

# Bantry 1916 AND beyond



NOVEMBER 1913 WAS A SIGNIFICANT MONTH FOR 'BEGINNINGS' THAT LEAD TO MAJOR EVENTS IN IRISH HISTORY IN THE SECOND DECADE OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

**1st November 1913** *The North Began*, an article by Eoin MacNeill, historian at University College Dublin and prominent member of the Gaelic League, appears in *An Claidheamh Soluis*. It calls for nationalists to follow the example of the UVF and establish a citizen militia.

**19th November 1913** The Irish Citizen Army is founded in Dublin city by Jim Larkin to protect members of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union from the police while staging a workers strike.

**25th November 1913** The Irish Volunteers are established by prominent nationalists under the leadership of Eoin MacNeill

**PRIOR TO THIS, WE SAW A NUMBER OF EVENTS THAT LED TO A REVIVAL IN ALL THINGS IRISH.**

The Gaelic Revival was a late 19th century national revival of the Irish Language and Irish Gaelic culture (incl. folklore, sports, music, arts etc)

The Gaelic Athletic Association was founded in 1884.

*Conradh na Gaeilge* was founded in 1893 by Eoin MacNeill and others. Douglas Hyde was its first President. Padraig Pearse was an important Irish writer at the time.

Lady Gregory (1852-1932), supported the Irish Literary Revival, and together with William Butler Yeats and Edward Martin co-founded the Irish Literary Theatre. Later we have the Abbey Theatre in Dublin.

On the political front, the Land League was formed in 1879. Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891) was elected in 1875 and joined the Home Rule Party, led by Isaac Butt. Parnell garnered some support for Home Rule at Parliament, but when it came to a vote it was defeated a number of times.

The Government of Ireland Act 1914, also known as Home Rule Act was passed by Parliament of Great Britain, but its implementation was delayed for a minimum of 12 months due to the First World War. As the War continued on after 1915, frustration increased among the Irish who were already inspired by all the earlier Revival movements. Nationalists believed this was a good time for Insurrection, with England at war in Europe.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR  
GAELIC LEAGUE CARNIVAL



WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS



LADY GREGORY



IMAGE TAKEN FROM COVER OF ADVERTISING  
BOOKLET FOR DUKE'S CIGARETTES SHOWING  
PARNELL CUTTING IRELAND FREE FROM ENGLAND

LOOKING AT THE LOCAL SCENE in Bantry, and according to Ralph P Keyes, a Branch of the A.O.H. American Alliance was established in Bantry about 1909. It continued in active existence up to the time the Volunteer organisation was started. It had club rooms and a membership of about thirty. From the national point of view it was the most advanced organisation functioning in Bantry in those years. The local members of this organisation took the initiative and were responsible for the initiation of the Company of Irish Volunteers which was formed in December, 1913. The following Officers and Committee, all of whom were members of the American Alliance, were elected to organise and control the Volunteer Company:

Michael Hurley, *Chairman*.

Mark Sullivan, Main Street, *Secretary*

Michael O'Donovan.

David O'Mahony.

Dan MacSweeney, Ardnageehy.

These Officers and Committee continued in control of the Volunteer Company up to Easter, 1916.

Between 40 and 50 men joined the Company at the start, including most of the members of the American Alliance.

## LET ME LIKE A SOLDIER FALL

During the Winter of 1913/14 drills were held in the Town Hall. Denis Crowley, an ex-serviceman, was the first drill instructor. Later Sergeant Gordon, a Scotsman and a Reservist of the Marines, took on the job and, was a very good instructor. He continued to drill the Company until he was called up in Autumn, 1914. On his leaving Bantry, the local band - some of whose members were Volunteers - played him to the train. The tune they played was 'Let me like a soldier fall.'

In 1914 the Bantry Company of Irish Volunteers marched to Kealkil on a Sunday. Michael O'Donovan was in charge on that day.

There was little activity during the Winter of 1914/15. Numbers had fallen off considerably, but the organisation was carried on and parades were held in the Town Hall. At the end of 1915 the number of men in the Company had fallen to about twenty, and that continued to be the strength up to Easter, 1916.

