



# Newsletter

## 1916-2016 Lynch Commemoration News

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## DENIS LYNCH & ALICE WYATT WEDDING JULY 1914 BY FREDDIE O'DWYER



Among the collection of early twentieth-century wedding photographs at Granig today, is that of Denis James Lynch (1886-1973) and Alice Wyatt (1888-1968), which took place on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1914 at the Church of the Holy Cross, Dundrum, Co Dublin. According to a notice published two weeks later in the *Cork Examiner* (25 July), the celebrants were the Rev T.A. Fitzgerald OFM, assisted by the Rev J.J. Kennedy, Blackrock.

Denis was described as the son of the late Timothy Lynch and Mrs Lynch, Granig House, Kinsale, Co Cork and Alice as the only daughter of the late Herbert Wyatt, Bourke, New South Wales, Australia and Mrs Wyatt, Rathfarnham, Co Dublin. Denis was the fourth eldest of the Lynch brothers, step-brother of Diarmuid (b.1878) and full brother of Timothy (b.1883), Daniel (b.1884) and Michael (b.1890), who was his best man. The bridesmaids were his only sister Mary (b.1881), seated to the bride's left, and Eliza Anne (Lizzie) D'Alton (b.1891), Alice's first cousin, seated to the best man's right.

Most of those in the wedding photograph over a century ago have now been identified and this is their story:

The photograph was taken in the garden of John J. & Alice Kennedy's home at Monte Vista, Dundrum, Co. Dublin on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1914.

The Kennedys had no children of their own and were very hospitable to their D'Alton and Wyatt relatives; three of those in the photograph were listed as living with the Kennedys at Monte Vista in the 1911 census: Mrs Kennedy's mother, Hanora (née Dillon (c.1819-1917); the bridesmaid Eliza D'Alton (daughter of Mrs Kennedy's brother Michael O'Brien D'Alton and his wife Ailey, née Fitzgerald, of whom more presently); and the bride's brother Arthur Edgar Wyatt (c.1889-1965), known as Edgar, who is described as an 'assistant of customs and excise'. He had joined the service that year and probably worked initially in Dublin before moving to Liverpool. The Kennedys were originally from North Tipperary and the D'Altons from Tipperary Town, where they were among the leading merchants.



**The 1915 Daily Movements of Dublin Extremists Report** from the Dublin Metropolitan Police and released weekly by the National Archives of Ireland are revealing fascinating information on the movements of Diarmuid Lynch and many others a century ago.

The relevant excerpts dealing with Diarmuid as reported by the Dublin Metropolitan Police detectives are now included in your Newsletter starting on page 34. These will be updated in future Newsletters as archives are released.



**Denis Lynch (1886-1973)**

Lived in Dublin, where he was listed in the 1911 census as resident distiller to the Dublin Whiskey Distillery on Richmond Road, Drumcondra. By his own account (*Southern Star*, 2 September 1924), Denis had learnt his trade with the company, which he joined about twenty years earlier (actually in March 1905).



**Alice Wyatt (1888-1968)**

Born in Australia, Alice is described on her wedding certificate as a teacher, resident in Dundrum. At that time it was customary that one of the couple had to be resident in the parish, but Brid Duggan says that Alice was in fact teaching in England, so the Dundrum domicile was presumably a borrowed one, the Kennedy residence. The 1911 English census lists Alice and her widowed mother Mary Louisa (c.1849-1937) as residents of a house in Chorlton-cum-Hardy in South Manchester, where Alice was employed as an assistant teacher in government service. It would appear that she remained there after her mother moved to Dublin, to a newly built house, 4 St Mary's Terrace, Rathfarnham, which she occupied for over a decade, up until 1924.



4 St Mary's Terrace, Rathfarnham.

Denis is believed to have met Alice through the Kennedys, Alice Kennedy's nephew Dick Dalton being a friend and political associate of Diarmuid Lynch in New York. Indeed the Kennedys are also credited with introducing Diarmuid to his future wife Kit Quinn after his return to Ireland in late 1914.

Alice Wyatt's birthplace, Bourke in New South Wales, on the Darling River, was a particularly hot and somewhat inhospitable sheep-farming area, four hundred miles from Sydney at the very edge of the outback, only connected by rail in 1885. Her father Herbert Harvey Wyatt (1855-1901), a lessee on a sheep station at Tinapagee on the Paroo river, a hundred miles from Bourke, was a member of a long established and distinguished Staffordshire family of yeomen, which can be traced back to Humphrey Wyatt of Weeford, born in 1540. In the mid-eighteenth century the Wyatts branched out into building and architecture, at first locally, but soon they were on the national stage, the most distinguished, if somewhat controversial being James Wyatt, the King's architect (1746-1813). According to Alice's second cousin, the journalist and parliamentarian Woodrow Wyatt, Baron Wyatt of Weeford (1918-97), there were twenty-eight architects in all, right down to the late nineteenth century. I have not checked this figure, which may include some builders and sculptors, but they were certainly England's pre-eminent architectural family. Another second cousin of Alice's, Robert Elliott Storey Wyatt (1901-95), was captain of the England cricket team in 1933-35. Alice was a direct descendant of James Wyatt's oldest brother William (1734-80), also an architect, who practised in Staffordshire and the English midlands. William's great-grandson and Alice's paternal grandfather was a lawyer turned Anglican clergyman the Rev Arthur Harvey Wyatt (1827-1906), rector of Corse in Gloucestershire, who had a large family and married twice.

His two eldest sons, Alice's father Herbert Harvey and his brother Edgar Arthur (1853-79) appear to have been brought up by their grandparents, Harvey (c.1799-1876) and Jemima Wyatt on their 500 acre farm at Acton Hill, near Barton-under-Needwood, in Staffordshire. Harvey had also succeeded his father, the land surveyor Robert Harvey Wyatt (d. 1836), as local agent to the Anson family, Earls of Lichfield.

In due course this position passed to Harvey's second son, Robert (1835-86), who like Arthur had been trained as a barrister. Edgar, a talented cricketer, died young, in Sussex, while Herbert decided to seek his fortune in Australia.



**Mary Louisa Wyatt (c.1849-1937)**

Nee D'Alton. Alice's mother was the second daughter and one of five surviving children of Richard D'Alton (1814-75), a merchant, political activist and pioneering Gaelic scholar in Tipperary Town and his wife Hanora, née Dillon, from Clonpet, Co Tipperary.

Mary Louisa emigrated to Australia in the 1880s, when in her thirties, travelling out to her aunt Bridget (née Dillon), who had emigrated, aged eighteen, in 1849/50, marrying in 1853 a hotelier Richard Feehan of the City Arms in Melbourne, son of Tipperary emigrants. Most of Bridget's fourteen siblings had followed her to Australia. Richard Feehan invested in land, including at the Tinapagee station, beside the holding being worked by Herbert Wyatt and it was through this connection that Mary Louisa met her future husband around 1885, though her aunt did not initially approve of the engagement (source: [www.fanningfamilyhistory.com](http://www.fanningfamilyhistory.com)). Alice was born in 1888 and Edgar a year later; a third child appears to have died at an early age (1911 English Census). In 1901 tragedy struck when Herbert was fatally injured opening a gate, dying at Bourke on 17 August. The family remained in Australia for a few months before returning to Ireland, presumably to Dublin where Alice completed her education at Loreto Abbey, Rathfarnham and Edgar at Belvedere College. Alice was subsequently enrolled in St Mary's Teacher Training College in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, probably in 1907, the year of its foundation by the Sacred Heart Order.



**John James Kennedy (c.1857-1931)**

Originally from Clogherally, in the parish of Loughmore, near Templemore, Co Tipperary and was employed in Dublin by Arnotts before leaving in 1889 with his colleague Michael McSharry (from Co Leitrim) to establish the gentlemen's outfitters Kennedy and McSharry, originally located in D'Olier Street.

According to McSharry's grandson Tony, who advises that there are no McSharrys in the photograph, Kennedy's forte was on the accountancy side of the business and he also acted as the treasurer to the Faughs, one of Dublin's oldest GAA clubs, founded in the Phoenix Park in 1885. Kennedy does not seem to have been overtly political; however the fact that the inscription on his grave in Glasnevin are in Irish would suggest that, like his wife Alice, he had a keen interest in the revival of the language.

Others identified in the wedding photograph:



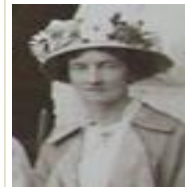
**Eliza D'Alton (1891- ?)**

Reputedly a reserved figure who later became a nun in the United States



**Hanora D'Alton (c.1819-1917)**

Mary Louisa's mother and Alice's grandmother

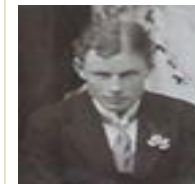


**Alice Kennedy (c.1858-1940)**

Nee D'Alton. Mary Louisa's sister and John Kennedy's wife.

John James Kennedy, son of James - a farmer, and Alice D'Alton, daughter of Richard - a merchant, were married in her home town of Tipperary in 1893. While John never lived in Tipperary Town, one of his uncles, Michael Kennedy (1819-1907) had previously been resident there, probably employed in the hardware business. Michael married Mary Ryan there in 1859; all five of their children, four boys (including the future Fr J.J. Kennedy (1865-1955), concelebrant of the Lynch-Wyatt wedding) and a girl were born in Tipperary between 1860 and 1868 (source: Tipperary Family History Research).

Michael later moved his family to Templemore (source: his great-great grandson Conor Kennedy 2015) before settling in Dublin in 1887 where he established a brush importing and manufacturing company (which continues in business as M. Kennedy & Sons, suppliers of art materials). John Kennedy remained close to these cousins, three of whom are in the Lynch-Wyatt wedding photograph.



**Edgar Wyatt (c.1889- 1965)**

Alice's brother. Born in Australia. Described in the 1911 census as an 'Assistant of Customs and Excise'. He had joined the service that year and probably initially worked in Dublin before moving to Liverpool. The earliest print reference to Edgar Wyatt in Dublin is in 1908, when he attended the funeral in the Pro-Cathedral of another of the Kennedy brothers, Thomas Patrick Kennedy (1864-1908) who had been in business in London. Kennedy's obituary described him as an ardent Nationalist and a member of the National Liberal Club (*Freeman's Journal*, 9 January 1908).





**Fr J.J. Kennedy (1865-1955)**

The Lynch-Wyatt wedding co-concelebrant. He was ordained in Clonliffe in 1891 and at the time of the Lynch-Wyatt wedding was secretary to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (which supported the missions). His Blackrock residence was as chaplain to the Carmelite convent there (source: Noelle Dowling, Dublin Diocesan Archivist 2015). Fr Kennedy was appointed parish priest of Enniskerry, Co Wicklow in 1926 and was made a canon in 1941.



**James Thomas Kennedy (1860-1939)**

First cousin of John J. Kennedy of Monte Vista.



**James Kenneth Kennedy (1897-1984)**

James Kennedy's son



**Fr T.A. Fitzgerald (1862-1921)**

The chief celebrant. A native of Callan, Co Kilkenny, then attached to the Franciscan community at Merchant's Quay, Dublin. He was a well-known public figure who can best be described as a polymath. While Fr Kennedy was undoubtedly chosen to officiate at the wedding ceremony because he was a cousin of John Kennedy's, Fr Tom Fitzgerald was almost certainly picked because he had spent almost twenty years in Australia, being probably known to the bride's mother and extended family when he had been the Franciscan provincial, based in Sydney. He had left Australia in 1906 to travel to Rome and onwards to the Franciscans in Dublin. A master of several European languages, he was also a Gaelic revivalist and an ardent Nationalist of what the *Irish Independent* called the progressive variety; from that perspective he would have met the approval of both the bride and groom's families. In the years after his return to Ireland, Fr Fitzgerald developed a parallel career as an author, writing *Stepping Stones to Gaeldom* (1910), as well as short stories and popular novels on Irish country life. His political connections are not well chronicled but he translated into English Padraic Pearse's book of Gaelic short stories *An Mhathair agus Scéagla Eile*, which had been published in January 1916, just before the Easter Rising. He was a supporter of Countess Markievicz in the 1918 elections. After his return to Australia in 1920 his health declined and he died in Sydney in May 1921.



**Margaret Lynch (1850-1915)**

Mother to Denis, Tim, Dan, Mary and Michael. According to Diarmuid, at the time of this wedding, Margaret was 'ailing for some time' and died within a year.



**Mary Margaret Lynch (1881-1957)**

The only sister of the Lynch brothers and never married.



**Michael Francis Lynch (1890-1956)**

Youngest of the Lynch brothers, Father to Deirdre, Diarmuid, Dolores & Anne.

**The D'Altons had been shopkeepers** in Tipperary Town since the early nineteenth century and had married into other trading families there. As with many of these business people, they also farmed in the vicinity. Indeed they had probably originally been established in the area as farmers in Kilfeacle, where the family tomb is situated.

Apart from the Lynches, most of the people in the photograph identified or tentatively identified were born in Co Tipperary, the majority of them in Tipperary Town.

Little is known of the first recorded **Richard Dalton** (c.1775-1822) but his son Richard (1814-75), Alice Wyatt's grandfather, who adopted the spelling D'Alton to acknowledge not just Norman but French ancestry, was a noted merchant and entrepreneur, developing a row of shops in the town in 1870, as well as a man of strong political convictions, being imprisoned in 1848 as 'a leader and an out-and-out republican' and in 1868 as a Fenian.

According to the *Southern Star* (2 March 1940), he 'was a man of outstanding gifts, being an able mathematician and an excellent Latin scholar ... Mr D'Alton claimed to be a descendant of a daughter of King Louis VII of France. He took up the serious study of Irish at the age of forty-five years, and before his death in 1875 was recognised as a pioneer of the language revival. Having purchased a printing press, fonts of Gaelic type and all the necessary accessories, he published in 1862 seven numbers of *An Fíor Éireannach* [the true Irishman].' In the spelling of the time, the magazine was actually called *An Fíor-Éirionach* and these words are inscribed on his tomb and, with reference to him, on the headstone of his daughter Alice Kennedy and her husband John in Glasnevin.

The surviving children of Richard and Hanora D'Alton in 1914 were the aforementioned two daughters, **Alice Kennedy** and **Mary Louisa Wyatt**, and three sons, **Michael, Walter and Louis**.



**Michael O'Brien D'Alton (c.1855-1929)**

A political radical like his father, was then farming in Co Limerick and either not present at the wedding or chose not to appear in the photo. He married Ailey Mary Fitzgerald and their children included **Eliza** (bridesmaid), **Mary Madden, Richard F. 'Dick' (1886-1965), Maurice (1894-?) & Walter (1896-1898)**

On the death of his father in 1875, Michael had taken over the business on the Main Street as a miller, chandler, coal and flour merchant. In 1882, he married in the University Church Dublin, Ailey Mary, youngest daughter of the late Maurice Fitzgerald of Mortalstown, Co Limerick (then living in Tuam).

From about 1880, D'Alton spearheaded agitation against Smith-Barry of Fota, Co Cork the landlord of much of Tipperary Town, establishing a Tenants Defence Association as part of the Plan of Campaign.

When rents were withheld in 1889, D'Alton was the first of many residents to be evicted, losing his home and £4,000 worth of property for the non-payment of £5.10s as well as being jailed for agitation. His house was requisitioned as an auxiliary police barracks.



'Mr Dalton's House, now Police Barracks'  
Detail from: 'A contrast - new Tipperary and old side by side, the work of the Evictors' Syndicate and the Tenants' Defence Association. Supplement issued gratis with United Ireland 19 April 1890'

A building scheme to house displaced tenants was commenced with monies raised from sympathisers and the Irish diaspora and two new streets (97 houses in all) and a market house were built on the western outskirts of the town, dubbed New Tipperary, designed by Robert Gill of Nenagh and built by Alderman Meade of Dublin.



Dillon Street, New Tipperary, under construction in 1890 (Lawrence Collection). Unusually some of the houses had timber-framed facades. In the distance can be seen the end of Parnell Street, soon renamed Emmet Street after the 'Parnell Split'. Beyond was the market house, demolished on the foot of a court order obtained by Smith-Barry in 1891, just a year after its completion.

However, though inaugurated in 1890, the Parnell Split at the end of that year divided D'Alton and his former ally, the local curate Fr David Humphreys (1843-1930), into separate camps, the priest taking control of the project and attempting to evict non-supportive tenants. D'Alton, though remaining on the town commissioners as a Parnellite, ceased his business activities to return to farming.

His properties were eventually recovered by his brother Walter, a shrewd businessman, in 1897. He may have spent some time in America during these years. Michael and Ailey had another child, christened Walter, in 1896, who tragically died of measles pneumonia before the age of three.

In 1891, when Eliza was born, their address was recorded as Castlerea (probably Castlecreagh, near Galbally) where they may have been leasing farmland from his associate William Hurley. In the 1901 census they were farming at Garranekeagh in Co. Limerick. In 1921, perhaps with the aid of family and supporters, Michael acquired Caherline House on 179 acres in the same county where he died in 1929. His grave in Glasnevin, where Ailey was buried alongside him in 1948, is part of a double plot, the other half being the resting place of John and Alice Kennedy.

Their son, **Richard F. 'Dick' D'Alton (1886-1965)** who was not at the wedding, had emigrated to New York, where he was a close political associate of Diarmuid Lynch.



## Michael O'Brien D'Alton family group.

(Front L-R: Unknown, Ailey Mary, Mary Madden. (Back L-R) unknown, Maurice, Mary's husband (in top hat), Dr. Matthew John Madden (c.1866-1932), a native of Co Limerick, who was at that time the local dispensary doctor in Golden, Co Tipperary.



**Walter F. D'Alton (1862-1943)** pictured with his wife Mary (nee Hurley) (1870-?). Lived and worked in Tipperary town as a hay & forage merchant.



**Louis J. D'Alton (1866-1945)** Pictured with his fiancée **Bridget Hannon**, daughter of another Tipperary merchant, William Hannon of Church Street. Louis was a corn and coal merchant in the town. Louis and Bridget were married in 1916 in Dublin, in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Donnybrook, with Edgar Wyatt as best man. Bridget also attended Denis and Alice's fiftieth wedding anniversary celebrations at Upton in 1964 (*Cork Examiner*, 19 July 1964)

All three brothers served as town commissioners in Tipperary, Louis later rising to chairmanship of the county council as well as being elected to the second Dail. Both Walter & Louis moved to Dublin in the inter-war period.

**Two friends are noted** as having been guests at both the Lynch-Wyatt wedding and the fiftieth anniversary in the 1964 *Cork Examiner* article, which listed them as Mrs Molly O'Reilly and Mrs Sean Nunan (Annie Ryan).



## Annie (Nan) Nunan (nee Ryan) (1895-1983)

Five years after the photograph, Nan Ryan, her future husband Sean Nunan, and Kathleen O'Connell were part of Eamon de Valera's support team during his American fund-raising tour in 1919-20. A major split occurred between de Valera's group and the Friends of Irish Freedom, of which Diarmuid Lynch had been elected secretary in May 1918. While Nunan (1890-1981) had fought alongside Diarmuid in the GPO in 1916, they became adversaries, though ironically Nunan, who had adopted the pro-Treaty side, was to fall out of political favour himself. Dismissed from the Irish civil service, he returned to New York in 1923 where he and Nan were married. He was reinstated under the Fianna Fáil government and served as ambassador to Washington in 1947-50.



## Mary 'Molly' Elizabeth O'Reilly (nee Tyndall) & Louis O'Reilly

Mrs Molly O'Reilly, whose family Brid recalls, was the wife of Louis O'Reilly (1886-1963), one of thirteen children of John O'Reilly, a successful cardboard box manufacturer, of Kenilworth Square, Rathmines. The fact that John O'Reilly filled out the 1911 census form in Irish may point to a connection with the Kennedys. Molly, born Mary Elizabeth Tyndall in Blackrock in 1884, and Louis, a manager in the family business, had married just over a year earlier, in February 1913.



Eliza Anne 'Lizzie' D'Alton and Mary 'Molly' Lynch, the bridesmaids & Michael Lynch, Best Man.



Alice Lynch's mother, Mary Louisa Wyatt died in Glandore, Co Cork on 20 June 1937, at the age of eighty-seven, and was buried in Killeacle Cemetery Co Tipperary where her name was added to the D'Alton tomb, a prominent feature in the grave-

Yard erected by her grandfather (Alice's great-grandfather) Richard Dalton of Tipperary (Town) as 'a tribute to the memory of his beloved daughter Mary who departed this life March the 12<sup>th</sup> 1819 aged 18 yrs [and] also his beloved wife Margaret alias Walsh who departed this life 19<sup>th</sup> January 1821 aged 41 years'. Richard was buried with them when he died a year later in 1822 at the age of forty-seven. These names are inscribed in the limestone top of the rectangular classical tomb. Into the south, west and east faces are inset marble plaques, while the north face, split like the south into two panels was left plain, with a combed limestone cladding. While Mary Louisa was the last D'Alton (the family preferring to use the French or Norman spelling from the mid-nineteenth century) to be buried here, there is another name added beneath hers, that of Walter, the infant child of her brother Michael O'Brien D'Alton and his wife Ailey who had died years earlier in Tipperary Town, in 1899, at the age of two years and ten months. Young Walter had been born at the end of a difficult decade which had seen Michael and Ailey evicted from their home and business in Tipperary.

The plaque on the west end of the tomb records the names of Richard and Margaret's 's son and Alice's maternal grandfather, Richard (c.1814-75), the Tipperary flour and coal merchant, who is described as 'An Fíor Éiríonach' after his Irish language newsletter, and his wife Hanora 'who died on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1917 in her ninety ninth year'. Hanora died at John Kennedy's home Monte Vista, Dundrum.

The two panels on the south side of the tomb are intriguingly inscribed in Latin, presumably composed by Richard himself, and are difficult to read. I am grateful to a local historian, P.J. Merrick, who with some friends and the aid of a torch managed to decipher the wording, which they have also usefully translated. The names are revealed as those of two of Richard and Hanora's children who died young; Martin, who died at the age of ten months in 1856 and Helen who died at the age of three in 1862. Intriguingly Mary Louisa is described as their second daughter, which suggests that there may have been another young death, perhaps a stillbirth. Another surprise is that the second plaque on the south face commemorates an otherwise unknown priest, Fr John D'Alton, who died in 1868, having 'discharged his priestly duties both in Ireland and abroad for almost forty years'. He was presumably a close relative, most likely a son of the first Richard who erected the tomb in 1819.

Brid Duggan recalls childhood expeditions with Denis and Alice to Killeacle to visit and maintain the D'Alton tomb which remains in good order in a well-kept cemetery



The D'Alton tomb in Killeacle graveyard, Co Tipperary & inscription on the eastern end of the tomb recording the burials of Mary Louisa Wyatt (d.1937) and Walter D'Alton (d.1899)

**My thanks to Brid Duggan, Conor Kennedy, Mike O'Meara of the Dalton House Museum in New Tipperary and the others mentioned in the text for their help in the preparation of this article.**

*Freddie O'Dwyer.*

*A superbly researched, illustrated and fascinating article by Freddie on the wedding of Denis and Alice.*

*Readers should know that the author went to incredible lengths to find relatives, check sources and validate information regarding those photographed a century ago.*

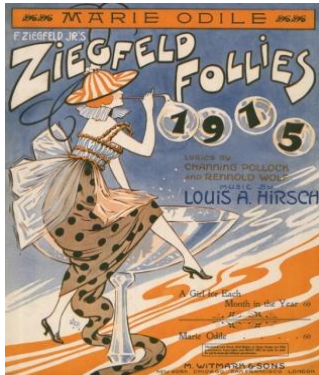
*Sincere thanks for this contribution to our shared family history and I'm delighted to add that there will be further family history articles from Freddie in future editions of the Newsletter. (Editor)*



## 1915 themes

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

### Theatre



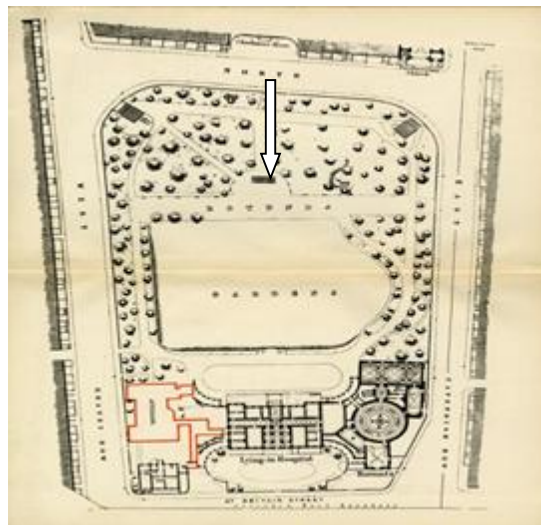
## Location of O'Donovan Rossa Group Photograph discovered

This iconic group photograph of the 1915 O'Donovan Rossa Organising Committee has been widely circulated in the media over the last few months. It is the only known photograph of the senior figures of a divergent Nationalist Ireland at the time. Within a year, most were either executed or jailed following the Easter 1916 Rising.



The photo was taken by Keogh Brothers Photographic Studio in July 1915 but where did the group gather?

Family member & architect, Freddie O'Dwyer has researched the photograph and shares with us his discovery: "...it looked to me like the long vanished 'orchestra' (not known in any other illustration...a posh band-stand designed by John Ensor and constructed by Simon Vierpyl built to shelter musicians playing to fashionable audiences).. In the Rotunda Gardens with Charlemont House in the background... both an old plan of the Rotunda Gardens and the image of Charlemont House behind confirms it. The location was across the road from Tom Clarke's shop...The Irish Volunteers were founded here in 1913..."



The Rotunda Hospital's pleasure gardens opened in 1749 (a year before the hospital's construction began) with a fee for admission, part of Dr. Bartholomew Mosse's strategy for funding the maternity hospital. It's still in operation today, making it the oldest continuously operating maternity hospital in the world. The design of the hospital's main building was undertaken by the renowned architect Richard Cassels who was also responsible for Leinster House, Russborough House and Powerscourt House, among others

In 1913, the area became more significant in Nationalist Ireland with the founding of the Irish Volunteers at the Rotunda Rink. Following the Rising in 1916, most of the GPO Garrison were held in this area overnight under heavy armed guard before identification and transfer to Kilmainham Gaol and Richmond Barracks. Due to the history of the site, this area was bought from the hospital in 1939, and a design competition was held in 1940 for a National Garden of Remembrance - a memorial garden dedicated to the memory of "all those who gave their lives in the cause of Irish Freedom" Six years later, Daithí Hanly was announced as the competition winner. Construction began in early 1960 and was opened on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rising in 1966,



The garden is in the form of a sunken cruciform water-feature. Its focal point is a statue of the [Children of Lir](#) by [Oisín Kelly](#), symbolising rebirth and resurrection, added in 1971.



The Garden commemorates Irish freedom fighters from various uprisings, including: the [1798 rebellion](#) of the [Society of United Irishmen](#), the [1803 rebellion](#) of [Robert Emmet](#), the [1848 rebellion](#) of [Young Ireland](#), the [1867 rising](#) of the [Fenian Brotherhood](#), the [1916 Easter Rising](#) of the [Irish Volunteers](#) and the [Irish Citizen Army](#), the [1919-21 Irish War of Independence](#) of the [Irish Republican Army](#)

Liam Mac Uistin, whose poem "We Saw a Vision" is written in Irish, French, and English on the stone wall of the monument.

