

Women in Limerick in *Mná i Luimneach i*

1921



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**
Limerick City
& County Council



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



A Decade of Centenaries Exhibition
Researched and Curated by Sharon Slater, Historian

In collaboration with Dr Sinéad McCool, Historian with the Commemorations
Unit, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Commissioned by Limerick Museum

WOMEN IN LIMERICK IN 1921

MNÁ I LUIMNEACH I 1921

The Ireland of 1921 was utterly unrecognisable from what it had been only a decade before. The country had travelled through a period during which the political and social structures had been dismantled. In 1911, Ireland was still part of the British Empire, but by 1921 was on the verge of independence. It was a decade that saw the loss of life both abroad in the First World War and at home with the fight for independence.

Conflict brought about a change in the role of women in the work place as well as in political life. Women were forced into the role of primary earner after the incapacitation or death of their male relatives due to war.

In 1921, the campaign for independence touched every household in the country, in one way or another. There were 1,199 violent deaths in Ireland that year, the majority of which were due to political conflict. Of these, 59 were female, 13 under one year old and 37 were killed by gunshot wounds.

This exhibition tells the story of four women whose names became famous in 1921. Limerick was already a centre of Republican activity but the murder of Mayors Michael O'Callaghan and George Clancy in March strained tensions further. The murders resulted in the co-opting of Máire O'Donovan to one of the vacant seats in the Corporation, only the second such woman in its entire history. 1921 also saw the election to Dáil Éireann of both Kate O'Callaghan, widow of Michael O'Callaghan and Kathleen Clarke, widow of Thomas Clarke and sister of Edward Daly, both executed following the 1916 Easter Rising. Finally, 1921 was the year that Winifred Barrington, whose family lived in Glenstal Castle and had founded Barrington's Hospital in Limerick City, was shot dead.

Bhí Éire sa bhliain 1921 athraithe go hiomlán ón tír a bhí ann díreach deich mbliana roimhe sin. Ghabh an tír trí thréimhse inar baineadh na struchtúir pholaitiúla agus shóisialta dá chéile. Bhí Éire mar chuid d'Impireacht na Breataine go fóill i 1911, ach bhí an neamhspleáchas ar leac an dorais faoin mbliain 1921. Tréimhse deich mbliana a bhí ann inar maraíodh go leor daoine thar lear sa Chéad Chogadh Domhanda agus in Éirinn sa troid ar son an neamhspleáchais.

Bhain an choimhlint athrú amach ar ról ban san ionad oibre agus sa saol polaitiúil freisin. Ní raibh an dara rogha ag mná ach bheith mar an bpríomhshaothraí airgid tar éis go raibh a ngaolta fireanna ar éagumas nó ar shlí na fírinne mar gheall ar an gcogadh. D'imir an feachtas ar son an neamhspleáchais tionchar ar gach teaghlach sa tír in 2019 ar bhealach amháin nó ar bhealach eile. Maraíodh 1,199 duine go foréigneach in Éirinn an bhliain sin, agus ba choimhlint pholaitiúil ba phríomhchúis leis seo. Astu seo, ba mhná 59 díobh, bhí 13 dhuine díobh faoi bhliain amháin d'aois agus maraíodh 37 duine de bharr gortuithe ag gunnaí.

Insítear sa taispeántas seo scéal ceathrar ban a bhain cáil amach i 1921. Ba chroílár gníomhaíochta na bPoblachtach é Luimneach cheana féin ach neartaigh dúnmharú an Mhéara Michael O'Callaghan agus an Mhéara George Clancy an teannas. Mar gheall ar na dúnmharuithe, comhthoghadh Máire O'Donovan le ceann de na suíocháin fholmha sa Bhardas agus ba í an dara bean a toghadh leis an suíochán sin i stair iomlán an Bhardais. Rinneadh Kate O'Callaghan, baintreach le Michael O'Callaghan agus Kathleen Clarke, baintreach le Thomas Clarke agus deirfiúr le Edward Daly, a cuireadh chun báis tar éis Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916, a thoghadh le Dáil Éireann freisin. Ar deireadh, ba é 1921 an bhliain a lámhachadh Winnie Barrington, ar chónaigh a mhuintir i gCaisleán Ghleann Stáil agus a bhunaigh Ospidéal Barrington i Luimneach.



STONE OF THE BROKEN TREATY, LIMERICK, IRELAND

View by the Treaty Stone in 1921 (Ludlow Collection) · Radharc taobh le Cloch an Chonartha i 1921 (Bailiúchán Ludlow)

GENERAL WOMEN IN 1921

GENERAL WOMEN IN 1921

The population of Limerick City increased by almost a thousand between 1911 and 1926, while the population of Limerick County declined by almost three thousand in the same period. The female population alone declined from 70,840 to 69,171.

Women also formed the major part of the emigration during this period. In 1920, the emigration rates had returned to the pre-First World War level with 15,531 persons leaving Ireland that year. Of those 9,510 were female, with the majority aged between fifteen and twenty-four years old.

Life during the revolutionary period in Ireland was difficult for women who bore the brunt of the social change. They often had to assume the role of breadwinner in order to ensure economic stability throughout this period. Limerick women were mentioned in the 1920 Cork and Munster trade directory as the majority operators of apartments, bakeries, confectioneries and dressmakers. By 1926, 414 women in the city and 330 in the county were working in clothing. The number of women in commerce was 894 in the city and 685 in the county.

Tháinig méadú beagnach míle duine ar dhaonra Chathair Luimnigh idir 1911 agus 1926 agus tháinig laghdú beagnach trí mhíle ar dhaonra Chontae Luimnigh sa tréimhse chéanna. Tháinig laghdú anuas ó 70,840 go 69,171 duine ar an daonra ban amháin.

Ba mhná go leor de na daoine a d'imigh ar eisimirce i rith na tréimhse seo freisin. D'fhill na rátaí eisimirce sa bhliain 1920 ar an leibhéal a bhí ann roimh an gCéad Chogadh Domhanda nuair a d'fhág 15,531 duine Éire an bhliain sin. Ba mhná 9,510 díobh siúd, agus bhí an tromlach díobh idir cúig bliana dhéag agus fiche a ceathair bliain d'aois.

Bhí an saol dian ar mhná i rith thréimhse an éirí amach in Éirinn agus ba iad ba mhó a bhí thíos leis an athrú sóisialta. Bhí orthu glacadh le ról an phríomhshaothraí go minic lena chinntiú go raibh airgead á thuilleamh acu sa tréimhse seo. Luadh in Eolaire Trádála Cork and Munster 1920 gur mhná Luimnigh príomhoibreoirí árasán, bÁCús, siopaí mílseogra agus gúnadóirí. Bhí 414 bean sa chathair agus 330 bean sa chontae ag oibriú sa tionscal éadaí faoin mbliain 1926. Bhí 894 bean sa chathair agus 685 bean sa chontae ag oibriú i dtráchtáil.

<p>MILLINERY, MANTLE, AND COSTUME WAREHOUSES See also Dressmakers Ambrose & Co., 3 Patrick st.; millinery warehouse Cannock & Co., Ltd., 127, 138, and 139 O'Connell street and Sarsfield street Daly, J. & E., 58 Thomas street Donagan, Miss L., 40 Wickham street; and fancy draper Maloney, Miss, Upper William st. Mullin, Miss, Thomas st. O'Brien, Misses, 52 Thomas st O'Mahony & Co., 32 and 33 William street Power, B., 10 Upper William st Smyth, The Misses, 2 Nelson st.</p>	<p>WICKER FURNITURE MAKERS Delaney, R., Lower Gerald Griffin st. Keane, Mrs., Lower Gerald Griffin st. Moore, Mrs., 3 Lower Gerald Griffin st Sheehan, P.</p>
<p>CONFECTIONERS Carr, Mrs Ellen, 12 Rutland st. Dainty (The) Dairy, 25 O'Connell street; also dairykeeper and fruiterer; tea rooms. James Dooly, proprietor. Tel. add. "Dainty Dairy, Limerick." Fitzpatrick, J., 18 William st. Geary, Sons, & Co., Shannon Confectionery Works Geary, T., Merchants' quay Howard, Mrs. Mulgrave st McCarthy, Mrs., 45 Cecil street Macmahon, E., 26 O'Connell st. Mahony, J., Rutland st. XL Cafe, 122 O'Connell st.</p>	<p>LACE MANUFACTURERS Cannock & Co., Honan's quay Kearney, Mrs M., Thomond Linn Industry Kirby, J. & Co., 50 O'Connell st. O'BRIEN, MRS VERA, Training School and Depot, 48 O'Connell street. Miss Dunne, manageress Todd, Wm., & Co., O'Connell st.</p>
	<p>APARTMENTS Burke, Mrs., 6 Catherine st. Copland, Mrs., 8 Queen st. Daly, Mrs., 22 Upper Cecil st. Feston, Mrs., 10 Queen st. Higgins, Mrs., 6 Queen st. Lyons, Miss, 18 Upper Cecil st. Malone, Mrs., 25 Glenworth st. Noonan, Mrs P., 13 Queen street O'Halloran, Mrs., 14 Queen st. O'Sullivan, Patrick, 11 Queen st Pearse, Mrs A., 23 Queen st. Sexton, Mrs., Upper Cecil st.</p>

Sample of Women business owners in 1920 (Cork & Munster Trade Directory)
Sampla d'úinéirí gnólachta Mná i 1920 (Eolaire Trádála Cork and Munster)



The largest employment by far for women in the 1920s was still in the domestic service industry with 1,648 in the city and 4,087 in the county, followed by agriculture with 4,678 in the entire county. Finally, only 80 women were recorded in the manufacture of food drink and tobacco in the county, against 500 in the city.

Unsurprisingly, following the number of young men killed or injured during both the First World War and the other conflicts in Ireland, the marriage rate was at a ten year low in 1921 at 5.69 per cent per 1,000.

Other statistics cast further light on the lives of Limerick women at this time. Infant mortality stood at 77 per 1,000 births registered in Ireland, with Limerick at the higher end at 79 per 1,000 births registered. In the entire county of Limerick, only 761 marriages were registered, along with 3,134 births and 2,207 deaths.

Sa tionscal seirbhíse intire go fóill ina raibh an líon ba mhó ban ag oibriú sna 1920idí agus bhí 1,648 bean sa chathair agus 4,087 bean sa chontae ag oibriú ann. Ba é talmhaíocht an dara tionscal ba mhó agus bhí 4,678 bean ag oibriú ann sa chontae iomlán. Ar deireadh, ní raibh ach 80 bean ag oibriú i mbia, deochanna agus tobac a dhéanamh sa chontae, agus bhí 500 bean sa chathair ag oibriú sa tionscal seo.

Ní haon ionadh go raibh an méid póstaí a cláraíodh i 1921 ar an leibhéal ab isle ar feadh deich mbliana nuair nár cláraíodh ach 5.69 faoin gcéad in aghaidh gach 1,000 duine i 1921 nuair a chuirtear san áireamh an méid fir óga a maraíodh nó a gortaíodh sa Chéad Chogadh Domhanda nó sna coimhlíntí eile in Éirinn.

Tugtar saol mhná Luimnigh ag an tráth seo chun solais i staitisticí eile. Ba é an ráta básmhaireachta i measc naíonán 77 bás in aghaidh gach 1,000 breith a cláraíodh in Éirinn, agus b'airde an ráta básmhaireachta i Luimneach – 79 bás in aghaidh gach 1,000 breith. Níor cláraíodh ach 761 pósadh anuas ar 3,134 breith agus 2,207 bás i gcontae iomlán Luimnigh.



Limerick was a very religious city. This group of pilgrims to Rome were from St John's Parish in the 1920s (Sharon Slater)
Ba chathair an-reiligiúnach é Luimneach. Ó Pharóiste Naomh Eoin sna 1920idí a bhí an grúpa seo oillthreach chuig an Róimh (Sharon Slater)



Women and children among those lining Charlotte's Quay in March 1921 for the funerals of the Murdered Mayors (Limerick Museum)
Mná agus leanaí i measc na ndaoine atá ag seasamh ar gach taobh de Ché Charlotte i Márta 1921 le hómós a léiriú ar do shochraidí na Méaraí a dúnmharaiodh (Músaem Luimnigh)

HAIR DYES & HAIR RESTORERS.
All The Leading Makes Stocked.

Cutting, 1/-
Shingling, 1/-
Shampooing, 2/-
Marcel Waving, 1/6
Waving & Dressing, 5/6
Manicure, 2/-
Hair Work of Every Description
High Frequency Treatment, 2/6
Face Massage, 2/-
Hair Removed by Electrolysis, 10/6
Hair Dyeing, 12/6
Chirophy, 2/6 upwards
Toilet Requisites at Pre war Prices

Albert Staehli,
41, Cecil-street, Limerick.

Limerick Leader, 1 July 1921
Limerick Leader, an 1 Iúil 1921

Women of Ireland

WHAT are you doing for your country? In your hands lies the power to effect the economic liberation of Ireland.

Four-fifths of the money spent in Ireland is spent by the women of Ireland. Last year they spent £64,000,000 on imported goods, while Irish men and women emigrated for lack of work.

Do your share to remedy this. Let every purchase you make in the future be of Irish make. Begin with these brands—their quality is unrivalled.

Bring this List when Shopping.

Limerick Leader, 27 May 1921
Limerick Leader, an 27 Bealtaine 1921

ZONOPHONE • ZONOPHONE • ZONOPHONE

Make the fine days more pleasant

No more delightful means of entertainment can be found than a Zonophone Instrument and a good selection of Zonophone Records. Whether indoors or outdoors it is the one source of pleasure that appeals to every member of the family or friends.

We shall be pleased to play you any Zonophone Records you may wish to hear. Call today and hear the latest successes. If unable to call we will gladly send you full list on request.

PIGOTT & CO., Ltd,
111 O'CONNELL ST
LIMERICK.

Limerick Chronicle, 6 Aug 1921
Limerick Chronicle, an 6 Lúnasa 1921

Women's involvement in philanthropy was already widespread in Ireland, especially with the Shamrock League, established in 1901 by a small group of Limerick women, caring for families of those injured during the Boer War. This continued during the revolutionary period in Ireland with the founding of the Irish Volunteers' Dependants' Fund, established in May 1916 by Kathleen Clarke.

In the previous decades colleges and universities had already begun to open their doors to women students. In 1921, Frances Christian Kyle from Belfast became the first woman to be called to the Bar anywhere in the British Isles, practicing first in Dublin and shortly afterwards in Belfast.

Bhí daonchaírdeas agus cúram á gcur ar fáil go minic ag mná cheana féin in Éirinn, go háirithe ag Conradh na Seamróige (the Shamrock League), a bhunaigh grúpa beag mhná Luimnigh i 1901, a thug aire do theaghlach na ndaoine siúd a gortaíodh i rith Chogadh na mBórah. Lean seo ar aghaidh i rith thréimhse an éirí amach in Éirinn nuair a bunaíodh Ciste Cleithiúnaithe Óglaigh na hÉireann, a bhunaigh Kathleen Clarke i mBealtaine 1916.

Thosaigh coláistí agus ollscoileanna lena ndoirse a oscailt cheana féin sna blianta roimhe do mhic léinn mhná. Rinneadh an chéad bhean de Frances Christian Kyle ó Bhéal Feirste i 1921 a glaoth chun an Bharra in áit ar bith in Éirinn agus an Bhreatain Mhór, a chleachtaigh ar dtús i mBaile Átha Cliath agus i mBéal Feirste go gairid ina dhiaidh sin.

SECRETARIAL COURSE FOR GIRLS.

THIS course (MORNING CLASS) which comprises the following subjects:— Shorthand, Typewriting, Book-keeping, Business Methods, Commercial Arithmetic and Tots, Spelling, Dictation and Punctuation, Handwriting, English Composition or Business Composition, should be taken by all young ladies on business bent. It will not only thoroughly fit them for the posts of Shorthand-Typists, but will qualify them for entrance to Examinations such as Lady Clerkships, Bank of Ireland, G. S and W Rly., M. G. W Rly, Government Typists, Commercial and Professional Offices, Lady Secretaries, etc. AFTERNOON CLASS held on every day of the week except Saturday. EVENING CLASS held on Mondays and Thursdays, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

DOWSLEY'S
COMMERCIAL SCHOOL,
Glentworth Street, Limerick

Limerick Chronicle, 24 Sept 1921

Limerick Chronicle, an 24 Meán Fómhair 1921



J Kirby sold Limerick Lace made by Limerick women on O'Connell Street (Sean Curtin) *Dhíol J Kirby Lása Luimnigh a rinne mná Luimnigh ar Shráid Uí Chonaill (Seán Curtin)*

Marriages, Births and Deaths in Ireland, 1921 xvii

TABLE V.—Showing the number of deaths of women in pregnancy in 1921 definitely returned as either caused by or associated with pregnancy or childbearing.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.	ALL AGES.	AGES.				
		15—	20—	25—	35—	45 yrs and up
Total	508	7	152	252	97	—
Measles	1	—	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	—	—	3	1	—
Influenza	6	—	1	3	2	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	—	3	1	2	—
Other Tuberculosis	2	—	—	—	2	—
Cancer	1	—	—	—	1	—
Rheumatic Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—
Anaemia	1	—	—	1	—	—
Valvular Disease of Heart	2	—	—	—	2	—
Heart Disease (Unspecified)	8	—	—	4	4	—
Lobar Pneumonia	6	—	1	2	3	—
Pneumonia (type not distinguished)	5	—	1	2	2	—
Pleurisy	1	—	—	1	—	—
Asthma	1	—	—	1	—	—
Gastric Ulcer	1	—	—	1	—	—
Appendicitis	1	—	1	—	—	—
Intestinal Obstruction	1	—	—	1	—	—
Other disease of Intestines	1	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Nephritis	2	—	—	2	—	—
Injury	1	—	—	—	1	—
Abortion	9	—	2	5	2	—
Ectopic Gestation	7	1	3	2	1	—
Other Accidents of Pregnancy	10	—	14	14	12	—
Puerperal Haemorrhage	74	—	15	45	14	—
Other Accidents of Childbirth	41	1	8	29	12	—
Puerperal Sepsis	154	2	66	74	12	—
Phlegmasia Embolism	33	—	9	18	6	—
Puerperal Albuminuria, Convulsions	59	3	19	28	9	—
Childbirth without other explanation	39	—	9	23	7	—

Extract from the 58th Annual Report of the Registrar General for Ireland, 1921
Sliocht ó 58ú Tuarscáil Bhliantúil an Ard-Chláraitheora d'Éirinn, 1921

"Every Picture tells a Story."

Signals!

No wonder a woman gets irritable at times! Her many household worries are more than mere man could stand.

Be careful! Irritability, pains in the loins and sides, headaches, backache, urinary troubles and nervousness are signals of kidney distress, and call for prompt attention.

To guard against the development of the more serious symptoms of kidney weakness, it is time to be self-concerned, and to strengthen the kidneys with Doan's Backache Kidney Pills. Neglect invites rheumatism, gravel or stone-formation, sciatica, renal-dropsy, lumbago, inflammation of the bladder and uric-acid poisoning.

Grateful users declare that no home should be without Doan's Backache Kidney Pills.

DOAN'S

Backache Kidney Pills.

All Dealers, or 2/6 a box, from Foster-McClellan Co., 5 Wall St., Oxford St., London, W.

