

ÉIRE
IRELAND

1916

Clár Comóirtha
Céad Bliain
Centenary
Programme



COUNTY TIPPERARY

IN

1916

- a history in 40 documents

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Tipperary County Council Library Service

COUNTY TIPPERARY

IN 1916

A History in 40 Documents



The actors and the bystanders, reflecting a variety of opinions, speak for themselves in this collection of primary sources telling something of the story of 1916 in County Tipperary. As with any babble of voices, the truth is but faintly heard.

The Rising in Dublin was directed by the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) with the help of the Irish Volunteers and the Dublin based Citizen Army. The IRB, founded in 1858, maintained the tradition of clandestine violent opposition to British rule in Ireland. The Volunteers, founded in 1913, within a few years were known as the IRA. With the outbreak of war in 1914, the Volunteers split, the vast majority supported John Redmond, many of whom joined the British army to fight Germany. The leader of the minority Volunteers was Eoin MacNeill, who was not in the IRB. Hence confusion. In Tipperary, the IRB was led by Eamon Ó Duibhir of Ballagh (between Dundrum and Thurles), whereas the Volunteers were led by Piers McCann of Ballyowen near Cashel. Like MacNeill, McCann was not in the IRB and not privy to plans for insurrection. Before the Rising, Sinn Féin in the county was a presence rather than a force.

The four MPs for the county and the local government bodies supported John Redmond and the Home Rule party. This majority opinion in the county supported the war against the Germans and two organisations reflected this body of opinion: the United Irish League (UIL) and the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH). Organised in many parishes and reflective of an older generation, these organisations provided a creaky political machine for the Home Rule movement. By the summer of 1916, it was increasingly obvious that Home Rule would never

come for a united island and this together with public reaction to the aftermath of the Rising damaged and eventually destroyed the political credibility of Redmond and his supporters.

During Easter Week, nothing much happened across most of the county. In some towns nothing at all happened. Such movement as there was centred on Clonmel under the direction of Frank Drohan; around Dualla-Dundrum under the leadership of Ó Duibhir and McCann and in the Tipperary area Seán Treacy tried to liaise with forces in the Galbally district.

Picture Credits

- 2 *Nationalist*
- 3, 5 *Michael Ahern*
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- 9a *Canning, Bishops of Ireland 1870-1987 (1987)*
- 10 *Corbett, Political Directory Tipperary (2010)*
- 10a *Tipperary Star*
- 11 *Headlam, Irish Reminiscences (1947)*
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JANUARY TO APRIL 1916 *(Before)*

1. Lord Wimborne, the Lord Lieutenant arrived in Clonmel on Thursday 20 January 1916 to attend a coursing meeting at Kilsheelan. On Saturday at the Town Hall he spoke to a meeting of the South Tipperary County Council Recruiting Committee.



Lord Wimborne

"The voluntary system (of recruitment) being continued to be relied on, it was a double duty on their part to prove that it was sufficient for the requirements of the situation. It would be a pity and a disgrace to Ireland if the gallant Irish regiments who were fighting in the trenches did not get support .. to fill up gaps .. There were 52 Irish battalions to be helped in the matter of reserves and for that purpose 1,100 recruits were required weekly from Ireland."
(Freeman's Journal, 24 Jan 1916)

2. The Inspector General of the RIC commenting on Lord Wimborne's visit.
"The great majority of the people of Ireland may be regarded as loyal to the Empire and expecting Home Rule when the war is over and His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant was well received when he visited Kilsheelan and Clonmel during the month."
(CO/904/99, January 1916)

3. John Cullinan MP (Bansha) was chairman of the South Tipperary County Council Recruiting Committee. On 10 January 1916 he told a meeting of his committee



John Cullinan

"A great responsibility rested on the young men and every man who could be spared from the home, the farm or the workshop - a responsibility to stand by their brave brothers who had been fighting so long and so strenuously to keep the Irish regiments at full strength and to win the war.....I am firmly convinced that we are doing the right thing in devoting our energies to strengthening the Irish regiments."
(Freeman's Journal, 12 Jan 1916)

4. Army recruitment often took account of occupations and neighbourhoods.
SOUTH IRISH HORSE RECRUITS WANTED
"New Squadrons of the above Regiment are now being formed at CAHIR, CO TIPPERARY. The men wanted are farmers' sons and men accustomed to horses. It is hoped that the young men of the SOUTH will come forward and enlist. Any number of men coming from the same district will be trained and kept together as far as possible. Further particulars from CAPTAIN WATT, Little Island, County Cork."
(Cork Examiner, 8 Jan 1916)



Military Barracks, Cahir, Co. Tipperary

5. In late January 1916, the chairmen of urban councils were elected. *The Nationalist* in an editorial emphasised the stability resulting from the control exercised by the Home Rule party over local government. "Alderman T.J. Condon who was unanimously re-elected Mayor of his native Clonmel, a position which he has filled with success for a good many terms.....In Royal Cashel the Urban Council re-elected their veteran chairman Mr Michael Devitt for the eighteenth successive term.... In Tipperary town Mr Daniel Kelly was re-appointed chairman ... In Carrick, Mr M Power has been honoured with re-election as urban chairman, while Fethard has renewed its confidence in Mr Slattery by giving him a further term as president of the Town Commissioners..." (Nationalist, 29 Jan 1916)



T.J. Condon

6. National attention on Tipperary was on its war work. "To Tipperary Town belongs the honourable distinction of having established the first depot in Ireland wherein the wounded soldiers will not only be helped back to health but trained if his injuries prevent the resumption of the soldier's life.....There are fifteen hundred wounded soldiers in Tipperary at present and within a short time the ranks of these heroic men will be strengthened by two thousand more..." (Freeman's Journal, 2 March 1916)



