Iris Chuimhneacháin 1916-1966
Commemorative Journal 1916-1966

Written and edited by an Bráthair A.P. Caomhánach (1966)
Translated by Mr. Tim Quinlân (2016)
**St Joseph’s Marino: 1916 – 1966 Commemorative Magazine**

*Written by An Bráthair A.P. Caomhánach, translated by Mr. T. Quinlan*

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Original text was written in Irish Gaelic by Rev. Bro A.P. Caomhánach, C.F.C., 1966.

This translation by Mr Tim Quinlan, Teacher, St Joseph’s Secondary School, Fairview, April, 2016

Proof Reader: Mr. Conor O’Reilly.
Translator’s Introduction

As the centenary celebrations of the Easter Rising drew ever nearer, most schools - especially those in Dublin, the focal point of the Insurrection - that were more than one hundred years old and which might have had past pupils involved in that struggle started to research their past. In exploring our history of this momentous time, we discovered one amazing gem, namely a fifty year anniversary book published by the school in 1966 to commemorate its past pupils who were involved in The Rising.

The magazine in question was edited, and written almost entirely, by one of the then staff, Rev. Br. A.P. Kavanagh, known mainly by the Irish version of his name as an Bráthair Aodh Placidus Caomhánach. As this commemorative account was written entirely in the Gaelic, it occurred to us that a translation of this work would be one fitting way to commemorate the Easter Rising as well as capturing the more republican feelings and atmosphere of the then less than fifty year old state. Further, it gives an insight into the strong beliefs and convictions of one Irish Christian brother who was steeped in everything Irish: Gaelic games, the Irish language, the Roman Catholic Religion and a strong Republican and nationalistic political outlook. In all of these areas, he essentially epitomised the beliefs and convictions of the Irish Christian Brothers as an order at that time.

In translating this short work, the translator could not but be impressed by Br. Kavanagh’s commitment to researching as fully as possible each of the past pupils involved in the 1916 Rising. Indeed, he interviewed all the then survivors and/or their surviving relatives and quoted their comments and even furnished their current addresses. He also sourced their pictures, too, most probably from their relatives. Further, he indicated in a short advertisement inserted in the magazine that he would be interested in putting together a further book of reminiscences based on interviews with survivors of the War of Independence that followed that momentous occurrence commemorated in 1966, though unfortunately that dream was never realised. However, it would seem fitting that some account of Br. Kavanagh’s life might throw some extra light onto the background of the composition of these pages.

Brother Hugh Placidus Kavanagh or Aodh P. Caomhánach was born in County Carlow in 1917. He is mentioned in Gníomhartha na mBráithre (1996) as being one of the pioneers among the brothers in the promotion of the Irish language in their schools, the teaching of the language and the teaching of all subjects through its medium at second and third levels. His third level connection in this matter was in relation to the administration of the Brothers’ Teacher Training College, St Mary’s Marino, now called Marino Institute of Education (MIE). Indeed, Dr Gerard Brockie, author of the centenary history of the school, informed the translator of these pages that Bro. Kavanagh was quite progressive in educational matters and could see that things had to change. He was probably too much an historian to think otherwise.

The translator would like to acknowledge Conor O’Reilly’s help in proofreading this edition of the magazine and for his help with scanning text and pictures.
He was to the fore in the Christian Brothers’ scheme to send students from their schools to the various Gaeltachtaí as early as 1953. He himself brought many students to Knockfola in the Gweedore Gaeltacht in Donegal while he was teaching in CBS, Dundalk. He spent periods teaching and administrating in the following schools: Dundalk, Fairview, Parnell Square (Coláiste Mhuire – all-Irish school) and St David’s Artane.

He was General Secretary of a youth movement set up by the Irish Christian Brothers called Ógra Éireann. I remember well learning many songs from one of its publications called Amhránaíochta Ógra Éireann (Published by “Our Boys,” Dublin, 1954). It was he and a colleague Br M.F. Ó Donnchú who compiled this classic collection of popular songs in English and Irish which they felt every young Irish boy should be able to sing. Brother Kavanagh was also editor of a religious and cultural magazine published by the brothers called An Réiltín in which he wrote many articles and poems himself. He also became a member of the board of an umbrella organization that promoted the Irish language called Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge (This organization ceased in 2014).

Br. Kavanagh was also noted for his contributions to other historical journals outside the ones he was involved in publishing himself. In the Bandon Historical Journal (Issue 12, 1996) he wrote an interesting article on one of his deceased confreres who had been a noted history scholar and museum curator, Br William Palladius Allen, who spent years teaching in O’Connell School, North Richmond Street. This is the Brother Allen who is mentioned in the article within these covers called “Easter 1916 and the Marino Brothers.”

The noted Australian historian Br Barry Coldrey thanks Br. A.P. Caomhánach for his kind and helpful assistance in researching various historical persons and themes connected with the history of the Irish Christian Brothers, most notably for the help in the research the former did on the great pioneering Irish scholar Br Joseph Jerome Fitzpatrick (1878-1910). (See Old Limerick Journal, Winter, 1992)

Finally, it is worth noting that Br A.P. Caomhánach was a skilled financial genius who delighted in wisely investing much of his order’s funds, and he was rewarded for all his good work in being elected Vice- Provincial of the Northern Province (also called St Mary’s) of the Irish Christian Brothers which ceased to exist in 2007 with the formation of the European Province of the Christian Brothers. He died on 19th of February 1998 at the age of 81.

For the most part, the translator of these pages followed the order given in the original magazine. However, he felt that the section which recounts the contributions of the various students throughout all years in the school to the 1966 Exhibition, which was almost completely researched and mounted by them, should be placed near the beginning of the magazine rather than at the end. Indeed, as these men mostly may be reading this translation, such a re-ordering should prove to be welcome indeed. It was also considered more than fitting that the pictures of those who were Sixth Years in 1966 would be included within this timely translation. One other extra item included here are the words of the National anthem which were written in English by Peadar Kearney and translated by Liam Ring, both past pupils of St Joseph’s Marino.

Also, it was decided that rendering the list of school pupils attending St Joseph’s in 1966 either into English or re-typing them here would prove so burdensome and tedious that the omission of them would indeed be reasonable as well as infinitely practicable. Further, this list is available elsewhere, most notably in the history of the school, written for the centenary (1988) by Dr. Gerard Brockie, and also on the School webpage.

In conclusion then, it is only appropriate that we should honour this gentleman and scholar for all the work he so selflessly did for causes connected with our young nation.
I ndáirire, táimid uile mar Ghaeil faoi chomoin ag a leithéid a bhi ag saothrú chomh dú thrachtach diograiseach sin i ngort an léinn is an náisiúnachais chun go mbéadh ní ba mhó eolais againn ar cé dar dióbh muid is cé muid mar náisiún. Gan dabht ar domhan, tuilleann sé an sean-ráiteas molta: “Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann!”

Tim Quinlan, 06/04/2016

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**Scoil Iósaif 1966**

(The Way the school looked at the time this magazine was first written.)
Introduction

A Special exhibition on the 1916 Rising was mounted in St Joseph’s Marino on the 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 23\textsuperscript{nd} and 24\textsuperscript{th} of April 1966 to commemorate the heroes, especially the past pupils of the school, who participated in that uprising. It was an eye-opening experience for many of the visitors to the exhibition to learn of the close connection between St Joseph’s, the Marino, Clontarf and Fairview districts and the Insurrection itself.

It was here in this area that Father Matthew Park, the training ground of the Volunteers, was located; Croydon Park, the preparation grounds of the Irish Citizen Army and Clontarf Hall where the last meeting of the Irish Republican Brotherhood took place on Easter Sunday 1916. Here also the Howth Gun Runners met with the Police and the English Army. Moreover, it was in this area that Thomas MacDonagh (at “Woodlands” Philipsburgh Avenue), Thomas Clarke and Eamonn Daly (Richmond Avenue), Edward Kent (Richmond Road and 22, Fairview Avenue), Cathal Brugha (Richmond Avenue) and Seán Connolly (108, Philipsburgh Avenue) all lived.

But before the proposed military solution was put into action, there was a spiritual influence and a moulding of minds at work since the foundation of a branch of the Gaelic League in Clontarf shortly after its national inception in 1893. The local moulders of these aspirations were the Clontarf Branch of the Gaelic League and the “Family of Ireland” (Clann na hÉireann) Hall on Richmond Road. We hope that the following short accounts will illustrate the growth of these nationalist sympathies. But that was not the sole aim of the writers of those accounts. During the period of the Exhibition there was so much information collected about the role of past-pupils and the local area in the Rising that it seemed both a pity and a dreadful waste if this surfeit of information were not published and that it was lost forever.

Of the locals and past pupils who fought in 1916, two were killed in the fighting. Eight of them survive and the rest have since passed away. The information herein was collected from the participants themselves, their surviving relatives and from the Sinn Féin Rebellion Handbook 1916.

There were only three rooms in the school at the turn of the twentieth century. This illustrates well the truth of the statement made by the historian Rev. F.X. Martin, OSA, Professor of History in UCD, on Radio Éireann on the 22\textsuperscript{nd} of May 1966 that it was mainly from Christian Brother Schools that the majority of the leaders of 1916 and afterwards came. But leaders are ineffective without soldiers. It was from the same schools that those soldiers came, too.

Easter 1916 and the Marino Brothers

After lunch on Easter Monday, all the young brothers from the various monasteries in Dublin headed for St Mary’s College, Marino for their customary art class with a gentleman called Mr Whelan, who on that particular day did not make his appointment due to the rebellion. The young brothers headed for the handball alleys between the trees for some games – the Volunteers would often drill in those same courts. On their way to the courts they noticed those soldiers making their way in little groups for Father Matthew Park.

The Brothers were not too long enjoying themselves when the Superior General, V.Rev. Br. P.C. White and his Vicar, Rev. Br. S.H. Butler came rushing towards them with a simple message: “These Sinn Féiners are up in arms against the Government. Get home to your communities at once and avoid the city centre.” The young brothers scattered in all directions, and one young man, Br. Gormley shouted “Up the rebels,” as he jumped over a ditch. As Br. W.P. Allen made his
way home to O'Connell School he had to pass the barricades that the rebels had erected in Ballybough.
On Easter Wednesday, some shells exploded on the grounds of St Mary’s College, Marino and also on the grounds of the O’Brien Institute. These were shells fired from H.M.S. Helga out in Dublin Harbour. They also fired at the college grounds at seven o'clock on another morning. That particular morning a brother was letting in the Jesuit chaplain to say Mass when a stray bullet shattered the glass in the porch beside him.

Rev Br. A. P. Kavanagh (A. P. Caomhánach)

The way the school looked through the eyes of an artist, 1957
The Jubilee Celebration of 1916: Introducing the Students Who Made the Exhibition a Success

The week before Easter 1966, two veteran soldiers, Frank Robinson and Matthew Connolly who fought on the Republican side during the 1916 Rising, came in and gave some talks about their experiences during that time to the students of St Joseph's. The two veterans were members of the Irish Citizen Army. Frank Robinson was a sergeant in the Stephen's Green area and in the Royal College of Surgeons. Seán Connolly, the first soldier on the Republican side to be killed, was a brother of Matthew’s. Matthew had actually fought under his brother’s command at Dublin Castle.

A special Mass was held on Friday 22nd of April for all the school pupils in Fairview Church. When they returned to the school the headmaster, Rev Br. J.A. McCaffrey, gave a short talk on the past pupils of St Joseph’s who had been involved in the 1916 Rising. Liam McMahon, grandson of General John McMahon and a student of our school, read the Easter Proclamation. Then Matthew Connolly raised the tricolour just inside the main gate of the school after which the assembled student body sang the national anthem “Amhrán na bhFiann.”

After that moving ceremony St Joseph’s 1916 Exhibition was officially opened to the public. We are proud to say that it was the pupils themselves who researched and prepared all the displays for this comprehensive exhibition and it was they who explained the various stands to the hundreds of people who came to view it. The exhibition was also remounted on 1 May for all the past pupils who came to attend the annual Past Pupils’ Mass in the school. What follows here are the accounts written by the various pupils for their respective stands.

Br. A.P. Caomhánach, Editor

Sixth Year Contribution

The Sixth Years were asked to make their contribution to the Exhibition by researching the state of Ireland economically, socially and politically after the 1916 Rising. This aspect of the Exhibition was divided into eighteen subsections. Liam McMahon was the student in charge of the research. Even though busy with study for their Leaving Certificate Examinations most students busied themselves after school, during their holidays and on the weekends with extra work and research related to their project. Here below is a list of those areas chosen by the Sixth Years, along with the names of the boys responsible for those sections:


(ii) The Irish economy: B. Daly, P. Tierney, N. Cahill and C. Durkin.

(iii) Industries/ Companies: (Cement Ltd., R.T.E., Guinness, Ford and Bord na Móna: T. Peterbridge, D. Kelly, C. Daly, T. Cahill, D. McGloin. We got a lot of help from the above companies.


Fifth Year Contribution

The Fifth Years were in charge of the section of the exhibition that detailed the preparations that were made for the Insurrection. They divided their display into three subsections: - Culture, Politics and Military Affairs. The Fifth Year Science class researched the cultural aspect of their display which included the G.A.A., the Gaelic League, the Abbey Theatre and so on. Pride of place in their display was given to James Connolly and Éamon Ceannt. This display was made up
mostly of cuttings from newspapers, both written and visual. There was one particularly interesting account among their research articles about Ceannt’s exploits in Rome and accounts also of his literary output.

