IRISH MILITARY

^



GREAT EPISODES in IRELAND'S HISTORY

RIVERBANK ARTS CENTRE Newbridge, Co. Kildare



8-9 JUNE 2018















Part of KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL'S DECADE OF COMMEMORATIONS PROGRAMME and a CREATIVE IRELAND KILDARE INITIATIVE

In association with IRELAND'S MILITARY STORY, MERRION PRESS, JUNE FEST and INTO KILDARE.

PROSPEROUS HERITAGE FESTIVAL 25–27 MAY: RE-ENACTMENT of the BATTLE of PROSPEROUS 1798 with LORD EDWARD'S OWN and FRIENDS.

MESSAGE from the CHAIR



The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee, established by Kildare County Council in 2015, sought new and interesting ways to celebrate the centenary of the 1916 Rising. The Committee's work continues as we move toward the anniversaries of the War of Independence, the Civil War and the birth of the Irish state. While recognising that possible difficulties and challenges lie ahead, we also re-iterate the positive approach of the National Expert Advisory Group and its position that commemorations should be inclusive, relevant and offer an objective exploration of our history. The Committee remains committed to developing a

strategy of commemoration and coordinating events in line with the national programme 2018-2023. The success of its 2016 Commemorative Programme can be held up as a template of how the committee will proceed.

Cllr. Pádraig McEvoyChair of the Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee

Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee — Mission Statement

The aim of the programme is to establish the most appropriate way in which to mark the centenaries within the county. The nature of the programme is expansive, delivering a series of commemorative events, school programmes, publications, etc., but with the unique intention of creating a legacy of research and cultural and artistic material for future generations. The delivery of the programme should be inclusive, appropriate and sensitive, to take account of all aspects of life in Co. Kildare in the period 1913–1923.



www.kildare.ie/ehistory



KildareDecadeofCommemorations



Twitter: @cilldara2016

Front Cover: Surprise of the Barrack of Prosperous by George Cruickshank was originally published in W. H. Maxwell, History of the Irish Rebellion in 1798 (London, 1845).

WELCOME

It gives me great pleasure to welcome people to the second Irish Military Seminar. I wish it every success and I am proud to see Co. Kildare undertake such an initiative. Ireland has a long, proud military tradition. The aim of this seminar is to look at all aspects of Irish military history and examine key episodes intermingled with escapades in far-off places like South Africa, Flanders and the U.S.A.



In Kildare we have a military heritage stretching back to Fionn Mac Cumhaill and the Fianna who played for sport

on the Curragh Plains. It is our intention, in this period of commemoration, to celebrate all facets of military history and associated social and political aspects of life in various periods.

I would like to thank our partners and sponsors who make this marvellous event possible; Kildare County Council and the Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee, June Fest, Prosperous Heritage Festival, Lord Edward's Own Reenactment Group, Farrell and Nephew Bookshop, Ireland's Military Story, Merrion Press, Creative Ireland and Into Kildare.

From the outset the strategy which defined the Commemorative Programme involved engagement with the public and our communities; I am delighted to see a panel of historians and journalists take part in this discussion which will help shape our future strategy. There is a wide range of subjects covered in this year's seminar: Granuaile, the pirate Queen; Oliver Cromwell in Ireland; The Battle of Rorke's Drift; Irishmen in the American Civil War; Women and the struggle for Irish freedom, and the centenary of the end of World War I.

I had the good fortune to attend the *Birth of a Nation* concert in Lexington, Kentucky, in late 2017 and I am thrilled to see it presented here in Riverbank Arts Centre as part of this year's seminar.

