectancy is 54 years for women and 50 for men
- The average family has 2.8 children
- Just over five percent of children aged 10 to 14 are in employment
- The richest one percent of the population holds approximately 70 percent of Ireland's wealth
- Electricity is available through a patchwork of small supply networks..
- The UK & Ireland are connected via a series of local telephone networks. Some wealthy homes have phones and telephone kiosks are available.

Dublin in 1911 was a mass of contradictions. Regarded as the second city — after London — of the British Empire, Dublin was also the first city of nationalist Ireland. This was a city of genuine diversity, its many complexities defying easy explanations. Rich and poor, immigrant and native, nationalist and unionist, Catholic, Protestant, Jew and Quaker, and so many more, were all bound together in the life of the city. Dublin was also a port city, though not in the grand manner of Belfast, Liverpool or Glasgow. On April 1, 1911, the Titanic was launched from the Harland and Wolff Shipyards in Belfast; no project of this scale could be undertaken in Dublin. There was no major ship-building industry, no vast industrial sector, no sense of a place driven by the impulses of manufacturing entrepreneurs and their workforce. In parts, Dublin was also incredibly poor. A notoriously high death-rate was attributable, at least, in part to the fact that 33% of all families lived in one-roomed accommodation. The slums of Dublin were the worst in Britain and Ireland.

Cork in 1911 was the largest county in Ireland, with a population of 392,104, but the city did not dominate Co. Cork in the same way Dublin city dominated Co. Dublin. It was also an extraordinarily diverse county: Catholic, but with a significant Protestant presence; rich in the quality of its agricultural land, but with a rugged landscape in the west of the county; and wealthy in parts, but with a large relatively impoverished majority. Indeed, there was much about Cork in 1911 which suggested disunity, rather than unity. Cork was divided in 1911 between a small but powerful unionist community, a broadly nationalist majority, and a small number of radical republicans. The story of Cork in the second half of the 19th century and in the first decade of the 20th century is, in many respects, the story of Irish emigration. It was from the port of Queenstown (now Cobh) that many Irish emigrants left for the United States.

The next census would be 15 years later in 1926 and of a dramatically changed island.

Whiskey Distillery Buildings, Drumcondra, Dublin.

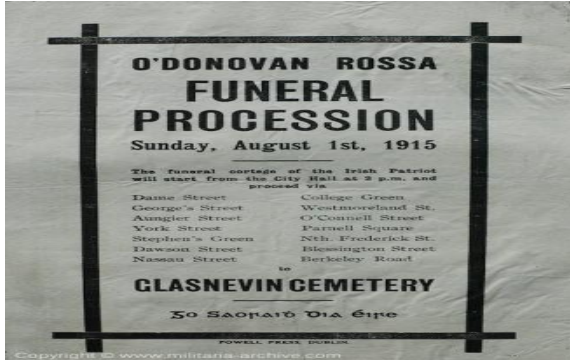
Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses	Years Married	Children Born	Children Living
Lynch	Denis J.	25	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Cork	Distiller	Read and write	Irish and English	Single	-	-	-	-
Jones	Annie	40	Female	Servant	Roman Catholic	City of Cork	Cook Domestic Servant	Read and write	-	Widow	-	-	-	-

6 Belgrave Place, Cork.

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses	Years Married	Children Born	Children Living
Ahern	Jeremiah	70	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Cork	Corn Merchant	Read and write	Irish and English	Married	-	40	-	-
Ahern	Julia	69	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Cork	Corn Merchant	Read and write	Irish and English	Married	-	40	-	-
Lynch	Margaret	64	Female	Visitor	Roman Catholic	Co Cork	Farmer	Read and write	Irish and English	Widow	-	-	6	5
Murphy	Hannah	31	Female	Niece	Roman Catholic	Co Cork	Accountant	Read and write	Irish and English	Single	-	-	-	-
Murphy	Julia	20	Female	Niece	Roman Catholic	Co Cork	Seamstress	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
Leahy	Mary	31	Female	Servant	Roman Catholic	Co Cork	Cook Domestic Servant	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-

O'Donovan Rossa Funeral

By mid-July 1915, the organization of the largest nationalist event in years was well underway. The O'Donovan Rossa Organising Committee had large posters displayed throughout Ireland advertising the upcoming funeral. Special trains were chartered at reduced rates with some 14,000 rail passengers expected in Dublin on August 1st.



July 28th: O'Donovan Rossa's casket arrived in Ireland accompanied by his wife and daughter. They were met in Liverpool by Kathleen Clarke and Sean McGarry and escorted home, landing at Cobh where the body was received by a committee of the IRB and taken to Dublin. The cortege was taken to the Pro-Cathedral on the approval of Archbishop Walsh and laid before the High Altar with a guard of honour of Irish Volunteers for the night.

July 29th: After a High Mass, the O'Donovan Rossa cortege was moved from the Pro-Cathedral to City Hall for lying in state before the funeral on Sunday, August 1st. Thousands filed past the bier to pay their respects.



August 1: Following the lying in state in City Hall, O'Donovan Rossa's funeral became a national event. Many thousands filled the streets, and both British forces and police were confined to barracks or limited to Unionist neighbourhoods. Packed trains brought mourners from all parts of Ireland. The largest presence was from Redmond's National Volunteers but the armed Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army controlled traffic and security with the I.R.B. organising the huge committee which handled the event.

The hearse was drawn by two plumed black horses, preceded by a group of priests, secular, Dominicans, Benedictines and Capuchins. They were followed by kilted Fianna scouts, Gaelic Leaguers, Transport Union workers with banners, mayors and corporation members from all over Ireland, pipe bands and an armed escort of the Irish Volunteers and Citizen Army marched alongside the hearse. The heavy rain of the morning had given way to blue skies. The procession stopped in silence outside Mountjoy Prison on the route to Glasnevin Cemetery as a mark of respect to the man who had been jailed there fifty years before.

70,000 were estimated to be present in Glasnevin witnessing the event. At the end of the funeral rite in Irish, Patrick Pearse, who had been instructed by Tom Clarke to 'throw discretion to the winds' gave the funeral oration that was to become famous and help mobilise Republicans for future revolution.

... "It has seemed right, before we turn away from this place in which we have laid the mortal remains of O'Donovan Rossa, that one amongst us should, in the name of all, speak the praise of that valiant man, and endeavour to formulate the thought and the hope that are in us as we stand around his grave. And if there is anything that makes it fitting that I rather than some other--I, rather than one of the grey-haired men who were young with him, and shared in his labour and in his suffering, should speak here, it is, perhaps, that I may be taken as speaking on behalf of a new generation that has been re-baptised in the Fenian faith, and that has accepted the responsibility of carrying out the Fenian programme. I propose to you, then, that here by the grave of this unrepentant Fenian, we renew our baptismal vows; that here by the grave of this unconquered and unconquerable man, we ask of God, each one for himself, such unshakeable purpose, such high and gallant courage, such unbreakable strength of soul as belonged to O'Donovan Rossa.

"Deliberately here we avow ourselves, as he avowed himself in the dock, Irishmen of one allegiance only. We, of the Irish Volunteers, and you others who are associated with us in to-day's task and duty, are bound together, and must stand together henceforth in brotherly union for the achievement of the freedom of Ireland. And we know only one definition of freedom: It is Tone's definition; it is Mitchel's definition; it is Rossa's definition. Let no one blaspheme the cause that the dead generations of Ireland served by giving it any other name and definition than their name and definition.

"We stand at Rossa's grave, not in sadness, but rather in exaltation of spirit that it has been given us to come thus into so close a communion with that brave and splendid Gael. Splendid and holy causes are served by men who are themselves splendid and holy. O'Donovan Rossa was splendid in the proud manhood of him--splendid in the heroic grace of him, splendid in the Gaelic strength and clarity and truth of him. And all that splendour, and pride, and strength was compatible with a humility and a simplicity of devotion to Ireland, to all that was olden and beautiful and Gaelic in Ireland; the holiness and simplicity of patriotism of a Michael O'Clery or of an Eoghan O'Growney. The clear true eyes of this man almost alone in his day visioned Ireland as we to-day would surely have her--not free merely but Gaelic as well; not Gaelic merely, but free as well.