McDonagh, McDermott and Thomas Clarke were grouped together on another stand. This group exhibited wonderful photographs, along with various pamphlets and relevant books, some of which were quite unusual. As everyone knows the Gaelic League influenced greatly the leaders and men of the 1916 Rising. Again, this influence was shown through photographs, pamphlets and books. In short, this stand showed effectively the philosophical basis of the Insurrection. Another stand portrayed clearly the cultural influence of the Abbey Theatre and The Leader newspaper on the public in general. John O’Sullivan’s drawing of Peadar Kearney took central place on another stand. They had examples of his poetry and an original version of one of his plays.

The stand prepared by class 5L gave a visual and written account of military matters while that of class 5S concentrated on the theme of politics. The two classes actually collected information independently of one another. Then similar information was combined in one stand for clarity. The group who displayed the work of the Citizen Army did so effectively through the use of cuttings from papers and the display of relevant photographs. One book that proved a worthwhile source for them was Fifty Years of Liberty Hall. They displayed an old bayonet that was used during the Rising as well as a sketch of James Connolly made by one of the pupils from class 5L.

The centre piece of another display board was a sketch of the Volunteer J. McDonnell which represented their uniform before the 1916 period. This stand detailed how the Volunteers prepared for the Rising and also gave a good account of the history of the founders and leaders. One fairly limited subject was that of the smuggling of arms, but the boys who researched it managed to make a stand which was very informative and interesting indeed with accounts of the steam-boat called The Aud, The Howth Gun Running escapade and the exploits of Roger Casement on Banna Strand.

The above then was how we Fifth Years arranged and exhibited our display on the 1916 Rising. All the stands were neatly and colourfully arranged in the hall. A lot of them were made in the colours of the national flag which allowed the exhibition to be both fitting and effective as a display to inform the public of our great history.

Edwin Mernagh & David Parsons (Fifth Year)

Fourth Year Contribution

Since it was the Fourth Years who first thought of the idea of mounting an exhibition to commemorate the Heroes of 1916, that year was given the first choice of topics relating to the subject. They selected the one that was of most interest to them: “St Joseph’s and Marino in 1916.” They started their research at the end of March under the direction of John McMahon and Brian Toolan. They got a lot of assistance from Rev. Bro. Kavanagh. They visited a lot of past pupils from the school who were involved in the Rising to interview them and they then wrote of summaries of their conversations. Most of class 4A was involved in this part of the research, and some of the boys from 4B, 4C and 4D engaged in activities like photography and illustrations. The subtitles of their scheme of work were as follows:

(i) The National Anthem: Amhrán na bhFiann: It was past-pupil Peadar Kearney who composed the words of the song, while another past pupil Liam Ring translated the anthem into Irish.

(ii) The List of Heroes, which was inscribed with wonderful penmanship on gold cardboard surrounded by the pictures of each of the combatants, was designed and executed by Brian Toolan (4A).

(iii) Howth: This section covered the Howth Gun Running. The students who researched this part of the project were Aidan Coleman, Patrick Darling and Séamus Ó Dulaing.

(iv) 1916 Medals and Signatures of 1916 Volunteers. The Connolly and Ring families lent the school these precious memorabilia for the duration of the exhibition. Among the medals was a hurling medal won by Captain Seán Connolly of the Irish Citizen Army.
Captain Seán Connolly and his family: John Cahill (4A) and Aidan Coleman (4B) researched this area of our exhibition with the assistance of Donal Murphy. They wrote an account of the Connolly family, Seán Connolly the Soldier and Seán Connolly the Actor.

The Ring Family: There was a stand dedicated to the Ring family whose five sons were past-pupils and Volunteers in the 1916 Rising. A special account was written about Liam Ring, writer, translator and artist.

1916 Stamps and Commemorative Stamps: This was mounted with the help of Aidan Coleman.

Finally, there was a stand giving an account of the remaining heroes from the local area who are still living: Frank Robinson, Gerard Boland and Matthew Connolly.

A more comprehensive list of pupils involved in the 1916 Exhibition included Alistair Norris, Thomas Doran, Fergus Russell, James Brisco, Thomas Johnson, Noel Heffernan, Martin Noonan, Peter Melling, Liam Mac Cobb, Vincent Kenny, Patrick Savage, Paul Malone, Donal Murphy, Brendan Peppard and James Maguire. A lot of boys also helped in stewarding the guests who arrived to view the exhibition. The Fourth Years as a group would like to thank Rev. Br. A.P. Kavanagh and Mr. Kevin Markey who helped them greatly in their preparatory work and research.

Third Year Contribution

When the topics relating to the 1916 Exhibition were given to the various year groupings, a central committee of three was chosen. Their area of concern was “The Leaders of 1916.” They asked all the pupils from Third Year to bring in every piece of information they could find relating to this topic. Many boys brought in relevant books, pictures and cuttings from the newspapers. Every class was involved in this work and there was a leader in each class who collected the work. The committee then decided on the best contributions to exhibit. One boy typed up the most important pieces for the display boards. Some boys even wrote their own poems and songs commemorating the leaders of the rebellion. One talented boy made a portrait of Patrick H. Pearse out of wood. The committee had to meet many times to monitor the progress in the research. The best pictures available of each leader were placed alongside the relevant accounts of their lives.

Simon Fuller (Third Year)

First and Second Year Contribution

The various military strongholds taken over by the rebels were researched by the First and Second Years. Some gifted pupils made models of the various buildings like the G.P.O., Liberty Hall, Boland’s Mill and Beggars Bush while others gathered contemporary pictures and cuttings of the various military points taken over by the rebels during Easter Week. Some boys even managed to collect objects that were used during the Rising such as: Rosary beads used by one of the Volunteers in the G.P.O., a national flag that was in the possession of Robert Monteith when he landed with Roger Casement on Banna Strand in County Kerry as well as a mug that was used by one of the rebels when he was imprisoned in Kilmainham Gaol. Needless to say, not everything was ready until the day before the opening of the Exhibition. A lot of people came to the school to view the exhibition we put on and they all told us how excellent our work was.

Kevin Higgins (Second Year)
Sixth Years 1966

These Sixth Year photos were not in the original publication but were inserted here in this translation as many of these young men were involved in the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of 1916.
Scoil Iósais Fionnradharc
Ard-Teist 1966

Ag tosó ar uachtar:
S. Bagnéit, D. Ó Breacháin, P. Ó Íoláilínighán, T. Óg, P. Mac Chláithí, R. Mac Dhuláin, D. Ó Beaglaoch.
N. Ó Cíosáin, G. Ó Doile, T. Mac Mháire, A. Ó Beirne, L. Mac Uilse, L. Ó Dochartaigh,
Seventy-nine years ago (1887) the foundations of St Joseph’s were laid. It is hard to believe that at that time the environs of the school were outside the city, but that’s how it was. The horse-drawn trams only came as far as Annesley Bridge, and even to go that far there had to be a change of horses on either side of Newcomen Bridge.

Annesley Bridge, at that time, was not too long constructed as it was built in 1797. Indeed, a few years previously they had just reclaimed the land on which the parish of St Lawrence Ó Toole’s and that of St Joseph’s, East Wall, are now situated. Dublin Corporation and the County Dublin Authority realised that it was time to construct a new bridge across the River Tolka and to lay a roadway north from the city. Before this, people had to travel across Ballybough Bridge and to lay a

When you wanted to travel to Howth or Malahide, at that time, you would have had the sea directly on your right-hand side where Fairview Park is now. The Tolka ran out to sea, then, on the other side of the road right outside the location where St Joseph’s school is today. The river was just following its old path, therefore, when it washed in at the foot of the school and in through the park when the neighbourhood of Fairview and its environs were flooded eleven years ago (1955).

On your left-hand side, you could see the first barracks of the Royal Irish Constabulary that lay outside the city, and it wasn’t too far from “Cockle Hall,” a notorious public house, famous for the strength of its alcoholic spirits and the good shell fish (caught in the little near-by fishing village of Clontarf) that could be bought there.

Shortly after the construction of Annesley Bridge, the locality between Ballybough and Clontarf began to be called Fairview. And even right up until today, it is somewhat hard to say where Ballybough ends and Fairview begins. However, informed opinion would suggest that Ballybough lies to the South of the Tolka. It is from a small avenue, then and even still, called “Fairview Avenue” that the area gets its name.
The Carmelite Brothers

In 1819 the Order of Carmelite Brothers built a monastery and oratory called “Oratorius Santa Maria de Pulchra Aspectu.” It was locally called “Fairview Chapel” and was situated where Fairview cinema is today. Undoubtedly, from its steps one could get a beautiful view of Dublin Bay as the Northern Railway had not been constructed until 1843. From then on, the wonderful view of the bay was destroyed, and the construction of the ugly sheds by the same company in 1956 did nothing to improve matters. The Carmelite Brothers made a valiant effort to establish a school in the locality, but they failed. They left Fairview and closed their little oratory in 1830. However, the name remained and the houses that were constructed around that time are still there.

A little bit further on from Fairview Avenue could be found Lord Charlemont’s Estate. It was he who was commander of the Volunteers in 1782. He had up to 300 acres of land rented from the City Corporation. On that land he built three houses which were famous for their architecture: “Marino House,” “The Casino” and “Rosamund’s Bower.” The last remaining piece of “Rosamund’s Bower” was knocked in 1956 to build a wall around the Christian Brothers Cemetery. “Marino House” was demolished in 1922 to make way for the new housing scheme that was completed in 1927.

To go back even further in history, Dermot Murphy-Kavanagh, the King of Leinster, (or Diarmaid Mac Murchú Caomhánach as he was called in Irish), donated all the lands on which Fairview is now located to All Hallows Monastery (not to be confused with present day All Hallows) which was then based exactly where Trinity College is today. After the destruction of the monasteries, Henry VIII gave all these lands to Dublin Corporation in repayment for the swiftness with which she had suppressed the Silken Thomas rebellion. With the passing of time, the lands came into the possession of the Charlemont family, and they owned it until Cardinal Cullen bought it from them in 1878. The Irish Christian Brothers then bought that land from Cardinal McCabe in 1882. St Joseph’s school was then built a little inside the main gates of the Estate which were originally outside the school.

As a result of the growing volume of traffic from the city centre in the early nineteenth century, there were many new houses built in the environs of Fairview and it became a salubrious suburb of the city. It was here in Croydon House that Lord Lucas, a strong opponent of the Act of Union, lived. The novelists Charles Liver, William Carleton and the historian O’Haverty also had their dwellings in Fairview as did many other people of great means who loved the country air.

St Joseph’s School

Therefore, there was a great need for a school in the area and the foundation stone was laid on the 11th November 1887. Rev. Fr. Scully, S.J., Belvedere College blessed the site, and on the 3rd of August 1888 the school opened its doors for the first time. There were only three rooms in the building at first, of which two were used as a primary and one for a secondary school. A science room was added somewhat later. Rev Br. P.V. Ryan, who was teaching in the school at the time, informs us that it was in the summer of 1906 that the roof was raised and a second floor was added. That work was completed by Easter 1907. The situation remained thus until 1946 when two more rooms were built over the science room.

In 1958 ten extra rooms were erected close to road to cater for the growing numbers of secondary students. In 1964 the old school was refurbished and a new primary school was built. They are all on the one campus. More than 500 pupils attend the secondary school and around 400 the primary.

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The author is here referring to the railway workshops and depot at Fairview. (Translator’s note)
Even though it was under the patronage of St Joseph, the school was always called “Marino School” until Scoil Mhuire Marino was built in 1928 to cater for the growing number of pupils from the newly constructed housing estate in that area. To differentiate between it and this new school, she was now called St Joseph’s Marino. The school retained this appellation for some eighteen years until 1946. In the meantime in 1934, a Missionary College was opened in Marino also under the patronage of St Joseph and this led to a great confusion with the post. Consequently, St Joseph’s became known as St Joseph’s, Merville Avenue, Ballybough in 1946. As Ballybough was a totally wrong geographic designation, the school address then became more correctly St Joseph’s, Merville Avenue, Fairview in 1951. Merville Avenue and its environs were called “The Home of the Big Gun” because there was a famous public house called “The Big Gun” on Merville Avenue a little over a hundred years ago.

We have seen, therefore, that the school has grown with the city. Indeed, one could say that the growth and development of St Joseph’s parallels the growth of the city and indeed that of the rise of the new nation of Ireland. Further, we must acknowledge the great contribution of the school to the emergence and renewal of that nation. Five years after its foundation, The Gaelic League was established. Shortly after that, Edward (Ned) Kent, who lived beside the school in 22, Fairview Avenue, founded the Clontarf branch of that same organisation. He had a weekly meeting of the Conradh in the school. T. O’Neill-Russell, a Protestant, Liam Conroy (Secretary) and James Cassidy were the teachers there. Edward (Ned) Kent rented a little house, dubbed “Brian’s House” at number 9, Philipsburg Avenue, and the meetings of the Conradh took place there after 1900.