Mayor Cllr. Martin Miley

From planned historic settlements to thriving town centres and canal villages, Kildare really is 'the best of Ireland in one County' and is within a stone's throw of the capital. For a day trip or weekend away, enjoy the accessibility from all parts of Ireland. Discover the magic of the rich hinterland, racing establishments and racecourses, golf courses and sporting fields, museums and heritage centres, family fun centres, canal and forest walks. intokildare.ie





1918-2018

ANNIVERSARIES

6 MARCH:	Irish Parliamentary Party leader John Redmond died in London.
21 MARCH:	The worst day of the war for Kildaremen; 24 were killed in action during the German Spring Offensive on the Western Front.
APRIL:	Britain introduced conscription in Ireland. Massive protests in Kildare and throughout the country.
16-17 MAY:	Dublin Metropolitan Police Detective Eamon Broy (Rathangan) warned Michael Collins of imminent arrests of republican leaders.
JUNE:	Outbreak of Great Flu pandemic in Ireland; lasted until May 1919. Co. Kildare had highest death rate in Ireland in 1918; 3.95 per thousand – a total of 263 deaths.
SEPTEMBER:	Railway line linking Athy to the Wolfhill Colliery, Co. Laois opened.
10 OCTOBER:	RMS <i>Leinster</i> sunk by German U-Boat in the Irish Sea, 501 people died, including Mrs. Fanny Wookey, of Leixlip.
11 NOVEMBER:	World War I ends. Thousands of Kildaremen and women served as soldiers, sailors, airmen and nurses. Hundreds of Kildaremen and one woman died in the conflict. Clongowes Wood College had more students per capita killed in World War I than Eton.
14 NOVEMBER:	Former <i>Leinster Leader</i> editor Seamus O'Kelly died in Dublin.
14 DECEMBER:	The 'Khaki Election.' All men over 21 and most women over 30 enfranchised. Two Sinn Féin TDs returned for Kildare: Art O'Connor, for South Kildare and Domhnall Ua Buachalla for North Kildare. Constance Markievicz was the first woman elected to the British parliament.



THE GLEN OF IMAAL DISASTER, 1941

The worst single loss of life suffered by the Defence Forces since the Civil War.

TERENCE O'REILLY

Terence is a former artilleryman who served with the Depot Artillery and the Air Defence Regiment in Magee Barracks, Kildare. During this time he served six tours of duty with UNIFIL.

He is the author of three books including *Hitler's Irishmen*, an account of the only two Irishmen known

to have served with the Waffen-SS during World War II, and

Rebel Heart, a biography of the youngest flying column commander during the War of Independence. He has also written articles for various journals including History Ireland and An Cosantóir.

His presentation will explore the background events and give an account of the explosion that claimed sixteen young lives in September 1941, the subsequent repercussions for the survivors, and memorials raised in later years to commemorate their deaths.

First Session

Friday | 17:50-18:30pm

READINGS FROM THE LEB

MARTIN MALONE

Martin has written three books influenced by his UN service in Lebanon: two novels and a memoir. *After Kafra* concerns a soldier returning home from Lebanon with PTSD; RTÉ TV optioned the rights and developed the work for screen. The *Independent* described the novel as 'Powerful, Truthful and Harrowing,' while The *RTÉ* Guide stated that it was '... a quiet triumph.' Scribner UK won the bid to publish *The Broken Cedar* in which a son searches, accompanied by the last surviving



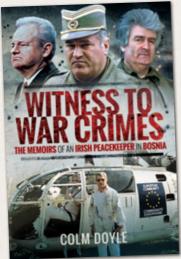
person who knows the truth, for the remains of his Irish soldier father; this work was shortlisted for the Hughes & Hughes Irish Novel of the Year and nominated for an IMPAC award. *The Lebanon Diaries* is a memoir of his five tours of duty in Lebanon, and Declan Power (*The Siege of Jadotville*) said of it 'A book worth reading, now more than ever.' *Photo: Noel Buckley*

Book Launch Friday | 19:15pm

WITNESS TO WAR CRIMES

Col. Desmond Travers (Retd.) will launch Witness to War Crimes, by Colm Doyle, with Conor Graham, Merrion Press

The early 1990s saw Europe's first conflict for almost 40 years when bitter fighting broke out in the former Yugoslav Republic. In the midst of this appalling civil war, Colonel Colm Doyle became a European Community Monitor and subsequently Head of the Monitor Mission in besieged Sarajevo. He was later appointed Personal Representative to Lord Carrington, Chairman of the Peace Conference on Yugoslavia.



