

# REBEL HEARTS



*A biographical list of republican women activists  
in Co. Kildare 1913-1923*

KAREL KIELY



# REBEL HEARTS

*A biographical list of  
republican women activists in Co. Kildare  
1913-1923*



# REBEL HEARTS

*A biographical list of  
republican women activists in Co. Kildare  
1913-1923*

**Karel Kiely**

This book is published as part of the Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme for 2023. It is supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2021-2023 initiative.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical including downloading, photocopying, or recording, or by any information storage or retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the publisher. The photographs remain the property of the photographers, owners, and Kildare Library Service respectively.

© Kildare County Archives and Local Studies, Kildare Library Service, 2023

Web: [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory)

Printed in Ireland  
Naas Printing Ltd., Naas, Co. Kildare  
Tel: (045) 872092  
Email: [naasprinting@gmail.com](mailto:naasprinting@gmail.com)

## *Dedication*

For our maternal ancestors

*“Women never have got full credit for their bravery.  
They sacrifice everything to life.”*

PATRICK KAVANAGH, 1948

## **Glossary**

<b>A.S.U.</b>	Active Service Unit
<b>G.H.Q.</b>	General Headquarters
<b>G.P.O.</b>	General Post Office
<b>H.Q.</b>	Headquarters
<b>I.R.A.</b>	Irish Republican Army, also Irish Volunteers
<b>O.C.</b>	Officer Commanding
<b>R.I.C.</b>	Royal Irish Constabulary
<b>T.D.</b>	Teachta Dála

## **Dates**

<b>Easter Rising</b>	24-29 April 1916
<b>War of Independence</b>	21 January 1919-11 July 1921
<b>Truce</b>	11 July-06 December 1921
<b>Civil War</b>	28 June 1922-24 May 1923

## **Acknowledgements**

James Durney for his guidance and assistance. John Murnane for his editing, patience, and support. Photographs/images courtesy of Cill Dara Historical Society, Deirdre Collins, Robert Doyle, Jerome Higgins, Holton family, Kildare County Archives and Local Studies, Kildare Library Service, Ann Origan, Charlie McGee, Anne McNeill, Cora Redmond, Joe May, Anne Steatham, Kevin Timmons, Military Archives, Ancestry.com

## Foreword

When the nationalist organisation the Irish Volunteers was formed in November 1913 membership was open ‘to all able-bodied men.’ Women had to wait until the following April when an auxiliary body, Cumann na mBan (Women’s Council), was formed. It was August 1914 when the first branch of Cumann na mBan was organised in Co. Kildare in the town of Athy. More branches were soon formed in the rest of the county.

During the War of Independence, the R.I.C. did not attempt to formulate statistics for Cumann na mBan in Co. Kildare, so there are no figures for membership of the organisation in the county. In 1921 there were at least fourteen Cumann na mBan branches in Kildare – Athy, Ballymore Eustace, Castledermot, Kilcullen, Rathangan, Celbridge, Kilcock, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas, Newbridge, Kildare Town, Kill, and Two-Mile-House – with a varying degree of membership. The Military Archives nominal rolls for Cumann na mBan in Co. Kildare are also incomplete.

It is difficult therefore, to tabulate a figure for female activists in Co. Kildare – not all activists were card-carrying members of Cumann na mBan – some were the mothers, sisters, and wives of active republicans, who were on the periphery of the organisation but later claimed membership for pension purposes. Karel Kiely has in this study delved deeper into the archival sources to paint a picture of each known activist. She has used every available source to bring each entry to life: 1901 and 1911 census; pension and medal applications; witness statements; birth, death, and marriage records; arrest reports; newspaper obituaries. Family members provided information and photographs.

The subsequent fight for recognition by female revolutionary activists was a hard road. Many veterans found themselves in poor economic circumstances and the monetary compensation involved would have been a very important source of income. Karel Kiely has included some pleading letters to highlight the difficulties women

had in meeting the criteria to obtain a pension. Katie Beatty, a young widow of a volunteer officer, and an activist from Easter 1916 to the end of the Civil War wrote to her T.D., Tom Harris: *'I cannot understand the delay ... I have been before the board twice and have given 5 references from important people who have been out in the trouble with me during Easter 1916 and I consider one of those alone should be sufficient to get my pension without all this waiting'*. Her husband was killed in a motor accident, and Katie was left with three young children and no means of support. She was awarded a 1916 Service Medal, but only a partial pension for her service from 1916-1923, despite extensive references from other republicans. Katie Beatty lived most of her life in virtual poverty, not forgotten – because of her persistence – but largely ignored by the State she had helped to found.

In this important and timely study Karel Kiely has further acknowledged the sacrifices the women of Co. Kildare have made in the revolutionary period.

*James Durney*

*Kildare*

*10 November 2023*

## Introduction

According to the Military Archives, 6,445 Service Pensions claims were lodged by women, of which 1,634 (25%) were successful.<sup>1</sup> James Durney has identified circa 1,200 male and female Co. Kildare activists.<sup>2</sup> This publication is a companion volume to his book, *Stand You Now for Ireland's Cause. A biographical dictionary of Co. Kildare republican activists 1913-1923*. (2023). Therefore, I have not provided details of the involvement of all the male activists who were fathers, brothers, husbands, or sons of the women. This volume includes the details of 136 women who served in Cumann na mBan or were active during the revolutionary period in Co. Kildare using sources in the Military Archives of Ireland, including Medal, Pension and Special Allowance Applications, as well as newspaper archives and local or family information. The low numbers of applications by women for military pensions may be due to their having died, emigrated, married or who did not apply for various reasons, such as old age. The Military Archives also includes awards of medals to veterans of the 1916 Easter Rising and War of Independence. A total of 68,896 medals had been issued by 31 January 1988.

In June 1923 the Irish Free State (Saorstát Éireann) recognized and compensated wounded members, and widows, children, and dependents of deceased members of Óglaigh na hÉireann, including the National Army, the Irish Volunteers, and the Irish Citizen Army, through the payment of allowances/gratuities. This was later broadened to include members of the Hibernian Rifles, Cumann na mBan, and Fianna Éireann. Further legislation was introduced in 1924, 1934 and 1949, to recognize the service of veterans from Easter Week 1916 to 30 September 1923, who were proven to have had active service through the payment of a service pension. The legislation which is relevant to the Military Service Pensions Collections held by the Military Archives is:

---

<sup>1</sup> Military Archives of Ireland.

<sup>2</sup> Durney, James *Stand You Now for Ireland's Cause. A biographical dictionary of Co. Kildare republican activists 1913-1923* (2023).

**Army Pensions Acts 1923-1953** which dealt with wounded participants and deceased participants' dependents.

**Military Service Pensions Acts, 1924, 1934 and 1949** which dealt with surviving participants who could prove active service.

Applicants were assessed by the Department of Defence, a board of assessors or an advisory committee. Supporting material was gathered to assist them in determining the accuracy of applicants' accounts of their service.

### *Identifying Co. Kildare Women activists*

The sources used included the Military Service Pensions Collections, 1916 Medal and the Service Medal (1917-1921) records, newspaper reports and family information. The biographical information on each woman has been established using baptismal, birth, marriage and death records, obituaries, and graveyard records. Each woman is listed in this book under her legal last name at the time of her death, whether married or single. In some cases, it has not been possible to establish dates of birth or death as there was limited information recorded in the application files or other sources. Dates of birth can vary between sources. It is sometimes unclear whether a medal or pension application was being made under a maiden or married name; there is often no birth or death date, and there were multiple addresses provided by some applicants. While I have tried to establish the birth, death, and marriage dates of each woman, as well as place of burial, this was not possible in all cases.

Where there was little information available, I have provided all that is known currently about the participant. I have made a public appeal for information, but with the passage of time, information and family knowledge has disappeared. In a work such as this there are bound to be mistakes and not all source material is entirely accurate or reliable.

Of the 136 women identified from Co. Kildare, forty-two were awarded a 1917-1921 Medal, forty-two applied for a Military Service Pension, three were awarded a Military Service Pension and eleven received a Special Allowance.

### ***Cumann na mBan in Co. Kildare***

In 1913 a group of women met in Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, to discuss the possibility of forming an organisation for women which would work in conjunction with the recently formed Irish Volunteers. At the same venue, on 02 April 1914, at a meeting chaired by Agnes O'Farrelly, Cumann na mBan (The Women's Council) was formed. The objectives of the organisation were to advance the cause of Irish unity and organise Irish women to further this objective, to assist in equipping a body of Irish women for the defence of Ireland, and to form a fund to support these objectives, named the Defence of Ireland Fund. In a letter published in the *Irish Independent* on 08 May 1914, Mary M. Colum and Louise Gavan Duffy, joint secretaries, stated that Cumann na mBan was a distinct organisation from the Irish Volunteers (established in 1913), but it considered that the need to help equip the Volunteers was the most necessary task. However, they also pointed out that many of their members were keen suffragists. Branches were quickly formed throughout the country and were directed by the Provisional Committee. By July 1914 it was being reported that over thirty branches had been established.<sup>3</sup> As Cal McCarthy wrote: *'This was a small but determined group of women with an intense desire for Irish self-determination. Unlike men who flocked to the ranks of the Volunteers, this women's group would not provide much adventure, excitement or glamour for its members. Yet their resolve to assist in securing Irish self-rule would not allow them to be deterred. It is little wonder then, that Cumann na mBan was to become one of the most uncompromisingly nationalist (and later republican) groups.'*<sup>4</sup>

In Co. Kildare a preliminary meeting to form a branch took place in Naas Town Hall in late July 1914; setting up a branch required a minimum of ten women. The Naas branch had the objectives of providing training in first aid, home nursing, drill, rifle practice, and collecting for the Defence of Ireland Fund; by late August drill practice and first aid classes were up and running.<sup>5</sup> Kildare and Newbridge also had branches set up by late August; a detailed account of the

---

<sup>3</sup> *Irish Independent*, 11 July 1914, p. 6

<sup>4</sup> McCarthy, Cal. *Cumann na mBan and the Irish Revolution 1914-1923* (2007), p.12

<sup>5</sup> *Kildare Observer*, 18 July 1914, p. 3

formation of the Newbridge branch was given in the *Leinster Leader* newspaper, which stated that an extremely large number of women of Newbridge and districts adjoining met in the Town Hall where the chair elected was Mr. P. J. Doyle, J.P. on the motion of Fr. Phelan, C.C.

The meeting was addressed by Miss Elizabeth Bloxham, fresh from organising the Naas, Kildare and Athy branches, who said that there was no county as well organised as Co. Kildare and that *'there was nothing that ever could be done by women in any country that we Irish women cannot do. The organisation was not solely a nursing association ..... in the Cumann na mBan they wanted not only women who would do ambulance work and first aid, but who would do other necessary work which might be demanded of them'*. Speaking of Athy, she said that the members of the association there went out with the men. A committee of nineteen was constituted, with Mrs. O'Grady, secretary, and Mrs. Cox, treasurer, while the matter of electing a chair was left for the women to arrange at the next meeting, as P. J. Doyle said, *'We give you some measure of Home Rule in that respect....'*<sup>6</sup>

The women who joined Cumann na mBan came from diverse backgrounds, but a significant proportion were working class. Brigid O'Mullane, organiser for Co. Kildare, said: *'It was my custom to contact the Volunteer O/C, who gave me the names of reliable girls. Having got the names, I convened a meeting generally at the private house of one of the girls; occasionally it might be a local hall or barn. I first lectured the girls on the aims and objects of the organisation, and the work they would be asked to do. I had a good deal of prejudice to overcome on the part of the parents, who did not mind boys taking part in a military movement, but who had never heard of, and were reluctant to accept the idea of a body of gun-women.'*<sup>7</sup>

There was a split in the Irish Volunteers in September 1914 following John Redmond's appeal for its members to enlist in the British Army due to the outbreak of World War I. The majority of Cumann na mBan members supported the volunteers who rejected his call and retained the original name, the Irish Volunteers. A few Cumann na mBan branches affiliated directly to Redmond's National Volunteers, while others joined short-lived organisations such as the Volunteer

<sup>6</sup> *Leinster Leader*, 29 August 1914.

<sup>7</sup> Brigid O'Mullane, organiser in Co. Kildare, Witness Statement 450, Bureau of Military History.

Aid Association or the Women's National Council. During the 1916 Rising the Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood included Cumann na mBan, along with the Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army, in the 'Army of the Irish Republic'. On Easter Sunday 1916, Cumann na mBan members were turned away from many of the rebel garrisons, including the General Post Office (G.P.O.) However, following orders from the insurrections' leaders to accept any woman who wished to take part, by the end of Easter Week more than forty women were in the G.P.O. garrison,<sup>8</sup> as well as in all the major rebel strongholds throughout the city, with the exception of Boland's Mill and the South Dublin Union held by Éamon de Valera and Éamonn Ceannt. Most of the women operated as Red Cross workers, couriers or procured rations for the men. They also gathered intelligence on scouting expeditions, carried dispatches and transferred arms from dumps across the city to rebels.

Some members of Cumann na mBan who were also members of the Citizen Army were active during the Rising, including Constance Markievicz who is reported to have shot and killed a policeman at St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. Elizabeth O'Farrell, a mid-wife at the National Maternity Hospital, cared for wounded men in the G.P.O., including James Connolly. On Saturday, 29 April, she was sent by Patrick Pearse, bearing a Red Cross insignia and white flag to seek surrender terms from Brigadier-General Lowe, after which she accompanied Pearse to surrender in person to General Lowe. Later, she brought Pearse's surrender order to the rebels still fighting in Dublin, accompanied by British troops.

After the Rising was quashed over seventy women, including many of the leading figures in Cumann na mBan, were arrested and imprisoned in Kilmainham Jail, Dublin, although most had been released by 08 May 1916. The organisation became involved in organising prisoner relief agencies, and later opposed internment and conscription, while also working to ensure the executed 1916 leaders were remembered. Its members canvassed for Sinn Féin in the 1918 General Election in which Countess Markievicz was elected to the First Dáil.; she served as Minister for Labour from 1919 to

---

<sup>8</sup> McCoole, Sinead, *No Ordinary Women, Irish Female Activists in the Revolutionary Years 1900-1923* (2003), p. 39.

1922. In May 1921 Cumann na mBan members Mary MacSwiney, Ada English and Kathleen Clarke were elected to the Second Dáil.

During the War of Independence Co. Kildare Cumann na mBan members and other women activists were engaged in hiding arms, providing safe houses for volunteers, and helping to run the Dáil Courts and local authorities. Hester Dooley, who was born on 18 August 1902 in Athy, Co. Kildare, joined Cumann na mBan in 1919. Along with her sisters, Kathleen (later married to Eamon Malone, Dublin, leader of the Mountjoy Jail hunger-strike by republican prisoners) and Gypsy (later O'Neill, Newbridge, Co. Kildare), she carried I.R.A. dispatches from 5th Battalion H.Q. area, Athy, to 6th Battalion, Carlow Brigade area, and gelignite to Lughill, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare, amongst other Cumann na mBan activities. Hester was the daughter of Michael Dooley<sup>9</sup> and Julia Bradley, who owned a flourishing grocery business at Duke Street, Athy; they were both involved in the fight for Irish Independence. They gave shelter to republican activists such as Liam Mellows, Gearóid O'Sullivan, Eamon Price and other I.R.A. leaders on the run, while Michael was a prominent member of Sinn Féin from 1916. There were regular raids on their premises by the Black and Tans.

Hester moved to Dublin in February 1921 and secured a job as secretary to Piaras Béaslaí, head of publicity for the I.R.A. and editor of the republican newspaper *An tÓglach*. She also worked for Oscar Traynor, Dublin Brigade O.C. (leader of the attack on the Custom House in May of 1921), and Colonel J. J. O'Connell, I.R.A. Assistant Director of Training, and carried dispatches and messages to prominent republicans. Towards the end of the War of Independence, during the Black and Tan period, Hester came under direct fire while on her way to Portobello Barracks in Dublin. Hester was the only woman present at the hand-over of the Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare, by the British Army to the Irish National Army on 16 May 1922. She continued to work as a civil servant for the Provisional Government and married Athy republican Joe May on 25 June 1923. He was imprisoned in Ballykinlar Internment Camp, Co. Down in 1921.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> Athy U.D.C. named a scheme of new local authority houses in his memory in 1934.

<sup>10</sup> Hester May died in June 1998, aged ninety-two, and was interred in St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy.

During the War of Independence, the R.I.C. never attempted to tabulate statistics for Cumann na mBan in several counties, among them Kildare, so there are no figures for membership of the organisation in the county.<sup>11</sup> In 1921 there were at least fourteen branches including Athy, Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth, Kilcock, Kildare Town, Kill, Naas, Newbridge, and Two-Mile-House with a varying level of membership. The branch membership of the women in this book, based on pension and medal applications, as well as family sources, was Naas, seventeen; Ballymore Eustace, eleven; Athy, ten; Leixlip, nine; Newbridge, nine; Castledermot, six; Kill, six; Kildare Town, six; Rathangan, four, and Kilcullen, four. In the case of thirty-three of the women no branch membership could be established, while most branches only had a few members and relied on relatives of active republicans. By the time of the 1921 National Convention, there was over 800 branches nationally with 11,000-12,000 members.

On 07 January 1922, the Anglo-Irish Treaty was approved by the Second Dáil by a vote of 64–57. The Cumann na mBan executive voted 24-2 against accepting the Treaty on 11 January, followed by a full convention on 05 February when 419 members voted against and 63 in its favour. The Cumann na Poblachta party was formed on 15 March 1922 to oppose the Irish Free State by Éamon de Valera. The I.R.A., along with Cumann na mBan, initiated physical opposition to the Free State, with Cumann na Poblachta as its political arm. This opposition culminated in a civil war which began in June 1922, lasted for nine months, and was a period of ferocious bloodletting. The Free State government introduced internment, and by the end of the Civil War there were more than 12,000 men and several hundred women in jails and internment camps, including those at the Curragh, Co. Kildare.

During the Civil War Cumann na mBan was largely supportive of the anti-Treaty republican forces, including many Co. Kildare members, like Edith Garland, born in Newbridge on 25 May 1900, the daughter of Patrick Garland and Mary Smith. A member of the local Cumann na mBan branch, she had carried dispatches and visited republican prisoners at Hare Park Camp, the Curragh, during

---

<sup>11</sup> McCarthy, *Cumann na mBan and the Irish Revolution 1914-1923*, p. 156.

the War of Independence. She was a founder member and secretary of Newbridge Sinn Féin Club. Edith took the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War and worked with the Newbridge Auxiliary Hospital attending released republican hunger strikers.<sup>12</sup> Leixlip Cumann na mBan member Fanny O'Connor, of Elm Hall, Celbridge, served as chief dispatch carrier for 1st Meath Brigade Flying Column and 7th Kildare Brigade, pre-Truce. She took the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War and was arrested by National troops along with her cousin, Molly Barnewall, at Celbridge on 24 March 1923 and taken to Naas Military Barracks.<sup>13</sup> Eva Burke (aka Aoife de Burca) was born at Drehid, Coonagh, Carbury, Co. Kildare, on 03 October 1885, daughter of Henry Burke and Maria Kelly. As a trained nurse she offered her services at the G.P.O. at the outbreak of the 1916 Rising; her brother Frank also served there. Eva nursed a wounded James Connolly who had been shot in the ankle by a British sniper and accompanied wounded Volunteers to Jervis Street Hospital. Active with Cumann na mBan in the War of Independence, she took the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War.<sup>14</sup>

Over 400 republican women were imprisoned by the Provisional Government which became the Irish Free State in December 1922. Some of the women who supported the Treaty changed the name of their branches to Cumann na Saoirse; others retained their name but gave allegiance to the Free State government. Cumann na mBan continued to exist after the Treaty, and along with Sinn Féin, the I.R.A., Fianna Éireann and others formed part of the Irish republican scene. It was banned by the Free State government in January 1923, and it opened up Kilmainham Jail as a detention prison for suspect women.