It was there also that P.A. Foley (P.A. Ó Foghlú) who first attended St Joseph’s in 1889, learned his Irish. He still lives locally with his married daughter in 127, Clontarf Road. He attends Mass through Irish in Clontarf Church using an old Irish prayer book called “Leabhar Urnuighthe” written at the turn of the twentieth century. Brothers D.P. Hyde and M.C. Costen taught him at St Joseph’s.

**The Irish Language**

Further, in a written account, Francis Henderson refers to the Clontarf branch of the Gaelic League and to their meetings in the school. He tells us that a Bro. Casey (a man who helped Br. J. Fitzpatrick to write the book *Aids to Irish Composition*) and some other brothers taught him at the end of the nineteenth century. In 1918, Br. M.S. Mulholland began teaching Science and Maths through Irish. Br. M.L. O’Donoghue helped him in this task and the school won the trophy “Corn na Dála,” a prize which the Department of Education conferred on the best Irish-speaking school in the country, in the years 1928 and 1929.

The status of St Joseph’s in the Irish language took another leap forward in the 1930s when the school was recognised as an A-School, that is, a school in which every subject was taught through Irish on August 2, 1936. Br. L.B. Kennedy was the head-master at the time. In 1957 it

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3Ó Conmhachain, Uaitéar, an tAth., *Leabhar Urnuighthe*. This was a prayer book in Irish and English, written especially for Irish people who loved the Gaelic language. It was published in Glasgow in 1905 by Cameron, Ferguson & Co and was written by Fr Walter Conway, P.P. of Gleann na Má Dubh - Glenamaddy, Co. Galway. (Translator’s note)
became a B-School at the request of Br. M.N. Gerrity who was in charge that year. Only some subjects have been taught through Irish since then.

**Examinations**

From its foundation, the school entered all the State Examinations. The Preparatory Grade and the Junior Grade under the old British system were both examined until 1908. In 1909 the Intermediate Grade was done for the first time. Anyone who wished to do the Senior Grade would have to proceed to O'Connell School or to some other secondary school. The same situation continued until 1942 when the Leaving Certificate, an examination under the jurisdiction of the new state, was held in the school for the first time. Br. T.M. Keane was the man responsible for that improvement in St Joseph's status. Among the first scholars to sit that exam were Charles J. Haughey, the current Minister for Agriculture, and George Colley, the Minister for Education.

**Games**

Unfortunately, we cannot say that games featured greatly from the foundation of the school in 1888. It mostly depended on the team of Brothers who were on the staff from one time to another. There were no games offered when Mr P.A. Foley was at school in St Joseph's. He tells us that his companions and he played what they called “common” (camán or hurling) on the green near their home in Foyle Avenue, Fairview. They used to play this game with a “common ball” which was made of sheep skin filled with rags. They used cut long sticks with curved ends from the trees of the Brothers’ grounds to serve as hurleys. Usually, they played barefoot.

Francis Henderson recalls that there was a soccer team in the late 1890s. Patrick Shanahan, 3, Clontarf Park recalls that there were football teams in the school when he attended between 1899 and 1909 and that Br. Greenish was in charge of those games. They wore a green and white strip at that time.

When Fr. Walter McDonald came to Fairview Parish in 1910 he founded a hurling team called “Clann Mhurchú” (“The Murphy Family/Clan”). The team comprised mostly the students of St Joseph’s. Fr McDonald and the Christian brothers had a good mutual understanding and they worked very well together.

Games continued like that until 1924 when the GAA established special competitions for secondary schools. For one reason or another, the Brothers were not totally satisfied with this arrangement and they founded their own football and hurling leagues for their own schools in 1925. Br M.L. O'Donoghue was the first chairman and Br. Mulholland the first secretary of those leagues. Also, it is worth noting that these brothers spent some time teaching in St Joseph’s. Since then, the school has achieved much in area of Gaelic games and it has won a considerable amount of honours on the field of play.

**Famous Past Pupils**

Outside the twenty-four past pupils who fought in the 1916 Rising, an account of whom is given in the pages within this magazine, many former students achieved much in life. For example, we might list: Very Rev. Patrick O’Keeffe, P.P., Howth, and his brother Rev. Professor Donal O’Keeffe, and Richard Duggan, the bookmaker who helped Joseph McGrath establish The Irish Hospitals Sweepstakes. Others who are still alive are the former Taoiseach, John A. Costello, the actor J.M. Kerrigan and three Ministers of Government of the present day (1966) Kevin Boland (Social Affairs), Charles Haughey (Agriculture) and George Colley (Education).
Marino House

It was from Marino House, built by Thomas Adderley in 1750, that the Marino district in the north of Dublin city got its name. Adderley gifted the house and the estate of 300 acres to Lord Charlemont, the Leader of the Volunteers who came to live there in 1756. Shortly thereafter he constructed the Casino, the finest piece of architecture in the city.

The house was in the shape of a square, built of Portland stone, and was some 60 feet in length. In 1878 Cardinal Cullen bought the house and estate for 8,260 pounds sterling. Then, in 1883, Cardinal McCabe put some 52 acres aside for the construction of the O’Brien Institute and he sold the rest to the Christian Brothers for £6,148 sterling. It was here that the Order had its headquarters since.

The Brothers left the house in 1904 and went to live in the new college on the same estate. They then leased the house and the surrounding land to a Mr. Walker, the manager of Walker’s Mills and the Dublin Binding Company, who lived there till around 1916.

We must remember in the country at even though it was miles from the villages of Donnycarney and Artane were only a mile to the north. After the departure Corporation leased the estate to the Corporation. In that way, they provision of food for the First World War. of Marino House Boland, former as did James Colley, the father of current Minister for Education. Creighton, a music teacher in the Industrial School, Artane, as well as the Wooton and Harkey families lived on the first floor. Mr Tom Ennis, along with some friends of his, lived on the top floor.

Tom Ennis, Tom Keogh and Jim Slattery were members of the A.S.U. or Active Service Unit – a fact not unknown to the Black and Tans at all. They raided Marino House and the farm yard beside it in the hope of discovering guns and ammunition. They searched high up and low down, but failed to look through a cartload of straw which was in the yard – that’s actually where the guns were hidden according to James Newman. It is interesting to note that it was in Marino House that Tom Ennis took refuge, bleeding heavily from his wounds, after the burning of the Custom House in 1922.

The house was demolished in 1927 and a housing estate was built on the site.
One cannot fully recount the story of the Marino involvement in 1916 without mentioning the role of the Clann na hÉireann hall. Around the turn of the century Éamon Ceannt founded the Clontarf Branch of the Gaelic League. At its inception it held its meetings in St Joseph’s Marino. Afterwards, they changed their venue to 9, Philipsburgh Avenue, Fairview.

Among the teachers in this local branch were Thomas O’Neill-Russell, William Mulrooney, James Cassidy and Richard Smith. William Mulrooney died shortly after the foundation of the branch, but the others continued his good work. However, the branch did not experience much luck and O’Neill-Russell was not a very good teacher as he was far too erudite for the members. Those early Gaeilgeoirí in that class, skitting about the new “Gaelic Heaven” that was to come, P.A. Foley tells us, used sing the following nonsense poem: “T O'Neill-Russell will be there // With his Yanko, Franco, Irish air.”

Similar to a lot of the other branches in 1913-1914, consequent on the importation of arms openly in 1914, there was a general interest in promoting some kind of action for the Nation in the hearts of the Irish people. They were no longer satisfied anymore with mere talk. Without their knowing it, the work of the League had transformed them. Kent strongly opposed any changes to the rules of the League.

A lot of them left the branch and founded “Clann na hÉireann.” These lapsed members donated £20 sterling a man to construct a hall on the land at the back of Robert Farrell’s shop opposite Ballybough Bridge. The only survivor of that group is Louis Ingoldsby, 123, St Lawrence Road, Clontarf. Of the other subscribers there were Patrick Ingoldsby (Louis’s brother), Thomas Wheatley, John Byrne, who became a Justice later and James Mallin. The carpenter, Peter Kelly did the construction for them.

This hall was the centre for the Irish language and all things Irish in the area until 1916. Louis Ingoldsby, who is now 87 years of age, remembers being present when John Casey gave a lecture there. Strangely enough, some of the people who left the Clontarf Branch were not involved in the fighting at all when Easter Monday came around. Neither Louis nor his brother was there either even though the latter was a member of the IRB.

In that same hall, the Volunteers from Clontarf and Drumcondra used to gather. (It was called “The Clann’s Hall” in some of the accounts). It was also there that they held their drills until their numbers increased beyond expectation. They then changed to Fr. Matthew Park, Philipsburgh Avenue, shortly before the Howth Gun Running in July 1914. After 1916, the hall was sold to Robert Farrell from Clontarf who ran English dances there for some time. The shop and the yard behind it were later rented for a while to a man called Gaul during its heyday. This man kept cattle in the yard beside the Hall and he bought the whole lot from Mr. Farrell some forty years ago. He then knocked the hall for pig rearing. Mrs Gaul still lives there today and she remembers well all the activities that took place in the Hall, even though she and her late husband were never involved in any of those events. However, she remembers being afraid in case the hay stack or cowshed might be burnt down.
Father Matthew Park.

The Volunteers trained in Father Mathew Park. On the other side of the wall was Croydon Park where the Citizen Army trained. In 1908 the Capuchins from Church Street took possession of this park. It stretched from the back of Fairview church to where Brian Road is now. On the west side was Philipsburgh Avenue and Windsor Avenue was on the east. It was a long thin park of three acres in area. The entrance was a long narrow lane from Philipsburgh Avenue (called Windsor Villas). There was another way in from Windsor Avenue. The girls' primary school (St Mary's) was erected on the southern section of the park in 1953. The school and the C.Y.M.S. own the rest of the property now.

The Capuchins used to bring poor people from Church Street out here to the countryside every weekend. They would prepare light meals for them and treat them to music from a live band in the summer months. The band stand was still there when the school was built in 1953. Right in the middle of the field there was a small two-roomed house in which the caretaker, Patrick Redmond and his family lived. His son, Patrick Redmond Junior, who lives in 148, Brian Road remembers those times well.

From the foundation of the Volunteers, companies of the Second Battalion used the park for drill purposes and rifle practice. It was from this location that they headed for Howth in 1914. In the afternoon, they hid a lot of the arms in the pavilion on the north side of the park. Patrick Redmond spent that whole day with his rifle at the ready. (He was also a Volunteer, who would later fight in Jacobs’ Mill in 1916 while his wife would fight with Cumann na mBan in the G.P.O.) The Volunteers collected the guns later that night from the park.

Father Mathew Park had long been under the surveillance of the Dublin Metropolitan Police. Henry Colley, former Volunteer, ex-TD and Senator and the father of the present Minister for Education Mr George Colley reports that fifty or sixty policemen raided the park a few Sundays prior to Easter Week.

It was the custom of Henry Colley and Oscar Traynor and other Volunteers to go to Fr Matthew Park every Sunday to practise with their rifles. When you paid your two pence fee you were allowed to practise for a certain time. Then one Sunday as they approached the venue around four o’clock, their way was obstructed by police heading into the park.

Oscar Traynor ordered the police to stop. There were two Volunteers either side of the gate with a rifle on their shoulder. Some other Volunteers were hiding under the hedges with their guns ready for use. (At that stage Volunteers were under orders to carry their guns with them at all times.)

Officer Traynor called up the Volunteers and within an hour some 200 had gathered at the park. Strangely enough the DMP (Dublin Metropolitan Police) never thought of entering the park from the other entrance from Windsor Avenue. The police conferred with one another and decided it would be better to withdraw from the scene altogether. That was a fortunate decision indeed as the very guns that were used in the G.P.O. some weeks later were stored there.
Fr Walter McDonald (An tAthair Ualtar Mac Dónail)

In 1910 Fr Walter McDonald was sent as a curate to Fairview Parish. He knew the Volunteers well and he was fairly sympathetic to their cause. He lived in a house called “The Pear Tree” very near to Father Matthew Park. On Easter Sunday, Father Michael Curran, the secretary to the Archbishop, and who afterwards became a Monsignor, brought Eoin MacNeill’s countermanding orders and gave them to Father McDonald so he might give them to the local Volunteers. He tells us that he believes that Fr. McDonald gave those orders to Francis Henderson. Those orders caused no little upset and confusion for the Volunteers from Fairview and Clontarf as they did the those from other districts.

On Easter Monday, Francis Henderson called on Fr. McDonald to go to Father Matthew Park so that he might hear the men’s confession. He went there, heard their confessions and spoke to them. In an unpublished account by a deceased past-pupil we read:

“At that time a young priest came from Fairview Parish to the Park. We all knelt down on our knees and he gave us general (conditional) absolution. He raised the crucifix up over us and he spoke about the sacrifice we were about to make and he told us we should prepare ourselves for that. He then heard the individual confessions of anyone who wished such in the hall.” (The writer was not from Fairview and consequently he didn’t know the priest’s name.)

The Parish Priest, Canon Petit, was not a little worried about the actions of the young priest and he wasn’t long about letting him know his dissatisfaction. Shortly afterwards, at a game of bridge at which were gathered the Canon, Father McDonald, Fr. Michael Nolan, and Fr Michael O’Dwyer, Canon Petit asked Fr. O’Dwyer the following question: “What do you think of this young man giving absolution to these fellows before the fight?” Fr Michael replied that he would do the same himself. That settled Fr Walter’s mind for sure. He was now satisfied that the Archbishop would not send him to “Siberia” as some “West Brit” had suggested he should be during the preceding week.