Weekly Observer, 3 Sept 1921
Weekly Observer, an 3 Meán Fómhair 1921

A DANCE

MISS DUNDON

WILL HOLD

An Afternoon Dance

AT GEORGE HOTEL

— ON —

Thursday 8th December

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT OF

Reynolds (Dublin) Orchestra

TICKETS 7s 6d

Dancing, 6 p.m.

Tickets may be had at Piggott's and George Hotel. [d3 6]

Limerick Chronicle, 6 Dec 1921
Limerick Chronicle, an 6 Nollaig 1921

WINIFRED BARRINGTON (1897-1921) An Unintentional Victim of War

WINIFRED BARRINGTON (1897-1921) - Íospartach Cogaidh de Thimpiste

Winifred Barrington was raised in her ancestral home of Glenstal Castle, Murroe, County Limerick. Her father was a landowner in the area, but despite this the family were very popular with all members of society in the local area.

Born in 1897, in London, England, Winifred was the eldest child and only daughter of Sir Charles Barrington, 5th Baronet of Glenstal Castle and his wife Mary Rose Bacon. Winifred was a very active young woman and a keen horse rider. During the First World War she served in the Voluntary Ambulance Division at Queen Mary's Auxiliary Hospital, Roehampton, England.

According to the historian Kevin Hannan she was a 'universal favourite in the parish of Murroe... she mixed freely with the residents of cottage and farmhouse, and danced spiritedly on the old platform near Abington Bridge'.

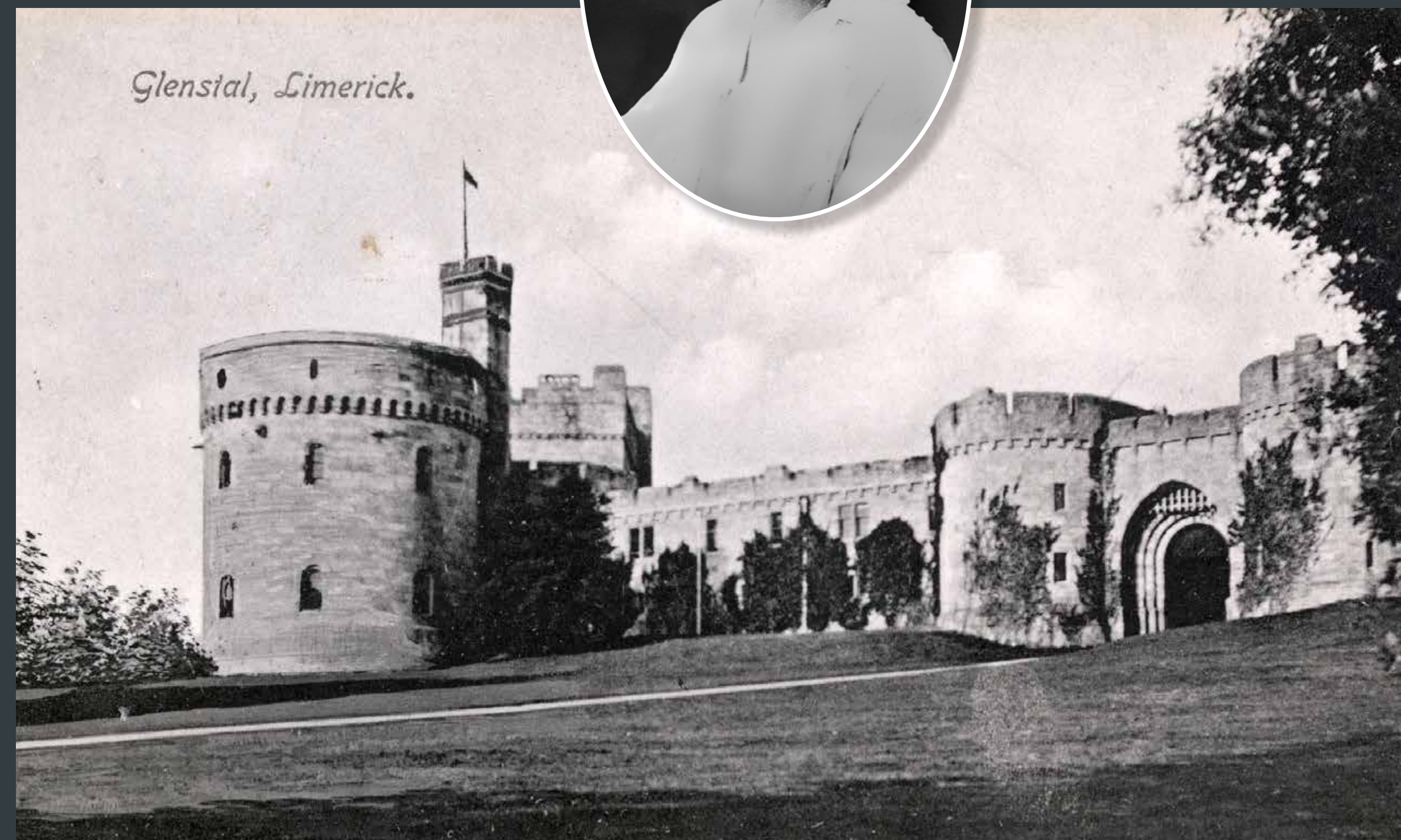
Tógadh Winifred Barrington aníos in áit chónaithe a sinsear i gCaisleán Ghleann Stáil, Maigh Rua, Contae Luimnigh. B'úinéir talún sa cheantar a hathair, ach in ainneoin seo, bhí gach duine sa cheantar áitiúil an-mhór leis an teaghlach.

Rugadh Winifred in 1897 i Londain, Sasana, agus ba í an leanbh ba shine agus iníon aonair le Sir Charles Barrington, 5ú Bairnéad Chaisleán Ghleann Stáil agus lena bhean chéile, Mary Rose Bacon. Ba bhean óg an-ghníomhach í Winifred agus bhí an-suim aici i marcaíocht ar chapall. D'oibrigh sí i rith an Chéad Chogaidh Dhomhanda sa Rannán Otharcharranna Deonach ag Ospidéal Cúnta na Banríona Muire, Roehampton, Sasana.

De réir an staraí Kevin Hannan, 'thaitin sí le gach duine i bparóiste Mhaigh Rua... réitigh sí gan stró le muintir na dteachíní agus na dtithe feirme, agus rinne sí rince go briomhar ar an seanardán i ngar do Dhroichead Mhainistir Uaithne.'



Winifred Barrington (Brian P. Murphy OSB)
Winifred Barrington (Brian P. Murphy OSB)



Glenstal Castle (Limerick Museum) · Áit chónaithe Winifred Barrington, Caisleán Ghleann Stáil (Músaem Luimnigh)



Although Winfred was a member of the landed gentry, she was friendly with people from all walks of life and political affiliations. In January 1921, she was on holidays in France, from where she sent a friendly postcard to Michael Hayes, a known IRA leader in Murroe. She travelled outside of Ireland for the next two months before returning to Glenstal Castle.

On a warm summer's day, the 14 May 1921, Winifred and her friend, Miss Cloverfield, decided to travel the few miles to Newport, County Tipperary. As they were leaving Glenstal, Winifred on a pony and Miss Cloverfield on a bicycle, they met with Winifred's father who insisted she should be home for dinner.

As the pair travelled to Newport they met Barrington's neighbour, Captain William Gabbett, who continued to travel with them. At Newport, they met District Inspector Harry Biggs, an RIC officer whose brutality had made him unpopular in the locality, and Lieutenant Trengrouse. At the invitation of Biggs and Trengrouse, the group of five travelled by car for tea at the home of Colonel Randolph Kingscote at Killoscully, County Tipperary.



Winifred Barrington's grave in Abington graveyard (Sharon Slater)
Uaigh Winifred Barrington i Reilig Mhainistir Uaithne (Sharon Slater)

Cé gur dhuine d'uaisle na talún í Winfred, bhí sí cairdiúil le daoine as gach aicme agus de gach dearcadh polaitiúil. Bhí sí ar saoire sa Fhrainc in Eanáir 1921, áit ar sheol sí cárta poist lách chuig Michael Hayes, duine arbh eol gur cheannaire IRA i Maigh Rua é. Thaistil sí lasmuigh d'Éirinn ar feadh dhá mhí ina dhiaidh sin sular fhill sí ar Chaisleán Ghleann Stáil.

Rinne Winifred agus a cara, Iníon Cloverfield, an cinneadh an turas cúpla míle a thaisteal go dtí an Port Nua, Contae Thiobraid Árann, lá te teolai samhraidh an 14ú lá de Bhealtaine 1921. Fad a bhí Gleann Stáil á fhágáil acu, Winifred in airde ar chapailín agus Iníon Cloverfield ar a rothar, chas siad le hathair Winifred, a d'éiligh orthu teacht abhaile don dinnéar.

Ar a mbealach go dtí an Port Nua, casadh comharsa Barrington orthu, an Captaen Liam Gabbett, a lean ag taisteal leo. Chas siad leis an gCigire Ceantair Harry Biggs, oifigeach Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann (an RIC), ag an bPort Nua, a raibh droch-cháil air sa cheantar áitiúil mar gheall ar a bhrúidiúlacht, agus chas an Leifteanant Trengrouse orthu freisin. Tar éis do Biggs agus Trengrouse cuireadh a thabhairt don triúr eile, thaistil an grúpa cúigir i ngluaisteán chun tae a ól ag teach an Choirnéil Randolph Kingscote ag Cill Ó Scoláí, Contae Thiobraid Árann.



Postcard sent to Mike Hayes, Murroe, wishing him a Happy New Year while Winifred Barrington was in Cannes, France, 16 January 1921 (Brian P. Murphy OSB)
Cárta poist a sheol Winifred Barrington chuig Mike Hayes, Maigh Rua, ina nguinn sí Athbhliain faoi Mhaise air fad a bhí sí in Cannes, an Fhrainc, an 16 Eanáir 1921 (Brian P. Murphy OSB)



Reverse of postcard · Cúl an chárta poist



Limerick Leader, 3 March 2018

DEATHS.
BARRINGTON—On May 14th, 1921, Winifred Frances, the loved and only daughter of Sir Charles and Lady Barrington, of Glenstal, Limerick. Funeral at 11 o'clock on Wednesday.

Notice of Death, Limerick Chronicle, 17 May 1921
Fógra Báis, Limerick Chronicle, an 17 Bealtaine 1921

MISS BARRINGTON'S DEATH
Hospital Governors Sympathise With Bereaved Parents
Very Rev. Dean Hackett presided at a special meeting of the Governors of Barrington's Hospital held in Limerick yesterday, at which a resolution was passed expressing extreme regret at the tragic death of Miss Winifred Barrington, who had endeared herself to all classes of community.
Warmest sympathy was conveyed to Sir Charles and Lady Barrington in their sudden and severe bereavement.
The meeting was then adjourned without conducting the business for which it was convened.

Condolences from Barrington's Hospital, Freeman's Journal, 25 May 1921 · Comhbhrón á léiriú ag Ospidéal Barrington, Freeman's Journal, an 25 Bealtaine 1921

LIMERICK TRAGEDY
FUNERAL OF MISS BARRINGTON
Limerick Thursday – The funeral of the late Miss Winifred Barrington, only daughter of Sir Charles B. Barrington took place yesterday from Glenstal Castle to Abington Cemetery followed by a large gathering of friends and sympathisers from the city and countryside. The coffin was borne from Abington church after the special service to the cemetery, half a mile distant by the Glenstal workmen, and it was one of the many instances showing how deeply stirred the mourners were over the sad death of a most popular young lady. The chief mourners were the parents of the deceased, Mr John Barrington, uncle, Miss Barrington, Clonshavoy, and other relatives. Numerous wreaths were sent. The Rev. T. W. B. Nicholson, rector of Abington officiated.

Details of Winifred Barrington's burial, Irish Examiner, 20 May 1921 · Sonraí faoi aadlacadh Winifred Barrington, Irish Examiner, an 20 Bealtaine 1921

On their return journey by car to Newport, Winifred still wearing her riding attire, sat in the front seat next to Biggs. When they reached Coolboreen Bridge they were ambushed by twelve members of the IRA who proceeded to open fire upon the party. Winifred and Biggs were fatally injured in the attack, the others escaped injury.

When news of the tragedy reached Murroe there was an outpouring of grief for the Barrington family. Following a huge funeral, Winifred was buried in the local Abington graveyard. Her headstone bears the poignant inscription: "Here lies all that could die of Winifred Frances Barrington"

Nuair a bhí siad ag filleadh i ngluaisteán go dtí an Port Nua, shuigh Winifred sa suíochán tosaigh taobh le Biggs, agus a héadaí marcaíochta fós á gcaitheamh aici. Nuair a bhain siad Droichead Chúil Bhuairchín amach, rinne dáréag ball den IRA luíochán orthu agus thosaigh siad le piléir a scaoileadh leo. Gortaíodh Winifred agus Biggs go marfach san ionsaí, ach níor gortaíodh na daoine eile.

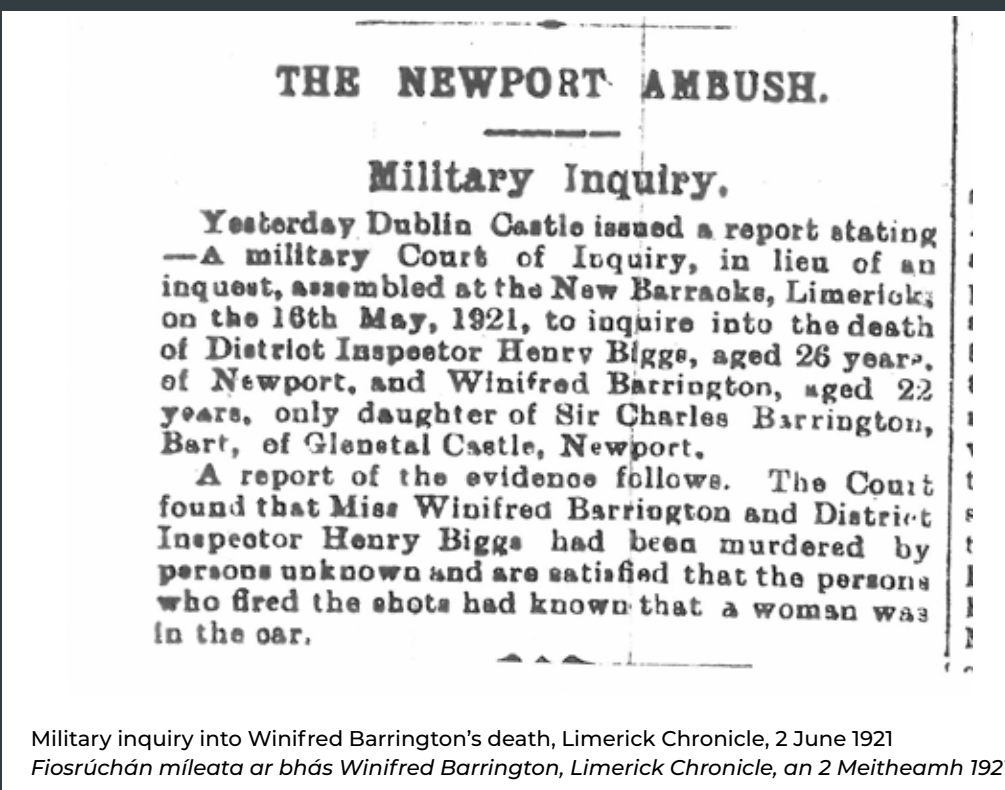
Nuair a cuireadh Maigh Rua ar an eolas ar an tragóid, léiríodh crá croí do mhuintir Barrington. Cuireadh Winifred i reilig áitiúil Mhainistir Uaithne tar éis sochraid ollmhór. Tá an abairt bhrónach seo a leanas scríofa ar a leac uaigne: "Here lies all that could die of Winifred Frances Barrington"



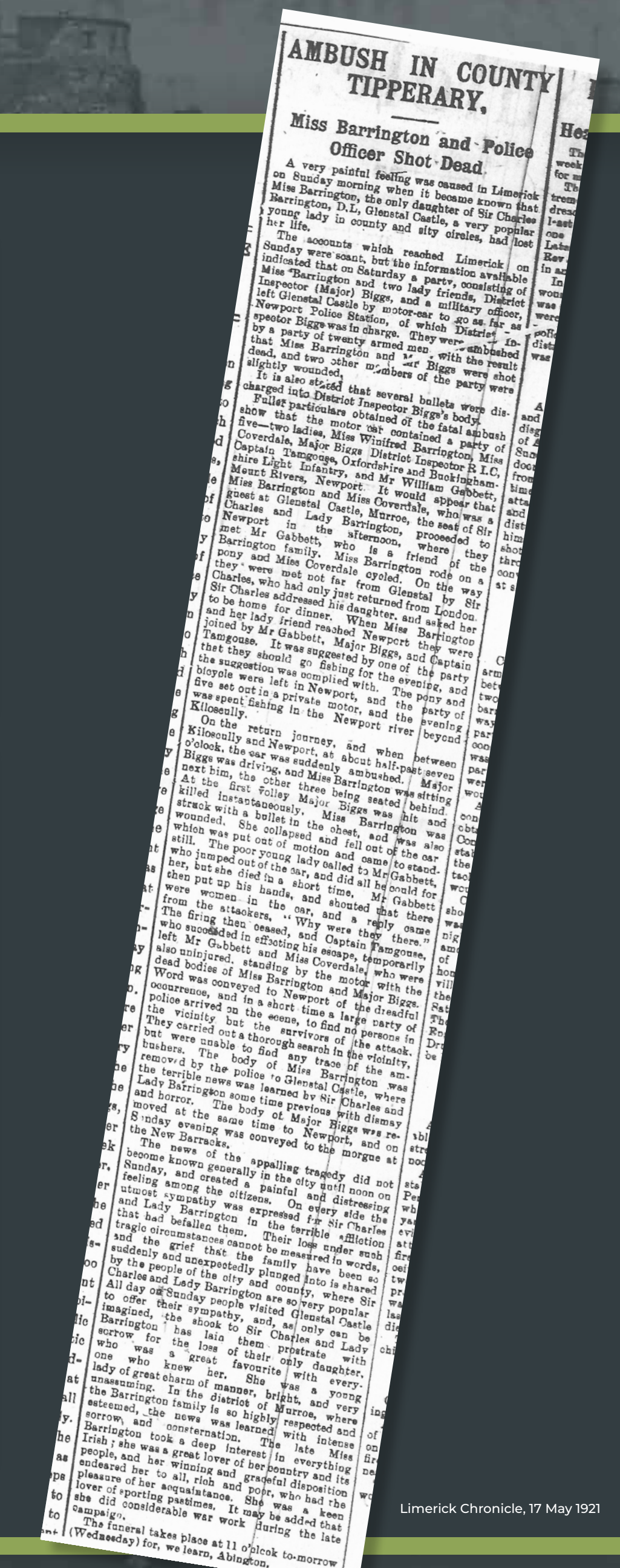
Winifred with her parents, younger brothers and pet dog on the front terrace of Glenstal Castle c.1915 (Brian P. Murphy OSB) - Winifred lena tuismitheoirí, a deartháireacha níos óige agus a madra san áit sui os comhair Chaisleán Ghleann Stáil thart ar an mbliain 1915 (Brian P. Murphy OSB)



Glenstal Castle today (Sharon Slater) - Caisleán Ghleann Stáil inniu (Sharon Slater)



Military inquiry into Winifred Barrington's death, Limerick Chronicle, 2 June 1921
Fiosrúchán míleata ar bhás Winifred Barrington, Limerick Chronicle, an 2 Meitheamh 1921



Limerick Chronicle, 17 May 1921

WOMEN IN EDUCATION & TEACHING

MNÁ SAN OIDEACHAS AGUS SA MHÚINTEOIREACHT

By 1903 there were five colleges in Ireland where women were trained as national school teachers:

- Central Training Establishment, Marlborough Street Dublin.
- Our Lady of Mercy Training College, Carysfort, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
- Church of Ireland Training College, Kildare Place, Dublin.
- St Mary's Training College, Belfast.
- Mary Immaculate Training College, Limerick.