In February 1923, twenty-three members of Cumann na mBan went on hunger strike for thirty-four days over the arrest and imprisonment without trial of republican prisoners. The women were later released. Another hunger strike by ninety-seven women took place in Kilmainham Jail in March when all their privileges

<sup>12</sup> Edith Garland died of tuberculosis at home in Newbridge, aged twenty-four, on 12 September 1924.

<sup>13</sup> Frances O'Connor died aged eighty-five on 8 July 1980 at Peamount Hospital, Newcastle, Co. Dublin.

<sup>14</sup> After the War of Independence Eva was employed with Dublin Corporation as a nurse. She died at the home of her brother, Frank, in Rathfarnham, Dublin, on 1 December 1974, aged eighty-nine.

were denied without explanation; that hunger strike ended later in the month with their restoration.

Annie Moore was born in 1896 at Rathbride Bridge (Mooresbridge), Pollardstown, Kildare, and was a member of the republican movement during the War of Independence, carrying messages and dispatches. She was arrested at Rathbride, on 13 December 1922, along with ten other anti-Treaty republicans of the Rathbride Column, charged with possession of a Webley revolver and detained at Mountjoy Jail, Dublin. Seven of the ten men arrested were executed by firing squad. Annie's fiancée, Paddy Nolan (they were planning to be married on St. Stephen's Day 1922), and her brother, Bryan Moore, were shot by firing squad on 19 December 1922. Annie was transferred to Kilmainham Jail, on 6 February 1923, Mountjoy Jail, on 26 March and subsequently moved to the North Dublin Union on 26 April. She went on hunger-strike for eighteen days and was released from custody in December 1923.<sup>15</sup>

### *After the Treaty*

After the defeat of the anti-Treaty side in the Dáil, the women involved in Cumann na mBan and Sinn Féin divided into pro-Treaty, anti-Treaty, and neutral factions, of which the neutrals comprised the majority. Cumann na mBan became an anti-Treaty organisation and changed its constitution. Twenty-three Co. Kildare women activists are known to have taken the anti-Treaty side, and four the pro-Treaty side. By May 1922 the organisation had only 133 branches nationally which was a significant drop from over 800 in July 1921. Its membership was further reduced by early 1924 and it struggled to halt the serious decline. Cumann na mBan did not have a history of developing any long-term strategy; it was intertwined with the I.R.A. and had no political outlet; the division between women who were involved in politics and members of Cumann na mBan became more pronounced after the Civil War. There was disagreement amongst the republican women on how they should move forward in the political sphere. The revolutionary period had been a transformative era for

---

<sup>15</sup> She returned to Mooresbridge, later married Ben O'Reilly and moved to Ballymany, Newbridge, in 1940. Annie O'Reilly died at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, on 23 May 1953, aged fifty-seven.

women in Ireland, characterized by significant societal and political changes. The establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922 brought about a shift in the role of women, as they became increasingly involved in the nationalist movement and political activism. But the participation of women in the national struggle was a short-lived phenomenon.<sup>16</sup> In 1937, when Éamonn de Valera presented a new Constitution to the public, the once formidable collective female voice of 1920-21 had vanished. Despite objections from individual women and organisations such as the Joint Committee of Women's Societies and Social Workers and the National University Women's Graduate Association, the absence of a unified lobby or a tangible female leadership encompassing all Irish women rendered these protests ineffective. Women considered the new Constitution as a betrayal of the rights guaranteed to all citizens in the 1916 Proclamation.

The demise of republican women in the political arena can be attributed to their persistent internal conflicts over two decades. By the early 1940s, over 10,000 women who had played active roles during the earlier conflict had completely disappeared from the political scene.<sup>17</sup> The strength of their membership suffered due to numerous splits in Irish republicanism, with some members opting to join Fianna Fáil, Clann na Poblachta, and other political parties. Máire Comerford, a dedicated member since 1914, later reflected that the group had become a 'greatly weakened organisation' that 'gathered speed downhill' since the establishment of Fianna Fáil in 1926.<sup>18</sup>

Irish women retreated into a secondary role following the setting up of the Free State. Around Irishwomen, as in a cage, were set the structures of family life and women were assigned a home-based, full-time role as housewives, whose talents and energies were devoted to looking after husband and children.<sup>19</sup> The 1937 Constitution reinforced conservative values, emphasizing the idea of a woman's primary role in the home. Traditional gender norms persisted, limiting women's participation in public life. Economic challenges

16 MacCurtain, Margaret, 'The Historical Image' in *Irish Women: Image and achievement*. Ni Chuilleanáin, Eiléan (ed.) (1985), p. 49.

17 Matthews, Ann, *Dissidents. Irish Republican Women in 1923-41* (2012), p.12.

18 *Ibid.*, p. 9.

19 MacCurtain, Margaret, 'The Historical Image' in *Irish Women: Image and achievement*, p. 49

and emigration during this time also impacted women, who faced restricted opportunities outside of domestic spheres. The 1960s and 1970s saw the emergence of a more liberal and progressive Ireland, with increasing discussions and progress on women's rights. The rebel hearts of their great grandmothers, grandmothers and mothers, their resilience and courage, beat once again as a new generation of women strove to achieve equality in Irish society.

**Bagnall, Catherine née Keating**

Born 17 June 1892, Usk, Co. Kildare, of Garrett Keating (farmer) and Margaret Whittle; sister of activist Thomas Keating. She was a member of Carlow Brigade, Cumann na mBan. She married Patrick Bagnall<sup>20</sup> (builder) on 15 February 1928 in Crookstown, Co. Kildare. They later lived at 1041 Nicholastown, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare. Catherine made an unsuccessful application for a Service Medal (1917-1921). She died in Naas Hospital, Co. Kildare, on 19 February 1979 and was buried in New Abbey Cemetery, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare.

**Bagnall, Mary, see Leigh, Mary, formerly Keary****Barnewall, Anne**

Born 11 February 1900, Kearneystown, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, of James Barnewell (farmer) and Mary Saul; sister of activists, John and Biddy Barnewall, and Molly O'Connor. Later lived at 208 Pearse Street, Dublin. She died in Grangegorman Mental Hospital, Dublin, aged sixty on 04 September 1957. Her involvement cannot be verified.

**Barnewall, Brigid Mary (Biddy)**

Born 07 October 1897, at Kearneystown, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, of James Barnewell (farmer) and Mary Saul; sister of activists, John and Anne Barnewall, and Molly O'Connor. Her family lived at Lyons Cottage, Upper Commons, Straffan, Co. Kildare. Biddy joined Cumann na mBan in 1918 and was a member of Kill Cumann na mBan, between 1920 and 1923, including as Captain of Kill Branch during the Civil War. During the War of Independence, she did dispatch work, assisted I.R.A. men on the run, and provided them with arms and ammunition. During the Civil War she served as chief dispatch carrier for 1st Battalion, 7th Brigade, 1st Eastern Division I.R.A. Active Service Unit (A.S.U.), carrying arms, ammunition, explosives, and food for the A.S.U. She also provided the use of her home as a headquarters for the I.R.A. and kept an arms dump, did first aid duty, and sent parcels

---

<sup>20</sup> Patrick was a member of Kilgowan Company, pre-Truce. He joined the National Army at Carlow Barracks on 09 February 1922 and was stationed at Cork City as a corporal.

to prisoners. Bidy was arrested by National Army troops along with her cousin, Fanny O'Connor, at Hazelhatch, Celbridge, on 24 March 1923 and interned in Kilmainham Jail, Mountjoy Jail, and the North Dublin Union. She was released from custody on 02 October 1923. Bidy received a Service Medal (1917-1921) without Bar. She applied unsuccessfully for a Military Service pension application but did receive a Special Allowance under the Army Pensions Acts between 1962 and her death on 25 January 1980, aged eighty-two, at Peamount Hospital, Newcastle, Co. Dublin. She was buried in Esker Cemetery, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

**Barnewall, Mary** née Saul

Born 29 July 1864, Drumconrath, Co. Meath, of Peter Saul (farmer) and Anne Bruff. She married James Barnewall (farmer) in St. Andrew's, Dublin, on 17 February 1896. Their home, Lyons Cottage, Upper Commons, Straffan, was a headquarters for the I.R.A. during the War of Independence and the Civil War. Her daughters, Brigid and Anne Barnewall and Molly O'Connor, were all members of Cumann na mBan. She was an aunt of Art O'Connor, T.D. Mary died on 19 March 1955 at Elm Hall, Celbridge, aged ninety, and was buried in Esker Cemetery, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

**Barnewall, Mary Clara (Molly), see O'Connor, Mary Clara (Molly)**

**Beatty, Catherine (Katie/Dolly)** née Daly

Born 21 April 1888,<sup>21</sup> Rathangan, Co. Kildare, of Joseph Daly (tradesman) and Lucy Fitzgerald. By 1901 her family was living at Claregate Street, Kildare Town, where her father was working as a slater and plasterer. She moved to Dublin prior to 1911 where she lived with her brother and sister-in-law, Joseph and Julia Daly. She joined 1st Battalion, Central Branch, Cumann na mBan, Dublin, and worked for Louth republican Joe McGuinness in his drapery shop on Dorset Street. She was visiting Kildare at Easter 1916 but returned to Dublin on Easter Sunday (23 April) and was active during the following week in the Four Courts, King's Inn Quay, Church Street, the G.P.O., and Fleming's Hotel, Gardiner Row. She transported ammunition, clothing, and dispatches under fire, and

---

<sup>21</sup> Katie Beatty Military Pension application MSP34REF40382 has date of birth as 22 April 1888.

evaded arrest. She married Lieutenant Thomas Beatty (Beattie), Dublin, a carpenter, in Rathmines, Dublin, on 24 October 1917. They lived at 6 Upper Leeson Street which was used as a safe house throughout the War of Independence and Civil War for republicans coming from Kildare. Thomas was killed in a motor accident, circa 1920s, (no death record for him could be found) and she was left with three young children and no means of support. She was awarded a Service Medal for her involvement in the 1916 Rising, but her pension claim was more problematic. She only received a partial pension for service from 1916 up to the end of the Civil War in 1923, despite extensive references, and was later unsuccessful in her claim for a Special Allowance. She wrote to Thomas Harris T.D. asking for help with her pension application in 1939 ‘*I cannot understand the delay ... I have been before the board twice and have given 5 references from important people who have been out in the trouble with me during Easter 1916 and I consider one of those alone should be sufficient to get my pension without all this waiting*’. She later moved to Carlow Town (25 Hillview Drive) possibly to live with her son Thomas, a schoolteacher. Katie Beatty died, aged eighty-eight, in Kilkenny Hospital, on 11 May 1976, and was buried in St. Conleth’s Cemetery, Kildare Town.

### **Behan, Harriett (Hetty) Behan**

Born 27 January 1903, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Behan (labourer) and Julia Lee; sister of activists Christopher, Patrick, Joseph and Tom Behan.<sup>22</sup> A member of the original *Irish Press* staff in September 1931, Hetty went to work for Fianna Fail shortly after it formed its first government in 1932. In 1948 she joined the office of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Taoiseach, assisting the Government Chief Whip during the terms of the three Taoiseach mentioned below.<sup>23</sup> Pádraig Ó hAnnracháin, private secretary to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Taoiseach, described her as ‘... *the late Hetty Behan who was the unofficial Chief Whip of the Party and a very close friend of Sean T. O’Ceallaigh*’.<sup>24</sup> Her knowledge

<sup>22</sup> Thomas (Tom) Behan, see Durney, James, *Stand You Now for Ireland’s Cause. A biographical dictionary of Co. Kildare republican activists 1913-1923* (2023), p. 37.

<sup>23</sup> *Topic Westmeath (Former Midland)*, 30 May 1974.

<sup>24</sup> *Irish Press*, 14 October 1982; Sean T. O’Ceallaigh (1882-1966), one of the founders of Sinn Féin; Speaker of First Dáil Éireann 1919-21. Vice President of the Executive Council of Irish Free State 1932-38; Minister for Local Government and Public Health; Tánaiste; Minister for Finance; second President of Ireland.

of parliamentary procedure was complete, and she was regularly consulted by deputies not only of Fianna Fail but of all parties in difficult procedural points. She could claim to have had the friendship of more deputies from all sides of the House than any other person.<sup>25</sup> It was said that for years Miss Behan and the late Gerry Sweetman, Fine Gael Chief Whip, and Deputy for Kildare ‘ran’ the Dáil between them.<sup>26</sup> Hetty retired in February 1974 and died suddenly on 29 April 1974 at her residence, 8 Clarke’s Terrace, Dublin.<sup>27</sup> She was buried in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Rathangan. On her death she was described as one of the best-known figures in political circles during the past forty years and confidant of three successive Fianna Fail taoisigh, Eamon De Valera, Seán Lemass and Jack Lynch, who gave the oration at her graveside in Rathangan. He said *‘the passing of Hetty Behan is a tremendous loss to us all and to her country .... She gave wonderful service to the implementation of the institutions of the state and to Fianna Fail’*. He thanked people from all parties, including members of the government who attended the removal and funeral. *‘Their presence showed how popular she was with people on all side of the political divide. We are going to miss her’*. Her funeral was also attended by Mr. de Valera, the former President and the Tánaiste, Mr. Brendan Corish.

### **Birchall (Burchall), Mary née Domican**

Born 26 July 1903, Hartwell, Kill, Co. Kildare, of Peter Domican (labourer) and Dora Boothman; she was a sister of activists Tommy and Paddy Domican. As a member of Kill Cumann na mBan she took part in a communication network between Irish Volunteer General Headquarters (G.H.Q.), Dublin, and local units. In 1920 she risked her life to try and save her brother, Paddy, and another local activist Jack Sullivan, from arrest in Kill, attempting to cycle ahead of a police patrol to warn them. Mary, a servant, married local republican, Patrick Burchall (labourer) of Kill, on 14 January 1925. Mary died on 08 June 1965, aged sixty-one, and was buried at St. Corban’s Cemetery, Naas.

---

<sup>25</sup> *Irish Press*, 30 April 1974.

<sup>26</sup> *Leinster Leader*, 18 May 1974.

<sup>27</sup> *Irish Independent*, 12 July 1951.

**Boylan, Catherine (Kate) née Gogarty**

Born 12 December 1871,<sup>28</sup> Celbridge, Co. Kildare, of Mathew Gogarty (shoemaker) and Catherine Cox. Kate worked as a National schoolteacher in Co. Down. She married Patrick Boylan (National schoolteacher) in Kilkeel, Co. Down, on 25 August 1906. They moved to Celbridge in 1919. She claimed service with the I.R.A. but did not get a Service Medal (1917-1921) as her service was not established; her address at that time was Main Street, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Catherine died on 15 August 1944 in St. Patrick's Hospital, James' Street, Dublin, aged seventy-three, and was buried in Donaghcumper Cemetery, Celbridge. Her husband Patrick Boylan, a farmer, Main Street, Celbridge, died on 31 October 1967. It was noted in his obituary that he was from Enniskeen, Co. Louth, and took a keen interest in the National Movement. Their son, Terry Boylan, was later a T.D. and Kildare County Councillor.

**Bradley, Julia, see Dooley, Julia****Bradley, Julia, see May, Julia****Brayton, Teresa née Boylan**

Born 29 June 1868, Kilbrook, Cloncurry, Co. Kildare, according to her baptismal record or 04 July (civil birth record), of Hugh Boylan (dealer) and Elizabeth Downes. The Boylans were committed nationalists, and her great grandfather took part in the Battle of Prosperous during the 1798 Rebellion. As a young girl she witnessed the effects of the Land War and was a supporter of Charles Stewart Parnell, the Land League and Home Rule. She immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1895 where she met and married Richard Brayton (although no marriage record has been located to date). Teresa settled in New York City where she took an active part in Irish affairs and became a prolific figure in the Celtic Fellowship in America, the United Irish Land League and Cumann na mBan. A nationalist writer and poet, she knew many of the Irish leaders and was instrumental in collecting funds for the 1916 Rising. She made several visits home to Ireland, including a visit to meet Patrick

---

<sup>28</sup> Catherine Boylan Service Medal application MD46865 has date of birth as 12 December 1880.

Pearse at St. Enda's School, Dublin, and to attend the funeral of the Fenian, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, in July 1915. Teresa returned to Ireland permanently in 1932 and settled in Bray, Co. Wicklow, and later Dublin. In 1941 she returned to her old home at Kilbrook where she died on 19 August 1943 aged seventy six. She was buried in Cloncurry Graveyard. In 1959 President Eamon de Valera unveiled a Celtic Cross memorial at her burial place bearing the inscription: *'In loving memory of Teresa Brayton, poetess patriot, who died 19th August, 1943. On the Right Hand of God may she be.'*

**Brennan, Helena (Nellie), see Elliott, Helena (Nellie)**

**Brennan, Margaret Mary (Rita)**

Born 22 February 1902, Brownstown, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, of John Brennan (farmer) and Annie Kenna. She was a member of Kilcullen Cumann na mBan and worked as a matron and housekeeper. She applied successfully for a Service Medal (1917-1921) which was issued in 1944 and for a Special Allowance under the Army Pensions Act. Rita died on 07 December 1970 at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Co. Kildare, and was buried in Two-Mile-House Cemetery, Co. Kildare.

**Brennan, Mary Anne née Malone**

Born 06 December 1883, Rath, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois, of Richard Malone (small farmer) and Elizabeth Nolan. She was Officer Commanding (O.C.) Maganey Cumann na mBan. Mary, (farmer), Ballybrittas, married Monasterevin activist Fintan Brennan (clerk) on 14 November 1917 in Rath, Ballybrittas. They were responsible for the concealment of weapons and confidential documents at their home during the War of Independence. Mary, Cois na hAbhainn, Athy, Co. Kildare, died on 06 January 1960, aged seventy-four and was buried in St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy.

**Brennan, Mary Frances (Fanny) née Dunne**

Born 15 January 1905, Greenhills, Kill, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Dunne (farmer) and Rose Keogh; sister of activists Richard and James Dunne, and May Healy. The family was related to the Fenian leader, John Devoy on their father's side. Fanny was a member of Kill

Cumann na mBan, 1st Battalion, 7th Kildare Brigade, pre-Truce, and an anti-Treaty dispatch carrier in the Civil War. She took an active part in the War of Independence and Civil War, undertaking routine Cumann na mBan activities including carrying dispatches, and collecting money, food, and clothing for interned prisoners in the Curragh, Co. Kildare, and Mountjoy Prison, Dublin. In her unsuccessful Military Pension claim she stated that during the Civil War she carried dumped arms from Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow, and continued her dispatch work. Her application was refused as she did not hold a Service Medal (1917-1921). She had made an initial successful application for a Service Medal which was issued 10 September 1952. However, upon re-investigation for her Special Allowance application her medal was held not to have been awarded (1961).<sup>29</sup> Fanny married activist Patrick Brennan (farmer) of Brownstown, Kilcullen, and Eyre Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, on 07 September 1937, in Kill. At the time of the marriage, she had no occupation listed, though she subsequently worked in the Rates Office, Kildare County Council. They later moved to Birmingham, England. Patrick, who died on 10 April 1958, was a Military Service pensioner. Her Military Pension claim file contains a number of letters from her. In 1958 she wrote *‘Must I assume the income you speak of (£156) per year, comes from the English Temporary Charity – if it were not for the enemy whom we have fought against for years I and my family would now be starving. I have to avert to the lowest {form} of charity, the English Assistance. It makes one think, I apply for a paltry pension as I hold a medal for service up to 1922 and I am turned down as a nobody, why then the farce of giving medals at all’*. She mentions that her daughter and five sons were unable to find employment in Ireland, *‘Hence we all had to avert to the enemy country to get a living. Can you wonder I am bitter. I would like you to review my case as soon as possible as all this strain and worry is telling on me. I am not in very good health.’* Fanny died in February 1963 (exact date unknown), following a fall, and was interred in Birmingham.

---

<sup>29</sup> Mary Frances Brennan Military Pension application MSP34REF16229, [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie)

**Broughall, Dora Catherine** née Cribbin

Born 19 June 1880 (baptismal record) or 20 June (civil birth), Barnaran, Lullymore, Co. Kildare, of James Cribbin (farmer) and Julia Dunne. Dora married Peter Broughall (labourer) in the Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, on 23 July 1906. She maintained an open house for republicans pre-Truce. She died on 08 April 1958 at her daughter's home, 20 Our Lady's Place, Naas, Co. Kildare, aged seventy-seven and was buried St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rathangan, Co. Kildare.