"In a closer spiritual communion with him now than ever before, or perhaps ever again, in spiritual communion with those of his day living and dead, who suffered with him in English prisons, in communion of spirit too with our own dear comrades who suffer in English prisons to-day, and speaking on their behalf as well as our own, we pledge to Ireland our love, and we pledge to English rule in Ireland our hate. This is a place of peace, sacred to the dead, where men should speak with all charity and with all restraint; but I hold it a Christian thing, as O'Donovan Rossa held it, to hate evil, to hate untruth, to hate oppression, and hating them, to strive to overthrow them. Our foes are strong, and wise, and wary; but strong and wise and wary as they are, they cannot undo the miracles of God, Who ripens in the hearts of young men the seeds sown by the young men of a former generation. And the seeds sown by the young men of '65 and '67 are coming to their miraculous ripening to-day. Rulers and Defenders of Realms had need to be wary if they would guard against such processes. Life springs from death, and from the graves of patriot men and women spring live nations. The defenders of this realm have worked well in secret and in the open. They think that they have pacified Ireland. They think that they have purchased half of us, and intimidated the other half. They think that they have foreseen everything. They think that they have provided against everything; but the fools, the fools, the fools! they have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace."

The Irish Volunteer & Citizen Army Guard of Honour fired a volley over the grave and the Last Post was played by Bugler Willie Oman of the Irish Citizen Army. Months later, most of the leaders at the graveside were dead.



Graveside – August 1, 1915. Diarmuid Lynch arrowed.

While designed to provoke the authorities, no official reaction took place. The Chief Secretary, Augustine Birrell, on reading the newspapers the following day said: "...I do not suppose anybody in the whole concourse cared anything for the old fellow, who never cared for anything at any time" Even James Connolly had been moved (by the graveside oration), although Connolly had been heard to say before the funeral that he wished people would stop blethering about dead Fenians '...and get us a few live ones for a change'...George Dangerfield. "The Damnable Question - a study in Anglo-Irish Relations" 1977 p.147

Taking pride in a troubled legacy

Critics say the Easter Rising was a disaster and costly mistake. But people shouldn't be bullied out of a sense of pride in the revolutionary generation argues Diarmaid Ferriter

Published Irish Independent. 05/04/2015

As we mark the 99th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, questions that have long been asked about the necessity, impact and the legacy of the Rising will, once again, come into sharp focus. Unsurprisingly, given the role of violence in 1916 and subsequent decades, these questions have been a feature of debating the Rising, the War of Independence and civil war, for decades.

One of the most contentious assertions associated with these controversies is the idea that the Free State could have been achieved without the Rising and that it was therefore completely unnecessary.

With the backdrop of the Troubles in Northern Ireland from the 1970s to the 1990s, 1916 and its legacy were scorned by some. For historian and Labour Party politician Conor Cruise O'Brien, for example, it was the origin of all later ills. In the 1970s, O'Brien described 1916 leader Pádraig Pearse as "a manic, mystic nationalist with a cult of blood sacrifice and a strong personal motivation towards death". He added: "A nation which pretends to take a personality of that type as its mentor, without really meaning it, is already involved in a disaster, a disaster of intellectual dishonesty and moral obliquity."

For others, such disparagement was not about genuine historical revision based on an assessment of new evidence and an appreciation of context, but a politically driven revisionism. It amounted to a denigration of a legitimate revolutionary impulse that had become, in the modern era, an embarrassment.

Undoubtedly some historians, in response to the Troubles, began to paint their history in black and white instead of grey, absorbing messy reality into a neat narrative of constitutional progress that had been interrupted by undemocratic physical force advocates.



The shattered remains of the General Post Office in Sackville Street, Dublin, after the Easter Rising. Photographed June 1916.

Reordering the Civil War generation as pro-state democrats or anti-state dictators was common, as some scholars felt it vital to undermine the Provisional IRA during the Troubles. But some of what was criticised as political revisionism was also about legitimately challenging those who were abusing history and falsifying the past for their own ends.

The idea that the 1916 Rising and all that flowed from it was unnecessary still has much currency; former Taoiseach John Bruton, for example, has been adamant recently that the 1916 Rising was a costly mistake. But in tandem with the peace process and more distance from the revolutionary era, some of the heat has gone out of these rows, which is no bad thing.

While the historical realities and divisions of 100 years ago need to be recognised, commemorating with dignity and an absence of rancour is surely preferable to some of the bile associated with these debates in the past. Moving beyond the limitations of the debate in previous decades allows for a more textured approach and for people to resist attempts to bully out of existence the pride they might feel in the revolutionary generation.

But for all the rows and the variety of perspectives relevant to remembering and commemorating the revolutionary decade of 1913-23, it should not be forgotten that many, for too long, were deprived of a basic knowledge of the revolution.....one of the legacies of the Civil War was a silence about divisive events; for all those from the 1920s to the 1960s who engaged in score-settling and writing one-sided accounts of events of the revolutionary period, there were many more who would not talk or write about it...Taoiseach Jack Lynch told historian Eoin Neeson that even if Britain opened state papers from 1922, the Irish government would not, as access "might well stir domestic controversies that best lie buried."

Such reluctance and caution is far removed from the current situation. The National Archives Act of 1986 allowed papers for the revolutionary period to be made more accessible; other private archives began to collect the personal papers of revolutionary veterans, and archives long under lock and key, including the Bureau of Military History Statements - the personal accounts from participants in the revolution collected in the 1940s and 1950s and then locked up - were opened in 2003. More recently, the applications of those who applied for military service pensions based on their service during the War of Independence and Civil War have begun to be released

All of these sources have made it possible for the revolutionary decade of 1913-23 and its participants to be re-evaluated, with a variety of new perspectives now possible on the motivations, mentalities and experiences of that generation. The witness accounts do not contain all the answers and have to be treated with caution; memories could be faulty, prejudices could be at work as scores were settled and some may have had reason to either exaggerate or be overly reticent.

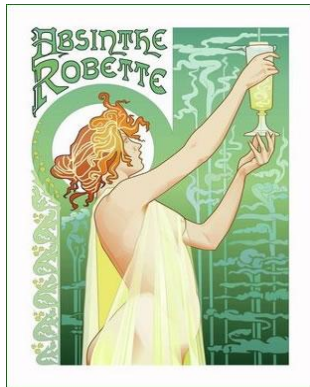
But the combination of all the material now accessible means we can think in a more layered and nuanced way about identity during the revolution, and try to understand the participants through the lens of their era.

As summed up simply by the novelist Roddy Doyle in 2012: "There are more layers to being Irish" than his generation, born in the 1950s, were led to believe. Doyle also suggested, "there should be questions so that we give back these people their humanity. Let's see human beings making these decisions, flawed and all as they are." That amounts to wise advice and is possible to aspire to given the range of sources now available.

Remembering the revolution has always been complicated by a shifting political and academic focus, but one thing cannot be denied.

The most important commemorative priority should be about informing, educating and ensuring that young Irish citizens have a good knowledge of what happened during the revolution. This will ensure that they are not subjected to propagandist versions of what happened, or have to discover it... by accident.

Diarmaid Ferriter is Professor of Modern Irish History at UCD. His book A Nation and Not a Rabble: The Irish Revolution 1913-1923 has just been published



Centenary Celebrations

2015

July 12

325th Anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne.

August 1

Glasnevin Cemetery: State Commemoration of the funeral of O'Donovan Rossa including a wreath laying ceremony, a re-enactment of Pearse's speech and a piper's lament.

