

# IRIS MHUINTIR MHATHÚNA



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Nora M. Hickey

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## FENIAN MOVEMENT, EARLY YEARS 1857-1861

**Brian Sayers**

Before suspending its activities in late 1856 the Emmet Monument Association had appointed a permanent committee to revive the organization when a potential opportunity for insurrection in Ireland presented itself as a result of British involvement on another front. Such an opportunity occurred on 10 May 1857 when an uprising broke out in India as a mutiny of Sepoys in the British East India Company's army. What commenced as a Sepoy revolt soon developed into a widespread insurrection across Northern India. In order to explore the possibilities presented by this new situation, the EMA committee in New York City was reactivated. This committee was chaired by Michael Doherty with members John O'Mahony, Michael Corcoran, Oliver Byrne, James Roche, Patrick O'Rourke and John Reynolds. According to later recollections, they sent a messenger, Owen Considine, to Dublin in late 1857 with a letter<sup>1</sup> for James Stephens, who had returned to Ireland from Paris the previous year. In their dispatch to Stephens, the EMA committee formally asked him to establish a secret Irish revolutionary organization to work for national independence with which they and other Irish exiles in America could co-operate.<sup>2</sup>

Owen Considine also brought a personal communication from John O'Mahony to James Stephens informing him of the fragmentary nature of the American base and of their financial weakness due to the current recession in the United States that had hit many Irish workers hard.<sup>3</sup> O'Mahony was clearly not enthusiastic about the project in its present form. He had serious reservations about the appropriateness of the proposal to launch a

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1 It is curious that such an important item as this initial invitation to James Stephens has not survived. Nor is there any reference to it in subsequent correspondence.

2 Thomas Clarke Luby, 'The father of Fenianism: personal reminiscences of Colonel John O'Mahony' in *Irish World* (New York), 24 Mar. 1877 (hereafter cited as Luby, *Reminiscences*).

3 Reference is made to these two dispatches carried by Joseph Denieffe to Ireland in Thomas Clarke Luby's recollections of early Fenian events communicated to John O'Leary, 1890-1 (NLI, MS 331), pp 7-8 (hereafter cited as Luby, *Recollections*); John O'Leary, *Recollections of Fenians and Fenianism* (2 vols, London, 1896), i, 80-1 (hereafter cited as O'Leary, *Recollections*); Joseph Denieffe, *A personal narrative of the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood* (New York, 1906), p. 17 (hereafter cited as Denieffe, *A personal narrative*).

revolutionary organization in Ireland dependent on support from America given the circumstances prevailing in the United States at that time. As it is also evident that O'Mahony was not encouraging Stephens to take up the offer from the EMA committee, it is a fair inference that O'Mahony had serious doubts about the suitability of Stephens for such a project. From his knowledge of Stephens during their shared exile in Paris, O'Mahony would have been keenly aware of Stephens's obsession with money. There would not appear to have been any contact between them since O'Mahony had departed Paris for New York in late 1853.

In late December 1857, James Stephens sent a reply containing his demands via Joseph Denieffe<sup>4</sup> to Michael Doheny, John O'Mahony and the five others noted. The fact that Stephens was ready to respond to the invitation from the EMA committee without hesitation is an indication that this was a formalization of something already discussed in correspondence between Stephens and Doheny. Although Denieffe's trip to the United States was specifically at the request of Stephens, the expenses of that journey were borne by Denieffe himself with the assistance of Garrett O'Shaughnessy.<sup>5</sup> Denieffe reached New York City in late January 1858 and delivered Stephens's letter of reply to the EMA committee there. Stephens's requirements were £80 to £100 a month to organize in three months a force of 10,000 men to be ready for action at twenty-four hours notice. His demand of money overlooked O'Mahony's warning that it was unrealistic to depend on substantial financial support from the United States at that time. In his response to the EMA committee, Stephens also stipulated that they would recognize him as 'a provisional dictator' and on this point he would 'conscientiously concede nothing.'<sup>6</sup>

On the morning of 17 March 1858, Joseph Denieffe arrived back in Dublin bearing a document from the EMA committee, now calling itself the

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4 Before returning to Ireland from America in June 1855, Joseph Denieffe had received a commission from Michael Doheny to extend the Emmet Monument Association to the home country in anticipation of a military expedition from America. Following his arrival in Ireland, Denieffe initiated various groups of nationalists in Kilkenny and Dublin into the EMA. See Denieffe, *A personal narrative*, pp 2-12.

5 Denieffe, *A personal narrative*, p. 17.

6 James Stephens to Michael Doheny, 1 Jan. 1858 (NYPL, Manuscripts and Archives Division, William J. Maloney collection of Irish historical papers, box 9, file 9.3). This letter is also printed in Denieffe, *A personal narrative*, pp 159-60.

‘Irish revolutionary committee.’ Their text, dated 28 February 1858, read as follows:

We the undersigned members of the Irish revolutionary committee, hereby appoint and constitute James Stephens, of the city of Dublin, chief executive of the Irish revolutionary movement and give him on our own and our comrades’ behalf supreme control and absolute authority over that movement in Ireland.<sup>7</sup>

While it seems to be conciliatory, this document clearly does not accept James Stephens’s list of demands. It was designed to ensure that he would have control solely of the revolutionary network in Ireland and as ‘chief executive’ he would be responsible to the EMA committee. Those who put their signatures to this commission to Stephens were Michael Doheny, John O’Mahony, Michael Corcoran, James Roche, Oliver Byrne, T. W. Lynch<sup>8</sup>, Thomas N. O’Dwyer<sup>9</sup>, Thomas O’Connell, James Cavanagh<sup>10</sup>, Daniel O’Connell, Michael O’Connell<sup>11</sup>, John Reynolds, Michael O’Keefe, John Burke<sup>12</sup>, John McDonnell Hughes<sup>13</sup>, Patrick O’Rourke, John Doran and John

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7 Document of 28 Feb. 1858 (TCD, Michael Davin papers, MS 9659d/207).

8 This was probably the same Thomas Lynch whose name appears in the muster roll for ‘The Edward Fitzgerald Guard’, the Irish military company organized by John O’Mahony on 7 April 1854. See Denieffe, *A personal narrative*, p. ix.

9 Thomas N. Dwyer was a dealer in paper makers’ stock at 42 Maiden Lane and 25 West Broadway, New York City. See *Phoenix* (New York), 4 June 1859.

10 James Cavanagh was born in County Tipperary in 1831. At the age of sixteen Cavanagh emigrated to New York City where he worked as a carpenter. In 1852 Cavanagh enlisted as a private in the 69th Regiment of the New York State Militia. By the outbreak of the American Civil War, he had risen to the rank of captain in Company C of the 69th Regiment. See David Power Conyngham, *The Irish Brigade and its campaigns* (New York, 1867), p. 549 (hereafter cited as Conyngham, *The Irish Brigade*).

11 “Michael O’Connell was a native of County Kerry. During the American Civil War he served as a lieutenant with the 155th New York Volunteer Infantry (Michael Corcoran’s Legion). O’Connell was killed in action while leading his company at the Battle of Spotsylvania, Virginia, fought 8-21 May 1864. See Conyngham, *The Irish Brigade*, p. 547.

12 During the American Civil War John Burke served as lieutenant colonel of the 37th New York Irish Rifles and later as colonel of the 63rd New York Volunteer Infantry. See Conyngham, *The Irish Brigade*, p. 566.

13 John McDonnell Hughes was one of the 100 men who had served under the command of John O’Mahony in ‘The Edward Fitzgerald Guard’, established on 7 April 1854. See Denieffe, *A personal narrative*, p. viii.

Kavanagh.<sup>14</sup> Included in the above eighteen signatures were the seven members of the EMA committee in New York that had sent the letter of invitation to Stephens in late 1857.

It is clear from his correspondence in 1858 that money was James Stephens's main preoccupation. In fact it would remain the chief motivation for all his future behaviour. Despite the difficulty that the 'Irish revolutionary committee' had in raising £80 (\$400), the minimum amount that Stephens had stipulated as a necessary monthly income, he did not delay in making his theatrical move. On the very evening of Joseph Denieffe's return to Dublin on St Patrick's Day 1858, Stephens leaped at the opportunity to initiate Denieffe, Thomas Clarke Luby, Peter Langan and Garrett O'Shaughnessy into what would later be called the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood (IRB).<sup>15</sup> The new revolutionary movement quickly spread in Munster, the region where John O'Mahony's influence was strongest. In his own words:

In becoming a partner in the Fenian organization, I placed a good deal of hope in the revolutionary elements which I had left after myself at home, in Cork, Waterford, Limerick and Tipperary. I had partially kept up my relations with those quarters, and I felt certain that my name was there, at any time, worth some thousands of stalwart fighting men - many of them my own blood - even were there no national organization at all in existence. This I considered a good basis to build an organization upon.<sup>16</sup>

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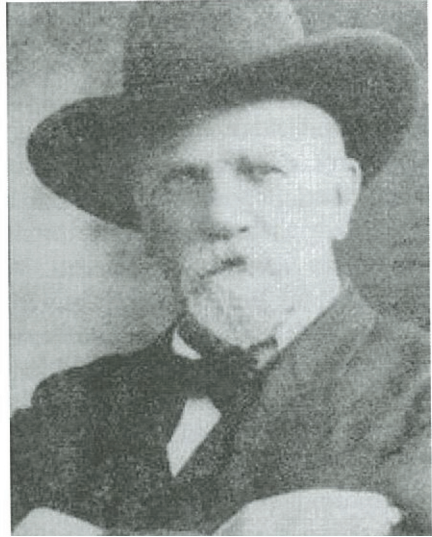
14 John Kavanagh was president of the Fitzgerald Confederate Club in Dublin in 1848. After the suspension of habeas corpus, he went south to join William Smith O'Brien in Tipperary. Kavanagh was present at Farrenrory, during which he was wounded in the leg. He was subsequently conveyed to Kilkenny where he was looked after by Dr Robert Cane, a member of the council of the Irish Confederation who would later become the editor of the *Celt*. When Kavanagh recovered from his injury, he made his way to Le Havre and from thence to New York City, arriving in the Fall of 1848. Following the outbreak of the American Civil War, Kavanagh was one of the chief organizers of 37th Regiment, New York Volunteers. He was later transferred to the command of Company I, 63rd Regiment of the Irish Brigade. Kavanagh was killed in action on 17 September 1862 while leading his company at the battle of Antietam, near Sharpsburg, Maryland. See John Savage, *Fenian heroes and martyrs* (Boston, Massachusetts, 1868), p. 306; Conyngham, *The Irish Brigade*, p. 568; Charles Gavan Duffy, *Four years of Irish history, 1845-49* (London, 1883), pp 686-7 (hereafter cited as Gavan Duffy, *Four years of Irish history*).

15 Denieffe, *A personal narrative*, p. 25; Luby, *Reminiscences in Irish World* (New York), 24 Mar. 1877; Luby, *Recollections* (NU, MS 331).

16 John O'Mahony, 'Fenianism as it was' in *Irish People* (New York), 14 Dec. 1867.



*General Corcoran*



*Donovan Rossa*

That this was no idle boast is proven by the thousands that turned out in the Suir valley following John O'Mahony's muster call on the evening of 24 July 1848 and was further demonstrated in September 1848 when leadership was demanded from him.

One of the first IRB cells was established in Skibbereen, West Cork. In 1853 Patrick J. Downing of Skibbereen had emigrated to New York City. Following the establishment of the Emmet Monument Association in March 1855, Downing became a prominent member. In early 1856 he returned to Ireland and commenced to drill and organize the men of West Cork in anticipation of military assistance from the EMA. Later that same year Downing together with O'Donovan Rossa and others established the Phoenix National and Literary Society in Skibbereen<sup>17</sup>. Many of its members were

<sup>17</sup> 'Roster of the military officers of the Fenian Brotherhood, New York', pp 14-17 (CUA, Washington, D C, Fenian Brotherhood collection, box 2, folder 6); O'Donovan Rossa, *Rossa's recollections*, 1838-98 (New York, 1898), pp 149-50, 317 (hereafter cited as *Rossa recollections*). 7

also in the Ossianic Society, founded on 9 May 1853 in the house of John O'Daly at 9 Anglesea Street, Dublin. The Ossianic Society was committed to reviving interest in the Irish language through the publication of Gaelic manuscript texts. In 1858, William Smith O'Brien accepted the office of president. O'Brien had returned to live in Ireland after receiving a pardon from the British government two years before. Reverend Thaddeus O'Mahony, a Professor of Irish in Trinity College Dublin, was vice-president. His brother, James O'Mahony of Bandon, West Cork, was on its council. James O'Mahony also organized the branch of the Ossianic Society in Bandon.<sup>18</sup>

In May 1858 James Stephens and Thomas Clarke Luby traveled to Bandon where they had arranged to meet James O'Mahony<sup>19</sup>. He gave them a letter of introduction to Dan McCartie, a leading member of the Phoenix Society in Skibbereen. Stephens and Luby then went to Skibbereen where they enrolled McCartie into the IRB. McCartie initiated O'Donovan Rossa who in turn enrolled Patrick J. Downing and others into the new revolutionary organization.<sup>20</sup>

The IRB soon spread from West Cork across the Kerry border to Kenmare and Killarney. By the Fall of 1858 it had begun to attract the attention of the Catholic hierarchy and through them the clergy. During the first week of October the parish priests of Skibbereen, Bantry and Kenmare preached sermons against secret societies.<sup>21</sup> Soon afterwards the proprietor of the Nation, Alexander Martin Sullivan, sent a letter to William Smith O'Brien, dated 25 October, enquiring whether he was a member of any secret society.<sup>22</sup> O'Brien gave a prompt answer in writing to Sullivan which declared that 'I do not think it at all probable that I shall ever invite my fellow countrymen to

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18 Damien Murray, *Romanticism, nationalism and Irish antiquarian societies, 1840-80* (Maynooth, 2000), pp 52, 74-5; Liam Mac Peaircin, 'William Smith O'Brien: an scolaire Gaeilge' in *North Munster Antiquarian Journal* 42, (2002), pp 89-112.