**Browne, Catherine Mary (Kathleen/Kitty)** née Patterson

Born 10 February 1894, 11 South Main Street, Naas, Co. Kildare, of Denis Patterson (butcher) and Margaret Tyrrell; sister of activists Tommy Patterson and Mary Ellen Collins. She became associated with the National Movement circa 1912 and worked with the Irish Volunteers on their formation in Naas in the summer of 1914. In 1918 she helped to organise a Cumann na mBan branch in Naas with Clair Moran (aka Cláir Ní Módhráin, later McDermott). During the War of Independence, she acted as Adjutant of Cumann na mBan for North Kildare and did most of the secretarial work for Sinn Féin, the Irish Volunteers and the Dáil Éireann courts in the area. She was also a dispatch carrier and President of the County Kildare Executive of Cumann na mBan. Kathleen was also active during the Civil War. She married Michael J. Browne (clerk) on 24 August 1927, and they lived at Sallins Road, Naas. She was granted a Military Service pension for her service with Cumann na mBan during the War of Independence and the Civil War following a petition to have her case re-examined. In her application she said she had given continuous active service for the National Movement from 1912. She explained that as Naas was a garrison town with most people sympathetic to the British position there was no proper Cumann organisation until Mrs. Clair McDermott came and organised the Naas branch in late 1918. Kathleen said that she worked directly with the Irish Volunteers until that point. The referees supporting her pension application said she had also organised first aid lessons, and the collection for, production and sending of parcels to prisoners; one referee said he believed most

expenses came out of her own pocket. Kitty died at Naas Hospital on 10 December 1974, and was buried at St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

**Buckley, Sheila, see O'Neill, Sheila**

**Bullock, Annie, see Doyle, Annie**

**Bullock, Esther May (Essie)**

Born 25 April 1897, Davidstown Adderley, Castledermot, Co. Kildare, of John Bullock (farmer) and Mary Kavanagh; sister of activist Annie Doyle. Essie was a member of Castledermot Cumann na mBan from 1920 to 1923. During the War of Independence, she attended meetings, made first aid outfits, stored arms, and ammunition, carried dispatches and sheltered men on the run. She held the rank of 1st Lieutenant during the Truce period and supplied rations to the training camp at Ducketts Grove, Co. Carlow. During the Civil War, she was on the anti-Treaty side and continued her previous activities; she also fed and harboured a member of a Tipperary Active Service Unit (A.S.U./Flying Column) who was 'on the run' and sent supplies to prisoners. She later lived at Main Street, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow and worked as a dressmaker. She applied unsuccessfully for a Military Service pension but was awarded a Service Medal (1917-1921) and a Special Allowance of £33 per annum in 1960. Essie died on 16 July 1980 in Baltinglass Hospital, aged eighty-three, and was buried in New Cemetery, Castledermot.

**Burke Evelline (Eva) (aka Aoife de Burca)**

Born 03 October 1885, Drehid, Carbury, of Henry Burke (farmer) and Maria Kelly; sister of activists Frank, Liam and Jack Burke. As a trained nurse she was caring for an elderly British colonel in Drumcondra, Dublin, at Easter 1916. She cycled to the G.P.O. where her brother Frank was based and offered her services as a nurse. She was sent to the garrisons at Reis's Chambers and the Hibernian Bank to attend to the wounded and was with Captain Thomas Weafer when he was shot and killed while occupying the bank, on the corner of Lower Abbey Street and Sackville Street. In the G.P.O. Eva nursed a wounded James Connolly who had

been shot in the ankle by a British sniper. According to family lore, unable to sleep she left the G.P.O. on Wednesday, 26 April, and went to her aunt's house in Drumcondra. She returned the following day and accompanied wounded Volunteers to Jervis Street Hospital as the female members of the G.P.O. garrison were ordered to leave under the protection of the Red Cross. She remained in the hospital until she was allowed home on Saturday (29 April) at the time of the surrender. Eva was active with Cumann na mBan during the War of Independence after which she was employed with Dublin Corporation as a nurse. She took the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War. Eva died at the home of her brother Frank, Rathfarnham, Dublin on 01 December 1974, aged eighty-nine, and was buried in Derrinturn Cemetery, Carbury, Co. Kildare.

**Butterfield, Josephine** née Halligan

Born 25 February 1901, Dublin Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, of Mathew Halligan (market gardener) and Mary Lacy; sister of activists Kitty, James and Walter Halligan. She was a member of Naas Cumann na mBan from 1918 up to the end of the Civil War in 1923. During the War of Independence, she attended meetings, parades and first aid classes, carried dispatches and provided food and supplies to prisoners. After the Truce she carried dispatches and helped prisoners. Josephine took the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War and continued her previous activities. She was successful in her application for a Service Medal which was issued in 1948 but did not qualify for a Military Service pension. Josephine married republican James Butterfield (cycle agent) in Naas on 27 January 1943. She died on 04 January 1970 at her residence, Railway View, Naas, aged sixty-eight and was interred in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

**Byrne, Anne** née Byrne

Baptised 13 August 1854, Naas, Co. Kildare, of William Byrne and Catherine Robinson. At the time of her marriage to Michael Byrne (labourer) in Naas on 10 August 1885, her occupation was servant. Their home at Tower View, Kilcullen Road, Naas, was always open to the republican movement in which two of their sons were active members. Charles (Charlie) (1896-1919) was a leading member

of Naas Sinn Féin Club; he insisted on going to the polling booth to vote in the 1918 General Election while critically ill and died some months later. Christopher (Christy) (1889-1949) who was employed by the *Leinster Leader* as a compositor, was a member of Naas Company, Irish Volunteers. He mobilised during the 1916 Rising, was arrested, and deported to Wakefield Jail, England. He later transferred to Dublin Brigade when he moved to the city for work. He was pro-Treaty. Anne died on 25 March 1937 in Dublin, aged seventy-two years, and was buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

**Byrne, Bridget (Bridie) née O'Rourke**

Born 28 April 1902, Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare, of Edward O'Rourke (carpenter) and Mary Mooney. She was a member of Ballymore Eustace Cumann na mBan, pre-Truce. Bridie married Thomas Byrne (gardener) on 18 April 1938 in Ballymore Eustace. She made an unsuccessful Service Medal application as her service was not established. Bridie died on 02 May 1978 at her residence, Fountain House, Ballymore Eustace and was buried in Coughlanstown Graveyard.

**Byrne, Bridget**

Lived at Milgrove, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, later of Ballykelly, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare. She made an unsuccessful Service Medal (1917-1921) application, claiming membership of Rathangan Cumann na mBan. No further information could be found.

**Byrne, Bridget Josephine (Girly), see Gannon, Bridget Josephine (Girly)**

**Byrne, Julia**

Born 19 March 1893 (DOB church) or 05 April 1893 (DOB civil), Fassagh, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare, of James Byrne (tailor) and Brigid Mearns; sister of activist Mary Byrne. In 1911 both sisters were working as servants in Kingstown, Co. Dublin. She delivered dispatches arriving from the south of Ireland during the War of Independence and the Civil War (anti-Treaty). Her family home was a safe house during 1917-23 and was often raided during

the War of Independence. She was later a staunch member of Kildangan Fianna Fáil Cumann. Julia died on 15 December 1980 at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Co. Kildare, and was buried in Ballybracken Cemetery, Monasterevin.

### **Byrne, Mary**

Born 06 September 1885 (DOB church) or 4 September 1885 (DOB civil), Fassagh, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare, of James Byrne (operative tailor) and Brigid Mearns; sister of activist Julia Byrne. Her family home was a safe house during 1917-23 and was often raided during the War of Independence. She delivered dispatches arriving from the south of Ireland during the War of Independence and the Civil War. She took the anti-Treaty side and her home again provided shelter for wanted men, some of whom were leading figures in the Republican movement, including Frank Aiken. Mary died at Fassagh on 16 March 1964 aged seventy-eight, and was buried in Ballybracken Cemetery, Monasterevin. Her sister Julia Byrne was the informant on her death record.

### **Byrne, Mary née Fagan, formerly Graham**

Born 16 July 1903, Whitehall, Granard, Co. Longford, of Patrick Fagan (blacksmith) and Anne McGlynn; by 1903 her family had moved to Loughbrown, Co. Kildare. She was a member of Newbridge Cumann na mBan. She married John Thomas Graham (motor mechanic) in Newbridge on 13 August 1930. Known as Thomas Graham,<sup>30</sup> he was prominent in the pre-Treaty struggle and a member of the Kildare Brigade Old I.R.A. from its inception. Other addresses recorded for Mary were Market Square, Newbridge, and 774, Rowanville, Kildare Town. She made a successful application for a Service Medal which was issued in 1946, but her application for a Special Allowance was rejected on the grounds of means. A possible second marriage was to Denis

---

<sup>30</sup> Thomas Graham (born John Thomas Graham on 27 December 1901, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare); lived at Crosskeys, Kildare Town. Member of Kildare Company, pre-Truce; he was the driver of the car used in the killing of Lt. Wogan Browne on 10 February 1922. Arrested and held in Trim Barracks, Co. Meath; subsequently released without charge. Member of the Kildare Column attached to Dublin No. 2 Brigade in July 1922. Arrested on 20 October 1922 and held at Tintown Camp, the Curragh. Thomas died in St. Laurence's Hospital, Dublin, aged forty-eight on 07 January 1951 and was interred in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Kildare.

Byrne in 1953.<sup>31</sup> Mary died on 14 October 1986 at Naas Hospital, and was buried in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Kildare Town.

**Byrne, Margaret, see May, Margaret**

**Byrne, Rose Anne** née Higgins

Born 02 March 1897, The Green, Naas, Co. Kildare, of Thomas Higgins (van driver) and Maria Glennon. She was a member of Naas Cumann na mBan. She married Patrick Byrne (railway porter) on 29 August 1928; at the time of her marriage her occupation was domestic. She applied unsuccessfully for a Military Service pension in respect of her service with Cumann na mBan for part of the periods between 1920 and 1923. She said that she was a member of C Company (Naas), 4th Battalion, 7th Brigade under the command of Kitty Patterson, Clair Moran (aka Cláir Ní Módhráin, later McDermott) and Thomas Lawlor and took part in routine activities and in dispatch work. Rose Anne died on 03 August 1988 at 1 Dublin Road, Naas, and was buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

**Cardwell, (Agnes) Josephine (Josie)**

Born 26 August 1888, Carrickbracken, Mullaglass, Newry, Co. Armagh, of Leonard Cardwell, (farmer) and Susan McGeeney, later of Beatty Park, Celbridge, Co. Kildare; sister of activists, Eva, Stella, Tom, Annie and Leo. She was a member of Leixlip Cumann na mBan. Josie, of 7 Leinster Street, Phibsboro, Dublin, died on 10 October 1973, and was buried in Donacumper Cemetery, Celbridge. Her involvement cannot be verified.

**Cardwell, Annie**

Born 26 October 1901, Clonhaston, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, of Leonard Cardwell (farmer) and Susan McGeeney, later of Beatty Park, Celbridge, Co. Kildare; sister of activists, Josie, Eva, Stella, Tom and Leo. She was killed in her home following the accidental discharge of a rifle by Patrick Brady, National Army, on 07 December 1922, aged eighteen. She was buried in Donacumper Cemetery, Celbridge.

---

<sup>31</sup> *Findmypast.ie* marriage indexes.

**Cardwell, Estelle (Stella)**

Born 13 July 1891, Clonhaston, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, of Leonard Cardwell (farmer) and Susan McGeeney, later of Beatty Park, Celbridge, Co. Kildare; sister of activists, Josie, Eva, Tom, Annie and Leo. Stella, of 7 Leinster Street, Phibsboro, Dublin, died on 11 February 1966 and was buried in Donaghcumper Cemetery, Celbridge. Unverified involvement.

**Cardwell, Eve (Eva)**

Born 19 November 1895, Clonhaston, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, of Leonard B. Cardwell (farmer) and Susan McGeeney, later of Beatty Park, Celbridge, Co. Kildare; sister of activists, Josie, Stella, Tom, Annie and Leo. She was a member of Leixlip Cumann na mBan, pre-Truce. Eva, of 7 Leinster Street, Phibsboro, Dublin, died on 15 October 1967 and was buried in Donacumper Cemetery, Celbridge. Their father Leonard Benson Cardwell, who died in December 1945, played a prominent part in the National Movement and his home in Celbridge was open to the I.R.A. columns during the War of Independence. He was born in Co. Armagh circa 1861. He was married twice, firstly to Mary Anne Aiken in 1881; she was a half-sister of Frank Aiken (13 February 1898–18 May 1983), who served as a Teachta Dála (T.D.) for the Louth constituency from 1923 to 1973, and Chief of Staff of the Irish Republican Army.<sup>32</sup> Following Mary Anne's death in 1886, Leonard Cardwell married Susan McGeeney in 1887. Leonard and Susan moved to Co. Wexford circa 1892 and to Celbridge circa 1904.

**Carroll, Catherine Bridget (Kathleen), see Henderson, Catherine Bridget (Kathleen)****Carroll, Frances see Brennan, Frances**


---

<sup>32</sup> Originally a member of Sinn Féin, he was later a founding member of Fianna Fáil. He was Tánaiste from 1965–1969, Minister for External Affairs from 1957–1969 and 1951–1954, Minister for Finance 1945–1948, Minister for the Co-ordination of Defensive Measures 1939–1945, Minister for Defence from 1932–1939 and Minister for Lands and Fisheries from June–November 1936.

### **Carroll, Mary Ellen**

Born 05 June 1893, Edenderry, Co. Offaly, of James Carroll (labourer) and Ellen Corrigan,<sup>33</sup> she moved to work in Rathangan, Co. Kildare, in 1921 as a manager of a licensed premises. She had participated in the independence movement since her youth and formed a branch of Cumann na mBan in Portarlinton, Co. Laois, latter becoming O.C. Rathangan Cumann na mBan. Mary Ellen carried dispatches to local units and to and from prisoners in the Rath Camp, the Curragh. She was anti-Treaty. Mary Ellen left Rathangan in 1931 suffering from ill health due to her activities in the fight for Irish freedom, and moved to Cokery, Edenderry. According to her newspaper obituary she was awarded a Service Medal and a Military Pension.<sup>34</sup> She died aged sixty-two, on 11 May 1954, at the District Hospital, Edenderry. She was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Edenderry, her coffin was draped in the tricolour and there was an Old I.R.A. Guard of Honour in attendance.

### **Carroll, Mary Josephine (May)**

Born 23 July 1910, Fair Green, Naas, Co. Kildare, of Mark Carroll (insurance agent) and Sarah Callan; sister of activists Patrick Carroll and Kathleen Henderson, her father was prominent in local politics and an elected Labour Party councillor. She later lived at Sallins Road, Naas. May immigrated to New York City, U.S.A. in 1927; in 1930 she was living in Manhattan with her sister, Catherine, and working as a telephone operator. Her involvement cannot be verified. No further information could be found.

### **Cassidy, Mary (May/ Maisie) née Whyte**

Born 09 February 1902, South Main Street, Naas, Co. Kildare, of William Whyte (tailor) and Anne Lynch. She was O.C. Naas Cumann na mBan. She married a former National Army soldier, John Cassidy, from Athboy, Co. Meath, in Naas on 08 February 1928. They immigrated to the United States of America in 1930, living firstly in Brooklyn, New York, where John worked as a chauffeur, and later in Nebraska. Mary died 07 December 1988, aged eighty-six, and was buried in Calvary Cemetery, Douglas County, Omaha, Nebraska.

<sup>33</sup> Best match for her birth based on the information available.

<sup>34</sup> *Leinster Leader*, 22 May 1954.

**Coffey, Ellen** née Scully

Born 14 July 1903, Mylerstown, Robertstown, Co. Kildare, of Thomas Scully (labourer) and Kate Hannon. She was a member of Prosperous Cumann na mBan. Ellen married former republican activist Christopher (Christy) Coffey<sup>35</sup> (working man) on 30 September 1931 at Allen Church. She made a successful application for a Service Medal (1917-1921) which she received in 1948. Ellen died at her home, Donore, Caragh, Co. Kildare, on 04 May 1971 aged sixty-seven years and was buried in Caragh Church Cemetery, Co. Kildare.

**Coffey, Mary, see Currins, Mary****Collins, Margaret**

Born 21 June 1904, Stonebrook Lodge, near Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, of Matthew Collins (labourer) and Mary Anne Clifford. She was killed when she picked up a bomb hidden in a potato field at Grangemore, Brannockstown, on 20 September 1922, aged eighteen years. Her father, an ex-soldier, died at Kilgowan, Kilcullen, on 10 May 1931 aged sixty-five. Both of her parents were buried in Old Gormanstown, Kilcullen, and it is likely she was also buried there.

**Collins, Mary Ellen (Daisy)** née Patterson

Born 27 November 1896, No. 11 Main Street, Naas, Co. Kildare, of Denis Patterson (butcher) and Margaret Tyrrell; sister of activist Catherine Brown. She worked at Moran's Drapery, Talbot Street, Dublin from the age of eighteen. She joined the Central Branch, Cumann na mBan, in 1915 and paraded in full uniform from City Hall to Glasnevin Cemetery for the funeral of the Fenian leader, Jeremiah O'Donovan-Rossa on 01 August 1915. During Easter Week 1916 Daisy carried ammunition and delivered communications. She lost her job because of this but was subsequently reinstated. Daisy continued her active service in Dublin until December 1920 when she returned to Naas where she joined Naas Cumann na

---

<sup>35</sup> Christy was a member of Prosperous Company, pre-Truce. He was arrested on 20 October 1922, held in Dundalk Jail, Co. Louth, and released in September 1923. He was a brother of activists Michael and James Coffey. Christy Coffey died aged fifty-one on 05 July 1947 at Newlands, Naas, Co. Kildare.

mBan. She resigned from Cumann na mBan on 29 June 1922 and took no part in the Civil War. Daisy (draper) married republican activist James Collins, (miller) from Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, on 18 April 1933. They later lived at The Mills, Kilcullen. She made an unsuccessful pension claim in 1935 for service with Cumann na mBan between 1916 and 1921. She applied successfully for a Service Medal (1917-1921) in 1944. Daisy requested a re-investigation of her pension claim in 1951 (unsuccessful) and applied for a Special Allowance in 1956 which was not granted as her yearly means exceeded the appropriate annual sum. She died on 18 February 1959, and her funeral, with full military honours, took place to New Abbey Cemetery, Kilcullen.

**Cosgrove, Mary, see Hennessy, Mary**

**Cowman, Alice** née Lambe

Born 13 March 1896, Athy, Co. Kildare, of Francis Lambe (labourer) and Mary Cahill; sister of activists Frank and Peter Lambe. She lived at Upper William Street, Athy. She was a member and treasurer of Athy Cumann na mBan. Alice (dressmaker) was married on 27 November 1929 in Athy to James Cowman (agent). She died in St. Laurence's Hospital, Dublin, aged sixty-two, on 15 May 1959; her address was recorded as 7 Bleach Cottages, Athy.

**Coyne, Brigid (Delia), see Daly, Brigid (Delia)**

**Cribben, Dora Catherine, see Broughal, Dora Catherine**

**Crofton, Elizabeth, see Lynam, Elizabeth**

**Cummins, Mary Josephine** née Heffernan

Born Mary Susan, 24 August 1877, Leinster Street, Athy, Co. Kildare, of Mark Heffernan (shopkeeper) and Mary Murphy. She married John P. Byrne in Dublin in 1904; he died in 1909 of tuberculosis. She ran the Prince of Wales Hotel, Main Street, Newbridge, a favourite rendezvous of British officers stationed at the Curragh and Newbridge Barracks. The hotel provided a good cover for republican meetings. According to newspaper reports at the time of her death, during the War of Independence she gave aid and shelter to many prominent people in the I.R.A.