In 1916, there were 7,690 school principals in Ireland; of these 3,285 were women. Despite the high number of women teachers there was still a large disparity in wages and roles within the schools. While male principals earned on average 115 pounds, 19 shillings and 11 pence, their female counterparts earned 92 pounds, 13 shillings and 9 pence. Meanwhile, four out of five assistant teachers were women, but male assistant teachers earned over £13 a year more than female teachers

On the 1 April 1921, vice-principals were added to the staff complement of each school. These vice-principals were required to have attended a teacher training college, with a dispensation for teachers employed before 1905, as well as more than five years' experience in the classroom.

Bhí cúig choláiste in Éirinn faoin mbliain 1903 inar cuireadh oiliúint ar mhná mar mhúinteoirí scoile náisiúnta:

- An Lárionad Oiliúna, Sráid Marlborough, Baile Átha Cliath.
- Coláiste Mhuire na Trócaire, Dún Carúin, an Charraig Dhubh, Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath.
- Coláiste Oiliúna Eaglais na hÉireann, Plás Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath.
- Coláiste Oiliúna Naomh Muire, Béal Feirste.
- Coláiste Oiliúna Mhuire gan Smál, Luimneach.

Bhí 7,690 príomhoide scoile in Éirinn in 1916; ba mhná 3,285 díobh seo. In ainneoin an ardlin mhúinteoirí mná, bhí éagothroime mhór ann go fóill i bpá agus i ról laistigh de na scoileanna. Thuill príomhoidí fir £115 19 scillinge agus 11 phingin, ar an meán, agus thuill mná £92 13 scillinge agus 9 bpingine. I dturas an ama, ba mhná ceathrar as gach cúigear múinteoirí cúnta ach thuill múinteoirí cúnta fir breis agus £13 sa bhreis sa bhliain ná an méid a thuill múinteoirí mná.

Cuireadh leas-phríomhoidí le líon foirne gach scoile an 1 Aibreán 1921. Bhí ar na leas-phríomhoidí seo freastal ar choláiste oiliúna múinteoirí, ach níorbh ghá do mhúinteoirí freastal ar an gcoláiste seo má bhí siad fostaithe roimh 1905, nó má bhí taithí breis agus cúig bliana acu sa seomra ranga.



Training College, Limerick



Reception Room, No. 1, Mary Immaculate Training College, Limerick

Mary Immaculate College LIMERICK MUSEUM



Library, Mary Immaculate Training College, Limerick



St. Cecilia's Corridor, Mary Immaculate Training College, Limerick

Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál (MÚSAEM LUIMNIGH)

This rise in female education and educators empowered women and resulted in their increasing involvement in politics and public life. These female educators, earning their own wage, encouraged others to follow suit.

Limerick in 1921 was a centre for higher education for women, with students travelling from all over the country to attend Mary Immaculate Training College. Among the teaching staff in the College were three of the Murphy sisters, originally from Cork, Máire O'Donovan, Kate O'Callaghan, and Dr Eilish Murphy. Meanwhile, Molly Clancy née Killeen, the second widow of the 1921 Curfew Murders in Limerick (her husband was Mayor George Clancy), was a former principal of St Patrick's Girl's School, Clare Street, Limerick City. During her time as an educator she was a member of the Gaelic League and Cumann na mBan, which undoubtedly influenced her teaching.



Mary Immaculate College (Limerick Museum)
Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál (Músaem Luimnigh)

Rinne an méadú seo ar oideachasóirí agus ar oideachasóirí baineanna mná a neartú agus ghlac siad páirt ní ba mhó dá bharr sa pholaitíocht agus i saol an phobail. Spreag na hoideachasóirí mná seo, a raibh a bpá féin á thuilleamh acu, mná eile an rud céanna a dhéanamh.

Ba lárionad ardoideachais do mhná é Luimneach i 1921 agus thaistil mic léinn ann ó áiteanna fud fad na tíre chun freastal ar Choláiste Oilúna Mhuire gan Smál. I measc na foirne múinteoireachta sa Choláiste, bhí triúr de dheirfiúracha Murphy, arb as Corcaigh dóibh ó dhúchas – Máire O'Donovan, Kate O'Callaghan, agus an Dr Eilish Murphy.

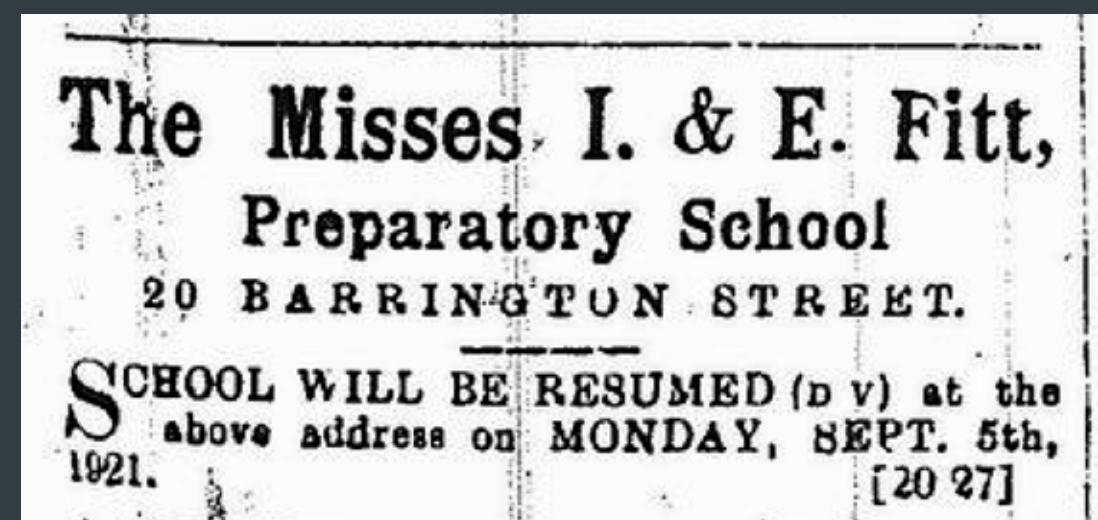
Ag an am céanna, b'iar-phríomhoide Scoil Chailíní Naomh Pádraig, Sráid an Chláir, Cathair Luimnigh i Maire Clancy, Iníon Killeen, dara baintreach Dhúnmharuithé an Chuirfú i Luimneach (ba í a fear céile an Méara George Clancy). I rith an ama a chaith sí ina hoideachasóir, ba bhall de Chonradh na Gaeilge agus de Chumann na mBan í, agus nil amhras ar bith ann ach gur imir seo tionchar ar a cuid múinteoireachta.



St Mary's Girls' School, Bishop Street, c.1920 (Sharon Slater)
Scoil Chailíní Naomh Muire, Sráid an Easpaig, thart ar an mbliain 1920 (Sharon Slater)

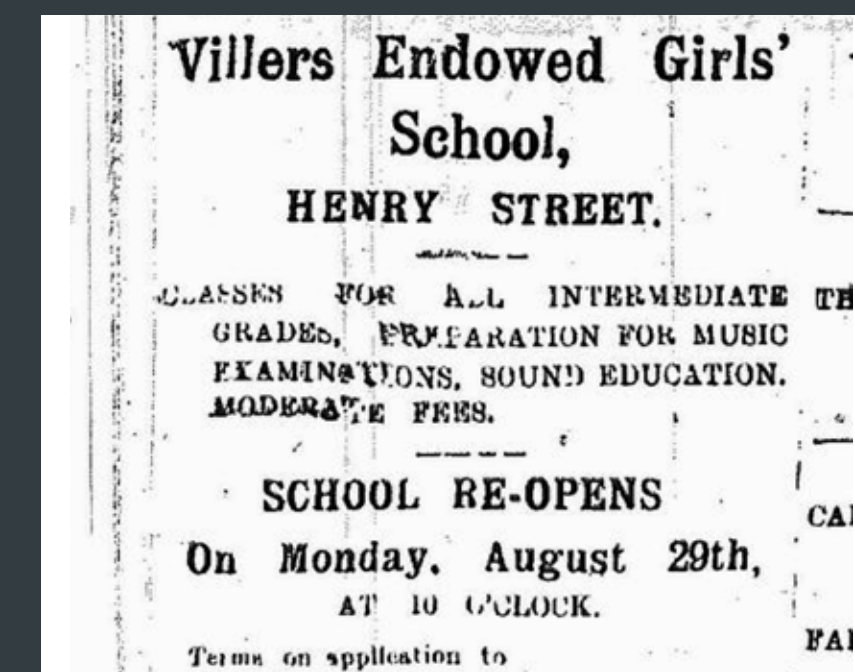


St Patrick's School, Dublin Road, where Molly Clancy, wife of Murdered Mayor George Clancy worked (Sharon Slater) · Scoil Naomh Pádraig, Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath, áit ar oibrigh Molly Clancy, bean chéile leis an Méara George Clancy a dúnmharaíodh (Sharon Slater)



Limerick Chronicle, 30 Aug 1921 (Sharon Slater) · Limerick Chronicle, an 30 Lúnasa 1921

Two more of the "Black Widows" of the 2nd Dáil were connected with education. Mary MacSwiney taught in private schools after receiving her Teaching Diploma in Cambridge. Following the Easter Rising, she and her sister Annie founded their own school, Scoil Íte, a sister school to Patrick Pearse's St Enda's. Although not a teacher, Patrick's mother, Margaret Pearse was in charge of the domestic arrangements in St. Enda's School.



Limerick Chronicle, 30 Aug 1921 · Limerick Chronicle, an 30 Lúnasa 1921



Murroe Girls' School (Sharon Slater) · Scoil Chailíní Mhaigh Rua (Sharon Slater)

Bhí beirt eile de "Baintreacha Dubha" an 2ra Dáil bainteach san oideachas. Mhúin Mary MacSwiney i scoileanna príobháideacha tar éis di a Dioplóma Múinteoireachta a bhaint amach in Cambridge. Tar éis Éirí Amach na Cásca, bhunaigh í féin agus a deirfiúr Annie a scoil féin, Scoil Íte, scoil a bhí nasctha le Scoil Éanna Phádraig Mhic Phiarais. Cé gur mhúinteoir í, bhí máthair Phádraig, Margaret Pearse, i gceannas ar na socrúithe na scoile i Scoil Éanna.

MÁIRE O'DONOVAN (1876-1961) née Murphy and the Mayoral Chain

MÁIRE O'DONOVAN (1876-1961) Iníon Murphy agus Slabhra an Mhéara

Irish freedom fighting ran in the blood in the Murphy family of Crossmahon, Cork. In 1876, Máire was born to Julia Kelleher and Cornelius Murphy, a Fenian activist. She attended a local primary school and St. Angela's High School in Cork City. She received a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts at the Royal University followed by a teaching diploma in Cambridge.

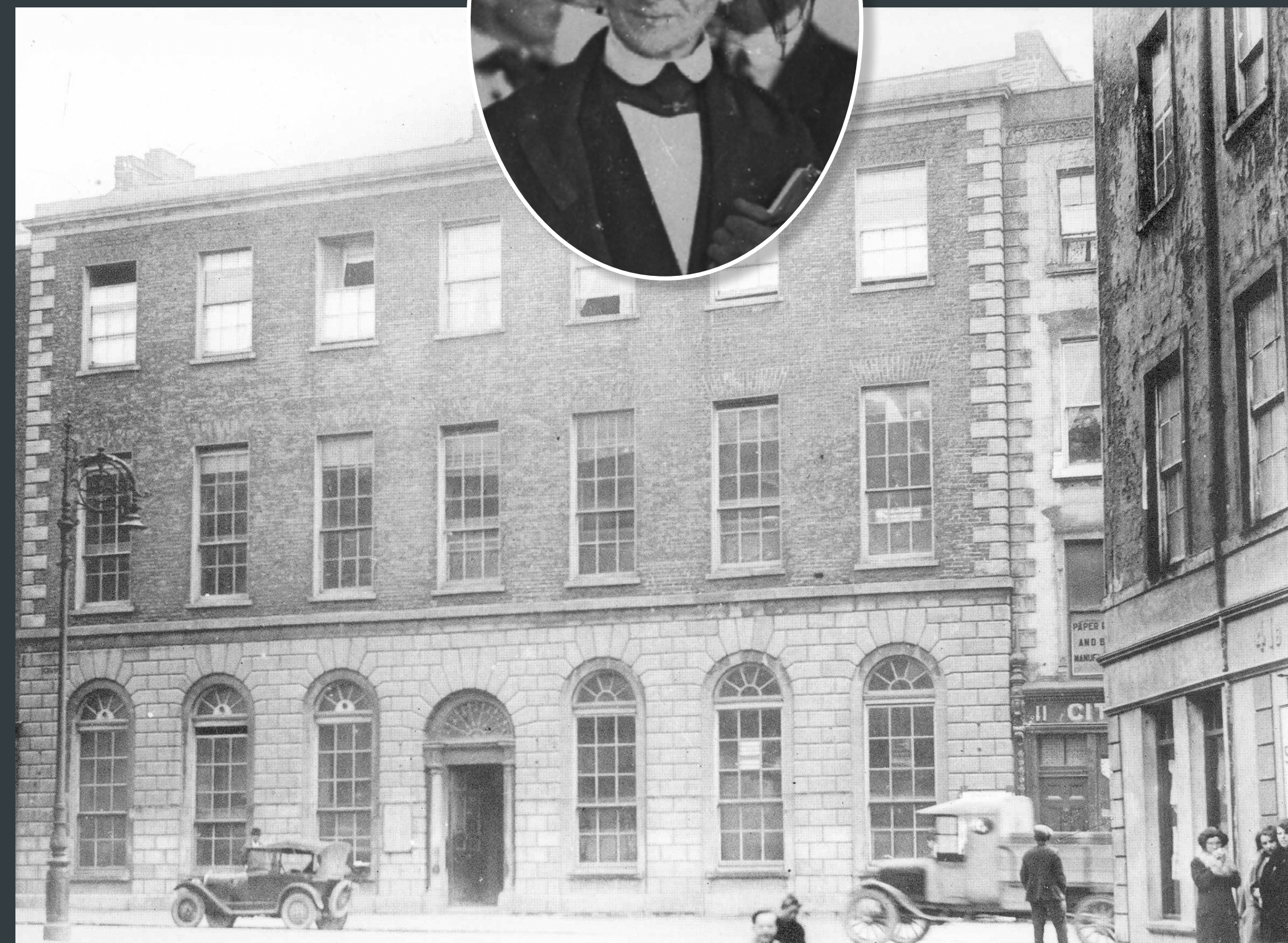
She taught in Furness Lodge, Cambridge for a few years. She arrived in Limerick on the invitation of Bishop O'Dwyer to teach in the newly established Mary Immaculate Teacher Training College. In 1909, she married Diarmuid O'Donovan, a butter merchant and shopkeeper. The couple had no children of their own but shared their home with other Murphy sisters as they relocated to Limerick for employment. After resigning her post in Mary Immaculate College, she was succeeded by her sister Kate (later O'Callaghan), who in turn was succeeded by their sister Eilis.

Bhí muintir Uí Mhurchú, Crois Uí Mhathúna, Corcaigh, an-tugtha don troid ar son shaoirse na hÉireann. Rugadh Máire le Julia Kelleher agus Cornelius Murphy, gníomhaí na bhFiníni in 1876. D'fhreastail sí ar bhunscoil áitiúil agus ar Ardscoil Naomh Aingeal i gCathair Chorcaí. Bronnadh Baitsiléir Ealaíon agus Máistir Ealaíon ag an Ollscoil Ríoga uirthi agus bronnadh dioplóma múinteoireachta uirthi ag i Cambridge.

Mhúin sí in Furness Lodge, Cambridge ar feadh cúpla bliain. Tháinig sí go Luimneach tar éis don Easpag O'Dwyer cuireadh a thabhairt di múineadh i gColáiste Oilíúna Múinteoirí Mhuire gan Smál, a bhí nuabhunaithe. Phós sí Diarmuid O'Donovan, ceannai ime agus siopadóir, i 1909. Ní raibh aon chlann dá gcuid féin ag an lánúin ach chónaigh deirfiúracha eile Ní Mhurchú leo ina n-áit chónaithe tar éis gur bhog siad go Luimneach chun obair a fháil. Tar éis di éirí as a post i gColáiste Mhuire gan Smál, ghlac a deirfiúr, Kate, (Kate O'Callaghan ina dhiaidh sin) lena post, agus ghlac a ndeirfiúr, Eilis leis an bpost céanna tar éis do Kate éirí as



Máire O'Donovan (National Library of Ireland)
Máire O'Donovan (Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)



Town Hall where Máire O'Donovan was based while Deputy Mayor (Limerick Museum) · Halla an Bhaile ina raibh Máire O'Donovan bunaithe agus í ina Leas-Mhéara (Músaem Luimnigh)



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



Máire's involvement in political activity continued even after her retirement from teaching upon her marriage. She joined the Gaelic League in Limerick and was a prominent member of the local Cumann na mBan. Unsurprisingly, she was part of a small band of Limerick women in the Suffragette movement. The British Intelligence Office recorded that Máire 'is even more bitter' (than her sister Kate O'Callaghan) in her feeling towards the Crown Forces.