According to Bantry Volunteer Tom Waters, at this time Co Cork was in the hands of two national factions. In West Cork, William O'Brien (1852 - 1928) considered to be one of the greatest parliamentarians of the 19th and early 20th century, had a very large following, while

John Redmond, (leader of the Irish Party in the British House of Commons) had followers known as 'Redmondites' who opposed the O'Brienites. The Redmondites were treated in a most hateful fashion, according to Waters.

## LEARN TO SHOOT STRAIGHT

On the Saturday before Easter Saturday Terence MacSwiney came to Bantry. He addressed all the members of the Company assembled at a parade. In the course of his speech he said the time had come to give up forming fours. What was needed now was to learn to shoot straight. Afterwards he had a conference with the Company Committee, at which he gave instructions for the parade on Easter Sunday - the Company was to parade after first Mass and proceed to Kealkil. They were to take all the arms they possessed and one day's rations. They would meet the members of Ballingearry Company at Kealkil; Sean O'Hegarty would be there and would take charge. He did not give any definite information that this was to be anything more than an ordinary Parade, and they did not anticipate that any action was contemplated. He did not suggest that there was to be a Rising or a landing of arms, but he left them with the impression that in the situation which then existed something serious may happen.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY  
ADVERTISEMENTS



EXHIBITION PRODUCED BY THE  
BANTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

designed by Jenny Dempsey 085 7580 569

BANTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE  
THE SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY  
ARCHIVES AND HAVE USED  
INFORMATION FROM WITNESS  
STATEMENTS REF #: 1597, 128 &  
1578 FOR THIS EXHIBITION.



ÉIRE  
IRELAND

19  
.....  
2016

Clár Comórtha  
Céad Bliain  
Centenary  
Programme



# BANTRY 1916 AND beyond

## EVENTS ON EASTER SUNDAY 1916



### EASTER SUNDAY 1916

About 18 members of the Bantry Company of the Irish Volunteers were activated on Easter Sunday 1916. They met after mass near The Mill - Bridge Street/ Chapel Street Bantry. Most of those who paraded that day lived in this side of town. The people of this area of town were locally known as *'The Rockies,'* presumably named after the many examples of rock outcrop visible at that time in this side of town.

Bantry Library (the design of which was inspired by the Irish Megalithic Portal Dolmens) now stands on the site of the then Bantry Woollen Mill

Some reports tell us the Bantry Company paraded after first Mass in St Finbarr's Church Bantry. Another report says they paraded at Dunnamark Bridge, one mile outside of town. All had bicycles and all cycled to Kealkil.

Ralph P Keyes tells us in his Witness Statement dated 1st June 1948 that the only arms they had were eight .32 Revolvers with about eighty rounds of ammunition. They had no rifles, shot guns or pikes in the Company. They had no equipment.

Having arrived in Kealkil, the Bantry Volunteers met the group of Volunteers from Ballingeary. In a field near the village, Seán Lynch, Captain of the Ballingeary Company, put them through some drill with his own men.

Later, the Bantry Volunteers learned that Sergeant Lonergan, R.I.C., Bantry, had brought an instruction from Bantry to the Sergeant in Kealkil to get as many names as possible of the men on parade. Lonergan and another policeman cycled from Bantry. They were on the road when the Volunteers came out after being dismissed. There was an attempt by the police to interfere with some of the Ballingeary men, but Seán O Hegarty intervened, and the police did not persist.

The police were armed with Revolvers, and had Carbines in the Barracks.

After the Volunteers were dismissed, the weather got very wet and they cycled back to Bantry in the rain, with the Police following them.

Names listed in Witness Statements of men who cycled from Bantry to Kealkil on Easter Sunday 1916 include:

**Seán Cotter**, Market Street  
**Michael Hurley**, Scart Road  
**Liam Kearney**, Harbour View  
**Ralph P. Keyes**, Market St  
**Thomas Linehan**, Market Street  
**Alex McCarthy**, Pearsons Bridge  
**Dan Mahoney**, Chapel St  
**Michael Murray** c/o Kelly & Co  
**Michael O'Donovan**, Wolfe Tone Square  
**Dan O'Regan**, Bridge Street  
**John O'Sullivan**, Market Street  
**John J. O'Sullivan**, Droumaclarig  
**Mark O'Sullivan**, Main Street  
**Mortimer O'Sullivan**, Droumaclarig  
**Patrick O'Sullivan**, Droumaclarig  
**Dan Sweeney**, Ardnageehy  
**Christopher Walsh**, Parade Field  
**Thomas Waters**, High Street

### LOCAL REACTION TO VOLUNTEERS

Thomas P Waters, in his Witness Statement dated 26th March 1957, tells us the Volunteers "had to put up with a great deal of insults from those people who considered themselves respectable" District Inspector Cruise who was in charge in the Bantry District made no arrests. The Volunteers were "simply ignored and insulted".