The Howth Guns

A lot of people are still alive who witnessed the skirmish in 1914 between the Volunteers and the King’s men on the east side of Marino House. James Newman, 23 St. Aidan’s Park Avenue, was sitting on the wall watching it happen. He witnessed the Volunteers and the Fianna fleeing with the guns over the wall and across the brothers’ fields.

Fr. Walter McDonald from Fairview heard the commotion and he hurried to the area to give spiritual help both to friend and foe. One of the Scottish Borderers was injured – it is believed the Éamon Ceannt fired the shot. This soldier was being held in a lying position beside the wall when Father McDonald crossed the road to him to be told that he belonged to the Church of England. When the Volunteer Michael Judge was stabbed with a bayonet, the priest accompanied him in an ambulance to Jervis Street Hospital.
When Ned Kent reached St Mary’s College to speak to the president about hiding the weapons he found before him none other than one of his old teachers from O’Connell School, Br. A. Hoban. They recognised one another immediately. The brother invited his past pupil to tea and they discussed the situation. Br. Hoban offered him a press in the refectory, but Ned Kent replied that he thought it would not be big enough to contain the guns without taking the shelves out of it, and he wasn’t happy to let the brother do that at all.

When the two of them went outside to talk to the Volunteers, what was left of the milk in a backroom was drunk, the guns hidden and there was not a trace of the men to be seen.

Br P.J. McGuinness, deputy president of the college heard someone walking up and down the corridor outside during the night. He addressed the young man and learned that he was guarding the arms and as a result he did not bother any further with him. The Volunteers returned during the night and they took the guns away with them. It would appear that several taxis helped with this endeavour.

(It was from Br. L.P. Allen, who has lived in O’Connell School for nearly sixty years now that the writer of this piece got his information about St Mary’s College, Marino. It was Br. Hoban himself who gave him the account. The writer also personally knew Brothers Hoban and McGuinness.)

The original cover was designed by Mr Kevin Markey, teacher in St Joseph’s in 1966.
The Irish Citizen Army trained in Croydon Park which was situated close to Philipsburgh Avenue and between Father Matthew Park and St Mary’s Marino (the current MIE). Croydon House was demolished around 1926 and a scheme of houses was built on its land – there is not a trace left of it.

The property was not owned by the I.C.A. but rather it had been leased by James Larkin from Pieton Bradshaw in 1913, a man who lived where Mountjoy Secondary School is located today in Clontarf. It was intended that it be a holiday hostel for the I.T. & G.W.U. workers. Larkin and his family lived there and the Trades Union paid 250 pounds sterling a year for its use as well as for the expenses of Larkin. However, the costs of running the property became far too expensive and the Union leaders decided to get rid of it at the end of 1915. We publish above this article a picture of the I.C.A. in front of Croydon House in 1914. Most of the people in the picture took part in the 1916 Rising. We can see Frank Robinson, the third person to the left of the man with the sword. Frank was a sergeant in the Royal College of Surgeons in St Stephen’s Green. He lives in 6, Fairview Terrace today.
1916 List of Heroes
Roll of Honour St Joseph’s Marino

- Frank Henderson – Proinsias Mac Ionraic – 5, Windsor Villas, Fairview.
- Leo Henderson – Leomhan Mac Eanraig – 5, Windsor Villas, Fairview.
- Joseph Bracken – Seosamh Ó Breacain – 106, St Lawrence Road, Clontarf.
- James Goulding – Séamus Ó Góillidhe – 5, Cottage Place, Belvedere Avenue, N.C.R., Dublin.
- Thomas W. Pugh – 9, Charleville Mall, North Strand.
- Liam Lynch – Liam Ó Loinsigh – 1, Nixon Street, North Wall, Dublin.
- F.J. Kearney – Proinsias Seosamh Ó Cearnaigh – 24, Cadogan Road, Fairview.
- Thomas Wheatley – 251, Richmond Road, Drumcondra.
- Michael Conway McGinn – Strandville Avenue, North Strand.
- Christopher Ring – Criostóir Ó Rinn – 5, Sackville Gardens, Dublin.
- Patrick Ring – Padraig Ó Rinn – 6, Sackville Gardens, Dublin.
- Leo Ring – León Ó Rinn – 9, Charleville Mall, North Strand, Dublin.
- Joseph Ring – Seosamh Ó Rinn – 17, Clonmore Terrace, Dublin.
- Thomas O’Reilly – Tomás Ó Raghallaigh – 5, St Michael’s Hill, Dublin.
- Charles Saurin – Cathal de Sabhrann – The Cottage, Vernon Avenue, Clontarf.
- Herbert Conroy – Hoireabard Ó Conraoi – 4, Marino Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin.
- John Fox – Sean Mac an tSionnaigh – 9, Hawthorn Terrace, East Wall
- Charles Rossiter – Cathal Rosaiter – 2, Sallypark Cottages, Philipsburgh Avenue.

Since the original edition of this small commemorative magazine a senior student of St Joseph’s, Conor O’Reilly, discovered another three past pupils who were involved in the 1916 campaign, viz.,

- Joseph Callan – Seosamh Ó Cathláin,
- Samuel Ennis – 191 Richmond Road
- Charles Purcell, 136, Ballybough Road.
Seán Connolly was the first soldier from the Republican side to be killed in 1916. He was in charge of the thirty rebels that James Connolly had sent to Dublin Castle and City Hall. A sniper shot him somewhere between two and three o'clock on Easter Monday when he was on the roof of City Hall directing his company of men. That fatal shot sent to eternity one of the most noble of the leaders, both in attitude and ideals, of the soldiers of 1916.

Early Life

Seán was born in Sandymount, Dublin on April 13, 1883. His father, Michael, was an old Fenian who was born in Straffan, Co. Kildare who guided the Fenians across the Dublin Mountains in 1867. His mother, Mary Ellis, was from Dublin city. At that time his father worked as a sailor. However, for financial reasons, he left the marine life and relocated his family north of the Liffey and settled at 2 Bella Street, just off Buckingham Street. He got a job as a gatekeeper on Dublin Docks. His wife opened a small grocer's store at their residence in Bella Street. That house is still there, but the family moved again a few years later to 58, Seán McDermott Street Lower – it was called Gloucester Street back then. The growing size of the family had necessitated this move. They were blessed with sixteen children in total. Seán was the third born and was the eldest male child. He had four brothers: Joseph, George, Edward and Matthew and one sister, Kate, who fought with him in the struggle for freedom. His sister Grace still lives in that house today.

He attended the school run by the Sisters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in William Street for some years before he changed to St Joseph’s Marino. He was enrolled into the school on April 10, 1893 (aged 10). He achieved a pass in the Preliminary Grade and the Junior Grade in 1896. At school with him at that time were Thomas Pugh and Frank Henderson, both of whom fought with him in 1916 as well. He learned Irish at school and he excelled at the language. He left the school in 1897 and he was not well for a short while.

Working Life

He worked as a distribution clerk in Eason’s Book Company in O’Connell Street for a number of years. However, he kept up his education at night and learnt more English, Irish and French language and literature at evening classes. As a result of his extra studies he got better work as a clerical officer in Dublin Corporation Motor Tax Department and was based in City Hall. That’s where he was still employed at the time of the 1916 Rising.

Seán was a very religious man who attended daily Mass. He was an early member of the Society of the Sacred Heart, and the Society of Total Abstinence was not long founded by Fr. Cullen, S.J. before Seán’s name appeared as the ninth person on its roll.

Drama and Acting

There were few people who were as skilled at acting on stage as was Mr Seán Connolly who helped Fr. Cullen stage dramas and musicals in Sherrard Street. A director called Mac Hardy
Flint taught him elocution and voice projection. As an actor, he was equally fluent in both English and Irish. With his marvellously gentle and attractive personality he could enrapture any audience.

He was long a member of the Keating Branch of the Gaelic League, and at social evenings he used perform set pieces such as “Pádraig Ó Conchubhair” and “Dear Dark Head.” Dr. Hyde chose Seán to be the main actor in his play “Casadh an tSúgáin” at the official opening of Coláiste Chonnacht, Spiddal, August 1914. More than any other interest, drama was Seán’s main hobby and he became a member of “The National Players,” a group that put on plays throughout the whole city.

In 1912, Count Casamir Markiewicz produced a play, which he had written himself, in the Gaiety Theatre called “The Memory of the Dead.” Seán Connolly played the part of the old man and Countess Markiewicz that of his daughter. In 1913 and 1914 he did much acting on the stage of the Abbey Theatre. He was a contracted actor with that theatre from 1915 onwards. However, every penny he earned in that trade he donated to the armament fund of the Irish Citizen Army. In 1916, when Seán had passed from this world, the poet W.B. Yeats wrote:

Who was the first man shot that day?
The player Connolly,
Close to the City Hall he died;
Carriage and voice had he;
He lacked the years that go with skill,
But later might have been
A famous, a brilliant figure
Before the painted scene.

**Personal Life**

He married Mary Christine Swanzy on October 19, 1910. They met one another in 41, Parnell Street where Seán was directing the Emmet Choir. Mary was a member of the McHale Branch of the Gaelic League. She had a deep and abiding interest in Irish music and dance. Both of them used to participate in singing, dancing and acting competitions at the various “feiseanna” or “cultural gatherings” all around the country. By 1916 they had three children: Kevin, Aidan and Mairéad.

**The Irish Citizen Army**

Like many of the high-minded and noblest of Irish citizens, he realised that the country could come to no good unless she were free of the British yoke. He had been a member of the Gaelic League from the turn of the century, and when his day’s work was done he would spend all his evening time among the members of that organisation and those of the Gaelic Revival outside his acting interests.
He also loved hurling. He played in goal for the Fianna Club and afterwards with St Kevin’s Club with whom he won two All-Ireland medals in hurling, one with the minors and one with the juniors. It is no wonder, then, that he would become a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood by 1912. Although he was present at the first meeting of the Volunteers in the Rotunda in 1913, it was not with them that he joined up but rather with the Irish Citizen army. His wife says that she is sure that he did so as a result of orders from the Brotherhood. The treatment of the workers and their families in 1913 distressed Seán greatly and his sympathies were totally with them. He had great respect for James Larkin and absolute admiration for James Connolly. Consequently, he frequently attended Liberty Hall where he used to help with concerts and drama. It was often that he won rifle competitions, but he used to always return his winnings to the armaments fund.

On Easter Sunday night 1916 he acted on stage in the drama “Under Which Flag?” that James Connolly had written. Also on stage with him that night were his sister Kate and Michael Mallin, a commandant in the Irish Citizen Army who was executed after the Rising, and Mairéad S. Pollard (the wife of William Daly). Daly’s wife, who now lives in 1, Ossory Road, North Strand tells us that “His noble personality, kindness and sympathy would impress and inspire anyone.”

James Connolly had great respect for Seán because he was a teetotaller and a man who commanded much respect from his comrades in the army. As a result of the hardship that the ordinary workers endured on a daily basis they often ended up heavy drinkers or alcohol-dependent. James Connolly soon recognised that he had good officer material in young Sean Connolly, one he could fully trust.

According to the reports of everyone who knew Sean Connolly, he was a humble but strong leader who was not ego-driven and he was not looking for honours for himself. It is reported that it took James Connolly a great deal of trouble to persuade the younger man to become a Captain in the Irish Citizen Army. He was made a Commandant on April 22, 1916, right before the start of the Rising. These two promotional documents are in the National Museum now. He was on duty at Liberty Hall from Spy Wednesday until Easter Monday 1916. He never left his post except to go to Mass and to visit his young family.

Easter Monday, 1916, he returned to his wife and children at 108, Philipsburgh Avenue, Fairview for his breakfast. He told them that he had just attended Mass and that he would have to be departing shortly for a routine march. He kissed his wife and family goodbye, but sadly he was never to return home.

After the Rising, on May 16, his body was exhumed from King George’s Gardens, Dublin Castle. It was re-interred in Glasnevin Cemetery on May, 19. The only people present at the funeral were his wife, a few women, and his son Kevin who was three years of age at the time. His father, his brothers and other relatives were either all in prison or on the run.

(The writer is indebted to Seán Connolly’s wife, Mrs Mary. C. McCarthy who remarried, and to his brother Matthew who fought with him on Easter Monday who helped greatly in the composition of this account of his life.)
Frank Henderson

Frank Henderson was born on April 18, 1886 in Dublin. His parents had eight children and he was the eldest of them. His father Robert was a bookbinder who had a great interest in the history of Ireland which he taught in detail to his family. His uncle, Bill Henderson, was an old Fenian.

Frank first attended St Joseph’s school on April 25, 1892. His family lived at 21, Northbrook Avenue, North Strand at that time. In an unpublished account he wrote of that time, he reported that "I was not long at school when something happened that I have never since forgotten when a Brother by the name of Mescall – God rest him – began teaching us grammar. The book we had was in the form of questions and answers. I think the book was called "Expositor." The first question was “What is grammar?” It then explained the answer for us. The second question was, “What is English grammar?” The answer was something akin to “the Art of speaking and writing the English language correctly.” When Brother Mescall had explained that much to the class, he closed the book and he spoke to us quite solemnly, asking “Are you English, boys? Why do we speak the English language? Is there an Irish language?” He then told us that there was an Irish language and what had happened to it. No doubt he spoke passionately from his heart as I remember the silence of the class during his address. Ever since then I have been enthusiastic to learn Irish. Then we had the great luck to get Brother Casey as a teacher who burned with a passion for the language. He had learnt it well and he had a wonderful method of teaching it. He was a great man and a great teacher.”