2016

January 1

- Dublin Castle: Opening events of the State Commemorative program.
- Issue of 16 Commemoration Stamps by An Post and special coins by the Central Bank.

March 8

- Richmond Barracks, Dublin: Women in the 1916 Rising Commemoration & Exhibition.

March 15

- Proclamation Day – all educational establishments

March 26 Easter Saturday

- Wreath laying ceremonies at key sites to mark the Rising centenary.
- Garden of Remembrance., Dublin 1: Remembrance Ceremony for all who died during 1916.
- State Reception for relatives of the 1916 participants. Venues to be advised.

March 27 Easter Sunday

- State ceremonies at the GPO, Dublin marking the centenary of the Rising.
- State Reception for all guests invited to the State Ceremony at the GPO.
-

March 28 Easter Monday

- Wreath laying ceremonies throughout the capital & state at 13:15hrs – marking the time the Rising began.
- Official opening of the Easter Rising Centenary Interpretative Visitor Centre at the GPO.
- Ireland 2016 Public Celebrations nationwide

March 29 Easter Tuesday

- Liberty Hall Ceremony to mark the contribution of the Irish Citizen Army and James Connolly.
- Official opening of the Kilmainham Courthouse
- Official opening of the Tenement Museum, Dublin 1.

April 2: National Children's Day & opening of an exhibition on children of 1916.

April 3: Journey of Reconciliation 1916-2016 interfaith service in Glasnevin cemetery

April 9: Pearse Museum – Presidential visit

Official opening of the Military Archives, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines, Dublin 6

April 10: Commemoration event 1916-2016

April 11: Garda Museum – opening of an exhibition on the DMP & the 1916 Rising.

April 12: National Concert Hall – opening of new facilities

April 21: Banna Strand, Co. Kerry. Wreath laying ceremony marking the centenary of Casement's landing.

April 24: Arbour Hill – Commemoration event

May 2: Richmond Barracks. Re-opening of the historic barracks on the same day as the Courts Martials began.

May 3-12 – Stonebreakers Yard, Kilmainham Jail. Ceremonies will take place to commemorate the 15 executions. Marked by Military Colour party, wreath laying and piper's lament.

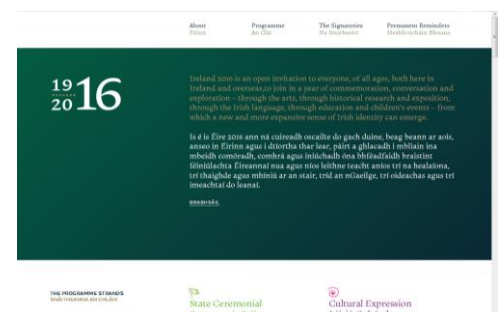
May – Grangegorman Military Cemetery. Ceremony marking British soldiers killed during the Rising.

May – Pearse Cottage, Rathfarnham. Official re-opening of Pearse's Cottage.

August 3 – Commemorative events for Roger Casement marking the centenary of his death in Pentonville Prison, London.

December – Conclusion of the 1916 Commemoration year at Aras an Uachtaráin

More events are being added weekly. For full details, visit the Government 1916-2016 Commemoration website at ireland.ie





The Cricket Bat that died for Ireland

From the National Museum of Ireland

A cricket bat with a bullet lodged deep in the willow is this month's item of interest in the National Museum. It was donated to the museum's Easter Week Collection in 1981, and quickly became a firm favourite among the staff, who came to affectionately call it The Cricket Bat that Died for Ireland.

The object itself is pretty descriptive of much of the NMI's collection relating to the Independence period – lots of souvenirs and relics picked up and kept by the people who witnessed events or their aftermath, and eventually finding a home in the museum

The bat had the misfortune of being on display in the shop front of Elvery's store on O'Connell Street, then Sackville Street, during the Easter Rising. J.W. Elvery & Co. was Ireland's oldest sports store, specialising in sporting goods and waterproofed wear, with branches in Dublin, Cork (Patrick Street) and London (Conduit Street). The shops had a distinctive figure of an elephant above the front door, giving them the name Elvery's Elephant House. Its city centre branch was at this time located at 46 & 47 Lower Sackville Street (now a Supermac's, sadly without the elephant though its plinth is still there), and even got a mention in James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

Its location, about one block from the GPO, meant it was in the middle of the cross-fire and general destruction of the main street. While it's neighbour the Metropole Hotel was razed to the ground, it escaped the worst, though it was badly damaged. There were also reports of widespread looting on the street from the night of Monday the 24th. The Sinn Féin 1916 Rebellion Handbook, published by the Irish Times in 1917, describes children roaming the streets with sweets, toys and 'hockey and golf sticks and all kinds of articles used in popular pastimes', which would certainly suggest Elvery's was a victim

The bullet lodged in the wood of the bat is a .303 calibre, which was used by the British Army for both their standard issue Short Magazine Lee Enfield rifles and also Lewis machine guns. The Irish Volunteers had about 900 1871 model Mausers, landed at Howth two years before, which used .45 calibre ammunition, so the bat was shot by a British gun. Rifle fire on Sackville Street was heaviest on the Tuesday of the Rising, before the fires began to spread on the Wednesday, so it's possible, though not certain, that the bat was shot on that day



Elvery's store, O'Connell St. c1915

Perhaps one of the reasons the cricket bat has captured so many people's imaginations is the idea of such a symbol of 'Britishness' taking a bullet in the rebellion. Maybe the fact that the bullet came from a British weapon adds to the irony. But surprisingly (well, it was surprising to me, not knowing much about sport), cricket had been a popular pastime in Ireland with both the gentry and tenant classes for over a century. It is thought that the game was introduced in the early 19th century by the British garrisons and the landed classes who were educated in England, with teams formed on estates comprising both the Protestant and Catholic population, with the Catholics often being paid to make up team numbers. The first real account of a cricket game here was in 1792, when the Military of Ireland played the Gentlemen of Ireland in the Phoenix Park.

It also became a widely played sport in rural Ireland; John Parnell, father of Charles Stewart Parnell, even founded a club in Avondale, Co. Wicklow in the 1830s. It began to go into decline during the period of the Land Wars from the 1880s, when it came to be more associated with England and the landed aristocracy. The GAA's 1902 ban on 'foreign sports' further fueled its decline.

Still, the game survived, and clearly remained popular enough for Elvery's to advertise cricket bats in their shop front display in 1916.

Kilmainham Gaol to put historic 1916-1918 prisoners autograph books online



Kilmainham Gaol is planning a new website to show a collection of autograph books owned by prisoners at the time of the Easter Rising, in time for next year's centenary events.

The Office of Public Works which is responsible for the management of the national monument in Dublin, is seeking tenders to digitise a selection of the books from the 1916 to 1918 period.

The books containing sketches and signatures of prisoners are considered an important collection in the context of the ongoing "decade of centenaries", the OPW said in tender information published this week. Access to them is currently restricted, however, due both to their condition and to the facilities available at the gaol.

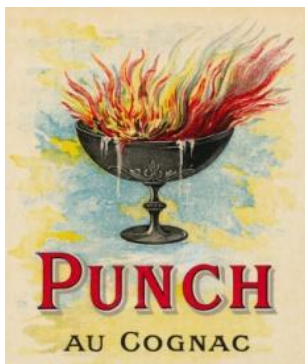
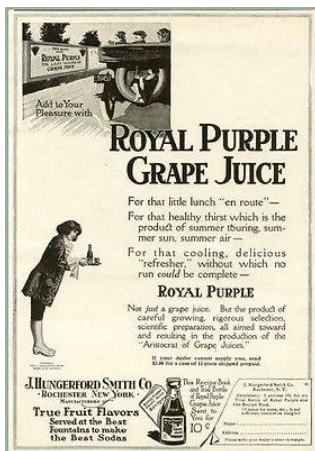
"As part of the centenary celebration of the 1916 Rising it has been decided to digitise the autograph books and associated photographs and make these available to the public online," the OPW said. It hopes to have the autograph book collection digitised in a "flippable" online format during the second half of this year and available to the public online from 2016. The website must be designed so that it can be viewed on desktop, tablets and smartphones. The graphics must also allow for individual pages to be enlarged and explored in greater detail. There are some 14 books and 2,500 pages covering the 1916 to 1918 period.