*In the darkness of despair we saw a vision,  
we lit the light of hope and it was not extinguished. In the  
desert of discouragement we saw a vision.  
We planted the tree of valour and it blossomed.  
In the winter of bondage we saw a vision.  
We melted the snow of lethargy and the river of resurrection  
flowed from it.  
We sent our vision a swim like a swan on the river. The vision  
became a reality.  
Winter became summer. Bondage became freedom and this  
we left to you as your inheritance.  
O generations of freedom remember us, the generations of  
the vision.*



## An Extraordinary Wedding

By Eileen McGough

**The plan worked perfectly.** Kathleen Quinn with her sister, Carmel and Capuchin priest, Rev Father Aloysius Travers had travelled from Dublin to Dundalk on the morning train. Shortly before noon on 24 April 1918 they were escorted into the visitors' room at Dundalk Gaol and were joined by the Republican prisoners whom they had officially requested to see, Diarmuid Lynch of Tracton, County Cork, Michael Brennan of the West Clare Brigade and Frank Henderson of the Dublin Volunteers. The sentry stood discreetly by the door as Carmel Quinn had an animated conversation with Brennan and Henderson to divert the attention of the hapless sentry (who lost his job in Dundalk Gaol because of what happened that day on his watch.) Meanwhile the engaged couple, Lynch and Kathleen (Kit) Quinn were grouped in a hushed exchange with the priest.

Diarmuid Lynch, a member of the Supreme Council of the IRB (Irish Republican Brotherhood) and Kathleen Quinn were married at noon by Fr A. Travers, one of the group of Capuchin priests based at Church Street in Dublin who had ministered to Pádraig Pearse, Tomás McDonagh and the other executed rebels before they faced the firing squad in Kilmainham Jail in May of 1916. Before the visit was over Michael Brennan and Frank Henderson witnessed the marriage.

Having been sentenced to death for his part in the Rising of Easter Week, Lynch's sentence was commuted to ten years of penal service, following the personal intervention of the president of the USA, Woodrow Wilson. (Lynch had taken out American citizenship in 1902). When he was freed in the mass release of Republican prisoners from English jails in June 1917, with Michael Collins, Harry Boland, Cathal Brugha and other like-minded Republicans he was immediately engaged in political work to revitalise the IRB in a continued campaign to achieve Irish Independence. Lynch was the most senior IRB officer to survive the Easter Rising.

In his capacity as Food Controller in the Sinn Féin Executive Government, Lynch mounted a campaign of protest at the exportation of corn, bacon and other foodstuffs from Ireland to feed the British troops at war in Europe, while food shortages were acute in Ireland in that winter of 1917- 1918. In February 1918 a band of activists under Lynch 'pignapped' two herds of pigs being driven down the North Circular Road to the North Wall for export. The pigs were butchered and the meat sold to the local Dublin people. The owners of the pigs were recompensed for their losses. Lynch was arrested, tried and imprisoned for gross disorder, theft, defiance of the Government, etc. Diarmuid Lynch was now forty years old and had been a prisoner in no less than eight British prisons.

While serving this latest sentence in Dundalk Gaol, in April 1918 he was informed via the prison grapevine that he was to be deported to the USA.

He asked for permission to marry his fiancée, Kathleen Quinn of Newbridge, County Kildare, so that she could apply for a passport to travel to the USA with him as his wife. This was refused so he quietly, with the help of his Republican comrades outside, made the marriage arrangements.

D. McHugh, the Governor of Dundalk Gaol, reacted swiftly when news of the marriage filtered back to him. Lynch was immediately escorted to the Dublin train by two armed G-men (detective constables) on the first leg of his journey to Liverpool for deportation to the USA. By chance his new bride, her sister and Fr Travers were travelling back to Dublin on the same train so they, the G-men and Diarmuid shared the carriage for the journey.



Dundalk Jail

The Republican communication lines between Dundalk and Dublin were super effective and by the time the train drew into Amiens Street Station a huge crowd of Sinn Féin activists, Volunteers and IRB men had gathered. Many were armed. Facing them were armed battalions of soldiers and policemen. Harry Boland whispered to Lynch that an attack was intended to secure his freedom but Lynch advised against it as so many were armed in the crowded and confined space. Almost inevitably a bloodbath would ensue.

Michael Collins and Harry Boland led an armed escort of Volunteers in procession from the train station to the Bridewell, followed by the Black Maria which carried Diarmuid, his new wife, Eamon de Valera and the G-men. De Valera shouted above the din, "Diarmuid, you have set a new style- taking your bride to the Bridewell!" This was the last time these three main players in the National struggle, Lynch, Collins and de Valera, were together. The huge crowd which followed the Black Maria to the Bridewell was intimidating so Michael Collins was not stopped from entering the police station with Lynch and they had a useful discussion as to the future communication channels between Ireland and the USA (During the Great War all letters were opened and censored.)

Collins joined Diarmuid and Kit again on the train to Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) the next morning for further planning, accompanied of course by the G-men! Kit travelled to Liverpool with Diarmuid hoping that she might be allowed on board the deportation ship with him, but she was roughly bundled back to Dublin under G-man escort on the following day.

Evidently the priests of the parish of St Patrick's in Dundalk were peeved that a Catholic priest from outside of their parish had conducted a marriage ceremony on their patch and Denis Lynch (Diarmuid's brother) had a tough job to get a wedding certificate for Kit so that she could apply for a passport in her new name, Mrs Diarmuid Lynch.

Eventually Archbishop Michael Logue of the Armagh Diocese issued the necessary document and in June 1918 Kit was re united with her new husband in New York. Diarmuid wrote to thank Denis for his assistance. He apologised for the delay in writing and added roguishly;

*"I wanted Kit here before I could get myself to write and finally when I had her- Well!"*

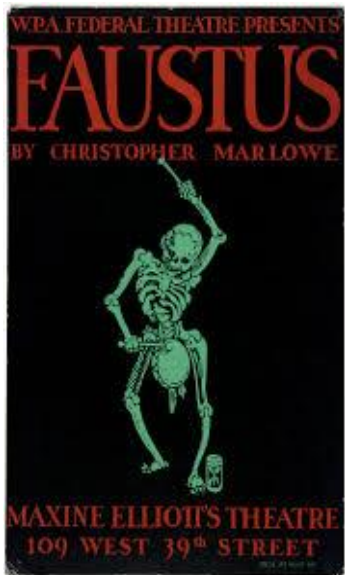


Diarmuid & Kit – New York 1918

Kit was equally exuberant, *'What an age it seems since the morning of 1 June and how wonderful life has become since then!'*

No trace of that original marriage certificate has been found. When Diarmuid Lynch died in 1950 his widow applied to the parish of St Patrick's, Dundalk, for a copy of her marriage certificate, necessary for probate. It seems that the bold deed still rankled, the copy certificate provided in 1951 reads; *'It appears from the Register that ... were lawfully married' etc;* a handwritten postscript states; *marriage noted as contracted in a private place.* The romance of a prison marriage at the exact time and on the exact date of the 1916 Easter Rising induced more than one writer to weave it into their writings. Roddy Doyle used it in his novel, *A Star Called Henry* (2005); *'He wanted to get married in Dundalk Gaol, so his fiancée could have a Yankee passport and get herself deported with him. But the men in charge were having none of it. They'd already seen one jail wedding, Plunkett's in 1916 turned into a Republican legend. But Lynch got married anyway the fiancée smuggled a priest in- under her coat, in her handbag? I never knew- and a couple of witnesses as well, and herself and himself were hitched in Lynch's cell.'* (Page 194)





## Captain Michael F. Lynch: Irish Volunteers & Prisoner No.476. Frongoch, North Wales, 1916



Around 1913, Michael Lynch ... 'organised companies of Irish Volunteers, with assistance from Cork City IV Headquarters, at Passage West, Carrigaline, Shanbally, Ballygarvan, Riverstick & Ballinhassig. Already Company Captain of the Tracton Company, these seven companies comprised Battalion IX (Cork County) with a total strength of 350 men and was appointed Battalion Commandant. Statement by Michael Lynch - part of application for Military Service Pension Certificate, December 1935. Lynch Archives.

"Michael formed a strong company of the Irish Volunteers in Tracton. It's members included the Nunan brothers of Ballinluig, William and Sean O'Brien of Tubrid, the O'Hallorans of Ballingarry, the O'Callaghan's of Reagrove and another of Lynch's brothers, Tim. The Receipt for Michael's Volunteer subscription was signed by Bulmer Hobson and Tim's by The O'Rahilly, a founding member of the organisation."

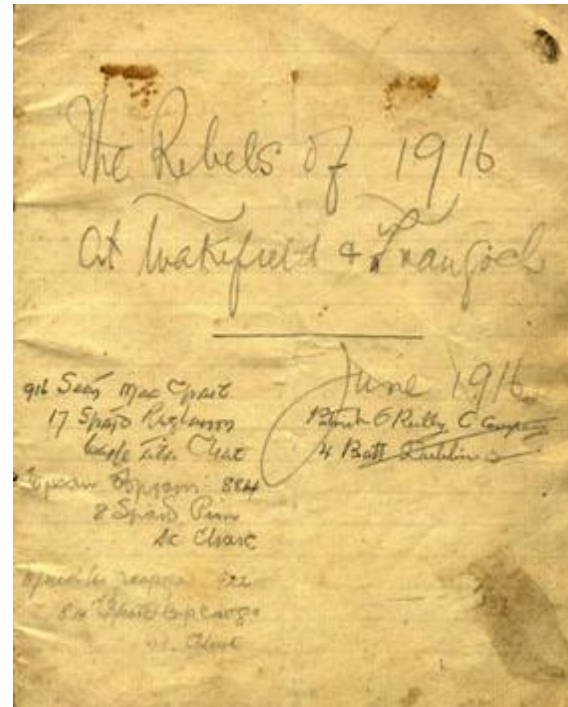
Eileen McGough. Diarmuid Lynch - A Forgotten Irish Patriot. Mercier History. Cork 2013. p34.

Following the Easter Rising, on Friday, May 5, 1916: Michael & Timothy Lynch along with others in the Tracton Irish Volunteers Company (John & William Noonan, Ballygrissane, Ballyfeard, John & William O'Brien, Tracton, Timothy & John Halloran, Ballingarry) were arrested by British Troops and RIC constables on foot of an internment order from the British military authorities.

"Mr. Michael Lynch & Mr. Timothy Lynch, of Granig, Ballyfeard, Co.Cork are herewith interned, pending trial, under an order of regulation 14B, of the Defence of the Realm Act regulations, on the recommendation of a competent military authority on the grounds that they are of hostile association and are prominent members of the Irish Volunteers, or of an organisation called the Citizen Army, which have promoted armed insurrection against His Majesty, King George V, King of Great Britain and Ireland." Lynch Family Archives.

All were held in Cork jail where they remained until the morning of May 11th when they were transferred by train to Richmond Jail, Dublin. Tim was immediately sent to Wakefield Prison. Michael was held in Richmond until June 1 when he and 100 others moved to Wakefield Prison and then on June 9, moved to Frongoch. There he was a Captain in the South Camp.

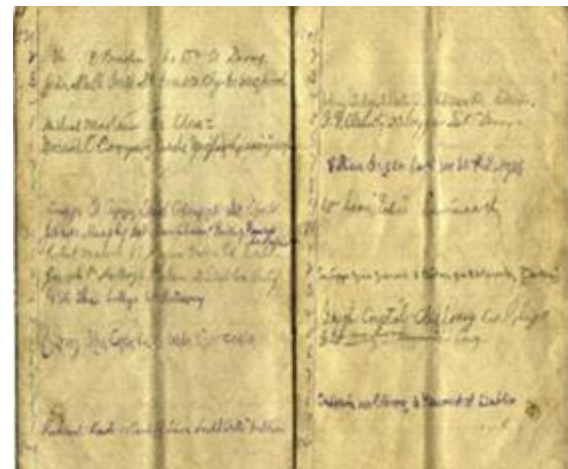
Articles on Michael's involvement in the Easter Rising 1916 and imprisonment will feature in future Newsletters.



"The Frongoch Roll Call" Manuscript: The Rebels of 1916 at Wakefield and Frongoch, A copy book of approx. 40pp. containing the signatures of about 170 Republican prisoners at Wakefield and Frongoch internment camps.

The names listed by prison numbers, including Sean Mac Craith, James Kavanagh, Seaghan Ua Mathghamhna, Padraic O'Maille, Thos. Mc Ellistrom, Dick Fitzgerald (Kerry Footballer), Donnchadh Mac Con Uladh, J.M. Stanley (Republican printer), W.J. Brennan - Whitmore (Author), Toidhealbhach Mac Suibhne (Terence Mac Swiney), **Capt. M.F. Lynch**, Seamas O'Maoil Eoin, Tomas O'Maoil Eon, M.J. Brennan (Post Master General, Frongoch), Michael Joe Ring, Westport, & others with many names from Cork, Kerry, Clare, Tipperary, Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Wexford, Dublin, Louth, etc. etc.

This listing was compiled by Con Deere, reportedly at the request of his friend Michael Collins, and is said to be one of only three such lists where signatures are listed in "roll call" order; the other two are in the National Library of Ireland. As an m/ss. \* an intriguing relic from what was termed "Colaiste Na Riblodi, or Rebels University.





## Letter from Austin Stack regarding Diarmuid Lynch 1922-23



Four short cryptic notes from Austin Stack probably to Kathleen Clarke (addressed to 'a Cara') at the height of the Civil War in December 1922 - Jan. 1923, about various matters including whether Diarmuid Lynch is in Ireland, no decision as to a Loan, a letter about Courts, and various individuals identified only by initials. With a printed document headed 'Dail Eireann. February 1921. Republican Courts'

Transcription of the letter: "Date illegible A Chara. Is Diarmuid Lynch in Ireland? An American letter just to hand states he is but I doubt it. Kindly let me know if you have heard - or if you hear anything of him. Mise, Austin Stack"

**Austin Stack** (7 December 1879 – 27 April 1929) was an Irish revolutionary and politician. He became politically active in 1908 when he joined the [Irish Republican Brotherhood](#). In 1916, as commandant of the Kerry Brigade of the Irish Volunteers, he made preparations for the landing of arms by Roger Casement. Although he was made aware that Casement was arrested on Easter Saturday and was being held in Tralee, he made no attempt to rescue him from Ballymullen Barracks. District Inspector Kearney of the Royal Irish Constabulary treated Casement very well and made sure Stack was aware that Casement could have been rescued, yet he refused to act as his orders were to rise later. Stack was arrested and sentenced to death for his involvement in the Rising, however, this was later commuted to penal servitude for life. He was released under general amnesty in June 1917 and was elected as an abstentionist Sinn Féin Member of Parliament for Kerry West in the 1918 Westminster election, becoming a member of the 1st Dáil. He opposed the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, and took part in the subsequent Civil War. He was captured in 1923 and went on hunger strike for forty-one days before being released in July 1924. Stack's health never recovered after his hunger strike and he died on 27 April 1929, aged 49.

## From The Friends of Irish Freedom files, New York:



Last month we featured a confidential letter from Diarmuid Lynch on funding care for an aging and ailing John Devoy. This month from the Friends of Irish Freedom archives in New York and thanks again to Eileen McGough, we have records of three cheques paid by FOIF to Alice Commiskey and Lily Carragher and signed by Diarmuid.

Eileen writes: "Devoy's friends moved him from his modest room in the Ennis Hotel on Forty-Second Street into more comfortable and suitable lodging in Harlem with Lily Carragher and Alice Carragher Commiskey, who liaised with Lynch about his health and welfare. Lynch undertook the handling of Devoy's financial affairs, securing a reduction of some of his debts, and he solicited funds annually from the selected donors until Devoy's death in 1928. Devoy died unaware that his expenses were now met from the secret fund set up by Lynch in 1925." Eileen McGough. Diarmuid Lynch - A Forgotten Irish Patriot. Mercier History. Cork 2013. p165-166.

Devoy left his personal papers to Alice Carragher and these were later brought back to Ireland and donated to the National Library by Frank Robbins (Union activist, member of the Irish Citizen Army and writer). Incidentally, research for this segment shows that Frank McGabhann, the Dublin based lawyer, commentator and contributor to the Irish Times is Alice Carragher Commiskey's grand-nephew.

Below: The American Irish Historical Society, 991 5th Ave, NY where the FOIF archive papers are maintained.



## Telegram from Diarmuid Lynch & Judge Cohalan to Mrs Kathleen Clarke supporting Irish self-determination. 1921

Part of a 10 page telegram sent to Kathleen Clarke, Dublin by Diarmuid Lynch on behalf of the Friends of Irish Freedom after a meeting of the National Council dated 13 December 1921. This followed the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 6th December:



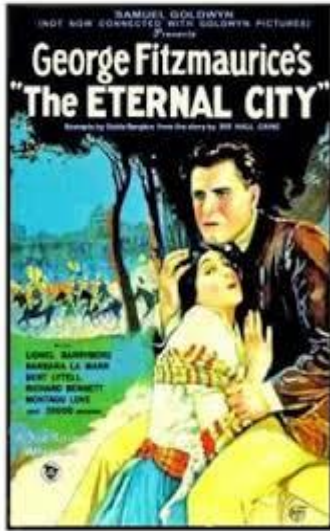
"Mrs. Kathleen Clarke. 31 Richmond Avenue, Dublin. Ireland. The following declaration of principles was adopted by the National Convention Friends of Irish Freedom, Hotel Astor, New York, December 10/11th 1921. "The Friends of Irish Freedom is an American organisation established on March 4th, 1916, devoted to the maintenance of American ideals of liberty and to the assistance of the people of Ireland in the application of those ideals to the Irish Nation". American planks came next and then Declaration of Irish Republic as follows "On Easter Monday, 1916, the Irish republic was proclaimed, and, as reaffirmed in Dublin by the Constituent Assembly of January 1919, it was only the fruit of the aspirations, the sacrifices and the struggle of the Irish nation towards independence for over seven centuries. This organisation has kept the faith which we pleaded to the Irish Republic. We have given all of the moral and material aid within our power, consistent with our duties and responsibilities as American citizens"

Published in the Washington Post, Friday, December 16th 1921.





## Possible Identification of Diarmuid & Michael Lynch at O'Donovan Rossa Funeral August 1, 1915.



The iconic photograph of O'Donovan Rossa's funeral, Sunday, August 1, 1915 in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

**Diarmuid and Michael Lynch** are known to have attended O'Donovan Rossa's funeral but positive photographic identification has not been possible so far. A technical, detailed search of those facing the camera a century ago has not resulted in a positive identification which then leaves those with their backs to the camera. We have no written record in archives as to where Diarmuid and Michael stood during the ceremony, but due to Diarmuid's seniority in Nationalist circles, it's a reasonable assumption to make that he was close to the graveside.

Family members Freddie and Emer O'Dwyer have examined the photograph and share their findings with us.

Freddie includes an enlarged, colour tinted and numbered section of the photo which appears below.

It was assumed for some time that Diarmuid could have been figure #1 but this may not be correct. It's now possible that Diarmuid is actually figure #2 with Michael to his left - figure #3. Freddie & Emer have pointed out that #1 had quite curly hair which Diarmuid did not. Figure #2 has a receding hair line and balding patch which tallies with other photographs of Diarmuid but more notable is the line in his hair showing that he wore a hat, as Diarmuid did. Figure #3 does look like a side profile of Michael. What do you think? Comments and opinions welcome.



## The Irish Times, Monday, August 2nd, 1915

**The funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa** took place yesterday afternoon from the City Hall, Dublin, to Glasnevin Cemetery. During the three days when they lay in the vestibule of the City Hall the remains, which were encased in a coffin with a plate glass lid, exposing the features to view, were visited by thousands of citizens.

The public funeral yesterday, as a pageant, was remarkably well organised and was carried through without a hitch, with the single exception of about a quarter of an hour's delay in the time of starting. This was scarcely to be avoided having regard to the large number of excursion trains which arrived at all the stations in the city conveying contingents who wish to be present at the funeral, and the marshalling of these visitors involved a great deal of labour and responsibility on the officials in charge. The major portion of this duty devolved on the officers of the Irish Volunteers, whose headquarters are at 2 Dawson Street. Thomas McDonagh acted as Commandant-General, Mr (Edward) Daly was in charge of the military bodies, which included the Irish Volunteers, the National Volunteers and a section of the Dublin Citizen Army. This was the first occasion in which these three bodies had united in one public procession. The Nationalists' societies of Dublin, which were well represented, were in the charge of Mr O'Rahilly and Mr Joseph Plunkett was in charge of the delegations.

The coffin was conveyed from the City Hall in the four-horse bier in waiting at 2.25pm and fifteen minutes later the cortege started, headed by a guard of honour of the Irish Volunteers with rifles, a mounted guard being supplied by the same body. The coffin was thickly covered with wreaths and an open carriage behind was also filled with floral tokens, while many of the contingents carried wreaths to be placed on the grave. Immediately following the bier were a number of old friends of the deceased, including some from America, Liverpool, Cork and representatives of the Urban Council of his native town of Skibbereen. Following on were carriages containing the widow and daughter, some clergymen and representatives of various public bodies, including Alderman Corrigan, a representative of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Mayors of Cork and Kilkenny and representatives from Waterford and Limerick.

Immediately following these came several companies of Irish Volunteers with arms reversed. The National Volunteers, who were allotted a position about the middle of the procession, did not carry any arms. Contingents of Volunteers, as well as the representatives of the several trade societies and branches of the GAA, INR etc were headed by their own bands, who played the Dead March when the signal for starting was given, but subsequently marching airs were played through the streets.

The procession, in marching four deep at a slow pace, took a little over fifty minutes to pass the corner of Dame Street into George's Street and there was no delay in marshalling any of the contingents. A conservative estimate of those who actually took part in the procession gives the numbers as exceeding 6,000 and there must have been at least ten times this number lining the streets.

The proceedings throughout were orderly and peaceable. Chief Superintendent Dunne of the

The proceedings throughout were orderly and peaceable. Chief Superintendent Dunne of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, assisted by Superintendents Murphy, Bannon, Curtin, Kieran and Flynn were on duty, in charge of 12 inspectors, 30 sergeants and 200 constables, but their principal duty was as spectators as there was not a single disorderly incident to be reported or dealt with.

Long before the hour at which the procession was to start from the City Hall, spectators began to congregate along the route. In St Stephen's Green, where the last parties of mourners were to join the cortege, were many people as early as 1 o'clock. The windows of many houses too were filled with quiet watchers.

The funeral came into College Green about 3 o'clock, headed by a body of Volunteers with the St. James's Band. To describe its passing this historic point is to describe the even tenor of its way to Glasnevin Cemetery.

There was no rise or fall of grief in the procession. The slow music of the bands sounded forth. The green-clad Volunteers, with arms reversed, paced slowly to its strains company after company. Apart from the great number of Volunteers, the procession was remarkably long, taking three-quarters of an hour to pass any point. Although it was little varied in its parts, the spectators' quiet interest did not wane while it was going by.

It was nearing 6 o'clock when the hearse passed through the main gates of Glasnevin Cemetery. There was much delay, with companies of Volunteers took up their positions inside and the procession meanwhile was stopped on the Prospect Road whither it had arrived via North Frederick Street, Blessington Street, Berkeley Road and Phibsborough Road, this portion of the route being lined with crowds of spectators. In North Frederick Street the windows of the Hibernian Hall, the headquarters of the AOH (Irish-American Alliance) were draped in black and American and Irish flags were prominently displayed. The avenue leading to the mortuary chapel was lined by detachments of Volunteers.

The prayers in the chapel were said by the Rev D Byrne, chaplain. Several priests then accompanied the coffin to the grave, which is situated just beyond the eastern fringe of the O'Connell circle, close to the graves of two other prominent Fenians, John O'Leary and James Stephens. The burial service was recited in Irish by the Rev Fr O'Flanagan Sligo.

Mr PH Pearse delivered a panegyric on O'Donovan Rossa. He said that he spoke on behalf of a new generation that had been re-baptised in the Fenian faith and had accepted the responsibility of carrying out the Fenian Programme. (Hear, hear.) He proposed that by the grave of that unrepentant Fenian they should renew their baptismal vows. (Hear, hear.) Deliberately they avowed themselves, as O'Donovan avowed himself in the dock, Irishmen of one allegiance only.

The Irish Volunteers and others associated with them in the day's task and duty were bound together henceforth in brotherly union for the achievement of the freedom of Ireland. (Hear hear.)

They knew only one definition of freedom; it was the definition of Tone, Mitchell and Rossa. In a closer spiritual communion with Rossa, and with those who suffered with him in English prisons, and with their own comrades of the present day who were now suffering in English prisons, they around Rossa's grave pledged to Ireland their love and to English rule in Ireland their hate. (Applause). Their foes were strong, wise and wary, but still they could not undo the miracles of God who ripened in the hearts of young men these seeds sown by the young men of a former generation. The seeds sown by the young men of '65 and '67 were coming to their miraculous ripening today.

Rulers and defenders of realms had need to be wary if they would guard against such processes. The defenders of this realm had worked well in secret and in the open. They thought that they had pacified Ireland, and purchased half of them and intimidated the other half. They thought that they had foreseen everything, but the fools had left to them their Fenian dead and while Ireland held those graves Ireland unfree would never be at peace. (Applause.)

A firing party then fired a volley, the Last Post was sounded and wreaths were laid on the grave. It is estimated that at least five thousand rifles were carried in the procession, and that at least seven thousand of the processionists were healthy young men of military age.



## Pádraig Pearse oration commemorated with new stamp

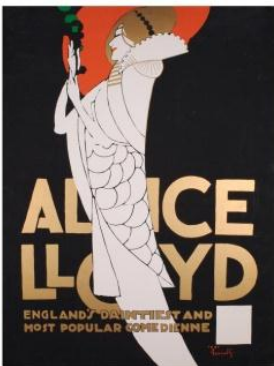
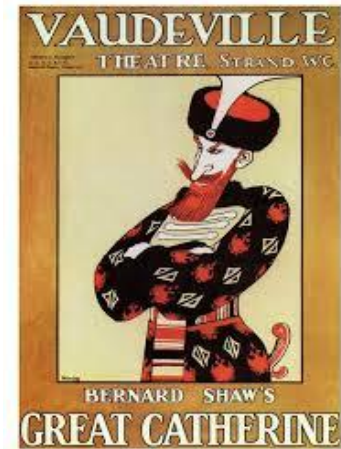
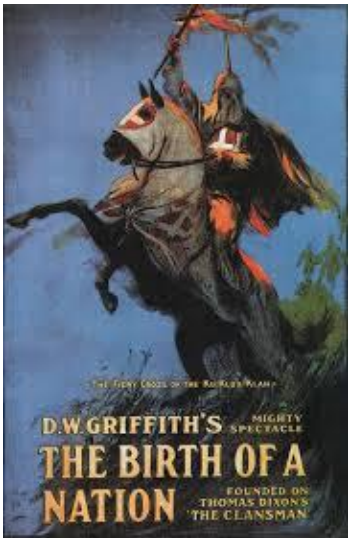
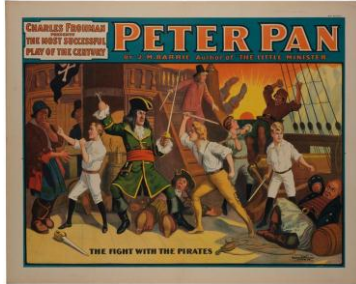
An Post have launched a new 70c stamp to mark the centenary of Pádraig Pearse's graveside oration at the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa. The stamp was unveiled Thursday morning in Rosscarberry, Co Cork, the birthplace of O'Donovan Rossa, by his great-grandson John Whelpley.

A photograph of Pearse at the graveside, taken from the National Library's Keogh Collection, is used on the stamp. It was designed by Red&Grey Design.