19 See Pdraig O Maidin. 'A letter cherished by O'Donovan Rossa' in *Iris Mhuintir Mhathana*, Vol. 10 (Summer 1980), pp 36-43.

20 Denieffe, *A personal narrative*, p. 26; *Rossa recollections*, p. 150.

21 Leon 6 Broin, 'The Phoenix conspiracy' (two instalments) in *Irish Sword* xiv (1980), pp 25-46, 157-71 (hereafter cited as 6 Broin, 'The Phoenix conspiracy').

22 A. M. Sullivan to William Smith O'Brien, 25 Oct. 1858 (NLI, William Smith O'Brien papers, MS 446/3058); Desmond Ryan, *The Fenian chief a study of James Stephens* (Dublin, 1967), pp 144-5 (hereafter cited as Ryan, *Fenian chief*).



connect themselves with me in any proceeding which requires concealment.’<sup>23</sup> Sullivan published O’Brien’s letter in the *Nation* of 30 October. O’Brien’s statement did not denounce Fenianism or secret societies. It satisfied Sullivan and at the same time it did not exclude the possibility of O’Brien joining the IRB at the crucial hour. Because he had lost all but his life by coming out in support of O’Brien in 1848, it was reasonable that John O’Mahony would expect from O’Brien a benevolent but detached attitude in relation to the IRB, especially since it was largely built upon and so prominently linked with his (O’Mahony’s) name and standing in Ireland. It would appear that, in the circumstances in which he found himself, O’Brien did all that was expected of him and did not fail O’Mahony.<sup>24</sup> According to the account of John O’Leary, during O’Brien’s visit to the United States in 1859, he met with O’Mahony in New York.<sup>25</sup> The fact that they met and neither went public with it is further evidence of the trust that existed between them.

John O’Mahony’s task of raising money for the IRB was not an easy one because the previously noted economic downturn of 1857 had thrown many Irish laborers in the United States out of work. In the summer of 1858, James Stephens sent Joseph Denieffe on a fund-raising trip to the United States. Denieffe’s return to Ireland one month later with £40 provided Stephens with the means to go to New York City with the purpose of collecting more money himself.<sup>26</sup> Stephens expected to gain access to the treasury containing between £5,000 and £10,000 in the trust of the ‘Irish Directory’, the New York committee formed in 1848. Its leading members in 1858 were Judge Robert Emmet, Richard O’Gorman, Charles O’Connor, Horace Greeley and Thomas Francis Meagher. John Mitchel could be expected to carry influence with the Irish Directory, though not himself a member.<sup>27</sup>

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23 Letter from William Smith O’Brien, dated 26 October, to the editor of the *Nation* (Dublin), 30 Oct. 1858.

24 John O’Mahony later gave his judgment that William Smith O’Brien was the first of his tribe in truth, honor, chivalry and all that ennobles the hero, the patriot and the man.’ In the *Celtic Magazine* (New York, 1883, pp 538-9), its editor Michael Cavanagh noted that ‘the above well-merited tribute to the worth of the patriotic William Smith O’Brien was written during that Gentleman’s lifetime.’ O’Brien died on 18 June 1864.

25 O’Leary, *Recollections*, i, p. 115.

26 Denieffe, *A personal narrative*, pp 27-8, 43.

27 Gavan Duffy, *Four years of Irish history*, p. 695; Ryan, *Fenian chief*; pp 102-3.

Following James Stephens's arrival in New York City on 13 October 1858<sup>28</sup>, John O'Mahony tried to impress upon him the absolute requirement of winning the confidence of John Mitchel and Thomas Francis Meagher, the two most influential Irishmen in the United States at that time. O'Mahony had the full confidence and support of both Mitchel and Meagher. Mitchel lived at that time in Knoxville, Tennessee. In order to solicit the help of Mitchel, Stephens traveled to Knoxville, arriving on 21 October. Mitchel's first and lasting impression of Stephens was as follows: 'All he wanted was that I should publicly call on my fellow countrymen in America for money, and more money, and no end of money to be remitted to him for revolutionary purposes.'<sup>29</sup> Mitchel gave Stephens \$50 and was glad to send him on his way.<sup>30</sup>

Some weeks after his return from Knoxville to New York City, a second purpose for James Stephens's visit to the United States emerged when he produced a significantly different version of his commission of 28 February 1858. The revised document, dated 9 December 1858, would prove to be very important in the future as it gave Stephens 'supreme control and absolute authority' over the 'movement *at home and abroad*.'<sup>31</sup> This commission was signed by John O'Mahony, Michael Doheny, Michael Corcoran, James Roche, John Reynolds, Thomas N. Dwyer, William Briggs, John McCory, Thomas Francis Meagher, Michael Phelan, John Burke, Owen Keenan, Oliver Byrne, James Cantwell<sup>32</sup> and John Comber. We can be certain that it went against O'Mahony's instincts and better judgment to accept Stephens's new conditions in the December 1858 document. But once again the 'provisional dictator' got his way. The seeds for all future problems that O'Mahony would have to cope with had now been sown.

When he later wrote about the events of that time, John O'Mahony recalled that at a meeting held in Tammany Hall, New York City, in late 1858, 'the small

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28 Marta RamOn (ed.), James Stephens, *The birth of the Fenian movement, American diary*. Brooklyn 1859 (Dublin, 2009), p. 5.

29 Quoted in William Dillon, *Life of John Mitchel* (2 vols., London, 1888), ii, p. 120.

30 Ibid.

31 Document commissioning James Stephens, New York, 9 Dec. 1858 (TCD, Michael Davitt papers, MS 9659d/208).

32 32 James Cantwell had been one of the fourteen delegates who attended the Boulagh Common council on 28 July 1848. Following the Farrenrory fiasco, he escaped to the United States. In 1858 Cantwell resided in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as did John Comber - the last name in the list quoted above. 10

remnant of the Emmet Monument Association then in existence remodeled its organization and elected me its President' with effect from 1 January 1859.<sup>33</sup> O'Mahony was elected to this position at James Stephens's request!<sup>34</sup> As in 1848 O'Mahony did not seek to be in charge of anything but when called upon was always ready to assume a position of leadership. Despite the fact that O'Mahony had been elected as President of the remodeled EMA, Stephens now tried to pose as the person who had 'appointed' him to that position by composing and signing the following undated document:

I, the undersigned, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood at home and abroad hereby appoint John O'Mahony, formerly of Kilbenny [sic], County Limerick, and of Mullough, near Carrick on Suir, Ireland, supreme organizer and Director of said IRB in America. *With him alone as Chief Centre shall any communication be held from home*, and I hereby notify to the members of the Brotherhood in America, *that any one writing to Ireland after having been made acquainted with this order, shall be looked on and treated as a traitor*.<sup>35</sup>

The manoeuvrings of a natural born bureaucrat are now evident: the last sentence of the above text is a smokescreen. We shall see that James Stephens had already arranged for certain elements in America to report directly to him.

Meanwhile in Ireland, on the night of 5 December 1858 the authorities had made several arrests of members of the Phoenix Society in Skibbereen, Bantry, Kenmare and Killarney. The significance of the Phoenix Society in the Skibbereen area is reflected in the fact that O'Donovan Rossa, Dan McCartie, Mortimer Moynihan and others from

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33 Letter from John O'Mahony to Fr Patrick Lavelle, dated 22 July 1862, printed in *Irishman* (Dublin), 16 Aug. 1862.

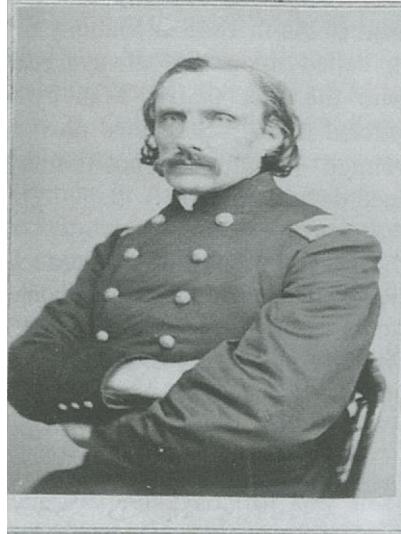
34 *To the state centres, centres, and members of the Fenian Brotherhood of North America* (New York, 1866), p. 9.

35 Copy of a document signed by Stephens (n. d.) 'appointing' John O'Mahony supreme organizer and Director of the IRB in America, enclosed with letter from John O'Mahony to Charles J. Kickham, 19 Oct. 1863 (CUA, Washington, D C, Fenian Brotherhood collection, box 1, folder 5, item 7); See also transcription by Seamus Pender in 'Fenian papers in Catholic University of America', *Journal of the Cork Archaeological and Historical Society* lxxxi: 223-4 (1976), p. 130.

that town were among the fourteen prisoners who were indicted on charges of treason-felony.<sup>36</sup>



*Charles Kickham*



*John O'Mahony as a Colonel of the 99th (American Military Heritage Museum of North Carolina)*

On 13 January 1859 a circular signed by Michael Doheny, Michael Corcoran and John O'Mahony somehow found its way into the American press. This notice announced that 'a meeting of gentlemen friendly to the cause of the young men now imprisoned in Ireland' would take place the following evening in Tammany Hall, New York City, 'to consider what action should be taken in respect to the events now taking place in Ireland.'<sup>37</sup> The vagueness of the circular would suggest that this was a preliminary meeting to launch the Fenian Brotherhood.

At the subsequent gathering in Tammany Hall on 14 January, John O'Mahony was appointed treasurer and comptroller of a fund devoted to Irish revolutionary purposes. Confusion arose at the meeting when someone gave

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36 O Broin, 'The Phoenix conspiracy', pp 25-46, 157-71.

37 Quoted in William D'Arcy, *The Fenian movement in the United States: 1858-1886* (Washington, D C, 1947), p. 14; *Herald* (New York), 15 Jan. 1859.

the impression that this fund would be used for the legal defence of the Phoenix Society prisoners in Ireland. O'Mahony immediately made it clear to those in attendance that he would accept no money whatever for such a purpose.<sup>38</sup> In view of the pattern that we shall come to see of his machinations to subvert O'Mahony's position, it cannot be excluded that James Stephens was the source of the misunderstanding, or what was apparently a pre-arranged incident.<sup>39</sup>

In late January 1859 James Stephens was given a hand delivered letter from Thomas Francis Meagher requesting that his signature be erased from the December 1858 document, where Stephens was given 'supreme control and absolute authority' over the 'movement at home and abroad.'<sup>40</sup> We can infer from the content of Meagher's communication to Stephens that there would be no transfer of funds from the Irish Directory to Stephens, or in fact no further trust in him on the part of Meagher. After departing the United States in March 1859, and leaving behind this his sole entry into diplomacy, Stephens did not fulfill the commission that he had undertaken. Instead of returning to Ireland, Stephens retreated to Paris where he received the remissions from America. The organizing of the IRB was done by others in Ireland under orders issued from Stephens.<sup>41</sup>

Probably as a deliberate reassertion of his leadership position in relation to James Stephens, John O'Mahony now gave the 'Brotherhood in America' a distinct title - the 'Fenian Brotherhood.'<sup>42</sup> As was the case with its immediate predecessor - the Emmet Monument Association - all concerned knew what O'Mahony meant when he named his new revolutionary movement the Fenian Brotherhood. Its members in both Ireland and America subsequently became known as Fenians. By evoking the memory of the ancient Fianna of the heroic

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38 Letter from Michael Doheny to the editor of the *Irish American*, dated 22 June 1859, printed in *Irish American* (New York), 2 July 1859.

39 For an alternative perspective, see Marta Ramon, *A provisional dictator: James Stephens and the Fenian movement* (Dublin, 2007), pp 93-6.

40 Thomas Francis Meagher to James Stephens, 26 Jan. 1859 (TCD, Michael Davitt papers, MS 9659d/66). As had been requested, Thomas Francis Meagher's signature is crossed out in the document commissioning James Stephens, dated 9 December 1858 (TCD, Michael Davitt papers, MS 9659d/208).

41 Ryan, *Fenian chief* pp 156-7.

42 John O'Mahony, 'The Fenian name - the Fenian thing' in *Irish People* (New York), 6 May 1871.

sagas in cherished manuscripts, O'Mahony gave the old name a new significance for his time. For O'Mahony,

The former Fenians of Ireland constituted the National Guard of the Irish nation in the days of its independence, while the monarchy, or rather the patriarchal republic of the Gaels, still flourished in its integrity. The principal duties of the Fenian Order of Ireland, called *Fiann nu h-Eirenn* in our vernacular, were, to defend the country from foreign invaders, to put down domestic tyrants and plunderers, and to assist the *Ard-righ* or Arch-King of the Gaelic tribes in maintaining order and justice throughout his nation.<sup>43</sup>

Since the foundation of the Ossianic Society in Dublin in 1853, it had published from Irish manuscripts stories and poems of the ancient Fianna along with English translations and notes. In 1859, probably in the first half of the year, John O'Mahony together with Michael Doheny, Michael Cavanagh and others founded the New York Ossianic Society as a branch of the parent society in Ireland. It shared the same address as the Fenian Brotherhood at 6 Center Street. This building, across from the Superior Court, was the center for many Irish activities in New York City in the 1850s.<sup>44</sup>

In order to keep the inspector general of police in Dublin Castle informed of the progress of the Fenian Brotherhood in the United States, the British authorities sent Inspector Thomas Doyle, a trusted officer of the Irish Constabulary, to New York City in early 1859. In his dispatch dated 3 September 1859, Inspector Doyle sympathetically noted that O'Mahony pays occasional visits to distant cities, ostensibly to promote the objects of the organization - reconciling differences and infusing confidence as far as he can - not a very easy task in my opinion.<sup>45</sup> As with most observers who came into contact with O'Mahony, Inspector Doyle came to admire his idealistic character and determined nature. In another report from that same year, Inspector Doyle made this perceptive observation:

John O'Mahony appears to be a gloomy enthusiast who would not shrink from danger or responsibility. Those who know him say he is a man of integrity and

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43 *Phoenix* (New York), 4 June 1859.

