

COMMEMORATING 1916

A black and white photograph of a military band marching down a street. The band members are wearing dark uniforms and berets. The lead member is carrying a large flag. The background shows a row of buildings and a car.

Dr Ciarán Reilly

Dept. of History, Maynooth University

GPO, Easter Week, 1966



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

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN. In the name of God and of the dead generations in which the nation has old traditions of valour, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

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

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unqualified control of Irish destiny, to be sovereign and indivisible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, but has only rendered more urgent the duty of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have renewed their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have renewed it in arms. Standing on this fundamental right, and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we judge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the death to be devoted to its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

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

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

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

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,
THOMAS J. CLARKE,
DEAN MARY DUFFY, **THOMAS MCDONAGH,**
F. H. PEARSE, **KATHEN GRANT,**
JAMES CONNOLLY, **JOSEPH PLUNKETT**

GPO, Easter Week 1916



William JH Tyrrell, Offaly magistrate



THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1911

About place all day. Capt. Magner, G. F. R. Y. C. — here to see us at 11 a.m., but I was down the fields and did not see him —

Capt. Withers. visited here at 3 P.M. as he was passing with Larry of soldiers & he told us they had arrested "Foley" in Edenderry last night —

Minnie in Edenderry before dinner in Tax Car & Minnie & Lizzie drove pony to Rahon at 2.30 home at 4 P.M. No visitors

Edward Kelly [quoted in *Dundalk Democrat*, 5 May 1916. Image courtesy of MCM]

‘He was very glad that the prominent Sinn Féiners of Carrickmacross were so weak-spirited that they saved themselves on this occasion.... Everyone should approve of the action of the authorities in shooting the rebel leaders – because that is what they are, only a handful of revolutionists. I say it knowing that the press is here and that it will be published... We are all ashamed of them’.

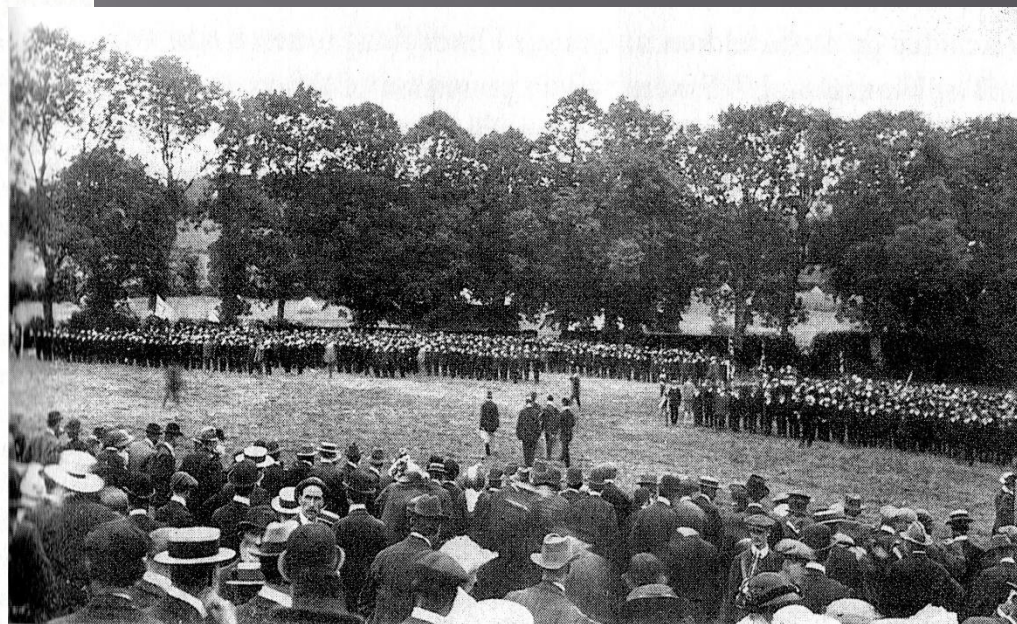
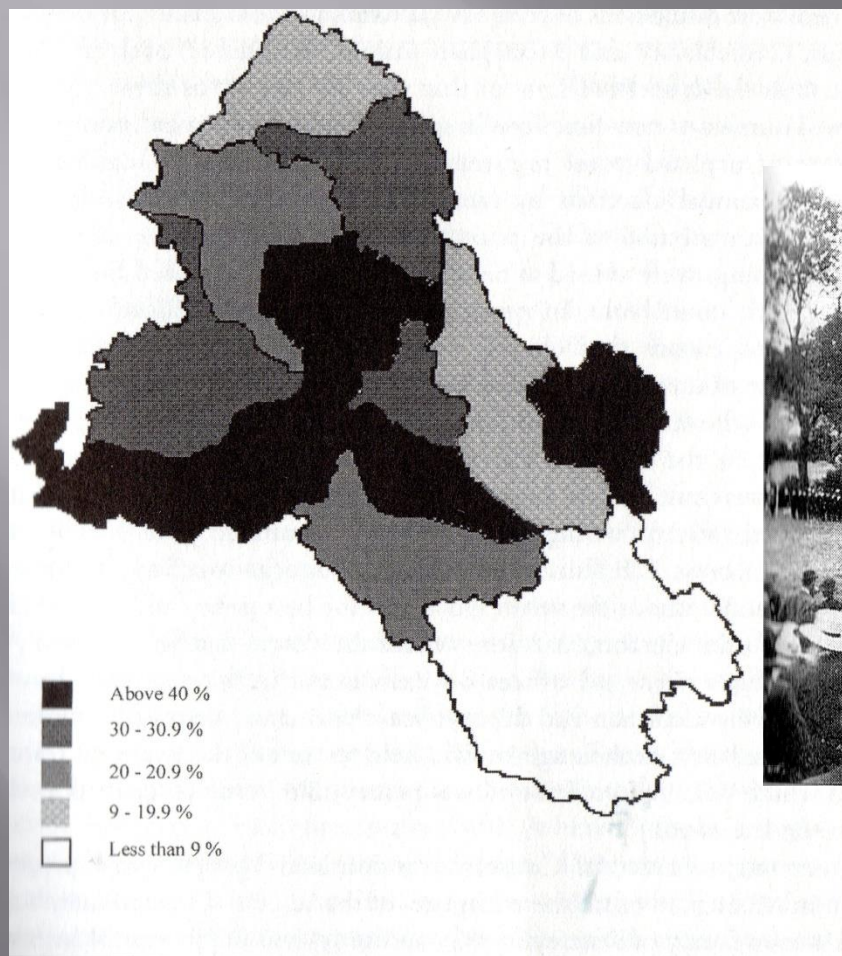