She was a member of the County Kildare Archaeological Society and was well known in racing circles. Mary made an unsuccessful application for a Military Service pension for service with Cumann na mBan between 1916 and 1921, and said she was a member of 1st Eastern Division, I.R.A. Mary married Edward J. Cummins on 05 July 1923. He had previously managed hotels in Ireland and Canada. Edward died on 28 July 1937 in the Whitworth Hospital, Dublin, aged fifty-nine. Mary sold her hotel in 1948 and moved to Dublin.<sup>36</sup> She died at the residence of her daughter, Rosaleen (Ena) Bobbett, 5 Rosmeen Gardens, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, on 05 July 1958, aged eighty-six and was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

**Curran, Kathleen, see Hayde, Kathleen**

**Curran, Mary (Mollie), see Higgins, Mary (Mollie)**

**Curran, Sara, see Murphy, Sarah**

**Currins, Mary née Coffey**

Born 23 November 1904, Commons, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, of John Coffey (labourer) and Kate Rourke. Later of Blacktrench, Naas, Co. Kildare. She was a member of Newbridge Cumann na mBan. She made an unsuccessful Service Medal application as her service could not be established. No further information could be found.

**Dallon, Catherine (Kathleen) née Birchall**

Born 12 July 1901, Grangebeg, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, of William Birchall (farmer) and Elizabeth Moore. She was a member of Cumann na mBan from 1917-1921. She married John Dallon (farmer) on 12 February 1934. Her application for a Service Medal (1917-1921) may be incomplete as the last note in her file, dated 1958, states that her date of birth and maiden name were requested. It is unclear whether a Service Medal (1917-1921) was

---

<sup>36</sup> Her brother-in-law, William Cummins, was a senator from 1922 onwards, as well as chairman of Newbridge Town Commission, a member of Kildare County Council, Kildare Vocational Committee, the Cottage Tenants' Association, Kildare Trades Council, and the Gaelic League. Originally from Kilbrittain, Co. Cork, he died in the Drogheda Memorial Hospital, the Curragh, in 1943.

awarded.<sup>37</sup> Kathleen died at her home, Nine Tree Hill, Ballitore, Co. Kildare, on 18 September 1961, aged fifty-seven, and was buried in Crookstown, Ballitore, Co. Kildare.

**Daly, Bridget/Brigid (Delia) née Coyne**

Born 29 July 1885, Harristown, Kinnegad, Co. Meath, of Garret Coyne (labourer) and Bridget Hogan. Her family was living at Ballydonnell, Castlejordan, Co. Meath, in 1901. By 1911 Delia was employed as a cook in the home of George Fowler, Headfort Place, Kells, Co. Meath. She later moved to live and work at Rathmore, Killeel, Co. Kildare; she married I.R.A. volunteer William Daly at Eadestown Church, Co. Kildare, on 10 April 1918. He was a member (later commandant) of Kill Company I.R.A. and took part in the Kill Ambush in 1920. He later joined the National Army as a Lieutenant, and took over the R.I.C. Barracks, Naas. Pre-Truce, Delia was a prominent member of Naas Cumann na mBan, and was later involved in Cumann na nGaedheal. She made a successful application for Service Medal which was issued in 1944 and for a Special Allowance which was awarded in 1961. William was a member of Naas Urban District Council (U.D.C.) for twenty-six years and the caretaker of Naas Military Barracks. Delia and William lived at 13 St. Brigid's Terrace, Naas. William died in 1960 and Delia died in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, on 03 February 1968, aged eighty-two and was buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

**Daly, Catherine (Katie/Dolly), see Beatty, Catherine**

**Daly, Dorothea (Dora) née Farrell**

Born circa 1901, Scarletstown, Newbridge, of Edward Farrell and Ellen Dunne; her mother was from Rathangan. Dora was living at Scarletstown with her grandmother Julia Farrell, mother Ellen and siblings in 1911. She applied for a Military Service pension under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1934. Her file shows that she was issued an application form on 16 January 1952 following a separate application for a Special Allowance. She was informed that a pre-requisite for applying for a Special Allowance was to

---

<sup>37</sup> Kathleen Dallon Service Medal Application, MD4239, militaryarchives.ie

have been awarded a pre-Truce Service Medal (1917-1921). She was instructed to fill out a Military Service Pensions application form to be considered for a Service Certificate so her request for a Special Allowance could then be considered. However, she never returned the completed application. She said she was ill and almost destitute and had spent time in England. Dora claimed that she was a member of Dublin Cumann na mBan, and Mrs. Rogers, Gardiner Place, Dublin, was her O.C. Dora was held in Kilmainham Jail in March 1923.<sup>38</sup> She died in Naas Hospital on 01 February 1980 and was buried in Milltown Cemetery, Co. Kildare.

### **Daly, Lucy**

Baptised 06 January 1884, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, of Joseph Daly and Lucy Fitzgerald; sister of activists Catherine Beatty, Patrick and Margaret (Peg/Maggie) Daly; by 1901 her family was living at Claregate Street, Kildare Town. She was a founding member of Kildare Town Cumann na mBan and organised first aid courses in 1914. She was active during the 1918 General Election and stored weapons for the Irish Volunteers in her home. She worked as a courier and nursed republicans during the War of Independence and Civil War. Along with her sister Peg, she set up a relief station for released prisoners in Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Lucy and her sister Peg immigrated to Chicago, U.S.A. in November 1926; they later moved to Los Angeles, California, where Lucy worked as a cook. The sisters returned to Claregate Street in 1957. She was a lifelong member of Conradh na Gaeilge. She made an unsuccessful Military Service Pension claim for her service between 1918 and 1923. Lucy died on 03 September 1969, aged eighty-six, and was buried in the grounds of St. Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare Town, with her parents, brother, and sister.

### **Daly, Margaret (Peg/Maggie)**

Born 04 August 1890, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, of Joseph Daly and Lucy Fitzgerald; sister of activists Lucy and Patrick Daly and Catherine Beatty. By 1901 she was living with her family at Claregate Street, Kildare Town. She was a member of Kildare Town Cumann na mBan and was subsequently appointed its O.C. She

---

<sup>38</sup> She is listed as jailed in *Éire. The Irish Nation*, on 28 April 1923.

was active in the 1918 General Election. In 1919 she purchased revolvers and ammunition from British soldiers and stored them in her home. She maintained communications with internees in the Curragh, as well as organising letters and food parcels. During the War of Independence and Civil War she carried dispatches. Peg was arrested at her home on 05 March 1923, and interned in Kilmainham and Mountjoy Jails and the North Dublin Union; she was released in September 1923. She was later employed as a bookkeeper at Southall Murphys, The Square, Kildare Town. Along with her sister Lucy, she set up a relief station for released prisoners in Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Her fiancé, Joseph Bergin, a Military Policeman, was murdered by National Army members on 15 December 1923, shortly after visiting her, and his body was dumped in the canal at Milltown. Peg and Lucy immigrated to Chicago, U.S.A., in November 1926; they later moved to Los Angeles, California, where Margaret worked as a maid. The sisters returned to Claregate Street in 1957. Peg was a lifelong member of Conradh na Gaeilge. She was awarded a Service Medal (1917-1921) on 29 November 1983. She made an unsuccessful Military Service Pension claim for her service between 1918 and 1923. Peg died aged ninety-nine on 19 January 1990, and was buried in the grounds of St. Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare Town with her parents, brother, and sister.

### **Darby, Bridget**

Born 01 July 1873, Tinakill, Skerries, Athy, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Darby (farmer) and Bridget Masterson. In 1901 she was working as a National schoolteacher in Derrinturn, Carbury, Co. Kildare. By 1911 she had returned to Athy and was living at Leinster Street, in the household of her mother who was a confectioner. Both Bridget and her sister Margaret were National schoolteachers; Bridget was later principal in Churchtown National School. She was a member of Athy Cumann na mBan and was involved in the Irish language revival movement as a local organiser and secretary of the Gaelic League branch. Bridget received a vote of thanks from Athy U.D.C. for her work with those afflicted during the Great Flu pandemic of 1918-19. Her house was attacked in July 1919 when a mob of ex-British soldiers went on the rampage in Athy. Bridget was elected

in 1928 for Fianna Fáil as the first female councillor in Co. Kildare to Athy U.D.C. and as a county councillor in 1942. She was also active with many other local bodies including the County Kildare Board of Health and the Vocational Education Committee. Bridget died at her residence, Pembroke Road, Dublin, on 26 March 1958 aged eighty-four and was buried in St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy.

**Darcy, Mary Christine** née Hayden

Born 14 December 1900, Maganey, Athy, Co. Kildare, of Jeremiah Hayden (farmer) and Mary Anne Fitzpatrick. She was a member of Moone Cumann na mBan. She married Michael Darcy (Civic Guard) in Castledermot, Co. Kildare, on 20 October 1932. The couple later lived in Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath. Her application for a Service Medal claiming membership of Cumann na mBan attached to 5th Battalion, Carlow Brigade, I.R.A. was unsuccessful as her application was incomplete. Michael died in 1948 at his brother's home, 34 Tullow Street, Carlow. Mary died on 06 January 1975 at her daughter's residence, Clevedon, Somerset, England, and was buried in New Cemetery, Carlow.

**Daughen, Bridget (Delia)** née Owens

Born 03 May 1876, Galmilestown (Gaulmoylestown), Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, of Christopher Owens (groom) and Bridget Robinson. She married Thomas Daughan on 28 October 1907 in Kinocklong, Co. Limerick; both were recorded as servants. Their daughter, Margaret, was born in Blackrock, Co. Dublin in 1908 where Thomas was employed as a coachman. Delia later moved to Athy, Co. Kildare, where her boarding house at Duke Street was open to men on the run. The house was raided many times; during one raid the Black and Tans smashed windows and furniture and looted the house. Delia, described as the wife of a cycle mechanic, died aged sixty-three, in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, on 01 May 1942 and was interred in St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy.

**Delahunt Margaret, see Flood, Margaret**

**Delaney, Margaret (Peg)**

A National schoolteacher living at Station Road, Kildare Town, Co. Kildare, she was a member of Kildare Town Cumann na mBan.

She was arrested at her home on 5 March 1923, and interned in Mountjoy and Kilmainham Jails, Dublin. Peg was transferred to the North Dublin Union on 18 April 1923; she was injured during her removal when she was thrown down a stair. She was released on 05 July 1923. Peg was a witness at the marriage of Violet Graham, Kildare, and Thomas Glynn (detective, Pearse Street, Dublin) in Kildare, on 17 February 1925. He had been imprisoned during the War of Independence at the Rath Camp, the Curragh and was released after the signing of the Treaty.<sup>39</sup> No further information could be found.

### **Devaney, Agnes Josephine**

Born 22 March 1897, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Devaney (farmer) and Bridget Larkin. She was a member of Leixlip Cumann na mBan. Along with Nellie Dillon, she took an injured volunteer to a safe house a day after the Stacumney ambush, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, on 03 July 1921. Agnes, a typist, died aged 24 years, on 02 December 1923, in St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, of gangrenous appendicitis, and was buried in Confey Graveyard, Leixlip.

### **Dillon, Anna Christina**

Born 07 December 1888, Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, of Walter Dillon (cook) and Margaret Levy. In 1911 she was living in Leixlip where she was working as a shop assistant for Thomas Wogan, victualler. Her parents had died of tuberculosis in 1894 and 1895. She was a member of Leixlip Cumann na mBan. Anna made a successful application for a Service Medal (1917-1921) but her application for a Special Allowance under the Army Pensions Act was not awarded in 1961 as the application was withdrawn. She later worked as a bar assistant and the addresses recorded in her application file include Beaumont Convalescent Home, Dublin; 24 Calderwood Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9; and 16 Dunseverick Road, Clontarf. She died in the Mater Hospital, Dublin, on 11 April 1974 and was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

### **Dillon, Christina née Vaughan**

Born 13 June 1904, Kiltullagh, Co. Roscommon, of Philip Vaughan (herd) and Bridget Fox; sister of activists Edward and Philip

<sup>39</sup> *Kildare Observer*, 28 February 1925.

Vaughan. Her family later lived at Baronrath and Bishopscourt, Straffan, Co. Kildare. She was a member of Kill Cumann na mBan. She married Vanutelli (Van) Dillon (foreman) in Dublin on 29 June 1932, both were living in North Strand, Dublin; her father's occupation was recorded as steward at that time. She applied successfully for a Service Medal (1917-1921) which was issued on 23 September 1959. However, the medal was later returned as she no longer resided at the address provided on her application, 99 Terenure Road, Dublin. Christina died in St. James's Hospital, Dublin, on 07 December 1990 and was buried in Dean's Grange, Cemetery, Dublin.

### **Dillon, Ellen (Nellie)**

Nellie lived at 7 Main Street, Leixlip, Co. Kildare. She joined Leixlip Cumann na mBan in 1918 and was active in the anti-Conscription campaign. In her unsuccessful application for a Military Service pension relating to her service with Cumann na mBan between 1917 and 1921, she said that she was appointed in 1918 by Commandant Patrick Colgan, Maynooth, to receive all messages to and from G.H.Q. and that on one occasion she was required to travel to Dublin following the death of Terence MacSwiney on hunger-strike. She also said that on 03 July 1921 she assisted in moving a man who had been injured in the Stacumny ambush, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. During the Truce Nellie said that she acted in the Republican Courts. Following the outbreak of the Civil War she took the anti-Treaty side and said that she passed information to members of the I.R.A. She was also involved in fund-raising for Sinn Féin and the White Cross. No further information could be found.

### **Doherty, Mary Josephine (Ciss) née Dunne**

Born 07 September 1886, Broadleas, Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare, of John Dunne (farmer) and Mary Anne Lawlor. She was a Captain (O.C.) in Ballymore Eustace Cumann na mBan.<sup>40</sup> Her death notice recorded that she collected funds for the Dáil Loan and her home was used as a headquarters for many prominent

---

<sup>40</sup> *Longford Leader*, 10 October 1975.

figures during the War of Independence.<sup>41</sup> Mary, a shopkeeper, married Brian (Bryan) Doherty (Civic Guard sergeant)<sup>42</sup> on 02 September 1925. One of her sons, Rev. P. J. Murphy was a priest in Robertstown, Co. Kildare in the 1960s. Ciss died at her home, St. Mary's Villas, Bunclody, Co. Wexford, aged seventy years on 04 November 1964.

**Domican, Mary, see Birchall (Burchall), Mary**

**Dooley, Catherine (Kate), see Malone, Catherine (Kate)**

**Dooley, Esther (Hester), see May, Esther (Hester)**

**Dooley, Julia née Bradley**

Born 21 November 1868, Leinster Street, Athy, Co. Kildare, of John Bradley (servant) and Julia Lawlor. She married Michael Dooley (baker) on 12 April 1893. He was the chairman of the Athy Sinn Féin Club. They ran a grocery and provisions business at 41 Duke Street, Athy. Julia carried dispatches and engaged in other republican activities. She was the mother of Michael Dooley, I.R.A., and her daughters Gypsy O'Neill, Kathleen Malone, and Hester May, were members of Cumann na mBan. Julia Dooley died at her home on 17 August 1957, aged eighty-eight, and was interred in St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy.

**Dooley, Julia (Gypsy), see O'Neill, Julia (Gypsy)**

**Doran, Elizabeth**

Born 04 May 1899 (church) or 4 July 1899 (civil), Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare, of Arthur Doran (shopkeeper) and Anne Butler; sister of activists Art and John Doran. Another brother, Private Patrick Doran, Irish Guards, died of wounds in Cambrai, France, on 01 December 1917. She was member of Ballymore Eustace Cumann na mBan, pre-Truce. She took the pro-Treaty side in the Civil War. There is a possible record of her immigration to the United States

<sup>41</sup> *Irish Independent*, 10 November 1964.

<sup>42</sup> Born in 1899 at Rhyne, Killoe, Co. Longford, Brian Doherty joined the I.R.B. in 1917 and was active in the North Longford Column under General Séan MacEoin. He joined the Gardai at its inception, and served at the Depot, Dublin, Ballymore Eustace, Carbury and Newbridge, Co. Kildare, Askeaton, Co. Limerick and Fethard-on-Sea and Bunclody, Co. Wexford. Brian Doherty was a founder member of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. He retired in 1964 and died in October 1975.

on 14 August 1947; she may have become a naturalised citizen on 25 May 1956 in San Francisco, California. Lizzie made a successful application for a Service Medal (1917-1921) which was issued on 11 March 1952. Her address at that time was 25 Sterling Avenue, White Plains, New York. She died aged ninety on 04 October 1989.<sup>43</sup>

### **Dowling, Anne, see Hill, Anne**

### **Doyle, Annie née Bullock**

Born 20 October 1902, Davidstown, Castledermot, Co. Kildare, of John Bullock (farmer) and Maria Kavanagh; sister of activist Essie Bullock. She served with Castledermot Cumann na mBan. In her unsuccessful pension claim she said she was active from 1920 to 1921, having undertaken the usual activities, as well as carried dispatches and assisted men on the run. *'I carried dispatches to and from Carlow continuously to any part of Carlow Brigade when asked, carried arms and ammunition for men on active service, worked night and day in every way I could to help the volunteers, made Sinn Fein flags and put them up, assisted the men on the run and fed them, supplied rations to the men in Duckett's Grove Training Camp'*.<sup>44</sup> Annie married Thomas Doyle (farmer) on 21 June 1926. She died in July 1979 at her daughter's residence in Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan and was buried in Colstown Cemetery, Castledermot, Co. Kildare.<sup>45</sup>

### **Doyle, Hannah née Kelly**

Born 07 May 1891, Painstown, Kill, Co. Kildare, of Denis Kelly (herd) and Bridget Sullivan; sister of activist Rose Kelly. She later lived at Killinmore, Oldmill, Kill. On her unsuccessful application for a military pension in respect of her claimed service with Kill Cumann na mBan for part of the periods between 1 April 1920 and 11 July 1921, she said she was involved in routine Cumann na mBan branch activities (carried dispatches, obtained information,

<sup>43</sup> Records relating to her time in the U.S.A. are based on matching records for Elizabeth J. Doran stated to be born on 04 July 1899, including U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014; Index to Alien Case Files, 1944-2003; Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007.

<sup>44</sup> Annie Doyle Military Pension application MSP34REF.39669, [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie)

<sup>45</sup> No day of death in known – the information on her death and burial was in *The Nationalist and Leinster Times*, 13 July 1979.

and provided for prisoners). Hannah said she held the rank of Company Captain. Her file includes a letter from Thomas Lawler, Halverstown, former Brigade O.C., supporting her application. Hannah married Patrick Doyle (farmer) on 28 June 1922 at Kill. She died at her home in Kill, of tuberculosis, on 13 November 1945, aged fifty-two years, and was buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

**Doyle, Margaret (Mag) née Magee**

Born 11 November 1904, Bishopshill, Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Magee (farmer) and Hannah Kelly; sister of activists Patrick, Mary and Myles Magee. She served with Ballymore Eustace Cumann na mBan between 1919 and 1921. In a profile published in 2010,<sup>46</sup> Margaret said that she was one of the youngest to join Cumann na mBan. Other members who joined with her were Bridie Nugent, Margaret Whelan, Brigid Miley, Elizabeth Doran, and Agnes McGrath. She said she would never forget the morning her brother Paddy was arrested by the British Army and taken to Hare Park – the first internment camp on the Curragh – and later transferred to Rath Camp. On visiting various prisoners, smuggling was part of her game; on one occasion, she managed to get in a bottle of whiskey to Nicholas Toomey, Ballymore Eustace Company. She carried out first aid, dispatch carrying, signalling, and fund-raising duties, as well as providing parcels for prisoners. She married John (Jack) Doyle (draper), of Synge Street, in Dublin on 03 September 1930. They moved to Ivy House, Ballymore Eustace in 1933, where they farmed and set up a dairy. Mag was awarded a Service Medal (1917-1921) which was issued on 11 March 1952. She died on 22 October 1987, at her daughter's residence, The Square, Ballymore Eustace, and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ballymore Eustace.