Pearse's speech, made on August 1st, 1915, at the funeral of the Fenian and senior Irish Republican Brotherhood member in Glasnevin Cemetery, called for the assertion of Irish independence, the speech helped to raise the profile of the republican movement and is remembered for Pearse's statement that "Ireland unfree shall never be at peace".

The stamp is available at main post offices and online at [irishstamps.ie](http://irishstamps.ie)





## Lethal legacy of Pearse's oration at the graveside of O'Donovan Rossa by

Dermot Meleady.

On Sunday, August 1, 1915, 100 years ago this month, Patrick Pearse delivered a coded call to arms at the grave of O'Donovan Rossa. Born in Rosscarbery, Co Cork, and later a shopkeeper in Skibbereen, O'Donovan Rossa was 34 years old when he was arrested in 1865 along with other members of Fenian secret society The Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) and charged with plotting rebellion. Sentenced to penal servitude for life, he was released and exiled five years later to the US where he spent the rest of his life in the murky world of émigré extremist groups such as Clan-na-Gael.

In the early 1880s, O'Donovan Rossa organised the 'dynamite campaign' - the first-ever republican bombings in British cities. The extremism of his views may be gauged from his response to the 1882 Phoenix Park murders, the savage stabbing to death of the new Chief Secretary, Lord Frederick Cavendish, just arrived in Dublin, and the Under-Secretary, TH Burke, by members of the 'Invincibles' secret society. Even a veteran Fenian like John O'Leary recorded his "utmost horror and loathing". But O'Donovan Rossa, writing in his New York newspaper, said: "they (the assassins) shall not have one word of condemnation from us."

By the end of his life, however, Rossa had become, according to the 'Daily Telegraph's' New York correspondent, a "mild and genial old gentleman" who had "long ago lost all hatred... against the British government." And the paper produced a telegram from him expressing sympathy with the Allied cause. But in Dublin, a tiny cabal of conspirators within the IRB, led by Thomas Clarke, were determined to use Rossa's death to further their secret plans for a violent insurrection.

Conditions in Ireland in 1915 were not propitious to their project. The Home Rule Act, the fruit of the efforts of the elected Irish Party, had been signed into law a year earlier by King George, to be implemented at the end of the war. But the IRB wanted to win a republic in arms, not a peaceful evolution to Home Rule. Clarke and the IRB arranged to have Rossa's body transported to Dublin for burial.

John Dillon, the Irish Party's deputy leader, saw the danger. He told a colleague that the funeral would be a "big affair" that would be turned into a "physical force demonstration", but saw no way of taking it out of IRB hands.

The outcome exceeded Dillon's forebodings: it was a brilliantly choreographed pageant of separatist propaganda. Rossa's remains, arriving in Dublin on July 27, were taken to the Pro-Cathedral for a memorial service, followed by removal to City Hall for three days' lying in state. An enormous crowd followed the funeral to Glasnevin Cemetery. Members of the Irish Volunteers fired volleys and sounded the Last Post over the grave.

Clarke had asked the writer and poet Patrick Pearse - an IRB member, though not yet inducted into the inner core - to deliver the graveside oration, telling him to "make it as hot as hell". Pearse did not disappoint. As a boy he had made a pact with his younger brother Willie that they would one day die fighting for Ireland. By 1915, his biggest fear was that the opportunity for such a death might have passed. So at the grave of O'Donovan Rossa he put his heart and soul into a bloody prediction that stirred the IRB and its sympathisers across Ireland. Referring both to Britain and the peaceful Irish Home Rule party he came to a stirring climax. "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."

But Pearse and the IRB still faced an uphill battle in winning Ireland to wholesale insurrection for three reasons.

First, photos of O'Donovan Rossa's funeral appeared in the newspapers alongside pictures of battalions of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and Royal Inniskillings marching through Dublin en route for embarkation to the Front. Majority nationalist opinion was, in 1915, still overwhelmingly pro-Allies; a thousand men each week were enlisting in the Irish divisions of the British Army.

Second, the "oppression" that might have justified a resort to violence was absent. Police harassment of revolutionaries was light. Dublin Castle had forbidden police note-takers at the graveside to avoid provocation. Two months later, under the eyes of the police, James Connolly and Countess Markievicz were able to lead a Citizen Army force in a mock attack on the Castle in full arms and uniform. Similar activities in the Germany of the time would have been met with instant capital punishment. Finally, a quarter century of reforming legislation - much of it won by the Irish Party - had changed the face of Ireland. The Wyndham Land Act had already facilitated the transfer of ownership of 61pc of Irish land from landlords to tenants. State-funded cottages - 45,000 of them - for agricultural labourers had been built since 1906, eliminating the rural scourges of typhoid and cholera. A start was being made in tackling the worst social problem, the slum tenements of Ireland's cities.

A national university had been obtained for Catholics. Rural drainage and urban light rail schemes had been implemented, and the island's vast rail network was still being expanded. Old age pensions began in 1909 and national insurance in 1911. These major material improvements meant little to Pearse. Given his obsession with dying a hero's death, it is not surprising to learn that he told Denis Gwynn, a fellow-member of the Gaelic League, in 1913 that "it would be better that Dublin should be laid in ruins than that the existing conditions of contentment and confident security within the British empire should continue".

At O'Donovan Rossa's graveside, Pearse simultaneously served notice of his intent to wage war in the name of the Irish people, won his place in the inner 'Military Council' of the conspirators and heralded a century of unmandated political violence.

Ireland, all unknowing that August 1915, would learn the lethal meaning of his words the following year, at Easter 1916.

*Dermot Meleady is the author of a two-volume biography of John Redmond, 'Redmond: The Parnellite' (Cork University Press, 2008) and 'John Redmond: The National Leader' (Merion, 2013)*



# NEWS

**First salvos in the battle to mark 1916 centenary Separate State and Sinn Fein commemorations on anniversary of O'Donovan Rossa funeral.**

The war over ownership of the 1916 Easter Rising centenary celebrations has kicked off, with the Government and Sinn Féin hosting near-identical events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the funeral of Fenian leader Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa.

President Michael D Higgins led the official State commemoration in Glasnevin Cemetery yesterday morning, before a procession of Sinn Féin members descended on the graveyard hours later. Speaking to the Sunday Independent, Arts Minister Heather Humphreys questioned the need for two similar celebrations to celebrate a pivotal event in Ireland's fight for independence from British rule. "I don't know what they are doing but it seems to me to be a bit of duplication but nonetheless they can do whatever they want," Ms Humphreys said. She added: "We had a very respectful and a very inclusive programme and I was delighted to see that all political parties were represented."

Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams, who delivered an address at O'Donovan Rossa's graveside as part of his party's commemoration, insisted that his party was not trying to hijack the State's official celebrations. "There is no conflict whatsoever,"

O'Donovan Rossa's funeral was the scene of Padraig Pearse's famous graveside oration, which unified the republican movement and ultimately led to the Easter Rising less than a year later.

Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Ms Humphreys joined President Higgins for a solemn ceremony in Glasnevin Cemetery, which culminated with a dramatic reading of Pearse's call to Ireland's republican movements. Mr Higgins led the commemorations by laying a wreath while a volley of shots rang out and the Tricolour was raised as Amhran Na bhFiann played. The event included a prayer by Defence Forces chaplain Fr Robert McCabe, a minute's silence and a piper's lament.

The Taoiseach described O'Donovan Rossa, who was nicknamed Dynamite for orchestrating the first-ever republican bombings in British cities, as an influential figure in Irish history. *"Even 100 years after his death, his name is synonymous with the Fenians and with Irish Nationalism...The liberation of his country became his life's ambition. His funeral remains one of the pivotal moments in Irish history and was an occasion that would be hugely instrumental in shaping the future of our nation."*

Ms Humphreys, whose office is overseeing the 40-plus events marking the Easter Rising, said the re-enactment was the official start of the centenary celebrations which she said would be "appropriate and respectful".



# NEWS



## Call for US contribution to 1916 to be acknowledged

A series of meetings have been held in New York to allay concerns among some Irish Americans regarding the Government's 1916 centenary commemorations.

The meetings involved the Irish consulate and focused on issues like the desire of Irish Americans to ensure James Connolly's role in the Rising is properly honoured, especially his work as a union organiser in the US.

New York lawyer and Irish-American leader Brian O'Dwyer said: *"There had been some dissatisfaction but there have been meetings here with historians and community leaders and the like and the consul general has convened a couple of meetings on the planning for 2016 and these meetings were very positive....They wanted to make sure that when 2016 is observed that the American contributions to Irish independence are acknowledged....In particular there's a lot of emphasis here on Connolly because of the fact that he had spent much of his life in New York before the Rising, so the union people were very involved in making sure that that role was acknowledged....I'm getting the sense that quietly there is some good work going on. Our consul general here, Barbara Jones, seems to have grasped the nettle very well."*

Mr. O'Dwyer said that the issues had also been raised with Minister of State for the diaspora, Jimmy Deenihan, a few months ago. *"At that time we were quite outspoken in terms of saying we wanted strong Irish participation here in the 2016 commemorations in terms of planning and financial help and he was very responsive and the Government has been quite responsive since then."* At around the same time, the Irish Voice newspaper in New York was also urging Ireland to "think big" for the 1916 commemoration and to ensure that Irish-America and the diaspora generally are centrally involved. *"It is not for any party, from Sinn Féin to Fine Gael, to lay exclusive claim to the legacy of 1916....It belongs to all the Irish people no matter where they are,"* the newspaper said in an editorial....Millions of Irish persons, whether in Ireland or among the 70 million diaspora, were influenced in some way by Easter 1916.

Asked about recent comments by Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan who warned about not allowing the centenary commemorations to become *"a divisive issue" for communities in the North*, Mr O'Dwyer said: *"That is probably the wrong thing to be saying because peoples' pride in their history should never be offensive to anybody else."*



## NEWS

**NO FOREIGN heads of state or ministers will be attending events marking the centenary of the 1916 Rising**

Ambassadors will be the highest level of foreign dignitaries at the celebrations, the Government has decided.

The Government had initially indicated the British monarchy could play a role, following the successful visit of Michael D Higgins to the UK last year and Queen Elizabeth's historic visit to Ireland in 2011. However, it was later decided such a visit could prove to be a "distraction" and take from the events.

The matter was raised in email exchanges between the Government and the British ambassador to Ireland, Dominick Chilcott, marked "sensitive", which have been released under Freedom of Information laws.

In March this year an official in the Anglo-Irish division of the Department of Foreign Affairs wrote to Mr. Chilcott providing him with the State's "public line in response to any question about inviting high-level visitors to the core Easter 2016 events...The events in the Ireland 2016 State Ceremonial programme will be moments for national commemoration....Therefore, high-level representatives of Ireland's international partners will not be in attendance at these Easter events (although as is normal for many State ceremonial events, members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Ireland may be invited)."

**Irish Roots: Online newsreels are a treasure trove: The Pathé, Movietone and AP digital archives store a wealth of local history.**

Just over a year ago, British Pathé digitised its entire archive and made it available free at [youtube/users/britishpathe](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBjDvH8R0YUkTlF6Wz9tX7Q). With more than 85,000 short films stretching from 1896 to 1976, it has attracted plenty of attention; its coverage of the revolution in Ireland between 1916 and 1923 is extraordinary. Now British Movietone and Associated Press have just done the same for their archives, at [bit.ly/1ehbOca](http://bit.ly/1ehbOca)

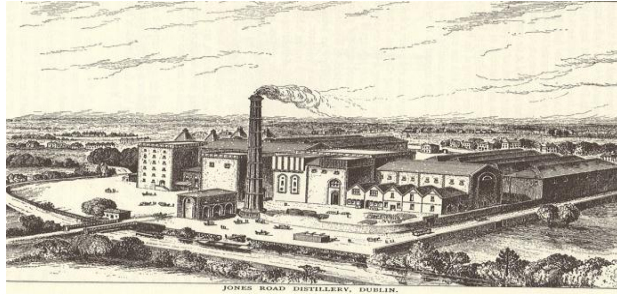
Movietone seems to have specialised in much softer news than Pathé – every Ireland-England rugby match since the 1920s is here – which makes its archive much more useful for local and family history. The out-of-the-way bits of the past are likelier to include ordinary people. Gems I've come across so far include "Pig Fair in Oldcastle"; "Glasnevin New Parish Church Consecrated" and, from 1932, the unease-inducing "Enniskerry tenants draw Lord Powerscourt's heir and his bride up drive to ancestral home"

The one weakness is with YouTube. Its search is a ridiculously blunt instrument. A much better route of access is to use the home sites of [Movietone](#) and [AP](#) and [Pathé](#). On these, you can narrow your target by location and decade and keyword. They're still not perfect, and still in need of proper archival cataloguing that treats these films as the important historical sources they are.



## Denis Lynch & the Dublin Whiskey Distillery Company, Jones Road. 1905-1924.

**Jones' Road Distillery** also known as Dublin Whiskey Distillers (D.W.D.) Drumcondra, Dublin. Operated from 1873 - c.1945



Jones Road was one of the last distilleries to be built in Dublin and unlike some of its other more famous cousins, such as the Jameson and Powers distilleries, was not a family firm.

This was the heyday of whiskey distilling in Ireland, with Irish pot still whiskey dominating world markets, and the Dublin Whiskey Distillery Company (which later became known simply by the initials DWD) was a limited company formed by a consortium of seven businessmen in 1872. The distillery was completed in exactly a year and was, at that time an ultra-modern complex. The distillery boasted an annual distilling capacity of 800,000 gallons, but it is unlikely it ever reached this, and when the British brewing and distilling historian Alfred Barnard visited in 1886, he reported an annual output of 560,000 gallons.

The distillery had only the most modern and best equipment including a 50hp Leffel Turbine for electricity, capable of being powered either by a water-wheel in the adjoining River Tolka or by one of the plant's steam engines. Fire had been the downfall of many an Irish distillery in the past and DWD boasted two novel safety measures: curtains around the Mash Tun to stop the grist blowing over the edges and massive water tanks on top of the flat roofs, used to store the process water, which could also be used in event of fire. It even had a top floor observatory with extensive views over the city and nearby shoreline.

In 1891, DWD joined forces with 2 other Dublin distilleries - George Roe and William Jameson - to form the Dublin Distillers Company Limited (DDC). Each one of these distilleries had huge output and only used pot stills, totally ignoring the profitability and efficiency of Coffey Stills and grain whiskey, which was increasing being used by the Scots.

Denis Lynch joined the DWD Jones Road Distillery in March 1905. His daughter, Brid fills us in on some of the history: "...I have a copy of Denis's Indenture contract with DWD dated March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1905 ...It's full of legal rigmarole but in essence Margaret Lynch, his mother paid a fee to DWD. Denis was to serve a three year apprenticeship and was to receive a small allowance and accommodation which was provided on site. The Manager at the time was Leonard Murphy. ...by the time that Denis married in 1914, he was the Chief Distiller and both he and Alice were able to move into the managers house."



Denis & Alice Lynch Wedding July 1914

According to one source, Denis and Alice Lynch were to play host to an important meeting in April 1919. In early February that year, De Valera who had been jailed by the British Authorities in Lincoln Prison was freed by a team led by Michael Collins and returned to Ireland. "Having shipped De Valera safely across the Irish Sea, Collins lodged him in Denis Lynch's home in Drumcondra, the trusted house where he himself often went to ground. Strolling in the grounds of the distillery, de Valera and Harry Boland laid plans for Boland's forthcoming mission to America to prepare for de Valera's own arrival there...." Eileen McGough, Diarmuid Lynch - A Forgotten Irish Patriot. Mercier History, Cork 2013, p117

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the First Dail Eireann was held in the DWD complex in April, 1919.

"In 1919-20, Denis and Alice Lynch were frequently discreet hosts of the fugitive Collins at Distillery House, their home in the grounds of the Dublin Whiskey Distillery in Drumcondra where Denis was manager. One evening, Denis was entertaining business guests and left the table to check on his other, hidden guest. 'What are ye talking about tonight Denis? asked the restless Collins. 'Yourself as always Mick' came the reply." Eileen McGough, Diarmuid Lynch - A Forgotten Irish Patriot. Mercier History, Cork 2013, p84

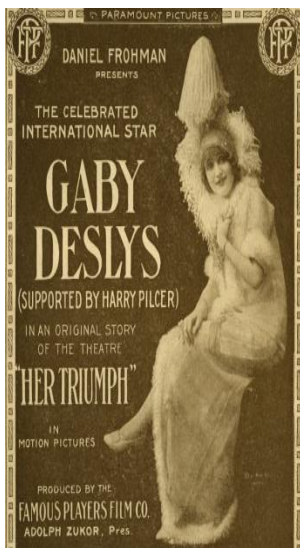
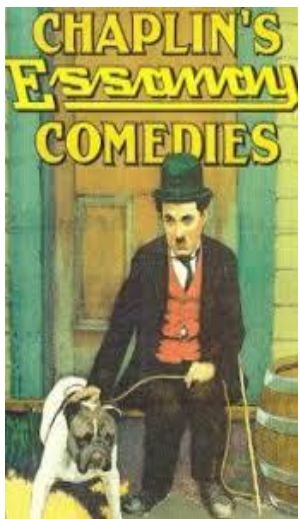
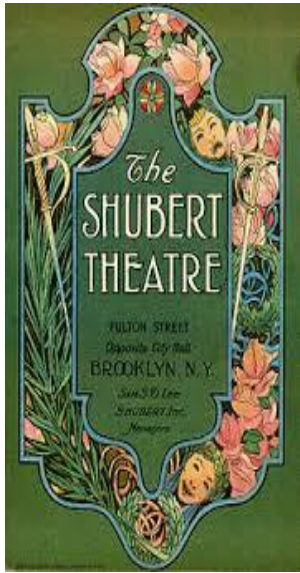
As regards the DWD Distillery business, World War I, Irish Independence, the civil war and American Prohibition were to deal deadly blows to all three of these distilleries which had an overproduction capacity for their ever diminishing markets.

Denis was to remain as Chief Distiller at DWD until 1924 when he moved to Bandon as Manager of Allman's Distillery in the town. Freddie O'Dwyer's research shows that Denis "... was appointed distiller to Allman's in Bandon in September 1924 but seems to have exercised his profession for just one year. I expect he came to some arrangement to stay on in the distiller's house for the following fifteen years or so. Allman, Dowden and Company had two operations in Bandon, a brewery, much of which survives, on the north side of the river and a distillery, a mile away on the south side, which is largely demolished....The unraveling of the Allman businesses was Byzantine but it seems they were in trouble from the early 1900s. The brewery was sold to Beamishes in 1907 who kept it open as a mineral water bottling plant. The distillery went into examiner ship in 1911 but was bought out by James A.L. Allman, son of one of the proprietors, and a relative who then traded on as Allman and Co. Their whiskey was matured for upwards of five years, depending on the product, but the last distillation was done in 1925, so they were just selling stock from bond after that. The premises were sold in 1927 but were still standing when viewed by a government minister in 1929, who was (unsuccessfully) lobbied to take it over as a creamery depot. He pointed out that the creameries were run by co-operatives that the government had no wish to undermine. I am sure the decline of Irish whiskey in the early twentieth century had much to do with prohibition in the US but that is not referred to in any of the articles I consulted....As to Denis's sojourn at the DWD, he told the Southern Star (2 September 1924)...that he had been 'close to twenty years in Dublin where he was instructed in his business.'

With the closure of Allmans in Bandon, Denis changed profession and he became the Cork representative and inspector of the New Ireland Assurance Company which had been founded by M.W. O'Reilly, a former volunteer and leader of the prisoners at Frongoch. As for the DWD Jones Road Distillery, it halted full time distilling in 1926, however it appears that they may have continued distilling irregularly until 1945. The last known whiskey from Jones Road was of a whiskey distilled in 1942 and bottled by the independent Scottish bottlers Cadenhead's, who bought up most of the remaining stocks from Ireland's closed distilleries in the 1970's & 1980's.

After its closure, parts of the distillery fell into disrepair and other were used for various businesses, such as engineering workshops and even a fitness centre during the 1990's. The tall chimney is long gone, but the main distillery building became a protected structure in 2000: "...This group of buildings has important architectural significance as an example of industrial architecture from the nineteenth century. The quality of the materials used in their construction and decorative detailing demonstrate that these buildings were cutting edge design for the specific requirements of distillery buildings....They are also a significant reminder of the industrial landscape that once made up a significant element of the nineteenth century landscape adjacent to the Tolka River.."

In 2003, a conversion commenced to transform the building into upmarket apartments and these apartments are now known as Distillery Lofts.





## Marriage Registration 1877 – Timothy Lynch and Hannah Dunlea.

This is the Marriage Registration entry of Timothy Lynch, Granig, Ballyfeard (Farmer & bachelor) and Hannah Dunlea (spinster), Carrignavar who married on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1877. Both were described as being of 'Full Age' and were married by Fr. C. Freeman in the Roman Catholic chapel of Carrignavar, Co. Cork. Witnesses were Fr. Matthew Dunlea and the bride's father, Denis Dunlea. In January 1878, Jeremiah Christopher, later known as Diarmuid Lynch was born. The marriage was to end tragically with Hannah's death from bronchial pneumonia on July 10, 1878.

Kindly contributed by Eileen McGough & GRO entry from Therese Byrne.

Superintendent Registrar's District of Cork

1877 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Carrignavar in the Registrar's District of Carrignavar  
in the Union of Cork in the County of Cork

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.
(25)	February 11 <sup>th</sup> 1877	Timothy Lynch	Full age	Bachelor	Farmer	Ballyfeard	Mr <sup>r</sup> Lynch Farmer
		Hannah Dunlea	Full age	Spinster	—	Ballygnishan	Denis Dunlea Farmer

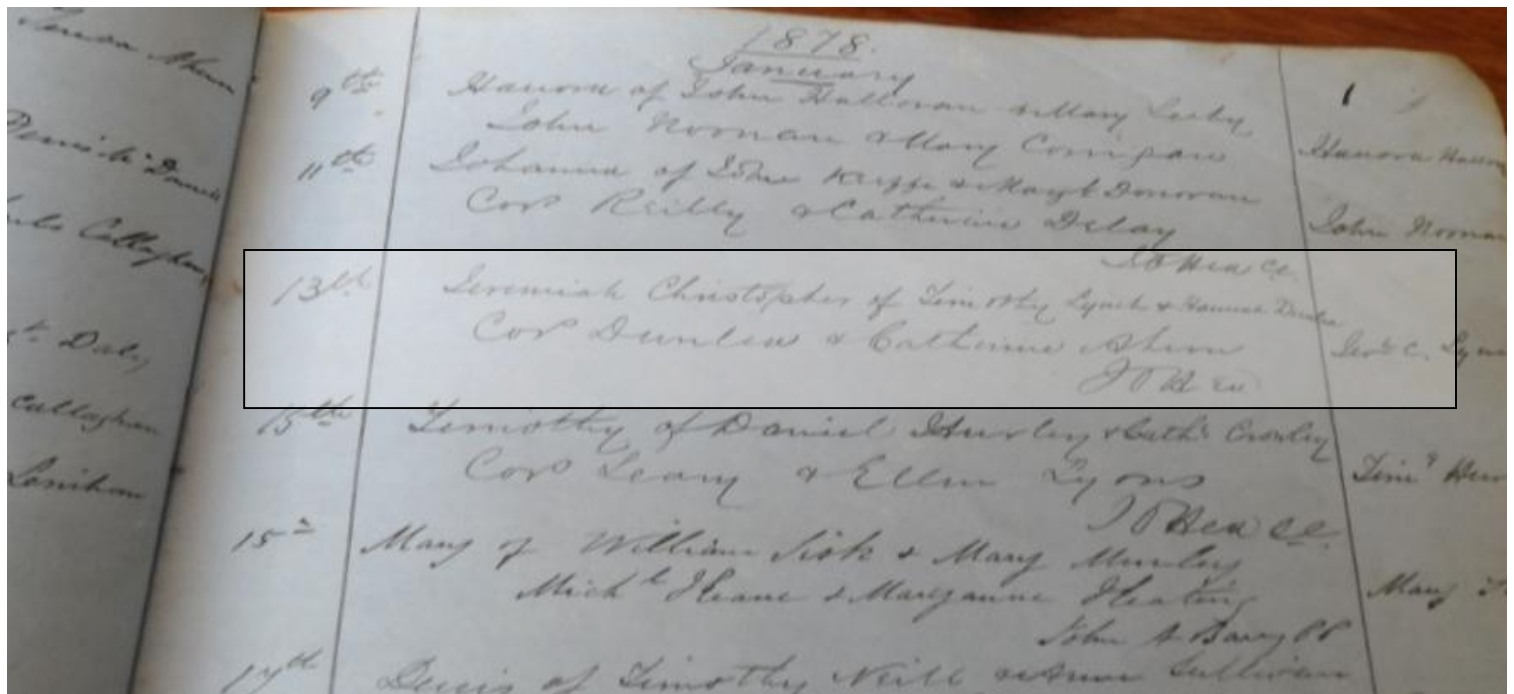
Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Carrignavar according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church, by me, C Freeman

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Timothy Lynch } in the Presence of us, { Bartholomew Dunlea  
Hannah Dunlea } { Denis Dunlea }

## Baptismal Record of Jeremiah Christopher Lynch

The Tracton Abbey Parish register entry for Jeremiah Christopher's baptism on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1878. "Jeremiah Christopher of Timothy Lynch and Hannah Dunlea". Godparents were Cor(nelius) Dunlea and Catherine Aherne.

(Kindly contributed by Eileen McGough)





## The Casement Pamphlets Distribution - September 1915

A publication known as 'The Casement Pamphlet' was a series of articles written anonymously by Roger Casement c.1911, published by the Gaelic American and also in "Irish Freedom", Dublin in 1914. Titled 'Ireland, Germany and the Freedom of the Seas' and with contents such as 'How Ireland Might Help Germany' and 'How Germany Might Help Ireland', the British Government, preparing for war considered the publication seditious and banned it & the newspapers that had published it immediately

The IRB Supreme Council in November 1914, recognising the propaganda value of the pamphlet, ordered a large edition to be printed by the Enniscorthy Echo (where the editor Larry De Lacey and most of the staff were IRB members) When printed, these were stored in de Lacey's home. In February 1915, the offending publication stockpiles were somehow overlooked when the property was raided by the RIC, capturing Sean O'Hegarty. The pamphlets were then quickly moved on to 'a friendly farmer's place' where they remained for a number of months and Larry de Lacey secretly left for America, avoiding a court appearance and probable jail term

In September 1915, the Pamphlet suddenly appeared throughout Ireland, delivered to thousands of influential people by the postal service and all in envelopes from staunchly pro-British firms. Consternation ensued, large rewards were offered for information leading to arrests by the firms whose allegiances were under scrutiny but the trail had run cold.

### This is the story of the Casement Pamphlet & Diarmuid Lynch's involvement.

In August, Tom Clarke and Diarmuid Lynch had sent Robert Monteith to Germany to liaise with Roger Casement & the German Military in Berlin in preparation for a Rising in Ireland. Due to the war, Monteith had to sail to New York and then on to Copenhagen. He recollected years later on September 9th, 1915, landing in New York on the first stage of his mission to Germany...as he was going aboard the ferry from the liner to Ellis Island, 'I met the only Irishman I encountered during my short stay in the United States before going to Germany. He was landing on the Island. Larry de Lacey\*, by name. He was one of the men, who left Ireland hurriedly on account of some little difference of opinion with the British Government on the matter of high explosives, seditious literature etc.'