44 See Kenneth E. Nilsen, 'The Irish language in New York, 1850-1900' in Baylor, Ronald H. and Timothy J. Meagher (eds.), *The New York Irish* (Baltimore, Maryland and London, 1997), p. 264.

45 Inspector Thomas Doyle report, 3 Sept. 1859 (NAI, Fenian police reports, box I, item 41).

honor in his capacity as a citizen. He appears to be about 40 years of age - he does not shave, but wears a profusion of long black beard and hair - it appears he is entirely dependent on his literary labors for a livelihood.<sup>46</sup>

The latter remark is a reference to John O'Mahony's directorship of the Fenian organ the *Phoenix*. On 4 June 1859 a new weekly periodical - The *Phoenix* - had been launched at 44 Ann Street, New York. It had James Roche as editor and was under the directorship of O'Mahony.

### FURTHER MACHINATIONS

On 2 April 1859 an unsigned notice appeared in the *Irish American* announcing that all communications and contributions connected to what it called the 'Irish patriotic defense fund' should be addressed to John O'Mahony.<sup>47</sup> This announcement was published without O'Mahony's knowledge or approval and had very likely been instigated by an enemy agent. In the *Irish American* of 25 June, its editor Patrick J. Meehan<sup>48</sup>, who was also a member of the Fenian Brotherhood, commented that 'it has been previously intimated to us indirectly that none of the money collected here under the name of the "Patriotic Defense Fund" had gone to the assistance of the Irish state prisoners.'<sup>49</sup> In this and a subsequent article published in the *Irish American*, Meehan insinuated that O'Mahony had obtained money under false pretences.<sup>50</sup> On 3 July Meehan was summoned to appear before the Fenian council at 6 Center Street, but declined to attend. In his absence a resolution was unanimously adopted by the Fenian council expelling Meehan from the Fenian Brotherhood.<sup>51</sup>

In response to Patrick J. Meehan's accusations against him, John O'Mahony issued the following statement in the *Phoenix* of 23 July:

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46 Inspector Thomas Doyle report, 6 Dec. 1859 (NAI, Fenian police reports, box 1, item 52).

47 *Irish American* (New York), 2 Apr. 1859.

48 It may be worth noting that Patrick J. Meehan's name appears in the muster roll for 'The Edward Fitzgerald Guard', the Irish military company organized by John O'Mahony on 7 April 1854. See Denieffe, *A personal narrative*, p. ix.

49 *Irish American* (New York), 25 June 1859.

50 *Irish American* (New York), 2 July 1859.

51 *Phoenix* (New York), 23 July 1859. Copies of the *Phoenix* are found in the Inspector Thomas Doyle reports (NAI, Fenian police reports, box 1).

*I never, to my knowledge, received a single cent which was contributed for the special purpose of defending the Irish political prisoners in a British court of law. As I have stated before now, some one or two letters were sent to me tendering subscriptions for that object, but I invariably refused to take charge of them, upon which I was as invariably requested to apply them to the object for which the "Irish Patriotic Defense Fund" had been instituted.*<sup>52</sup>

Although John O'Mahony offered to refund any money donated under an erroneous impression, no one except Richard Lalor, editor of the *Irish News*, reclaimed his contribution. It would appear that Patrick J. Meehan had not subscribed to the fund.<sup>53</sup>

Meanwhile in Ireland, at a 'special commission' which began in Cork City on 17 March 1859, the case against the Phoenix Society prisoners had petered out after jury disagreement. Most of the accused were soon released but O'Donovan Rossa and five others were detained in Cork City jail. In order to secure the release of one of their number, Daniel O'Sullivan, who had been sentenced to ten years penal servitude, the other Phoenix Society prisoners agreed to a deal to plead guilty of treason. On 27 July the prisoners were freed, with the exception of O'Sullivan. Although his immediate release had been promised, O'Sullivan was detained in Cork City jail until the following November.<sup>54</sup> John O'Mahony had the full confidence of the Phoenix Society prisoners. In order to clarify their position on the 'Irish patriotic defense fund' controversy, the prisoners, represented by O'Donovan Rossa and Mortimer Moynihan, issued the following statement:

As against Mr John O'Mahony we find the charge preferred of misappropriating those funds, and as we were the principal parties concerned, and on whose account this controversy, which can result in no possible good, commenced, we think it a duty incumbent upon us to state that we believe Mr O'Mahony used the money in the manner best calculated to forward the cause for which it was collected and contributed.<sup>55</sup>

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52 Ibid.

53 Ibid.

54 *Rossa's recollections*, pp 219-220; O'Donovan Rossa, *Irish rebels in English prisons* (New York, 1880), p. 11; *Phoenix* (New York), 1 June 1861.

55 Letter from Mortimer Moynihan and O'Donovan Rossa to the editors of the *Phoenix* (New York), 14 Feb. 1860 (NYPL, Manuscripts and Archives Division, William J. Maloney collection of Irish historical papers, box 9, file 1).



Meanwhile, the uprising in Northern India was in its final stages by early 1859. In April of that same year Austria invaded Piedmont, France's ally. The following month Napoleon III declared war on Austria. As Anglo-French relations worsened, it seemed likely that Great Britain would become involved in the general conflict. John Mitchel now believed that he could best serve Irish interests by moving to Paris. Following some discussion with John O'Mahony, Mitchel sailed from New York to Le Havre in August.<sup>56</sup> The prospects of an Anglo-French war soon receded and Mitchel returned to the United States in February 1860. He went back again to Paris the following September, this time bringing his family with him.<sup>57</sup>

### **O'MAHONY'S VISIT TO IRELAND, 1861**

In his letters to John O'Mahony, James Stephens showed no understanding of the difficulties in collecting money, which was extremely difficult to obtain in the economic conditions of the time. Stephens's continual and often arrogant complaints of the inadequate funds that he was receiving from America ultimately forced O'Mahony to question Stephens's judgment. In order to gain an accurate account of the condition of the IRB, O'Mahony had the '48 veteran and Fenian James Cantwell travel to Ireland in 1860.

Prior to James Cantwell's departure, it would appear that John O'Mahony gave him a memorandum of instructions in the form of a letter.<sup>58</sup> This is evident from subsequent correspondence from Cantwell to O'Mahony. Cantwell first spent some months as O'Mahony's envoy in France before going to Ireland. In a dispatch to O'Mahony from Paris, dated 27 March, Cantwell recorded that 'I cannot say that I agree with my friend here in what he thinks the right course to pursue, nor have I at all been able to make any impression on him of the necessity of adopting a course of action more in accordance with the requirements of your letter.'<sup>59</sup> It would appear that Cantwell is referring to Stephens in the above communication and that he has correctly assessed the man.

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56 John O'Mahony to William Sullivan, 1 Sept. 1859 (box 1, folder 1, item 2, Fenian rotherhood collection, CUA, Washington, D C).

57 James Quinn, *John Mitchel* (Dublin, 2008), pp 68-9.

58 This dispatch does not appear to have survived.

59 James Cantwell to John O'Mahony, 27 Mar. 1860 (CUA, Washington, D C, Fenian rotherhood collection, box 1, folder 2, item 1).

During his tour of inspection in Ireland, James Cantwell confirmed his suspicions that the IRB was in a state of considerable disorganization. In his report to John O'Mahony from Dublin dated 19 August, Cantwell gave his assessment that 'the numbers in the organization here were greatly overstated by our friend.'<sup>60</sup> With O'Mahony's approval, Cantwell remained in Dublin and became the proprietor of the 'Star and Garter' hotel in D'Olier Street.

In order to satisfy himself as to the disposition of funds sent to the IRB, John O'Mahony now decided to travel to Ireland. He also wished to make a personal examination into the state of the IRB and to estimate their prospects and resources. O'Mahony's visit to Ireland and the succession of envoys that he sent there over the next few years show his awareness that James Stephens could not be trusted. Before departing for Ireland in November 1860, O'Mahony left Michael Corcoran in charge of the Fenian Brotherhood, with Michael Cavanagh as his secretary.<sup>61</sup>

One of the leading military officers in the Fenian Brotherhood, John D. Hearn<sup>62</sup>, accompanied John O'Mahony on his voyage across the Atlantic. O'Mahony first spent a few days in Paris where he met both John Mitchel and James Stephens. Hearn continued on his own to Ireland. In January 1861 O'Mahony stepped on to Irish soil in Dublin.<sup>63</sup> He could not have then known that this visit to his native land would be his last. While in Dublin, O'Mahony stayed in the 'Star and Garter' hotel, owned by James Cantwell.<sup>64</sup>

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60 60 James Cantwell to John O'Mahony, 19 Aug. 1860 (NYPL, Manuscripts and Archives Division, William J. Maloney collection of Irish historical papers, box 8, file 12).

61 61 'Tenianism - an exposition' by John O'Mahony in *Irish People* (New York), 25 Jan. 1868 (hereafter cited as O'Mahony, 'Tenianism').

62 62 John D. Hearn was born in Shankill, near Dungarvan, County Waterford. He was a local insurgent leader in the Dungarvan district in September 1849. Hearn was arrested on suspicion at that time, but, after a few months detention in Waterford jail, he was discharged without trial. In 1850 Hearn emigrated to New York City where he joined Company C, 'Mitchel Guard', 9011 Regiment of the New York State Militia. Company C was almost entirely composed of natives of Cappoquin and Dungarvan, County Waterford. See Michael Cavanagh, *Memoirs of Thomas Francis Meagher* (Worcester, Massachusetts, 1892), appendix, pp 17-18 (hereafter cited as Cavanagh, *Memoirs*).

63 63 Luby, *Reminiscences in Irish World* (New York), 24 Mar. 1877; Charles J. Kickham, 'Apologia pro amico suo' in *Tipperary Advocate* (Nenagh), 10 May 1862.

Shortly after his arrival in Dublin, John O'Mahony met Thomas <sup>64</sup>Clarke Luby for the first time. After spending a few days in local IRB circles, they went together to Kilkenny City. As they traveled there by train, O'Mahony remarked about the frequent signs of depopulation caused by the great famine emigration. Following their arrival in Kilkenny, Luby introduced O'Mahony to John Haltigan and other local IRB leaders.<sup>65</sup>

Meanwhile, back in New York City, Inspector Thomas Doyle was unaware that John O'Mahony had left the United States for Ireland.<sup>66</sup> As in 1848, information about his movements was always received by the British authorities and their agents when it was too late to be of any use.

After parting with Thomas Clarke Luby in Kilkenny, John O'Mahony traveled alone, via Clonmel, to the home of his sister, Jane Maria Mandeville, and her family in Ballycurkeen, near Carrick-on-Suir, arriving at 8 o'clock on Saturday evening 14 January.<sup>67</sup> Following the death of her husband James Mandeville a year earlier, it was an appropriate time for John O'Mahony to pay a visit to Ballycurkeen.<sup>68</sup> After a two week stay in his sister's home, O'Mahony traveled to his native Gailte Mhór district, arriving there on 28 January.<sup>69</sup>

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64 Sometime in the late summer or early autumn of 1863, Thomas Francis Meagher wrote to William H. Seward, the Secretary of State for President Abraham Lincoln, with a view to procuring an appointment for James Cantwell as United States consul in Dublin. Although President Lincoln proposed Cantwell for the position of consul, the President's nomination was later withdrawn as a result of the machinations of William West, the acting United States consul in Dublin. See Thomas Francis Meagher to John Blake Dillon, 22 Sept. 1863 (NLI, William Hickey collection, MS 3226); William B. West to William H. Seward, 12 Oct. 1863; James Cantwell to William H. Seward, 15 Oct. 1863 (National Archives Microfilm Publication T199, roll 4) Dispatches from United States consuls in Dublin, Record Group 59, National Archives building, College Park, MD; Barry Kennerk, 'A Dublin consul under siege: American reactions to the habeas corpus suspension crisis of 1866-1868' in *Dublin Historical Record* lxiii: 1 (Spring 2010), pp 18-28.

65 Luby, Reminiscences in *Irish World* (New York), 24 Mar. and 14 Apr. 1877; O'Leary, *Recollections* i, p. 138.

66 Inspector Thomas Doyle report, 11 Jan. 1861 (NAI, Fenian police reports, box 1, 110. 101).

67 Reproduced from *Dublin Telegraph* (Dublin) in Phoenix (New York), 9 Feb. 1861.

68 *Burke's Irish family records* (London, 1976), p. 779. James Mandeville had died on 12 January 1860.

In early February John O'Mahony went to Bandon, West Cork, where he had arranged to meet the IRB organizer in that town, James O'Mahony. Both men traveled together by Bianconi's long car to Rosscarbery, West Cork, in order to meet O'Donovan Rossa, Mortimer Moynihan and Daniel McCartie. O'Donovan Rossa later recalled his first impression of John O'Mahony thus: 'He made the impression on me that he was a man proud of his name and of his race. And I liked him for that. I like to see an Irishman proud of his people. It is seldom you will find such a man doing anything that would disgrace any one belonging to him.'<sup>70</sup> This description comes close to capturing the essence of O'Mahony's personality. His *mórtas cine* (pride of race) was in keeping with his family's leadership role in the community. In O'Mahony's hours of despair it was his *mórtas cine* that sustained him.