**Drennan, Mary Anne, see Grace, Mary Anne**

**Dunne, Kathleen Brigid née Kenny (aka Duinn, Caitleen)**

Born 29 September 1900, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, of Michael Kenny (bread car driver, later a postman) and Mary Lee; sister of

---

<sup>46</sup> Profile of Mrs. Margaret Doyle, Ballymore.blogspot.com, 12 February 2010.

activists Joseph, Christopher, Michael, Jack and Patrick Kenny. Another brother, Daniel Kenny, died in a Prisoner of War Camp in Limburg, Germany in 1918. The family lived at River Street, Rathangan. She was a member of Rathangan Cumann na mBan and her family played an active part in the War of Independence. She married Michael Dunne (soldier, later Military Police, Curragh Camp) of Main Street, Rathangan, on 16 March 1923 in Dublin.<sup>47</sup> Kathleen made a successful Service Medal application which was issued on 26 September 1952. She died in the District Hospital, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, on 06 May 1981, and was buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rathangan.

**Dunne, Mary (Ciss), see Doherty, Mary (Ciss)**

**Dunne, Mary Frances (Fanny), see Brennan, Mary Frances (Fanny)**

**Dunne, Margaret Mary (May), see Healy, Margaret Mary (May)**

**Dwyer, Margaret (Maggie)**

Born 24 September 1865, Ballymount, Usk, Co. Kildare, of John Dwyer (farmer) and Bridget Kelly; sister of activist John Dwyer. She made an unsuccessful application for Service Medal (1917-1921), claiming membership of Carlow Brigade Cumann na mBan. A John Dwyer of Ballymount was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour in December 1920 for possession of a pistol, ammunition, a uniform, and documents headed 'Dáil Éireann', possibly her brother. Maggie died at Ballymount on 07 June 1945 aged seventy-nine years<sup>48</sup> and was buried in Kyle Graveyard, Narraghmore, Co. Kildare.<sup>49</sup>

**Dwyer, Margaret (Mollie), see Hart(e), Margaret (Mollie)**

**Edghill (Edgehill), Bridget (Bridie) née Kay**

Born 09 October 1892, Grange, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare, of Bernard Kay (herd, later butcher) and Maggie Farrell. She was a member of Cumann na mBan, pre-Truce. She married John Edghill

---

<sup>47</sup> A member of Rathangan Company, pre-Truce, he was Rathangan section commander in the aborted Allen ambush, on 20 March 1921. He was later appointed company captain (O.C.) of Rathangan Company.

<sup>48</sup> Only possible civil record of death found; according to 1901 and 1911 Census she was born c. 1873.

<sup>49</sup> *Irish Press*, 08 June 1945.

(farmer) on 25 January 1922 in Monasterevin. Bridie made an unsuccessful application for a Military Service pension; in a letter in her file from 1954 Bridget stated that she did dispatch work, visited I.R.A. prisoners in the Curragh, Co. Kildare, and Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, as well as sheltering I.R.A. men on the run during the War of Independence, including Captain Edward Prendergast and Hugh McNally. She died on 03 May 1961 at Navan Gate, Trim, Co. Meath aged sixty-eight.

**Elliott, Helena (Nellie) née Brennan**

Born 27 January 1898, Delamain, Carnalway, Co. Kildare, of John Brennan (farmer), and Anne Kenna, Brownstown House, Kilcullen; sister of activist Rita Brennan. Nellie was a member of Kilcullen Cumann na mBan. She married Peter Elliot (painter) on 31 January 1934, in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, and they lived at Brownstown, Kilcullen. Nellie died of tuberculosis aged thirty-nine on 28 October 1940. A successful Service Medal application was submitted posthumously on her behalf by her sister Rita Brennan.

**Fagan Mary, see Byrne, Mary (formerly Graham)**

**Farrell, Dorathea (Dora), see Daly, Dorathea (Dora)**

**Farrelly, Ellen (Nell/Nellie), see Kavanagh, Ellen (Nell/Nellie)**

**Feeney, Alice née Fitzsimons**

Born 18 March 1889, Kilbrook, Cloncurry, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Fitzsimons (farmer) and Julia Costello; sister of activists Jane Halpin and Julia Fitzsimons. She was a member of Cloncurry Cumann na mBan. Alice married Patrick Feeney (carpenter) on 29 July 1925. She was awarded a Service Medal on 29 September 1952. Alice, a shopkeeper, died at Newtown, Enfield, Co. Meath, on 24 February 1959 aged sixty-nine years, and was buried in Cloncurry Graveyard.

**Fennelly, Mary Agnes née Dwyer**

Born circa 1882. Mary (cook), married James Fennelly (labourer), on 12 February 1907 in Knockavilla, Kilpatrick, Co. Tipperary. A strong nationalist, her home in Pollardstown, Co. Kildare, was a 'safe house' during the Troubles for men 'on the run.' Her



*Annie Moore*



*Biddy Barnewall*



*Daisy Patterson*



*Eva Burke*



*Hester and Joe May*



*Frances O'Connor*



*Lucy Daly*



*Peg Daly*



*Hettie Behan, centre*



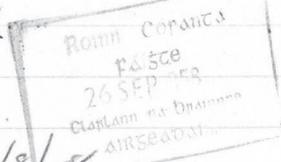
*Lizzie Doran (uniform) with sister-in-law Josephine Doran 1922*

To The Minister  
Military Pension Board  
Dublin.

3. Harboro Road  
Rushden  
Northants,

Ref No DP/30097.

Dear Sir 23/26/8/58



Must I assume the Income you speak of (£156) per year, comes from English Temporary Charity, if it were not for the money, whom we have fought against for years I + my family would now be starving. I have to avert to the lowest form of Charity the English assistance. It makes one think, I apply for a Patter Pension as I hold a Medal for service up to 1922 + I am turned down as an nobody why then the force of giving medals at all. The assistance is only a temporary affair till something turns up. I sent you my assistance officer's address in last letter if you wish to apply for more information. I have no Widow Pension + only 8/- Childrens Allowance,

2

If Ireland's Government Can't get Jobs  
in Ireland for the Sons of the men  
who died for her B<sup>o</sup> strange, than  
5 Sons Relatives of the Gaelic Leader  
John Devoy 2 of those boys tried  
for a job after leaving School +  
could get nothing my little girl a  
very Clever Child was offered £1-  
per week in an office, Hence we  
all had to avert to the enemy Country  
to get a living Can you wonder I'm  
bitter I would like you to Review  
my case as soon as possible as all  
this strain + worry is letting on  
me, I am not in very good health  
yours faithfully  
(Mrs) Mary Frances Brennan

Mary Frances Brennan

MSP34REF16229; Image courtesy of the Military Archives/MSPC.

R 35  
 30SP. 1862122, So Austin Blvd  
 Oak Park, Illinois  
 Ref 7, P 617238  
 RT 23-1-43  
 27th Dec 1942  
 A cspa.

In reply to your letter of July 6  
 which was received by me the  
 latter part of September I have had  
 since then submitted by my sister  
 Mrs M Molony Leuraugh Camp & Keldare  
 additional evidence to substantiate  
 my claim for pension under the act.  
 I trust this additional information  
 together with my own account which  
 I originally submitted will receive  
 full consideration also the fact that  
 my health was impaired as I have stated  
 previously I suffered a nervous break  
 down in 1924 from which I have not  
 recovered. I happen to know that one  
 of the girls from my district is receiving  
 a pension for quite sometime.

OO cspa  
 Nellie Kearns Killbride

Nellie Kilbride

MSP34REF17238; Image courtesy of the Military Archives/MSPC



*Peg, Dolly and Lucy Daly*



*Nellie Kearns*



*Teresa Brayton*



*Nellie Wallace*



*Sisters Una and Teresa Ní Módhráin*

father, Michael Dwyer, was a member of the Irish Constabulary stationed in Ballyknockin, Co. Kerry, in 1867, who joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood and burned the police barracks. Mary Agnes, a housewife and wife of a Great Southern Railway foreman, died aged fifty-seven on 14 October 1939 at Loughbrown, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, and was buried in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge.<sup>50</sup>

**Fitzgerald, Sarah (Sally), see Rourke, Sarah (Sally)**

**Fitzsimons, Alice, see Feeney, Alice**

**Fitzsimons, Bridget Christine (Bridie) née Jacob**

Born 09 April 1901, Leixlip, Co. Kildare of Gerald Jacob (general merchant) and Catherine Union; she had a twin sister Rose (later Gaynor). She was a member of Leixlip Cumann na mBan but was unsuccessful in her application for a Service Medal as her service could not be established. Bridie was employed as a shop assistant in 1921. The addresses on her file are Conyngham Road, Dublin,<sup>51</sup> and Main Street, Leixlip. She married James Fitzsimons (bus driver) on 18 June 1934 in Leixlip. Her husband died in 1979; Bridie was alive in 1981 as she placed an anniversary notice of her husband's death in the *Irish Independent*. No date of death or place of burial have been located for her.

**Fitzsimons, (Mary) Jane**

Born 05 October 1892, Kilbrook, Kilcock, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Fitzsimons (farmer) and Julia Costello; sister of activists Julia Halpin and Alice Feeney. Jane was a member of Cloncurry Cumann na mBan; she was awarded a Service Medal on 30 September 1952. Her application for Special Allowance was made circa 1974 but was not successful as her application was incomplete; the claim was treated as abandoned (1974). She died on 25 March 1980 and was buried in Cloncurry Graveyard.<sup>52</sup>

**Fitzsimons, Julia, see Halpin, Julia**

<sup>50</sup> *Leinster Leader*, 28 October 1939.

<sup>51</sup> 3 Conyngham Road according to the *Evening Herald*, 13 August 1979, in notice about her husband's death.

<sup>52</sup> [www.enfieldgraveyards.com](http://www.enfieldgraveyards.com)

**Flood, Margaret** née Delahunt

Born 20 (civil) or 22 (church) June 1884, Bishopscourt/Tuckmilltown, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Delahunt (farmer) and Mary Leary; sister of activists, Patrick, Edward and Sylvester Delahunt. She was a member of Naas Cumann na mBan. Margaret married James Flood (farmer), of Kill Hill, Co. Kildare, in Kill on 01 June 1922. She applied for a Service Medal which was issued 30 September 1952. Margaret died at Kill Hill, on 21 December 1960, aged seventy-five years and was buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas, Co. Kildare.

**Fox, Bridget**

From Blacktrench, Naas, Co. Kildare. She said she was a member of Newbridge Cumann na mBan. Her application for a Service Medal was deemed incomplete, no medal was awarded, and the case abandoned in 1964. It is not known whether she was married at the time of her application. No further information could be found.

**Gannon, Bridget Josephine (Girly)** née Byrne

Born 08 October 1902, Kildare Town, of Michael Byrne (labourer) and Mary Grady; sister of activists Bernard, Christopher and James Byrne. The family lived at Bride Street, Kildare Town. Girly was a member of Kildare Town Cumann na mBan. She married William (Bill/Squires) Gannon, later a Kildare All-Ireland captain, on 30 January 1924 in Kildare. Girly died on 10 June 1976 aged seventy-three years and was buried in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Kildare Town.

**Garland, Edith**

Born 25 May 1900, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Garland (labourer) and Mary Smith. The family lived at Thomas Street, Newbridge; her father was an unemployed gas stoker at the time of the 1911 census. Edith was a member of Newbridge Cumann na mBan. During the War of Independence, she carried dispatches and visited republican prisoners at Hare Park Camp, the Curragh. She was a founder member of Newbridge Sinn Féin Club of which she was Honorary Secretary. Edith took the anti-Treaty

side in the Civil War and worked with the Newbridge Auxiliary Hospital attending released republican hunger strikers. She died of tuberculosis at her home in Newbridge, on 12 September 1924, aged twenty-four and was interred in Great Connell Cemetery, Newbridge.

**Gogarty, Catherine (Kate), see Boylan, Catherine (Kate)**

**Grace, Mary Anne** née Drennan

Born 17 July 1873, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, of Edward Drennan (labourer) and Bridget Wall. She married Joseph Grace (grocer), Curragh Camp, on 18 February 1903 in Dublin. On the 1901 and 1911 Census she was recorded as working in the household of the parish priest in Athy, Co. Kildare. Her family home at Ballymany, Newbridge, was open to local republicans. She was the mother of activists Edward and Joseph Grace. Mary Anne Grace died on 17 October 1948 at Cork Street Hospital, Dublin, aged seventy-three and was interred in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge.

**Green, Anne (Áine), see Heron, Anne (Áine)**

**Grehan, Anne Josephine (Annie)**

Born 16 December 1898, 7 South Main Street, Naas, Co. Kildare, of John Grehan (grocer and farmer) and Mary Anne Boulger. She was a nursing sister at Mont Dore Military Hospital, Bournemouth, England, during World War I and was decorated with the Royal Red Cross for her service by King George V at Buckingham Place, London, in 1917. Annie made an unsuccessful application for a Military Service pension in respect of her service with Naas Cumann na mBan between 01 April 1921 and 30 September 1923. During the War of Independence, Annie said that she carried dispatches to the officers of Kildare 2nd Battalion. Taking the anti-Treaty side, she said that during the Civil War she transported arms and ammunition and carried dispatches. She applied for a room in Naas Town Hall for the election in July 1923. Her father died in 1921 and the family moved to Dublin; she was living at 172 Philipsburg Avenue, Fairview, Dublin at the time of her pension application in 1936. However, both her parents were buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas, as was Annie. She died in St. Colman's

Hospital, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, on 23 February 1990, aged ninety-two years, with an address at No. 2 Old Court Terrace, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

**Halligan, Josephine, see Butterfield, Josephine**

**Halligan, Kate (Kitty)**

Born 11 February 1893, Dublin Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, of Mathew Halligan (market gardener) and Mary Lacy; sister of activists Josephine Butterfield and Walter and James Halligan. She later lived at Railway Bridge, Maudlins, Naas. Kate was a member of Naas Cumann na mBan. She died at her home on 19 January 1972, aged seventy-eight years, and was buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

**Halpin, Julia née Fitzsimons**

Born 18 March 1891, Kilbrook, Kilcock, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Fitzsimons (farmer) and Julia Costello; sister of activists Jane (Janie) Fitzsimons and Alice Feeney. She was a member of Cloncurry Cumann na mBan. Julia (housekeeper) married Patrick Halpin (carpenter) at Newtown Church, Kilcock, on 22 September 1927, and they lived at Newtown, Enfield, Co. Meath. She died of puerperal sepsis aged thirty-seven on 01 March 1929 in Holles Street Hospital, Dublin, and was buried in Newtown Graveyard. A successful Service Medal application was made by her next of kin, Mary Halpin, Newtown, Enfield, and awarded posthumously on 18 November 1952.

**Hart(e) Margaret (Mollie) née Dwyer**

Born 12 May 1894, Hazelhatch, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, of Ambrose Dwyer (farmer/publican) and Mary Corcoran; sister of activist Alexander. She was a member of Leixlip Cumann na mBan, pre-Truce. Her application for a Service Medal was unsuccessful. She was also unsuccessful in her application for a Military Service pension, claiming service with Cumann na mBan between 1918 and 1923. Mollie said she was a member of Celbridge Company, involved in routine Cumann na mBan branch activities, and had been associated with the Irish Volunteers from 1913, but had no special activities in 1916 or 1917. During the War of Independence,

she said she was involved in watching enemy movements, carrying dispatches; and collecting funds. She also said that that at the time of the Stacumney ambush, Celbridge, in 1921, some I.R.A. members left from her home and that she watched for the I.R.A. at the canal. Mollie said that in the Truce period she visited the I.R.A. training camp at Celbridge Union, Co. Kildare. Following the outbreak of the Civil War Mollie said that she carried dispatches – including to Comdt. Mick Price in Dublin – and that Patrick Mullaney<sup>53</sup> (Battalion O.C.) visited her home and met ‘some Free State soldiers from Baldonnell who were taking out arms and ammunition.’ She mentioned that her home was frequented by I.R.A. men on the run. Mollie also said that her brother, Alexander, was in receipt of a pension. He was O.C. Celbridge Company; both Mollie and Alexander opposed the Treaty. Mollie married Michael Hart (publican) on 03 October 1944, in Dublin. She died on 10 March 1979 at Peamount Hospital, Newcastle, Co. Dublin, and was buried in Donacumper Cemetery, Celbridge.

**Hayde, Catherine (Kathleen) née Curran**

Born 15 December 1908, Dunshane, Brannockstown, Co. Kildare, of James Curran (groom) and Catherine Nolan; sister of activists Tommy, John, Stephen and James Curran and Mollie Higgins. She was a member of Cumann na mBan. Kathleen married John Joseph Hayde (chauffeur), from Naas, on 08 August 1934 at Two-Mile-House chapel, Co. Kildare. Kathleen of 3 Millbrook Villas, Naas, Co. Kildare, died St. Vincent’s Hospital, Athy, Co. Kildare on 25 July 1987 and was buried in St. Corban’s Cemetery, Naas.

**Hayden, Mary Christine, see Darcy, Mary Christine**

**Healy, Margaret Mary (May) née Dunne**

Born 08 May 1906, Greenhills, Kill, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Dunne<sup>54</sup> (farmer) and Rose Keogh; sister of activists Jim and Dick Dunne and Fanny Brennan. She was a member of Kill Cumann na mBan, pre-Truce, giving up school to take an active part in the fight for independence, carrying dispatches from Kill to Naas, Kilcullen,

<sup>53</sup> Patrick E. Mullaney, anti-Treaty I.R.A. Commander; see Durney, James, *Stand You Now for Ireland’s Cause*, p. 276.

<sup>54</sup> Patrick Dunne, OC Kill Company. *Ibid.* p. 141.

Saggart, and Prosperous, as well as collecting materials for prisoners and delivering them to the Curragh internment camps and Mountjoy Jail. She was an anti-Treaty dispatch carrier during the Civil War, provided for an Active Service Unit and continued her dispatch work serving as a Lieutenant during both periods. She said she carried ammunition from the Curragh Camp and brought National Army uniforms there which enabled two prisoners to escape. May carried dispatches to Dublin G.H.Q several times, which involved cycling as there were no buses operating at that time. At the reburial of the seven executed members of the Rathbride Column in Kildare in 1924, she took the revolvers used after the volley of shots. The firing party was surrounded by detectives, but she got the guns away safely. May married Francis Healy (Civic Guard) on 15 February 1926, and subsequently moved to Rosslare, Co. Wexford, and Market Square, Bunclody, Co. Wexford. She was awarded a Service Medal on 09 October 1952. May died in 1983 and was interred in Killinick Cemetery, Rosslare.

### **Heffernan, Margaret**

Born 10 March 1899, Kildare Town, of Charles Heffernan (publican) and Julia Flanagan; lived at Crockanure, Kildare. A member of Kildare Town Cumann na mBan pre-Truce, she made a successful Service Medal (1917-1921) application which was issued on 12 January 1948. Margaret, Dunmurray Road, Kildare Town, died in the Drogheda Memorial Hospital, the Curragh, Co. Kildare, in May 1973.<sup>55</sup> She had been a secretary at Fitzpatrick's Garage, Kildare Town, for many years and was survived by two sisters. Margaret was buried in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Kildare Town.

### **Heffernan, Mary Josephine, see Cummins, Mary Josephine**

### **Henderson, Catherine Bridget (Kathleen) née Carroll**

Born 01 February 1912, Fair Green, Naas, Co. Kildare, of Mark Carroll (insurance agent) and Norah (Sarah) Callan, who were both from Monasterevin, Co. Kildare; sister of activists Mary and Patrick Carroll. The family later lived at Sallins Road, Naas.

---

<sup>55</sup> *The Nationalist and Leinster Times*, 18 May 1973.

As a child she said that she smuggled I.R.A. messages around the locality, and to contacts in Dublin, including Countess Markievicz. Kathleen immigrated to New York City, U.S.A., in September 1929; she married Daniel Henderson, of Kildare Town, on 13 September 1933, in Manhattan, New York. At the time of her U.S. naturalisation application in 1936, she was living at 1124 Woodycrest Avenue, Bronx, New York. Daniel, who worked for the U.S. Post Office, enlisted in the U.S. Army in World War II. He was a President of the Kildaremen's Association of New York. Kathleen and Daniel had four sons; he died in 1987 and Kathleen died in 2004; they were buried in Old St. Raymond's Cemetery, Bronx, New York.