Capt. Robert Monteith. 'Casement's Last Adventure'. Private Printing – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. Chicago 1932. Lynch Family Archives

In the RIC Dublin Castle Intelligence Reports for 1915, Larry de Lacey features under the title: **'Cases of unlawful possession and larceny of high explosives – Co. Wexford':** 'Certain anti-recruiting notices having been posted up in different parts of County Wexford, which were believed to be in the handwriting of John Hegarty, a dismissed postal employee, a warrant for his arrest was issued by the General Officer Commanding in Ireland, which the police executed on the morning (2am ) of the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1915. When arrested Hegarty was in bed...in the house of Laurence De Lacey, 8 New Street, Enniscorthy. On searching Hegarty's bedroom the police found, in addition to seditious notices and pamphlets, a paper parcel containing nineteen sticks of gelatine dynamite, each bearing on the wrapper 'Kynoch's, Arklow, Ltd., London' and in another part of the room some fuse and .303 cartridges etc, all of which the police seized. In the bedroom of Laurence de Lacey...the police found two cartridges of gelatine dynamite, two of gellignite and a number of .303 cartridges etc which the police also seized. De Lacey denied ownership of the explosives... [The following day]... the police...failed to effect the arrest of de Lacey, who had in the meantime absconded, and he has not since been made amenable.'

RIC Intelligence Reports 1915. State Paper Office 1966.

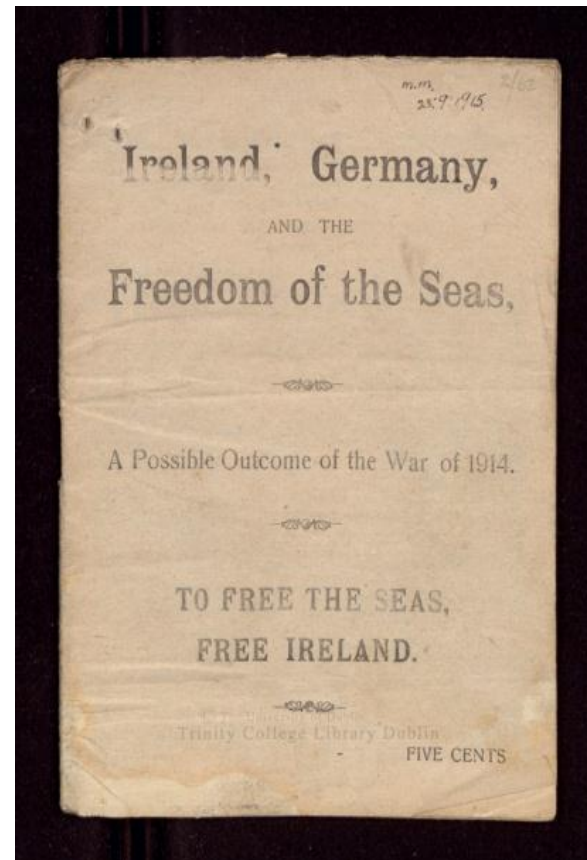
P159.

Unknown to the RIC, they had caught a rather big IRB fish in their net. John Hegarty was none other than Sean O'Hegarty, Head of the IRB in Cork and in direct contact with the Munster Head of the IRB, Diarmuid Lynch and the Supreme Council. It appeared very likely that O'Hegarty would be quickly tried under the Court Martial provisions in the Defence of the Realm Act regulations and in all probability receive a lengthy prison sentence if not death

However, at the time an amending Bill was before Parliament on the legality of the Court-Martials of civilians and to provide a charged defendant with the choice of a trial by jury or trial by courts martial. As a result, the case against O'Hegarty was deferred until the Bill was passed. In the subsequent trial by jury, defended by Tim Healy (later to become Governor General of the Free State) who showed that no evidence existed to show what Hegarty meant to do with the dynamite and so was duly acquitted on the charge of having explosives on his possession in the vicinity of a railway contrary to provisions of Section 33 of the Defence of the Realm regulations

Hegarty was then re-arrested on the seditious literature charge. When the second case came to court, on the charge of writing and publishing seditious statements contrary to the Defence of the Realm regulations, the jury was undecided and so the case was adjourned until the next hearing in June, at which O'Hegarty was once again acquitted. Following this, he was discharged from custody and placed under restrictions by the Military Authorities.

During the main and subsequent RIC searches of de Lacey's house, the large print run of Sir Roger Casement's 'Freedom of the Seas' pamphlet produced by the Enniscorthy Echo newspaper on orders from the IRB Supreme Council was completely overlooked. So when the fuss had died down, the pamphlets were quickly moved 'to a friendly farmer's place somewhere in Wexford' where they remained for many months'



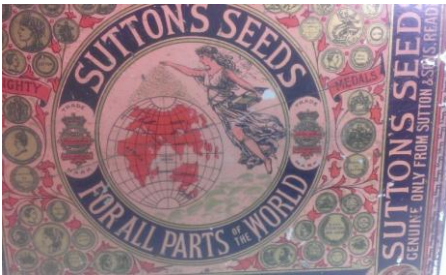


## The Casement Pamphlet Distribution continued...

In the spring of 1915, the subject of these pamphlets distribution was raised at a Supreme Council IRB meeting but deemed not urgent and passed over.

Diarmuid at a later meeting "proposed a plan for getting copies of the pamphlet to each County, Urban and Rural Councilor and to professional men throughout the country. The job was left in my hands"

Diarmuid provided pre-stamped business envelopes from Suttons Seed Merchants which he had 'acquired' printed by James Connolly in Liberty Hall, with the name and address of seed merchants from one of each of the six centers ( Dublin, Galway, Tralee, Cork, Waterford and Dundalk ) proposed for distribution.

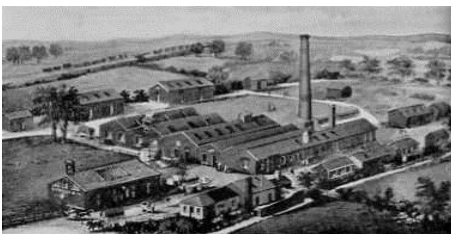


Suttons Seeds advert 1915

Those chosen were specifically staunch Unionists. Names and addresses of all councilors were gathered along with prominent businessmen. Addresses were typed and envelopes distributed to each centre for filling with the pamphlet. The next step was to source the pamphlets from Wexford.

In early September, Lynch set off from Dublin with Joe Dunn, taxi driver and IRB member to collect the banned pamphlets. Both were armed. Eileen McGough writes "On the road south to Wexford, while enjoying a brief stop in their journey, a car in which a British naval officer was travelling came into view, Joe quickly pretended to working on his engine. The driver stopped to ask if they needed help, an offer Joe graciously declined saying that he had 'only a little engine trouble'.

It was late when they set off on the return journey to Dublin, their cargo of pamphlets concealed in burlap potato sacks. A dense fog had descended on the east coast, which slowed them considerably, and it was 2 a.m. when they reached Arklow, Co. Wicklow. They came to a halt near Kynoch's Munitions factory, unsure of which direction to take, when a car came up behind them...



Kynoch's Munitions Factory, Arklow, Co. Wicklow

They hoped that its occupants would be able to direct them correctly, but to their horror it was the same naval officer they had encountered on the outward journey. To compound the danger, while the men were in strained conversation, an armed coastguard jumped over a nearby ditch and approached them.

The coastguard questioned Lynch and Dunn about their destination and purpose of their journey. He glanced into the back of the car, but the window was fogged up and he did not notice the sacks piled upon the back seat. 'Had that Coastguard opened the door and seen the rear piled with burlap bags containing bulky material, certain it is that further investigation would ensue - with the alternative of shooting their way out'

The sentry gave them correct directions but Dunn and Lynch were not out of trouble yet as the naval officer's car followed them for many miles. Dunn tried to shake them off by speeding up, at considerable risk to the deplorable driving conditions, but the official car also quickened it's pace, no doubt glad of guidance of their rear lights in the fog. This continued for a long time and their dilemma was where to deposit their cargo safely without arousing any suspicion. fortunately the car turned off towards Wicklow town, but it was almost daylight when the IRB men finally reached the outskirts of Dublin and Lynch deemed it too dangerous to approach Anthony Mackey's house on the south side of the city, as had been arranged.'

Diarmuid suggested that the seditious documents be moved instead to St. Enda's school in Rathfarnham where Pearse lived and worked and hid the sacks amongst the shrubbery. Joe returned to Dublin and Lynch spoke with Pearse over breakfast who later hid them deeper in the shrubbery.



St. Enda's Rathfarnham. Now the Pearse Museum.

A grocer's van later collected the pamphlets and distributed these to the various houses for the final task of putting them into the pre-prepared envelopes from companies such as The Co-Operative Wholesale Society Ltd, Limerick, Fennessy & Sons, Waterford and Sir James W. Mackey Ltd, Dublin.

The final stage in the distribution operation was **Sunday, 12 September, 1915**. Many IRB men from around the country were attending Croke Park for the Leinster Senior Football Final. Eileen McGough continues..."Suitcases of the pamphlets were collected...they were instructed to post all of their packages at their respective post offices at precisely 6pm on the following Thursday. The Dublin consignment almost came to grief when the lad charged with posting it arrived minutes too late at the correct postal department, but, having spin a tale of woe about how his job would be in jeopardy if he missed the 6pm postal deadline, an unsuspecting and kindly clerk relented.'

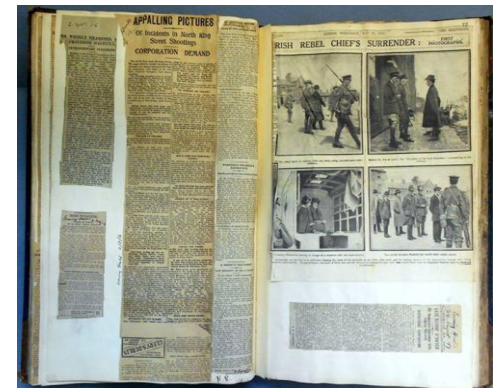
**16 September:** Lynch travelled to Cork on Thursday, staying at Granig. The next day he visited Kinsale "...on business and called on an Urban Councilor (Seamus O'Neill) who was well disposed to Sinn Fein. He expressed his astonishment that he should have received by the morning post from a 'Unionist' firm in Cork city, a very ably written pamphlet entitled 'Ireland, Germany and the Freedom of the Seas' and that colleagues of his had also received copies. He was much impressed by the contents but simply could not understand how or why it should have come from such a firm. The news was most welcome to me - it was proof that the ruse had worked satisfactorily at Cork....later it became evident that Cork was not the only efficient centre; deliveries were duly made from all the others. Then the fun began.

Special orders were issued immediately by postal headquarters thereafter that items of bulk postage should be opened and examined on receipt at any post office. This information was conveyed to us by I.R.B. men in the Dublin GPO. White, Tomkins and Courage of Belfast\* offered a reward of £100 for information giving the name of the party who had thus used its name. Nicholas Hardy & Co of Dundalk offered £100 likewise. But though at least 40 individuals knew the man who had directed the job at various stages, their loyalty to the cause of Irish independence was proof against any 'reward'.

\*The IRB and the 1916 Rising' by Diarmuid Lynch. Mercier Press, Cork. 1957. P42

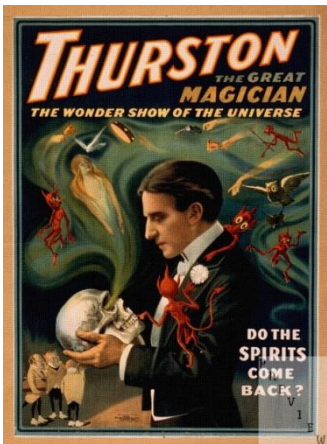
\* This Reward was offered in an Irish Independent advert issue dated 20 September, 1915 and The Freemans Journal, 21 September

## 1916 Newspaper Scrapbook



A page from a newspaper scrapbook compiled by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. Covering the Easter Rising. The page includes photographs published in the 'Daily Sketch' on 10 May 1916. The prints include the well-known image (top right) of Pádraig Pearse surrendering to General Lowe who is accompanied by his staff-officer, Major de Courcy-Wheeler (nearest the camera). The figure partly screened off by Pearse is probably Elizabeth O'Farrell. The other prints include (top left) Major John MacBride being marched away after sentencing; (below left) Constance Markievicz leaving in an ambulance following her court martial; (below right) the two Plunkett brothers (in slouch hats) under escort. Fr. Stanislaus was an eminent historian and scholar and for many years as served as archivist for the Capuchin Order in Ireland.





## Diarmuid Lynch & landing point for German arms & munitions. September 1915.

By September 1915, negotiations between the I.R.B. and Germany via Clan Na Gael in New York continued on armed military support of a nationwide Rising in Ireland.

The original proposal to the Berlin by Plunkett and Casement was for an amphibious invasion of 12,000 German troops bringing a shipment of 40,000 rifles and ammunition on the west coast of Ireland to support an insurrection in Dublin. This was shelved by the German military as impractical due to demands on the Western Front, the Royal Navy blockade and distance. However, Berlin was willing to send arms & munitions in support of a Rising.

Weapons were a vital necessity to the success of a Rising as the Irish Volunteers had a limited arsenal and limited funds only supported two gun-running operations at Howth and Kilcoole the previous summer. Volunteers nationwide increased their meagre arms & explosives through more direct methods: smuggling and theft. By the end of the year, the Volunteers had just 3,730 assorted rifles, handguns and shotguns and a small supply of explosives. With Berlin's commitments to an arms cargo, detailed planning for the Rising began.

A safe landing site on the Irish coast had to be found which would allow the fast distribution of arms and ammunition to Volunteers in Cork, Kerry, Limerick and the west of Ireland when the Rising took place. Plunkett and the Military Committee was of the opinion that any German arms received should be landed in Limerick. Pearse disagreed.

Diarmuid wrote of a talk he had with Pearse in September 1915: "He desired that I secure the views of Tralee men and others in that part of Kerry as to the relative merits of Ventry harbour and any other advantageous spots in that region for the landing of a cargo of arms and their expeditious distribution..."

The IRB and the 1916 Rising' by Diarmuid Lynch. Mercier Press, Cork. 1957.

Diarmuid now travelled to Cork in the course of his Insurance business where he reported to the RIC as he was required to do as a 'Friendly Alien' and again when he left for Tralee. 'The telegraph operators at Cork station were usually I.R.B. men, and they were aware that the 'G-man' on duty there always wired ahead to the police at my destination. (Sean O'Hegarty, Tommy O'Riordan etc. were able to decode his messages). So on arrival at Tralee I again duly 'reported'. On presenting my Registration Book the constable on duty remarked 'Aren't you an Irishman?' to which I answered 'Yes'. He continued 'then what the blazes do you want to register for?' and handed back my book unendorsed. I said 'OK' and left. As matters turned out later, I should have insisted on the usual endorsement to show that I had 'reported'. After some months I had reason to wonder whether the R.I.C. man was really friendly and was afraid to acknowledge his own remissness when the matter of my non-registration in Tralee arose, or whether he had acted on orders and 'put one over on me'

The IRB and the 1916 Rising' by Diarmuid Lynch. Mercier Press, Cork. 1957.

The visit to Tralee coincided with a meeting of the Tralee Irish Volunteers and Diarmuid made contact with Austin Stack and other I.R.B. members from the town. Pearse's proposed landing site of Ventry for arms, ammunition and explosives was considered inappropriate by the local IRB men with Fenit considered the most suitable landing place.

The quay had a deep water berth and a narrow gauge rail line running to Tralee (originally used to ship maize), a strong force of Irish Volunteers in the area and regular rail connections to Cork in one direction and Limerick in the other. This would allow for swift dispersion of arms and ammunition to the West and South in a support movement to Dublin.

*"..The local 'G-men' kept peeping over the wall of the laneway, but that sort of thing was commonplace and no notice was taken of them. Next afternoon I went on to Dingle (a few miles from Ventry). One of my first calls was to the R.I.C. barracks...where I canvassed the men for Life Insurance. In the light of my real mission to the town, and especially in light of actual happenings in the Tan War, that solicitation does seem ironical"*

Diarmuid then contacted the local I.R.B. Centre who later that evening met him in the middle of a field outside the village and discussed as to where the most suitable landing place for arms could be. 'They also favoured Fenit - pointing out that Ventry was some twenty miles from Tralee...and that the conveyance of cargo from Ventry through the bottle neck of the Dingle peninsula would be extremely hazardous as a small body of police posted there might bring the whole enterprise to disaster'

The Listowel I.R.B. Centre when contacted and interviewed was 'equally convinced that Fenit was preferable to any other point on the Kerry coast'

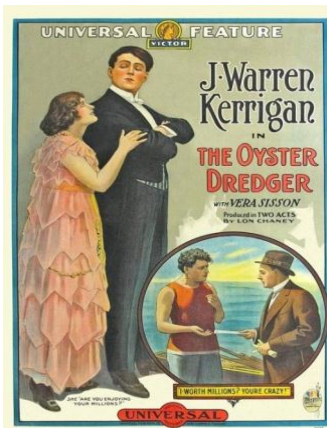
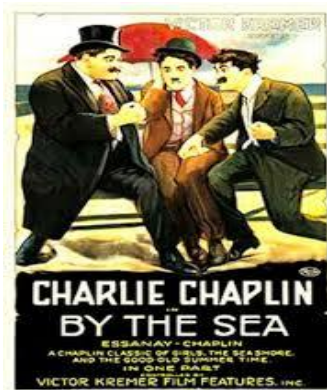
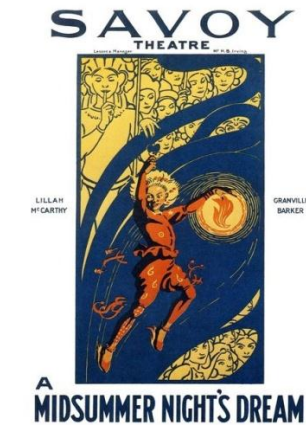
Diarmuid reported back to Pearse, Clarke and MacDiarmada in favour of Fenit. 'I have no recollection of the matter being discussed at any meeting of the Supreme Council [I.R.B.]' and that James Connolly had no knowledge of the planned cargo of German arms until January, 1916 when he was co-opted to the Military Council.

In September at the first meeting of the revised IRB Supreme Council, it was agreed that a landing of German arms and possibly soldiers could be made at Fenit, in Tralee Bay following Diarmuid Lynch's favourable report. This was communicated to John Devoy and then to Berlin.

Charles Townsend in 'Easter 1916: The Irish Rebellion' wrote that the I.R.B. had now committed the fate of its venture to the local I.R.B. chief Austin Stack, whom 'the Supreme Council had 'many times mooted' removing from office before the war for laziness. According to P.S. O'Hegarty, neither Michael Crowe nor his successor as Munster Divisional Representative, Lynch himself, 'could get him to do anything...but there was nobody else on offer'



Fenit, Co. Kerry





## Frongoch – 1916-2015

**Frongoch internment camp** at Frongoch in Merionethshire, Wales was a makeshift place of imprisonment during the First World War. Until 1916 it housed German prisoners of war in an abandoned distillery and crude huts, but in the wake of the 1916 Easter Rising, the German prisoners were moved and it was used as a place of internment for approximately 1,800 Irish prisoners, among them Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith and Michael Lynch. They were accorded the status of prisoners of war. The camp became a fertile seeding ground for the spreading of the revolutionary gospel, with inspired organisers such as Michael Collins giving impromptu lessons in guerrilla tactics. Later the camp became known as *ollscoil Na réabhlóide* the "University of Revolution" or sometimes "Sinn Féin University". The camp was emptied in December 1916 when [David Lloyd George](#) replaced [H. H. Asquith](#) as Prime Minister and all the Irish prisoners were released.



Special thanks to my good friends Peter and Reyne Grullemans from Sydney, Australia who visited Frongoch in June 2015 and kindly took some photographs of the area for the Newsletter. What was once the camp grounds is now the local primary school Ysgol Bro Tryweryn and nearby is a plaque in memory of the 1,800 Irish jailed here in 1916.



Michael Lynch – Prisoner No.476. Frongoch 1916.



Peter Grullemans on location at the local Café.

Thanks again for the photos Pete & Reyne. (Ed)



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**6.45 TWICE NIGHTLY 9**  
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**MONDAY, JUNE 28th, 1915**  
AND DURING THE WEEK, MATINEE, SATURDAY AT 2.30

**F. WYBERT CLIVE**  
PRESENTS A NEW AND SENSATIONAL PLAY—

**A SON OF BELGIUM**

**MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2.30**

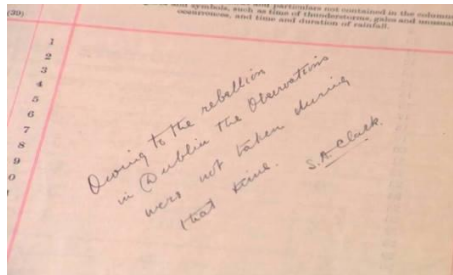
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**MATINEE: EVERY SATURDAY AT 2.30**  
**SPECIAL PRICES:** Gallery, 3d.; Plt., 6d.; Upper Circle, 1s.; Dress Circle, 1s. 6d.

## 1916 Rising put stop to even weather readings

A century-old document has revealed how the official weather readings for the capital are blank during the 1916 Rising.



The observatory in Trinity College recorded some of the county's earliest weather records since it was built in the middle of the 19th century but the meticulous daily readings came to an abrupt halt the day the rising started on April 24, 1916 and didn't resume until almost a month later on May 18.

In the RTÉ series Creedon's Four Seasons in One Day, Met Éireann librarian Máiréad Traynor has revealed how a note from a student written into the record books in the spring of 1916 explains the gap in the painstaking records was due to the Republican uprising.

A note in the college's 98-year-old weather records, signed by student S.A. Clark on April 24, 1916, simply reads: "Owing to the disturbances in Dublin the observations were not taken from the 24th to the end of the month." "In fact it lasted right up until the 18th of May," said Ms. Traynor. "There is another note saying 'owing to the rebellion in Dublin the observations were not taken in Dublin during this time'; again signed S A Clark."

Ms. Traynor told the documentary that S.A. Clark — the student tasked with taking the weather readings — could have been busy protecting the college from the Republicans.

"The rebels tried to take Trinity College but it was defended by the students and the graduates and by soldiers who came down from Dublin Castle," said Ms. Traynor.

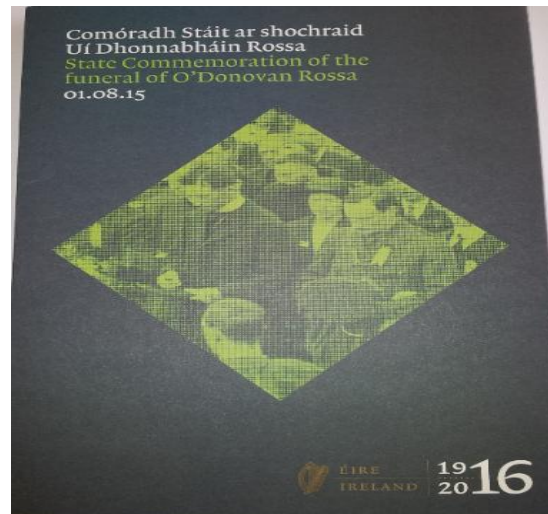
"So the report the week after the rebellion — they called it the Sinn Féin rebellion in the Irish Times — said Trinity College remained true to its traditions, so it was a bastion for the empire."

"I often wonder if Clark had any role in defending the college. He was a student at the time. He would have been taking the [weather forecast] as part of his studies."

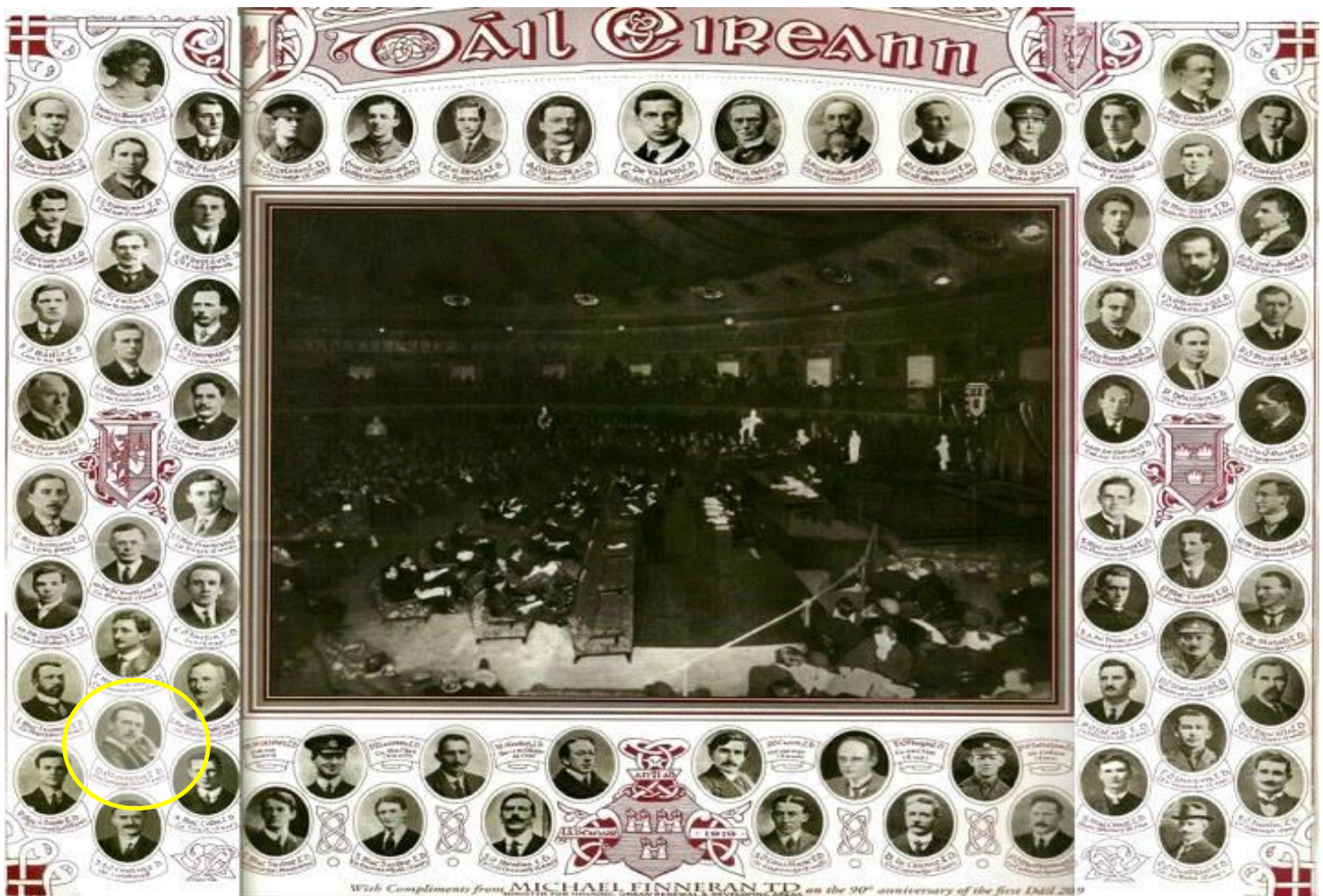
The Met Éireann librarian reveals that the earliest records in Met Éireann date back to 1855 and contain more than just the weather, even noting the type of illnesses prevalent in the area.

## Programme of the State Commemoration of the funeral of O'Donovan Rossa, 2015.

Freddie & Emer O'Dwyer attended the O'Donovan Rossa Centenary events in Glasnevin on August 1<sup>st</sup> and have kindly donated an event Program to the Family Archives.