### TERENCE MCSWINEY 1879-1920

Terence MacSwiney was one of the founders of the Cork Brigade of the Irish Volunteers in 1913. He was active around the county, especially West Cork, in organising the Volunteer movement and setting up new Companies of same. His father was a native of Kilmurphy area in West Cork.

He was intended to be second in command of the Easter Rising in Cork and Kerry, but stood down his forces on the order of Eoin MacNeill.

Following the death of his friend Tomás MacCurtain, Terence MacSwiney was elected Lord Mayor of Cork in 1920 during the Irish War of Independence

On 12 August 1920 he was arrested for possession of seditious documents and of a cipher key to coded messages used by the R.I.C. He was tried by court martial on 16 August 1920 and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. After his arrest he immediately went on hunger strike. He was imprisoned in Brixton Prison where his continuing hunger strike attracted world-wide attention. He died on 25 October 1920 and his body was brought home for burial. He lies beside MacCurtain in the Republican plot in Saint Finbarr's Cemetery in Cork. His funeral on the 1 November 1920 attracted huge crowds. Cork City was plunged into mourning once again.

Terence MacSwiney influenced many people around the world, especially in India. Mahatma Gandhi counted MacSwiney among his influences.

Other figures beyond India who counted MacSwiney as an influence include Ho Chi Minh who was working in London at the time of MacSwiney's death and said of him, *"A nation that has such citizens will never surrender"*.



### ROGER CASEMENT & THE AUD

Irish revolutionary nationalists met in Dublin on 9th September 1914 to discuss the circumstances arising from the outbreak of war. They decided to look to England's enemies for help, and agreed to appeal to Germany for its support in an insurrection. Clan na Gael, a republican organisation of Irish-Americans in the U.S., was to provide the rebels with their main channel of communication with Germany.

Roger Casement, born near Dublin, in 1864, had served in the British consular service for twenty years. He was attracted by the potential of an Irish-German alliance as a means of securing full Irish independence. He was in the US when the war began and at once submitted a plan to German officials there, outlining how Britain's power could be broken by exploiting unrest in a place such as Ireland. He then travelled to Berlin for negotiations.

The German government agreed to ship 25,000 Russian rifles and one million rounds of ammunition, hoping thereby to divert some British troops from the western front. The consignment was despatched aboard the *"Aud"* on 9th April. Casement considered its size to be wholly inadequate, and that any rising was therefore doomed. He persuaded the German authorities to transport him to Ireland by submarine. His purpose was to rendezvous with the 'Aud' and supervise the landing of the arms. His actual intention was to prevent an insurrection.

The whole event ended in fiasco. Casement was arrested only hours after landing in Kerry. Due to poor planning, the local Volunteers had not been expecting it to arrive when it did.

The British Navy intercepted the *'Aud'* and ordered its Captain to follow them back to Queenstown (now Cobh). However, en route the *'Aud'*, following a pre-arranged plan was prepared for scuttling - charges were set, the crew put on their German naval uniforms, the German ensign was hoisted and the charges detonated off Daunt's Rock. All the crew surrendered and the *'Aud'* complete with cargo went to the seabed.

Casement was taken to London where he was subsequently tried and convicted of treason, sabotage and espionage against the Crown on June 29th 1916 - he appealed but it was turned down and he was hanged at Pentonville Prison on August 3rd 1916.

He is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.



Did you know?  
Terence MacSwiney actually lived in Bantry for a short while. He worked as a teacher of Commerce in the then Technical School in Bantry, which was located upstairs in New Street. That building is now occupied by O Keffe's SuperValu Bantry.