Games around 1890

In another part of his autobiography, he tells us that “Most of the Dublin people had little time for hurling or for Gaelic Football when I left school in 1903. They used to say that those games were dangerous and that they were played in a very rough fashion. At that time only those who came to the city from the rural parts of Ireland played those Gaelic games. To tell the truth, Dublin lads were afraid to play those games as a result of the stories that would be told about the fierceness with which those games were played. Further, there would also be a lot of joking about and mocking of those that did play these games. I had a great interest in soccer and I used to play left full back for the school team. We were winning well when some of us began reading the Gaelic papers – those weeklies like “The United Irishman” (Arthur Griffith), “The Leader” (D.P. Moran) and “An Claidheamh Soluis” (“The Sword of Light”: The Gaelic League). In them we read their recommendations to Irish people not to play foreign games. Some of us decided to found a Gaelic Football team but we did not succeed. I did not play any other games until the Hurlers of the High Branch (Iománaite na hArd-Chraoibhe: Conradh na Gaeilge) were established around 1903. When that club disbanded in 1909, I went to Lorcan O'Toole Hurling Club where most of the people I knew played.”

Professional Life

He relates the following in his unpublished autobiography: “I was good at school and I decided early on that I might join the Civil Service. Undoubtedly, this was a Civil Service under the

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This account has since been published by Cork University Press, 1998, edited by Michael Hopkinson.
jurisdiction of England, and when the time came to leave school, I refused straight away to sit for that foreign exam.”

Frank eventually got a job as a solicitor’s clerk for ten shillings pay per week. Unfortunately, he wasn’t long there till his patriotism got him into trouble. King Edward VII visited Dublin city and all the workers were given permission to leave their offices for a half an hour to see him passing by in his carriage. He refused to accept the permission. As a result his superiors and the other office workers lost all respect for him.

Afterwards he got another clerical job with the Keatins in Grafton Street who were house decorators. He continued with his studies of the Irish language with the Gaelic League. Michael McRory, a native speaker from Foghill, County Mayo, who was the gardener at St Enda’s School, taught him the language there. In 1908 he began to spend his holidays in Inis Meáin, one of the Aran Islands. It was not long before he was speaking the language like a native speaker. After that he was able to teach it himself in the head office of the Gaelic League and in his local Lorcan O'Toole branch.

The Volunteers

Frank joined the Volunteers in the year it was founded, in 1913. He was living at that time adjacent to Father Matthew Park in 5, Windsor Villas, Fairview. He had the rank of Captain in F Company, 2nd Battalion in 1916. He had been in Howth in 1914 to help with bringing the guns ashore. Some of them were, in fact, hidden in his own residence at Windsor Villas until they were used in 1916. On Easter Monday 1916, he and his brother Captain Leo Henderson and a Captain Weafer left Father Matthew Park together with the Volunteers to join the fight. Frank commanded the fighting along Henry Street as far as Arnott’s Shop from Tuesday evening until Friday morning. At that stage he had to retreat to the G.P.O.

Frongoch

After the Rising he was sent to Stafford Prison on May 1, 1916 and afterwards to Frongoch. When he returned to Ireland, he kept up the fight and was commandant of 2nd Battalion until the Treaty was signed, a treaty that he rejected outright. During “The Emergency” (1939-1945) he was in command of the 26th Battalion.

His friend, Oscar Traynor and he founded the Fódhla Printing Company, but later they had to sell it on as they had not enough resources to keep the business going. Eventually, he became secretary of the Hospital Sweep Stakes in the new Republic.

He married Josephine Brennan from Capannaboe in County Laoise in 1918. They had nine children: Rory (Commandant in the National Army), Donal and Niall (printers), Brendan (emigrated to England), Enda (a Cistercian monk in Roscrea), Nuala (Mrs. Fisher), Dermot (shopkeeper), Patrick (School Attendance Officer) and Conall (a priest in the Paulist Order in Athlone.)

He died on January 13, 1959. He lived at 83, Moibhi Road, Glasnevin for most of his later life. His wife still lives there to this day.
Leo Henderson

Leo was born on November 16, 1893 in 21, Northbrook Avenue, North Strand and was a brother of Frank Henderson. He was enrolled in St Joseph’s on August 6 in 1899. He gained a pass in the Preliminary Grade in 1907 and honours in the Senior Grade in 1909. He learned Irish at school but continued to study it long after he had left school under the auspices of the Gaelic League. He is still fluent in Irish to this day. He left school on January 31, 1910 and he went to work as a bookbinder.

He was Captain of B Company of the Second Battalion of Volunteers. He fought in Henry Street and also in the G.P.O. in 1916. On May 13 of that year he was sent to Wakefield Prison from which he was sent onwards to Frongoch Internment Camp. He took an active role in the Civil War on the anti-Treaty side. In 1922, near the start of that war, he was sent from The Four Courts to Baggot Street to steal a car from Lincoln & Nolan. He was captured there. The Republicans kidnapped J.J. O’Connell from the Free State Army as a result. It is thought by some that this action was the spark that lit the Civil War.

When the war was over he got a job as a clerical officer in Dublin Corporation. After that he was promoted to Assistant Secretary of the Dublin Health Authority. He retired from that a few years ago and lives at 19, Millbrook Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin, 16. He never married.

John Murphy

John was born on June 11, 1892 in Kilmore Cottages, Artane. His father was a weaver in the Industrial School run by the Irish Christian Brothers also situated in that same area. The elder Murphy was an old Fenian from Kilmainham and had been a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and a friend of Thomas Clark for many years. Therefore, many IRB meetings were held in Kilmore Cottages when John was a young boy. The house is still there, but it has long been unoccupied.

John spent a short time attending the Artane National School where Mrs De Valera was teaching one year. He started in St Joseph’s Marino on May 1, 1903 and he left on June 27, 1909. He was a blacksmith with Ross & Walpole in 1916. He was a member of E Company, Battalion 2 of the Volunteers. He was known to the men as “Hicks” Murphy. He was also well known for persuading soldiers who were home on leave from the war to part with their guns. Hector MacDonnell and he used persuade those soldiers to go drinking with them in pubs down on the Quays, and when they’d get them drunk, they’d steal their arms. They wouldn’t miss their guns until the boys were long gone. He had a hiding place for the guns in his house in Artane. Then he would divide them out amongst his companions.
in his Company. John had great respect for Captain Thomas Weafer, the Commandant of his Battalion. Hector MacDonnell and John always liked to give Weafer an odd present. Once, Hector and he broke a window of a shop in Drury Street where there was a dummy dressed up in an English Army Officer’s uniform and they stole a sword that was in the dummy’s hand. Later they presented it to Commandant Weafer who broke his sides laughing when he heard where the two boys had got the sword.

When Seán arrived at Fr. Matthew Park on Easter Monday 1916 he was sent by bicycle to St Stephen’s Green and from there with four others to the Magazine Fort, Phoenix Park. They were to collect a football in Whelan’s shop on the Quays on their way to the Phoenix Park. Gerard Houlihan (The Fianna) and Patrick Daly were to complete that transaction. Unfortunately, the buyer’s son had been killed and the Volunteers got little as a result. As a result he had to go to the Four Courts after that.

On May 1, 1916 he was sent to Stafford Prison and afterwards to Frongoch Internment Camp where he was for some nine months. He fought in the Irish War of Independence under Seán Russell. He did not accept the Treaty either. He was a blacksmith with Dublin Corporation from 1922 until he died.

He married and had three children, Michael who emigrated to the United States and two daughters who married. One lives in 36, Philipsburgh Terrace and the other is married in Jamaica. John’s wife still lives in Celtic Park Avenue, Collins’ Avenue. Also, a sister of his, called Fáinche, wife of Christopher McHugh lived in his old residence. John died February 3, 1953.

Joseph Bracken

Joseph was born March 15, 1885 at 106, St Lawrence Road, Clontarf. His father was a revenue officer in the Civil Service. He enrolled in St Joseph’s, Marino on January 15, 1894, six years after the founding of the school. He achieved a pass in the Junior Grade in 1896.

On Easter Monday 1916 it just happened that he was a customer in The G.P.O. when the Volunteers occupied it by force of arms. He requested that he be given a rifle and he fought bravely with them for the whole week. On May 9, 1916 he was sent to Wandsworth Prison from which he was eventually sent to Frongoch Internment Camp.

After his return to Ireland he had no connection whatsoever with any fighting. He became a Civil Servant who worked in different departments until he retired fifteen years ago. He never married, and he lives with his sister at 1, Larch Grove, Ranelagh.

David T. Golden

David Thomas Golden was born on August 22, 1899. Like many others, his grandfather was a Fenian, also called David Golden who spent nine months in Cork Prison. On his grandmother’s side, he was related to Thomas Whelan who was a member of the Invincibles, though not one of those convicted and executed for the murder of the Lord Lieutenant and his Secretary. His father, John David Golden was a rent collector. He worked in the same room as Ned Kent in Dublin Corporation and was a loyal follower of Arthur Griffith. It was no wonder, therefore, that the Fenian tradition lived long in the Golden household. He began his student days in St Joseph’s Marino on September 3, 1906 and graduated from the school on March 20, 1915,
having gained a pass in the Junior Grade in 1914. At that time his family lived in “Woodbine Lodge” on Richmond Road. That house is no longer there as the property was bought by the Nuns of St Vincent de Paul who built a hospital on its grounds. His family moved across the road to 154, Richmond Road where they lived for some time before they finally moved to 2, Victoria Street, South Circular Road in 1916.

David had four brothers John, Lorcan, Brendan and Kevin and two sisters Evelyn and Nora. He was taught Irish at school and he excelled at this subject as he had a keen interest in it. He attended many classes in “Halla Clann na hÉireann,” Richmond Road afterwards where Tom Wheatley and Richard Smith were his teachers of Irish and a Mr McMahon his Irish dancing teacher. Even though David has spent 40 years in America he still speaks fluent Irish. He started out his working life as a mechanic in Thomas’s Garage in South Brunswick Street (Parnell Street today) and it was there he was working in 1916. He was a Volunteer in E Company, 2nd Battalion, Dublin Brigade. He drilled with the other Volunteers in Fr. Matthew Park. He was present in that park on Easter Monday 1916 when Fr. Walter McDonald, C.C. blessed the Volunteers before they headed off to fight. He was stationed in the Dublin Bread Company and the Hibernian Bank, Sackville Street, the Metropole Hotel and finally in the G.P.O. When the Volunteers surrendered, David escaped capture as he was so young (sixteen). He was given shelter and clothed in a house in Marlborough Street where he remained for a week. When he left the house he was captured and brought to the Customs House, but they were not able to find him guilty of fighting and he was let go. He remained a member of the Volunteers in Company H, Battalion 2 where he remained until he joined the Active Service Unit in 1919.

After the signing of the Treaty he entered the Army and he was in the first group of Irish soldiers that took possession of Beggar’s Bush Barracks from the British military. He was promoted to the rank of Captain but resigned his commission in 1923 when he emigrated to the United States. He worked for more than forty years with the American Bell Telephone Company. He returned to Ireland for three months last year and has also returned home this year for the fiftieth anniversary of the 1916 Rising. He lives at 5660, West Grosvenor Street, Chicago, 30, Zone 60, 630 now.

**Thomas W. Pugh**

Thomas Walter Pugh won a scholarship in the Junior Grade in St Joseph’s in 1898. For some years prior to that he attended O’Connell School, North Richmond Street. Contemporaries with him in school were Seán Connolly, Peadar Kearney and Frank Henderson. Brothers Costen and O’Casey taught him at that time, but he did not complete the Intermediate Grade.

He was born on August 9, 1883 at 87, Talbot Street. His father, Richard, had a glass-making company in Potter’s Alley. Pugh’s glass was very popular at the time for its quality, and examples of it can be seen in the National Museum. However, his company failed because of international competition in the field. The family moved later to 102, Amiens Street and afterwards to 9, Charleville Mall where they lived when Thomas attended St Joseph’s. His brother’s wife and two nieces live there now. (T.W. Pugh is pictured on right here)

After leaving school he got a job in Halligan’s Flour Mills on the Quays. He was a very intelligent and diligent worker and before long he became
manager of the whole company and it was there that he was working in 1916. He had always been interested in reading and was a deep and critical thinker. In the book “The Soldier’s Song,” we read what Peadar Kearney said about how well Pugh fought in Jacob’s Factory:

_Thomas W. Pugh was what you would call a Social Revolutionist. He avoided joining the Volunteers because he believed it was a Capitalist movement to throw dust in the eyes of the workers. He considered the issue was economic and not national._

“I cannot understand,” he argued, “how a Dublin crowd could stand passively by and watch the execution of Emmet, or allow Mitchell to be taken away without a struggle.” Pugh and I had been friends for longer than I can remember and we were pupils together in Marino Christian Brothers School. He was an omnivorous reader. I believed him when he told me he could read at five years old. Conceive of my joy when I found my friend converted to the Republican ideal and now carrying a rifle on his shoulder.