James O'Mahony parted with John O'Mahony at Rosscarbery. John O'Mahony then accompanied O'Donovan Rossa and the others on Mortimer Moynihan's coach to Skibbereen, West Cork. During his stay in that town, John O'Mahony paid a visit to Fr Robert Troy, parish priest at Castlehaven, the next parish south of Skibbereen. It would appear from the following dispatch from Skibbereen, penned by Sub-Inspector Bernard Potter, that the sympathies of Fr Troy and his curate Fr Arthur O'Leary lay with the Fenian movement:

[Fr Arthur] O'Leary is the curate of the Reverend Troy upon whom O'Mahony waited when here; and I believe O'Leary is the only clergyman in this vicinity to whom that paper [*Phoenix*] comes addressed. Anxious to inform you fully of the movements of that truculent intriguing man [Fr O'Leary], and anticipating no

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69 Reproduced from *Cork Examiner* (Cork) in *Phoenix* (New York), 23 Feb. 1861. John O'Mahony returned to Ballycurkeen by 3 February 1861. This can be inferred from the inscription 'Seaghan O Mathghamhna, 3adh Feabhra 1861 ag Baile Uí Chuircein' (translates as John O'Mahony, 3 February 1861, Ballycurkeen) in a copy of vol i of Comte de Buffon, *Natural history*, 44 vols (London, 1821 edition), which is in the possession of Mr Michael Coady of Carrick-on-Suir.

70 *Rossa's recollections*, p. 235. John O'Mahony's *mórtas cine* is also evident in the following reflection in an epistle his sister, Jane Maria Mandeville, dated 16 November 1863: 'I have a sort of instinctive regard for old races and old names, especially those whose blood has, however remotely, mingled with my own. 'Tis a human weakness one cannot get rid of!' See James Maher (ed.), *Chief of the Comeraghs: a John O'Mahony anthology* (Mullinahone, 1957), p. <sup>84</sup> (hereafter cited as Maher (ed.), *Chief of the Comeraghs*).

possible chance of getting a second paper that I could send for your own information, I beg to forward the attached [*Phoenix*].<sup>71</sup>

In late February John O'Mahony returned to Dublin. Here he made some suggestions to Thomas Clarke Luby with regard to the formation of a council that would take charge of the IRB while James Stephens was in France and act as a cabinet when he was in Ireland. O'Mahony's proposed modifications reflected the wishes of the local IRB leaders whom he had met during his tour of inspection. Luby refused to comply with O'Mahony's proposals without first obtaining Stephens's approval. O'Mahony then gave Luby money to pay Stephens to come back to Dublin at once.<sup>72</sup> At this point Luby was still under the spell of Stephens. When Luby would later break free from that spell the disillusionment would be total.

Shortly before James Stephens arrived in Dublin, Thomas Clarke Luby introduced John O'Mahony to two former leading Young Ireland figures - Fr John Kenyon and John Martin<sup>73</sup> - in the 'Star and Garter' hotel. O'Mahony won the lasting esteem of Fr Kenyon and Martin, both of whom were also personal friends of John Mitchel.<sup>74</sup> Martin would become Mitchel's brother-in-law in 1868.

After an absence of over two years, James Stephens returned to Ireland in early March 1861. Shortly after Stephens's arrival, Thomas Clarke Luby arranged a meeting in Peter Langan's timber yard, Lombard Street, Dublin. John O'Mahony was accompanied there by Joseph Denieffe. At this meeting Stephens pulled the classic bureaucratic stunt of impressing his subordinates and denigrating the person that they did not know. Denieffe later recorded in his recollections that:

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71 Report of Sub-Inspector Bernard Potter of Skibbereen, dated 13 June 1861, enclosed in Inspector Thomas Doyle's reports (NAI, box 1, Fenian police reports).

72 Luby, *Reminiscences in Irish World* (New York), 14 Apr. 1877; O'Leary, *Recollections i*, p. 139.

73 John Martin had been sent to Van Diemen's Land in 1849. After receiving a pardon from the British government in 1856, Martin returned to live in Ireland. He was elected as MP for Meath in 1871 as a Home ruler, and was re-elected in 1874. Martin contracted bronchitis at Mitchel's funeral in March 1875 and died nine days later in Mitchel's old home at Dromalane, near Newry, County Down. See Ryan, *Fenian chief* biographical notes, pp 354-5.

74 Luby, *Reminiscences in Irish World* (New York), 14 Apr. 1877.

Stephens, after the formal greetings were over, asked a number of questions; wanted to know why the organization in America had not been kept together, a unit; he wanted to know why O'Mahony and his colleagues had not kept their promise to the men in Ireland and had not furnished the funds necessary to defray the cost of spreading the organization etc.<sup>75</sup> To all of those questions O'Mahony failed to give satisfactory answers, whereupon Stephens reproached him in words of the most cutting sarcasm, telling him of his shortcomings, feebleness and insincerity and wound up by reminding him how he, Stephens, had dragged him out of obscurity and put him in a position he never dreamed of. O'Mahony did not answer this terrible arraignment and remained sitting while Stephens paced, restlessly, up and down the floor.<sup>76</sup>

This can only be seen as the typical performance of an upstart bully and autocrat desperate to retain his power. Considering the influence that O'Mahony possessed, Stephens's posturing can only be described as farcical. O'Mahony and Stephens met by arrangement the next day in Thomas Clarke Luby's home and evidently reached some kind of accommodation.<sup>77</sup> But whatever remained of personal regard from their shared exile in Paris was now put into serious question. Although never quite broken it was to be further buffeted in subsequent years.

Following his second meeting with James Stephens in Dublin, John O'Mahony paid another visit to Ballycurkeen and took one last look at the countryside he was never to see again. About this time O'Mahony received an epistle from Ambrose Keogh, a Dublin-based nationalist. The purpose of Keogh's epistle to O'Mahony was to invite him to attend a 'celebration' of the 'Nationalist Committee of Dublin' on 18 March. In his letter of response to Keogh, O'Mahony explained that 'if ever again I take part in any public assemblage of my fellow countrymen upon the Irish soil, my first appearance amongst them must not be in the festive hall.'<sup>78</sup> Upon these same grounds O'Mahony refused a written request from John O'Cavanagh, a local nationalist in Carrick-on-Suir, to attend a St Patrick's Day banquet in that town.<sup>79</sup> The role of a celebrity was clearly not for O'Mahony.

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75 As already noted, John O'Mahony had sent a letter to James Stephens warning him of the financial weakness of the Irish population in the United States at that time.

76 Denieffe, *A personal narrative*, p. 60.

77 Luby, Reminiscences in *Irish World* (New York), 14 Apr. 1877; Luby papers (NLI, MS 331).

78 John O'Mahony to Ambrose Keogh, 12 Mar. 1861, in Maher (ed.), *Chief of the Comeraghs*, p. 122.

John O'Mahony's visits to Ballycurkeen in early 1861 must have been pleasant and rejuvenating for him and he continued an affectionate correspondence with his sister Jane Maria Mandeville and her eldest son Francis in subsequent years. O'Mahony often found life as a revolutionary leader distressing.<sup>79</sup> His sense of loneliness in New York City, as well as his singleness of purpose, is palpable in the following extract from an epistle which O'Mahony wrote to his nephew, Francis Mandeville, in 1862:

I have somehow or other become a public man, and all my time, as well as all my care, is engrossed by the party to which I belong. It often makes me feel sad in my moments of rest to think that I am doomed to go through life without my private or domestic duties as a relief from my political toils. I must work on for my country whilst I live, without any object whereby my private and personal affections can be satisfied. Such is the meed of patriotism.<sup>80</sup>

During one of his trips to South Tipperary in 1861, John O'Mahony met Charles Joseph Kickham (whom O'Mahony later described as 'a gentleman in mind and soul'<sup>81</sup>) and inducted him into the Brotherhood.<sup>82</sup> In relation to that same meeting Kickham recalled that 'I was prepared to meet the "*beau-ideal of a guerrilla leader*"; but I parted with him [O'Mahony], deeply impressed with his calm, statesmanlike wisdom, as well as with the gentle kindness of his disposition.'<sup>83</sup> Following his return to Dublin in the late spring of 1861, O'Mahony attended a special gathering of several prominent IRB centers held in Phibsboro. James Stephens was also in attendance. O'Mahony later recorded that during the course of this meeting:

It was agreed upon that at least FIVE THOUSAND DISCIPLINED MEN, WITH COMPETENT OFFICERS AT THEIR HEAD, were requisite, in the first instance, as a nucleus for the army of independence; and, in the second, a supply of at least

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79 John O'Mahony to John O'Cavanagh, 12 Mar. 1861, reproduced from Irishman (Dublin) in *Phoenix* (New York), 27 Apr. 1861.

80 John O'Mahony to Francis Mandeville, 1862, in Maher (ed.), *Chief of the Comeraghs*, p. 79.

81 John O'Mahony to Francis Mandeville, 7 Sept. 1869, in Maher (ed.), *Chief of the Comeraghs*, p. 118.

82 R. V. Comerford, *Charles Joseph Kickham: a study in Irish nationalism and literature* (Dublin, 1979), pp 55-6.

83 Charles J. Kickham, 'Apologia pro amico suo' in *Tipperary Advocate* (Nenagh), 10 May 1862.

FIFTY THOUSAND RIFLES OR MUSKETS, with adequate munitions to put immediately into the hands of the raw insurgents<sup>84</sup>

What was agreed upon was consistent with what John O'Mahony had laid down as the preparations and requirements that would be necessary prior to an insurrection in Ireland.

While still in Ireland, word reached John O'Mahony that the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment had gone to the front after the outbreak of the American Civil War. O'Mahony immediately wrote a letter to Colonel Michael Corcoran in which he proposed to serve with the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment. On 8 May, O'Mahony boarded the *Edinburgh* in Cork harbour, bound for New York. He was accompanied on the return voyage by the former Phoenix Society prisoner Daniel O'Sullivan, whom he met by prior arrangement.<sup>85</sup> The *Edinburgh* docked in New York harbor on 29 May. In his letter of response to O'Mahony of that date, Colonel Corcoran tried to dissuade him from applying for active service at the war front as follows:

As to your joining us, as you propose, that I must tell you frankly, I cannot listen to you for a moment. Irrespective of any other consideration, our Irish cause and organization in America would grievously, if not fatally, suffer by the withdrawal of your immediate services and supervision. It is absolutely necessary that you should remain at your own prescribed post - all the more necessary that others are compelled to be away for a time. That our organization will derive considerable impetus and strength from the military enthusiasm prevailing here at present amongst our race, and may, indeed, have favorable opportunities opened out to it by the events that are transpiring, I am strongly impressed, if not positively convinced. It is, therefore, most essential that a man like you should remain to enlarge and perfect it.<sup>86</sup>

In that same epistle to O'Mahony, Colonel Corcoran invited him to visit the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, then stationed in Arlington, Virginia. Following his arrival

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84 O'Mahony, 'Fenianism' in *Irish People* (New York), 25 Jan. 1868.

85 John D. Hearn did not join John O'Mahony on his return voyage to New York. Instead Hearn remained in Liverpool where he found work in a mercantile establishment. When, in late 1862, Thomas Francis Meagher organized the first Irish Brigade in the Union Army, Hearn gave up his employment in Liverpool and returned to the United States in order to serve on Meagher's staff. See Cavanagh, *Memoirs*, appendix, p. 18.

86 Michael Corcoran to John O'Mahony, 29 May 1861, printed in Cavanagh, *Memoirs*, p. 359.



in New York City, O'Mahony traveled to the camp of his comrades in the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment and reported to them on the state of affairs in the home country.<sup>87</sup> The American Civil War would now take over everyone's attention in the United States for the four years of its duration.

### Birth place in 1816 of John O Mahony



Loughananna House, Kilbeheny today

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87 Cavanagh, *Memoirs*, p. 360.

## Former Taoiseach Honoured by Clans of Ireland



*L-R: Dr: Joe Mannion, Cathaoirleach Finte nEireann, Dr: Diarmuid Ó Mathúna, Conon The O'Brien and Dr. Michael J Egan, Chair of the Order of Merit Committee.*

**Dr. Diarmuid Ó Mathúna** was one of the recipients of the Clans of Ireland Order of Merit 2019, presented by Conor, The O'Brien, Lord Inchiquin, at the Annual Conference on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The other recipient was Dr. Katherine Simms, whose publications, her archival and database work, and her encouragement of others' talents, has immeasurably enhanced the profile of medieval studies.

This was Diarmuid's Citation:

*Diarmuid was born in Cork city, his roots deep in West Cork. After he graduated from UCC in the fifties, he moved to the US to pursue graduate work at MIT, receiving the Ph.D. in 1962. Following stints at the Courant Institute (NYU) and Harvard, he joined NASA in 1966 at their Research Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Subsequently, in 1970, this center was taken over by the Dept. of Transportation. He left Federal Service in 1983 and after some years of travel, returned to Ireland in 1986, where he was invited to an office in the School of Theoretical Physics at DIAS.*

*Diarmuid Ó Mathúna is a mathematician, and is currently a Research Associate in the School of Theoretical Physics at the Dublin Institute for*

*Advanced Studies. In 1995, at the invitation of David Speiser, he joined the Board of Editors of The Bernoulli Edition, the project, based in Basel, for the publication of the mathematical works of the Bernoulli family. His booklet The Bernoulli Project appeared in 2000. His published works include Mechanics, Boundary Layers and Function Spaces (Birkhauser, 1989) on the Foundation of Continuum Mechanics, and Integrable Systems in Celestial Mechanics (Springer, 2008)*

*A member of Muintir Mhathuna since its inception in 1955, Diarmuid was Taoiseach from 1979 — 1981, presiding at the annual gatherings at Garranes, Templemartin and Ardintenant Castle near Schull. He has contributed several articles to Iris Mhuintir Mhathuna, the Journal of The O Mahony Society.*



*Dr. Katharine Simm (TCD) who also received the CIOM in 2019.*



*Also present was Nora Keohane Hickey, Board Member of Clans of Ireland since 1999, Chair of Clans of Ireland, 2009-2012, 2020- & Past Taoiseach of Muintir Mhathuna, 2014-2017.*

## Temple Street Hospital - An Ellen Dream

*In the issue of Tuesday, 23rd December 2014, Evening Echo reporter, David Linnane, wrote of the history behind Temple Street Hospital in Dublin and its founder, Cork woman Ellen Woodlock. This article is based on this report, courtesy of David.*

Over the past century-and-a-half, many Cork children have been cared for in Temple Street Children's University Hospital in Dublin. What they might not have known is that a Cork woman made it all possible.