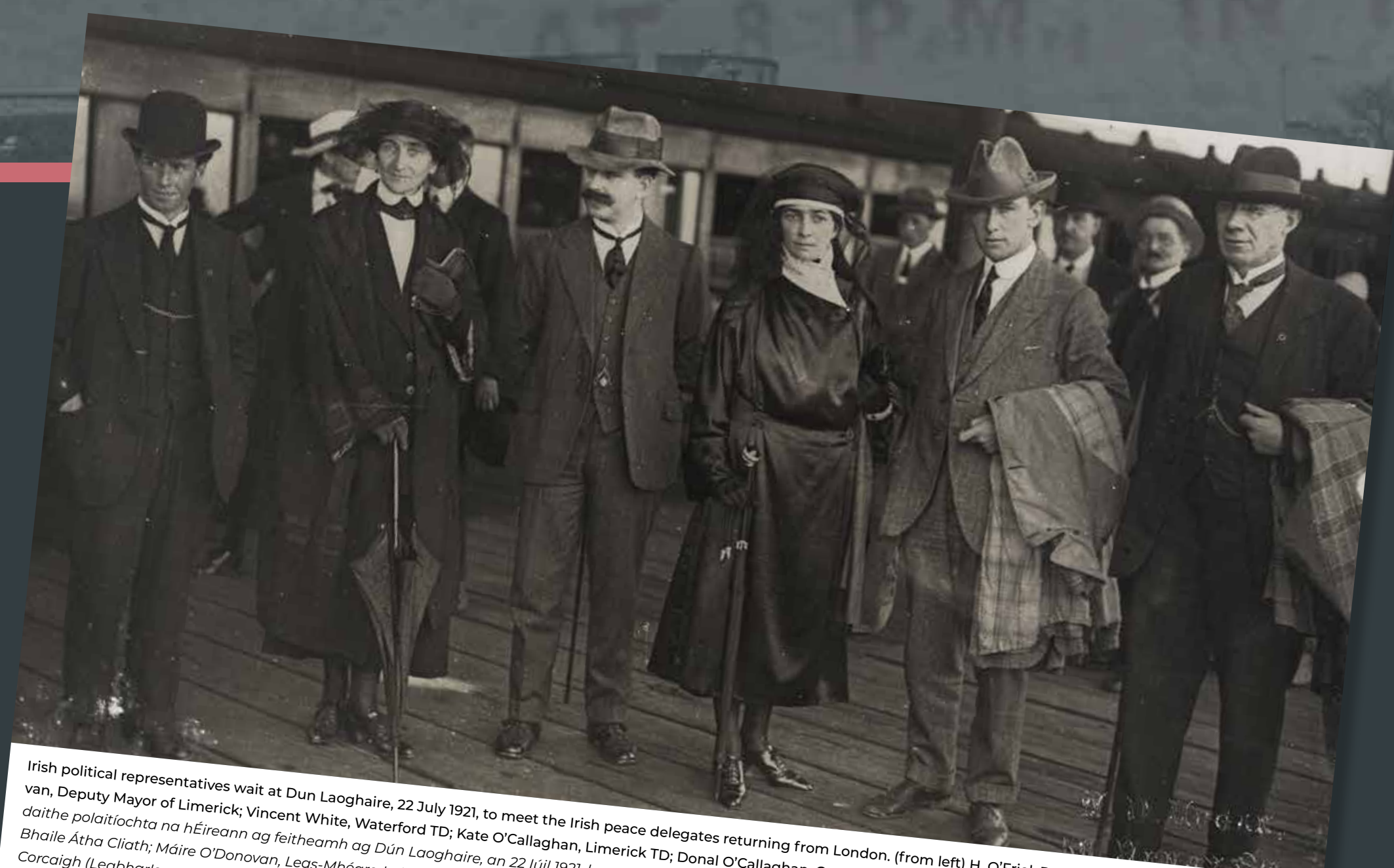
In 1921 her life dramatically changed. On 7 March, her brother-in-law, the former Mayor of Limerick Michael O'Callaghan, along with sitting Mayor George Clancy, were murdered. This left two vacant seats on Limerick City Council, and she was promptly co-opted to replace Mayor George Clancy. Thus, Máire became only the second woman to sit on the council (the first being Emily Crowe who had been returned at the 1920 local elections).

In a surprising turn Máire became the first woman to wear the Mayoral Chain only two month after being co-opted. Mayor Stephen O'Mara appointed her to deputise for him from 21 May 1921 to 30 January 1922 as he was in the United States in connection with the Republican Loan fund.

Lean Máire de bheith bainteach sa pholaitíocht fú tar éis di dul ar scor ón múinteoireacht tar éis gur pósadh í. Ghlac sí le ballraíocht de Chonradh na Gaeilge i Luimneach agus ba bhall mór le rá de Chumann na mBan áitiúil í. Ní hionadh é go raibh sí mar bhall de ghrúpa beag mhná Luimnigh sa ghluaiseacht ar son Ceart Vótála do Mhná. Luaigh Oifig Faisnéise Breataine go bhfuil Máire 'fú níos nimhni' (ná a deirfiúr, Kate O'Callaghan) sa dearcadh a bhí aici i leith Fhórsaí na Corónach.

Tháinig athrú mór ar a saol i 1921. Dúnmharaíodh a deartháir céile, iar-Mhéara Luimnigh, Michael O'Callaghan, agus Méara na linne sin, George Clancy. D'fhág seo dhá shuíochán fholmha i gComhairle Cathrach Luimnigh, agus comhthoghadh gan mhoill í in ionad an Mhéara George Clancy. Ba í Máire an dara bean a shuigh sa Chomhairle dá bharr (ba í an chéad bhean Emily Crowe, a toghadh arís ag toghcháin áitiúla 1920).

Ba chor cinniúnach é nuair ba í Máire an chéad bhean a chaith Slabhra an Mhéara dhá mhí i ndiaidh gur comhthoghadh í. Cheap an Méara Stephen O'Mara í le hionadaíocht a dhéanamh dó ón 21 Bealtaine 1921 go dtí an 30 Eanáir 1922 fad a bhí sé sna Stáit Aontaithe ag plé le ciste lasachta na bPoblachtach.



Irish political representatives wait at Dun Laoghaire, 22 July 1921, to meet the Irish peace delegates returning from London. (from left) H. O'Friel, Dublin County Council; Máire O'Donovan, Deputy Mayor of Limerick; Vincent White, Waterford TD; Kate O'Callaghan, Limerick TD; Donal O'Callaghan, Cork TD; Liam de Róiste, Cork TD (National Library of Ireland) · Ionadaithe polaitíochta na hÉireann ag feitheamh ag Dún Laoghaire, an 22 Iúil 1921, le casadh le toscairí síochána na hÉireann ag filleadh ó Londain. (ó chlé) H. O'Friel, Comhairle Contae Corcaigh (Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)

ON THE SCORE OF HUMANITY

Alderman Mrs. O'Donovan, Deputy Mayor of Limerick, told the FREEMAN'S JOURNAL representative, that on the score of humanity she was in favour of the release of the political prisoners, but if their release were to be a means of lowering the national demand she believed they would not desire it.

If they are not released they should be properly treated as members of the I.R.A. as prisoners of war.

Freemans Journal, 4 Oct 1921 · Freemans Journal, an 4 Deireadh Fómhair 1921

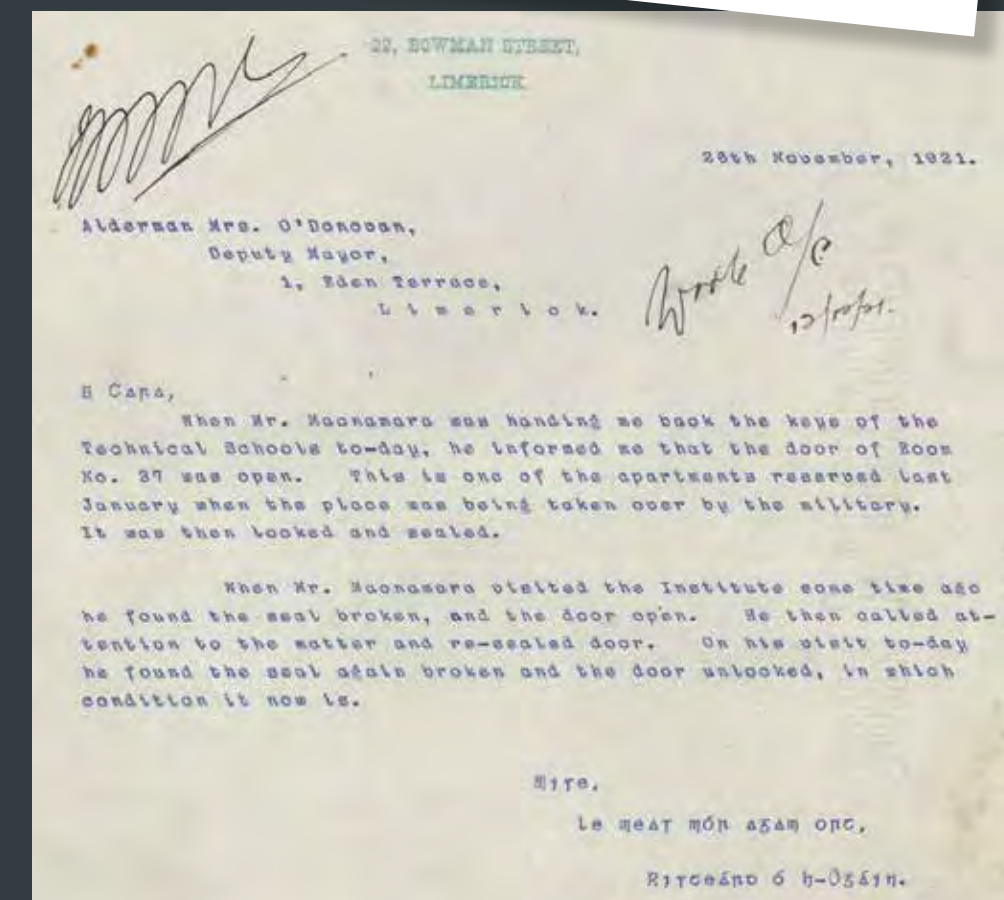


Message from Máire O'Donovan (Brian P Murphy OSB)
Teachtaireacht le Máire O'Donovan (Brian P Murphy OSB)

DISTINGUISHED CORK LADY.

Mrs O'Donovan, who was Deputy Mayor of Limerick, filled the chair of the Corporation with such conspicuous ability and success, is a native of Crossmahon, Lisarda, Co. Cork. She is wife of Mr Jerome O'Donovan, eldest son of the late Mr Denis O'Donovan, Flour and Meal Merchant, Bridge, Skibbereen, and sister of Mrs O'Callaghan, T D, widow of the murdered Mayor of Limerick. Her paternal uncle, Rev Jim Murphy was a curate in Bantry. Mrs O'Donovan is a graduate of the R U I, a very classical scholar and Examiner in Greek for the Intermediate Board. She is a competent Irish speaker, and was the secretary of the Carrigaholt Training College. The writer had the privilege of knowing her in the old Queen's College days.

Description of O'Donovan, Southern Star, 18 Feb 1922
Cur síos ar O'Donovan, Southern Star, an 18 Feabhra 1922



Letter to O'Donovan while she was in office (Limerick Museum)
Litir chuig O'Donovan fad a bhí sí san oifig sin (Músaem Luimnigh)

During her time as Deputy Mayor, Máire presided over the ceremony where Eamon de Valera and Kathleen Clarke received the freedom of the city on 5 December 1921. They had been unable to receive the honour when it was first conferred on them in 1918 as both had been in prison.

I rith a cuid ama mar Leas-Mhéara, bhí Máire i gceannas ar an searmanas inar bronnadh saoirse na cathrach ar Éamon de Valera agus Kathleen Clarke an 5 Nollaig 1921. Níorbh fhéidir leo an onóir a fháil nuair a bronnadh orthu i dtosach é i 1918 mar gheall go raibh an bheirt acu i bpríosún.

Alderman Mrs O'Donovan, acknowledging the kind remarks of the Mayor, said that as any time she should highly appreciate the honour of being elected to that body, but at the present time it was a still more appreciable honour. It was a time of struggle and of danger, and the selection at this particular time was a proof of trust. She hoped she would not be found disappointing as regards that trust, and she expressed her great sense of unworthiness when she thought of those who had lately gone out of that body. She would bear in mind that they were shaping a new Ireland, and that she had the honour of being a member of a Republican Corporation. She would do her humble best as far as her abilities went to fulfil the civic responsibilities which she had undertaken (applause).

Speech to Limerick City Council, Limerick Leader, 8 April 1921
Urlabhra le Comhairle Cathrach Luimnigh, Limerick Leader, an 8 Aibreán 1921

MAYOR OF LIMERICK IN U.S.
LETTER FROM MR. DE VALERA.
Limerick, Saturday.—The following was given to the Press to-day for publication:—
The Mayor arrived in New York to-day (Saturday).
Dail Eireann.
President's Department.
16th June, 1921.
Dear Mrs. O'Donovan,—It has become necessary to withdraw from your city the guidance of your Mayor, Alderman Stephen O'Mara. The Government of the Republic has need of his services on a mission of national importance.
I may state that not alone have we been most reluctant to withdraw him, but he, himself, has been most reluctant to leave. He had hoped to remain at his post in this final phase of our struggle, to be with you on suffering and in the victory that will, please God, end it.
We have no doubt, however, that you and your colleagues will worthily discharge the responsible duties that now devolve on you.—Very sincerely yours,
EAMON DE VALERA,
Deputy Mayor,
Limerick.
The following telegram was received by Mrs. O'Donovan this morning:—
"New York.—To Alderman O'Donovan, Limerick.—Greetings; write 400, Fifth Avenue. From Mayor."

O'Donovan becomes Deputy Mayor, Evening Echo, 20 Jun 1921 · Déantar Leas-Mhéara de O'Donovan, Evening Echo, an 20 Meitheamh 1921

At Limerick Mr. de Valera was met by Mrs. O'Donovan, Deputy-Mayor, and Mrs. O'Callaghan. Volunteers were lined up, and were inspected by Mr. de Valera and Mr Mulcahy.

De Valera tour of Ireland, Freeman's Journal, 30 Nov 1921
Turas De Valera timpeall na hÉireann, Freeman's Irisleabhar, an 30 Samhain 1921

MAYOR OF LIMERICK.
At present in New York.
The following was given to the press to-day for publication:—
The Mayor arrived in New York to-day (Saturday).
Dail Eireann.
President's Department.
16th June 1921.
Dear Mrs. O'Donovan :
It has become necessary to withdraw from your City the guidance of your Mayor, Alderman Stephen O'Mara. The Government of the Republic has need of his services on a mission of national importance.
I may state that not alone have we been most reluctant to withdraw him, but he, himself, has been most reluctant to leave. He had hoped to remain at his post in this final phase of our struggle, to be with your in suffering and in the victory that will, please God, end it.
We have no doubt, however, that you and your colleagues will worthily discharge the responsible duties that now devolve on you - Very sincerely yours,
Eamon de Valera,
Mrs. O'Donovan, Deputy Mayor,
LIMERICK.
The following telegram was received by Mrs. O'Donovan on Saturday morning:—
"New York - To Alderman O'Donovan, Limerick - Greetings; write 400, Fifth Avenue, from Mayor.
(Extract from "Limerick Leader," June 20th., (Monday) 1921.

Letter from President de Valera to O'Donovan, June 1921 (Brian P Murphy OSB)
Litir ó Uachtarán de Valera chuig O'Donovan, Meitheamh 1921 (Brian P Murphy OSB)

AN IMPUDENT LETTER
Morning Post Shies at Letter from Mrs. O'Donovan

The "Morning Post" has refused to print the letter addressed to it a few days ago by the Deputy Mayor of Limerick, and under the heading "An Impudent Letter" explains its attitude as follows:—
"We have received, on the subject of the state of Ireland, a very long communication bearing the signature of 'Maire O'Donovan, Deputy Mayor,' and dated from 'The Mayor's Office, Town Hall, Limerick, Sept. 12th.'
"The purport of this communication, in the drafting of which the Sinn Féin Publicity Department possibly had a hand, is to call attention to the murder, on the 6th of March, of the then Mayor of Limerick, Alderman Clancy, the ex-Mayor of Limerick, Alderman O'Callaghan, Councillor O'Callaghan, and the Irish Volunteer, Joseph O'Donoghue, and to point out that this deed, alleged to be the work of the Forces of the Crown, was done while General Prescott-Deeie was Divisional Commander at Limerick.
IRRELEVANT TO ISSUE.
"It rehearses the questions put by Mrs. O'Callaghan, widow of the murdered ex-Mayor, to the Press, which, it asserts, 'remain unanswered.'
"We do not propose to publish this communication, because we see no reason why we should help to give currency to Sinn Féin propaganda, especially when it is irrelevant to the issue. Even if the Crown Forces could be justly charged with the murders in Limerick, indictment of the guilty does not rest with the organisation which is responsible for foully murdering in cold blood Mr. Frank Brooke, Mr. Alan Bell, Deau Finlay, Captain McCarthy, Mr. Lendrum, and Mrs. Lindsay, to mention only a few of its more notorious crimes.
"When these systematic brutalities have been repented and expiated it will be time enough for Sinn Féin to presume to arraign others for murder."

Freemans Journal, 16 Sept 1921
Freemans Journal, an 16 Deireadh Fómhair 1921

Máire sat on the Committee of the Limerick Prisoners' Dependents' Fund which raised over £1,400 in the first eight months of 1921. The fund assisted families who lost their waged earner to prison as a result of the Irish Civil War. She was also the chair of the Limerick central committee of the Irish White Cross. She retired from the council in May 1925.

Shuigh Máire i gCoiste Chiste Chleithiúnaithe Phríosúnaigh Luimnigh, a bhailigh breis agus £1,400 sna chéad ocht mí i 1921. Chabhraigh an ciste le teaghlach inar cuireadh a saothraí pá chun príosúin mar thoradh ar Chogadh Cathartha na hÉireann. Bhí sí ina cathaoirleach freisin ar Lárchoiste Luimnigh Chros Bán na hÉireann. D'éirigh sí as an gcomhairle i mBealtaine 1925

When she passed away on 23 January 1961, she was still the only woman to have worn the Mayoral Chain. Despite her many political achievements she was recorded simply as "widow of a shop keeper" on her death certificate.

Nuair a fuair sí bás an 23 Eanáir 1961, ba í an t-aon bhean go fóill a chaith Slabhra an Mhéara. In ainneoin an iomaí éacht polaitiúil a rinne sí, níor tugadh ach "baintreach le siopadóir" uirthi ar a deimhniú báis.

Ceantar an Chláraitheora Maoirseachta (Superintendent Registrar's District) } <i>Limerick</i>		Ceantar an Chláraitheora (Registrar's District) } <i>Limerick CB4</i>								
19 <i>61</i> Bása a Cláraitheora i gCeantar (Deaths Registered in the District of) } <i>Limerick CB4</i>		i gCeantar an Chláraitheora Maoirseachta (in the Superintendent Registrar's District of) } <i>Limerick</i>								
i gContae (in the County of) } <i>Limerick</i>										
Uimhir (No.)	Dáta agus Ionad Báis (Date and Place of Death)	Ainm agus Sloinne (Name and Surname)	Gneas (Fireann nó Baineann) (Sex)	Staid, (Aonta, pósta nó baintreabac) (Condition)	Aois (Age last Birthday)	Sli Bheatha (Rank, Profession or Occupation)	Cúis Báis (deimhniú) agus fad tinnis (Certified Cause of Death and Duration of Illness)	Síniú, Cháilocht, agus Ionad Chonaithe an Fhámháil (Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant)	Dáta an Chláraithe (When Registered)	Síniú an Chláraitheora (Signature of Registrar)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
<i>January</i>	<i>1961</i> <i>23</i> <i>Home</i> <i>Limerick CB</i>	<i>Mary O'Donovan</i> <i>2 Eden Terrace</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>85 yrs</i>	<i>Widow of Shop Keeper</i>	<i>Congestive cardiac failure & mitral</i> <i>Hypertension</i> <i>irregularity of age certified</i>	<i>Kathleen Ryan</i> <i>Occupier</i> <i>Food Council Home</i>	<i>March</i> <i>County</i> <i>second</i> <i>1961</i>	<i>Patrick Kelly</i> <i>Chláraitheoir (Registrar)</i>

Máire O'Donovan's Death certificate (General Records Office) · Deimhniú Báis Máire O'Donovan (Oifig na dTaiscead Ginearálta)

CUMANN NA MBAN

CUMANN NA MBAN

Cumann na mBan (the Irishwomen's Council) was founded in Wynn's Hotel, Dublin in April 1914 as a female auxiliary to the Irish Volunteers. The Volunteers' primary aim was to advance the cause of Irish liberty through arming and equipping Irishmen for the defence of Ireland. By 1918, there were 600 branches throughout the country.

There were four main Cumann na mBan groups in Limerick, each associated with a branch of the Irish Volunteers.

These were:

- Limerick City Branch (independent)
- Mid-Limerick Brigade
- East Limerick Brigade
- West Limerick Brigade

The Limerick East Brigade had consisted of six battalions in 1921, with branches in almost all of the county villages and towns.