About 250 pages will contain additional information about the books' signatories, including photographs and biographical details.

Eventually, the website will be expanded to include an additional 8,000 pages of autograph books and further information about the gaol archives, the OPW said.

Kilmainham Gaol is said by the national monuments management body to be one of the largest unoccupied gaols in Europe. It opened in 1796 as the county gaol for Dublin and held most of the key figures involved in the struggle for Irish independence. Leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party Charles Stewart Parnell was imprisoned there from October 1881 to May 1882, along with many of his fellow MPs, after their rejection of the Land Act introduced by the British government in 1881. Many of the 1916 leaders were imprisoned and executed there.

Irish Times.



“...the fools, the fools, the fools! “ speech almost never made.

Pearse's O'Donovan Rossa funeral address ends with the lines:

“.....The Defenders of this Realm have worked well in secret and in the open. They think that they have pacified Ireland. They think that they have purchased half of us and intimidated the other half. They think that they have foreseen everything, think that they have provided against everything; but the fools, the fools, the fools! — they have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.”

However, the 1 August 1915 speech very nearly wasn't made, according to author and resident historian at Glasnevin Museum Shane MacThomáis.

“After the funeral mass, said by Father O'Flanagan, there was to be one graveside speaker only,” MacThomáis explains. “The somewhat unknown Pádraig Pearse had been Tom Clarke's choice to give the oration. Many on the committee had disputed this but Clarke knew his man and insisted that he was the one.” At the time, republicans were restrained from making inflammatory speeches for fear of imprisonment.

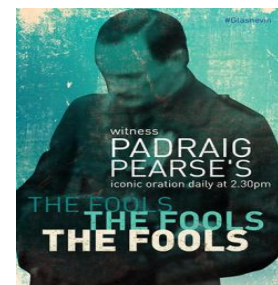
“Pearse spent days and nights in his Connemara cottage writing and re-writing the speech until he felt it was ready. Having shown the speech to no one, Pearse, in the uniform of an Irish Volunteer officer, took the note from his pocket, stood at the end of the grave, and gave what was to become one of the most famous funeral orations in history.”

“Pearse's finely crafted words not only caught the zeitgeist but were to resonate for generations to come,” the historian says. “As the old Fenian was laid to rest in the country of his birth, a country he had spent his life fighting for, a new dawn had risen for a generation as they passed out through Glasnevin Cemetery's gates.”

Pearse himself was dead within a year of making the oration, executed in May 1916 for his role in the Easter Rising.



Above: Due to the expected crowds attending the funeral, special passes were issued to nominated representatives and relatives.



Padraig Pearse Oration Re-enactment

**14th March to 11th of October 2015 - Daily at 2.30pm
Glasnevin Cemetery, Finglas Road, Glasnevin, Dublin.**

In 2015, Glasnevin Cemetery Museum will continue their series of re-enactments and orations of famous Irish patriots. The now famous speech delivered by Padraig Pearse at the grave of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa on 1st August, 1915, will be re-enacted daily at 2.30pm by an actor dressed as Pearse in full uniform.

Cemetery: + 353 01 882 6500 Museum: + 353 01 882 6550
Email: info@glasnevintrust.ie

Also this year in Glasnevin Museum's Prospect Gallery:



In May 2014 Glasnevin Cemetery Museum appealed to members of the public to come forward with artefacts and heirlooms relating to Ireland's involvement in the First World War. The response was overwhelming and the range of objects and stories brought out into public for the first time gave a unique insight into the history of Ireland during that period.



Mission Accomplished

How the Army documented the Rising. Our military has created an online archive of first-hand accounts of the events of 1916

As the race heats up amongst the various political factions to claim credit for the 1916 Easter Rising, the Defence Forces have gone about the task of putting some hard facts and figures to the event. A huge amount of documents relating to the Rising, the War of Independence and the Civil War that followed are now available for all to view at militaryarchives.ie & bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie. Between them, the sites contain fascinating first-hand accounts of the events that would lead to the break-up of the all-powerful British Empire which, in 1916, cloaked a quarter of the globe in red. The press cuttings from the day illustrate the hostility of the bulk of the Irish media to the Rising - a hostility that contrasted with the broad sympathy of many newspapers abroad.

The press cuttings from 1916 also provide some compelling insights into how those opposed to the Rising mobilised in the days after the insurrection. As the dust settled on the ruins of the GPO in the aftermath of the Rising, the staunchly Protestant Trinity College commemorated a Catholic Mass in honour of the many Irish troops who had died at the front in Flanders wearing the uniform of the British Army. It was an unusual affair staged to make a political point.

A joke grew up in the decades after 1916 that the entire population of the new Free State had managed to squeeze themselves into the GPO during that turbulent week of Easter. But it was no laughing matter. The stark fact was that following independence, Ireland suffered terribly from the break with its main market of Britain, and the State pension to dependents of the rebels became a matter of survival to some.

The officer in charge of the military archives at Cathal Brugha Barracks, Commandant Padraic Kennedy says: "From an expenditure point of view, these pensions to those disabled, and the dependents, was quite heavy. There was a lot of emigration during the Revolutionary Period so not everybody stayed around to apply for a pension, and for those that did the qualification process was rigorous. There were several grades of pension, with the highest at £350 per year, which would provide a comfortable living.

"One of those awarded the highest grade of pension by the Free State was Aine Ceannt, the widow of Eamonn, one of the executed leaders of the Rising. Her pension claim ran to 80 typed pages. She wrote about her final visit to her husband, and the tiny chink of hope that his life might be spared. She wrote: "We reached Kilmainham and had about 20 minutes' interview with my husband. He was in a different cell, and had been given a couple of boards on which I presume he rested. He also had a soap box, a chair, a candle and pen and ink. No executions had taken place for some days... and the soldiers were coming in and out in a jocose manner, saying such things as 'It's a long way to Tipperary' and 'You never know what will happen.' Eamonn said his mind had been disturbed. He said: 'I was quite prepared to walk out of this at a quarter to four this morning, but all this has upset me.'" There was no reprieve for Eamonn Ceannt. Aine learned of his fate from a priest who told her: "He is gone to Heaven."

The newly posted archive from the Army chimes neatly with first-hand accounts from members of the public which can be viewed at <http://dh.tcd.ie/letters1916/diyhistory/collections/show/1>

In a letter posted from Rathgar in Easter week 1916, one Patrick Carphin broke bad news to his sister Jo in Scotland. He began: "We are living here in an atmosphere which you can hardly imagine. No telegrams, no telephones, no newspapers, no gas and not much to eat all through the Sinn Fein Rising about which you have no doubt read in the papers. I am only guessing that the news has reached you.

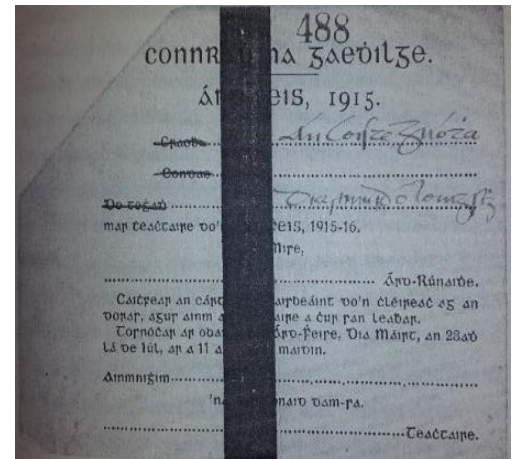
"On Monday last Muriel, Doreen and I went to spend the bank holiday at Lusk. We left a peaceful spot and had a most enjoyable day in the country. About 2.30 we heard a bang which did not at the time attract much attention but afterwards discovered that the Sinn Fein lot had attempted to blow up a railway viaduct between us and Dublin, half an hour before the Lord Lieutenant's tram was due to pass."