Looking at Dublin burning in the aftermath of the Rising, Pugh remarked to Kearney:

“Oh, Dublin, you have redeemed yourself. Mitchell and Emmet, you are avenged.”

Thomas was a member of Company B, 2nd Battalion, and he fought in Jacob’s Mill during Easter week. He put his books to one side and took up the gun because he sincerely believed that this was the only course of action left to achieve freedom. He was also a secretary of one of the circles of the Irish Republican Brotherhood which was called “The John O’Leary Literary Society.”

After the Rising he was imprisoned first in Knutsford Gaol. An Irish girl from Cork who was a teacher in England visited the prisoners to give them some comfort as they were far from home. Her name was Margaret Dilworth and she is now Thomas Pugh’s wife.

After a while he was sent to Frongach Internment Camp which he did not like too much as he became somewhat depressed. He was always a deep thinker and he easily became very lonely reading his books and living too deeply with his own grey thoughts. He learned Irish in Frongach and he improved it greatly with the help of General Richard Mulcahy and he got to know Michael Collins very well and he still possesses a signed photograph of Collins to this day. While he was in Frongach, Thomas got the autographs of all his famous fellow internees. There is an account of this elsewhere in this journal.

When he returned to Ireland he continued the fight until the Treaty was signed. Collins’ assassination distressed him greatly as it did many of his companions. He worked as a manager at Richard Duggan’s Betting Office until he went blind some twenty-five years ago.

At present, he lives with his wife at 6, Churchill Terrace, Ballsbridge, Dublin. His only child is Dr. Maureen, the wife of Mr. Thomas Walsh.
John Lynch

John Lynch was born on January 1, 1885. His family lived at 4, Bayview Place at the time. His father was a Wicklow man. Unfortunately, John lost both his parents when he was quite young. He began attending St Joseph’s Marino on 22 April, 1895. He left the school when he was around fourteen years old and was employed as a clerical officer in the Navigation Office. It was there that he was working when the 1916 Rising occurred. He was a Volunteer in E Company, 2nd Battalion of the Dublin Brigade. He fought in Jacob’s Factory alongside his brother William. After the Rising was over he was firstly sent to Knutsford Prison on 3 May, 1916 and thereafter to Frongach Internment Camp. Immediately before the Rebellion he lived at 1, Nixon Street.

After returning to Ireland he showed little interest in political or military matters, but he pursued cultural activities especially the Irish language. His daughter Carmel reports that he learned most of his Irish with the Gaelic League and that he never lost interest in it all his life. He went to work for an advertising agency with Joseph McDonagh, brother of Thomas McDonagh, for a while, but later in 1919 he set up his own company called “Lynch’s Advertising Service Ltd.” He also founded another company called “The Irish Travel Agency Ltd.” Lynch’s company was the official public relations organ of the first Dáil.

He died suddenly on 6 October 1961 and he was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery. At the time of his death he lived in “Tigh Muire” in Sutton and it is there that his only child Carmel lives. Strange to relate, she is married to a man with the same name as her father, John Lynch from County Cork. He runs the advertising agency to this day in Amiens Street. They are rearing their children through Irish.

William Lynch

William was a brother of John Lynch and he was born on the 4 December, 1883. He entered St Joseph’s Marino on the same day as his brother. He gained a pass in the Preparatory Grade in 1897. In 1916 he was working as a clerical officer and at the time of the Rising he fought alongside his brother in the Jacob’s Factory. With his brother, he was also sent to Knutsford Prison and thereafter to Frongoch Internment Camp. He had no connection with either political or military affairs after he returned to Ireland. William worked in the insurance business, but unfortunately he passed away at a young age in May 1922.
Peadar Kearney

It was Peadar Kearney who wrote the words to the national anthem “Amhrán na bhFiann” or “The Soldier’s Song.” Patrick Heaney (Pádraig Ó hAonaigh) wrote the music. Young people today don’t understand the spirit of the nation that inspired both music and song nearly fifty years ago now.

Peadar was born on 12, December 1883, and when he started in St Joseph’s on 15 September 1894, he and his family lived at 7, Annesley Place, Dublin. At that time, his father worked as a hotel porter. School did not appeal to him at all and he did not get on too well with Br. S.P. Noonan, the former provincial of the Christian Brothers and he used spend much time in the “Central Arch.” (This arch was one under the Northern Railway that is obscured now by Fairview Park). He was not quite fourteen years of age when he left St Joseph’s.

He went into the painting and decorating trade and he spent his whole life engaged in that trade. He always had a huge interest in Irish and he was a loyal member of the Clontarf Branch of the Gaelic League. Ned Kent founded this branch in 1900.

Peadar Kearney spent 7 months in 1907 painting the lighthouse on Tory Island and it was there that he perfected his spoken Irish. He was accepted as a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in 1903. He returned from England where he was acting with the Abbey Theatre to join the fight in 1916. He was in B Company of the Second Battalion and he fought in Jacob’s Factory.

Thomas Wheatley

Six months after the opening of St Joseph’s in 1888 Thomas Wheatley entered the school as a pupil. His father James and his wife Mary Boland had a family of nine: six girls and three boys. One son, Joseph, who is the only surviving member of the family, lives in 251 Richmond Road. James was a solicitor’s clerk and young Tom had the same post at the time of the Rising.

Like most of the past pupils of the school at the time, he frequented “Halla Clann na hÉireann,” Richmond Road, the heart of the national revival in Fairview and Marino fifty years ago. He taught Irish and Irish dancing there. It was there that he met Síle Smith whom he married later. Unfortunately, they had no family.

Thomas was a Quarter Master in D Company of the Second battalion of the Volunteers. He fought gallantly in the G.P.O. in 1916. On 1st May he was sent to Knutsford Prison and thereafter to Frongoch Internment Camp. He continued with the fight for Irish independence when he returned from

See the book “The Soldier’s Song” by Séamus de Búrca where a full account of Kearney’s life and work can be read.
England. However, he was on the side that accepted the treaty and he went to work for the fledgling Irish Civil Service. He was living on the North Strand at the time of the German Bombing during World War II.

His brother Joseph tells us that Thomas never discussed 1916. When one of his relatives mentioned a medal for 1916 all he said was that he did not fight for any medal. He died suddenly on 3 December, 1941.
AMHRÁN NA BHFIANN (The Soldiers' Song)

Sinne Fianna Fáil,
átá faoigheall ag Éirinn,
Buíon dár sluá
thar toinn do ráinig chughainn,
Faoi mhórí bheith saor
Seantír ár sinsear feasta,
Ni fhágfar faoin tiorán ná faoin tràill.
Anocht a théam sa bhearna baoil,
Le gean ar Ghaeil, chun báis nó saoil,
Le gunna scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar,
Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhfiann.

Soldiers are we,
whose lives are pledged to Ireland,
Some have come
from a land beyond the wave,
Sworn to be free,
no more our ancient siredland,
Shall shelter the despot or the slave.
Tonight we man the "bhearna baoil",
In Erin's cause, come woe or weal,
'Mid cannon's roar and rifles' peal,
We'll chant a soldier's song.

irelandcalling.ie

Peadar Kearney
Conway McGinn

Clontarf Hall was one of the most important venues in the north of the city from the point of view of the preparations for the Rising. Michael McGinn, an old Fenian from County Cavan was in charge of its running. He was also a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. Many locals still recall Thomas Clarke, Seán MacDermott and other leaders heading into that hall on Easter Sunday 1916 for a meeting of the Brotherhood.

Michael Conway was a son of Michael McGinn. In honour of his grandmother he had been christened Conway and he was born on 23 April, 1897. He began in St Joseph’s on January 7, 1904. He left the school on 17 April, 1912, having completed the Junior Grade. He got a job as a Custom’s Officer in the old civil service and he was working in England during 1915.

When he returned at the end of that year, his father advised him to remain in Ireland because very shortly he would have to fight for the freedom of his country instead of allowing the English to conscript him into their army. He joined the Volunteers and he was a section leader in Company F of the Second Battalion.

He fought in the GPO garrison in 1916 and he was sent to Wakefield Prison on May 6, 1916. Later, like many of his comrades, he was sent to Frongoch Interment camp after which he returned to Ireland and continued the fight for Irish freedom.

When he passed away in October 1960, he was a Custom’s Officer at Dublin Airport. He lived at that time at “Convilla,” Kilbarrack, Sutton where his wife still lives. They had six daughters.

The Ring Brothers

Five members of the Ring family fought in the Easter Rising: Christopher, Patrick, William, Joseph and Leo. Their father Patrick came from the parish of Burnchurch, County Kilkenny while their mother was born in County Louth. Their father was a member of the Dublin Metropolitan Police and the family lived at 4, Sackville Gardens, Ballybough while they attended St Joseph’s Marino. Despite their all being married and having families, we have little information about their activities during the 1916 Rising. They barely ever spoke to anyone about those turbulent times. It would appear, however, that it was from their mother and from their attendance at Halla Clann na hÉireann on Richmond Road that they received their republican inspiration to take up the gun.

Christopher Ring (12/12/1882 – 12/10/1940)

Christopher gained a pass in the Junior Grade in 1897. He became a carpenter and he worked for the Board of Works until he died. He had six sons and three daughters. He was a member of C Company of the Second Battalion of the Volunteers. On May 1, 1916 he was sent to Stafford Prison and therefrom to Frongoch Internment Camp. When he returned to Ireland he took no further part in military or political affairs.
**Patrick Ring** (30/5/1884 - 30/1/1927)

He left school after achieving a pass in the Junior Grade in 1897. He was also a carpenter. He joined the Volunteers and was in the Second Battalion and fought in the G.P.O. in 1916. According to “The Sinn Féin Rebellion Handbook” he was living at the time in 6, Sackville Gardens. Like many others he spent time in Stafford Prison and Frongoch Internment Camp. He married and had two sons and one daughter. There is one son still living and he resides in London. Patrick died of T.B. in 1927.

**Liam Ring** (20/11/1886 – 3/10/1943)

William left St Joseph’s when he was only fourteen and a half. He was working in a solicitor’s office until he was around twenty years of age. He spent thirteen years in the Gaelic League offices where he was an editor of one of their papers for a while. When the Land Commission was founded in 1922 Ernest Blythe offered him a job there. However, he never lost his interest in writing in the Irish language and after that job he spent a year as a sub-editor with “The Freeman” paper where he was in charge of daily news under the title “Cúrsaí an Lae.” After that year he made his last professional move to the Houses of the Oireachtas where he was chief translator until he died in 1943.

He was essentially a polyglot and he learned the following languages: Welsh, Spanish, German, Russian and French and he translated many books into Irish. He made translations of books such as: “Fields, Factories and Workshops” by Prince Kropoktin (This particular translation was published in “Saoirse na hÉireann, a publication headed by Bulmer Hopson); “The Book of Poland” from the French “Le Livre de la Nation Polonaise”; a translation into Irish of “the Fianna Éireann Handbook” and “Dánta Próis” from the Russian of the famous writer Turgenev. He also made a translation of a science/astronomy book by Sir James Jeans called “The Stars in Their Courses” as “Réim na Réalt” and the history book “The Rise of the Irish Volunteers” by Colonel Maurice Moore’s original “Óglaigh na hÉireann.”

He also wrote his own books in Irish among which we may number “Mo Chara Stiofán,” “Peann agus Pár,” and “Cad ba Dhóbair Dhó?” As well as that he wrote a lot of essays and columns for daily newspapers. It was he who translated the words of “The Soldier’s Song” into Irish. From 1927 onwards he began to practise painting as a way of relaxation.

He wrote an account in one of the daily papers of how he became so interested in the Irish language shortly after he was awarded the Douglas Hyde prize for his book “My Friend Stephen/Mo Chara Stiofán”:

“I was a member of Clann na hÉireann from the age of 15 where we learned Irish dances and to honour the tricolour and sing “A Nation Once Again.”. I also belonged to the Ard-Chraobh of the Gaelic League and after that to the Keating Branch of the same organisation. Later I worked with Leinster College (Coláiste Laighean) where De Valera was also a member. While there I read practically all Geoffrey Keating’s writings.
Liam joined the Volunteers from the day they were founded and as a member of the Second Battalion he fought in the G.P.O. Like many other rebels he was sent first to Stafford Prison and thence to Frongoch Internment Camp. He married in 1920 and he and his wife had five girls and one boy in family. He lived in a house named “Gort Mhuire” on Seafield Road Clontarf. His married daughter Mrs Crowley lives there today.

**Joseph Ring** (18/12/1890 – 25/12/1954)

Joseph lived at 17, Clonmore Terrace, Ballybough when he was sent to Stafford Prison in 1916. His son Dermot lives there now. He left St Joseph’s when he was around fourteen years old and he got an apprenticeship as a carpenter. He worked first with the Thomas Brothers Builders, Fairview and after than with *The Board of Works*.

He fought in C Company of the Second Battalion of the Volunteers in the G.P.O. in 1916. He was present for the famous photograph that was taken at Croke Park in 1938 of the garrison that defended the post office. He had ten in family: four boys and six girls.

**Leo C. Ring** (24/2/1893 – 12/2/1962)

Leo entered St Joseph’s he left after achieving a pass in the Junior Grade in 1908. Like his brothers he became a carpenter. Again he was a Volunteer in the Second G.P.O. in 1916. He was somewhat later in spent the end of his life as a farmer in Monasterevin in County Kildare.