In this overdue memoir, he describes his role mediating, negotiating and persuading political and military leaders on all sides to halt the seemingly inexorable path to all-out war. He arranged ceasefires, visited prisoner-of-war camps, extricated election monitors and organised hostage releases. His experiences made him a key witness at the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague at the trials of Milosevic, Mladic and Karadzic.

Colm's personal account can claim to be one of the most significant works on the brutal Bosnian War.

COLM DOYLE

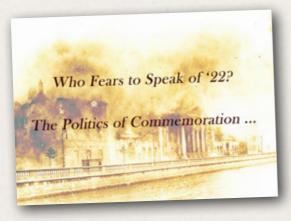
During Colonel Colm Doyle's career with the Irish Defence Forces, he served with the United Nations in Cyprus, Lebanon and Syria. He was Chief of Staff of the Military Division at the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York; Director of Public Relations for the Defence Forces and Commandant of both the UN Training School, Ireland and the Military College. Colm Doyle holds a Master's Degree in International Studies from Limerick University.





WHO FEARS TO SPEAK OF '22?

The politics of Commemoration. The practicalities and challenges of commemoration history; a panel discussion and public forum with historians and the local media.



As we approach the centenaries of the War of Independence and the Irish Civil War the National Expert Advisory Group has acknowledged that there will be difficulties in how they are commemorated nationally and locally.

Members of County Kildare's historical associations and local journalists will take part in a discussion about the politics of commemoration and how we might proceed in Co. Kildare over the coming years.

This is a welcome opportunity for all to play a part in the wider discussion around sensitive issues arising from the commemoration of participants and events of the revolutionary period.

Facilitated by the Chair of the Co. Kildare Commemorations Committee, Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy.

DECADE of COMMEMORATIONS COMMITTEE

COUNTY KILDARE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

COUNTY KILDARE FEDERATION of LOCAL HISTORY GROUPS

KILDARE LOCAL STUDIES, GENEALOGY & ARCHIVES KFM RADIO

KILDARE NATIONALIST

LEINSTER LEADER

LIFFEY CHAMPION

MERRION PRESS

brogramme

RISH SEMI

FRIDAY

17:00-17:45pm The Glen of Imaal Disaster, 1941 — Terence O'Reilly

^

Readings from the Leb — Martin Malone 17:50pm

Reception in foyer of Riverbank Arts Centre 18:35pm

Opening of the Seminar by Mayor of Co. Kildare, 19:00pm

Cllr. Martin Miley

Book Launch by Col. Desmond Travers (Retd.), 19:15pm

Witness to War Crimes, by Colm Doyle, with Conor

Graham, Merrion Press

20:00pm Who Fears to Speak of '22? The politics of

> Commemoration. The practicalities and challenges of commemoration history; a panel discussion and public

forum with historians and the local media

SATURDAY

Registration — Tea & Coffee 8:45-9:15am

WELCOME 9:20-9:25am

Zulu. The Defence of Rorke's Drift — Dan Harvey 9:30-10:15am

10:20-11:05am What Did The Women Do Anyway? The Role of

Women in the Struggle for Irish Freedom

1918-1923 — Liz Gillis

TEA/COFFEE BREAK 11:05-11:30am



ILITARY

programme

NAR

SATURDAY (continued)

11:35am-12:20pm Recovering the voices of the Union Irish: The forgotten

letters of Ireland's American Civil War dead

- Damian Shiels

12:25–13:10pm Oliver Cromwell and the conquest of Ireland:

His greatest failure? — Professor Micheál Ó Siochrú

13:10-14:25pm LUNCH (at own expense)

14:30-15:15pm Granuaile — Grace O'Malley: Ireland's Pirate Queen

(1530-1603). The life and times of an iconic pioneer

and feminist - Anne Chambers

15:20-16:05pm The significance of Irish involvement in World War I:

A review — Neil Richardson

16:30pm CLOSE OF SEMINAR

SATURDAY EVENING

20:00pm 'Birth of a Nation'—a musical extravaganza set

against the backdrop of Irish history up to the founding of the modern Irish State; featuring songs and music from the period. A marvellous, sometimes whimsical, but often tragic journey, guaranteed to move and entertain. Script by Mario Corrigan. Paul Linehan, Tenor, Ann Cullen, Piano and Violin, and Liam

Quinlivan, Narrator.