Recuperating WW1 Soldier,
Tipperary Military Depot

7. Eamon Ó Duibhir became county centre of the IRB when the previous man moved out of the county.

"A few days later, in early April, I got a call from the IRB to go to Dublin and to call, on my arrival, to Tom Clarke's shop in Parnell Street. I knew all those places very well. I knew Tom Clarke, John MacBride and Sean MacDiarmada and various others for some years prior to that. When I called to Tom Clarke's shop in the late evening, he told me that I was to call there in the morning at 9 o'clock and to go with him to see Pearse at St. Enda's. I did so. We reached St. Enda's and were taken in to one of the rooms for a private talk and Pearse discussed with me the position of armaments in the south and the question of the Rising which, he said, was coming in the very near future. I said that, except in Limerick and Cork cities, armament was very poor. (Pearse took issue with McCan being in charge of the Volunteers in the county, because he was not in the IRB. Ó Duibhir however backed him.) "Now that the Rising is coming very speedily, will you agree to do your utmost, whether or not you get orders from the County Commandant?" (asked Pearse). "Well", I said, "if I can get a sufficient body of men to come out, I will certainly do that, but I think you can rely on the County Commandant" (McCan). (WS 1,403)



Eamon Ó Duibhir

APRIL TO MAY 1916 *(During)*

8. Memory of Frank Drohan, Clonmel, Gaelic League enthusiast, IRB member and local Volunteer leader.

"I was always expecting the call to arms which did eventually take place at Easter, 1916. Before that we had various test mobilisations to assure that everything was working smoothly and to estimate what response might be expected to the call when it came, and I found I could depend on about 47 or 50, which was pretty good. It was on Easter Saturday that I got the word. I don't know how it was that I did not get word earlier than that. A man named Con Deere from Dundrum - he was a returned Irish-American and was with Eamon O'Dwyer's crowd around Dundrum - brought us the news in the cryptic form that the "goods had arrived" and we were going out the next morning. I called the lads together.....

On Easter Sunday morning I had all the officers in our yard, the coach building yard in Irishtown, arranging what we were going to do. I sent a messenger named John Mackey over to Fethard. The orders I had got to rise gave no details as to what precisely we were to do. This was left entirely to ourselves. There were no other Volunteer units surrounding us, although we had I.R.B. Circles in places like Fethard and Cashel. The Clonmel Volunteer Company was more or less isolated. Pierse McCan had a little crowd of Volunteers up at Dualla, and he had gone up to Dublin when he got the news on Saturday, to make sure that everything was alright, because Pierse was a very careful man. Knowing he had gone up, I sent Seamus O'Neill across to meet him when he came back. Seán Treacy from Tipperary also went to meet him. He brought down the news that the goods had arrived and we were going out. That was the message McCan brought back, that the rising was arranged to begin on Easter Sunday.

So I sent John Mackey over to Fethard on the Sunday morning to tell the Fethard fellows, the few of them that were there, to come into Lisonagh and that we would meet them there and capture Lisonagh R.I.C. Barracks. After that we would attack places like Clerihan and such outlying Barracks where there were only five or six police, as we felt unable to deal with anything in Clonmel itself where, in addition to a strong barracks of twenty or more police, there was also a military barracks. We aimed to move on towards Cashel then and link up there with Pierse McCan where we hoped to be able to take Cashel Barracks that night. While we were going over these plans, John Mackey returned and with him were two men in a motor car. They were waiting for me outside the yard. These men were the bearers of a message informing me that the whole thing had been called off, that is, that the rising would not take place as planned."
(WS 702)



Frank Drohan

9. Fr Michael Maher, Boherlahan native, was secretary to Archbishop Harty in 1916. He kept a diary. This entry gives a sense of how desperate people were for news about events in Dublin.

"Having said Mass I went to inquire whether any one had come from Dublin and I found that one young man had left



Archbishop Harty

the ill-fated city on Tuesday morning and made his way home, arriving in Thurles by the train which left Sallins on Wednesday morning and arrived at about 9.30a.m. I immediately sought an interview with him. He is a shop assistant at Phil Moloney's named Joe Moloughney, the

captain of the Thurles hurlers. He went to Dublin on Monday to a meeting of the G.A.A. and stayed at the Royal Exchange Hotel in Parliament St.

This was the first authentic account I got of the Rising and I intended to go straight to the Archbishop to tell him. I was disappointed in this, as he had gone to the Conference in Tipperary before I got to the Palace and he had a letter that morning delivered by a railway engine driver from Mr Lundo M.P. giving a rather sanguinary account of the whole

business. Mr. Lundo alleged that he went to Dublin and inquired on the spot. That letter the Archbishop read in Tipperary for the priests. I was sorry I had not seen him before he

went because I had first hand evidence that could not be denied and it showed that the slaughter was not all what it was reported to be during the first few days. Mr. Lundo said that at least one General was killed and that Lord Dunraven was shot and that blood was being shed on a large scale. When the Archbishop returned that evening, I told him my story and he was greatly relieved that things were not so bad as he was given to understand. I was particularly pleased to have met Mr. Moloughney because I had to address the Holy Family (confraternity) that night and I could not easily refrain from saying something about the topic that was the sole subject of conversation amongst the people. I had now something worth saying."
(Maher Diaries 1916, vol. 5, p. 80)



Joe Moloughney



Cathedral Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

A black and white portrait of a middle-aged man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

P.J. Reilly

days elapsed before he was able with some considerable difficulty, to secure a motor car and he got to Dublin.....There were any amount of rumours as to the state of things in the country and it was stated in some of the papers that there were disturbances in Clonmel and it was difficult to find out whether the G.S. & W. trains were running and how far it was possible to get by any of them...."

(Nationalist, 10 May 1916)

11. Maurice Headlam, an official at Dublin Castle, together with a friend, having stayed at Knocklofty (Clonmel) with the Donoughmores in order to do some fishing, was returning with his hosts by rail to Dublin on Easter Monday.