Marino on 5 September 1898 and pass in the Junior Grade in 1908. became a carpenter. Again he was Battalion and he also fought in the renowned for his cooking skills Frongoch Internment Camp. He 1916 - 1966
John O’Brien

John O’Brien lived in one of the Donnycarney cottages near to Thomas O'Reilly, but he is younger than he. John was born on 5 July 1893 and his father was a working man. He spent some years in Artane national school before he transferred to St Joseph’s Marino on 16 March, 1905. However he left school two years later and went working as a farmer’s labourer in the surrounding area. Housing estates now cover all those fields where he once worked, and he now lives with a married daughter Elizabeth in 181, Malahide Road, Donnycarney.

He was a Volunteer in E Company of the Second Battalion. He fought with Thomas O’ Reilly in Jacob’s Factory in 1916. He informs us that the British authorities were not long in finding out what type of arms the Republican army had at their disposal and they kept well away of their firing range. After Easter week John managed to escape. However, that was just a small respite for him as he quickly joined in the fighting during the War for Irish Independence until 1922. He was against the Treaty.

Thomas O’ Reilly

Known as Tom O'Reilly, this former Volunteer lives with his married son at Elm Road, Donnycarney. He is a fine big man who still has a youthful air about him and who is keen to tell stories about the 1916 Rising and the War of Independence. He was a member of E Company of 2nd Battalion in the Volunteers and used to drill in Father Matthew Park. He tells us that his friends and he used to engage in rifle practice between the trees in the grounds of St Mary’s College (The present Marino Institute of Education). If there happened to be any stranger passing they used to pretend they were playing handball against the gable ends of the building near to the Brothers’ cemetery.

He fought in both St Stephen’s Green and Jacob’s Factory and many of the streets around that factory. Richard Carroll was shot dead right beside him in Camden Street. After the fighting he spent a week on the run in the city. Then he got a job as a cab driver for Dublin Corporation. After that he served as a chauffeur for the engineer Rory O’Connor. He carried messages for “The Boys” from place to place, both for O’Connor and Richard Mulcahy. He tells us that all the messages he
carried were “top secret” and that he was never informed what they contained nor the identity of the persons who used pick them up from him.

He opposed the Treaty but he did not involve himself in the Civil War at all. However, during the Emergency (1939-1945) he joined the 26th Company. After leaving the army he became an inspector of housing for the Dublin Corporation and he had that job until he retired many years ago. His father was Patrick O’Reilly and many years previously his family had owned some of the land that now belongs to the Brothers Industrial School, Artane. When he started school in St Joseph’s Marino on 29 September, 1894 his family lived in the Donnycarney cottages which are there to the present day, even though the neighbourhood has changed a lot in the last fifty years. He was in the same class at school as John (“Hicks”) Murphy. He was born on 16 January, 1889, a year after St Joseph’s Marino opened its doors.

Charles Saurin

Charles Saurin died in Courtmacsharry, Bandon, County Cork on 7 November, 1964. He was on pension from the Irish Army at the time and he had retired having attained the rank of Colonel.

He married a sister of the actor Arthur Shields who had fought with him in the G.P.O. in 1916. By his first wife he had one child called Stella who married an English man named Stoddard and they currently live in 397, Pinnacle Street, Harrow, Middlesex. Later in life, he married an Irish girl called Elizabeth Kelly who still lives in Courtmacsharry, Bandon to this day.

He had two brothers Francis and Thomas. They lived in Vernon Cottages, Vernon Avenue, Clontarf. Only part of that house remains today at the back of Nolan’s Supermarket, Clontarf.

When Charles was in the Volunteers, his brother Thomas was in the British army fighting in France. Thomas returned to Ireland and got a job in the Civil Service and now lives in 286, Griffith Avenue, Dublin.

Charles was born on the 7 August 1895 and was accepted into St Joseph’s on 3 December 1906. He left the school on the 24th June 1911, having passed the Intermediate Grade. He went into office work after leaving school and he was thus employed at the outbreak of the Rising. He joined the Volunteers on the 30th of July, 1914. He was a member of F Company, Second Battalion of the Dublin Brigade. He used to do his drilling in Father Matthew Park. There had been a supporter of the British Army training them until the outbreak of the First World War when Charles took over this duty. He used to spend every Thursday evening in Father Matthew Park and every Saturday evening with Andy Kettle training on Ballynabuck Lane (Lána Baile na bPoc, now Collins’ Avenue). Also, sometimes he would spend the whole of Sunday with other Volunteers from the Dublin Brigade in the Wicklow Mountains.

On Easter Monday he accompanied Frank Henderson and his brother Leo to the G.P.O., having received absolution and a short oration from the young cleric Fr. Walter McDonald. He remembers well Leo Henderson saying a fond goodbye to his mother at the door of their house 5, Windsor Villas, Fairview. (There was an exit from Fr Matthew Park onto Philipsburgh Avenue through Windsor Villas.)
The first thing that lifted his heart when he arrived in O’Connell Street was the sight of the **Tricolour** and the **Green Flag** of the fledgling nation flying above the General Post Office. He fought first in the Metropole Hotel on O’Connell Street. Max Caulfield refers to him in his book *The Easter Rebellion*.

“In contrast to the rebels in their positions - especially in the College of Surgeons where they were experiencing real hunger - the men in the Metropole were at least able to enjoy good food. One man asked Saurin to go down to the store rooms and send up some flour so that he could bake some bread. Saurin discovered in the semi-darkness what seemed to be flour and sent a sample to the ‘chef.’ A few seconds later there was a whistle on the speaking-tube from the kitchen and he answered it. It was Volunteer Joe Tallon, the ‘chef.’ Tallon: ‘Do you know what your sample is?’ Saurin: ‘No.’ Tallon: ‘The same stuff that your head is made of - sawdust!’”

After being in the Metropole he retreated to the G.P.O. which by then was engulfed in flames. He remembers that they all sang with passion and zeal the new national anthem “Amhrán na bhFiann” as they were abandoning the Headquarters they used for their struggle. On the way to Knutsford Prison on 1 May he noticed an old school colleague, named O’Meara, dressed in a British Lieutenant’s uniform. Saurin’s captors put their prisoners on board ship on the Quays. The prisoners knelt down and said the Rosary together. However, it wasn’t long until they were all soundly asleep because by this stage they were totally exhausted after the stress of battle and all were starving from the lack of food. Like many others, Charles Saurin was sent from Knutsford Prison to Frongoch Internment Camp.

After his return to Ireland, he joined in the fight for Irish freedom, 1916 - 1922. He was Pro-Treaty and a Michael Collins’ supporter and after 1922 he became an officer in the Irish Army when the Free State was founded.

**Herbert Conroy**

Herbert Conroy died in the spring of his life as a result of tuberculosis on 3 March, 1926. He was born in 3, Marino Mart, Clontarf on 1 April, 1896. His father was Joseph Patrick Conroy from Elphin, County Roscommon. His mother was a Presbyterian called Mary Mac Murray from County Cavan who converted to Catholicism. His father had various clerical posts in Dublin city. He started school at St Joseph’s on 10 September in 1903 and left it at around fourteen years of age. It is said that Herbert feared Br Craven more than he feared the enemy’s gun.

When Herbert and his friend, John Newman, were present at Recruitment Drive for the British Army in Fairview, they were seen by the Volunteer James Canny who was a plasterer from that district. As Canny feared that the two boys were about to join the British army or take the “King’s shilling” he asked them to consider joining the Irish Volunteers instead. The lads agreed and they all headed immediately to Father Matthew Park where they were inducted. After the year of training, they were both ready to fight for Ireland against the British.

Herbert was a member of E Company, 2nd Battalion. On Easter Monday morning Pat MacCrea and he went to Kilmore Road, Artane to collect some guns. That afternoon, under the command of Captain Weafer they set out for the G.P.O. He

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6 See *The Easter Rebellion*, (London: Muller, 1963) p. 315. This book is the work of Ulster writer Max Caulfield, then a London journalist, and it managed supremely to grasp the politics, the events and the nature of the personalities and the city involved. (Translator’s note)
fought in the Hibernian Bank on Sackville Street (O’Connell Street) under the same officer and he went from there to the G.P.O.

He was sent to Knutsford Prison on 1 May, 1916 and thence to Frongoch Internment Camp. At the time of the Rising he lived at 4 Marino Avenue where his brother Seán lives to this day. The family had moved by then from number three to number four because the latter house was bigger and could serve a growing family better. When he returned from Frongoch, he enticed his two brothers John and Sonny to take up the republican cause.

Herbert was a well-built man, six feet in height who was renowned for never retreating from a fight. When the Republican Army attacked the Police Barracks in Raheny in 1920, he went up on the roof and smashed it through with a sledge hammer.

Within minutes the barracks was aflame. He was also a member of the band of revolutionaries, who torched the Custom’s House on 25, May, 1921. In that attack Dan Head, another past-pupil of St Joseph’s was mortally wounded.

He sided with the pro-Treaty party and joined the army of the newly founded State where he was a commissioned officer with the rank of Captain. He resigned his commission in 1923 and joined the Gardaí where he was a Detective Sergeant. He died at the age of thirty years and is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.

**John Newman**

John Newman lived in the Gate Lodge of Marino House. That gate lodge was situated between where St Joseph’s is located and where the Johnston Mooney and O’Brien shop is now. [Today this is the Irish School of Motoring Premises] Marino House and the lodge were knocked down in 1925 to build the new scheme of houses in Marino.

John’s father James was an old Fenian from Athboy, Co. Meath. His mother’s name was Mary Weldon. They had five boys and two girls in family. His father worked as a caretaker for the man who owned Marino House, namely a Mr. Walker who lived there until 1916. Walker was the Managing Director for Walker’s Mills and for the Dublin Bread Company, known simply as the DBC.

John Newman (or Sonny as he was called) started at St Joseph’s on 2 May 1906 and he left on 24 May, 1910. He had many jobs, but he worked for Eason’s Book Company at the time of the Rising.

Herbert Conroy was his best friend and the two of them met almost daily and they used sit on the sea-wall opposite the school each evening discussing the affairs of the world. That wall was demolished in 1923 and Fairview Park was established on land reclaimed from the sea. The sea is now quite a distance from the spot where they used to sit.

Sonny joined the Volunteers of E Company, Second Battalion with his friend Herbert Conroy. Like many other locals, he learned the Irish language and Irish dancing in Clann na hÉireann Hall on Richmond Road. It was a Volunteer called “Hector” McDonnell who brought the news of the call to arms to him on Easter Monday, 1916. He served under Captain Thomas Weafer in the Hibernian Bank in O’Connell Street. After that he went over to fight in the Metropole Hotel and from there into the G.P.O. On 6 May he was sent to Wakefield Prison and thereafter to Frongoch Internment Camp.
When he returned he continued the fight for Irish freedom and he spent time as a prisoner in the Curragh. After the winning of independence he joined the army of the new state where he served at the rank of sergeant. In 1924 he left the army because he did not agree with the way it was been re-structured. In 1927 he emigrated to the United States, having been unsuccessful with his application for the Guards. He went there with his wife Ann Lorcan from Castle Avenue, Clontarf and their three daughters. Another daughter was born to them in the States, and he never returned to Ireland. His brother James, who lives in 23, St Aidan's Park Avenue tells us that currently John lives in Houston, Texas.

James Fox

James Fox was born in the Spencer Arms Hotel, which his father owned in Drumree, Co. Meath. The business failed and consequently the family moved to Dublin. They lived at 4, Russell Terrace, Church Road, East Wall when James enrolled in St Joseph’s Marino on 26, May 1913. He left school on 12 December, 1914, having completed successfully the Junior Grade.

Easter Monday morning 1916 Patrick Fox met a friend called Frank Robinson a Sergeant in the Irish Citizen Army who now lives at 6, Fairview Terrace. Patrick told Frank that he himself was far too old to take up the gun, but that his son James wanted to go fighting for Ireland. Frank Robinson then introduced James to Commandant Michael Mallin. The young boy marched with the Irish Citizen Army into St Stephen's Green. Unfortunately a sniper’s bullet from “The United Services Club” killed him early on Tuesday morning. He was working on a trench just inside the main gate of Stephen’s Green just at the top of Grafton Street at the time. He had been told a few times to be particularly careful not to put himself in danger while working. His enthusiasm and zeal were essentially the cause of his death. He was buried in County Meath.

Charles Rossiter

On Easter Monday morning Charlie Rossiter went around the Fairview district and Richmond Road calling the Volunteers and Cumann na mBan to action. On the way he called into Tilly Simpson who lived in Upton House on Grace Park Road. Tilly headed for the G.P.O. and his brother Terry took up position in Jacobs’ Factory.

Charlie also called on two past pupils who lived on Melrose Avenue and some other friends in the area, but they declined to have any part in the action. Then in the afternoon he, along with Leo Henderson and John McBride from Fairview Strand collected the guns which the reluctant fighters had in their possession at that time and left them in Gilbey's Wine Shop, now called Foster’s, just opposite Ballybough Bridge. At that time, that particular house had been requisitioned by the Volunteers. Shortly afterwards, those guns were distributed to those who had no arms at all. One of those was Thomas Lee of the Irish Citizen Army who had been involved in the attack on the Magazine Fort but had failed to get any gun for himself.