# BANTRY 1916 AND beyond

## NAMES LISTED IN WITNESS STATEMENTS of men who cycled to KEALKIL include

### MORTIMER O'SULLIVAN, DROUMACLARIG

was an active Bantry Volunteer but also continued with the family Building business. He later lived in Glengarriff Road, Bantry.



### THOMAS LINEHAN, MARKET STREET

Volunteer, he also worked as Rate Collector for Bantry Town Commissioners until 4th Dec 1923. He was the driving force behind the Dramatic Society in Bantry structured by Ernest Blythe.

### LIAM KEARNEY, HARBOUR VIEW

Joined Bantry Volunteers, later returned to Glanworth where he played an active part in Volunteer movement with Tom Barry, Battalion Adjutant. Emigrated to USA.



### RALPH P. KEYES, MARKET ST

Elected O/C Bantry Company early 1917. His appointment led to increased activity within Volunteer movement. He was in charge of many operations of the Volunteers. Hunger strike in Wormwood Scrubbs Prison.



### THOMAS WATERS, HIGH STREET

Active Volunteer in Bantry Company – he left Bantry late 1917 continued his work for Volunteer movement in Belfast.

### MICHAEL O DONOVAN, WOLFE TONE SQUARE

Was a member of initial Committee that organised and controlled the Volunteer Company in Bantry. Was O/C Bantry Company



### SEÁN COTTER

Took part in Training Camp in Glandore Aug 1919. Hunger Strike in Wormwood Scrubbs Prison



### MICHAEL HURLEY, SCART ROAD

Was Chairman of initial Committee that organised and controlled the Volunteer Company in Bantry

### ALEX MCCARTHY, PEARSONS BRIDGE

Bantry Volunteer. Activated for Easter Sunday 1916 Parade Bantry to Kealkil. He later emigrated to England where he worked all his life.

### DAN MAHONEY, CHAPEL ST

Active Volunteer. Became first O/C of 14th Battalion, Cork Brigade.

### MICHAEL MURRAY

Was a prime mover in reorganisation of Volunteer movement in Bantry with E. Blythe and others. He was O/C Bantry Battalion until he left Bantry in early 1918

### DAN O'REGAN, BRIDGE STREET

Bantry Volunteer. Activated for Easter Sunday 1916 Parade Bantry to Kealkil. He was also a skilled Tailor

### JOHN O'SULLIVAN, MARKET STREET

Bantry Volunteer. Activated for Easter Sunday 1916 Parade Bantry to Kealkil. He was also skilled at coopering.

### MARK O'SULLIVAN, MAIN STREET

He was Secretary of the initial Committee that organised and controlled the Volunteer Company in Bantry. He was appointed Rate Collector for Bantry Town Commissioners to replace Thomas Linehan on 7th Jan 1924.

### CHRISTOPHER WALSH, PARADE FIELD

Was an active Volunteer. After his death evidential papers were found indicating extent of his involvement.

### DAN SWEENEY, ARDNAGEEHY

As Battalion Engineer he was in charge of trenching main road from Bantry to Cork, plus demolishing Meenies Bridge in May 1921 to interrupt the travelling of enemy Forces.



### JOHN J. O'SULLIVAN, DROUMACLARIG

Active member of Volunteer movement. Became Company O/C and helped Ernest Blythe establish Companies in Kealkil and Coomhola