M. Headlam

"It was pouring with rain.... we stopped as usual at Thurles but the stop seemed longer than usual...I was told that there was a rebellion in Dublin and the train was not going any further – no one seemed to know exactly what had happened. The Donoughmores at once decided to go back to Clonmel and once by Rosslare and Fishguard and took the next train back; though as we learned afterwards, they were not able to cross that way either.

Anthony (Headlam's friend) was in a great state about the safety of his wife and family in his lonely country house at Clondalkin... He at once set about trying to hire a motor in Thurles to take us there....It was a gloomy drive through heavy rain along deserted roads ...At Abbeyleix, Anthony who had become nervous lest his family might be without food, bought a ham, a large tin of biscuits and some chocolate...." (Maurice Headlam, *Irish Reminiscences*, London 1947)

THE TIPPERARY STAR.

INSURRECTION ENDS.

**COLLAPSE OF SINN FEIN
RISING.**

**Large Surrenders---Remainder
Routed.**

**APPALLING DESTRUCTION OF
PROPERTY**

HUNDREDS DEAD AND WOUNDED

MARTIAL LAW THROUGHOUT IRELAND.

Three of the Seven Leaders Executed.

Penal Servitude for the Others

THE IRISH INSURRECTION IS AT AN END.
HUNDREDS ARE DEAD AND WOUNDED.
THE CENTRE OF THE IRISH CAPITAL IS IN RUINS.
AT LEAST £2,000,000 WORTH OF PROPERTY IS DESTROYED.
THREE OF THE SEVEN LEADERS HAVE BEEN TRIED BY COURT-MARTIAL AND SHOT. THREE OTHER LEADERS ARE SENTENCED TO PENAL SERVITUDE.
MR. AUGUSTINE HIRRELL, CHIEF SECRETARY HAS RESIGNED.
MR. REDMOND PLEADS FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE MASSES OF THE INSURGENTS.

On Easter Monday, 24th April, the carefully-planned Sinn Féin Revolution broke out in the Capital of Ireland with dramatic suddenness and during the next few days extended slightly to various localities, Co. Wick and Co. Monaghan. Outside the City of Dublin the rising did not become general in more than the shooting of a chase a score police. But the Dublin

except the bomb at Trinity College. The military appeared to be trying to ascertain the exact nature and extent of the rising they had to face, and were unwilling to target any of the forces they were available since the rebelled people, since they had fully grasped the situation. The situation showed, urgent messages were at once despatched to the Curragh and Belfast for every available soldier, and communications were also opened.

12. From a diary kept by Lord Donoughmore (Knocklofty, Clonmel). Together with Lady Donoughmore, her maid and the Bagwells of Marlfield (Clonmel), they drove to Dublin, hoping to travel to England.

"Tuesday 25th April.....We decided to try and reach the Kildare Street Club to ascertain what the state of affairs was People seemed to be walking about in the streets without fear but we noticed that no trams were running..... About half-way down Harcourt Street there were people standing congregated in the doorways and these whistled to us as we went. We therefore stopped and a gentleman came out and told us that the Sinn Feiners were in possession of Stephen's Green, not more than 200 yards distant, that they were seizing all motor-cars that went down there, that the road was barricaded and that they were firing indiscriminately at passers-by. We turned the motor as fast as we could



6th earl of Donoughmore (1905)

and made off in the way we had come, but we had hardly started before I heard two rifle shots fired. The first hit the road under the car; the second passed through the tail window at the back of the hood, went through Mrs Bagwell's shoulder, through the upper part of Mr Bagwell's right arm, passed through the sleeve of my greatcoat, inflicting a slight flesh wound and out through the glass screen of the car...."

(Maurice Headlam, Irish Reminiscences, London 1947)

13. That same day (Tuesday 25 April) in Tipperary town.

"About 10.45 on Tuesday night a lad named Patrick Ryan, son of a labourer residing at New Road, Tipperary, was wounded in the leg by a revolver shot.....It appears that Ryan was passing along with some other lads through the New Town singing songsan altercation took place between (Michael O'Callaghan) and them about Sinn Féiners, as a result of which, it is alleged, the man fired a revolver amongst them, wounding Ryan in the leg. The police endeavoured to arrest the man ... but during the night he effected his escape"

(Clonmel Chronicle, 26 April 1916)



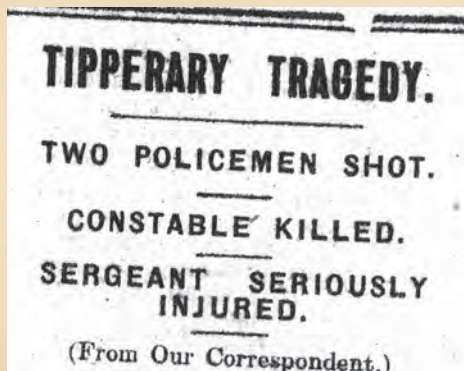
M. O'Callaghan



Original 1916 inquest on Sergeant Rourke

14. On Wednesday morning, the local press reported.

"In connection with the shooting incident in New Tipperary last night, a tragic result has quickly followed. The police have circulated a description of the missing man, whose name is Michael O'Callaghan....About eleven o'clock



Nationalist 29th April 1916

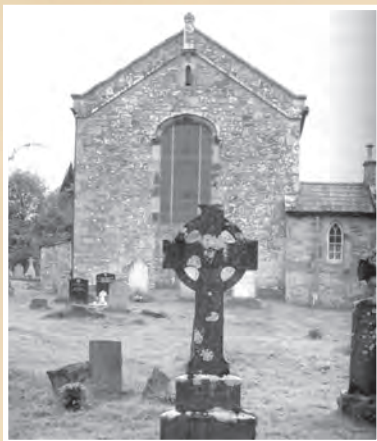
this morning, when two policemen, a sergeant and a constable, went in pursuit of the fugitive, they encountered him at the house of a Mr Peter Hennessy, Monour, near Tipperary, a relative of O'Callaghan's. It would appear that when the police entered Hennessy's house they found O'Callaghan sitting at the kitchen fire...."

