

2016 *Family History*

LEARNING RESOURCE



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*

*Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

19
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2016

*Clár Comórtha
Céad Bliain
Centenary
Programme*

Introduction

The Project

This project encourages students to create a family tree which takes them back to life as experienced by their ancestors in 1916. In this way students can gain an understanding of the social and political conditions of the period.

Intended as a ‘voyage of discovery’, there are no rigid rules. The subject of the project can come from the student’s own family, or a person from their own locality. The project may be attempted by individual students or a group of students. Check [the full briefing notes](#) on Scoilnet 1916 Ancestry Project.

Students at all levels, primary to senior post-primary may attempt the research at appropriate difficulty levels. This is entirely at the discretion of the class teacher.

Students whose families originally came from outside of Ireland may wish to trace their family’s roots back to where they were living in 1916.

Case Studies

Two case studies illustrate a possible approach to the relevant online archives. Only sources available in the key archives are used. Each case study investigates a lesser known aspect or event in the lives of Seán Mac Diarmada and Seán Lemass in 1916.

Seán Lemass and Seán Mac Diarmada

Both were in the GPO during Easter Week, but apart from that shared experience, their paths to the Rising were very different: Lemass, an unknown 16 year old, had been a member of the Volunteers for only fifteen months, while Mac Diarmada was one of the key planners of the Rising and a well known figure in Nationalist Ireland.

After the Rising, their fate was equally very different: Lemass was quickly released from detention because of his youth and he would eventually become Taoiseach of the independent state. Mac Diarmada was to die by firing squad within a fortnight of the surrender of the rebels.

Starting The Project

1. **Locate and gather** the evidence, consulting the core websites for family research, and find the relevant Church, Civil and Census records. If your subject was politically involved, search the records in the Bureau of Military History and Military Pensions collections.

Offline, gather any information in your family or locality about your subject. Scan any photographs or medals, and photograph buildings or artefacts which might illustrate the social conditions in 1916.

Browse the other websites listed for a variety of relevant links, to interactive maps, video and audio clips, and historic photographs.

Templates: Family Tree – Transcription form for Census 1901 and 1911 ([Pg 18](#)); Census form advice sheet.

2. **Log, organise and analyse** your sources. Make a list of the sources you have consulted and state in what way you have found a source useful. **Template:** ([Pg 19](#))

3. **Present and Publish.** Once the project is completed in your chosen format, upload to [Scoilnet 1916 Ancestry Project](#).

Templates

The following templates can be found at the end of this PDF;

- Transcription form for Census 1901 & 1911
- Comparison sheet for Census forms 1901/1911
- Record sheet for listing and evaluating the sources used
- Census Advice sheet
- Advice sheet for research

Online resources

Key Archives

1. Irish Genealogy.ie

A portal site for key **Church** and **Civil** records. Fully searchable under multiple headings, 'person', 'location', 'date'.

2. The National Archives

A portal repository for the essential records of this period, including:

- **Census of 1901 and 1911**
- **Contextual information on early 20th century Ireland**
- **Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) Movement of Extremists, 29 March 1915 – 20 April 1916**

3. Bureau of Military History

Witness statements, contemporary documents and a small collection of images and audio recordings, relating to the 1916 Rising and the War of Independence. Fully searchable under name and location. Covers the period 1913 – 1921. Guide to the collection here.

4. Military Service Pension Files

Military Pensions Collection: Files relating to individuals with recognised service during the 1916 Rising, the War of Independence and the Civil War who applied for pensions. Complements the Bureau of Military History collection. Fully searchable.

Rising in Transition: a collection of 1916 themed lesson plans for transition year students.

● All highlighted text links to Web or Video content

Additional Resources

5. The National Library

An online document based exhibition, entitled **The 1916 Rising: Personalities and Perspectives**, affords a comprehensive historical overview of the Rising.

Digital photographic collection which illustrates the social conditions of Ireland from the late 19th century.

6. Newspapers

Includes both National and local papers

- Irish Times Archives (available free of charge through schools and within public libraries in Ireland).
- Irish Newspaper Archives (available free of charge within public libraries in Ireland).

7. Dictionary of Irish Biography

Available free of charge to students through **Scoilnet** and within libraries in Ireland.

8. RTE: Century Ireland:

An online historical newspaper which provides a wealth of visual, archival and contextual material recounting the story of the events of Irish life 100 years ago.

9. RTÉ Archives

Unique collection of film and radio interviews with those who were key witnesses to the events of the Rising and War of Independence.

They Remember 1916: Seven radio interviews, recorded in 1946 with individuals who had personal recollections of the 1916 Rising.

The Survivors: Five TV interviews, recorded in 1964 but never previously broadcast, with individuals who had taken part in the Easter Rising and the War of Independence.

They Were There: Fifty witness accounts of 1916 events on interactive map. An interactive map of Revolutionary Dublin with accompanying accounts from individuals who witnessed events taking place on the streets.

Golden Jubilee: Footage from events around the country during the commemorations in 1966.

10. Google Tour of the 1916 Rising

A virtual tour through the key sites and events of the rebellion.

11. The Irish Revolution

A collaborative online project between University College Cork and the Irish Examiner, which highlights many of the events in the south.

12. Dublin City Library

Holds some unique items which casts a different light on the events of Easter week including the **1916 Rising Dublin Fire Brigade Logbook**.

13. Leinster House Historical Talks

A series of **short lectures from Leinster House** on topics relevant to 1916, including Women and 1916.

14. The Irish Flag

An educational site, dealing with **the history of the tricolour** which was raised at the GPO during Easter week.

15. TCD: Changed Utterly: Ireland and the Easter Rising

Varied collection of diaries, photos, letters and pamphlets drawn from the Library of TCD.

16. UCD: The History Hub

A series of **podcasts, documents and research papers** relating to the 1916 Rising.

17. Maynooth: The Letters of 1916

An **online collection of letters** about Ireland written around the time of the Easter Rising. See **Rising in Transition**.



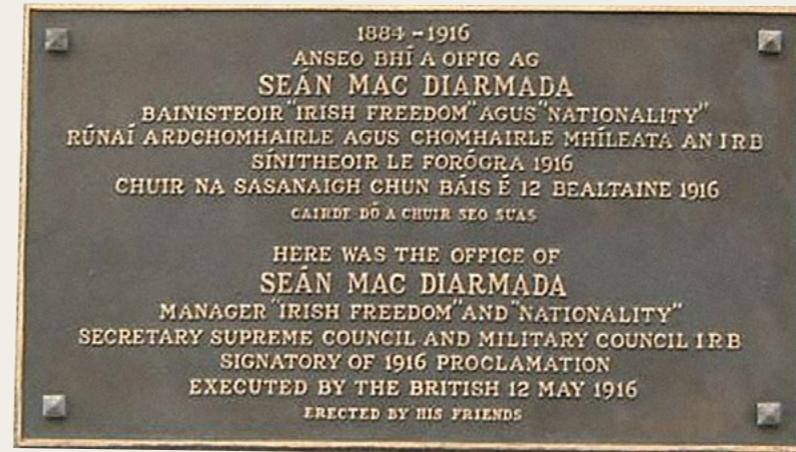
"JOHN DALY." "THOMAS J. CLARK." SEAN McDERMOT."
COPYRIGHT.

RESEARCH PROFILE

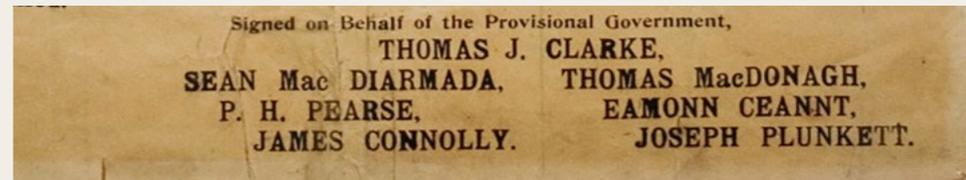
Seán Mac Diarmada

Public and private life: discovery in the archives

The Public Man in 1916: an introduction



This plaque (above) placed at the site of Seán Mac Diarmada's office at No. 12, D'Olier Street, Dublin, highlights his roles; as secretary of the Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB); as manager of *Irish Freedom* (the paper of the IRB) and *Nationality* (edited by Arthur Griffith) and as signatory of the Proclamation in 1916. He was executed on 12th May 1916.



(Above) His name follows that of Tom Clarke on the **Proclamation of 1916**. Together, they are regarded as the key architects of the Rising.

This photograph (left) shows the 60 year old Tom Clarke at the back with John Daly, Fenian, uncle of Kathleen Clarke and Ned Daly (also executed in 1916) and the young bearded Seán Mac Diarmada seated in the front. Taken in 1915, at the request of Seán Mac Diarmada.

These represent the well-known and public aspects of Mac Diarmada. However, by examining the oral accounts, official reports and private letters, it is now possible to gain a more intimate view of the private man and his world.

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Mac Diarmada

The Rising: behind the scenes

Good Friday 1916 in the Red Bank restaurant, D'Olier Street, Dublin

Through the evidence in the witness statements of his immediate circle, we can follow him across the street from his office at No 12 D'Olier Street and into the Red Bank restaurant at no. 19 – 20 on Good Friday, where several of the diners on that fateful day were absorbed in putting into place the plans which were meant to shape the events of the coming week.