### **Hennessy, Mary** née Cosgrove

Born 20 January 1893, Castledermot, Co. Kildare, of Philip Cosgrove (farmer) and Mary Doyle; sister of activist Paddy Cosgrove.<sup>56</sup> She was O.C. Castledermot Cumann na mBan. Mary was a cousin of W. T. Cosgrave, president of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State from 1922-1932, founder of Cumann na nGaedheal and later of Fine Gael. Mary married Michael Hennessy (later of The Garage, Castledermot) in St. Patrick's, Monkstown, Dublin on 03 March 1924. She died on 03 September 1945 at her residence in Castledermot and was buried in Grange Graveyard, Co. Laois.

### **Herbert, Margaret** née Perkins

Born 05 May 1904, Sallins Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, of Thomas Perkins (carpenter) and Mary Cully; sister of activists Tom and Annie Perkins. She was a member of Naas Cumann na mBan under the command of Captain Annie Grehan, Mrs. Mary Browne (née Patterson), Miss Clair Moran (later McDermott) and Thomas Lawlor. She made an unsuccessful application for a Military Service pension under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1934, claiming membership of Cumann na mBan between 1920 and 1923. Margaret was awarded a Service Medal (1917-1921) in January 1948; She said that during the War of Independence she took part in routine activity such as dispatch work, drills and parades. Margaret took the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War. According to her application file one of her referees, James Dunne, said she

---

<sup>56</sup> O.C. Castledermot Company, pre-Truce.

procured 1,500 rounds of .303 ammunition and some revolvers for him, and she helped to secure fourteen rifles from Naas Barracks. In 1924 after the interment of seven republicans in Co. Kildare, she said that she risked her life by collecting a Webley revolver and 2,000 rounds of ammunition from a graveyard and passing it onto Surgeon Joseph P. Williams. Margaret married republican activist William Herbert, (Corporation hand), Dublin, on 17 March 1927 in Naas. She died at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Co. Kildare, on 01 June 1980 and was buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

### **Heron, Anne (Áine) née Greene**

Born 15 September 1884, Collinstown, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, of Raphael Greene (carpenter) and Mary Moran. She married George Heron (cycle agent) in Dublin, on 15 April 1912, (a widow on the form, but no record of an earlier marriage located) and they resided at 354 North Circular Road, Dublin. In 1915 she joined Cumann na mBan, Central Branch. At the time of the 1916 Rising, she had two young children and was pregnant when she reported to Church Street on Easter Monday, 24 April. She was sent to the Hibernian Bank, Sackville Street, on Tuesday, 25 April, and that evening she volunteered with six other Cumann na mBan members to go to the first aid centre in Church Street. On the following day she was instructed to proceed to the house of Joe McGuinness and destroy documents relating to the republican movement. Because of the large number of British troops in the area she was unable to return to Church Street or the Four Courts. After the Rising she was involved in collecting for the Prisoner's Dependents' Fund. Following the establishment of the Republican Courts in 1920, she and Áine Ceannt were appointed as justices for the Pembroke and Rathmines area and trustees of the court funds. She took an active part in the War of Independence and was captain of the Ringsend Cumann na mBan branch. Arms were found by crown forces at a store belonging to her husband, George, and she was arrested and imprisoned in Arbour Hill until the Truce. She was subsequently involved in the Irish Housewives Association (vice-president) and Dundrum Library Committee. Áine Heron, Ardonia, Churchtown Road, Dundrum, died on 30 March 1952 and was buried in Deansgrange Cemetery, Dublin.

**Higgins, Mary (Mollie) née Curran**

Born 22 February 1905, Dunshane, Brannockstown, Co. Kildare, of James Curran (groom) and Kate Nolan. At the time of the 1911 Census her father's occupation was chauffeur. She joined Cumann na mBan aged fifteen and was a dispatch carrier for Naas and Two-Mile-House companies I.R.A. She married John (Jack) Higgins, (National Army officer), then captain of the Kildare County Football team, in Two-Mile-House chapel on 25 September 1929. Mollie Higgins died aged ninety-three, on 11 January 1999 and was buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

**Higgins, Rose Anne, see Byrne, Rose Anne****Hogan, Brigid, see O'Donoghue, Brigid****Hutton, Roseanna Mary née Pringle**

Born 30 December 1875, Annsboro, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, of Michael Pringle (farmer) and Mary Toole. She was a national schoolteacher, living with her parents at Mullentine, Rathangan, in 1901. She married John Hutton, a Robertstown schoolteacher in Rathangan on 25 April 1906; in 1911 they were living at Boston Common, Cloncurry, Co. Kildare, where they were both employed as schoolteachers. Rose was a member of Cumann na mBan during the War of Independence. Rosanna died at her residence, Sherlockstown, Sallins, Co. Kildare, on 26 January 1951 and was buried in Feighcullen Cemetery.

**Jacob, Bridget Christine (Bridie), see Fitzsimons, Bridget Christine (Bridie)****Jones, Anne (Annie) née Wilmot**

Born 12 March 1889, Knox's Corner, Suncroft, Co. Kildare, of George Wilmot (groom) and Kate Dillon; sister of activists George and Thomas Wilmot.<sup>57</sup> Her father was originally from South Molton, Devon, England, and had served in the Devonshire Regiment. Annie married William Jones (soldier) in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, on 13 August 1912. They later lived at No. 9 Cottage,

---

<sup>57</sup> Another brother, William, who served in the Irish Guards, was killed in action in Belgium aged 24, in March 1916.

Kinneagh, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare. She made an unsuccessful application for a Service Medal (1917-1921) claiming service with Kildare Cumann na mBan. Her husband who was born circa 1887 also served in the British Army and was later a training instructor for Athgarvan Company, Irish Volunteers, from its formation in 1914. He was called up from the reserve to the British Army on 21 October 1914 and served as a lance-corporal with the 2nd Connaught Rangers during World War I. In the retreat from Mons, Belgium, he received gunshot wounds to the lower arm and hand and was invalided home. He was active and imprisoned during the War of Independence and Civil War.<sup>58</sup> Annie died on 16 December 1957 aged sixty-eight years and was buried in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.<sup>59</sup> Bill died aged sixty-eight in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, on 08 July 1958 and was also interred in St. Conleth's Cemetery.

**Kay, Bridget (Bridie), see Edghill, Bridget (Bridie)**

**Kavanagh, Ellen (Nell/Nellie) née Farrelly**

Born 17 February 1898, Castledermot, Co. Kildare, of William Farrelly (coachman) and Mary Anne Hynes; sister of activist Paddy Farrelly. Her father worked for Lord Walter Fitzgerald at Kilkea. She was a member of Cumann na mBan while living at Kilkea. In her pension application she said she was a member of Cumann na mBan during the War of Independence and Truce. She married James Kavanagh (farmer) of Castledermot on 28 October 1928 in Dublin, when her address was given as 3 Greenmount Road, Terenure. Nell was awarded a Service Medal (1917-1921) in October 1950, but her application for a Military Pension was unsuccessful. She stated that she was attached to Moone and Castledermot Cumann na mBan under the command of Mrs. May Hennessey (née Cosgrave), Eamon Malone, Thomas Finn and Patrick Cosgrave. During the War of Independence Nell said that she took part in dispatch work, carrying them in the saddle pillar and tubes of her bicycle, fundraising, transporting arms and ammunition, fused detonators and helping to trench roads at

<sup>58</sup> William Jones, see Durney, James, *Stand You Now for Ireland's Cause*. p. 193.

<sup>59</sup> St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge, Interment Register

Bushfield near Castledermot and Millbrook, Maganey. She took the pro-Treaty side in the Civil War, joined Cumann na Saoirse in July 1922 and was active with them for six months. Nell claimed to have warned Captain Patrick Cosgrave that the I.R.A. were preparing an ambush at Ballitore Hill for National Army troops returning to Carlow from the Curragh and also that her house was raided by anti-Treaty I.R.A. after the Graney ambush in October 1922. Both she and her brother Patrick Cosgrave were later active members of the Old I.R.A. Her extensive application file includes handwritten references in support of her application from people such as Mrs. May Hennessey, Captain Patrick Farrelly, Captain Patrick Cosgrave and Bridget Keatley, as well as representations made by William Norton, T.D. Nell, of Coolrake, Moone, Co. Kildare, died in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, aged ninety-one, on 26 August 1989; her coffin was draped in the tricolour and a firing party from the Curragh Camp rendered military honours at her burial in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Moone.

**Kealy, Ellen, see Kelly, Ellen**

**Kearns, Ellen (Nellie), see Kilbride, Nellie**

**Keating, Catherine, see Bagnall, Catherine**

**Keating, Mary Josephine (May) née Walsh**

Born 06 October 1895, Eadestown, Rathmore, Naas, Co. Kildare, of John Walsh (farmer) and Martha Cullen (National schoolteacher). She married Seán Keating (painter) in Dublin on 02 July 1919. Born John Keating (28 September 1889–21 December 1977), he was an Irish romantic-realist artist whose paintings featured the Irish War of Independence and the early industrialization of Ireland. Their son, Justin, became a leading Labour Party politician and was Minister for Industry and Commerce (1973–1977). During the War of Independence May was associated with fundraising efforts on behalf of Republican Prisoners' Dependents, as well as acting as secretary to republican Robert Barton and suffragette Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, whom she met through her work with the Irish White Cross. A fluent Spanish speaker, she was associated with the Berlitz School in its early years. She supported

the republican side in the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939). May is featured in several of her husband's paintings including *An Allegory* (1924)<sup>60</sup> painted after the Irish Civil War, in which she is depicted as a young mother (Mother Ireland) nursing her baby (a symbol of future generations), while May and her two sons are the subjects of Seán's 1946 painting *Portrait of an Aran Woman and her Children*. May supported women's political and reproductive rights, particularly those of single mothers; she was also involved with Dr. Noel Browne's<sup>61</sup> Mother and Child Scheme, operating the initiative out of her home. May, of The Wood, Ballyboden Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin, died on 04 March 1965, aged sixty-nine, and was buried in Cruagh Cemetery, Rockbrook, Co. Dublin.<sup>62</sup>

### **Keatley, Bridget** née Langan

Born 03 July 1900, Partick, Glasgow, Scotland, of Ambrose Langan (railway surfaceman) and Anne Byrne. She moved with her sister Elizabeth to live with her maternal great aunt, Mary Anne McDonald, in Castledermot, Co. Kildare, following the death of their mother in 1905. She was active as a member of Castledermot Cumann na mBan from 1916 and 1921. She said she gave every assistance to the Volunteers, carrying dispatches long distances, making field dressings, feeding those on the run, attending meetings, parades, first aid classes, secretarial work, and keeping firearms and ammunition at her home. However, her Military Service pension application was not successful. Bridget married Patrick Keatley (commercial business) on 19 April 1926 in Castledermot; he was a farmer and cattle dealer. She died aged seventy-one on 17 August 1971 at her daughter's residence, Kilkea, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, and was buried in the New Cemetery, Castledermot.

### **Kelly, Annie, see Moran, Annie**

<sup>60</sup> National Gallery of Ireland.

<sup>61</sup> Minister for Health, 1948-1951.

<sup>62</sup> There is a full chapter devoted to May in *Seán Keating: Art, Politics and Building the Irish Nation* by Dr. Éimear O'Connor (2013).

**Kelly, Ellen** née Kealy

Born 20 April 1902, Holles Street, Dublin, of Peter Kealy (farmer) and Mary Tynan. By 1911 her family was living in Simonstown West, Castledermot, Co. Kildare, when her mother's place of birth was recorded as Co. Kildare. She was a member Castledermot Cumann na mBan. Ellen married Daniel Kelly (tradesman) on 25 April 1930. She later lived at The Bungalow, Woodlands, Castledermot. She made an application for a Service Medal; her claim was investigated several times, and a medal was issued on 23 June 1978. Ellen applied unsuccessfully for a Military Service pension for the pre-Truce period only. She said she was a member of Castledermot Branch of Cumann na mBan from 1916 to 1921. During Easter Week 1916 she said she carried dispatches and attended to volunteers. In the lead up to and during the War of Independence she states she attended Red Cross training and provided food and supplies to I.R.A. men. Ellen also applied for a Special Allowance in respect of illness or disability, and this was awarded in 1978. She died on 17 September 1980. A notice about her death stated that her funeral, with military honours, took place to the local cemetery.<sup>63</sup>

**Kelly, Hannah, see Doyle, Hannah****Kelly, Rosanna (Rose)**

Born 08 July 1894, Painstown, Kill, Co. Kildare, of Denis Kelly (herd) and Bridget Sullivan (an address of Newtown, Co. Kildare was recorded on Rose's application file); sister of activist Hannah Doyle. She later lived at 84 Lower Drumcondra Road, Whitehall, Dublin 9, with her sister Bridget Butler. Rose made an unsuccessful Service Medal (1917-1921) application as her service could not be established, claiming membership of Cumann na mBan in Co. Kildare. She also applied for a Special Allowance under the Army Pensions Acts in respect of illness or disability, but this was rejected in 1965 as she did not hold a medal. Rose died in Dublin on 28 May 1978, aged eighty-four, and was buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas, Co. Kildare.

---

<sup>63</sup> *The Nationalist and Leinster Times*, 03 October 1980.

**Kenny, Kathleen Brigid, see Dunne, Kathleen Brigid (aka Duinn, Caitleen)**

**Kenny, Margaret**

Born 05 November 1879, Broadfield, Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare, of Mathew Kenny (farmer) and Elizabeth Quinn. Margaret was a member of Naas Cumann na mBan, pre-Truce. She made an unsuccessful Service Medal application which was deemed as an incomplete application, and no medal was awarded [no known address]. Margaret died at Broadfield on 30 June 1960 and was buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas, Co. Kildare.

**Kilbride, Ellen (Nellie) née Kearns**

Born 09 April 1893, Walshestown, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, of Andrew Kearns (labourer) and Eliza Gall; lived at Upper Eyre Street, Newbridge. She was a member of Newbridge Cumann na mBan between 1916 and 1923. Nellie married republican Joseph Kilbride in Manhattan, New York City, U.S.A., on 11 January 1926; the couple later lived at West Washington, Oak Park, Chicago, Illinois, where Joseph worked as an office manager and Nellie was a housewife. Her applications for both a Service Medal (1917-1921) (service was not proven), and a Military Service pension were unsuccessful. In her detailed application she said that meetings of the local Irish Volunteers were held in her house in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, in the days prior to Easter Rising in 1916. She also said she visited prisoners John J. Fitzgerald and Dr. Laurence Rowan in Richmond Barracks, Dublin, who had been arrested during the Rising. She worked for the election campaign of Donal Buckley<sup>64</sup> (Sinn Féin) in the 1918 General Election, getting voters in the districts of Athgarvan, Walshestown and Allen to choose him '*who would ordinarily have voted against him*'. In 1917 she said that she was appointed Branch Captain of Newbridge Cumann na mBan under the command of Brigid O'Mullane. During the War of Independence, under the command of John Fitzgerald, Tom Dunne, Patrick Tuite, Patrick Kelly and Sean Connolly, she was engaged in first-aid training; dispatch work between Moran's, Naas and Peg Daly, Kildare Town; sending parcels to I.R.A. prisoners;

<sup>64</sup> aka Domhnall Ua Buachalla, see Durney, James, *Stand You Now for Ireland's Cause*. p. 365.

maintaining communications with I.R.A. prisoners in the Curragh Camp; billeting I.R.A. men on the run; transporting arms; carrying dispatches to Dublin, including a lace shop on Mary Street and a premises on Westmoreland Street; transporting a pair of wire cutters, revolver and ammunition into the Curragh Camp to aid a successful prisoners' escape; arranging that funds left over from a local labour dispute were used for I.R.A. prisoners through negotiations with Michael Smyth (I.R.A. Officer and secretary of local trade union branch), William Cummins (later a Labour Senator) and Hugh Colohan.<sup>65</sup> During the Truce period, Nellie spent one month at an I.R.A. training camp in Dowdingstown, Co. Kildare, as Quartermaster. She took the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War during which she said that under the command of Paddy Brennan she took part in dispatch work; maintained communications with I.R.A. prisoners in Newbridge Barracks, Co. Kildare; purchased arms from various National Army soldiers, and transported arms to Bryan Moore, a member of an I.R.A. Active Service Unit at Rathbride. Nellie sent a detailed plan of Newbridge Barracks to I.R.A. prisoners which was used in a successful escape. Her pension application file contains references in support of her claim by people such as from Thomas Harris T.D., Jack Fitzgerald, Sylvester Aherne, and Patrick Tuite. Her Military Service pension application includes a letter she wrote from Illinois in 1934 in which she said *'as a result of my efforts in both periods, my health failed. Raids by the Black and Tans and the carrying of guns and dispatches in the midst of the enemy have left their mark. It should be remembered that I managed to cover my tracks with result that I was never arrested, but was active all the time, and in the last fight worked practically singlehanded'*. Nellie died on 16 December 1978 aged eight-nine at Oak Park, Chicago, and was buried in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge.

**Lambe, Alice, see Cowman, Alice**

**Langan, Bridget, see Keatley, Bridget**

---

<sup>65</sup> Nellie Kearns Military Pension application MSP34REF17238, [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie)

**Lawler, Anne (Annie) née O'Neill**

Born 07 July 1878, Coghlanstown, Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare, daughter of James O'Neill (farmer), and Anne Farrell. Ballymore Eustace. She married Christopher Lawler (farmer) of Usk, Kilgowan, Co. Kildare, on 06 June 1899 in Ballymore Eustace. She made an unsuccessful Service Medal application; on re-investigation this decision was upheld, and a certificate refused on 21 May 1965. Annie died on 01 January 1970 in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, aged ninety-one, and was buried in Gormanstown Graveyard, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare

**Leigh, Mary Margaret née Bagnall, formerly Keary**

Born 26 June 1884, Usk, Co. Kildare, of Thomas Bagnall (stone mason) and Jane Dempsey. She married Peter Keary<sup>66</sup> (labourer) in Crookstown, Co. Kildare on 27 February 1905. He died in 1942 and she married John Leigh (labourer) a widower, from Usk, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow, in Kilcullen on 03 September 1945. At the time of her second marriage her occupation was recorded as tailoress. Her application for a Service Medal was incomplete and no medal was awarded. No further information could be found.

**Lynam, Elizabeth née Crofton**

Born 10 January 1901, Blacktrench, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, of John Crofton (farmer) and Mary Anne Flanagan. She said she served with Kildare Brigade Cumann na mBan. Elizabeth married Thomas Lynam (farmer) of Clongorey, Newbridge on 24 October 1934. He was O.C. Clongorey Company. She made an unsuccessful application for a Service Medal. Elizabeth died on 12 September 1992 aged ninety-one years and was interred in Barrettstown Graveyard, Newbridge.

**Magee, Margaret (Mag), see Doyle, Margaret (Mag)****Magee, Mary**

Born Bishopshill, Ballymore Eustace; sister of activists Patrick, Myles and Margaret Magee. Mary was a member of Ballymore Eustace Cumann na mBan. She took the pro-Treaty side in the Civil War. No further information could be found.

---

<sup>66</sup> His name was Carey on the marriage record; Keary on the 1911 Census.

**Malone, Catherine (Kate) née Dooley**

Born 09 March 1894, Moatfield, Athy, of Michael Dooley (farmer) and Julia Bradley; sister of activists Michael and John Dooley, Hester May and Julia O'Neill; later lived at 41 Duke Street, Athy. Kate was a member of Athy Cumann na mBan. She was attached to the Athy Post Office staff. Kate married Commandant Eamon Malone on 26 April 1922 in St. Michael's Church, Athy. She died aged seventy at the Richmond Hospital, Dublin, on 01 October 1964 and was interred in Barrowhouse Cemetery, Co. Laois.