By Easter Monday night, Charlie was fighting in G.P.O. He was a short stocky and fearless man. He was put in charge of getting the barricades well constructed. He was a member of F Company of the Second Battalion and he had the greatest of respect for Captain Frank Henderson. He
was in the company of Henderson when the latter collapsed as they were retreating from the Mineral Waters Store in Henry Street. One Volunteer went back in to get some water for his Captain but he never returned. With them in that escapade was John McLoughlin, the man who was made Commandant General shortly before the surrender.

Charlie Rossiter was the last person to speak to Henry Coyle, a friend from the same company, who was killed. Another friend from F Company, Patrick Shortis fell mortally wounded by his side on Friday evening. Like many other Volunteers, Charlie was sent to Knutsfort Prison and thereafter to Frongoch Internment Camp. He took the Republican side against the Treaty and continued the fight until 1922. After the foundation of the new State he worked as a messenger in the Irish Civil Service. As his wages were very low he also began to rear and fatten pigs. He now lives on pension at 32 A, Sackville Avenue at the back of Croke Park. That very house was used as a store for arms by Michael O'Hanrahan who was executed in 1916.

Gipsy: A Story about a Horse

On Easter Monday 1916 at 10.15 A.M. Patrick Emmet Sweeney from 16, Cadogan Road and a friend of his knocked into Patrick Lynch, 25 Annesley Avenue at the other side of the bridge from where he lived. All they told Patrick was that they were simply going on manoeuvres and that they would like him to go with them as they needed the use of his cab.

Patrick harnessed his brother’s chestnut mare Gipsy to the cab and headed to 25, Cadogan Road where Sweeney and his friend immediately entered the house. They returned with a huge heavy case. Lynch requested them to put it on top of the cart but they refused and insisted that it had to be placed in the cab with them. When the two men had entered the cab with their huge case Lynch sat up on the driver’s seat of the cab. “The first person who stops us, shoot him,” said Sweeney to his friend. At this, Lynch nearly had a heart attack. Lynch told me that he feared for his life and that he was barely able to say a word. They reached the G.P.O. sometime before twelve noon. They left the case of rifles there and continued on to St Stephen's Green. He saw two other cab drivers, whom he recognised, there: Johnny Hynes from Spring Garden Street and “Frost” Gaynor who drove for the Dunne Company from Wharf Road.

They then proceeded to Jacob’s factory in the following order: Patrick Lynch first, then a group of Volunteers followed by Frost Gaynor’s cab, then another group of Volunteers with Johnny Hynes’ cab bringing up the rear accompanied by another group of soldiers. When they reached Jacob’s factory they blew the lock off the gate and drove their cabs inside. The small arms were taken from the cabs and they were arranged on the ground and they were divided out among the soldiers of the new Republic to come.

Patrick Lynch told me that he had had his fill of excitement by then and that he thought he would never get home alive. He was then ordered to drive his cab to 41, York Street and five Volunteers accompanied him there. On their arrival the cab was filled with every type of gun imaginable and their weight was so heavy that he thought the cab would split straight in two halves. On the way back to Jacob’s a man sat beside Patrick and two others walked at the sides of the cab.

On the way back they passed Johnny Hynes’ cab and Johnny shouted out: “They have done away with the bobbie at the Castle gate!” He drove in once again to Jacob’s factory, but Patrick was not allowed out again as by now the English army were all around them. They Volunteers heaped sacks of sugar up against all the gates, doors and windows. Patrick told me that he was none too pleased to be held like a captive with his horse Gipsy though he was treated very well by the rebels who gave him biscuits to eat. However, he kept everything under observation until he spotted his chance and escaped through a small side-gate.

He returned to 25, Annesley Avenue where he was confronted by his brother John who had just returned from Fairy House with the side-car. He ordered Patrick back in the dark to Jacob’s to get Gipsy, who was a valuable horse, back again.
When he finally reached the factory he managed to gain access because he knew the password which was “Limerick,” The Rebel at the gate informed him that they had been looking everywhere for him. However, Patrick was cute enough not to enter fully into the factory and he demanded that he be re-united with Gipsy and bring him home. However, this could not be arranged so he asked the Volunteers to kindly look after the animal.

However, that was not the end of the story. When Thomas MacDonagh and his soldiers had surrendered, the horse and cab were left behind after them. John Lynch’s name was on the car unfortunately and the Police took John into custody immediately. As a result he had to spend three months in Wakefield Prison. And that, readers, is the story behind the following sentence which we read on page 68 in *The Sinn Féin Rebellion Handbook*; “Lynch, John, 25, Annesley Avenue – Car Owner.” John was another past pupil of St Joseph’s, Marino.

(Patrick Lynch lives today with his married daughter in Raheny. His brother John has been dead for more than 30 years and Patrick Emmet Sweeney has also long passed to his reward. However, his daughter Maeve lived at 25, Cadogan Road today. Editor)

**In Frongoch**

*by Kevin Markey*

Often in polite and friendly, though temporary, company an autograph book would be passed around inviting those present to write a verse or make a sketch therein and to duly sign their contribution for posterity. I read my fill of them since I was at school long ago and it was very few of them that I enjoyed reading. Indeed, the same idiotic and superficial verses kept recurring in them. When one such album from the recent 1916 exhibition in St Joseph’s was offered to me to read and review, it was with some reluctance that I accepted the task.

The autograph book I was given was that of Thomas Pugh a man who fought in B Company of the Second Battalion of the Irish Republican Army. He brought it with him when he was sent as a prisoner to internment camps after the 1916 Rising. There are signatures in it of a lot of the political prisoners in Knutsford and Wandsworth prisons and Frongoch Internment Camp – and all of them are most interesting to anyone with an interest in the history of modern Ireland.
Among those signatures we find those of our past pupils like Thomas Pugh himself, Charlie Saurin and Frank Henderson. Of the other signatures we find those of John McLoughlin, Donnacha McCullough, William O’Brien, John Milroy, Thomas Curtin (Tomás Mac Curtain), Terence McSwiney (Traolach Mac Suibhne), Brian Higgins, J.A. Kilgallon, Desmond Ryan, John T. O’Kelly (Seán T. Ó Ceallaigh), Dick Fitzgerald, Arthur Shields and Oscar Traynor.

It is interesting to ask the question as to what was the state of mind of these internees or political prisoners some three months after the Rising. Had they fallen under the dark cloak of depression? Was their well of inspiration dried up? We know how things were at home in Ireland at that time from the accounts written by the likes of Lennox Robinson:

Roger Casement’s execution has closed the campaign of 1916. England has won hands down as she was bound to do, but it is wise to recollect that Ireland was fighting against something more dangerous than England, she was fighting her own mean huckstering spirit. And now that the campaign is over, the dead counted and the graves closed, looking round with tired eyes, it is possible to reckon up our gains and losses. (August 1916)

In the book just quoted the failure of the Rising is acknowledged, but that is not to say that there was a diminution in the republican spirits and hopes of freedom for their country on the part of the internees or prisoners. They write what appear to us today as jaded phrases but for them were significant insights obviously full of zealous feeling. “Is é bun agus barr gach véarsa go mbeidh Éireann fós ag Cáit Ní Dhuibhir” – “It is the beginning and ending of every verse that Ireland will one day be free.” (Brian Joyce). “We must and we shall be free.” (James O’Neill). “Thou art not conquered yet, dear land!” (James O’Mahony). “Give me liberty or give me death.” (Joseph A. Gill). “England! Damn your concessions. We want our country.” (Donal McCarthy). “There is no fear for Ireland yet. She has her soldiers still!” (R.Stokes). “We shall never forget the Felons or Our Land!” (P. O’Meara) “Beidh lá eile ag Gaileibh!” = “The Irish will have their day yet!” (Brian Higgins). That was the same Brian Higgins who became the famous publisher. Indeed, another long verse he wrote in Pugh’s Autograph Album is prescient of the verses he wrote on the Christmas cards he would print in the years to come:

**To Erin**

*We are loyal to the memory  
Of the ones who fought your fight  
Of the ones who walked beside you  
Through the darkness of the night.  
We are loyal to the lovers  
Of our Mother’s dear dark head  
To the faithful-hearted living  
And the proud unconquered dead.*

Not everyone who wrote in this autograph album showed such a gift for poetry, but even if they didn’t, they all exhibited one good quality or another. For instance Charlie McDowell, T. McCarthy, Michael Kelly and Charlie Saurin were all superb at sketching. McDowell
was an architect and he drew a wonderful sketch of the layout of his prison cell as we see from the accompanying picture. Tom McCarthy made a wonderful sketch, not shown here, of Knutsford prison itself which he christened “The Knutsford Hotel.” Alistair Connolly possessed a similar witty flair when he appended the following piece to a sketch he made of Frongoch Internment Camp:

**The Rebel’s Tour**

*Delightful scenery by sea and rail. Corridor carriages with attendants on all rail journeys. Board and lodging free. Fatigue parties always at hand. Length of tour extended if necessary. Travelling parties collected at and returned to their own districts. Permits obtainable from the Home Secretary, to enable tourists to visit Frongoch. Date of return dependent on climatic conditions. For Voucher apply to Box _____ at this paper.*

The man who penned the above piece certainly did not suffer from a lack of good spirits. Neither did Arthur Shields, the actor who went later to Hollywood where he succeeded well in his career even if he did not surpass the fame of his brother Barry Fitzgerald at the same profession. Arthur writes, in an imaginary conversation:

*Suddenly he was brought to a halt by the appearance of an eye looking at him through the peep-hole of his door. It was a horrible eye. It had a voice. Eye: “I ‘ear you was an akter.” Youth: “Yes.” Eye: “What gumbany was yuh in?” Youth: “The Abbey Theatre Company.” Eye (in disgust): “Never ‘eard of ‘em.” At this point I awoke, feeling miserable.*

The prose pieces written by those who signed this book illustrate well from where the freedom movement took its inspiration: Tone, Davis, Mitchell and O’Donovan-Rossa. The reader gets the distinct impression that there is a freshness of life and a vibrant meaning in those quotations that have long left the originals in the meantime.

There are three pieces of composition in this autograph album worth mentioning that are written by past pupils of St Joseph’s: poems by Frank Henderson, the historian, Des Ryan and W.J. Brennan Whitmore. These poems together remind this writer of another prisoner, Percy Beazley who wrote similar verses about imprisonment. In the case of every one of these writers, the spirit of freedom and heroism escaped the confines of their lowly prison cells. Indeed, that spirit made straight for the Emerald Isle. Some writers are encouraging Irishmen to rebellion again, Ryan and Beazley (in the poem “An Fiach Dubh,” “The Black Raven) are remembering the fallen heroes and Whitmore is recalling the stones that were thrown, one supposes, at him by the citizens of Dublin when the Volunteers were marched as prisoners through the streets of the capital city before being sent to prison in England:

*Go forth ye eagled-eyed and young,*  
*Whose blood is hot, whose veins are true.*  
*Come forth the battling throng among*  
*And wage the ancient fight anew.*  
*And ye, grown hoary in the strife,*  
*Who braved the bursting of the gale,*  
*Rise up refreshed to youthful life*  
*And aid the cause that cannot fail.*  
*(Frank Henderson)*

**A SALUTE TO BILLY * **
*(Who died for his land and name, May 1916)*

*O gentlest, and best of the brave -*  
*You died for a name which is deathless.*  
*O wise sad face in life and death*  
*Whose memory shall not soften*  
*With the passing of years.*  
*You wandered in the goodly spaces of the earth,*
Yet dearest to you were your mother city
And the men and women of your race.
Christ, may the stone that his chisel carved
Endure with the wood of Thy cross!
(Desmond Ryan)

*(The poet is referring to William Pearse)*

A REBEL’S QUERY TO MOTHER ÊIRE

When I come home to you, máthair,
What will your welcome be?
Tired by long months of waiting,
Will you have changed to me?
Or will your love have grown
A stronger purer tie,
’Cause of those months of waiting
That have passed so slowly by?

When I come home to you, máthair
What will your welcome be?
The hours you’ve found so dreary
How dread they’ve been for me!
Yet, ’midst the noise of battle,
One hope has urged me on,
And that fond hope I’ll cherish
Till my work is wholly done.
(W. J. Brennan- Whitmore)

The above quoted verses are not great poetry, nor are the thoughts the metre and the style. None
of the people who wrote in Thomas Pugh’s diary was a professional poet by any means. However, they were people from every class of society and every profession. Some few could be called famous but most of them disappeared into the general crowd of humanity after the noise of battle had long since ceased. Maybe, in all justice to them all, I should finish this piece with another quotation from Lennox Robinson:

Into a landlocked brackish pool a great ocean breaker sweeps. It comes in flecked with sea-foam, strong with brine and with a rough power, which tears the seaweed from the rocks and hurts, for a moment, all the fragile life of the pool. But the water grows still again, the damage is repaired or forgotten, and a life there goes on a thousand times richer and more rigorous for the great waves breaking. And, in Ireland old faded brackish things have become new; words which had once been vital had grown stale and thumbed - suddenly they are fresh again. (August, 1916)

May we see their like again,

Kevin Markey, Teacher, St. Joseph’s, Marino.

Br. A.P. Caomhánach (1917 – 1998) is pictured on the right of the above photo taken Easter 1966 in St Joseph’s School yard.