## First Dail Eireann - Jan 21, 1919

TUESDAY afternoon, January 21, 1919. There was an air of anticipation and high excitement around the Mansion House as the time (3.30pm) approached for the inaugural meeting of An Dail Eireann (this was how the Sinn Fein-convoked constituent assembly was referred to in the press at the time). Orderly queues formed in Dawson Street, visitors' tickets had been already distributed and the Round Room was soon crammed. Those occupying vantage points in neighbouring windows were by no means all Sinn Fein sympathisers -- they included police chiefs and several military officers. Inside the building there were more than twice as many journalists (from European, North American, British and Irish newspapers) as the newly-elected representatives.

The background to this dramatic event was the UK general election of December 1918, when Sinn Fein secured 73 of the 105 (single-seat) constituencies in all of Ireland. In its manifesto, the organisation had declared it would secure a republic by, inter alia, withdrawing the Irish MPs from Westminster and setting up an independent constituent assembly in Ireland. (This strategy had been mooted, but never acted upon, by some 19th century nationalists). Emboldened by its triumph at the polls, Sinn Fein now called on all elected Irish representatives to attend the inaugural meeting of a single-chamber

Dail Eireann. The invitation was, of course, ignored by the unionists. As the meeting began, there was loud applause when the elected members took their seats. As Ceann Comhairle, Cathal Brugha dominated the two-hour session and set the uncompromising tone. A severely-wounded hero of 1916 and destined to die in a last stand at the start of the Civil War, his was hardly likely to be the voice of moderation on that opening day, especially in the absence of mainstream leaders like the imprisoned Arthur Griffith and Eamon de Valera. The Irish Times noted that the Sinn Fein representatives were nearly "all young men, there being no grey hairs among them and very few wrinkled brows". They were obviously highly conscious of the historic significance of the event as they set about, in Cathal Brugha's words, "the most important task since the Gaels came to Ireland".

The emotional fusion of religion and nationalism which had characterised Easter Week was also strongly evident in the rhetoric of the First Dail. This was not crowd thumping but a fervent and self-righteous conviction that God was on the side of the revolutionaries and that their enterprise was obair naomha, "holy work". Significantly also, given the formative influence of the Gaelic League on that generation, Irish was the dominant medium of the

Proceedings. This meant, according to the Irish Times, that three-quarters of those present were "completely at sea".

The roll call of all 105 members (including unionists and the handful of surviving Redmondites) provoked some laughter when Sir Edward Carson, among others, was solemnly recorded as being as lathair (absent) suggesting somehow that he had a cold or missed the bus. Only 27 Sinn Fein members were present, the majority being listed as imprisoned, exiled (such as Diarmuid Lynch in the U.S.) or on the run. (Michael Collins was in Britain organising de Valera's escape from Lincoln Jail). There was perhaps some make-believe, then and thereafter, about the public use of Irish. Certainly, as attendances increased at subsequent sessions of the First Dail (52 members were present at the meeting on April 1) English came to dominate the proceedings and it was soon ordained that "all notices and pronouncements were to be issued bilingually". The sending of invitations to unionists and the dutiful intonation of their names in a roll call smacked of theatrical posturing. Sinn Fein was continuing the nationalist self-deception that unionists would turn out some day to be nationalists, once the British scales had fallen from their eyes.

Continued on page 23



## Planning A Rising



### Where it began. The meeting in the Gaelic League Library, September 1914.

By Ed Mulhall

On the 9th September 1914 at 25 Parnell Square (then Rutland Square) in the library of the Gaelic League, which future President S.T. O'Kelly use as his office, the seven future signatories of the 1916 proclamation met together for the first time to discuss insurrection. Speaking a decade after the Rising, in New York, O'Kelly declared that the Rising was a 'coldly and deliberately planned affair' and he points to this meeting as the moment when the intention to rise during the War was first agreed upon by a group representing 'all shades of advanced nationalist political thought in Ireland' and who 'pledged themselves and their organisations to do all in their power to carry on the agreement arrived at and to prepare the public mind for the great event that was to come'.

At the meeting in addition to the seven signatories Tom Clarke, Seán McDermott, Joseph Plunkett, P.H. Pearse, Thomas McDonagh, Éamonn Ceannt and James Connolly - were Arthur Griffith, Major John MacBride, labour activist William O'Brien and possibly IRB men, Seán McGarry and Seán Tobin.

Accounts of the meeting come from two of the survivors of the Rising, Seán T. O'Kelly and William O'Brien and - while there is some difference of recollection on details and who was responsible for instigating the meeting - both are at one as regards its significance and particularly in linking the leadership of the Citizen Army and the more militant members of the Volunteers.

According to O'Brien: 'Connolly (who was living in Belfast as Secretary of the ITGWU) came to Dublin early in August and spoke to me about the desirability of acting with all those who would favour organising an insurrection. He told me that he had seen a number of people who were of the same mind.'

...On his mentioning their names, I advised that they were not of sufficient importance and that nothing could be done without the co-operation of such men as Tom Clarke and Seán McDermott. He asked me if I could put him in touch with the right people, and I undertook to do so. I discussed the matter with my brother, Daniel O'Brien, who was an officer in the Irish Volunteers. As a result, I saw Éamonn Ceannt with whom we were well acquainted, and who was a member of the Executive of the Irish Volunteers as well as a leading member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He undertook to arrange a conference for Connolly and myself to attend.'

O'Kelly, a member of the IRB but not on its Supreme Council, was approached by Tom Clarke and Seán McDermott to allow his office to be used for an important meeting. 'They explained that they wanted a meeting of representatives of the different National bodies whom they regarded as anti-War, and they wished this to take place as secretly as possible ...I asked what the purpose of the meeting was and they said to try and get the heads or at any rate the influential leaders amongst their sections of progressive National organisations together to consider what action should be taken by these in view of the outbreak of the European War. From my conversation with these two members of the Supreme Council of the IRB I gathered it was their intention to try and organise the progressive or as others might call them the extreme Nationalist element to work together to promote certain activities they had in mind toward achieving independence while the war continued.'

O'Kelly insisted that the meeting was at the initiative of these republican leaders and it was their intention to have a broad representation with Sinn Féin, the Volunteers and Citizen Army members attending as well as those already in the IRB. Whoever instigated it the choice of attendees was significant. The IRB was represented by its most powerful leaders Clarke and McDermott but others such as Pearse and McDonagh were prominent among the Volunteers and particularly those opposed to the co-option of Redmond's representatives into its leadership. The presence of Griffith was notable but most importantly Connolly as leader of the Labour movement and the Citizen army was also present. Clarke had not long before been quite dismissive of the Citizen Army to his U.S. partners but here they met to develop common cause. The meeting was chaired by Tom Clarke, who O'Kelly says put the meeting in the context of the War, the efforts being made to recruit in Ireland and the 'necessity for the National forces to take united action to prevent recruiting and that steps should be taken to use the war to endeavor to secure the independence of Ireland'. According to O'Brien 'Connolly advocated making definite preparations for organising an insurrection' and, in connection therewith, getting in touch with Germany with a view to military support.

A discussion took place as to the desirability of this, and also whether there should not be an agitation conducted through an open organisation.

O'Kelly who said he has 'hazy' recollection of Connolly at the meeting was clear that all present were in agreement that 'a joint effort by all the progressive nationalist organisations that favoured independence should be made before the end of the war to do everything possible to secure independence.' He emphasised that Griffith was in full agreement with this approach

As O'Kelly revealed over ten years later:

*'At that meeting it was decided that a Rising should take place in Ireland, if the German army invaded Ireland; secondly if England attempted to enforce conscription on Ireland; and thirdly if the war were coming to an end and the Rising had not already taken place, we should rise in revolt, declare war on England and when the conference was held to settle the terms of peace, we should claim to be represented as a belligerent nation'*

In his statement to the Bureau of Military history he provides some added details on the first of these:

*"...It was agreed that the British should be resisted with force if they attempted to disarm the Volunteers. It was agreed that if the Germans made a landing in Ireland that the bodies represented at the meeting should agree to work with the Germans provided a formal and satisfactory statement could be got from the Government of Germany pledging themselves if they landed in Ireland only to land there so as to help the Irish to expel the British from Ireland and to win complete independence. It was agreed if such a declaration could be got from the German Government a German armed force would be welcomed in Ireland to help end British domination. It was certainly agreed that on no account would the Germans be helped unless an open declaration was received from them through their Government that they did not intend to land in Ireland in order to occupy it permanently.'*

The meeting decided to form two sub-committees, one secret which would endeavor to make contact with Germany and make other plans, and the other to organise an open organisation to be used for propaganda purposes and as a recruiting ground for the secret movement.

This public organisation was the "Irish Neutrality League" which had James Connolly as President, O'Kelly as Secretary, with Griffith, O'Brien on its committee, together with Countess Markievicz and Francis Sheehy Skeffington. They had a number of meetings which were addressed by Major McBride, Thomas Ashe, Miss Wyse Power and committee members while it lasted. According to O'Brien it popularised the wearing of the republican colours -green white and orange.

However, it was the regular secret contact (between those who had attended the Gaelic League Library meeting) that was to be its lasting effect.

## Where it began. The meeting in the Gaelic League Library, September 1914...continued

Joseph Plunkett was to say that a long conversation with Connolly after one of the meetings convinced him that he 'was the most intellectual and the greatest man he knew in every way'. Nora Connolly was sent later that year to America with confidential messages for the IRB leadership there. A secret military planning committee was established, initially comprising Pearse, Plunkett and Ceannt, then adding Clarke and McDermott. The following year, around the time of the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, Seán McGarry was able to alert Tom Clarke to Connolly's impatience at the slowness of developments which led to Clarke bringing Connolly into closer confidence and eventually onto the military committee which McDonagh also joined.

In the immediate aftermath of the first meeting, the group met again to plan to disrupt the appearance of Prime Minister Asquith with John Redmond at a recruiting meeting in the Mansion House. The plan was to use a joint Volunteer/ Citizen Army force to occupy the building the night before so as to prevent its use. (They had also planned to get the electricity cut off). About 100 or so gathered in the Foresters' Hall and Liberty Hall on the night before the meeting (including two future Irish Free State ministers, Richard Mulcahy and Joseph McGrath). O'Kelly does recall close co-ordination with Connolly at this event, with a decision eventually to abandon the due to the security already in place at the Mansion House. (The same evening, 24th September, in an operation organised by Clarke and McDermott, those opposed to Redmond took over the Volunteer's headquarters. That day also saw the members of the Provisional Committee issue their repudiation of Redmond's strategy, signatories included Pearse, Plunkett, Ceannt and MacDermott as well as Eoin MacNeill and Bulmer Hobson. If the takeover of the Mansion House had happened as planned these three events together would have been a significant statement of intent. The Volunteer split followed in November.)

There were not to be many such co-operative ventures between the Citizen Army and the Volunteers between then and Easter 1916 (O'Donovan Rossa's funeral being an exception) but during that period there developed a growing trust between the core group who had gathered in the Gaelic League library that September and a common objective: to act.

## New plaque unveiled on O'Donovan Rossa Bridge, Dublin 2. August, 2015.



## THE IRISH TIMES

Mon, Aug 10, 2015

NEWS SPORT BUSINESS OPINION LIFE & STYLE CULTURE

Editorials Letters Columnists An Irishman's Diary Opinion & Analysis Martyn Turner

### An Irishman's Diary on the Gaelic League and the IRB

A springboard to revolution



Patrick Pearse: "We went to school in the Gaelic League. It was a good school... but we do not propose to remain schoolboys"

## A springboard to revolution

Brian Maye. Opinion.

Irish Times. Friday, July 24, 2015

**Many of the radical generation** that led the struggle for Irish independence went to school, to borrow Patrick Pearse's phrase, in the Gaelic League, the organisation set up in 1893 by Douglas Hyde and Eoin MacNeill to revive the Irish language and culture.

On July 29th, 100 years ago, the league's executive committee or Coiste Gnótha was taken over by the IRB, the underground revolutionary movement that planned the 1916 Rising. The cultural nationalist revival, instigated by the GAA (founded in 1884) and the Gaelic League, gathered enormous momentum, so that by 1908, when it was at its height, there were 800 GAA clubs and 671 league branches all over Ireland, with hundreds more among Irish emigrant communities abroad. Hyde, its Protestant founder, wanted the league to be non-political because he thought a shared interest in culture could reconcile sectarian divisions.

But the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the secret oath-bound Fenian organisation committed to achieving an Irish republic by violent means if necessary, saw in movements such as the league and the GAA an ideal recruiting ground. Therefore it set about infiltrating these movements from the outset.

Many of the witness statements (WS) of those who participated in the independence struggle, given to the Bureau of Military History between 1947 and 1957 (these were released to the public in 2003 and have been available online since 2012), testify to this infiltration.

**One that gives an IRB insider's account of the takeover of the Coiste Gnótha of the Gaelic League at its annual conference or ard-fheis, in Dundalk in late July 1915, is that of Diarmuid Lynch (WS 0004).**

He was a member of the Supreme Council of the IRB and its Munster organiser. He was also a member of the very active and influential Keating Branch of the Gaelic League in Dublin, where IRB influence was very strong.

(Other members of the branch included Michael Collins, Cathal Brugha, Fionán Lynch, Piaras Béaslaí, Gearóid O'Sullivan and Diarmuid O'Hegarty.)

Lynch said that the IRB had always respected the non-political nature of the Gaelic League but that the Coiste Gnótha was too subservient to the Board of Education and Dublin Castle in matters affecting the language movement. This led to a growing divergence between what he called the right and left wings of the organisation, Hyde being the leader of the right wing. Whenever the left wing, to which Lynch and other IRB men belonged, objected to proposals coming from the other wing, it was accused of introducing "Sinn Féinism" or "politics" into the proceedings, he maintained. He was absent in the US for most of 1914 and when he returned, he said that the division between the two wings of the Coiste Gnótha had widened. He argued that up until then, the IRB had not tried officially to influence election to the coiste, although members might have done so to a very limited extent, which proved that the IRB had no wish to politicise the league.

UCD historian Conor Mulvagh would be unlikely to agree that the IRB's role was quite so neutral. He argued that the appointment of The O'Rahilly as manager of *An Claidheamh Soluis*, the Gaelic League newspaper, was "part of the ongoing campaign between 1913 and 1915 to radicalise the Gaelic League and to prepare a section of Irish men and women for revolution". To illustrate how those within the league saw it as a springboard to revolution, Mulvagh quoted the following from Pearse in November 1913: "We went to school in the Gaelic League. It was a good school . . . but we do not propose to remain schoolboys . . . To every generation its deed. The deed of the generation that has now reached middle life was the Gaelic League: the beginning of the Irish revolution. Let our generation not shirk its deed, which is to accomplish the revolution."

By summer 1915, preparations were under way for an insurrection against Britain, according to Lynch, and the time had come for the left wing of the Coiste Gnótha to stage a takeover. Lynch summoned IRB members of the league, and others sympathetic to the IRB, to attend the ard-fheis at Dundalk in late July. There they got a motion passed which stated that "the previous Gaelic League rule, that it be non-political, be abolished and a clause inserted stating that a free Ireland be included in the aims of the league".

This change in policy caused Hyde to resign and the new IRB-dominated Coiste Gnótha elected MacNeill in his place. MacNeill was not a member of the IRB but was president of the Irish Volunteers, formed at the end of 1913.

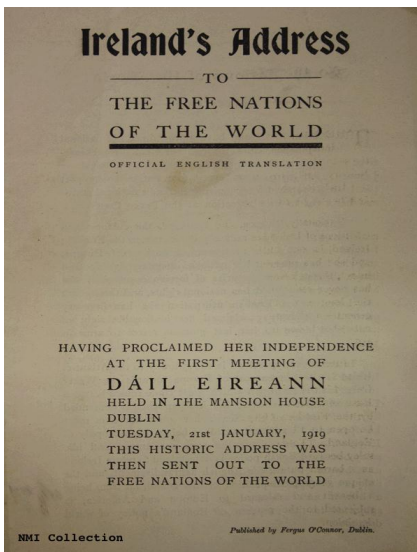


## The First Dail 1919 – continued from page 20

The most important document of that historic first day was the Declaration of Independence. This took the form of ratifying (to great applause) "the establishment of the Irish Republic . . . proclaimed on Easter Monday 1916 by the Irish Republican Army" and now receiving the allegiance of "the overwhelming majority" of the Irish people. Two points should be emphasised. First, what de Valera was to call the "straitjacket" of the Republic was now in place, making future constitutional compromise not only difficult but open to the charge of treachery. Secondly, the Assembly was claiming that its authority was grounded in the 1916 proclamation (and the blood-sacrifice mandate) as much as in the democratic credentials of the 1918 election.

The seeds of further ambivalence lay in an occurrence in Co Tipperary on the same day as the Dail opening. This was what the Irish Times called the "foul murder" of two policemen by armed Volunteers. Needless to say, the Dail deputies were not aware of, still less responsible for, this event but it was to lead in a very short time to the most important question facing the fledgling state: would a civilian Dail government be able to assert its authority over the gunmen?

Other business transacted on opening day included the drafting of a short, provisional constitution; the issuing of a rhetorically high-minded message "to the free nations of the world" \*



And the adoption of a Democratic Programme, unanimously approved without debate. This document could have been more appropriately titled a "social" or even a "socialist programme". It was a concession to Labour which had stood aside in the 1918 election but which now wanted its aspirations recognised by the one-party Sinn Féin Dail. Irish nationalists in general had always believed that an independent Ireland would be prosperous and just; Sinn Féin's social policy specifically envisaged the development of national resources for the public good; the Democratic Programme now went much further. It was a radical manifesto with some striking phrases, e.g. "no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing or shelter".

IRB leaders, like P S O'Hegarty, single-mindedly concerned with ending British rule, dismissed it as "socialist theoretical high-sounding jargon". It hardly reflected the mind of a lower middle-class Dail and certainly not the sentiments of a recently-established peasant proprietorship. This historical context should be kept in mind by latter-day commentators who mistakenly regard the Democratic Programme as a mainstream founding-fathers' ideal from which there has been a shameful falling away

The British authorities had tolerated the public - and widely reported - opening ceremonies of Dail Éireann but they banned the Assembly from September 1919. The Dail and its government went underground and in spite of increasingly fraught circumstances in 1920-21, performed impressively in setting up an alternative jurisdiction in local government, the administration of the law and public financing. The Second Dail, returned without a contest in May 1921, continued to receive popular nationalist support until the Treaty split and Civil War, 1922-23.

We tend to think of the parliamentary and physical-force traditions as diametrically opposite dynamics in Irish nationalism. Yet over the decades since independence, successive "republican" groups, while refusing to recognise the "Free State" and its institutions, have bizarrely insisted on their allegiance to the First and Second Dails as the wellspring of legitimate political authority in Ireland. Unreal and perverse though this mentality may be, it unwittingly acknowledges the priority of the parliamentary tradition as the most enduring political force in our history.

John A Murphy is Emeritus Professor of Irish History at UCC

\* The document 'Ireland's Address to the Free Nations of the World' was swiftly suppressed by the British authorities which in turn led Harry Boland to smuggle a copy to the United States and distribution by Diarmuid and the Friends of Irish Freedom (see Newsletter July 2015)

The Family connections with the First Dail not only included Diarmuid as TD in absentia For Cork South, but also Denis.

The second meeting of the First Dail took place on April 1 & 2<sup>nd</sup> 1919 in the Dublin Distillery Buildings, managed by Denis Lynch on Jones Road, Drumcondra. (This was a secret and closed meeting of the Dail due to the presence of the TD for Clare East, Eamon De Valera. De Valera was on the run from British authorities following a spectacular escape from Lincoln Prison and was at that time secretly staying in the neighbour's residence, the Archbishop of Dublin.) At this meeting in the Dublin Distillery building, Éamon de Valera was elected [President of Dáil Éireann](#) (or *Príomh Aire*) and appointed a cabinet comprising Michael Collins (re-appointed Minister for Finance), Arthur Griffiths (Minister for Home Affairs), William Cosgrave (Minister for Local Government) and Kevin O'Higgins (Deputy Minister for Local Government), and set up the Dail Éireann Law Courts and Government Departments.

De Valera issued a statement saying that "There is in Ireland at this moment only one lawful authority, and that authority is the elected Government of the Irish Republic".

**This Newsletter is now going to 87 family & friends addresses monthly throughout Ireland, the UK, US & Australia.**

**Feel like writing an article or passing on comments?**

Email: [ruairi\\_lynch@hotmail.com](mailto:ruairi_lynch@hotmail.com)



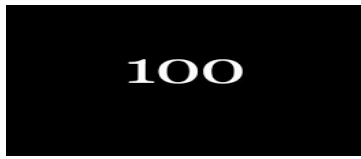
**Family members & friends attending Easter 2016:**

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)  
Fitzgerald-Lynch, Amy (US)  
Lynch, Diarmuid  
Lynch, Christine  
Lynch, Robyn  
Lynch, Diarmuid  
Lynch, Hugh  
McGough, Eileen  
Collins, Mylie  
Murphy, Nora  
Murphy, Mark & Eilis  
Scott, Dolores, Paul & Family  
Winters Family  
Cohalan, Judge Peter Fox & Eileen  
Kremers (US)  
Freddie & Emer O'Dwyer

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 make your reservations today.

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



## CENTURY VIEW DIARMUID LYNCH

**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1915:** The first overnight exercise for the Cork City Companies of the Irish Volunteers took place on the evening of Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>. They marched from the city to Tracton, *'and they bivouacked that night at Lynch's Granig, and, after exercises next day marched back to the city.'*  
Thomas MacCurtain – Soldier and Patriot. Florence O'Donoghue.  
Anvil Press 1955. P.64

**September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1915:** The first Irish Volunteers Officers training camp was held in the Wicklow Mountains over 8 days. The camp was conducted by JJ O'Connell\* and attending were both Diarmuid and Michael Lynch, along with Sean Nolan and Daithi Barry from Cork. This training camp covered such diverse aspects as urban warfare, target practice, military strategy and how to make arms and ammunition.

Statement by Michael Lynch – part of application for Military Service Pension Certificate, December 1935. Lynch Archives.

\* JJ'Ginger' O'Connell (1887-1944) later became the Free State Deputy Chief of Staff. His kidnapping by Ernie O'Malley on 26 June 1922 precipitated the Civil War. Chief Lecturer at the Army School of Instruction, Intelligence Branch, Quartermaster General and Director of Military Archives.

**September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1915** Diarmuid Lynch recalled *'Shortly after MacDiarmada's release I was informed that he and Tom Clarke were co-operating as ex-officio members of that 'Committee' [originally the Military Committee of Pearse, Plunkett and Ceannt] which from that time forward may be termed 'The Military Council'.'*  
Diarmuid Lynch Supplementary Statement – Bureau of Military History. Copy in National Library of Ireland. MS11.128

**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1915:** Diarmuid Lynch in a letter to P. Lynch – Editor of the Boston Post newspaper, 52 Porter St, Somerville, Massachusetts:

*'Very glad to get your post card & to learn that self and family are well. Mother died last June. She had been ailing some considerable time previously. Otherwise we are all OK here.'*

*Conditions in Ireland are more or less normal – notwithstanding the war. There are exceptions of course! Business in my line is slow, but still enough to pull along. Nationally, things are hopeful.'*

*The Gaelic League is to have a new Secretary – for which I am glad. The old one muddled the matter of sending out the Gaelic Alliance membership cards, which leaves me in an awkward position with my American friends.*

*I believe the League in Boston is as good as dead. I'm not surprised. The collection of cranks is too large to allow the other to get very far.*  
Lynch Family Archives – Folder 2 – 1915-1916



## 2015

**No State events planned for remainder of 2015**

## 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. Farnelagh House

### 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.
- **Wreath laying ceremonies** - nationwide

### 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.

**1916 Academic Conference** – speakers from Third Level Institutions Island wide. Dublin. Venue to be advised.

**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.

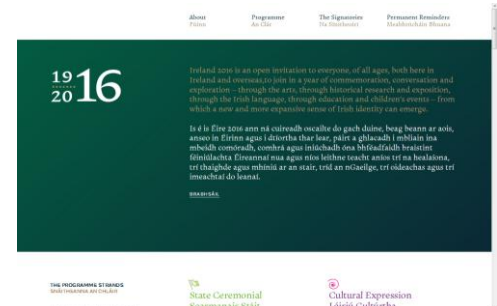
**May – Grangegorman Military Cemetery.** Ceremony marking British soldiers killed during the Rising.

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

**August 3 – Roger Casement Centenary** - 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](http://ireland.ie)*





## The heroes of the War of Independence suffered an inglorious aftermath to their sacrifices as politicians played favourites along Civil War lines

writes Diarmaid Ferriter.



IN JUNE 1923, two months after the end of the Civil War, the Dáil agreed to recognise and compensate wounded members and the surviving dependents of deceased members of various groups that had participated in the events of 1916 to 1923 and were deemed and proven to have had "active service" during this time.

Arising out of this initiative, from the 1920s to the 1950s, two streams of legislation, the Army Pensions Acts from 1923 to 1953 and the Military Service Pensions Acts of 1924, 1934, and 1949, were introduced to facilitate recognition of military service, injury, and bereavement, and the legislation generated an enormous administrative archive, including the pension applicants' files and various supporting material, such as reports of military activities, the nature of military service and family circumstances, information on degrees of dependency, societal circumstances, and where applicable, medical reports, as well as requests for investigations by the military authorities, reports from An Garda Síochána and the issuing of recommendations.

There was also considerable correspondence between the departments of finance and defence, Old IRA Associations, reviews of individual cases, the details of payments of pensions, gratuities and awards and individuals' proof of service, including references and testimonials.

To assist the Department of Defence, specific bodies were set up to decide on the merit of each applicant's case, including a board of assessors under the Military Service Pensions Act of 1924 and a Referee and Advisory Committee under the 1934 and 1949 Acts; membership of these bodies included senior civil servants, former senior IRA officers, and members of the judiciary.

In the process of building and sustaining the pension process, there were numerous difficulties in relation to defining "active service" (around which there was much ambiguity), eligibility, and the application and assessment procedures.

The fact that part of the War of Independence was a guerrilla conflict exacerbated these difficulties; proving membership of an underground movement was fraught, and what constituted sufficient sacrifice was open to a variety of interpretations.

There was a hierarchy of victims, with the immediate families of the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation, for example, specially catered for with higher annual allowances than were paid to others bereaved.

Crucially, the anti-Treaty IRA was initially excluded from the pension process and there were allegations of political bias in the award of pensions; in 1929, a member of Fianna Fáil accused the government of using the pensions "for the purposes of political graft".

But when it came to power from 1932 onwards, Fianna Fáil was more than willing to extend the benefits of pensions to anti-Treaty republicans, which meant its supporters.

The Military Service Pensions Act of 1934 amended and extended the Act of 1924 and included members of Cumann na mBan within the definition of those who constituted the "forces". It was estimated in the 1930s that the pensions provisions would lead to an annual bill of IR£400,000 (about IR£25m, or €32m, in today's terms).

Not everyone was happy about this expenditure. In 1945, well-known civil servant PS O'Hegarty, for example, described the clamour for monetary reward as telling "a sorry tale of patriotic degeneration and lack of public spirit". But this assertion needs to be balanced with the fact that extensive hardship was experienced by revolutionary veterans and their dependents. This is one of the reasons why the pensions archive reveals so much about the revolution's afterlife.

Those involved in administering the pension process were keepers of a precious national record but were also arbiters in disputes about survival and status. Some of the recipients led lives of financial ease, became holders of high public office, and had elevated status as a consequence of their revolutionary activities.

Many, however, paid a high price for their involvement, enduring disability, poverty, obscurity, humiliation, and early death. Many women and children were left without any means of support other than the prospect of a dependent's pension.

There was a huge gulf between the numbers of applications and awards, meaning there was a very large constituency of people who were, at the very least, disappointed at the decisions of the assessors.