It was Easter Monday, the start of the Rising. The family had left the city in the sleepy tranquility of a bank holiday morning, and returned into the middle of a war zone. They walked up towards the GPO looking for a tram, but there were none. "Not knowing what to make of it I asked a bystander 'What has happened to the tram service?' He looked at me for a minute as if I were either a fool or an escaped lunatic and then said 'do you mean to say you don't know that Dublin is in a state of riot?'" Bullets flying, father, mother and little Doreen walked through Sackville Street and up to Grafton Street when: "From the direction of Harcourt Street came a scurrying rush of men, women and children which I could not understand. We drew aside to get the shelter of a church porch as the crowd swept by when Doreen suddenly cried 'Oh Mother I am shot' and something (like a boy throwing a stone) hit her hard on the ankle. I never bothered about anything but picked Doreen up. I cut her clothes off and put an improvised tourniquet on her leg."

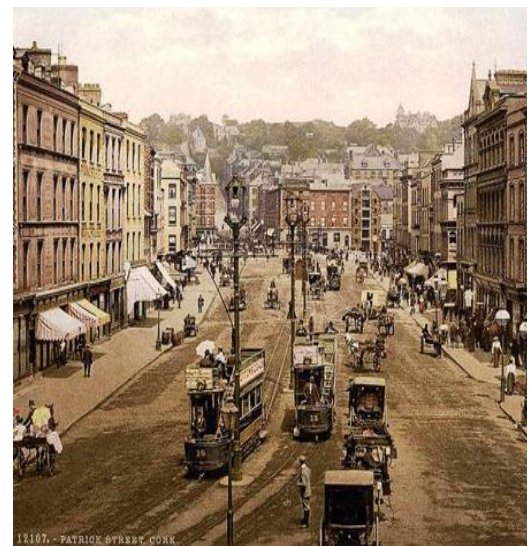
When they gathered themselves they found bullet holes in wife Muriel's voluptuous skirts. Miraculously not one had even scratched her. Patrick finished off his account: "What hit me afterwards turned out to be a spent bullet so all three of us had marvellous escapes!" (Irish Independent)

100

CENTURY VIEW
DIARMUID LYNCH

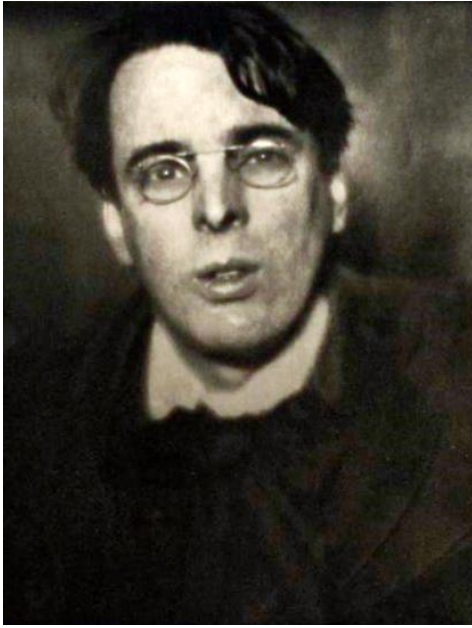


Diarmuid's membership card for the Dundalk Ard Fheis 1915.



Cork, 1915.





Yeats 150

June 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of [William Butler Yeats](#).

Yeats eyed a shifting Irish landscape in 1916, after which things changed, changed utterly

Kim Bielenberg writes in the Independent:

"...In the aftermath of the 1916 Rising, William Butler Yeats was shaken by the events in Dublin as the city smouldered in ruins. With a great part of the centre of the city destroyed, he told an acquaintance: *"As yet one knows nothing of the future except that it must be very unlike the past."*

The poet was staying in England at the time of the Rising, and learned of developments in sketchy news reports, and in letters from his friends and family. It was left to the poet to conjure up the phrases that summed up the events, and the mixed feelings felt by the public towards the rebels, who had seized the GPO. As he put it himself, all had *"changed, changed utterly"*.

Revolutionaries, who were initially heaped with opprobrium by a significant section of the populace, were turned into heroes. Yeats wrote his poem 'Easter 1916' in the months after the rebellion, but he waited for four years to publish it in the magazine *The New Statesman*. He predicted that the rebels would take their place in history.

*I write it out in a verse
MacDonagh and MacBride
And Connolly and Pearse
Now and in time to be,
Wherever green is worn,
Are changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.*

Yeats had been drawn to nationalism from a young age, but at times he was highly critical of some of the revolutionary activists.

In the 1880s he had formed a friendship with the Fenian John O'Leary, who had been imprisoned in England for taking part in an armed uprising against the English. O'Leary encouraged Yeats to write poetry based on Irish folk tales and he features in the poem 'September 1913', a denunciation of the philistine business class of Dublin who "fumble in a greasy till". At the end of each verse, Yeats pays tribute to his Fenian friend with the refrain:

*Romantic Ireland's
dead and gone
It's with O'Leary in the grave*

Although he formed friendships with ardent nationalists, his biographer Richard Ellman said he was vague about the best way to achieve an independent state: "He was certainly less sympathetic to the idea of violence, and seems to have thought... that a concerted wave of opinion, the whole country fully united, would drive England from Ireland as a magician exorcises an evil spirit." Although he knew many of the activists, who went on to take part in the Rising, he did not have a high regard for some of them.

After the turn of the century he became a supporter of John Redmond's Irish Parliamentary Party. He regarded the Sinn Féin politician Arthur Griffith as *"a mischievous personality"*, and Pádraig Pearse as a mystical school teacher *"flirting with the gallows tree"*. Pearse was criticised for modelling himself on Robert Emmett, the rebel leader who led an uprising in 1803 and was executed.

According to the poet Ezra Pound, Yeats had said for years that Pearse had Robert Emmett mania and was "half-cracked" - and that he wouldn't be happy until he was hanged. Even in the immediate aftermath of the Rising, the poet expressed reservations about Pearse, who led the rebels in the GPO. In a letter to his sister Elizabeth, he said: *"Pearse I have long looked upon as a man made dangerous by the vertigo of self-sacrifice. He has modelled himself on Emmett."* The shifting mood in the Yeats circle can be gauged by the response to events from his family. These responses helped to mould his own opinions. His sister Lily wrote to someone else immediately after the Rising: *"Did you ever hear or know of such a piece of childish madness?"*

As Pearse and the other rebels were rounded up and executed, the attitude of the poet and his friends and family changed. The scholar WK Magee noted the *"barbarities of the military and the chivalrous conduct of the insurrectionists"*. Lily was appalled by the draconian response of the government: *"This whole work here is so horrible... this shooting of foolish idealists."*

The love of Yeats for Maud Gonne MacBride, who was married to one of the participants, John MacBride, brought the events close to home. MacBride, a veteran of the Boer War, took part in the rebellion as second in command of a contingent at the Jacob's factory.