**Malone, Christina Mary, see Phelan, Christina Mary****Malone, Elizabeth Mary (Lil)**

Born 27 May 1893, Balrennet, Carbury, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Malone (farmer) and Elizabeth Hill. She was a member of Clogherinka Cumann na mBan, pre-Truce. Her father Patrick and sister Louisa were also activists. She made a successful application for a Service Medal which was issued 02 September 1952. Elizabeth died on 13 May 1982 aged eighty-eight and was interred in Nurney Graveyard, Carbury.<sup>67</sup>

**Malone, Louisa Mary (Loo)**

Born 24 August 1894, Balrennet, Carbury, Co. Kildare, of Patrick Malone (farmer) and Elizabeth Hill. Her father Patrick and sister Elizabeth were also activists. She joined Cumann na mBan in April 1917; she was active carrying letters and dispatches in Bruckless, Co. Donegal, where she helped start a branch of Cumann na mBan, in 1918. Louisa returned to her home area of Clogherinka, Carbury, Co. Kildare, and in 1918 helped organise Clogherinka Cumann na mBan. She attended first-aid courses and carried dispatches locally throughout the War of Independence and as an anti-Treaty activist during the Civil War. In her unsuccessful application for a pension, she said that it was impossible for her to give dates or papers of work done as *'our house was so often raided and as many papers taken by both British forces and Free State government men. Our house was used as a hotel, free of course, my father was twice sent to prison, and he too was refused a military*

---

<sup>67</sup> *Irish Independent*, 14 May 1982.

*pension. We were quite useful to put up men at night and guard the house while they slept. Our house was also used as a prison. Of course, I am well aware that this kind of claim is quite useless only it does make one mad to see the people who are drawing pensions without half our rights*’. She later became a breeder of champion pedigree dogs. Louisa died aged eighty-seven on 25 September 1981 and was interred at Nurney Graveyard, Carbury.<sup>68</sup>

**Malone, Mary**

Born 22 December 1903, Barrowhouse, Athy, Co. Kildare, of James Malone (farmer) and Mary Brennan; sister of activist Christina Phelan. No further information could be found.

**Malone, Mary Anne, see Brennan, Mary Anne**

**Mangan, Jane (Jennie), see Murphy, Jane (Jennie)**

**Masterson, Elizabeth (Ellen/Eileen)**

Date and place of birth unknown. Possibly from Newbridge. She was interned in Kilmainham and Mountjoy Jails and the North Dublin Union on 19 March 1923, and released on 15 November 1923. In the 1930s she was living at Eyre Street, Newbridge, the holder of an off-licence.

**May, Esther (Hester) née Dooley**

Born 18 August 1902, Athy, Co. Kildare, of Michael Dooley (shop keeper) and Julia Bradley. She joined Athy Cumann na mBan in 1919 under the command of Christina Malone, Patrick Cosgrave and Eamon Malone; she carried dispatches from 5th Battalion H.Q. area, Athy, to 6th Battalion, Carlow Brigade area, and gelignite to James Behan, Lughill, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare. Hester’s extensive pension file relates to her receipt of a pension in respect of her service with Cumann na mBan between 1920 and 1922; she also claimed unsuccessfully for service between 1919 and 1920. She was awarded a partial pension in 1946.<sup>69</sup> She moved to Dublin in February 1921 to work in the Department of Publicity, G.H.Q., Dublin and became secretary to Pieras Beaslai (editor of *An tÓglach*) and later secretary to General J. J. O’Connell. She also

<sup>68</sup> *Irish Press*, 26 September 1981.

<sup>69</sup> Esther May Military Pension application MSP34REF60916, [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie)

worked for Oscar Traynor, Dublin Brigade O.C., and Colonel J. J. O'Connell, I.R.A. Director of Intelligence, and carried dispatches and messages to prominent republicans. Hester was the only woman present at the hand-over of the Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare, on 16 May 1922. She continued her work as a civil servant for the Provisional Government until June 1923. Hester did not make a claim in relation to her service during the Civil War; however, her file mentions that she worked in Beggars Bush Barracks, Dublin, in February 1922 and was employed by the Free State government until June 1923. She married Athy republican Joe May (porter of the County Home)<sup>70</sup> on 25 June 1923 in Athy. He was imprisoned in Arbour Hill Prison, Dublin, and Ballykinlar Internment Camp in 1921. Hester was Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths for the Athy Registration District until shortly before her death. She died on 24 May 1998, aged ninety-seven, and was interred in St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy.

**May, Julia** née Bradley

Born 05 January 1901, Athy, Co. Kildare, daughter of Patrick Bradley (shopkeeper) and Eliza King; sister of activists John and James Bradley. She married Michael May (carpenter), a founding member of Athy Sinn Féin Club, on 28 April 1920. Michael was a brother of activist Joe May. Julia, of 4 St. Martin's Terrace, Athy, died on 27 May 1972 in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, aged seventy years, and was buried in St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy.

**May, Margaret** née Byrne

Born circa 1853, daughter of Thomas Byrne (stonemason). She married Thomas May (shoemaker) on 23 January 1873. They lived at Barrack Street and Woodstock Street, Athy. She was a member of Athy Cumann na mBan. Her sons Joe and Michael May were active republicans and founding members of Athy Sinn Féin Club; Joe was interned for his activities in Arbour Hill Prison, Dublin, and Ballykinlar Internment Camp, Co. Down, in 1920/21. Margaret died on 27 October 1934 at Woodstock Street, Athy, aged seventy-four years, and was buried in St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy.

---

<sup>70</sup> Joseph (Joe) May, see Durney, James, *Stand You Now for Ireland's Cause*, p. 253.

**McCormack (Cormack), Margaret (Mabel)**

Born 20 July 1901, Cooleragh, Blackwood, Co. Kildare, of John Cormack (labourer) and Mary Cummins; sister of activists Daniel, James, Michael, Paddy and Tom McCormack. She was arrested and charged in September 1919 for wearing an illegal military uniform; she was held in Mountjoy Jail and subsequently released on £5 bail. Margaret died on 28 January 1984. Her place of burial is unknown.

**McDermott, Clare née Moran, Clare Louisa (aka Ní Modhráin, Cláir)**

Born 09 August 1891 at Rose Villa, Ballysax, Co. Kildare, of Louis James Moran (farmer) and Mary Malone; sister of activists Teresa Ní Modhráin, Lughaidh and Éamonn Ó Modhráin and Agnes Nolan. In 1916 she was living in Clontarf, Dublin, and joined Dublin Cumann na mBan. She subsequently became O.C. Naas Cumann na mBan. Clare Moran, of 25 Herbert Avenue, married Joseph McDermott (milkman) in Dublin on 27 February 1933; they later lived at Boherboy, Saggart, Co. Dublin. She died in Hume Street Nursing Home, Dublin, on 31 January 1969, aged seventy-five years, and was buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin.

**McDonald, Margaret, see Rafferty, Margaret****McDonnell, Kathleen**

She was a member of Athy Cumann na mBan. Sister of Rose McDonnell. No further information could be found.

**McDonnell, Rose**

She was a member of Athy Cumann na mBan. Sister of Kathleen McDonnell. No further information could be found.

**McGeehan, Brigid née Scanlan**

Born 01 February 1895, Co. Donegal,<sup>71</sup> of James Scanlon (farmer). She was living with her uncle and aunt, James and Margaret Scanlan at Eyre Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, by 1911. She was a member of Newbridge Cumann na mBan. She married John McGeehan

---

<sup>71</sup> Brigid McGeehan Military Pension application MSP34REF36199, [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie). No civil birth located.

(farmer) on 03 February 1932 in Kiltcevogue, near Stranorlar, Co. Donegal and later lived in Glassaghbeg, Ballinamore, Lifford, Co. Donegal. Brigid applied unsuccessfully for a Service Medal and Military Service pension, claiming membership of Cumann na mBan between 1917 and 1923. Her file records that she said she was Branch Secretary of Newbridge Cumann na mBan under the command of Jack Fitzgerald, Patrick Tuite and Patrick Kelly. During the War of Independence she was engaged in first-aid training, dispatch work, fundraising, working alongside Nellie Kearns, helping I.R.A. men on the run, sending parcels to I.R.A. prisoners and catering for prisoners held in her home awaiting sentencing in republican courts by her uncle who was Justice of the Peace. During the Truce period, she was engaged in routine activity. Taking the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War, under the command of Paddy Brennan she helped look after the needs of I.R.A. prisoners including Aodh de Blackham; Thomas Joseph Williams, Naas; Michael Doherty and Edward Gallen, Castlefin, Co. Donegal. Brigid also said that she helped to purchase about twenty weapons from National Army soldiers stationed in the Curragh, Co. Kildare, which were passed to Bryan Moore, Rathbride Column. In 1923 she was engaged in dispatch work under the command of Simon Nolan. Her file contains numerous references in support of her claims including from Thomas Harris T.D., Simon Nolan and Peg Daly. Her file also contains a sworn statement made by her before the Advisory Committee on 28 July 1937, as well as letters of thanks from internees acknowledging parcels of cheese, cakes, butter, milk, cigarettes, and the work on behalf of I.R.A. prisoners. Brigid, died at her son's residence, Northampton England, on 09 January 1971 and was buried at Fintown, Co. Donegal.<sup>72</sup>

### **McGrath, Agnes**

Born 17 February 1900, Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare, daughter of Patrick McGrath (millwright) and Elizabeth Power; sister of activist Patrick McGrath. She was mentioned as a member of Cumann na mBan by Margaret Doyle, née Magee. No further information could be found.

---

<sup>72</sup> *Irish Independent*, 12 January 1971.

**Miley, Brigid (Biddy)**

Born 28 February 1904, Bishops Lane, Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare, of Peter Miley (labourer) and Margaret Flood; sister of activist Peter. As a member of Ballymore Eustace Cumann na mBan, pre-Truce, she carried dispatches, raised funds, and attended drill, signalling and first aid training. She applied successfully for Service Medal (1917-1921) which was issued on 30 August 1956. Her occupation at that time was recorded as home duties. She did not qualify for a Military Service pension but was awarded a Special Allowance under the Army Pensions Acts in respect of illness or disability in 1957. Brigid died on 22 November 1982, aged seventy-eight and was buried in Baltyboys Cemetery, Co. Wicklow.

**Mitchell, Mary Josephine (May)**

Born 24 July 1899, Ballyvarney, Kildangan, Co. Kildare, of James Mitchell<sup>73</sup> (groom) and Mary Lalor. Her father James and brother Jack Mitchell were also active. She later lived at 17 Artisans Cottages, Caragh Road, Naas. May was a member of Naas Cumann na mBan. She was also a committee member of Naas Gaelic League Branch, a lifelong member of Naas Golf Club, and a noted G.A.A. cyclist. She made a successful application for a Service Medal (1917-1921) which was issued in 1944. May died aged eighty-two at her residence, Jubilee Terrace, Naas on 29 November 1981 and was interred at St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

**Moore, Annie, see Reilly, Annie****Moran, Agnes, see Nolan, Agnes, (aka Ní Módhraín, Una)****Moran, Annie née Kelly**

Born 08 September 1898, Timolin, Ballitore, Co. Kildare. She married David Moran (farmer) of Timolin, in Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow, on 25 April 1934. Annie made an unsuccessful Service Medal (1917-1921) application. On re-investigation the initial decision was upheld, and a certificate refused 21 May 1965. She

---

<sup>73</sup> James (Jim) Mitchell, see Durney, James, *Stand You Now for Ireland's Cause*. p. 267.

died in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Kildare, on 13 April 1969 and was buried in Moone Graveyard.<sup>74</sup>

**Moran, Claire Louisa, see McDermott, Clare (aka Ní Módhráin, Cláir)**

**Moran, Teresa Mary (aka Ní Módhráin, Teresa)**

Born 25 December 1899, Rose Villa, Ballysax, Co. Kildare, of Louis James Moran (farmer) and Mary Malone; sister of activists Agnes Nolan, Clair McDermott, Lughaidh and Éamonn Ó Modhráin. In 1916 she was living in Clontarf, Dublin, and became a member of Dublin Cumann na mBan. She helped prepare first-aid kits for the 1916 Rising. Teresa died on 21 November 1980 and was buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin.

**Murphy, Annie née Nolan**

Born 16 July 1892, Elverstown, Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare, of James Nolan (blacksmith) and Mary Phibbs; sister of activists John, James and Christopher Nolan. Annie was a member of Ballymore Eustace Cumann na mBan and took an active part in the War of Independence in Dublin and Co. Kildare. In her unsuccessful application for a Military Service pension Annie said she was a member of Cumann na mBan during Easter Week 1916 and from 1919 to 1923. She was awarded a Service Medal in 1944. Annie said that she cycled on Easter Tuesday 1916 from her home in Ballymore Eustace to the G.P.O., Dublin, where she spoke briefly to James Connolly and Sean T. O'Kelly, and that both men knew her from her time working as a waitress in Downes's restaurant, North Earl Street, Dublin. Annie was given a bundle of 1916 Proclamations (up to fifty) which she posted on walls in Terenure, Rathfarnham, Tallaght, Saggart and Rathcoole. She was nearly arrested in the home of the Farrell family, Beggar's End, near Naas, when she was found by R.I.C. detectives with one proclamation. During the War of Independence, Annie fed and did scout duty for I.R.A. men at her home when she was attached to Ballymore Eustace Cumann na mBan under the command of John Hubbard. She took the anti-

---

<sup>74</sup> Inferred from the death notice in *The Irish Press*, 14 April 1969, which stated that her remains were 'removed to the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Moone, and interment took place after Requiem Mass'.

Treaty side in the Civil War and did dispatch work, helped to cater for I.R.A. forces in Blessington, Co. Wicklow, and brought food and clothes to her brother who was interned in Tintown Camp, the Curragh, Co. Kildare. Her file includes handwritten and typed references in support of her claims from people such as Thomas Harris T.D., William Daly, Christopher Nolan, John Hubbard, and Senator Michael Smyth. Annie married Jeremiah Murphy (garda) in Dublin on 25 November 1931. She later lived at Corofin House, Corofin, Ennis, Co. Clare. Annie died on 31 January 1961 and was buried in Kilvoydane Cemetery, Corofin.<sup>75</sup>

**Murphy, Bridget (Brid/Bridie), see Nugent, Bridget (Brid/Bridie)**

**Murphy, Jane (Jennie) née Mangan**

Born 08 December 1902, Kildare Town, Co. Kildare, of Michael Mangan (labourer) and Jane Ahern; sister of activists Michael, William, Thomas and Paddy Mangan who was executed on 19 December 1922 at the Military Prison, Curragh Camp.<sup>76</sup> The family lived at Fair Green, Kildare Town. She was a member of Kildare Town Cumann na mBan. Jennie married Thomas Murphy (groom) on 27 September 1927 in Kildare Town; they later lived at 1262 Campion Cottages, Kildare Town. Jennie made a successful application for Service Medal (1917-1921) which was issued on 17 September 1947. She died on 18 September 1982 and was probably buried in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Kildare Town.

**Murphy, Margaret Mary, see Whelan (Phelan), Margaret Mary**

**Murphy, Sara née Curran**

Born 19 September 1879, Kiljames, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, of Peter Curran (farmer) and Catherine Brennan. The addresses recorded on her Service Medal application were c/o Francis Murphy, Ballylethane, Athy, Co. Laois, and Castleroe, Maganey.<sup>77</sup> She married Francis Murphy (R.I.C. constable) in Dublin on 11 June 1908 and by 1911 they were living at Townparks, Athy, Co. Kildare, where he was serving as a constable. She was a member of Barrowhouse Cumann na mBan, 5th Battalion, Carlow Brigade.

<sup>75</sup> *Irish Press*, 02 February 1961

<sup>76</sup> Patrick (Paddy) Mangan, see Durney, James, *Stand You Now for Ireland's Cause*. p. 248.

<sup>77</sup> Sara Murphy Service Medal application MD11394, [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie)

She made a successful application for Service Medal (1917-1921) which was issued on 29 October 1965. No further information could be found.

**Nolan, Agnes** née Moran (aka Ní Módhráin, Una)

Born 19 August 1895, Rose Villa, Ballysax, Co. Kildare, of Louis James Moran (farmer) and Mary Malone; sister of activists Teresa Ní Módhráin, Lughaidh and Éamonn Ó Modhráin and Clare McDermott. In 1916 she was living in Clontarf, Dublin, and became a member of Dublin Cumann na mBan. She helped prepare first-aid kits for the 1916 Rising. Agnes Mary Moran of 25 Herbert Avenue, married Isaac Nolan (solicitor's apprentice) on 23 June 1933 in Dublin. No further information could be found.

**Nolan, Annie, see Murphy, Annie**

**Nolan, Eileen**

Lived at Abbey Street, Naas, and later at 18 St. Corban's Terrace, Naas, Kildare. She was a member of Naas Cumann na mBan. Eileen was awarded a Service Medal on 10 July 1946. No further information could be found.

**Noon(s) Ellen**

From Coolelan, Rathangan, Co. Kildare. She was a member of Rathangan Cumann na mBan; she was not awarded a Service Medal (1917-1921) as her application was incomplete.<sup>78</sup> No further information could be found.

**Nugent, Bridget (Brid/Bridie)** née Murphy

Born 15 January 1905,<sup>79</sup> Bishophill, Ballymore Eustace. Co. Kildare, of Daniel Murphy (publican) and Teresa Healy; sister of activists Margaret Whelan and Peter Murphy She was a member of Ballymore Eustace Cumann na mBan. Bridie collected money on behalf of Sinn Féin for the 1918 General Election aged thirteen. Bridie carried dispatches, attended signalling and first-aid courses, and collected funds for prisoners and their dependents. She took the pro-Treaty side in the Civil War. Bridie married former activist

<sup>78</sup> Ellen Noon(s) Service Medal application MD19313, militaryarchives.ie

<sup>79</sup> Bridget Nugent Service Medal application MD20230 – date of birth given as 28 December 1904.

Peter Nugent (E.S.B. employee) on 04 June 1946 in Ballymore Eustace. She was awarded a Service Medal on 11 March 1952. A possible death was located for Bridget Nugent, of Assumption Terrace, Ballymore Eustace, who died on 21 March 1980, at her niece's residence, Bishopsland, Ballymore Eustace, and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ballymore Eustace.<sup>80</sup>

### **O'Connor, Brigid Rose Pauline**

Born 28 June 1896, Elm Hall, Loughlinstown, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, of Arthur O'Connor (grazier) and Elizabeth Saul; sister of activists Fanny, Art, Daniel, James and John O'Connor. She was a member of Celbridge Cumann na mBan, pre-Truce. Brigid helped to shelter an Irish Volunteer officer during Easter Week 1916, and between 1916-18 she was engaged in fundraising for prisoners; distributing leaflets and posting bills. She said she served under the command of Fanny O'Connor and aided men deserting from British Army by providing clothes and burning their uniforms during the War of Independence; she was present when I.R.A. members attempted to blow up the Great Southern Railway (G.S.R.) near Stacumney, Celbridge in July 1921. She took the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War and was engaged in routine activities such as sheltering and feeding I.R.A. men. She received a Service Medal but applied unsuccessfully for a Military Service Pension. However, she later made a successful application for a Special Allowance in respect of old age. Her Military Service pension file also includes material relating to her claim for a Wound Pension/Gratuity under the Army Pensions Acts. In 1937 Brigid claimed that she had been suffering from her nerves when her house was raided in 1918. She had lost the sight in one eye in a childhood accident and in later years was completely blind and in the care of her sister Fanny and cousin Brigid. However, on receipt of the statutory blind pension her Special Allowance was reduced. Brigid died on 27 November 1970 and was interred in Donacumper Cemetery, Celbridge.