A government memorandum in 1957 revealed that 82,000 people applied for pensions under the 1924 and 1934 acts; of these, 15,700 were successful and 66,300 were rejected. The archive is thus a great chronicle of disappointment. There were those, however, who won their battles over pensions, including Tom Barry, the former British army soldier and IRA activist from Cork, who had been one of the best known and most admired of the flying column leaders during the War of Independence, particularly as a result of the Kilmichael Ambush of 28 November 1920, when he led an attack on a patrol of Auxiliaries, 17 of whom were killed.

The ambush had a profound impact, resulting in the declaration of martial law for much of Munster the following month, official reprisals, and wide scale internment. By the spring of 1921, his flying column, with 104 men, was the largest in Ireland. Barry survived the War of Independence and the Civil War, during which he fought on the republican side. He remained on the run until 1924, the same year in which he became involved in the Cleaves Milk Company

based in Limerick and Clonmel, and from 1927 until his retirement in 1965 he was general superintendent with the Cork Harbour Commissioners.

In the midst of his working life, his book, *Guerrilla Days in Ireland*, was published and became a bestseller. Barry has been described as autocratic and prickly but also generous and charismatic, intelligent yet in-tolerant, he was quick to take on lawyers and bank managers over matters relating to his IRA column's activities. He also had to take on the Military Service Pensions Board over another perceived slight — its decision that his activities during the revolutionary period did not merit the award of the most senior rank and grade for the purposes of payment of a pension (pensions were graded A to E depending on rank and length of service).

In December 1938, Barry wrote to the assessment board to submit his form, which claimed IRA service from July 1919 to the end of September 1923. Days later, he wrote another letter to the board, suggesting "it is possible that the Board would be facilitated by a more detailed statement in deciding the issue of my rank" and also to make the point that, at the outset of the Civil War, "the ranks on 1 July 1922 were indeed very vague for any of the GHQ [General Head Quarter] officers".

Grave disappointment was to follow for Barry. In January 1940, he received his military service pension award of Rank B, which "I reject... on the grounds of both length of service and of rank". He was livid that the board had disallowed him full-time active service on certain key dates, including the periods October 1919 to July 1921 and July to September 1923. "It is sufficient to state that my award was humiliating to a degree," he said. As was usual with Barry, such a concise assertion of his grievance was not sufficient; a few lines later in the letter he wrote: "I do ask the Board now to understand that I am feeling ashamed and ridiculous at the award and that I am entitled at least to have this humiliation removed from me."

He insisted on his appeal being heard in person and maintained he had lined up former IRA officers who were prepared to verbally testify on his behalf. Senior politicians, including Fianna Fáil ministers Éamon de Valera and PJ Rutledge, had already written statements of evidence on his behalf. De Valera intervened the following month and suggested to the board "that you avail of rule 4, to step up his rank. Perhaps you could consider this."

Barry gave further evidence in May 1940 and in August 1940 he was granted the rank of rank A for pension purposes, on the basis of which an annual pension of £149.7s was payable. His perseverance, righteousness, attention to detail, friends in powerful positions, and adamant testimonials on his behalf had paid off.

THE saga surrounding Barry's application for a pension and his vehement rejection of the Pension Board's initial decision is a reminder of the battles over the legacy of the War of Independence in the state that was created at its end. Significantly, Barry's struggle in the late 1930s and early 1940s with the Pension Board involved the issue of status rather than money but, for many others, the award of a pension could mean the difference between material survival and destitution.

The bulk of the pensions archive is filled with the experiences of those who were not household names, and includes many voices of desperation and urgent pleas for pensions due to the abject circumstances of a host of War of Independence and Civil War veterans. Undoubtedly, as with Barry, status was a preoccupation for some of them also, but the monetary award could be of more immediate consequence. Many were not as fortunate as Barry; some were the relatives of republican icons, but such a family connection was not always a guarantee of material comfort.

This was painfully evident in the case of Brigid Treacy, the mother of Seán Treacy, the Tipperary IRA volunteer killed in 1920. She was living on a small holding of 14 acres in Tipperary and was offered a gratuity of £100 per year which she refused, and responded: *"£100 for the life of Sean Treacy? A few lines to let you know of the humiliation I have experienced this morning at receiving the enclosed paper offering me the paltry sum of £100, for the loss of my noble son my only child and only help in this wicked world... had I to beg from door to door for the remainder of my life I could not nor would not accept the meagre sum of £100, for the life of my heroic son.... The Army Pensions Board must have a goodly mixture of the old hated class in it or I would not be so humiliated by them or E[mest]. Blythe [the minister for finance]... other men will do justice to my son's worth and character and protect me from the insults I am receiving."*

The gratuity on offer was later raised to £150, the maximum allowable, due to *"special circumstances"*. She was described in administrative correspondence as *"an old feeble woman and Seán Treacy was her only son"*.

Some applicants had to endure years of waiting, frustration, and tortuous correspondence, often with no positive outcome. The tone of many of their letters conveys anger with seemingly endless bureaucratic inertia.

An added insult to many, to their genuine dismay, was that their services and sacrifices were not officially recognised, sometimes because of the verifying the exact level of service or number of military engagements. Poverty formed the backdrop to many cases considered, which gave an added urgency to appeals.

Others who were disappointed with the decisions about their rank expressed their dismay but did not pursue an appeal, being well aware how long the process could take. As John Scollan from Drumcondra in Dublin put it in May 1938: *"The question of rank is certainly disappointing. As I am now 62 years of age, it would only delay matters considerably if I were to appeal. This I am not going to do."*

Scollan had been director of organisation, intelligence, and munitions for the Hibernian Rifles and a member of the executive council of Sinn Féin.

He had, at various stages, been a prisoner in Frongoch, Wandsworth, Wormwood Scrubs, and Reading jails. Although he made his statement in October 1935, he had still heard nothing by November 1936. In May 1938, he was informed his pension would be £20 per annum.

Understandably, at a time of high unemployment, economic stagnation, and very limited prospects for the next generation, the issue of dependency permeates the pension files. In 1946, the 34-year-old daughter of an army pension recipient who had recently died asked the Department of Defence if her father's last cheque could be made payable to her.

*"I am absolutely dependent for my support on my father's pension,"* she wrote.

*"I should also like to point out that I am an invalid for over twelve years and I am not in receipt of any monies from any source whatsoever. I am unable to work, I get no relief or insurance benefits, and I have nothing left out of my death policy as any money received went to pay doctors for my father's illness and funeral expenses. My brother in law has asked me to live with him for the future."*

The sum was paid to her as requested; it amounted to 13 shillings and nine pence. For those seeking to eke out a bare subsistence in the 1930s and 1940s, every penny generated by War of Independence service was precious.

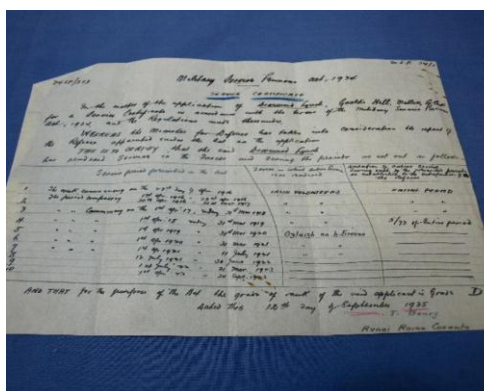
*A Nation and Not a Rabble: The Irish Revolution 1913-23* by Diarmaid Ferriter is published by Profile Books.

## Diarmuid Lynch and the Military Service Pensions Board

Diarmuid first applied for a Military Pension on 29 November 1934 under the Military Service Pension Act of that year. He claimed for ten years in the service of the State and as with many others, it would take many years of appeals, statements, personal appearances and dogged determination before his application was fully granted.

Eileen McGough comments: *"With Lynch's record of service in the IRB and Volunteers, and his active involvement in the Rising of Easter Week 1916, there was never a doubt about his qualifications for a service pension. At issue was the thorny question of his political life in the USA between May 1918 and July 1921, the cutoff date decided upon by the Pensions Arbitration Board. Again and again he was refused a service pension for any work he did for the Irish state while resident in America, despite an explicit stipulation in the Regulations of the Pensions Act: 'Absence from duty following arrest, imprisonment, internment or deportation shall not be deemed to constitute a breach in the continuity of service'."*

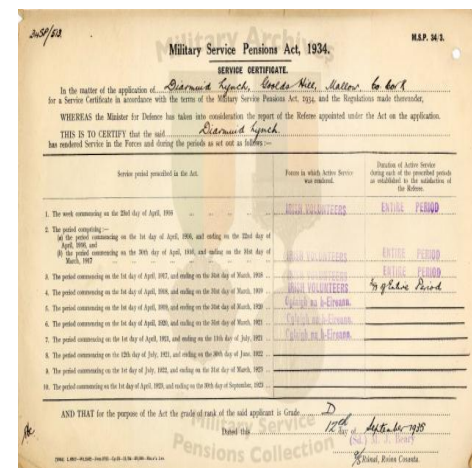
*"Diarmuid Lynch. A Forgotten Irish Patriot"* by Eileen McGough. Mercier Press, 2013. P185-186



Pension Certificate for D. Lynch. 1934. (Adams)

In August 1935, the Pensions Board assessors awarded Diarmuid a pension for five of the ten years claimed. *'The sum granted was to be £138 7s 1d per annum. The additional pension claimed by Lynch for the period between his deportations in April 1918 to July 1921 was refused. Lynch promptly appealed. The subsequent prolonged delay and several refusals were because Lynch's work as Secretary of the FOIF in the USA was not recognised as 'service for the nation of Ireland'*

*"Diarmuid Lynch. A Forgotten Irish Patriot"* by Eileen McGough. Mercier Press, 2013. p186



Military Services Pensions Act, 1934 - Service Certificate for Diarmuid Lynch, September 1935.

Eileen points out that the Pensions Board advisory committee to the Referee were government appointees and *"therefore largely supporters of the Fianna Fail government."* *"Diarmuid Lynch. A Forgotten Irish Patriot"* by Eileen McGough. Mercier Press, 2013. p186

Over the next ten years, Diarmuid showed a dogged determination to have his work in the United States officially recognised as service to Irish nation.

*'Following the first rejection, he wrote a detailed letter, at the suggestion of the Minister for Defence Frank Aiken, in which he described the circumstances of his deportation from Dublin and the many official communications which had passed between himself, Michael Collins, Cathal Brugha, Eamon de Valera and Arthur Griffith during 1918, 1919 and 1920. Aitken personally presented this letter to the Pensions Board. Other documentary evidence was presented with the letter, including a copy of a letter signed on 29 April, 1919 by both de Valera and Collins, which appointed Lynch (with Boland, Mellows and McCartan) to the task of raising an external loan in America for the Irish Republic... the obvious conclusion is that Collins, then Minister for Finance, and de Valera considered Lynch an employee of the declared Irish state.'*

*"Diarmuid Lynch. A Forgotten Irish Patriot"* by Eileen McGough. Mercier Press, 2013. p187

Sean T. O'Kelly now forwarded a copy of a letter he had received from Griffith, then the acting President of Dail Eireann in 1919 urging that... *'Lynch be one of a delegation sent from America to present Ireland's case at Versailles'*

*"Diarmuid Lynch. A Forgotten Irish Patriot"* by Eileen McGough. Mercier Press, 2013. p188



## < Diarmuid Lynch & The Pensions Board

The next politician that Lynch approached was de Valera, whom he met in Leinster House on 1 October 1936 'requesting that he would use his position to influence a favourable decision. In April 1937, de Valera supplied a letter in support of Lynch's application. In it, he included a statement that said 'in the spring of 1920 the leaders of the organisation (FOIF) openly disagreed with the representatives of the Irish Government. As National Secretary, Lynch was one of the disagreeing leaders referred to in the letter....Lynch must have deemed that such a letter would have acted against his interests with the Pensions Board because he did not present de Valera's letter with his pension claim.'

"Diarmuid Lynch. A Forgotten Irish Patriot" by Eileen McGough. Mercier Press, 2013. p188

A year and a half later, in November 1937, with no decision on his application, Lynch wrote again to Frank Aiken, quoting from a letter he had received from Collins dated 1 August 1919 in which Collins wrote that Lynch was 'not available for work' in Ireland 'by reason of enemy action' and that he was still considered an 'enemy alien' in 1923 as he was not permitted to disembark at Tilbury Docks, London, en route to Ireland.



Frank Aiken

In 1938, there were further written exchanges with the Military Services Pensions Board and that '...a new condition was being demanded by the Board: to establish that Lynch 'while a deportee in the United States engaged in specific army work for or on behalf of the Forces in Ireland'. Lynch provided appropriate evidence. The FOIF had supplied funds for armaments and guns during 1919 and 1920 to Liam Pedlar, Sean Nunan and Harry Boland, and Lynch in his meticulous way, had records and receipts for all donations....he pointed out again that none of the clauses in Pensions Act specified the nature of duties to be performed by agents of Dail Eireann while abroad..

"Diarmuid Lynch. A Forgotten Irish Patriot" by Eileen McGough. Mercier Press, 2013. P189-190

By September 1938, his claim was again, dismissed.

In 1940, Lynch appealed the decision as a new Referee to the Military Services Pensions Board, Judge O'Donnell, was appointed. The November 1940 response was yet another refusal and a clear recommendation that he should drop the case and accept the findings as final

Diarmuid did so for a number of years until 1944, when an amendment to the Pensions Act following Supreme Court cases, prompted another appeal under the guidance of his solicitor. Supporting letters for this appeal were received from Judge Diarmuid Fawsitt and [Liam Toibin](#)\* as well as de Valera.



Judge Diarmuid Fawsitt

Lynch concluded his five page submission:

"If through any strained interpretation of the Act, I should now be excluded from the benefits which it purported to afford under certain eventualities it would be tantamount to penalisation; (a) because of the fact that instead of being imprisoned in England in 1918 (and thus rendered helpless as far as the Forces in Ireland were concerned, I happened to be deported to the United States and (b) notwithstanding the fact that (though the Act lays down no conditions whereby a deportee would to could be expected to engage in any pro-Irish national work whatever) I did engage while in the United States in the afore-mentioned important activities in support of the military and political forces in Ireland, by virtue of which the Irish Republican campaign was in large measure pushed forward so aggressively in all its aspects both at home and abroad"

"Diarmuid Lynch. A Forgotten Irish Patriot" by Eileen McGough. Mercier Press, 2013. P193-194

A hearing was held on 19 December 1944, including sworn witness statements. A further example of difficulties put in Diarmuid's path in his pursuit of the recognition of his years service in the US, was that he should obtain a copy of the order under which he was deported from Ireland in 1918. Lynch refused.

Over a year later in January 1946, Diarmuid received confirmation that he was finally successful in his twelve year campaign for service recognition and that he was to be awarded the full service pension for the entire period originally claimed.

"The Referee of the Military Pension Board, Tadhg Mac Fírbhisigh signed a report [29 January, 1946] which stated the Diarmuid Lynch was entitled to a Military Service Pension having served in the Irish Volunteers during the recognised qualifying period from 23 April, 1916. 'For the purposes of ranking, Lynch was deemed to be a quartermaster in the Volunteer Force for the ten years of service acceded to his credit. Therefore, at Rank D, he was awarded the sum of £250 a year for the rest of his days, which were brief, as he passed away in November, 1950.'

"Diarmuid Lynch. A Forgotten Irish Patriot" by Eileen McGough. Mercier Press, 2013. p185

Schedule signed by Tadhg Mac Fírbhisigh - January 29, 1946

Military Services Pensions Act, 1934 - revised Service Certificate for Diarmuid Lynch, February 1946.

View Diarmuid's Military Service Pensions Board files here:

[http://mspcsearch.militaryarchives.ie/docs/files//PDF\\_Pensions/R1/MSP34REF497DiarmuidLynch/W34A9DiarmuidLynch.pdf](http://mspcsearch.militaryarchives.ie/docs/files//PDF_Pensions/R1/MSP34REF497DiarmuidLynch/W34A9DiarmuidLynch.pdf) and [http://mspcsearch.militaryarchives.ie/docs/files//PDF\\_Pensions/R1/MSP34REF497DiarmuidLynch/WMSP34REF497DiarmuidLynch.pdf](http://mspcsearch.militaryarchives.ie/docs/files//PDF_Pensions/R1/MSP34REF497DiarmuidLynch/WMSP34REF497DiarmuidLynch.pdf)

Army Pensions Act 1927:

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1927/en/act/pub/0012/print.html>

## The Military Service Pensions Board archive is a chronicle of great disappointment,

as the vast majority of those who applied for pensions were not awarded them. One estimate is that over 18,000 military service pensions were awarded up to 1960, which were costing the exchequer over £500,000 annually by that year, but over 80,000 applied for a pension, indicating the scale of rejection that was experienced. The pension board members and the assessors, referees, civil servants and government officials involved in administering the pension process were both keepers of a precious national record and arbiters in disputes about survival and status. Laid bare in this archive is some of the detritus of the revolution; there is much detail on the legacy for some of those directly affected, their quest for recognition of their service, and disputes over how to define military service and measure the impact of injury and the value of sacrifice.

Many women and children were left without any means of support other than the prospect of a dependant's pension.

For victims, there was an obvious hierarchy, with the relatives of executed 1916 leaders regarded as having a unique status; by 1951, for example, three widows of 1916 Proclamation signatories were being paid £500 per year, seven sisters of signatories were being paid £100 per year but two widows of men executed during the War of Independence were being paid £135 per year.

For all those who were celebrated, honoured and fêted, or who forged rewarding political careers in the aftermath of the revolution, many more were left wounded and impoverished, and bereavement, disability, obscurity and even humiliation feature strongly in the files.



## Joseph Plunkett in New York 1915

By the summer of 1915, Plunkett (1887-1916) had become the chief strategist in the planning for the rising, working with Patrick Pearse and Éamonn Ceannt on expanding plans to include the entire country.



In March–June 1915, Plunkett travelled by a circuitous route to Berlin – to negotiate with the German foreign office for assistance in the planned rising. There he joined Roger Casement – already seeking German support for an Irish rebellion, sponsored by the American-based Clan na Gael – in drafting a lengthy memorandum, styled the ‘Ireland report’, outlining an ambitious operation involving a Volunteer rising in Dublin and the west, coordinated with a German invasion up the Shannon estuary. Although the German military command ultimately rejected the plan, Plunkett – who disagreed with Casement’s insistence on the necessity of an invading German expeditionary force – secured a tentative German undertaking to land a shipment of small arms and ammunition on the eve of an Irish rising, sometime in spring 1916.

Plunkett travelled to New York to brief Clan Na Gael leader John Devoy on the progress of the German negotiations and the status of preparations for the rising within Ireland.

There had been some historical confusion regarding the date that Plunkett arrived in New York from Switzerland via Germany to report to Clan Na Gael & Devoy on his mission. In his personal copy of John Devoy’s book, Diarmuid attached a memo on the matter:

“On June 13, 1946, I wrote [to] James McGurrian, New York, to have enquiry made at Ellis Island respecting the date of Joseph Plunkett’s arrival at New York...under date, August 2 1946, Rose McDermott received the following from T.F.Mullholland (former Commissioner at Ellis Island):

Dear Ms. MacDermott:  
Joseph Mary Plunkett, who was at the time twenty seven years old, born in Dublin, arrived at New York on August 22, 1915 on SS. Philadelphia. He was detained on medical hold as there was a possibility of his having tuberculosis. He was, however, admitted for permanent residence on September 11, 1915 to the United States. (Signed) T.F.Mullholland.”

Lynch family archives.

On arrival and detention on August 22, 1915, Plunkett sent a request for Devoy to come and visit him on Ellis Island.

Devoy visited Plunkett the following day and wrote to McGarrity on the meeting: ‘The law forbids the landing of tuberculosis cases and his of the most pronounced type.... It was folly to send him’.

Devoy however appealed to US Senator for New York, James A. O’Gorman ‘.....and he succeeded in procuring permission for him to land, under a thousand dollars cash bond and remain in New York to do ‘literary work’. I provided the thousand dollars and during his stay ashore introduced him to all the men whom it was necessary for him to see.

Plunkett spent the time with the poet Joyce Kilmer and other American writers. As events would unfold over the following months, Plunkett was the last of the Rebellion’s emerging leaders to come to America and he was the last that Devoy would meet in person.

Plunkett was one of the original members of the IRB Military Committee that was responsible for planning the Easter Rising, and it was largely his plan that was followed. Shortly before the rising was to begin, Plunkett was hospitalised following a turn for the worse in his health. He had an operation before Easter and had to struggle out of bed to take part in what was to follow. Still bandaged, he took his place in the General Post Office as Commandant General though his health prevented him from being terribly active. His energetic *aide de camp* was Michael Collins. Following the surrender Plunkett was held in Kilmainham Gaol, and faced a court martial. Seven hours before his execution by firing squad at the age of 28 on 4 May, 1916, he was married in the prison chapel to his sweetheart [Grace Gifford](#), whose sister, Muriel, had years married his best friend [Thomas McDonagh](#), who was also executed for his role in the Easter Rising.

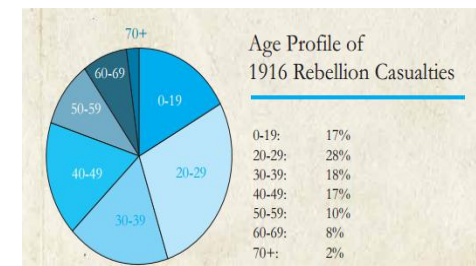
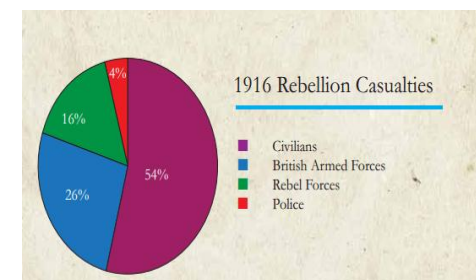
To view Plunkett’s diary of his mission to Germany:

[http://www.jstor.org/stable/2550442?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2550442?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)

## 485 Men, Women and Children died in the 1916 Rising.

A LIST OF those who died in the 1916 Easter Rising is now available online after Glasnevin Trust carried out extensive research. The [online Necrology](#) shows that 485 men, women and children were killed during or as a direct result of the 1916 rebellion.

The majority of those killed were civilians (54%). The British Army accounted for 26% of those killed while the rebel forces had 16% of the casualties. The remaining percentage was made up of members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police and Royal Irish Constabulary.



1916 Rebellion 24-29th April			
24 APRIL:		27 APRIL:	
British Armed Forces:	26	British Armed Forces:	15
Rebel Forces:	11	Rebel Forces:	7
Civilian:	15	Civilian:	32
Police:	3	Police:	0
25 APRIL:		28 APRIL:	
British Armed Forces:	7	British Armed Forces:	8
Rebel Forces:	8	Rebel Forces:	7
Civilian:	22	Civilian:	42
Police:	0	Police:	8
26 APRIL:		29 APRIL:	
British Armed Forces:	30	British Armed Forces:	21
Rebel Forces:	13	Rebel Forces:	12
Civilian:	28	Civilian:	45
Police:	2	Police:	0

This is the first time a list of this scale has been collated and made available online. Chairman of Glasnevin Trust John Green added, “This act of remembrance is in keeping with Daniel O’Connell’s stated purpose in establishing Glasnevin Cemetery – ‘to bury people of all religions and none’. We have diligently followed O’Connell’s instruction for 180 or so years here at Ireland’s necropolis and will continue to do so.”





## John Devoy, "the greatest of the Fenians", according to Patrick Pearse, died 87 years ago this month.

*The London Times in an obituary, described him as "the most bitter and persistent, as well as the most dangerous enemy of this country which Ireland has produced since Wolfe Tone."*

*John Devoy's life was the stuff of legend. He joined the Fenians at the age of 18 and then the French Foreign Legion to gain military experience, serving in Algeria. After his return to Ireland he was appointed by James Stephens as "Chief Organiser" of Fenians in the British Army to recruit serving soldiers into the movement.*

He helped to rescue Stephens from prison in 1865 and months later, in February 1866 an IRB Council of War called for an immediate uprising, but Stephens refused, to Devoy's annoyance as he calculated the Fenian force in the British Army to number 80,000. The British got wind of the plan through informers and moved the regiments abroad, replacing them with regiments from Britain. Devoy was arrested in February 1866 and interned in [Mountjoy Gaol](#) then tried for treason and sentenced to fifteen years penal servitude. In [Portland Prison](#), Devoy organised prison strikes and was moved to [Millbank Prison](#) in Pimlico, London (now the site of the Tate Gallery)



John Devoy's Prison photograph 1866

In January 1871, he was released and exiled to America as one of the ["Cuba Five"](#) including O'Donovan Rossa. On arrival in the US, he received an address of welcome from the House of Representatives and became a journalist for the [New York Herald](#) and was active in [Clan Na Gael](#). Under Devoy's leadership, Clan Na Gael became the central Irish republican organisation in the United States. In 1877 he aligned the organisation with the Irish Republican Brotherhood in Ireland.

In 1875, Devoy and [John Boyle O'Reilly](#) organised the escape of six Fenians from [Fremantle Prison](#) in Western Australia aboard the ship [Catalpa](#). They had been specifically excluded from the 1871 amnesty for Fenians as they had been serving British soldiers at the time of their membership. The successful rescue and voyage around the world and back took over 15 months (see Newsletter August 2015).

In 1879, Devoy returned to Ireland to inspect Fenian centers and met Charles Kickham, John O'Leary and [Michael Davitt](#) en route in Paris; he convinced Davitt and [Charles Stewart Parnell](#) to co-operate in the ["New Departure"](#) during the growing [Land War](#). Devoy had some difficulty in convincing former Fenians, including Kickham, O'Leary and O'Donovan Rossa, to accept this new direction. The "New Departure" was not simply a cynical exercise to "grasp any weapon with which to crack British skulls". Devoy was a member of the International Workingmen's Association - Karl Marx's First International - and was politically highly astute, using his job at the Herald to keep up with international developments.

Devoy commissioned and financed the first modern submarine, The Fenian Ram, designed by John Holland from Co Clare, for possible use against British forces. He became editor and owner of the Gaelic American and Irish Nation. The Gaelic American became the foremost Irish ethnic newspaper from the first issue in 1903 until the Great Depression when its readership declined. It ceased publishing in 1951. (Diarmuid was also a Director of the newspaper for a number of years. The paper collaborated extensively with Indian nationalist organisations in Britain and the US & in the 1910s also developed close cooperation with [Tarakanth Das](#) and its facilities were used for printing Das's nationalist politician journal, [Free Hindustan](#)).

For examples of The Gaelic American Newspaper 1903-1923 archived online – click: <http://digital.library.villanova.edu/Item/vudl:266848>

Diarmuid Lynch met and worked with John Devoy amongst others including Tom Clarke through the Gaelic League in the early 1900's. When he returned to Ireland in 1907, Lynch wrote *"what an honour and inspiration it was for a young Irishman to have known such living links with Ireland's fight for freedom over the previous century!"*

*'Diarmuid Lynch. A Forgotten Irish Patriot' by Eileen McGough. Mercier Press, 2013. p18*

Tom Clarke writing to Devoy in February 1911, mentioned Diarmuid: *'Jer. Lynch of the Gaelic League, N.Y., at present in Cork City and is doing well managing the seed and hardware department of the biggest firm in that line in Cork'*

*Diarmuid Lynch. A Forgotten Irish Patriot' by Eileen McGough. Mercier Press, 2013. P33*

Devoy continued to fight any perceived anti-irishness, disrupting Sygne's Playboy of the Western World in New York in 1911, shouting during the first act, *"That's not Irish, you son of a b\*tch."*

Devoy's fundraising efforts and work to sway Irish-Americans to support physical force nationalism during World War I included attempts to assist the Easter Rising and preparations for the revolution. In 1914, [Padraig Pearse](#) visited the elderly Devoy in New York when Clan Na Gael set up the American Provisional Committee with the aim of raising money for the Irish Volunteers. Later the same year [Roger Casement](#) worked with Devoy in raising money for guns to arm the [Irish Volunteers](#). Lynch, who was in the US fund raising for the Gaelic League at the time with Tomas Ashe, returned to Dublin with a \$2000 draft from Devoy for arming the Irish Volunteers.