Bunaíodh Cumann na mBan in Óstán Wynne, Baile Átha Cliath in Aibreán 1914 mar bhainse cunta baineann d'Óglaigh na nÉireann. Ba í an phríomhaidhm a bhí aige ná cúis na saoirse Éireannaí a chur chun cinn trí airm agus trealamh a sholáthar d'Éireannaigh ar mhaithe le hÉire a chosaint. Faoi 1918, bhí 600 brainse ar fud na tíre.

Bhí ceithre príomhghrúpaí de Chumann na mBan i Luimneach agus bhí baint ag gach ceann díobh le brainse amháin d'Óglaigh na hÉireann. Ba iad seo na grúpaí:

- Brainse Chathair Luimnigh (neamhspleách)
- Briogáid Luimnigh Láir
- Briogáid Luimnigh Thoir
- Briogáid Luimnigh Thiar

Bhí sé chathlán i mBriogáid Luimnigh Thoir sa bhliain 1921, agus bhí brainsí i mbeagnach gach baile agus sráidbhaile sa chontae.



Madge Daly, duine de bhunaitheoirí agus uachtarán Bhainse Chathair Luimnigh de Chumann na mBan, (Brian O'Toole)

Madge Daly, duine de bhunaitheoirí agus uachtarán Bhainse Chathair Luimnigh de Chumann na mBan, (Brian O'Toole)



DATE	SUB.	SIG.
Ent. Fee - 1914		
July -		
August -		
September -		
October -	3	AD
November -	3	AD
December -	3	AD
1915		
January -	3	AD
February -	3	AD
March -	3	AD
April -	3	AD
May -	3	AD
June -	3	AD

1628 OBJECTS.

1. To advance the cause of Irish liberty.
2. To organise Irishwomen in furtherance of this object.
3. To assist in arming and equipping a body of Irishmen for the defence of Ireland.
4. To form a Fund for these purposes, to be called "The Defence of Ireland Fund."

Members will be expected, in addition to their local subscriptions, to support the "Defence of Ireland Fund" by subscription or otherwise.

Women of Irish birth or descent alone are eligible.

Cumann na mBan membership card (Limerick Museum) · Cárta ballraíochta Chumann na mBan (Músaem Luimnigh)



KATHLEEN CLARKE (1878-1972) née Daly

KATHLEEN CLARKE (1878-1972) Daly roimh phósadh di

The name Daly is synonymous with nationalism in Limerick. It was into this family that Kathleen Daly was born on 12 April 1878 in Henry Street. She was educated in the Presentation Convent, Sexton Street. Both her father, Edward Daly, and her uncle John Daly, had been imprisoned for their involvement in Fenian activities. Fiercely independent Kathleen refused to work in her uncle John's bakery, instead opening her own dressmaking business in 1897 on Cecil Street, Limerick.

Kathleen met and married Thomas Clarke, who had coincidentally shared a prison cell with her uncle. The couple lived in New York for a few years before returning to Ireland, where they set up a tobacco shop in Dublin. In 1914, she became a founding member of Cumann na mBan. She also played a vital role in the lead-up to the 1916 Rising, which resulted in the execution of her husband and brother Ned Daly. Afterwards, she set up the Irish National Aid Fund to support families of those killed or imprisoned during this time

Samhlaítear an sloinne Daly le náisiúnachas i Luimneach i gcónaí. Ba sa teaghlach seo a rugadh Kathleen Daly ar an 12 Aibreán 1878 ar Shráid Anraí. Ba í gClochar na dToirbhearta, Sráid Uí Sheasnáin a d'fhreastail sí ar scoil. Cuireadh a hathair, Edward Daly, agus a huncaíl, John Daly, chun príosúin mar gheall ar an mbaint a bhí acu le gníomhaíochtaí na bhFiníní. Bean neamhspleách ba ea í Kathleen agus dhiúltaigh sí dul ag obair i mbácús a huncaíl, John, agus d'oscail sí gnó gúnadóireachta dá cuid féin ar Shráid Shisil i Luimneach sa bhliain 1897.

Bhuaíl Kathleen le Thomas Clarke agus phós siad, fear a raibh tamall caite aige sa chillín príosúin chéanna lena huncaíl. Chaith an lánúin cúpla bliain ag cur fúthu i Nua-Eabhrac sular fhill siad ar Éirinn, áit ar bhunaigh siad siopa tobac i mBaile Átha Cliath. In 1914, bhí sí i measc duine de bhunaitheoirí Chumann na mBan. Chomh maith leis sin, bhí ról lárnach aici sna himeachtaí a tharla roimh Éirí Amach 1916, imeachtaí ba chúis le cur chun báis a fhir chéile agus a dearthár, Ned Daly. Ina dhiaidh sin, bhunaigh sí Ciste Cúnaimh Náisiúnta na hÉireann chun tacú le teaghlaigh na ndaoine a maraíodh nó a cuireadh chun príosúin i rith an ama seo.



Kathleen Clarke (National Library of Ireland)

Kathleen Clarke (Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)



Kathleen Clarke in mourning clothes with her sons John Daly Clarke, Tom Clarke Jnr and Emmet Clarke following the execution of her husband Tom Clarke after the 1916 rising (National Library of Ireland)

Kathleen Clarke in éide bhróin i dteannta lena mic, John Daly Clarke, Tom Clarke Óg agus Emmet Clarke i ndiaidh chur chun báis a fhir chéile, Tom Clarke, i ndiaidh éirí amach 1916 (Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)



Kathleen Clarke (seated left) with mother and siblings in the 1890s (National Library of Ireland)

Kathleen Clarke (ina suí ar chlé) le máthair agus siblíní sna 1890idí (Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)

In 1917, Kathleen joined the newly formed Sinn Féin Party and was elected to sit on its executive committee. The following year she was arrested as a result of the so-called "German plot" (a British attempt to suggest that the Republicans were conspiring with Germany), and spent nine months in Holloway Women's Prison, London along with Constance de Markievicz and Maud Gonne.

Kathleen entered active politics in 1919, when she was elected as an Alderman of Dublin Corporation, a role she held until the Corporation was abolished six years later.

In May 1921, Kathleen was elected unopposed to the Second Dáil for the Dublin Mid constituency as a member of Sinn Féin. In December that same year, she returned to Limerick to receive the Freedom of Limerick, which had been awarded while she was in prison in 1918. She was a founding member of Fianna Fáil in 1926 and two years later was elected to the Seanad.

In 1917, ghlac Kathleen páirt i bPáirtí nuabhunaithe Shinn Féin agus toghadh í mar bhall dá choiste feidhmiúcháin. An bhliain dár gcionn gabhadh í mar thoradh ar an imeacht ar ar tugadh "Plota na Gearmáine" (iarracht a rinne pobal na Breataine a thabhairt le fios go raibh na Poblachtaigh i mbun comhcheilge leis an nGearmáin), agus chaith sí naoi mí i bPríosún na mBan i Holloway,

Londain i dteannta le Constance de Markievicz agus Maud Gonne. Thosaigh Kathleen ag glacadh páirt ghníomhach i bpolaitíocht in 1919, tráth ar toghadh í mar Bhardasach i mBardas Bhaile Átha Cliath, ról a bhí aici go dtí gur cuireadh deireadh leis an mBardas sé bliana ina dhiaidh sin.

I mí Bealtaine 1921, toghadh Kathleen mar bhall den Dara Dáil, gan iomaíocht, i ndáilcheantar Lár Bhaile Átha Cliath mar bhall de Shinn Féin. I mí na Nollag i rith na bliana céanna, d'fhill sí ar Luimneach agus bronnadh Saoirse Luimnigh uirthi, gradam a bronnadh tráth a raibh sí fós sa phríosún sa bhliain 1918. Bhí sí ar dhuine de bhunaitheoirí Fhianna Fáil in 1926 agus dhá bhliain ina dhiaidh sin toghadh chuig an Seanad í.

15 Barrington St.
Limerick.
Jan. 13th 1917

Dear Miss Connolly,
Many thanks for your kind letter & our kind wishes to myself & family. We have only one wish & that is to see the hopes of our men realized. The one consolation we have is that we feel

They have not died in vain. I quite agree with you that Com. taking up its quarters at no. 10, Es. St. would be a big mistake. I am going to Dublin on Monday & mean to stay at least a week. I hope to see you then at the meeting of the Central Branch. I have heard nothing about the presentation to Mrs. Rogers yet, whether it came off was a success.

On what I hope it was a success. she deserves at least that. With every good wish to you for the new year. I am
Yours sincere friend
Kathleen Clarke

Letter by Kathleen Clarke to one of James Connolly's daughters (Limerick Museum)

Litr ó Kathleen Clarke chuig duine d'iníonacha James Connolly (Músaem Luimnigh)

MRS. PEARSE.
The first lady to sign was Mrs. Pearse. As the mother of Patrick Pearse advanced to the table, clad in deep mourning, a murmur of admiration and affection rose from the throng. She was soon followed by Mrs. O'Callaghan, Deputy-Mayor of Limerick, a tall, dignified figure, also in black. A hush of respectful sympathy moved across the assembly as she signed a heroic name. The calling of Commandant MacKeown led to one of the great joyous outbursts of the morning. As the Blacksmith of Ballinalee, the braud snatched from the burning by the fortune of truce, walked to the table with soldierly bearing, a full-throated cheer went up from the glad throng. Madame Markievicz, Mrs. Tom Clarke, and Dr. Ada English and other heroines of the Dail also received ovations as they approached the table. Mr. Cathal Brugha was recognized; cheered in all parts of the hall, and gone in a few minutes. Then the attention was fixed on the spare and striking figure of Mr. R. Mulcahy, who remained a model of unmoved calmness in face of thunders of applause.


Freeman's Journal, 17 Aug 1921
Freeman's Journal, an 17 Lúnasa 1921

MRS. THOMAS CLARKE
PRESIDENT OF COURT OF CONSCIENCE.

The Dublin Corporation yesterday un-animously approved the appointment by the Lord Mayor of Alderman Kathleen Clarke as President of the Court of Conscience for a year. Ald. Clarke is the widow of Thomas Clarke, who was executed after the Easter Rising.

Evening Echo, 17 Mar 1921 · Evening Echo, an 17 Márta 1921

Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on her soul.



JESUS MERCY MARY HELP

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Kathleen Clarke
(WIDOW OF THOMAS J. CLARKE
EXECUTED IN DUBLIN ON
MAY 3RD 1916.)

Who died on the
29th SEPTEMBER 1972
Aged 94 Years
R. I. P.

You never failed to do your best,
Your heart was true and tender,
You worked and toiled for those
you loved,
And those you loved remember.

Gospel 32

Kathleen Clarke's memorial card (Brian O'Toole)
Cárta cuimhneacháin Kathleen Clarke (Brian O'Toole)

Pigeon House Hospital. — Ald. Mrs. Clarke's motion on the Corporation agenda was adopted for the re-opening of the Pigeon House Tuberculosis Hospital, in view of the lodgment of £10,861, instalment from Exchequer maintenance grant.

Irish Independent, 4 Jan 1921 · Irish Independent, an 4 Eanáir 1921

MRS. TOM CLARKE.
Alderman Mrs. Thomas Clarke supported the rejection of the Treaty. "It is to me," she said, "the simple question of right and wrong. To my mind it is a surrender of all our national ideals. I came to the first meeting of this session with this feeling strong upon me, and I have listened carefully to all the arguments in favour of the Treaty. But the only thing I can say of them is: 'Maybe there is something in them; I can't see it.'"
"Arthur Griffith said he had brought back peace with England, and freedom to Ireland. I can only say it is not the kind of freedom I have looked forward to, and if this Treaty is ratified the result will be a divided people. The same old division will go on—those who will enter the British Empire and those who will not—and so England's old game of divide and conquer goes on."
"God, the tragedy of it!
DEEPLY MOVED.
"I was deeply moved by the statement of the Minister of Economics on Monday. Listening to him I realised more clearly than ever before the very grave decision put up to our plenipotentiaries. My sympathy went out to them. I only wish other members of the delegation had taken the same course—having signed the document, bring it home, and let An Dail reject or ratify it on its merits."
"We were told by one Deputy on Monday, with a stupendous bellow, that the Treaty was a stupendous achievement. Well, if he means as a measure of Home Rule, I will agree it is. It is the biggest Home Rule Bill we have ever been offered, and it gives us a novelty in the way of a new kind of official representing his Majesty King George V., name yet to be decided.
DO NOT ACCEPT OR APPROVE.
"If England is powerful enough to impose on us Home Rule, Dominion or any other kind, let her do so, but in God's name do not accept or approve it no more than you would any other Coercion Act. I heard big strong military men say here that they would vote for this Treaty, which necessarily means taking an oath of allegiance, and I tell those men there is not power enough to force me; nor eloquence enough to influence me in the whole British Empire into taking that oath, though I am only a frail scrap of humanity."
"I took an oath to the Irish Republic solemnly, reverently, meaning every word. I never shall go back from that. Like Deputy Duggan, I, too, can go back to 1916. Between 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning of May 3rd, I, a prisoner in Dublin Castle, was roused from my rest on the floor and taken under armed escort to Kilmainham Jail to see my husband for the last time.
"HIS HEAD WAS UP."
"I saw him, not alone, but surrounded by British soldiers. He informed me that he was to be shot at dawn. Was he in despair like the man who spoke of him on Tuesday? Not he. His head was up; his eyes flashing; his years seemed to have slipped from him; victory was in every line of him. 'Tell the Irish people,' he said, 'that I and my comrades believe we have saved the soul of Ireland. We believe she will never lie down again until she has gained absolute freedom.' And though sorrow was in my heart I gloried for him, and I have gloried in the men who have carried on the fight since, every one of them. I believe that even if they take a wrong turn now they will be brave enough to turn back when they discover it. I have sorrow in my heart now, but I don't despair. I never shall."

Kathleen Clarke against Treaty, Nationalist and Leinster Times, 31 Dec 1921
Kathleen Clarke i gcoinne an Chonartha, Nationalist and Leinster Times, an 31 Nollaig 1921

In 1939, Kathleen became the first woman Lord Mayor of Dublin, serving two terms. She was also the first female Mayor in Ireland. She helped found the Irish Red Cross while serving as Mayor. She resigned from Fianna Fáil in 1943 and retired from active politics in 1948.

At the time of her death in 1972, Kathleen was the only female Lord Mayor of Dublin to that point. She received a State funeral in Dublin and was buried in Dean's Grange Cemetery.

In 1939, ba í Kathleen an chéad bhean a ceapadh mar Ardmhéara Bhaile Átha Cliath, agus chaith sí dhá théarma i mbun an ról seo. Chomh maith leis sin, ba í an chéad Mhéara baineann a ceapadh in Éirinn. Chabhraigh sí chun Cumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann a bhunú fad is a bhí sí ag feidhmiú mar Mhéara. D'éirigh sí as a cúraimí le Fianna Fáil sa bhliain 1943 agus d'éirigh sí as an bpolaitíocht ghníomhach sa bhliain 1948.

Tráth a báis sa bhliain 1972, ba í Kathleen an t-aon Ardmhéara baineann ar Bhaile Átha Cliath go dtí an pointe sin. Eagraíodh sochraid Stáit i mBaile Átha Cliath agus cuireadh í i Reilig Ghráinseach an Déin.

MRS. CLARKE, receiving the chain of office from Ald. Byrne after her election. On left are : Ald. C. Breathnach, T.D.; R. Lynch; Senator M. Stafford; and Ald. Tom Kelly, T.D.

The Chain Of Office



Thomas and Kathleen Clarke in New York
Thomas Clarke agus Cathleen Clarke i Nua-Eabhrac (Brian O'Toole)



Kathleen Clarke wearing Limerick Lace (Brian O'Toole)
Kathleen Clarke ag caitheamh Lása Luimnigh (Brian O'Toole)

Kathleen Clarke becoming Lord Mayor of Dublin (Brian O'Toole)
Kathleen Clarke á ceapadh mar Ardmhéara Bhaile Átha Cliath (Brian O'Toole)

POLITICS IN THE FAMILY

POLAITÍOCHT SA TEAGHLACH

Limerick played a pioneering role in Irish female parliamentary representation as both Kathleen Clarke and Kate O'Callaghan were among the first six women elected to the Dáil.

The fight for female suffrage eventually resulted in the passing of the Representation of the People Act, 1918. It gave women the parliamentary vote for the first time, but with restrictions. Although men aged twenty-one years were eligible to vote, women had to reach the age of thirty and have the relevant property qualifications to do the same. This age disparity was to prevent women forming the majority of the electorate, due to the depletion of their young male counterparts in the war. This disparity would remain in place until 1922.

This created an interesting quandary, as the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act, 1918 allowed women over the age of twenty-one to stand for election, yet they could not vote in that same election.

In 1918, Constance de Markiewicz became the first female member of Dáil Éireann and in 1919 was appointed as a cabinet minister. It would take 60 years for the next female cabinet minister to be appointed in independent Ireland.

Ghlac Luimneach le feidhm cheannródaíoch in ionadaíocht a dhéanamh do mhná Éireannacha sa pharlaimint mar gheall go raibh Kathleen Clarke agus Kate O'Callaghan i measc na chéad seisear ban a toghadh leis an Dáil.

Ritheadh an tAcht um Ionadaíocht an Phobail, 1918 ar deireadh thiar mar thoradh ar an troid ar son ceart vótála do mhná. Bhronn sé an vóta parlaiminte ar mhná den chéad uair, ach bhí srianta i gceist. Cé go raibh fir fiche a haon bliain d'aois i dteideal vóta a chaitheamh, bhí ar mhná triocho bliain d'aois a bhaint amach agus bhí orthu na cáilíochtaí ábhartha réadmhaoine a bheith bainte amach acu chun é sin a dhéanamh. Ba é ba chúis leis an éagothroime aoise seo ná a sheachaint grúpa vótálaithe a raibh an sprioc chéanna acu agus ina raibh mná óga, den chuid is mó, a bheith ann tar éis gur maraíodh a gcontrapháirteanna fireanna i gcogadh. Leanadh an éagothroime seo a bheith i bhfeidhm go dtí an bhliain 1922.

Chruthaigh seo sáinn spéisiúil, mar gheall gur cheadaigh an Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act, 1918 do mhná níos sine ná fiche a haon bliain d'aois seasamh i dtoghchán, ach ní fhéadfaidís vóta a chaitheamh sa toghchán céanna sin.

Rinneadh an chéad bhall mná de Dháil Éireann de Constance de Markiewicz i 1918 agus ceapadh í mar Aire na Comh-Aireachta i 1919. Ní cheapfaí an chéad Aire Comh-Aireachta mná eile ach go dtí 60 bliain ina dhiaidh sin in Éirinn tar éis don tír neamhspleáchas a bhaint amach.



