
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians: Remember the Women of 1916



The women who answered Irelands call...

Life springs from death and from the graves of dead patriot men and women spring living nations...

Ní síocháin go Saoirse.



irish fever

Introduction

Over 200 women took an active role in the 1916 Easter Rising. The women participated at all the Garrisons except for Boland's Mill. The roles that the women took included serving as couriers, providing first aid and some in active military activities. Constance de Markievicz was second in Command at the College of Surgeons. Winifred Carney was armed with a typewriter and a weebly and was responsible for James Connolly's dispatches from the GPO. Elizabeth O'Farrell was entrusted with the surrender orders of Padraic Pearse to be delivered to the British and all the Garrisons. Dr. Kathleen Lynn served as a Captain and Chief Medical Officer in the Irish Citizens Army. Kathleen Clarke was a confidante to the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood who entrusted her with the plans for the Easter Rising and with reorganizing the republican movement if the rebellion failed.





Molly O'Reilly

Molly O'Reilly was a young brave woman. She was chosen by James Connolly to raise the Green Harp Flag of Ireland over Liberty Hall. Molly first went to Liberty Hall to learn Irish Dancing. She heard Connolly speak and was inspired. During the Lock Out in 1913, she carried messages to the strikers from Connolly. After the Howth Gunrunning, she bravely hid under her bed some of the smuggled weapons. During the Rising, Molly served with the City Hall Garrison. She was a courier sending messages between City Hall and the GPO. Her activities were unknown to her father who was a supporter of the crown. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians honor Molly in the Commemorative Pin.





Kathleen Clarke

Kathleen Daly Clarke was the wife of Thomas Clarke a signer of the Proclamation. She was a confidante of the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. Kathleen was entrusted with the plans of the Easter Rising and responsible with reorganizing the Republican movement if the rebellion failed. She was also responsible with funds to help the families of the deceased or imprisoned. Her husband left her the remaining funds of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in the amount of 3,100 pounds. To aid the families, she founded the Volunteer Dependents Fund. Her home was raided frequently following the Rising. She also was imprisoned.



Winifred Carney

Winifred Carney was born in County Down. She was a confidante and secretary of James Connolly. Winifred Carney was the first woman to serve in the GPO and one of the last 3 women to leave that garrison. She was aware that a Rising would happen and was trained in first aid and how to use a gun. During the week, she typed the dispatches for James Connolly. After the surrender, she was imprisoned and released on Christmas Eve 1916.





Dr. Kathleen Lynn

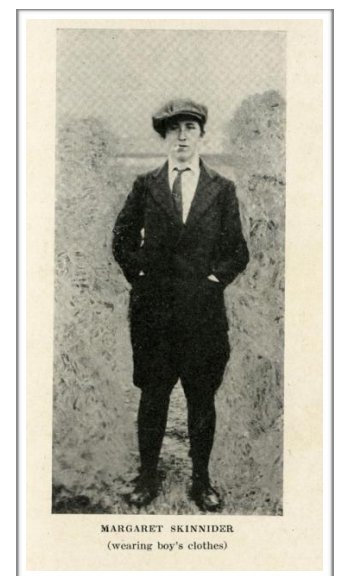
Kathleen Lynn was born in County Mayo. She was the daughter of an Anglican Rector. at an early age, she decided to be a doctor after noticing that her local doctor was "fount of help and hope". In 1899 Dr. Lynn received her medical degree from the Royal University. She taught First Aid to members of Cumann na mBan and the Irish Citizen Army. Dr. Lynn was member of the Irish Citizen Army serving as Chief Medical Officer and a Captain. At the City Hall Garrison, she attended to Sean Connolly the first casualty. After Sean Connolly's death, Dr. Lynn was the highest ranking Officer. When offering the surrender of the City Hall Garrison, she was asked if she was doing work for the Red Cross. Her answer "I am a Red Cross Doctor and a belligerent". In her possession was an automatic revolver and 50 rounds of ammunition. She served prison time in Richmond Barricks, Kilmainham Goal and Mountjoy. She was to be deported to England and due to shortage of physicians and family connections placed in the care of Dr Cusack. In 1919 Dr. Lynn and Madeline Ffrench Mullen founded St Ultan's Infant Hospital.