In 1872, Ellen Woodlock (nee Mahony), from Blarney, set-up the Children's Hospital on Buckingham Street to care for the children of the poorest families in the capital. Within 10 years, the hospital had expanded, and had to be moved to the more spacious Temple Street. While the hospital might have been Ms Woodlock's most successful venture, she spent her life working to help the poor.

Dr Barry Kennerk is the hospital's historian and archivist, and uncovered the story of Ms Woodlock during research for his new book, *Temple Street Children's Hospital - An Illustrated History*. "She had a real social conscience," he said, "and she was well known in social circles." Over her lifetime, Ms Woodlock used her networking skills to help fund a number of projects for the poor.

Having been widowed at a young age, she moved to France with her newborn son to become a nun with the Sisters of St Louis. While she didn't complete her training, her links to the church were crucial when she returned to Ireland, helping her in her drive to help the most vulnerable.

Later in her life she helped, the Sisters of St Louis set-up in Monaghan. Her first major venture was the St Joseph's Industrial Institute, in Fairview, Dublin. At the time, many young girls were forced to work in horrendous conditions in workhouses city-wide around the city. Ms Woodlock decided that enough was enough, and set to take the girls out of poverty.

"It was remarkable what she did," said Dr Kennerk. "In those days, the workhouses were a closed shop, but she managed to get in, and get the girls out."

Ms. Woodlock was from a privileged background. Her parents owned the Blarney Woollen Mills, and oversaw major expansions as it flourished during her childhood.

Seeing the conditions in which some Dublin families were living inspired her, and Sarah Atkinson, to set-up the Children's Hospital. Sick and disabled children were crowded into small rooms, with their fathers working long hours, and mothers struggling to look after all of them.

The hospital told the story of its first patient, a boy with a severe spinal disease known only as Little Willie, in a publication the year after it opened. "He had been living in a wretched and crowded home, where five persons slept in one straw bed, and where his little brother used to kick his poor back while asleep," he explained.

Ms Woodlock secured the former home of the Beresford family on Buckingham Street. The palatial house was in stark contrast to the poverty that the poor children came from. "The kids were lying on straw beds in rags in their own homes," said Dr Kennerk. "Some patients were so weak that they couldn't stand on their own two feet. Upon entering the hospital, children were brought to tears by the sight of the warm beds, food, toys, and books.

"The children were so hungry that they cried at the sight of food. "But they were so hungry, their stomach's couldn't handle it," said Dr Kennerk. The hospital worked hard to raise the children's standard of living, and was a runaway success, which couldn't keep up with demand. As a gesture to the local community, Ms Woodlock set-up a library in the hospital, so that children who couldn't stay there could still try and educate themselves out of poverty.



*Temple Street Hospital Facade*



*Main Dom; Temple Street Hospital*

In order to meet the needs of the people of Dublin, Ms Woodlock convinced the Religious Sisters of Charity to take over the hospital in 1876, leading to further expansion.

She would pass away in Cork a few years later, but her son, Thomas Woodlock, said that even in her final days, she was still working for the poor, helping them to find jobs. “She was as happy as possible in Cork, with her hands full, and her mind actively employed in getting new channels of work for deserving objects,” he wrote. “It was only a few days before her death she counted over 70 seventy folk she had got on their legs as ‘earners’ in the race for existence.”

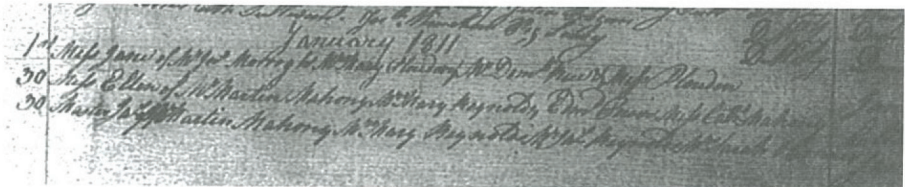
Her legacy still lives on today, as Temple Street prepares to move to a new location as part of a national children’s hospital, as part of an amalgamation with Crumlin Children’s Hospital and Tallaght Children’s Hospital.

“We know that there is a new children’s hospital on the way, and we desperately need it,” said Dr Kennerk. “We’re still rattling up old staircases, working in Georgian building. But the mission hasn’t changed,” he added

### Ellen Mahony Woodlock Timeline

**Birth:** In Cork on 27th January 1811 to Martin Mahony<sup>88</sup> and Mary Reynolds, his second wife. Martin was firstly married to Miss Hynes, who died c. 1794. His second marriage was reported in the *Cork Merchantile Chronicle* on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 1802<sup>89</sup>

CMC W 17 Nov 1802      Wednesday last in Roscrea, Mr Martin Mahony of this city to Miss Reynolds dau of Mr M. Reynolds shopkeeper



88 Son of Timothy Mahony

89 Rosemary ffolliott records.

Ellen's family owned the highly profitable Blarney Woollen Mill<sup>90</sup>, and the Mahony Brothers oversaw the old wooden mill converted to a new stone structure, now Blarney Woollen Mills.<sup>91</sup>

**Marriage:** Ellen was married to Thomas Woodlock in on le November, 1836<sup>92</sup> at Saint Patrick's RC church, Lower Glanmire Road, Cork City. Her fatherless son was later baptized in the same church.

1836		
November 17	1836	Peter Goshie and Bridget Murphy
20		Denis Condy & Margit Bonavan
24		Thomas Woodlock & Ellen Mahony

October 7	Margaret Johnson	Benjamin Johnson & Eliza Steward
7	Daniel Murphy	Denis Murphy & Ellen Connor
8	Michael Gould	John Gould & Teresa Eldrien
8	Julia Lynch	Patrick Lynch & Mary Buckley
14	Catherine Murphy	William Murphy & Honora Finnis
27	Thomas W. Woodlock	Thomas Woodlock & Ellen Mahony

Mr Tho<sup>s</sup>. Woodlock 20 Feb<sup>r</sup> 1837 } 65  
 Age 2 31 years

Ellen was widowed in 1837, just before the birth of her only child, named for his father. If this is the correct burial record, Thomas was buried in the graveyard of St. Nicholas Dublin.

90 First established in the Blackpool area of Cork City.

91 One of her brothers was Francis Sylvester Mahony, a Cork writer and journalist who was better known as Father Prout, famous for *The Bells of Shandon*.

92 Curiously, a Nicholas Mahony married Honora Woodlock on 20th October 1836 in Rathmines, Dublin. Thomas Woodlock was a Witness. Perhaps a brother?







Abstract of will proved in the Prerogative Court:  
 Joseph Woodlock of the City of Dublin, tobacconist.  
 To my wife Mary Woodlock alias Bergin, the sum of £100 exclusive of the settlement made at our marriage.  
 To my daughter Margaret Woodlock £1,000.  
 To the child wife is pregnant with the residue of my property real and personal, excepting the following provisions: should said child not attain the age of 21, property to go to my daughter Margaret, and should my daughter Margaret die under 21 and unmarried her legacy to go to the child unborn, and should both children die then:  
 Another £500 to my wife Mary, and the rest in equal shares between my brothers and sisters, namely: William Woodlock, Thomas Woodlock, Patrick Woodlock, John Woodlock, Mary McKay alias Woodlock, and Margaret Crotty alias Woodlock.  
 To Anne Robinson alias Woodlock £50.  
 To the children of Michael Coony late of Roscrea £50 equally.  
 As I am of opinion there is in possession of my brother William Woodlock of the City of Dublin, bad debts due to me amounting to £300 I bequeath same to him.  
 Appoint William Woodlock of the City of Dublin, merchant, and Darby Bergin, of Drumacomas, King's Co. farmer, to be executors and guardians over my children.  
 In witness whereof 13th July 1815. JOSEPH WOODLOCK.  
 Witnesses: John Ryan.  
 Thomas Bergin.  
 Thomas Bergin, Junior.  
 Probate granted 17th August 1815, to the executors named.

1815: The Prerogative Will [Abstract only] of his uncle, Joseph Woodlock, shows many more of his family.

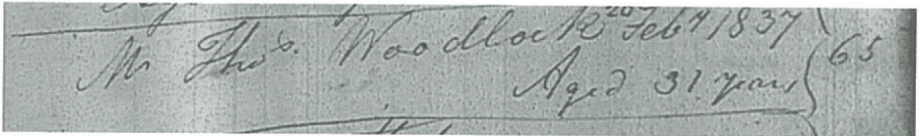
The 1822 *Treble Almanac* describes William as a Hardware-merchant.

YOU	<i>Merchants and Traders.</i>	139
Wolfe (Mary) Confectioner, 116, <i>Townsend-street.</i>		
Wolfenden (Edward) Linen-drapery, 27, <i>Dame-street.</i>		
Wolfenden (W.) Linen and Cotton-fac. 11, <i>Dorset-street, &amp; Linen-hall.</i>		
Wood (Christopher) Provision-merchant, 14, <i>Bow-lane.</i>		
Wood (William) Bookseller, <i>Marlbrough-street.</i>		
Woodburne (Daniel) Carpenter, 7, <i>Richmond-street.</i>		
Woodcock (Benjamin) Grocer, 121, <i>James's-street.</i>		
Woodhouse (John) Burton-manuf. 17, <i>gt. Strand-st. &amp; 35, low. Ormond-qu.</i>		
Woodlock (William) Hardware-merchant, 13, <i>W. New-row.</i>		
Woodroff (James) Merchant, 16, <i>Daniel's-street.</i>		

However, *Pigot's Directory* 1824 shows a William Woodlock as a Tobacconist in Main St. Roscrea. Same William? To add to the mystery in 1835 the Pettigrew & Oulton Dublin shows three Woodlocks.

street, south  
Woodlock and O'Reilly, agents, &c. 64 Fleet st.  
Woodlock Thomas, esq. Rathmines  
Woodlock William, esq. solicitor, 21 Lower  
Ormond quay

1837 Thomas died 24<sup>th</sup> March.



Mr Tho's Woodlock Feb 20 1837  
Aged 31 years } 65

According to the *Waterford Chronicle*, he was living in Rathmines, Dublin



Thomas had an interest in Bellevue Mills, shown as it is today as modern apartments

## ***EVENING ECHO, CORK***

**Cork's *Evening Echo*** was first published in 1892. It was launched as a broadsheet evening paper by Thom. Crosbie, then proprietor of the *Cork Examiner*. Crosbie had himself joined the *Examiner* in 1841, later taking over as editor -and later owner in 1856. The newspaper had been founded by John Francis Maguire in 1841. The newspaper, produced as a tabloid since 1991, remained in the hands of the Crosbie family until recent years. The title was sold in July 2018, along with other assets of Landmark Media Investments, to The Irish Times Group. From March 2019, the *Evening Echo* was rebranded as *The Echo*, a morning newspaper, but still concentrates on local news.

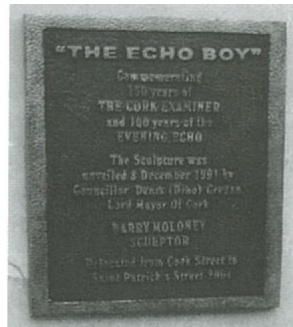
The presses used by the *Examiner* and *Echo* printed the First National Loan for the Sinn Fein Finance Minister, Michael Collins in 1919, leading to the British authorities briefly shutting down the paper. The I.R.A. later damaged the printing presses in 1920, which were also destroyed in 1922 by the anti-Treaty I.R.A.

### **Irish Newspaper Archive:**

It is possible to access past issues of Irish newspapers on <https://www.irishnewsarchive.com>. The *Evening Echo* from 1896-1959 is available, as is the *Cork Examiner*, now *Irish Examiner* from 1841, and the *Southern Star* from 1892. This website is subscription based, but is available free on the computers in the Irish library network.

## The Echo Boys

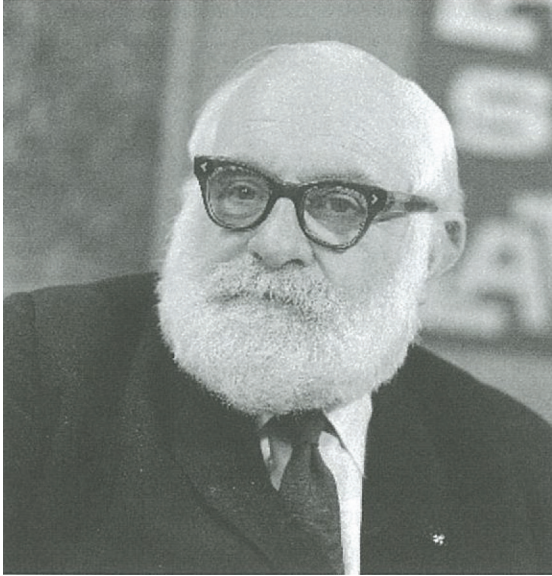
### COMMEMORATING 150 years of the *Cork Examiner* and 100 years of the *Evening Echo*



The “**Echo Boy**” statue was unveiled in 1991 by Councillor Dino Cregan, then Lord Mayor of Cork. Originally on Cook Street, it was relocated on Patrick Street in 2004. The sculptor was Barry Moloney, (1935 - 1992), principal of the Crawford School of Art. For decades the *Evening Echo* had been connected to the “Echo Boys” - poor and often homeless children who survived by selling newspapers.