At the declaration of war between Britain and Germany on 14 August 1914, Sir Roger Casement and Devoy arranged a meeting in New York between the Western Hemisphere's top-ranking German diplomat, [Count von Bernstorff](#), and a delegation of [Clan-na-Gael](#) men. The Clan delegates proposed a mutually beneficial plan: if Germany would sell guns to the Irish rebels and provide military leaders, the rebels would revolt against Britain, diverting troops and attention from the war with Germany. Von Bernstorff listened with evident sympathy and promised to relay the proposal to Berlin. Devoy decided to communicate directly with Berlin. At the time, Britain held control of the seas; within days of the start of the war it had cut the transatlantic cable. It would be necessary to send an envoy to deliver the message personally. [John Kenny](#), president of the New York Clan Na Gael, was sent. After meeting the German ambassador in Rome and presenting Devoy's plan, Kenny met in Germany with Count von Bulow. He then travelled to Dublin where he told Tom Clarke and other members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood of the arrangement, and carried back to Devoy the IRB's request for guns, money, and military leaders.

Though he was skeptical of the endeavour, Devoy financed and supported Casement's expedition to Germany to enlist German aid in the struggle to free Ireland from British rule, including Casement's [Irish Brigade](#). Nervous of Casement's companion Adler Christensen, whom he discovered was a fraudster, and of Casement's decision to put the Irish Brigade at the Germans' disposal in Turkey, Devoy advised Casement to return to the USA, advice which was ignored.

In 1915 [Joseph Plunkett](#) visited Devoy in the US, reporting on an agreement with the Germans that Ireland would remain independent if Germany assisted in a future Rising by supplying guns and expertise and an attack on Britain simultaneous with the Rising. These guns were duly supplied in the [SS Aud](#) in 1916 but were intercepted by the Royal Navy and the vessel scuttled as it was being brought into Cork harbour.

Just before the Rising, the 74 year old Devoy had to be dissuaded by a number of confidants including Judge Cohalan, from sailing to Ireland on the first available ship to partake in the revolution.

With the failure of the Rising, Devoy and others were instrumental in gaining President Woodrow Wilson's appeal for clemency to the British Government on Diarmuid Lynch's sentence of death by Courts Martial.

cont.>



## John Devoy continued....

In 1916 Devoy played an important role in the formation of the Clan-dominated [Friends of Irish Freedom](#) at the third [Irish Race Convention](#), a propaganda organisation whose membership totalled at one point over 275,000. The Friends supported Woodrow Wilson for the presidency in 1916 because of his policy of American neutrality in the world war. Fearful of accusations of disloyalty for their co-operation with Germans and opposition to the United States' entering the war on the side of Great Britain, the Friends lowered their profile after April 1917 when America entered the war.

With the end of the war, Devoy played a key role in the Friends' advocacy for self-determination for Ireland, in line with Wilson's "[Fourteen Points](#)", as distinct from recognition by the United States of the sovereignty of the newly declared Irish Republic. Wilson did not guarantee recognition of the Republic, as declared in 1916 and reaffirmed in the popular election in 1918. American-Irish republicans challenged the Friends' refusal to campaign for American recognition of the Irish Republic. Devoy and the Friends' [Daniel F. Cohalan](#) & Diarmuid Lynch became the key players in a transatlantic dispute with de facto Irish president [Eamon de Valera](#), who toured the United States in 1919 and 1920 in hopes of gaining US recognition of the Republic and American funds.

De Valera believed that, as Ireland's representative in America, he should be acknowledged as the leader of the Irish in America and should set policy as he saw fit. Devoy, then over half-a-century in America and having been stung by ill-advised forays into partisan American politics (and used to getting his own way), thought differently. He believed that the mechanics of securing support for the Irish struggle in America should be in the hands of those living there. In the interests of unity, Devoy publicly swallowed his pride and accepted de Valera's leadership. However, in February 1920 de Valera gave an interview to the Westminster Gazette in which he said that Ireland would settle for a relationship such as that between Cuba and the United States. However, Cuba was a virtual colony of the US and with this, Devoy broke his public truce regarding de Valera.

Believing that the Americans should follow Irish policy, de Valera formed the [American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic](#) in 1920 with help from the Philadelphia Clan Na Gael. Diplomatic recognition was not yet forthcoming, and Irish-American groups refused to support Wilson in the [United States presidential election, 1920](#).

(Articles dealing with this period in Irish-American history, Devoy, Diarmuid Lynch, de Valera & the Friends of Irish Freedom will feature in future editions of the Newsletter)

Devoy supported the 1921 [Anglo-Irish Treaty](#) and the formation of the [Irish Free State](#) during the [Irish Civil War](#), and was an honoured guest of the new state in 1924.

While in Ireland, he visited his old neighbourhood as reported in The Kildare Observer, August 9, 1924:

*"Mr John Devoy, the veteran Fenian, visited Naas on Sunday last, accompanied by his niece, Miss Devoy, and his three nephews, Messrs. Devoy, of Dublin; Mr. Henry Conyngham, of New York, and Mr Garrett Lombard, of Gorey (who is married to a relative of Mr. Devoy's). He first visited Greenhills, Kill, his native place, and was able to point out to his friends the exact spot where his home stood. It is quite close to Mr. Matthew Timmins' house at Greenhills, but no vestige of it now remains.*

*The first of his old friends whom Mr. Devoy visited in Naas was Mrs. Kilmurry, of South Main St., to whom in his early days he was engaged to be married, when she was Miss Elizabeth Kenny, of Tipper. John Devoy was at that time a clerk in the "Cork Office," Naas, in the employment of Watkins' brewery, in whose employment were also his father and brothers. His association with the Fenian brotherhood necessitated his departure from Naas and from Ireland, and put an end to the romance of his early days. He, however, remained true to his first love, and never married. Mrs. Kilmurry warmly welcomed her friend of girlhood days, and entertained him and his friends to lunch. Although very deaf and suffering from defective sight, Mr. Devoy displayed remarkable recollection of persons and places in the vicinity of Naas. He informed Miss Curley (Mrs. Kilmurry's niece) that he had a vivid recollection of his frequent visits to her father's house at Halverstown, when her father, Mr. Michael Curley, played the fiddle and her uncle, Mr. Bernard Curley, the pipes during their youthful festivities.*

*"It is 58 years since John left Naas," remarked Mrs. Kilmurry. "He was for six months under cover, sometimes visiting our house, but seldom staying more than one day at any one house. He was during that time engaged swearing in soldiers in the Fenian organisation, when they arrested and imprisoned him." Mrs. Kilmurry added that in some way or other, information reached John Devoy in America that she had died, and on Sunday he told her he had mourned her as dead for more than 20 years. "It was like a voice from the grave," he told her, "when he learned that she still lived." Having chatted over old times and early recollections, Mr. Devoy took his departure, promising to return and spend a whole day with his former sweetheart before returning to America."*

By 1925, Devoy was 83 years old and in need of specialist care. A private fund was established and friends moved him from his long term lodgings to the care of two Irish sisters who liaised with Diarmuid Lynch on his health and well being.

*'Lynch undertook the handling of Devoy's financial affairs, securing a reduction on some of his debts and he solicited funds annually from the selected donors until his death in [29 September] 1928. Devoy died unaware that his expenses were now met from the secret fund set up by Lynch in 1925. Lynch had worked with Devoy on his memoirs in his final years, and after Devoy's death he completed the manuscript which was published in 1929 under the title Recollections of an Irish Rebel. Lynch was unanimously elected to represent the FOIF at Devoy's funeral in Glasnevin cemetery in June 1929. All in all, a fifty strong contingent accompanied the body to Ireland...after the State funeral in Dublin, the American committee arranged for the permanent care of Devoy's grave.'*

*Diarmuid Lynch. A Forgotten Irish Patriot" by Eileen McGough. Mercier Press, 2013. P165-166*

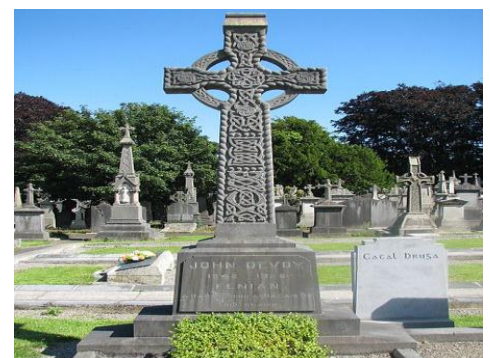
Newsreel footage of Devoy's Funeral in Dublin, 1929 at: <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/passing-of-john-devon>



Funeral of John Devoy, Dublin. 16 June 1929.



Devoy funeral badge. (Whytes)



John Devoy's grave – Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.



**Thomas Kent**, the only 1916 Easter Rising rebel to be executed in Cork, is to receive a state funeral almost 100 years after his death. The exact location of his grave in the yard of Cork prison (part of what was once Victoria, now Collins Barracks) was not known for certain until ground-penetrating radar, the highly sophisticated type that was used to find the remains of Richard III under a car park in Leicester in 2012, was used to locate it. His remains will be reburied in the family vault in Castletyons following a State funeral on **September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015**. Co-inciding with the event, one of the largest bridges over the River Blackwater in Co Cork at Fermoy is to be renamed Kent Bridge.

## THE LIFE & DEATH OF TOMAS KENT (1865-1916)



**9th May 1916.** Tom Kent's nerves were so bad on the morning of his execution that the guards brought a chair in for the 51-year-old to sit upon. The priest who attended him in his cell now leaned close for his final confession. Shortly afterwards, the shots rang out.

The man for whom Kent Station in Cork City would one day be named was buried in quicklime in an unmarked grave. It was located somewhere in the yard beside the prison (then the Military Detention Barracks) at Victoria Barracks (now Collins Barracks).

Tom Kent is often overlooked in the annals of the Easter Rising. Born in 1865, he was the second of nine children - seven sons, two daughter - raised in an Irish-speaking household of Bawnard House at Coole Lower, near Castletyons, where his parents, David and Mary Kent, ran a 200-acre farm.

Educated locally, he became a fluent Irish speaker and had a penchant for poetry and drama. At the age of nineteen, he emigrated to Boston, arriving just as the city elected Hugh O'Brien as its first Irish-born Mayor. He spent the next five years working as a church furniture maker, as well as a stint in publishing.

He was back in Ireland by the autumn of 1889, possibly due to health reasons, when four of his brothers - Edmond, William, Richard and David - were amongst ten men hauled into a crowded Fermoy Courthouse, charged with orchestrating a boycott campaign. Thomas was sentenced to two months and his brother William to six months in Cork jail. In the House of Commons, chief secretary Arthur Balfour condemned their "disgraceful" actions. Thomas's experience of prison further damaged his health and, with the fall of Charles Stewart Parnell and the deep divisions engendered by the parliamentary party split, he appears to have withdrawn from political action. He devoted his free time to Gaelic League activities and furthering his interest in drama.

Religion played an important part in his life and, as a member of the temperance movement, he abstained from alcohol.

In 1913, he co-founded the Castletyons branch of the Irish Volunteers, said to be the first teetotal branch of the organization in Ireland. Many of these young men practiced their shooting amid the woods around the Kent's home at Bawnard.

When the Irish Volunteers split in 1914, Kent teamed up with Terence MacSwiney, President of the Cork branch of Sinn Féin, to reorganize those Volunteers who opposed Redmond

He started 1916 in dramatic fashion, orchestrating a major disruption of a rally organized by Redmond to recruit more Irishmen for the British Army. The rally took place at Ballynoe, near Tallow, County Waterford, on 2nd January. While Redmond spoke, Tom set up a second platform from which MacSwiney spoke out against recruitment. Kent and MacSwiney were duly arrested for sedition under the Defence of the Realm Act. While they awaited trial, their houses were raided on 13th January. A five-chambered revolver was found at Kent's home, along with 54 rounds of ball cartridge and 27 rounds of revolver ammunition. However, the police were far more excited by a series of letters at MacSwiney's home on Victoria Road. These were written from his brother John who gave his address as 'Berlin'. The code-breakers set to work in a bid to prove that Sinn Féin was in open collusion with the Kaiser's spymasters. It took several weeks for them to work out that John MacSwiney lived in Berlin, Ontario, Canada.

MacSwiney's trial in February was a farce. Dr. H. A. Wynne, the Crown Solicitor and a staunch unionist, pushed it too far by claiming MacSwiney had urged that 'a bullet should be put through the brain of Mr John Redmond' during his speech at Ballynoe. The magistrates dismissed the charges against MacSwiney but, adding a dash of comedy, they fined him one shilling, without costs, for being 'in possession of a cipher capable of communicating naval and military information'.

Meanwhile, Tom Kent appeared before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction in Cork on 21st February, charged with making a speech at Ballynoe 'likely to cause disaffection amongst the civilian population and likely to prejudice recruiting'. The prosecutor claimed he 'played into the hands of the Germans, Turks and Bulgarians' by urging Ballynoe's inhabitants not to join 'those who were fighting their battles in France, Flanders and elsewhere'. With the exception of the Stipendiary Magistrate, the Bench dismissed the case and he was acquitted. That same day, Tom's brother Richard and a man called Kenery brazenly paraded down Fermoy's main street with a rifle but the police appear to have turned a blind eye.

The Kent brothers were ready for action on the eve of the Easter Rising. They spent Easter Sunday in Cork, awaiting word from Dublin to mobilize. The hours crept by and there was still no word. Finally, J.J. O'Connell arrived from Dublin with the countermarching order from Eoin MacNeill urging all Volunteers to stand down. The brothers returned to Bawnard House that evening but at 3:45am, six policemen arrived at the house with orders to arrest the entire family. A voice from within the house retorted: 'We will never surrender - we will leave some of you dead'. A gun battle erupted in which Head Constable William Neale Rowe was killed by

A shot fired from a window of the house. William Kent would later suggest the fatal shot was fired by his brother Richard who, on account of an accident, had lately spent some time in a lunatic asylum. Indeed, despite that four of the Kent's' guns were used, William claimed all the shots had been fired by Richard. According to some accounts, Mrs. Kent, then in her late seventies, remained by her sons' side throughout, apparently ensuring their guns were kept clean, cool and loaded.

At 4:50am, William Kent shouted out the window that David, the youngest brother, had been hit. When he called for a priest, the police insisted they throw down their weapons and ammunition first. Ten minutes later, two shotguns were hurled from a window but no ammunition.

At 6:40am, the 15th Royal Fusiliers arrived and surrounded the house. With their ammunition spent, the Kents opened the door and surrendered. Thirty-six-year-old Richard Kent, an athletic man, made a bolt for the woods but was promptly shot down. He died of his wounds the following day. The incensed constables flung Tom and William against a wall and were all set to execute them on the spot when a British officer intervened. Both men were marched into Fermoy - Tom barefoot - where they were photographed on the bridge. A horse-drawn cart followed carrying their wounded brothers David and Richard.



Two days later, Tom, William and David Kent appeared before a Field General Court-martial, charged with taking part in an armed rebellion, under Regulation 50 of the Defence of the Realm Regulations. Explaining the trial to the House of Parliament in July 1916, Prime Minister Asquith stated: 'In the interests of public safety, it was decided to exclude the public from this Court, at which no counsel appeared for the prisoner'.

David Kent was sentenced to death but commuted to five years prison. He was released by Lloyd George as part of a general amnesty in June 1917 and came home to a hero's welcome in Fermoy. He was subsequently elected to the Executive Committee of Sinn Féin and became Sinn Féin TD for East Cork at the General Election in 1918. Re-elected in 1922 as an anti-Treaty Sinn Féin TD, he continued in politics until 1927 and passed away in November 1930.

William Kent was acquitted and went on to become the first Sinn Féin Chairman of Cork County Council in 1917. From 1927 until 1933, he represented Cork East in the Dáil, initially as a Fianna Fail TD and then with the short-lived National Centre Party. In 1934, he was awarded £1,250 compensation for the damage done to his house and furniture during the siege.

At his court-martial, Tom Kent spoke somewhere in the region of eighty words. He was convicted of high treason, sentenced to death and executed in Cork Detention Barracks on 9th May 1916.

(Thanks to historian Turtle Bunbury for this article)



## O'Donovan Rossa National Commemoration. August 1, 2015.



Glasnevin Museum  
@glasnevinmuseum

Follow

President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins laid this Wreath at the grave of O'Donovan Rossa #ODR100  
7:50 AM - 1 Aug 2015 · Dublin City, Ireland, Ireland



Aodhán Ó Riordáin TD  
@AodhanORiordain

Follow

The excellent Jim Roche giving Pearse's oration at the Commemoration of O'Donovan Rossa: @ireland2016  
7:14 AM - 1 Aug 2015

**President Michael D Higgins led the official State commemoration in Glasnevin Cemetery on Saturday, August 1, 2015, and was joined by Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Art Minister Heather Humphreys.**

On arriving to the cemetery, President Higgins inspected an armed guard provided by the Defence Force's 6th Infantry Battalion as the Army No 1. Band played Sarsfield Men. This was followed by a speech by Glasnevin Trust chairman John Green, who detailed the events leading up to O'Donovan's Rossa's death and the impact it had on the Irish republican movement of the time.

Crowds gathered to hear the re-enactment of Pearse's immortal words: "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 Taoiseach commented: *"Even 100 years after his death his name is synonymous with the Fenians and with Irish Nationalism. The liberation of his country became his life's ambition. His funeral remains one of the pivotal moments in Irish history and was an occasion that would be hugely instrumental in shaping the future of our nation,"*





## 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 &amp; Military Pensions



Heritage Ireland



Glasnevin Cemetery



National Archives - Census



National Library 1916



National Museum



DMP Extremists Reports



Punch Magazine



Wikipedia Ireland History



Irish Volunteers

## Casualties of the 1916 Easter Rising

485 men, women and children died in Dublin during the Easter Rising in 1916. Of these, 78 were Irish Volunteers, 262 were civilians, 19 Police and 126 were British soldiers. Just over 54% of all casualties were civilian, 26% were British armed forces and 16% were armed Irish volunteers.

Beginning this month, the Newsletter will include details and photographs of some of those who died in the Rising, both combatants and civilians, almost a century ago.

### Private Abraham Watchorn.

### An Irish, British Army casualty of the 1916 Easter Rising.



**Private Abraham Watchorn** of the 5th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers was killed in action, aged 21, on Easter Wednesday (26th April 1916). He was a son of Abraham Watchorn, of Williamstown, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow and his Carlow-born wife, Jane, daughter of George James. Born in Dundrum, Co. Dublin, on 20th October 1894, Abraham had been educated in the Lisnavagh Schoolhouse near Rathvilly and was described as a farmer on the 1911 census.

He enlisted with the Dubs on 22 November 1915. Official reports say the regiment was brought to Dublin from The Curragh when the Easter Rising broke out, arriving into the city at 3.45am on Tuesday 25h April. They appear to have gone straight into action around Dublin Castle which is most likely where Private Watchorn was fatally wounded. He was then taken to Dublin Castle's Red Cross Hospital where he died.

He was buried at Grangegorman Military Cemetery. He is amongst those named on the Great War memorial on the organ in St. Mary's Church in Rathvilly.



### A 1916 Easter Rising Documentary

In 1973, documentary maker Kenneth Griffin interviewed nine survivors who were involved in the Rising. You can view the programme here:

[http://documentaryvideosworld.com/The\\_1916\\_Easter\\_upRising-...](http://documentaryvideosworld.com/The_1916_Easter_upRising-...)



British Army Recruiting on Cork's Patrick Street, September 1914



### In your October 2015 Newsletter

- Diarmuid Lynch...on a newsreel!
- Stone Mad Murphy anniversary
- Passenger Manifests
- 1935 Commemoration Controversy
- 1966 Easter Rising Commemoration
- DMP Reports
- Museum donations & loans
- 1916-2016 News

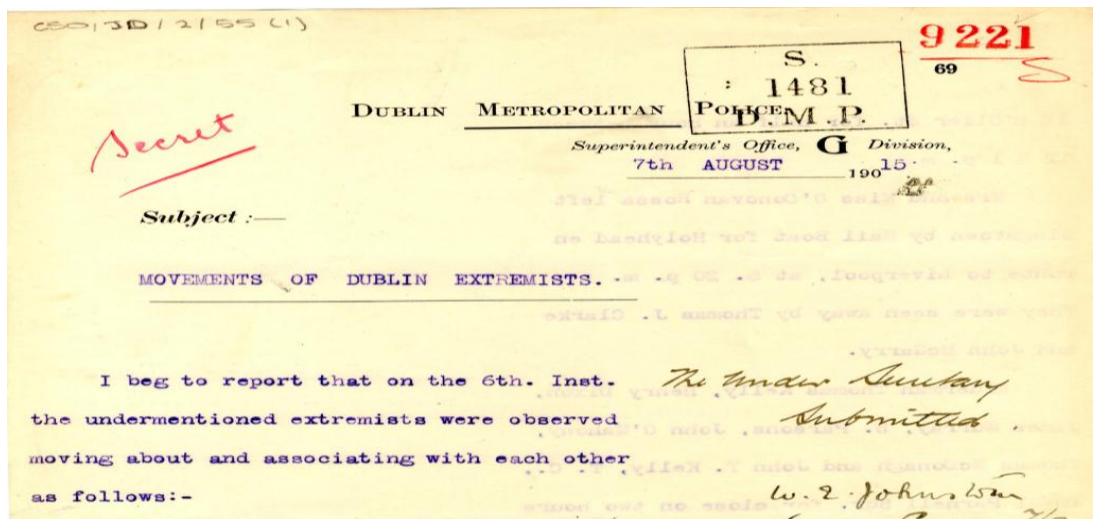
Email: [ruairi\\_lynch@hotmail.com](mailto:ruairi_lynch@hotmail.com)



## Dublin Metropolitan Police - Movements of Dublin Extremists

### Reports on Diarmuid Lynch

June 1915 – August 1915



**The Chief Secretary's Office, Crime Branch: Movement of Extremists collection** was a series of daily reports by the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) Detective Department on the movements and associations of pro-independence suspects.

These reports were compiled by Superintendent Owen Brien and submitted to the Under Secretary for Ireland, Sir Matthew Nathan, at Dublin Castle, annotated and then read by the Chief Secretary of Ireland, Sir Augustine Birrell.

These reports describe Republican activity in Dublin during the 11 months preceding the Easter Rising and detail intelligence gathered at a number of key city centre locations, most notably the shop of Thomas J Clarke at 75 Parnell Street, the Irish Volunteers Office at 2 Dawson Street, the Irish National Foresters Hall at 41 Parnell Street and the Gaelic League Offices in 25 Parnell Street. Major events which took place in 1915 and 1916 are recorded in the reports, including the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa and the Annual Convention of Irish Volunteers.

The reports also include details of anti-recruitment and conscription rallies, meetings of the Irish Women's Franchise League, and protests against the imprisonment of revolutionaries under the Defence of the Realm Act and the movement of suspects to locations and major events outside of Dublin.

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, Diarmuid Lynch, Joseph McGuinness, Herbert Mellows, Michael O'Hanrahan, William O'Leary Curtis, Michael Joseph O'Rahilly and James Joseph Walsh.

In total there were approximately 260 files comprising 700 documents which were conserved, listed and scanned.

To view these and other reports in full, visit the [National Archives of Ireland](http://www.nationalarchives.ie) website.

The reports included with the Newsletter relate to Diarmuid Lynch and also include details of historic and unusual events. Side notes provide contextual historical information on events and personalities (Click on items [hyperlinked](#) for further info)  
**Please note: this is a work in progress and will be updated monthly.**



Saturday, 19 June, 1915

Diarmuid Lynch makes his first of many noted appearance in these DMP 'Movements of Dublin Extremists' dated 21 June, 1915 for June 19 & 20<sup>th</sup>, 1915.

CSO/JD/2/16(1)

8876 ✓

S.

1245

D.M.P.

(1858.) Wt. 5533—66.4000.12/14. A.T.&Co., Ltd.

Telegrams: "DAMP, DUBLIN."  
Telephone No. 22.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Detective Department,

Dublin, 21st June, 1915.

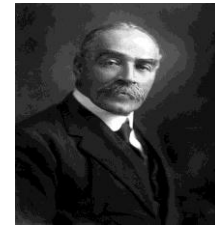
Secret

Subject, MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that on the 19th and 20th inst. the undermentioned extremists were observed moving about and associating with each other as follows:-

*The Under Secretary,  
Submitted.  
21.6.15*

The 'Movements of Dublin Extremists' reports were prepared daily from the previous day's detective notes by the Dublin Metropolitan Police Detective Department (G-Division) Superintendent Owen Brien. These secret reports were submitted to Sir Matthew Nathan, The Under-Secretary for Ireland based in Dublin Castle. Nathan in turn noted, wrote margin comments, signed and submitted these reports to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, Augustine Birrell.



[Sir Matthew Nathan](#) (1862-1939) & [Augustine Birrell](#) (1850-1933)

Diarmuid travelled from Cork to Dublin to attend the annual [Wolfe Tone](#) Commemoration in Bodenstown, Co. Kildare the following day.

His brother, Denis, was the manager of the Dublin Whiskey Distillery in Jones Road, Drumcondra.



[Tom Clarke](#)

an hour from 9 p.m. D.Lynch who had arrived from Cork on evening of 19th inst. called at Clarke's at 9 p.m. but made no delay and leaving afterwards visited the office of the Gaelic League, 25 Parnell Square, and proceeded to the residence of his brother at Jones Road where he retired for the night.

*Under Secretary  
Submitted  
10/11/15  
21.6.15*

"....D. Lynch who had arrived from Cork on evening of 19<sup>th</sup> inst. called at Clarke's\* at 9pm but made no delay and leaving afterwards visited the office of the Gaelic League, 25 Parnell Square, and proceeded to the residence of his brother at Jones Road where he retired for the night"

\*Tom Clarke's Tobacconist shop at 75 Parnell Street, Dublin.

Sunday, 20 June, 1915

The annual pilgrimage to Bodenstown took place yesterday. Two special trains conveying those taking part left Kingsbridge for Sallins at 11.15 a.m. and 11.45 a.m. About 1,500 persons travelled by these trains which included contingents of the Sinn Fein Volunteers, Citizen Army, and National Boy Scouts. About 70 of the Volunteers and Citizen Army carried rifles. Those observed taking an active part in the arrangements were: M.J.O'Rahilly, E.Kent, T.J.Sheehan, F.Fahy, E.Daly, Thomas Byrne, P.H.Pearse, James Connolly, Wm.P.Partridge, Peter Doyle, Bulmer Hobson, and the Countess Markievicz. Thomas J.Clarke, J.J.Buggy, John T.Kelly, T.C., J. J. Walsh, John O'Mahony, George Irvine, Patrick O'Malley, Galway, D.Lynch, Cork, H.Mellows and Joseph McGuinness were amongst the extremists who travelled in the excursion trains. Both trains returned to Dublin between 7 and 8.30p.m. and the various contingents marched to their respective clubs where they dispersed without further demonstration.