(Tipperary Star, 29 April 1916)

15. From Michael O'Callaghan's own account of killing two members of the RIC.

"Two policemen came in and one of them, the Sergeant, put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Who is this man?" and that minute I drew the revolver and shot him through the stomach. The other fellow made for the door and he stood in the doorway and he was fumbling with his tunic and I ran after him and he still kept going. He was about 25 or 30 yards from the door and I shot him through the head."

(Sworn evidence with respect to his military pension application, 21 Jan 1942)



Grave of Sgt. Thomas Rourke, Clonbeg

16. Constable John Hurley was brought home to Berehaven for burial.

"The scene presented at Berehaven pier when Constable Hurley's remains were being taken off the steamer was one that will not be readily forgotten.

Thousands of people had collected to pay a last tribute to the murdered boy and the impressive silence that reigned over the whole assembly as the cortege wended its way to the cemetery bespoke the horrified feelings of all present ...All the civilian population attended, shops were closed and a pall of gloom seemed to have settled over the town."

(Skibbereen Eagle, 6 May 1916)



John Hurley RIC

17. In the absence of hard news, wild rumours circulated. From the diary of Fr Michael Maher in Thurles.

"(Thursday morning, Easter week) On my way over to the Cathedral, Father M.K. Ryan told me that he had heard that Mr. McCan had marched on Cashel at the head of six hundred men, that a strong force of men was out in Tipperary, that a contingent had risen in Ballagh and headed for the mountains lead by a farmer. I was astounded, but I could not satisfy myself that Mr. McCan could get 600 men to follow him and I was quite incredulous about the other parts of the story. We went to the funeral (at Upperchurch) and along the road we noticed the farmers working in their gardens as hard as they ever worked on a fine day in Spring. There were certainly no signs of commotion, and the farther we went, the more we were convinced that there was nothing in the air. I met Mr Hackett M.P (for Tipperary Mid) at Upperchurch and I asked him what he heard and he said that he came from Ballingarry that morning and everything was quiet there. He heard about Ballagh and about the railway being torn up at Dundrum, but we saw trains coming from that direction as we went out by Ballycahill. I then met a man from Ballagh and I asked him what was happening about his locality. He saw that the people were very busy tilling for the potato crop and there was no rising of any sort in his neighbourhood."

(Maher Diaries 1916, vol. 5, p. 80)

18. During the week after the Easter Rising, the authorities arrested suspects around the country.

"On Tuesday night (2 May)



Fr. M. Maher

police and military visited a number of houses in Clonmel and arrested the following who were removed in the morning by train under escort.

John Morrissey (married) carpenter; Thomas Halpin, clerk; Philip Cunningham, draper's assistant; Dominick Mackey, cycle mechanic; Frank Drohan, coachbuilder. Authority to publish the above only reached us at 7.30 on Wednesday evening when our second edition had been printed and sold out.

We are informed that the following have also been arrested P.J. Moloney, Tipperary; Wm. Benn, Tipperary; Thos. Rogers, Tipperary; Wm. E. Ryan, Tipperary; Thos. Daly, Tipperary; Louis J. Dalton, Tipperary; Con Deere, Goold's Cross; Michael Sheehan, Dundrum; P. McCan, Newpark, Cashel; Ed. Dwyer, Ballagh.

An armed party in charge of Sergeant Nolan of New Inn visited Rockwell College at seven o'clock on Thursday morning and arrested Seamus O'Neill of Clonmel, who was employed in the College as a teacher of Irish. O'Neill was in bed at the time. He got up and dressed while the party waited in his room and he was then conveyed to Cahir and taken thence by rail to Cork."

(Nationalist, 6 May 1916)



Seamus O'Neill



Rockwell College, Cashel, Co. Tipperary

19. James Ryan, a Clonmel Coachbuilder was arrested on Tuesday 2 May and with others, taken to Tipperary military barracks and then to Cork.

"We were removed, from Tipperary to Cork Military Bks. next day. The handcuffs were now cutting our wrists and P.J. Moloney strongly protested. In Cork we were confined in the Military



James Ryan

Detention Bks. Mr. Kent, Castlelyons, was executed the following morning at the rear of the Detention. A soldier told me he was badly treated and shot in his bare feet and trousers. We heard the volleys but did not see the execution. Late that evening we were removed to Cork JailEn route the people thought to rescue some of the prisoners and we were in grave danger of being shot. After about one week in Cork Jail we were removed under escort to Richmond Bks. Dublin. Here we were placed in a room 40 by 20 feet, about 100 prisoners in each room. We slept on the bare floor in our clothes, with four sentries at each door and no lavatory accommodation."
(WS 151)



Pierce McCan

20. From Pierce McCan's own account of his arrest.

"At half past four on the morning of the 3rd of May, I was awakened from my sleep by the significant sound of a police whistle. Instantly I knew what was the matter and on pulling aside

the blind I saw some soldiers moving cautiously in the grey dawn outside while others on one knee covered the windows of the house with their rifles.....Going down stairs I opened the hall door to find the D(istrict) I(nspecter)., automatic pistol in hand and two constables standing on the steps. On the sweep some little distance behind, a considerable number of police were drawn up in line. The D.I. asked if I were Pierce McCan and



Ballyowen House, Cashel, Co. Tipperary.

on replying that I was, two constables searched my pockets – for firearms I suppose – but found none. I was then told to put on my boots as I had to be taken away at once....."

(McCan Papers, MS 26772(5), NLI)

21. In response to arrests in Clonmel, Archdeacon Flavin SS Peter & Paul's Clonmel wrote to the press on 17 May.

".....Another batch of worthy young citizens was arrested this morning and they are being hurried off to prison as I write. If the authorities want to exasperate our peaceful and law abiding people and to leave wounds in their hearts that will take long to heal, they are going just the right way about it...."