O'Donovan Rossa Funeral Committee, 1915 included Countess Markievicz
Bhí an Chuntaois Markievicz agus Kathleen Clarke chomh maith le fear céile Kathleen, Thomas Clarke agus a deartháir, Edward Daly i gCoiste Sochraide O'Donovan Rossa i 1915 (Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)



Dáil Éireann meeting in the Mansion House, August 1921 (National Library of Ireland) • Cruinniú Dháil Éireann i dTeach an Ard-Mhéara, Lúnasa 1921 (Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)



Dáil Éireann in session in the Mansion House, August, 1921 (Limerick Museum) • Seisiún Dháil Éireann ar siúl i dTeach an Ard-Mhéara, Lúnasa 1921 (Músaem Luimnigh)



In May 1921, six women were elected to the Dáil, all on the Sinn Féin ticket:

- Kathleen Clarke – Dublin Mid (wife of Thomas Clarke and sister of Ned Daly)
- Dr Ada English – National University of Ireland
- Constance de Markievicz – Dublin South
- Mary McSwiney – Cork Borough (sister of Terence McSwiney)
- Kate O'Callaghan – Limerick City (wife of Michael O'Callaghan)
- Margaret Pearse – Dublin County (mother of Patrick Pearse)

Toghadh seisear ban i mBealtaine 1921 leis an Dáil, agus iad go léir mar bhall de Shinn Féin:

- Kathleen Clarke – Lár Bhaile Átha Cliath (bean chéile le Thomas Clarke agus deirfiúr le Ned Daly)
- An Dr Ada English – Ollscoil na hÉireann
- Constance de Markievicz – Baile Átha Cliath Theas
- Mary McSwiney – Buirg Chorcaí (deirfiúr le Terence McSwiney)
- Kate O'Callaghan – Cathair Luimnigh (bean chéile le Michael O'Callaghan)
- Margaret Pearse – Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath Contae (máthair le Pádraig Mac Piaráis)



My dear Ed.
But on the women
clothes I am sending you
we are keeping up well
in hope of seeing you
Love from all
Eileen

Letter from Eileen Daly to her brother Edward Daly in prison the night before his execution 1916 (Brian O'Toole)

Letter from Eileen Daly to her brother Edward Daly in prison the night before his execution 1916 (Brian O'Toole)

MISS MACSWINEY'S AMERICAN TOUR

Miss Mary MacSwiney, T.D., sister of the late Lord Mayor of Cork, describing her experiences in America, said there were few States which she had not visited, and the people in them were very friendly. She visited women's clubs and guilds, and succeeded in getting encouragement from the non-Irish element. She won over a large number of non-Irish and other Americans. English propagandists tried, but failed, to neutralise her work and that of Mr. Boland. The British Government had itself recognised the Irish Republic, she said.

Miss Mary MacSwiney.

They travelled on board as citizens of that Republic, and she added: "When the passports were being examined we remained with the Americans and aliens who were travelling. When we were told we were British we said we were not but Irish, and we showed our safe conduct at Lorient, which were not British passports."

Irish Independent, 23 Aug 1921
Irish Independent, 23 Aug 1921

Limerick,
8th April, 1921.

Dear Mrs Clancy,

I have been speaking on this matter to Mrs O'Callaghan and though she has not given her final decision on the question she is rather inclined to adopt the suggestion. Her portion of the North Strand would be named O'Callaghan's Strand. I would think however that her final decision would rest with having a chat with you, so perhaps you would take an opportunity of talking the matter over with her.

Our idea in short is this, that if you both choose the Strand the portion from the Bridge to Cleaves will be named O'Callaghan's Strand and the portion from the Bridge to the Treaty Stone will be called Clancy's Strand.

Yours sincerely,
MAYOR.

Mrs Clancy.

Correspondence on the renaming of North Strand after the murdered Mayors Clancy and O'Callaghan (Brian P. Murphy OSB)
Comhfhreagras maidir leis an Trá Thuaidh a athainmniú in ámós don Mhéara Clancy agus don Mhéara O'Callaghan a dúnmharaíodh (Brian P. Murphy OSB)

MISS MacSWINEY.

Miss Mary MacSwiney rose to oppose the motion. In a firm and steady voice, in which a shrill note obtruded occasionally, she attacked the Treaty, the Plenipotentiaries, and those who supported ratification. Her long invective left the impression of an earnest doctrinaire who soared above realities to essay an answer to every point raised by speakers who had preceded her. It was a curiously mixed appeal she made to the listeners, an appeal to principle—again and again she reiterated the word "principle"—interspersed with personal allusions, persuasive appeals to former comradeship, and threats of revolt. At one stage the torrent of argument seemed to weaken suddenly, and something vital departed from it. It was when the orator denied that the alternative to acceptance was war.

Freeman's Journal, 22 Dec 1921 • Irish Independent, an 18 Lúnasa 1921

Later that month two women, Julia McMordie and Dehra Chichester (later Dehra Parker), both running as Ulster Unionists, were elected to the Northern Ireland Parliament.

The women of the Dáil were known collectively as the "Black Widows" due to their personal traumas in the previous years. Their family backgrounds were very influential in their choice to run for parliament.

Toghadh beirt bhan, Julia McMordie agus Dehra Chichester (Dehra Parker tar éis gur pósadh í), a sheas sa toghchán mar Aontachtaithe Uladh le Parlaimint Thuaisceart Éireann ní ba dhéanaí an mhí sin.

Tugadh "na Baintreacha Dubha" ar mhná na Dála mar gheall ar an gcrá pearsanta a bhí orthu i mblianta roimhe sin. D'imir a gcúlraí teaghlach tionchar mór ar an rogha a rinne siad seasamh lena gceapadh leis an Dáil.

Kathleen Clarke, a member of the Fenian Daly family, had suffered the execution of both her husband and brother in 1916. Kate O'Callaghan, a member of the Fenian Murphy family, had witnessed the murder of her husband in 1921.

After she suffered the execution of her two sons, Patrick and William, in 1916, Margaret Pearse became politicised. Mary MacSwiney acted as spokesperson with the international press on behalf of her brother Terence MacSwiney (Lord Mayor of Cork), who died while on a 73-day hunger strike in Brixton Prison in 1920.

Although Constance Markievicz and Dr Ada English did not have a close family tragedy, they were very involved in the movement and would have been affected by the deaths of their friends.

All six women opposed the Treaty.

Bhí Kathleen Clarke, ball de mhuintir Fhíneach Uí Dhálaigh, thíos le cur chun báis a fir chéile agus a dearthár i 1916. Bhí Kate O'Callaghan, ball de mhuintir Fhíneach Uí Mhurchú, ag féachaint nuair a dúnmharaíodh a fear céile i 1921.

Thug Margaret Pearse faoin bpolaíocht tar éis gur cuireadh a beirt mhac, Patrick agus Liam, chun báis i 1916. Ghníomhaigh Mary MacSwiney mar urlabhraí leis na nuachtáin idirnáisiúnta ar son a dearthár, Terence MacSwiney (Ard-Mhéara Chorcaí), a fuair bás fad a bhí sé ar stailc ocras 73 lá i bPríosún Brixton i 1920.

Cé nach raibh Constance Markievicz agus an Dr Ada English thíos le tragóid i measc a ngaolta dlútha, bhí baint acu sa ghluaiseacht agus rachadh bás a gcairde i bhfeidhm orthu. Chuir gach duine den seisear ban in aghaidh an Chonartha.



Daly Family of 1916

The Daly sisters continued to be close throughout their lives, left to right Madge, Agnes, Carrie (Brian O'Toole) Lean deirfiúracha Uí Dhálaigh de dhlúth-theagmháil a dhéanamh lena chéile i rith a saol, ó chlár: Madge, Agnes, Carrie (Brian O'Toole)

South Dublin.
 Charles Murphy, 4 Sydney Ter., S.C.R., Dolphin's Barn (newspaper mgt.); (Proposer, Mr. T. Clarke; sec., Mr. J. Byrne.) He is an Alderman of Dublin.
 Daniel McCarthy, 4 Raleigh Pl., Dolphin's Barn (clerk). He was the first Republican director of elections. (Proposer, Rev. J. Lynch, O.F.M.; sec., Rev. J. Kellher, C.C.)
 Countess Constance de Markievicz, T.D., 81 Richmond St. (Proposer, Rev. J. Byrne, C.C.; sec., Mr. H. Book.) She is in jail.
 Ald. T. Kelly, T.D., 23 Longwood Av., S.C.R., Dublin. (Proposer, Mr. J. Baird; sec., Mr. J. McGinn.) He was elected Lord Mayor of Dublin while he was interned in England last year.

Mid-Dublin.
 Mr. Philip Shanahan, T.D., 131 Foley St. (Proposer, Mr. J. Farrell; sec., Louisa Farrell.)
 Sean McGarry, Bushfield Park, Philipshurg Av., electrical engineer. (Proposer, Bridget Muoney; sec., Annie Smyth.)
 Kathleen Clarke, 13 Richmond Av. (Proposer, P. Cahill; sec., Mary McEvoy.) Mrs. Clarke is an Alderman of Dublin and the widow of Thomas Clarke, executed after the 1916 insurrection.
 Sean T. O'Kelly, 19 Ranelagh Rd. (Proposer, James Lavelor; sec., H. O'Hanrahan.) Mr. O'Kelly has been acting as the Envoy of Dáil Éireann in Paris for a considerable time past.
 Mr. Sherlock duly announced the unopposed return of the 12 Republican candidates.

1921 Election results, Irish Independent, 14 May 1921
 Torthaí toghcháin Irish Independent, an 14 Bealtaine 1921

LADY MEMBERS.
 Only one lady member sits in the British Parliament. Among the 124 Sinn Feiners returned in the 26 counties there are 6 ladies, namely—Countess Markievicz, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Pearse, Miss May MacSwiney, Mrs. O'Callaghan, Dr. Ada English.
 Among the Partitionist candidates in the Six Counties there are two ladies—Mrs. M'Mordie, Belfast, and Mrs. R. P. D. Chichester, Derry.
 The following 6 members returned unopposed yesterday are also candidates in the undermentioned divisions in "Northern Ireland":—Eamon De Valera, Down; Ml. Collins, Armagh; Eoin MacNeill, Derry; Sean MacEntee, Monaghan; A. Griffith, Tyrone-Fermanagh; Sean Milroy, do.

Irish independent, 14 May 1921 · Irish independent, an 14 Bealtaine 1921

KATE O'CALLAGHAN (1885-1961) née Murphy

KATE O'CALLAGHAN (1885-1961) Iníon Uí Mhurchú

Kate O'Callaghan followed her older sister Máire O'Donovan into education, Limerick and finally politics. She was born in 1885 in County Cork, and was educated in the Royal University Dublin and in Cambridge.

In 1909, Kate arrived in Limerick to take up a lecturing post in Mary Immaculate Training College. She lived with her older sister until her marriage in 1914 to Michael O'Callaghan. Like Máire before her, Kate left her post in Mary Immaculate on marriage and was succeeded by her sister Eilis Murphy.

Kate's relatively peaceful life was shattered on 7 March 1921 when her husband, the former Mayor of Limerick, was murdered in front of her in their home. She would describe the War of Independence in the following words: "Women do not cry much in Ireland during this war; the trouble goes too deep". All her life, she continued to fight for the truth about her husband's murder at the hands of the Black and Tans.

Kate was elected to the 2nd Dáil in May 1921, and re-elected in 1922, becoming one of the "Black Widows". The British Intelligence Office kept a file on her, in which she was described as a "clever and dangerous woman who makes the most of her propaganda and her fanatical hatred of the Crown Forces". While on her way to a political funeral in April 1923, she was arrested due to her outspoken politics, and was taken to Kilmainham Gaol. She was released after a nineteen-day hunger strike. She lost her Dáil seat in June 1923 and left active politics.

Rinne Kate O'Callaghan mar a rinne a deirfiúr níos sine, Máire O'Donovan, agus chuaigh sí leis an oideachas, go Luimneach agus leis an bpolaitíocht, ar deireadh. Rugadh í in 1885 i gContae Corcaigh agus d'fhreastail sí ar an Ollscoil Ríoga, Baile Átha Cliath agus ar í Cambridge.

Tháinig Kate go Luimneach i 1909 chun glacadh le post léachtóireachta i gColáiste Oiliúna Mhuire gan Smál. Chónaigh sí lena deirfiúr níos sine go dtí gur pósadh í i 1914 le Michael O'Callaghan. Faoi mar a rinne Máire roimhe sin, d'fhág Kate a post i gColáiste Mhuire gan Smál nuair a pósadh í agus ghlac a deirfiúr, Eilis Murphy, lena post.

Scríosadh saol sách síochánta Kate an 7 Márta 1921 nuair a dúnmharaíodh a fear céile, iar-Mhéara Luimnigh, os a comhair ina n-áit chónaithe. Dúirt sí an méid seo a leanas faoi Chogadh na Saoirse: "Níl mná in Éirinn ag gol mórán i rith an chogaidh seo; tá an crá róthrom". Lean sí ag troid ar feadh a saoil ar son na fírinne faoi dhúnmharú a fir chéile ag na Dúchrónaigh.

Toghadh Kate leis an 2ra Dáil i mBealtaine 1921, agus toghadh arís eile í i 1922, agus rinneadh duine de na "Baintreacha Dubha" di. Bhí comhad bainteach léi á choimeád ag Oifig Faisnéise na Breataine, agus luadh ann gur "bean chliste agus bhaolach í a bhaineann an tairbhe is mó dá cuid bolscaireachta agus den fhuath antoisceach i leith Fhórsaí na Corónach". Fad a bhí sí ar a bealach go sochraid pholaitiúil in Aibreán 1923, gabhadh í mar gheall ar a cuid polaitíocht cheandána, agus tugadh go Príosún Chill Mhaighneann í. Scaoileadh í tar éis go ndeachaigh sí ar stailc ocrais ar feadh naoi lá dhéag. Chaill sí a suíochán sa Dáil sa bhliain 1923 agus d'éirigh sí as an bpolaitíocht ghníomhach.



Kate O'Callaghan (National Library of Ireland) Kate O'Callaghan (Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)



Mrs. O'Callaghan, Mary McSweeney during the Treaty debates, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin (National Library of Ireland) · An tUasal O'Callaghan, Máire McSweeney, díospóireachtaí an Chonartha, Ardán Phort an Iarla, Baile Átha Cliath (Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)



Funeral of Murdered Mayors O'Callaghan and Clancy (Limerick Museum) · Sochraid an Mhéara O'Callaghan agus an Mhéara Clancy a dúnmharaíodh (Músaem Luimnigh)

In 1924, as a childless widow, Kate returned to Mary Immaculate College as part-time supervisor. She chaired the drama section of in Féile Luimnigh (an annual Limerick-based festival of Irish culture and arts) for fifteen years.

Kate died of old age on 16 March 1961, having outlived her husband by forty years. She was given a guard of honour by the Old I.R.A. before her burial next to her husband in the Republican Plot in Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery, Limerick.

D'fhill Kate ar Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál sa bhliain 1924 agus i ina baintreach gan chlann, mar mhaoirseoir páirtaimseartha. Rinne sí cathaoirleacht ar an rannóg drámaíochta ag Féile Luimnigh (féile bhliantúil chultúr agus ealaíona Gaelacha atá bunaithe i Luimneach) ar feadh cúig bliana déag.

Fuair Kate bás den aostacht an 16 Márta 1961, agus mhair sí daichead bliain ní b'fhaide ná a fear céile. Chuir an Sean-IRA garda onóra di sular cuireadh i taobh lena fear céile i gCeapach na bPoblachtach i Reilig Cnocán San Labhrás, Luimneach.

PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO LIMERICK TRAGEDIES

CIVILIAN TRIBUNAL DEMANDED.
The Chief Secretary announced that instructions had been given for the holding of a military inquiry into the Limerick tragedies, and it is probable that the inquiry should be instituted in order to ascertain the facts.
It is understood that the relatives of the victims will desire to attend the inquiry, or at least to be present.
The Chief Secretary has been asked to consider the possibility of a military inquiry, or at least to be present.
The Chief Secretary has been asked to consider the possibility of a military inquiry, or at least to be present.

LIMERICK VICTIMS LYING-IN-STATE



The bodies lying in state in the hall.



Illustrated London News, 19 Mar 1921 • Illustrated London News, an 19 Márta 1921



Peace meeting at Mansion House Dublin left to right, Mrs. Tom Clarke, Countess Markievicz, Mrs. O'Callaghan and Mrs. Pearse (National Library of Ireland)
Cruinniú síochána ag Teach an Ard-Mhéara, Baile Átha Cliath, ó chlár: an tUasal Tom Clarke, an Chuntais Markievicz, an tUasal O'Callaghan agus an tUasal Pearse (Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)

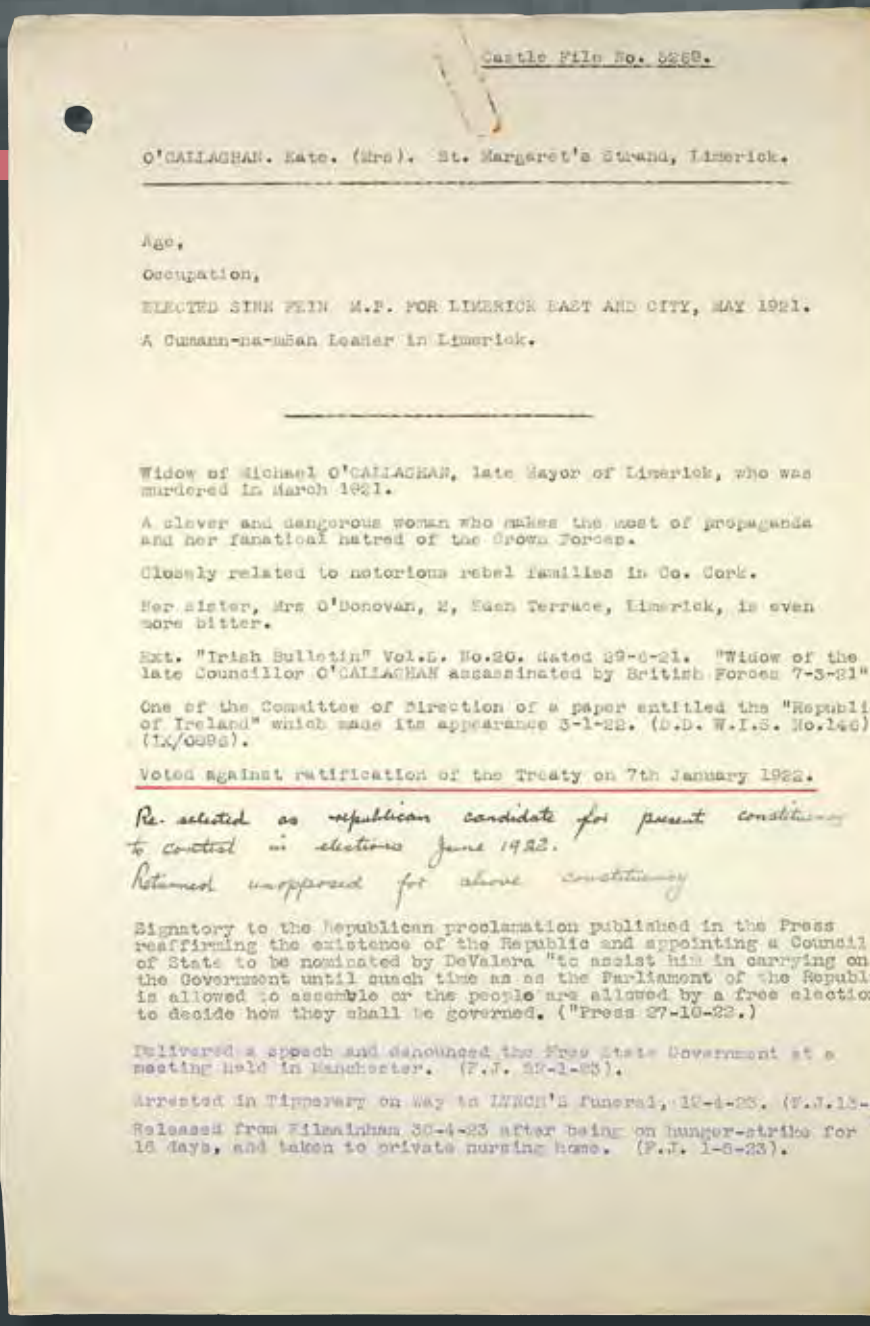
RECENT LIMERICK CITY TRAGEDIES.