After the Rising he was court martialled and shot. Yeats describes him in Easter 1916 as a *"drunken, vainglorious lout"*, but he has heroic status bestowed on him as a result of the Rising:

*He, too, has been changed
in his turn,
Transformed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.*

Easter 1916

I have met them at close of day
Coming with vivid faces
From counter or desk among grey
Eighteenth-century houses.
I have passed with a nod of the head
Or polite meaningless words,
Or have lingered awhile and said
Polite meaningless words,
And thought before I had done
Of a mocking tale or a gibe
To please a companion
Around the fire at the club,
Being certain that they and I
But lived where motley is worn:
All changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

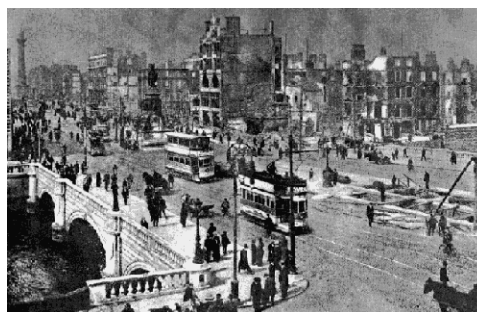
That woman's days were spent
In ignorant good will,
Her nights in argument
Until her voice grew shrill.
What voice more sweet than hers
When young and beautiful,
She rode to harriers?
This man had kept a school
And rode our winged horse.
This other his helper and friend
Was coming into his force;
He might have won fame in the end,
So sensitive his nature seemed,
So daring and sweet his thought.
This other man I had dreamed
A drunken, vain-glorious lout.
He had done most bitter wrong
To some who are near my heart,
Yet I number him in the song;
He, too, has resigned his part
In the casual comedy;
He, too, has been changed in his turn,
Transformed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

Hearts with one purpose alone
Through summer and winter, seem
Enchanted to a stone
To trouble the living stream.
The horse that comes from the road,
The rider, the birds that range
From cloud to tumbling cloud,
Minute by minute change.
A shadow of cloud on the stream
Changes minute by minute;
A horse-hoof slides on the brim;
And a horse plashes within it
Where long-legged moor-hens dive
And hens to moor-cocks call.
Minute by minute they live:
The stone's in the midst of all.

Too long a sacrifice
Can make a stone of the heart.
O when may it suffice?
That is heaven's part, our part
To murmur name upon name,
As a mother names her child
When sleep at last has come
On limbs that had run wild.
What is it but nightfall?
No, no, not night but death.
Was it needless death after all?
For England may keep faith
For all that is done and said.
We know their dream; enough
To know they dreamed and are dead.
And what if excess of love
Bewildered them till they died?
I write it out in a verse --
MacDonagh and MacBride
And Connolly and Pearse
Now and in time to be,
Wherever green is worn,
Are changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.



RTÉ's making a drama on the 'violent birth of modern Ireland'



Brian Gleeson and Love/Hate's Charlie Murphy (Siobhán) are set to star in the new five-part drama.

RTÉ HAS REVEALED that it's to air a new five part drama set in the weeks around the Easter Rising. Rebellion will "chart the violent birth of modern Ireland," the national broadcaster says.

It will be written by Colin Teevan, who also scripted the recent 'Charlie' series about former Taoiseach Charles Haughey. Brian Gleeson and Love/Hate's Charlie Murphy (Siobhán) are set to star.

From the RTÉ press release: *The serial begins in 1914. Europe is at war and Britain is preoccupied with the German threat. But by 1916 in Dublin, the Easter Rising explodes into life and announces the beginning of a campaign for independence that will take another seven years to resolve.*

And according to head of drama, Jane Gogan: *"Rebellion will tell personal stories which are intertwined with the political events of the time....However, it is a drama, not a history lesson, and our story is told from the perspectives of a group of fictional characters who live through the political events of 1916....Men, women and children from Belfast, Dublin and London – people whose lives were irrevocably changed by this extraordinary period.*

The new drama will be produced by Zodiak Media Ireland and Touchpaper Television, in association with Element Pictures.

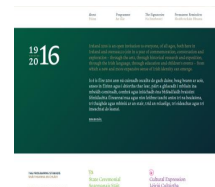
Apart from the fact that it will air in 2016, final broadcast dates haven't been confirmed. (Sometime around Easter might be good, though.)

1916 Web Site Links

A selection of websites that may be of interest
(click on the picture to access)



Decade of Centenaries



Ireland 2016



BMH & Military Pensions



Heritage Ireland



Glasnevin Cemetery



National Archives - Census



National Library 1916



National Museum



Chief Secretary's Reports



Punch Magazine



Wikipedia Ireland History



Irish Volunteers



GAA marking 2016

The GAA is planning a major event to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising next year. It will take place in Croke Park on April 24 - the date the Rising commenced at various locations around Dublin city 100 years earlier. In a timely coincidence, Sunday, April 24 next year is the date for the Allianz League Division 1 and 2 football finals in Croke Park, which enables the GAA to link the commemorative event with two big games. It will also provide the GAA public with an opportunity to mark the Easter Rising commemoration in the Association's spiritual home.

The attendance at the last five football league finals has averaged 32,500 but the special significance of next year's final is likely to spark a major crowd surge. Clubs and counties nationwide can also expect to be involved in the event which will probably take place between the two games. The full day's programme will be shown live on TG4. It's expected that much of the focus will be on Hill 16, which was built from rubble transported from O'Connell Street to Croke Park after the 1916 Rising. Croke Park also featured prominently in the War of Independence when, tragically, 14 people including Tipperary footballer, Michael Hogan, were shot dead during a Dublin-Tipperary game in November 1920.

An artistic director will be appointed shortly to work on the project with GAA president Aogán Ó Fearghail and director-general Páirc Duffy. To further honour the occasion, the GAA has commissioned a history of its role in Irish life in the 1913-23 period. It will consist of 10 academic essays by various individuals, edited by Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh (NUI Galway). A series of history seminars will accompany the launch of the book later this year. It's also planned to create an online digital archive, which will allow people worldwide to gain access to GAA library documents relevant to the period. It will contain digitised minute books, charting activity at national, provincial and county board level.

Letters of 1916

Creating History



The Letters of 1916 project is the first public humanities project in Ireland.

It's creating a crowd-sourced digital collection of letters written around the time of the Easter Rising (1 November 1915 – 31 October 1916).

The project includes letters held at institutions (in Ireland and abroad), alongside those in private collections. To date, we have collected over 1800 letters that comment on the Easter Rising, literature and art, the Great War, politics, business, and ordinary life. Through these letters we are bringing to life the written words, the last words, the unspoken words, and the forgotten words. We are well on our way to creating an online collection for the public, created by the public, which will add a new perspective to the events of the period, a confidential and intimate glimpse into early 20th Century life in Ireland, as well as how Irish politics was viewed internationally.

Available at: <http://dh.tcd.ie/letters1916/>



Kerry's 1916 commemoration events will centre on Roger Casement with a state ceremony and a major exhibition to be dedicated to the executed rebel leader.

Kerry County Council (KCC) is to spend €150,000 on an extensive programme to mark the centenary of the rising. The largest event will be a state ceremony at the Casement memorial in Banna on April 21 2016. This event is part of the national commemoration programme. An exhibition on Casement's life, career and his part in the rising will take place at Kerry County Museum in Tralee. Numerous items belonging to Casement or relating to him will be donated specially to the museum for the exhibition which will run for several months. Improvement works to be completed at Ballykissane where three volunteers died when they lost their way and drove off the pier while on route to Valentia to steal wireless equipment from the Telegraph Station to prevent communication with London.



In your August 2015 Newsletter:

Diarmuid & Gaelic League fundraising in the US, 1914.

The Down Survey of Ireland 1685

Diarmuid & the first Irish Language stage play in the US

Anti Stage-Irish campaigns 1905

Roger Casement

The IRB for beginners

Passenger Registers

The Catalpa Rescue Mission

In your email/mail boxes late July 2015.

What is? (Irish history for beginners)

What is Irish republicanism?