(Freeman's Journal, 18 May 1916)



Fr Flavin, Parish of SS. Peter & Paul, Clonmel

22. On Monday 8 May, the executive of the AOH Tipperary County Board met and unanimously passed this resolution:

"That we deplore the recent terrible happenings in our beloved metropolis and while dissociating ourselves from the misguided actions of a small section of our countrymen, we believe the lamentable results attending same are directly traceable to the fact that Sir E. Carson, the Curragh officers and their high-placed supporters were allowed in 1914 to defy the law..."
(Nationalist, 13 May 1916)



*Ancient Order of
Hibernians*

23. Memory of Martin Grace, Carrigatogher, Nenagh, formerly quartermaster, 3rd Battalion, 1st Tipperary Brigade.

"...At the time of the Rising in 1916 there were not more than thirty men in the Nenagh Company under the captaincy of Frank McGrath..... I have an idea that, a short time prior to the outbreak of the Insurrection in 1916, McGrath was injured in a match and that he was in hospital before and after Easter Week. This may account for the fact that at no time, previous to the Rising or while it was in progress, was there a mobilisation of the Nenagh Company of which I was then still a member. After the Rising the Irish Volunteer Movement fell away in the Nenagh area and I cannot recall



Martin Grace

having had any association with the Republican Movement again until around June or July, 1917 when the Nenagh Company was revived on the initiative of Frank McGrath.

Most, if not all, of the men who were in the Company up to Easter Week 1916 rejoined and, due probably to the results of the executions of the Volunteer leaders after the Rising more than anything else, a lot of new recruits came into the ranks."

(WS 1,416)

24. Memory of Liam Hoolan, Commandant 1st Tipperary Brigade.

"There was no Irish Volunteer organisation, as far as I am aware, in North Tipperary at the time of the Rising at Easter Week, 1916. There was, however, some activity at Lorrha where Felix Cronin and some of his boys disrupted



Liam Hoolan

telegraphic communication. Immediately after the Rising the RIC arrested a few people in North Tipperary who were known to have Sinn Féin and Irish Volunteer sympathies. Amongst those arrested at the time was Mr. P. Gantley of Roscrea. A branch of the National Aid and Prisoners' Dependents Fund was established in Nenagh after the insurrection, and a considerable sum of money for the fund was raised by collections or through functions organised for that purpose."

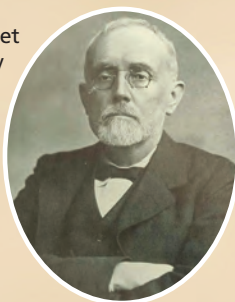
(WS 1,553)

MAY TO DECEMBER 1916 (After)

25. Nenagh UDC met on Thursday 25 May

"Mr William Hogan, while deploring the 'rising' proposed a resolution endorsing Mr John Dillon's speech and protesting against the executions and deportations.

The chairman, Mr Michael Guilfoyle in putting the resolution, described Mr Dillon's speech as the impassioned address of an honest Irishman....the Sinn Féiners, while demonstrating their courage, bravery and skill, had also demonstrated their foolishness by rising against the Empire at such a moment." (Tipperary Star, 27 May 1916)



John Dillon

26. After the Rising, along with troop movements went rumours.

"A detachment of the Sherwood Foresters, about 150 strong, arrived in Nenagh on Sunday morning (21 May) by rail from Killaloe. They put up at the old Military Barracks and remained in the town until next morning when they left for Borrisokane. O'Meara's Hotel, where the officers had their quarters, was guarded by a sentry with a fixed bayonet. When the coming of the military was first known on Saturday evening the

rumour went round that arrests would be made and houses searched. The rumour received some credence as on Monday morning a breach loading shot gun was discovered in Abbey Lane, having been thrown there by some person who feared a search."

(Tipperary Star, 27 May 1916)

27. Along with rumours were some conspiracy theories. Fr David Humphreys PP of Killenaule, one of the best known priests in the county involved with the land war and the struggle over the Erasmus Smith educational endowment, wrote to the Dublin press on 4 June.



Rev. D. Humphreys

"....How is poor Ireland and how does she stand? It is a fact as well-established as the existence of Dublin Castle, that Dublin Castle has had spies in every Irish revolutionary organisationThis could have been taken for granted in the Sinn Féin movement....Dublin Castle knew to a unit the number of Sinn Féiners in every county, in every town, in every village in Ireland. It knew to a unit the number of rifles, shotguns, bayonets, revolvers and pistols they possessed....At the meeting in the Castle held at 12 o'clock on Easter Sunday night the Lord Lieutenant very properly and humanly ordered that the Sinn Féin leaders should be arrested at 2 o'clock that morning. (This was not done and Humphreys' contention was that the Rising was allowed by the authorities to get rid of the Sinn Féin leadership and benefit Carson)"

(Tipperary Star, 10 June 1916 – reprinted)



Castle Street, Nenagh c.1910



Richmond Barracks, Dublin

28. Frank Drohan, Clonmel, along with others was arrested on 2 May, taken to Tipperary military barracks, then to Cork and from there to Richmond Barracks in Dublin.