DEMAND FOR FRESH INQUIRY.

"It does not meet the case, as Mr. Lloyd George said on April 7, that he is willing the same court should be reassembled."
This is the conclusion arrived at by Francis D. Aokiand, M.P., Eleanor Ackland, J.P., and Violet Bonham Carter in a letter to the "Manchester Guardian" with reference to the recent tragedies in Limerick city. They refer to an interview with Mrs. O'Callaghan, widow of the late Mayor, whom they describe as a woman of great integrity, ability, and courage.
No one, they say, could meet her without grieving that English statesmen should add to her bitter sorrow by insinuating that it was her husband's friends who treacherously murdered him. There is not a tittle of evidence to support the official view that they were murdered by the extreme section of the I.R.A., and there is much which is directly opposed to it. The writers proceed to review the details of the tragedies, and add: "We submit it is more monstrous to insinuate that the trusted friends of the murdered men did him to death when there is no evidence produced in which to support such an accusation, than it is to suggest that his opponents had some hand in the affair."
"A MOCKERY OF JUSTICE."
"In any case, so long as one of the suspected parties is pressing for, and the other evading, impartial inquiry into such facts as are mentioned, Mr. Lloyd George cannot complain of suspicions that may, and must, arise in any attentive mind. . . . It is a mockery of justice that where there are two parties, each suspicious at, and suspected by the other, one of those parties should not as judge."

Description of O'Callaghan, Irish Independent, 28 Apr 1921

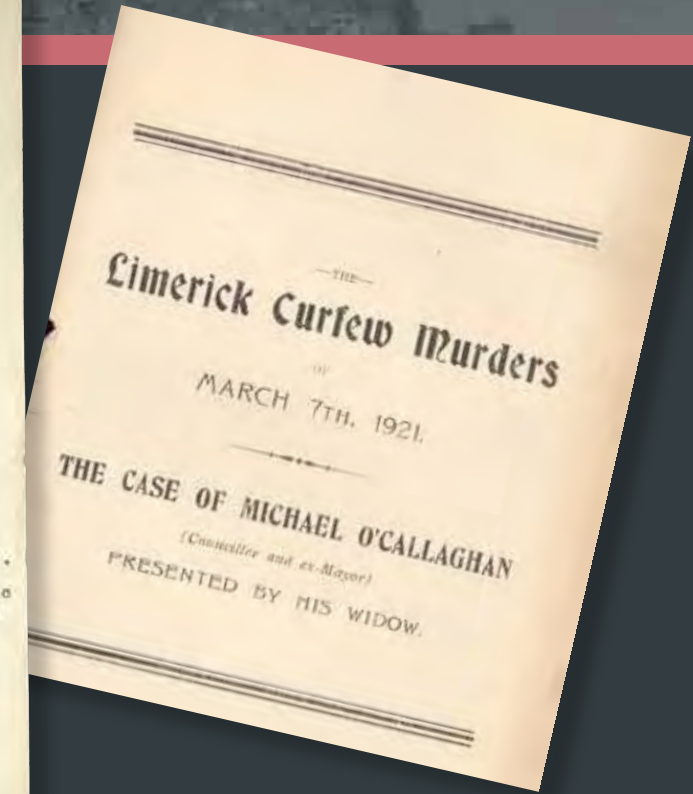
Cuntas ar O'Callaghan, Irish Independent, an 28 Aibreán 1921



British War Office, Army of Ireland Administrative and Easter Rising Records on Kathleen O'Callaghan (National Archives UK)
Óifig Chogaidh na Breataine, Taidrí Riaracháin agus Éirí Amach na Cásca Arm na hÉireann maidir le Kathleen O'Callaghan (Cartlann Náisiúnta an RA)



Sunday Independent, 24 Jul 1921 • Sunday Independent, an 24 Iúil 1921



Pamphlet by Kate O'Callaghan (Limerick Museum)
Paimléad le Kate O'Callaghan (Múseam Luimnigh)

SOUTH IRELAND RETURNS IN COUNTIES MUNSTER'S MEMBERS.

The following were returned unopposed for the "Southern Parliament" yesterday:-
Clare Co.—4 Seats.
E. De Valera, T.D. Sean Leddy.
B. O'Higgins, T.D. Patk. Brennan.
Cork (Mid., N., S., S.E., and W.)—8 Seats.
M. Collins, T.D. Sean Hales.
Sean Hayes, T.D. Sean Maylin.
P. O'Keefe, T.D. D. Corkery.
Sean MacSwiney Sean Moran.
Cork (E. and H.E.)—3 Seats.
Thos. Hunter, T.D. Jas. Fitzgerald, jun.
David Kent, T.D.
Kerry and Limerick W.—8 Seats.
Austin Stack, T.D. Con Collins, T.D.
P. Bealain, T.D. E. Roche.
Finian Lynch, T.D. P. J. Cahill.
J. Crowley, T.D. T. O'Donnchada.
Limerick E. and City—4 Seats.
Mrs. O'Callaghan. M. P. Collivet, T.D.
Dr. Hayes, T.D. Wm. Hayes.
Tipperary (M., N., and S.)—4 Seats.
J. MacDonagh, T.D. P. A. Keane, T.D.
Seumas Burke, T.D. P. J. O'Byrne.
Waterford (incl. City) and Tipperary E.—5 Seats.
Cathal Brugha, T.D. Frank Dohan.
Dr. V. White. Eamon Dea.
Seumas Robinson.

1921 Election results, Irish Independent, 14 May 1921

that they were bringing the people back that.
MRS. O'CALLAGHAN
A SEPARATIST FROM HER GIRLHOOD
Mrs. O'Callaghan, Limerick, said she rose to support the motion for rejection, and lest anybody might question her right, she wanted it to be understood she had the clearest right. Since she came to Dublin for the session she had been told her husband was never a Republican. She challenged a young person in the Dail to deny her husband's devotion to the Republic. Her husband sealed that devotion with his blood, and she asked the gentlemen who said they were Republicans to leave her husband's name out of the matter (hear, hear).
She declared no woman in the Dail would record her vote simply because she was warped by a sense of deep personal loss.
The women of the Dail were women of character and would vote for principle—not for expediency (hear, hear). For herself, since her girlhood she had been a Separatist.
MATTER OF RIGHT AND WRONG.
She wanted Ireland to be separated from the British Empire, and she accused them her life in Limerick, culminating in the murder of her husband last March, had not converted her to Dominion status in the British Empire.
It hurt her to have to vote against the Minister for Foreign Affairs.
He was a friend of her husband, but in this matter she was determined to show no devotion either to leader or party. This was a matter purely of principle and conscience—a matter of right and wrong. From a study of the private documents she had no hesitation in admitting that the delegates had full powers to go and conclude a Treaty, but she understood they were to submit the final draft to the Cabinet and President before signing.
The delegates were—although she did not like to use the word—blinded by threats of war to signing the Treaty. She had reason to believe that some of the delegates supporters were trying to use the same bluff there (hear, hear).
DEFINITELY IN EMPIRE.
The Treaty would put Ireland definitely into the British Empire. That being so, what had all the hundreds of years of struggle been for?
In the question of the oath she had raised the matter, and ever since every legal man in that assembly had been giving her advice and explaining it. She still failed to see how in swearing the oath of allegiance to the Free State she could avoid King George. She could not avoid him, because he is in the Constitution.
Even if she found the terms of the Treaty satisfactory and consistent with a national honour the joy of the British Press would have made her suspicious. There had been much talk of the signing of the Treaty of London settling her centuries-old quarrel with Ireland. If these statements were true the present pretence that it might be an admirable thing, but this Treaty would not be a settlement, and would not make for peace, because it did not recognise the sovereign, independent status of Ireland, and it was a mean thing to try to patch up the rottenness of the Empire by a pretended gift of freedom to Ireland. It was more than mean—it was a crime, for it left England's hands free for places like Egypt and India (hear, hear) in the name, she supposed, of our common citizenship (laughter).
LITTLE BITTERNESS.
Those who knew her and her story would know what little bitterness she felt against the actual murderers of her husband. They walked the streets of Limerick for weeks, and she never asked, as she could have done, to have that murder reviewed by Irish Republican bullets, but she did feel bitter now when all that her late husband and she cared for and worked for, and for which she lost her happiness, was going to be voted away by the young soldiers in which she had such hope.
FAR-REACHING EFFECTS.
Her husband lay in Limerick in the Republican plot, and although the Deputies of An Dail might vote this county within the British Empire that plot could not be touched. Where he lay buried was Republican ground, and she defied them to violate it (applause).
They were making history, and their decision would have far-reaching effects, and if there was any Deputy who had not yet made up their minds, she asked them to think well. Let them stand for principle and against the Treaty (applause).

Treaty debate speech by O'Callaghan, Irish Independent, 21 Dec 1921.
Urlabhra maidir le plé an Chonarth le O'Callaghan, Irish Independent, an 21 Nollaig 1921

HONORARY FREEDOM OF LIMERICK 5 December 1921

SAOIRSE OINIGH LUIMNIGH, an 5 Nollaig 1921

At a meeting of Limerick City Council In August 1918, Councillor John Dalton proposed that the Freedom of Limerick be conferred on Kathleen Clarke, Eamon de Valera and Eoin MacNeill as a protest against "the recent action of the British military Government". The motion was passed a few weeks later.

While Eoin MacNeill received the Freedom in November 1918, the conferrings for Clarke and de Valera were deferred as they were both in prison.

Finally, on 5 December 1921, during Máire O'Donovan's period as Deputy Mayor of Limerick, the conferring event took place at the Theatre Royal, Henry Street. Many businesses in the city were closed for the day as thousands lined the streets.

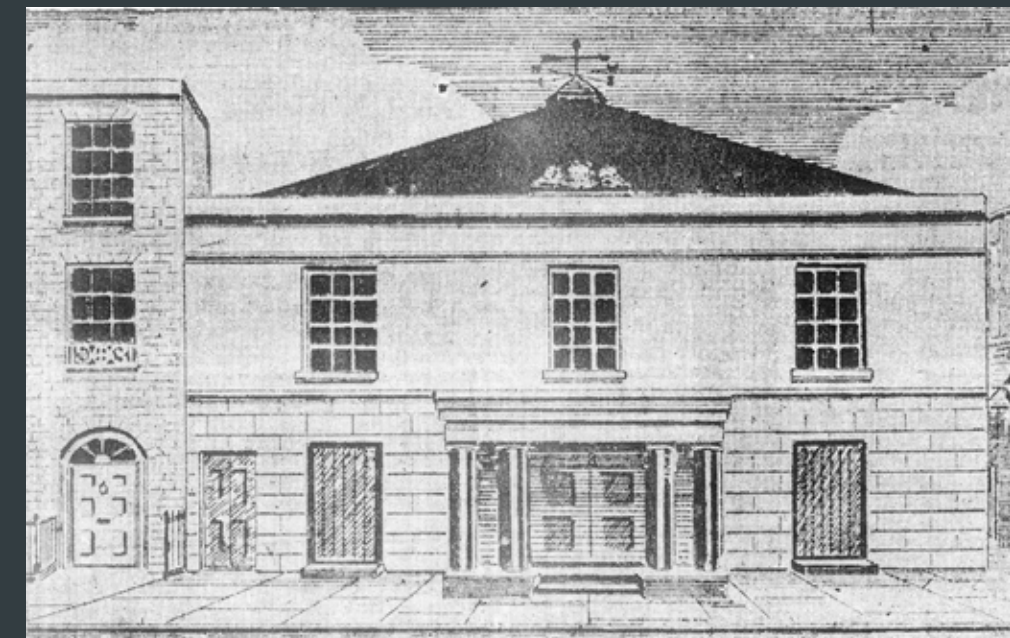
In O'Donovan's speech she stated "They conferred it upon Mrs Clarke because of what she has done and suffered for the cause of Ireland, and to indicate that in her they saw impersonated the fearless loyalty of Irish women to the Republic".

Bheartaigh an Comhairleoir John Dalton ag cruinniú Chomhairle Cathrach Luimnigh i Lúnasa 1918 go mbronnfaí Saoirse Luimnigh ar Kathleen Clarke, Éamann de Valera agus Eoin MacNeill mar agóid in aghaidh "gníomhartha Rialtas Mileata na Breataine le déanaí". Ritheadh an rún cúpla seachtain ina dhiaidh sin.

Bronnadh an tSaoirse ar Eoin MacNeill i Samhain 1918, ach cuireadh an bronnadh ar Clarke agus de Valera siar mar gheall go raibh an bheirt acu i bpríosún.

Thit an ócáid bhronnta amach ar deireadh an 5 Nollaig 1921, fad a bhí Máire O'Donovan ina Leas-Mhéara ar Luimneach, ag an Amharclann Ríoga, Sráid Anraí. Dúnadh go leor gnólachtaí sa chathair don lá fad a sheas na mílte duine ar gach taobh de na sráideanna.

Dúirt O'Donovan ina óráid, "Bhronn siad ar an Uasal Clarke é mar gheall ar an méid a rinne sí agus a d'fhulaing sí ar son na hÉireann, agus lena thabhairt le fios gur léirigh sí dílseacht gan eagla mhná na hÉireann don Phoblacht".

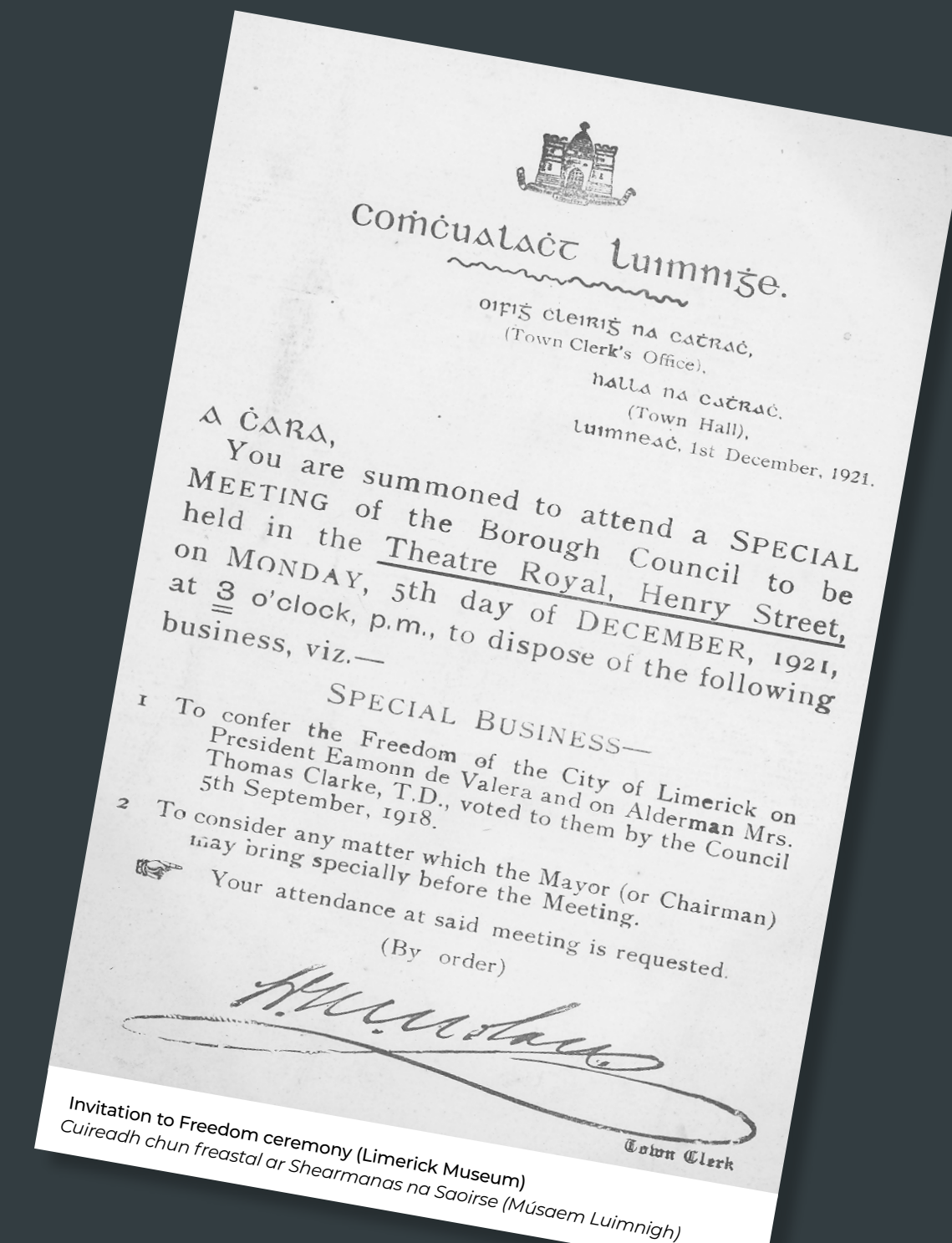


Theatre Royal, Henry Street (From drawing by J F Walsh)
Amharclann an Royal, Sráid Anraí, Eanáir 1922 (Músaem Luimnigh)

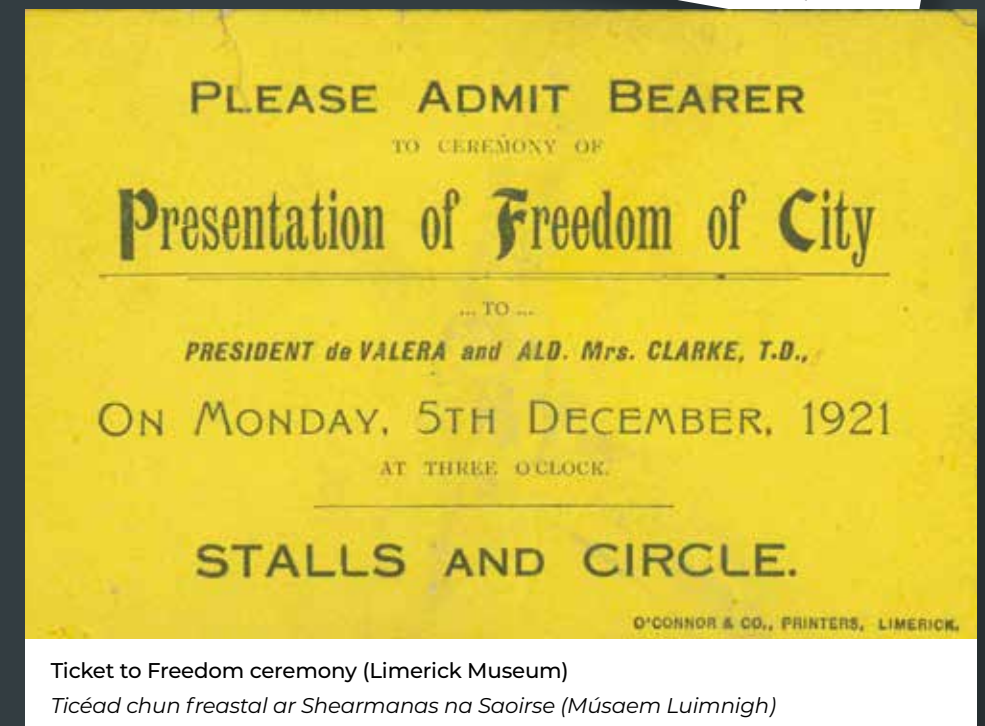


What remained after the burning.
MONDAY JANUARY 22nd 1922.