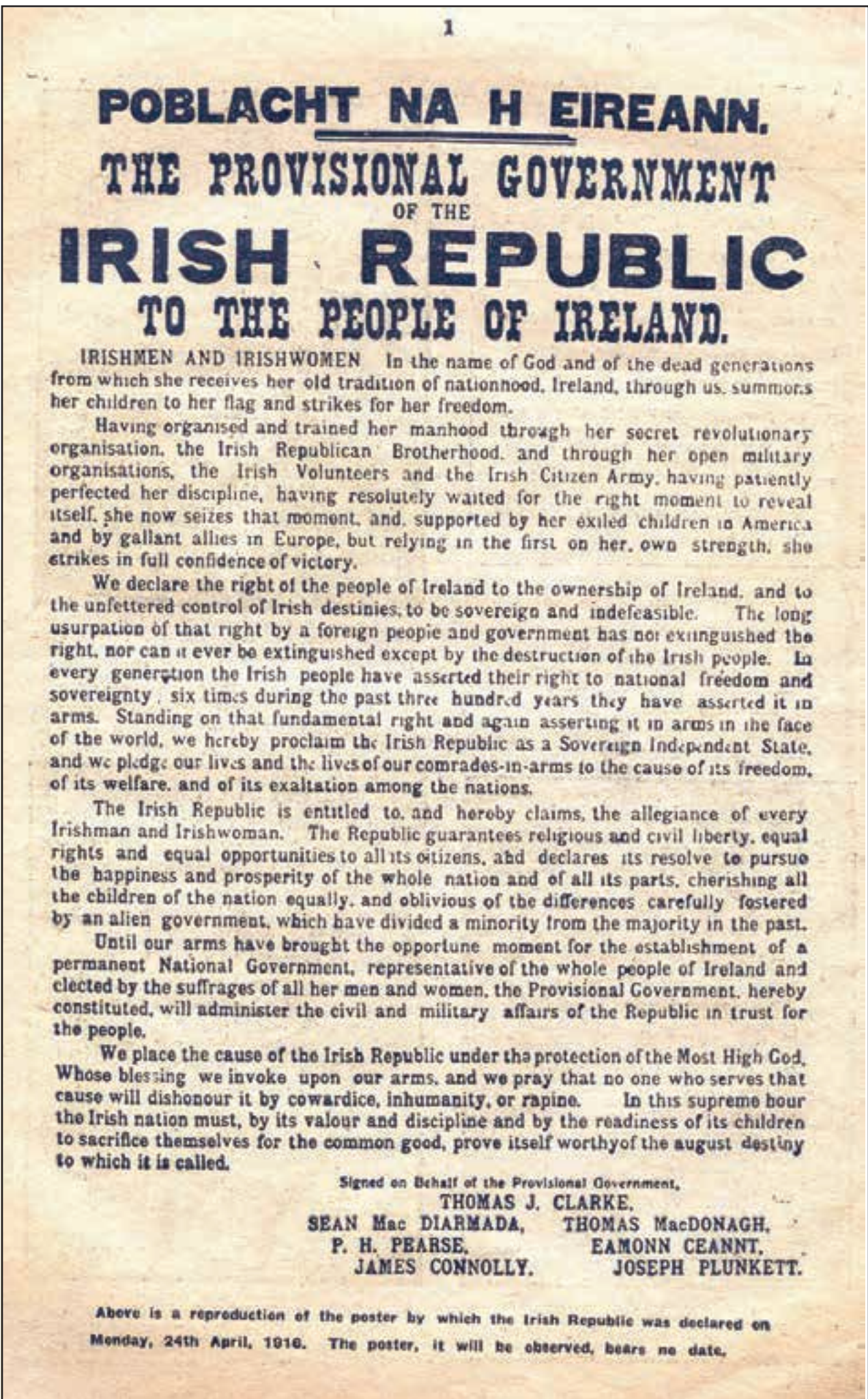
### PATRICK O'SULLIVAN, DROUMACLARIG

He took part with others in raid on Newtown House early 1919. No guns found. He was member of Inquest Jury re death of Cork Lord Mayor Tomás MacCurtain.



# Bantry 1916 AND beyond

## EVENTS IN DUBLIN



### EVENTS IN THE GPO

On Easter Monday, 24 April, 1916, the General Post Office in Dublin was occupied by the insurgents and it became their headquarters. The Proclamation was read from here on the same day. The signatories were Thomas J. Clarke, Sean MacDiarmada, P.H. Pearse, James Connolly, Thomas MacDonagh, Eamonn Ceannt and Joseph Plunkett. It sets out their aspirations not just for freedom from British rule, but to create an Ireland where all people could be free to accomplish their potential regardless of their wealth, class or religion.

It looked forward to the establishment of a native Government elected on the democratic principles of self-determination and government by consent. The 1916 Rising set in train an unstoppable process which led to the separation of Ireland from Great Britain



PLUNKETT and GIFFORD – May 3, 1916 at Dublin, Joseph Plunkett to Grace Gifford.