In the extract below, Diarmuid Lynch describes the pivotal moment when Mac Diarmada distributed the plans of each building which are to be seized by the rebels to him and his handing on of the sketch of the Four Courts to Ned Daly:

On Good Friday while MacDermott and myself lunched at the Red Bank Restaurant (as we frequently did) Sean handed back to me the sketches for the Four Courts, Jacobs, South Dublin Union, and Bolands areas for delivery to the respective Commandants. That afternoon I handed them in person to Ned Daly at the Red Bank (where he and Piaras Beaslaoi) also had lunch: to

Statement of Diarmuid Lynch: WS 4, p25, par.2

- Diarmuid Lynch from Cork served in the GPO garrison. He was sentenced to death, but this was changed to 10 years penal servitude as he had American citizenship.
- Ned (Edward) Daly, from Limerick who occupied the Four Courts on Easter Monday. He was executed on 4th May in Kilmainham.
- Piaras Béaslaí, from Liverpool who was second in command to Ned Daly in the Four Courts. He was sentenced to five years penal servitude.

James Ryan describes Mac Diarmada's request to him to carry a secret order that evening to Tomás Mac Curtain, one of the Volunteer leaders in Cork.

On Good Friday, 1916, at lunch in the Red Bank Restaurant, Seán McDermott asked me if I would take a despatch to Cork that evening. I was only too glad to

Statement of James Ryan: WS 70, p1, par.1

- James Ryan from Wexford served as medical officer in the GPO.

Min Ryan captures the tension and sense of mystery in the dining room that afternoon:

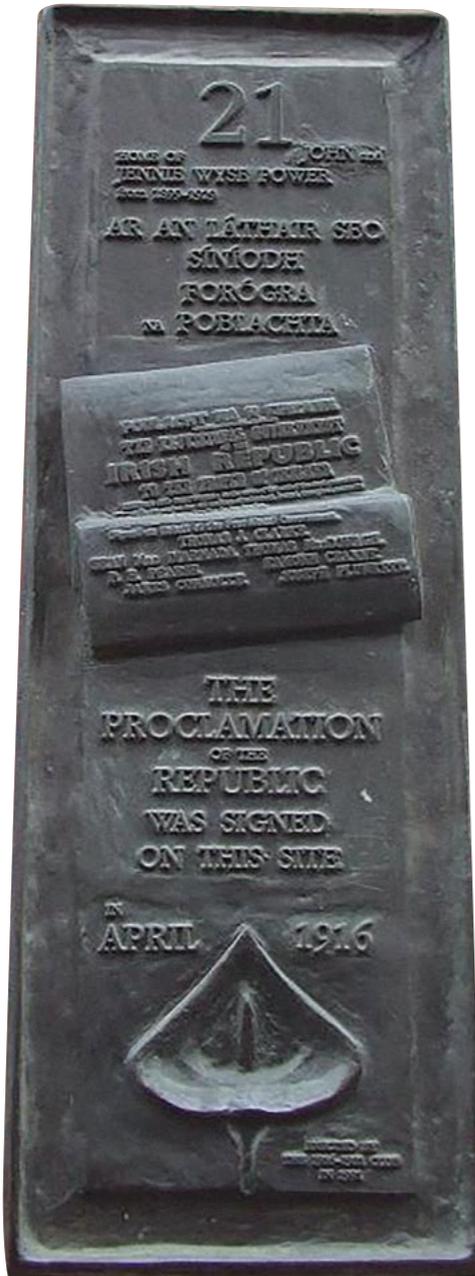
I hardly saw Sean MacDermott again except on Good Friday in the Red Bank. Gearoid O'Sullivan and himself were having dinner. I don't remember with whom I was on that occasion. I only exchanged a few words with him. They were all at fever pitch and sort of secretive. Of course, you can understand it, when you realise what happened subsequently.

Statement of Mary Josephine Mulcahy : WS 399, p7, par. 2

- Min Ryan (Mary Josephine Mulcahy), from Wexford, sister to James Ryan. She served in the GPO and carried dispatches in and out of the building for Pearse and the O'Rahilly.
- Gearóid O'Sullivan, from Cork. He is credited with raising the tricolour over the GPO. He was interned in Frongoch, Wales.

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Mac Diarmada



Plaque in Henry Street, which commemorates the signing of the Proclamation.

Mac Diarmada's social life: new perspectives

If D'Olier Street was the axis of his political life, the witness statements also offer glimpses of his social life.

Around Grafton Street

Coming from the Volunteer offices at no. 2 Dawson, Street he would drop into the Bailey in Duke Street for a smoke and a drink and meet like-minded friends, such as Jack Morrow, the artist, or Piaras Béaslaí, the journalist, for a chat. The Ryan sisters met him in nearby Bewleys for a coffee almost on a daily basis.

Ranelagh

He was a frequent visitor to the Ryan home, at 19 Ranelagh Road. Mary Kate (Kit) Ryan was a lecturer in French in UCD, while Min taught night classes in French and German in the Rathmines Commercial College (full biographical details: on-line version Dictionary of Irish Biography).

Both sisters were very involved in the Sinn Féin movement and members of other radical groups.

Here in No. 19, university students and lecturers, journalists, writers and political activists would gather on Sunday nights. According to Min, it was all very light-hearted: good conversation, singing and recitations of patriotic poems. Tea and buns were served throughout the night.

One of those visitors was Monsignor Pádraig de Brún, Professor of Mathematics in Maynooth, who considered Mac Diarmada as 'very well read, especially in history, and with a fair grasp of the Irish language'.

Henry Street

During the week, he was known to walk the short distance from D'Olier Street down Sackville Street (O'Connell Street), passing the GPO, turning into Henry Street to the restaurant, **The Irish Farm Produce Company**, which was a few doors down at No. 21.

Owned by Jennie Wyse Power, (nationalist, feminist, a founding member of Cumann na mBan) and her husband John, the restaurant was a well known meeting place for **Arthur Griffith** and other leading members of Sinn Féin. According to Nancy Wyse Power (Jennie's daughter), Mac Diarmada was 'constantly there'. She also states the Proclamation was signed in a private room upstairs, in the evening of Wednesday 19th April,.

No. 5 Lower Abbey Street

The **Ship hotel and tavern** was owned by Alderman John Davin. He is described by Michael Noyk as 'a good nationalist and [the tavern] was a rendezvous for all types of Irish separatists'.

Mac Diarmada went there regularly for lunch and was seen there on Holy Saturday evening. Noyk in his statement, describes going in there that night and sensing an atmosphere of 'unwonted excitement'. 'Men who frequented the place and who normally appeared to be joking and laughing were now all engaged in serious conversations'.

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Mac Diarmada



Studio photograph of Mac Diarmada



Tom Clarke seen outside his shop in 75a Parnell Street

DBC Luncheon Rooms in ruins in May 1916

Personal traits and traumas

Described in his early life as energetic, athletic and strong, he tirelessly toured the country as a Sinn Féin organiser. All that changed in the Autumn of 1911 when he contracted a form of polio which left him with a 'crippled left leg' and other infirmities. When he left hospital after four months, he was described as 'unrecognisable'. From then on, he could only walk with the aid of a stick.

Despite this, he is invariably described in witness statements as 'always in good humour, 'light-hearted', 'fond of a joke' 'sociable', 'outgoing'. Both men and women refer to him as 'lovable', noting his good looks, in particular, 'his kindly eyes', and 'his broad smile'. Some likened him to Michael Collins in his infectious enthusiasm.

The DBC Luncheon and Tea Rooms, Sackville Street

Bob Brennan from Wexford paints a vivid picture of meeting him in another restaurant, the DBC Luncheon Rooms, 5 – 6 Sackville Street (O'Connell Street) on the corner with Abbey Street. This was yet another place where the Ryan sisters and other young nationalists like Seán T O'Kelly and Mac Diarmada socialised.

After a while I heard a shout from the doorway and looked up to see the pale bright face of Sean McDermott, a man who had more personal charm than anyone I have ever known. Laughing gaily and dragging his crippled leg, he came towards us

Statement of Robert Brennan: WS 779, p23, par.2

Official 'Diary': Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP), (Movement of Extremists files)

The detective unit of the DMP kept a daily diary of a different kind, carefully tracking the comings and goings of John McDermott and the other 'suspects' as they went about their business, e.g.

- 1915 December 23rd 'With Thomas J Clarke at his shop in 75a Parnell Street... Joseph Murray, John McDermott and John McGarry for half an hour, between 8-9 p.m'. [both Murray and McGarry were both IRB members who later served in the GPO]
- 1915 December 24th 'Thomas J Clarke and John Mc Dermott left Kingsbridge Station by 6.15 train en route to Limerick. RIC informed...'

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Mac Diarmada



Part 1: Social & personal —the early years

The information in Census forms for 1901 and 1911, uncover details and influences of his early life which point to the man whom we encounter in 1916.

Mac Diarmada grew up in this house very similar to those of his neighbours in the townland of Laghty Barr. In the Census forms, they are all described as farmers and many are elderly. The MacDermotts have the largest and youngest family.

Source 1

The 1901 Census, Laghty Barr, Leitrim. (Pg 9)

According to the information in the Census, the McDermotts live in House No 1 in the **townland** of Laghty Barr, which is in the **DED** of Glenfarne, **Co Leitrim**

- What language is used to fill the form?
- What version of his (Mac Diarmada) name is used in the form?
- What was his father's occupation?
- How many boys and girls were in the family?
- What information is given for each person in the language column, entitled Irish language

Source 2

The 1911 Census, Laghty Barr, Leitrim. (Pg 10)

According to the information in this Census, the family is still living here, but note the various **changes** which have taken place in ten years. Use worksheet ,

- How many of the original family are gone from the house?
- Who is now living there?
- What language is used to fill the form?

What information is given for each person in the language column, entitled **Irish language**? How does this differ from the previous census?

Source 3

The 1911 Census, 15 Russell Place, Dublin. (Pg 11)

By 1911, Mac Diarmada, aged 26, was living in Russell Place, Dublin. His life had changed considerably. He is now involved in many of the key organisations, both cultural and political.

Examine the census return for the lodging house and answer the following questions:

- In what language do he and the other lodgers fill the form?
- In column 4, he describes his religion as 'náisúntacht na hÉireann'. '**nationalism of Ireland**'. How does the enumerator translate this?
- In column 9, marital status, he describes himself as 'single' but 'not for long' ('aonta, ach ní fada a bheidh').
- In column 15, under 'infirmity', he describes himself as 'croí briste' – 'm'aontacht', / broken hearted because of being single.

Source 4

Census Day, 2 April, 1911

The DMP (Dublin Metropolitan Police) assisted as enumerators in Dublin. This included the distribution, collation and collection of the forms. **Read an account of Dublin on 2nd April >**

Your verdict

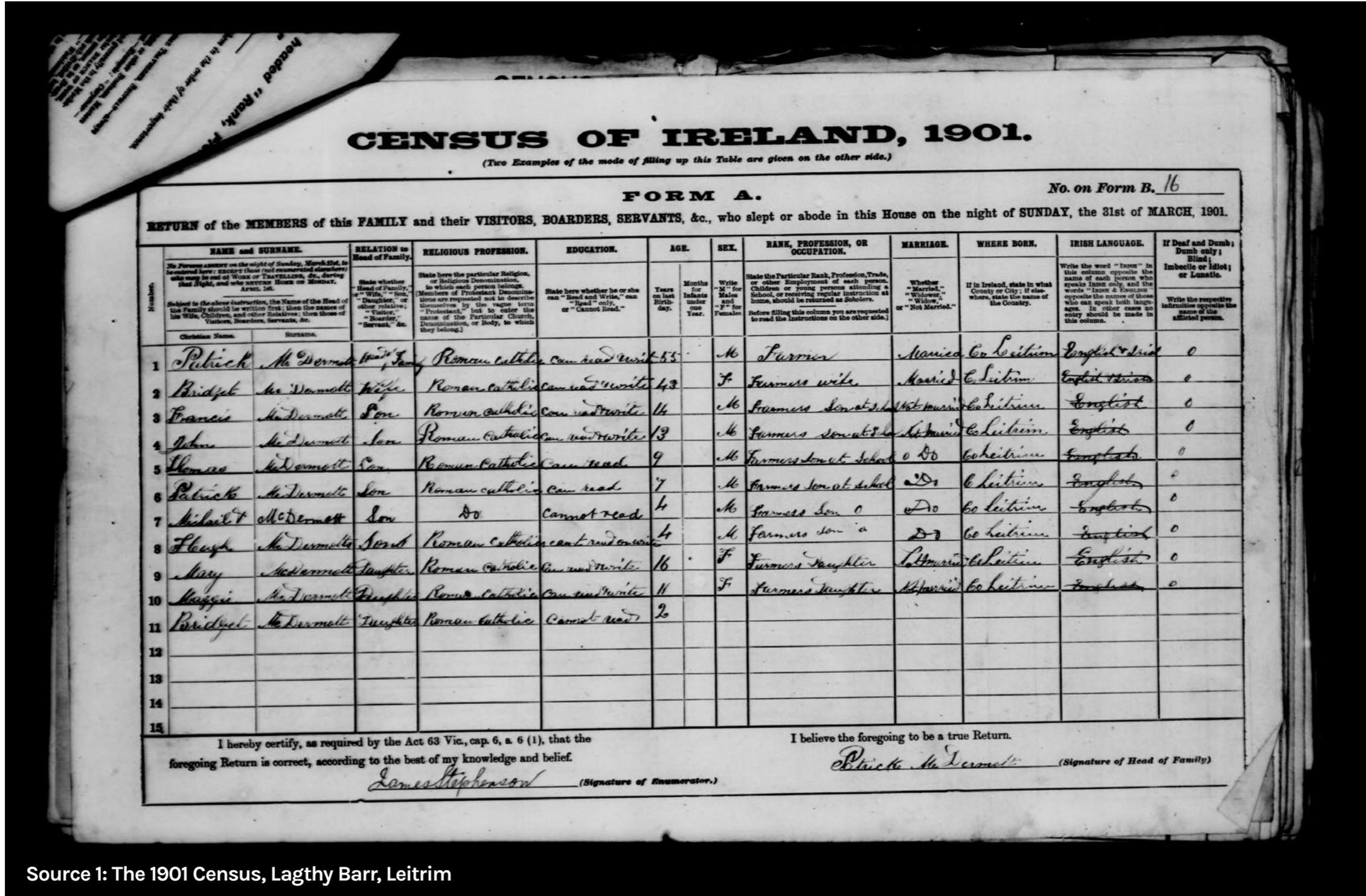
Using information from all the primary and secondary sources (Source 4) above, what do think was the motivation of those who filled the form in Irish?

- Why did they feel the need to protest?
- How does the official translate the Irish entries in the form from Russell Place?

- Why did the official feel he had to translate parts of the answer into English?
- What popular cultural organisation would have best represented Mac Diarmada's views, as revealed in these sources?

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Mac Diarmada



CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.

(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A.

No. on Form B. 16

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

Number.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Lunatic; or Lunatic.
	Christian Name.	SURNAME.										
1	Patrick	Mc Dermott	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Can read & write	55	M	Farmer	Married	Co Leitrim	English & Irish	0
2	Bridget	Mc Dermott	Wife	Roman Catholic	Can read & write	43	F	Farmer's wife	Married	Co Leitrim	English & Irish	0
3	Francis	Mc Dermott	Son	Roman Catholic	Can read & write	14	M	Farmer's son at school	Not married	Co Leitrim	English	0
4	John	Mc Dermott	Son	Roman Catholic	Can read & write	13	M	Farmer's son at school	Not married	Co Leitrim	English	0
5	Thomas	Mc Dermott	Son	Roman Catholic	Can read	9	M	Farmer's son at school	0 Do	Co Leitrim	English	0
6	Patrick	Mc Dermott	Son	Roman Catholic	Can read	7	M	Farmer's son at school	Do	Co Leitrim	English	0
7	Michael	Mc Dermott	Son	Do	Cannot read	4	M	Farmer's son	Do	Co Leitrim	English	0
8	Hugh	Mc Dermott	Son	Roman Catholic	Can't read or write	4	M	Farmer's son	Do	Co Leitrim	English	0
9	Mary	Mc Dermott	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Can read & write	16	F	Farmer's daughter	Not married	Co Leitrim	English	0
10	Maggie	Mc Dermott	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Can read & write	11	F	Farmer's daughter	Not married	Co Leitrim	English	0
11	Bridget	Mc Dermott	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	2	F					
12												
13												
14												
15												

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 63 Vic., cap. 6, a 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

James Stephenson (Signature of Enumerator.)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

Patrick Mc Dermott (Signature of Head of Family)

Source 1: The 1901 Census, Laghty Barr, Leitrim

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Mac Diarmada

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

FORM A. No. on Form B. 1

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

Number.	NAME AND SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.			WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Insert Age opposite each name:—the Ages of Males in column 6, and the Ages of Females in column 7. For Infants under one year state the age in months, as "under 1 month," "1 month," "2 months," &c.	Whether "Married," "Widower," "Widow," or "Single."		Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.	Total Children born alive.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
1	Seán	Mac Diarmada	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	84	—	Farmer	Married	—	—	Leitrim	Irish	
2	Pat	Mac Diarmada	Wife	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	42	—	Farmer	Married	7	3	Leitrim	Irish	
3	Mary	Mac Diarmada	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	38	—	Farmer	Married	9	3	Leitrim	Irish	
4	Donald	Mac Diarmada	Son	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	6	—	Farmer	Single	—	—	Leitrim	Irish	
5	John	Mac Diarmada	Son	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	4	—	Farmer	Single	—	—	Leitrim	Irish	
6	Patrick	Mac Diarmada	Son	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	2	—	Farmer	Single	—	—	Leitrim	Irish	
7	James	Mac Diarmada	Son	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	2	—	Farmer	Single	—	—	Leitrim	Irish	
8														
9														
10														
11														
12														
13														
14														
15														

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII., and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

James Finn Signature of Enumerator.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.
Seán Mac Diarmada Signature of Head of Family.

Source 2: The 1911 Census, Laghty Barr, Leitrim

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Mac Diarmada

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.
FORM A. No. on Form B. 15

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

Number.	NAME AND SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.			WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Insert Age opposite each name:—the Ages of Males in column 6, and the Ages of Females in column 7.	Whether "Married," "Widower," "Widow," or "Single."		Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.	Total Children born alive.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
1	Elizabeth	Drumme	Head of Family	Catholic	Reads & Write	32	Householder	Widow	—	—	—	Co. Mayo	English	—
2			Family											
3	Mary	Gaughran	Sister	Catholic	Reads & Write	31	Dress maker	Married	8	1	1	Co. Mayo	English	—
4														
5	Patricia	Gaughran	Niece	Catholic	Reads & Write	9	Scholar	—	—	—	—	Dublin City	English	—
6	Conchubair	O'Connell	Visitor	Catholic	Veigean & popobair	28	Clereac	Son	—	—	—	Co. Lunnainn	Gaeilge & Beurla	—
7														
8	Seán	Mac Diarmada	Visitor	Catholic	Veigean & popobair	XXV	Clereac	Son	—	—	—	Co. Wick	Gaeilge & Beurla	—
9														
10	Pádraig	O'Murphy	Visitor	Catholic	Veigean & popobair	19	Clereac	Son	—	—	—	Co. Wick	Gaeilge & Beurla	—
11														
12	Una	Ní Dúda	Visitor	Catholic	Veigean & popobair	17	Clereac	Son	—	—	—	Co. Wick	Gaeilge & Beurla	—
13	Mairéad	Ní Dúda	Visitor	Catholic	Veigean & popobair	19	Clereac	Son	—	—	—	Co. Wick	Gaeilge & Beurla	—
14														
15														

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII., and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Hugh Roddy P.E. 143.6. Signature of Enumerator.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.
Elizabeth Drumme. Signature of Head of Family.

Source 3: The 1911 Census, 15 Russell Place, Dublin

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Mac Diarmada

Part 2: love & war

Unusually for an official document, Mac Diarmada supplied some very personal information in his 1911 form, stating, he ‘wouldn’t be single for long’.

In your opinion, was he using the census as a form of private diary, as a joke, or as a protest against the forms not being available in Irish?

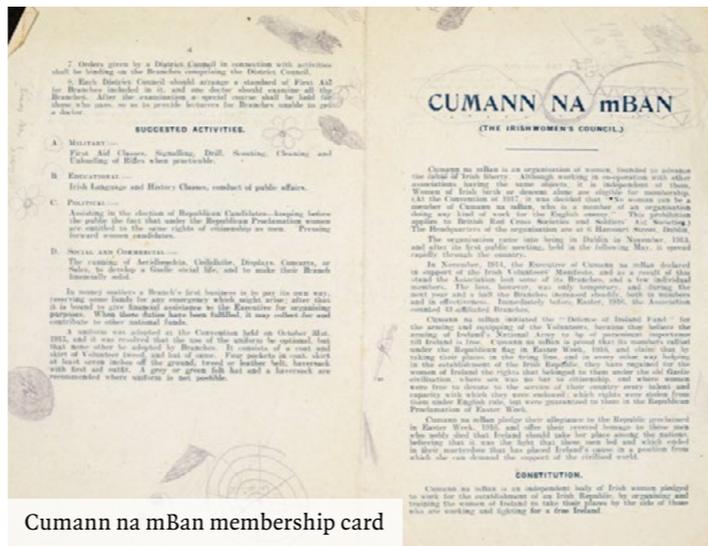


Min Ryan

Romance & Rebellion in 1916

Min Ryan and Mac Diarmada first met first in 1905 and kept in contact over the years while she was teaching abroad. They were considered engaged from 1914 onwards. She is described as [Mac Diarmada’s] ‘sentimental attachment... very serious’, by his friend Pádraig de Brún.

From a political family, Min was involved with Sinn Féin from the beginning and a leading member of Cumann na mBan. From 1915 onwards, she was very active as Secretary of the organisation in 2 Dawson Street, Dublin.



Cumann na mBan membership card

Witness statement of Min Ryan (Mulcahy)

Min Ryan’s testimony is important for various reasons. Unlike Grace Plunket, Muriel Mac Donagh, Kathleen Clarke and Lily Connolly who were identified as the ‘widows of the 1916 leaders’, whose stories became well known, little is remembered of her unique involvement in the Rising.

After the Rising, her life took a different direction. In 1919 she married another revolutionary figure, General Richard Mulcahy, and undertook other roles and responsibilities.

Secondly, unlike those women, circumstances

allowed her to directly participate, side by side with Mac Diarmada in many of the key events of Easter week, particularly in the GPO. She speaks of ‘meandering around the building’ with him on Easter Wednesday. Hers is an insider’s impression of the mood and attitudes of the key figures.

She talks to Pearse and interviews Clarke at his request about the reasons behind the Rising:

He said... ‘That a rebellion was necessary to make Ireland’s position felt at the Peace Conference so that its relation to the British empire would strike the world...’

She witnesses the O’Rahilly in the back yard warning his men to treat their prisoners with respect. She joins the other women upstairs preparing the food which had been taken from the DBC, Metropole and Imperial hotels. ‘I remember carving, carving’.

On two other days, both she and her sister Phyllis carried out dangerous courier missions under gunfire on behalf of Pearse and O’Rahilly.

Believing she would return on Friday, she describes leaving on Thursday:

‘We went home to Ranelagh with our dispatches and various messages for different people. We took three copies of the Proclamation which I gave to the wives of the leaders’.

RESEARCH PROFILE

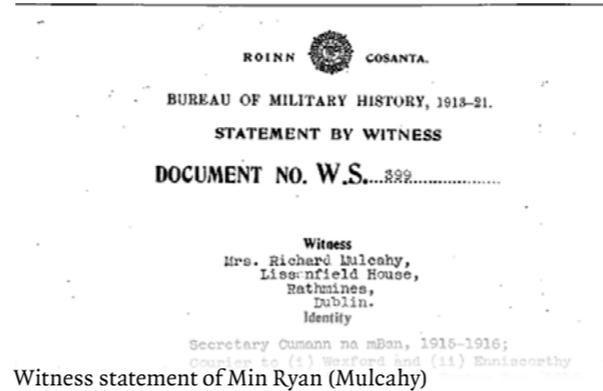
Seán Mac Diarmada

Yet, she is no mere observer, but a reflective and self-aware commentator. Entering the GPO on Easter Monday evening, trying to find Mac Diarmada and unable to do so, she becomes uncomfortable that she might be seen as a ‘hanger on’.

I was left on my own and looked exactly like the complete camp follower.

Whatever her feelings for Mac Diarmada, she sees her primary function working alongside the other members of Cumann na mBan and when Mrs Jennie Wyse Power tried to persuade Phyllis and herself not to return to the GPO as it was too dangerous, she stated:

We were determined to go back, it would be absolutely idiotic not to; if the men were to die, we would too, that is the way we felt.

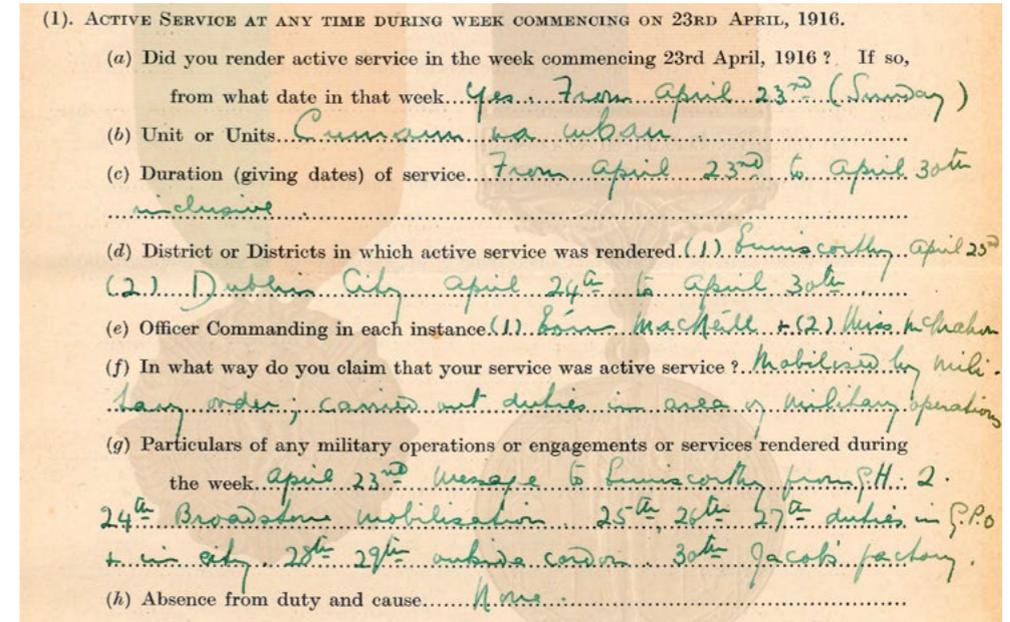


Witness statement of Min Ryan (Mulcahy)

Her account divides into five distinct parts:

1. Personal background and her perspective on Sinn Féin, Volunteers, Cumann na mBan (p.1-5)
2. April, Wed. 19th – Sun. 23rd: Mac Diarmada; ‘secret orders’: Mac Néill; ‘countermanding order’ (p.6-11)
3. Monday 24th – Thurs. 27th: ‘Cumann na mBan mobilisation order’; GPO; Mac Diarmada;
4. Pearse; Clarke; O’Rahilly; ‘dispatches’; ‘duties’; ‘copies of the Proclamation’ (p.11 -20)
5. Fri. 28th – Sat 29th: ‘home’; ‘rumours’; ‘surrender of College of Surgeons and ‘Jacobs’ May 11th – 12th: ‘Kilmainham’, (p.20-21)

Full witness statement downloadable from Bureau of Military History. [Read >](#)



Extract from her statement of service, Military Pensions Collection (MSP34REFr692)

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Mac Diarmada

Part 3: Farewell in Kilmainham Gaol

Historians who have studied the statements of all the women who visited the leaders before their execution in Killmainham, note their determination to keep up a façade in order to support the men.

Min is no exception. She remarks that she and her sister Phyllis tried to match Mac Diarmada’s calm and relaxed attitude. For three hours, they chatted about the events of ‘the week’, of who was there and ‘those who were not’. ‘We laughed about that’.

She describes how he gave her a few of his personal belongings to give to friends, ‘buttons from his jacket’, ‘a few pennies, scratched with his initials’.

The only item she kept for herself was his signet ring which he had previously sent to her. She was the last to leave at 3 a.m. [Read her account >](#) p 22-23

In this RTÉ video clip, she describes their final moments together. [Watch >](#)

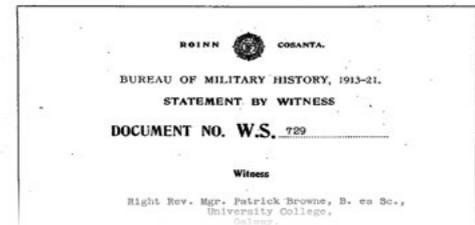
ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
 CDDO STAIRS MILEATA 1913-21
 NO. W.S. 729

Witness statement of Monsignor Patrick Browne, University College Galway

He was also earlier visited by his close friend, Patrick Browne who met him regularly in the Ryan house in Ranelagh. In

his witness statement, he describes his final visits to Kilmainham and corroborates much of Min’s account of Mac Diarmada’s calmness and resignation prior to the impending execution. He also says how Mac Diarmada talked to him about Min. [Read >](#) p.4 – 8



He reminisces about the young dynamic man he met with the Ryan sisters and whose friendship he valued. [Read >](#) p.1 – 3

Private letters 1916

The witness statements offer a valuable perspective on the figures and events of this period, but they are written about thirty years later. As such they are detached and matter of fact. They cannot fully capture the emotion of an event or person described in the immediate aftermath.

May 11th, 1916

In a single sentence from his last letter to his brothers and sisters, May 11th 1916, he writes poignantly of Min ...’who in all probability, had I lived, would have been my wife’. [Read >](#)

29th May, 1916

In a letter to her brother James Ryan on 29th May, 1916, Min writes very simply about him, there is no need to keep up a facade:

*My Seán sent you special messages & a cigarette case.
 We miss him dreadfully.*

[Read >](#) [Letters of 1916]



Stonebreakers' Yard, Kilmainham Gaol

At 3.45 on 12th May, 1916, Seán Mac Diarmada was shot by firing squad in the Stonebreakers' Yard in Killmainham Gaol.

Your verdict

- To what extent are these sources useful in building a more rounded view of Mac Diarmada’s life?
- To understand him more fully, what other types of sources are needed to build on this information?



RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Lemass

The life and world of the teenage Seán Lemass: seen through the sources.

Reporting on Seán Lemass's death in 1971, **Pathé News** speaks of his unique achievements, both national and international; thirty years a minister and Taoiseach from 1959 -1966.

What can the online archives reveal about the immediate world of the teenage Lemass, 1900 – 1916, who earned the title 'boy hero' for his activities during the 1916 Rising?

Who were his neighbours and friends?

Research method

- 1 Gather the basic **genealogical** information on the subject and his family by consulting the Church and Civil records.
- 2 Examine the **census returns** (forms N, B1 and A) to gather information about the subject's immediate neighbourhood; the living and social conditions.

Form N: provides the **helicopter view:** see at a glance the number of families in each house and the religion of the householders.

Form B1: provides the **street view:** view type of house and number of rooms occupied by each family.

Form A: provides the **in-house view:** personal details such as age, occupation, education, language and birthplace of everyone in each house. Note the headings children born alive, children still alive in the 1911 census.

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Lemass

Early years:

Capel street in the 1911 census

Capel street was a busy thoroughfare, teeming with people of very varied backgrounds and social standing. **Tenement buildings** were common in particular stretches of the street. Twenty seven people lived above the **Dairy at no. 111**. Next door, above a shop, six families occupied one room per family.

The same overcrowding is evident in no. 113. Andrew Clarkin, a 'boot top cutter' and his wife Rosanna, 'a boot top machinist', shared a single room with their five children, ranging in age from fifteen to five.

As well as those who lived on the street, a constant stream of people from outside the area would have come and gone on a daily basis to the **pawn shop at no. 108**, through the doors of the **Public Library at no. 106** and the **Dublin United Trades building, at nos. 114-116**.

Taking into account all the shops and businesses around them, the Lawlor sisters would have been kept busy in the **Post Office and stationary shop at no. 141**. Indeed, any or all of the **four postmen** living in Capel Street may have worked with them.

Right in the middle of all this activity stood the **DMP (Dublin Metropolitan Police) Barracks at no. 101**, occupied by thirty one constables, identified on the census form only by their initials.

They came from every county in Ireland, and all listed their previous occupation as 'farm labourer'. All except one were Catholics. Seven spoke both Irish and English.

The vast majority were young (aged between twenty and thirty) and single. Some of them may well have been employed distributing, filling and collecting the very census forms we are able to read today.

No. 2 Capel Street

The Lemass family lived in 2 Capel Street, close to the quays on the north side of the river Liffey, less than a kilometre from the GPO in O'Connell Street (then Sackville Street) and within sight of the City Hall. Their immediate neighbourhood (numbers 1 – 41) stretched from the quays to the corner of Upper Abbey St., and included several shops, two public houses, two boarding houses and a bank.

Form N

The census form for this section of the street reveals well-off and poor people living side by side; fourteen houses are recorded as uninhabited, but were in fact, large shops or warehouses, such as McQuillan's Tool and Cutlery Establishment at No. 36, described as having both a shop and workshop.

Read their very modern style advertisement (right) to appreciate the range of their services. Send a penny stamp and they will send you a catalogue by return.

A sweet factory at No.17 promised the finest boiled sweets and may have announced its presence by the smell:

A LL Pure Sweets—You may pay more, you can not buy better. The Sweeteries, 20 Upper Sackville street, 70 Talbot street. Works—17 Capel street. Z

Eleven houses are occupied by a single family (including the Lemass family). (Pg 18)

All were Catholics. Two families of the Jewish faith lived in No.33 and 35. (Pg 19)

A VISIT to M'Quillan's Tool and Cutlery Establishment at 36 Capel street, Dublin, will well repay anyone. 100

A KING'S VISIT interests most people, so does M'Quillan's Window at 36 Capel street; finest display of Tools in Ireland. 100

A VISITOR from the country can save money by buying Tools, Cutlery, Razors, Scissors, Pocket Knives, Safety Razors, or anything in this line from M'Quillan.

A PENNY stamp sent to me will bring you the finest Tool and Cutlery Catalogue published in Ireland. Every carpenter and every householder should have one. 100

A SAFETY RAZOR, double-edge blade, guaranteed to give easy shave, post free 1s 6d. M'Quillan, 36 Capel street, Dublin. 100

A BLUNT TOOL means loss of time; send your saws, chisels, knives, saws, lawnmowers, razors, and table cutlery to be sharpened to M'Quillan, 36 Capel street. 100

A BUTCHER who wants good value in Saws, Knives, Choppers, Scales, Hooks, Coats and Aprons, Steels, Skewers, etc., makes sure he deals with M'Quillan, 36 Capel street. 100

A CARPENTER who wants to keep his job must have good up-to-date Tools. He buys them at M'Quillan's, 36 Capel street. Open on Saturday until 10 p.m. 100

A POLIOMAN never frets about his work, but lots of them do Fret-work; so can you if you try. All materials and wood can be had from M'Quillan, 36 Capel street, Dublin. Catalogues free. 100

Advertisement for McQuillan's Tool and Cutlery Establishment. The Irish Independent, 19th December, 1911

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Lemass

Form B1

This form identifies the names of the occupants and indicates the level of comfort or hardship of their living conditions.

All the premises in this part of the street are described as 'shop' with the exception of No. 6 which was a public house.

- The Lemass family had plenty of room and privacy in their 8 roomed house.
- Next door, James Ronan's family shared with the Colemans, Healys and Slavins. The Ronans occupied two rooms in the house. (Pg 20)
- The Braunsteins lived comfortably in no. 33; 4 people in 4 rooms.
- Eight of the **Taylor**s occupied one room in No. 35, with 3 other families in the house. (Pg 21)

Form A

This form provides the details about the household.

The Ronans

James worked nearby as doorkeeper in City Hall. He lived with his wife Margaret, his three children, his 17 year old niece and a 54 year lodger in cramped conditions. All were born in Dublin. (Pg 22)

The Braunsteins

Simon, a master tailor and his wife a tailoress, were born in Romania, and are described as of the 'Hebrew religion'. Their 8 year old son was born in Dublin. They had a domestic servant, a Catholic, born in Wexford who spoke Irish and English. (Pg 23)

The Taylors

Jacob Taylor was also a tailor, his wife and eldest two children were born in Russia. The next two children were born in Leeds and the youngest was born in Dublin. The children ranged in age from 22 to 11; lived in one room. They are also described as of the 'Hebrew religion'. (Pg 25)



The British army in Capel Street 1920/1921

Note the shop fronts on left hand side of picture: Skeffingtons in No 24 with Egans on the first floor. Williams are next door selling tea and groceries and at no. 25. Millers run a business a few doors away.

These shop fronts would have been very similar to the streetscape known to the teenage Lemass.

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Lemass

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
FORM B, 1.—HOUSE AND BUILDING RETURN.

County, City of Dublin Parliamentary Division, College Green Poor Law Union, North Dublin District Electoral Division, North City Townland, St Mary

Parliamentary Borough, Dublin City, Dublin Urban District, } Town or Village, } Street, Capel Street Ward, City North Parish, St Mary

NOTE A.—When a Townland or Street is situated in two Parliamentary Divisions, or in more than one District Electoral Division or Parish, or is partly within and partly without a Parliamentary Borough, City, Urban District, Town, or Village, a separate Return should be made for each portion.

HOUSES.										FAMILIES, &c.								
No. of House or Building (Col. 1.)	Whether Built or Building (Col. 2.)	State whether Private Dwelling, Public Building, School, Manufactory, Hotel, Public-house, Lodging-house, or Shop, &c. (Col. 3.)	Number of Out-Offices and Farmsteads as returned on Form B, 2. (Col. 4.)	Is House inhabited? Yes or No, as the case may be. (Col. 5.)	PARTICULARS OF INHABITED HOUSES.					CLASS OF HOUSE. When Total in Col. 10 is— 1 or 2, enter "4th" 3, 4, or 5 "3rd" 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, or 11 "2nd" 12 or over "1st" (Col. 11.)	No. of distinct Families in each House. (Col. 12.)	Name of the Head of each Family residing in the House. (Col. 13.)	No. of Rooms occupied by each Family. (See Note B at foot.) (Col. 14.)	Total Number of Persons in each Family. (Col. 15.)	Date on which Form A was collected. (Col. 16.)	Number of Persons in each Family who were sick on 2nd April 1911. (Col. 17.)	Name of the Landholder (if any) on whose Holding the House is situated, whether that name appears in column 13 or not. (Col. 18.)	No. on Form B, 1 if House is on the Holding of a Landholder. (Col. 19.)
					WALLS. If Walls are of Stone, Brick, or Concrete, enter the figure 1 in this column; if they are of Mud, Wood, or other perishable material, enter the figure 0. (Col. 6.)	ROOF. If Roof is of Slate, Iron, or Tiles, enter the figure 1 in this column; if it is of Thatch, Wood, or other perishable material, enter the figure 0. (Col. 7.)	ROOMS. Enter in this column— For each House with 1 Room the figure 1 only; For Houses with 2, 3, or 4 rooms 2, 3, or 4 " 5 or 6 " 7, 8, or 9 " 10, 11, or 12 " 13 or more " (Col. 8.)	Windows in Front. State in this column the exact Number of Windows in Front of House. (Col. 9.)	Windows in Side. Put the Figure you have entered in columns 6, 7, 8, 9, and enter the Total for each House in this column. (Col. 10.)									
1	Built	Shop		yes	1	1	4	6	12	1st	1	Eliza Keogh	3	4	1911			
2	"	Shop		no	1	1	4	6	12	1st	1	John Lemass	8	9	11th			
3	"	Shop		no	1	1	4	6	12	1st	4	James Connan	2	7	"			
												Dr Coleman	2	2	"			
												Christopher Healy	2	2	"			
												George Slavin	1	3	"			
4	"	Shop		yes	1	1	4	6	12	1st	4	John Haugh	1	3	"			
												Eliza Kennedy	2	4	"			
												Wm Hobart	2	2	"			
												Thomas Lynch	1	5	"			
5	"	Shop		yes	1	1	4	6	12	1st	2	Wm Hughes	4	3	"			
												E Hughes	2	10	"			
6	"	Public House		yes	1	1	4	20	76	1st	1	Patrick Berray	8	3	"			
7	"	Shop		no														
8	"	Shop		no														
9	"	Shop		yes	1	1	4	6	12	1st	5	Bernard O'Hill	2	2				
												B Clarke	1	3				

NOTE B.—If one Room is occupied by more than one Family, the Names of the Heads of Families so occupying it should be bracketted together in Col. 13, thus— John Jones, Peter Murray, } and the figure 1 entered in Col. 14, opposite the middle of the bracket. See pattern Table in Instructions, page 9. (OVER)

Form B1

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Lemass

FORM B. 1.—HOUSE AND BUILDING RETURN—continued.

HOUSES.										FAMILIES, &c.								
No. of House or Building	Whether Hall or Building	State whether Private Dwelling, Public Building, School, Manufactory, Hotel, Public-house, Lodging-house, or Shop, &c.	Number of Out-Offices and Farm-buildings as returned on Form A. 1.	Is House inhabited?	PARTICULARS OF INHABITED HOUSES.					CLASS OF HOUSE	No. of distinct Families in each House.	Name of the Head of each Family residing in the House.	No. of Rooms occupied by each Family.	Total Number of Persons in each Family.	Date on which Form A was collected.	Number of Persons in each Family who were sick on 2nd April 1911.	Name of the Landholder (if any) to whose Holding the House is attached, whether that name appears in column 13 or not.	No. on Form M. 1 if House is on the Holding of a Landholder.
					WALLS.	ROOF.	ROOMS.	Windows in Front.	For the Purpose For which entered in column 13, &c.									
28	Built	Shop		yes	1	1	4	6	12	1st	1	John Donovan	2	8				
29	"	Shop		yes	1	1	4	6	12	1st	1	George Fields	2	3				
30	"	Shop		yes	1	1	4	6	12	1st	1	Michael Walsh	3	4				
31	"	Shop		no														
32	"	Shop		yes	1	1	4	6	12	1st	1	Mary Harmon	2	7				
33	"	Shops		yes	1	1	4	7	13	1st	1	Simon Brownstein	4	4				
34	"																	
35	"				1	1	4	7	13	1st	4	Joseph Dowling	2	8				
												Henry Andrews	7	6				
												Jacob Taylor	1	8				
												Mary Johnston	1	5				

I hereby Certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, sec. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Approved, **J. B. DOUGHERTY,** Registrar-General, Dublin Castle, 12th December, 1910.

WILLIAM J. THOMPSON, Registrar-General,
EDWARD O'FARRELL,
DANIEL S. DOYLE, Commissioners.

James McKeown 916 Enumerator.
S. Division Constabulary District.

NOTE B.—If one Room is occupied by more than one Family, the Names of the Heads of Families so occupying it should be bracketted together in Col. 13, thus—
John Jones, Peter Murray, } and the figure 1 entered in Col. 14, opposite the middle of the bracket. See pattern Table in Instructions, page 9.

Form B1 continued

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Lemass

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

FORM A. No. on Form B. 3

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

Number.	NAME AND SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.			WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.	
	Christian Name.	Surname.	State whether "Head of Family," or "Wife," or "Son," or "Daughter," or other Relative; "Visitor," "Boarder," "Servant," &c.	State here the particular Religion, or Religious Denomination, to which each person belongs. [Members of Protestant Denominations are requested not to describe themselves by the vague term "Protestant," but to enter the name of the Particular Church, Denomination, or Body to which they belong.]	State here whether he or she can "Read and Write," can "Read" only, or "Cannot Read."	Insert Age opposite each name:—the Ages of Males in column 6, and the Ages of Females in column 7. For Infants under one year state the age in months, as "under 1 month," "1 month," "2 months," &c.	Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	State the particular Rank, Profession, Trade, or other Employment of each person. Children or young persons attending a School, or receiving regular instruction at home, should be returned as Scholars. [No entry should be made in the case of wives, daughters, or other female relatives solely engaged in domestic duties at home.] Before filling this column you are requested to read the instructions on the other side.	Whether "Married," "Widower," "Widow," or "Single."	State for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule the number of:— Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born alive, write "None" in column 11. Total Children born alive.	Children still living.	If in Ireland, state in what County or City; if elsewhere, state the name of the Country.	Write the word "Irish" in this column opposite the name of each person who speaks Irish only, and the words "Irish & English" opposite the names of those who can speak both languages. In other cases no entry should be made in this column.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
1	James	Ronan	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	37		Door Keeper City Hall	Married				Dublin		
2	Margaret	Ronan	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read & Write		38		Married	9	4	3	Dublin		
3	Mary	Ronan	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & Write		8	Scholar	Single				Dublin		
4	Margaret	Ronan	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & Write		6	Scholar	Single				Dublin		
5	Myles	Ronan	Son	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	3			Single				Dublin		
6	Margaret	Lombard	Niece	Roman Catholic	Read & Write		17		Single				Dublin	Irish & English	
7	James	Lormuy	Lodger	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	54			Single				Dublin		
8															
9															
10															
11															
12															
13															
14															
15															

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII., and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

James McKeown Signature of Enumerator.
James Ronan Signature of Head of Family.

Form A: Ronan

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Lemass

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side. No. on Form B. 30

FORM A.
RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

Number.	NAME AND SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.			WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.	
	Christian Name.	Surname.			State here whether he or she can "Read and Write," can "Read" only, or "Cannot Read."	Insert Age opposite each name:—the Ages of Males in column 6, and the Ages of Females in column 7. For Infants under one year state the age in months, as "under 1 month," "2 months," &c.		State the particular Rank, Profession, Trade, or other Employment of each person. Children or young persons attending a School, or receiving regular instruction at home, should be returned as Scholars. [No entry should be made in the case of wives, daughters, or other female relatives solely engaged in domestic duties at home.] Before filling this column you are requested to read the instructions on the other side.	Whether "Married," "Widower," "Widow," or "Single."	State for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule the number of:— Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.	Total Children born alive.	Children still living.	If in Ireland, state in what County or City; if elsewhere, state the name of the Country.	Write the word "Irish" in this column opposite the name of each person who speaks Irish only, and the words "Irish & English" opposite the names of those who can speak both languages. In other cases no entry should be made in this column.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
1	Simon	Braunstein	Head of Family		Head and Tailor	45	—	Tailor Master	Married	23	1	1	Roumania	English	
2	Lina	Braunstein	Wife	Hebrew	can not read and write	—	48		Married	23	1	1	Roumania	English	
3	Samuel	Braunstein	son		read and write	8	—	Schooler	single				Dublin	English	
4	Brigid	Mc Cormin	Domestic	Roman Catholic	read and write	—	19	Domestic Servant	single				Con. Wexford	Irish - English	
5															
6															
7															
8															
9															
10															
11															
12															
13															
14															
15															

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII., and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.
James McKeown Signature of Enumerator.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.
Simon Braunstein Signature of Head of Family.

Form A: Braunstein

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Lemass

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

FORM A. No. on Form B. *35*

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

Number.	NAME AND SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.			WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.		Whether "Married," "Widowed," "Widow," or "Single."	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.	Total Children born alive.	Children still living.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
1	Jacob	Taylor	Head of family	Hebrew.	—	50	—	Sailor	Married	27 6	6.	Russia.	—	—
2	Hilda	Taylor	Wife	Hebrew.	—	—	45	—	Married	29.	6.	6.	Russia.	—
3	Leah	Taylor	Daughter	Hebrew.	Reads & write	—	22	Tailoress	Single	—	—	—	Russia.	—
4	Philip	Taylor	Son	Hebrew.	Reads & write	20	—	Machineer	Single	—	—	—	Russia.	—
5	Annie	Taylor	Daughter	Hebrew.	Reads & write	—	18	—	Single	—	—	—	Leeds.	—
6	Fannie	Taylor	Daughter	Hebrew.	Read & write	—	16	—	Single	—	—	—	Leeds.	—
7	Max	Taylor	Son	Hebrew.	Read & write	14	—	Scholar	Single	—	—	—	Leeds.	—
8	Ellen	Taylor	Daughter	Hebrew.	Read & write	—	11	Scholar	Single	—	—	—	Dublin city	—
9														
10														
11														
12														
13														
14														
15														

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII., and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Enumerator.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.
Jacob Taylor Signature of Head of Family.
Mark.

Form A: Taylor

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Lemass



Lemass in Volunteer uniform

The schoolboy, 1915

Seán Lemass is shown here with some of his successful classmates in O'Connell Schools, North Richmond St., September 1915. He had won a first-class honours scholarship valued at £15, based on his results in mathematical subjects, and could be expected to have a bright academic future. His father had hopes that he might study law.

He is remembered as having been interested in amateur dramatics and took part in an acting group with one of his closest boyhood friends, Jimmy O'Dea (later a famous Irish comedian).

The O'Dea family lived over their shop across the street at no. 162, in the same comfortable circumstances as the Lemasses.

The Volunteer 1915

Lying about his age, Lemass joined the Volunteers with his older brother Noel, in January 1915 while studying for his Intermediate Certificate. He later stated that he was encouraged to do so by a man working in his father's shop.

Tragedy at No 2 Capel St. 28th January 1916

Within a few months of experiencing the excitement of academic success, he and his family were to experience a personal tragedy, which remained unknown to his own children until 2013.

Answer the following questions: Sources 1, 2 & 3

- A. Which records did the historian consult?
- B. Where did Herbert die?
- C. What was the cause of his death?
- D. Where was he buried?
- E. According to the author, why was there a loaded gun in the house?
- F. What was the recommendation of the Coroner's jury?
- G. Why did the case for manslaughter not proceed?

Source 1: Historian's account, 2013

In July 2013, a historian wrote a newspaper article outlining how he had discovered details in the archives of the tragic circumstances of the death of Herbert, Lemass's 22 month old brother, who was accidentally shot by Seán. Read the article: [Seán Lemass's silent anguish >](#)

Professor Eunan O'Halpin Trinity College Dublin (Irish Times, July 21st, 2013)

Source 2: Coroner's Court, January 1916

The comments of the coroner's court were reported in the **Sunday Independent, 30th January 1916** under the heading: *City Shooting Fatality – Boys and firearms – recommendations of Coroner's Jury.*

The article concludes with the Jury's opinion: *We are of the opinion that something should be done to prevent young boys getting possession of firearms.*

Source 3: Historian's discovery in the DMP Prisoner Books of 1916

In January 2016, another historian stated he had examined recently released Prisoner Books of the Dublin Metropolitan Police and discovered that, although Seán Lemass had been charged with manslaughter, he was not convicted. 'Information refused' is the reason given in the 'Outcome' column.

Pádraig Yeates, *History Show* (RTÉ, 31 January, 2016)

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Lemass



O'Connell Street, 1916

The Rising, April 1916

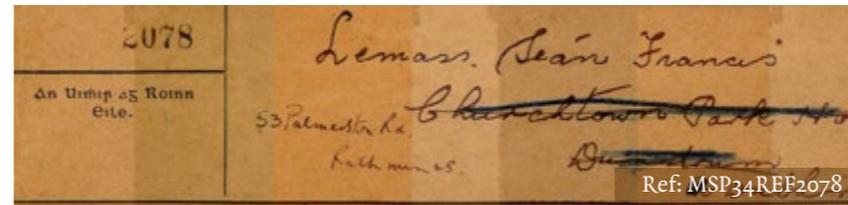
Some months later, on Easter Monday, 1916, Lemass was walking in the Dublin mountains with his brother Noel and the O'Deas, his Capel St. neighbours and friends. They met Eoin MacNeill who informed them that the Rising had gone ahead, despite MacNeill's countermanding order.

The very next day both Noel and Seán left home without telling their parents and joined the rebels in the GPO.

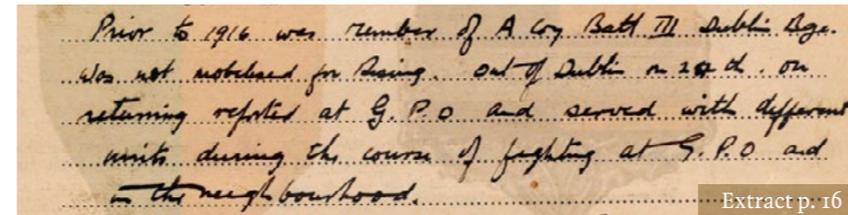
So Lemass did not mobilise until he joined the rebels in the GPO on Easter Tuesday. Why?

The Military Service Pensions Collections and Bureau of Military History were searched for possible clues.

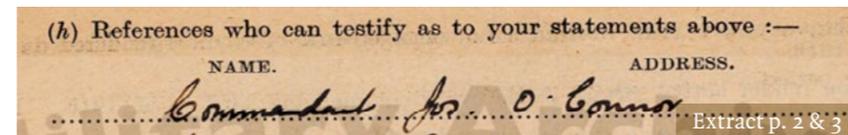
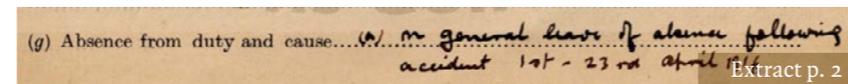
Military Service Pensions Collections



Source 4



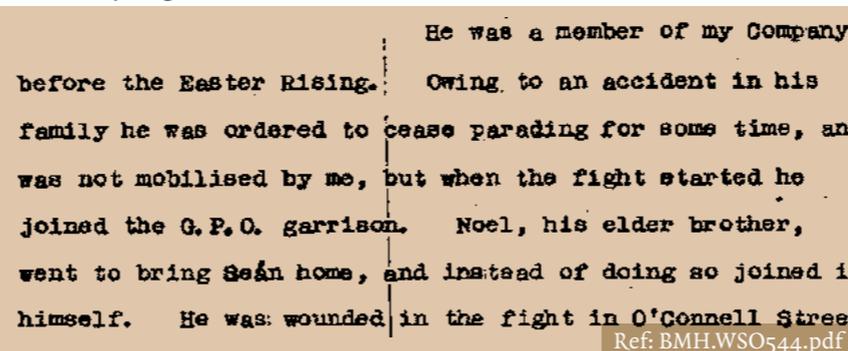
Source 5



Bureau of Military History

Source 6

The witness statement of Jos. O'Connor, commander of the A coy of 3rd Bat. He refers to Seán Lemass as follows:



Answer the following questions: Sources 4 & 5

- According to Lemass, what Dublin Brigade did he join?
- How might the phrases, 'was not mobilised for Rising' and 'out of Dublin on 24th'. be interpreted?
- Why does Lemass say he was on a 'general leave of absence'?
- How long was he on 'leave'?
- Who does he name as his reference / battalion commander?

Source 6

- How does Jos. O'Connor know Seán Lemass 'before the Rising'?
- Why was Lemass ordered to 'cease parading'?
- What reason does O'Connor give for not mobilising him?

RESEARCH PROFILE

Seán Lemass

Your verdict

- What is the key phrase in Joseph O'Connor's statement which alerts us to the possible connection between the tragic events as described by the historians in Sources 1 and 2 and his own explanation (Source 6) for 'not mobilising him'?
- Might the Volunteers have been embarrassed by the Coroner's statement of 29th January 1916?
- Could the 'leave of absence' be some form of punishment by the Volunteers, or, could it refer to another accident in his family?
- Or, could he like many others, have been confused by the countermanding order of Mac Néill and believed the manoeuvres had been cancelled?
- In your opinion, what other information would be useful before drawing a definite conclusion?

Part 2: interpreting the records

- Sources should be treated cautiously and checked and rechecked.
- A witness account can be truthful and accurate, but without cross-checking may not provide the full picture.
- Even then, it may not be always possible to draw a definite conclusion and this should be stated.



Conclusion 2016

Glasnevin cemetery, 28th January 2016

One hundred years after Herbert's death, his grand-niece (Seán Lemass's only surviving daughter) and her family gathered together at his graveside in Glasnevin cemetery, where the name of Herbert Phelan Lemass had been inscribed on the family headstone for the first time.

As his grandnephew remarked on the occasion, Herbert may have been the first child to have died in the Rising.

FORM

Transcription from 1901 Census

Form adapted from original 1901 census form

1., 2. Name	3. Relationship to Head of House	4. Religion	5. Education	6. Age	7. Sex	8. Occupation	9. Marital Status Married / Widowed / Single	10. Where born	11. Language	12. Infirmity

Notes:

- Use abbreviations when transcribing from the original forms

FORM

Transcription from 1911 Census

Form adapted from original 1911 census form

1., 2. Name	3. Relationship to Head of House	4. Religion	5. Education	6. Age	7. Sex	8. Occupation	9. Marital Status Married / Widowed / Single				10. Where born	11. Language	12. Infirmity
							9. Marital Status	10. How long married	11. Total No. children born alive	12. No. of children still living			

Notes:

- Extra question on marriage and children in 1911 census
- Use abbreviations when transcribing from the original forms

FORM

Census comparison

Comparing 1901 to 1911

Form adapted from headings in original Census forms.

	1., 2 . Name	3. Relationship to Head of House	4. Religion	5. Education	6. Age	7. Sex	8. Occupation	9. Marital Status Married / Widowed / Single				10. Where born	11. Language	12. Infirmity
1901														
1911								9 . Marital Status	10. How long married	11. Total No. children born alive	12. No. of children still living	13. Where born	14. Language	15. Infirmity

Notes:

- Extra question on marriage and children in 1911 census
- Use abbreviations when transcribing from the original forms
- Place a tick in columns if there is no significant change (apart from age) in the information

FORM

Record log

Track sources and comment on their importance. Classify source as **secondary / primary**. Then write: document; audio; video etc. Use key words only when rating the usefulness of the source for your project.

Place an X beside any of the following sources you have consulted and found useful:

	Source	X	Url (online address). Write	Classify and Rate
1	Bureau of Military History Witness Statements			
2	Military Pensions			
3	Newspapers			
4	Video clips			
5	Podcasts			
6	Oral history			
7	Interactive maps			
8	Secondary source e.g. article, local history etc.			

Name of Subject:

Census advice sheet

Census - Historical Context

Both the 1901 and 1911 census are snapshots of the lives of the inhabitants of the island of Ireland in early 20th century and can help you understand the social background of your subject or of your locality c 1916.

They can give you valuable information about your subject's background. You should note whether it was rural or urban, the occupations of their parents, the size and quality of their house, the number of outhouses.

Compare this with others in the same locality. Are the details approximately the same or are there differences? If so, what are they?

In the summary N form, you can get an overview of the townland as a whole and assess a context for it, and in towns and cities the N form indicates how many people lived in an individual house.

Overview

There are **four main forms** which were filled in:

A Form: contains the personal details of those in the house on the night of the census. This form was filled in by the head of the household.

B1 Form: House and Building form details the quality of houses, the numbers of families who lived in each house, the number of people per room.

B2 Form: Out-offices and Farm buildings details what extra buildings, eg stables, piggeries are attached to a house.

N Form: Summary of number of houses in a townland or street, the number of male and female occupants in each house, and their religion.

This is filled out by the enumerator (the person who distributes and collects the forms to and from individual houses).

Location of the inhabitants of the household can be searched under County – DED – Townland / Street.

- **Townland/Street:** a small geographical area of land (rural areas) or streets in towns and cities
- **District Electoral Divisions (DEDs):** a number of townlands or streets which were used to divide a county for election purposes

Having examined the forms, you should be able to systematically organise your information for your subject under the following headings:

- **Family environment:** housing, occupation, education and religion and child mortality in the 1911 Census.
- **Use of language:** English/ Irish or bilingual

Other search options

There are other search options which can yield valuable information:

'Browse' allows you to search for someone through location: for example, going from Browse, select Kerry; from the list of DEDs, click on one, e.g. Dingle; this will give you a list of streets / townlands. Pick one e.g. Main Street; this will give you an overview of the entire street, its occupants and occupations.

More Search Options

The website can be searched by religion, occupation, relationship to head of family, literacy status, county or country of origin, Irish language proficiency, specified illnesses, and child survival information.

Click on **'more search options'** button at bottom of **Search** page: you can select any or all of the fields from a drop down menu, with the exception of occupation.

Full information on Search options.

Research advice sheet

Bureau of Military History and Military Service Pensions Collections

Bureau of Military History

The **witness statements from the Bureau of Military History** are valuable primary sources for the history of the revolutionary period, 1913 to 1921. They represent the personal accounts of nearly 2000 witnesses who took part in active service in that period.

They can be searched by name, location, events, battles, organisations and dates. There is also a separate index of names which also provides location and rank for individuals.

SEARCH TIP: even if you have located an individual under a **name search** in a particular place, it is very useful search under **'place'** as well, in order to get a general overview, e.g. searching under 'Dingle', will provide information on the activities of Ernest Blythe and Desmond Fitzgerald and the organisation of the local Volunteers while they lived in Dingle prior to 1916. There are 45 hits returned for Dingle. [Full search advice here](#)

The Military Service Pensions Collection

These pensions were awarded to those who could prove they had active service during the the 1916 Rising, the War of Independence or the Civil War. Although they may be used together with the witness statements to provide information on individuals, it should be noted that not everyone who played a part in these events sought a pension. Secondly, not all the files are yet available online. There are 7 returns for Dingle. [Search](#)

Check different versions of surnames or changed surnames in a search

- During this period, many people changed from the **English to the Irish version** of their name. But they could still be known by the original version by some, e.g, 'Seán MacDiarmada', 'Seán McDermott' and 'John MacDermott' in police files.
- **Women** can be known either by their maiden or married names. A search for 'Min Ryan' yielded several returns in the witness statements in the Bureau of Military History, but she is only registered as 'Mary Josephine Mulcahy' (her married name) both as author of her own witness statement and in the Military Service Pensions Collection.

Collect random pieces of evidence like jigsaw pieces

- Checking random leads in one source may create a pattern, or be discarded, e.g. a name or place mentioned in an individual's account could be followed to gain a fuller account of an event.

Narrow place name searches

- Even if a location is known, be as precise as possible with street names, e.g. the Cork Volunteer Headquarters was in Sheares Street, but searching under 'Sheares Street' will include 'Sheares' and 'Street' (1211 hits). Searching under 'Sheares' will yield valuable information on the activities of the Volunteers in Cork (85 hits).

Oral history

The witness statements can be described as a form of oral history. They were collected between 1947 and 1957, many years after the events they describe. They are personal accounts and as such they must be submitted to special scrutiny. It is advisable to **cross-check** any statement of an individual and if there is any difference in accounts, note that in your assessment of the usefulness of a source.

A witness account can be truthful and accurate, but without cross-checking may not provide the full picture. Even then, it may not be always possible to draw a definite conclusion and this should be stated.

Quiz the sources:

In order to assess the usefulness of a source, adopt the same basic rules at all times. Follow the 5 Ws rule. Make notes as you go along.

- **What type** of document /source is it?
- **Who** wrote / produced it?
- **When** was it written/produced? Do you know anything about the author/creator?
- **Why** was it written/ produced?
- **Where** did it happen?

Credits

2016 Family History workbook

This resource pack was made possible with assistance from the Ireland 2016, IrishGenealogy.ie, National Archives and the Department of the Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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For more information on this workbook and the National Archives educational work please visit
www.irishgenealogy.ie/2016familyhistory



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

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Clár Comórtha
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Centenary
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