Margaret Skinnider



Margaret Skinnider was born in Glasgow. She was a member of the Glasgow Cumann na mBan where she was trained to shoot. On her trips to Ireland, she smuggled detonators. The explosives were tested in the hills close to Dublin by Margaret Skinnider and Countess Markievicz. Through her friendship with the Countess, she joined the Irish Citizen Army. During Easter week, she served at St. Stephen's Green and the College of Surgeons. Her roll was carrying dispatches. The Countess requested Commandant Mallin to permit Margaret to use her skills as a sniper. She offered a plan to dislodge the soldiers from the Roof. Mallin thought the plan to was good but to dangerous. He was not willing to let a woman take this risk. Her reply was" that women had the same right to risk our lives as the men; that in the Constitution of the Irish Republic,

women were on a equality with men." From In Their Own Voice page 77. Mallin gave her an assignment with 4 men. During the assignment, one of the men were killed and she was wounded. She was shot in the side, right arm and in the back. She was in the hospital at the time of the surrender.





Nora and Ina Connolly



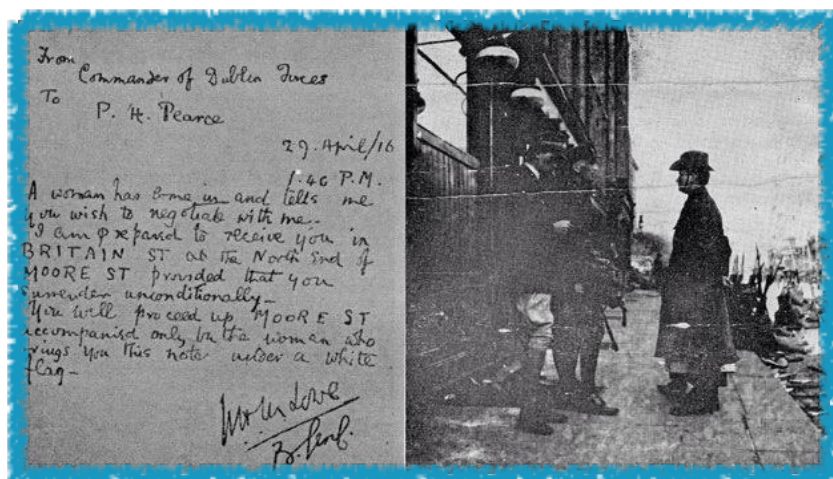
Nora and Ina are the daughters of James Connolly. They were members of the only girls branch of the Na Fianna. Nora was the Chief Officer and Ina served as the Branch secretary. The sisters travel frequently between Belfast and Dublin. Ina attended the Inaugural Meeting of the Cumann na mBan. In July 1914, the sisters were camping with Countess Markievicz and some Na Fianna Boys. On Sunday, the boys left the camp to help with the Howth Gun Running. The girls were very disappointed that the girls were not included. Nora told Ina not to show her feelings to the boys. Nora told Ina "A good soldier takes disappointment and defeat with his chin up. Perhaps they wanted to leave somebody at the cottage in case they were all arrested." The next day the Connolly sisters were told that they would take small arms to Belfast. Countess Markievicz told them "You are the first women to run guns to the North. Show what you are made of. Deliver them safely is all I ask. I have every confidence in you" From In Their Own Voices page 57



Elizabeth O'Farrell

Elizabeth O'Farrell remembered in an article for An Phoblacht that "she worked for Irish freedom from her sixteenth year " In 1906, she joined Inghindhe na hEireann and in 1914 joined the Cumann na mBan. Constance Markievicz introduced her to James Connolly informing him that she was very trustworthy. Following this introduction, Elizabeth was attached to the Irish Citizen Army. Immediately prior to the Rising, she was sent to Galway advising of the change of the date. During the Rising she served in the GPO and as a courier. She was one of the last 3 women in the GPO. Padraic Pearse chose Elizabeth to take his surrender document to the British and the other Garrisons. She was with Pearse at the time of the formal surrender.

After the surrender, she was a prisoner in Kilmainham Gaol.



Photos retrieved on Facebook: National Library of Ireland; Women in the Riding; 1916 Easter Rising Historical Society; Clan na Gael; 1916 Centenary 1916 and Capuchin Archives Ireland.

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