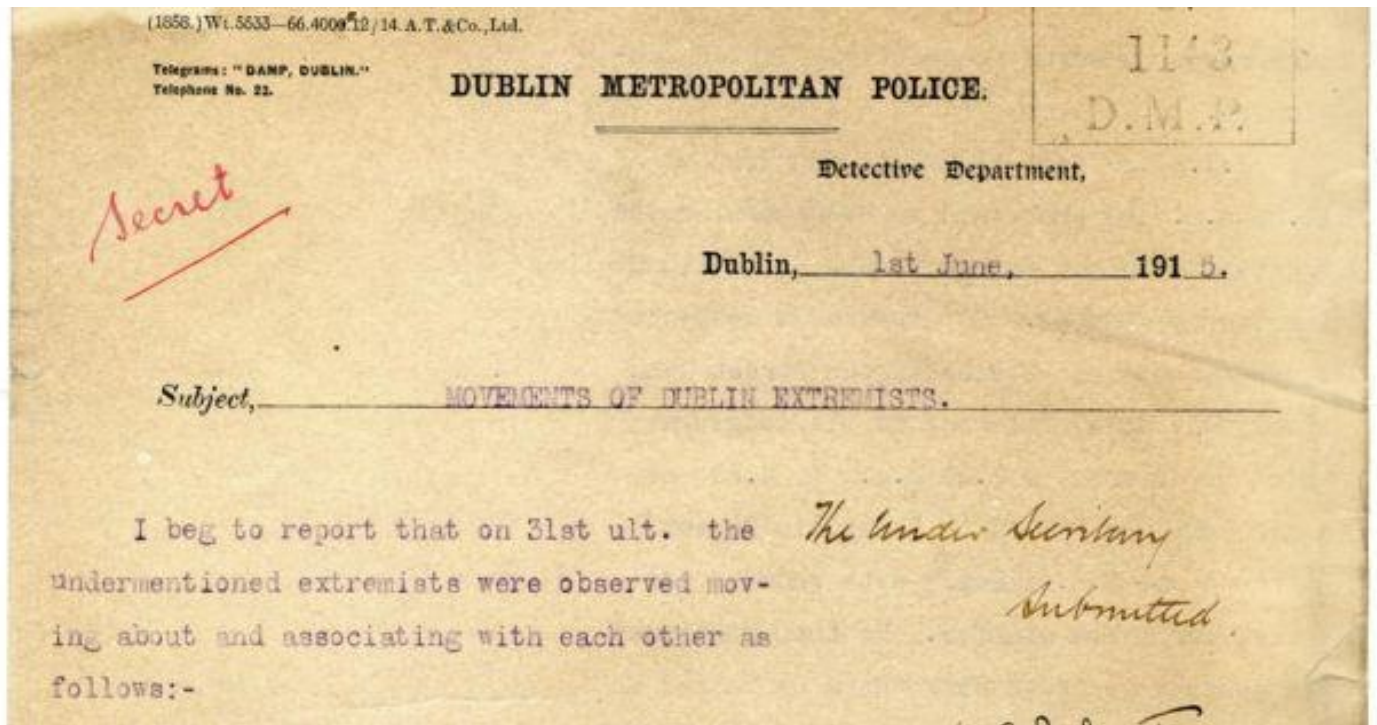
Irish Republicanism is an ideology based on the belief that all of Ireland should be an independent republic. The development of nationalist and democratic sentiment throughout Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was reflected in Ireland in the emergence of republicanism, in opposition to [British rule](#). This followed hundreds of years of British conquest and Irish resistance through rebellion. Discrimination against Catholics and Non-conformists, attempts by the British administration to suppress Irish culture, and the belief that Ireland was economically disadvantaged as a result of the Act of Union were among the specific factors leading to such opposition.

The [Society of United Irishmen](#), formed in the 1780s and led primarily by liberal Protestants, evolved into a revolutionary republican organisation, inspired by the American Revolution and allied with Revolutionary France. It launched the [1798 Rebellion](#) with the help of French troops. The

rebellion had some success, especially in [County Wexford](#), before it was suppressed and leaders executed. A second rising in 1803, led by [Robert Emmet](#), was quickly put down, and Emmet was hanged.

The [Young Ireland](#) movement, formed in the 1830s, was initially a part of the [Repeal Association](#) of [Daniel O'Connell](#), but broke with O'Connell on the issue of the legitimacy of the use of violence. Primarily a political and cultural organisation, some members of Young Ireland staged an abortive rising, the [Young Irelander Rebellion of 1848](#). Its leaders were [transported to Van Diemen's Land](#). Some of these escaped to the United States, where they linked up with other Irish exiles to form the [Fenian Brotherhood](#) together with the [Irish Republican Brotherhood](#), founded in Ireland by [James Stephens](#) and others in 1858, they made up a movement commonly known as "[Fenians](#)" which was dedicated to the overthrow of British imperial rule in Ireland. They staged another rising, the [Fenian Rising](#), in 1867,

and a [dynamite campaign](#) in Great Britain in the 1880s. In the early 20th century IRB members began planning another rising. The [Easter Rising](#) took place from 24 to 30 April 1916, when members of the [Irish Volunteers](#) and [Irish Citizen Army](#) seized the centre of [Dublin](#), proclaimed a republic and held off British forces for almost a week. The execution of the Rising's leaders, including Clarke, MacDermott, [Patrick Pearse](#) and [James Connolly](#), led to a surge of support for republicanism in Ireland. In 1917 the [Sinn Féin](#) party stated as its aim the "securing the international recognition of Ireland as an independent Irish Republic", and in the [general election of 1918](#) Sinn Féin took 73 of the 105 Irish seats in the [British House of Commons](#). The elected members did not take their seats but instead set up the [First Dáil](#). Between 1919 and 1921 the [Irish Republican Army](#) (IRA), who were loyal to the Dáil, fought the British Army and Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) in the [Irish War of Independence](#). Talks between the British and Irish in late 1921 led to a treaty by which the British conceded, not a 32-county Irish Republic, but a 26-county [Irish Free State](#) with [Dominion](#) status. The Free State became an independent [constitutional monarchy](#) following the [Balfour Declaration of 1926](#) and the [Statute of Westminster 1931](#) and formally became a republic with the passage of the [Republic of Ireland Act 1948](#)



Secret 1915 Police Files released

Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) obsessively monitored future rebels.

Secret police files detailing the extent of surveillance on the leaders of the Easter Rising have been made available to the public for the first time.

The daily files were compiled by the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) which went to great lengths to monitor the movements of men including future Proclamation signatories Thomas Clarke, Seán Mac Diarmada and Thomas MacDonagh, Professor Eoin MacNeill and Bulmer Hobson among 230 people who they targeted.

The files have been in the National Archives for the past century and have only been available on request to specialist scholars. Now they have been digitised and released on the internet for the first time from Monday, June 1st. They were compiled for the chief secretary's office crime branch and the dispatches were entitled - "movement of extremists". The police were obsessive in monitoring the comings and goings of those they suspected of plotting sedition: "J.J. Walsh left 37 Haddington Road at 11.30am and proceeded to McArthur's House Agents, 79 Talbot Street where he remained for 20 minutes. He afterwards inspected a vacant shop at 20 Blessington Street," went one report which detailed all Walsh's movements on June 1st, 1915.

The files will be released in chronological order according to what happened on each day 100 years ago.

The file for June 1st, 1915 notes that Prof MacNeill, the founder of the Irish Volunteers and the man who countermanded the order for the Rising on Easter Sunday, was seen visiting Thomas Clarke at his shop in 75 Parnell Street. Others observed entering Clarke's shop included the future President of Ireland Sean T O'Ceallaigh (then known as John T Kelly) and Frank Fahy who was sentenced to death for his part in the Easter Rising. It was commuted to 10 years in jail. The files observed that Ernest Blythe, the future Minister for Finance and managing director of the Abbey Theatre, returned to Killarney from Dublin that evening. It concluded: "R.I.C informed". Bulmer Hobson, a leading figure in the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), is also listed in the files entering the Irish Volunteer office in Dawson Street between 4pm and 5pm.

Despite all the surveillance by the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP), the Rising, when it happened, was regarded as a massive failure of intelligence. As a result the long-serving chief secretary to Ireland, Augustine Burrell resigned in the weeks after the Rising having been blamed for not foreseeing the rebellion.