James Connolly, 1868-1916



Protestant population in Monaghan, 1911; UVF parade at Newbliss, 1913

[P.J. Duffy; Monaghan County Museum]



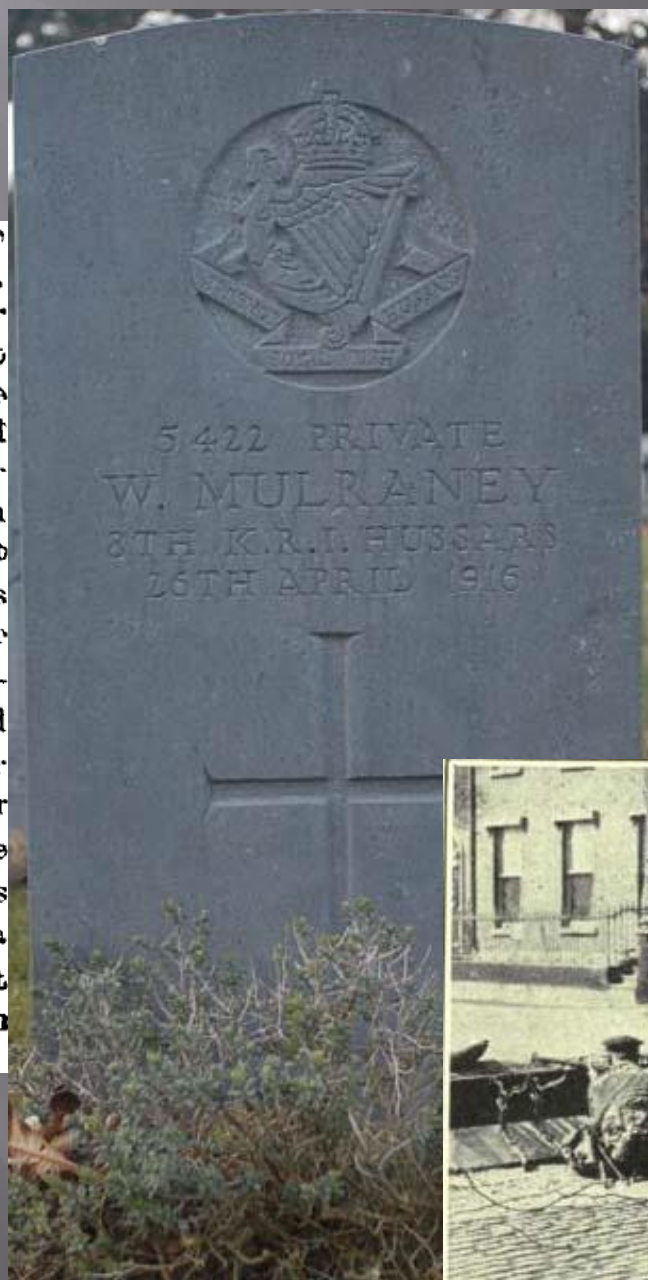
Edward Carson (seated) at Newbliss, Monaghan, 1913