It is understood that the marriage ceremony took place a short time before the execution

THE IRISH TIMES, MAY 5, 1916



GRACE GIFFORD, JOSEPH PLUNKETT

**CONDEMNED REBEL'S MARRIAGE WIFE AND WIDOW IN ONE NIGHT A TRAGIC CEREMONY**

Among the men who signed the proclamation of an Irish Republic was Joseph Plunkett. He was tried by court martial, sentenced to death, and shot on Thursday, 4th May. On Wednesday evening about 5 o'clock a young lady drove up to the jewellery shop of Mr E.A. Stoker, 22a Grafton Street. The jeweller had put his stock away for the night, and was about to shut the shop. The lady asked for a wedding ring of any kind. She was to be married to Joseph Plunkett, who was to be shot next morning. Permission had been granted for the marriage. The jeweller went over his stock, and gave the lady a ring, and she went away.

THE IRISH TIMES, MAY 6, 1916



MICHAEL COLLINS WITH COL. JOE O'REILLY ARRIVING AT EARLSFORT TERRACE FOR DÁIL MEETING

### THE BANTRY LINK WITH GPO 1916 - COLONEL JOSEPH O REILLY

Joseph O Reilly was born in Limerick in 1893. He had one sister Margaret who was a year younger. Their father died in Limerick when Margaret was one year old. A few years later, their mother, a widow, married Edward Howard in Limerick. They had two Howard children.

Census 1911 for Bantry shows the family living at Chapel Street Bantry. Joseph O Reilly was 18 years old and worked as a Wool Weaver.

Apparently, Joseph O Reilly went to London in 1911, where he met Michael Collins (who was later ambushed at Béal na Blath) through GAA and other Irish social circles. Michael Collins was signed into the IRB by Sam Maguire, and it is quite probable that Joseph O Reilly was also signed in by Sam Maguire.

In 1915 O Reilly returned to Ireland with many other Irishmen, including Collins, as a Revolution seemed likely.

They were both in the GPO in Dublin at the time of the Easter Rising. Coincidentally, they were both sent to Frongoch Internment Camp in Wales.

FROM THE SOUTHERN STAR 6TH MAY 1916, WE READ: "One of the 280 prisoners arrested after the rising was a J O'Reilly from Chapel St. Bantry."

### Bantry no stranger to freedom fighting

The story of Wolfe Tone's arrival to Bantry Bay in 1796 with a large French fleet and 15,000 men would have been a familiar tale in Bantry households in the era leading up to 1916, as it was little more than a decade earlier that Bantry Town Commissioners changed the name of the town Square to Wolfe Tone Square.