Seminar Admission: Friday Free; Saturday €5.00. Concert €10.00. Includes complimentary tea and coffee break. Lunch at own expense. Booking essential via Riverbank Arts Centre Box Office. boxoffice@riverbank.ie/045-448327.



ZULU

The Defence of Rorke's Drift

DAN HARVEY

Dan recently retired from the Irish Defence Forces with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His forty years of service included tours of duty in the Middle East, Africa, the Balkans and the South Caucasus with the UN, EU, NATO, PfP and OSCE respectively.



He holds a Masters in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies, and a Masters in Irish Heritage Managament which have assisted him in pioneering many Defence Forces heritage projects. These include Collins Barracks, Cork Military Museum and he was a member of the Core Design Team for the National Museum of Ireland's award-winning *'Soldiers and Chiefs'* Exhibition.

A highly respected military historian and author, Dan has written ten books on Irish Defence Forces involvement in overseas peacekeeping service and also Irish military heritage. He frequently gives talks nationally and internationally.

First Session

Saturday | 10.20-11.05am

WHAT DID THE WOMEN DO ANYWAY?

The Role of Women in the Struggle for Irish Freedom 1918-1923

LIZ GILLIS

Historian and author Liz Gillis is from the Liberties in Dublin. She has a degree in Irish history and currently works as a researcher for *The History Show* on RTÉ Radio. She has set up her own tour guiding company 'Revolution in Dublin Walking Tours.' She was a Curatorial Assistant in RTÉ, specialising in researching the Easter Rising and a tour guide for many years in Kilmainham Gaol.



Author of six books about the Irish Revolution, including, Women of the Irish Revolution and We Were There: 77 Women of the Easter Rising (co-written with Dr. Mary McAuliffe), she is currently writing her next book about the Rebel Liberties.

Liz has worked as a researcher on numerous publications, television and radio documentaries covering the period. She has participated in many conferences and lectures focusing on the Irish Revolution and is co-organiser of the annual conference on the Burning of the Custom House in 1921.



RECOVERING THE VOICES OF THE UNION IRISH

The forgotten letters of Ireland's American Civil War dead

DAMIAN SHIELS

Formerly a curator in the National Museum of Ireland and a director at Rubicon Heritage, Damian is a historian and archaeologist. He is currently researching the Irish of the American Civil War at Northumbria University. Damian was one of the team



who devised and created the award-winning *Soldiers & Chiefs* military history exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks. He has published and lectured widely both nationally and internationally on topics relating to Irish archaeology and history, and is the author of a number of books, including *The Irish in the American Civil War* and *The Forgotten Irish: Irish Emigrant Experiences in America.* He runs the www.irishamericancivilwar.com website.

Second Session

Saturday | 12:25-13:10pm

OLIVER CROMWELL AND THE CONQUEST OF IRELAND

His greatest failure?

PROFESSOR MICHEÁL Ó SÍOCHRU

Micheál is the head of the History Department at Trinity College, Dublin. He is the author of numerous publications on seventeenth-century Ireland, including *Confederate Ireland, 1642–1649: A Constitutional and Political Analysis* and *God's Executioner: Oliver Cromwell and the Conquest of Ireland.* He has led several major projects relating to the early modern period, including the Down Survey of Ireland and the 1641 Depositions, both of which are available on open access online http://downsurvey.tcd.ie and http://1641.tcd.ie.



He is currently working on a new, definitive five-volume edition of the letters and papers of Oliver Cromwell, to be published by Oxford University Press, and a pilot project for the 'Beyond 2022' initiative, which is attempting to rebuild the archive for 1650s Ireland, destroyed in the Four Courts at the outset of the Irish Civil War in 1922.