*21/6*  
*Sent to C. Secy.*  
*A.P.M.*  
*23/6*  
*Chief Constable*  
*24.6.15*

observed taking an active part in the arrangements were: M.J.O'Rahilly, E.Kent, T.J.Sheehan, F.Fahy, E.Daly, Thomas Byrne, P.H.Pearse, James Connolly, Wm.P.Partridge, Peter Doyle, Bulmer Hobson, and the Countess Markievicz. Thomas J.Clarke, J.J.Buggy, John T.Kelly, T.C., J. J. Walsh, John O'Mahony, George Irvine, Patrick O'Malley, Galway, D.Lynch, Cork, H.Mellows and Joseph McGuinness were amongst the extremists who travelled in the excursion trains. Both trains returned to Dublin between 7 and 8.30p.m. and the various contingents marched to their respective clubs where they dispersed without further demonstration.

*Sinn Fein*  
*Irish Volunteers*  
*Labour*  
*Citizen Army*



"The annual pilgrimage to Bodenstown took place yesterday. Two special trains conveying those taking part left Kingsbridge for Sallins at 11.15am and 11.45am. About 1,500 persons travelled by these trains which included contingents of the [Sinn Fein Volunteers](#), [Citizen Army](#) and the [National Boy Scouts](#). About 70 of the Volunteers and Citizen Army carried rifles. Those observed taking an active part were: [M.J.O'Rahilly](#), [E. Kent](#), T.J.Sheehan, F. Fahy, [E. Daly](#), Thomas Byrne, [P.H.Pearse](#), [James Connolly](#), Wm P. Partridge, Peter Doyle, [Bulmer Hobson](#) and the [Countess Markievicz](#). [Thomas J. Clarke](#), J.J.Buggy, [John T. Kelly](#), T.C., [J.J.Walsh](#), [John O'Mahony](#), George Irvine, Patrick O'Malley, Galway, [D.Lynch](#), Cork, [H. Mellows](#) and Joseph McGuinness were among the extremists who travelled in the excursion trains. Both trains returned to Dublin between 7 and 8.30pm and the various contingents marched to their respective clubs where they dispersed without further demonstration.'

Handwritten notation lists the various organizations that individuals were members of: "Sinn Fein, Irish Volunteers, Labour, Citizen Army"

Opposite: Tom Clarke and Diarmuid Lynch pictured at the Wolfe Tone Commemoration.  
Photo courtesy of Eileen McGough.



Monday, 21 June, 1915

250/30/2/17

8881

(1858.) Wt. 5533—66.4000.12/14. A.T. & Co., Ltd.  
Telegrams: "DAMP, DUBLIN."  
Telephone No. 22.

**DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.**  
Detective Department,

Dublin, 22nd June, 1915.

*Secret*

Subject, MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that on the 21st inst. the undermentioned extremists were observed moving about and associating with each other as follows:

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell Street, J. McGuinness for a quarter of an hour between 11 and 12 a.m.; C. Colbert for twenty minutes between 1 and 2 p.m.; Edmund Kent for a few minutes at 2 p.m.; D. Lynch and Thomas Byrne for half an hour from 2 p.m.; George Irvine

*The Under Secretary  
Submitted.  
J. J. McGuinness  
Asst Comm. 22/6.  
Under Secretary*

"With Thomas Clarke, 75 Parnell Street...D. Lynch & Thomas Byrne for half an hour from 2pm..."

Thursday, 24 June, 1915

250/30/2/19 (1)

8910

(1858.) Wt. 5533—66.4000.12/14. A.T. & Co., Ltd.  
Telegrams: "DAMP, DUBLIN."  
Telephone No. 22.

**DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.**  
Detective Department,

Dublin, 25th June, 1915.

*Secret*

Subject, MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that on the 24th inst. the undermentioned extremists were observed moving about and associating with each other as follows:

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell Street, J.J. Farrelly for a quarter of an hour between 11 and 12 a.m.; D. Lynch, Cork, Wm. Shortall, and E. Daly together for ten minutes between 1 and 2 p.m.; William O'Leary Curtis for half an hour between 5

*The Under Secretary  
Submitted.  
J. J. McGuinness  
Asst Comm. 25/6.*

"...With Thomas Clarke, 75 Parnell Street... D. Lynch, Cork, Wm Shortall and E. Daly together for 10 minutes between 1 and 2pm"

Saturday, 26 June, 1915

CSO/30/2/20(1) 8931

(1858.) Wt. 5533--66.4000.12/14. A.T. & Co., Ltd.

Telegrams: "DAMP, DUBLIN."  
Telephone No. 22.

**DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.**

Detective Department,

Dublin, 28th June, 1915.

*Secret*

Subject, MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that on the 26th and 27th inst. the undermentioned extremists were observed moving about and associating with each other as follows:-

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell Street, on Saturday Joseph McGuinness and James Murray together for a quarter of an hour between 10 & 11 a.m.; D. Lynch for half an hour between 3 & 4p.m.;

*The Under Secretary  
Submitted  
Lergus Quinn  
Asst. Commr 28/6*

"With Thomas J Clarke, 75 Parnell Street, on Saturday...D.Lynch for half an hour between 3 & 4pm"

Sunday, 27 June, 1915

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell Street, Sunday, D. Lynch, W. Parsons, J.J. Buggy, and J. McGuinness together for half an hour between 1 and 2 p.m.

Clarke has removed most of his furniture from 75 Parnell Street to 10 Richmond Avenue, Fairview, where he intends to reside ~~XXXX~~ in the course of a few days.

About 2,000 persons including J.J.O'Connell, E. Daly, John T. Kelly, T.C., C.W. Power, B.L., and James

The Chief Commissioner.

*Where is Fairview?  
T.C.  
3/6*

*Under Secretary  
Fairview is a district lying on the Nth. bank of the Tolka, (Nth. City) between Clontarf (Brumondra) and Clontarf.  
Lergus Quinn  
Asst. Commr 28/6*

*Ch. Sec  
T.C.*

"With Thomas J Clarke at 75 Parnell Street, Sunday, D. Lynch, W. Parsons, J.J. Buggy and J. McGuinness together for half an hour between 1& 2pm..."



**Tuesday, 29 June, 1915**

D.Lynch in the Office of the Gaelic League  
25 Parnell Square for an hour from 7.30 p.m.

"D.Lynch in the Office of the Gaelic League 25 Parnell Square for an hour from 7.30pm

**Monday, 5 July, 1915**

*Secret*

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE. 1306  
Superintendent's Office, G.D.M.P. Division.  
6th July, 1915.

**Subject :—**

MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that the undermentioned  
extremists were observed moving about and  
associating with each other as follows: (on 5th inst).

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell Street,  
Joseph McGuinness for ten minutes between 12  
and 1 p.m.; J.J. Walsh for a quarter of an  
hour from 1 p.m.; Thomas Kenny, (Craughwell),  
for close on an hour Between 2 and 3 p.m.,  
T.S. Cuffe being there at the time; John T.  
Kelly, T.C., and Thomas Byrne for a quarter of  
an hour between 7 and 8 p.m.; Diarmuid Lynch,  
Wm. O'Leary Curtis, and Arthur Griffith together  
for an hour from 10 p.m.

*The Under Secretary  
Submitted.  
W.E. Johnston  
C. Comm 6/7  
Under Secretary  
Submitted  
1915*

"With Thomas Clarke at 75 Parnell Street...Diarmuid Lynch, William O'Leary Curtis\* and [Arthur Griffith](#)  
together for an hour from 10pm"

\* William O'Leary-Curtis, a newspaperman and colleague of James Joyce, appears in both Ulysses and Dubliners as O'Madden-Burke. His Grand-daughter is film and television actress, Nuala FitzGerald.

Tuesday, 6 July, 1915

9000  
S

S. 69  
1316  
D.M.P.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Superintendent's Office, **G** Division,

7th July, 1915.

Secret

*Subject :—*

MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that on the 6th inst. the undermentioned extremists were observed moving about and associating with each other as follows:

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell Street, James Murray for a quarter of an hour between 11 and 12 a.m.; John T. Kelly, T.C., for a quarter of an hour between 12 and 1 p.m.; Edmund Kent for twenty minutes between 4 and 5 p.m.; D. Lynch, Thomas Byrne, and Joseph McGuinness together for close on two hours from 7.30 p.m.; William O'

*The Under Secretary*  
*Submitted.*

*J. J. Quinn*  
*Asst. Comm. 7/7.*

*Under Secretary*  
*Submitted*

"With Thomas Clarke, 75 Parnell Street.... D. Lynch, Thomas Byrne and Joseph McGuinness together for close on two hours from 7.30pm"



Thursday, 8 July, 1915

**9020** 1323 69

**DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE**

Superintendent's Office, **G** Division,

9th July, 1915.

*Secret*

**Subject :—**

MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that on the 8th inst. the undermentioned extremists were observed moving about and associating with each other as follows:

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell Street, Wm. Shortall for a quarter of an hour between 11 and 12 a.m.; Thomas Byrne for twenty minutes between 3 and 4 p.m.; Patrick Ryan (Sinn Fein) for half an hour between 4 and 5 p.m.; Wm. O'Leary Curtis for a quarter of an hour between 5 and 6 p.m.; D. Lynch, P.H.Pearse, P.Beasley, and James Murray together for twenty minutes between 7 and 8 p.m.; C.Wyse Power, B.L., for a few minutes at 9.30 p.m.; and Arthur Griffith for a quarter of an hour between 10 and 11 p.m.

T.S.Cuffe and P.O'Keefe, G.P.O., in conversation in Camden Street between 9 and 10 p.m.

At 8.45 p.m. 40 members of the Sinn Fein Volunteers without rifles assembled at 41 Parnell Square and subsequently in charge of E.Daly and F.Lawless(Swords) went route marching towards

*The Under Secretary  
Submitted*

*Perquar Quinn  
Asst Comm 9/7*

*Under Secretary  
Submitted*

*W.P.F.*

*10-7-15*

*C.S.  
This crowd  
had been a  
good deal together  
of late.*

"With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell Street, Wm Shortall for a quarter of an hour between 11 and 12pm, Thomas Byrne for twenty minutes between 3 and 4pm; Patrick Ryan (Sinn Fein) for half an hour between 4 and 5pm, Wm O'Leary Curtis for a quarter of an hour between 5 and 6pm, D. Lynch, P.H.Pearse, P. Beasley and James Murray together for 20 minutes between 7 and 8pm, C. Wyse Power B.L. for a few minutes at 9.30pm and Arthur Griffith for a quarter of an hour between 10 and 11pm.."

Note: A handwritten comment by the Chief Secretary to Ireland, Augustine Birrell reads "This crowd have been a good deal together of late"

Friday, 9 July, 1915

D. Lynch left Kingsbridge for Limerick by  
9.15 a.m. train yesterday.

*Ch. Sec.*

From the report dated July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1915: "D. Lynch left Kingsbridge for Limerick by 9.15am train yesterday."

Wednesday, 21 July, 1915

CSO/50/2/41(1)

9092

S. 1379 69 S.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE D.M.P.

Superintendent's Office, G Division,

22nd July, 1915.

*Secret*

**Subject :—**

MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that on the 21st inst.  
the undermentioned extremists were observed  
moving about and associating with each other  
as follows:—

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell Street,  
Thomas Byrne and C. Colbert together for a  
quarter of an hour between 12 and 1 p.m.; D.  
Lynch for an hour from 9 p.m., the latter re-  
turned from Limerick at 12.30 p.m.; Arthur  
Griffith, William O'Leary Curtis, James Stritch,

*The Under Secretary*  
*Submitted.*  
*W. E. Johnston*  
*C. Quinn 22/7*  
*Under Secretary*  
*C. I. #1*

"With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell Street...D. Lynch for an hour from 9pm, the latter returned from Limerick at 12.30pm..."



Friday, 30 July, 1915

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Superintendent's Office, G Division,

30th July 1915

*Secret*

Subject:—

O'DONOVAN ROSSA FUNERAL PROCESSION.

With reference to attached I beg to report that the O'Donovan Rossa funeral Procession will start from the City Hall at 2 p. m. on Sunday next. The route will be via Dame St., Aungier St., York St., Stephen's Green, Dawson St., Nassau St., Grafton St., College Green, Westmoreland St., Sackville St., Cavendish Row, Parnell Sqr; North, Frederick St., Berkeley Road, Phibsboro' to Glasnevin. Cemetery.

Those taking part will include Sinn Fein Volunteers, Old Fenians, Representatives of Public bodies, Citizen Army, Gaelic Athletic Association, Irish National Foresters, National Society, Hibernian Rifles, Trade and Labour Unions, Provincial Delegates, Wolfe Tone Memorial Association, and National Volunteers.

The Dublin contingents with bands will assemble at 12 noon as follows:—  
Trades Council and Labour bodies at Stephens Green to march by Francis St., thence through Cornmarket

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

*The Under Secretary*

*Submitted: The Police arrangements when completed will be submitted*

*30.7.15 W.L. Johnston*

*Under Secretary*

*Submitted*

*W.L. Johnston*

*30.7.15*

*Ch. Sec.*

*There will of course be no interference by the police unless a breach of the peace is committed which is unlikely.*

*Thos.*

*Chief Commissioner*

*Seen by Chief Secretary 31/7*

**Comment to DMP Extremists Report for July 30, 1915.**

The Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) kept a close eye on what they deemed as “extremists” in the days preceding the O'Donovan Rossa funeral on August 1st, 1915. The police closely monitored Tom Clarke's tobacco shop at 75 Parnell Street and the Irish Volunteers office at 2 Dawson Street. Other buildings put under close surveillance included the Irish National Forrester's Hall at 41 Parnell Square where the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) and the Irish Volunteers met and drilled and 25 Parnell Square which was the headquarters of The Gaelic League

Two nights before the funeral there was a major gathering in the Forrester's Hall which included Pearse, Con Colbert, Eamon Ceannt, Major John McBride and Thomas McDonagh, who was chief steward of the funeral. All were executed for their parts in the Easter Rising.

In the police reports, the Chief Secretary to Ireland Augustine Birrell has scribbled in the margins *“there will of course be no interference by the police unless a breach of the peace is committed which is unlikely”*. A detailed report on the O'Donovan Rossa funeral procession was provided two days beforehand by Superintendent Owen Brien of the DMP.

In his report to the chief commissioner of the DMP, Superintendent Brien listed all the organisations that were involved in the organisation of the funeral. *“Delegates from America will be in attendance and nothing is being left undone to make the affair as impressive as possible,”* he wrote. *“Those concerned are anxious that the greatest harmony will prevail and, as far as can be gathered, nothing of an unseemly nature is anticipated. At the same time, in an assembly of this nature, no one can foretell what may occur, particularly when persons of different views are brought so closely together.”*

Superintendent Brien also wondered about the possibility of a demonstration after the funeral at Bachelor's Walk. It had been the site a year previously of the shooting dead of three civilians by soldiers from the King's Own Scottish Borderers who had been sent to intercept arms shipments which were landed at Howth.

**Dublin Metropolitan Police**

The Capital's own Police Force had been established under an Act of the British Parliament in 1836 and the force had become operational in January 1838. It was closely modelled on the London Metropolitan Police founded by Sir John Peel. While never a greatly popular force with Dubliners the DMP had nevertheless proved to be a magnet to men (mostly countrymen) in search of secure employment in the city with a guaranteed pension at the end of their service. Its members were unarmed unless on specific duties and the individual members relied on their formidable physical strength to settle affairs on the street when necessary. Among the generally undersized citizenry of Dublin they certainly stood out as men not to be trifled with.

Things started to turn sour for the DMP in 1913 when there was serious labour unrest in Dublin. In a fight for Trade Union recognition the employers resorted to locking out the workers till they dropped their demand for the right to belong to one. The DMP as a result found itself involved in upholding the interests of the employers at the expense of the workers rights. Vicious street battles developed with the police involved in sometimes fatal baton charges, which lost them a lot of credibility and respect with the public. Then the events of 1914, when the DMP and the British Army tried unsuccessfully to block the distribution of the weapons landed at Howth, further weakened their morale and general standing.

The outbreak of the Great War saw a considerable number of the men volunteer for war service from which a high proportion never returned. The Easter Rising of 1916 was yet another shock to its morale. By the time the War of Independence started in 1919 the force was at a low ebb, which the events of the next two and a half years did nothing to alleviate. By and large they escaped the deadly fate of so many of their counterparts in the RIC simply because of their unarmed status. So long as they turned a blind eye to the activities of the IRA then they were allowed to proceed with the enforcement of the civil law. Not so the men of the 'G' Division. They were armed and were tasked by the British with hunting down Republicans in the city. Michael Collins had his own answer to them: the men of 'the Squad' a select group of gunmen who were given the job of eliminating especially dangerous opponents of the Republic in Dublin. In this they succeeded brilliantly, and effectively put a stop to the flow of intelligence to the British administration in Dublin Castle.

By the Summer of 1921 Irish recruitment to the DMP was at a standstill and the ranks had to be filled by taking on men from across the water, many of them British ex-servicemen. With the Truce of July 1921 the DMP was left hanging in the air, not knowing whether they would be kept on or swept aside in the impending change of government. When the new Government took over they decided to retain the DMP at least temporarily as the only fully trained Police Force in the State. In Irish the Force was known as *Políní Átha Cliath* and cap badges were issued to reflect this.

In 1923 Major General W.R.E. Murphy DSO, MC was appointed to command as Chief Commissioner and he was to instil a sense of purpose back into the Force. However Kevin O'Higgins had decided that two police forces in one State was one too many and in 1925 the DMP was amalgamated into the Garda Síochána. Murphy became a Deputy Commissioner of the Garda under General O'Duffy with whom he had served in the Irish Civil war. Thus after a run of 87 years Dublin's own Police Force and its formidable Constables came to be seen no more on the streets of the capital.



Friday, 30 July, 1915

William Mellows was, at the Southern Police Court yesterday sentenced to three months' imprisonment under the Defence of the Realm Act.

Bulmer Hobson, M. J. Pender, M. O'Hanrahan, and Herbert Mellows in Volunteer Office, 2 Dawson St. for half an hour between 7 & 8 p. m.

Major John McBride, James Whelan, Thomas J. Clarke, P. H. Pearse, E. Kent, C. Colbert, James Murray, B. Parsons, M. McGinn; D. Lynch, T. J. Sheehan, John T. Kelly, C. Wyse-Power, J. J. Buggy, James Stritch, John O'Mahony and

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

*Under Secretary*  
*Submitted*  
*W.B.*  
*31. vii. 15.*

*Chief Sec.*  
*W.B.*  
*31/7*

*Seen by Chief Sec.*  
*W.B.*  
*3. viii. 15*

and Thomas McDonagh at 41 Parnell Sqr. together from 8. 15 p. m. to 11. 15 p. m.

There is nothing further to add to that already reported regarding the O'Donovan Rossa funeral Procession.

*Owen Bowen*  
Superintendent.

"...Major John McBride, James Whelan, Thomas J. Clarke, P.H.Pearse, E. Kent, C. Colbert, James Murray, B. Parsons, M. McGinn, D. Lynch, T.J.Sheehan, John T. Kelly, C. Wyse-Power, J.J.Buggy, James Stritch, John O'Mahony and Thomas McDonagh at 41 Parnell Square together from 8.15pm to 11.15pm."

Note: This was the final meeting regarding arrangements for the O'Donovan Rossa funeral to be held on Sunday, August 1, 1915.

Saturday, 31 July, 1915

*Secret*

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE D.M.P.  
Superintendent's Office, G Division,  
3rd August 1915

Subject :—

MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that during the past three days the undermentioned extremists were observed moving about and associating with each other as follows:—

With T. J. Clarke on Saturday, Thomas Byrne for twenty minutes between 1 & 2 p. m. D. Lynch, John T. Kelly, T. C., and C. J. Kickham together for a quarter of an hour between 8 & 9 p. m. P. O'Malley, Galway,

*The Under Secretary Submitted.*  
*W. E. Johnston*  
*C. Comm 3/8*

"With T.J. Clarke on Saturday....D. Lynch, John T. Kelly, T.C. and C.J. Kickham together for a quarter of an hour between 8 & 9 pm....."

Sunday, 1 August, 1915

A large number of Provincial suspects arrived in Dublin by excursion trains on Sunday, and subsequently were seen to take part in the O'Donovan Rossa funeral procession to Glasnevin Cemetery. These included

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

*True 3/8*  
*✓ on M 4.8.15*  
*✓*

included Thomas Kenny, Craughwell, James Leddan, Limerick; P. Hughes, Dundalk; Darrel Figgis, Achill; Alderman Nowlan, Kilkenny; T. J. McSweeney, Cork; Patk. McGrath, Tipperary, and Austin Stack, Tralee.

A Special report on the funeral procession is being furnished.

T. J. Clarke left Kingsbridge by 8.35 p. m. train, 1st Inst., en route to Limerick.

Attached is a copy of last week's issue of Na Bac Leis, with translation of the leading paragraphs 1 to 6 inclusive.

*Over Brien*

A general report on those attending the O'Donovan Rossa funeral... "A special report on the funeral procession is being furnished"

Note: The National Archives commented in 2015: "Although it is stated that a special report on the funeral will be furnished, this is not included in this series of reports. A search in the registered papers of the Chief Secretary has also proved unsuccessful."



Friday, 13 August, 1915

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell St.,  
William O'Leary Curtis for a few minutes  
between 4 & 5 p. m. James J. Buggy for  
half an hour between 8 & 9 p. m. D. Lynch  
for twenty minutes between 9 & 10 p. m.  
James Connolly left Amiens St. by 3  
p. m. train, en route to Belfast. R. I. C.  
informed.

*C. Connolly 14/8*  
*Under Secretary submitted. W. J. H. 16/8/15.*  
*Thom 16/10*

"With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell St...D. Lynch for twenty minutes between 9 & 10pm..."

Sunday, 15 August, 1915

It has been reported to the Police  
that between 12 & 1 a. m. 15th Inst. several  
men forcibly removed 4 wooden cases, each  
containing 25 Martini Metford rifles from the  
L. & N. W. Rwy. Stores, Nth. Wall, addressed  
to Mr John E. Redmond, M. P., 44 Parnell Sqr.  
and carried them away for some distance, from  
which they were removed by motor car, destination  
unknown. Inquiry proceeding.

*Owen'Brien*

For further information on this, see: <http://eastwallforall.ie/?p=2975> The Great North Wall Railway Robbery 1915

Wednesday, 18 August, 1915

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell St.,  
 E. Daly and Thomas Byrne for a quarter of an  
 hour. between 1 & 2 p. m. D. Lynch and  
 John O'Mahony for half an hour between 5 & 6  
 p. m. John T. Kelly, T. C., for twenty  
 minutes between 8 & 9 p. m. William O'Leaey  
 Curtis for ten minutes between 10 & 11 p. m.,  
 after which Clarke closed his premises for the  
 night.

*Under Secretary.  
 Submitted.  
 W. J. H.  
 19/8/15.  
 Ch. Sec.  
 T. H.  
 19/8*

"With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell St...D. Lynch and John O'Mahony for half an hour between 5 & 6pm..."



Monday, 23 August, 1915

T. J. Sheehan with James Whelan in the shop of the latter, 17 Upper Ormond Quay at 10.30 a.m.

M. J. O'Rahilly at Dame St. at 4.30 p.m.  
Henry Dixon and T. J. Clarke in conversation at  
The Chief Commr.

C.S.  
Monteith was in the Ordnance Store Depot - meat - was dismissed by the military authorities. At same time he was very active at Limerick.

The intelligence report opposite indicates how relatively straightforward it was for the G-Division detectives to source vital and accurate information:

"Mrs Monteith in conversation with a friend who called to see her at her residence, 6 Palmerstown Place, yesterday (22 August) said that her husband (R. Monteith) was leaving the country believed for America, where arrangements are being made to form an Irish Brigade, to fight on the side of Germany in the present War. Mr Monteith has got permission from the Military Authorities to leave this country for America on 28<sup>th</sup> inst., but no corroboration so far, has been obtained regarding the object of his mission"

[Monteith had been given permission to leave Limerick, travel to his home in Dublin and then leave on 28 August]

at 5.15 p.m.

J. J. Walsh in his shop, 26, Blessington St. between 9 & 10 p.m.

Mrs Monteith in conversation with a friend who called to see her at her residence, 6, Palmerston Place, yesterday, said that her husband, (R. Monteith) was leaving the country believed for America, where arrangements are being made to form an Irish Brigade, to fight on the side of Germany in the present War.

Mr Monteith has got permission from the Military Authorities to leave this country for America on 28<sup>th</sup> Inst., but no corroboration, so far, has been obtained regarding the object of his mission.

drilling the Irish Volunteers & taking them for route marches & such sort of work in public houses. Lately he has been inactive.

It is hard to say where a man of this sort does most harm - in Ireland or in America. Probably in the latter.

Ch. Commr.

Owen'Brien  
Superintendent.



Captain Robert Monteith  
Irish Brigade of Berlin, 1915-1916

Robert Monteith was a working-class Protestant, a former soldier in India and South Africa, a trade union activist, atheist, writer, Irish Volunteer captain and probably an IRB member. In the absence of anyone more suitable, he was recruited by Tom Clarke to take command of Casement's brigade and traveled to Germany. Following the failure of the brigade, he accompanied Casement by submarine to Banna Strand at Easter 1916. Earlier in 1914, as a consequence of his political activities and loyalties, the account written by his daughter tells how "... he was dismissed from his post at the Ordnance Depot. He was not allowed to go back to his desk for his coat or pipe ... Later that night two men from the G Division came to his house and read him a deportation order which stated that "R. Monteith, of 6 Palmerston Place, Broadstone, Dublin, shall not, except with permission in writing from me or other competent naval or military authority, reside after twelve o'clock noon, on the 14th day of November, 1914, within the Metropolitan Police District of Dublin". Monteith even had a small printing press there, which he used to turn out leaflets and handbills for his political activities.

Under-Secretary Matthew Nathan's written comment in the margins of the Intelligence Report dated 24 August for the Chief Secretary, Augustine Birrell: "Monteith was in the Ordnance Store Depot where he was dismissed by the Military Authorities. For some time he was very active at Limerick, drilling the Irish Volunteers & taking them for route marches which ended often in public houses. Lately he has been inactive."

Birrell written reply on 27<sup>th</sup> August: "It is hard to say where a man of this sort does most harm - in Ireland or in America. Probably the latter"

Tuesday, 24 August, 1915

CSO/SD/2/70(1)

**9316**  
**S**

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE. D.M.P.

S.  
1560 69

Superintendent's Office, G Division,  
25th. August 1915

190/

*Secret*

Subject :—

MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that on the 24th. Inst. *The Under Secretary*  
the undermentioned extremists were observed *Submitted.*  
moving about and associating with each other  
as follows :—  
*W. J. Austin*

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75, Parnell St., *C. Connors 25/8.*  
R. Monteith, who had arrived from Limerick  
at 12. 30 p. m., for close on an hour between  
1 & 2 p. m., Joseph McGuinness being also  
there at the time. D. Lynch for half an  
hour between 7 & 8 p. m. William O'Leary  
Curtis for twenty minutes between 9 & 10 p.m.  
*Under Secretary*  
*Submitted*  
*W. J. H.*  
*26/8/15.*

"....With Thomas J. Clarke, 75 Parnell St, R. Monteith, who had arrived from Limerick at 12.30pm for close on an hour between 1 & 2p.m, Joseph McGuinness being also there at the time. D. Lynch for half an hour between 7 & 8pm..."

Diarmuid Lynch in his memoirs recalled "Towards the end of August, Monteith was ready to proceed to Germany - via New York. Tom Clarke and I decided to give him £100 for his expenses; this sum was handed to him in Tom's shop."

Further items from The DMP reports will be in future Newsletters.