## EOIN O MAHONY (1904-1970)

*Charles Lysaght*



Eoin O'Mahony, barrister, genealogist, columnist, and broadcaster was born in Cork on 22 March 1904, the only surviving son of Daniel O'Mahony, city analyst of Cork, and his wife (and cousin) Julia O'Keeffe. His branch of the O'Mahonys came from Aherla near Bandon and were stone cutters and fanners, around 1850, Eoin grandfather moved to Cork upon his marriage to a Miss Sheehan, who owned a public house, and he became the first curator of the Cork School of Art.

Eoin was educated at CBC and PBC in his native city, Clongowes, University College Cork, Trinity College Dublin and King's Inns. He starred in student debates. As auditor of Trinity's College Historical Society, most members of which were then still loyal to the Crown, he shocked the college when he insisted on toasting Ireland rather than the King.

Entering politics on the Fianna Fail side, he represented the party on the Cork Borough Council and County Council. He came within 500 votes being elected to the Dail for a Cork constituency in the 1938 general election.

Called to the Bar in 1930, he was appointed State Counsel for Cork by Fianna Fail. Ever ruled by his heart, he sometimes disconcerted the court by pleading for leniency for those he had to prosecute.

He found the restraints of regular legal practice and routine party politics too restrictive. In the 1940s he was diverted by causes that engaged his own enthusiasm. At the end of the war in Europe, he promoted the interests of refugee children, a service for which he was later decorated by the German government. He campaigned for the release of IRA prisoners in Britain. As a member of the Bar in England he appeared for those charged with politically motivated offences. He represented Brendan Behan, then in the IRA, in Manchester and in Dublin. He campaigned for an anti-partition candidate in Glasgow at the 1950 general election.

His legal practice at home had evaporated when he broke with Fianna Fail on account of their government's treatment of IRA prisoners. Applications he made to be appointed a judge of the District Court were turned down.

Eoin's personal life became more disorganised. Hopes he entertained of marriage had been dashed when he was tamed down by three ladies, one of whom was a niece of the O'Connor Don. Debts he incurred through generous hospitality to friends and donations to good causes forced him to sell his family home at Douglas in Cork.

Failing to find employment in the Genealogical Office, he drifted into a peripatetic lifestyle as a kind of errant scholar. He traced the steps of the Wild Geese on visits to continental Europe, while at home he was to be seen hitching lifts on the public highway on his way to visit friends or to attend funerals and other gatherings. Dublin became his base; he was a habitue of the graduate rooms in Trinity. The white beard he grew made him seem venerable entering his fifties.

History, especially family history, was a consuming interest and figured frequently in his conversation. He poured forth torrents of information about people in a mellifluous educated Cork accent. At his best he was highly

entertaining and remarkably insightful but he could also be long-winded, inaccurate or even slightly absurd, which led to him not being taken as seriously as he deserved. He was a regular speaker at student debates and at local historical societies.

His letters, book reviews and obituaries were to be found in newspapers and were generally well worth reading. The weekly column he wrote in the *Sunday Review* from 1959 to 1962 was less good. He had not the discipline for extended or regular writing.

Commemoration was a special interest. He was a moving spirit in the campaign to save Derrynane, the Kerry home of Daniel O'Connell. He attended most years the Ivy Day commemoration of Charles Stewart Parnell and was to the fore in organising the event in Wexford in 1956 marking the centenary of John Redmond's birth. Eoin was often to be seen bearing wreaths he could probably ill-afford to the graves of other less prominent figures whom he thought should not be forgotten.

The integration into the mainstream of Irish life of the surviving members of the gentry, on whose pedigrees he was well versed and at many of whose houses he was a guest, became a mission. He was active in the Irish Georgian Society from its foundation in 1958 and went on foreign tours as the guest of its founders Desmond and Mariga Guinness. He supported the Society's vain campaign to prevent the destruction by the ESB of the Georgian buildings they occupied in Dublin's Fitzwilliam Street.

In the sixties Eoin became a national figure as compere of a Radio Eireann programme broadcast at Sunday lunchtime called *Meet the Clans*, in which people of a name were gathered together to hear his account of the family history and interviews with eminent or aristocratic persons of the name. He was assisted in this and other ventures in these years by his friend Nora O'Sullivan, who became the moving spirit in organising the Eoin O'Mahony Bursary after his death.

There were several successful visits to the United States for the programme. This led to two terms as a visiting professor at the University of South Illinois where his brief was to record on tape his memories of Irish life and lore.



His own O'Mahony clan was a special interest. He organised the first gathering in 1955; from this beginning the clan has met annually. The first rally was an inspiration for the foundation of the O'Mahony Society, and was recalled memorably by Hubert Butler in an obituary of Eoin entitled "The Man who tried to change the quality of life". After his death, his cousin, Peter Tynan O Mahony, picked up the baton, the gatherings continued; since 1972, there has also been an O'Mahony Society Journal.

Eoin continued to nurture political ambitions. In 1966, he made the first ever bid to take advantage of the provision in the Constitution giving four local authorities a right to nominate a candidate for the presidency. The political parties joined forces to prevent him from getting a single nomination. In 1967 he polled poorly in a by-election in Cork opposing Irish membership of the European Economic Community. He feared that we would lose control of our own destiny if native industries were swallowed up by multinationals.

Eoin's health had begun to deteriorate before he collapsed and died suddenly on 15 February 1970 at the home of his architect nephew Tony Cotter in Monkstown Co Dublin. He had been attending a retreat organised by the Order of Malta, of which he, like his father, was a longstanding member. He was buried in the family grave in St Joseph's Cemetery in Cork.

He was survived by his sisters Mary Cotter and Sheelagh (Julia Monks). Sheelagh had had a son by the sixteenth Viscount Gormanston, a fact Eoin never mentioned despite his affection for her son, the renowned naval historian Anthony Preston, his regard for nobility, and interest in bars sinister. *Au fond* he was a devout and conservative Catholic.



## COMMEMORATION OF EOIN O MAHONY (2020)

*Charles Lysaght*

Eoin O'Mahony died on 15 February 1970. On 15 February 2020, the 50th anniversary of his death, Mass was said for the repose of his soul in the Church of the Guardian Angels, Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock by the renowned biographer Fr Anthony Gaughan.

On 20 February, a meeting was held at the Royal Irish Academy at which Eoin was commemorated. A handsome brochure produced for the occasion contained the entry on him in the Academy's *Dictionary of Irish Biography*, the tribute paid to him at the time of his death by the celebrated essayist Hubert Butler, a characteristic letter Eoin had written to the *Irish Times* about Albin Broderick's friendship with Mary and Annie MacSwiney, and a list of those who had been awarded the Eoin O'Mahony Bursary created after his death with money subscribed by friends and admirers.



On display was a bust of Eoin by Seamus Murphy kept in the Academy and a sketch of Eoin as a young area by Sean O'Sullivan. Cuttings relating to him were exhibited on a board.

A recording of a radio interview with Eoin, obtained courtesy of RTE with the assistance of John Bowman and Robert Canning, was played. Extracts from letters received from Eoin were read in the course of an address about him given by Charles Lysaght, author of the entry on him in the *Dictionary of Irish Biography*.

Eoin's nephew Anthony Cotter recalled him and Nora Keohane Hickey, honorary editor of the O'Mahony Society Journal, spoke about Clan rallies organised by Eoin that inspired the foundation of the Society. The meeting, at which Professor Mary O'Dowd, Humanities Secretary of the Academy, graciously presided, concluded with reports on their research funded by the Bursary by the last six recipients, Mr Stephen Egan, Dr Jennifer Redmond, Dr

Ciaran McDonnell, Dr Jay Rosana, Dr Marie Leoutre and Ms Kathleen McCrudden.

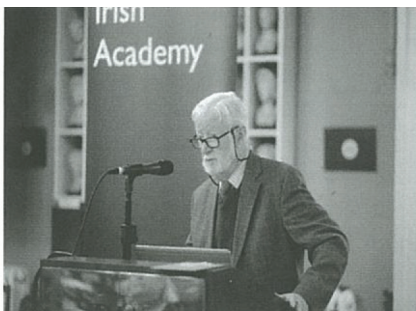
Eoin's great-niece Katie Weston travelled from London to be present. She is daughter of the late Anthony Preston, the eminent naval historian, who was the child of Eoin's sister Sheelagh and the sixteenth Viscount Gormanston. Mrs Weston was accompanied by her husband Paul Weston and their son Gabriel. Others of Eoin's family present in addition to his nephew Anthony Cotter and Anthony's wife Margaret, were his niece Julia Cotter, grand-niece Dervla Cotter, her son Callaghan and Eoin's cousins Siobhan and Eoin Tynan O'Mahony.



*Mary O Dowd & Charles Lysaght*



*Nora M. Hickey*

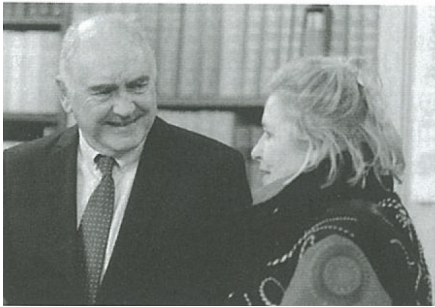


*Anthony Cotter*



*Katie Weston (née Preston, Gabriel & Paul Weston; Second Row: Dr Diarmuid O Mathúna*

Subscribers to the Bursary who attended were Diarmuid O Mathuna, Mr Justice Hugh Geoghegan, John and Leonora Kerry Keane, Judge Patrick Clyne KM, Mrs Consuelo O'Connor and Charles Lysaght Historian Judith Hill, who was awarded the Bursary in 1999 and 2000 for research in New York for her biography of Lady Gregory, travelled from Limerick to be present. Eva O Cathaoir was another former recipient of the Bursary to attend



*Eoin & Siobhan Tynan O Mahony*



*John & Leonora Kerry Keane*



*Piers O Conor Nash with 2020  
awardee, Marie Leoutre*



*Alyson Gavin Lysaght, Dervla Cotter,  
Siobhan Tynan O Mahony  
Second Row – Dr. Finbar O Mahony,  
Taoiseach of O Mahony Society, Pearl  
Cotter and her grandson*

Others among the attendance of about fifty were yam Lenox-Conyngham (nephew of Hubert Butler), Professor Anngret Simms, former Attorney General Harry Whelehan SC, Mrs Justice Mary Finlay Geoghegan, Morgan and Dr Susi Dockrell, Pyers O’Conor Nash (to whose aunt Eoin once proposed), Fr Anthony Gaughan, *Irish Times* columnist Stephen Collins and families of the recipients of the 2019 bursaries.

The event also marked the winding up of the Eoin O’Mahony Bursary founded in his memory after his death. The Eoin O’Mahony Bursary was established to ‘keep alive his memory in tangible form’ by a committee of sponsors consisting of Nora Ni Shuillio bhain, Mrs Desmond Guinness, Captain Con Costello, Edward More O’Ferrall, Professor Kevin Nowlan, Mrs Consuelo O’Connor and Charles Lysaght. The appeal for funds raised £IR3000 from 500 subscribers. The largest subscriptions were received from Sir John Galvin KM, Lord Moyne, the Hon Desmond and Mariga Guinness, Diamuid O Mathuna and Thomas Whelehan.

It was stated in the appeal that grants from the Bursary would be made to Irish scholars undertaking research on historical subjects of Irish interest drawing on material in foreign centres; was not to be confined to those in universities. This choice was inspired by the belief that assistance to the independent travelling scholar would have been a cause dear to Eoin’s heart.

To ensure its permanence the Bursary was entrusted to the Academy who agreed to administer it. The first award was made in 1979 to Julian Walton for research on the Catholic merchant families of Waterford. Awards, totalling almost fifty in all, were made out of the income from the bursary fund in most years culminating in 2004, the centenary of Eoin’s birth. The presentation at the awards was marked by gatherings at the Academy of Foam at which he was remembered and at which the bust of him by Seamus Murphy was exhibited. Among those who received bursaries on more than one occasion were the late Micheline Kerney Walsh, the late John de Courcy Ireland and Judith Hill.

After 2004 no competitions for bursaries were held for a decade. In response to repeated representations about this from the surviving sponsors, Professor Mary Daly, secretary and later president of the Academy, said that they had been advised by the Auditor and Comptroller General that they must

wind up the Bursary and accordingly proposed to hold a series of competitions to exhaust the capital in the fund. This was duly done in 2014, 2017 and 2019. No presentation events were held but the Academy agreed to hold a meeting close to the 50th anniversary of his death at which Eoin would be commemorated.

The Academy has not to date acceded to requests from the surviving sponsors to see the ruling of the Comptroller and Auditor General that was given as the reason for winding up the Bursary. The Comptroller and Auditor General's Office has, however, stated that it "did not advise or direct the Academy to wind up the Bursary." Nor has the Academy acceded to requests to inspect the accounts of the Bursary so making it impossible to do justice to its contribution to the Bursary.

The Academy has not to date responded to the suggestion that the bust of Eoin O'Mahony by Seamus Murphy deposited in the Academy in connection with the Bursary by the late Nora Ni Shuilliohbhain be given to Eoin's next of kin, who have indicated that they wish to offer it to the Crawford Gallery in Cork.