### **O'Connor, Elizabeth (Lily) née Wallace**

Born 15 November 1900, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, of Edward Wallace (railway clerk) and Bridget Gainey; later recorded as living

---

<sup>80</sup> *Irish Independent*, 22 March 1980.

at Eyre Street, Newbridge. She was a sister of activists Patrick, John, Edward and Nellie Wallace. Their father, Edward, was a Newbridge Town Commissioner. Lily was a member of Newbridge Cumann na mBan. When her sister Nellie was arrested at their home on 6 March 1923, Lily opted to accompany her to prison. The sisters were brought to the Curragh Camp and later to Kilmainham Jail, Dublin. At Kilmainham Lily was also arrested and detained for about two weeks. She married Patrick Edward O'Connor (railway porter) on 25 November 1929. Lily died of tuberculosis aged thirty-one, on 22 February 1932; her sister Nellie was present at her death. She was buried in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge.

### **O'Connor, Frances Elizabeth (Fanny)**

Born 10 February 1895, Elm Hall, Loughlinstown, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, of Arthur O'Connor (farmer) and Elizabeth Saul; sister of activists Brigid, Art, Daniel, James and John O'Connor. Arms landed at Howth, Co. Dublin in 1914 were hidden on her family's farm and used to train local volunteers. Fanny was responsible for them until they were moved to Liberty Hall, Dublin, for the 1916 Rising. Fanny was a member of Celbridge Cumann na mBan between 1916 and 1923. From Easter Week 1916 until 1919 Fanny said that she sheltered an executive officer who was on the run, posted bills and distributed leaflets, carried dispatches, and attended first aid classes. She continued her previous activities during the War of Independence, while also providing food and supplies to men on the run. She said she took a period off owing to illness between 01 April 1921 and 01 July 1921. During the Truce Fanny said she raised money for training and assisted with the training camp at Celbridge Workhouse. Fanny took the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War, and brought dispatches to and from G.H.Q. Dublin, sourced clothes, ammunition, and various provisions for the I.R.A. Volunteers in the Leixlip Active Service Unit (Flying Column) under Paddy Mullaney. She also liaised with the Dublin Brigade in the planned attack at Baldonnell Aerodrome, Co. Dublin, in October 1922. Fanny was arrested in Celbridge by National Army troops along with her cousin, Molly Barnewall, on 22 March 1923, brought to Naas Military Barracks and interned

at the North Dublin Union until 08 October 1923. Fanny was awarded a Service Medal but her application for a Military Service pension was unsuccessful. She was awarded a Special Allowance in 1962 but this ceased in 1973 when her yearly means was found to exceed the appropriate annual sum. Her occupation at that time was recorded as a farmer. Her Military Service pension application file includes material related to her incomplete application for a Wound or Disease Pension or Gratuity in respect of an illness that she claimed was a result of being imprisoned in 1923. Fanny died aged eighty-five on 08 July 1980 at Peamount Hospital, Newcastle, Co. Dublin and was buried at Donacumper Cemetery, Celbridge.

**O'Connor, Mary Clara (Molly) née Barnewall**

Born 11 August 1904, Commons, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, of James Barnewall (farmer) and Mary Saul; sister of activists John, Anne and Brigid Barnewall, and a cousin of Art O'Connor T.D. and D. P. O'Connor, Kildare State Solicitor. Molly was a member of Leixlip Cumann na mBan, pre-Truce. She took the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War and was arrested in Celbridge by National Army troops along with her cousin, Fanny O'Connor, on 24 March 1923 and brought to Naas Military Barracks. Her twin brother John was also imprisoned in Newbridge Barracks from October 1922 to October 1923.<sup>81</sup> Molly married John O'Connor (herd) on 19 April 1939 in Maynooth. At the time of her death on 30 October 1946, aged forty-two years, her address was The Demesne, Summerhill, Co. Meath. She was buried in Kilcloon Cemetery, Co. Meath.<sup>82</sup>

**O'Donoghue, Brigid née Hogan**

Born 31 January 1870, Castlefish, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, of John Hogan (farmer) and Catherine Ennis. Brigid was employed as a midwife for the Naas and Caragh district by Kildare County Council. She was a member of Cumann na mBan during the War of Independence, Truce period and Civil War and served as Branch President of Naas Cumann na mBan under the command of Mrs. Kitty Browne. During the War of Independence, she said that

<sup>81</sup> He was later chairman of the committee which sought to have a 1916 memorial erected in Maynooth. John Barnewall died at Naas Hospital aged seventy-one, on 27 April 1976 and was interred in Laraghbryan Cemetery, Maynooth.

<sup>82</sup> *Irish Press*, 01 November 1946.

she took part in giving first-aid lessons, dispatch work, allowing her home to be used for meetings, parades, attending to welfare of I.R.A. prisoners. She took the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War and was engaged in similar activities under the command of Annie Grehan. Brigid (nurse) married Michael O'Donohoe (merchant), a widower, both of Victoria Terrace, in Naas on 10 August 1921. By July 1922 her unit had been re-organised into Naas Branch, 1st Battalion, 7th Brigade (Kildare), Cumann na mBan. She received a Service Medal in 1944 but was not successful in her application for a Military Service pension or a Special Allowance as her yearly means exceeded the appropriate annual sum which in her case was £78.0.0. Her file includes representations by Co. Kildare Association of Old I.R.A. and her former employer, Kildare County Council. Her husband Michael J. (Daddy) O'Donoghue died on 24 December 1955. Brigid died on 19 May 1962, in Harold's Cross Hospice, Dublin, and was buried beside her husband, in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

**O'Dwyer, Mary Agnes, see Fennelly, Mary Agnes**

**O'Neill, Annie, see Lawler, Annie**

**O'Neill, Julia Mary (Gypsy) née Dooley**

Born 28 April 1907, Athy, Co. Kildare, of Michael Dooley (shopkeeper/baker) and Julia Bradley. Her parents ran a grocery business at 41 Duke Street, Athy. Gypsy was a member of Cumann na mBan. She married William (Bill) O'Neill, clerk, of Newbridge, on 21 October 1931. Gypsy died on 30 November 1992 and was interred in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge.

**O'Neill, Sheila Mary** née Buckley (aka Ní Buachalla, Síghle)

Born 11 March 1902, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, of Daniel Richard Buckley<sup>83</sup> (shopkeeper) and Jane Josephine Walsh. She was active as an auxiliary with Maynooth Company, Irish Volunteers. Sheila married former activist Michael O'Neill (farmer) of Weston Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin, on 31 October 1929. She made a successful application for Service Medal which was awarded on 07 July 1969 and was awarded a Special Allowance under the Army Pensions

---

<sup>83</sup> aka Domhnall Ua Buachalla.

Acts in respect of illness or disability in 1975. Sheila later lived at 151 Glenmaroon Road, Palmerstown, Co. Dublin, and died on 23 April 1977. She was buried in Esker Cemetery, Lucan, Co. Dublin (assumed as this was where her husband was buried).

**O'Rourke, Bridget (Bridie), see Byrne, Bridget (Bridie)**

**O'Rourke, Sarah (Sally) née Fitzgerald**

Born 09 February 1886, Eyre Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, of Thomas Fitzgerald (tradesman) and Mary Anne Walsh. She assisted with the organisation of Cumann na mBan in Newbridge in 1917. Sarah worked as secretary for Domhnall Ua Buachalla in the 1918 General Election, while her brother Jack Fitzgerald, O.C. Newbridge Company, Irish Volunteers, was an election agent. Their family home was raided on several occasions by British forces. Sarah collected funds, clothing, and parcels for republican prisoners and their dependents, visited internees in the Curragh Camp, carried ammunition, stored arms at her home and collected and delivered dispatches throughout the War of Independence. On 17 April 1922 Sarah married Patrick Rourke, who was originally from Dalmais, Scotland; both were employed as shop assistants at that time. As her application for a Service Medal (1917-1921) was incomplete no medal was awarded. She was also unsuccessful in applying for a Military Service pension. Sarah died on 11 February 1964, at Lower Eyre Street, Newbridge, aged seventy-eight and was interred in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge.

**Owens, Bridget (Delia), see Daughen, Bridget (Delia)**

**Patterson, Catherine (Kathleen/Kitty), see Browne, Catherine**

**Patterson, Mary Ellen (Daisy), see Collins, Mary Ellen**

**Perkins, Annie**

Born 06 December 1902, Sallins Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, of Thomas Perkins (carpenter) and Mary Cully; sister of activists Tom Perkins and Margaret Herbert. She was a member of Naas Cumann na mBan. Annie applied unsuccessfully for a Military Service pension; however, she did get a Service Medal (1917-1921) without Bar in 1944, and a special allowance under the Army

Pensions Acts from 1956 until her death. Annie said she served with Cumann na mBan between 1918 and 1923. Her Military Pensions file includes representations on her behalf from Thomas O'Callaghan, Secretary, Old I.R.A. All Ireland Pools, Poplar Square, Naas, and Patrick O'Carroll, Naas Branch, Co. Kildare Association of Old I.R.A., while her medal application was signed by James Dunne, Michael Smyth, William Daly and Kathleen Browne. Annie died on 13 June 1965<sup>84</sup> in St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, and was buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

**Perkins, Margaret Mary, see Herbert, Margaret Mary**

**Phelan, Christina Mary née Malone**

Born 25 December 1899, Barrowhouse, Co. Laois, of James Malone (farmer) and Mary Brennan; sister of activist Edward Malone.<sup>85</sup> She was a Captain of Athy Cumann na mBan. Christina married Nicholas Phelan (storeman) Haddington Road, Dublin, on 05 June 1946. She later lived at 1 Convent View, Athy, Co. Kildare where she died in February 1987, aged eighty-seven years. No further information could be found.

**Pringle Rose Anne, see Hutton, Rose Anne**

**Rafferty, Margaret née McDonald**

Born 28 January 1878, Naas, Co. Kildare, of Daniel McDonald (printer) and Mary Phelan. She married Peter Rafferty (labourer) on 31 August 1894, in Naas. Peter died in 1910 aged thirty-seven. Margaret was the mother of activists Joseph and John Rafferty. She was referred to as a referee/witness in the military pension application of Brigid Agnes O'Donoghue. She died at her home, Sallins Road, Naas, on 05 November 1942, aged sixty-four years, and was buried in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

**Reilly, Annie née Moore**

Born 13 August 1896, Whylam, (Rathbride Bridge or Mooresbridge), Pollardstown, Co. Kildare, of John Moore (carpenter) and Anne Moore; sister of activists, Bryan,<sup>86</sup> Pat and Johnny Moore. She

<sup>84</sup> Civil death record date of death 19 June. St. Corban's Register of Interments 13 June.

<sup>85</sup> Edward (Eamon) Malone, see Durney, James, *Stand You Now for Ireland's Cause*. p. 245.

<sup>86</sup> Bernard (Bryan) Moore, see Durney, James, *Stand You Now for Ireland's Cause*. p. 271.

was a member of the republican movement during the War of Independence and carried messages and dispatches. She was arrested at Rathbride on 13 December 1922, along with ten other anti-Treaty republicans of the Rathbride Column; charged with possession of a Webley revolver and detained at Mountjoy Jail, Dublin. Her fiancée, Paddy Nolan (they were to be married on St. Stephen's Day 1922), and her brother, Bryan Moore, were executed by firing squad on 19 December 1922 in the Military Prison, Curragh Camp. Annie was transferred to Kilmainham Jail on 6 February 1923 and Mountjoy Jail on 26 March 1923; she was moved to the North Dublin Union on 26 April. She went on hunger-strike for eighteen days and was released in December 1923. She returned to Mooresbridge and married Bernard (Ben) Reilly on 26 October 1927 (no occupations of either on their marriage record); they moved to Ballymany, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, in 1940. Annie died at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, on 23 May 1953, aged fifty-seven, and was interred in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge.

**Saul, Mary, see Barnewall, Mary**

**Scanlan, Brigid, see McGeehan, Brigid**

**Scully, Ellen, see Coffey, Ellen**

**Thompson, Bridget née Lawlor**

Born 28 September 1903, Kilgowan, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, of Christopher Lawlor (farmer) and Anne O'Neill. Bridget (farmer) married Joseph Thompson (farmer), both of Kilgowan, Kilcullen, on 26 November 1941. She was a member of Cumann na mBan Carlow Brigade. Bridget applied unsuccessfully for a Service Medal (1917-1921). She died in June 1976<sup>87</sup> and was buried in Gormanstown Graveyard, Kilcullen.

**Vaughan, Christina, see Dillon, Christina**

**Wallace, Elizabeth (Lily), see O'Connor, Elizabeth (Lily)**

**Wallace, Ellen (Nellie)**

Born 24 November 1890, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, of Edmund (Edward) Wallace (railway porter) and Bridget Gainey, the family

<sup>87</sup> *Nationalist and Leinster Times*, 02 July 1976, no day of death recorded.

was later recorded as living at Eyre Street, Newbridge. She was a sister of activists Patrick, John and Edward Wallace, and Lily O'Connor; their father, Edward, served as a Newbridge Town Commissioner. Nellie joined Cumann na mBan in Newbridge on the formation of the branch in the summer of 1917 under the command of Nellie Kilbride (née Kearns). Between 1917 and 1918 she said she took part in dispatch work, fundraising, bill posting and 'Belfast Boycott' work. During the War of Independence, she was Branch Secretary of Newbridge Cumann na mBan and was engaged in purchasing small amounts of ammunition from British soldiers, sending food to I.R.A. prisoners in Ballykinlar Internment Camp, Co. Down, and the Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare. She was arrested by the R.I.C. on 19 April 1921 and held for two days. Nellie also stated she was a dispatch courier between Newbridge/Naas and Newbridge/Kildare and delivered dispatches for Michael Collins (Director of Intelligence) to Barry's Hotel, Gardiner Row, Dublin; Brennan and Walsh, O'Connell Street and 27 Dawson Street. She was also a dispatch link between Collins and Seán Kavanagh<sup>88</sup> (I.R.A. Intelligence Officer). Nellie unsuccessfully applied for a Military Service pension under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1934, claiming membership of Cumann na mBan between 1917 and 1923. She was awarded a Service Medal (1917-1921) in 1943. Taking the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War, Nellie said that under the command of Miss Peg Daly, she took part in helping seventy I.R.A. prisoners escape via a tunnel from Tintown Internment Camp, the Curragh, by providing wire cutters and chisels; she also carried dispatches from prisoners in the internment camps to Dublin in early 1923. She was arrested on 03 March 1923 with her sister, Lily Wallace, at their home after her name appeared on captured documents. Nellie was interned in Kilmainham Jail, Dublin, and the North Dublin Union until 19 October 1923. Subsequently Nellie opened a hostel in Newbridge Town Hall with her sister, Lily. They provided beds, clothing, and financial aid to I.R.A. men who had released from the various internment camps until late January 1924. She said that the sisters Peg and Lucy Daly had opened a similar venture in Kildare. Nellie applied successfully

---

88 Seán Kavanagh, see Durney, James, *Stand You Now for Ireland's Cause*. p. 197.

for a disability pension and was awarded a £120 per annum wound pension from 01 April 1935 to 28 February 1943. This was increased to £150 per annum from 01 March 1944. Nellie claimed that she had contracted chronic bronchitis because of a bad cold and sleeping for several weeks on a floor without bedding during her imprisonment in Kilmainham Jail, Dublin, in the Civil War period. Nellie, a housekeeper, died aged fifty-nine, on 18 January 1950 and was buried in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge.

**Walsh, Mary Josephine (May), see Keating, Mary Josephine (May)**

**Ward, Bridget**

Born 22 March 1896, Blackwood, Robertstown, Co. Kildare, of Mathew Ward (labourer) and Bridget Geraghty; sister of activist Michael Ward. She was a member of Cumann na mBan. Bridget died of tuberculosis aged twenty on 18 October 1916. No further information could be found.

**Whelan, Margaret Mary née Murphy**

Born 16 May 1902, Main Street, Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare, of Daniel Murphy (grocer) and Teresa Healy; sister of activists Bridget Nugent and Peter Murphy. Later lived at Chapel Street, Ballymore Eustace. A member of Ballymore Eustace Cumann na mBan, she was only sixteen when she collected money for the 1918 General Election. Margaret said she served with Cumann na mBan between 1919 and 1921, and said she was Company/Branch Secretary. She said that she carried dispatches, attended first aid and signalling classes, undertook a three-week training camp, raised funds for the I.R.A. and parcels for prisoners. Margaret was later secretary of the local branch of the White Cross and took the anti-Treaty side during the Civil War. Margaret married Thomas Joseph Whelan (grocer) on 27 April 1927 in Ballymore Eustace. Her Service Medal was finally issued on 17 August 1956, but her Military Service pension application was not successful, despite extensive supporting references from her various commanding officers. Margaret died at her residence, Chapel Street, Ballymore Eustace, on 20 April 1990 aged eighty-eight, and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ballymore Eustace.

**Whyte, Mary (May/ Maisie), see Cassidy, Mary (May/ Maisie)**

**Wilmot, Anne (Annie), see Jones, Anne (Annie)**

**Wright, Mary**

Born 28 December 1901<sup>89</sup>, Hackla (Hacklow), Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, of Terence Wright (tailor) and Eliza Neill; sister of activists Patrick, Robert and Thomas Wright. She was a member of Kilcullen Cumann na mBan, pre-Truce. Her application for a Service Medal was unsuccessful as her service could not be established. She died in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Co. Kildare, on 16 June 1979 and was buried in Rathnew Cemetery, Kilcullen.

---

<sup>89</sup> On civil birth record 27 December and on Service Medal application file (MD4649) 28 December.

## **Sources**

ancestry.com

britishnewspaperarchive.com

census.nationalarchives.ie

findmypast.ie

irishgenealogy.ie

irishnewspaperarchive.com

kildare.ie/ehistory

kildarecoco.ie/library

militaryarchives.ie

rootsireland.ie

## **Bibliography**

Coleman, M. *Compensating Irish female revolutionaries, 1916-1923* in *Women's History Review*, 27(6), 915-934, (2017) <https://doi.org/10.1080/09612025.2016.1237002>

Corrigan, M., Durney, J., Kiely, K. et al. A *Timeline of the Civil War in County Kildare 1922-1924*. (2022).

Corrigan, M., Durney, J., Kiely, K. et al. A *Timeline of the War of Independence in County Kildare 1919-1922*. (2021).

Corrigan, Mario & Durney, James. *Poems by Thomas Behan*. Kildare, (2021).

Cummins, Seamus A. 'Mullaney's Men.' *The rise and fall of the anti-Treaty forces in North Kildare, Grangewilliam, 1922*. Kildare, (2022).

Durney, James. *Stand You Now for Ireland's Cause. A biographical dictionary of Co. Kildare republican activists 1913-1923*. (2023).

McCarthy, Cal. *Cumann na mBan and the Irish Revolution 1914-1923*. (2007).

McCoole, Sinead, *No Ordinary Women, Irish Female Activists in the Revolutionary Years 1900-1923*. (2003).

MacCurtain, Margaret, 'The Historical Image' in *Irish Women: Image and achievement*. Ní Chuilleanáin, Eiléan (ed.) (1985).

Matthews, Ann, *Dissidents. Irish Republican Women 1923-41*. (2012).

O'Connor, Dr. Éimear. *Seán Keating: Art, Politics and Building the Irish Nation*. (2013).

## Appendix I

### *Membership of Cumann na mBan by branch*

<i>Cumann na mBan Branch</i>	<i>No of Members</i>
Naas	17
Ballymore Eustace	11
Athy	10
Newbridge	9
Leixlip	9
Kill	6
Castledermot	6
Kildare Town	6
Rathangan	4
Kilcullen	4
Cloncurry	3
Clogherinka	2
Central Branch, Dublin	2
Carlow	2
Celbridge	2
Dublin	2
Kilgowan	2
Maganey	1
Prosperous	1
Maynooth	1
Kilcullen	1
Moone	1
Barrowhouse	1
Unknown/Not a formal member	33

## Appendix II

### *Burial Place*

<i>Place of Burial</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas	19
St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge	9
St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy	8
Donaghacumper Cemetery, Celbridge	8
St. Conleth's Cemetery, Kildare Town	4
Other	62
Unknown	26





**Comhairle Contae Chill Dara**  
**Kildare County Council**



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

**Karel Kiely is the County Kildare archivist. She is the author of several local history and genealogy publications and holds a Masters in Local History. She was a member of the Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee.**

ISBN 978-1-83826-809-1



9 781838 268091