"When we were a week or more in Richmond Barracks we were again marshalled on the barrack square and marched out the Quays where we were placed on a ship for England. The Dublin people had been sending us in food and cigarettes and suchlike while we were in Richmond Barracks but when we were on the square getting ready to march off we were issued out with a small tin of bully-beef between every two men and six hard biscuits each. This was to be our rations until we reached our destination. It was about three o'clock in the evening when we were formed up on the barrack square and about 7 p.m. when we went aboard the cattle boat at the North Wall. It was about 9 p.m. when the boat put to sea and it would be 2 p.m. on the following day when we landed in Glasgow..... Barlinnie prison reminded us of the prison we had left behind us in Cork when we saw the cells, but the military had apparently taken over this prison, for it was military were in charge."
(WS 702)

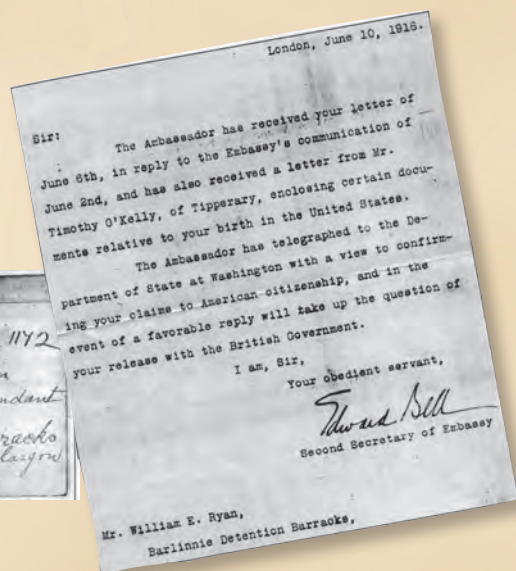
29. A number of those arrested in Tipperary and deported spent time at Barlinnie Barracks in Glasgow. Among H. M. guests were Willie Benn, Willie Ryan (who was not the first to try and make use of American birth) and P. J. Moloney (Tipperary), Frank Drohan and Dominick Mackey (Clonmel). A local newspaper sent a reporter.



Dominick Mackey

"...The visitor enters a little cell-like apartment and the prisoner is brought to the other side of large iron bars, through which, in the presence of an official, the conversation must be carried on. Thus not more than two of the prison inmates can be seen at once....(The reporter asked one prisoner why he was there) ...he did not know, as like the bulk of the other prisoners, no charge had been formulated against him.....The prisoners on their part made an excellent impression..... many of them are men of culture and education....."

(Glasgow Observer, 10 June 1916)



Ryan letter

30. In the summer of 1916 a support organisation for families of republican activists affected by the Rising was established. Called the Irish National Aid Association (INAA) it quickly spread. At a meeting in Cashel on 28 June to establish a branch, Dean Ryan spoke. *"We have our different views with regard to what is called the rising or the rebellion that took place in Dublin in Easter Week.whatever view we may take as to the wisdom of the movement - and I think you are all perfectly well aware as to what my views are....I give credit for purity of intention and generosity of patriotic sentiment and undoubted courage to those who did take part in the rising. They meant well and they acted courageously (hear, hear)....I am confident I am voicing the feelings of the people of Cashel when I say that we will prove in a practical manner the sympathy which is felt for the destitute and needy families who have suffered because of the Dublin rebellion."* (Tipperary People, 30 June 1916)



Dean I. Ryan

31. Church gate collections were organised. In Nenagh the Appeal published in the local press was not subtle. *"We speak for the Destitute Families of some Three Hundred Men SLAIN during the Insurrection, of Fifteen EXECUTED by sentences of Courts-martial, of One Hundred and Thirty Four Condemned to PENAL SERVITUDE, of Two Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty DEPORTED without Trial and of many more awaiting decision of their Fate.....Shall it be said that the PEOPLE of NENAGH saw unmoved these Tribulations of their Countrymen?Subscriptions will be Thankfully Received by any of the undersigned. Timothy O'Donoghue, C.C.; James O'Meara, UDC; William Courtney MD; Patrick Ryan; William Hoolan; James O'Brien, Solr. GOD SAVE IRELAND."* (Nenagh Guardian, 10 June 1916)

— THE IRISH —
National Aid Association
— K —
TO THE
PEOPLE of NENAGH

There has recently Appeared in the Dublin Newspapers

An Appeal

BY THE
— IRISH —

National Aid Association

OF BENAGH OF THE

Stricken Families

And Dependents of those who have suffered DEPORTATION, IMPRISONMENT, and DEATH as a result of the Recent Insurrection. The Appeal indicates no approval of and is in no wise concerned with the wisdom or the propriety of the occurrences which mark last Easter Week as one of the most unhappy in the history of this land. It is, in the language of the Promoters, "An Appeal to all human hearts whose Noble Compassion can reach every obstacle to redress wrongs and alleviate suffering," and amongst its Signatories are names whose bearers have won a shining place in the affections of their countrymen—

A Patriot Priest, a Gavane, Duffy and a Davitt.

Such an Appeal we, with all earnestness COME to the

People of Nenagh

Many, powerful and spiritual are, thank God, the forces which have made it their duty to relieve the Distress and to Repair the Disaster which has come upon our Capital City. We speak on behalf of the hapless Women and Children too, in a Devotion to FLEAD for THEMSELVES and upon whom has already fallen

As a Court action. The Dublin the pr Mr M. met-c Dublin Mr appea, C the of neese contr the w Mr hault May, six of no is (now) (dram) the n leaso

An Avenging Punishment

unknown in our time and rare in any. We speak for the Destitute Families of some Three Hundred Men SLAIN during the Insurrection, of Fifteen EXECUTED by sentences of Courts-martial, of One Hundred and Thirty Four Condemned to PENAL SERVITUDE, of Two Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty DEPORTED without Trial, and of many more awaiting decision of their Fate. Here, indeed, is sorrow which has already won the sympathies of other than Irish hearts. Shall it then be said that the PEOPLE of NENAGH saw unmoved these Tribulations of their Countrymen? Your RESPONSE to this APPEAL shall be your answer to this question. A Local Branch of the National Aid Association has been Formed, and Subscriptions will be Thankfully Received by any of the undersigned.

TIMOTHY O'DONOGHUE, C.C.
JAMES O'MEARA, UDC,
WILLIAM COURTNEY, M.D.
PATRICK RYAN,
WILLIAM HOOLAN,
JAMES O'BRIEN, Solr.