The DMP had a particular interest in Clarke, the veteran republican who had served time in jail in England and who was the main instigator of the Rising through the IRB. He crops up in nearly every report. Major events which took place in 1915 and 1916 were also under close surveillance. The files include references to the funeral of veteran Fenian Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa in August 1915 when Pádraig Pearse made his famous "the fools, the fools, the fools" speech and the annual convention of the Irish Volunteers. Anti-recruitment and conscription rallies were also carefully monitored.

The Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Heather Humphreys said the release of the files is part of a number of digitisation projects taking place as part of Ireland 2016, the Government's commemoration programme for the Easter Rising centenary.

Director of the National Archives John McDonough said the chronological release of material will allow visitors to the national archives website to track the movements of those involved in the Rising in the months leading up April 1916. "People will be able to read how key players were identified, followed, and put under surveillance, and read the thoughts of the detectives tracking them."

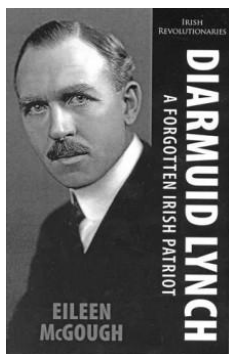
The series is comprised of daily reports produced by the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP), Detective Department on the movements and associations of pro-independence suspects. The reports were compiled by Superintendent Owen Brien and submitted to the Under Secretary for Ireland, Sir Matthew Nathan, at Dublin Castle. The reports describe Republican activity in Dublin during the 11 months preceding the Easter Rising. The final report in the series was written on 20 April 1916, just 4 days before the beginning of the Rising

There are over 230 individuals referred to in the reports, principally members of the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Republican Brotherhood and Sinn Féin. The primary person of interest is Thomas J Clarke, who is mentioned in almost every report, while the other most frequently mentioned individuals include Pierce Beasley, Thomas Byrne, Con Colbert, Bulmer Hobson, Seán T Ó Ceallaigh, Seán Mac Diarmada, John McGarry, Joseph McGuinness, Herbert Mellows, Michael O'Hanrahan, William O'Leary Curtis, Michael Joseph O'Rahilly, Diarmuid Lynch and James Joseph Walsh. The reports also contain copies of Nationalist newspapers, with attention drawn to 'anti-British' content, as well as pamphlets and election material. Publications include *The Workers' Republic*, *Ná Bac Leis*, *Nationality*, *The Hibernian*, *The Irish Volunteer*, *The Spark*, *Honesty* and *New Ireland*.

Interesting details will be posted in future editions of the Newsletter.

www.nationalarchives.ie and select 'Movement of Extremists'

Easter Rising 1916 books a monthly roundup of some recent publications

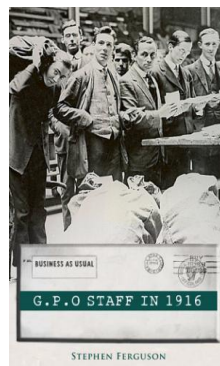


Diarmuid Lynch: A forgotten Irish patriot. By Eileen McGough.

IT'S HARD to understand how a man who was a member of the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the person chosen to select the best landing spot for Casement's arms shipment, Connolly's aide-de-camp during the Rising, and the last man to leave the GPO could be so unrecognised by many – Eileen McGough's meticulously-researched biography attempts to change that.

After the Rising, Lynch was spared execution and deported to America due to his having acquired US citizenship during a youthful period of emigration. On returning to America he dedicated himself to the creation of a unified Irish caucus to support the struggle at home. His undoubted organisational skills resulted in an expansion from 33 branches and affiliates tenfold to 333 within two years. And then came the inevitable split. Tensions between those who wished to place an American agenda of lobbying ahead of a support role for the struggle now underway in Ireland erupted in outright hostility with the advent of De Valera on the American scene. De Valera, Joseph McGarrity and Liam Mellows were of the view that activities in America were subordinate to the situation in Ireland; Lynch, Daniel Cohalan and John Devoy felt that the needs of the American political system needed to be accommodated in order to be most effective. The very public falling out between the two groups caused a virtual collapse of the previously unified organisation. Lynch and his associates became isolated and increasingly irrelevant. History is often written by the winning side and so Diarmuid Lynch has been relegated to obscurity. Perhaps this book will rectify that.

Mercier Press. €14.99 ISBN: 9781781171370



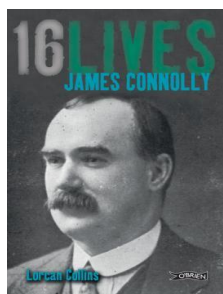
GPO Staff in 1916 by Stephen Ferguson.

Previously unpublished material sheds light on the involvement of three Cork men in the Easter Rising. Post office records, personal accounts and photographs of Patrick Sarsfield O'Hegarty, Carrignavar; Diarmuid Lynch, Tracton and James Joyce Walsh, Bandon contained within the book GPO Staff in 1916 released this week, will detail how the events affected those who worked there.

Written by Stephen Ferguson, who is curator of the An Post museum, the book outlines the story of O'Hegarty, who was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) whilst occupying the militarily sensitive postmastership in Cobh during the War of Independence. He came under suspicion before the Rising and was transferred to Welshpool in North Wales in January 1915. However, as the Carrignavar man was highly regarded in London- and the evidence against him was insufficient- he avoided dismissal. It later emerged that O'Hegarty was an IRB man and took over as first secretary of the newly independent Irish Post Office in 1922.

Lynch was a member of the Supreme Council of the IRB, and began working as a sorting clerk in the Cork GPO before securing a place as a 'Boy Clerk' at the Mount Pleasant Money Order Office in London, where individuals such as Michael Collins and Sam Maguire first became acquainted. Ferguson highlighted in the book that Lynch organised a special squad with engineering staff to cut communications during the Easter Rising so as to isolate the city. The book also recognises Walsh, who was dismissed from his post as Postmaster General for disloyalty but returned to his post after Independence.

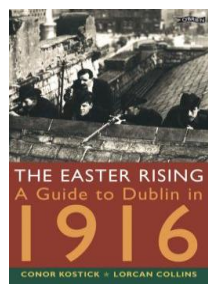
Mercier Press €12.99. ISBN 9781856359948



James Connolly by Lorcan Collins

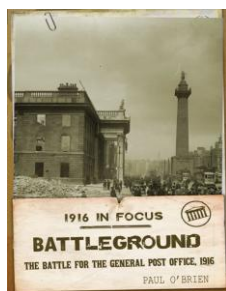
James Connolly (1868-1916) was one of the leaders in Ireland's quest for freedom from British rule in 1916. This biography is an accurate and well-researched portrayal both of the man and the uprising. Part of the Sixteen Lives series of biographies of all sixteen men executed for their role in the rebellion.

O'Brien Press. €12.99. ISBN: 9781847176097



The Easter Rising – a Guide to Dublin in 1916. Defying all the odds 1600 men, women and children went out on 24 April, Easter Monday, 1916 to fight for an independent Ireland. Vividly illustrated, this book takes you through the battle-torn streets of Dublin.

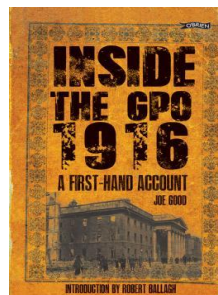
O'Brien Press. €9.95 ISBN: 9780862786380



Battleground – The Battle for the General Post Office, 1916

A detailed account of the actions in the area of operations in and around the General Post Office. The building served as the General Headquarters of the Republican Army and witnessed some of the fiercest fighting of Easter Week as the beleaguered garrison fought against overwhelming odds.

New Island. €12.99 ISBN: unknown



Inside the GPO 1916

A gripping personal account of the revolutionary years 1916 to 1921. This captivating journal is written with wry, down-to-earth humour and gives the reader a real insight into Ireland's fight for freedom, from the inside. €11.99

O'Brien Press. €11.99 ISBN: 9781847177186

More book selections next month