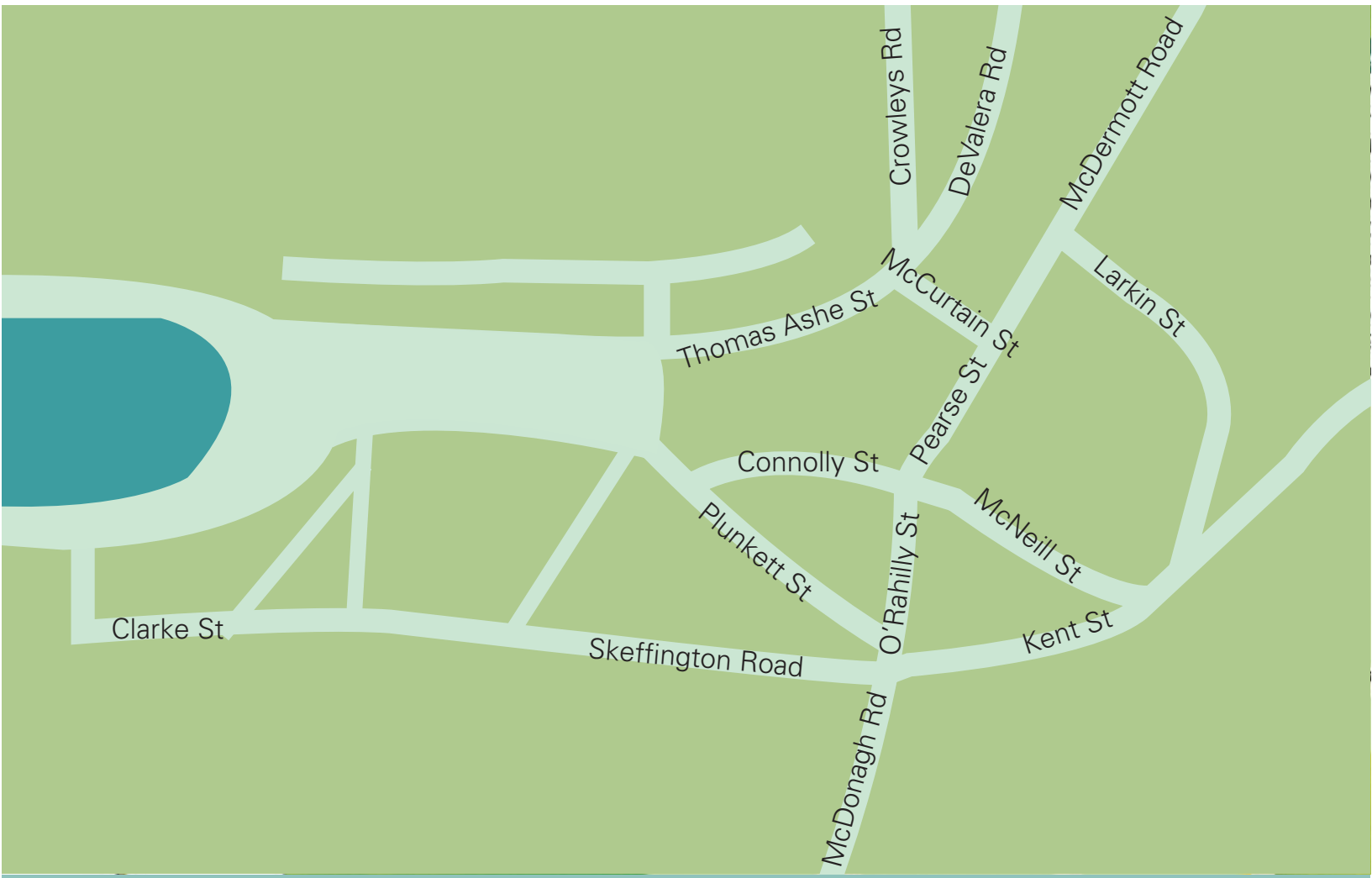
Similarly, Daniel O Connell would be well remembered in Bantry, not just for his work for catholic emancipation, but because he had relatives who lived just outside Bantry town in Reenydonegan.



WOLFE TONE



DANIEL O'CONNELL



### BANTRY STREET NAMES

The impact of the 1916 activities (and following period) continued to be evident in Bantry, as we see here:

At the August 1920 meeting of Bantry Town Commissioners, Comm. James Clarke gave notices of motion to be considered at their September meeting to change existing street names in Bantry as below or as otherwise agreed by the Commissioners

PRESENT NAME	PROPOSED NAME
Barrack St	McCurtain St
Main St	Pearse St
New St	Connolly St
William St	Plunkett St
High St	O'Rahilly St
Chapel St	Kent St
Market St	Larkin St
Blackrock Rd	Skeffington Road
Scart Rd	McDonagh Rd
Glengarriff Rd	DeValera Rd
Barrack Rd	Crowleys Rd
Bridge St	McNeill St
Marino St	Thomas Ashe St
Church Rd	McDermott Road
Tower St	Clarke St



# BANTRY 1916 AND beyond

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY IN BANTRY AFTER EASTER SUNDAY 1916

The Bantry Company mobilised each night during Easter Week in the Town Hall, but no instructions came to them from any source.

“ John J O Sullivan of Ballylickey, who became O/C, Communications, Bantry Battalion gives the following information

Early in 1917, Ralph Keyes was elected O/C. Bantry Company and his appointment led to increased activity. Within a short time, selected members of the unit carried out two raids for Arms, one on the Barytes Mines, and the second on Kelly's hardware shop. A supply of explosives was obtained at the mines and some cartridges at Kelly's. The captured stores were dumped in Baurgorm area.