God Save Ireland.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Rev G Collins, C.C. Silvermine	4 10 0	o
Rev M Hogan, P.P. Silvermine	5 5 0	o
John Ryan, Camra	3 0 0	o
Jeremiah Ryan	2 2 0	o
Rev M Flannery, C.C. Ballywilliam	2 2 0	o
William McDermott, Tullis	2 2 0	o
Rev T O'Donoghue, C.C.	2 2 0	o
Dr Courtney, M.D.	1 1 0	o
John Macgill, agent, Co. Connell	1 1 0	o
Thomas O'Meara, C.B.	1 1 0	o
Michael O'Brien, U.D.C. Queen-st.	1 1 0	o
Joe O'Meara, Hotel, Nenagh	1 1 0	o
Rev P Coleman (Counsellor manager)	1 1 0	o
Michael O'Brien, Lockney	1 1 0	o
John McCreary, Barnack-street	1 1 0	o
Daniel Nealon, N.T.	1 1 0	o
Wm Flannery, Kilrusse	1 1 0	o
Michael Flannery, Church-street	1 1 0	o
Wm Hoolan	1 1 0	o
Frank McGee, P.L.G.	1 1 0	o
Joe Nolan, Connahurst	1 1 0	o
M. Glesne	1 1 0	o
Gay Prior	1 1 0	o
Michael Macgill	1 1 0	o
A O'Leary, Barnack-street	1 1 0	o
Patrick Ryan, Barnack-street	1 1 0	o
John D. Flannery	1 1 0	o
T. J. Williams, M.D.	1 1 0	o
Edward O'Leary, Woodwood	1 1 0	o

So each: Denis Flannery, Silver-st.; E. T. Burke; So each: John Grace, Queen-st.; Michael O'Donoghue, do; John Reedy, do; Edward Ryan, Barnack-street; Emily (Vanguard's Pharmacy); Jeremiah Sheary, Kilmarilla.

Further subscriptions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by
REV T. O'DONOGHUE, C.C.
JAMES O'BRIEN, Solr.
Wm. COURTNEY, M.D.
JAMES O'MEARA, UDC,
PATRICK RYAN
WILLIAM HOOLAN

Hon. Treas.
Hon. Secs.

Nenagh Guardian
10 June 1916



Bank Place, Tipperary Town

32. In Tipperary Town Redmond's Volunteers were excluded from helping the INAA. On Wednesday 21 June, at a Volunteer meeting the following resolution was passed.

"That inasmuch as no representative of our body was summoned to the meeting forming the local branch of the National Aid Association, we the Tipperary Town Corps (Clanwilliam Battalion) of the National Volunteers, do hereby open a subscription list for the victims of the recent rebellion and we call on all corps in the Battalion to hand their subscriptions through their secretaries to the Battalion treasurer."

(Tipperary People, 23 June 1916)

33. Illustrating how Irishmen made different choices, on 26 June, Pierse McCan wrote to a friend. McCan was locked up at Knutsford Prison in Cheshire. His friend Mrs O'Kelly lived in Galway and had sons on the Western Front.

".....My writing to you has never deprived Mother of a letter...so long as we stamp

them we are allowed to write as often as we wish. But we are to be moved to an internment camp in Wales tomorrow or after probably and there I hear we will be only allowed to write once a week.....I know there is heavy fighting where your sons are at present. But please God all the prayers that are being offered for them will bring them through all safely. I remember you and them every day at the Stations (of the Cross). Five of us are still kept apart from the others but now that we can talk among ourselves and see visitors, it is not as bad."

(Pierse McCan to Mrs O'Kelly, Knutsford, 26 June 1916 - McCan Papers, Ms 26772(2), NLI)



Knutsford, Prison, Cheshire, UK

34. Towns like Clonmel and Tipperary had a strong military presence.

"On Wednesday evening (5 July), about 6.15, a labourer named Thomas Allis, of Donaskeigh was arrested by Sergeant Stephens at Bank Place, Tipperary on the



Tipperary Town Military Barracks

charge of attempting to assault some wounded soldiers. It is alleged that Allis made some reference to the Dublin rebellion and said certain things to the soldiers and used insulting language to a military officer. (Allis resisted arrest and was helped by a blacksmith from Golden.) Both prisoners were handed over to the military authorities.”
(Tipperary People, 7 July 1916).

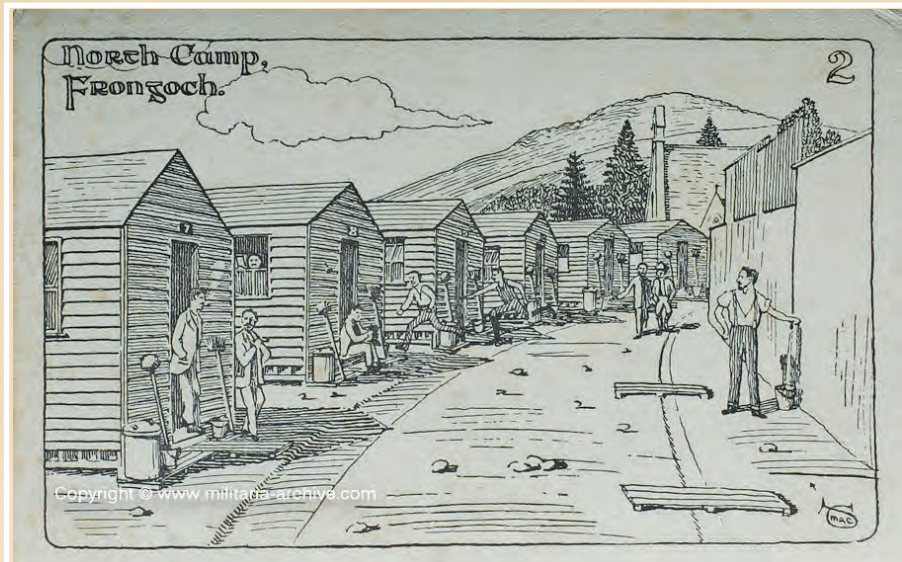
35. Many of those arrested ended up at an internment camp in Wales, a place called Frongoch.