Somme, July 1916



Amongst the military casualties in the Dublin rising was Private Wm. Mulraney, 8th Hussars, a native of Carrick, near Edenderry, and who was employed at Timahoe prior to his joining the army. He joined during the Boer War, was called up as a reservist when the present war broke out, and a sad feature in connection with his death in his own country was that at the time of the Dublin outbreak he was at the Curragh, convalescent, from the effects of gas poisoning received in Flanders, and it was thought that he would be unable to undertake foreign service for a very long time. He was a very popular young fellow in the district in which he was known, and the sad ending to his career was deeply regretted. He leaves a young wife and one child, who reside at Hodgestown, near Donadea, and to whom much sympathy is extended.





We should not allow commemoration to be selective

There is a need to tell the local stories in multiple ways to illustrate the impact and complexity of these major events across the country

They need to inform not just on the political but also the cultural, social and economic life of local communities

Respect different traditions and cultural heritages

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

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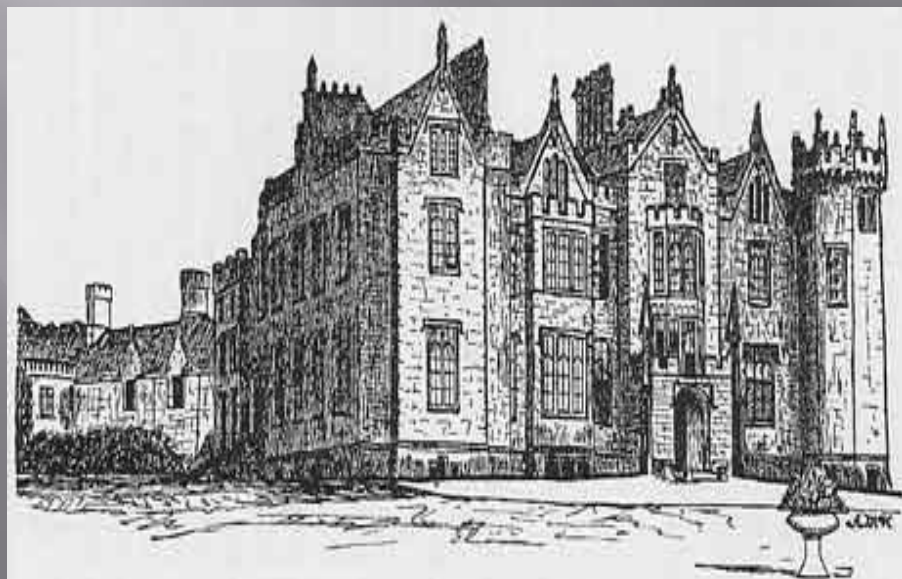
THOMAS J. CLARKE.

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JAMES CONNOLLY, JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

Take on board expert advice

The main aim is to engage the public

Engage with local and national media





to twin with towns throughout Europe in order to compare wartime and revolutionary experiences

The sack of Ballbriggan, 1920



and to jointly organise exhibitions on the impact of war and revolution on their respective areas.

The destruction of Reims



All records relating to the period, in local repositories or private homes, should be identified and made available for scholarly research.



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