Theatre Royal, Henry Street, Jan 1922 (Limerick Museum)
Amharclann an Royal, Sráid Anraí (bunaithe ar phictiúr a tharraing J F Walsh)



Invitation to Freedom ceremony (Limerick Museum)
Cuireadh chun freastal ar Shearmanas na Saoirse (Músaem Luimnigh)



Ticket to Freedom ceremony (Limerick Museum)
Ticéad chun freastal ar Shearmanas na Saoirse (Músaem Luimnigh)



As well as addresses by the Deputy Mayor, Clarke and de Valera, there were also speeches at the event from representatives of Cumann na mBan, the Sinn Fein Executive, the Gaelic League, the United Trades and Labour Council, the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Fainne.

The evening closed with an Irish concert in the Theatre Royal.

Kathleen Clarke is one of only four women to receive the Freedom of Limerick. The others were:

- 1894 - Ishbel Maria Hamilton-Gordon (1857-1939), Countess of Aberdeen
- 1900 – Maud Gonne (1866-1953), Irish revolutionary.
- 1997 - Trudy Hunt (b.1958), in recognition of her family's work in cultural heritage.

In 1899, Mayor John Daly had awarded the Freedom of Limerick to Thomas Clarke. John Daly had spent time in prison with Thomas Clarke and was the uncle of Kathleen Clarke.

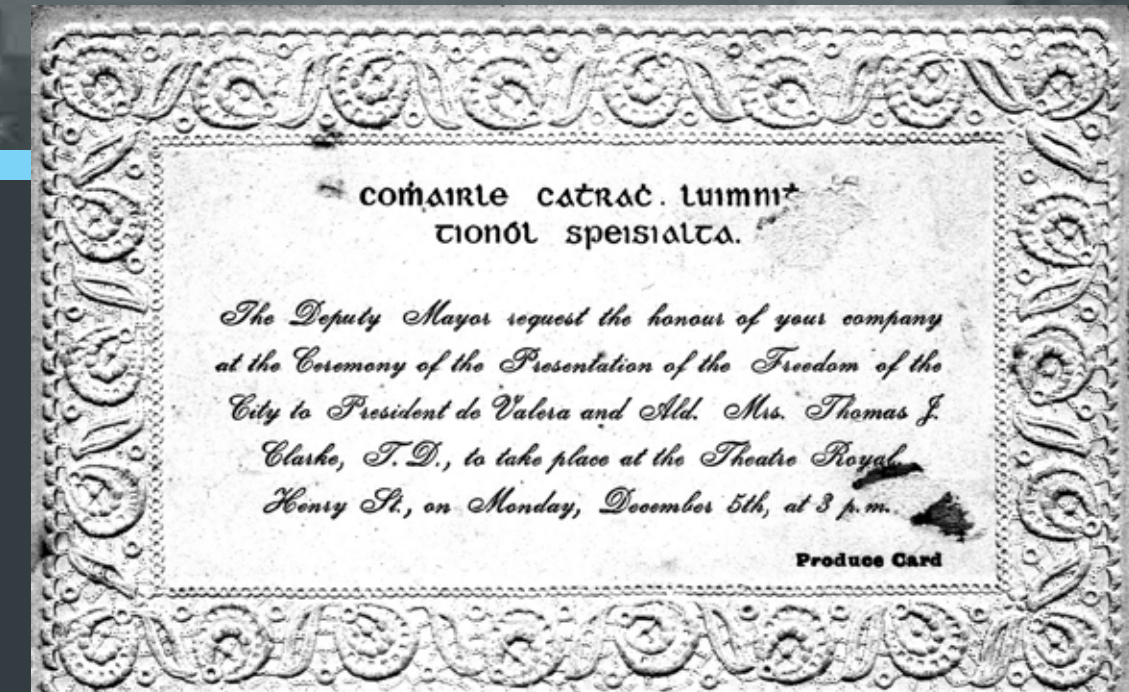
Anuas ar óráidí leis an Leas-Mhéara, Clarke agus de Valera, rinne ionadaithe Chumann na mBan, Feidhmeannach Shinn Féin, Chonradh na Gaeilge, na Comhairle Aontaithe Ceirde agus Saothair, an Chumann Lúthchleas Gael agus an Fhainne óráidí freisin.

Cuireadh deireadh leis an tráthnóna le ceolchoirm Ghaelach san Amharclann Ríoga.

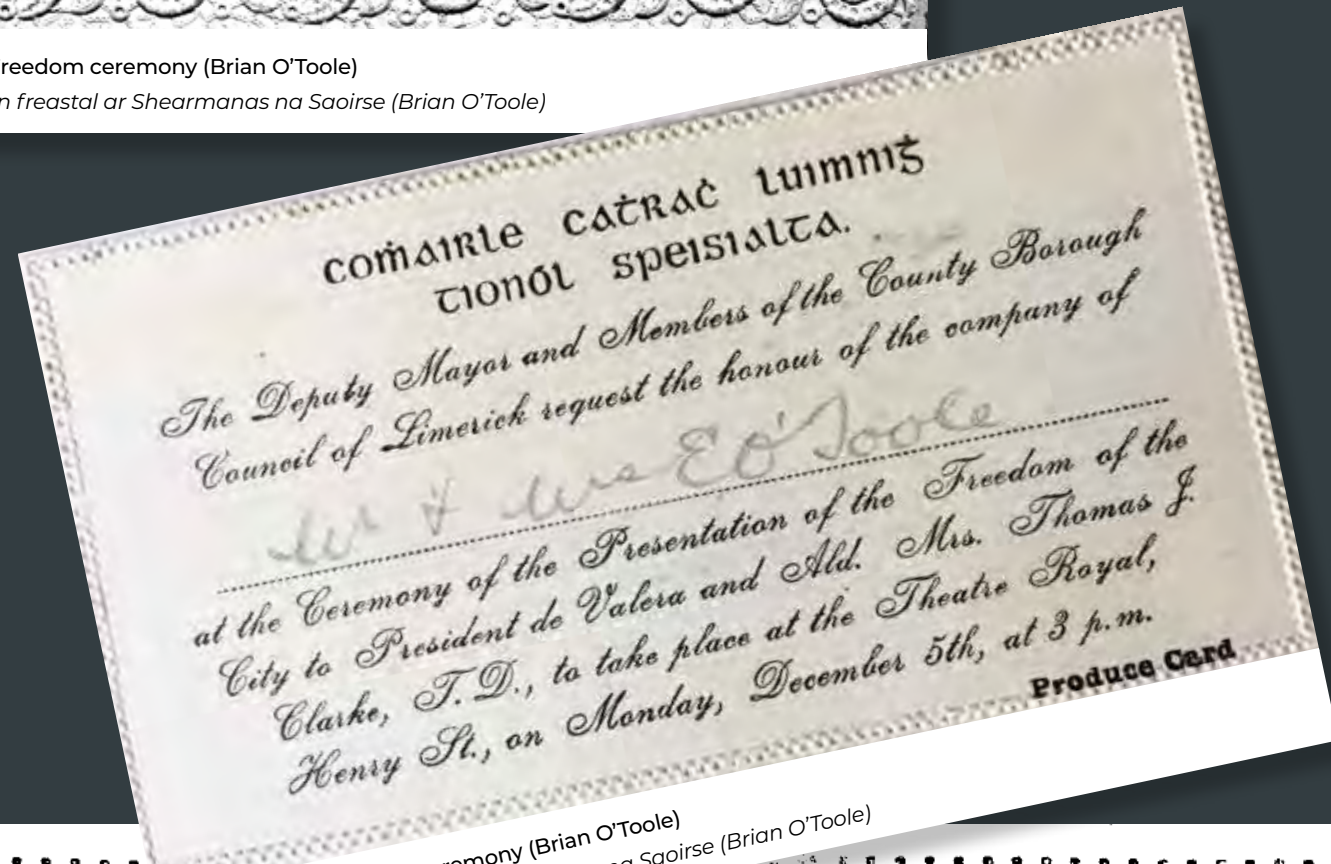
Níl Kathleen Clarke ach i measc ceathrar ban ar bronnadh Saoirse Luimnigh orthu. Ba iad na mná eile:

- 1894 - Ishbel Maria Hamilton-Gordon (1857-1939), Cuntaois Obar Dheathain
- 1900 – Maud Gonne (1866-1953), réabhlóidí Éireannach.
- 1997 - Trudy Hunt (a rugadh i 1958), mar aitheantas ar obair a muintire san oidhreacht chultúrtha.

Bhronn an Méara John Daly Saoirse Luimnigh ar Thomas Clarke in 1899. Chaith John Daly roinnt ama i bpríosún le Thomas Clarke agus b'uncail é le Kathleen Clarke.



Invitation to Freedom ceremony (Brian O'Toole)
Cuireadh chun freastal ar Shearmanas na Saoirse (Brian O'Toole)



Invitation to Freedom ceremony (Brian O'Toole)
Cuireadh chun freastal ar Shearmanas na Saoirse (Brian O'Toole)

FREEDOM OF LIMERICK

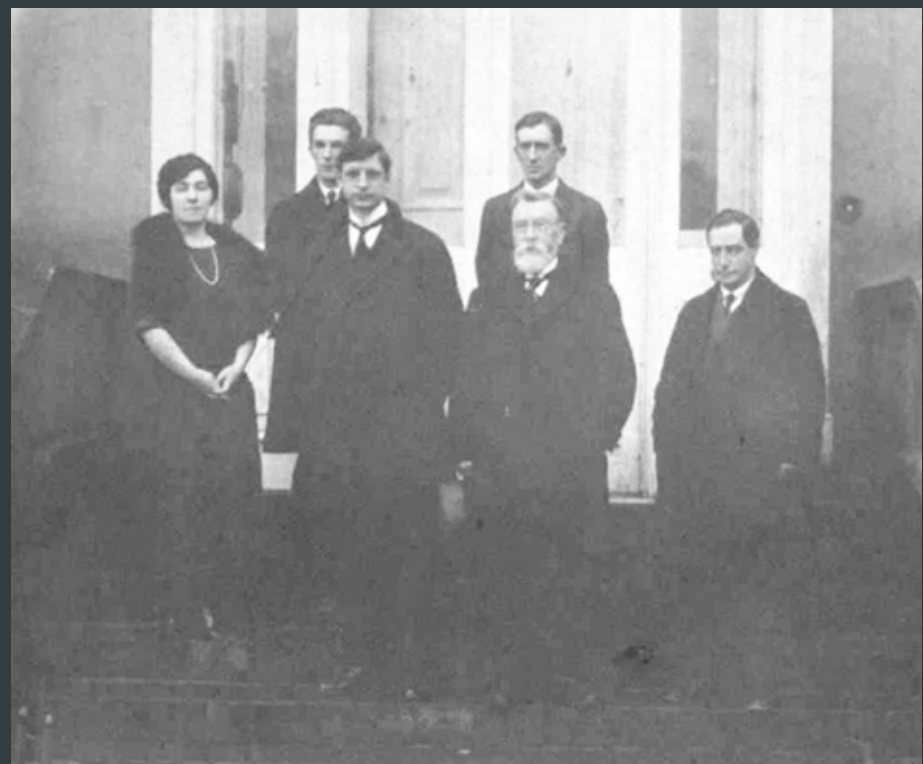
TO-DAY'S CEREMONIAL

Limerick, Saturday.—The route by which President De Valera will travel to the Theatre Royal on Monday, and receive the freedom of the ancient city of Limerick, will, judging by the preparations afoot, present a festive and spectacular appearance. There will be a lavish display of flags and bunting, commensurate of the palmiest days of Limerick nationalism and patriotic instinct. The distinguished visitor, on his arrival in the city, will be greeted by the Deputy Mayor (Alderman Mrs O'Donovan), and members of the Reception Committee. After luncheon he will proceed to the Theatre Royal for the ceremony of presentation, passing through lines of I.R.A., who will maintain order. At the Theatre Royal members of the Borough Council (except the Deputy Mayor) and distinguished guests will take their seats on the stage, Councillor P. A. O'Brien acting as marshal. The Deputy Mayor and the recipients of the freedom of the city and Town Clerk will then take their seats, after which the roll of members of the Corporation will be called. The order of procedure will be an explanation by the Chairman relative to absent members, at the close of which the Town Clerk will read the minutes of the meeting which conferred the freedom. The Deputy Mayor will next speak and give the reasons for adding the names of President De Valera and Alderman Mrs Clarke to the list of freemen, and will be supported by Councillors A. M. O'Mara, J. A. Hennessy and J. Cronin. The certificates will then be read in Irish by the Deputy Mayor and in English by the Town Clerk, after which they will be deposited in caskets and presented to the President and Mrs Clarke, who will subscribe to the roll of freemen and reply. The proceedings will close with the presentation of addresses, to which President De Valera will probably reply en bloc. The queue system will be strictly observed for admission to the Theatre Royal, but no queue formation will be permitted before 2.15 p.m.

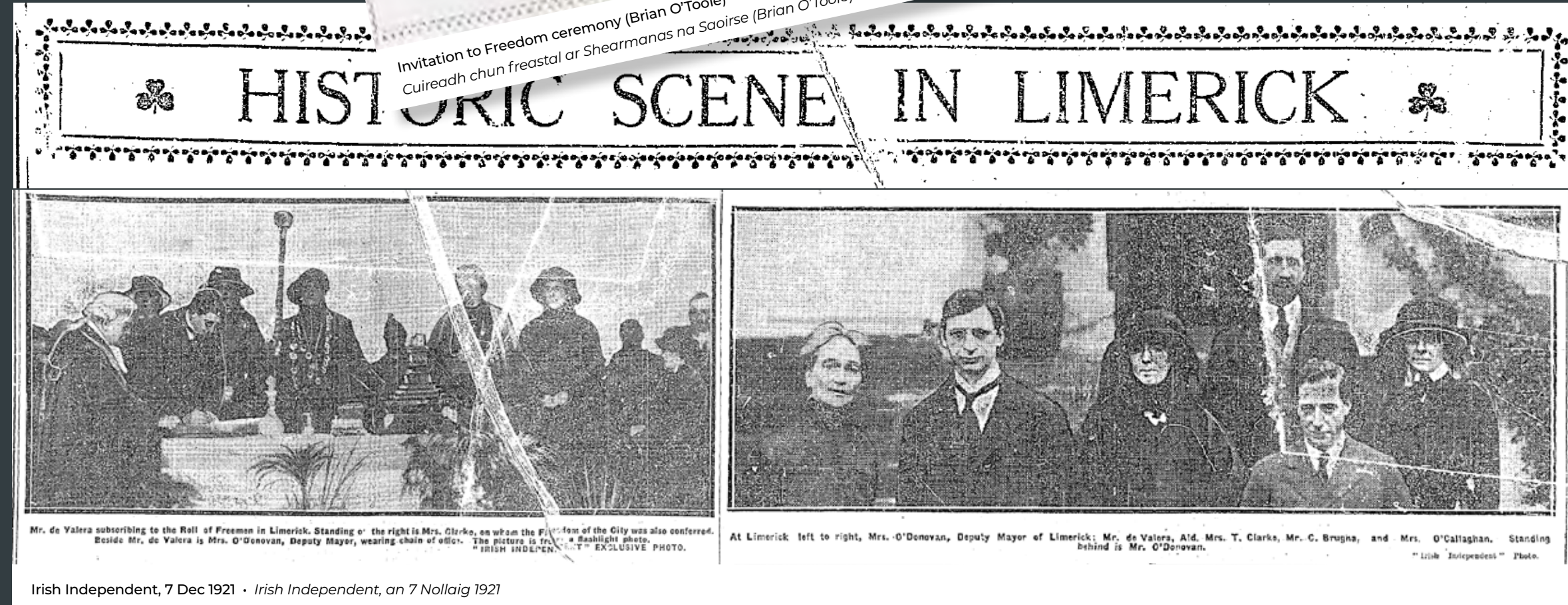
Irish Examiner, 5 Dec 1921
Irish Examiner, an 5 Nollaig 1921

The Deputy Mayor then said: Members of the Council, arising out of the minutes which the Town Clerk has read, we have met to-day to offer the Freedom of the City of Limerick to the President and Mrs Clarke, but before I ask the President and Mrs Clarke to receive that freedom, I must touch on something that is in all our hearts and must inevitably rise to the lips at a meeting called for such a purpose. This has been a sad and a proud year for our city. Last year another city in our own Province lost its two chief citizens by the hands of the enemy. This year the two chief citizens of Limerick were murdered in one night by enemy agents before the eyes of their wives. These heroic and Christian women may beg God's forgiveness for those who did the shameful deed, but the deed can never be forgotten; and as long as human nature is as it is, we can only hope to find forgiveness in our hearts when England disavows her claim to supremacy here, and sets aside the policy that procured these murders. She then reviewed the circumstances under which it was resolved to give the Freedom of the City to Mr De Valera and Mrs Clarke.

Limerick Chronicle, 6 Dec 1921 • Limerick Chronicle, an 6 Nollaig 1921



Eamon de Valera stayed with the O'Mara family on the night of the event (Limerick Museum)
D'fhan Éamann de Valera le muintir Uí Mheara aiche an imeachta (Músaem Luimnigh)



Women in Limerick in *Mná i Luimneach i* | 1921

Acknowledgements

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts,
Gaeltacht,
Sport and Media
Irish Newspaper Archives
Limerick City and County Council
Limerick Library Service
Limerick Museum

Military Archives of Ireland
National Library of Ireland
Dr. Sineád McCooile
Brian P. Murphy OSB
Brian O'Toole
Dr Matthew Potter

Further Reading

Helen Litton, *Revolutionary Woman Kathleen Clarke*, (O'Brien Press, 1991).
Sineád McCooile, *Easter Widows*, (Doubleday Ireland, 2015)
Sineád McCooile, *No Ordinary Women*, (O'Brien Press, 2015)
Brian P. Murphy OSB, *The Life and Tragic Death of Winnie Barrington*, (Papaver Editions, 2020).
Margaret Ó Hogartaigh, *Quiet Revolutionaries, Irish Women in Education, Medicine and Sport, 1861-1965* (The Irish History Press, 2011)
Matthew Potter, *First Citizens of the Treaty City*, (Limerick City Council, 2007)

Buíochas Buíochas

An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon,
Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Cartlann Nuachtán na hÉireann
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Seirbhís Leabharlainne Luimnigh
Músaem Luimnigh

Cartlann Mhíleata na hÉireann
Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann
An Dr Sineád McCooile
Brian P. Murphy OSB
Brian O'Toole
An Dr Matthew Potter

Léitheoireacht Bhreise

Helen Litton, *Revolutionary Woman Kathleen Clarke*, (O'Brien Press, 1991).
Sineád McCooile, *Easter Widows*, (Doubleday Ireland, 2015)
Sineád McCooile, *No Ordinary Women*, (O'Brien Press, 2015)
Brian P. Murphy OSB, *The Life and Tragic Death of Winnie Barrington*, (Papaver Editions, 2020).
Margaret Ó hÓgartaigh, *Quiet Revolutionaries, Irish Women in Education, Medicine and Sport, 1861-1965* (The Irish History Press, 2011)
Matthew Potter, *First Citizens of the Treaty City*, (Comhairle Cathrach Luimnigh, 2007)