“I leave Frongoch today to undergo the investigation in London (about possible release) but expect to return in a few days....I am in perfect health now... I think there will be a clearance one of these days. We had plenty of football. I'll write as soon as I can and let you know the result. The reason I didn't write last week was because they wanted us to stamp our letters entirely depriving us of a privilege which we up to this held....”
(Dominick Mackey to his brother Willie in

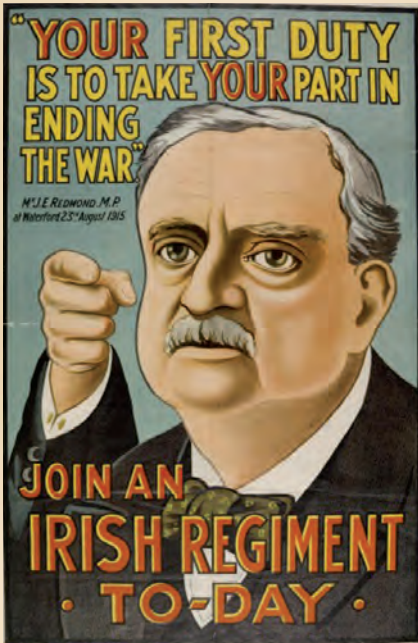
Clonmel, Frongoch, 11 July 1916)

36 At the AGM of the North Tipperary Executive UIL, in the Town Hall Nenagh on Thursday 27 July 1916, Michael Conway UIL organiser defended John Redmond.

“When the present war broke out, the Home Rule question, after years of long and anxious controversy was approaching solution.When the war broke out the prime minister put the Home Rule Act on the Statute Book and they had every reasonable guarantee then, as they had today, that it would be put in force immediately the war came to a close. Mr Redmond asked them, in the first place, to take their stand by the Allies...because their cause was just; because they stood for freedom, because they were going to win and because this country was going to remain part of the British Empire....Mr Redmond asked further that those who could make the sacrifice should join the army.....the moment the (rebels) found themselves in real and serious danger



Frongoch Internment Camp, Wales



John Redmond

the members of the Irish party exerted themselves on their behalf and strained every effort to save and help these men...."

(Nenagh Guardian, 29 July 1916)

37. Some public representatives were losing faith. At a meeting of Tipperary Board of Guardians at the end of July 1916.

(Denis Quinlan, Cullen)

"The Irish Party had charge of the affairs of the country for the past thirty five or forty years and they were now



Tipperary Workhouse

in a worse condition than ever. The Irish Party had no right to agree to the partitioning of Ireland. They could now see what Mr Redmond had got from the Prime Minister of EnglandEven Castlereagh who carried the Act of Union by corruption and bribery, never dared to speak of partition."

(Nationalist, 2 August 1916)

38. A consequence of the war was the rising cost of food. Claiming that bread was more expensive in Tipperary town than elsewhere, the UDC was asked to take action. A member of the council declared that:

"The County Agricultural Instructor said that the townspeople should turn out of markets, farmers who came to buy potatoes that are wanted as food for the poor... and every pressure should be brought on these men to compel them to till a reasonable portion of their land... (The chairman closing the discussion said) The council have no power to take action in the matter. The only thing you can do is to recommend all householders to bake their own bread."

(Tipperary Star, 11 Nov 1916)

39. From a Review of 1916 in North Tipperary by RIC County Inspector E.W. Mulliner, dated Nenagh 20 Jan 1917.

"The Sinn Féin movement never obtained a serious hold on this Riding as a whole. The only portion of it where trouble



Ernest Mulliner

might have been expected was on the Southern side, i.e. in and around Thurles where there is certainly a strong undercurrent of disloyalty and sedition. This portion had been worked up by the notorious Piersce McCan and Edward Dwyer (Eamon Ó Duibhir)....

..... Since the rebellion the Irish Volunteers have practically ceased to exist..... The GAA is an active organisation and has much influence among the youth of the Riding. The majority of its members would not encourage sedition, although it has a good many members of disloyal and Sinn Féin tendencies.....

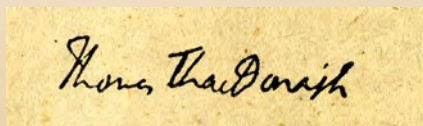
..... The effect of the Rising in this Riding was confined to the cutting of telegraph wires in four or five places and a few members of the Inch branch are said to have marched with arms towards Dwyer's residence in the South Riding.....After the executions of the rebel leaders in Dublin, the feeling of the majority of the people changed greatly.....

..... Taking the Catholic priests as a body, they were not in sympathy with the rebellion in the first instance but afterwards (like others) they strongly resented the punishment of the rebels. I heard of no case in the Riding in which priests gave expression to pronounced Sinn Féin views, although they no doubt expressed great sympathy for the rebels themselves. There is little doubt that many of the younger clergy hold Sinn Féin views...."

(CO/904/120)



Thomas MacDonagh



McDonagh Signature.. SF Handbook

40. From a Review of 1916 in South Tipperary by RIC County Inspector W.H. Langhorne, dated Clonmel 22 Jan 1917. "I beg to report during the year 1916, if the period of turmoil caused by the Sinn Féin Rebellion be excluded, the county was in a peaceable state and on the average, orderly, saving for the drilling and marching in small bodies of the Irish Volunteers. The murder of a sergeant and constable took place in April but there have been no instances of riot or disorder. The assemblage of bodies of men under arms with intent to attack the barracks at Clonmel in the same month of April did not otherwise break into disorder and no collision took place between them and the forces of the Crown, then or at other times....."

(CO/904/120)

4 Sept 2015.



Volunteers in Fethard

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN. THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty: six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE.

SEAN Mac DIARMADA.

THOMAS MacDONAGH.

P. H. PEARSE.

EAMONN CEANNT.

JAMES CONNOLLY.

JOSEPH PLUNKETT.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

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ÉIRE
IRELAND

1916
2016

Clár Comórtha
Céad bliain
Gortaíocht
Programme