*Bursary Awardees, 2020*



*At the Eoin O Mahony bursary press reception at the Royal Irish Academy on November 18, 1978, were (from left): Commdt. Con Costello, Professor James Dooge (secretary of the R.I.A.), Sean Ó Mathghamhna (taoiseach, O Mahony Records Society); Edward More O Ferrall, Consuelo O Connor and Professor F. S. Mitchell (president, R.I.A.), admiring a bust of Eoin O Mahony, Nora Ní Shuilleabháin, Professor Kevin B. Nowlan, Professor Charles Lysaght and Aidan Duggan (executive secretary, R.I.A.).*



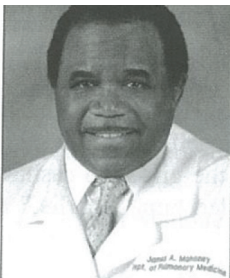
## DR. JAMES MAHONEY, STATEN ISLAND NY.

*New York Times*  
May 19, 2020 - Megan Flynn

Before the virus overwhelmed the hospitals of New York, before it changed how Americans went about their daily lives, James “Charlie” Mahoney was planning for his retirement.

He had just gone on a Caribbean cruise with his family, a January vacation that his sister, Sandra Chisholm, said was part-62nd birthday celebration, part-early retirement party. He had been working in the intensive care unit at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center for nearly four decades, caring for patients through the HIV/AIDS epidemic. through 9/11, through the swine flu and now he felt like it was Finally time to take it easy.

“And then covid hit,” Chisholm said.



His family insisted he follow through on retirement, including his brother Melvin Mahoney, who is also a doctor. His boss, Robert F. Foronjy, said doctors, especially those who were older or at higher risk of suffering complications from the novel coronavirus, were given the opportunity to step back.

But James Mahoney refused.

And to some extent, his colleagues and family knew he would. “He gave everything to that hospital,” Melvin Mahoney told The Washington Post. “He gave his life for that hospital.”

Before it came for him, Mahoney witnessed the toll of the virus in his patients in the ICU — not just at SUNY Downstate but also across the street at Kings County Hospital Center, where he also took on shifts. Sometimes he slept there, his brother said Mahoney had new coronavirus patients needing critical care every hour, an onslaught of suffering that was unlike anything he and his team had ever seen, Foronjy said.

The 62-year-old died of the virus on April 27, with his dearest colleagues — his second family — at his side. From the time he brought himself to the emergency room, suffering from shortness of breath, he was treated by his colleagues in the same hospital where he had worked and studied since 1982, starting as a medical student. He ultimately died at Tisch Hospital, which had more sophisticated blood-oxygenation equipment, and where Foronjy and four of his other closest colleagues personally escorted him from Brooklyn to Manhattan traveling in two ambulances.

“There are two hospitals crying. Nonstop,” Melvin Mahoney said of the two where his brother worked. “I’ve heard men crying like you wouldn’t believe. That’s how much they loved my brother.”

Mahoney is survived by three children, four siblings, his father and a longtime girlfriend, a nurse. He is the latest health-care worker to die on the front lines in New York, the pandemic’s epicenter, where last month 911 call volume exceeded that of Sept. 11, 2001. He is not even the only health-care worker in his family to contract the virus. Chisholm, who works as a nurse overseeing employee health at St. John’s Episcopal Hospital, also had the virus in April.

Foronjy said Mahoney’s death has been crushing. He was the “heart and soul” of their department, “an institution in and of himself,” Foronjy said. He befriended seemingly everyone at the hospital, from the gift-shop cashier to the taxi drivers waiting outside. Even the janitors called him “Charlie,” a name only his friends called him, said his brother.

“We were all his relatives,” Foronjy said. “He was a very openhearted person, really emotionally accessible to people as well, which is one of the reasons a lot of us are having a hard time coping with this. It just seems so unjust that someone who was this benevolent, this selfless, this kind, this skilled could be brought down by this disease.”

Foronjy created a GoFundMe intended to finance a trillion for an aspiring African American doctor, an effort to carry on his friend’s legacy. He was a mentor to both colleagues and trainees, but his advice resonated particularly with black medical students who looked up to him. One told the

*New York Times* that he and other black aspiring doctors viewed him as a legend —”our lay-Z.”

“Asa young black man,’ looked at this guy and said to myself, ‘Twenty years from now I want to be like him,’” Latif A. Salem, a doctor who works in internal medicine at SUNS Downstate, told the Times on Tuesday.

James Mahoney was born in Garden City, N.Y., in 1958 and grew up near the former Mitchel Air Force Base on Long Island, where his father served in the Air Force. Even from a young age, his work ethic was strong. By the time he was 8, he was working at a deli and luncheonette with his older brother Melvin.

A skilled athlete, Mahoney wanted to be a baseball player as a teenager, Melvin said. But he set his sights on becoming a doctor while accompanying Melvin on a trip to a Long Island hospital. He started as a medical student at SUNY Downstate in 1982.

He never turned back.

Chisholm said that as Mahoney rose in his career he had numerous opportunities to move to larger or wealthier hospitals elsewhere. SUNY Downstate, a largely underfunded state-run hospital, serves low-income, minority neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

But Mahoney never wanted to go.

“It was like he was born and raised in that hospital,” Chisholm said. “He went to medical school there. He did his residency there. He was chief resident there. He did a fellowship there And then he started to practice there.” Eventually, she said, it always seemed like going to the hospital “really didn’t seem like work to him. It was part of him.”

Foronjy said his personality was larger than life — a cross between the late comedian Bernie Mac and Gregory House, the fictional doctor from the television show “House.” He knew exactly when to offer support and when to demand better from trainees, his boss said And if anyone ever stepped out of line, his siblings said, Mahoney was not one to mince words to let them know.

He was like a good coach on a baseball team and a football team,” Foronjy said of Mahoney, who actually was a former baseball and football coach. “He knew how to press people’s buttons to get the best out of them.”

Foronjy barely recognized the man who arrived at the emergency room on April 20.

Mahoney was struggling to breathe. He could barely walk. As the days went by, Mahoney’s condition deteriorated even as he insisted to his family and his friends at the hospital that he was feeling better. He flashed a thumbs-up on a FaceTime call, Chisholm said, even as he could barely speak.

But his family found comfort knowing Mahoney did not have to battle the virus alone, like so

many tens of thousands of people who have died without loved ones or friends present in hospital rooms nationwide. He knew and trusted every person taking care of him.

“I was able to hold his hand, tell him how much I loved him, how much everybody loved him,” Foronjy said.

Until the very end, Mahoney insisted he did not want to leave the hospital, even to go to Manhattan for more sophisticated machines.

As he was surrounded by his colleagues in the place where he had always been, Chisholm said, he told his girlfriend right before he died, “I’m home.”

**Bill Winget**, *New York Times*

Dr. Mahoney deserves the Nobel Peace Prize, a man who clearly embodied the highest ideal of the human spirit while serving others with incredible bravery and selflessness; a stunning contrast of character with our current political leadership. Thank you for this heartbreaking story, and thank you to all of our medical care providers, first responders and essential workers getting us through the Pandemic.

Showing courage and selflessness, Dr Mahoney lived his final days like he lived life: Finding fulfilment in saving others.

“When he went to the hospital, he went to his own hospital. So he was surrounded by people that loved him. And that gave me peace, knowing that,” Ryan said.

Robert Foronjy is organising this fundraiser on behalf of The Health Science Center at Brooklyn Foundation Inc., created 15 May 20

### **Want to join us in making a difference?**

We are raising money to support the Dr. James (Charlie) Mahoney Scholarship Fund. This fund will provide tuition support to enable a deserving and talented African American applicant to attend SUNY Downstate Medical School. Dr. Mahoney graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical School in 1986 and served this community for more than thirty years. He was an exemplary physician and a great advocate for young minority physicians. He passed away saving lives during the COVID19 pandemic. Education was important to Dr. Mahoney and this fund is a fitting tribute to his legacy of teaching and mentorship here at our institution.

The hospital has set up a GoFundMe account to raise money to provide tuition for African-American students to attend medical school.

So far they're about halfway to their \$100,000 goal. To contribute, click here.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/dr-james-charlie-mahoney-scholarship-fund>

### **Further Reading:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Mahoney\\_\(pulmonologist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Mahoney_(pulmonologist))  
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/may/12/brooklyn-hospital-legend-dies-of-covid-19-james-charley-mahoney>

## O MAHONYS in the NEWSPAPERS

# Carrick Court.

Broken Window at  
Jamestown Road.

CATTLE GRAZING ON  
PUBLIC ROAD.

Mr. J. H. Rice, B.L., D.J., presided at this fortnightly Court on 21st inst.

ADJOURNED.

There were four cases listed at the suit of the Guards for motoring offences against John Mahony and James A. Mahony, Drumsna, and Inspector Deeney stated that Mr. Canning, solicitor, who was defending, had applied for an adjournment, and he had no objection.

*Sligo Champion* - 27<sup>th</sup> August 1933

### MOTURING OFFENCE.

In the case of the State v. John Mahony, Drumsna, for using an unlicensed car and making a false declaration, and for lending his licence, Mr. Rice, D.J., who heard the case at a previous sitting at length, imposed a fine of £1 for making a false declaration, and in the other charges the fine was 7/6. The son, James A. Mahony, was charged with driving the car without a licence, and using the licence belonging to his father. It having been pointed out that the boy had since taken up a religious life, the Supt. did not press the cases in this instance, and they were allowed to drop.

## **COVID-19 & The Mahoneys of Staten Island**

When the Mahoney family — Robert, Alison and 15-year old of Staten Island, New York, discovered that one of their German Shepherds was sick, they little thought that the cause was the pandemic Covid-19. The family had enjoyed life with their two dogs, Buddy, nearly seven years old, and Duke, a puppy of ten months. Buddy was a wonderful 130-pound family dog, as proved by his Halloween bunny outfit and his protection of his much younger canine companion.

Robert Mahoney was a victim of the virus. The diagnosis was told to him, after three weeks of suffering, on Easter Sunday. When Buddy produced a thick nasal mucus in his nose and started breathing heavily in April, no one except believed that it was possible their pet had Covid-19. But when, just before he became seven years old, (the equivalent of a human 46 years), he became very breathless. Some weeks later Buddy was diagnosed as the first dog in the USA to be diagnosed with the Covid-19 virus. The diagnosis was conveyed to the Mahoney family by the New York City Department of Health on 2nd June. The samples of 15th May were positive but he was clear in the samples taken five days later. His companion, Duke, tested negative, but must have also been infected as there were antibodies in his blood tests. But Buddy continued to disimprove, for example there was blood in his urine, and his breathing was described as sounding like a ‘freight train’. In early July he was not able to walk easily He died on July 11<sup>th</sup> 2020.

But the days in the two and a half months between diagnosis and death were those of confusion. It is rare that a pet that a pet contracts the virus from an owner; so far fewer than 25 pets in the US, although over four million people had been diagnosed at the same time. The Mahoney story about Buddy showed “gaps in public knowledge regarding animals and the novel coronavirus, highlighting what may be a need for a more unified, consistent approach to monitoring and investigating positive cases, and bringing that information back to the research community.”

Initially, there was no vet to examine Buddy. His clinic was closed due to the pandemic. The next would not allow Robert, who was still positive to bring him, and gave Buddy antibiotics over the phone. The next week, Buddy was still struggling to breathe and had lost his appetite, so the Mahoneys' 13-year-old daughter, Julianna, who had tested negative, was permitted to bring the dog into the office. Buddy was taken to two clinic on Staten Island; so far, none had suggested the virus. His ultrasound and X-rays indicated an enlarged spleen and liver, and a heart murmur was detected. Buddy spent two and a half weeks on antibiotics and two heart medications, and he was subsequently put on steroids. At this point, Robert Mahoney says, Buddy's doctors were still doubtful he had the coronavirus, and they had not yet identified lymphoma as a probable cause of his illness.

The third veterinary clinic finally Buddy tested for COVID-19 - one month after Buddy's breathing trouble began. Robert took both dogs to the clinic on 20 May and was greeted, in his own words; "they came greeting me looking like space martians with hazmat suits." Robert Cohen, veterinarian at Bay Street reported: "For us it was a shock factor for a moment there...how do we protect our staff? We were well-PPE'd," he said, because little is known about infected dogs' ability to transfer the virus to other dogs or humans. "

**For the full story, see:**

**[www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com) > animals > 2020/07**



## CAREW MSS. 1515- 1623 ONLINE

Sir George Carew was President of Munster and collected these Manuscripts, described as ‘diverse and important papers for the history of Ireland’, especially in the reign of Elizabeth I. His History was completed by his Secretary — some say his natural son, Sir Thomas Stafford. These manuscripts are now lodged in Lambeth Palace Library. They were calendered by J. S. Brewer and William Bullen from 1867-1873. There are six volumes; 1. 1515-1574 (1867); 2. 1575-1588 (1868); 3. 1589-1600 (1869); 4. 1601-1603 (1870); 5. 1603-1623 (1873); 6. Book of Howth and miscellaneous (1871). Much more is now available online.

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/f8094637-f8eb-4e90-8813-81973d61090e>

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/007689510>

Below is an extract from 1600, relating to the lands of “Ivaghe’ in 1600.