Normal training continued throughout 1917. When the British threatened to enforce conscription in early 1918, there was a big influx of new recruits in all areas. Public parades were held. The Volunteers attended in force at meetings organised to protest against the enforcement of conscription. They helped to organise the general public. They collected all available arms mainly shotguns in the area. Pike heads were manufactured in the local forge by the blacksmith, Tom Connors, and shafts for same were fashioned by the members of the company. In addition, all available shotgun cartridges were loaded with buckshot and a supply of home-made bombs made. The latter were made by filling paint tins, cocoa tins and suchlike containers with scrap metal and charging them with gelignite, detonator and a length of fuze which protruded through a hole in the cover of the container.

The Irish Volunteer organisation had been growing steadily in strength throughout 1917 and early 1918. Units were now operating in Bantry, Coomhola, Kealkil, Glengarriff, Durrus, Caheragh, Kilcrohane and Droumsullivan.

COUNTESS CONSTANCE MARKIEVICZ



MICHAEL COLLINS

James O'Sullivan, Rock Villas, Bantry, who was born in Glengarriff Road Bantry, joined the Volunteers in 1917. Having entered the Postal Service in Bantry in August 1914, he became a Telegraphist and Sorting Clerk.



One of his earlier organised activities with the Volunteers took place in summer 1917, when the members of the Bantry Company seized about 100 gallons of petrol in tins from the local oil depot and sent it to East Clare to help in the transport for the electioneering work during the by-election there when Eamon de Valera was first elected to the Dáil

### FIANNA EIREANN IN BANTRY

On 7th October 1917 an Aeridheacht was held in Bantry (in the field now occupied by Rowa Pharmaceuticals Ltd at Newtown, Bantry. At this Aeridheacht, Michael Collins, Countess Constance Markievicz and Gearóid O'Sullivan addressed the large gathering. The Countess appealed for recruits to form a branch of Fianna Eireann. Nine youths were enrolled. Younger boys paraded also but were not enrolled due to age. The following youths were officially enrolled by the Countess:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Michael O'Sullivan, Church Rd     |
| 2 | Jack O'Mahony, Barrack St         |
| 3 | James O'Mahony, Barrack St        |
| 4 | Patrick Connolly, Main St         |
| 5 | Michael Connolly, Main St         |
| 6 | Joseph McCarthy, New St           |
| 7 | Jeremiah Connolly, Glengarriff Rd |
| 8 | Edward Cotter, Market St          |
| 9 | George Keyes, Market St           |

This was the first time a branch of Fianna Eireann was established in Bantry. In the years following, this branch proved to be a very useful adjunct to the Volunteers and the Irish Republic Army.



### ERNEST BLYTHE IN BANTRY

On the same day that the Aeridheacht was held, Ernest Blythe arrived in Bantry as a Gaelic League organiser but, in fact, he spent most of his time organising the Volunteers and Cumann na mBan. He first attended drills at Bantry with the Volunteers and later travelled out on bicycle with the Battalion O/C and Company Officers to Kealkil, Coomhola and Glengarriff. He also went on route marches with the Bantry Company and Cumann na mBan. While in Bantry, he stayed at the home of the O'Donoghue sisters at High St. One of the sisters, Molly, was Captain of the Bantry Cumann na mBan at this time and on one occasion when Ernest Blythe led the Bantry Volunteers on a route march to Snavel, she insisted on leading her Company on the route march also.

Later Mr Blythe travelled by boat to Castletownbere, Eyeries and Adrigole. He succeeded in forming a Volunteer Company in each area on his first visit. He left Bantry on 16th February 1918 to take up a position as Editor of The Southern Star. A short number of weeks after taking up this position in Skibbereen, he was arrested by the British Authorities and, served with an Expulsion Order, he had to leave the area. While in Bantry, Mr Blythe had spoken at a Manchester Martyrs' commemoration meeting in November 1917. After the meeting, the Volunteers and Cumann na mBan paraded and marched to the Abbey Cemetery, followed by a large number of the general public. A decade of the Rosary was recited by Mr Blythe at the grave of the Famine victims. He also took a keen interest in the local Dramatic Society which was organised by local Volunteers. Thomas Linehan was the driving force behind the Society and always took leading parts himself.

*Details taken from 'History of the Bantry Company Oglag na hEireann' and 'The 5th Battalion, Cork No 3 Brigade 1913 - 1921' by Raphael P. Keyes 12th February 1971*