LUNCH (AT OWN EXPENSE)

Saturday | 13:10-14:25pm



GRANUAILE — GRACE O'MALLEY: IRELAND'S PIRATE QUEEN (1530-1603)

The life and times of an iconic pioneer and feminist

ANNE CHAMBERS

Author of nine biographies, including the best-selling *Granuaile – Grace O'Malley: Ireland's Pirate Queen,* a historical novel, a collection of short stories, film and TV screenplays. Anne writes, lectures and has been interviewed worldwide about her work. Her books have been the subject of international TV and radio documentaries including the Discovery, Learning and Travel Channels, Lyric FM, BBC and RTÉ.



Her short film drama *Coming Home* on breast cancer awareness was broadcast by RTÉ in 2013. She was short-listed for the Irish Book Awards for her biographies *Eleanor Countess of Desmond* in 1987, *T. K. Whitaker: Portrait of a Patriot* in 2014 and in 2004 for the Hennessy Literary Awards. Her latest biography *The Great Leviathan: The Life of Howe Peter Browne, 2nd Marquess of Sligo, 1788–1845* was published in November 2017. Anne holds an M.A. in History from the National University of Ireland.

Third Session

Saturday | 15.20-16.05

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IRISH INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD WAR I

A review

NEIL RICHARDSON

Neil is the award-winning author of *A Coward if I Return, A Hero if I Fall: Stories of Irishmen in World War I.* His other works include *Dark Times, Decent Men: Stories of Irishmen in World War II* and *According to Their Lights: Stories of Irishmen in the British Army, Easter 1916.* Neil holds an M.A. in Military History and Strategic Studies from Maynooth University, and is currently undertaking a PhD in History. He is the recipient of both a John and Pat Hume doctoral studentship, and a Universities Ireland history bursary.



Q&A/CLOSE OF SEMINAR

Saturday | 16.15-16.30pm



BIRTH OF A NATION CONCERT

Riverbank Arts Centre Tickets | €10

Paul Linehan, Tenor, Ann Cullen, Piano and Violin, and Liam Quinlivan, Narrator.

Birth of a Nation, a musical extravaganza set against the backdrop of Irish history up to the founding of the modern Irish State. It was a time of great change, the effects of which impacted on the lives of people throughout the country from all walks of life; a period of rebellion, war, emigration and political and social upheaval. Featuring songs and music from the period, with a script by Mario



Corrigan, it is a marvellous, sometimes whimsical, but often tragic journey, guaranteed to move and entertain you.

Birth of a Nation was originally developed as part of the 2016 Commemorative Programme. It was revised, with a new cast, for a special performance in the United States last Autumn. Under the Sister Cities Twinning agreement, Lexington celebrated 60 years of twinning in 2017 and as part of a cultural exchange programme, Birth of a Nation was performed before a French, American and Irish audience in Kentucky to great acclaim.

Experience this phenomenon first-hand. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.



Archaeological Society

The County Kildare Archaeological Society was founded in 1891, with the purpose of studying and promoting the knowledge of the antiquities and objects of interest in the county and surrounding districts.

www.kildarearchsoc.ie



The County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups was formed in 1999 in order to exchange ideas, share information and raise awareness of local history groups and their activities within the county, as well as improve accessibility and representation on relevant county committees concerned with heritage.

www.kildarelocalhistory.ie



IRISH MILITARY SEMINAR

Presented in association with Merrion Press and Ireland's Military Story.

CONOR GRAHAM, Merrion Press

Conor Graham is the publisher and owner of Irish Academic Press and its imprint, Merrion Press. He has been involved in the Irish book industry for almost twenty-five years, beginning his career as a bookseller with Dillon's Bookstore in his native Belfast in 1993. Following a managerial position with Waterstones Booksellers in their University of Ulster branch, he left bookselling for the publishing sector in 2000 with McGraw-Hill Education, where he worked in sales and then as an Acquisitions Editor for their European Education Division.



