

TERENCE MACSWINEY, LORD MAYOR OF CORK (1879-1920)

THE KILMURRY CONNECTION

BY TERENCE MCSWINEY

In 1965 the present Museum premises in Kilmurry, was officially McSwiney's only child and the Museum was seum". To this day the Museum houses a number of his early published writings together roots. Also on display is a wheel from the funeral Cork to its final resting place at St Finbarr's on the life of Terence Mac Swiney and his family



murry, kindly made available through the generosity opened by Maire Og MacSwiney-Brugha, Terence named the "The Terence Mac Swiney Memorial Number of items relating to Terence MacSwiney, including a MacSwiney family tree detailing his Kilmurry carriage which carried McSwiney's body through cemetery in Cork. The following is a brief summary connection with Kilmurry.

In 1835 John McSwiney, Terence McSwiney's Cork, where his family had lived for generations. John was one of nine children, the others being Terence, Paul, Anne, Eugene, Peter, Ellen, Kate and Mary. While still a young man John made his way to Rome to join the Papal Guard in the war against Garibaldi. On the return journey in 1870 he stopped in London where he worked as a schoolteacher. While there he met and later married Mary Wilkinson, also a school teacher, whose mother's family had earlier emigrated from the South of Ireland.

Terence Mac Swiney, the future Lord Mayor, was the fourth born of eight children to John and Mary, three of whom were born in England. Terence was born in Cork in 1879 the other children were Mary (died 1942 –founder of Scoil Ita), Peter (died 1949 in New York), Katie (Sr Francis Xavier-died Tokyo 1954), Eugene (died an infant), Margaret (Mother McSwiney -died Nth. Carolina USA 1963), Annie (taught at Scoil Ita -died 1954) and John (Sean) died 1942.

As a boy Terence attended the North Monastery School and following the death of his father John in Melbourne Australia in 1895, Terence had to leave school at 16 and obtained employment at Dwyer's in Washington St. Cork. While there he continued his education by night and graduated from UCC with a BA degree in Philosophy in 1907. From 1900-1917 Terry, as he was also known, was very interested in and active in cultural and literary activities in the city. He also enjoyed speaking Irish during holidays spent in the Muskerry Gaeltacht.

Terence was very involved in the Irish cultural revival at the beginning of the 20th century. Helping to form the Cork Celtic Literary Society he wrote numerous poems and articles for the Society's journal and with Daniel Corkery founded the Cork dramatic Society, writing plays such as *The Revolutionist*, *The Holocaust* and *The Warriors of Coole*. On leaving Dwyer's he held various teaching positions, teaching mainly commercial subjects, and was a pioneer in the Vocational Education System in his travels throughout Cork.

In support of the cause of freedom, Terence joined the Cork City Volunteers in 1913. When organising the Mid Cork Volunteers Terry was a regular visitor to his ancestral home in Kilmurry, frequently cycling the return journey from Cork on the same day. After the 1916 Rising Terence was detained in Frongoch internment camp in Wales. In 1917 while held in "open internment" at Bromyard in England he married Muriel Murphy –of Murphy's Brewing family, Cork. At the wedding ceremony Terence removed his coat and underneath wore an officer uniform of the Irish Volunteers, which Geraldine Neeson, their bridesmaid, had helped to smuggle over from Cork.

Terence and Muriel had one child, a daughter Maire Og who was born in Cork in 1920. Maire Og's childhood and life are detailed in her recent fascinating biography "*Maire Mac Swiney Brugha-History's daughter*" - published by O'Brien press in 2005. Maire-Og taught with Mary and Annie Mac Swiney (Terence's sisters) at Scoil Ita in Cork. Maire married Ruairi Bruagha in 1945. Ruairi (decd.R.I.P 2006) was a son of Cathal Brugha a colleague of Terry's in the first Dail Government. Maire Og, who is now in her 80's, resides in Dublin.

In 1920 Terence was elected T.D. for Mid Cork constituency as a Sinn Fein candidate. Following the shooting of his friend and colleague Thomas Mac Curtain, then Lord Mayor of Cork, by British troops, Terence became first citizen of his native city. He was arrested and charged in August 1920 at the City Hall for "being in possession of documents, the publication of which would be likely to cause disaffection to His Majesty" he was imprisoned following which he refused food in protest at "the arrest of a Public Representative in the course of his civic duties". Terence was later transferred to Brixton prison in England where he continued his fast, which at the time attracted worldwide attention. Terence MacSwiney died on 25th Oct. 1920, the 74th day of his unique protest and sacrifice- aged 41 years.

(Note: *Principles of Freedom*, originally published in 1921, was republished in 2005 to mark the Cork 2005 European Capital of Culture. It is also available in full-text as an eBook on the Project Gutenberg Website - www.gutenberg.net)

KILMURRY

PARISH

Cnocainin Aerach Chill Mhuire



Is buachaillin mise a shiulaigh alan,

A' cur tuairisc na hait is fearr ionad;

I muineadh, in -iompar, i gcluchear, 's I gcail,

I mbeasa, I dtreithe, 's I miotal.

Ni hheol dom aon duiche no dun-bhaile brea,

Da bhfaca-sa 'm shiulta ba shugai le ra;

Nior luios riamh mo shuil ar aon duiche chomh brea,

Leis an ait ud go nglaothar Cill Mhuir' air.

Curfa

Is horo e , horo e, 'bhuachaillin brea,

Is horo e , horo e, sin chugham do lamh;

Ta jug ar an mbord is nnar choir e bheith lan,

Go n-olfaimid slainte Chill Muire

Is ann a bhionn tionlac mioncholurr's faoilean,

An cheirseach, cearc fraoigh agus druide;

Ar gheaga 'na slaoda a geilleadh fe bhllath

Is gur meinn liom le haireamh a bhfoireann

Bionn fuaim ag an gconairt da leogaint chunfaiagh

A' thraochaint an tsionaigh is marcaigh 'na dhiaidh,

Bionn adharca da seideadh 's na ceadta hurra

A Chnocainin Aerach Chill Mhuire.

Oh, I am a boy that has travelled afar,

Still, seeking a neat place to settle,

Where manners, good taste, and good company are,

Men of intellect, courage and mettle,

I know of no district, or market town rare,

That I saw in my rambles to every fair,

I ne'er saw a place that my mind could compare,

With the Airy Wee Hill of Kilmurry.

Chorus

Sing horo-aye, horo-aye, give me your hand,

Sing horo-aye, horo-aye, 'tis best in the land;

There's a jug on the board,

And to drain it is grand,

And we'll drink to the health of Kilmurry.

A union of the older parishes of Kilmurry, Moviddy, Kilbonane, Duniskey, Cannaway and Dundrinan, the parish, as we know it today, dates from 1825 when a Father Matthew McGrath is recorded as parish priest. As regards antiquity, Kilbarry in this parish takes us right back to St. Finbarr.

Kilmurry, Cill Mhuire: the first reference to this as the name of the parish is found in 1437. A Holy Well called Tobarannurry (Tobar Mhuire) in Ballymichael shows the origin of the name of the church - or vice versa!

Father Matt McGrath (1820-1838) tells that "in the commencement of the last century - the 17th - the old church in Kilmurry was covered with timber and shingle. When this fell in, a straw-shed was got up opposite the old tree. To this succeeded the present church." Fr. McGrath is speaking of three post-penal churches, since the earliest church fell into Protestant hands in the 16th century. The first church mentioned by Fr. McGrath was built between 1714 and 1726 and was mentioned in the Report on the State of Popery in Ireland (1731). The "Straw Church" was built about 1750 and it lasted 'till 1826, but the "old tree" landmark has long since disappeared. The third church mentioned by Fr. McGrath was built during his own time as PP, perhaps in his early years there.

The present church is the fourth church of the parish. It was built in 1860 and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, thus retaining the original Cill Mhuire, and it was opened for divine worship on 8 June 1861 by Bishop William Delaney. The parish priest at that time was Father James B. Daly.

A parish covering such a wide area as Kilmurry is bound to have countless monuments to the determined efforts of both priests and people to preserve and practise their religion at a time when government policy tried to destroy it. So to take a few examples - Ballymichael had a penal altar-site at Knocktubber - Cnoc an Tobair, not far from Tobermurry. Annual 'Rounds' were made to this well on 8 September as we learn from old sources: "Bionn turas a thabhairt go Cnocainin Aerach Chill Mhuire ar an ochtu la de Mheitheamh an Fhomhair."

We also recall Pairc an tSagairt in Cloghmacow where according to tradition, a priest was killed in Cromwellian times. Sceach an tSagairt refers to the pursuit of this priest and his efforts to conceal himself. Both of these sites were on the left side of the road leading to Kilmurry Church from Lisarda.

From the Kilbonane section of the parish - in Cloghdubh - comes the tradition of a cowhouse being given to the Catholics about the year 1691 for use as a Masshouse.

Cannaway has a penal altar site in the townland of Mahalagh and there is a Chapel Field in Killanardrish.

Finally, there is a very interesting set of Parish Registers here in Kilmurry, beginning at the year 1786.

Present churches:

1. St. Mary's Kilmurry (1860)
2. St. Joseph's, Cloughduv (1871)
3. St. John the Baptist, Canovee (1869)

[Adapted and updated from notes by Sr. Angela Bolster from the Diocese of Cork and Ross Website.]

PROFILE OF THE MASTERS

THIS IS THE SECOND IN OUR SERIES OF PROFILES OF HEAD TEACHERS OF THE KILMURRY NATIONAL SCHOOL

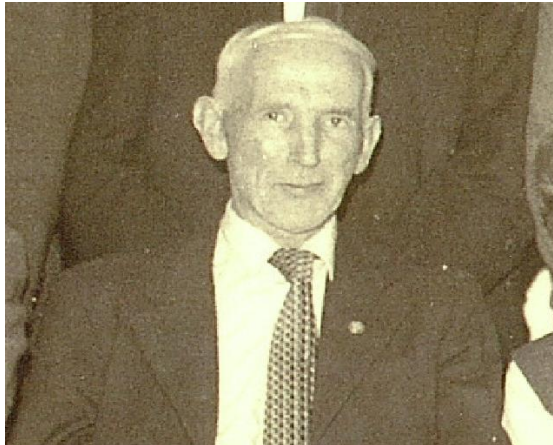
Domhnall Ua Buachalla was born in Coomlibane, Renanirree, Inchihgeela, Co. Cork. He was third in a family of six children, all of whom helped their parents on the family farm.

Domhnall trained as a teacher at the De La Salle Training College, Waterford. Before moving to Kilmurry NS he was principal teacher in Broadford NS, Moyvalley, Co. Kildare.

His appointment to 1935 under the direction of boy's school until 1956 and until 1975, in the new

During his early years in and an MSc in Economics in Kilmurry he took a keen interest in training schoolboys in hurling and football.

He had an active interest in and in 1938 suggested to the would improve the quality rural electrification did not



Kilmurry Boys National School was in Canon Tracy PP. He taught in the old for the remaining part of his service, school at Ballymichael.

Kilmurry he obtained and MA in Irish from University College Cork. While interest in training schoolboys in hurl-

developing the local infrastructure local community that electricity of life for people. Unfortunately, come to the area until 1948.

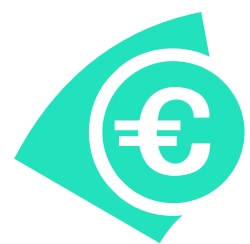
In 1950 he started a branch of Muintir na Tire. The aim of the organisation was to encourage rural people to work together for the good of their locality. He was a member of the Labour Party in Kilmurry and one of the founding members of the McSwiney Memorial Museum. He frequently featured in local newspapers as a writer on historical matters.

In 1947 he married Nell Manning of Coolgarrive, Aghabolluge, Co. Cork. They had four daughters, Caitlin, Mairead, Sile and Eibhlin.

Domhnall Ua Buachalla's contribution to the Kilmurry community as educator, community leader and authority on a wide range of subjects earned him the admiration of all those who knew him. He provided leadership and continuity in difficult economic times and his legacy will be cherished for many years to come.

Pattern Day at Cnoc a'Tobair

As mentioned in recent *Parish Newsletters*, the Pattern Day at Cnoc a'Tobair is being revived thanks to the work of the Parish Pastoral Council. This year, on the date of the feast of Our Lady's birthday, September 8th, the Council plans to organise a mass there at 3.00pm. The young people of Kilmurry Youth Theatre will provide music for this very welcome celebration at the historic summit of the parish. As you will have read in our first issue, local lore suggests that this 4,000 year old site was the baptismal place of St. Finbarr who lived at the Gurrans complex only a short distance away across country.



REMEMBER:
IT COSTS JUST
€10 ANNUALLY TO
JOIN THE SOCIETY
AND PLAY A PART
IN PRESERVING
AND PROMOTING
KILMURRY'S RICH
HERITAGE:

JOIN NOW!

***** Watch the Parish Newsletter for dates of
the Society AGM and Autumn Lecture *****