## Mary Tynan O Mahony, RIP: 1930 - 2017

*Mary Tynan-O'Mahony (née Timson) of Ballyman, Bray, Co. Wicklow and late of St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England died on 5th November, 2017 (unexpectedly), in the wonderful care of the staff of ICU, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin, beloved wife of the late Peter and dear sister of the late Oonagh, loving and adored mother of Eoin, Julian and Sioban, treasured Grandma of Emma, Fionn, Megan, Dylan, Edwin, Rian and Ferdia, cherished "Grandma Mary" to Cully and adoring great-Grandma to Noah; sadly missed by her heartbroken sons, daughter, son-in-law Lorcan, daughters-in-law Madge and Annika, brother-in-law Bill, sister-in-law Karin, goddaughter Anne, nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, many cousins, relatives, neighbours and friends including her much loved girls: Ina, Agnieska, Alison, Bernie, Fiona, Karen, Maryrose, Maria and Myrna.*

Mary, was the beloved wife of Peter Tynan O Mahony who was a cousin of Eoin O'Mahony.. They met whilst Peter was living in St. Albans, working as a journalist for the *Herts Advertiser*. They returned to Ireland in 1965 with a young family.



*Photographed at Rosbrin 1973 were Mary and Eoin Tynan O Mahony.*

*Isaac Nash Notter is at the right*

Peter became very involved in the work of the Society after 1970. Peter was the founder of the O Mahony Record Society and began the publication of the

O Mahony Journal in 1971. Mary was always ready to assist Peter in his work and enthusiasms. Mary and their children attended many rallies, and worked ceaselessly behind the scenes.

To Eoin, Julian and Siobhan, and their families and friends, Muintir Mhathuna offers the deepest sympathy, with the awareness of the very great debt the society owes to Mary for her support of Peter's endeavours.

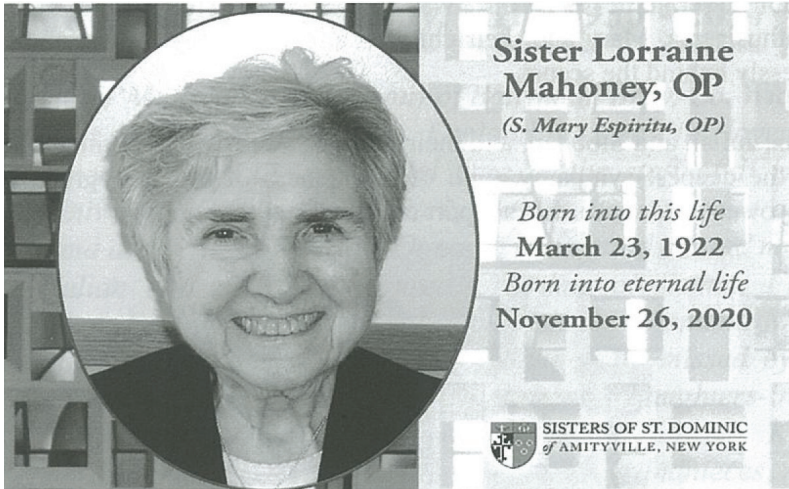


Gougane Barra 1972

Mary, with Julian and Siobhan Tynan O Mahony with the O Mathúna family of Cashel — Padraig, Siobhan and their daughters, Siobhan and Niamh.

*The O Mahony Society Council & Members acknowledge  
with deep gratitude the gift of Peter Tynan O Mahony's  
papers and books.*

**Thank you, Eoin, Julian and Siobhan.**



Our own Sister Lorraine Mahoney, OP, was welcomed home by God early yesterday morning on Thanksgiving, November 26, 2020. Her former religious name was Sister M. Espiritu, OP. She ministered as a Sister of St. Dominic for 74 years. Sister Lorraine shared her talents in education as a teacher and a principal. She also shared her administrative gifts at Bishop Molloy Retreat House and at our motherhouse. We ask that you remember her and all her loved ones as they mourn her loss.

Sister Lorraine was the surviving sister of past Taoiseach, and very long time member of Muintir Mathuna and the Council, Eileen Mahony McConnell. They were both regular attendees at the Gatherings. It was Eileen who was responsible for financing the annual journal through the US membership fees. Sister Lorraine's niece, Linda McConnell Baker [herself Runai of this society] wrote on 1st December 2020:

*My sisters and I, and several of our children, have just finished watching the live stream of our Aunt (Sr) Lorraine Mahoney 'funeral mass. She died this past Thursday morning and CO VID obviously interfered with anything anyone would consider "normal" for a funeral. Aunt Lorraine was 98 (and a half but who's counting?) and will be sorely missed. For me, there was such solace in seeing the beautiful chapel within the Motherhouse of her order; knowing she'd be happy with that peaceful place.*

**The O MAHONY Clan Gathering was inaugurated in 1955 by Eoin O Mahony. Gatherings have taken place annually since that date. In 1957 and 1959, second gatherings were held in honour of visits by members of the O Mahonys of France.**

1955	<b>Garranes, Templemartin</b> Dr. Denis O Mahony, Crookstown	1972	<b>Gougane Barra</b> Donal O Mahony, Clonakilty
1956	<b>Rosbrin, Schull</b> Dr. Denis O Mahony, Crookstown	1973	<b>Rosbrin, Schull</b> Prof. Daithi Ó Mathghamhna, Cork
1957	<b>Dunloe &amp; Dromore</b> Edward T. Mahony, Carrigrohane	1974	<b>Kinneigh Round Tower</b> Prof. Daithi O Mathghamhna, Cork
1958	<b>Dun Locha, Mizen Head</b> Edward T. Mahony, Carrigrohane	1975	<b>Leamcon, Schull</b> Peter Tynan O Mahony, Dublin
1959	<b>Kilbehenny &amp; Dromore</b> John O Mahony, Lissarda	1976	<b>Castlemore, Crookstown</b> Peter Tynan O Mahony, Dublin
1960	<b>Gougane Barra</b> John O Mahony, Lissarda	1977	<b>Kilbehenny, Mitchelstown</b> Sean O Mathghamhna, Dublin
1961	<b>Ardintenant, Schull</b> Timothy O Mahony, Cork	1978	<b>Dromore, Kenmare</b> Sean O Mathghamhna, Dublin
1962	<b>Castlemore, Crookstown</b> Vicomte Yves O Mahony, Orleans	1979	<b>Garranes, Templemartin</b> Diarmuid Ó Mathúna, Boston
1963	<b>Dunmanus</b> Vicomte Yves O Mahony, Orleans	1980	<b>Ardintenant, Schull</b> Diarmuid Ó Mathúna, Boston
1964	<b>Castle Mahon, Bandon</b> Cian O Mahony, Skibbereen	1981	<b>Dunloe, Killarney</b> Colman Ó Mathúna, Monkstown
1965	<b>Leamcon, Schull</b> Cian O Mahony, Skibbereen	1982	<b>Castle Mahon, Bandon</b> Colman Ó Mathúna, Monkstown
1966	<b>Gougane Barra</b> J. H. V. Mahony, Monkstown	1983	<b>Cashel, Co. Tipperary</b> Padraig Ó Mathúna, Cashel
1967	<b>Dunmanus, Durrus</b> Patrick O Mahony, Skibbereen	1984	<b>Dunmanus, Durrus</b> Seamus C. O Mahony, Limerick
1968	<b>Rosbrin, Schull</b> Patrick O Mahony. Skibbereen	1985	<b>University College, Cork</b> Seamus C. O Mahony, Limerick
1969	<b>Rossmore, Durrus</b> John O Mahony, Kilcrohane	1986	<b>Dromore, Kenmare</b> Seamus C. O Mahony, Limerick
1970	<b>Castle Mahon, Bandon</b> John O Mahony, Kilcrohane	1987	<b>Dun Locha, Mizen Head</b> Seamus C. O Mahony, Limerick
1971	<b>Dunmanus</b> Donal O Mahony, Clonakilty	1988	<b>Mitchelstown</b> Anne O Mahony Ryan, Cork

<b>1989</b>	<b>Timoleague</b> Anne O Mahony Ryan, Cork	<b>2005</b>	<b>Castle Mahon, Bandon</b> Tony O Mahony, Manchester
<b>1990</b>	<b>Castlelack, Bandon</b> Louis Emmet Mahoney, California	<b>2006</b>	<b>Dunloe, Co. Kerry</b> Tony O Mahony, Manchester
<b>1991</b>	<b>Kinsale, James Fort</b> Louis Emmet Mahoney, California	<b>2007</b>	<b>Dunmanus, Durrus</b> Eileen Mahoney McConnell
<b>1992</b>	<b>Rossmore, Durrus</b> Louis Emmet Mahoney, California	<b>2008</b>	<b>Ardintenant, Schull</b> Peter O Mahony, Scotland
<b>1993</b>	<b>Castle Mahon, Bandon</b> Dermot O Mahoney, Cork	<b>2009</b>	<b>Ardintenant, Schull</b> Peter O Mahony, Scotland
<b>1994</b>	<b>Arddintenant, Schull</b> Dermot O Mahoney, Cork	<b>2010</b>	<b>Ardintenant, Schull</b> Peter O Mahony, Scotland
<b>1995</b>	<b>Dromore, Kenmare</b> Dermot O Mahoney, Cork	<b>2011</b>	<b>Rossmore, Durrus</b> Jean McConnell Dinwiddie, MA.
<b>1996</b>	<b>Dun Locha, Mizen Head</b> Jim Mahoney, Florida	<b>2012</b>	<b>Rossmore, Durrus</b> Jean McConnell Dinwiddie, MA.
<b>1997</b>	<b>Cork Heritage Park</b> Jim Mahoney, Florida	<b>2013</b>	<b>Rossmore, Durrus</b> Jean McConnell Dinwiddie, MA.
<b>1998</b>	<b>Round Tower, Kinneigh</b> Jim Mahoney, Florida	<b>2013</b>	<b>Gougane Barra</b> Jean McConnell Dinwiddie, MA.
<b>1999</b>	<b>Dunmanus Castle, Durrus</b> John F. O Mahony, Bandon	<b>2014</b>	<b>Garranes, Templemartin</b> Nora M. Hickey, Kinsale, Co. Cork
<b>2000</b>	<b>Castle Mahon, Bandon</b> John F. O Mahony, Bandon	<b>2015</b>	<b>Castle Mahon</b> Nora M. Hickey, Kinsale, Co. Cork
<b>2001</b>	<b>Cooladereen, Rosscarbery</b> Donald E. Mahoney, Massachusetts	<b>2016</b>	<b>Kinneigh Round Tower</b> Nora M Hickey, Kinsale, Co. Cork
<b>2002</b>	<b>Dun Locha, Mizen Head</b> Donald E. Mahoney, Massachusetts	<b>2017</b>	<b>Timoleague</b> Greg Mahony, Queensland, Australia
<b>2003</b>	<b>Ardintenant, Schull</b> Tony O Mahony, Manchester	<b>2018</b>	<b>Garranes, Templemartin</b> Greg Mahony, Queensland, Australia
<b>2004</b>	<b>Garranes, Templemartin</b> Tony O Mahony, Manchester	<b>2019</b>	<b>Coolcower House, Macroom</b> Finbar O Mahony, Dublin

**2020 There was no O Mahony Gathering due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.**

**A Zoom O Mahony Meeting was held on 20th June**

## MUINTIR MHATHUNA

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Dermot F. O'Mahoney, Montenotte, Cork  
Julia Cotter, Douglas, Cork  
Nora M. Hickey, Kinsale, Co. Cork  
Louis Emmet Mahony, CA, USA  
John F O Mahony, Bandon, Co. Cork  
Diarmuid Ó Mathúna, Áth Cliath, Ireland

### DECEASED HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Jim Mahoney, Melbourne, FL, USA  
John Paul O'Mahoney, Milton Keynes, Biucks, UK  
Padraig Ó Mathúna, Dun Chaoin, Trálí, Ciarrí  
Eileen Mahoney McConnell, Gaithersburg, MD, USA

#### NORTH AMERICA

1993 Melbourne, FL  
1994 Boston, MA  
1995 Chicago, IL  
1996 Las Vegas ,NA  
1997 Washington, DE  
1998 Melbourne, FL  
1999 San Francisco, CA  
2000 Ottawa, Canada  
2001 Plymouth, MA  
2003 Baltimore, MD  
2003 Savannah, GA  
2005 New York, NY  
2018 Manassas, VA

#### AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

2003 Warwick, QLD  
2006 Brisbane, QLD  
2007 Scone, NSW  
2010 Geelong, VIC  
2011 Adelaide, SA  
2013 Hobart, Tasmania  
2016 Pukekohe, New Zealand  
2018 East Freemantle, WA  
2019 Christchurch, New Zealand

## MUINTIR MHATHUNA

### Officers & Council, 2019— 2020

**Taoiseach:** Finbar O’Mahony, Dublin, Ireland

**Tanaiste:** Jean McConnell Dinwiddie, Gaithersburg MD, USA.

**Runai:** Linda McConnell Baker, 1029 Daybreak Court Leland NC, USA

**Cisteoir:** Dermot O Mahoney, Cork City, Ireland

**Cartlannai & Hon. Editor:** Nora M. Hickey, Kinsale, Co. Cork, Ireland

#### Comhairle

Jim Castellan, Rose Valley PA, USA

Donald Mahoney, Wellesley MA, USA

Deirdre O’Mahony, Dorset, England

Gregory W. Mahony, Queensland, Australia.

Mary McConnell Haislip, Danbury CT, USA

John O Mahony, Renmore, Co. Galway, Ireland.

Pat O Mahony, Ireland

Tony O Mahony, Manchester, England

Diarmuid Ó Mathúna, Dublin, Ireland

Maeve McConnell Perno, Centre Moriches, NY, USA

Mary O Mahony Siggins, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Ireland

Mary McConnell Haislip, Danbury, CT, USA

#### US Bursar

Donald Mahoney, Wellesley MA, USA

#### Membership Coordinator

Mary Haislip, Danbury CT, USA

#### yDNA Project Administrator

Finbar O Mahony, Dublin, Ireland

**Webmaster:** Larry Baker, [Ivbaker@ec.rr.com](mailto:Ivbaker@ec.rr.com)