Ten further years in sales and marketing with the Irish agency, Brookside Publishing Services and its sister publisher, New Island Books, led him to acquire Irish

Academic Press in 2012 where he continues to expand the publishing list and grow the business from its Co. Kildare base in Newbridge. With a core focus on Irish history, biography, arts, heritage & culture, and new genres such as current affairs, memoirs and autobiography, Irish Academic Press and Merrion Press are recognised as two of the leading imprints in Irish non-fiction publishing.



WESLEY BOURKE, Ireland's Military Story

Wesley Bourke served with and worked for the Irish Defence Forces for nineteen years. He first served with the Air Corps and then as the Defence Forces journalist. He holds a B.A. Hons. in War and Security Studies from the University of Hull, and an M.A. in War in the Modern World from King's College, London and an M.A. in Military History and Strategic Studies from Maynooth University.

In 2014 he launched an Irish military history magazine: Reveille—telling Ireland's military story. This title has since been re-branded as Ireland's Military Story.



Prosperous Heritage Testival

EXPERIENCE THE BATTLE OF PROSPEROUS 1798

with

LORD EDWARD'S OWN RE-ENACTMENT GROUP & FRIENDS.

This year marks the 220th anniversary of the 1798 Rebellion. The Battle of Prosperous was one of the first battles of the Rebellion and the first major rebel victor that year.

Prosperous Heritage Festival will host a weekend of history talks, music, battle re-enactments, a 1798 museum, old-fashioned crafting displays and much more. The festival will take place on the weekend of 25-27 May 2018.

Travel back in time to Prosperous in the late 18th century. Find out who were the key players involved with the rebels and forces of the crown. Come and meet them in person.

For the full programme of events and times see the Prosperous Heritage Festival Facebook page.

OFFICIAL SEMINAR BOOKSTORE



Established in 1957, Farrell & Nephew has been a part of the Main Street in Newbridge for almost 60 years.

KILDARE DECADE OF COMMEMORATIONS PROGRAMME 2018

January: A Year in the Making, online Flip Book in Irish and English. WITNESS: Accounts from Kildare Participants in 1916 by Mario Corrigan.

30 January: The Graney Ambush 1922. James Durney lecture for Castledermot Local History Group.

20 February: Brothers in Arms: The remarkable story of William and James Roantree of Leixlip, Co. Kildare by Michael Kenny. Launch of bilingual book in Leixlip Community Library.

9 May: Public Consultation on Commemorations 2018-2023. The Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge.

25-27 May: *Prosperous Heritage Festival,* including a re-enactment of the Battle of Prosperous in 1798.

8-9 June: Irish Military Seminar.

18-26 August: National Heritage Week.

13 September: William Francis Roantree: Forgotten Fenian by Michael Kenny. John Devoy Commemorative Lecture. Naas Community Library.

6 October: The Black Flu and the Khaki Election 1918 Seminar in partnership with the Co. Kildare Federation of Local History Groups. Dr. Ida Milne, Ronnie Kinane, Frank Taaffe, Mario Corrigan and Dr. Tom Nelson. Osprey Hotel, Naas.

14 October: Queen Medbh's Shadow: The legacy of 1918, empowerment and women today. Panel discussion as part of Kildare Readers Festival with Fiona O'Loughlin T.D., Catherine Murphy T.D., Ciara Plunkett, Presenter and News Editor, KFM Radio, and and Maureen Bergin, Kildare Retail Outlet Village and President of Co. Kildare Chamber of Commerce. Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge.

10 November: The End of the Great War 1918 in association with the Co. Kildare Archaeological Society. Prof. Diarmaid Ferriter, Caitriona Crowe, Prof. Terry Dooley, Brig. Gen. Joe Mulligan, James Durney and Fionnuala Walsh. Killashee Hotel, Naas.

11 November: Remembrance: The Eleventh Hour. Unveiling of a World War I memorial at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas at 11 a.m. followed by the launch of Remembrance: The Kildare War Dead 1914-1918 and civic reception, Osprey Hotel, Naas.

FURTHER DETAILS AND EVENTS:





